

Principal's Letter
10th September, 2024



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer break. Now that we are back in school, life at the Academy is as exciting and busy as ever.

Last week, I had the pleasure of welcoming our students back during assemblies with Reverend Jenny. This was a great opportunity to remind them of 'The Bishop Way' and to celebrate our outstanding public examination results for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. We are thrilled to see a record number of students joining Bishop's Sixth Form to pursue A levels and BTECs. Our entire school community sends its best wishes to all our departing year 13 students as they embark on their journeys to top universities across the country, pursuing a wide range of exciting degree courses. We are incredibly proud of each one of them for achieving some outstanding results. Behind every set of results is a student who has worked hard to overcome the challenges of the COVID years and, in some cases, personal circumstances, while remaining focused on their goal of fulfilling their God-given potential.

As always, our success is built on working together, guided by 'The Bishop Way' and our three key mantras: 'Have the courage to be wise,' 'High Expectations—No Excuses,' and 'Live Life to the Full.' The partnership between home and school is the foundation of this success, and I am immensely grateful to you for your continued support in everything we strive to achieve.

As we begin this new academic year, I would like to share some helpful reminders and key dates for your diary. I also want to express my heartfelt thanks for the prayers, kindness, and support you showed to the Academy and its staff at the end of the last term. I look forward to continuing our partnership as we embark on another exciting year at The Bishop.

Best wishes,

Paul Mc





Sapere Aude

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Uniform

Uniform plays an important role in our Academy's identity, fostering a sense of community and pride among our students. It also prepares them for life beyond school, where professional attire may be required. Additionally, it helps create a positive impression of our school within the wider community. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the school last year by ensuring that their children were appropriately dressed.

However, there are occasions when some students make uniform choices that can affect their modesty, self-esteem, and sense of pride. For example, short or rolled-up skirts are not suitable for school and may pose safeguarding concerns outside of school. I kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that students wear skirts that comply with the Governors' School Uniform Policy: [Uniform Statement](#). The uniform policy also outlines expectations regarding facial piercings, makeup, and hairstyles. It is important that all students adhere to these guidelines.

Lost Lanyards and Planners

Lanyards and planners are among the most frequently misplaced items. Replacements can be purchased from the Finance Office, and it would be helpful if parents could maintain a small surplus balance of around £5.00 on their child's Squid account. This will allow students to replace any misplaced items promptly without needing to request additional funds from home.

Lost Property

Over the holiday, we accumulated a surprising amount of unnamed lost property. This represents a significant cost for parents who have to replace these items. To help prevent this, please ensure all your child's uniform and equipment is clearly labelled with their name to allow for a swift return and to help save money.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance figures showed improvement last year—thank you for your efforts. However, overall attendance has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. The link between good attendance and academic success is well documented. Punctuality, too, is important, as starting the academy day on time sets a positive tone for the day. A reminder that the Academy gates open at 8:15 a.m., and students must be on-site by 8:25 a.m. at the latest.

Parking

For student safety during arrival and departure, vehicle entry to the site is restricted. The gates to on-site parking are closed between 08:15-08:45am and 3:15-3:45 on Monday to Thursday's and 12:45-1:15pm on Friday's.

Thank you for your continued support as we start this new academic year. I look forward to working together with you to ensure the success of all our students at The Bishop.

