



Church of England School
Executive Head and CEO: Dr Hilary Macaulay

31st March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

End of Term 4

As we reach the end of Term 4, the lighter evenings and gradually warmer, drier weather has made a noticeable difference to the feel of the school during this period of Lent. The outdoor pavilion canopy has really started to come into its own during break and lunchtimes with students taking advantage of the opportunity for al fresco dining.

One of the numerous highlights of the term has been the Hustings Assemblies and the campaign and voting process for our new Head Students for 2022-23. With a hugely impressive field of 14 Year 12 students who spoke eloquently to the entire student and staff body during Hustings Week and then progressed their canvassing to the vote and a final shortlist stage of six, I am delighted to announce that James Cluett and Laura Anene will take up the mantle of leadership after Easter with a period of transition working with our outgoing Head Students as they move to focus on the final stages of their A level examination preparation. I would like to thank Toluwalase Lawale and Thea Cook for their tireless work as Head Students and wish them the very best as they move into the next phase of their academic study at university. The next stage of the further development of senior student leadership and students voice at Bishop Ramsey starts after Easter with 12 Deputy Head students to be appointed to the Senior Student Leadership Team to lead on the areas of:

Academics
Arts & Performance
Chaplaincy & Wellbeing
Community & Environment
Diversity
Sports

It has been wonderful to see our first Head Student Honours Board in position in the Atrium and the installation of a Deputy Head Student Honours Board will be our next addition.

We have had notable successes in sports this term including our Year 8 and 10 Girls' Netball Teams being crowned Borough Champions, our Year 9 Boys' Rugby team won the cup final played at Ruislip Rugby Club and our girls won the Key Stage 3 Borough Football tournament without conceding a goal. Attendance at both training and teams for fixtures across the board has remained extremely high and we are looking forward to Summer Term sports starting after Easter.

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The school production of Alice in Wonderland this week has been a joyful event to mark the end of Term playing to packed houses both for the Primary schools' performances and the evening shows. Our Science Department really went to town during British Science Week and our ongoing partnership working with Bishop Winnington-Ingram CE Primary has included some explosive activities during an assembly as part of Science Week, having them visit to use our science labs and we have enjoyed working with the students of Holy Trinity CE Primary, Northwood on a range of initiatives including Friday football and a joint choir project. Also staying with the strength of Science at Bishop Ramsey, four of our Year 10 female students represented the school at a Physics tournament against 11 other schools held at St Helen's School and won the experiment challenge.

It was great to be able to restart the Senior Chaplaincy residential retreat in March to Woodrow High House and students are still speaking fondly of their experiences there. Our Parent/Carer Prayer Group met again in March. If you would like to join them in their meetings please do let the School Office know and we will put you in contact. This year's Charity fundraising has raised nearly £7,050 so far for charities including World Vision, Macmillan Cancer Support, Great Ormond Street, the Alzheimer's Society, Show Racism the Red Card, Young Minds, Save the Children, Children in Need and our school in Malosa. We still have the total from our Lent Appeal to add and the Summer Term fundraising activities that will take place when we return after the Easter break. I would like to thank you for supporting your children in their work in raising money and in understanding the importance, as a Christian school, of our commitment to charitable giving.

This Term's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) focus has included celebration and awareness raising in assemblies and lessons as part of Neurodiversity Week and also hearing moving accounts from some of our staff of what it was like for them growing up through the period of Apartheid in South Africa.

With the public examinations commencing shortly after school returns from the Easter break, our Year 11 and 13 students have been taking every advantage of the after-school revision and study support sessions on offer. I have been impressed with their commitment and diligence at a time when they have not had the benefit of previously having sat public examinations due to COVID restrictions.

Our Canterbury Choir performs for two nights on the main stage at the Barbican Centre over Easter with world renowned mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato as part of her international tour of Eden and Eden Engagement. The fact that it is the song, 'Seeds of Change' composed by our students as part of our in-school workshops which took place earlier in the year, was chosen by Joyce as the 'Eden Anthem' and learnt by the 45 choirs singing on the tour has been incredible, we wish the choir the very best for this incredibly exciting performance opportunity <https://eden.joycedidonato.com/> Warner Classics have announced that 'Seeds of Change' is on worldwide release on 22nd April at the point the tour lands in the US and we look forward to the various documentary and performance films which were shot in school last term of members of our choir working with Joyce to accompany the release. Warner Classics are also holding a high profile event here at school on 22nd April to mark the release.

Auditions for the Canterbury Choir will be held in the Summer Term ahead of what is already proving to be a busy 2022-23 schedule for the choir with their performance diary rapidly filling up. Due to the public standing of the Choir and the fact that there has been a significant number of church families applying to Bishop Ramsey who have children who sing and are committed to the tradition of choral music in church schools, choir rehearsals will be run twice a week from next September from 8:20am - 9:10am. The Choir will continue to sing at each of the Year Eucharists and other assemblies and services. Our Music Department will also be leading a Church of England schools choral project from September with the aim of putting singing at the heart of every church school in Hillingdon and Harrow and we do this with the enthusiasm and blessing of both Area Deans and the Bishop of Willesden for this wonderful initiative. Our jazz band, orchestra and other ensembles continue to be asked to play at various events and it is an absolute privilege to be immersed in such high quality music-making each day at school.

It goes without saying that all of the 'extras' in our school happen as a result of the fact that our excellent staff team go over and above in the opportunities they both create and seek out for our students. I am incredibly fortunate to be able to work with such a talented and committed staff team who put our students at the centre of all that we do, they really are exceptional.

As a school situated in a residential area, I know that you will appreciate the importance of us acting as good neighbours to those who live around us. We have received several complaints and concerns from residents this Term about the way some parents/carers are parking their cars when they come to collect students. Blocking driveway access and narrowing the streets, rendering them impassable, is incredibly frustrating at the best of times and has resulted in several residents being unable to get to work on time, or to appointments because there is simply no space for cars to move. I ask that anyone driving to school for drop-off or pick-up be particularly mindful please of the impact of parking on others and also the speed with which you drive in the residential roads around our school.

A reminder that Monday 18th April is Easter Monday so **school resumes for all students at the normal time on Tuesday 19th April** with arrival on site at the very latest time of 8:30am to be on Muster at the 8:35am bell. If you are planning on purchasing any items of uniform over the Easter break, please double check the details of what really constitutes Bishop Ramsey school uniform
<https://www.bishopramseyschool.org/page/?title=Uniform+and+PE+Kit&pid=189>

Once again, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our work at Bishop Ramsey and wish you a reflective and restful Easter and one that brings hope at a time of considerable unrest in our world.

Yours sincerely

Dr Hilary Macaulay
Executive Head and CEO