

THE BEDIAN



SPRING 2021

Artwork by Ella Napper, Upper Sixth

WELCOME

Welcome to another edition of The Bedian.

The past year has been an extremely strange and challenging time for everyone and I hope all Old Bedians are starting to look forward to better times as the restrictions on our lives start to ease.

Over the year whilst school life has been far from normal – with missed the trips, visits, events and sports fixtures – I have been astounded by the many innovative ways in which everyone across the Bede's community has continued to be resourceful and take care of one another during this difficult time. It has been wonderful to read of the creativity and successes of many of our alumni and to share some of this news with you today.

2021 had a very difficult start, not only because the country went back into lockdown and schools were once again closed, but we were heartbroken by the devastating news of the sudden and untimely death of Rachael Woollett.

Rachael had been the most dedicated Deputy Head and her deep passion for Bede's was clear in everything she did. She oversaw all operations with excellence. Her tireless efforts founded on genuine care for the community were remarkable. It was due to her dedication that despite the restrictions, we have been able to enjoy a number of re-envisioned events, including our inspirational performing arts showcase Cabaret Re-Imagined (you can still view this on [YouTube](#), and I wholeheartedly encourage you to do so), and our boarders' Colour Run and Outdoor Cinema.

It has been wonderful to see our campus decorated with works of art at the end of last year, courtesy of our fantastic 'Lockdown' exhibition curated by Upper Sixth pupil Freya Palmer.

We also welcomed a variety of speakers for virtual talks, including a truly inspirational Pyemont Lecture delivered by endurance swimmer and UN Patron of the Oceans, Lewis Pugh and I was delighted to see some of our alumni join us for the evening.

The Bede's School 42 Club, named after Douglas Adams's ultimate answer to the ultimate question in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, also provides a programme of inspiring lectures designed to broaden minds and interests, challenge views and introduce new ideas. It was set up for the pupils and I am delighted to be able to extend invitations to Old Bedian's for their enjoyment.

We will continue to share online events with the whole community and I sincerely hope and look forward to seeing you face-to-face in the near future.

Peter Goodyer
Headmaster



It has been an extraordinarily difficult year for everyone and it is hard to imagine that we are still facing so many changes and challenges in our lives.

Having been on furlough for much of the past 12 months, the facebook posts from so many of our Old Bedians have been wonderful to read. It was also amazing to see how many of you were discovering and dusting off old photographs and memorabilia from school!

It has been fantastic to hear the stories, see the photos and watch how some of you

have reconnected after a very long time. So perhaps, despite the hardship that I know many have faced, there have also been some happy moments of cheer.

With the gradual lifting of restrictions I hope we can continue to share news and soon come together.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this latest newsletter and a huge thanks to all those who contributed and have been so patient in waiting for the publication.

Elizabeth Banner
Alumni and Development Manager
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If you would like to get in touch, please email alumni@bedes.org. You can also stay in touch with fellow Old Bedians through our [facebook](#) and [linkedin](#) groups or by signing up to the [mailing list](#).



RACHAEL WOOLLETT

Rachael Woollett, Deputy Head (Operations) of the Senior School unexpectedly passed away on Sunday 3 January 2021.

Rachael was a remarkable individual who cared very deeply about Bede's and the greater Bede's community. Since coming to Sussex in September 2010, Rachael has been a cornerstone of the Bede's community. She loved Bede's, and was determined to make the lives of the children within the school as rewarding and as joyful as it was possible for them to be. This love, and this determination, were seen in everything she did. She was one of the kindest and most compassionate people I have ever had the joy of working with and I know that many of you will have very fond memories of her as well.

We will all miss her very much and will spend many difficult moments grieving her loss. I will personally miss her love of cricket and the joy that brought to her, along with her passion for Manchester United, her very real appreciation of the performing arts, and the determination she always displayed in seeking to make the experience of those at Bede's as good as it possibly could be.

Peter Goodyer, Headmaster



Thank you to all those who have contacted us with their memories. We wanted to share some of the heart-warming comments sent to us by pupils, past and present, which express so beautifully how Rachael touched the lives of Bede's pupils across the last decade. We have created a book of condolence which has been shared with Rachael's family. Here are just a small selection of people's reflections and memories.

"Ms Woollett was more than just a teacher to me and so many others. She was always there for me and supported me through so much, and for that I am eternally grateful. She is one of the people that taught me what it means to be a strong woman but remained so compassionate and kind in both small and huge ways. I will miss the time spent and conversations had with her, and all the stories she told about her life. My thoughts are with you during this difficult time and I would like to reassure you that she will be dearly missed by so many, including myself. I would like to believe she, Ms Woollett, is in a better place as that is what she deserves."

Lilianna (pupil)

"She was one of the kindest, most selfless and compassionate individuals I have ever encountered, and I will cherish every memory I have with her. Wishing you all the strength and courage through this very painful period."

Lili (pupil)

"Ms Woollett, the most passionate, driven and kindest woman I know. She took us on and became our tutor quite early on in school and yes we were a nightmare lot for her however I think she liked the challenge. Over the years we have laughed and cried with Woolley and she had always looked after and supported us as if we were her family too. She became our school 'mum'. I think she was proud of the women that we had become and quite honestly we wouldn't have been able to be who we are today without her. She has given us that grounding for life which I don't think anyone else could have given us. She made sure we were punctual and presentable every morning, although she would tell us off for the length of our skirts. I will always remember our tutor sessions on Wednesdays where she would always bring us biscuits or cakes for all of us to share, which became more like an afternoon tea whilst she would share stories about Hong Kong and her family and knowledge of current topics in the world or even her favourite TV series at the time. She was a truly inspirational person and I will miss her so, so much. We all love you Woolley."

Ella (pupil)

REMEMBERING MS WOOLLETT

It seems impossible to put into words how difficult this loss is. I think it's easy to say that Rachael touched the hearts of all those at Bedes. Whether she was shouting from the side-lines of a football game or cheering in the audience at cabaret, she was always there. Rachael took so much pride in her job, and truly loved being part of the Bedes community.

I can honestly say that Rachael Woollett was not ordinary by any means of the word. Her caring, and compassionate nature, and her dedication to her students was truly admirable. I feel so lucky to have had a teacher that deeply cared for me, my happiness and my success.

Thank you, Ms Woollett, for making 5 years at Bedes so much more than just an education.

*Lucy Shuttleworth
(Charleston, 2012-2018)*

I'm so terribly sad to hear of the death of Rachael. She was such a bright, upbeat, friendly and positive individual who clearly loved the school and embraced all that the Bedes community had to offer.

Rachael and I got talking at a school event once and it turned out we were of a very similar age and went to neighbouring schools on the outskirts of Windermere in the Lake District. When she heard which school I'd gone to she burst out laughing and said "we hated you", I said "yes I know", she said "and your blazers..", me "yes I know", Rachael "we hated you", me "I know", Rachael (still laughing) "we hated you" me "YES I KNOW"...it was in the best humour as netball matches between us back in the day involved a few sharp elbows.! We both had that moment of connection looking back to teenage years the other end of England yet here we were down in East Sussex.

Rachael will leave a huge hole for both the staff and pupils at Bede's and I remember her with great affection.

Jo Hands (Bede's parent)

Ms Woollett was a pretty exceptional teacher. I spent two incredibly formative years at Bede's where I was lucky enough to be an A-level student in her Philosophy and Theology class. She always taught with such passion for her subject, but more importantly, with immense care and enthusiasm for her students.

My A-levels were a tough time for me but every single day she would check in, make sure I was doing okay, whether that was a simple nod or a comforting arm round the shoulder while I cried in her office. It is with Ms Woollett's help that I learnt to be resilient and learnt how to face things bigger than myself.

These lessons I have carried with me into adulthood where I am now working on the frontline of the NHS. When I have to find the strength within me to keep on going when everything feels too much or make critical decisions on the intensive care unit, A&E, the wards or the community it is the things that Ms Woollett taught me that I draw on.

She taught us all how to open our minds to the bigger picture, question everything we see and always advocate for progress. Without her I wouldn't be where I am today. Without question she has played one of the biggest roles in my life so far, forever inspiring and always good of heart. Rest in Peace Ms.

Issie Long (Charleston, 2015-2017)

Ms Woollett and Taliska Cornford



Miss Woollett was truly a wonderful woman. I remember first meeting her and recognising her strength of character immediately. I was fortunate enough to be in her Philosophy A-level class, a time I remember with such fond memories. Miss Woollett taught with such passion and zest, which inspired my love for the subject. I would always look forward to our lessons, they would be filled with laughter, liveliness and intense debate.

Beyond our Philosophy classes, I spent time with Miss Woollett during my role of Head of School. I looked up to her as a strong female role model and she taught me many things along the way. But mostly importantly, Miss Woollett was my friend, someone I'd visit in lunch breaks, laugh with and someone who never stopped believing in my ability.

The picture below is A-level results day when I achieved an A* in philosophy. The delight on both our faces is a reflection of not only my result, but Miss Woollett's genuine care for the students she taught.

Rest in peace Miss Woollett, your spirit will light up Bede's forever.

I hope you are all well. I miss Bede's dearly and I intend to visit soon. I am so incredibly sorry for your loss.

*Taliska Cornford (Bloomsbury,
2006-2017)*

"Ms Woollett was an absolute star in my eyes. I personally would not have completed school and gone to university if it wasn't for the countless hours that Ms Woollett devoted to me, during and after school hours for not just philosophy but for my other subjects. I couldn't be more thankful to her and all that she had done for me as well as many other students at Bede's. She really was a special teacher and even more so a special individual. Ms Woollett will be sorely missed! I hope she rests in peace."

Seb Esson (Knights, 2006-2017)

REMEMBERING MS WOOLLETT

My thoughts are with Rachael's family and all of the Bede's community at this devastating time.

I am completely shocked and heartbroken by the news of Rachael's passing. I can't quite believe I am typing this message.

Rachael taught me A-Level philosophy during my time at Bede's (2014-2016). I have many fond memories of our lessons. There were four of us in my class and we all absolutely adored Ms. Woollett. Our lessons were not only interesting and engaging but also full of laughter, countless stories, lots of general gossip and greatly valued life advice. It was very clear that Rachael cared deeply and wanted the best for us all.



Ms Woollett and Stevie Muffen

Rachael sparked my keen interest in philosophy. Rachael really believed in me and was very supportive and encouraging when I told her that I had a 'light bulb moment' and wanted to teach RE because I simply loved our lessons. I remember bursting through her classroom door with excitement when I found out I received an offer from my first choice university (King's College London) to continue my study of religion, philosophy and ethics as an undergraduate - and she was equally as thrilled for me. Rachael is, without doubt, the reason I'm now a secondary school RE teacher, myself. I often tell my own students about 'my amazing RE teacher'. She really was, still is and always will be, the best of the best.

I am so thankful we kept in touch over the years. Rachael was not just my teacher, she was my friend - and was always there for me, even after I'd left Bede's. I wouldn't be where I am today without her. I know Rachael will live on through the many, many people whose lives she touched and inspired. I will miss her immensely.

Stevie Meffen (Bloomsbury, 2014-2016)

Messages of condolence from the Old Bedians facebook group

So very very sad, such a wonderful lady, who cared so much for the students

A wonderful teacher.

Rest in peace Rachel. A wonderful teacher. I was fortunate to be in her Philosophy class.

Very sad news... Rachel gave so much to Bedes, an amazing person. I was lucky enough to have her as a form tutor while at Bedes. She helped myself and many others start the planning for our future careers. RIP Rachel.

Such sad news, she will be greatly missed!!

Rachael will be truly missed by so many. She was so supportive to me personally and to so many others in the Bede's community

Rachael will be truly missed by so many. She was so supportive to me personally and to so many others in the Bede's community. Such sad news, she will be greatly missed!!

She was always referred to as The Lovely Miss Woollett in our home.

Such a bubbly personality!

Extremely sad news about a teacher who lived and breathed Bede's spirit. Rachael cared very deeply for every student in her care and her relentless devotion to her role was testament to her professionalism and compassion for ensuring all of those within the walls of Bedes' and the wider community were consistently shown care and compassion.

Words cannot describe the shock we feel, and how bereft and deeply sad we all are. You were an inspiration to us all, and your presence and spirit will forever live long in our memories.

SPORTING ALUMNI

Cricket

Luke Wells

(Prep & Senior Schools 1995-2009, Deis)

"I was incredibly lucky to have gone to Bede's for the entirety of my education. To have been able to focus on my cricket with the incredible facilities and coaches available without any sacrifice to my studies was just fantastic."

"To have played for Sussex for over a decade including scoring 2 double hundreds as well as 18 FC hundreds and to have been the leading English run scorer in FC cricket in 2017 are all amazing highlights."

Ollie Rayner

(Senior School 1999-2004, Stud)

Ollie began his professional career in 2006 becoming the first Sussex player in 86 years to hit a century on debut. His 13 years at the top level included winning the 2016 County Championship with Middlesex and two England Lions tours.

"I played 1st team cricket from Lower 5th when our pitch was the village green and then Alan Wells joined and it went up a notch. Bede's had a dedicated 1st team pitch! This was when I realised a career as a pro was definitely a real possibility. The school really did mould me into everything I am today and I feel extremely privileged to have crossed paths with some truly inspiring people."

Sarah Taylor

(Prep School 1999-2002)

England wicketkeeper, Sarah played in three victorious Ashes series, set the record for the highest 2nd-wicket partnership in Women's Cricket World Cup history and has been named the best T20 player in the world three times by the ICC. In 2020 Sarah returned to Bede's as Sports Development and Life Skills Coach.

Callum Jackson

(Prep & Senior Schools 2006-2013, Knights)

Callum Jackson captains Hampstead CC in the Middlesex premier league. He was part of the England Development Program (an elite pathway for the top cricketers) which culminated in representing England U19s in a 5 week tour of South Africa. He made his Sussex 2XI debut at 15, scored his first 2XI hundred at 16 and aged 19 signed his first professional contract for Sussex (2013) making his debut in all 3 formats of the game including first-class debut against Australia. He was the top run scorer in all the Kent leagues (2018).

"My time at Bedes played a huge role in me becoming a professional

cricketer and representing England U19s. I could not think of a better school sports set up for an aspiring young sportsman to be involved in. Alan Wells is still is one of the best coaches I have worked with".



Callum Jackson



Fynn Hudson-Prentice

Fynn Hudson-Prentice

(Senior School 2010-2014, Deis)

Fynn Hudson-Prentice made his professional cricket debut, age 18, in 2014 for Sussex. Since then he has gone on to represent the MCC Young Cricketers programme based at Lord's, and more recently become an integral part of the Derbyshire first eleven.

On his debut for Derbyshire in 2019, he became just the fifth bowler in the clubs history to take a wicket with his first ball. He was also ever-present in their T20 side that went on to reach Finals Day for the first time in the clubs history. More recently in 2020, his unbeaten 91 in the first Bob Willis Trophy of the year, guided Derbyshire to a historic victory over Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, the clubs highest ever run chase in first class cricket.

"Bede's was a massive contributor to the person I am today. The school boasts an incredible cricketing structure, led brilliantly by Mr. Wells, as well as having an amazing multi-cultural atmosphere that is tough to find elsewhere. I can't thank the school enough for what they did for me during my five years!"

Henry Crocombe

(Senior School 2015-2020, Camberlot)

Henry Crocombe, English cricketer, left Bede's in June 2020 and made his first-class debut for Sussex in August 2020 in the win against Hampshire and was called up by England Young Lions for a 'North vs. South' match at Loughborough in September. One of his highlights includes getting two wickets and bowling the hat-trick ball to England player Ben Foakes at the Oval.

"Bedes helped me the most with my attitude towards cricket, allowing me to enjoy the game more and want to achieve as much as I could. As well as having three of the best coaches I could have asked for in Alan Wells, Neil Lenham and James Kirtley".

SPORTING ALUMNI

Hockey

Theo Dowse

(Senior School 2006-2011, Deis)

Professional highlights - 1. Making my debut for the England U21 Men's squad. 2. Playing in the European Indoor Hockey Championships semi-finals.

"The access to top-level coaching and high-achieving peers combined with a programme that allowed me to access all the hockey practice I could desire meant that I was continually exposed to environments that encouraged success and gave me a platform to achieve excellence upon leaving school".

Tennis

Julie Salmon

(Prep & Senior Schools 1977-1981, Crossways)

Julie is a Senior Performance LTA Coach and Mentor professional tennis player. She competed at Wimbledon and on the ITF/ WTA Tours (1982/1993) including against Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Billie Jean King. She played at every International level from U14 (and still plays for the Seniors), represented Great Britain in the Federation Cup, Wightman Cup and European Cup and is a GB Colour Holder.



Julie Salmon

"I achieved my dream goal of being a professional tennis player including competing at Wimbledon for 12 years and I am forever grateful for the incredible support of Peter and Elspeth Pyemont (former Prep School Headmaster and his wife), they understood and encouraged my passion and ambitions".

Rugby

Rob Buchanan

(Prep and Senior Schools 2001-2009, Dorms, Head of School)

Rob Buchanan's professional rugby career spanned 11 years until his retirement in June 2020 from the Harlequins having played over

120 games. Rob represented England at U16, U18 and U20 and made his premiership debut in 2010. Highlights include winning the Aviva premiership in 2012 and the LV cup in 2013.

"(St) Bede's allowed me to reach my potential with support from some amazing teachers, fantastic facilities and the school being flexible enough to help me fit in everything that I needed to do. Coupled with the fact it allowed me to meet a group of friends and staff members I still have a great relationship with to this day who have been instrumental in helping me along the way".



Rob Buchanan

Athletics

Sebastian Rodger

(Senior School 2006-2008, Knights)

Seb Rodger is an Olympic athlete specialising in the 400 metres hurdles. His first Major Games came in 2010 where he was a member of the 4 x 400m relay team that won the bronze medal at the World Junior Championships in Canada. In 2013, he won a silver medal at the European U23 Championships and reached the semi-finals of the World Championships. He became national champion in 2016 and represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro (his sixth Major Games).

"I had such a great time at Bedes, it gave me such a good stepping stone into the professional world allowing me to learn so much about myself which has ultimately helped me achieve my goals. My only regret was not joining Bedes earlier!"



Seb Rodger

DOWN MEMORY LANE

By Mark Rimmington

It's 8:30 am on Monday morning and I'm walking down the third fairway thinking that Golf is much more pleasant than registering my classes online, making sure the technology works and disinfecting the desks!

It certainly is, but then the mind wanders, and I think of the pleasure and joy I got from working with my colleagues and being fortunate enough to share a part of the lives of so many young people. Teaching to me, has provided so much satisfaction, fun, laughs and a feeling of fulfilment.

I have been so fortunate to receive so many opportunities, thanks to the Headmasters of the School led by the visionary ability of Peter Pyemont, Roger Perrin and their brilliant successors.

On arrival one was struck by the smile on the faces of so many students, they enjoyed their School, it was a place of learning, but it also encouraged them to be the best they could be, whether that was in the classroom, in music, dance, sport, building and playing the didgeridoo, or utilising their business skills in the Young Enterprise program. Indeed, it is Young Enterprise that provides a super memory for me. The School Company dominated other schools in the 1990s and made the South East of England finals on several occasions.



"The Idea Factory" Young Enterprise winning team

(Back Row - Mete Nadir, Evans Gitua, Tom Goolnik, Adam Peacock, Felix Radmer, Stuart McIntyre, Chaipot Ruangwathana, Paul Smith, Ruben Mwaikinda. Front Row - Hannah Ward, Nadia Mini, David Walter, Xavier van Hove, Rosie Hessenberg, Charlotte Godfrey, Julie Stavrou)

Great memories and thanks to Sally Wellings and Gareth Parfitt for their skills and expertise. Personalised Boxer Shorts, the Environmental Pen, what imagination these young people have – a real Ideas Factory!

The activities program is such an important part of Bede's and has provided so much joy to so many, and the wholehearted involvement of my colleagues has been outstanding. Jogging to most people is simply not fun – but with Alan MacPhail and other colleagues I've had the occasional sprint, the tough plod and a gentle walk discussing issues that interested the young. The frustration of the perfect pass getting stuck in a puddle on the old Astroturf where the new Science block sits, the chance to enjoy Archery in the chicken sheds, learning to love horses, or simply chatting to students you don't teach on a bus journey about their homes, some so very far away. Great days, as were winning Sports Day and House Football with Camberlot, watching the passion of fellow Housemasters and students during House Music, and taking Sports teams on long Saturday afternoons.

I have worked with some wonderful Housemasters, starting and ending in Dorms, and loved the tactical thinking of David Graham and the passion of Paul Juniper and Reu Hickman. It was a real privilege to have been a Housemaster at Bede's and "your boys" will always be "your boys" to those of us lucky enough to have run a boys house.

The contribution of Derek Newton and Lou Belhiti to the School has been immense, and I am hugely grateful to them for their expertise and friendship. However, despite all our efforts the Girls Houses still won the diary grade competition awarded for effort!

I loved being in charge of UCAS applications working with the Upper Sixth on their plans for the future, and seeing their faces, when that plan became a reality was a truly wonderful feeling. It let me get to know people and help them to dream.

My love, however, has been the classroom,

and I still remember my first lower fifth commerce class fondly. It was never a chore to go to my room at 8.20am and prepare for lessons, as each and every one would pose its own challenges; I would like to believe we always had at least, "a slight chuckle" during the hour. Thanks to all those who put up with me, I had a marvellous time!

Sport is my passion, Football and Cricket predominantly, and these two areas provide wonderful memories. Seeing James Norwood score at Wembley for England schoolboys having had a rather fraught lesson with him earlier in the week, was very, very special, as has been the dominance of Bede's on the Cricket field in recent years. We have come so far in the great game since 1990, and my thoughts as we won another trophy, took me to the late Douglas Russell, my first Captain of Cricket at the School and a very fine player. I know he would have enjoyed the victory, and that he and Shai Hope would have spent a splendid evening discussing the reverse sweep!



Mark Rimmington with Camberlot boys June 1998

(Left to right: Barry Evans, Alan Stuart-Grant, Jamie McFetters, Ishaya Danjuma, Ross Page, Jamie Kefford, Mark Rim, Ikenna Nwagbara, carrying on across picture: Othman Salihu, Asmus Ohle, Chris Lindop, Danny Chu, Alex Lynch)

Bede's is an amazing place, a place where I learned so much and met so many wonderful people, and I wish the School the very best for the future.

Mr Rimmington was a much loved teacher, tutor, house master, head of year, deputy head and coach during his 30 years at Bede's.

PROFILE

Jamie Lowe

(Bede's Prep School 1981 - 1983)

I was in touch with Jamie Lowe recently (an Old Bedian and member of the Old Bedian LinkedIn group) to find out more about his Bede's days and where life has taken him since the Prep School.

Jamie joined the Prep School in 1981. His parents were keen for him to get into Tonbridge School but at the time you had to pass a Latin common entrance and the Headmaster at his previous Prep didn't think he would manage it. Peter Pyemont promised he'd get him a place and he was true to his word! So much so in fact he joined set 2 Latin at Tonbridge!

'I was a boarder in Holywell House with Chris Pyemont as my Housemaster, I can't remember my house, but Falcon rings a bell. Strangely I was clearing out some things the other day (as one does in lockdown) and found loads of old team photos from days at the school and I was desperately trying to remember everyone's names! I loved my time at St Bede's, especially the sport and boarding activities. I remember night rambles over the Downs sometimes still out until midnight! PP and Elspeth built their house while I was there and I remember a lot of parties! I lost a lot of contact with friends when I went to Tonbridge as I was the only person from my year to go there in September '83.'

'After Tonbridge I went to UCL and then James Capel a stock broking firm, I have spent most of my career in investment banking in London and Paris, although I had a couple of years trying to renovate the remains of Templar tower in SW France, but gave up when I realised I wasn't much of a builder! We came back from Paris in 2009 and have been living in East Sussex ever since.'

'I have been married to Gilly for 25 years next year and we have three children. My daughter graduated from Newcastle this year and works for a local chartered surveyors, my oldest son has just started at the Royal Agricultural University and my youngest is at Cranbrook School. Due to available places my children actually went to St Andrew's when we came back from France, so it was always fun and very annoying for my children that I carried on supporting St Bede's when they played them!

'I left the City in 2016 and have been working in film and tv finance/executive production ever since, where our two latest films Greenland (starring Gerard Butler and Morena Baccarin) and The Mauritanian (starring Jodie Foster and Tahar Rahim) have recently been released and Small Axe TV production by Steve McQueen showed on the BBC at the end of 2020.' The Mauritanian has won a Golden Globe and has been nominated for 5 BAFTAs this year! Small Axe also won a Golden Globe and has 15 BAFTA nominations!

The first lockdown caused considerable concern for the film and TV industry as production was completely halted, bringing enormous uncertainty to the industry. However, despite (and in some ways because of) COVID-19 the industry is thriving and the demand for content has soared. Jamie talked about the McQueen series which is very much at the heart of a new initiative at Great Point Media where he is Head of Institutional Distribution. Using his expertise from the City, the company is creating an investment fund which will bring capital and return on investment whilst supporting diversity (gender and ethnicity), inclusion and sustainability across tv/production. There are high end employment opportunities across skill sets (eg carpentry, technology) but certain groups remain under-represented leading to barriers to making a career in the industry. Great Point have the support of Tamara Howe (former BBC Controller of Business - Comedy & Entertainment) and want to help shift the balance by investing in more diverse and creative productions. They are also exploring a future apprenticeship scheme for under-represented groups such as women and black, Asian and minority ethnic people.

I asked Jamie if he was an aspiring actor himself which brought back a funny memory which also chimes with the diversity focus of the fund. He was part of the Drama Society at the Prep and played a starring role in a sketch about sexism in the airline industry. In the sketch there was an interview for a Cabin Crew job. They interviewed a woman and asked her age but didn't ask the same of the male interviewee! He also remembers forgetting his lines in another sketch and fell into fits of laughter bringing his school acting career to an abrupt end!



Jamie with his wife and daughter on her lockdown graduation day 2020

PROFILE

Christopher Raphael
(Bede's Prep School -1963)

St Bede's School in the early sixties!! Hugh Candlin was the Headmaster. What fond and fabulous memories.

Sneaking over the wall to run to the little food store at the foot of Beachy Head and then running back on a Sunday to listen to Pick of the Pops on my tiny transistor radio while sitting on the grass outside the schoolhouse.

I remember a science/chemistry classmate literally blowing up the Prefect's Plateau and everybody laughing at Bingswanger's explosion. I played rugby and football and enjoyed every minute. I remember singing Christmas carols with the Ravenscroft girls at the local church and then having lunch with my parents at The Grand Hotel. Latin classes with Rex Lord and various other classes with John Cousins. Gym classes with Albert Verral. I even played The Cheshire Cat in the school production of Alice in Wonderland that was performed in the gym – of all places.

I like other students did get "6 of the best" but I cannot remember what terrible offense I did to deserve it!! Group walks on the seafront leading to walks on the beach, but an array of huge rocks everywhere certainly did not make an easy or pleasant escapade!

After I left St Bede's I went on to Millfield in Somerset. Over the years I moved to Los Angeles and worked on numerous feature films in product placement for films including Rocky. Apocalypse Now and The Godfather to name a few. I also wrote, directed and produced the first World Travel Awards at Universal Studios in Hollywood in 1994 right on the set of "Back to the Future" and continued on this



event for over 20 years in such varied locations as The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, The Bahamas, Dubai, Barbados, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas and The Plaza Hotel in New York. I had numerous celebrities as Award Presenters including the legendary, Lionel Richie.

I then moved to New York and spent over 16 years in television and producing live shows for Caesars Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City including a 3-year run with a show I produced, wrote and directed – "Nights On Broadway" and automatically attended incredible performances with superstar legends like Liza Minelli.



My first Broadway show I worked on in 1998 was the musical version of "Saturday Night Fever" with The Bee Gees who attended the opening night. Additionally in 2011 I produced The Drama Desk Awards with presenters including Ann Hathaway and Alec Baldwin. I was also fortunate to produce a Gourmet Food Festival in Portugal in 2011 with over 20 Michelin star Chefs for a 10-day event and guest celebrities including Sheryl Crow. I was also asked to host a fellow producer's Red-Carpet event in London for the Gala Opening of the musical, "Ghost" and interviewed one of the shows music writers Dave Stewart of The Eurythmics.



Clockwise from top left: Alec Baldwin, Ann Hathaway, Sheryl Crow, Dave Stewart

I am still single and now live in Las Vegas and am working on an annual award show for next August 2021. If any Old Bedians need a spectacular event produced for a charity or any other type of event – I am available!!



A FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

DO YOU HAVE ONE?

Have you ever felt TERRIFIED of presentations? Nervous of being asked to speak up in class? Anxious about meeting people for the first time, especially when they're in groups?

I first experienced all of the above when I started Bede's in 2008. Just before joining, I suddenly became deeply depressed and had gone from feeling excited about all of the new friends I'd make, to anxiously worrying about what other students would think of me. To add to the fear, I would be boarding for the first time resulting in nowhere to hide, and doing a Performing Arts A-level which would mean all eyes on me on a regular basis. I still remember my first class and the teacher asking us to "go round the room and introduce ourselves." My body went into complete panic. My face became hot and red, my hands and legs started trembling, I could feel my throat drying up and closing in, and my heart was racing so fast that I thought it might explode. I could barely speak and was hyper aware of how nervous I must have appeared. This was not the first impression I wanted to give others but I no longer had any control over that.

The shame of this experience and the regret that came with each following behavior of mine bled into all other aspects of my school and personal life. I was so frightened of entering the canteen that at times I hid in my bedroom. The 6th form common room seemed so intimidating that my first time entering it was also my last. Speaking up in class was so nervewracking that I chose to keep my mouth shut because I was too afraid of people seeing how awkward I was. I tried so desperately to protect my reputation, that I avoided as many scenarios as I could where I might slip up. Of course, this wasn't sustainable, and left me feeling lonely as well as more and more paranoid each time I did have to interact.

All of this felt like a living nightmare. The worst part about it was that I WANTED to speak. I wanted to meet people. I wanted to enjoy acting and show everyone what I was capable of. And I wanted people to meet the real me, the one who I knew I was behind closed doors. However, the constant anxiety attacks, the never ending worries about what others thought of me, and the pervading feelings of worthlessness I experienced made none of this possible.

I'm pleased to say, things did get better by the end of my first year there, and my final year at Bede's was one of the best of my life. However, 5 years later, I found myself still depressed and struggling with the same fears. I'd seen many doctors to try and find out what was wrong with me. The more they couldn't diagnose me, the more alienated and alone I felt. When I started university; seminars, compulsory presentations, being amongst large groups of people on campus, were each reminders that I wasn't better. How would I ever achieve my dreams, let alone be happy, if I didn't feel like I could ever just be myself?

A humiliating incident during class in second year left me struggling to cope and prompted another visit to the doctor. As I yet again shared my symptoms, this time I felt heard and understood. They told me I had social anxiety. Within seconds I'd gone from feeling completely alone and potentially incurable, to discovering that what I was experiencing was incredibly common. I'd gone from believing I might never escape my struggle, to seeing the limitless possibility that could open up from this new place of knowing. Before I knew it my depression had completely disappeared. In that moment I felt driven to share my experience with as many people as I possibly could. I knew that if words could be enough to end my own battle with depression that I needed to use my voice and raise awareness around this thing called social anxiety that I'd never heard of, and which so many doctors failed to notice in me.

In 2020 I launched My Friend Fear, a coaching business that transforms the lives of individuals living with social anxiety. I work 1-2-1 as well as speaking in schools, universities, and workplaces, empowering people to make sense of their experience so that they can become the most fulfilled and liberated version of themselves. It is my duty to do my best in making sure that no one feels alone and that people experiencing mental health challenges like mine are properly informed and have all the tools they need to feel more in control.

No one should ever feel alone in their struggle and with the right support they don't have to.



*By Rose Berry
(Bede's Senior School 2008-2010, Dorter)*

*You can email Rose at rose@myfriendfear.com
or follow her on Instagram @myfriendfear_*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1990's

*Sarah Blackman nee Wingrove
(Dicker Deis, 1995-2001)*



Like so many former pupils, I'll always have a strong connection to Bede's. I attended the prep school for one year (5th form) in 1995-1996. I was local in Eastbourne and joined on a part-scholarship as a day-girl. My scholarship was for the year at prep and then the Dicker too so I moved there in 1996 and did all 5 years, leaving in 2001. I was always a day girl living locally, I was in Dicker Deis although not sporty so rarely wore my pe kit.

I spent a lot of time in the art and ceramics studios and one of my A-level pieces of Brighton pavilion was in the entrance hall for many years... my claim to fame after the school gave me £50 to keep it for a year. I didn't have the heart or space to ask for it back! I don't think my life is interesting enough for a write up. I had a gap year, went to Aston University in Birmingham, worked at the Financial Services Authority, then Deutsche Bank and now HSBC. I've been in London for 15 years and this year moved to Solihull to be closer to my husbands family and his work.

My family are all still local in Sussex so I hope to join a school event or tour when this covid madness is over. I took my husband about 10 years ago to something and would love to show our 6 year old son around too.

2000's

*Michael Krause
(Teacher 2003-2017)*

My wife Catherine, son Henry and I welcomed twins on 26 August 2020. Charles Theodore Krause and Anja Ruby Krause born in Geelong.

We are both still working and living at Geelong Grammar School (Australia's biggest Boarding School) where Catherine is a Head of House and I am Head of Logistics and Analytics.

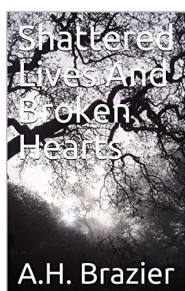


2010's

*Alistair Brazier
(Stud, 2010-2015)*

So... I've self-published two books on Amazon Kindle! They are currently for sale, both electronically and in paperback!

[The Lighthouse of Brittlesea Bay](#): A short story. A lighthouse keeper and his wife live a relatively peaceful life in their lighthouse outside an English port. Their days are carefree. Their lives are full of nothing but joy, happiness and love... or so it appears...



[Shattered Lives and Broken Hearts](#): An anthology of three short stories. Seven people. Three places. Three tales of terror. Life, as they knew it, gone completely. Have you

ever wondered about the orderly, repetitive and fortuitous nature of your day? Or tried to hide something you wanted to escape from? Or been consumed by your own opinions? These people have. And it will cost them dearly...

*Laura Adebisi
(Crossways, 2010-2015)*

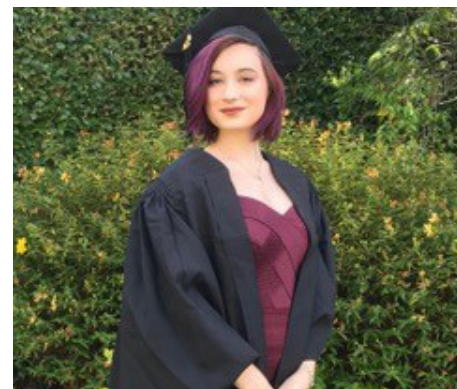
So I did it, I made a short film While We Wait Short Film I wrote, directed and starred in it - something I've been wanting to do for like - ever. It is now in post-production and getting ready to be submitted to festivals!



You can see a clip from Laura's film [You Tube here](#).

*Lillie Skerman
(Bloomsbury, 2010-2017)*

Not a day goes by where I don't miss Bedes. My housemates all know my teachers and friends by name as I talk so regularly about my wonderful days with you all, from a tiny little Legat Dancer in Year Seven, to a teary-eyed leaver in U6th!



Having fought with Anorexia for a year and a half, I managed to graduate from

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

my Undergraduate Degree in English Literature at Warwick with a 2:1- with my research project specialising in Victorian and Edwardian Children's Literature. I was offered both an unconditional offer and a full scholarship to continue my studies at

Warwick for a Masters in Global Media and Communications, where I am now! I have the honour of being a deputy editor to The Warwick Boar, as well as heading up one of the Universities outreach programs, teaching Creative Writing to local schools, and also sitting as the Postgraduate Taught representative on the Educational Governance Board.

None of these things I could have done without the confidence Bedes instilled in me over my years of study there. I intend to stay within my academic department for my PhD, where I will be focusing on Ableist Narratives within Climate Protest Cultures, something which feels worlds away from my Literature research! Never did I see myself taking this path in life, but I would never have got there without the support of Bedes, and the determination and perseverance the school instilled in me.

Thank you so much to everyone I had the privilege to be taught and mentored by.

Leilanni Nesbeth (Dorter, 2015-2019)

Only in her second year at Florida State since leaving Bede's in the summer of 2019, Leilanni Nesbeth (2015-2019, Dorter House) is leading the way for the Seminoles soccer team!



Leilanni scored one goal and recorded two assists as Florida State played to a 3-2 win and claimed the Atlantic Coast Conference [ACC] Championship title!

Ms Murphy recently caught up with Asia Fedon (Crossways, 2018-2020)

Where are your experiences of being at Laban? E.g. what do you like about it? what are your favourite classes /teachers and why? What do you find the most challenging and why?

I love everything about Laban starting from the fact that everyone is sharing the same passion. I feel that it's challenging because in my group there are students of different ages, backgrounds, body shapes and ideas. It's really nice and interesting to learn about each of them through dance because this helps me to explore more the way I move and the ideas I have.

I do many different classes, practical and theoretical. Each of these are very interesting because we cover a wide range of topics. I feel that through my ballet and contemporary classes I strengthen my technique so when I go into creative class, I can let go but at the same being aware of how I move.

What were your experiences of being at Legat? Did your time with us prepare you for your programme at Laban? Is there something in particular that helped you and why?

I've loved my time at Legat because it was, and it will always be my family away from home. I've learnt so much during my time at Legat for example to be confident and to not judge myself too much. I've learnt many different styles and worked with amazing teachers. Studying A-Levels prepared me a lot for my journey here at Laban because I need to write a lot of essay! Legat helped me be exactly where I want to be now.

What advice would you give to current pupils in Legat- what should they make the most of whilst they are with us? What do you miss the most?

What I want to say to the current Legat students it's just to be themselves. Trust your teachers and make the most of each correction and compliment. What you learn there is something that will stay with you forever. Live at the best every single moment and enjoy every single minute in this amazing school. Legat is a team and supports each other. Once a Legat student always a Legat student.

I miss the teachers so much and the atmosphere they created in the studio. A great balance between hard work but also a lot of fun. I just miss Legat so much but I'm happy to be where I am and to be able to pursue my dream as a dancer also thanks to you.

Please keep sharing your news and let us know where you are and what you are doing. We love hearing your stories be it a new addition to the family, celebrating your wedding or marking special achievements and successes.

PROFILE

Simon Whitworth (Roos & Dorms, 1980-1982)



I left St.Bedes just shy of my sixteenth birthday 1982 with great disappointment to my parents as they wished for me to remain in school. But my mind was made up that I was going to join my brother's band (Karl Whitworth Band) as the bass player.

That same year we supported David Essex on tour and for me being aged sixteen it was like being dropped into a world of wonder. I considered myself a man at that age and was treated as such. The following year my middle brother joined the band and we formed [GI Orange](#).

On my seventeenth birthday we signed two EMI and made two fantastic records in Munich,

Germany. We parted from EMI one year later and returned to playing in the pubs and clubs around London, with a regular slot at the marquee club. It was at one of these venues that a scout from CBS Sony Japan picked us up. From there it was a rapid climb to success in the far East.

Our second record flew to number one as did the album under the same name *Psychic Magic*, selling over a million copies, only to be surpassed by Live Aid. Promotional Tours and Live Shows followed, causing mania wherever we went.

In late 1987 we arrived home only to be told that the band was bankrupt. To this day we never got to the bottom of that. The heart had gone from GI Orange and we folded a few years later.

My twenties were a struggle with the loss of my long term girlfriend to Cancer and an ongoing battle with acute anxiety. It was bleak.

Reaching my thirties I had nothing. I had learnt to do painting and decorating, not at college, but through a book I had borrowed from my Grandad. I had an inner strength, something I had picked up at St. Bedes and would put myself into impossible situations and find a way of turning them to my advantage.

I took on large decorating contracts around London, with no labour force or money. I found unemployed labour and agreed to pay them very well, only when I got paid, which I did and opened accounts for materials so it gave me time to find money.

I now had a firm, and in a couple of years I moved into office refurbishment which was incredibly lucrative. I was now wearing a suit and sitting in boardrooms in the city of London. To be honest, I didn't really understand what was going on in those meetings. But I don't think anyone else did either. I had converted a farmhouse in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, and was planning on semi-retirement.

I was due to turn forty in February, but an accounting error in November saw the business forced at rapid speed into liquidation. I was left with nothing once again, but an alcohol addiction from years of entertaining. This was my biggest battle and achievement.

A total lifestyle change and a move to the Isle of Wight, saw me finally stop drinking and I have now been sober for 13 years. I threw myself into writing, both music and novels and even a couple of musicals. I went back on the tools and moved into specialist decorating projects. The acute anxiety remains but I think it helps me to write. I write for myself and for others and last year put an EP out called [Shadowlands](#). [Breathe](#) is my favourite song from the EP.

I have now after many years gained a reputation for writing music. Life has been a challenge but never boring, and at the age of 54 I am creating the best music of my life due only to my life.

My hope for the future is to find peace of mind and security.

Simon released his latest album [Rise from zero](#) in February.



SCHOOL NEWS

Staff Leavers

Last summer we said a fond yet sad farewell to a number of staff members, some of whom have been at Bede's for over 30 years!

Chris Atherton • Lou Belrhiti • Laura Buckland • Jenny Chen • Giles Entwisle • Regina Entwisle
• Scott Fasciolo-Barnes • Richard Frame • Julia Hyde • Michelle Martin • Mary McKenna
• Gareth Parfitt • Nicoal Purkiss • Mark Rimmington • Sally Wellings • Paul Wilkinson • Zoe Zeitman

Sadly due to the pandemic we have yet to give them a fitting farewell but we wish them all the very best in their journeys be it retirement with new adventures for some and new schools for others.

Creativity has always been the life blood of Bede's – from Artists & Ceramicist to South of England awarding winning DT pieces and internet famous film makers. Many Bede's alumni have gone on to great success in the creative industries.

Freya Palmer (Upper Sixth, Charleston) had the foresight to anticipate a potentially gloomy November and envisioned, curated, organised the excellent lockdown exhibition that celebrated the creativity of Bede's students throughout the Covid period – from March to November 2020. Freya's vision brightened up the school when it needed it. An



open-air exhibition placed on the outskirts of the 'O' Rooms (named after the Orchards that once stood on this spot in days of Horatio Bottomley).

Freya, a current U6th Art Scholar, put together the 'Lockdown' open air exhibition made up of students work produced during this year.

Freya stated 'The Lockdown Exhibition highlights the creativity of Bede's students during the current Corona pandemic and lockdown. As well as showing the perseverance of creative students over the past few months, this exhibition showcases the talent and innovation within the school. The variety of work was astonishing

and would have been impressive at any point. The fact the art works were produced during this turbulent point in history is even more impressive. Some works directly relate to the times. Alfie Collins Smith captured London in the height of lockdown – the buzzing metropolis eerily silent. Mareva Lelong's dramatic illustration depicts Lockdown as an all-encompassing beast dominating us – until you peer into the center of the piece where a figure can be found at peace, drinking tea, surrounded by cats and drawing – finding sanctuary in the quiet of lockdown.

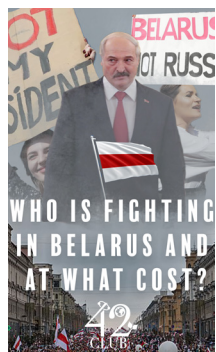
Other works are just joyous – showing how the act of making images can give our life purpose. Emily Scott's surreal portrait depicts a



painted figure that seems otherworldly and serene. Lucy Drewek's painting of honey dripping from fingers has an almost photorealistic quality.

Explore the variety of work on show at the online show:
bedescreativeartsfaculty.org/lockdown-exhibition-2020

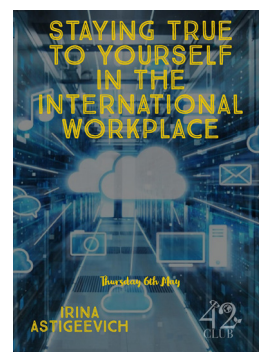
We are delighted to have launched 'The 42 Club': a programme of inspiring online lectures, delivered by speakers at the top of their fields covering a range of topics, from STEM and Philosophy to Business and Law. The weekly lectures have been designed to broaden pupils' minds and interests, challenge views and introduce new ideas. We have now opened these lectures to all the Bede's Community.



Tom, Lower Sixth, wrote about the lecture that particularly stood out for him, Dr. Paul Hansbury on the recent troubles in Belarus: 'I found it astonishing that still in 2021 there are societies that neglect basic human rights, and what astonished me even more is the sheer lack of coverage on the topic. Belarus has been gripped by mass protests, triggered by an election widely believed

to have been rigged in favor of the long-time leader Alexander Lukashenko. The scale of the protests is unprecedented for Belarus. More than 100,000 packed into central Minsk, the capital, for four consecutive Sundays after the disputed 9 August 2020 election. Before the lecture, I barely knew anything about Belarus but thanks to the 42 club, I'm now aware of the atrocities that are occurring under 2000km away from us that most of us are completely ignorant towards.'

Tickets for upcoming lecture can be booked on
[The 42 Club website](https://www.the42club.org)



SCHOOL NEWS *cont.*



“This year’s Cabaret has gone against all odds and has given me and many others the opportunity of performing even in the unprecedented times of COVID-19. The innovative approach of having an online filmed version is just as rewarding, enthralling and challenging, if not more so, than previous years. This Cabaret wouldn’t have been possible without such a wonderful, hardworking and kind team.” - William Hopkins (Upper Sixth), Performer

For our Performing Arts department, Cabaret was the main focus of the term, and we saw the combined forces of the faculty work together to create magic!

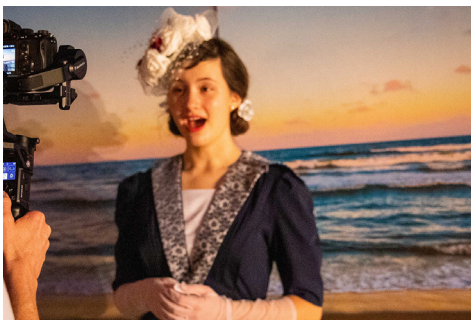
We plunged into the start of term with a Cabaret plan A in mind and crossed our fingers that the world would get back to normal in time for December and our exciting Cabaret show; however this was not to be. Determined to give our students an enriching, creative experience throughout the term, we ploughed on with our rehearsals and had meetings on top of meetings to design a Cabaret that would be Covid safe both on and off the stage. Our final result - plan D, I think, was the only solution - record and film the music, song and dance separately and splice it all together at the end! Although we were missing four full weeks of rehearsal - we had to get recording - to save much needed time to edit! An in-house recorded version was not the easiest feat to pull off, but we are so glad that we didn’t give up and I am personally very grateful for the enormous efforts of everyone involved.

Every Tuesday Mr Scamardella conducted a socially distanced, pared down, fully mic’d up Orchestra to play to an empty room, with Mr Steve Hopkins and Mr Chris Prescott on the recording decks. I have to say this prefab recording studio was an exciting place to be. Even with a steaming mask on I could sense the energy of an ensemble of players coming together, albeit socially distanced and often behind a plastic screen...

The week of Legat in the MPH was a stunning affair and the dance pieces were wide ranging in style but all ambitious; from the dazzling ‘Spread the Love’ to the cheeky Nicer in Nice; we were all wowed! The sheer organisation to conform to Covid regulations was a thing to behold too, with carefully planned dressing rooms, a vast, beautifully lit performance space, a special sign in and sanitise desk... all the results of my fantastic faculty’s resilience and creativity with the full support and encouragement of our SMT. Enormous thanks must go to Mrs Lisa Martin- Smith and Mr Matt Kuchta of the Marketing department for their support, organisation and Spielberg skills!

However, above all else, I am so proud of our students who played, sang and danced their way through the term and through all of the madness. I am delighted that there was a sense of completion with all of the pieces being performed, perhaps not ‘live’, but, to camera. And a positive spin was the new skills they all picked up... playing the piece for a third or fourth time to get it right... dancing the ‘Hand Jive’ for the sixth, seventh... and on and on, until we felt it was just right. All of this required patience, discipline, a can do attitude, and, above all else, a sense that they were doing this for something beyond the individual - but for the team.

*Karen Lewis
Director of Performing Arts*



OBITUARIES

Daisy Strange (Dorter; 2009-2013)

Be More like Daisy! A tribute to Daisy Strange from Amy Rimmington

From my first day in Dorter, Daisy took me under her wing and looked out for me. How lucky I was!

We had such fun and there was never a dull moment, from playing in Matron's wheelie laundry basket to regularly giving Mr Leggett grief about never making his own cup of tea! Boarding house parties were fabulous, dressed as Sumo Wrestlers or Red Indians and how we danced the night away. We studied similar subjects, shared many lessons, and discovered it was very difficult to sneak an animal on to your knee in class, without the occasional squeak giving the game away! Mischievous, but fun, and how we laughed. Some of the most enjoyable times shared were on the Sports field, where Daisy captained our House team magnificently.



She was so talented, so motivated and yet someone who had great emotional intelligence. She could understand how others felt, see things from their point of view and help all of us to do our very best. You could see she was in her element, so much so, that no matter

what, you always went into a game wanting to win just as much as she did. It just rubbed off on you, her positive and competitive spirit, and no matter what the outcome was, she would always have a smile on her face. She taught us how to win and lose with grace and good humour. We spent many hours down at the stables with our horses and going on rides to the woods, chatting endlessly and most often getting lost! Animal management outings were our favourite. Daisy said she could speak to the animals and to be honest I would not have put it past her, the way they acted around her. Not only did every human want to be Daisy's friend but animals too!

I owe my best school memories to Daisy, and was lucky enough to keep in contact with her after school. I will never forget she was there for me when I was at my lowest in School, and I just cannot put into words how much she made all her friends feel so very special.

Daisy, I will remember you with warmth in my heart and a big smile on my face. Keep shining, this world needs your light. I will never forget your infectious smile and your contagious laugh. We should all be more like Daisy and "Live life like Daisy!"

Johan Roos (Bede's Staff)



We were saddened to hear that Dr Johan Roos passed away recently after a battle with dementia, his funeral took place on the 26th March 2021 in Port Alfred, South Africa. Johan was the first Housemaster of Dorms (then known

as Roos) House, a position he held for one year (1980-1981), before returning to South Africa, where he taught at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown, until his retirement. Our thoughts are with his wife Anne and his family.

Alan Plummer (Bede's Staff)



It is with deep sadness that we share the news of Alan Plummer's death. A member of Bede's staff, Alan was our bus driver who covered the Hastings and St Leonards bus run.

Alan passed away in January, aged only 67, after a short illness. We have lost a dear friend and valued colleague. His wife, Julie, and family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Richard Gilderdale (Bede's Staff)



We were terribly saddened to hear of the passing of Richard Gilderdale, one of Bede's drivers who retired last summer. He passed away in December at only 67 years old.

He was being cared for at Eastbourne DGH after suffering a significant stroke. His wife Jeanette and his son Steven were at his bedside.

Joolz Durkin (Bede's Staff)



Joolz Durkin unexpectedly passed away in July 2020. Her husband describes her as 'A science teacher with no equal, she was passionate about providing extra curricula STEM trips using local science providers wherever possible.'

We have lost a dear friend and valued colleague and our thoughts remain with her Husband, Matt and her two sons Ethan and Connor.

Tom Nokes (Bede's Staff)



Tom Nokes sadly passed away at St Wilfrid's Hospice in Eastbourne in June 2020 after a brave fight with cancer.

Tom was a bus driver for 11 years from 2000. Good times were spent with his colleagues in the transport team and with the pupils on his bus. Tom had a passion for singing and enjoyed attending Bede's musical events. Tom is missed and fondly remembered.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have supported Bede's

Last March when all schools across the country closed and we were all told to stay at home, Bede's very quickly took all the classes and even the activities online. It was quite a feat and pupils from across the world were able to continue their learning and, with live classes, see their friends. We returned to online learning again in the second lockdown and are now very much enjoying the buzz of having everyone back.

During these uncertain times Bede's has been doing whatever possible to provide financial support to those parents who find themselves with unforeseen challenges. We very quickly discounted the fees to reflect the online learning and we were touched by the messages of support we received from parents. We were also heartened by the generosity of some parents who chose to waive the discount in favour of our new Covid-19 Hardship Fund.

We soon realised that many other people were keen to support those around them or those that they personally connected with in some way and the Bede's family was no different. Old Bedians and current Bedians came together and we have been deeply moved by your generosity.

Donations from Old Bedians ranged from £20 to £2000 and every donation has been able to help another family.

Some donors have the fondest memories and appealed to the idea that their support would ensure that a young individual was able to continue their education and enjoy their experiences as much as they did. Some messages we received included:

I was very grateful for all Bedes did for my girls and Bede's threw me a hand of hope in a dark time.

In these challenging times, if we can be of some small assistance to those in our closest communities less fortunate than ourselves, we are happy to help.

I personally benefited from the school's generosity:

The Hardship Fund is still helping families and if you want to see how you can support Bede's you can find out more on the [Support Us](#) page on the website, if you scroll down you can see the different ways to support.

Bede's Covid-19 Hardship Fund

DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THOSE PARENTS WHO FIND THEMSELVES WITH UNFORESEEN CHALLENGES.

Support the Bede's Covid-19 Hardship Fund

Bursary Fund

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THEIR BEDE'S EXPERIENCE, OLD BEDIANS VERY OFTEN REMEMBER HOW THEIR HIDDEN TALENTS WERE DISCOVERED.

Shaping Our Future

BEDE'S HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS TO IMPROVE FACILITIES ACROSS THE CAMPUS.



BEDE'S

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