

# The Bishop's Stortford High School

## Parental Bulletin



Wednesday, 17th November 2021

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### Whole School

#### Covid cases and face masks

Although we are expecting a review from Public Health Herts regarding their recommendation that face coverings be worn by students in lessons and in circulation, I would be surprised if they change that recommendation at this stage. In the last week or so, we have seen a slight increase in the number of our students testing positive for COVID19 and this reflects the increase in case rate both locally and nationally, so I think it unlikely they will recommend easing that restriction at this stage.

The NHS will be returning to the school on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November, to provide COVID19 vaccinations for those eligible students whom have not yet received one and would like to. If your child becomes eligible after this date, you can book an appointment at a local vaccination centre using this link: <https://nhs.uk/covid-vaccine-children> or call 119.

#### Online learning preparation

This week, we have begun to update our remote teaching tools, so that we could easily switch to online teaching at any point, should the need arise. In the event of an enforced closure this year, we should be in a position to continue with 'live' online teaching straight away. We will ensure students new to the school this year are familiar with the use of MS Teams, should we be faced with a 'snow day' this winter.

**Mr Reeve, Headteacher**

#### School closure on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

As part of the planned Platinum Jubilee celebrations, there have been some changes to the official dates for bank holidays in the summer term. Rather than having a bank holiday on Monday during the May half-term, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 will both be public holidays. As these days both fall outside of term time, the Department for Education have asked schools to reduce their academic year by one day. Therefore, **The Bishop's Stortford High School will be closed to students and staff on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

#### 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.

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.

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### 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.

### Publishing Houses and Supporting the School

If any parent has a connection with any Educational books Publishing Houses please contact

[rachel.engel@tbshs.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Bookopoly

This half-term we have introduced the reading initiative 'BOOKOPOLY' to the library, a reading challenge that encourages students to read more books and earn the chance to win prizes whilst they do so!

Simply work your way around the board and complete the tasks on the coloured tiles. Once you've collected a full set of coloured tiles by completing the tasks assigned to that colour, you are entered into the prize draw for the end of term. Your name can be entered into the draw up to nine times.

To play BOOKOPOLY simply visit the library and collect a BOOKOPOLY reading log to get started!

### Donations

**Did you know...** Comic books/graphic novels average around 53.5 rare words per thousand compared to children's books at 30.9 and adult books at 52.7!

If you have any graphic novels or manga lying around and going unread, why not donate them to the library and help students build on their vocabulary?

### Parent Governor Vacancies

The Governing Body of TBSHS invites nominations for two Parent Governors with effect from the Spring Term 2022.

Being a school governor is a rewarding and challenging role. It will allow you the opportunity to use your skills to have a positive impact on the education of all students at the school and work as part of an established and successful Governing Body.

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Governors do not need to be experts in the field of education but do need an interest in the school and welfare of the students, as well the time, energy and willingness to get involved. This is a particularly exciting time to consider putting yourself forward, as TBSHS progresses plans to relocate the school to a new site.

If you would like to find out more about the role by having a conversation with an existing governor, please email the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Jane Yates at [jane.yates@tbshs.org](mailto:jane.yates@tbshs.org).

Please click [here](#) for **further information**. Click [here](#) for a **nomination form**.

## Sixth Form

### Sixth Form Open Evening - THANK YOU

We have received much verbal and also written praise for our Sixth Form students and the professional and welcoming manner in which they "hosted" prospective students and their parents last Wednesday at the Sixth Form Open Evening. Their contributions were extremely valuable. Thank you from the Sixth Form Management Team for the support that you provided to ensure your son/daughter's involvement. **Mr R Stark**

### Year 13 Post-18 Update

**UCAS:** Four weeks after our main submission and there are now conditional offers of places to over 54% of all the different course choices submitted. Please remember that students who have received offers should not take any action at this stage as Firm and Insurance choices will not have to be made until **9<sup>th</sup> June 2022** so there is plenty of time to focus on A level work and the mock exams in January. The results of these, further assessments plus full reports issued Easter 2022 should all be used to inform their final choices.

**Apprenticeships:** A reminder that students need to be alert and proactive in seeking and applying for apprenticeships as there is no streamlined timeline or application process as with UCAS. All companies operate in their own particular way. Please check last week's Bulletin for the key steps they need to be taking. Also, please do remember that students can email our Careers Advisor Claire Jonas, [claire.jonas@tbshs.org](mailto:claire.jonas@tbshs.org), to organise an in-depth Next Steps career interview at any point.

**Mrs F Price**

### Year 13 Post-18 Interviews

See last week's Bulletin for full details but absence will be authorised for students to attend virtual or in-person interviews. Absence should be requested ahead of the event by emailing Mr Munro or Mr Stark, including a copy of the interview invitation. If students want to conduct virtual interviews in school rather than at home, they should contact Sixth Form Administrator Chrissy Goan ([christina.goan@tbshs.org](mailto:christina.goan@tbshs.org)) in plenty of time to organise a room. **Mrs F Price**

### Year 12 Consultation Evening – Thursday 25th November – BOOKING OPEN

We are delighted that so many of you have already organised your appointments with the Year 12 teaching staff. A reminder of details for those that have not yet done so can be found here:

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[Year 12 Consultation Evening Invitation Nov21.pdf](#). All students are expected to attend. This will be your first opportunity to discuss their progress directly with staff and to check how they are adapting to A-level work. **Mr R Stark**

## Year 11

### Year 11 Sixth Form Applications

We hope that Year 11 students found last week's Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening informative. Our students are reminded that they still need to complete an on-line application form by **4pm on Friday 10th December**. The process is very straightforward: they just sign in with their existing school email and password, double check the personal details which are taken from our school records; add a non-TBSHS email address for admissions correspondence and fill in the subjects that they would like to study. **All the examinations section will be populated from our school data so there is no need to enter any data in that part.** The application form & key dates in the application process can be found on the website here: [Information for Entry September 2022](#). **Mr R Stark**

### Year 11 Post-16 Choices

Year 11s had an assembly this week on general considerations when making their post-16 choices, be that to go into an apprenticeship, follow vocational qualifications such as HNCs and City & Guilds at a college or to continue to Level 3 BTECs and A levels in Sixth Form. Please see the assembly slides here:

[Yr11 TBSHS Sixth Form Choosing Post-16 Options Assembly](#)

It also contains some useful links for exploring subject combinations further. Mr Sadler will have sent this presentation direct to all Year 11 students but I hope that you may find it useful in supporting them.

For those applying to TBSHS Sixth Form, it will be possible to amend subject choices as thinking develops after the 10<sup>th</sup> December deadline by writing to [admissions.sixthform@tbshs.org](mailto:admissions.sixthform@tbshs.org). **Mrs F Price, Post-18 Coordinator**

## Year 10

### Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award.

Thank you to those parents who have registered and paid for enrolment for their son to complete the Bronze DofE award this year. **Registration is now closed.**

**Information for the boys will be put on Teams in the next few days, with instructions about eDofE (the system used to record the award) and a survey to complete.**

Their next challenge is to complete a form on Teams explaining what they intend to do for their Physical, Volunteering and Skills sections. I will provide full details on Teams and will hold a brief parental meeting (via Zoom or Teams) for Q&A before the end of term.

Events

TBSHS  
**Candlelit  
Supper**

**Dinner & Dance**  
**Friday December 3rd 2021**  
**Tickets £35**

Ticket includes a Glass of Fizz on Arrival,  
3 Course Meal, Coffee & Mints

**The School Hall**  
**Bar Opens 7.15pm Dinner Served 8pm**  
**Carriages Midnight**

**To book a table (max 12 people)**  
**please use link below**

<https://app.etickets.to/buy/?e=18942>

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### \*\*\* Disco Inferno \*\*\* – Whole School Production

Friday night's performance is now **SOLD OUT**. However, there are still some tickets available for tonight, Wednesday, and tomorrow night, Thursday. [Click here](#) or there are tickets on the door. **7pm is Showtime!** Interval bar.

### Christmas Concert – Advance Notice

The annual Christmas Concert will take place on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm** with interval bar. For those new to the school, it's a wonderful evening full of sparkle, festive music and Christmas spirit. Ticket information will be available in the next few days but in the meantime please make a note of this hugely popular event.

## Sports

### 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](http://amazon.co.uk). The difference is that when customers shop through the URL [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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 you 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).

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- 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**

### Sponsorship Opportunity - 2022 New Zealand Senior Rugby Tour

Are you a business, or do you work in a business/service that might be interested and/or keen to get involved with TBSHS Rugby? The tour organisers are looking for supporters and sponsors for the Senior Rugby Tour to New Zealand planned for July/August 2022. Support could be by way of financial donations or raffle prizes which in turn, help to raise funds. This is a wonderful opportunity to support TBSHS Sport, and in particular, rugby. For more information, [please click here](#).

**Mrs Jonas/Mr Paine**



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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**

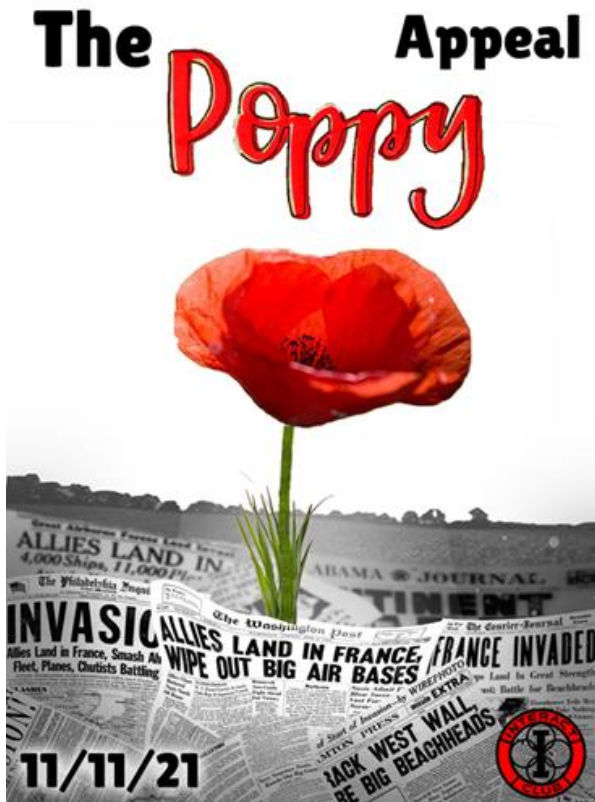
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## Fundraising

### Interact Charity



Above: Art work by Adrian Atanassov, Year 10

Thank you so much for your generosity with The Poppy Appeal in the 100<sup>th</sup> year of The Royal British Legion.

The poppy tins, four out of four were full with all poppies being donated for in the school, will be collected this week and counted in the next couple of weeks.

On Friday, we will be selling allergy-free doughnuts for **Children In Need** in the playground. The price is £1 with all proceeds going to the charity.

Our **TBSHS Christmas Charity Campaign** will be coming soon which will give everyone an opportunity to give to others in a modest and inclusive manner.

With every good wish and many thanks for your continued wonderful support

Thank you so much to the Interact student group.

With every good wish. **Mr. Etheridge**

Head of Religious Studies and Citizenship

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PTFA



## Starting your Christmas shopping?

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.

<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!)*