



BISHOPSTROW COLLEGE

A pathway to excellence

Bishopstrow College - March 2020 Newsletter

Greetings from the Principal

My second term at Bishopstrow has had many of the characteristics of the first. Students enjoying trying something new, and coping with challenges of the unfamiliar - and discovering that these experiences can be opposite sides of the same coin. The great thing at Bishopstrow is that however difficult these new experiences are, the students feel supported in tackling them and they go on to succeed in ways they would not have imagined.

The term has of course also seen the College having to respond to the new and challenging worries about coronavirus, as have all our Bishopstrow families. Whilst we have sought to keep everything going exactly as normal for our students, behind the scenes we have been considering every possibility that might be needed to support our students. We have done everything we can to remain open as normal and looking forward to Term 3, will do everything we can to provide the best possible experience for our students despite the closure of on-site operations. At the time of writing some greater clarity is emerging, built on our determination to take the greatest care of our students. Whatever happens this remains constant and we hope our online programme 'Bishopstrow Online', will be a great support to ensure our students have some normality in their school life and to help parents maintain health, structure and education for their children until the world is back to normal.



NHS Paramedics Visit



Our students were extremely fortunate to receive a visit by the local NHS paramedics on 9th March. The NHS team covered a range of topics, from the fascinating history of the NHS, why it is important to have the NHS in the UK and those who benefit from the service. Our students were able to tour an ambulance and see all the equipment inside, as well as learn the key words and phrases used by the paramedics. Lots of questions were asked and on returning to class, the students were able to discuss and share all that they had seen.

All Things Sport

We have had a very successful term with students developing their abilities through a variety of different sports including Hockey, Rugby, Netball, Football, Basketball, Badminton and Cricket. By allowing our students to explore and develop in a safe and nurturing environment, we hope that they can find a passion within for sport. Sport of course offers possibilities for better physical, mental and social well-being, all of which are important for the overall development of young individuals.

This term the students also participated in fixtures against a number of different schools in a variety of sports including Badminton and Football. These fixtures were a great success, with the students enjoying the occasion and positively benefitting from applying their skills and abilities in competitive matches against other schools. One of the highlights of the term was the opportunity for the Senior Boys to compete in a football match against Padworth College. It was an exciting game, enjoyed by all. Students have also had the opportunity to compete against one another in inter-house sport events, including traditional British sports such as tug-of-war.



'Tree Of Knowledge'



The Bishopstrow College community was delighted to welcome Robin Fletcher, Chief Executive of the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA), to Bishopstrow on Tuesday 25th February. Robin updated the team on developments within the boarding sector and enjoyed a tour of Riverside House (new boarding house) and The Henson Building (academic block). The tour was followed by a wonderful lunch, prepared by our talented chefs and then Robin planted a beautiful pear tree in the College grounds.



The BSA launched The Boarding Orchard in 2014, aiming to create the largest orchard, by distance, in the UK. Symbolising the College's commitment to growth and the environment, the planting also represents the 'tree of knowledge'. Bishopstrow students, representing a number of nationalities, assisted Robin with the tree planting. They were accompanied by Stuart Nicholson, Principal, Ian Ravenhill, Head of Boarding and Gregory Jackson, Assistant Director of Studies.

Activities For All

We have had a full range of activities in the evenings and on the weekends throughout the term. The students thoroughly enjoyed Miss Cruse's Tuesday Night Quiz, which had a different topic each week ranging from Geography to Movies. We also had weekly art sessions in the evenings where students created different pieces of artwork for display throughout the College. On Burns Night, as a Scottish tradition, we held a Ceilidh and taught students traditional Scottish dancing. We addressed the Haggis before tucking in along with some Neeps and Tatties!



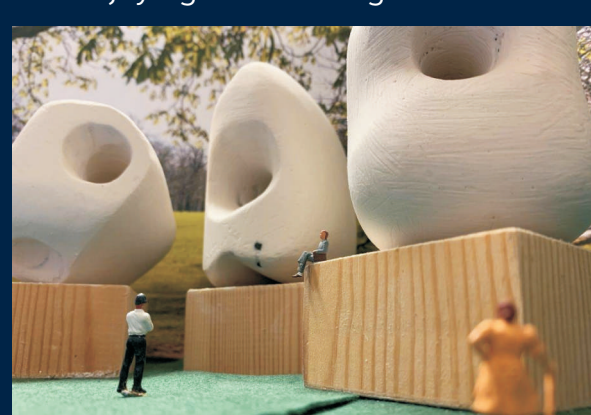
During weekends at home we made the most of the students' love for their mobile phones and created the A to Z 'Selfie Challenge'. Working in teams, the students had to take a selfie with an object from each letter of the alphabet. We were amazed by the creativity of the students, with Coco, Qianyi, Eric and Jack being crowned winners. As well as creative and energetic activities, the students also enjoyed relaxing activities, such as movie nights and jigsaw competitions.

The Love Of Art



This term we have again been focusing on a variety of projects in two and three dimensions. All our Art students undertook a painting in acrylic on canvas and enjoying the challenge of composition and mixing colours.

The Senior students studying art have made drawings using perspective and shadow and also carved a plaster block in the style of the artist Barbara Hepworth. The students documented the sculptures using 'macro' photography.



Thank You For Your Support

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you for supporting the College during this very challenging time. Bishopstrow is a very special place, full of magic, support and offering children a unique experience. None of this would be possible without you. We are very aware that everyone is suffering in their own way and if we can help please do get in touch. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy. We are strong and we will all get through this. Thank you for your support.



Online Programme For Term 3

As you know Bishopstrow is a remarkable place and we would like to reassure you, and the families you support, that we have done everything in our power to remain open. Sadly we have had our hands tied by the Government when they announced that all schools in the UK were to close from last Friday. We hope, and plan, to open as quickly as we are able and will keep you abreast of the situation as and when we have new information.

When the closure was announced we jumped into action. We are extremely lucky that our staff want to continue to support the students, both current and new, at Bishopstrow. It is with this in mind that we are putting together 'Bishopstrow Online' which will not only offer the children the academic support they need but, and just as important, the essence of what Bishopstrow is - the 'Bishopstrow Magic' as we like to call it. The programme will cover academic, cultural, social and boarding preparation, as well as daily exercise. This will come with some challenges, different time zones, technology, language, to name a few, but we have taken this into account and will be adapting the programme accordingly.



We are very aware that many parents work and schools are closed throughout the world so we hope that what we are offering at Bishopstrow will go some way to relieving the challenges everyone faces.

Please bear with us whilst we finalise the online programme; more information will be sent out shortly.

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