

The Bishop's Stortford High School

Parental Bulletin



Wednesday, 9th February 2022

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Whole School

Update

As we head towards the half-term break, I'd like to thank all students and staff for the way they have coped with the challenges of face mask wearing and regular testing since the start of term. I am pleased to inform you that we have very low numbers of both students and staff currently having to isolate, with 11 students and only 1 member of staff (less than 1% of the school population in both cases). We will continue to follow government guidance regarding the twice weekly testing and will update students and parents if there are any changes to this requirement next half-term.

We are very grateful for the excellent parental support with the regular testing, by ensuring your children take part you have played a major role in minimising the spread of infection in school this academic year and helped to prevent more students from having to miss school through enforced isolation. Thank you.

We have had a very productive half-term with Year 11 and 13 students receiving some excellent mock exam results, both of which bode very well for the summer season. The extra-curricular programme has continued to flourish with excellent numbers of students taking advantage of the many opportunities available to them. Please continue to encourage your son/daughter to get involved as much as possible. Although there is always lots of sport going on, you will see from our extra-curricular timetable, there is so much more besides. There are many benefits to getting involved, including to their physical and mental wellbeing, the development of teamwork, leadership and communication skills, as well as their social development.

I wish all staff, students and parents a pleasant half-term break.

Mr Reeve, Headteacher

Coronavirus - Reporting

Please complete the following form [Covid19 Reporting](#) online if your son/daughter has tested positive on an LFD test and arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. Please complete the [PCR Update form](#) when you receive the test result.

Free School Meals

Your child could get a free school meal, worth over £450 per child per year if you receive some benefits. Full details and the online application can be found at

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-schoolmeals.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.

Exam invigilator vacancies

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:

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Mid-April – End of June

Mid-December

Beginning of January

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.

National Apprenticeship Week 7th–11th February, 2022

Take a look at The National Apprenticeship Week 2022 tab now on the school's website (click [here](#)) as there's a lot of general information, guidance and advice around apprenticeships. There's also links on a special events page where you will find a huge number and variety of webinars taking place in many different sectors (click [here](#)). For example, students interested in working in business & finance should note the HSBC week of special events – these are also listed on the events page detailed above. You will find other important apprenticeship opportunities, plus the careers news in the regular section within this bulletin.

Parents/Carers Survey – Apprenticeships & Careers

TBSHS is part of the *Hertfordshire Careers Hub* and one of their strategic actions is to enhance the level of technical and vocational routes available to young people in the county. To mark *National Apprenticeships Week*, they have asked that we share this survey link to you help gauge your thoughts, as a key influencer, about the credibility of technical and vocational routes for your child. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and all responses will be held anonymously. Some may recall completing this survey in previous years; if this is the case we ask that you re-complete as there are a few additional/amended questions.

Many thanks. Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bishops-stortford-22>

Years 11, 12 & 13 - National Apprenticeship Week March 7th–11th, 2022

Do take a look at the careers news section in this bulletin where you'll find lots of information and updates regarding apprenticeships and who is recruiting. There are also two special tabs on the school's website that includes a page of event information.

In the meantime to coincide with *National Apprenticeships Week 2022*, Alex Burghart, Minister for Skills, has written to all students and parents about the opportunities and benefits apprenticeships can bring to young people. Students have already received their letter, here is the one for parents/carers/guardians. [Open the letter to parents, carers, and guardians](#)

Wellbeing for Education

As part of the Wellbeing for Education Recovery Hertfordshire have commissioned the following parental support sessions with regard to anxiety and resilience through Bounce Forward. The specific programmes are:

Anxiety and Resilience (A three-session online course for up to 150 parents)

Children and young people will feel anxious and worried from time to time. Anxiety is a normal or usual response to uncertainty. The way we respond as parents, and deal with our own anxiety plays a significant part in building our children's capacity to develop resilience. Click [here](#) for further details.

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Raise Resilience (A five-session online course for up to 150 parents)

Raise Resilience starts with personal resilience, how parents can look after themselves, building self-awareness about what might be getting in the way, and helping them notice what is going well and their strengths as a parent. Click [here](#) for further details.

The times/dates are listed below. If you are interested I encourage you to book on quickly as these courses are usually very popular.

Anxiety and Resilience (<https://bounceforward.com/anxiety-hertfordshire-parents/>)

- Mondays 8–9pm, Starting 14th March
- Tuesdays 12:30–1:30pm, Starting 15th March
- Tuesdays 7:30–8:30pm, Starting 26th April
- Wednesdays 10–11am, Starting 8th June

Raise Resilience

- Wednesdays 10–11am, Starting 2nd March
- Tuesdays 8–9pm, Starting 8th March
- Tuesdays 12:30–1:30pm, Starting 3rd May
- Mondays 7:30–8:30pm, Starting 13th June

Bishops Stortford Educational Trust – School Centred Initial Teacher Training

Teacher Training Information Event Monday 14th March 2022

If you are interested in training to teach and would like to find out more about opportunities to train in a local primary or secondary school these events are a perfect place to start.

At these events you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn more about the application process and what our training programme entails
- Speak to members of our team about any specific queries you may have
- Find out about our partner and placement schools
- Talk to current and previous trainees (now qualified teachers) about their experience of our training programme

More details can be found at:

<https://www.bsetscitt.co.uk/scitt-information-event-monday-14th-march-2022/>

Medical Appointments

Please note that students must be collected by a parent or guardian to attend medical appointments. Please see below statement from our website:

Students will not be allowed off-site if school has not received prior advice of the appointment and contact will be made with a parent/guardian. All students under 16 must be collected, they cannot travel independently to appointments even if authorised by parents.

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Sixth Form

Oxbridge Offers

A massive congratulations go to our Oxbridge Candidates, Asa, Bliss, Elliot, James, Kate and Will. These six students have been offered places at Oxford & Cambridge to start in 2022. You can read the Observer article [here](#) & our website article [here](#).

Year 13 Post-18 Apprenticeship Next Steps Guidance Session 24th February

I will be running through considerations and key guidance for those Yr 13 students considering apprenticeships at **2.30pm Thursday 24th February. Mrs F Price**

Year 13 Post-18 Uni Next Steps Materials

These have already been distributed direct to students and in the Post-18 Bulletin sent last Friday but Materials for the session run on Uni Next Steps last week can be viewed here: [UCAS NEXT STEPS](#). (These have already been distributed direct to students and were in the Post-18 Bulletin sent last Friday.)

Do particularly look at slides on Student Finance and budgeting that we did not have time to cover in depth. Student Finance applications will not be opening until March and more details will be provided then.

Post-18 Queries – Careers Advice

Please do remember to contact me (fiona.price@tbshs.org) directly if you have any specific questions about Post-18 and do remember that our Careers Advisor, Claire Jonas, is also available for in depth one-to-one meetings. Any Sixth Form student is welcome to contact her (claire.jonas@tbshs.org) to organise a careers Next Steps meeting during a study period. **Mrs F Price**

Year 12 and Year 13 Gold DofE Award.

The July trip to the Lake District has been finalised, and a preliminary letter has been sent out. Some students haven't collected this but a copy of the letter is here:

<https://www.tbshs.org/extracurricular.aspx?SubCatID=229>

Meetings **for Yr13** are starting after half term after school on a Monday. (Yr12 students have lessons set aside for planning). Details will go in the bulletin for them after half term.

Thank you

Year 12 Whole-School Leadership Team Applications

Year 12s have been informed about the application process for a position of responsibility in the Student Leadership Team. We aren't just looking for the next Head Boy or Head Girl, we are also looking for people to be in the council and people who want to organise the dinner and dance and other community events. The application system link is here - <https://forms.office.com/r/GtEKZUuLaF> and the deadline is 5pm on Friday 18th February. **Mr R Stark**

Year 12 Work Experience 20–24th June, 2022

Students have received all the paperwork needed for their work experience week in June. The information letter can be found here: [Year 12 Work Experience Letter](#). The consent letter can be found here: [Work Experience Parent Consent Form 2022](#). Links to the necessary documents have also been sent to parents via MyEd. **Mr R Stark**

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Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening – Tuesday 1st March – Details

Further to previous "Save the date" items click [here](#) for full details of the Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening on Tuesday 1st March which all students and parents/carers are expected to attend. With continuing Covid cases and the size of the cohort, this event will be held online and the link for the meeting will be sent out on the day. **Mrs F Price**

Year 12 Oxbridge Information Evening – Tuesday 8th March

A reminder that Dr Mike Sewell, retired Director of Admissions for all the Cambridge Colleges and current Senior Tutor at Selwyn College, will be running an informal session for students and parents who want to know more about Oxford and Cambridge universities on Tuesday 8th March at 7pm (virtual or in-person format to be confirmed). There is no one better qualified to cover this topic and he is an excellent speaker who is great at debunking myths, providing a very honest view along with expert guidance.

Please note: attending is by no means a commitment to actually making an Oxbridge application – this is an opportunity to find out more. To assist with organisation, please email fiona.price@tbshs.org if you plan to attend, confirming your son/daughter's name and how many of you wish to attend. **Mrs F Price**

Year 12 Convention Visit – Monday 14th March

As part of our Post-18 provision we will be taking all Year 12 to the UCAS Convention (Employers and Universities are represented) on 11am to 3.30pm at the London ExCel on Monday 14th March. There will be no cost to students apart from refreshments. Full details will be sent out after half term. **Mrs F Price**

MFL Speaking Examinations

For A level speaking examinations dates, please see Year 11 section below

Year 11

See 'Years 11, 12 & 13 - National Apprenticeship Week March 7th–11th, 2022' section on page 4.

MFL Speaking Examinations

Dates for GCSE and A Level speaking examinations are as below. These can also be found on the school's calendar. If there are any changes, you will be notified well in advance. Further information regarding location and appointment times will be shared with candidates closer to the time.

Subject	Date
GCSE French	Tuesday 26 th April and Wednesday 27 th April
GCSE German	Thursday 5 th May and Friday 6 th May
A Level German	Friday 13 th May
A Level French	Thursday 19 th May

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Year 10

Year 10 Work Experience

Please note, the deadline for handing in Year 10 Work Experience forms has passed. If you have yet to hand in paperwork, it would be helpful if you could do so ASAP. NB the fee of £11 is due only if the placement is *outside* of Hertfordshire or, is outside a 5-mile radius from school and in Essex. All placements in Hertfordshire are free.

Year 10 Bronze DofE Award

All students have been emailed this morning with their login details for the eDofE website. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

If your son has not been sent details, it is because the registration form has not been completed. Please ask him to see me in person and I can check the status.

Meetings for Yr10 students will start after school on Wednesdays, details of which will be in the daily bulletin for the boys after half term.

Reply slips for the Jobbers practice trip need to be returned before Thursday 24th February. A copy of the letter is here: <https://www.tbshs.org/extracurricular.aspx?SubCatID=229>

Thank you.

Year 9

Year 9 Options Evening Presentation

This will take the form of a virtual presentation on Tuesday 22nd February at 6pm. If you cannot attend a recording will be made available after the event. More details with joining links will be sent prior to the event.

Year 8

Options Presentation

The Year 8 options presentation will take place online at 6pm on Wednesday 9th February. More details will follow regarding how parents and students will be able to attend.

Year 8 Parents Evening

This will take place in the school hall and sports hall on Thursday 24th February between 4:30–7:30pm. Parents will need to book appointments on the schoolcloud electronic system. More details will follow nearer the time.

Years 8 and 9 – Richard Knight History Talks

On Friday 25th February, renowned military British historian Richard Knight will be paying a visit to TBSHS to deliver two fascinating talks to our historians in Years 8 and 9.



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Mr Knight has served as historical advisor on major motion pictures such as *War Horse*, *Private Peaceful*, *Journey's End* and most recently *1917*, as well as TV documentaries such as the BBC's *From D-Day to Berlin* and *When Hitler Invaded Britain*.

He works with museums all across the country, and leads tours around the battlefields of Belgium and France. Mr Knight also brings with him a vast collection of replica uniforms and equipment, which our students have in the past had great fun trying on – see a picture below!

Most excitingly, he is also an alumnus of our very own Bishop's Stortford High School.

The programme of talks will be as follows:

- **During Period 1, all students in Year 9 who currently take History as GCSE option** will hear Mr Knight tell the incredible story of how the nature of warfare has transformed across the twentieth century. He will discuss the new weapons, tactics and equipment that developed across both World Wars I and II, exploring machine guns, gas attacks, paratroopers, and aerial combat. This will perfectly complement our History students' recent study of the Second World War.
- **During Period 2, all students in Year 8** will then enjoy a talk focussing specifically on the First World War. This will provide a vivid introduction to the events of 1914–1918, which students will shortly be studying in their History lessons.

Further logistical details will be shared with students via the Daily Notices and their form tutors.

We are delighted to be able to offer this fascinating experience at no cost to our students, thanks to the very kind generosity of the PTFA. We hope they will enjoy it!

Miss E Quinlan, Subject Leader for History



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Sports

PSA Summer Ball Returns

Saturday June 25th

Tickets now on Sale £45 each

(Low cost deposit available)

Summer Ball Ticket (tbshspsa.org)



Cricket Season 2022

Senior Nets – Year 11, 12 & 13

Net session for senior cricketers (years 11, 12 and 13) will take place on Wednesday after school in the sports hall commencing on Wednesday 23rd February 2022. All future tourist must make every effort to train. Those training at HECC on Monday are not expected to attend both but they are most welcome. If you are unable to attend please inform Mr Hale.

Year 10 Nets

Net session for cricketers from year 10s will take place on Thursday after school in the sports hall commencing on Thursday 24th February 2022. All players due to tour this year must make every effort to train. If you are unable to attend please inform Mr Hale.

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Dates for the Diary

A few key dates

Saturday 23 rd April 2022	Felsted 1st XI, 2 nd XI, U15A, U15B, U14A & U14B (Afternoon Fixtures)
Tuesday 26 th April 2022	BSC 1st XI & 2 nd XI T20
Wednesday 27 th April 2022	The Perse T20 National Cup
Wednesday 4 th May 2022	Bancrofts 1st XI & 2 nd XI
Wednesday 1 st – Saturday 4 th June	U15 Guernsey Tour
Friday 17 th – Monday 20 th June	U14 Guernsey Tour
Friday 24 th – Monday 27 th June	U16 Guernsey Tour
Wednesday 6 th July 2022	MCC
Tuesday 19 th July 2022	Heads XI

A full fixture card will be published in the near future.

Cricket Clothing/Equipment

If possible, we would like the boys to play in cricket whites; they do not need to be in school kit. We also have some kit available at school but clearly, they will need to speak with a member of staff in advance and not on the day of the fixture. However, should you wish to purchase school kit this is available from Tylers Sportswear. Once you enter the Tylers' website, click on the drop down menu entitled 'school webshops' and we are the first school listed on the left. The link is below:

<https://www.tylers-sportswear.co.uk/Catalogue/School-Webshops/The-Bishops-Stortford-High-School>

We would expect all players who tour to have a school shirt and a cap. If you only require a cap we do have some on sale for £10 in the PE office.

Should you be considering buying equipment please do not hesitate to get in touch for advice on sizes, requirements and possible suppliers.

Support the PSA when shopping at Amazon

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when customers shop through the URL smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisations selected by customers.

Just use your normal Amazon login details to log into the smile.amazon.co.uk website and enter the full PSA name "THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS SPORTS ASSOCIATION" or our Charity Commission Registration Number "1144671".

All you just need to remember then is that to support the PSA that you just need to go through the smile.amazon.co.uk portal each time you shop with Amazon.

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Careers, Opportunities & Competitions



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

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

Please note, this week is National Apprenticeship Week so there's a special expanded 'Apprenticeship' section

Fundraising

In support of World Cancer Day, Interact sold allergy-safe cookies on Friday at break time in the playground. Thank you to Mr. Cooper for his help. £150 was raised.

Thank you to all for the very kind donations to Whitechapel Mission. These were collected last Monday and very much appreciated.

We can also confirm that £435.94 was raised by students for St. Michael's Church at the Christmas Services.

We will be doing a further collection for our local food bank after half term.

After Half Term, Interact will be raising further monies and awareness through our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake sale, International Women's Day awareness, a Comic Relief event and students being encouraged to bring in a medium sized Easter egg for those in need. We are also looking for acts for our annual charity show, Showcase.

The daily message has raised awareness this half term of vital events such as Holocaust Memorial Day, Martin Luther King Day and LGBT+ History Month.

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We would like to thank Rotary for their on-going support.

Thank you to parents, students and staff

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

Simon Etheridge

PTFA

It's back! The PTFA Black and Gold Quiz 2022!

A quiz night for all the family.

Please [Click Here](#) to purchase your tickets

QUIZ NIGHT


RESPICE - ASPICE - PROSPICE
TBSHS

FRIDAY 11th MARCH
7.00pm for 7.30pm start
(maximum team size 8 people)
Tickets £8
(available on TBSHS website, under PTFA)

LICENCED BAR
RAFFLE

PLEASE PURCHASE ALL DRINKS FROM THE BAR.
BRING YOUR OWN NIBBLES (NO NUTS PLEASE)

**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*)

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**TBSHS Golf Umbrella
Only £22**

(You'll need one at Jobbers Wood!)