

The Bishop's Stortford High School

Parental Bulletin



Wednesday, 6th October 2021

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Whole School

Vaccination programme

We had a very successful COVID-19 vaccination day last week, with a much higher take-up rate than has been seen on average across Hertfordshire and indeed the country. As expected, it did create a bit of disruption during the course of the day, but the NHS Team were very complimentary about the attitude and conduct the boys showed throughout the day. For those students who were not eligible to receive the vaccine, because they were either not 12 years old on the day of vaccination, or they had tested positive for COVID-19 within the preceding 28 days, we are told there will be a 'catch-up' programme running in the future. We do not currently have any details of this.

If your child is aged 16+ and has not yet been vaccinated, do please encourage them to book a vaccination as soon as possible, to help protect the whole community.

New home testing kits

This week we have received delivery of the newer version of the COVID-19 home testing kits. They are clearly branded as 'Flowflex' and are an Antigen Rapid Test (ART). These will be issued to students over the coming weeks, once they have utilised the test kits issued last week. The new kits are easier to use, with a few distinct differences from the previously issued Lateral Flow Devices (LFD).

- The ART only requires nasal swabbing, not throat swabbing
 - The extraction buffer fluid is already inside the plastic tube, with a foil lid to peel off
 - After swabbing the nose and processing the swab in the liquid for 30seconds, 4 drops of the liquid are placed in the specimen well of the test cassette (not 2, as used in the LFD)
 - Only 15 minutes need to elapse before checking the result of the cassette (not 30, as with the LFD)
- Each box of test kits contains clear, accurate instructions for use. Please encourage your child to continue to test twice a week and inform the school of any positive result via covid19@tbshs.org

Mr D Reeve, Headteacher

Coronavirus - Asymptomatic Home Testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. All students have been given home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing kits and we encourage them to take a home LFD twice weekly before school on Monday (or Sunday evening) and Thursday (or Wednesday evening).

The current guidelines suggest that this advice will be in place for the foreseeable future, dependent on the circumstances prevalent at the time.

Students who have contracted COVID-19 do not need to undertake Lateral Flow tests for 90 days. However, if they do get COVID-19 symptoms, you should immediately book a PCR test.

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Coronavirus - When to book a PCR test

Anyone with a positive LFD test result and/or who is displaying symptoms of Covid19 will need to:

- self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#)
- [book a further test](#) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within the 2 days following the positive LFD result, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and students can return to school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Please complete the following form [Covid19 Reporting](#) online if your son/daughter has tested positive. Although the school is not currently responsible for track and trace, the Local Authority are still tracking cases in schools and are asking for this information. If you do not have the PCR test result when you are completing the form, please complete the [PCR Update form](#) when you receive the test result.

Positive result - If a student has a positive result from a PCR test, they should self-isolate immediately and continue to isolate for at least 10 days. NHS Test and Trace should contact you or your son/daughter and advise on the isolation period. Close contacts and everyone in the household or support bubble will also be advised to book a PCR test.

If your son/daughter is isolating but well enough, please ask them to check Satchel1/Show My Homework for work that will be set by their teachers. You do not need to update absence reporting unless your son/daughter is not fit to return at the end of their isolation period

If your son/daughter receives a positive PCR result, please **DO NOT take any LFD or PCR tests for 90 days** as this may return a false positive resulting in a further mandatory period of isolation.

Negative result - Where a student has a negative result from a PCR test, it means the test did not find coronavirus (COVID-19) and they can return to school.

From Monday 16th August, people who are double jabbed or aged under 18 are no longer legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. If a student is advised to obtain a PCR test as a close contact, they do not need to isolate whilst waiting for the results **unless they are showing symptoms**.

For any queries or absences regarding Covid-19, please email covid19@tbshs.org .

Free School Meals

Did you know that Hertfordshire County Council could save you over £450 every year? Your child could get a free school meal, worth over £450 per child per year if you receive any of the following:

Your child can get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**

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- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Apply today if you receive any of these benefits. It takes **5 mins** and in most cases we can tell you straightaway if your child can get free meals at school.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/freeschoolmeals.aspx#year3>

Have your National Insurance number or Home Office number to hand when you apply. If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until March 2023, or until they finish their current phase of schooling (primary or secondary), if that's after the end of March 2023.

Don't miss out, apply now!

The benefits of applying online include:

- It's quick and easy to do – most online applications take about five minutes to complete. Please make sure you have your national insurance number to hand.
- It can be done whenever it suits you, with no need for face-to-face or telephone contact
- In most cases, you won't have to provide paper proof of benefit
- You won't have to reapply for free school meals every year
- Your child will get their free school meals without delay
- You can apply for other benefits that you may qualify for at the same time

If you do not have access to the internet at home, you can obtain access and support at any of the following locations:

- Public Libraries
- UK Online Centres
- TBSHS – Please call Reception for assistance

For more information or assistance with your application Visit www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals Or Call the customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am- 4pm Saturday).

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School Catering

Meal Prices and Menus: The price of a standard 2-course meal is £2.75, menus are available on the TBSHS website. The school currently offers break and lunch options.

The school has an upper limit of £6 on the amount of money that can be spent in one day. This will mean that your child cannot buy excessive amounts of food that may be being passed on to others. If you would like this amount changed, please call the school or email finance@tbshs.org to amend the amount up or down.

As I am sure that you are aware, there are a number of logistical issues affecting availability and deliveries, as a result, menus may change at short notice.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the school will not be able to accept cash payments for any reason and the cash loader in school will not be active. If you are unable to utilise ParentPay, please ensure that you contact the finance department (finance@tbshs.org Tel: 01279 869521). Your assistance in keeping the school cash free is appreciated.

Please ensure that your child always has sufficient funds on their accounts for lunch as overdrafts will not be available. Any parent/guardian in financial difficulty should contact the school.

Breakfast Service

The breakfast service is now available. The menu will offer bacon rolls, cheese baps, cereals, yoghurts, fresh fruit and cold drinks.

Publishing Houses and Supporting the School

If any parent has a connection with any Educational books Publishing Houses please contact rachel.engel@tbshs.org as many organisations offer additional discounts to schools where parents work in the company. Similarly, if parents are connected to other organisations where the school can take an advantage of a discount, please contact me.

The School appreciates all offers of sponsorship and support from parents, if you feel you can help support the TBSHS in any way, please contact rachel.engel@tbshs.org and I will pass the information to the relevant members of staff. Offers of support for assistance to help us improve the marketing the School, sixth form or fundraising would be appreciated.

Online Safety link for Parents and Carers

Please click [here](#) for the latest Herts for Learning Online Safety Newsletter - Autumn 2021.

Black History Month at the Library

The theme of this year's Black History Month is *Proud To Be...* and what better way to celebrate that pride than to look to our favourite Black authors, figures and activists.

Join us on Twitter (@TBSHSLibrary) to celebrate BHM every weekday with a BHM recommendation, or browse our BHM reading list on Accessit by clicking the 'Quick List' tab at the top of the page.

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<https://uk.accessit.online/thb03/>

Book Donations

Thank you to all who have donated to the library in the past few weeks, we have been overwhelmed with the number of books we have received and are still processing the large quantity.

For this reason, we are currently unable to accept any fiction or non-fiction donations **however**, graphic novels and manga are proving very popular and we would be very grateful for any donations of this kind.

Sixth Form

Careers Forum – Wednesday 20th October – 5 to 7.30pm

This has been advertised previously in the Careers Section of the Bulletin but this is a really important date for your sons and daughters. The school will be hosting a big Careers Forum in two weeks on **Wednesday 20th October 5pm-7.30pm**. Mrs Jonas, our Careers Adviser, has worked incredibly hard to get approaching 50 different sectors represented so this is a fantastic opportunity for our students to talk exclusively to people in person (rather than in the virtual environment) to get first-hand information, advice and guidance. It is also their chance to network and build some personal connection with potential employers of the future. Logistics will be confirmed shortly and we would expect all to attend to take advantage of talking to the experts. **Mr R Stark**

Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 10th November – EARLY WARNING

A reminder that our Sixth Form Open Evening on **Wednesday 10th November** will be held in school. We will therefore need some of our Sixth Formers to play a crucial role in promoting the school to prospective Sixth Form students and their parents. We would be grateful if you could make sure students keep this evening free so that they are available to help. **Mr R Stark**

Year 13 UCAS Applications – Final changes

This is the final 2 weeks for Year 13s to be making any final changes to their UCAS applications (final week for early entrants for Oxbridge/Medicine). This includes double checking with their **tutors** the predicted grades the SFMT have recorded for them from Subject Leaders, making sure choices are sensible, and doing a final proofread of their applications as per the guidance previously given (view [here](#)). Students should ask their tutor for them to be returned for editing to make any necessary changes. Students need to then resubmit them back into school control by the start of Monday 18th October, ready for our final processing on 21/22 October. **Mrs F Price**

Year 12 Competitive Admissions

Thank you to those Year 12 students who have already registered their interest with me in possibly considering competitive admissions for elite universities and Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry. I will shortly be organising an introductory session in school for them. Students and parents/carers may be interested in the following free webinars from the Oxbridge Formula which cover entry to medicine, STEM

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applications to Oxbridge and the US application process. Full details can be viewed here: [Oxbridge Formula - Student and Parent Webinars](#). Mrs F Price

Year 11

MFL Revision Guides – Year 11

The MFL department are able to order the following revision resources for either French or German which may help your son with his MFL revision. If you are interested in purchasing revision resources for your son, please pay for the appropriate books on ParentPay by **Monday 11th October**. Please ensure that you select the correct language.

Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) Revision Cards	£4.00	French only
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Includes access to a FREE online edition of the REVISE AQA GCSE (9-1) French Revision Guide and contains 100 Revision Cards and three organising dividers (with a handy 'how to use' guide), multiple choice questions and answers, worked examples, topic summaries and key facts to remember.

Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) Revision Guide	£3.00	French / German
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Covers all topics for GCSE course, highlights target grades on each page allowing students to work at their pace, access to audio files as well as ActiveBook.

Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) Revision Workbook	£3.00	French / German
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Covers all topics for the GCSE course, highlights target grades on each page, providing plenty of practice, with reading and listening questions for every topic and a grammar practice section.

Reading Logs- English (YR7 & YR8)

All students in year 7 and 8 have a guided reading lesson in English (which takes place once a fortnight). For guided reading, students are placed into a reading group of 3 or 4 students and this group read the same book for a few weeks before changing for a new book. Over the course of the fortnight, students read a block of chapters of their guided reading book and complete activities in their reading log during their guided reading lesson.

In addition, at the front of the reading log, there is a space for students to record their reading (of a sustained period) as well as for parents/carers to comment on reading. There are huge benefits of reading aloud to parents/carers and we want as many year 7s and 8s to do this regularly and so, we have incentivised this in the reading log: each time a student reads aloud to their parent/carers for a sustained period, they will receive a housepoint **if the parent/carer writes a comment about the reading and signs the reading log entry**. Please see p.9 of the reading log for an example. **Mrs K Eagle, Second in English and Literacy Coordinator**

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Mindful Gardening (YR7 & YR8)

Gardening club will resume on 6th October with Miss Holland. Meet outside the Library at 3.30pm. This is a great opportunity for students to gain some fresh air, learn about vegetation and complete some community service to the school.

Language learning magazines (YR 7-13)

At **The Bishop's Stortford High School**, we always find that students learning languages engage more and perform more strongly in exams when they study topics that they want to watch, listen to or talk and write about.

We are therefore happy to recommend Mary Glasgow Magazines for students learning both French and German.

Packed with great vocabulary, comprehension and grammar tips, Mary Glasgow Magazines are vibrant, colourful and will engage teens at the exact level of the language they are learning, with topics that they'll love including school life, technology, friends, culture, sport, music, the environment and much more.

An annual subscription to Mary Glasgow Magazines costs just **£10.00** and includes five printed issues (delivered to the school throughout the year) plus unlimited access to video, audio and online activities.

We recommend the following magazines for your child:

French

Magazine	Level
Bonjour*	Years 7/8/9
Ça va?*	Years 9/10/11
Chez Nous	Higher GCSE/A Level

German

Magazine	Level
Das Rad*	Years 7/8/9
Schuss*	Years 9/10/11

*Students in Year 9 could subscribe to either magazine, depending on the level of challenge desired.

If you wish to place an order, please visit www.maryglasgowplus.com/orders. Search for our school and then select the appropriate level and you'll be able to browse magazines and pay online for your subscriptions.

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Please note that the closing date for ordering is **Monday 11th October**.

Thank you for your continued support. **William Alexander, Head of MFL**

Year 7

Year 7 Concert – Thursday 21st October

This whole year group concert is always a tremendous occasion with rousing and enthusiastic singing from our new Year 7 students and we're delighted that following the lifting of restrictions, the concert can go ahead as planned. **Doors open at 6pm when light refreshments will be available, with the concert starting at 6.30pm.**

Tickets are now available from reception (1 ticket p/student for parent/carer) priced at £2.50. **Face masks to be worn.**

Vacancies

Catering Assistant

The Bishop's Stortford High School is seeking to appoint a **Catering Assistant** to join the catering team. This role is for 16 hours per week. Term time only (38 weeks p.a.) Monday to Thursday 12pm until 3pm, Friday 11am until 3pm. Please click [here](#) for further details.

Invigilators

The Examinations department are seeking reliable, confident male and female applicants who are available during school hours to assist in the supervision of internal and public examinations which take place at the following times –

Mid December

Beginning of January

Mid April – End of June

No experience is necessary as full training will be given.

For a full job description / application form please contact Dr Luppi leanne.luppi@tbshs.org or telephone the exams office on 01279 869524

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Events

GCSE & A Level Performance Recitals – Thursday 14th October

Following the lifting of restrictions, we are delighted to announce our first concert of the academic year - the GCSE and A Level Performance Recitals.

Students in Years 11 and 13 who are studying for these examinations will perform their recital pieces in public before the formal examination process begins. For an evening of awe inspiring and uplifting music, and to hear the school's finest musicians, you are warmly invited to attend this very special and intimate concert. We look forward to welcoming you on **14th October, doors open 6.30pm. Donations on the door. Light refreshments available. Face masks to be worn**

*** Tickets Now Available *** Disco Inferno – Whole School Production

Dust off your glitter ball, dig out your flares and resurrect your platforms. *The Bishop's Stortford High School Drama & Music Departments* are delighted and proud to present this year's whole school production, **Disco Inferno**, which takes place on 17, 18th and 19th November. This musical extravaganza is the story of an ambitious singer and his desire to make it in the music industry – all brought to life with an explosion of hit songs. The drama, singing and dancing will be accompanied by our very own pit band playing the songs that defined a generation.

Doors open 6.30pm. Performance at 7pm. Interval Bar. Tickets are now available to book online: £11 for adults, £9 for concessions. Please [click here](#).

Careers, Opportunities & Competitions

There are many more opportunities for Years 12 & 13 in the 6th Form Bulletin - issued every 2 weeks by Mrs Price.

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Please note, students can find the careers section of the parent bulletin in the 'Others' area of the Q Pool File

[Click here](#) for this week's Careers News

Years 10-13 Careers Forum – 20th October – 5pm-7.30pm

The ninth biennial (postponed by one year) **Careers Forum takes place on Wednesday 20th October**. It's very much hoped that students in Years 10-13 will made the most of a great opportunity to meet with a huge number of employers and educators. We have secured up to 50 stands including *Audi, Barclays, B.S. Orthodontists, Choice Physio, the Civil Service, Connect Scaffolding, Dotmatics, Down Hall Hotel, Ford, Hill Developers, ISG, Johnson & Johnson, London Life, PHD Associates, Price Bailey, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Raytheon UK, RCA Structures, Restless Ltd, Sanger Institute, Sporting Futures, St James's Place, Tees Law, Titan Airways and Weston Homes*. In order for the event to go smoothly and take place safely, year group timings are as follows:

4.45pm – 5.30pm	Year 11
5.30pm – 6.15pm	Year 12
6.15pm – 7pm	Year 10
7pm-7.30pm	Year 13

Please ensure your sons/daughters have a note of this important date and event and encourage them to attend.

Face masks must be worn.

Sports

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First Aid Appeal

This is an appeal from the PE department and the PSA for any willing volunteers who would be happy to act as first aiders at Jobbers Wood on Saturday fixtures. This a crucial role in both safeguarding the well-being of students but also in allowing coaches to attend to the responsibilities of running a team. Once a number of volunteers has been established a rota will be produced so commitment every single weekend is not a necessity.

If you are not yet first aid trained but wish to be in order to assist with the running of fixtures at Jobbers Wood then the PSA may be able to assisting in funding for your training.

Any effort to volunteer will help massively with our provision of Saturday sport. Any one wish to volunteer please contact Elliott.Kelsall@tbshs.org.

Many thanks,

E Kelsall

Running Club:

Running club is open to all boys and girls on Tuesday lunchtime (1pm) and Friday morning (7.30am). All abilities are welcome and catered for. **Mr Sadler**

Competitions

Black History Month 2021 - History, English and Citizenship Poetry Competition

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THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL



COMPETITION 2021

Black History Month runs throughout October, and the TBSHS History, English and Citizenship departments are teaming up once again to run our exciting annual competition.

To also commemorate National Poetry Day on October 7th, students taking part must **research and write a poem**, on either of the below subjects:

- Celebrating the contributions and achievements of a historical person of colour (choices might include Mary Seacole, Toussaint Louverture, Olaudah Equiano, or even Barack Obama!) • The theme of identity

Entries will be judged on:

Originality, quality of writing, quality of historical research, and quality of presentation.

There will be Amazon vouchers up for grabs - £50 for first place, £25 for second, and £15 for third - and of course, House points! The best entries will also go up on display around the school. Last year we received over 200 entries, and hopefully this year there will be even more!

Entries should be submitted to English teachers no later than Monday 1st November. All year groups welcome!

Miss Quinlan, Mrs Matharu and Mr Etheridge

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Michael Holding



Former West Indies fast bowler, cricket commentator and anti-racism campaigner Michael Holding will be speaking to interested students on the zoom platform on Thursday October 14th at 6.30 p.m.

Please e-mail simon.etheridge@tbshs.org if you are interested in attending this webinar.

This is open to students from all year groups.

Mr. S. Etheridge

Head of Religious Studies and Citizenship

Fundraising

Food Bank Donations

Thank you for all your kind donations to the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank.

We are currently packaging items for the food bank to collect.

A photograph will follow next week.

Mr. S. Etheridge, Head of Religious Studies and Citizenship

PTFA

TBSHS
Candlelit
Supper

Dinner & Dance
Friday December 3rd 2021
Tickets £35

Save the Date!

More details to follow soon



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Shop & Give

Powered by TheGivingMachine

TheGivingMachine makes donating to TBSHS PTFA easy when shopping online.

What better way to help your child's school than to donate while you shop.

It's easy. Just one extra click on your mouse and it doesn't even cost you a penny! Become a giving hero by clicking the link below and adding your details to create an account. Save as a favourite, then each time you start to shop click on it and it will take you straight through to the shopping page.

Please **[CLICK HERE](#)**

Many thanks for all your support.

TBSHS PTFA.

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**EXCLUSIVE TBSHS
PROTECTIVE FACE MASKS**



AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE NOW

£5

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PAY:

Via ParentPay - Students can collect mask from school reception.

Or, students can purchase masks from school reception (*Exact money only please, no change given*)