



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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

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16 April 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable Easter break and that your sons are ready for the busy term ahead.

During the first three weeks of term we will have the EPQ presentations. This is the final part of the EPQ qualification and your sons were given the dates of their presentation before we broke up for the holidays. You are welcome to attend the presentation of your son if you wish. Up to 20% of the overall EPQ mark can come from the presentation, and so we would be grateful if you could encourage your sons to prepare for it really well, with printed slides and a script, and to rehearse it at home. The students have a total of 15 minutes for this which must include questions from the audience.

We have almost 100 boys taking the EPQ which is a huge achievement and I was delighted that they all submitted their EPQ by the deadline. Some were clearly more prepared than others but this will have been a useful lesson and will be invaluable when they have to complete projects at University or work in the future. Boys will be emailed their marks at the end of April.

On Wednesday 18 April we take the whole year group to Cardiff University. This is an ideal opportunity for boys to experience a Russell Group University and for them to find out about courses and university life in general. You have already had a letter from Mrs Armstrong and me about this – if you have mislaid the letter a copy should be found on Insight. Mrs Armstrong has run this trip for many years now and the students have always enjoyed it and found it very useful – even if they are unsure about their future plans it can help clarify what they may, or may not, wish to do in the future.

Mock exam week takes place from Monday 21 May until Friday 25 May and Year 12 students are on study leave for the whole week – they are only expected to come to school if they have an exam. Obviously they are welcome to use the library for revision if they wish. Boys should have started revision and their mentors will be discussing this when they meet them over the coming weeks. The Year 12 mock results will be used for UCAS predictions and so it is imperative that the boys obtain the best result that they are capable of achieving. This is also an ideal opportunity for them to revisit work from the start of the academic year and it will stand them in good stead when they have to revise again for their external examinations in Year 13.

We would also like to give advance warning that, uniquely and annoyingly, the Oxbridge application tests and also the BMAT Medicine test will be held this year in the autumn half-term, on Wednesday 31 October 2018. Most, but not all students applying to Oxford or Cambridge have to sit an aptitude test (held at BWS) on this day, and most but not all Medicine and Veterinary applicants take the BMAT test at this point. We will ensure in the later summer term that all our aspiring Oxbridge and Med/Vet applicants are clear about

which tests are needed for their courses, but for now please avoid booking your family away on holiday on 31 October if there is any possibility your son might be interested in those kind of applications.

The first week after the summer half term is Activities Week for Year 12 students. This includes coursework days for Biology, Chemistry and Geography as well as a fun trip to Thorpe Park. There are still a few places left for this trip so if you would like your son to attend please will you pay via Scopay ([www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com)) or contact the Finance Office ([amh@bws.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:amh@bws.wilts.sch.uk)).

Dr Smallwood has already written to you about Founder's Day on Saturday 28 April when you are welcome to attend. So, this is just a reminder, that all boys are expected to attend the service and to wear full school uniform. Unless they are involved directly in the service or as one of the Cathedral Stewards, boys should attend school for registration at 9.15 am. Members of the Choir must meet at 8.30 am in the Cathedral.

If your son is absent from school we would be grateful if you would report it via Insight or the Absence phone line (**01722 333851**). Please contact us every day that your son is away.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email me ([cew@bws.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:cew@bws.wilts.sch.uk)).

With best wishes



Mrs Wilson  
Head of Year 12