

# The Bishop's Stortford High School

## Parental Bulletin



Wednesday, 22 September 2021

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### Whole School

#### COVID-19 Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds – important information

Thank you to all those parents who have already completed the consent for their child to receive the single dose of the vaccine in school on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. Children who will not be aged 12-15 by that date are not yet eligible for the vaccine and will be part of the NHS catch-up programme, which is expected to take place in local clinics outside of term time. If we receive any further information on the vaccination catch-up arrangements, we will, of course, share it with parents.

We have just been informed by the NHS that they are experiencing technical problems with their own portal, so we have recreated the consent form to ease the process for parents. If your child is eligible and you have not yet given consent, please now do so using the link to a Microsoft Form below. If you have already registered electronically, you do not need to complete the new form.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IBipHkaXP0W-3WHy83UBOfdmgtZTkPJKhhOPwLYIXZFUREVBV1hZNEc1MEFIQzZZWE04WUILLWVBEMC4u>

Consent must be completed by **midday on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**.

If you are the parent/carer of a child aged 16+ that has not yet booked a vaccine, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible, to help protect the community and minimise disruption to learning.

#### 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**.

#### School Closure Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Please note that the **The Bishop's Stortford High School will close at 13.15 on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** in preparation for the Prospective Parents Evening.

#### Inset Day – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September is an Inset day. School will be closed to students all day.

#### 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 at least until the end of September and possibly longer, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**

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- **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/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.

### 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](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals) Or Call the customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm Saturday).

### 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.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

## Sixth Form

### Year 12 – Testing Week, 27<sup>th</sup>- 1<sup>st</sup> October

All Year 12 students will take part in Testing Week next week, which will help teachers identify how well students have settled & what support may be needed . **Mr R Stark**

### Prospective Parents Evening – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Yr12 & Yr13 Helpers

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September is the school's Prospective Parents' Evening for potential Year 7 students. A letter with further details can be found at [2021 PPE Helpers Letter](#). **Mr R Stark**

### Year 12 – Activity Days 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October

Communications have been sent to parents regarding these activity days, to be held at Herts Mariners Base on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October. The online consent form, sent via MyEd, will need to be completed & payment made by the 24<sup>th</sup> September. **Mr R Stark**

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### Year 12 Oxbridge and Medicine/Veterinary/Dentistry Interest List

A reminder that Year 12 students who might be considering an Oxbridge application for any subject or applying for a medicine-related course have been asked to email me ([fiona.price@tbshs.org](mailto:fiona.price@tbshs.org)) specifying their area of interest. This is so I can be compiling interest lists to help provide additional support and guidance. **Mrs F Price**

### Year 13 UCAS Predicted Grades – Final discussions

A reminder that the formal consultation process on UCAS Predicted Grades finishes this week on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Students need to present academic evidence from Testing Week in any discussion with their Subject Leaders. It is the student's responsibility to see their teachers.

**Mrs F Price**

### Year 13 UCAS PAY/SUBMIT – 24th September

Students have received detailed guidance verbally and by email about completing their applications and doing their PAY/SUBMIT by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September – get them to check their school email and SMHW if they are uncertain. Please remember **THEY CAN MAKE CHANGES** to choices and Personal Statement after this date (they will need to ask their tutor to “return” their application to them). This initial stage is **only into school's control** (and not yet going off to UCAS) and that they will be able to have their forms back to modify choices or make final tweaks between now and 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Mrs F Price**

### Year 10

Please click [here](#) for details of the Year 10 parents - standards evening and work experience. **Mr Ardin**

### Year 7

#### Year 7 Concert – 21<sup>st</sup> October – Advance Notice

This whole year group concert is always a tremendous occasion with rousing and enthusiastic singing from our new Year 7 students!

More information nearer the time including how to buy tickets, but in the meantime please make a note of this event which takes place on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October, doors open 6.30pm.**

### 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.

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### 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](mailto:leanne.luppi@tbshs.org) or telephone the exams office on 01279 869524

### Events

#### \*\*\* 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, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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](#).**

### Clubs

#### 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**

#### Italian Club

Mondays at 1:30 **Mr Ivett**

## Careers, Opportunities & Competitions

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

So long as it is safe to do so, we will be running this biennial event on **October 20th 5.00pm-7.30pm** (times tbc). It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with educators and employers from a huge range of professions,

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many of whom are nationwide recruiters including apprenticeships; past Forums have been hugely successful in facilitating work experience as well as employment. Students in Years 10-13 will be invited to attend in allocated time slots to ensure the event runs smoothly and efficiently. More detailed information nearer the time but please diarise this important event.

**Claire Jonas, Events/Careers/Work Related Learning**

## Sports

We are trialling a new system of recording the results of matches during House Rugby this year. You will be able to see the scores of all matches via the TBSHS website. Click on the Sports tab, followed by *Sports Home* and then *In House Sport*. You will be able to see how your House is doing in all the age groups. Hopefully, this will help to create even more excitement than usual during one of the biggest events on the TBSHS calendar. For the first time we are also using the names of the animals associated with the Houses on the website score cards:

Chantry Lions

Dane Owls

Meads Stags

Shaw Wolves

Twyford Dolphins

Waytemore Dragons



**Mr Griffiths**

Assistant Headteacher

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### Fundraising



Interact, the school charity group, will once again be collecting for our local food bank this harvest time.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, students will have the opportunity to give items below that the food bank are requesting. Alternatively, students can give a financial donation of either 50 pence or £1.

The Interact Team, and Mr. Etheridge, will be going round the school on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October**, collecting any donations.

Requested items are:

Cans and packets of soup	Tinned fish (tuna, salmon etc)	Coffee & Tea / UHT Milk
Rice, pasta & noodles	Tinned and mashed potatoes	Biscuits
Tinned vegetables (carrots, sweetcorn etc); tinned tomatoes	Sugar	Jam/marmite/peanut butter
Tinned beans & spaghetti	Crisps	Toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo & shower gel
Tinned meat	Breakfast Cereal & cereal bars	Shaving foam, razors, male & female deodorant
		Sanitary items and toiletries

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Tinned fruit (peaches, pineapple etc)	Savoury & sweet snacks	
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Any support is gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued support. With every good wish

**Mr. Simon Etheridge**

**Michael Holding**



At the school we are fortunate to host a range of interesting guest speakers over a number of years.

Michael Holding is a former West Indies cricketer. He was one of the greatest bowlers of all-time in the greatest cricket team of all time.

In recent times, Michael has become a prominent anti-racism campaigner and author.

Michael has visited the school on a couple of occasions. He has kindly offered to engage in a webinar on the zoom platform for interested and engaged students (who have questions) in all years.

This is likely to be after school in the next couple of weeks. Please e-mail [simon.etheridge@tbshs.org](mailto:simon.etheridge@tbshs.org) Thank you for your consideration

**Mr. Simon Etheridge**, Head of Religious Studies and Citizenship

## PTFA

### Parent, Teacher & Friends Association

### Annual General Meeting

### Registered Charity Number 293966

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Bishop's Stortford High School, Parent Teachers and Friends Association will be held at 7.15pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 In the School Hall.

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### TBSHS Face Masks

#### **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*)**

For further information please click [here](#).