****Bishop Stopford’s School****

**Brick Lane, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3PU**

**Headteacher:** Mrs T. Day BA (Hons), NPQH

December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas is a time for celebration and reflection and as we draw to the end of another fabulous term our thoughts turn to the achievements of this year and the endless possibilities for next year.

This term has once again been filled with a whole host of events that enrich our school and local community. This newsletter includes just a few of the highlights, with even more details available on the school website.

**The Enfield Foodbank**

As a whole school we are, once again, supporting the North Enfield Foodbank throughout the month of December. Every day people in the UK go hungry for many reasons, but just a small box of food can make a big difference. Foodbanks provide emergency food to people in crisis and their need is increasingly important during the winter period. North Enfield Foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust’s network of foodbanks that work to tackle food poverty and hunger across the UK. We smashed our target of **1000** items and are delighted to say that we collected approx. 2500 items for this cause. A big thank you to students, parents and staff for their donations.

**Odd Socks Day**

On Friday, 15th November 2019, Bishop Stopford’s School supported Odd Socks Day as part of Anti- Bullying Week. The support for this was fantastic and the whole school took an active part.  As well as dressing up, or dressing down, the students also discussed issues around bullying and strategies to mitigate against it throughout the week.  We also managed to raise £570.00 which we have donated to Children In Need.

For more information about Anti-Bullying Week please use the following link: <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2019-change-starts-us>

**Human Rights Day**

Tuesday 10th December was Human Rights Day and all form groups discussed the importance of human rights and what it means for them as young people in the world today.  Young people around the world are acting as leaders in shedding light on important issues like climate change, education and equal rights and we encouraged all students to consider how they could become leaders themselves or how they could contribute to the highlighting of these issues.

**Democracy at Bishop Stopford’s School**

This year our school has been able to take part in two separate elections giving our students a great opportunity to get involved in local and national politics along with having their voice added to different debates.

On Wednesday 20th November, the school came together to vote for who they wanted to have represent them in the Enfield Youth Parliament. We had 6 different students from Year 11 take time to think about what they felt was important to them and what they would like to do to improve the London Borough of Enfield. If elected, our representatives will be able to take the concerns and ideas of all students from our school to the local council to influence planning for the area as part of a combined youth voice.

We saw a 50% turnout from all students during voting, with many students queuing out the door in order to pick their chosen candidate. Due to the General Election, all candidates will have to wait until 18th December to find out which students will be elected to take their seat.

The campaign was intense with candidates presenting in front of tutorial groups, designing campaign posters and leaflets, and rallying students to vote. All in all the event was a great success demonstrating how our students work together to get their voice heard.

The school has also taken part in a mock General Election. Teachers and students planned several sessions in Tutor Time to discuss the General Election, how it worked, and the possibilities for forming a new government. This enabled our students to make an informed decision when voting for the different candidates standing in Enfield North constituency. Nearly 250 students chose to take part.

Our results were added to the Hansard Society, a national Think Tank to encourage democracy. Our students’ voice mirrored youth voices across the country with a Labour majority. We became part of the 41,000 students in the country that supported this youth voice initiative and we are proud to say that our students are becoming more engaged with democracy and politics.

**Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge**

Twenty five Y10 students were selected to compete in "The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge" last Thursday 12th December. The candidates spent a whole day with a representative from Jack Petchey, battling it out in classroom E12 with their presentation skills. From posture, to eye contact, to the all-important vocals, everybody worked hard to be selected as one of the six finalists.

The final round will be taking place at Winchmore School in February. Our six contestants have three weeks to prepare. Members of the English department will decide who will go on to represent Bishop Stopford’s School at the finals. We wish our students the very best of luck in their efforts to secure first prize of £5000 for the school.

**Carol Service**

On Tuesday 10th December, Bishop Stopford’s School welcomed members of the community, parents, staff, primary schools, students and governors to our evening carol service.

This year, the carol service had a different twist with students and staff members acting out the Christmas story. The service was also accompanied by exerts from the bible read by members of staff. Of course our wonderful school choir performed and we were very fortunate to have the students from St John and James Primary School singing in the service with them. The event was truly a celebration of all.

**Year 7 News**

It seems such a short time ago that the year 7 students arrived at Bishop Stopford’s School, nervous, scared and excited about their new secondary school experience. They have all developed and grown together this term. Students have formed part of our successful school choir and have been on primary school visits to share their experiences with younger students. Many have joined basketball and football clubs and played in fixtures against other local schools. Student leaders and form captains have been responsible in developing our recycling project and encouraging others to donate to our successful food bank appeal this Christmas. Fifteen students have been selected to attend the cinema rewards trip with another twenty-five celebrating their success on the last day of term with a rewards breakfast.

**Year 8 News**

Year 8 footballers have had a clean sheet since the beginning of term with a goal difference that defies logic, our last game against Oasis Hadley won 0-9. With 6 players scoring, it is fair to say that we have a really good team and that the future is bright and it is blue and white. With such a positive start, we are hopeful that we could be league winners by the end of this academic year. Well done to all players took part and thank you, to our keen supporters.

We are excited to offer a residential for the whole year group next June. The trip is open to all students and has huge benefits in developing the emotional and physical aspect of school life. It is a time when new friendships can be forged and old friendships can be fortified.

This week Year 8 will be celebrating the success of students who have 100% attendance and also those who have acquired only positive behaviour points since the beginning of term. Other students have been partaking in hot chocolate afternoons to celebrate their outstanding work and achievement.

**Year 9 News**

The first term of the academic year has been a very busy one for Year 9 students. There have been a plethora of opportunities for students to demonstrate their commitment to the school’s `strive for five’. A number of the year group have been involved in clubs, activities and events supporting the school’s vision, values and ethos.

The school’s Worship Group have been singing at events and assemblies throughout the term and are heavily represented by the year group. To support them, we also have a group who have become part of the lighting and sound team making sure assemblies and the recent Christmas Carol Service ran smoothly. We have students playing instruments such as the viola and steel pans to a very high standard. These students have performed on numerous occasions to students, staff, parents and the local community.

Year 9 have played an integral part in supporting the whole school in collecting for the North London Food bank. Students formed part of the team to organise, count and promote this charity.

Finally, some students have successfully trialled the Stopfordian Leadership Programme, assisting with the recycling campaign in school and encouraging all students to be a leader. Along with all these amazing achievements 33 students in Year 9 have been rewarded with a hot Chocolate afternoon with the Headteacher and even more looking forward to our Cinema rewards trip taking place in the last week of term.

**Year 10 News**

During this first term Year 10 students have had the opportunity to reflect on the progress made in Year 9 in order to prepare them for the second year of their GCSEs. Students have spent time during registration reviewing scholarship and attainment grades and using this information to set targets for the year and their upcoming assessments in January. Alongside this, students have been rewarded each week for their attendance and behaviour on both an individual and form group basis. The overall winning form this half term is 10N and a total of 65 students have been rewarded by the Head of Year. Thirty hot chocolate afternoon nominations have been made. We are ending the term with further rewards for students with an achievement breakfast and cinema trip. We look forward to continuing to monitor progress and reward success in the next term.

**Year 11 News**

Year 11 have been working very hard this term in their journey towards their GCSE examinations in the summer.

The subject teachers and year 11 team have worked relentlessly to support them through their learning, providing early morning study sessions, after school interventions and delivering a specific tutorial core programme tailored to their needs. In order to support our Year 11 with their independent study, there is silent study area and a study hub available to them at lunchtimes and after school, which they are utilising well.

This term we also invited Elevate Education in to speak with our Year 11 parents during our highly successful Year 11 parent information evening in October. This was then followed up by two study workshops which were delivered by the Elevate presenters to the Year 11 cohort; the feedback around these two sessions was very positive. The resources and study guidance will be incorporated into the ‘Growth Mindset’ and Aspirations tutorial programme which will be delivered by our tutors after the Christmas holidays. This will further support the students to prepare for their next set of trial examinations taking place during the weeks of 3rd – 14th February 2020.

To continue to celebrate our Year 11s, we publically reward them on a weekly basis during our assemblies in which we give certificates and prizes for students who continue to work hard, whether it be in specific subjects or across the board and those who have excellent attendance and punctuality.

This week, with the support of our prefects, we have put together a prom committee of 18 students who will meet regularly after the Christmas holidays to plan the Year 11 prom. They are very excited about the event and they have already generated many ideas to help make this an exciting event where they can celebrate together.

**Year 12 and 13 News**

Ten of our Year 12 students were selected along with our 6th Form Study supervisor, to attend a four session `Skills for Life’ programme at M & G Prudential Head Office in Central London. This programme is an employability workshop aimed at year 12 and 13students, giving them the chance to see for themselves what it is like to work for one of the largest financial services companies in the world. The programme focusses on developing the students’ core employability skills such as building a CV, body language and interview practice to help with their next steps after education. Each session will feature inspiring insights from Prudential leaders, and will provide opportunities for students to work with mentors across a range of professions and backgrounds within the company.

We are pleased to announce that two Year 13 students have been selected to get involved in Investment 20/20 work experience in the February half term, 2020. Investment 20/20 is a careers site for the investment management industry and all its opportunities. They provide access to school leaver and graduate trainee programmes across 42 partner companies. Work experience for our students would be based in one of their 42 partners. The students work in the afternoons with seminars and tutorials for up to 45 work experience candidates. This will give them a full understanding and knowledge of the industry and its different roles and aspects.

To conclude and remind you of the end of term arrangements and the times and dates of our return to school in January;

**End of Term Arrangements**

* Our last day of term is **Thursday, 19th December**.
* The students will leave the premises between **12.00pm and 12.30pm**.
* We return to school on **Monday 6th January 2020**. Students are asked to arrive promptly the slightly later time of **9.30am** for registration and periods 2-5 as normal.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you and your extended families God’s blessings for Christmas and the New Year.



**Tammy Day, Headteacher**

**BA(Hons), NQH**