



## Headteacher's Letter to Parents Easter 2017

### **Dear Parents and Carers**

As we approach the great Feast of Easter I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the season. This has been a term rich in challenge as well as achievement, I am sure the staff, and students are looking forward to a well-earned break. We particularly keep in mind our examination groups, especially Year 11 and Year 13.

### **Leavers and Starters**

This Easter we say goodbye to Ms Wainwright, our Deputy Headteacher who is retiring after thirteen years at Blessed Hugh. We had a lovely mass for her as well as opportunities for staff and students to say goodbye. We wish her all the very best as she begins a new chapter.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mr Apap [Science Technician], Mrs Ali [Learning Support] and Mr Jeffery [MFL]. We wish our colleagues all the very best.

It was with great pleasure that Governors recently appointed Mr Winsor as the successor to Ms Wainwright in the role of Deputy. Mr Winsor takes up his responsibilities immediately after Easter.



*Fig. 1 A wonderful moment as our U13 boys became Reading 5-a-side champions.*

### **Staff Recruitment**

Recruiting staff remains a major challenge across the country and especially in Reading. I regret the impact that unfilled vacancies have had on children's learning and can assure all parents that we recognise this is not good enough and this remains an absolute priority for the Governors and leadership of the school. We have been pleased to make good appointments in Psychology, Sociology, A Level Computer Studies, Business Studies, Maths and Design Technology. A new colleague will join the science team after Easter. However, there is more to do –in science, Modern Foreign Languages [maternity cover] and English. We are aware that a number of students have had a range of teachers this academic year and I am grateful to Heads of Department who have worked hard to juggle staffing.

### **Blessed Hugh in the world**

We were delighted to form a partnership with a Catholic school in Slovakia in recent months. The students from the St John Bosco Gymnasium [secondary school] will visit us later this year.



*Fig. 2 Signing our partnership agreement with St John Bosco Catholic School, Bardejov, Slovakia*

## The Leadership Cadre

I am delighted to announce that we have now appointed our Prefects, Peer Supporters and Student Leadership Team as part of our programme of growing leadership in the school. The lower school leadership team now comprises:

Hannah Wilson	Head Girl
Izabela Radon	Deputy Head Girl
Laura Tegg	Deputy Head Girl

Gabriel Griffin	Head Boy
Jaydon Bakermault	Deputy Head Boy
Brian Mgonja	Deputy Head Boy



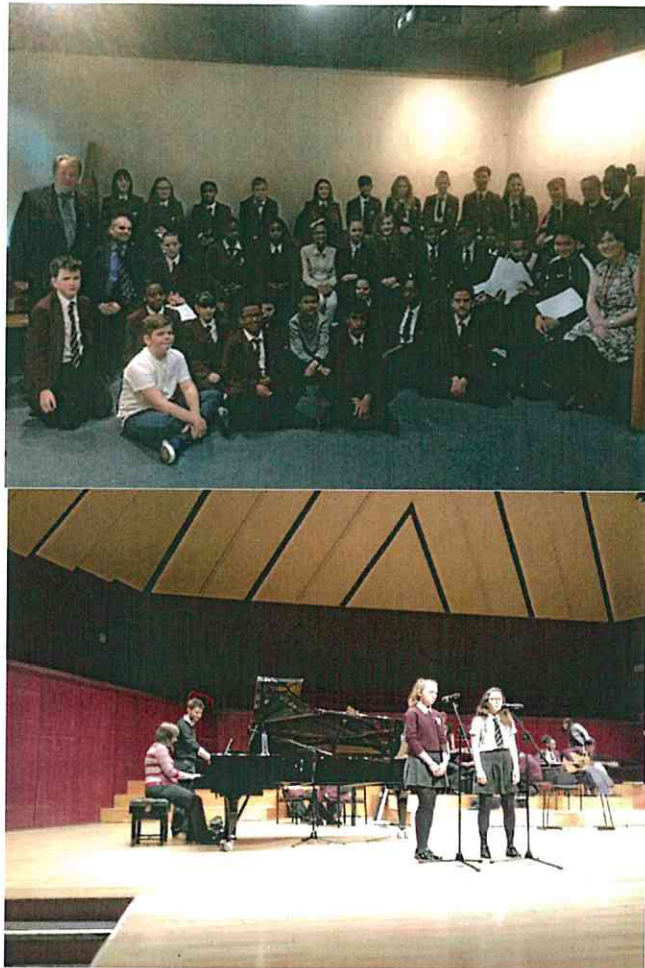
*Fig. 3 The newly re-formed Student Council is also fully functioning.*

## The Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are introducing the full D of E programme into the school to provide students with greater opportunities for enrichment and to strengthen their experiences when they come to apply for Higher Education, employment or apprenticeships. We already have students undertaking silver and gold but now, if your child is in Year 9 and interested in the Bronze award, they can see Ms Warne [PE] for further details.

## Blessed Hugh has Talent: Hexagon Musicians and GCSE Drama Presentations

One of the most memorable events this term has to be the musical extravaganza held at the Hexagon. Those parents who attended will recall that our students were superb, winning the praise of all who attended. The talent in the school is remarkable.



*Fig. 4 & 5 Huge talent in the school*

Recently the GCSE Drama students presented four outstanding pieces as part of their assessed work. Drama is one of the few subjects where being in the examination room is not just interesting, it is positively enthralling. A great testimony to their hard work and that of the drama team.



*Fig. 6 Yr 7 Netball Team end of season photo*

## Legal Eagles



*Fig. 7 The Blessed Hugh 'Mock Trial' team did a brilliant job arguing a legal case in front of a real magistrate who complimented them for their persuasive argument.*

## Behaviour for Learning and Uniform Policies

The up-to-date Behaviour for Learning and Uniform policies are available on the school website or from the school in hard copy.



*Fig. 7 Our U13s football boys continue on their unbeaten run, winning 2-1 against Chiltern Edge and 10-1 against Oakbank.*

## **Show My Homework and the Parent Portal**

Many parents are now accessing Show My Homework – the online resource that shows homework set for your child – and the Parent Portal which allows you to look at items such as behaviour and attendance in real time. It is good to see these technologies being used. If you are having any difficulties with either of them do please contact the school.

## **Twitter**

If you use Twitter, you can keep right up to date @BHFC.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a happy Easter.

*Simon Uttley*  
*Headmaster*