

OLD BEDS

CONNECTED

Spring 2018

WELCOME

Welcome to another Old Bede's newsletter, and one that is once again packed to the rafters with news from across the Bede's family.

Here in Upper Dicker, our exam year groups are in that moment of calm before the storm, many of them having spent their Easter holidays revising, all with a view to maximising their chances of success in the future.

And what will that future look like? It is hard to know, of course, and I wonder how many of you thought you would be where you now are when you were their age. I, certainly, did not think that I would one day become a Headmaster, and instead had it very much in mind to become a professional rugby player.

Having now met dozens of Bede's alumni, I admit to being energised and excited by the diversity of careers and walks of life that you have all gone on to lead. From international businesspeople to professional artists, highly-skilled craftspeople to political campaigners, industrialists to public servants, it is clear that there is no "typical" Bede's career just as there never is, and never was, a "typical" Bede's student.

This all makes perfect sense to me, of course, because Bede's is not a "typical" school. Our curriculum continues to be extremely diverse (Animal Management, Ceramics, or Music Performance anyone?) and our activities programme remains one of the jewels in Bede's crown.

Yes, sporting opportunities continue to abound, and you need look no further than the back of this newsletter to see evidence of that, but from Classic Car Restoration to Podcasting to Wine Making and Brewing to Knitting to Go Karting, there are a dizzying number of hobbies for Bede's pupils to try as part of our Co-Curricular Programme.

I mention all of this because I want to emphasise a key idea that we sometimes take for granted: Bede's diversity is its strength. We really are a school for all, and if my team and I come to find that there is an area where we are not living up to that promise then we adapt and change Bede's around the needs of the individual, not the other way around.

With this in mind, one recent adaptation we are in the process of making is development of a Careers Engagement Programme. The scheme is currently being set up by Bede's Head of Careers and Employability Deborah Franks, who was herself employed because the pupils identified a need for more guidance in this area. What sort of jobs might be right for them, and what kind of qualifications and experience might best prepare them for the walks of life they had in mind?

Thinking about the future can be scary, no matter whether you are 14, 44 or 84, so through this scheme we are seeking professionals from all walks of life to speak to and help the next generation of Bede's pupil to better understand the opportunities of the working world.

As such, and no matter what your own career has evolved into, there is little doubt in my mind that you will have expertise that our pupils could benefit from.

I therefore request that you contact deborah.franks@bedes.org and see if there are ways for you to share your wisdom. That might be talking to a pupil by Skype, it might be coming in to talk to a small or large group, attending our Careers Fair or could be simply through offering advice via email. On the next page, you will find further news on some of the ways our alumni are already involved with this important area of School life. Some of you may feel that your work is not of obvious interest to others, but if we can, over time, build up a database of people from across the Bede's community, who can be contactable to offer advice on different careers, I'm sure most people will find that their expertise will be called upon at some point in the future.

I say this because the Old Bede's community is made up of people engaged in, and sometimes retired from, an incredible assortment of careers, and, whether you realise it or not, you are the walking, talking embodiment of Bede's educational philosophy in action.

*Peter Goodyer
Headmaster*



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

We have been delighted to welcome a host of alumni back to the school to advise our current pupils looking ahead to their next steps. Deborah Franks, Head of Careers and Employability at Bede's, writes about our new Careers Engagement Programme and how you can get involved.

Recently launched in response to pupil feedback, the **Careers Engagement Programme at Bede's Senior School** offers a range of support for pupils looking ahead to further academic study and careers. The programme's aim is to inspire pupils to consider different career options, inform them on how to progress in their chosen path, and provide valuable networking, ideas for workplace experiences, and practical support for applications for work or apprenticeships.

The programme is continually evolving, and we have so far enjoyed a variety of lunchtime seminars and talks from a range of leaders in their respective fields. Our pupils have attended talks by representatives of big brands such as the Chartered Insurance Institute, Wagamama and Elite Hotels; received valuable advice from alumnus Dan Gorringe (Dicker, 2004-2009) from Gaby Hardwicke Solicitors about pursuing a career in law; heard from former pupil Ali Stead about her experiences of working in the art world; and discussed opportunities in the music industry with a panel of experts comprised of Howard Moody, Roy Hilton, Benedict Kearns and Adam Staff.

Dan Gorringe said, "I look back at my time at Bede's fondly. I had an interest in sport at school, especially cricket, and this encouraged my academic study. Richard Mills encouraged me to get a good degree, and I am now enjoying life at Gaby Hardwicke Solicitors specialising in property law. Delivering the Law Talk was great - I really enjoyed speaking with the pupils. I would definitely be open to doing another talk in the future."



Alongside lectures and talks, our annual Careers Fair also offers a great opportunity for pupils from Bede's and other local schools to network and learn about future options. This year's event (which took place on Wednesday 14 March) welcomed over 50 universities, specialist institutions, employers and individual experts from a wide range of sectors, including the NHS, Capgemini, Faithful+Gould, JP Morgan, The Bank of England, UK Power Networks, Raleigh International and the Armed Forces.



We were also joined by three former Bede's pupils, Dan Gorringe, Jacob Taplin (Deis, 2011-2016) and James Ricketts (Stud, 2005-2010). Jacob is currently studying Sport Science at the University of Brighton, specialising in cardiology. He attended the event on the independent expert tables, advising pupils on the variety of career routes that academic study in Sport Science can lead to. "I am really enjoying uni life," Jacob said. "I studied for a BTEC at Bede's, and am really proud to now be studying a science subject at university. I was encouraged at school to pursue my goals, and it feels great to be back and advising the pupils. I'm coming back to Bede's to do a workshop later in the year."



James attended the fair as a representative of Pearson's Business School, where he works in the marketing department. "I realised a passion for marketing when I joined lots of societies at university," James says. "This was really encouraged by Bede's ethos of developing a pupil's all-round skillset, not just academics. It is my second year at the Careers Fair. It's nice to know that I still have a connection with the School."



How you can help

We would love to hear from former pupils, staff and parents of the School who would like to get involved in our Careers Engagement Programme. There is a variety of opportunities available - from delivering talks, seminars and workshops, to providing one-to-one and group mentoring. We are also taking exhibitor bookings for next year's Career Fair in Spring Term 2019. For further information and to register your interest, please email Deborah Franks on deborah.franks@bedes.org.

Join our LinkedIn Group!

We recently set up our Old Bede's LinkedIn Group to allow alumni to connect, set up business networking opportunities and be kept updated with School events. We have 35 members already - join us!

FAREWELL: MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY MEIER

Major General Anthony Meier, Chair of the Board of Governors, will retire from his post in June 2018 after 24 years of service on the Board. He reflects on his time at the School and how much things have changed (or how little, as the case may be).

The Founder of the Senior School and all the Heads and/or their wives get together with the Chair of Governors on 22 April 2018



Peter and
Laura Goodyer
2016 - Present

Roger and
Angela Perrin
1979- 2001

Janet Cole
2001 - 2009

Tony Meier
1994 - 2018

Peter and
Elspeth Pyemont
Founder

Richard and
Tracey Maloney
2009 - 2016

I shall hand over as Chair of Governors (and Trustees of the Charity and Directors of the Company) on Saturday 16 June to Mrs Geraldine Watkins, who has been a Governor for the last five years and is a former parent of four children at the Senior School. I shall have completed 24 years on the Board, including the Prep School when it was a separate Trust before we merged in 1999; I shall also have had thirty six years unbroken connection with Bede's since my first two children, Alexandra and Peter, started boarding at the Prep School in 1982. I have therefore been asked to reflect on that time and the changes I've seen.

Well, there has been a myriad of changes – and yet nothing has changed. In digital terminology the 'hardware' has changed hugely, the buildings and the estate, but not the 'software' – the ethos, spirit or sense of identity. We are still the St Bede's School Trust Sussex, even though I admit to being responsible for proposing that we should market the schools as Bede's. It was quite legitimate, as when the school was founded in 1895, the Venerable Bede wasn't yet a saint. That rebranding exercise helped to reinforce our image and of course also led to the demise of the hybrid bird logo, although I had previously suggested replacing it.



On the school's centenary I delivered a poem at the Prep School Prize Giving thus:

Schools as successful as St. Bede's
must publicize their many deeds,
The image that is on display
must represent our work and play.
The emblem that's our public face
is seen on show all round the place.
It is a bird, that is for sure,
but difficult to tell much more,
And is it tired, or bored, or what?
Or feeling faint, or much too hot?
And does it squawk, or caw, or tweet?
And, big mystery; where're its feet?
Perhaps they're hid behind the base
Or is it stuffed and in a case?
And, if I'm asked, I must admit
I could not put a name to it.
If then this bird should not quite be
the image that we'd like to see
I wish to offer as our choice
the parrot with its splendid voice,
In order to expound at length,
One cannot always talk from strength.
The parrot copes so easily
repeats itself to the 'n'th degree,
And offers as creative word
a thought which it has overheard.
It has a bright and brilliant hue,
in fact it's just like me and you.
Something to be seen and heard,
loud, techni-coloured, logo bird.
Let's vote that Polly thus appears
for the next one hundred years!

Alas, that logo, which for those who didn't know was an amalgam of the four birds that the Prep School houses were named after (Hawk, Raven, Falcon and Eagle), is no more; Polly didn't make it either.

The Trust kindly offered me a handover lunch on Sunday 22 April and I asked that the Senior School's founder and now our President, Peter Pyemont, be present with every Head since the formation of the Senior School in 1978 and all were able to attend except Steve Cole who remained in New Zealand for family reasons, but who was represented by his wife Janet; we are pictured here. I worked with each of them as Chair of Governors, although Roger Perrin could rightly argue that I was not the Chair when he was the Head, but in fact the Deputy Chair. However, when I was Chair of the Preparatory School I invited him onto that Board in his capacity as Head of the Senior School, so we did work together in those roles.

I think it was also special for Bede's to have all the Heads in our modern history represented together, as it demonstrates that we are an enduring family all of whom are committed to the school and its ethos, and in some ways have reinforced that ethos through our own styles of leadership. That is because at the heart is its all-embracing nature, perhaps summed up in the words on the sundial and tapestry at The Dicker as *a place for all of us to rejoice in our differences at all times every day*. From my slightly detached position I have seen how each Head has been the very embodiment of that ethos bringing their

individual characteristics and eclectic mix of skills, interests and emphasis, with the sum effect of course of magnifying those superb individual contributions; we thus inherit the wonderful school we have today, with its huge range of outstanding achievements across the board. What a privilege it has been for me to work with each of them and, make no mistake, all the other wonderful staff – teaching and support. I recognise that the reverse may not be true. There is no more appropriate way to highlight one of my faults than to highlight the school reports from my own Headmaster.

My school work was not good. I rely on the words of my Headmaster, Frederick Wilkinson, for evidence; he was a stern man with a soft heart, who you didn't mess about. He was a survivor of the First World War trenches and had led the school through the Second World War, when it had been badly bombed. He either signed, or countersigned the following extracts from my reports:

Second Form: "Apt to need some looking after, this is not a report of which he can be proud. He never seems prepared" (N.B. I was a Boy Scout!).

Third Form: The English Literature teacher having remarked "A disgraceful result, due to neglecting his homework", the Headmaster wrote "This is a very unsatisfactory result and disappointing record."

Fourth Form: "Still sees work as something set by adults, rather than an enterprise dependent on his own initiative. He cannot distinguish between what is serious and what is frivolous."

Fifth Form: "The chemistry mark is disgraceful by any standard" - it was 8%.

I then realised that to become educationally qualified to apply for entry to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, which I had now decided was the career route for me, I had to pass the Civil Service Commission examination and so actually settled down to work. I did really well in the Lower Sixth Form. I was actually looking forward to see what Mr Wilkinson would write in that year's report. This is it - and you couldn't make it up:

Lower Sixth Form: "I hope he is not degenerating into a nonentity. He used to have such spirit. Better to be wicked than dull."

I don't think Heads would get away with writing reports like that though these days!

Having now read through this, which was meant to be a serious article, you will recognise how prescient that fourth form report was in particular: "He cannot distinguish between what is serious and what is frivolous." As true today as it was then. There is another message though from that. My abiding memory from my time at Bede's is the sheer quality, depth and breadth of talent of the pupils at the school over these 36 years; you have always made me feel very humble and, in many areas, inadequate. I think the analogy is that at Sandhurst, where I was motivated to work as you were at Bede's and where all activities were equally recognised, I 'passed out' second in the Order of Merit from 220 cadets at the end of the two year course. It shows what you can do if you set your mind to it. My closing message, therefore, is to carry the Bede's philosophy through your working lives. Work hard when you have to (as I did when I had to) but enjoy life.

OLD BEDIANS AROUND THE WORLD

QUICKEN TRUST SCHOLARS SEND NEWS FROM UGANDA

Doreen Namugumya (Dorter, 2006-2008)

Today I am living back in a rural environment in Uganda and I'm working as a manager of a Tourism Resort here.

12 years ago I was given the chance of a life time, a scholarship at Bede's School in the UK. I arrived as a 14 year old orphan in 2006; I could only think, "Will I be able to survive here?" The expectations, culture and environment were so different from back home.

I was however surprised that after a few weeks, I was able to walk tall with my head held high and confident. Everyone was very friendly, smiling, open and free-minded.

My whole life was changed. Thanks to Bede's and the Quicken Trust, I have been able to discover myself and I am forever grateful.



Winnie Kubiita (Dorter, 2008-2011)

Hello to my friends in the UK. I now work as a professional enrolled nurse in a rural health clinic in the village where I was born. I am staying in my own home near my workplace and my sister's daughter (who is 6 years old) lives with us.

It was a great opportunity to come to the UK. To begin with I was extremely shy, but later on I gained more confidence. I'm so happy and proud to be a qualified nurse! I owe my success to Quicken Trust, Bede's, some lovely sponsors such as Jennie Taylor, and Mark and Vanessa Redhouse, who welcomed me into their UK home in the holidays, and to so many others. I want to thank you very much for the great love you showed to me.



MICHAEL KRAUSE: FROM UPPER DICKER TO A LIFE DOWN UNDER

Former Head of Year, Stud House Tutor and Teacher, Michael Krause, writes to us from his new home in Australia



Travelling in a fried-out kombi on a hippy trail, head full of zombie... well sort of but not quite. And before you ask we are nowhere near Ramsay Street either! So, what makes one give up the lushness of England's pastures green and swap them for the sun-bleached plains of Geelong in Victoria? That is the million-dollar question we still ask ourselves at times.

After 15 years within the Trust and 27 years of living in boarding schools between us, the Krause family moved to Australia's biggest

boarding school for a January start. With Catherine heading up The Hermitage House, and being a tutor in a boys' boarding house myself, we both remain fully immersed in a thriving boarding community. For some of the boarders I work with, boarding is an absolute necessity as their closest neighbour may be 30km away and the nearest regional centre with a school some 200km away. Having completed my first term it has taken some getting used to - no half-term breaks, alongside a whole new language of acronyms for school life (Australians like to shorten anything they can get their hands on!), but these are only minor differences to overcome. The more relaxed atmosphere that is synonymous with life down under, has also taken some getting used to but is mostly for the good.

So, what do I miss? It is really simple: the people. This is what makes Bede's such a unique warm and vibrant place to both

live and work. The care and understanding shown for each other and lifelong friendships formed can never be replaced. Testament to this is that we have already had our first visit by an Old Bedian when Will Rossi (many will remember his mother Rachel from the school office) dropped in for a steak. As we speak we are packing our bags for a road trip to catch up with current Director of Hockey Kevin Johnson and former teacher and Crossways tutor Erin Hunter, who will be representing Wales and South Africa at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. Like many who have moved on from Bede's, being away from the community allows you to reflect on just what a remarkable place it is. I always look forward to hearing news and follow the relevant social media accounts with much interest. If you are ever in the area please look us up and pop in for a good old English brew cuppa or a "Shrimp on the Barbie", whatever takes your fancy!

ALUMNI VISITS

Cabaret 2017

It was wonderful to welcome so many former pupils at our Cabaret event in December.

Special thanks must go to Olivia Prince-Smith and Aidan Kerr for playing in the orchestra. We also saw a host of other familiar faces in the audience, including Amira Davidson, Dan Grimston, Alice Potter, Anna Moody, Hector Hadow, Alicia Von Brandenstein-Zeppelin, Daniel Martirosian, Eymeric Boyer, Benjamin Stannard, Viviana Fusciardi and Alannah Akinwunmi. Many thanks to all who came along and supported the event.



Sarah-Jane Taylor (1999-2002)

On Wednesday 13 December 2017, Bede's hosted the SCF U18 Indoor Girls Cricket Festival.

The event welcomed girls from Oathall, Millais, Brighton and Hove High School and two Bede's teams to play in a series of matches. In the middle of play, we were delighted to welcome a surprise visit from the current England Ladies wicket keeper and Bede's alumnus, Sarah-Jane Taylor, who came along to support the event. The girls were thrilled, and Sarah's visit became the highlight of the festival.



Teresa Chan (1985-1991)

We were delighted to welcome Teresa Chan to the Senior School during her January visit to the UK from Hong Kong. This was Teresa's first visit since she left almost 30 years ago.

"I do miss this school," Teresa said. "There has been a lot of

changes. The pupils are lucky, as they have lots of space to spend their spare time. I was in Crossways House – which used to be located in the Manor House – and we had a small common room." The school tour was organised by Teresa's friend, who she was staying with in Brighton, as a surprise. Teresa has promised to bring her daughter with her on her next visit.



Talisker Cornford (2006-2017)

Former Head of School, Talisker Cornford, popped in to say hello on a recent visit home from university.

Talisker is studying Geography and Ethics at the University of Exeter, and is involved in the Geography Society and Touch Rugby.



Matthew Cooke (2005-2010)

Sadly the weather wasn't on our side for the Bede's 1st XI vs MCC cricket match on Monday 30 April, however it was wonderful to catch up with alumnus and the day's MCC Captain, Matthew Cooke! Here he is pictured with the Headmaster, Peter Goodyer.



We love welcoming former pupils, staff and parents back to the School. Please contact our Front of House teams on the following telephone numbers to arrange a visit: Senior School: 01323 843252, Prep School 01323 734222.

SCOTT SEARS BREAKS SOUTH POLE WORLD RECORD

Bede's alumnus, Lieutenant Scott Sears (Deis, 2003-2006), reached the South Pole on Christmas Day 2017 on an expedition across the Antarctic – becoming the youngest person to ever make the journey alone, unsupported and unassisted. Despite being back at work just a few days after his return to the UK, Scott found time to speak with us about his experience.

Scott's gruelling 1,100km journey from Hercules Inlet involved climbing uphill through crevasse fields on a pair of skis and dragging a 100kg sled (which Scott affectionately named "Bessie"), for a consistent 12 hours per day. By the end of the trip, Scott had reached 10,000 feet in elevation while battling the unpredictable Antarctic weather of winds up to 150mph and temperatures to -50c.

The physical challenge is no mean feat by anyone's standard, and the charitable fundraising efforts behind the expedition makes Scott's achievement even more extraordinary. At the time of writing, Scott has raised £39,415 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, far surpassing his original target of £4,000. The charity works to ensure that Gurkha veterans, their families and communities are able to live in dignity following their service in the British Army, and – as a serving Lieutenant in the Royal Gurkha Rifles – is a cause very close to Scott's heart.

"I was lucky enough to go to Nepal for two weeks for a language course with work, and I have seen the devastation of the 2015 earthquake first hand," Scott explains. "It's a great thing to be able to deliver some of the money needed and to see the implementation of it. I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has donated; the support has been absolutely amazing." The funds raised will build a school in Gorkha named after Rifleman Suraj Gurung, a fellow soldier in the Royal Gurkha Rifles who sadly lost his life in Afghanistan in October 2010. Alongside charitable fundraising, Scott's main motivation came from the thrill of the challenge itself.



"I wanted an adventure," he says. "I'm inspired by explorers like Ranulph Fiennes and Douglas Mawson, and wanted to test myself in the polar climate as it is the most miserable and challenging environment, both physically and mentally. The world record is an amazing thing, but it wasn't something we set out to do originally. I wanted to see if I was quite as robust as I thought I was, and if I could continue going without relying on my teammates." It took two years to plan the expedition, and Scott did most of the preparations while he was working in Brunei. "I was lucky that with my job we spend most of our time walking long distances with lots of kit on our backs," Scott says, "so I was training constantly with the Gurkhas which kept me at a relatively high level of fitness. I added in some long tyre drags across the beach in Brunei to simulate dragging a 100kg sled." The most difficult part of putting the expedition together – despite the intense physical challenge ahead – wasn't the training, or even logistics. "The hardest part of the whole thing was getting the money together," Scott says. "I needed to raise £77,000 in sponsorship, and the process was exhausting and demoralising. "I tried everything, contacting everyone I knew and every company I could think of, even with the most ridiculous tenuous links. I was sending around 100 emails per day

from around 2am from Brunei [9am UK time]. Out of the 100 emails, I would get a response from 8-10 companies, and 90% of those responses would be a 'no'. So I would be left with 1-2 emails received per 100 sent requesting a further conversation, and 1 out of 50 of those would result in sponsorship of a few hundred pounds." Thanks to a lot of resolve and the generous support of several organisations – including Scott's co-presenting sponsors, The Shackleton Company and Juice Plus UK – the funds were finally in place and the expedition could begin. "A lot of people assume I had a whole team behind me to plan this expedition, but most of the people involved came in at quite a late point," Scott explains. "For the majority of the two years, the planning was up to me and my amazing, long-suffering girlfriend, Liv." The expedition had some dangerous elements and, although Scott made the journey alone, he had a team in Antarctica (ALE) to support him with safety on the ground. The risk of the journey was a concern for Scott's friends and family, and convincing them that it was a sensible idea took some time. "For the first year and a half it was not a topic spoken about in the house," Scott jokes. "I think that for them the idea came out of the blue – I had never been skiing before, and I can see why they thought that I may have been ill prepared

for the challenge ahead.

"I'm not from a military family, and although I had been leading 30 guys in the jungle for a couple of years before the trip (which in some ways is a much more hostile environment than the Antarctic), my family hadn't seen that – they didn't know that side of me. I think they still saw me as I was at Bede's, losing my tennis rackets and leaving my bags on the bus all the time. But by the time I was making my way to the Antarctic, everyone was incredibly supportive."



One of Scott's main highlights of the trip was at the beginning, standing at the start point, Hercules Inlet, as the small twin otter plane that carried him there from the Union Glacier Camp flew away. "That was a really special moment," he says. "The landscape was completely barren with white and blue everywhere. I wasn't dealing with anything stressful, like hunting for [sponsorship] money or answering emails, everything was just still. The first couple of minutes were amazing."

From there, the challenge really began – and it pushed Scott to his absolute limit. "The day before the finish line was the worst day – I hit 'the wall' about 30km from the pole, and was moving just a couple of steps at a time [before having to pause]. However, there was never a point when I thought, 'I'm going to stop'. It was hideous at times, but I didn't give myself the option of being picked up. And I'm glad that it wasn't too easy – it's good to know that I was able to break through it and keep going to the end." Naturally, Scott's adventure gained a lot of attention, and many people showed their support and followed the expedition online. The avid followers of Scott's blog and Instagram page were kept updated with news from the Antarctic thanks to a satellite phone and Liv's efforts. "I could connect to Bluetooth via the satellite phone, but it was 6 times' slower than dial-up

speed," Scott explains. "So after 12 hours of skiing, I would spend 25 minutes every night uploading the pictures and text, sending it to Liv, and then she would post the updates from the UK."

"The public response has been amazing," he continues. "I really wasn't aware of how closely people would follow the blog, but we had 30,000 people viewing it every day. Some of the people following the trip and getting in touch were from Sussex and my childhood, which meant a lot."

Scott was born and raised near Lewes in East Sussex, and was introduced to the world of professional sport from a young age (his mother water-skied for South Africa, and his father was a full-time tennis player before becoming a coach). Scott's passion for sport and the outdoors led to a tennis scholarship at Bede's. "I really enjoyed my time there, and played tennis most of the time," Scott says. "It was fantastic for my development."

"Working with Julie Salmon [Director of Tennis at Bede's] was a real highlight, and we still stay in contact now – she has always been so supportive, and we are good friends. It's nice to know that I still have a connection with Bede's, even though it's been over 10 years since I left."

After leaving Bede's, Scott was awarded a tennis scholarship at Boise State University in Idaho, USA, and went on to play tennis on the international circuit for 5 years. However, at the age of 19, Scott decided to call time on his tennis career – "I came to the disturbing realisation that I was

truly horrible at playing tennis," he jokes – and pursue his dream of joining the Army. "It's always been something I have wanted to do," Scott says. "As a kid, I was always playing soldiers in the woods. I'm suited to a physical, outdoor environment."

Despite Scott's passion for joining the military, the Army originally rejected Scott's application to attend the Royal Academy Sandhurst. "As I left Bede's at 15 years old to pursue tennis, I didn't have any UCAS points," he explains. "They rejected me on that basis – despite the fact that I had a degree." Adamant that he wasn't going to give up, Scott set an alarm for 11am every day and phoned the recruitment office between lectures at the University of Sussex (where he was completing a Graduate Diploma in Law as a backup plan), and persisted for 7 months. "I think they got really sick of me phoning them," Scott jokes, "as I was invited to attend the Officer Selection board and commissioned into the Royal Gurkha Rifles in December 2015. Getting into and serving with the Gurkhas has been my biggest achievement by far." So, what is next for Scott? "My main focus is on work at the moment – I'll be going to Afghanistan next year, and will be in Egypt for a couple of months' training before then. I'm looking forward to it; it will be busy, which is always good."

And any more expeditions planned? "I do have a few ideas – the whole thing is a bit addictive, so I'm sure that something will come up."

Watch this space.



ALUMNI UPDATES

1970s

Jackie Vance (Prep, 1974)

Jackie is enjoying her freelance career as a post-production supervisor in film and TV.

1980s

Kirsten Bergen (1984-1988) (Kiki Wiginton)

Kirsten moved back to Canada last August, and is working as Director of Education at Focus College, Kelowna. She says: "The Okanagan (British Columbia) is definitely worth putting on your Bucket List."



Yagmur Cakmak (Stud, 1985)

Yagmur is married with two children - a 24-year-old son and 17-year-old daughter. He has lived with his family in Bodrum, Mugla, since 2006. "We plan on living here for the rest of our lives," he says. Yagmur runs a translation and associated services company, Rain Professional Services (you can find them on Facebook). He adds: "If any of our old school friends visit Bodrum, we shall be pleased to assist them."

Kola Ayanwale (Dorms, 1983-1987)

Congratulations to Kola (pictured second from the left) and his teammates for their win at the Vets Four Nations at the Glasgow Caledonian University on 28 April! The Men's Épée team triumphed against Wales and Ireland to compete against Scotland in the Final, taking home the victory with a 45 - 34 win. England were also declared the overall winners across the six-weapon event. Kola first took up fencing under the tutelage of Douglas Pye in the 1980s. In addition to competing, he is a Senior National Fencing Referee under the auspices of British Fencing.



1990s

Dilwonberish (Dilly) Aberra (1993-1995)

Dilly currently lives in Seattle, Washington, USA with her husband and two children. For the past 4 years she has been working in the Financial Services for the Poor program of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

2000s

Nicky Nock, née Abbott (Bloomsbury, 1998-2003)

Congratulations, Nicky and her husband James! They welcomed their beautiful little boy, Luca Jameson Nock, into the world on 20 December 2017, weighing 7lb 0oz.



Luca Jameson Nock on the day he was born

Tamar Keenan (2001-2005) and Jon English (2000-2003)

Tamar is a Marketing Manager at a Sussex-based technology company, while Jon runs his own design and marketing business, Moomar. www.moomar.co.uk They picked Eastbourne as their home, and take off around the world whenever they can. This Easter they had a mini reunion in Toronto with fellow Old Bedian's Toby Whistler and Ali Graham. This summer will take them on a 3,500 mile adventure around the northern National Parks of the USA.



Josephine McAndrew, née Charlesworth (Bloomsbury, 1999-2004)

Wonderful news! Josephine (pictured on the opposite page) married Lawrence McAndrew in October 2016. Josephine's twin sister, Harriet Ellis-Smith (also née Charlesworth and former member of Bloomsbury House) married Jamie in April 2017, and they have a daughter called Grace.

We would love to hear your news! Please email any updates on careers, births, marriages and other significant events to alumni@bedes.org to have them featured in the next Old Bede's newsletter.



2010s

Scott Martin (Stud, 2006-2010)

As Operations Manager for The Birley Group, Scott looks after five of the most sought after private members clubs in the UK - Marks Club, Harry's Bar, George Club, Bath & Racquets, and the recently-opened Annabel's at 46, Berkeley Square.



Tom Byeford (Dorms, 2008-2010)

Tom is currently working at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital as a Receptionist. "As a former patient at the hospital, it means a lot for me to be working here," he says. Tom also volunteers with Stonewall and Pride in London.



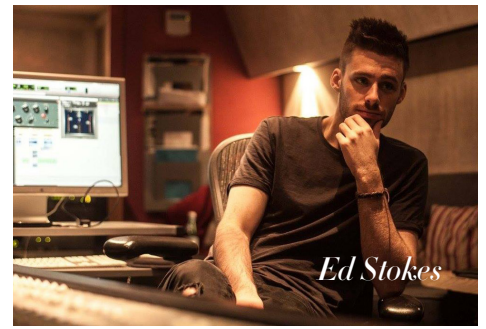
Chloe Seal (Crossways, 2010-2012)

Chloe has been working in the Metropolitan Police Force as a Police Constable at Tower Hamlets for just over 9 months. She says: "I have now finally settled down a job that I love. The job is so challenging and every day is different. It really tests you as a person."



Ed Stokes (Dicker, 2009-2014)

Ed completed his BA (Hons) Degree in Contemporary Music Production, and is now working as a freelance Music Producer and Mixing Engineer. He is also an in-house Producer for GreyStoke Studios in Ealing, where he is working on records that span a range of genres, from pop to musicals.



Alex Campbell (2016)

Alex is working as a Digital Creative for advertising agency, Influence Digital, currently with Ministry of Sound as lead creative, as well as with other agencies on a freelance basis. www.alexcampbell.london Alex will also run the London Marathon in April in aid of Cancer Research UK. <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/alexs-giving-page-52>

Jacob Taplin (Deis, 2011-2016)

Jacob is currently studying Sport Science at the University of Brighton. He has discovered a passion for cardiology, and has recently completed an Independent Study exploring the impact of ECG screening to reduce sudden cardiac death. Jacob is also running 12 marathons in 12 months.



Obituary

Laetitia Jacques (1985)

It is with sadness that we share the news that Laetitia Jacques passed away during the night of 8 November 2017.

Fellow former pupils have sent their condolences via the Old Bede's Facebook Group, including Oladotun Alokolaro who writes: "I remember us chatting and catching up on old times at the reunion a couple of years ago. May her gentle soul rest in peace. Take heart she lived well and

touched many lives with her warmth, mine for one." Vicky Haines says, "So sorry. Rest in peace, blessings to family," while Oliver Gilson adds, "Deeply saddened to hear the news". Haryo Wibowo says: "My deepest condolences to Dimitri [Jacques, Laetitia's brother] and the whole family." Finally, Nam Sikacey-Nsokolo writes: "My heart bleeds for your loss. Laetitia, I'll never forget you! Thank you for crossing my path."



TOURING BEDE'S PREP: REACTIONS AND REMINISCENCES

By Howard Nolan (*Prep, 1954-1959*)



My wife and I recently visited St Bede's (or, more accurately nowadays, Bede's Preparatory School), and thoroughly enjoyed a tour led by Angela Morgan. Angela asked me to write up my reactions to the tour and reminiscences of my time there (aged 8 to 13) in 1954 to 1959.

General reactions

As we approached the school, the exterior of the main building looked virtually unchanged. It was still beautifully painted and looked to be in excellent condition. We could see that there had been extensions added in the direction of the Downs and some new buildings on what had been the playing fields, but they all looked to be fine buildings.

Obviously much had changed. In my day the school was predominantly a boys' boarding school. There were about 96 pupils, of whom perhaps 10 were day boys. Accordingly above the floor at street level all the areas to which we had access were dormitories (Nigel, Corfe, Kendall, Disborough, Gowing, Tomlinson, Apsley and Keble), or washrooms. A copy of the prospectus records state that the termly boarders' fees were £62. It naturally followed that with the increased pupil numbers and no boarders in the main school building many of the rooms had now changed, some taking a bite out of an adjacent room, or sacrificing a bit of space to an adjacent room, with the addition of numerous partition walls. The facilities offered now are far more extensive. We had a good but comparatively small gym, a hard-standing play area and cricket nets where there is now a building (near to what we called "the Hulleys' house") plus a tennis court and the 1st XI soccer and cricket pitch (on which I was never good enough to play). Beyond the cricket pitch,

there was the "plateau" (prefects only I think) a valley to the right of it and then a bank adjacent to the Hulleys' garden in which we played with Dinky army vehicles.



Beyond the plateau, the valley and the bank, my recollection is that the land fell away sharply. I simply cannot work out how anybody has now managed to build a very substantial building on that site. We did have a tiny carpentry shop and a shooting range with .22 rifles, but they could only be accessed down the lane and on the way down to the beach. We had no vast gym, no dancing area, no art and music areas (there were two pianos, one above the other on the ground and basement floors) but nothing like the present facilities. Needless to say, we didn't have a large room packed with several cookers which I initially thought would be the school kitchens, but which turned out to be the cookery tuition area. What we did have, and I don't think that it lasted for long after I left, was a "train room" which I will revert to.

Our trip around the school and reminiscences

We started our trip through the entrance door nearest the town, the door that we never used. In those days while Rex Lord lived elsewhere, the other two partners, Hugh Candlin (the Headmaster) and Jack Keeling and their respective wives, Gladys and Valerie, lived in the section of the building nearest to the town. On the street floor Hugh and Gladys had a beautiful and

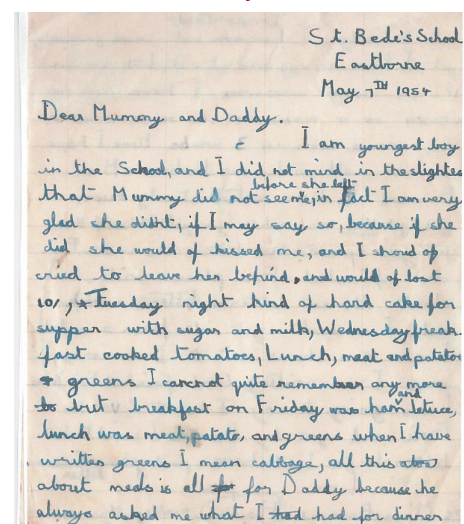
beautifully furnished drawing room (now divided into two less glamorous rooms) and Jack and Valerie Keeling had their sitting room to the right, both of them overlooking the playing field. Jack's room was never quite as neat as Hugh's but it did contain one of Jack's three masterpieces, a magnificent wooden carved model of a cathedral, carved by Jack. The other two I will refer to later.

When we walked along the corridor towards the central entrance door, we passed what had been the library and then the masters' common room on the street side and the lift and stairs on the left. Apparently the lift shaft, without the rope-operated lift, is still there.

At our everyday entrance hall, the form room immediately by the start of the ascending staircase was Form 1, Miss Barnard's form for the 8 and just 9 year olds. There was an enormous, very old map of the world on the wall behind Miss Barnard's desk, very faded and, of course, much of it coloured red.

One of my memories of life in Form 1 was the rather odd practice that Miss Barnard read out to the whole form some or many of the letters from our parents. I think it was Pooley whose parents lived in Africa and his letters were a favourite because they shone a light on another world. I don't think that mine can have been read much because those from my mother concentrated mainly (and unsuccessfully) on telling me all about my spelling mistakes, and how I could remember the correct spelling from the Latin derivations.

Below is an extract from the first letter home that I sent in May 1954.



Another of my vivid early recollections of the first year was in the year 1 dormitory, Nigel. After lights the chap in the bed next to me, Nixon, suddenly announced that he had found a German bomb on the beach and that he had brought it up to the dormitory. It was about 18 inches long, naturally rusty and bomb shaped with 3 tail fins. The more sensible and less adventurous amongst us (that means all of us, sorry Nixon) decided that the obvious thing was to call matron. Surprisingly, Eastbourne was not evacuated and for all I know the bomb may still be in the laundry cupboard.

Forms 2 and 3 were down in the basement (ground floor so far as the rear of the building was concerned) with Form 2 being immediately by gym, which was below, but at right angles to, the chapel. The gym had a stage on which we performed plays, doubtless with Jack Keeling being principally responsible for the creation of the very good scenery for every production, and Hugh Candlin the music when that was required. Pictured below is a play set in Germany - I am the small boy, second from the left.



On half holidays (Wednesday and Saturday) we lined up to take up to 10 sweets from our own tin, and we always tried to smuggle more. The best value were gob stoppers and Trebor chews because they both still counted as only one sweet. I remember waking up (when in Keble dormitory) with the gob stopper still in my mouth that I had been sucking when I went to sleep. Very good value!

I attach a picture of the Colts, the only team in which I ever played and I find (rare things are often retained) that I still have the shield that indicated that I got my Colts colours. Below is a picture - I am the non-smiling one standing next to Alastair Shearer, the goalie in his sweater.



Most of the games activity took place at All Saints ground (now built on) and to an extent at Whitbread Hollow. The loss of the use of the All Saints ground must have been much regretted by the school.

I do not remember anything very noteworthy of my time in Forms 2 and 3, save that in Form 3 most of us kept snails in open biscuit tins. The tins contained a bed of grass, and they were left on the window sill near the partition to the train room overnight. The partition only rose about 7 feet and so we would periodically come down in the morning and find, by the slimy trail, that one of our snails had escaped to the train room, which involved a difficult search. I certainly remember steering the snails by touching one or other of their front tentacles. I think the iPhone/Samsung generation would find all this a bit boring! Form 4 was located to the side of Miss Barnard's Form 1 and there was still a beam in the ceiling into which the runner ran for the wooden concertina shutters to be opened to join the room to classroom 6, or to be closed for lessons. The large TV was wheeled into Form 4 for big events and I think that it generally lived in the library.

Forms 5 and 6 had a similar divider to the one between Forms 4 and 6, though today Form 5 (the one nearer the chapel) had lost some of its territory to the chapel. The chapel was beautiful and contained Jack Keeling's second masterpiece, the altar that he had carved. The door (the same door that has now been moved round the corner) used to be at the end of Form 5, directly facing the altar.



I have quite a few recollections of being more senior, and thus sleeping in the dormitories on the upper floor. I was amused to see that in Apsley (immediately to the right of the stairs), there was still a very stout hook to the left of the window nearest the town, to which in our day the Davy fire escape apparatus was attached. Practice sessions of being wound down to the ground were fun.

I also distinctly remember hearing in the top floor washroom of the Manchester United Munich air crash.

Finally, John Hill and I decided to creep up the stairs to the side of Apsley (which

we never had occasion to go up) because we thought that it was obvious that the junior teacher, Mr. Cherniavsky, who had a bedroom facing the sea on the very top floor, was a Russian spy. It was probably 1956 and we were both only 10 but having searched his room for the radio transmitter that was bound to be there, facing Moscow, and having carefully examined his mattress and everything else in the room we found nothing and concluded that he had hidden his evil spying activities too cleverly for us. So we retreated and mercifully nobody noticed our patriotic exploit so we did not have to explain to anyone what we had been doing.

Two other things to mention were that during my time at St Bede's, both Mrs. Hullett and then Mr. Hullett died and Nicky Henson's father, Leslie Henson (both well-known actors in their time) had known the Hulletts and thought the deaths suspicious. This led to the famous Bodkin Adams trial, Adams having been their doctor and the lucky beneficiary of changes to their wills. I think that he was acquitted for lack of evidence, but somebody must have known that he was going to be a bit dodgy when they christened him Bodkin.

The final and great memory was the magnificent train room. This was Jack Keeling's third masterpiece. The central station had about 5 platforms, and the circular tracks round the outside of the whole layout ran at two levels (two tracks at each level). Everything was electric and the trains and points all operated from controls near the entrance door. It was of amazing quality, being 0-gauge and pretty well all the engines and rolling stock made by Bassett-Lowke.



All in all, a happy time at a nice, intimate school that I remember with great affection.



A TALE OF TWO COMEDIANS: COOK AND IZZARD

By former Bede's Prep pupil and Headmaster, Peter Pyemont

Peter Cook

In the late 1940s/early 1950s Peter Cook was a contemporary of mine at St Bede's Preparatory School.

Peter's parents were based in India and Peter was sent to St Bede's at the age of 6. He saw his parents every other summer holiday. I sometimes wonder if this could have been a reason for his bitter-sweet life. He was very intelligent, quick witted, a keen and proficient footballer, a clever mimic and a boy who liked to be the centre of attention. Better it was to be with him than against him for his tongue could whiplash with razor-like effect.

My tale covers Drama. We acted together in a play which followed the events of the biblical story of the Birthright. I played Isaac, the father, Peter Jacob, the devious brother who cheated his older twin out of the Birthright. Jacob had prepared for me a "mess of pottage", a favourite stew, which on stage was some chocolate creams in a bowl. So delicious was the fare that I paid more attention to it than to my part. The next thing I knew was that Peter had grabbed me by the collar, hauled me to my feet and we were bowing to the audience. He had dealt with my part as well as his own.



I followed his career with great interest – Cambridge Footlights, Pete and Dud, Beyond The Fringe, Monty Python etc to the alcoholism which caused his premature death at the age of 57.

Eddie Izzard

As Headmaster of St Bede's, in September 1969 I welcomed Eddie Izzard and his older brother Mark into the school.

Eddie too had been 6 when he had first started boarding. His mother had just died, his father worked in Aden with BP and an English boarding school seemed to be the answer for the boys. Drama was possibly in Eddie's blood even then. On his pillow lay a row of teddies which he would get to perform every evening.

My tale covers Sport. Eddie played on the left wing of the 2nd XI rugby side which I coached. The team was pretty raw when our first match arrived, away to a local Prep

School Chelmsford Hall. That mid-January day was foul. It was cold, the rain fell in torrents, the wind was spiteful. Neither team looked like scoring. The players became ever more inept, frozen and disinterested. And then, late in the second half, the miracle happened. We were awarded a scrum. Soon after, the ball was delivered to Eddie. Eddie was small but well-built and quick. He easily beat his marker, who had been waving to his mother on the touch line, and whipped past the opposing full-back, made for the unguarded try line and placed the ball down between the posts. Somebody said something to the unfortunate full-back who

burst into tears. Eventually it was decided that Eddie, having scored the try, should take the conversion. He duly dug a hole with the heel of his toe and placed the ball into the crater. He approached the ball and connected firmly. Off it went like a rocket, and hurtled along the ground, bounced and struck the poor full-back square in the face. The lad's mother rushed to his aid. I led our team gingerly off the field. Many of them considered Eddie a hero. Eddie accepted his praise modestly.

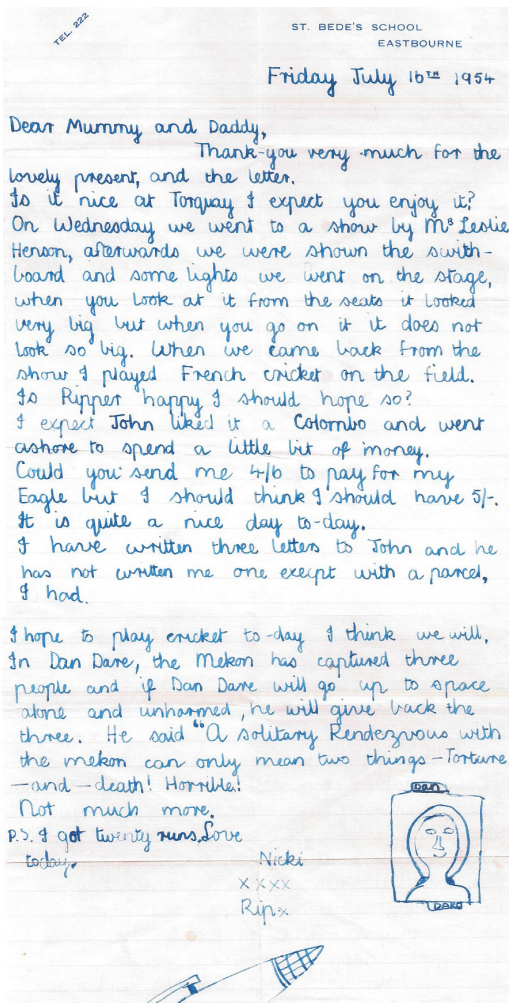
I have followed Eddie's career with interest. Indeed Elspeth and I witnessed his first professional show. In August 1989 we met Eddie for a pre-performance chat at the Edinburgh Festival. He took one look at me and declared, "My Headmaster! You can't possibly see this show. The language is dreadful and much of it is about St Bede's." So funny were the next 45 minutes that tears flowed down my cheeks. The audience that evening numbered 6; the next year it was 60; the following year 600; off he went. We still keep in touch. For us it takes but little time to reach the real Eddie – highly motivated, iron disciplined, European, linguistic, physically immensely fit, thoughtful, adaptable professionally, political and of course amusing.



Both Peter and Eddie have reached the top of the tree professionally. Indeed Peter Cook was voted, in a poll of 300 comedians, the top comedian of his era. For me, there is one difference. Peter Cook would sometimes laugh at you; Eddie Izzard always laughs with you.

BEDE'S MEMORIES

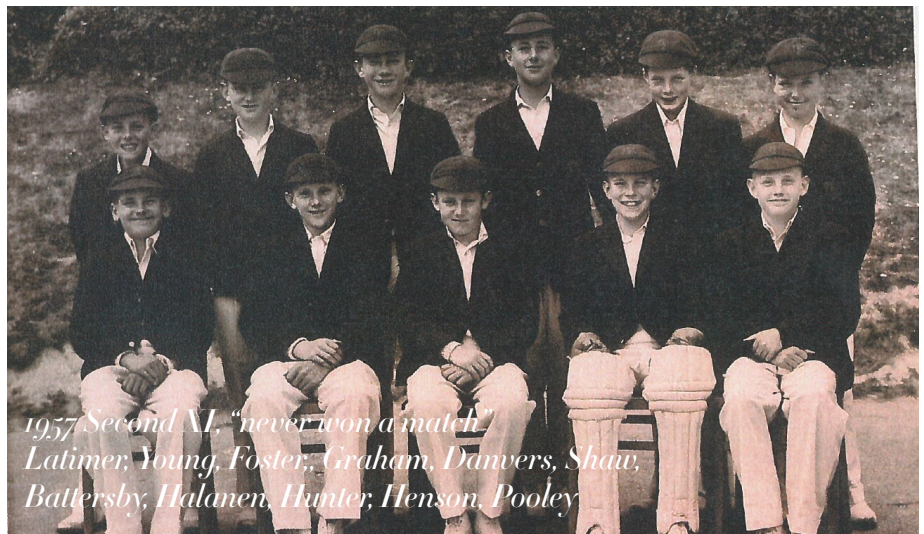
By Nick Danvers (Prep, 1954-1957)



I have sent you a copy of a letter I wrote to my parents on 16 July 1954 when I was nine. It makes reference to a show the boys went to featuring Leslie Henson who was a very well-known stage actor of his generation.

His son, Nicky Henson, was at the school at that time. Leslie and his wife Martha were friends with Jack and Bobbie Hullett who lived at Holywell Mount, adjacent to the school. As I'm sure you will be aware, after Jack Hullett's death, the house became notorious for visits by Dr Bodkin Adams who allegedly murdered several wealthy widows in Eastbourne (after they made bequests in his favour) over several years, including Bobbie Hullett. However, although he was tried in 1957 for the murder of a Mrs Morrell, he was not convicted.

As small boys we regularly lost our cricket balls or footballs over the school playing field wall into Holywell Mount and were always nervous of asking for them back in case we were "got" by Bodkin Adams.



By Tom Kerrich (Prep, 1953)

I was 10 at the time and was in the E11R part of the tableaux in 1953.

The PT master was Mr Ken deTor (not sure of my spelling here) and he organised all of Sports Day. The 4 sections were called Eagle, Falcon, Hawk and Raven, I was in Hawk. The races I remember were the 100 yards (the length of the field), the 220 and 440 yards. There were also the sack race, 3-legged race, hurdles, high jump and long jump, and the parents 100 yards race. Before the day Mr deTor would hold heats for some of the events so that not all boys took part in every event on the big day. Tea was served to parents in the school dining hall downstairs or the big school room upstairs. The gym and the chapel above are on the left of the building in the photo. PT was held daily except Sundays on the tarmac area to the left of the gym. The plateau was usually reserved for school prefects, but we could see the sea from the gap. I recollect standing there watching the Royal Yacht Britannia sailing past Beachy Head bringing our Queen back from her Coronation year tour of the commonwealth.



FROM THE ARCHIVE: SPORTS DAYS

1920s and 1930s



1950s



1950s and 1960s



1990s



Special thanks and gratitude must go to John Cousin, our volunteer archivist at the Prep School, for his invaluable hard work and help with this issue. If you would like to submit photos from your time at Bede's for our archive, please email us at alumni@bedes.org or call 01323 356605.

BACK AT BEDE'S: FOOTBALL SPECIAL

Football has played a significant part in school life for many passionate Bedians over the years, whether playing for fun or in the hope of becoming a professional athlete. For alumni Dan Harding and Olly Davies, their love for the sport flourished into successful careers, and we are lucky to have them both back at Bede's and inspiring our current pupils by coaching.



Dan Harding and Olly Davies

The story so far

Dan (Deis, 1990-1999) spent the majority of his school life at Bede's, joining the Prep School in Year 2 and staying until the end of his GCSE's. He left the Senior School at 16 years old to join the Brighton & Hove Albion Youth Scheme, and has since enjoyed a thriving career in professional football, playing for England Under 21s, Leeds United, Ipswich Town, Southampton, Nottingham Forest, Eastleigh and Whitehawk. Dan is based in the South East, and lives with his wife Vicki and children. Olly (Knights, 2005-2009) joined us at the Senior School. He represented Bede's and Sussex throughout his school football career, and was part of the ESFA (English School's Football Association) winning team squad in 2009. At 19 years old, Olly embarked on a football coaching programme along the West Coast of America. He soon discovered a talent for youth coaching, and went on to set up his own Sussex-based company, Swerve Soccer Camps, which provides development programmes, clubs and residential camps for budding footballers at youth level.

Dan and Olly's roles at Bede's

Olly has taken the Under 15s under his wing and guided them through to the Sussex Schools County Cup and Elgin League playoffs. Dan works with our Director of Football, David Cayer, to coach the 1st team, trains the Under 16s, and mentors

other coaches at the Prep and Senior Schools, advising them on session plans and sharing ideas.

Bede's memories

Both Dan and Olly show genuine appreciation for their past Bede's coaches, who provided them with opportunities to pursue football as a career, both in and out of training. "Mr Gough took me to Brighton when I was 14 years old," Dan says. "I'd like to say a massive thank you to him." Olly adds: "I have to give major thanks to my BTEC Sport teacher, Mr Leggett, for everything. I learned all my coaching methods from him. He guided me from start to finish, and set me up for starting my own coaching company. We are still in touch on a weekly basis."

Part of the team

Dan and Olly have fully settled into their roles at Bede's, and both speak about the department with great affection. "It's great being back at the School – everyone in the Sports Department is amazing to work with," Dan says. David Byrne, Director of Sport at Bede's, is equally as enthusiastic about Dan and Olly's contribution. "It's fantastic to work with Dan and Olly," he says. "As they went to school here, they have grown up with Bede's holistic and inclusive approach and can pass this onto the pupils they teach. They have a wealth of experience in the sport,

and are role models for the kids – both work in professional football, and many pupils aspire to have careers in this industry in the future. It's nice that Dan and Olly want to give back."

Football at Bede's today

"Pupils play football across two terms, from September to April," David Cayer explains. "All teams enjoy access to facilities including three high-quality pitches, a state-of-the-art gym, a Strength and Conditioning Programme led by our specialist coach, Tony Morris, practice time on Eastbourne Borough's 4G and Seaford's 3G astro pitches, and video-analysis of every match on a HUDL app." Teams participate in a strong nationwide fixtures schedule (including the HUDL League), and get the opportunity to take part in international tours every year.

"The set up here is very good," Olly enthuses. "The Bede's Football Academy sets an exceptionally high level for youth coaching and technical training, and what's on offer is nothing short of amazing for these kids."

"The standard of pupils here is very high," Dan adds. "We have really good players, all the way from the Prep to the Senior School."



The impact of sport

"Sport has been everything," Dan says. "I don't know what I would be doing now if I wasn't playing football. I owe everything to it – including being able to provide for my family."

"Without sport, I wouldn't be where I am today," Olly adds. "It's a way of life, and I have shaped my career around it. It's been fantastic."

To visit our sports facilities please call the Sports Complex on 01323 356570

BEN LAWS RETURNS FOR THE GALACTIC CHALLENGE

Early morning on Saturday 20 January, we welcomed over 80 eager Year 6, 7 and 8 pupils from schools across the South East for our annual Galactic Challenge. We caught up with Bede's alumnus, Ben Laws (Camberlot, 2014-2016), at the event to discuss his involvement in the project, what makes the Galactic Challenge so special, and his time at Bede's.

What are you up to now?

I'm in my second year at Imperial College London, studying Chemical Engineering, and am also Operating Chairman for the Galactic Challenge. It's a lot of work, but I'm very happy - Imperial is the right place for me to be.

What makes Chemical Engineering such an interesting subject to study?

Chemical engineering is everywhere you look – it has a huge range of applications and impact on people's lives. The job prospects are equally wide ranging, from finance and business, to raw chemical engineering and project management.

At Bede's, I studied Maths, Further Maths, Physics, and Chemistry at A Level, and have always been naturally drawn to these subjects.

Why did you set up the Galactic Challenge?

Being involved in the UK Space Design Competition at Bede's when I was 16 years old was very empowering. It was the first time I had worked on an open-ended project on this scale, and from there I was hooked. I then approached Bill Richards [Maths Teacher and current Galactic Challenge Vice Chairman] about putting together an event for younger children, and we launched the Galactic Challenge at Bede's in 2016.



Ben and team at the UKSD final

The Galactic Challenge has grown quite significantly over the years...

It really has! We had 50 pupils attend the first event, which has risen to more than 80 children from 9 schools this year. We have also seen 5 other organisations host their own Galactic Challenges, including Swansea University, Imperial College and Westminster Academy, and are currently working with more schools who would like to get involved.



Ben (centre) with Bill Richards and Headmaster Peter Goodyer

What makes the Galactic Challenge such an important event for children?

It opens their eyes to what STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics] really is. Although valuable, what pupils learn in the classroom is only a tiny part of what is out there. The children work on a range of skills such as team building, project management and presenting. The competition not about winning or losing, or studying what is on the syllabus for an exam. The challenge pushes children out of their comfort zones, and allows them to explore their creativity without limits.

How are the teams organised?

We deliberately place children from different schools in the same team, so that they have to work with pupils they haven't met before. We have found that this approach really works - the children collaborate remarkably well.

How does it feel being back at Bede's?

It's lovely! I've bumped into a few people I know, and I'm going to try and find time to visit my old boarding house later on. It was fantastic living in Camberlot House – there was always someone to talk to, even when campus was quiet on a Sunday.



Ben and friends in Camberlot

Are you still in touch with school friends?

I'm in touch with a few people, and am quite close with some of the classmates from Upper Sixth Physics – we meet up every Christmas.

Do you have fond memories of teachers?

Nick Abrams arrived at Bede's at the same time as me [both came to Bede's from a school in Houston, USA] and he was brilliant at talking through ideas and giving encouragement. Martin Costley was also always there if I was feeling wobbly to lend a hand and give reassurance. My experience at school would have been very different without Bill Richards' support. He has a fantastic 'why not?' attitude, and the Galactic Challenge wouldn't have been possible without him.

How has your experience at Bede's shaped you today?

At Bede's, the experience goes beyond teaching – the school's ethos of developing pupils holistically has a huge impact. I was involved in the Drama department helping behind-the-scenes at productions, which isn't something I would have done if I didn't go to school here. Being in such a positive environment has given me the gumption to do things like the Galactic Challenge.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm looking forward to working more on the Galactic Challenge, and hope to build a career in either engineering or business after my degree.

For further information on the Galactic Challenge, please contact Ben at ben.laws@uksdc.org.

ALUMNI NEWS

JAMES WHITLEY IMPRESSES AT THE PYEONGCHANG GAMES

Paralympic alpine skier James Whitley (Prep, 2002-2011) has returned from the PyeongChang Games with several fantastic performances under his belt. He speaks to us about his experience and future plans.



What was your best moment in PyeongChang?

My first Paralympic Downhill (and my first Downhill race of the season!) coming 10th. The course was extremely long, nearly 3km. I was clocked at 94.9mph - possibly the fastest man on the mountain that day.

Did you achieve your own personal targets for the Games?

When I went to Sochi, I only took part in the Slalom and Giant Slalom races, as at 16 years I was too young to do the Speed events. At Pyeongchang, I raced in all five disciplines over 8 days. I had to get up at 4am each day, as the Olympic Village was a

long way from the mountain. The variation in temperatures also added to the exhaustion (-16c in the morning, rising to +20c in the afternoon). After a gruelling week, coming 10th in Downhill and Slalom, and 11th in Giant Slalom and Super-Combined races, I was quite pleased.

Was it a different experience to Sochi?

Pyeongchang was much more low key as it was deep in the countryside, 3 hours from Seoul. The racing, though, was excellent. On one morning alone (for the Giant Slalom) I believe they sprayed 750kg of salt on the course to preserve the snow!

Can you tell us how you train and prepare for an Olympics?

I started race training when I was 8 years old. From then, my holidays, half-terms and weekends were spent training. After leaving school, I became a full-time athlete. As well as time training on snow, I have had to spend a lot of time in the gym, as leg and core strength are vital. Diet and nutrition is also an important element in my preparation, although I have to admit that I still struggle

to eat any vegetables! The support from my family has been so important - I'm not sure I could have done it without them.

What are your best memories from Bede's?

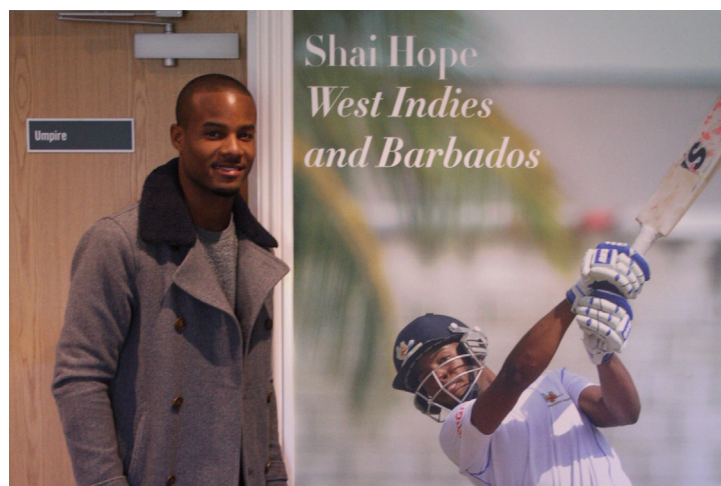
Playing cricket with Mr Pyemont. I owe a huge debt to him. Without his help and support, both with my skiing and general education, I would never have advanced in my sport, or make it to university.

What are your plans now?

Since returning from Korea, I have been able to relax with my parents on holiday - skiing! I hope to do a bit of travelling this summer, well away from snow, before starting university in September to read Politics and World Development.



SHAI HOPE ONE OF WISDEN'S 5 CRICKETERS OF THE YEAR



Shai Hope (Dorms, 2010-2012), was recently among five named as Wisden's Cricketers of the Year for 2017 following an astonishing performance for the West Indies last summer at Headingley.

The coveted Cricketers of the Year award which began in 1889 recognises cricketers who have made an outstanding contribution to, and had the most influence on, the previous English season.

The Barbadian batsman who left Bede's in 2012, had a breakthrough year in international cricket becoming the first player in history to

score a hundred in both innings of a first-class match at Headingley. Wisden editor, Lawrence Booth explained the honour by saying that Shai Hope had "produced one of the individual performances of the year. After West Indies had been thrashed in the first Test at Edgbaston, Hope made 147 and 118 not out to inspire them to a famous win in the second at Headingley. He was the first player in 534 first-class matches to score two hundreds in a game there, instantly making him the West Indian wicket all opposition attacks craved most."

Commenting on the honour, Bede's Director of Cricket, Alan Wells said, "The Wisden Cricketers of the Year award is highly prestigious and is coveted by cricketers from across the world not just in the English game. It is absolutely fitting that Wisden should recognise the huge personal contribution that Shai made at Headingley last summer, in one of the greatest Test upsets of all time."

For the first time ever, Wisden also recognised three women in their Top 5. Anya Shrubsole, Heather Knight and Nat Sciver were all members of England's World Cup winning squad who helped England to victory against India in a thrilling final last summer at Lords. Bede's will play host to the England Women's team when they visit on Saturday 19 May to play a Bede's select XI as part of their preparations for the T20 World Cup in the West Indies later this year.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

BEDE'S DECLARED BEST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL IN SUSSEX FOR VALUE ADDED

Department for Education figures released in January revealed that Bede's remains the top mainstream independent school in Sussex for Sixth Form Value Added for the fourth year running and 90th out of 2,786 schools.



Unlike traditional league table rankings, 'Value Added' scores, are government calculations which compare pupil performance in and between exams. They are designed to provide a measure as to

how successful pupils have been by virtue of the school they attended and thus declaring how much 'value' a school has added to their pupils' results.

Commenting on the results, John Tuson, Bede's Academic Deputy Head said: "Bede's has always placed great emphasis on building the whole child and these results, along with the success in public examinations last summer which underpin them, continue to provide evidence that this approach does not merely complement, but actually contributes, to our pupils' academic attainment."

Bede's Headmaster, Peter Goodyer said, "This summer our Sixth Formers achieved yet another record-breaking set of exam results, with 81% of grades at A*-B, but these value added figures are the most important measure for us as a school, emphasising as they do, the importance we place on the achievements of each of our pupils."

CHARITY FUNDRAISING CONTINUES IN EARNEST

Back in January, pupils from Dicker House kicked off their 24-hour football match to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, which has been the Dicker House Charity for the last two years.

The boys had a long night and were greatly assisted by pupils from Dorms and Stud. Over the course of the event, 60 pupils played in countless football matches and 14 boys managed to play for the whole 24 hours. The event raised in excess of £1,800 for charity. Well done to all involved!

Back in December, Bede's school prefects organised a Christmas collection to Hailsham Food Bank.

Following on from the success of this collection, pupils have created valuable relationships between charities including the Hailsham Food Bank and St Mary's School, Bexhill. The prefects are planning more donations next term.

A group of ten pupils have started volunteering at Hailsham Food Bank on a weekly basis during activity time.

The pupils have been helping in a variety of ways, including packing food, weighing food in the warehouse and carrying out office administration tasks.

The final weeks of term saw Bede's Headmaster Mr Goodyer challenge pupils and staff to collect 1,000 Easter Eggs for a number of worthy causes, including St Mary's School, Bexhill and other local charities.

This target was surpassed, and the Bede's community donated a total of 1,156 Easter Eggs.



A NEW CHAIR OF GOVERNORS IS ELECTED

We are pleased to announce that, at the full board meeting on Saturday 17 March, the Governors elected Mrs Geraldine Watkins to be the new Chair of Governors when Major General Anthony Meier retires from the post in June 2018. Major General Anthony Meier was first appointed to Chair the separate Preparatory School Board in 1994 until the merger with the Senior School in 1999. He was then Deputy of the overall Trust, taking the Chair ten years ago. He has been a remarkable Chairman who has given countless hours of his time to the school as a Governor. His unstinting support and critical friendship to successive Heads has been instrumental in moulding Bede's into the school it is today.

Mrs Watkins is uniquely qualified for this role in terms of running an organisation, leading a Board and understanding both education and the Bede's ethos.

She is the co-owner and director of a well-known local construction business and has twenty four years' experience as a magistrate, becoming a Chair in the adult criminal courts and also a Family Court Judge.

Her insight into education results from a seven year term as a lay inspector for Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education), during which time she participated in over a hundred school inspections.

Mrs Watkins, like her predecessor, is deeply imbued with the Bede's ethos, having put her four children through the Senior School. She has been a member of the Governing Body for five years.



PREP SCHOOL NEWS

BEDE'S HOSTS IAPS QUALIFYING ROUND CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Tuesday 30 January, Bede's hosted the Qualifying Round of the IAPS Swimming Championships.

Over 150 swimmers participated from Bede's Prep, St Andrew's Prep, Burgess Hill, Vinehall, Brighton College, Handcross Park, St Christopher's and Marlborough House. Swimmers ranged from U10 to U13 and competed in a total of 35 races. They were joined on poolside by local ASA Officials and Timekeepers from both Hailsham and Eastbourne Swimming Clubs.

Twenty eight swimmers represented Bede's Prep, and having spent many hours training to prepare for this event, it was wonderful to see everyone swimming to the very highest standard.

The gala commenced with each team swimming in a Medley Relay followed by the Freestyle Relays.

In the U10 Individual races, Aldin Hodzic achieved an impressive time of 22.15 seconds in his 25m Backstroke. In the U12

25m Butterfly, Martha Surgenor swam an amazing length securing a time of 16.41 seconds and winning by a clear 3m.

Ellie Abel swam a personal best time of 38.94 seconds in the U13 Breaststroke, an amazing time which we hope will ensure her a place in the finals.

The event was a huge success, with many of our swimmers achieving personal best times.



All the times from the Qualifying Round will now be ranked across the country with the top 20 swimmers in each age group and stroke competing in the Finals at the Aquatic Centre in June.

BEDE'S PREP PUPIL WINS FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

Ben Sherlock, aged 11 won Fundraiser of the Year at the Child of Sussex Awards 2017. In the last two years Ben has managed to raise a staggering £13,000 for charity.



His endeavours have included a 30 mile bike ride, dog walking, feeding homeless people, collecting spare change and selling wristbands. Ben donates to a wide range of causes including Twinkling Stars, East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and Ambulance Service and The Soup Kitchen.

FOCUS ON E-SAFETY

Last term, we welcomed e-safety expert Karl Hopwood for the day to work with teachers and pupils to address the challenges posed by modern technology and how to develop safer online behaviour.

Karl stressed the importance of not banning children from technology. The internet is an amazing resource that allows people to communicate and be creative in many ways, so the role of parents must be to help children to get the most out of the internet.



Karl emphasised the message, "As parents you protect your children from all risks offline daily, so protect them online."

Following on from their work on computer crime and cyber security in lessons, four Year 8 girls were selected to represent Bede's Prep School at the National Cyber Security Centre's Girls Competition 2018.



Milly Trenaman, Milly Gibson, Kirstin Orr and Florence Moseley-Bangs had to work together to solve as many challenges as they could in the areas of logic and coding, cyber security, cryptography and networking. The girls learned how professionals tackle cyber security issues and were able to practice skills in a simulated real-world environment. The girls received certificates from the National Cyber Security Centre in recognition of their efforts.

YEAR 8 ENJOY VISIT FROM MR PYEMONT

Year 8 kicked off the Spring Term with a brilliant workshop run by Peter Pyemont introducing them to the story of Mary Queen of Scots.

This led into their studies on the reign of Elizabeth I and learning how complicated the world of politics, religion and diplomacy can be.



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS: PRODUCTIONS

CABARET: GLITZ, GLAMOUR, MUSIC AND DANCE

The beginning of December 2017 saw us welcome in the festive season with our annual blue-chip Cabaret event. As always, this year's concerts offered evenings of glitz, glamour, music and dance, accompanied by black tie fine dining. For the first time Cabaret ran across three nights – and the Multi-Purpose Hall was even carpeted for the occasion!



The evenings were compered by Bede's pupils and siblings Ben and Adelaide Barden, ably accompanied by Luke Noble, who entertained the audience throughout

with humorous repartee.

The evening featured music from across eras and genres elegantly performed by a full orchestra, the Jazz Band, the Lower and Upper Sixth BTEC Bands, and an array of wonderful vocal soloists and groups.



The Legat dancers performed a variety of beautifully curated numbers – from upbeat performances to Bonnie Tyler's 'I Need A Hero', and Fame's 'I Can Do Anything Better Than You Can'; to a moving ballet piece and a contemporary take on 'Cinderella' choreographed by Bede's Director of Legat Lee Smikle.



With yet another year of Cabaret now over, the sound of these songs, and the sight of Bede's pupils performing at a professional standard cannot fail but live on in the memory.



OLIVER: "A SCHOOL PRODUCTION THE PROFESSIONALS WOULD BE PROUD OF"



Below is an extract from the review in The Herald, published in March 2018.

So Bede's School brings Oliver to the Devonshire Park Theatre: a full auditorium, a whiff of popcorn rather than gin and tonic, and a cast and audience united in happy celebration. Nights at the theatre should always be like this.

Director of Drama Karen Lewis, with an expert creative team, fully exploits the theatre's resources and possibilities, and the end product feels really professional. Against a shadowy and slightly expressionistic background, the orphans emerge like mice from the skirting board. The next twenty minutes give great scope

for a string of fine cameos: Will Hopkins is a nicely buffoonish Bumble opposite Imogen Hooker's cackling Mrs Corney, while Max Mason and Lottie Simmons are a delicious, malicious pair of Sowerberrys – with Freddie Tuson and Adelaide Barden the children from Hell.

And at the centre of this bewildering world,



Leo Wynne-Williams is an impressive Oliver – not the frequent portrayal of a tiny and cowering victim but aware, quite resilient, almost impudent – and with a super, lyrical singing voice in Where is Love.

Arriving in London, Oliver is suddenly surrounded by the swirl of colourful criminality which is Fagin's Gang. At their centre, in all senses, is a quite magnificent Fagin. An elastic-limbed Tom McGovern has every gesture, every knowing and darting glance, every prancing step exactly right. The finest Fagin, youth or adult, that I have witnessed for many years.

As Nancy, Meghan Longden wins all our hearts and her vocals are awesome, with an authentic belt, while Lili Longden is a sweet, engaging Bet. Jonny Keegan is a genuinely terrifying, explosive Sykes.

Alongside Karen Lewis, Robert Scamardella directs a breezy and note-perfect band. Richard Waring's set design perfectly combines the imaginative with the practical. And an army of costume-makers, dressers, wiggies and scene-shifters work unseen and unsung backstage. Well done to all. A schools production? Yes, but one that professionals would be proud of.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY 5 MAY: PREP SCHOOL REUNION

We kindly request the pleasure of your company at the

Bede's Preparatory School Reunion

*At the Preparatory School in Eastbourne
for drinks and canapés*

Saturday 5 May 2018
6pm – 8pm

All Prep School alumni are warmly invited for drinks and canapés at the Preparatory School in Eastbourne on Saturday 5 May from 6pm-8pm.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. Please contact Angela Morgan on angela.morgan@bedes.org to RSVP.

SATURDAY 19 MAY: AN EVENING WITH... MARK ROBINSON OBE AND SPECIAL GUESTS



Following the mixed Bede's XI vs England Women's team T20 Cricket Match on Saturday 19 May at 2.30pm (all are welcome to bring a blanket and picnic), Head Coach Mark Robinson OBE and guests will be joining us for dinner in the Recital Room.

The drinks reception will commence at 7pm, with the call to supper at 7.30pm. The ticket cost of £35 per head, includes a welcome drink, three-course supper, a glass of wine and coffee. Space is limited - please email senior.events@bedes.org to reserve your seats.

Alongside a Q&A with Mark and special sporting guests, including Bede's alumnus Dan Harding, we will be playing 'heads and tails' and there will be an auction to help raise funds for the Bede's Girls 2019 cricket tour.

All donations of prizes will be received gratefully.

Please contact Neil Lenham on neil.lenham@bedes.org if you can help.

SUNDAY 24 JUNE: HEADMASTER'S XI VS ALUMNI XI T20 CRICKET MATCH

SAVE THE DATE

Headmaster's XI vs Bede's Alumni XI Cricket Match



Sunday 24 June 2018 Bede's Senior School
11.00 – 15.00

You are warmly invited to our Headmaster's XI vs Bede's Alumni Cricket Match on the 1st XI Priory ground at Bede's Senior School on Sunday 24 June from 11am-3pm.

This was a really enjoyable event last year, and we look forward to welcoming as many of you there as possible.

Calling all cricketers!

If you would like to play in the Alumni 'Old Boys (and Girls)' cricket team, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Katie Sherry on katie.sherry@bedes.org to be added to our list of players.

BEDE'S
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