



Bishopstrow College – June 2018 Newsletter

Update from Lorraine Atkins, Principal



Exam season has hit Bishopstrow, but the students have been calm and positive throughout and showed a remarkable level of resilience. The College has continued to provide an excellent balance with the academic demands of the courses, IGCSE and English language exams and our sporting, boarding and extra-curricular programme. Harry and Meghan (the Duke and Duchess of Sussex) enabled us to have the perfect excuse for an English afternoon tea after watching the Royal Wedding, followed by a barbeque for the Seniors at our new boarding house, Mandalay. Although for many, it is a time of goodbyes, we wish the students well and hope that they take a little piece of Bishopstrow away with them in their heart. I hope they always remember the 5 virtues of the College, namely to be Kind, Polite, Organised, Hard-Working and a Team Player, but most of all I know they have the solid foundation of a British education here at Bishopstrow that they will use wisely and positively.



Graduation Ceremony

On Thursday 7 June 2018, we were delighted to welcome a number of schools, agents, guardians and parents to the College's Graduation Ceremony 2018. Graduation has become one of the highlights of the College's academic year and this year was no exception!

Before the official proceedings commenced, we were delighted to welcome representatives from a number of the College's destination and partner schools, including Bradfield College, Downside School, King Edward's School Witley, Kingswood School, Lime House School, Monkton Combe School, Oundle School, Mill Hill International, Westonbirt School and Wycliffe College, plus Stephen Ilett, Headmaster of Port Regis School, who had kindly agreed to be our Guest Speaker.

We then made the short walk to Bishopstrow Church, to enjoy a combination of speeches from Lorraine Atkins, Principal and Stephen Ilett, followed by the awards presentation. All c.60 students leaving the College at the end of Term 3 were presented with a Leaver's Certificate and a number of other academic, boarding and sports awards were presented, including Boarder of the Year, Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year and Most Improved Sportsman and Sportswoman. Special congratulations to Elizaveta Grivnyak who was presented with the coveted Principal's Award. Liza has recently completed Bishopstrow's 1 Year IGCSE Programme and will be joining King's School Canterbury in September.

We then returned to the College to enjoy a hog roast BBQ supper and entertainment in the form of music and drama, presented by a number of the students. Congratulations to all award winners and good luck to all those students who graduated from the College.

Update on Programmes

From September 2018, we will be introducing some small changes to our programmes for Seniors. The Upper College Programme will be re-named as the Pre-IGCSE Programme and IGCSE Programme, whilst the 1 Year IGCSE Programme will be open to students with a lower level of English than the current Level B2 requirement.

The Pre-IGCSE Programme is for students aged 14-15 years on entry and consists of intensive English language tuition and academic study for Senior School entry, including preparation for GCSE courses.

Meanwhile, the IGCSE Programme is for students aged 15-17 years on entry and consists of intensive English language tuition and academic study for Senior School entry, including preparation for GCSE courses, A Levels and the International Baccalaureate.

For both programmes, students can enrol in September, January, March and June, with a course length of 1, 2, 3 or 4 terms.

The College will continue to offer the 1 Year IGCSE Programme for students aged 15-17 years. The 1 Year IGCSE programme offers a range of subjects leading to up to 8 IGCSE examinations and is an excellent preparation for international students before they begin their A Level studies or the IB Diploma Programme. Students must enrol in September for three terms and must have a minimum English language Level A2 on entry.

Further details can be found at: www.bishopstrow.com/preparation-for-boarding-programmes

Boarding Update

We are delighted to report that a new boarding house – Riverside House – will be opening with effect from June 18, the start of the College's 'Term 4'. Riverside House is located next door to Mandalay House (which opened in March) opposite the main campus. Riverside House will accommodate 12 senior students, who will benefit from their own space, kitchen area and garden, complete with the River Wylye flowing by!

Fees for 2018/19 Academic Year

We are pleased to confirm fees for our Programmes for the 2018/19 academic year. Termly fees for the Junior College Programme (previously referred to as the Lower College Programme) remain unchanged at £11,100 per term, whilst other programmes will see a modest increase in fees as follows:

- Middle College Programme: £11,800 per term
- Pre-IGCSE/IGCSE Programme (previously the Upper College Programme): £12,250 per term
- 1 Year IGCSE Programme: £12,250 per term
- Academic Summer Programme: £5,900

Further details can be found at: <https://www.bishopstrow.com/fees/>

Shakespeare in the Park (at Bishopstrow)

*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,*

At a time of exits for many students at Bishopstrow, tradition has it that the last day of classes run 'off-timetable' and involve a whole-day activity designed and run by the teachers. For the end of Term 3, the activity was "Shakespeare in the Park".

Five groups of students, each with a tutor directing, adapted a 10 minute Shakespeare play script to include in-jokes and references; practised; and created costumes and props to enhance the experience. Finally, at the end of the day abridged versions of Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice, Julius Caesar, Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet were performed on the grassy, make-shift Globe in the Bishopstrow grounds.

Students were able to demonstrate how much their confidence to use English had grown.

The reviews were all five star!



Sports Update

During this term, students have been involved in a varied sports programme focused on traditional English sports and have had the opportunity to display these skills at fixtures and training sessions against other schools.

This term, the Senior boys played basketball against Downside and football against Prior Park College. On both occasions the students represented Bishopstrow College to an exceptional standard, demonstrating their sportsmanship attitudes and their ability to remain focused.

Our Middle students recently competed in a mixed and a singles Badminton competition at Kingdown School. The students played exceptionally well and came away with a win of 12 games to 4. Throughout the competition they demonstrated all the skills they have been developing over the past term and their hard work and determination certainly payed off!

Our Junior and Middle students have had over 10 inter-house competitions this term which have included Tag-Rugby, Rounders, Cricket, Athletics, Basketball and Football. These school events allow the students to work in their Houses (Newton, Pankhurst, Nightingale and Blake) and allow them to earn those all important stars for their House.

As well as students being able to participate in sporting fixtures and activities, they have had the chance to go try new activities and watch live basketball and netball matches. Our Senior boys and girls headed off to Bristol to watch the Bristol Flyers play Worcester Wolves in a live basketball match. Meanwhile, on Monday 4 June, some of the Senior girls went to Bath University where they watched Bath play The Sirens in a live netball match. Both events were thoroughly enjoyed by the students, giving them the opportunity to see live professional sport - an experience they will no doubt remember for a long time.

The students have worked hard to develop their skills across all sports this term and have represented the College to a high standard. We wish those students leaving Bishopstrow a successful next chapter and look forward to seeing some students return for Term 4.

