

BEDDE'S

CURIOUS

Autumn 2023



NEWS AND EVENTS

CAROL SERVICE

On Tuesday 12 December we enjoyed our Christmas Carol service at St. Saviours Church in Eastbourne.

It was a wonderful service where our community came together to fill the room with beautiful carols, fostering a sense of joy and community.



TALK EDUCATION 'BEST SCHOOLS IN THE UK FOR PERFORMING ARTS'

We are delighted to have been included in Talk Education's list of 'the best specialist schools in the UK for the performing arts'.

In their article, Talk Education say this about the Legat Dance Academy, "Seamlessly integrated into Bede's senior school's co-ed day and boarding offering, the Legat Dance Academy is a brilliant option for passionate dancers who want to fit intensive training around the traditional school experience – and not at the expense of an all-round education.

Once pupils have passed an audition to get in, they're taught by world-class industry professionals, treated to guest workshops with leading choreographers from the West End and given countless opportunities to perform (including headlining 2023's Move It, the world's biggest dance festival, at London's Excel Centre, which is worthy of serious bragging rights). There are 14.5 hours of intensive training each week in various dance styles, including ballet, contemporary, jazz and tap, and an extended academic timetable to help fit practice in without affecting schoolwork. Pupils can sign up for exams in RAD Ballet and work towards a BTEC in performing arts (with almost all receiving the highest level of distinction). The list of glittering onward destinations speaks for itself, with many snapping up places at the likes of Arts Ed, Central School of Ballet and the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance after they leave the school."



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NEWS AND EVENTS

BEDE'S FEST

The Bede's community hosted their annual, esteemed Bede's Fest event on Saturday 9 September, which welcomed over 500 members of the Bede's Trust community: parents, pupils and staff.

Luckily, the sun was shining on Bede's Senior School in Upper Dicker, and there was plenty of fun to be had by all.

The festival took place on the fabulous lawn overlooking the lake and made a stunning backdrop to mark the beginning of another year for the Bede's community. Attendees arrived armed with their picnic blankets and settled down for a sunny afternoon of great music and delicious food. In particular, the crowd enjoyed listening to Bede's talented musicians from both the Prep and Senior School on a live stage who performed a variety of songs.

There was plenty of mouth-watering BBQ food on offer, or guests tucked into their own picnic food. All of the contributions made for a triumphant day. Bede's Senior School Headmaster, Peter Goodyer, was overjoyed at the day's success, commenting, "It has been a fantastic start to the academic year, and seeing so many of our community come together for Bede's Fest was truly a delight. I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of Bede's Fest – our talented pupils who poured their hearts into their performances, our devoted staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and our supportive parents and community members who joined us in celebration."



BEDE'S IS ONE OF THE UK'S BEST SCHOOLS FOR CRICKET

The UK's best schools for cricket have been revealed in The Cricketer's Schools Guide 2024. Bede's have once again earned their place within the top 100 Senior Schools and top 50 Prep Schools. 2024's successful roll call of schools was finalised after an exhaustive selection process that saw a huge number submit entries for inclusion in the guide.

All entries were judged by The Cricketer's judging panel against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching. It is no surprise that Bede's has been recognised for its extensive cricket provision. At Bede's, pupils have the opportunity to train at least three times a week and play matches throughout the Summer Term, alongside an indoor cricket programme in the winter months.

Alan Wells, Director of Cricket at Bede's is delighted that Bede's has been recognised among the top cricket schools. He comments, "Being acknowledged as one of the top cricketing Senior and Prep schools in the UK is testament to our unwavering commitment to our pupils both on and off the pitch. We are immensely proud of our pupils and staff dedication that enables growth all year-round."



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OCTOBER HALF TERM TRIPS

In the October half term break, some of our pupils travelled across the globe on various trips. They told us about their experiences...

TEXAS TRIP

During half term a group of pupils visited NASA's Johnson Space Center in Texas. We invited three pupils to give their reflections on the trip:

Max Samland explained, "When thinking about the wider universe and space exploration with NASA, it always seemed like a mysterious cloud of complex and incomprehensible technologies. Through this trip, I was able to see through this cloud and discover the fundamentals. The technologies NASA uses were broken down into understandable missions for us to tackle as a team whether that be launching our own rockets, designing a Mars habitat, building and coding a robot or developing a cryogenics capsule. For these challenges, we were put into teams that competed against each other, which elevated the intensity but equally led us to produce the best possible projects we could."



Harrison Tradewell added his thoughts saying, "In my opinion the absolute best moment of this trip was the privilege to have seen the actual mission control room for the 1969 moon landing. The room was preserved so perfectly that the pens and paper are still on the desks where the genius minds that managed to achieve one of the greatest feats of humanity left them. This was accompanied by a video run-through of exactly what those people in the control room in 1969



would have seen the very moment that Neil Armstrong took the first step on the moon. It was my favourite experience on the trip because it was so immersive and incredible to see what they would have seen over 50 years ago. We also went on multiple tours around other very notable locations such as the training facility for astronauts who go to the ISS, with a complete replica of the ISS so that the astronauts can get used to it, a Falcon 9 rocket, and a Saturn V rocket."



rocket building or the zero gravity Scuba training. I was surprised by the amount of tasks that we had to complete underwater." Adam went on to reassure us that the trip was not all work and that the evenings provided some welcome opportunities to unwind and enjoy the Texan culture and food, "The evening activities were also a lot of fun and again helped create a bond between the staff and pupils; visiting the arcade, going bowling and playing laser tag were all fun. One of my favourites would have to be the trip to the theme park because the rides were some of the best I've ever been on. I would absolutely recommend this trip to anyone - it's truly a once in a lifetime experience."

Summing up, Adam Featherstone said, "All of the activities were fun and all taught me new skills, but my favourite would definitely be the amount of tasks that we had to complete underwater." Adam went



WASHINGTON TRIP

Over the first weekend of the October half-term a group of 18 A Level History & Politics pupils, accompanied by Miss Webster and Mr Whitaker, had an amazing time visiting Washington, DC. Our first morning was spent on Capitol Hill, visiting the Capitol, Supreme Court and Library of Congress. In the afternoon we crossed the city to Ford's Theatre, the scene of Abraham Lincoln's assassination, followed by dinner at Hard Rock.



On Saturday we racked up a few miles in our walk around the Tidal Basin; we started at the Jefferson Memorial, then visited the FDR Memorial, Martin Luther King Memorial and Korean War Memorial on our way to the Lincoln Memorial, which afforded great views down the National Mall across the reflecting pool; it really was inspirational to stand in such a historic location and consider the many iconic scenes that had taken place there.

The highlight for many of us was a visit to the National Museum of African American History & Culture. On arriving at the museum

we descended down into the galleries covering the middle passage and slavery, then experienced an emotional, powerful journey through the events of Reconstruction, the Jim Crow era and the inter-war years, then moving on to the achievements of the mainstream civil rights movement. The pupils also enjoyed the cultural galleries, which included a vast range of historic and contemporary artefacts, which included Muhammad Ali's boxing gloves, James Brown's cape and jumpsuit, NBA player Kobe Bryant's uniform that he wore in the 2008 NBA Finals and items from President Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign office. Pupils also had the opportunity to set foot in a segregated railcar from Chattanooga, Tennessee and to sit at the actual counter where African American college pupils challenged segregation at the Woolworth diner in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Later that afternoon we headed back to Capitol Hill to speak with Tyler Palmerlee, a staffer for Indiana's 1st Congressional District representative Frank J Mrvan, who gave us many insights into life in Washington. We ended the day at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City mall, where we were able to indulge in some retail therapy.

Our final day was spent at Arlington National Cemetery, where we observed the hourly Changing of the Guard and a formal Wreath-laying Ceremony, then visiting the Museum of American History and Museum of Native American History, both of which are part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Charlie Swan (Upper Sixth, Deis) commented that 'a highlight of the Washington trip for me was the large array of monuments and historical sites in the capital. Whether it was the famous Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, the centrepiece of the capital, the Washington monument, or the Eisenhower memorial which was situated on the other side of our hotel. Passing the Eisenhower memorial every morning on the way to the National Mall reminded me of the recent yet ever-lasting history of the Capital since its establishment in 1790. And who could go without talking about the beautiful Franklin D. Roosevelt memorial which documented the four terms he served as US President; accompanied by the sound of peaceful waterfall, the powerful symbolism which the memorial site displayed was fantastic to witness. However, quite possibly my favourite site was the immense Arlington National Cemetery, visiting gravesites of former presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft, the military icon George C. Marshall, as well as former SC Justices Earl Warren, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thurgood Marshall, William Rehnquist, and, of course, Ruth Bader Ginsburg (one of my personal favourite justices). On top of this, the Changing of the Guard ceremony embodied the national significance of the site.'



Overall it was a fantastic trip, with pupils having the opportunity to visit a wide range of historical and political sites, whilst at the same time being able to grab a taste of the Washington vibe.

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

SOUTH AFRICA TRIP

During the October half term, I went on the Bede's Biology and Animal Management trip to the Nyosi Wildlife Reserve in South Africa. Nyosi is home to an abundance of native animals that the amazing Nyosi team aim to conserve and protect. As someone who wants to work with animals in the future, I was thrilled by the opportunity to travel to a reserve in South Africa and see real conservation in action; the trip was everything I expected and more.

The aspect of the trip that I was most excited about was the opportunity to learn about animals and conservation, and gain hands-on experience in these areas. This formed a huge part of the trip. On our first full day in South Africa, we visited the SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) facility. SANCCOB is an organisation that aims to reverse the decline of seabird species, such as the endangered African penguin, by rescue and rehabilitation of injured birds, among other things. At the SANCCOB facility, we learned what it's like to be a volunteer there, the processes involved in rescuing and rehabilitating seabirds, and how to prepare food for sick birds. This was a very interesting experience that gave us huge insight into what it's like to work in animal rehabilitation. Back at the Nyosi Reserve, we also learned how to track animals using their radio collars and footprints, were given a fascinating talk on rhino conservation from a member of a local anti-poaching unit, and throughout the trip were constantly learning about Nyosi's wildlife and history from the brilliant and knowledgeable guides.



The other part of the trip that I was most excited about was simply the opportunity to see amazing animals that I have never encountered before; I certainly wasn't disappointed. We went for daily game drives at Nyosi Reserve, where every day we saw cape mountain zebras, giraffes, and many species of antelope, including huge common elands and beautiful greater kudus. On game drives and around our (amazing) accommodation, we also spotted many smaller animals such as rhombic night adders, southern rock agamas, and vervet monkeys. When we went on a boat trip off the coast of Port Elizabeth, we encountered a pod of over a hundred bottlenose dolphins within minutes of leaving land, followed by humpback whales and African penguins. At Addo Elephant National Park, we saw a black backed jackal, a yellow mongoose, and, of course, lots of elephants - including two hilarious calves. These are just the highlights of a huge list of brilliant animals that we were lucky enough to spot on the trip.



My favourite moment of the trip was when, during our final game drive at Nyosi, our guides managed to locate Nyosi's pair of male cheetahs. We had been searching for them, and Nyosi's solitary female

cheetah, for a couple of hours, and it was as the sun set that, by tracking their radio collars, our guides found the two males near the track. Though nervous of us at first, the two cheetahs quickly became relaxed about our presence, allowing us to watch their natural behaviours and interactions for the duration of the sunset, as our guides told us about cheetah behaviour and conservation. Due to the elusive nature of most wild felines, I had never expected to see Nyosi's cheetahs, and the experience of watching such beautiful animals in a natural environment was indescribable.

This trip gave me so much precious knowledge, and so many incredible memories that will stay with me forever. I am so grateful to Mr Juniper and Miss French for organising the trip, and all the brilliant guides and staff at the Nyosi Wildlife Reserve who made it such a fantastic trip for us. For anyone considering going on the trip in future years, I truly cannot recommend it enough.

*Anna Scott
Lower Sixth pupil*

PYEMONT LECTURE: MANDY HICKSON

On Wednesday 8 November 2023, we welcomed Mandy Hickson who gave an inspiring talk.

Mandy Hickson has over 30 years experience within aviation. She joined the Royal Air Force in 1994 and was the first woman to fly the Tornado GR4 on the front line, where she operated in hostile environments, including patrolling the 'No Fly' zone over Iraq. Since leaving the RAF she retrained as a facilitator and coach in human factors. Drawing on her experience of calculated risk-taking, decision-making under pressure and the critical role of the human in the system, she transfers vivid lessons from the cockpit to other management and leadership contexts. Mandy has served as an Aviation Ambassador for the Department for Transport.

Mandy is now a highly demanded keynote speaker, where she talks with humour and great passion to inspire those around her. She has been invited to share her insights with some of the most successful organisations across the world where she describes the strategies & behaviours that can be adopted when the stakes are at their highest. She has recently launched her bestselling book, 'An Officer, not a gentleman', about her inspirational journey to become a pioneering female fighter pilot.

Mandy's tales of determination, decision-making and risk-taking were truly captivating and inspired us all. Thank you for your visit, Mandy!



AUCTION OF OPPORTUNITIES

On Friday 1 December 2023, the School Prefects hosted Bede's first ever Auction of Opportunities in aid of the Bede's Development Foundation.

The evening started with welcome drinks in the Old Dining Hall with canapes being served to guests in the glow of the beautiful Christmas tree decorated earlier that evening by prefects themselves!

The 100 guests made up of parents, alumni, staff, governors and friends of Bede's then walked to the Recital Room where the evening began with welcome speeches and a moving testimony given by alumna Lillie Skerman about her time at Bede's and why supporting this cause is so important. The auction then kicked off with bids flying in thanks to our incredible auctioneers Mr Lenham and Mr Muston.

Between auction bids for prizes from an exclusive training session with the Saracens rugby team, VIP Edinburgh Fringe tickets, getaways to the British Virgin Islands and VIP Chelsea tickets pupils from both the Prep and Senior School performed. Exquisite food was served by our fantastic catering team Holyrod Howe and guests viewed the pupil artwork up for auction in our auction gallery.

The evening was a great success and thanks to our bidders both in-

attendance and those bidding online, the School Prefects' raffle for a luxury Fortnum and Mason hamper and further generous donations made the total exceeded £15,000!



Mandy Zhang & Charlie Bennett
Co-Pupil Heads of Bede's Development Foundation
Deputy Heads of School

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CHAPLAINCY

It gives me great joy to share the lovely undertakings of the chaplaincy with you thus far.

We were blessed to have prefects speak in chapel about our relationships with creation and each other and give us invaluable wisdom for working with stress and anxiety. It is always profound coming from your peers. Thank you to all of them.

One of the most heart-warming exploits this term has to be our Harvest Festival drive which saw the school donate enough food for 2000 meals, to the Matthew 25 Mission in Eastbourne. A charity serving the needs of the most vulnerable in the community, based on the teaching from Matthew Chapter 25 in the Bible; exhorting us to take care of those in need. We are eternally grateful to all the love and support given.



REMEMBRANCE

This year, as with every year, remembrance presented our school community an opportunity to bring to mind sacrifice.

The heart is challenged with the heartache and devastation that comes with war. May we never forget to keep pressing towards peace, as old conflicts rage, may we keep the faith that God will make all things all new. In gratitude, we pray for the lives of those who paid the ultimate price for the freedom and values we hold dear today. Equally, we commend all loved ones who have gone before us to the mercy and protection of God.



Excitement abounded in the return of the Chapel House-singing competition. This involved a decibel meter, recording the sound a House could make, over two different chapels. If you had told me that Deis House would hold the record of 109 dB, I would never have believed it. However, O me of little faith, lo and behold, it was so! Congratulations to Stud House who were eventual winners with a total of 205, 8 dB.

Lastly, if that wasn't enough, Love-in-a-bag, a Bloomsbury initiative which captured the hearts of the whole school community, provided 115 gifts which included woolley hats, biscuits, toys and books, to be given to families who would otherwise not have such luxury. It was a genuine blessing, when on St Nicholas' Day no other, we delivered these gifts to the Hailsham Foodbank.

As I write to you, we are looking forward to our school Carol service at St Saviours in Eastbourne which I know will be a treat, including great readers and the brilliant Bede's singers choir. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

In XC,
The Chaplain

Jarrold Taylor
Chaplain

Jarrold Taylor
Chaplain

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CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

BEDE'S PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The partnership programme kickstarted in September with a joint school council meeting. Six schools across the partnership came to Bede's to share ideas, take part in some team building as well as planning joint venues for this year. Joining together school councils in the Wealden area is a fantastic opportunity to pull together ideas, enthusiasm and creativity and plan some worthwhile learning events and experiences for all pupils involved.



In November, Lower Sixth pupils started volunteering their time, listening to children read at our nearby primary school- Park Mead. It is a real privilege for our pupils to help out in this way, guiding and assisting with younger pupils as they seek to improve their all important reading skills. Activities like this help to develop leadership and confidence in our pupils whilst also giving them a sense of community.



CAROLS ON THE GREEN

In December, we joined with the village singing carols on the Green. It was a lovely way to end the partnership and outreach programme for this year with carols, mince pies, hot chocolate and even a snow machine. This event is becoming bigger each year and bodes well for the joint Dicker Day next summer.



At the end of September, it was wonderful to welcome Paralympian Will Bayley to the school to talk to our Lower Sixth pupils about resilience and striving towards your goals. Will brought along his golf and bronze medals from Tokyo 2021 as well as his MBE. Will gave lots of good advice to the pupils, especially about facing adversity. His humility and courage shone through.

In October we were visited again by the Young at Heart group in Heathfield. This time making scones. It was brilliant to see so many Sixth Form pupils giving up their lunch hour to help out.



Mary Leggett
Head of Partnership and Social Responsibility

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PERFORMING ARTS

It seems like moments since we sweltered in the heat at Bede's Fest on that beautiful first weekend on our return to Bede's and what a term it's been since.

Our programme of events in Music, Dance and Drama is back to full strength and this includes curricular as well as co-curricular activities keeping us all busy. As the Director of our upcoming musical, Guys and Dolls, I have the pleasure of working with a team of staff and pupils from across the disciplines whose dedication to producing high quality work is utterly remarkable. The leaders of this musical are some of the best pupils I have had the privilege to work with and I urge you all to share and delight in their performances in February.

The Heads of Departments will give you further highlights of the past three months and it's important for me to thank all of the staff across the subject areas for their energy, creativity and ambition to get such a wonderful and eclectic range of productions on their feet. And of course, enormous thanks to our Performing Arts pupils whose passion for the arts sees them spend buckets of time in group rehearsals, readying for performance.

Karen Lewis
Director of Performing Arts



DRAMA

The Drama department has introduced a new BTEC Production Arts practice course, and it's been a fantastic journey so far. Pupils have been actively engaged in designing installations and have had the incredible opportunity to interview industry professionals. This hands-on approach has allowed them to explore their creativity and gain invaluable insights into the world of production arts.



LAMDA is growing in number and our wonderful teacher, Mr Richard Williams is navigating the wide variety of subjects that the exam board offers from Musical Theatre, Public Speaking to Verse and Prose. We are delighted that we continue to have interest from pupils to continue beyond Grade 8 to the PCertLam that offers creative stretch and challenge, as well as significant UCAS points.

Our Upper Fifth GCSE Drama cohort had the pleasure of attending the outstanding performance of 'Life of Pi' at the Chichester Festival Theatre. It was an enriching experience that exposed them to the magic of live theatre, puppeting and sensational staging, broadening their understanding of storytelling and performance.

The Upper Sixth A Level Drama and Theatre and BTEC production Arts pupils were both inspired and challenged by Frantic Assembly's latest work, an investigation into Kafka's 'Metamorphosis'. This production sparked thought-provoking discussions and provided a unique perspective on this classic piece of literature.

The redoubtable Bryony Kimmings, internationally lauded writer and performance artist led a masterclass open to all pupils, investigating her career and discussing how she creates material for performance. It was a genuinely magical event in which the pupils shared an array of interesting theatrical ideas.

In a joint venture the Sixth Form cohort went to see the questionably titled 'F**k Miss Saigon' at the Young Vic, a story which challenges Western audience's perception of stereotypical asian characters and asks us to question frameworks which author our beliefs.

As ever these experiences have not only enriched their understanding of drama and theatre but have also inspired creativity and critical thinking. We believe that such experiences play a crucial role in their development as aspiring artists and individuals. We would like to express our gratitude for your ongoing support in encouraging our pupils to explore the world of performing arts. Your support is invaluable in helping us provide these enriching experiences for them.

Will Rennison
Head of Academic Drama

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PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC

What a busy and productive Autumn Term! As I write, we have just finished the biennial Gala concert, and are preparing for the carol service at St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, tomorrow.

The year got off to a fantastic start with auditions for Guys & Dolls, the Gala Concert, Bede's Singers and instrumental lessons. The Year 9 Big Sing was a great introduction to music at Bede's. We are delighted that so many new pupils are joining ensembles - particularly Rock Band and Bede's Singers. Our first major event this term was the return of House Music, the theme being Tina Turner, where the whole school was involved in one or more of the four elements: Big Song, Solo or Instrumental category.

Joshua Ting wrote of the event: 'House music has always been a highlight at Bede's every year. Every pupil has been working very hard and once again brought such a wonderful night of music performances, another remarkable night of the school year. In this year's house music, we've all been divided into five groups, two houses per group to work on the big song, band and solo performances. A lot of us have been giving up our breaks, lunch times or even after school time, in order to bring such a high standard night of music and to give all our respect to Tina Turner - a rock legend who just passed away this year. All of our big song choices were songs that were sung or written by Tina Turner, a lot of which are very well known and all of us really enjoyed listening to and singing to.'

After half-term, we hosted a smaller-scale event hosted by Mr Aburn, and featured a number of our junior musicians performing a captivating programme of repertoire, from solo songs, to upbeat jazz and rock numbers. This was the first outing for many of our young musicians in their career at Bede's.

The gala concert is a special celebration of music across the school community, and we were delighted to host the Bede's Singers singing Blinding Lights, the Concert Band performing a whole range of pieces from The Who's Pinball Wizard, Gloria Estefan's Let's Get Loud and familiar arrangements of Joyful Holidays and Swingin' on the Housetops. Some incredible performances also includes Charis Cheung and Josh Ting singing 'Cold Heart' by Elton John/Dua Lipa, Jolie Phillips stunning rendition of Roy Hilton's arrangement of 'At Last' and who could forget Maya Goswami singing her heart out in Jules Stein's 'People', made famous by Barbra Streisand? A fabulous festive meal was served at the end of the concert, making everyone ready to face the cold night outside and get parents and friends ready for Christmas and the festive season! We wish all our readers a healthy and happy holiday, and very best wishes for 2024 and beyond.



Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

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PERFORMING ARTS

GALA CONCERT

Bede's proudly celebrated their talented musicians in their Gala Concert on the evenings of 6 and 7 December 2023 at the Senior School in Upper Dicker. This enchanting event was a celebration of the school's musical prowess, and drew an audience of over 70 parents, staff, alumni and members of the local community per night.

The Gala Concert featured an impressive cast of over 50 musicians – a collaboration between the Senior School and the Prep School. Notably, this marked a milestone as the first time the Prep pupils have joined the Gala Concert cast.

Prior to the concert, guests were treated to canapés and fizz before heading to the Recital Room which had been transformed into a concert venue. The room had an elegant ambience - decorated with twinkling Christmas trees, and tables adorned with stunning floral, candlelit centrepieces.

The concert included a musical repertoire which spanned a wide spectrum of genres. Audiences enjoyed pieces from the Concert Band, the Lower Fifth Band, the Jazz Choir, the BTEC Bands, the Bede's Singers and a number of solo performances. From the heart-warming melodies of 'Snowman' and 'Joyful Holidays' that encapsulated festive spirit to timeless classics like 'At Last' and 'Pinball Wizard', the performances offered something for everyone.

Post-concert, guests enjoyed a sumptuous two-course meal served to their tables which consisted of a delectable Coq au Vin and Christmas pudding cheesecake.



Robert Scamardella
Director of Music



PERFORMING ARTS

LEGAT DANCE ACADEMY

I think we can all agree how joyous it was to see the pupils performing in our first production of the season. From the wonderful choreography, brilliant costumes and excellent storytelling, it is clear we have a special company of dancers and this is just the beginning of our year!



In other exciting news I would like you to join me in congratulating our Upper Fifth pupil and Tin Man, Imogen Beale who has received an offer to further her performance training at The Brighton Academy.

For now I wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Keep dancing!

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

THE WIZARD OF OZ

What a perfect way to finish the term than with our production of The Wizard of Oz. It was a truly remarkable experience and we received rave reviews from our audience members.



The dedicated dancers poured their hearts and souls into every step, turning the entire production into a mesmerising journey of exploration and creativity.



The most wonderful thing was to see the kindness and support displayed by the dancers both on and off the stage. From helping each other prepare with hair and make up, practising the steps, quick changes or simply combating the nerves, it further illuminated the genuine camaraderie among our pupils. This blend of courage, conscientiousness, curiosity, and compassion not only made the production a resounding success but also solidified our pupils' position as exceptional ambassadors of the school.



The show has been uploaded to YouTube so that you can sit back and watch it again or share it with your friends and family that couldn't come to see it in person. Visit the Bede's Legat Dance Academy's YouTube Channel.

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

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CREATIVE ARTS

The Bede's Creative Arts Faculty Autumn Term 2023 has been a Celebration of Artistic Achievements and Inspirations.

Bede's is beautiful (if not a little wet) in the Autumn and the Creative Arts Faculty buzzed with excitement during this term. It was a time not only to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Bede's Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth pupils from the summer of 2023 but also to welcome new budding artists on their creative journey within the faculty. Building on the legacy of the previous year, where Bede's pupils sustained their long-standing success, the Creative Arts Pupils continued their creative journey. Over the past decade, Bede's pupils have had huge success in the Art, Photography, and Ceramics departments, boasting an impressive 98% A* to B success rate at both GCSE and A Level. An outstanding 34% of our pupils have further pursued studies in creative subjects, marking the faculty as a nurturing ground for artistic talent.

For a sense of the incredible work produced by Bede's pupils, be sure to explore our showcase website at www.bedescreativeartsfaculty.org. This digital platform captures the essence of the talent Bede's pupils.

This term was enriched by numerous trips and visits from leading art schools, inspiring Bede's Creative Arts pupils. Sussex itself, with its vibrant arts scene, is the perfect place to explore. The Hastings Contemporary, The De La Warr Pavilion, and the Towner in Eastbourne are always worth visiting. Particularly noteworthy was the Towner's hosting of the Turner Prize exhibition, a pinnacle in the world of contemporary art.

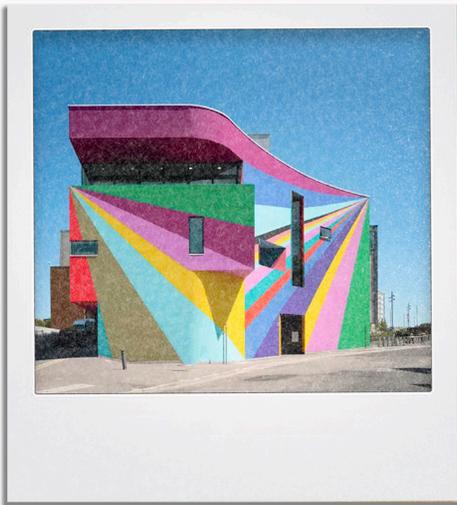
The Turner Prize, renowned as the world's leading contemporary art prize, unveiled its winner, Jesse Darling, on the 5th of December 2023. With a grand prize of £25,000 awarded to Darling and £10,000 to the shortlisted artists, the Turner Prize exhibition at the Towner is a great showcase for Sussex. This exhibition, running until the 14th of April, provides a unique opportunity for you to view work right on your doorstep. As part of www.eastbournealive.co.uk, a plethora of creative exhibitions and opportunities complement the Turner Prize showcase, inviting everyone to immerse themselves in the world of art.

Jonathan Turner
Head of Creative Arts Faculty

TURNER PRIZE AT THE TOWNER

A group of art pupils visited the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne on Thursday, 23rd November. This marked the first time the Turner Prize exhibit was hosted by the Towner, creating a special celebration in the gallery's centenary year. The accompanying cultural program, Eastbourne Alive, aimed to infuse life into underused spaces through public art, dance, and music.

During their visit, pupils immersed themselves in the works of the shortlisted artists: Jesse Darling, Ghislaine Leung, Rory Pilgrim, and Barbara Walker. The diversity of mediums, including film, installation, and drawing, offered a rich example of contemporary practises. Notably, Barbara Walker's poignant work, featuring large-scale charcoal portraits of individuals affected by the Windrush scandal, resonated deeply with the pupils. The fusion of technical skill and emotional storytelling captivated their artistic sensibilities.



Jonathan Turner
Head of Creative Arts Faculty

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CREATIVE ARTS

GLASSBLOWING TRIP

Venturing beyond traditional mediums, a group of Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils from the ceramics department embarked on a glassblowing experience at Adam Aaronson's Glass Studio in Leatherhead. Otto King, Angel Yuen, Grace Hoeltchi, Scout Brown, and Flo Hill embraced this unique opportunity, each crafting their own distinctive bowl or tumbler. Exploring the art of glassblowing and working in a hot glass studio for the first time, these pupils showcased their curiosity and creativity with a range of coloured glass. Witnessing professionals at work and perusing a gallery of artworks from glass artists added depth to their understanding of this fascinating medium.



Jonathan Turner
Head of Creative Arts Faculty

A VISIT FROM UAL

Again, we have a huge number of pupils continuing in creative subjects after Bede's and over 20 pupils came to a talk by UAL. For all the pupils interested in Art based subjects, Fashion, Photography, Architecture, Media or Art Foundation this was a great enlightening talk. Sian Harris from UAL shared valuable insights into the UAL colleges, including Central Saint Martins, Camberwell College of Arts, Chelsea College of Arts, London College of Fashion, and London College of Communication. Her expert overview delved into the specifics of portfolio expectations and the criteria for creative courses. UAL's resounding declaration, 'The World Needs Creativity,' resonated strongly with Bede's commitment to fostering artistic expression.

The Creative Arts Faculty at Bede's had another dynamic and inspiring term. From new courses to gallery visits and insightful talks, the autumn of 2023 encapsulated the vibrant spirit of creativity that defines Bede's Creative Arts Faculty. As we celebrate the achievements of the past, we eagerly anticipate the artistic journeys that lie ahead for our talented pupils.

Jonathan Turner
Head of Creative Arts Faculty

CREATIVE ARTS

MEDIA

A tremendously fun but busy term! The Lower Sixth pupils have been working really hard on their research techniques assignments, learning about focus groups, audience profiling, pre-production, budgeting, casting and much more. In addition, they have been working on the editing side of media production and have completed assignments on the history of film editing whilst also learning the basics of our edit package, Adobe Premiere Pro. Congratulations to Lower Sixth pupil Sadie-Rose Mclean-Young for all her hard work this term - she has won the BTEC Recognition Award for going above and beyond.

The GCSE pupils have now completed their coursework projects and we have seen a tremendous range of projects, from tv ad campaigns, magazine designs, fantasy film sequences and detailed pop star websites. Special mention goes to Hollie Yeung for her beautifully designed website to promote a new musician and to Benji Bloom for his ambitious and brilliant sci-fi fantasy tv sequence.

The Upper Sixth pupils have been working very hard on shooting and editing their music videos, ready for submission in the New Year. Audio, colour-grading and use of our studio space and new lighting options have all been explored and the pupils are working very hard to produce a near-professional level of finish. We have acquired new lights and installed a drum kit in the studio and the footage is looking great! On the theory side of the A-Level, we have covered the fascinating postmodern theory unit and also explored the power relationships between media and audience.

Without doubt, a real highlight of the term was our trip to Pinewood Studios. We were lucky enough to hear some great talks about a range of careers in the film industry and were able to spend time exploiting the huge range of superb exhibitions, not to mention hanging out with Star Wars characters! Have a great holiday and see you all refreshed and ready in January!

Watch this space for more news about the December 2024 Media/Art trip to New York. A fantastic opportunity for all pupils on GCSE, BTEC or A-Level Art or Media courses.



Rick Williams
Head of Media & Film Studies

ACADEMIC

Take a trip down memory lane with me to the year 1994, which was packed with iconic moments. Friends debuted on US TV, sparking a cultural phenomenon. Meanwhile, the Britpop wars ignited as Oasis released 'Definitely Maybe,' going head-to-head with Blur's 'Parklife.' Cinemas featured masterpieces like Pulp Fiction, The Shawshank Redemption, and the homegrown Four Weddings and a Funeral, accompanied by the chart-topping "Love is All Around" for 15 weeks.



Personally, 1994 marked a pivotal year as I confronted the challenging task of selecting my A Level subjects. Driven by a vague aspiration to become a doctor, my choices centred around Chemistry, Biology, and the deemed usefulness of Mathematics. However, hindsight reveals that my path took an unexpected turn. During my Sixth Form years, I realised my affinity for the title "Dr. Abrams" surpassed the actual pursuit of a medical career.

As we usher in the New Year, pupils at Bede's face a similar crossroads—deciding on GCSEs, BTECs, and A-Levels that will shape their academic journey. Recognising the weight of this decision, I thought it would be appropriate to share some insights from my experience to guide them.

Choosing subjects may seem daunting, considering the impact on future education and career prospects. While no strict rules govern this choice, consider these five tips to navigate the decision-making process.



Check Requirements: Research subject requirements for Sixth Forms or universities and align your choices accordingly. Consult with teachers or tutors to gauge common prerequisites.

Choose What You Enjoy: Opt for subjects that genuinely interest you. This not only ensures that pupils will be motivated but also increases the likelihood of success in those all important exams.

Consider Future Goals: Consider your aspirations post-GCSEs. Certain careers or educational paths may favour specific subjects, and this might be a factor in your decisions.

Seek Advice: Consult with your teachers, parents, and Heads of Year for valuable insights. They can help you assess your interests and goals and recommend subjects that may be a good fit for you.

Don't Stress: While subject selection is important, it's not irreversible. Embrace the opportunity to explore new subjects, and recognise that interests may evolve.



Remember, your academic journey may take unexpected turns, and it's never too late to make changes. Prioritise your well-being and happiness, and choose subjects that both challenge and bring you joy. Ultimately, with hard work, success can be achieved in any chosen subject.

Nicholas Abrams
Assistant Head: Academic

STEM

BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

On the 18 October our Upper Sixth A-level Biology group made their way to Nettlecombe Court to dive a bit deeper into carrying out experiments in the great outdoors which made a nice change from the lab.



Some of our highlights were definitely the first trip to the rocky shore, our water sampling in the beautiful site of Exmoor National Park and catching mice and shrews overnight, weighing and naming them and releasing them back into their habitat. Although we were really unlucky with four days of rain, we approached every single day with our motto: 'There is no bad weather, only bad clothes.'

I think I can speak for everyone when I say that those conditions made our whole group only grow closer together, which was definitely reflected by our daily bus karaoke which Ms French and Ms Morton-Freeman had to endure with us.

All in all it has been a wonderful trip to Nettlecombe with so much fun involved. Even though we came back soaked every single day, it was really our group dynamic that made the trip so special. There was a great mood at all times and we made the best out of it. Thank you



to our wonderful tutor Anelma and thanks also for the support of Ms French and Ms Morton-Freeman. I can only recommend this trip to upcoming A-level Biology pupils since it combines learning new skills, applying them in real nature straight away and the opportunity to see beautiful landscapes.

Nike Tuemmers
Upper Sixth Pupil

2023 INTERMEDIATE BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD RESULTS

Over 14,000 pupils from over 700 schools worldwide took part in the 2023 Intermediate British Biology Olympiad competition at the end of June. We had some excellent results.

Nina Hryniewicz-Sheppard achieved our first Bedes' School Gold award attaining an extremely high level that sees Nina also at the top part of the top 700 of 14,000. This was a phenomenal achievement.

Congratulations also goes to:

Bronze award - Max Mason & Marieke Noon

Highly commended - Angel Janes & Bryony Frisby

2023 BRITISH BIOLOGY CHALLENGE RESULTS

Bede's was one of 621 schools worldwide that took part in this year's competition. Over 43,685 pupils entered and we achieved a great set of results:

Silver Award - Harrison Tradewell

Bronze Award - Efe Onofeghara, Devanie Travers, Harry Ward

Highly Commended - Zach Churnside

Commended - Skylar Vickerman, Pippa Nunn, Mabel Young, Alfie Burton

Harrison was in the top 10% and our Bronze winners in the top 15% of 43,685 pupils worldwide. Congratulations to them all!



Nancy Morton-Freeman
Head of Biology

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UK SPACE DESIGN CHALLENGE

Saturday 18 November saw the largest regional round of the UK Space Design Competition that we have ever hosted, with four teams of ninety-six pupils from nine schools. Bede's were paired with Cardinal Newman School in Condor, whilst Sevenoaks, Riddlesdown Collegiate, Shoreham Academy, Downlands Academy, Nonsuch High School and, new to our regional, Great Ballard and Coombe Wood made up the opposition.

The teams arrived in rather less-than-friendly conditions, in various bedraggled states, for breakfast in the Recital Room, followed by a number of introductory briefings during which the teams finally found out the task for the day.



The Request for Proposal (RFP) was to bid for the second major settlement on the moon, set in the year 2042 which, whilst in the future, is very much in the near future. Teams would be expected to make use of many technologies available today. Each team has a CEO assigned to them, who is there to help with organising the team structure and to give occasional advice, albeit this often consists of further questions rather than answers! Two of the CEOs this time were alumni – Alex Gee and Ellie Abel (who was CEO for the Bede's/ Cardinal Newman team), which was great to see.



Eddie Rowley was elected President of the team and Joseph Connolly the VP for business and marketing, with other leadership roles shared between the two schools.

A visit to the various teams as they work is a fascinating snapshot of how the team dynamics are working and can vary substantially from room to room, often depending on the time of day. Bede's and Cardinal Newman looked purposeful, well-led and impressively calm throughout the whole day; not that other teams were not these things, but there was an air of quiet confidence about the way they went about their work that was great to witness.

A third alumna, Rebecca Irving, arrived mid-afternoon to witness some of the work, but was there primarily to help with the judging. Rebecca works for the UK Space Agency and we were thrilled to have her involved with the event.

Following supper, the teams again gathered in the Recital Room and Rebecca introduced herself to the teams and gave a short speech, together with a recommendation that the pupils should definitely consider careers in the space industry, before joining her fellow judges to listen to the presentations.

Condor's presentation was impressively glossy and well-delivered and the team also had to answer some tricky questions fielded by some of the less-experienced members of the team.

Whilst they had unquestionably the best-presented proposal, winning is typically about fulfilling all the requirements of the RFP, or at least as many as you can, and even then it is often the team which includes some innovative and futuristic ideas that is successful. There was the typically anxious wait as the judges presented their deliberations, before announcing, to raucous approval, that Condor were the winners. Bede's and Cardinal Newman now progress to the UK Final at Imperial College London in early March.



Bill Richards
Mathematics Teacher

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SUSSEX UNIVERSE

On 6 November, a group of Bede's pupils experienced another instalment in the "Sussex Universe" series of winter lectures hosted by Sussex University. This talk, intriguingly titled "Catching Ghosts", was delivered by Dr Josh McFayden of the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences on the subject of his involvement in the recent first ever detection of neutrinos produced in the Large Hadron Collider. Once again, the lecture captured the imagination of the pupils, explaining the nature of these elusive fundamental particles and their significance to our understanding of the universe, before presenting the principal findings of the "Faser" detection project in an imaginative and eye-catching manner. One more lecture trip is slated before Christmas, to see Dr Martin White discussing the possibilities of utilising wasted heat, on 20 November.

Julia French
Head of STEM

CITYZEN CHALLENGE

We have three teams entered for the CityZen Challenge this year. This is a Civil Engineering competition hosted by ICE (Institute for Civil Engineers). The award consists of two parts: a game played in three sections and then the challenge to make a video presentation created which is submitted for judging.

Each section of the game presented the groups with different civil engineering challenges, they were competing against each other as well as groups across the nation for the highest score each week. This was also giving them an insight into what civil engineers do, ready for their video project.

They then used the knowledge they gained about decision making and project management in the games, to apply it to their local area and suggest a project that would help improve people's lives in the same way the projects in the game do. The videos are 2-4 minutes in length and will be uploaded for judging.

Groups have had online mentor meetings with a civil engineer working in Dublin. This has provided additional insights for them to consider in their own project proposals and given them an opportunity to ask questions to an industry expert. Current project ideas floated by the groups vary from underground cycle tunnels through Upper Dicker, building a new eco-friendly mobile phone tower in Upper Dicker, through to building a Tesco or a bridge over the crossing.

We will find out in the New Year whether we have placed nationally

within the top three teams for the game and overall competition, but wish our teams the very best of luck!

Catherine Danielsen
Assistant to the Head of STEM

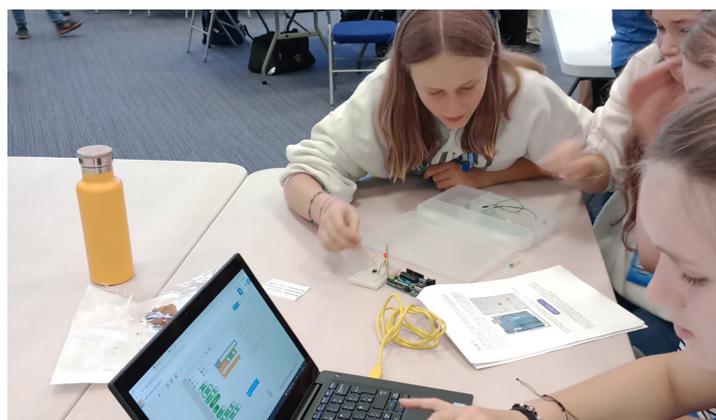
FURTHER MATHEMATICS EXPANSION

This year's Upper Fifth have taken record numbers through the Higher Mathematics IGCSE course early in order to work on Further Mathematics at the end of term. The majority of the group were targeting a level nine at this stage with twenty-two pupils now aiming at a Further Mathematics qualification in the summer. This represents a phenomenal effort from those pupils, who have not only completed a very high quality GCSE in November, but have also begun studying for a Level 2 certificate in Further Maths alongside their revision. Many of them will also be taking their study of mathematics into the Sixth Form. A huge well done to them, and we await their results in January with interest.

Matthew Peattie
Mathematics Teacher

RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORIES

In October a small group of our Computer Science pupils visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus near Oxford, and we invited some of those who went on the trip to tell us about their experience:



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As we were arriving we drove past some huge buildings including the Diamond, which is one of the most advanced scientific facilities in the world. Scientists there research things like in particle physics, scientific computing, laser development, space research, and technology.



We were greeted by pupils from other schools and a few of the scientists that worked there before receiving a brief health and safety talk, followed by an introduction to something called an Arduino.

The Arduino is a microcontroller that can be used to write simple and more complex code to do all sorts of things. Working in groups of four we completed four separate programming tasks using the Arduino making a simple circuit to turn a light on and off or make a fan switch on.



Finally, there was a complex task of creating a life support system that involved making lights flash when the room reached a certain temperature. We were then taken on a guided tour of the data collection system there. This was basically a series of huge rooms filled with computer servers containing more storage than you can ever imagine.

Next, we headed back to the main room and prepared to do a presentation on our life support system. After seeing everyone else's presentation and their amazing mechanical builds, it was our turn; Everyone liked our presentation, greeting the end with applause. Before heading home, we deconstructed our Arduino circuit boards before making our way back to the mini bus for the journey home.

Thank you to Mr Betts and Mx Price for giving us such a wonderful opportunity.

Spencer Garman
First Year Pupil

RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORIES

On Tuesday we had a great day when visiting the Rutherford Appleton laboratories near Oxford. We were using Arduino Computers and bread boards to create electronic circuits which could complete basic functions onboard a spaceship to Mars that had been affected by a solar flare. The space ship was not able to send communications or land and the life support system had failed.



Even though some of it was hard to do, we had fun trying. When we did get it to work however, it made all of us happy as we made a really good effort to get the landing gear down on the spaceship. We then had a tour of the data centre which had hundreds of computers in it with very complicated heating and cooling systems. Thank you very much for a really fascinating trip!

Molly Bellhouse-Burden, Immy Oscroft and Leila Pace
First Year Pupils

STEM

STEM TRIP TO NASA, TEXAS

The first week of the half term break saw four members of staff from the physics department take a group of 35 pupils on the opportunity of a lifetime - a week of activities at NASA's Space University program in Houston, Texas. In groups, they would spend the week competing for additional budget rewards, ribbons and bragging rights through a series of tasks and challenges. Their overall budget was taken into account, along with questions to answer and how much they impressed the NASA staff through the week.

After a long flight and a night of rest, the group set out for day one of activities. After an orientation we had a tour of the shuttle and rocket park, including a private talk about the Saturn 5 rocket, in front of a version that was not launched but was of flight quality. This led pupils into their first challenge: design and build a rocket! They had the choice of two sizes, both with dual fuel cells, and they took the challenge and ran with it. There was a lot of creativity, communication, teamwork and passion throughout.

The afternoon saw a detour for pupils to design and create both a thermal tile and a cryogenic pod for their mashmanaut. These designs were tested later in the week with winning teams being given ribbons and the added treat of a liquid nitrogen waterfall down the steps once testing was completed.

Tuesday morning was the countdown to launches, with a variety of successes being shown by all - every rocket launched, most landed! We had a tour of the original Mission Control - including a video and audio show of what the control team would have seen during the original missions - which was a true opportunity for pupils to see history unfold, sat in the actual seats the astronaut's families would have sat in. The awe and respect shown by our pupils was exceptional, it certainly gave them lots to talk about on our way back to the classroom.

On our return, we set to work on our Mars Habitat proposal and model building, before presenting and explaining their proposals to the group. The winning team (consisting of Max Samland, Ben Barlow, Barack Ihekweazu and Matthew Ip) not only won budget prizes, but also the honour of having their habitat publicly displayed in the main visitor centre exhibitions.

Wednesday started with a talk from a current NASA engineer and engineer intern, who discussed their experiences of both applying and working with NASA; some of the projects and challenges they've faced as well as talking through what skills they believe NASA values most - leadership, communication and teamwork being front and centre.

The rest of the day was spent building and programming robots for two different tasks: One was a pre-program to complete a set route, with specific directions; the other was manually controlled, but had to be designed to be able to pick up and move objects into specific spaces on a mock-up of Mars. This challenged our pupils in new ways, giving the opportunity for ingenuity but also exposing them to some of the time constraints and quick decision making that NASA employees experience through real life situations.

Thursday morning came with a tour of Falcon 9 - where pupils were able to jump up and touch history, an object that had actually been into space - as well as a tour of one of the training shuttles used to prepare astronauts for zero gravity. Pupils got to see the space and living conditions astronauts experienced when preparing for space travel.

After lunch pupils were able to participate in some zero-gravity training themselves - poolside. With qualified dive instructors, they participated in a range of deep dive activities from ecological surveys to explore viability of habitats; air lock construction and sample collection using equipment similar to that astronauts would have to learn to handle; to depth training to maintain both breathing and maximise air use as well as experiencing the changes and challenges that come with it. When not in the pool, pupils had the opportunity to complete a poolside challenge to create buoyancy to allow efficient movement of a small robot across the surface of the pool.

Friday pupils took a walk through the history of space travel, from the very first probes, to all the subsequent missions - manned and unmanned - that have lead us to where we are today and the upcoming Artemis missions: sending the first woman and person of colour to the moon, as well as the first long-term mission there before using that to step further - to Mars.

The week was finished with a talk from an astronaut - Tony Antonelli - who has been on two missions to space. Pupils had an opportunity to ask any questions, some very much made the most of this! It was an amazing opportunity to speak with someone who had been to space and hear his experiences both of space travel and of returning to Earth and the limitation of gravity.

The final event was graduation - the week was packed full of experiences and challenges, large and small, which every pupil rose to and made the most of. The graduation ceremony was a fantastic way to recognise their efforts throughout the week, each one coming away with a certificate and any ribbons they had earned throughout the week - the two three teams were also given medals to recognise their exceptional commitments to the challenges. We are very proud of the courage, ingenuity, teamwork and curiosity shown by our pupils, who were true ambassadors for themselves and the school.

SHAPE

It has certainly been a busy period here in the SHAPE Faculty, with a large number of events and trips running across the course of the term.

Thank you for your ongoing support; everyone in the Faculty would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

FACULTY OUTREACH: SKIPPERS HILL

A small group of Lower Sixth pupils led a SHAPE Faculty workshop at Skippers Hill Prep School in Five Ashes, just outside Tunbridge Wells. Over 30 Year 5 and Year 6 pupils participated in 'City from Scratch', which involved each team designing their ideal city, taking into account a wide range of concepts and criteria. The range of designs was amazing, with pupils showing great innovation and creativity. Hau Tak Ng (Lower Sixth Dorms) found the morning 'thoroughly satisfying' and enjoyed having 'the opportunity to guide the young but inquisitive minds at Skippers Hill through the fascinating details of creating a city. I really enjoyed working with them and helping them shape their ideas into plans and solutions for their dream cities.' The overall winners were 'Athena', with 'Egyptopolis' and 'Solar City' being highly commended. All of the pupils had a great time, and our Lower Sixth team of Hau Tak, Rafe Coetser (Lower Sixth Deis), Tommy Paynter (Lower Sixth Deis), Alnoor Rahman (Lower Sixth Charleston) and Prithvi Ann Sharma-Joehnk (Lower Sixth Dorter) received some excellent feedback from the Skippers Hill staff. Tommy described the occasion as 'challenging and difficult at times, however still an interesting, enjoyable and rewarding experience overall.'



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

GEOGRAPHY: A LEVEL FIELD TRIP

The Upper Sixth Geographers enjoyed October's finest weather in Devon collecting data for their non-examined assessment. The first three days were spent learning the fieldwork methods they would need for their own study and getting to know the area. They explored various parts of Plymouth to understand inequality within the city and the impact of regeneration projects like Drake Circus and Frankfort Gate. A highlight for many was a close-up sighting of a seal while we were studying coastal processes at Slapton Sands.

On our final full day, the pupils went to their chosen location to conduct their research. We had a group studying infiltration rates in a forest near Slapton, two groups at the coast - one measuring longshore drift and changes in beach morphology and the other surveying sea defences - and a final group in Plymouth carrying out an urban sustainability study of Stonehouse and Mutley.



Helena Worrall
Head of Geography

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BUSINESS: MARKETING TALK

The Business & Economics Department was lucky enough to welcome Mr Chris Field to talk to the pupils about working in marketing and the importance of brand differentiation in competitive industries. As Tom Pateman (Lower Sixth Dorms) said, "Mr Field visited Bede's to share knowledge of his journey as the head of a successful marketing business. During His presentation he discussed both his personal and professional experiences offering valuable lessons and inspiration for pupils in attendance. As the head of a private marketing business he explained the dynamic nature of the industry, emphasising the importance of adaptability and staying ahead of trends.

Mr Field explained how having the same marketing strategies for each of his clients rarely led to positive results, therefore he offers customised solutions that address the unique objectives and challenges of each client; whether it was branding or digital marketing his approach was highly personalised. He also spoke about his reputation in the industry and how it was built on a track record of successful campaigns and projects. When meeting with clients he showcases examples of past work which helps demonstrate his expertise and persuades clients that he can deliver results.

Pupils were provided with a deeper understanding of the marketing world and the qualities required to succeed in it, with an emphasis on adaptability and creative thinking. His visit was particularly interesting as pupils gained a deeper understanding of the dynamic nature of the business world and how they can channel their passions into successful careers. His engaging talk and practical advice motivated pupils to explore their future career paths.

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

FACULTY MASTERCLASS: CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr Slinger organised a SHAPE Faculty Masterclass exploring the significant impact that climate change is having on the mental health of different groups of people, both around the world and closer to home. Pupils considered whether enough attention is being paid to emerging mental health conditions such as eco-anxiety, climate-distress, eco-grief and solastalgia (the distress experienced when our familiar home environment is changing in ways perceived to be profoundly negative) and explored the complex ways that climate

change induced hazards (e.g. flooding, wildfires) interact with existing vulnerabilities (e.g. poverty, demographic variables and inequalities) to leave groups in our societies heavily exposed to mental health effects such as distress, anxiety, depression, grief and trauma. Finally, we considered how the concepts and methods of our SHAPE disciplines could be effectively employed in tackling these climate change-linked mental health effects. Hau Tak Ng (Lower Sixth Dorms) said "As someone who has an interest in both the environment and mental health, I found Mr Slinger's masterclass really educational and informative. It was really illuminating to see all these abstract mental health effects caused by climate change being expertly discussed and described, such as the emerging phenomena of solastalgia and eco-grief."



BEDE'S ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

In more festive news, The Bede's Enterprise Challenge group ran a successful "Christmas Pie your Teacher" event, raising money for their chosen Charity, Pieta - based in Ireland - that supports men's mental health.. The pupils gained experience and understanding relevant to their studies, and worked together as a team to organise and coordinate this fun event.

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

SHAPE

ECONOMICS: LONDON TRIP

The A Level Economists embarked on a trip to the capital to take a walking tour of the City of London, learning in detail about the Financial District's rich history, before visiting the Bank of England's museum. The trip was fascinating from start to finish with the pupils being able to ask any questions they wished of our experienced and knowledgeable tour guides. The behaviour from the pupils was immaculate throughout and I am sure they will have taken a lot from this experience. Mandy Zhang (Upper Sixth Crossways) said of the visit "our excellent tour guide took us on a fascinating tour that explored one of the oldest financial centres in the world, looking in depth at the founding of the original investment banks and the roots of the stock exchange. We then had the chance to delve into the Bank of England's history too, starting on an enlightening adventure that deepened our understanding of banknotes, gold, currency and more, which brought the economic lessons we have had into life. The trip provided me with rich opportunities to cover a range of topics and was an amazing experience that will leave us with lasting memories."



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

MODEL UN - BEDE'S MUN

Last year, for the first time ever at Bede's, Model United Nations (MUN) was available as an afternoon activity. The concept behind MUN is simple; participants represent a member state of the United Nations in various debates tackling current, real-world issues. The aim of participating is to attempt to pass resolutions (official statements of "UN" policy of a certain topic) and to win "Commended Delegate" awards by impressing the chairs of your debate.

I joined because I was interested in some topics, but thought that it would be some talking rather than really debating. After the second session, that thought changed drastically, and I saw that all the involved pupils and teachers were ready to do whatever was necessary to attend several MUN Conferences held across the UK.

After a few conferences, we learned how fun it was, and Miss Webster and Mr McIntosh came up with the marvellous idea to make our own Model United Nations Conference. This dream came true on Tuesday 3 October. After several months of hard work, perseverance and determination, we were able to welcome over 10 schools to Bede's.



The day started with a warm welcome from Mr. Tuson, and then the debating could start. All delegates were sent off to different committees. With the help of the chairs: Mandy Zang (Upper Sixth Crossways), Tristan Cheng (Upper Sixth Dorms), Charlie Bennett (Upper Sixth Deis), Mr. McIntosh and myself, topics such as the challenge of space junk, the right to secondary education, and the question of Arctic sovereignty and neutrality were heavily discussed.



Following a brief lunch, which many used as an opportunity for lobbying to secure co-signatures for their resolutions, it was time for the General Assembly. After several discussions, a leak of secret documents was spread out in the room. This gave a fresh switch to the debate, causing a great deal of excitement among the delegates. Later that day, several teachers complimented how well-organised everything was, which gave us a sense of fulfilment.

It was wonderful to see everyone putting a great effort into all debates and to see resolutions get passed. Bede's MUN I was a great success. Thank you, Ms. Webster and Mr. McIntosh, for organising this unique event. Everyone enjoyed it and plenty of people have started contributing to Model UN because of you.

Remy Brosens
Upper Sixth Pupil

SHAPE

MODEL UN - ROYAL RUSSELL

Four days of debate, discussion and deliberation at Royal Russell: this was the longest and most prestigious conference we had attended in the short history of Bede's MUN. After a one hour drive, we arrived at our destination; instantly we understood that all delegates were there to win.

We changed our mentality and went straight to work. Tristan Chang (Upper Sixth Dorms), the ambassador for Pakistan, and Ollie Robson (Upper Sixth Deis), the ambassador for Nigeria, were rehearsing their ambassador speeches, whilst the others were checking on them and preparing themselves for their committee. In the committee, everyone constructed their resolutions, co-signed others' resolutions and made alliances for the upcoming days. In the meantime, Mandy Zang (Upper Sixth Crossways), who was selected to be a judge in the International Court of Justice, did an incredible job by taking the floor several times and questioning both witnesses and advocates. That evening was very exciting as both Tristan and Ollie made their speeches brilliantly. The next morning, after an adventurous walk of ten minutes from our hotel to the school, we all wished each other good luck and all went into separate committees. In the ECOFIN Committee, Eddie Rowley (Upper Sixth Camberlot) did a good job by taking the floor and sharing his critical views on several points. In the SOCHUM1 Committee Joseph Connolly (Upper Sixth Camberlot), who was the delegate for Nigeria, strongly defended his resolution on the protection and well-being of migrant juveniles travelling alone. A strong resolution of utmost importance that passed with a convincing result. Joseph Leonard (Lower Sixth Knights) did an outstanding job by passing his resolution on free and fair elections in SPECPOL2. Special Commission on the Status of Women, that is where Prithvi Ann Sharma-Joehnk (Lower Sixth Dorter), delegate for Pakistan, took the floor several times and presented her resolution very well. Charlie Bennett (Upper Sixth Deis) excelled in his role as the chair, and I can testify to that since he serves as the chair for my committee. We closed the day with some bowling and a quick dinner.

After a few days of debating, the last day had arrived. My resolution, which I passed two days earlier in the DISEC1 Committee on the question of Sudan, was put on the list for the General Assembly. Numerous challenges arose, casting doubt on whether my resolution would undergo a debate. On that particular day, I realised that being chosen doesn't guarantee an easy path, but you still have to persevere. It was a roller-coaster of emotions, with uncertainty looming over whether my resolution would make it to the debate stage until I walked up the stage and saw my resolution displayed on the screen. I was very honoured to defend my resolution in front of all delegates present. I would like to thank all my fellow delegates who helped me by making me feel well-prepared to give my speech and

respond confidently to all POI's made. I will never forget with how much passion Joseph C wrote an introduction speech, how Eddie and Charlie prepared me with a plan on how to respond to the POIs, and how all the others were there to support me.

The conference ended with both Tristan and I being awarded Distinguished Delegate awards for our work in committee. Overall, the conference was an incredible experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life. On behalf of the MUN team, I would like to thank Mr McIntosh and Miss Webster for all their efforts made to make sure we had a great experience. I can say that every single delegate will never forget this conference because of you. Thank you.



Remy Brosens
Upper Sixth Pupil

MODEL UN - RGS GUILDFORD

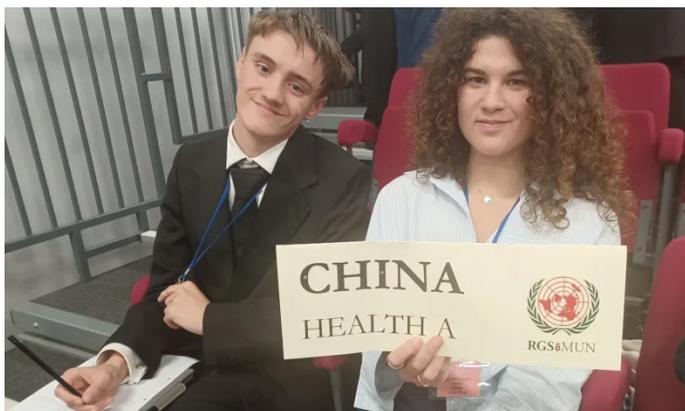
The Bede's team was blessed with good Saturday weather as we travelled to the MUN conference at Royal Grammar School in Guildford, arriving with a mixture of both nervousness and excitement. Indeed, though we did not know it at the start, the fierceness and passion exhibited in the day's debates would rival the brightness of the sun. As soon as we were led to our respective committees around the RGS campus, all team members immediately threw themselves wholeheartedly into the MUN processes.

In Security Council B my friend Prithvi Ann Sharma-Joehnk (Lower Sixth Dorter), representing China, was able to make a strong start by making good use of the lobbying time to befriend fellow delegates, figure out her potential allies and opponents, and collect signatures for her proposed clause on the illegal arms trade. As the delegate from the DPRK (North Korea), I was able to assist her in this regard while also making connections with other delegates, including reliable allies (e.g. the delegate from Russia) and unlikely friends (e.g. the delegates from Botswana and Egypt!). Elsewhere, both younger and older delegates also got in on the action, with Pippa Nunn (Lower Fifth Bloomsbury) delivering the DPRK's policy statement in the Environment committee and Ollie Robson (Upper Sixth Deis) raising

SHAPE

good points of information as the Chinese delegate in Security Council A. Ollie's participation in that committee was mirrored by Francis Gordon (Lower Sixth Knights), who sparked fierce debate with his proposals and ideas as the DPRK delegate, and created a lively atmosphere.

As the day went on, we were able to make progress in some committees while holding our ground in other areas. Both Prithvi and I came very close to passing clauses in Security Council B for our respective issues - her clause on the illegal arms trade was narrowly defeated in individual voting; my clause on cybersecurity was passed on its own merits by a large majority, but ended up in a resolution that was ultimately defeated as a whole. In the meantime, Francis fielded an incredibly difficult 7 points of information made in response to a single speech of his, winning the respect of both the committee chairs (who would later give him an award for this!); a hilarious moment was also created when another delegate accused him of being "too liberal" as North Korea and called on him to be replaced! His troubles did not end there either, with him facing multiple expulsion attempts throughout the day, though what cannot be denied is that he certainly was able to stir up just the right amount of exciting drama and debate - crucial ingredients for any MUN conference.



The climax of the day came when delegates gathered to attend the General Assembly, which was preceded by a crisis briefing informing all of us that a Chinese vessel had allegedly entered Malaysian waters supposedly in order to retrieve a "weather satellite". This left our MUN team in a difficult situation but also focused the spotlight on us! With advice from our teacher advisors Miss Webster and Mr McIntosh, the DPRK delegation in the RGS Great Hall General Assembly - comprising myself, Noor Rahman (Lower Sixth Charleston) and Fred Ling (First Year Dorms) was able to jump right into lobbying other countries to support China. Prithvi began preparing talking points to use to defend her delegation against this hostile situation, while I prepared a resolution in support of China and Noor went around the room trying to convince delegates to sign and support it. Our teammates in the Auditorium General Assembly were also involved in a flurry of activity, with Zoe Whittington (Lower Sixth Bloomsbury),

Amelia Richards (Upper Fifth Crossways) and Ollie challenging a hostile resolution against China, and Francis making a point of order to show the DPRK's support. Back in the Great Hall, I took charge of the effort to defend China by raising the DPRK placard at every possible moment to try to speak. I utilised every opportunity I was given to defend Chinese actions with strong and insistent rhetoric, even as the situation escalated and more intelligence briefings revealed that the "weather satellite" was in fact a damaged Chinese aircraft carrier (thus significantly undermining our initial talking points)! Prithvi also threw herself into defending her delegation's position by making multiple well-worded speeches and responding to hostile comments made by opponents. Although our DPRK resolution to support China was ultimately defeated, we were still proud to be able to secure multiple signatures from supportive delegations thanks to the tireless argumentation done by Noor and myself in the lobbying round.

Our efforts throughout the day were not in vain, however, despite some of the defeats we suffered in terms of passing clauses/resolutions and defending our positions in the GA. The conference ended with the Bede's MUN team receiving an impressive five awards in total - Prithvi and I received Highly Commended Delegate awards for our work in Security Council B, Francis received a Special Mention award for his efforts in Security Council A, Amelia received a Highly Commended Delegate award for her work as the Chinese delegate in the Environmental committee, and the Chinese delegation in the Auditorium General Assembly (Zoe, Amelia, Ollie) received the Highly Commended Delegation award for their work there. This marked the end of a remarkably successful MUN conference yielding many awards for our team members, but more importantly, a day of great fun for us as we gained valuable debating, negotiating and public speaking experience! We would like to thank Miss Webster and Mr McIntosh for their efforts to support us in the lead up to and throughout the entire conference, and we are certainly looking forward to more experiences like this in the future.



Hau Tak Ng
Lower Sixth Pupil

LANGUAGES

Bede's Languages Faculty launched the academic year with a full trust-wide Languages Week, celebrating international communication in an exciting range of modern as well as classical languages through a programme of events orchestrated by Head of MFL - Miss Ganivet, and her team, Head of Classics - Miss Saoulidou, and Head of EAL - Mr Cook; and of course the Head of Faculty - Mr Oliver.

Jane Savage
Assistant to the Head of Faculty

EAL: PRE-SIXTH TRIP TO LONDON

On Thursday 8 December a group of 34 EAL pupils from eight different countries joined together and braved the weather on our annual Upper School theatre trip to London. Those who wanted a bit of history and culture engaged in a sightseeing walk around Westminster, taking in the splendour of Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and Trafalgar Square, while the rest enjoyed some shopping time, and of course eating time at Covent Garden. Diego Scarfato was particularly delighted to have found an Italian eatery that served real Neapolitan Pizza, Naples being his home city. This delight was doubled when he received a discount for being Italian.

We then walked the short distance to the theatre, the weather being very kind to us, where we watched and enjoyed and occasionally joined in the 23 ABBA songs that helped make up the story. A great time was had by one and all.



Jane Savage
Assistant to the Head of Faculty

CHINESE PUPILS VISIT BRITISH MUSEUM

It was superb to have our first Languages Faculty joint Prep and Senior school outing of the year earlier this term, when pupils visited an excellent exhibition sharing the often overlooked stories of anglo-chinese trade and cultural exchange in the 19th Century. 'China's Hidden Century', imaginatively curated by The British Museum, brought together stunning artefacts from exquisite calligraphic scrolls to embroidered garments worn by royalty and fine porcelain. For pupils more used to western exhibits and artistic styles, this exhibition was a real revelation, yet many were also struck by the inventive way the museum told the story of a century of migration through haunting screen projections of ghostly figures. This, for senior pupils studying Mandarin with Ms Yan, was a real highlight. Given the wealth of treasures left unexplored in the East Asian section alone, it seems likely that our Chinese pupils will be back soon to discover more history for themselves.



Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

LANGUAGES

MFL & CLASSICS/LATIN

A group of sixteen enthusiastic Prep School Year 7 pupils enjoyed taster sessions in Chinese and Italian put on by Miss Yan and Miss Massa, and a superb Latin lesson with Miss Saoulidou, as part of Languages Week.



A particular highlight of Languages Week was the Multilingual Open Mic event which brought Prep and Senior School pupils together respectively. Teddy Lawrence from the Prep School held the floor as he recited with gravitas in Swedish: I think we all realised that communication in language goes far beyond having a technical understanding. Dr Onofeghara read a piece of her own composition, I Belong, in both English and the Nigerian language of her relatives, demonstrating the merging of languages within identity. Miss Bonheur entertained us with a lively story in Creole, and Miss Graybehl's recitation of an extract from the Caitanya Bhagavata in Bengali was mesmerising. Topping and tailing the event were Miss Ray and her little son, Theo, touching all our hearts with a reading of Der Grueffelo in German, and Olivia Driver and Betsy Wilson indulging in Dr Seuss - reminding us all where our love of language begins.



Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

ENGLISH

The English Department was inundated with keen attempts at descriptive writing for the 'Wrack and Ruin' Year 9 Writing Competition at the beginning of the year, which brought to light a wealth of writing talent and imagination. A worthy group of winners and stand-outs, selected by their teachers and the competition judging panel, rather shyly attended their Laudation celebration and received their prizes. In the commended category for their writing were Isaac Mitchell, Missy Martin, Bay Ellis, Bella Emburey, and Bobby Harding; and the winners were Eloise Morris, Immy Oscroft, Matha Williams, Flora McLachlan, and Joseph Berry. These are the people to watch! This momentum will be sustained with regular opportunities across the year for these winners as well as everybody else to explore their ideas through writing, beyond the classroom.



In conjunction with the announcement of the Year 9 writing competition winners, the whole year group was privileged to receive an online author talk by visiting author Dr Helen Scales. Dr Scales is a British marine biologist and researcher based at the University of Cambridge, and has recently published an extraordinary non-fiction work titled, *The Brilliant Abyss* (Bloomsbury, 2022), in which she uses illuminating creative language to describe the indescribable - an inspiring style model for us all. Year 9 pupils were able to read some of Dr Scales' work, hear her excellent and highly accessible presentation, and ask questions of their own which she answered cheerfully and thoroughly. We are all better for this experience!



LANGUAGES

In September, the Sixth Form A Level English Literature pupils enjoyed a Study Day at the Emmanuel Centre, London, supporting their drama module. The study day consisted of five lectures exploring key concepts and tragic drama including Aristotle's ideas about tragic heroes, AC Bradley's influential ideas of a fatal flaw, and tragedy as a reflection of social disintegration and disorder. One lecture explored the extent to which we could regard John Keats as a tragic poet whilst another considered Arthur Miller's modern American tragedies. The highlight of the day was the talk by actor and director Nick Hutchinson, who invited pupils to consider how staging, costume and stage craft impact upon meanings. An invaluable extension and enrichment opportunity.



Continuing curriculum enrichment for Sixth Form English Literature, the pupils were treated to a Crime Fiction Lecture with Dr Andrew Pepper of Queen's College, Belfast. On the 21 September, Upper and Lower Sixth English Literature A-Level pupils gathered for a question and answer session with Dr Andrew Pepper, Head of English at Queen's University Belfast and a specialist in crime fiction.



Bringing together a belief in peer-sharing and cooperation across the year groups, and a genuine and over-spilling love for ideas, language and literature which we are keen to see percolate and pervade through the pupil body, this term has seen the launch of the Lower School Lit Academy. A group of around twenty pupils from Years 9 and 10 will come together once a fortnight for a literature experience - atmosphere, books, and an introduction to a range of specialist English literature genres and ideas delivered by a rota of passionate members of the department. Plentiful hot chocolate and cookies do no harm in setting the mood. The Lit Academy kicked off with Dr Savage's session on Modernism: a broken world, a preoccupation with death, and a new form for the novel. A lively pace was maintained with one more session squeezed in before Christmas, as Mr Sealey delivered a seasonally apt session on gothic literature in December. His magical presentation spanned literature from Bram Stoker's Dracula through Ann Radcliffe to Angela Carter, and he even managed to connect gothic literature with the contemporary notion of the 'uncanny valley' in AI!

Mr Sealey, Upper Sixth English teacher, led the discussion with Dr Pepper as he helped pupils understand the origins of crime writing, and the ways in which we might understand this ever changing, and increasingly culturally relevant genre. Dr Pepper outlined ways in which the texts intersect with other literary movements, and put forward the case for why, after so long, crime fiction deserves the critical attention it is now receiving.

Pupils left the discussion with a new-found understanding of the genre, which will be invaluable as they dive into their study of crime fiction as part of their A Level syllabus. Not only was this a vital event for the pupils' academic development, but it was also an inspiring insight into the world of university English study, and the department looks forward to welcoming academics in conversation on dramatic comedy and eco-poetry next term.



Jane Savage
Assistant to the Head of Faculty

LANGUAGES

Q&A WITH FOOTBALL JOURNALIST JAMIE JACKSON

It was a pleasure earlier this term to catch up with previous guest of the English department and The Guardian's football writer for Manchester United and Manchester City, Jamie Jackson. Jamie joined us to discuss careers in football and sports journalism, to explore the craft of the sportswriter and, of course, to regale us with brilliant anecdotes about interviews with football legends like Brian Clough, Wayne Rooney, Jose Mourinho and Ronaldo.

It was superb to hear Jamie discuss the art of creating news and capturing the elation and despair that sometimes comes with elite sport. As well as advising pupils to enjoy their sport, Jamie's view of what made a writer was clear: lots of reading. Jamie attributed his own career success due to a desire to read, his interest in literary fiction as well as sports writing, and lots of determination to chase his goals. With a sports writing competition on its way in the summer term, our budding journalists will be able to put Jamie's advice to the test soon!

Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

BEDE'S BOOK BORROW

The Bede's Big Book Borrow has become something of a tradition, and it was superb to see over 250 pupils in the library on Friday 8th December to take out something interesting to read over the holidays. A huge thank you to our brilliant librarian, Ms Sarah Evans, for single-handedly setting up all the stalls, for issuing hundreds of books on the day, and for providing sweets and Christmas cheer. Pupils and parents can also look out for details of our Christmas holiday 'answering back' competition, which invites pupils to share their ideas of Christmas reads through the form of a short podcast. We do wish all of our pupils many hours of happy reading over the holidays.

Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

NEXT TERM...

English pupils have lots to look forward to next term. Not only will we have the winning 'answering back' podcast entries on holiday reads, but also our annual Eco-writing competition on environmental issues, a ghost story writing and reading event, world book day celebrations, and several live reading events to promote wellbeing.



Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

READING FOR WELLBEING

Reading widely is undoubtedly a way to develop a pupil's academic talents, but recent research suggests that we often overlook the clear benefits that it brings for our wellbeing and mental health. English teacher Ms Arduino and school librarian Miss Evans give an update on several initiatives aimed at helping more Bede's pupils discover the power of personal reading.

As a school we are very aware and focused on the power of reading to improve mental health. It has been proven that reading for as little as six minutes a day can reduce stress by as much as 60%, and it is significantly more effective at doing so than other stress-busting go-tos such as listening to music, having a cup of tea, going for a walk, or gaming. With this in mind we have established, and will continue to introduce, various reading-for-wellbeing initiatives to encourage pupils to see reading as something enjoyable, rather than just an extension of their schoolwork. This isn't just a message from English teachers; in recent assemblies, pupils have heard from Mr Byrne (sport) Dr

LANGUAGES

Onofeghara (Economics) Miss Jackson (Business) and Mr Richards (Maths) about why reading matters to them.

There are many ways to connect with reading. 'Brilliant Books & Biscuits' is our weekly library activity, attended by many pupils from all year groups, which offers them the opportunity to dial down the busy pace of school and simply enjoy a great book. The books are read aloud to the group by Miss Evans and Miss Arduino, meaning the pupils can just relax and read along, or do some mindful colouring while they listen. For some pupils, it has been a while since they were read to, and this aspect of the activity is particularly appealing. The library environment is relaxed and comfortable, the company is always fantastic and the half-time cookies and hot chocolate offer the pupils some time to reflect on what they're reading, their school day and enjoy some time for discussion with their friends.

Brilliant Books covers three to five novels a term from the Young Adult genre, mostly shadowing awards such as the Yoto Carnegies and the Southern Schools Book Awards. The books are therefore current and relevant, allowing pupils to experience themes and issues that they can relate to. Even better, the pupils get to keep their copies of the books!



The recent appointment of seventeen Reading Ambassadors ranging from Years 9 to 13 has given reading for wellbeing at Bede's a real boost. The Ambassadors for reading will be presenting their personal experiences of reading and wellbeing in weekly assemblies, alongside teachers doing the same, bringing this essential message to the fore. Next term, Miss Evans and Miss Arduino are starting a Reading Ambassadors activity, its aim being to spread the love of reading throughout school and beyond. Our Ambassadors will produce Booktok reviews, create a podcast focussing on interviews with authors, go out to local primary schools to deliver 'story time' for younger children, and visit local bookshops for inspiration and enjoyment. And that's just the start!

Last but by no means least, Mr Oliver recently created and installed the Red Door competition. Several tiny red doors were placed around the campus, each with an uplifting literary quote behind the door.

Pupils and staff were invited to seek out the doors and read the quotes hidden within, and the three winners (one from First Year-Lower Fifth, one from Upper Fifth-Upper Sixth, and one staff member) were the first to find all six doors and make it up to the library to tell Miss Evans. The pupils won book tokens and the staff member enjoyed a bottle of wine. Reading for wellbeing is an ongoing focus for the School, and we look forward to telling you more about our brilliant Reading Ambassadors' adventures next time.

Over the Christmas break, we hope all pupils find an opportunity to disappear into the unique world of a book, and we'll be writing to parents about a competition which allows pupils to share their holiday reading with a podcast competition called 'answering back'. Happy holidays and happy reading!

Sarah Evans and Jeannette Arduino
Librarian and English Teacher

STOCKING FILLER LIST

THE GIFT OF READING
IF YOU'RE IN NEED OF SOME STOCKING FILLER INSPIRATION, HERE ARE MY TOP 10 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023

- Wildtopple** by Alice Oseguera: Nick and Charlie are very much in love. They've finally said those three little words, and Charlie has almost persuaded his mum to let him sleep over at Nick's house. But with Nick going off to university next year, is everything about to change?
- Gods, Love and the Principles of Good Journalism** by Rebecca Ross: Gods, love and the principles of good journalism abound in this enemies-to-lovers fantasy which pitches two budding reporters into a dangerous magical war. A novel filled with hope, and the unparalleled power of love.
- Good Guide: Murder** by Holly Jackson: This ever-popular YA crime thriller, featuring a likeable teenage sleuth out to crack a cold case as part of a homework assignment, has been re-released in a collector's edition hardback. Perfect for fans of the series.
- One of Us is Lying** by Karen M. McManis: The explosive final instalment in the acclaimed One of Us series. Time for a new game. Bayview. But when a member of the crew disappears, it's clear this game just got serious - and no-one understands the rules.
- Crissin'** by Kaye Dutton: This is a profound story of hope, and the very real tragedies of the refugee crisis. Natalie's world is falling apart and Sammy has fled his home in Eritrea. A twist of fate brings them together, but is their hope enough to mend a broken world?
- Truth Be Told** by Dana Brown: Tara is from Berry. Faith is from Armagh. Their lives are very different, but they look exactly the same. Why? As they work together to unravel the mystery, they set in motion revelations about the past.
- When Our Worlds Collided** by Danielle Armando: A stabbing brings together three teenagers from very different walks of life. What follows flips their worlds upside down, making them question the deep-rooted prejudice and racism that exists within the police, media, and society.
- Pony** by R.J. Palacio: The author of the modern classic Wonder delivers another powerful and compassionate tale, centred on a boy's quest to find his abducted father, aided only by his ghostly companion and a mysterious pony.
- Agony** by Sarah J. Maas: Bridgerton meets Charlie's Angels in this delightful period romp about an all-female detective agency righting wrongs and infiltrating a scandalous upper class world, using their wit and bravery to unmask a villain.
- Afterlove** by Janina Byrne: After Ash is killed in a car accident she must choose between becoming a Reaper, gathering souls for the afterlife, or seeing her first love, Peppy again, in this quirky supernatural romance.

MISS EVANS IN THE LIBRARY WISHES YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

INQUIRY LEARNING

We have had a super busy Autumn term with a plethora of different activities, tasks, assessments and events happening once again. The pupils have been showcasing their incredible commitment both in and out of the classroom. This term has been busy with pupils in the Lower Fifth, Pre-Sixth and Lower Sixth years embarking on their new programs, alongside the increased pressures of the Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth years with upcoming exams and final deadlines and many mocks having been sat. The pupils are getting to grips with these new challenges well and are going from strength to strength. As we continue to grow, so does the commitment and dedication of our wonderful pupils. What a superb start to what has been a very eventful term.

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

BTEC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

In October half term, during our visit to South Africa, Animal Management pupils learnt how to rehabilitate African Black Footed Penguins (a critically endangered species) that had been taken ill in the wild.

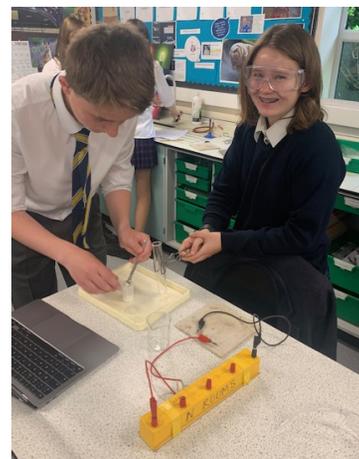
They also visited and volunteered at Nyosi Reserve, a 2,500-hectare land parcel made up of five of South Africa's nine indigenous biomes, sprawling across rolling and picturesque plains and valleys in the Eastern Cape of the country. The aim of Nyosi is to restore the natural balance in the reserve. This is achieved through the unwavering passion of their team of conservationists and the careful reintroduction of key ecological species, fauna and flora. Pupils helped radio track endangered elephants and cheetah, clear invasive vegetation and monitor wildlife.



Paul Juniper
Head of Animal Management

BTEC APPLIED SCIENCE

The Upper Fifth pupils have been engaged with Chemistry - testing the properties of various materials and learning why we use them. Mish Lee and Josh Hammond testing the properties of silicon dioxide - a really useful substance in the production of glass! A lovely demonstration of the properties of ionic substances.



In addition to Chemistry, Upper Fifth pupils have been working really hard on the examined unit - honing their revision skills and ensuring their knowledge is at the highest level. The exam will be 31 January so good luck to all those taking the exam.

The Lower Fifth pupils have started working on pollution investigation. We measured the levels of oxygen in our lovely lake and checked out the lichen growing all around our site (which means the air quality at Bede's is fantastic!)

Kathy Clarke
Science Teacher

BTEC BUSINESS

We have started how we mean to continue for the rest of the year, with commitment, dedication and enthusiasm from the onset. It has been a fast-paced term that has seen introductions to the courses fly by. The Lower Sixth groups have been engaged in coursework and exam preparation, with investigations into the business environment and marketing campaigns ready for their Autumn submission deadline and May exam. While the Upper Sixth have been spending all their time preparing for their mock exams in Finance and Marketing, ready for their real January exams as soon as we return. Much work has been completed but there is much more to be done to secure their desired grade. The pupils have been working on their



INQUIRY LEARNING

preparations for their upcoming business event 'A Casino Night' and have been holding lots of group meetings to iron out any potential problems.

The Recognition awards have been handed out to Noah Parkin in the Upper Sixth for his exceptional efforts both in and out of the classroom. As they embark on the finance exam in January, the feeling is that things are 'starting to get very real now'. All the focus and attention has turned to revision and preparation.



The same has been true for our Upper Fifth who had their Finance exam on 7 December. They have worked really hard this term investigating their business finance topics. We saw exceptional work from Edward Tinkler this term, which earned him an Ovation award too. The Lower Fifth Recognition award went to Moon Ng, for her continued efforts both in and out of class and George Wright for his extra work on revision and preparation for the exams. The Lower Fifth have been working on their first two coursework assignments into the marketing mix and market research. They will start to tackle the trickier concepts of KPIs next term, so will need to take advantage of the break while they can!



*Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning*

BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The BTEC IT pupils in the Lower Fifth have now started making their movies as part of their unit on how to create digital video. They have had great fun filming using tools such as green screen editing techniques. In the New Year they will move onto creating their animation. We are looking forward to a demonstration from a professional graphics and animation expert who works on accounts such as Barclays, Coca Cola and other leading brands to build animations and graphics to support multi-media marketing campaigns such as website resources, TV commercials and graphics for social media campaigns. This is due to take place at the end of January and all the BTEC pupils will be encouraged to take part. Congratulations to Tobi Ayoola for an outstanding first assignment, he has won the Recognition award for this term.



The Upper Fifth pupils are preparing for their exam which takes place on 18 January and are firmly in revision mode. All revision materials and past papers are on the Google Classroom. With the end of their course in sight, following the exam they will start putting together their plans for their final website, a digital portfolio, which acts as an online CV to demonstrate their skills not only in IT, but their wider interests and subjects in and out of school.

The Lower Sixth will soon be going through their mocks for their examined units and we wish them all the best with those in the New Year, they have prepared very well. Our Upper Sixth are diligently working through their final course work units, such as the programming, social media and website development units, good luck to all on completing those.



Congratulations to Patrick Flamman for his efforts in the Level 3 course - his work has been outstanding.

*Chris Betts
Head of Computing and IT*

INQUIRY LEARNING

BTEC PERFORMING ARTS (DANCE)

The Lower Fifth pupils have been developing their dance skills in the jazz and contemporary styles whilst documenting their SMART targets within a journal presentation. They have been working towards an assessment to see if and how they have progressed throughout the first term.



The Upper Fifth pupils have started choreographies for their individual showcase unit devising two contrasting pieces to the stimulus 'Give and Take'. We have seen some wonderful interpretations and ideas showcasing what a talented cohort they are.

The Lower Sixth dancers have been researching influential dance practitioners in the jazz and contemporary performing arts industry. They have been learning original repertoire from Chicago the musical, West Side Story, Hofesh Shechter and the famous Cygnets from Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake.



The Upper Sixth pupils have been working on their individual devised pieces to the stimulus 'Art in Motion'. Each pupil needs to choose their own dancers, timetable their rehearsals and choreograph a three minute routine developing the theme with their own interpretation. This is all logged within a presentation showing the thoughts behind their idea and development of the material.

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

BTEC MARKETING

The Lower Sixth have made an excellent start to the course so far. They have been engaged in both the coursework and exam units and are making great headway. We have a single A Level equivalent (Extended Certificate) and double A Level equivalent groups (Diploma) this year for the first time, as well as our BTEC Marketing in a Year group. The Lower Sixth pupils have completed their first assignment and have been working on developing their understanding on how businesses segment, target and position their products for Unit 3. For Unit 2, the examined unit, we have been working through the key fundamental principles of marketing investigating topics such as the internal and external environments, marketing analysis tools and lots of exam style questions. For the Doubles, we have been working on digital marketing campaigns, ready for them to take on the challenge of completing their own digital campaign next year. The recognition awards have been awarded to Finn Austin in the Lower Sixth for his continued commitment and Mia Gaymerin in the Lower Sixth earlier in the term for her determination to understand everything she attempts. So far, so good!



Having to juggle the demands of a two year program in half the class time is not the easiest, but the group is working well. They have tackled marketing concepts of segmentation, targeting and positioning, and are starting the creation of their promotional plan for a new business idea, as well as looking at the organisation of, and the possible career paths in, the marketing industry. Progress is well underway for the Unit 2 marketing exam in January, where pupils have been investigating the basic marketing principles. A superb start to a fantastic group!

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

INQUIRY LEARNING

BTEC MEDIA

A tremendously fun but busy term! The Lower Sixth pupils have been working really hard on their research techniques assignments, learning about focus groups, audience profiling, pre-production, budgeting, casting and much more. In addition, they have been working on the editing side of media production and have completed assignments on the history of film editing whilst also learning the basics of our edit package, Adobe Premiere Pro. Congratulations to Lower Sixth pupil Sadie-Rose Mclean-Young for all her hard work this term – she has won the Recognition Award for going above and beyond.



The Upper Sixth pupils have completed their music videos and have also been working on shooting and editing their television ads, ready for submission in the New Year. Audio, colour-grading and use of our studio space and new lighting options have all been explored and the pupils are working very hard to produce a near-professional level of finish. Without doubt, a real highlight of the term was our trip to Pinewood Studios. We were lucky enough to hear some great talks about a range of careers in the film industry and were able to spend time exploiting the huge range of superb exhibitions, not to mention hanging out with Star Wars characters! Another great term on BTEC Media. Have a great holiday and see you all refreshed and ready in January!

Rick Williams
Head of Media & Film Studies

BTEC MUSIC

This term has been another busy and exciting term for both the Lower and Upper Sixth BTEC bands. Both groups have been busy preparing for the Gala concert at the end of term. Parents, staff and Governors attended the Gala concert which saw two performances over two nights. The Gala concert included a number of varied performances from pupils across the year groups, with the highlight of this black-tie occasion being the BTEC bands. The newly formed Lower Sixth BTEC band gave a spell-binding performance of 'Snowman' by Sia. The Upper Sixth BTEC band performed two pieces, opening with 'I

Aint Worried', which was recently featured in the new 'Top Gun' film, Joseph Connolly on guitar opening the song with the main tune from the Top Gun film on electric guitar. The Upper Sixth were joined on stage by members of the Lower Fifth who sang and provided extra percussion parts; these future BTEC pupils were inspired whilst performing alongside the very talented Upper Sixth. The second song performed by the Upper Sixth was 'The Thrill Is Gone' by Raye. This upbeat, energetic funk number was performed with precision and drive and a huge congratulations must go to Seb Robinson for leading from the drums so brilliantly. Congratulations to all of our BTEC pupils: Maya, Emma, Carmen, Patrick, Archie, Josh, Jolie, Lucy, Skye, Luciano, Joseph and Seb for such a successful term. Preparations are now underway for the BTEC gig taking place in March which has as its theme "Through The Decades", watch this space!



James Aburn
Assistant Director of Music

INQUIRY LEARNING

BTEC PRODUCTION ARTS

In an exciting blend of exploration and innovation, our production artists have been delving into the world of podcast creation, seeking guidance from industry professionals. Interviews with actors, talent agents, and sound designers have been a cornerstone of their journey, offering invaluable insights to elevate their understanding of the world of work within the performing arts. The creativity of our production arts enthusiasts has extended beyond the podcast realm, with the creation of artistic installations now adorning various spaces around the School. These installations, meticulously crafted, serve as a testament to the boundless imagination and talent within our vibrant community.



Will Rennison
Head of Academic Drama

BTEC PSYCHOLOGY

The Psychology pupils have been busy revising and practising their skills ahead of their January exams. The topics covered across the year groups are aggression, gender, consumer behaviour, stress and addiction, and how they are underpinned by different psychological approaches. Our pupils have put together news articles focusing on one of these, the learning approach, and below is an excerpt from the work of Sadie Mclean-Young, the winner of the first half-term's psychology award;

“Social Learning Theory (SLT) states that individuals develop gender by imitating role models. SLT states that observational learning takes place, and that this learning is reinforced vicariously. Vicarious reinforcement occurs when a person witnesses a model being rewarded for behaving in a gender-appropriate way. For example, a girl being praised for playing quietly with her dolls.

Gender development can be explained through operant conditioning, which suggests that gender development is shaped like other behaviours through reinforcement and punishment. Reinforcement is the main idea to operant conditioning, this consists of positive reinforcement and negative reinforcement. Positive reinforcement is

when something desired is given in response to a particular behaviour, for example in relation to gender development, a boy plays really well in a football game and is then rewarded with a new football. Whereas in a girl's case she helps clean the kitchen so is rewarded with additional pocket money. Negative reinforcement is when something undesired is taken away in response to a behaviour. For example, if a girl wears the “pretty” dress her grandma got her, she doesn't have to do the washing up. These methods of reinforcement reinforce gender-stereotyped behaviour, so that girls will grow up in an environment where they are rewarded for doing “lady-like” roles and boys rewarded for being active and into sports.”

This great work is just one of four explanations for gender development the pupils need to learn and apply to different scenarios in their exams. I'm sure they will do well if they can emulate this great work by Sadie.

Laurence Collier
Psychology Teacher

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

IGCSE Physical Education pupils have been focussed on practical sports assessments and filming.



Upper Fifth Sport Science pupils are completing their final coursework project which has a deadline

of the end of this term. After Christmas they will be working towards the examined unit (R180), the exam date is 20 May.

Lower Sixth BTEC Sport Coaching pupils have made a great start to their practical sports coaching assessments, delivering high quality lessons to local primary school pupils. As part of the assignment task, pupils need to plan three sports coaching sessions to deliver to young children.

Upper Sixth BTEC pupils are beginning their formal investigation into fitness and health screening and will soon be carrying out testing to complete their main assignment task of the year for Unit B.

Ali Rowsell
Head of Physical Education

INQUIRY LEARNING

HOME ECONOMICS (BTEC LEVEL 2 IN COOKING)

This term pupils have been using a wide range of cooking techniques and skills in their practical lessons. They have made lasagne, spaghetti bolognese, cakes, brownies, pizza and bakewell tart. It was nice to be able to make gingerbread biscuits this week in the run up to Christmas. Hopefully, pupils will be able to further develop their skills over the holidays by cooking at home.



Mary Leggett

Head of Partnerships and Social Responsibility

PSHE

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education supports pupils to develop knowledge, skills and attributes needed to stay healthy, safe and prepare them for life and work in the modern world. PSHE education helps pupils to achieve their academic potential, and equips them with skills they will need in the future.



Core themes;

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Living in the wider world

PSHE at Bede's is delivered across all areas of the School including tutor time, in PSHE lessons, assemblies, workshops, chapel, in the HWBC, sign-posting to online resources, and more. Parents can find advice and guidance linked to PSHE topics on the school website and on the Parent Portal.

In the Autumn Term, we have covered the following topics:

International Day of Democracy - 15 September

International Day of Peace - 21 September
Black History Month - October
World Teachers' Day - 5 October
World Mental Health Day - 10 October
November - November
World Kindness Day - 13 November
Anti-Bullying Week - 13 - 17 November
International Men's Day - Sun 19 November
Winter Wellbeing

These themes have been shared via our PSHE website with resources, advice and guidance for pupils. The site has been shared in PSHE lessons and via Google Classroom. Resources have included news stories, debate topics, quizzes and videos.

In PSHE lessons, pupils across year groups have studied a wide range of topics including: healthy lifestyle choices, managing influence, first aid, sexual health, positive relationships, consent, the impact of pornography, staying safe online and financial planning. The Sixth Form has had support from our Careers & Employability team with UCAS applications and planning for their next steps beyond Bede's. These have included support sessions, personal statement writing workshops, and university talks.



Rudy Northcott was nominated for our PSHE Recognition Award this half term, as both of his PSHE teachers awarded him with merits! Mr McKeefry shared that Rudy offered mature and insightful contributions on Unit 7: Gambling. Ms Excell said Rudy showed excellent involvement in PSHE Unit 8: Gangs. He offered to read with others with the group poem. Well done for engaging so well in the lessons Rudy!



Pamela Nikiteas
Head of PSHE

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INQUIRY LEARNING

EPQ AND HPQ

As we embark on the latest project qualifications this term, we have seen an impressive thirty-nine Lower Sixth pupils embark on their EPQ projects this term. Pupils have been very well engaged as they chose a topic which they are personally interested in which they are going to investigate and we are seeing interesting titles emerging out of the woodwork investigations into foreign investment in football, how British Colonialism affects South Asian politics, the impact structures and forms have on fashion and a performance project to devise and perform a piece based on the struggles the visually impaired dancers face.

As we near the completion of the January series projects for the Upper Sixth, we have seen a considerable amount of 'blood, sweat and tears (not literally, thankfully!) going into the tweaks and re-tweaks to secure the highest possible marks for the project submissions. We shall receive the results in March, so fingers crossed until then!

The HPQs have made a great start to their projects. The themes that are emerging are insightful, well thought out and I hope will provide a very interesting read. Investigations have begun into what mental abilities are needed to be a successful athlete, how analog horror is effective, a consideration of whether the voting age should be lowered to sixteen and whether mental health has links to the creation of art? Some interesting topics are emerging!



Grey Hazan received a Recognition Award earlier in the term for his commitment, excellent quality and quantity of work produced so far and the EPQ award went to Issy De Silva for the efforts she put into completion and also James Berry (pictured) for the Lower Sixth.

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

ARTS AWARD

This term has seen Scout Brown look at designing her own website and interviewing Mr Turner (Head of Art) exploring all facets of art installation and delving into the world of fast fashion. Scout's leadership project involves curating an art exhibition where she will look at both fine art and ceramics and how that will inform her own studies in A-Level Art.

Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Jadyn and Dia have worked hard on the Unit 1 module for Financial Education. They have all passed the test, which is excellent. Personally, I have really enjoyed working with both pupils and hearing their own views on what may constitute good financial management. They are very well informed on many of the topics in the course and have also tried to teach me about crypto currencies, which has been fascinating. Jaydn pipped Dia to the post this half of term to win the Recognition Award for his hard work and dedication - well done!



Jane King
Teacher of Business and Economics

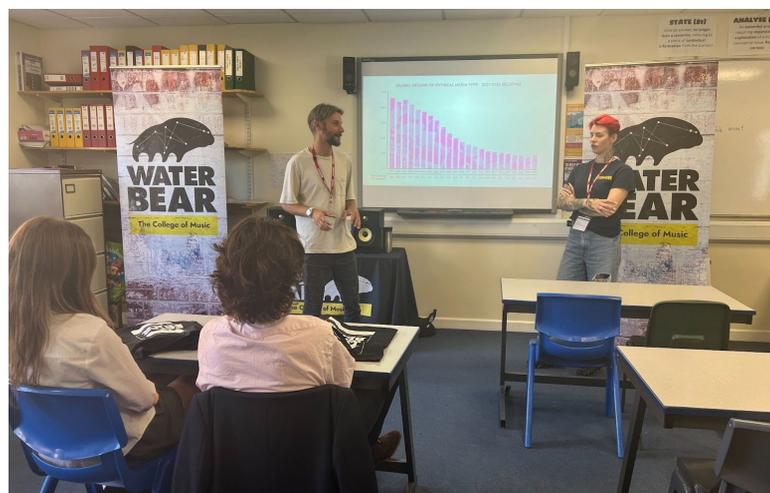
SPORTS LEADERS

Sports Leaders Class of 2023/4 have taken on new challenges to explore and understand key skills needed in order to be a strong and effective young sports leaders. This has included problem solving egg drop challenges, communication and teamwork workshops and who can build the tallest marshmallow pasta tower. Unfortunately, no tower was strong enough to hold the ultimate chocolate freddo but pupils remain optimistic for a rematch in the New Year. All pupils have delivered excellent first coaching sessions in their chosen sport and are making brilliant progress in being able to lead and be positive role models to others.

Kyra Merchant
Teacher of Physical Education

CAREERS

There is never a dull moment in the Bede's Careers Department, and this term has been no exception! The Autumn term always offers a hub-bub of excitement and exploration as the Upper Sixth make key decisions about their time after Bede's. Alongside our hopeful Oxbridge and medic candidates, we've seen more wide-ranging higher education applications than ever, including midwifery, animation, teaching, international relations, law, urban planning, pharmacy, renewable engineering engineering, theoretical physics, computer science, and anthropology, to name but a few, alongside the more traditional subjects. As the UCAS deadline approaches, we look forward to seeing the last of the applications submitted, and to watch the offers come in! Similarly, a cohort of Upper Sixth pupils are also exploring international universities, planned gap years, apprenticeships or heading straight out into the world of work, and these pupils are being supported with our careers action plans.



There has also been a far-reaching offer of careers seminars this term, with visiting speakers from the RAF, Burnett Global International, Waterbear, the University of Sheffield, Plumpton College, Willington School and the University of the Arts, London. Careers curiosity also extends throughout the School, and this term, the wonderful Mr Oliver has run a number of webinars for Sixth Form pupils interested in real estate, sports journalism, investments and wealth management, and the Media department ran a fantastic careers trip to Pinewood Studios.

We've celebrated Green Careers Week across the School to raise awareness of the changing labour market in this field, in conjunction with the schools' Environment Committee. The Upper Sixth Animal Management pupils also undertook mock interviews with us, in advance of their work placement at Drusillas, run by our formidable Ms Graybehl.

This month, a group of Sixth Formers took a career visit to Brighton Magistrates Court. Our budding lawyers, criminologists and social workers were able to immerse themselves in the inner workings of a courtroom, have a Q&A with sitting magistrates, and observe four cases during the afternoons proceedings. Meanwhile, the First Year's are about to embark on a careers project over the Christmas break, to start an early exploration of career ideas and possible GCSE choices. Parents- you may get asked a few questions about what animal type you are!

And lastly, if you've not seen it, a quick plug about our regular Careers Bulletin, providing a vast array of opportunities for careers awareness, seminars, and online work experience can be found in the parent newsletters.



Deborah Franks
Head of Careers and Employability

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GET TO KNOW THE BEDE'S COMMUNITY

We have interviewed one staff member and one pupil to encourage us to get to know each other... First up is Harrison Tradewell!

Which year are you in and what are you studying at Bede's?

I am in Year 11 (Upper Fifth), and I am studying Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Business, Economics, Spanish, and Computer Science.



Which era in history would you most like to have lived through and why?

I would have to say the Renaissance because it would be fascinating to witness so many innovations and new ideas first hand.

Which places in the world are on your bucket list?

I would love to go to Australia, Venezuela and Japan.

What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?

The Barcelona city skyline.

Who are your ideal dinner guests? (Dead or alive)

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Stephen Hawking, Plato, Julius Caesar, Marie Curie, and Michelle Obama.

What was the last book that you read that was so good you didn't want to finish it?

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

What's your favourite restaurant or pub?

Any decent steakhouse.

Best advice you have ever been given?

I know it's a bit of a clichè but that doesn't make it any less valuable - 'Treat people the way you want to be treated.'

Favourite TV show?

It's a tie between 'Game Of Thrones' and 'The Walking Dead'.

Favourite film or TV character?

James Bond, Tyrion Lanister, and Deadpool.

Next up is our Director of Performing Arts, Mrs Lewis...

Tell us about your role at Bede's?

Director of Performing Arts



Tell us a bit about where you're from, your education journey, your career past etc.?

I originally hail from Middlesbrough in the North East and travelled further North to study Drama at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now The Conservatoire of Scotland). Glasgow was such a fantastic place to live and I've made lifelong friends. I also taught and directed my first play as part of the associate programme and this experience inspired me to consider teaching.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

My family.

Who are your ideal dinner guests? (Dead or alive)

Three of my lovely friends from far and wide who I rarely get to see as we're all so busy. A politician or two so we can all have a good debate and my late father.

Is there a book that has changed your life/way of thinking?

Touching the Void by Joe Simpson is an account of two mountaineers who survived a near death situation and their story is quite humbling.

What is your favourite book and why?

The book I've read a lot over the years is the Time Travellers Wife by Audrey Niffenegger. It's just a great story and time travelling fantasy.

How do you relax?

Walking my sprocker, Albie, in the woods or beach is the greatest mindfulness activity there is... pottering in the garden, reading and the highs and lows of supporting Brighton.

The best advice you have ever been given?

On raising children : everything is a phase.

What piece of advice would you give to today's teenagers?

Turn off your phone.

SPORT

CRICKET

Interview with Lower Fifth Pupil, Jake Vosloo: Winner of the D40 Bowling Award 2023

When did you start playing cricket and what ignited your passion for the sport?

I always remember playing cricket in the garden with my Dad since I was very young but I joined Mayfield Cricket Club when I was aged 10. I joined Sussex D40 Squad which is a team within the National Disabled Cricket League this year.

Could you tell us more about Sussex Disability Cricket?

Sussex Cricket runs three county disability squads. All three squads train during winter and spring before representing Sussex in fixtures and competitions against other counties and local clubs during the cricket season. I am part of the Sussex D40 squad, which plays a 40 over, hardball version of cricket and competes in the ECB National D40 Quest League.

It is incredible for a 14 year old to win an adult senior cricket award! Were you expecting to win?

I had no idea that I was going to win! But I was very proud to be the top wicket taker of the season and have the best bowling figures. Winning the award was a wonderful surprise, and it was great to be presented with it by old Bedian Archie Lenham.

Tell us about your time so far playing cricket at Bede's...

Cricket at Bede's is just brilliant! I played for the U14A last year and the U15A team this year. All of the coaches are easy to talk to, listen to your concerns and provide great advice. I love playing with other schools in cup games and competitions around the county. You get to learn from other amazing cricketers. The team spirit at Bede's is unmatched!

Who is your biggest inspiration?

Definitely my parents! They keep me going when a game doesn't go the way I hoped and I need some encouragement. Throughout all the highs and lows, they always tell me that even the best sportsmen have bad days and with hard work, you can achieve anything.

What are your hopes for the future?

I definitely want to play for my school as much as I can! I would like to get into the first cricket team and my dream is to one day get to the England disability team!



SPORT

HOCKEY

Hockey this term has seen almost a hundred fixtures played, across our performance and participation teams. With our 1st team and U14 Girls competing in England Hockey Tier 1 competitions.

The girls first team have had a tough season, but are still going strong in the last 16 of the national U19 plate. There have been a number of debuts in the first team with seven Year 10's playing their England hockey Tier 1 debut. This is promising signs for the future of the girls program at Bede's.

Despite boys hockey predominantly being in the Spring term, our boys took to the indoor court. The U16 Boys indoor team won the Sussex indoor competition, which gained them a spot in the regional round where they came a commendable 4th place in the region.

Current Bedians are also impressing outside of school. Congratulations to Erin M, Eliza H, Erin W, Zeb R who made it into their local talent academy. With Ella V-M, Amelia P, Tessa C, Jesse Mc-Y, Will D, Laura H and Alfie P making it into the talent academy feeder program. Charlotte W made her premier league debut playing alongside former Bedian Issy Field.



Chris Borsoi
Director of Hockey

FOOTBALL

It has been another fantastic start to the season for Bede's football with many individual and team achievements. Kobe Agbude and George Lythgoe have been selected for ISFA U17's and U16's respectively whilst Harvey Boddy and Liam Doyle have now fully

signed with BHAFC. In addition to this Corey Smart, Joss O'Hallaran, Kobe Agbude and Freddie Verrall have all been selected for Sussex U18's with Josiah Kallicharan and Ed Ovenden being selected for Sussex U16's. The U15B remain unbeaten so far this season an outstanding achievement, whilst the 14A's, 15A, 16A, 18A have progressed through rounds of ESFA and County Cups.



David Caryer
Director of Football

GIRLS FOOTBALL

The girls' football programme has experienced a surge in numbers, marked by impressive participation and commendable performances across various age categories. The teams, including the U18, U16, and U15 squads, have demonstrated their dedication and skill on the field. Despite facing challenges, the U18 teams have shown promise, with notable progress observed in the performances, special mention to standout players like Sophie Edwards and Andrea Morales Procel. The U16 teams have enjoyed success, with players such as Renata Amezcua Aranda, Valeria Tomas, Kaydia Pinnock, and all exhibiting significant development. Their achievements reflect not only individual growth but also effective teamwork. Meanwhile, the U15 teams have been particularly triumphant, securing impressive victories in the cup. The outstanding performances of Martha Flack, Sadie Gregory, Bailey Ellis, Fleur Kyffin-Walton, Isabel Costemalle Aleman, and Isabelle Ranger have been key contributors to the team's success, showcasing the depth of talent. We are looking forward to more football next term!

David Byrne
Director of Sport

SPORT

TENNIS

Tennis has been buzzing this term with busy Saturday hubs with Bedes development players getting competitive no matter what the weather.

We have also had local performance players (tennis Sussex players) training with us and playing in our Saturday Matchplay sessions - which has proved to be very popular.



The boys first team remain undefeated competing well again Sevenoaks, Eastbourne College and Hurst. The Academy players have worked incredibly hard in training sessions playing up to 12 hours a week and working hard in with their S&C programs with Mr Morriss.

A special individual mention to Pasha this term who has won two singles tournaments - a regional grade 3 under U14 and a county grade 4 U18 plus a doubles regional doubles tournament grade 3 U14! Well done Pasha!

Francesca Byrne
Head of Tennis

EQUESTRIAN

A good start to the school year for The Equestrian team. The team of Chloe Bremer, Nell Drake, Issi Drake and Bea Crawford qualified for the National Schools championships at Addington Equestrian Centre in Buckinghamshire. They all had a great weekend with the team finishing in 13 place and Chloe Bremer coming 6th individually out of 53 competitors.

The same team have also won the county show jumping qualifier winning the East Sussex Section so they will go forward to the school finals in May at Hickstead. They have been having regular training sessions at Golden Cross equestrian centre, with the outdoor showjumping course and also use of the indoor arena.

We are all looking forward to the spring term and planning on taking part in the arena evening qualifiers.

Katy McKeogh
Equestrian Team Manager



HOUSE COMPS: PUMPKIN CARVING



Dorms - 1st



Deis - 2nd



Camberlot - 3rd



Crossways



Charleston



Dorter

Dorms	1st
Deis	2nd
Camberlot	3rd
Crossways	4th
Charleston	5th
Dorter	6th
Bloomsbury	7th
Stud	8th
Knights	9th
Dicker	10th

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HOUSE COMPS: CHRISTMAS CAKES



Deis - 1st



Bloomsbury - 2nd



Stud - 3rd



Dorms



Dorter



Dicker

Deis	1st
Bloomsbury	2nd
Stud	3rd
Dorms	4th
Charleston	5th
Camberlot	6th
Dorter	7th
Crossways	8th
Knights	9th
Dicker	10th

ROUND THE HOUSES

Like many houses at Bede's, it has been a very busy Autumn Term for **Camberlot**. We are currently sat top of the schools house competition table, a position we

are not used to being in. This achievement is all down to the wonderful approach our pupils have had in house competitions, such as the amazing race, football, cross country, pumpkin carving and house music.



We are excitedly awaiting the Christmas Cake results. We've also enjoyed events such as the colour run, Airsoft, indoor bowls, house table tennis and FIFA competitions and most recently we took



Camberlot pupils on a midweek golf and McDonald's trip. Mr Collier, Deputy Housemaster, arranged a wonderful event called The Stache Bash where we raise money for

men's mental health and cancer awareness. Keeping with the charity theme our wonderful prefect team raised over £1000 for the Derby Kids as part of the

Camberlot charity week. We raised money by selling sweats, drinks and hot dogs at break and after school, cycling to Lapland (virtually) and on one day all Camberlot pupils wore a Santa or Elf outfit for the day.



Deis House has concluded a fantastic term filled with notable accomplishments and a strong sense of community. Tom Hodges' exceptional effort in the Tonbridge half marathon and 10k, raising an impressive £8347 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, was a standout moment showcasing the charitable spirit within our house.



Our boys shone in

house competitions, triumphing in the junior football contest and securing a commendable second place in the pumpkin carving competition.

Collaborating with Knights House, Deis

warmly welcomed First Years with a lively game of bubble football, fostering strong bonds among our members.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in making these events a success. We celebrated our tutors on World Teacher Day, acknowledging their dedication. The formal evening, themed "Belonging," emphasised the importance of unity, and this message was further reinforced during Kindness Week, when boys engaged in various acts of kindness.

Notably, the Perfect Team spearheaded a drive for donations of clean adult-sized socks for AntiFreeze, a homeless charity in Brighton. This initiative reflects our commitment to making a positive impact beyond our school walls.

As we bid farewell to a successful term, Deis House eagerly anticipates 2024, another year of achievements, community spirit, and spreading kindness among its members.

Bloomsbury has had a wonderful time enjoying the Autumn Term culminating in house festivities. We have celebrated successes in house competitions, drama productions and music recitals, Duke of Edinburgh explorers, Model United Nation delegates and some epic sports performances.

We have hugely enjoyed the run up to Christmas with decorating our lovely house, enjoying secret santa gifting and school Christmas lunch. The house has sung, reflected, ate great Italian lunches and jumped there way through the Ninja Warrior course to enjoy the house trip with school carol service.



Some special mentions must go to the Upper Sixth who have, nearly,

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ROUND THE HOUSES

got themselves university-ready with their UCAS applications, and offers coming in already. The Lower Sixth who have epitomised house spirit and taken on every challenge and activity to its fullest.



The Upper Fifth have already begun the exam season and already sat several exams and coursework deadlines. The Lower Fifth championed a pizza and social film night with the First Year pupils, and have really flown in the world of sport and academics. The First Year pupils have been a joy to have in the house, getting thoroughly stuck into whatever the School has to offer, and not only surviving, but massively enjoying the Outdoor Pursuits trip earlier in the term.

We have had huge success in house competitions, currently sitting in fourth place overall and taking second place in the hotly contested Christmas cake decorating competition - which I must say was 100% pupil led! Thank you for all your Love in a Bag donations - we had 35 donations as a house to contribute massively to the school's 100 bags that were sent to Hailsham Food Bank - thank you for



bringing Christmas cheer to others.

In the coming year, we look forward to our house formal evensong and dinner. Thank you for a top term! Have a wonderful Christmas break!

Dicker House has been led this term by Tom Brookes-White and Zach Bloom. Our overall focus has been on kindness and inclusion within our community. We have continued with our wonderful Nominations system, in which the boys' successes and achievements have been celebrated amongst the house.

The boys have also been practising the habit of



gratitude this term; there have been some wonderful stories. In house meetings we also now have a weekly EDI slot to promote inclusion and kindness. On an academic front,

we had more pupils this term receive straight 4's for either their classroom or independent study. Many congratulations to Harry Burgum who achieved straight 4's for both disciplines in both sets of reports this term. Harry is an amazing role model in Dicker.

In the Arts, Dicker won the House Music Competition with Gamberlot House, which was a super effort. In drama, we have had a wonderful number of boys cast in the school play *Guys and Dolls*:



congratulations to Archie Mustarde, Tom Lilley, Oscar Leatherdale, Will Dodsworth and Louis Nel, who are all cast. Patrick Rodohan, Ralph Treherne and Tom Lilley have also been involved in school music productions.

On a sporting front, Corey Smart, Joss O'Halloran, Luca Asfour, and Aldie Sadlier have been mainstays of the 1st XI football side, while Liam Doyle in Year 10 was selected for the England U15 training squad. And we continue to provide a significant number of A and B team members to the elevens down the school.

Though some stand-out performers have been mentioned in this report, I'd like to congratulate all Dickerites for their support of each other and the compassion they have shown this term. Well done to you all.

From day one this academic year **Crossways** has been alive with vibes of energy, drive and fun. As I said at our Crossways Christmas Dinner, it is not the place on the House Comps



ROUND THE HOUSES

leader board that counts, but what goes on in Crossways itself, each day, every week. From the very outset I watched as new girls were looked after by those who have a year or more behind them, as volunteers put their hand up to join The Environment Committee, to create our House Pumpkin entry, to organise the games at our party and discos. Crossways girls get stuck into whatever they are asked and they pour their heart into it.



What a willing and wonderful team the prefects are, so ably led by Nike, Mandy, Emma and Sophy, true examples to the whole house. The rest of the Sixth Form have been equally instrumental

in making my first Crossways Term so enjoyable. They led the way in House comps and I thoroughly enjoy viewings of Vivienne's addition to her wardrobe and hearing Valeria's stories! Outside lessons UCAS has taken up Upper Sixth time but well worth it as the offers for university next year are starting to arrive on virtual doorsteps.

Our First Year is a wonderful crew who I know have a super five years ahead of them. This lovely group has been such fun and always the first to volunteer - Caitlyn puts her hand up for cakes and Model MUN and Bay for hockey, Heather for anything! It has been wonderful to get to know them, a special team who I very much look forward to sharing their five years with.

Maria Galceran is a quiet but forceful Lower Fifth, leading the way formidably in her merits; the race is on to beat her to the top of the table! This group is also such a sporty bunch and Mesha was awarded her hockey colours and muddy boots adorn the corridor outside all the girls' rooms.



With GCSEs on the horizon, Mr Turner's Upper Fifth are working hard. Sophie was presented with an award for effort in our end of term assembly and the efforts from them all is tangible. These girls have also been at the forefront of the Model United Nations this term; the friendships are strong in this group, always encouraging and supporting one another.

And lastly, but by no means least, the energy brought by our Pre-Sixth

and Lower Sixth is tangible. Coming from all over the world girls share their language, culture and joie de vivre!

So it is the end of what I can honestly say has been a jam-packed and wonderful term, with year trips, bowling, House Music and our Christmas dinner being highlights among many others. Crossways girls, tutors, matrons and housekeepers have so much to look back on with great pride and when we return in 2024 we can look forward to many more shared times and memories.

This has been an action packed term as the mighty **Stud House**

have competed in competitions ranging from singing our hearts out in the house music competition

to carving pumpkins, from kicking a football around a muddy field to using our brains to do cunning maths challenges. We now stand at 5th in the House comps, with a good chance to move on up the leaderboard with Christmas cake decorating and Chapel singing to go.



The boys are quite understandably tired, but have benefitted from the care and attention from their excellent tutors, the brilliant Stud matrons, and the dedicated resident staff. Tutor group trips have happened throughout the last few months with the First Years and the Lower Fifth doing 'bowling and burger', the Upper Fifth hit some golf

balls and went for some fast food, and the Upper Sixth shot each other with lasers. The lower 6th will be having their trip out at the start of next term as we've run out of weeks!

The Stud House Cheese and Wine evening was a great success with many of the parents spending a pleasant few hours being entertained by our house band and our resident prestidigitator as well as having over 20 cheeses to sample.

We will also have had the Stud House Christmas



ROUND THE HOUSES

Dinner and enjoyed our Stud trip out to Ninja Arena by the time this newsletter goes out.

The boys have built friendships, enjoyed some good times, done some work, and now fully deserve their three weeks off. I hope to see you all refreshed and rejuvenated to start the spring term.

This term has been a hive of activity for **Dorter House**. The academic year started with a newly decorated and furnished house, new staff and lots of new girls but within a couple of weeks everyone felt at home



and part of the furniture. Our house outing to the Seven Sisters gave us a chance to get to know each other and there was time to chat and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Wednesday evenings are special in Dorter, as this is our mid-week treat night and many activities have taken place, both organised by prefects and staff, from pit fires and smores to bingo, to Halloween party games to the amazing Oktober Fest even including a spa night during assessment week.



A highlight of this term was the Dorter House formal, where we were treated to an incredible meal and an incredibly inspirational speech

by Miss Guntrip who explored the concept of being kind and how important that is when pursuing your goals. We were also treated to many performances from Dorter pupils which reminded everyone how talented our young ladies are.

The latter part of the term has been taken up with everything Christmas: House Christmas dinner, Parent Festive Event, Secret Santa, Mischievous elves, a Pantomime trip, Pod decorating, Christmas decoration making and lots more! The perfect family celebration!



The girls continue to excel in everything they do and all the Dorter staff remain

incredibly proud to be part of the Dorter Family.

The Local Landmark Challenge was the main event for **Knights** pupils this term. I would like to thank you all for the motivation that you have provided the pupils within Knights. It was so good to see so many pupils being involved in the swimming pool Theo P, Rocky S, Cosmo J and Will D all did exceptionally well to swim 1km. Kai BR, Phoenix H and Will McC all ran the 5km in very good times whilst the row element was completed by Augusto Q, Will B and Jamie R we are extremely grateful to those who took part in order to raise awareness and donations for the Children with Cancer Fund (Polegate).

The important message is that the whole house contributed in some way to the effort and we have hopefully built a sense of camaraderie and belonging within Knights. This was



mostly completed on Wednesday and then we set up for Glow In the Dark Football. Over £300 was raised in Glow In the Dark Football and it was great to see Chris M, Monty B, Arty V and George S getting involved. A massive thank you to Ben P who arranged and lifeguarded the swimming element.

The term at **Charleston House** has been a dynamic blend of fun, excitement, and hard work for its pupils. The term kicked off with Bede's Fest which was a resounding success, fostering connections and showcasing Charlestonians' talents on stage. The Amazing Race promoted teamwork, while the early triumph in the House cross-

country competition featured Charleston pupils excelling, including numerous top 10 finishes.



Success in the October round of House Competitions swiftly followed, and a strong performance in House Music led by Jolie Phillips added to the achievements. We delighted in getting glammed up for our annual formal dinner arranged by Ellie Russell.

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ROUND THE HOUSES

The inaugural House Netball event, organized by Lily Klassen, raised funds for the House charity UFULU. A memorable House Lunch organized by the Lower Sixth team strengthened bonds within year groups. November saw commendations for pupils participating in the UK Space Design Challenge. December brought cosy pizza and movie nights organised by Lucy Hammond, a standout performance in the Legat Christmas show, and acts of generosity like 'Love-in-a-bag' for the less fortunate.

The term concluded with a festive Christmas movie/games/pizza night and a trip to Eastbourne for the annual Carol service and 'Wonka' in the cinema. Congratulations to everyone for completing the longest term, and warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a restful break.

The sophomore year for the 'new **Dorms**' has seen the house really come into its own. The sofas have been fully broken in, and the house now feels properly lived in - and it is a lot of living we have crammed into the Autumn Term.



The start of the year was all about BBQ's, football by the lake, house competitions, giving it our best shot in the cross country run, most importantly, and getting to know each other.



Friendships were forged in the warmth of the kitchen as Dorms boys put on a fantastic three-course meal for families with a cracking performance by the Dorms house band. This was a high-

pressure event, days in the making, and it was so impressive to see the way the boys rose to the occasion, making some serious cash for charity in the process. Many thanks to all who attended. This is an event that will be back next year.

As summer turned to autumn, we showed an ability to work together in the run up to the house music competition. Our rendition of 'Proud Mary' wowed judges with its energy and enthusiasm (traits I love

about our house) and won us (along with our team mates, Dorter House) first place.



The nights have well and truly drawn in now, and energy and enthusiasm for the classroom is somewhat waning, although energy and enthusiasm for seeing loved ones is increasing. As I write, the boys are currently basking in the afterglow of our Christmas outing and Brazilian BBQ where they ate enough meat to put cows on the endangered species list.

Throughout this packed term, a sense of belonging has been fostered that has embraced our newcomers. Fresh faces are now seamlessly woven them into the fabric of the community, and as we approach Christmas, the pupils old and new are blended as if they had always been part of the furniture - comfortable in their surroundings - a bit like our sofas...



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