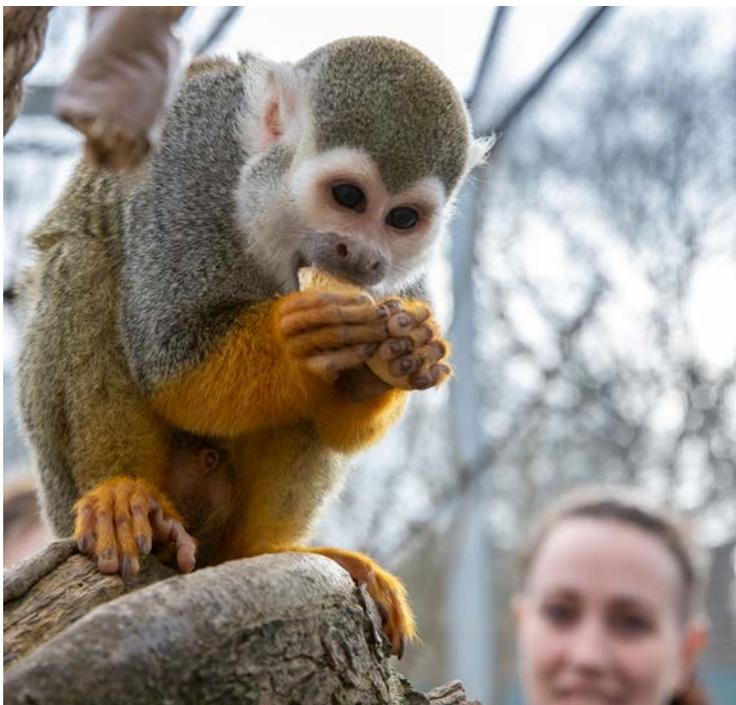


# REFLECTIVE BEDDE'S

Spring 2020



# HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

As I write this on the last day of term, I'm happy to announce that Spring has very much sprung in Upper Dicker, with new life budding in flowerbeds, blooming in hedgerows, and unfurling on the branches of trees.

It is sincerely comforting to be able to enjoy these eruptions of colour after such a long winter, and it is a real pleasure to see the sun streaming through blue skies, casting shifting shadows into pools of golden light.

For all this wonder, it feels uncanny to be enjoying these scenes – and a little melancholic. The school campus is a bit too quiet, almost as if it is holding its breath, and it is tempting to think that the flowers, trees and shrubs are missing the company of the pupils. I certainly am.



Undoubtedly, events of recent weeks have tried to cloud our view of what has been an excellent term, and it might be easy to be maudlin – were it not for the constant stream of happy messages, Google notifications and online chatter; I have always said that Bede's is not about buildings and is instead a community of like-minded people, and this idea has never been more apparent.

Indeed, while the school's facilities might be a little quieter than normal right this minute, there is no denying how busy they have been in recent weeks. We have had so much going on, from thrilling lessons and exciting trips to brilliant House Competitions, remarkable musical and dramatic performances to very special formal dinners and evensongs.



These latter occasions are important waymarkers for our community, and speak to the deep social bonds that exist within the pupil body and between pupils and their tutors. They enable each House to promote and celebrate its character and values, and most importantly signal the importance of all the different kinds of relationships that make Bede's tick.



As we move into a period of using 'alternative classrooms', we cannot forget the significance of this idea. There will be many who will find this time difficult, and it is therefore vital that we continue to interact socially, talking to one another. Laughing, sharing our experiences, and taking comfort in our commonality.

After all, remote does not have to mean impersonal.

As such, while pupils might miss this year's tulips and bluebells, those blooms will be back again next spring. It is far more important to witness, celebrate, and enrich our friendships at this time, and I urge everyone to please stay connected and support one another. I also hope that this newsletter serves as a reminder of Bede's busyness, fondness and camaraderie. It has been a wonderful term, after all, and when all this is over (and it will be over) we must be ready to reengage with School life in the same exciting, varied, and successful manner.

With kind regards and best wishes,

Mr Goodyer  
Headmaster



# PETER PYEMONT: 1939 - 2020

Peter Pyemont, who has recently passed away aged 80, was the pioneering and charismatic headmaster of Bede's Prep School who also founded the Senior School. Peter became headmaster in 1967 aged 25 and by the time he retired as headmaster in 1998, the School had grown from 40 to 400 pupils.

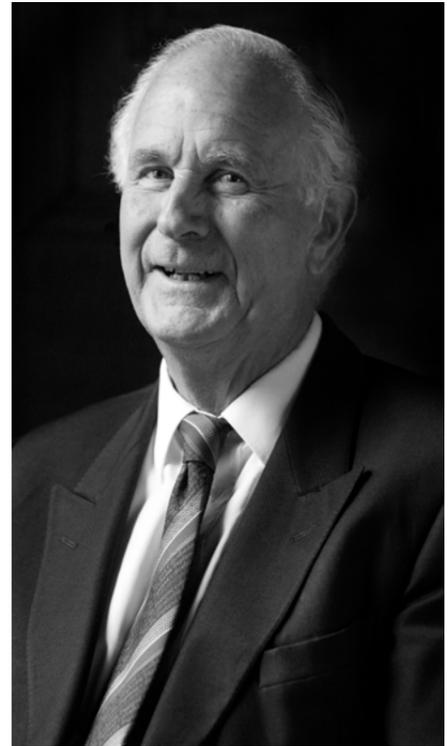
Finding that many parents wanted their children to benefit from the same approach to learning throughout their school careers, Peter began to search for a site for a senior school, and in 1978 the St Bede's School Trust purchased an estate at Upper Dicker, to the north of Eastbourne, formerly the home of the MP, financier and fraudster, Horatio Bottomley. The Senior School opened its doors the following year.

Roger Perrin, the founding Headmaster of the Senior School remembers his time working alongside Peter:

For me Peter was an absolute pleasure to work with on so many levels. He was 100% supportive and constructive; he let us get on with things in Upper Dicker and was always fully behind every moment of advance however perilous some of the early investment could have seemed. It is best summed up perhaps by saying that Peter was an outstandingly good captain as he showed in his time with Sussex Hockey and Eastbourne C.C.

The best captains let the individuals in their teams show their particular skills and back them up; anyone who worked in his School knew this and it helped ensure that the School prospered. It wasn't just that though: I enjoyed working along with Peter for all sorts of reasons; we believed that there was fun and a good deal of laughter to be had in our work., Peter was great at this and it is true to say that the more uncertain and risky the business might seem, the greater was the fun to be extracted from the circumstances.

Peter could see the main point clearly and that was that school life should be enjoyable and all the different boys and girls should be equally celebrated. I do remember with pleasure when Peter had his year as President of The Eastbourne Schoolmasters' Association he ended his presidential address by telling us that the Association was no longer to exist; typical PP...he saw clearly what many others did not dare to say; the Organisation had become pretentious and formulaic, its very title was an anachronism, no one would miss it except a few stuffys and Peter was most surely not one of them; he was never afraid to act radically and decisively...to get to the point and as those who heard him speak and teach to do so with a crisp authority... as I said he was a good captain. That he could also converse on all matters sporting with acumen and enjoy a "couple of pints" whenever the opportunity arose added to his excellence, in my view anyway!



I spoke to Peter a few days before he died and although very weak he was as cheery as ever and said to me that we had been very lucky to have had such an enjoyable time; It was moving to hear this and I could not have agreed more; knowing him well for over 40 years was indeed most lucky!



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Bede's Senior School  
Upper Dicker, Hailsham  
East Sussex BN27 3QH

T 01323 843252  
bedes.org

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bedes.org

# LEADING THE WAY AT THE UKSDC NATIONAL FINAL

Following the Bede's Galactic Challenge in January (which saw 120 budding engineers from 10 prep and primary schools across the region enjoy a day of STEM), our Senior School scientists had their chance to impress at the UK Space Design Competition Final in mid-March. This annual event, held at Imperial College, London went ahead, albeit that some schools withdrew and so it was reduced somewhat in size, although not in quality or enthusiasm from the roughly 200 pupils involved.



The team from Bede's was relatively small, and after being teamed up with three other schools our pupils ended up being elected to a number of management positions, with Tim Scott-Rutt elected as the President, Finn Ractliffe as Vice President of Marketing, Ellie Abel as Head of Structure, Kristen Chan as Head of Operations and Marie Boyer as Head of Human. That Ellie and Kristen, as first-time competitors at the Finals, were elected heads of sections was testament to what their team saw in their potential rather than there being a lack of competition for those roles.

Some excellent work was put in by everyone on Saturday and the team retired to the hotel to spend a large part of the night completing the presentation. As is the way of these things, whilst we thought that the proposal was excellent, we were not entirely surprised when our team was not announced as the winners. However, prior to that the school did pick up the two main individual awards that are given to each team, with Finn winning the Randall Perry Award for someone in a main leadership position and Ellie Abel winning the Dick Edwards award for 'quiet leadership', which is awarded to the person who, in the judgement of the observing CEOs and others, changes the dynamic of the room just by being there. Ellie was a force of nature and her CEO when he announced her said that "leadership skills of this quality are simply indecent!" When I



informed the organisers that she was a first-time finalist and a Year 10 pupil, they simply couldn't believe it.



First-time competitor, Fearghus Beauchamp summed up his experience, "I loved the competition and I learned so much about space design in such a short time. It was also really enjoyable working with everyone on our team and meeting new people from all across the country too."

Finn Ractliffe remarked, "The UKSDC is an exhilarating, exhausting and incredibly challenging competition and yet it is very rewarding at the same time. The Bede's team competed exceptionally well and worked amazingly within the company making some very good friends along the way. Despite not winning, I couldn't be prouder of what we accomplished and the fun everyone had. We've had a few comments saying that our group and friendly nature made the competition so much fun and – despite the incredible stress we were put under – completely conflict free, something I have never experienced before in my multiple competitions."



It was announced on Friday that Ellie and Finn have been selected for the EU team to compete in the ISSDC (international final) in America in July. We are all hoping that the event can go ahead, but in this changed world, it is very much a case of hope.

**Bill Richards**  
*Teacher of Mathematics*

# SCIENCE WITH A BANG!



Lower Fifth pupils enjoyed an exciting 'Science With a Bang' event at the Old Market Theatre in Brighton early this term. The invited speakers hail from a range of STEM disciplines, representing diverse age and interests with something to appeal to all.

Author, presenter and Professor of Science Communication at the University of Westminster, Professor Lewis Dartnell kicked off the proceedings with some serious science advice on 'The Knowledge: Or How To Rebuild Our World From Scratch' followed by considerations of the medical marvel that is reproductive medicine, delivered by the pioneering Professor of Fertility (and pupil favourite), Lord Robert Winston.



A presentation from internet science sensation Matthew Shribman also addressed issues related to reproduction (Matthew himself is a twin, conceived via IVF, and was particularly delighted to meet Lord Winston). Other topics he commented on included vegetarianism and environmentalism, all delivered in an energetic, dynamic style.

Former teacher and Think Maths communicator, Zoe Griffiths, presented an interactive talk about 'Numbers in the News'. With the stated aim of empowering students to make informed decisions and improve critical thinking skills in an age of fake news, she encouraged the audience to apply statistical analysis to understand data in news coverage.



The day's activities concluded, as promised, with a bang! Matthew Tosh, international pyrotechnic wizard, explored how classroom science, technology, engineering and mathematics ensures that firework displays are accurate and safe for the public. His consideration of shock waves, rates of reaction, forces, circuits, flames sparks and colourful indoor fireworks linked theory to practice, and was a perfect way to end the day.

Lower Fifth pupil Millie Trenaman commented, "Matthew Shribman was my favourite speaker of the day. He was relatable and it didn't feel like I was learning but I was. The fireworks at the end were really pretty and cool."

**Joolz Durkin**  
*Teacher of Science*

# BEDE'S PHYSICISTS VISIT CERN

At the end of January, we had a fantastic trip to Geneva to see the European Centre for Nuclear Research CERN. This world-leading research facility is home to the Large Hadron Collider, which is the largest particle physics laboratory in the world. It was one of the most intense days for all of us as the trip only lasted 24-hours – and there was a lot to see!



We were very lucky this year because the LHC is shut down for maintenance and upgrade. This meant that it was possible for us to journey 100m below the French countryside to see the Compact Muon Solenoid (one of the detectors). It seems anything but compact and is situated in a vast cavern housing the 14,000 tonne, 21-metre by 15-metre diameter experiment. Truly awe inspiring.

We were guided by people who work there and who are truly passionate about what they do and were very eager to share that passion. After this trip, particle physics no longer remains some kind of fiction for me, science as a career became much more tangible.

It also made me realise that incredible discoveries are not made by individuals. CERN is a massive project with thousands of people working together to support the greatest research laboratory in the world.

It was really fun to visit this place with people who share the same interests as me. This was definitely one of the most memorable days for all of us.

**Lera Chorna**  
*Lower Sixth*

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Upper Dicker, Hailsham  
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bedes.org

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bedes.org

# BEDE'S WRITERS FLOURISH IN THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION



**This term, the English department announced the results of the annual Bede's Writers' Competition, which was this year centred around the theme of 'beauty'.**

As we hoped, pupils from all year groups interpreted this stimulus in unexpected and daring ways, so it was no mean feat for us to whittle down a shortlist of writers from over fifty well-crafted submissions. This year's judges, Mr Oliver and new librarian Miss Evans, read everything from travelogues to dystopian pieces, explorations of nature and space to meditations on swimming, roast dinners, Franz Liszt, life-drawing classes and even a human autopsy. One talented pupil not only penned an original song for the competition- but also sent an edited recording of it as her entry!

After much discussion, we arrived at our junior and senior shortlists. For the junior category, Jack White's clever monologue from the perspective of a camera allowed for some pin-sharp imagery, as well as a mature reflection on what we see as beautiful.

Camberlot's Will Quibbell also impressed with a crystal-clear evocation of a remote Highland train station, winning second place. The winner of the junior category, however, was Millie Gibson, whose mature and ambitious deconstruction of the myth of beauty astonished judges with its startling turns of phrase, as well as a brilliantly-written moment of epiphany— such a hard thing to pull off.

In the senior category, competition was perhaps even more intense. Clearly inspired by his Philosophy and English studies, Sixth Form

pupil Sam Bickersteth produced a complex and nuanced poem in the Epic tradition, exploring not only nature, but also faith and human love. Miss Evans found this work warranted a rewarded multiple re-reads: surely a sign of any great work.

Alongside Sam on the shortlist was Maddie Goodman, whose finely-wrought poem taking the four seasons as a backdrop to explore mental health showed excellent judgement and scrupulous editing. In first place in the senior category was previously shortlisted L6th student, Eliane Boyer, whose work caught the judges' eyes with its terrifying setting: a work-driven future world in which beauty is an entirely unknown concept. Not only did Eliane's piece impress with its imaginative daring, but its wonderful prose, thoughtful characterization and deft use of language also made it a deserving winner.

Once again, it was wonderful to see such a broad range of truly imaginative and accomplished work.

This year, as always, much of it will be collected for the annual Bede's publication of Small Island, our very own creative writing and art journal. This year, with our artists taking a firm lead in the design and production of the edition, it is likely to be the best yet. If you are interested in being a part of the Small Island publication, do contact the Head of Art, Mr Turner or Mr Oliver at [small.island@bedes.org](mailto:small.island@bedes.org).

**Matthew Oliver**  
*Head of English*

# PUPILS PAY RESPECTS AT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

**A number of Bede's pupils, parents and staff joined a packed crowd to commemorate this year's Holocaust Memorial Day event in Eastbourne.** There were at least 500 people in attendance including the Chief Executive of East Sussex County Council, the Lord-Lieutenant, Eastbourne's Mayor and Caroline Ansell MP. With a theme of 'Stand Together', the evening's contributions were solemn, reflective and thought provoking. Cllr Wallis opened the proceedings formally; this was followed by the lighting of commemorative candles and the recital of the Mourner's Kaddish in Hebrew. There followed reflections, poems and performed prayers and the International Voice Orchestra led a moving rendition of Bridge Over Troubled Water (with audience participation!).



The highlight of the event was Eastbourne resident Dorit Oliver-Wolff, B.E.M. closing the proceedings by sharing her experiences as a Holocaust survivor. Her journey from war-torn waif to international singing sensation was truly inspirational; her profound faith and indomitable spirit was very much in evidence and she concluded with a rousing chorus of Hava Nagila (Let Us Rejoice). One of our parents who attended remarked that "it was a fabulous evening, really well presented and thought provoking".

Amid the wide ranging thank you's, Bede's was commended as the only local school to have accepted the invitation to attend, with Barney (Upper Fifth, Stud) being honoured to accept a book from the organisers for the school library. He felt that the "Holocaust Memorial event was very moving, touching and inspirational" and said that "the main speaker was excellent and funny". Dorit teased and chatted with the pupils, posing for photos with professional flair despite her 83 years. She obviously enjoyed engaging with and talking to younger people and invited herself along to the school in the future to "talk to more children so we do not forget".

Bede's would like to extend its thanks to Devan Briggs and Eastbourne Borough Council for the invite to such a special event.

Two weeks later, a number of Lower Sixth A Level History and RS pupils attended the Holocaust Memorial Day event at the University of Sussex. This really was a powerful, emotional experience for all, with the highlight being a talk by Hannah Lewis MBE, a Holocaust survivor.

The event began with a lecture about the importance of language and memory in studying the Holocaust. This is particularly relevant as the number of survivors gets smaller every year. The speaker discussed how many survivors are unable to fix their experiences in time and use generic stories to convey their personal experiences of suffering, and about the impact of these experiences on their children and grandchildren.

This was followed by a talk by Hannah Lewis MBE, who survived the Holocaust in her native Poland. She spoke moving about the loss of her young cousin and witnessing the murder of her mother by Einsatzgruppen firing squad; out of her wide extended family only her and her father survived. Will Gwynne (Lower Sixth, Dicker) reflected that, "Hearing the true personal story of Hannah from her own lips brought the horrors of the Holocaust to reality. It is easy to become a bit distant to the facts sometimes and not comprehend the sheer scale of the atrocities that took place. But the grim, authentic detail that Hannah recounted had an incredible impact. It was truly inspirational to hear that she has managed to live a life with her own family and be so active in trying to prevent discrimination for the future generations. It was truly thought provoking and I know I will be thinking about it for a long time to come. It will be an experience that I never forget."

The event ended with a short film recollecting the experiences of Holocaust survivors in Slovenia, which included eye-witness testimony. Out of around 100,000 Jewish people in Slovenia the survivors were counted in the low hundreds.

Both pupils and staff found the event moving and uplifting, and there was a real awareness of the rising frequency of hostility and discrimination across Europe today. This highlighted the importance of this year's HMD theme, 'Standing Together', which aims to promote unity and the rejection of these negative values at every opportunity.

**James Whitaker**  
*Head of History and Government & Politics*

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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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# MFL AND DRAMA: PERFORMING KAFKA

Upper Fifth pupil and dramatist Maddie Goodman writes about her experience of putting a modern twist on Kafka's *Metamorphosis* in Bede's latest MFL and Drama collaboration.

I first encountered Kafka's *Metamorphosis* last year, after watching a set of A Level devised pieces that transposed his text into two different contexts: the hotshot world of the 1960's workplace, and the absurd funeral service of Samsa as a beetle. I'm interested in the ways that texts can undergo cultural vandalism, and still retain pertinence and complexity - there is, I think, no transposition that could possibly water down the absurd menace of the Kafkaesque, which is why I was so thrilled when Mr Rohmer approached me with his new adaption of the classic novel.

This is, strangely, not my first foreign language piece. Last year, I had the privilege of being technical manager for a student-led interpretation of Jean-Paul Sartre's classic play *Huis Clos* last year. Being a non-native speaker, this posed several challenges, I quickly devised the means to overcome the biggest problem which was translation. As well as this language barrier, I also had to develop independent skills. These abilities were especially important as I was the youngest member of the company. Support from my peers was particularly important. Having drawn so many lessons

and experiences from my involvement in *Huis Clos*, I was keen to distil these in my next challenge of a German play.



Initially, early rehearsals - which started in September - concentrated on pronunciations and making the actresses feel more confident on stage. As an experienced dramatist myself, I was able to impart my knowledge and passion onto them. Once rehearsals were under way, the emphasis was on putting the three separate components of dance, music and drama together to support Mr Rohmer in fulfilling his ambitions for the production. From my perspective, after reading the script I was keen that the production should feature a grotesque and distorted reality. I mainly thought this should come across through the disordered nature of our set design - highlighted by the presence of the ramp - which truly shows the struggle that the characters face. I also explored the idea of escapism which I wanted to keep as a key ongoing theme throughout.



With the joint efforts of the cast and Mr Rohmer, we have been able to put a modern twist on a 20th century German text. After five months in the rehearsal room, I was very proud to present to you *Die Verwandlung* - *Metamorphosis*.

Upper Sixth pupil Max Mason, who directed and starred in our MFL-Drama collaboration *Huis Clos* for his Bede's Diploma EPQ last year, attended the performance. He commented, "I just wanted to say how utterly fantastic I thought tonight's performance was. The cast and crew captured everything that makes Kafka meaningful - the mystery, the absurdity, the surrealism and most importantly the menace. The cast's commitment was unwavering; we oscillated through gritty realism, emotional trauma and the bourgeois-grotesque. The incorporation of music and dance created an atmosphere that most National Theatre directors would be jealous of - no small feat."



"I admit to never having learnt or spoken a word of German," Max continues, "but I was totally absorbed within every word and gesture. The use of space gave an ironic comparison between the two 'worlds' of the Beetle's room and the domestic space, yet it felt like the family were just as confined as Samsa - baffled by a patriarchal society filled with the bleak, cruel and mocking. You faithfully adapted the original novella, yet also offered ties to the contemporary through an intriguing, postmodern focus on the split between the psychological and the external - an original and thought-provoking interpretation. I simply could go on and on."

Maddie Goodman  
*Upper Fifth*

# DRAMATISTS' SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

This term, a group of our dramatists travelled to Langney Primary Academy in Eastbourne for a very special performance of 'Twisted Fairytales'. The children at Langney behaved absolutely impeccably and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Our own pupils were superb and came back fully inspired to take the 'Twisted Fairytale' show on tour to other primary schools around the county.



This was a lovely experience for both our pupils who were given the opportunity to perform to an audience, as well as the pupils at Langney Primary who were entertained for the morning.



A teacher from Langney Primary said, "Thank you again for the lovely performances. The children really enjoyed it. Two of the girls in my class are practising their own version of 'Cinderella' as we speak and are desperate to film it - they have given me a props and costume list that they will need already! You have inspired the next generation of actors!"

Many thanks to Langney Primary for the opportunity, and we look forward to continuing and growing this partnership in future years.

Casey Dearing  
*Teacher of Drama*

# MUSIC SCHOLARS ENJOY MASTERCLASS WITH LIBBY BURGESS

We were delighted to welcome acclaimed accompanist and chamber musician Libby Burgess for a very special masterclass at Bede's. At first, the performers and I were intrigued as to how this masterclass was going to take shape as there was such a diverse selection of musicians taking part. This included Tiana Coley playing clarinet; Joshua Slater playing piano and Charlotte Webb and myself singing. Libby Burgess was just brilliant at giving each and every musician her time and extremely useful and insightful tips.



Each musician began by performing a piece of their choice. After their performance, Libby took to the stage with each performer, spending 15 minutes working and improving on all aspects of the performances. Libby didn't just talk about the notes on the page that the musicians were playing, she talked in great detail about the sound and atmosphere that each of the instruments can produce and how this can enhance the musician's performance. This key concept was applicable to all the musicians.

One exercise that Libby got one of the musicians to do was to think about each musical phrase being a question and answer, and what that question and answer might be. One of the benefits this technique offers is not only to engage the musician by thinking about the notes being played but also gives a greater appreciation for musical line and phrasing. After Libby shared this thought with us the results on the performance were instant and impressive to see.

Overall, the masterclass had great meaning and relevance to all the performers, enhancing our knowledge about performances and the music we play. More importantly it helped us to think about music beyond just the notes on the page and to consider other ideas that we can use to improve our performances.

From everyone in the music department and on behalf of all the performers that took part in the masterclass we send a big thank you to Libby Burgess for sharing her ideas with us and helping us to develop as young musicians.

William Hopkins  
*Lower Sixth*

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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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bedes.org

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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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bedes.org

# BEDE'S LEGAT DANCERS ENJOY MASTERCLASSES WITH PROFESSIONAL PERFORMERS



**I**n January, Bede's Legat Dance Academy pupils donned their ballet shoes for masterclasses with prominent professional dancers Sarah Wildor and Alistair Postlethwaite.

On the Friday, Sarah Wildor, former principal dancer with the Royal Ballet Company, delivered a one-day repertoire masterclass focusing on George Balanchine's 'Symphony in C', which works with basic motifs and patterns for the corps de ballet.

Emma Manes, Teacher of Dance at Bede's, says, "The Bede's Legat Dance Academy students were delighted to have the chance to work with such an experienced performer, with Phoebe Tucker, Lower Sixth, commenting, 'Sarah's workshop was fantastic! She taught in a very calm, gentle way but the exercises were fast paced and you had to pick them up quickly'."

The next day, Alistair Postlethwaite, dancer with Matthew Bourne, K Ballet, Scottish Ballet and New English Contemporary Ballet, visited Bede's to deliver a morning ballet class with the Bede's Legat Enrichment Dancers and Legat Associates. Alistair will continue to work with the students over the next three weeks, and will also put together an original piece of work for the Legat Dance Showcase this summer, which we very much hope will be held at The Attenborough Centre, Falmer in June.

Emma Manes continues, "The Bede's Legat students found working with Alistair incredibly enjoyable, as he demonstrated the exercises with passion and enthusiasm."

*Alex Murphy  
Director of Dance*



# BEDE'S GETS ECO FRIENDLY

**P**upils across the year groups have launched an Eco Schools initiative, which aims to improve the School's carbon footprint and increase sustainability. Bede's is one of 18,600 schools across the UK also committed to the nationwide scheme. Each school involved is tasked with selecting three sectors of the school they would like to improve, with Bede's pupils choosing to focus on energy, biodiversity and waste.

Eco Schools is one of the largest global sustainable schools programme dedicated to improving environmental awareness with the Seven Step Framework, helping to develop students' skills, raise environmental awareness, and improve the school environment. The Seven Step process to Green Flag success includes: Eco Committee, Environmental review, Action plan, Curriculum links, informing and involving, monitoring and evaluation and finally Eco-Code.

At the moment, we are focusing on a number of different ways to improve the environment within the school and local area. One of the ways in which we are doing this is through installing smart meters within all houses in the school, which will be turned into a competition with a prize available for the house that uses the least amount of energy each term. On top of this we are aiming to increase the amount of biodiversity on school campus, by simply ordering and then planting saplings in an unused green area by our sports fields.



Luke Gare, Lower Sixth pupil at Bede's, comments, "We have already ordered 30 trees which will be planted in a designated area on the school site, where we will also create a garden to encourage more wildlife. This will help insects such as bees, whose population has reduced by a third in the UK over the last 10 years.

"We have lots more plans in the pipeline, and we are really looking forward to meeting every Monday afternoon to working hard to help make Bede's a more sustainable place to live and work."

Next on the agenda is addressing concerns such as littering, improving our recycling, and further reducing the amount of single-use plastic used in school.



Any pupils who would like to be involved should email [richard.williams@bedes.org](mailto:richard.williams@bedes.org) or [helena.worrall@bedes.org](mailto:helena.worrall@bedes.org).

*Richard Williams  
Head of Media Studies and  
Eco Schools Leader*



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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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# SPRINGING INTO HOUSE COMPETITIONS

**M**s Woollett, Operational Deputy Head, reports on our Spring House Competitions, which saw pupils from across the years excel in activities from sport and drama to STEM challenges and debates.

Thankfully, we were able to complete House Competitions mostly in the dry, although it was very cold. A huge thank you must go to all the pupils who competed with such enthusiasm and the staff involved.



The traditional Junior and Senior Quizzes were as competitive as usual, with Camberlot winning the Senior Quiz and Knights the Junior Quiz. In the English rooms fierce debates were taking place, with Charleston winning the Senior Debate and Crossways the Junior Debate. In the Maths rooms, Dorter proved to be numerical champions whilst in Drama, Deis proved the best at improvisation. In Science, teams were challenged to build the strongest bridge, with Stud engineering their way to victory. Crossways were triumphant in the Chess.



The Badminton teams were delighted to be indoors, with Crossways and Dorms winning the Junior Badminton titles and Crossways and Stud winning the Senior titles. In the gym, Camberlot won the indoor Tough Mudder and Stud swam their way to victory in the Boys Swimming. In the Girls' Football, Charleston won a very tight competition. In Netball, the Senior and Junior titles were won by Bloomsbury. In the Boys' Hockey, the Junior title was won by Knights and the Senior title by Dorms.



**Here are the places as they stand:**

- In tenth place is Deis with 130 points
- In ninth place is Dicker with 132 points
- In eighth place is Dorms with 148 points
- In seventh place is Knights with 154 points
- In sixth place is Charleston with 156 points
- In fifth place is Camberlot with 185 points
- In fourth place is Bloomsbury with 186 points
- In third place is Dorter with 188 points
- In second place is Study with 191 points
- Crossways currently lead with 202 points



**Rachael Woollett**  
*Operational Deputy Head*

# BLACK LEMURS WELCOMED TO BEDE'S ZOO FAMILY

**B**ede's Zoo has welcomed two adorable new arrivals. A mother-and-daughter pair of black lemurs, Mary (15 years old) and Mogoi (6 years old), have arrived from Parc Animalier d'Auvergne in Southern France. Black lemurs are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red data list and their population is declining in the wild, with numbers decreasing due to habitat loss and being hunted for food.



We are delighted to welcome Mary and Mogoi to the Bede's Zoo family, and it is wonderful to see them settling in so well already. We are looking to eventually integrate the girls with our ring-tailed lemurs, but this will be a slow process while they get to know each other in adjoining separate enclosures.

As a species, black lemurs originally hail from Madagascar and have sadly experienced a shocking decline in the wild. Our lemurs at Bede's act as ambassadors for their species, allowing us to educate people and help raise awareness of conservation efforts. The long-term viability of the species can only be assured in Madagascar if the current situation changes radically.

We were also delighted to be featured in the Eastbourne Herald – you can read their recent report of our school zoo here: <https://www.eastbourneherald.co.uk/education/eastbourne-school-has-whole-zoo-inside-heres-what-its-2517910>

**Helen Poyser**  
*Zoo Manager*

# EQUESTRIAN TEAM THROUGH TO NSEA CHAMPIONSHIPS

**T**he Bede's Equestrian team has had a busy term so far, with a fabulous training session at the all-weather Hickstead Arena (a welcome opportunity after all this bad weather) and success at the NSEA Eventers Challenge at Petley Wood.



The team of Ella, Ruby and Lola (Prep School) won the Novice class, with Ella coming fifth individually.



The same team with Bella then came 2nd in the Intermediate class, with Ella coming third individually. Bella went on to come second individually in the Open class. All of the above pupils will go forward to represent Bede's in the NSEA Eventers Challenge Championships at Hickstead in May, which is a great achievement.



Ellie also celebrates qualifying for the Blue Chip Second Round show jumping competitions.

**Katy McKeogh**  
*Equestrian Team Leader*

# REMOTE LEARNING

**In the last weeks of term, staff and pupils at Bede's embraced the new world of remote learning; from Music to Maths and even in Sport and Legat, both staff and pupils found unusual and innovative ways to continue teaching and learning across the gamut of school life.**

During the penultimate week of term, many overseas boarders had made the choice to fly home early with growing uncertainty about availability of flights, and Bede's new remote learning platform was quickly in full swing although not before teachers and classmate had enjoyed the novelty of receiving guided tours of their friends' homes and introductions to their families and pets.

With the forthcoming closure of all schools having been announced by the Prime Minister soon after, the next few days were a strange combination of busy preparations and melancholy reflection.

The previous week's "blended" teaching made the official move to remote learning, which followed the closure of schools and subsequent government restrictions on travel outside the home, a relatively smooth transition. Bede's Operational Deputy Head, Rachael Woollett reflecting on the frenetic fortnight commented, "The suddenness of this has been difficult and has of course led to some anxiety for us all, but there have actually been some benefits to having had this period to get everyone used to online lessons ahead of the Easter break, and we can now go into the holiday confident that we can all hit the ground running when we return."



We are incredibly proud of the gusto and determination that our pupils have displayed during the remote learning transition, which has seen a range of activities take place across all departments and year groups. In the creative arts, wonderful pieces have come through from Mr Turner's First Year Creative Carousel photographers, who have taken inspiration from Van Gogh's humble Arles still life paintings in their series of photographs that show interest in the everyday, from beautiful blossom, colourful reflections and floating elephants! Mr Hammond's Ceramics students have not let distance or a lack of clay deter them from creating beautiful pieces in their practical lessons over Google Meet, choosing to make striking sculptures and designs from paper. Special mention must go to Gleb Sharabinsky and Nicole Ho, who are accessing remote lessons from Russia and Macau respectively.

Over in Performing Arts, our dramatists have enjoyed a range of remote sessions, including a run through Dennis Kelly's 'Our Teacher is a Troll' (Bede's Drama department's planned show for Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year). Our Legat dancers have also been keeping their practical skills on point with a remote timetable of ballet, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre lessons. Legat pupil Sasha says, "Thank you for your amazing classes and an incredible system to assist in maintaining our strength; it was really fun and I can't wait for the next one!" In Music, alongside remote sessions with pupils, Mr Scamardella has been sharing some beautiful renditions of classical pieces on the piano on the School's social media pages, which we wholeheartedly recommending watching for moment of calm in your day!



Speaking of performance, Mr Oliver's Lower Sixth class was surprised with a live poetry set over Google Meet with award-winning performance poet Luke Wright, featuring verse about Brexit, parenting, masculinity and B-movie horror. For their final lesson of the Spring Term, Mr Vaux challenged his Upper Fifth pupils to write a short, one-stanza poem about the most interesting spoon in their house. Mr Vaux says, "This group are brilliant, and are fiendishly clever, and have worked so hard," he explained, "and having their GCSEs be disrupted has caused them quite a shock. Against that backdrop, it seemed like we ought to use our last hour together before the holiday to be a bit ridiculous and unleash some creativity. "I gave them 20 minutes before we came back together to share our work, and out of solidarity I wrote my own poem while they were working on theirs. It was a bit of a madcap scramble for all of us, with lots of laughing and a real sense of joy."

The English department is keen to encourage as many people in the Bede's community to keep reading and enjoying stories throughout the Easter Holidays and beyond. "At any time, reading is the ultimate form of escapism, but it's especially important now," Mr Oliver comments. "When we read, we are beyond the reach of the news, the twitter feed, the pinging of our phones. There has never been a better time for our students to turn to fiction for different worlds and new perspectives." In this light, Mr Trenaman has started a series of live storytelling suitable for all ages on the Bede's Senior School's Facebook page entitled 'Trenaman's Twelve O'clock Tales' – tune in every day from 12noon to enjoy the readings live, or watch again in the recordings.

If you're looking for team spirit, our Sports department has it in buckets – and this is no less evident in this remote learning phase. Alongside direct remote sessions with the pupils, our coaches have taken the time to set challenges to encourage pupils (and parents!) to stay active, put together fascinating interviews with professional cricketers Rashid Khan (Afghanistan, Sussex) and Luke Wells (Sussex), and created a hilarious video to keep our spirits up. All of these videos are available on the Bede's Senior School Facebook page, and they are certainly worth a watch!

And over at our Zoo, the 70 species of animal in our care are still being cared for by Mrs Poyser and her team (while social distancing is of course maintained). In a recent blog, Deputy Head Mr Tuson said, "In the school zoo, each of the inhabitants looks to be enjoying the spring sunshine, blissfully unaware of what is going on in the world outside, even if the absence of students may puzzle them, a little. Our latest arrivals – a pair of wild Brazilian Guinea Pigs which, to be honest, don't look too dissimilar to slightly skinny domestic guinea pigs - have just become a quartet. New life has a wonderful way of lifting the spirit." BTEC Management pupils have been staying in touch remotely, with one parent commenting "Theo says hi to all the animals – he is missing them and looking forward to when he can return."



As ever at Bede's, life inside and outside the classroom is given equal value, and this is no less true with remote learning. Our Health and Wellbeing team has worked incredibly hard throughout this pandemic to keep everyone safe and well, and is continuing to do so by operating a virtual centre for pupils - picking up appointments, receiving phone calls and attending virtual meetings via video chats - ensuring the care they give reaches out to the Bede's community around the world. Vanessa Tourle, Bede's Lead Nurse, says, "Health is never predictable and although it's a cliché to say no day is ever the same, it's essential that we are able to be available for any eventuality – from sports injuries to mental health needs. The whole team really cares for the pupils; we are so rooting for them and want to help them feel their best and see the joy in life.

"The temporary move to a virtual centre is evolving and will never be quite the same social element as a face-to-face meeting, however

it is reassuring to be able to check in with pupils and know they are coping. An unexpected delight has been being introduced to pupils' pets who often wander in during consultations!" Indeed, this has been a source of joy for many teachers as well; Mr Vaux alone has already met Maddie's bearded dragon, Toby's British Blue cat, Rosa's Border Terrier, Esther's half-Labrador, half-Spaniel, Charlotte's Cockapoo, Alice and John's moggies, and Michael's fish (although he was understandably reluctant to remove them from the tank for display purposes!)"



At challenging times like these, taking a moment of peaceful reflection can really help to relieve feelings of anxiety. The Bede's Chaplaincy team is running virtual chapel services for pupils of all faiths and none, offering valuable moments of calm meditation and thought as part of the remote school day.

Although it can seem strange in the current climate to think too far ahead, it is important to do so and this is where Mrs Franks' virtual careers service comes in. From skills boosting activities and mock interviews, to CV writing and career path planning, Mrs Franks is on hand for one-to-one video meetings or via email to help. In addition, pupils can find a wealth of resources on the Bede's online learning platform, as well as regular vlogs and Q&A interviews with employers and industry experts over the coming weeks.

Perhaps this strange and sometimes wonderful journey from the physical to the remote classroom is best summed up by Deputy Head, Mr Tuson, in one of his recent blogs when he said, "A word about those remote lessons. Good grief, the students are brilliant! They have every right to be shaking their fist at the sky, to be moaning and groaning and wailing about the hand that fate has dealt them. Instead, they have been approaching this brave new world with good cheer, positivity and perspective.

"As I write, I have just spent a lesson with my Lower Fifth class. We plugged our way through the next chapter of 1984 (and there's a book to read in times such as these!), and, on a completely selfish level, I have to say that my soul was lifted by contact with such tremendous young people. It was fantastic to see them, and to see their determination to keep on going."

**A final note from Headmaster Mr Goodyer: "We are here to help, and strongly encourage all parents and pupils to stay in touch with their tutor and teachers throughout this remote learning process. At Bede's we pride ourselves on our strength as a community and our care for each other: never has this been more important than in the current crisis."**

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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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bedes.org

# TALKS

## ALLISTAIR MCCAW

On Wednesday 12 February, leading international sports performance expert Allistair McCaw travelled to Bede's to deliver two powerful and inspiring talks to the pupils.

Allistair is recognised as one of the world's leading figures in human performance, team culture and leadership. He has worked with numerous high-profile athletes (including Olympians and Grand Slam Champions) and organisations, written three bestselling books, and travelled the globe delivering keynote speeches.



During his visit to Bede's, Allistair spoke with the School's Sports Scholars and Sixth Formers about how best to optimise their potential – in sport and beyond. Key messages included the importance of exceeding expectations by doing more than asked, instilling discipline to reach your goals, and fostering a positive and motivational attitude for the benefit of yourself and your team.

Mr Peter Goodyer, Headmaster at Bede's, comments, "It was a pleasure to welcome Allistair McCaw to our school; his talks were engaging, inspiring and truly motivational, and I am sure that our pupils will remember his wise words for a long time to come."

## BOB CHAMPION

In January, Bede's welcomed former jump jockey and renowned Grand National winner, Robert (Bob) Champion, MBE for an informative and inspirational talk entitled "We can all be champions".



Bob was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1979 at the height of his career as a jockey. He won the Grand National in 1981 on Aldaniti, viewed by many as a great triumph following his previous adversity. Their victory earned them that year's BBC Sports Personality of the Year Team Award and was chosen as one of the 100 Greatest Sporting Moments by Channel 4 viewers in 2002.

Other major races that Bob won during his career include the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup and the Whitbread Trial Chase. He was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire in the 1982 Queen's Birthday Honours and in 1983 formed the Bob Champion Cancer Trust, which has raised millions of pounds for cancer research.

Bob's inspirational talk touched on his early life, his path to becoming a professional jump jockey and how it felt being at the top of his game only to have it come crashing down with a life-threatening diagnosis, and the heights of joy with that famous Grand National victory.

Many thanks to Bob for what was a truly inspirational evening.

## LISA HEATHFIELD

In mid-March, novelist Lisa Heathfield paid Bede's a visit to discuss dystopia, fiction and the writing life. In her opening address to students and parents, she shared the secret of her own inspirations and gave budding writers a clear message: look around you. In telling of her own writing, Lisa spoke of the historical and contemporary real-life events that have moved her to write, from war and conflict overseas, to the plight of the homeless or marginalised in the UK.

And what of Lisa's tips for writers today? How do her stories go from the drawing board to the printing press? Aside from keeping an open mind and looking about the world, Lisa was keen to stress the value of letting the imagination run away for a while, without young people feeling that they have to be too self-critical. The writer's real gift, she argued, was to be able to switch off that harsh 'inner critic' for enough time to create a free-flowing first draft. Only then can the fine work of editing can happen. Wise words indeed.



Lisa's final tip for all present, and a worthwhile thing to bear in mind for any writer, is to keep going. Keep writing. Keep drafting. Each writer should be safe in the knowledge that nothing written by any writer is perfect the first time. After five novels, Lisa still admitted to feeling that same mixture of trepidation and excitement upon writing a new work. But, she urged us, how could we know what we are truly capable of unless we try. And try again. For our young writers, this message seemed to ring loud and clear.

Lisa's latest novel, 'I Am Not A Number', was published earlier this year by Electric Monkey Books.

Matthew Oliver  
*Head of English*

## PATRICK FOSTER

Patrick Foster from Epic Management came to talk about his personal battles with gambling addiction. Patrick started with his background, schooling and success in sport with a particular focus on Cricket. He talked about being called up to play professionally as well as being offered a place at Durham University, so it seemed that he had everything he ever wanted in life.

However, a few days into University life, he went with a few friends to the local bookies and was hooked on the game when he won £72 from a £2 bet. He started to gamble regularly until he was gambling multiple times a day. He finished university and got a fantastic job in the city. The access to money however only made the gambling worse and he was winning and losing vast sums of money, up to £35,000 at any one time.



He thought that teaching might help him kick the habit and so started working in a boarding prep school. However the secret addiction only got worse, and Patrick started borrowing money from family and friends until he lost his job. With nowhere to turn to and no one he felt he could talk to, these were dark days for Patrick, who suffered with mental health issues and depression.

However, he managed to reach out to his brother and through the help of family and friends, he finally managed to tell them everything. He was checked into rehab and slowly began to rebuild his life. Why is he telling his story? He wants to stop young people making the same mistakes he did. He wants to educate young people about the dangers that exist, to read the warning signs, and above all to talk it through with someone. He finished by speaking about how easy it is to online gamble and ask whether any of us were spending too much time addicted to online activity.

Patrick's talk was extremely challenging and thought provoking, and served as a reminder that none of us are immune to addiction or mental health problems. His key message at the end was "challenges are what makes life interesting. Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful".

Mary Leggett  
*Head of Partnerships and Social Responsibility*

## PUTTING EQUALITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In early March, the Bede's Equality Committee launched its 2020 season of Equality Seminars with a discussion on Widening Participation in Sport.

In 2015, the Department of Education, under Michael Gove, published a handbook for UK maintained schools to promote 'fundamental British values'. Of this 79-page document, one key philosophy constantly rings true: tolerance for those with different beliefs. Of course, ensuring schools are promoting tolerance in schools perhaps goes without saying. However, for me the word 'tolerance' does not cover what our responsibility should be as a society: why must we simply tolerate other people, and not respect, include or fight for them?



This may seem like an insignificant detail – but it's one of the reasons that I continue to support and co-chair the committee, because we recognise that showing 'tolerance' is just not enough to bring about meaningful equality. We want to promote that tolerating people – whilst an important first step – is not the same thing as actively including them, both at Bede's and beyond. If the impact of social justice has taught me anything, it's that we should never rest on

our laurels. Yes, our Equality Still Matters event last year did manage to inspire sensitive and unprecedented discussion about LGBTQ, race, gender, disability and religious rights, but we knew that, in order to extend such important discussion beyond the confines of a classroom, it was time to raise the stakes on what the Equality Committee was capable of.

*So, where next?*

The committee presented on key figures who have paved the way for equality in different sporting disciplines. From the inspirational Sarah Storey, a fourteen gold medal Paralympian, to Gareth Thomas, a leading gay activist and Stonewall Hero, the presentations brought to light the careers and achievements of important activists who, in some cases, had been written out of history.

Following this, we were lucky enough to hear some stories from invited guest speakers. Elise Sutherland, a Bede's hockey scholar, discussed her role models who have inspired her grit and enthusiasm – the coaches, bus drivers and female players that surround her on a day-to-day basis. Finally, Steph Trill, an ex-Team GB paralympic tennis coach, and senior counsellor for the LTA, shared her experiences about sexist attitudes on court, the gap in participation between female and male professionals, and the differing cultural attitudes to disability she noticed in the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

However, the Equality discussion does not stop there, with more Equality Seminars planned to take place when we return to school. In an age in which these issues continue to spark controversy and debate, what could be a more fitting way to imbue not simply 'tolerance', but genuine inclusion, within the Bede's student body?

Max Mason  
*Upper Sixth*

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Upper Dicker, Hailsham  
East Sussex BN27 3QH

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bedes.org

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bedes.org

# ROUND THE HOUSES

**Charity was very much the theme this term in Bloomsbury House.** The House joined together to raise money for homeless charities and a number of girls also led individual fundraising activities: Lotte Simmons organised a charity fashion show and clothes sale in aid of The Royal Marsden Hospital, supported by Lucy Drewek and Abbi Tanzer, which raised £250. Violet-Mo Witt organised a Sixth Form dinner in aid of the Australian bush fires, raising £400 as well as a collection of sanitary products for the Brighton Women's Centre which helps vulnerable women.

Charity was also the name of the game in **Deis House** which had chosen to support the Chailey Heritage Foundation. Joy Dyson from the charity came to speak to the boys during a House Assembly and the boys then launched themselves into a week of frenetic activity with each year group choosing a different approach. The First Year ran a car wash, the Lower Fifth launched a portable tuck shop which visited other houses, whilst the Upper Fifth kept their tuck shop in house; the Lower Sixth held a bake sale outside the staff room and the Upper Sixth ran a "guess the teacher" game. At the weekend, the boys all participated in Deis Active, gaining sponsorship for a whole variety of activities.



**Knights House** has as ever, had a jam-packed Spring Term. Their charity week, saw the boys selling freshly baked hot sausage rolls, running a mobile tuck shop and hosting the inaugural and very popular Knights Quiz Night, where families and pupils from across the school joined together for an evening of general knowledge and trivia. This combined with the Glow in the Dark football tournament earlier in the year, has resulted in the house proudly raising £1,000 for the local charity, the ABC Fund.

The Knights House formal had the theme of "acceptance" this year and was both inspiring and humbling. After evensong with musical reflective pieces from Josh Slater and Sam French, Henrik Rohmer, as guest speaker gave an intense and sobering insight into his life growing up in Berlin. Head of House, Dan Juniper gave a heartfelt and moving speech about his time in Knights, what the house means to him, and the guidance, friendships and camaraderie he has valued and treasured. The evening was rounded off by an Awards Ceremony where boys were recognised for their particular contributions to Knights - from the best role model, best business casual dresser to the most prolific toasting eater and future You-Tuber!



**Crossways House** also had their House formal dinner this term, with a theme of a "night in wonderland". With Alice in Wonderland as the theme for decorations, everyone drunk from tea cups and there was a wonderful, and rather crazy Alice themed pudding. The theme for the evening was kindness and friendship and Mr Frame spoke very movingly on the theme. There were some stunning performances from Asia Fedon who shared her A level dance piece in Chapel followed by Mandy Zhang who played the piano beautifully and Lili Longden who sang for the house – always a delight!

Over in **Camberlot House**, the main highlight of the term was the Formal Dinner and Evensong, this year themed around "Kindness". There was a moving and excellently conducted evensong in the chapel before the boys headed over to the Recital Room, suited and booted, to enjoy a 3 course meal and entertainment. The night was spectacular- from the heartfelt speeches of head and deputy head of house, to the incendiary table tennis tournament final, to the rousing rendition of "Sweet Caroline", the boys had a wonderful evening and were a credit to the house.



Table tennis then took over as a bit of a craze in the House. Although James Stuart was crowned king in the Formal tournament, following that there were several challengers to the crown - although unfortunately none of the resident staff have made the cut!

In other happy news, the new House Prefects were recently announced, and will take over duties when school returns. Congratulations to Jayden, Seb, Themba, Ben, Rob, Max, Tony, and Joe in their success - they will be a fantastic team.

The boys had their first taste of prefecting with the recent cross-house event, where Camberlot teamed up with Bloomsbury to complete a madcap scavenger hunt across the school - a lovely chance to mix with students the boys would otherwise not see as often. The event went off brilliantly despite the rain!

It was incredibly sad to bid goodbye to the house when school closed, and the aforementioned house spirit came out in abundance amid final games of ping pong and snacking on the lovely spread put on by our matrons. However, the house spirit was very much in evidence after the house closure – with a series of challenges being laid down by Mr McKeefry and the team, including toilet roll keepy uppies and blind self-portrait drawing.

## Dicker House Gets Active for Cancer Research UK

Pupils in Dicker House chose to raise funds for Cancer Research UK at their Charity Week earlier this term.



Fundraising efforts began with their indoor cyclothon, which saw House pupils and staff cycle for over 94 hours in 5 days, racking up 1,400km - enough of a distance to reach John O' Groats from Land's End!

The pupils also ran a darts and table tennis competition and collected loose 1p and 2p coins – it's amazing how much small change can add up!

On Saturday 8 February, the Dicker House boys took part in their annual 24-hour football match to complete their fundraising campaign in style. Mr Cheg Abraham, Housemaster of Dicker House, said, "The starting hours of the challenge were very well represented by the younger members of the House, with many First Year and Lower Fifth pupils coming to the fore. As Saturday evening approached, the older year groups began to arrive and at 10.30pm, the doors shut for the gruelling night shift.

"It was fantastic to see 21 of the boys staying for the night, with all year groups being well represented. It was also lovely to see six other participants from other houses staying the night also. Our thanks go to them.

"Breakfast at 8am was a welcome check-point; four hours to go. The atmosphere was buoyed by the arrival of a number of boys who had braved storm Ciara to get into school on a Sunday morning. Soon 12pm was only an hour away... then ten minutes and then....

the countdown! We celebrated with immense relief and satisfaction having achieved our goal once again.

"Many congratulations to everyone involved, and thanks also to staff who supervised and to parents who sacrificed their time to drive their children into school at the weekend. But most of all, huge thanks must go to the pupils for making it happen and to each of them for taking responsibility to do their part.

"Of all the boys who took part, we would like to commend the following in particular: Felix McKendry, Luca Hawes, Ben Matthew, Sam Wiltshire, Isaiah Corrie, Bradley Bover and Toby Blacken, whose effort and consistency of play was amazing! 24 hours is a long time to do anything - particularly something as physical as football. And the boys are hopeful that their huge efforts will raise a significant amount for Cancer Research."

Thanks to their sterling efforts, Dicker House pupils have reached 88% of their fundraising target, with an amazing £1,760 in the pot so far! If you would like to donate and help the pupils reach their £2,000 goal, please donate online here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dicker24hourfootball>

## Stud House Casino Night

School coming to a standstill, confused people looking for answers about money, and fingers firmly crossed in utter desperation. No, I'm not talking about the Coronavirus crisis that currently grips the world, but instead the landmark Stud House Casino Night which took place just two short weeks ago. Young Bedians from a multitude of houses threw themselves into the event, placing their bets with such ferocity that you couldn't blame a parent for beginning to feel grateful that it wasn't real money being used. There was glamour and class everywhere you turned, with the black tie dress code bringing out the Bond in every boy on the night, and a plethora of casino options on no less than four different tables.



We had a fabulous organisational body pulling the strings, with special thanks due to Mr Potter, Mr Jones and Mr Richards, who in particular employed all of his mathematical expertise to run the blackjack table, with his typical effortless suave. Refreshments were of course available and thanks to Holroyd Howe, the students managed to bet well into the night, although surely past the bed time of some. (9:15pm). It was great fun all round, with students and staff enjoying themselves thanks to the fantastic organisation and cause of the event. The ABC Fund is an exceptional charity doing invaluable work, so the night was beneficial more than just for the greedy teens. Thank you all so much for getting involved and we hope to see you betting at the same time next year!

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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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# CHARITIES

## MR JONES RUNS HIS FIRST HALF MARATHON



Stud Housemaster, Peter Jones, raised £2020 for local children's charity, the ABC Fund, by completing the Wokingham Half Marathon in February. The ABC Fund has been the Stud House charity for the past five years. This was Mr Jones' first Half Marathon, and he completed it in two hours and 5 minutes.

Mr Jones says "Many thanks to everyone who donated. The ABC Fund is a small charity which will benefit hugely from all the money raised."

**Peter Jones**  
*Stud Housemaster*

## PREFECTS RAISE OVER £1,000 FOR HOMELESS AT SPONSORED SLEEP OUT

Our Prefect team took to the school lawns on a cold and rainy night in mid-March for a sponsored sleep out to raise awareness and much-needed funds for local homeless charity, Warming Up The Homeless. The pupils asked for donations of tinned food, sleeping bags and toiletries, as well as financial donations, and has exceeded their £1,000 fundraising target. Many thanks must go to everyone who donated money or goods, as these will all make a huge difference.

*Alyssia Smith, Upper Sixth, writes about their experience:*

The evening began with a talk from the Warming up the Homeless charity, based in Bexhill, Eastbourne, St Leonard's and Hastings. This was hugely effective in helping us understand how important the money that we raised from this event actually was. I learnt that the term 'homeless' doesn't just include the person on the street – it also covers victims of domestic abuse, rape victims, and those placed in allocated accommodation.



We were told of the injuries that some of the homeless obtain and how fear prevents many of them from getting the treatment required. We were told of some of the awful abuse from members of the public that the homeless experience on a regular basis – acts as disgraceful as being urinated on. It made us realise the importance of being kind and being willing to help others. The work that organisations such as Warming up the Homeless have done for the homeless community on an ongoing voluntary basis is phenomenal, and it is sadly clear that they are not going to stop anytime soon. The people that give up their time for others are some of the best examples of humanity.

At 9pm, once the talk had finished, we made our camp consisting of flat cardboard boxes, bin bags, sleeping bags and as many layers as possible – including several pairs of socks and, of course, a woolly hat.

I approached the event thinking that it wouldn't be much of a challenge – I was wrong. The drop in temperature followed by

the rain that began around 2am and didn't really stop, meant that I got no more than four hours of sleep. What made the situation worse was that every time I looked into the Sixth Form Centre, I saw Mrs Sutton, Mr Cheshire, Mr Driver and later on Mrs Franks all looking very warm and cosy with their cups of tea and comfy cushions. At 4am, much too our annoyance (as we wanted to stay outside as long as possible), we had to go inside because it started pouring with rain and it wouldn't have been wise to remain outside.

We were only out there for one night, with great company, a full stomach and the comforting prospect of being able to go inside the Sixth Form Centre if the weather worsened. We also all knew that once these 12 hours were over, we could spend the entirety of the next day in a warm house, with good food and entertainment. I can't begin to imagine how hard it must be to live a life like this day in, day out – most often without company, no idea when they will next get a decent meal and no guaranteed shelter that will withstand the inconsistencies of the weather.



Overall the experience was one I won't forget, and it has made me realise just how lucky I am to have a home to go to. We take having a bed, a roof and even a toilet for granted, but those less fortunate than us see it as a luxury. It has inspired me to get involved and help out as much as I can – whether that be giving food to the food bank or getting involved with the charity and going out on their nightly rounds to hand out the food and breakfast packs.

If you would like to make a donation, please visit our online fundraising page: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bedes-sixth-form](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bedes-sixth-form)

## BEDE'S AND PARK MEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL JOIN FORCES FOR SPORT RELIEF

Our BTEC Sports Leaders hosted a very special event for Sport Relief on Friday 13 March, welcoming children from neighbouring Park Mead Primary School for a get active fundraising challenge. The Park Mead children raised over £70 for Sport Relief.



After a fun warm up, the children were challenged to move around our 3G astro for a full 15 minutes, and we were truly impressed with their efforts. Everyone ran, skipped, danced and even forward-rolled their way around the course, with 500 laps completed altogether! Many congratulations to all involved



for completing the challenge with such enthusiasm, and of course for raising much-needed funds for charity.

**Kyra Merchant**  
*Teacher of BTEC Sport*

## ANOUSHKA HELPS THE HOMELESS OVER WINTER

Whilst many of us were busy in the run-up to Christmas with parties and buying gifts for our families and friends, Anoushka Beardshaw who is in the Lower Fifth in Dorter House turned her attention to fundraising and collecting donations for the homeless from both her housemates and the wider school community. The donations included money, which was given directly to the charity Crisis at Christmas, as well as food, sleeping bags, toiletries and warm clothes.



Donations were shared between two Sussex-based charities; Warming Up the Homeless supports homeless people with one meal, hot drink or change of clothes at a time and operates in the Eastbourne and Hastings area and unusually takes its donations out to people on the streets rather than relying on people to approach them for help and The Clock Tower Sanctuary, a drop-in centre for young homeless people in Brighton and Hove, which provides both practical and emotional support.



The weekend following the end of term, Anoushka collected all these items from the homes of her friends, before delivering them to the two charities. Anoushka explained, "People gave so generously that I had three trolley loads of items to give to the charities. They were quite surprised when I kept on coming back with more! I was overwhelmed by the support I received, not just from the girls in Dorter House, but from the whole school. The donation we made to Warming Up the Homeless was the single biggest donation they had ever received. It really felt like everyone wanted to do their bit and when I visited the charities I could really see how our donations had made a real difference."



Anoushka, and her mother Beth, also distributed some of the gifts directly to those living on the streets in Brighton and London. Anoushka said, "I visited London for my birthday celebrations and it just felt right to spend some time during the day giving out donations such as blankets to people on the streets who desperately needed help in the cold weather. The people we met were so incredibly grateful and having such direct contact with homeless people made everything feel very real. I am proud to have done something to make a few people's lives just a little bit better and would like to thank everyone who got behind the campaign."

Anoushka is keen to continue her fundraising work for these charities throughout 2020 so if you would like to help please donate via the charities' websites at:

[www.thechts.org.uk/donate](http://www.thechts.org.uk/donate)

[www.warmingupthehomeless.org.uk](http://www.warmingupthehomeless.org.uk)

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Bede's Senior School  
Upper Dicker, Hailsham  
East Sussex BN27 3QH

T 01323 843252  
bedes.org

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# SPORT FOOTBALL & HOCKEY

## STAFF VS LEAVERS MATCH IS THE PERFECT END TO THE TERM

The Staff vs Leavers match is always a highly anticipated game for both the students in their last year as well as the staff members who have nurtured these pupils' football careers. This game will surely be a remembered as a classic as there was so many chances for both teams. Both teams exhibited the Bede's ethos with their hard work and determination.

The game started off quite slowly, with both teams favouring a solid defensive performance. Both teams had some chances until the leavers struck first with a well-taken finish by Cosmo Sutton following good work by Sam Bickersteth. The staff had some good moments in the first half and could have levelled it before the half time whistle if Mr Sealey and Mr Davies were more clinical in front of goal.

The second half started, and the solidarity of the staff's defence was starting to show signs of letting the leavers in, this five-minute period concluded with the leavers scoring two quickly taken goals – one a little fortunate as Toby Blackden crossed and it went straight in and the second a break way goal well finished by Jack Hobden. However, the determination of the staff team was evident to see as the players came to life to overcome the high press of the leavers.

With 20 minutes to go the staff team had clawed it back to 3-2 with a Mr Sealey header, and Mr Taylor following up after Henry Gomer had saved Mr Davies' powerful strike. As the tiredness started to take its



toll, the leavers team scored a fourth goal through Rex Lane. This was met with an instant reply from the staff team with Mr Manos striking fiercely of the underside of the bar. The staff came back to finish the game off strong and pushed for a dramatic late equalizer but the defence of Louis Montfort Bebb and Tom Collins stood strong and resisted the late pressure.

The game ended 4-3 to the leavers, and was a fantastic display of what football means to Bede's. The spirit the game was played in was brilliant, and we as a staff body will be very sad to see these boys leaving after giving us so many years' great service.

## BOYS HOCKEY SEES RISE IN PARTICIPATION AND PERFORMANCE

The boys 1XI have had a remarkably successful season this year –aside of a single Cup loss the boys are unbeaten in all school fixtures. Notable victories against Worth, Lancing and Lingfield amongst others.

The U16 boys made it through to the quarter finals of the National Cup beating Charterhouse along the way and narrowly losing out to King Edward Sixth, Southampton.

The junior hockey programme has seen large numbers playing for the U14s and the B team in particular.

I look forwards to fielding an U15B team next season as a result of the interest shown by the Year 9 boys.

**Jon Williams**  
*Director of Hockey*

## FOOTBALLERS CELEBRATE A STRONG SEASON

The Hudl Independent Schools League brings together the top nine schools for football in the independent sector and before the season was ended abruptly, Bede's had two particularly outstanding victories. Bede's faced recently crowned ISFA champions Millfield at EBFC and produced the stand out performance of the season winning 5-0. The game plan was executed to perfection and I have not seen a more clinical performance in recent years.

A few days later then Bede's travelled to Bradfield which is always a very tough fixture. Whilst maybe tired from their exploits against Millfield Bede's fought for every ball and until the final whistle to grind out a fantastic 3-0, and whilst the performance was no way near the level of the Millfield match the team really showed some of the Team Bede's core values such as discipline, and teamwork.

This meant moving into the last round of fixtures Bede's sat top of the table with seven wins, and a draw against a strong Repton would be good enough to seal the title; unfortunately, this game had to be postponed due to the current outbreak, and hopefully will be played at some point in the summer if possible.

I could not be prouder of the team, to go through a difficult season like last year and to progress individually and as a team to beat seven of the best footballing schools in the country scoring 28 and conceding just four is a truly unbelievable achievement, and one they fully deserve due to the hard work and commitment they have shown during the last two years.

## U16 GIRLS WIN BRONZE IN THE NATIONALS

Bede's U16 Girls travelled to the Olympic Park to play in the National Tier 2 Finals on 26 and 27 February. Their run to the finals included victories vs Reigate Grammar School, Hurstpierpoint College, Cranleigh and Epsom.



The 2nd XI and 3rd XI have had some memorable wins during the term, with the 2nd XI beating Royal Russell and the 3rd XI gaining two great victories vs Cranleigh and Eastbourne College. What is even greater to see is that many of the players are making good progress and have stepped up from 4th XI to 3rd XI or 3rd to 2nd XI, and have made the transitions seamlessly.

In the Juniors, the U15 A team's outstanding season is coming to a close, and whilst they might be disappointed with their final 16 ESFA National Cup and semi final ISFA Cup exits, we could not be prouder of their achievements; the progress that the team has made in the last two years has been terrific. The staff and players are looking forward to some upcoming exhibition games against the likes of Brighton and Hove Albion Elite team. A special mention must also go to the U14B's who are having a fantastic season with an impressive 63% win ratio, with many of the players progressing on to represent the U14A's in the latter part of the season.



Lastly, I must congratulate all those who have achieved National and County representation, including Jake Baker and Tom Howard (ISFA U17's), and Oskar Lockyer, Tom Collins, Jack Hobden (Sussex U18's).

**David Carver**  
*Director of Football*

Our Semi-Final against Uppingham was a thrilling encounter with the match finishing in a 1-1 draw with a field goal from Amelia Tait. The match went to a Penalty Stroke competition to decide the winner which unfortunately ended in defeat, Bede's ultimately rueing their missed chances during regulation time and felt somewhat dejected having dominated for large parts of the game, creating by far the more chances.

The following day, team refreshed and energised, we returned to the Olympic Park to play in the Bronze medal match vs Marlborough College. Bede's came flying out the blocks, racing to a 3-1 lead within fifteen minutes with Penalty Corner goals coming from Amelia Tait & Florence Rentz and a Field Goal from Mary Taylor. In the second half, Marlborough fought back however a fourth Bede's goal, second Field Goal in the game for Mary Taylor, consolidated a 4-2 victory and securing the Bronze Medal for Bede's.

**Theo Douse**  
*Assistant Director of Hockey*

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# SPORT CRICKET

## BEDE'S GIRLS JOIN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY PROGRAMMES

**F**ollowing a very successful year for Bede's Girls Cricket – during which the U15 team became national champions at both the Lady Taverner's Cup and National Schools Sports Magazine competition – Bede's players are celebrating being accepted into prestigious national and regional academies.

Freya Kemp, Lower Fifth, has joined the England Women's Academy, Sussex Cricket Girls' Academy and Young Vipers Regional Development Centre this year. After becoming the first Bede's girl to score a century in the First Year, Freya made her senior Sussex debut last summer, as well as turning out for the U17 and U15 sides. She currently plays club cricket at Fletching CC. As a member of the Sussex Academy, Freya enjoys one-to-one training sessions twice per week during the off-season.

Joining the England Women's Academy sees Freya become part of a team of 11 of the best young female cricketers across the country, and enjoy an individualised programme and support to maximise the chances of future transition to the senior squad. Freya comments, "I wasn't really expecting to be selected for the final team, but I am so excited. Playing cricket is always something I've loved doing, and I'm very grateful to have these opportunities and support networks to enable me to pursue my dream of playing professionally."

Head Coach of the England Women's Academy, John Stanworth, says of this year's Academy team, "We look forward to working closely with this group across the next 12 months. The opportunity to develop their skills alongside other talented players on a regular basis is an important part of their development. It is an exciting group of players and we look forward to seeing them progress through the different experiences they will be exposed to both here and abroad."

Lower Fifth pupils Mary and Millie Taylor have joined the Sussex Emerging Players Programme for the first time this year. As part of the programme, they enjoy group batting and bowling sessions each week. Both girls have progressed through the Sussex pathway since starting at U10 level and will play for the U15 side for another season in 2020. Both play for Eastbourne CC outside school.

Alan Wells, Director of Cricket at Bede's and former Sussex, Kent and England cricketer, comments, "Freya, Mary and Millie should be very proud of all that they have achieved to date. They show a vast amount of strength, motivation and dedication to the sport, especially for players at such a young age. We very much look forward to working with all of them to help them develop their skillset and progress in their athletic careers; they are definitely ones to watch for the future."

*Alan Wells  
Director of Cricket*



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# SPORT CRICKET

## U15'S FLY THROUGH LADY TAVERNER'S COUNTY HEATS

**T**he Bede's U15 Girls Cricket team won their first-round tournament at the Lady Taverner's County Heats in January.

The girls start the new season following fantastic success in last year's tournament, during which they took home the National Cup at the Final at Lord's Cricket Ground in May.

The girls were supported on the day by former England cricketers, Sarah Taylor (who joined Bede's as our Sports Development and Life Skills Coach earlier this month) and James Kirtley (currently the Bowling Coach for the Sussex Men's team).

Bede's won the first game against Roedean by 52 runs. The Bede's bowlers bowled accurately and restricted Roedean to 50-5. Bede's batted positively and scored 102, winning the first game before playing Brighton & Hove High School (BHHS).



Bede's won the second game against BHHS by 99 runs. The girls played well throughout the tournament and thoroughly deserved their victories. The County Final, which was due to take place at Bede's in March, has been postponed with a date still to be confirmed.

*Petch Lenham  
Head of Girls Cricket*



## HENRY HEADS TO SOUTH AFRICA

**H**enry Crocombe, who is in Bede's Upper Sixth, was selected for Sussex CCC's pre-season tour of Cape Town. Henry joined the first team, who played two competitive fixtures as well as took part in a series of training sessions ahead of the start of the new season.

Commenting, Bede's Director of Cricket, Alan Wells said, "This is an amazing, and very well deserved, opportunity for Henry. He joined other Bede's alumni, Luke Wells and Delray Rawlins on the trip, and I'm sure the Team Bede's spirit was very much in evidence on the tour".

*Alan Wells  
Director of Cricket*

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# SPORT

## NON-COMPETITIVE SPORT

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**C**ompetitive sport is a cornerstone for many. Whether it be watching or taking part, for generations it has been the constant within the sporting world. With good reason, competition is everywhere in life and in a sporting arena it can be thrilling at every level, with our major national sports as popular as ever.



How then do we explain the increasing popularity of non-competitive sports such as spin classes, swimming and running? 2 million people run regularly in the UK, and nearly 15% of the population own gym memberships. The reasons for this are likely to be varied with convenience no doubt one of the prime reasons as well as a desire to improve fitness and lose weight. Perhaps another reason is the impact such exercise has on our mental wellbeing, providing a release from the pressures of modern life.

Alongside this, is the appeal of challenging ourselves; when we choose to take a gym session or a run, we are likely to judge ourselves against the achievements of previous sessions. When we

go for a jog, we record our time and it acts as a marker for future sessions as well as a cherished record of the progress we have made. Anyone who has had Michael Johnson putting them through their paces via the “Couch to 5K” podcast will pay testament to the sense of pride and fulfilment that comes from finding motivation without the need for any opponent and the self-realisation that we can achieve more than we did last week, or last month.



So given its increasing relevance in modern life, it seems important, that non-competitive sport should take a more prominent role within our school sports programmes, finding a rightful place alongside the inevitable pursuit of silverware and individual glory that more typically defines school sport. It is important that our young people are equipped with the skill and ability to exercise on their own, in different settings and away from the structures of organised sport. Competitive sport has many, many benefits, but so does its noncompetitive counterpart, which, as well as providing stress relief, builds resilience, self-determination and improvement.



So what is it that has stopped schools giving non-competitive sport the profile it deserves? Perhaps we are worried that without competition, pupils will not bring the best of themselves or parents will not appreciate the benefits of something which does not involve

a team or a match, or that we as professionals will not be able to measure our impact and success.

Having reflected on all these issues the Sports Department at Bede’s School in East Sussex, has enhanced its programme to increase the levels of non-competitive sport offered, including yoga, free swimming, gym, stretch and roll workshops, cross fit games, tough mudders for fun and duathlons – but crucially without times or places given.



The School also offers its new pupils the opportunity to learn a basic bodyweight workout; a routine which involves minimal space and equipment – and of course no opponent! As well as providing some endorphins, these workouts can act as a social binder where skill or lack of it, is not necessarily the factor which defines success, but rather self-belief and determination. Such activities also offer an alternative to pupils who may be turned off by competitive sport.

Bede’s Strength and Conditioning Coach, Tony Morriss explains how the gym has become the hub of the Sports Centre, and not just one frequented by the School’s elite athletes, “What I really love about my job is when I am able to encourage a pupil to take up a gym programme even though they have never enjoyed competitive sport. You have got to make it fun and ensure that they are comfortable with all the equipment otherwise it can all seem a bit intimidating.” He goes on to explain, “I find that during the exam period, the gym is particularly busy and that’s just a sign that it helps the pupils unwind and deal with the pressure that they are experiencing.”



As part of its drive to embrace and integrate non-competitive sport into its programme, Bede’s has also appointed a new Sports Development and Life Skills Coach, former England and Women’s World Cup winning cricketer, Sarah Taylor. As well as providing support for elite athletes and building performance and participation across all sports, Sarah will promote positive emotional and physical wellbeing in pupils, at all athletic levels.



Sarah explained that since retiring from international cricket, exercise has taken on new meaning for her, commenting “I run every morning without fail for two miles which sets me up for the day. When you exercise and challenge yourself, it make a huge difference to your mental wellbeing. The important thing about my morning runs is that I’m not being told to do it or training with any goal in mind; I’m choosing to do this for myself. This message is at the heart of what I want to teach the pupils – they are playing sport because they love it, and they should ultimately work hard to achieve their dreams for themselves.”

**David Byrne**  
*Director of Sport*

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