



Bishop Hedley Catholic High School



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to a new school year, and a change at Bishop Hedley with the introduction of an eight day 'Opening Minds' enrichment programme for all learners. You may be aware that currently Wales is preparing for the introduction of a new curriculum at Key stages 1 – 3, called Successful Futures. We have anticipated this and developed a whole school experience for pupils to consider the skills and attributes they require as they face future challenges in their school and also, working lives. Key Stage 4 pupils are focusing on the individual investigation component of the Welsh Baccalaureate to relieve demands on their time later on in their course. Key elements of the enrichment programme are modules centred on themes such as Life Skills; Critical Thinking; Community; Health and Wellbeing; Growth Mindset; Mission and Creativity. The intention is that pupils will understand and apply skills learned across their studies and lives. We will post news and photos on our twitter/facebook accounts throughout the programme.

Fr Chris Hancock, from St Mary's is helping us with the programme, specifically the 'Mission' element and we thank him for his contribution. Similarly parents are participating in certain elements and we thank them for their contributions, specifically Mrs Blackford-Weir representing the RAF in the Life Skills component.

One of our aims at Bishop Hedley is to ensure that all pupils are successful lifelong learners. It has been observed, by educationalists, that successful people demonstrate 16 characteristics or dispositions when problem-solving. We call these dispositions Habits of Mind and some parents with older children may remember their first introduction.

The 16 Habits of Mind is a learning model that Bishop Hedley uses to help nurture positive learning characteristics in the classroom in order to help your child's development inside and outside of school. To date, we have introduced 9 Habits of Mind across the school. The other 7 Habits of Mind will be introduced over the next 2 years.

The list below shows the 9 Habits of Mind introduced at Bishop Hedley along with examples of what this disposition would resemble if being used successfully.

1. **Persisting:** Sticking to the task at hand; Follow through to completion; Can and do remain focused.
2. **Managing Impulsivity:** Take time to consider options; Think before speaking or acting; Remain calm when stressed or challenged; Thoughtful and considerate of others; Proceed carefully.
3. **Listening with Understanding and Empathy:** Pay attention to and do not dismiss another person's thoughts, feeling and ideas; Seek to put myself in the other person's shoes; Tell others when I can relate to what they are expressing; Hold thoughts at a distance in order to respect another person's point of view and feelings.

4. **Thinking Interdependently:** Willing to work with others and welcome their input and perspective; Abide by decisions the work group makes even if I disagree somewhat; Willing to learn from others in reciprocal situations.
5. **Thinking about Thinking (Metacognition):** Being aware of own thoughts, feelings, intentions, and actions; Knowing what I do and say affects others; Willing to consider the impact of choices on myself and others.
6. **Striving for Accuracy:** Check for errors; Measure at least twice; Nurture a desire for exactness, dependability, and craftsmanship.
7. **Questioning and Posing Problems:** Ask myself, "How do I know?"; develop a questioning attitude; Consider what information is needed, choose strategies to get that information; Consider the obstacles needed to resolve.
8. **Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations:** Use what is learned; Consider prior knowledge and experience; Apply knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.
9. **Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision:** Strive to be clear when speaking and writing; Strive to be accurate to when speaking and writing; Avoid generalizations, distortions, minimisations, and deletions when speaking, and writing.

These 16 Habits of Mind are reinforced to help your child become successful in school and beyond.

This quote by Catfish Hunter helps to illustrate the aim 'Winning isn't everything. Wanting to win is.'

Here at Bishop Hedley, we want to help to create a growth mindset so that your child will be a happy and fulfilled adult in later life.

Young people are to be congratulated on their standards of uniform, they look very smart. Should there be an issue with what is appropriate dress, please look at the uniform code and pictures provided in the letter posted to you last term, or the school website. It is commendable that pupils are proud to belong to the Bishop Hedley family. I want to emphasise the partnership we have with you, as parents/carers, in the education of your child. We found that only a few pupils appreciated the homework diaries so this year, whilst some young people continue with the diaries, the majority will use the 'Show my Homework' website for homework, communication with parents/teachers, etc. Parents can log into the site and see what homework is expected, deadlines, missed, etc. I urge you to look at it at least once a week so that we create a true partnership and pupils know that together we can ensure they reach their full potential.

Dates for your Diary

Weds 20 th September	KS3 Parent Evening Interpretation of National Tests 4-4.45pm
Thursday 21 st September	Open Evening for Years 5 and 6 4.30 – 7pm
Mon 25 th Sept	Yr 7 Parents – Tea and a chat about life in High School 3.30 – 4.30
Thursday 19 th October	50 th Anniversary Reunion Concert
Saturday 21 st October	Year 11 Maths Revision – Merthyr Tydfil Schools
Thursday 26 th October	Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening

Half Term

Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November

Wednesday 9 th November	Whole School Target Setting with Form Tutors 2-6pm
Wednesday 29 th November	Advent Carol Service St Illtyd's Church 6pm
Monday 11 th December	Year 10/11 Pre-public examinations
Friday 22 nd December	School closes for Christmas holidays