



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2ED

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

March 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

## **Headmaster's End of Term Letter**

### ***University Applications and Senior Prefect Selection***

Well over 100 boys have submitted applications through UCAS, and the vast majority have received a full set of offers, including 6 at Oxford and Cambridge (including one Choral Scholarship); around 65-70% of the offers received will be from Russell Group Universities. As usual there will be a significant number who put off their higher education entry for a year; eventually it is still the case that over 95% of our boys go on to university and I do not anticipate this changing whatever evolutionary changes the fees and qualification structures undergo. Bishop's remains the premier route for Salisbury Boys to aspire (and get to) high quality universities throughout the UK and across the World.

After a lengthy and involved consultation and selection procedure, the Senior Prefect Team for 2016-2017 has been chosen. The principal appointments are as follows:

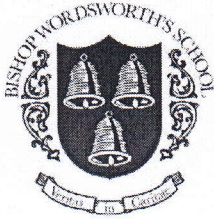
Head Boy	Deepak Singh
Deputy Head Boy	Matthieu Rident
Cathedral Prefect	Yvan Chambers
Head of Jewell	Ryan Nevill
Head of Martival	Matt Coombes
Head of Osmund	Callum MacTaggart
Head of Poore	Laurence Beal

Other prefect posts will be listed in school, and there are a number of posts that will be awarded in the early part of the Summer Term.

### ***Staffing Update***

The Spring Term brings with it occasional bouts of insomnia for the Head Master as the staffing for the following academic year is sorted out. At present there look to be relatively few changes, though we are currently advertising for a Head of Physics (to replace Mr Mark Bannister) and a Teacher of Economics and Business (to take up the post vacated by Mrs Victoria Jaafar. Both are moving on to posts at other schools due to promotion and family relocation respectively. The staffing complement for 2016-2017 needs to be finalised before the Summer, as this is when the timetable is written...





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## ***Public Speaking and Debating***

This has been a very successful term for Mr Endersby and his Debating Teams. Hot on the heels of the first international competition win in Estonia BWS Teams reached the national finals of both the Cambridge and Oxford Tournaments. Though in both cases our teams narrowly missed the national semi-finals we have emerged yet again as by far the strongest school in the region, rivalling (and quite often turning over!) the very best in the fee-paying sector.

## ***School Sport***

The Rugby Sevens Season is progressing well, with wins for the U15 Team at the Sherborne and the U16 Team at the Canford Tournaments against talented opposition. As I write the Senior Boys are through to the knock out stages of the National Schools' Sevens held at Rosslyn Park. There have been some very good results in both Football and Cross Country too – results and photos have been posted on the relevant twitter feeds as you would expect.

## ***Summer Concerts***

Can I draw your attention to the forthcoming Joint Choral Concert on 23 April in the Cathedral? As usual this should be an absolutely spectacular event with a massed choir made up of students from both the Salisbury Grammars and an orchestra performing works by Parry, Stanford and others. The Choral Concert fills our Cathedral with sound in a truly magnificent way and is a memorable opportunity for all of the youngsters to be involved in a production of truly impressive proportions and standards. Please come – and bring your family.

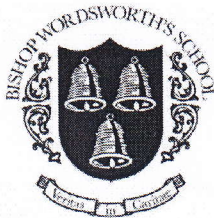
## ***From the Library...***

A group of 7 boys from Year 8 and 9 went to represent the school at the Salisbury School Book Awards ceremony at SWGS. The boys were all members of our Pupil Librarian Scheme and had each been charged with reading 6 shortlisted books and voting for their favourite. After some very constructive and intelligent deliberation the top choice here was a book by Jonathan Stroud (who has been a recent visitor here at BWS). This book was the ultimate runner-up at the ceremony where 6 schools took part and voted "The Executioner's Daughter" by Jane Hardstaff the overall winner for Salisbury.

## ***Routine (but important) Reminders***

With the approach of the Summer Term can I remind you of the importance of the summer exams – both internal and external – and the critical importance of the Easter Holiday as a period of preparation for the tests? In the case of the GCSE, AS and A2 exams please ensure that you and your son have both read his timetable so that he knows when and where he will take his papers. In the case of the internal exams it is absolutely essential that all boys in Years 7 – 10 are present for the exams week, with no interruptions for family holidays etc. Please note that the school internal examinations will be in the week before half term this year. This is a first.





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Founder's Day is in the latter part of the Summer Term on Saturday 9 July in the Cathedral, with the Service beginning at 10.00 am. All boys in Years 7 – 10 and 12 are expected to attend – and they are given a day off at the end of term in lieu. **Sixth Form boys should already have spoken to any employers to ask for a morning's leave**, and if there are any difficulties in this respect please let me know as soon as possible. Employment is not an acceptable excuse for non-attendance at this school event.

Finally in this routine section please remember that we rely on having correct parental contact information for your son. If you have changed your contact details ('phone or email) then please let us know straight away – there is nothing worse than finding out that we have inaccurate information in this respect in case of emergency, as I am sure you can imagine. Please also ensure that you let us know of any changes to your son's medical information.

### ***Education...and Finance***

As I write this letter I am waiting to hear what George Osborne has to announce in his budget statement. Though there is mention of additional funding for schools, I am not anticipating this making any real difference to the difficult job of planning a budget on the basis of resources that are declining year-on-year. We are told that schools' funding is 'ring-fenced', but in fact this only applies to the money that comes with pupils in Years 11-16. Sixth Form funding has been cut by around 20% over the past 4 years, and there are also increases in employers' NIC and pension contributions which together amount to a further cut for 2016-2017 of nearly £200,000. Austerity continues to bite very, very hard and so we need the support of parents more than ever, hence the recent reminder letter about the Gift Aid Scheme. Please do what you can to help us to keep doing what we do...and as you can see from the above, what Bishop's delivers is simply extraordinary in terms of quality, diversity and sheer breadth of achievement and participation.

May I wish all of the boys facing exams this summer a productive Easter Break, and I look forward to meeting you in school during the Summer term to come.

S D Smallwood  
Headmaster