



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

December 2015

Dear Parents

End of Autumn Term Letter

The routine of the Autumn Term is now almost complete – the Year 11 boys are discovering whether their revision efforts have paid off as the prelim results emerge into the daylight and the offers of places from universities are flooding in. This last week of term has already seen a spectacular Carol Service in the Cathedral. I always view this term as the ‘engine room’ of the school year, 16 weeks or so of more or less undiluted academic and extra-curricular activity. Whatever year your son is in I do hope that he has managed to enjoy life in Autumn 2015 as well as making substantial progress with his learning; thank you for all the support and encouragement that you will I am sure have given him with his homework etc as the term has passed by.

I do hope that you have felt able to keep abreast of what has been going on in school this term. One of the reasons that I have stopped sending out monthly updates for parents is because of the success of the school twitter feeds – both the main BWS version (which now has around 900 followers) and the other more specialised ones, all of which can be accessed via the website at www.bws-school.org.uk If you have not yet explored these can I encourage you to do so, as it is literally like having your finger on the pulse of the school; there are so many different events and activities in school that it is impossible to do them all justice, but twitter is undoubtedly the next best thing to actually witnessing what happens at first hand. This term, especially, there have been lots of sports events and also the school play ‘One Man, Two Guvnors’ which was an extraordinary success for everyone involved. Do take the time to browse through the feeds – and of course they can all be accessed easily through the website on your computer or mobile device, there is no need to have downloaded twitter to access them.

Looking ahead to next term there will be some staffing changes. You may have gathered that Mrs Salway has taken on the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator for BWS, with her English teaching commitment being fulfilled by Mrs Ward. Next term Mrs Jenner will be taking her maternity leave (starting around the end of January); Mr Podger will be stepping up to lead the Middle School with Mr Oldham as his assistant. Mrs Jenner’s Chemistry teaching will be covered partly by rescheduling within the Science Department, but in addition Mrs Emma Barnard and Mr Phil Copley will be teaching in the Lower School and Sixth Form respectively for the period of the maternity leave.



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The bulk of the Parents' Evenings will fall during next term. Full details of all of these and other school events can be found on the website – go via the 'navigation' tab at top right. If you have an issue that you would like to discuss with a member of the school staff please don't wait for the Parents' Evening to arrive however, as you will find the contact details for the pastoral staff and all of the Heads of Academic Departments on the relevant section of the website.

Finally, can I just quickly remind you of a couple of routine issues. There is still a small amount of uniform/sports kit that has been ordered but not collected from the Finance Office – we would like to clear the decks by the end of this term please. We also have a very rapidly diminishing pile of lost property left in school, so if your son appears to have mislaid an item of clothing and it is **named** the chances are that it is lodged with the staff in School Reception. It would be great if you could persuade him to come along and collect it. Of course it would be even better were boys not to lose things in the first place, but having sons myself I know just how unrealistic that aspiration can be at times!

Thank you for all the encouragement/cajoling/reminding etc that you have done at home during the course of a very long and busy Autumn Term. I wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas Break, and I look forward to seeing you in the Spring.

Best wishes

S.D. Smallwood
Head Master