

The Bishop's Stortford High School

Parental Bulletin



Wednesday, 15th December 2021

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Whole School

Mitre Magazine

Please click [here](#) to view the totally revamped Mitre Magazine. As is very much the style of the time, we are aiming to incorporate lots more student photos accompanied by much briefer text to give readers a snapshot of events across the term. My thanks go to Mrs Miles and Mr Pike for all their efforts to modernise the Mitre, I do hope you enjoy it.

Final Assembly

Term will end around 12:30pm on Friday 17th December, following our whole school Final Assembly. Once again, it will take place virtually with students remaining in their form rooms, as it would not be appropriate to gather the whole school in the sports hall given the circumstances. We will use the occasion to celebrate the contributions and achievements of our students over the course of the autumn term.

Covid testing

Thank you to those parents who have already booked a slot for your child to receive their on-site Covid19 test on Tuesday 4th January 2022 (our INSET day). As a result of this mass testing, term will begin fully for all students on Wednesday 5th January 2022 safe in the knowledge that every student has been tested by a trained volunteer, thus helping to minimise the spread of infection at the start of the new term. To help further, do please remind your child to test at least twice a week using the home test kits provided.

Covid vaccinations

We have been told that the school age immunisation service (SAIS) will return to secondary schools to deliver a second vaccine dose to 12-15 year olds from 10th January 2022. As we were visited fairly early in the process for the first vaccine dose, we would expect SAIS to return to us at some point in mid-January. 12-15 year olds are eligible for their second dose 12 weeks after their first. Therefore, those students who received their first dose in school on 30th September 2021 will be eligible to receive their second dose any time after 23rd December 2021. Parents may choose to book their child an appointment at a vaccination centre or attend a walk-in clinic, if they would prefer not to wait for the SAIS visit.

Mr 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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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.

COVID Mass Testing

A reminder to all parents to book a 5 minute appointment for **Tuesday 4th January** (staff INSET day) for your son/daughter to come into school for their COVID test. To book an appointment click on:

<https://tbshs.schoolcloud.co.uk/> . If positive, the result will be communicated on the same day.

During the Christmas holidays, the twice weekly home testing will continue, which means students will be expected to carry out the home tests for the two week holiday.

The Following information has been taken from the Government website in order to help provide advice around the testing of your son/daughter.

Travel

All travellers arriving into the UK will need to isolate and get a PCR test by 'day two' after arrival. They may end their isolation once they receive a negative result. If the result is positive, they should continue to isolate and follow rules on isolation following a positive test. Unvaccinated arrivals aged over 18 will follow the existing, more onerous, testing and isolation regime. All Red list arrivals will enter quarantine.

Had COVID or tested positive

If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.

If you have previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result, you are not usually advised to be re-tested within 90 days of this result. However, you should have a PCR test within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test if:

- you develop any new symptoms of COVID-19
- you are a close contact of someone who has been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19
- you are required to take a PCR test upon entry into the UK

If you are tested within 90 days of a positive PCR test result for any of these 3 reasons, and the PCR test result is positive, you must stay at home, self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.

If you have an LFD antigen test within 90 days of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, for example as part of a workplace or community testing programme, and the result of this test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.

If it is more than 90 days since you tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, and you have new symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive LFD antigen or PCR test, follow the steps in this guidance again.

Have Symptoms

If you have COVID-19 [symptoms](#) you should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. You should [arrange to have a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, you must continue to self-isolate.

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If you do not have COVID-19 symptoms, but you have a positive PCR test result, you must stay at home and self-isolate.

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you must stay at home and self-isolate if you are not fully vaccinated or if they have been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 that has not been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, and you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, you are not required to self-isolate.

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.

Lost Property

All lost property has been put out in reception for pupils to collect. Any unclaimed items will be recycled at the end of this week.

GCSE and A level exams summer 2022 contingency day

The exam contingency date for the summer 2022 exams is Wednesday 29th June. All students must be available to sit exams up to and including this date. Therefore please ensure that any holidays are booked after 29th June.

Adverse Weather Conditions

In the event of adverse weather conditions we will endeavour to keep the school open as normal. In the very unlikely event that it is not safe to open this information will be sent to you via My Ed and published on the school's website and Twitter feed. In this situation we will move to remote learning via Microsoft Teams. If we do move to remote learning then students should check their school email for information on how to access their lessons.

Reading over the Holidays

Studies have found that reading for pleasure enhances empathy, understanding of the self, and the ability to understand one's own and others' identities. - Reading between the Lines: the Benefits of Reading for Pleasure, 2015

The library is open from 8am to 4pm for all students to pick up a book before the Christmas holidays. You can view our catalogue, as well as our most popular titles and latest returns by visiting:

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

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Or borrow an eBook or audiobook on ePlatform at any time using the following link:

<https://tbshsuk.wheelers.co/>

You can also keep up with us over on Twitter at [@TBSHSLibrary](https://twitter.com/TBSHSLibrary)

Parent Governor Election

We are pleased to announce that there were three nominations for the two Parent Governor vacancies which were recently advertised.

There will therefore be an election by parents which will take place online early in the New Year.

Details about the election will be published in the Parent Bulletin issued on the return to school for the Spring Term. Please look out for these details and information about how you will be able to vote.

Jane Yates, Clerk to the Governors

Sixth Form

UCAS Update

As of 14th December, of the 166 students who have submitted applications, 63% of courses have already had a positive response rate and 46 students have had offers from all their choices. They should not respond to offers until Summer Term. **Mrs F Price**

Year 12 Post-18 Support – Key dates

As emailed to students and parents yesterday, Year 12's formal post-18 support programme starts in earnest in the spring term now that they have settled into Sixth Form life. This programme builds upon the post-18 related information that they have been receiving since September via my Post-18 Bulletin and Mrs Jonas' (Careers Advisor) weekly Careers News plus a variety of visiting speakers and competitive admissions sessions that have already been held.

The timeline of key events can be viewed [here](#). Most activities are for the students and happen during school time but there are some key events to which parents and carers are also invited. Please note that dates throughout the year may be subject to change. **Mrs F Price**

End of Term

A huge 'well done' to all Sixth Form students on a successful first term, which culminated in a fantastic church service with exemplary behaviour being displayed. It was great to see such a positive attitude towards our community events. A big thanks goes to the Year 13 Prefects & Council Coordinators for their part in organising our festive events. **Mr R Stark**

Christmas Holidays – Independent Study

We wish you and your families a restful Christmas break especially after such a long and busy term. Amongst the festivities, there is still some work to be done – Year 13s have an obvious focus on revision but Year 12s should also spend some time consolidating their work and using the Independent Study Guide available on the website: [Independent Study Guide](#). **Mr R Stark**

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Year 13 Study Leave Expectations – 5th to 12th January 2021

During study leave there will be some study space available for Year 13 but this will be limited. However, normal expectations of behaviour stand and they need to ensure they use the time productively. Full details (previously circulated) about study leave arrangements for the Year 13 exams in January can be viewed here: - [Yr13 Mock Examination Arrangements Jan 2022 FINAL.pdf](#). **Mr R Stark**

Year 13 Consultation Evening 28th January 2021 – Save the Date

A reminder that Year 13 Consultation Evening will be held on **Thursday 27th January 2021** between 4.30 and 7.30pm. This will be an online event using the School Cloud System and further details about how to book your virtual appointments will be provided in January. This is an extremely important event at which students, together with yourselves, can meet with teachers to understand how they are progressing, especially in light of their mock A level results. If you could be saving the date in your diaries and also ensuring that students rearrange any other existing commitments. **Mr R Stark**

Requests for Absence for Driving Tests

A reminder that absence needs to be requested in advance of driving tests and that evidence of the appointment but also be submitted. In previous years only time off for one practical test has been authorised but with the backlog caused by Covid-19 we accept that students may need to accept any cancellation slots at short notice, however, the proper procedure must still be followed if the absence is to be authorised.

Year 11 to 13 Parental Survey of TBSHS Careers Education and Provision

Parent/Carers of students in Years 11 to 13 were emailed a link to a short survey yesterday via MyEd. The staff and Governors would be very grateful if you could complete the form so that we can understand how well our current careers provision helps you, as parents/carers, to support your child(ren) in making decisions about future pathways. Your responses will also help us to improve our future offerings. **Mr D Reeve**

Year 11

Please ensure your son is clean shaven. Failure to be so will result in him being out of circulation at break time and lunchtime.

Many thanks, **D Sadler**

English Clinic

Year 11 English clinic will move from Fridays after school to every Monday after school from 3:40pm- 4:40pm.

Year 11 Sixth Form Applications

Thank you to all those students who have applied to the Sixth Form. Please see the item below for next steps in the process. **Mr R Stark**

Year 11 Post-16 Guidance Meetings

Following Year 11 Mock Examinations and Parents' Evening on 13th January, all Year 11s will be scheduled a Post-16 Guidance Meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership or Sixth Form Management Team during school hours in week commencing 17th January. Students will be emailed details of their appointment in the

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New Year. This will be an opportunity to review current thinking on their post-16 plans and subject choices, especially in light of mock results, as well as identifying any additional support or guidance that might be appropriate. **Mr R Stark**

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Year 10

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)

Apologies for missing the parental video call planned for last Thursday 9th Dec. I was ill and couldn't speak for coughing and forgot to inform you.

I will reschedule for the New Year and send a link out in the first week back, with further details.

All boys should now have been signed up to eDofE and have an email confirming their login details.

Have a great festive break, **P Hughes** DofE Coordinator.

Sports



Cricket 2022

Year 7, 8 & 9 Before School Training

Attached are letters relating to the before school cricket training which will commence in January 2022 for years 7, 8 and 9. These sessions are for **current cricketers** and the courses will be supported by external coaches. You will find the link to enrol within the letters. Click the appropriate year to view letter: [Year 7](#), [Year 8](#), and [Year 9](#)

For students wishing to start playing cricket or those with limited experience we will be running after school sessions on Monday evenings commencing on Monday 10th January 2022. You do not need to enrol but will need school PE kit to attend. We will provide equipment for these sessions

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Playing Clothing: Once we start playing fixtures we would encourage students to wear cricket whites. We do not expect players to wear school clothing but should you wish to purchase school branded kit a link to our supplier Tylers Sportswear is below:

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

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](https://www.amazon.co.uk). The difference is that when customers shop through the URL [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) portal each time you shop with Amazon.

Illness or Injury re: Participation in P.E. and Games lessons

Please can you refer to and follow the procedures described below in the event of your child not being able to participate in PE or Games due to illness or injury.

1. Please provide your child with a signed and dated hard copy note (hand written or word processed) that they can keep in their blazer pocket to show to the member of staff. This note should explain the reason for non-participation and have an approximate timescale of absence. This is due to it not always being practical for PE staff to always be checking emails or due to receiving them several days before the lesson.
2. Please ensure your child still brings their PE kit, ideally with one of the TBSHS warm up tops or ¼ zip tops to stay warm and dry. This is for a number of reasons;
 - A) Depending on the severity of the issue they may still be able to access the curriculum in an adapted format (such as a non-contact or non-running format).
 - B) If the severity is such that no adapted physical involvement can occur they can still take part as an umpire, referee, time-keeper, scorer or coach.
 - C) We also have the option for students to continue rehab in the gym by doing cycling, stretching or exercises from their physio.
 - D) The only exception to this is if the student has a broken limb or an injury where changing would be inhibited due to the severity of the injury.

It is a legal requirement for your child to participate in physical activity in school and we are careful with managing overuse, however there seems to be an increasing number of students who not doing PE because they're 'saving themselves for a big game on Sunday'. We get very few injuries in PE lessons and therefore students should be participating in some capacity in all lessons. Kind regards, **Peter Harris**

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Competitions

Black History Month Competition 2021 – Winners announced!



After two tough rounds of judging, from both the English and History Departments, winners have finally been announced from this year's Black History Month Competition!

The field was extremely strong this year - we received well over 100 remarkable entries, from all different year groups, including a great many from the Sixth Form. This made judging a real challenge, and our winning students have really impressed with the quality of their work. Not only are they brilliant poets, but they also demonstrate a superb awareness of all the issues that Black History Month aims to highlight, and have a deep desire to promote equality and change things for the better. We couldn't be more proud of them.

The prize-winning poems will feature in this term's edition of the Mitre, and our first place entry has also been published in this week's edition of the Bishops Stortford Independent. Well done to all.

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Prize	Winner	Year
First Place	Emilia Anniss	12
Second Place	Charlie Harrison	7
Third Place	Elliot Lavergne	9

We have also included a **Highly Commended** category, to recognise the very impressive standard of work received:

		Year
Highly Commended	Tom Denbow	9
Highly Commended	Ezra Jeremiah Maniquis	12
Highly Commended	Adam Cooper	12
Highly Commended	Jamie Bowyer McDowell	10
Highly Commended	George Grimwood	9
Highly Commended	Tom Millar	12
Highly Commended	Harry Frans	7
Highly Commended	Will Scutts	10
Highly Commended	Kristiyan Stefanov	8
Highly Commended	Fiore Akinde	7

Careers & Opportunities

The success of the school's recent Careers Forum was in part, down to terrific support from the TBSHS parent/carer community, some of whom, kindly gave up their time to host stands. If you are able to support careers initiatives for our students in any way (e.g. workshops), do please get in touch claire.jonas@tbshs.org.

Click here for this week's Careers News

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PTFA



Christmas shopping?

The GivingMachine 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.

<https://shopandgive.thegivingmachine.co.uk/giver/join/?pbid=13>

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*)

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**TBSHS Golf Umbrella
Only £22**

(You'll need one at Jobbers Wood!)