

BEDDE'S

CURIOUS

Autumn 2024



NEWS AND EVENTS

AWARD WINNING START TO THE YEAR

Bede's was named the winner of the 'Inspiring Sporting Activities' award by Talk Education for 2024. The judging panel said that they were impressed by Bede's year-round sports academy and training programmes, an impressive roll call of ex-professional coaching staff and the efforts to buck the national trend regarding girls' participation in sport.

In addition to sporting success, Bede's was announced as a top 3 finalist for the 'Animal Support Champion' School House Award. Bede's on-site zoo, home to over 70 species, plays a central role in this achievement. Pupils are able to engage with animals up close, whether that is studying BTEC Animal Management or hands-on experiences in the Zoological Society.

Bede's was also recognised in other significant areas such as being shortlisted for the 'School Trip of the Year' award in the Independent School Parent Awards. This recognition underscores the impact of enriching trips both locally and internationally, offering pupils unique educational experiences outside the classroom.

Finally, Bede's was shortlisted for the Times Educational Supplement (Tes) 'Excellence in Creative Arts Award'. While Bede's did not take home the award at the recent ceremony, being shortlisted was a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to the exceptional talent within the school community.

Headmaster, Mr Peter Goodyer said, "These recognitions reflect the dedication and passion of our entire school community. We are committed to delivering a joyful education that inspires excellence in all areas, from the arts to sports and beyond. While we celebrate these achievements, we are continuously striving to reach new heights and offer the best possible opportunities for our pupils."



NEWS AND EVENTS

BEDE'S CELEBRATED AS ONE OF THE UK'S TOP CRICKET SCHOOLS

Bede's has been recognised once again among the UK's leading schools for cricket, securing a place in The Cricketer's Schools Guide 2025 within the top 100 Senior Schools and top 50 Prep Schools. The annual selection process is rigorous, with numerous schools submitting entries for a coveted spot.

This year's guide is a special 10th anniversary edition and features the top 100 senior, top 50 prep/junior, top 20 all-girls schools for cricket and the top 25 state schools.

The roll call of schools emerged from a large number of entrants who were judged against an extensive set of criteria, which included a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.



Bede's earned its position for its robust cricket programme, where pupils train at least three times weekly, compete in regular matches throughout the Summer Term and participate in an indoor programme during winter months.

Led by Director of Cricket Alan Wells—a former Sussex, Kent and England cricketer and a Level 4 coach—the coaching team includes experts like Neil Lenham—a former Sussex player and Level 3 coach and Petch Lenham—a former England cricketer and Level 3 coach, Kash Ibrahim—a former first class cricketer and Level 3 coach and Jamie Hall—a former Sussex cricketer and Level 2 coach.

Some of Bede's recent successes include current pupil NaiJanni Cumberbatch, who over the summer represented the Barbados Royals in the Caribbean Premier League. Another pupil, Meha Sivakumar represented the Bay Area Blazers earlier this year in the Houston Women's Open T20 tournament. She was awarded 'Best Batter of the Tournament' and came out a highest run scorer.

In addition to current talent, Bede's boasts a strong lineup of cricketing alumni, including international players Alice Capsey, Ryana MacDonald-Gay and Freya Kemp. A significant number of Bede's players advance through County pathways, with many securing professional contracts including Millie Taylor, Fynn Hudson-Prentice, Delray Rawlins, Archie Lenham, Dan Ibrahim and Henry Crocombe.

Alan Wells, Director of Cricket, expressed pride in the recognition: "Being named one of the top cricket schools once again is an honour and a testament to the dedication of our pupils, coaches and staff. At Bede's, we are committed to providing an environment where young cricketers can thrive, improve and reach their full potential. I couldn't be prouder of our pupils—both past and present."

CABARET

One of the school's blue-chip events, Cabaret, was held in the Sport Complex on the 6 and 7 December.

This is an event which, as was said on the night, '... hopefully rivals that of not only any other school, but of any professional establishment, too'. Cabaret is one of those events that are special because of the sheer breadth and depth of talent that Bede's enjoys: it is made so by the hard work of, not only the teachers, but also support staff and external crew who make the MPH look like a professional theatre: the proscenium arch stage and floor laid with deep, midnight-blue carpet, make it feel like a winter wonderland!

Cabaret 2024 was an incredibly special celebration of music and the performing arts across the whole school community. We were delighted that so many Bede's pupils, from the Prep School all the way to some of our incredible alumni took part in this year's event. Who could forget Will Page's soulful Bob Dylan number 'It Ain't Me Babe', Imogen Lock's incredible rendition of 'One More Kiss' from Sondheim's 'Follies' and Will Hopkins giving his own stamp on Elvis Presley's 'Viva Las Vegas'. Then there was a whole host of stunning pupil performances, too many to mention here: the whole evening was a stunning event, which charted the history of popular music from Vivaldi to the current era and took the audience on a journey through a diverse range of styles and genres. There is no better way to celebrate what it means to be at Bede's than a concert like Cabaret. It really is something that is special and unique and is not replicated at any other school.

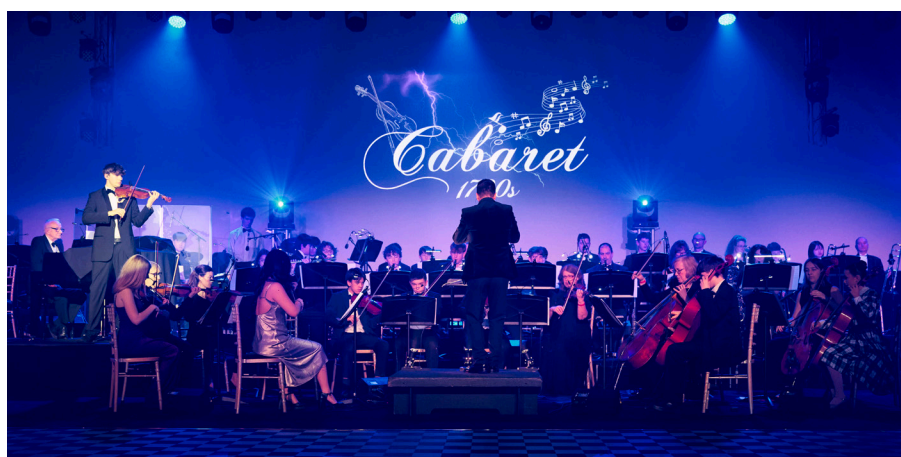
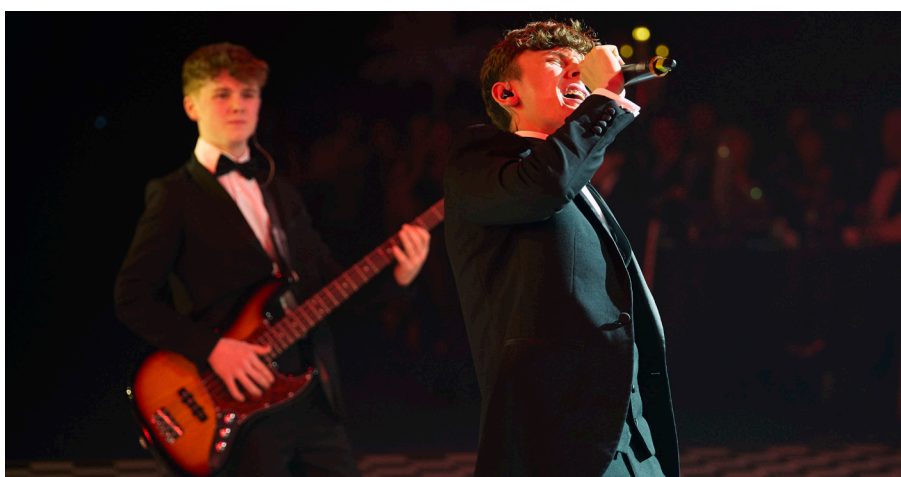
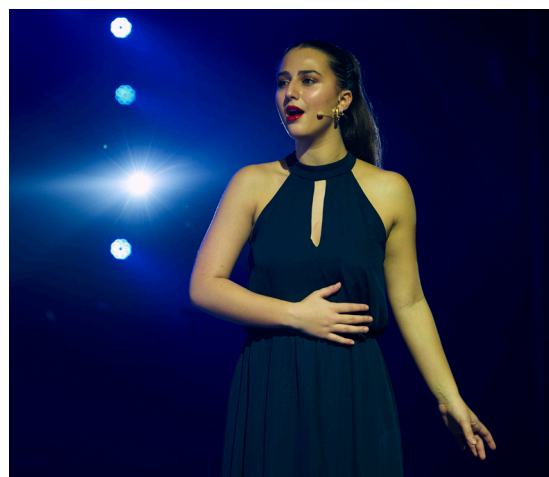
Robert Scamardella
Director of Music



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NEWS AND EVENTS

BEDE'S FEST

The Bede's community hosted their annual, esteemed Bede's Fest event on Saturday 7 September 2024, which welcomed the whole Bede's Trust community: parents, pupils and staff.

Although the weather was not ideal, the event was still a resounding success - filled with great musical performances and delicious food from both the Prep and Senior School pupils.



CAROL SERVICE

The whole school community came together for a magical and delightful carol service to get into the festive spirit!

The whole school went to St Saviours Church Eastbourne to hear the Bede's singers sing two advent choral pieces which celebrate the season.



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NEWS AND EVENTS

PYEMONT LECTURE: FLOYD STEADMAN

On Wednesday 2 October, we welcomed Floyd Steadman, OBE who gave an inspiring talk to our community.

Floyd is synonymous with English rugby. As one of the few black players in English club rugby, he was named Saracens captain at the age of 23 and played a leading role in the club's progress during the 1980s.

After retiring from rugby, he emerged as a talented and inspiring teacher and headmaster, having a positive impact on many, many young lives. Over and over again, Floyd has prevailed against immense odds, prevailing not with anger, argument or hysterics, but with persistence, dignity and integrity.

In his talk, Floyd drew on his own extraordinary experiences, in rugby and education, and addressed issues of conscious and unconscious bias in a non-confrontational way. A former headmaster, he explained how only education will resolve the problem, and ensure fair and equal opportunities for all, in sport and in life.



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NEWS AND EVENTS

BEDE'S WELCOMES ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA HIGH COMMISSIONER AND LEGENDARY CRICKETER

Bede's Senior School was honoured to host Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, OBE, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda on a special visit, accompanied by the Honorable Daryll Matthew, Minister for Education, Sport and the Creative Industries, legendary cricketer Sir Vivian Richards, and Brent Scotland, representative of Antigua.

The guests enjoyed a guided tour of the school, showcasing Bede's outstanding facilities and comprehensive educational programme. With a focus on the school's renowned cricket programme, which has strong links to the West Indies' rich cricketing legacy, the visitors engaged in discussions about the role of sport in education and the school's dedication to developing young athletes. Sir Vivian Richards, celebrated globally as one of the greatest batsmen of all time, inspired pupils with his presence and passion for cricket.

A special highlight of the visit was the High Commissioner's conversation with Dajari, a current Sixth Form pupil from Antigua, who has been excelling at Bede's. The High Commissioner expressed her pride in Dajari's success and her commitment to supporting Antiguan pupils studying abroad. The guests also spent time with Bede's academy cricket team and the pupils preparing for their cricket tour to Antigua in February. The upcoming tour will see 15 boys and 11 girls from Bede's visit Sir Vivian Richards' home island, strengthening the school's growing ties with Antigua and Barbuda.

Sir Viv Richards shared invaluable insights with pupils, answering their questions about his legendary career, and even his decision to face some of cricket's fastest bowlers without a helmet! His promise to attend their matches when they visit Antigua brought an added layer of excitement to the day and the tour.

Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, OBE comments, "I am thrilled to see the dialogue with Bede's deepen since my initial visit with past pupil Callaum Jahraldo Martin. Having Sir Vivian Richards and our Minister of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries, the Honourable Daryll Matthew, visit the School ahead of their 2025 cricket tour of Antigua and Barbuda was our way of showing the importance we place on building a long term relationship with Bede's. I predict that many athletes from Antigua and Barbuda will attend this school in the future and that both Bede's and Antigua and Barbuda will see the emergence of exciting talent from among these pupils in various sports. In this regard, it was a pleasure to meet Antiguan pupil Dajari Barthley. I extend thanks to Bede's for embracing this relationship and look forward to welcoming their male and female cricket teams to Antigua next year."

Alan Wells, Director of Cricket at Bede's says, "It was an honour to host Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, her guests, and one of cricket's all time greats. Our pupils were delighted to discuss Sir Viv's views on technique, the modern game and his courage on the field. His promise to cheer them on in Antigua was the perfect end to a truly memorable day."



CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy has been very busy this term. A huge thanks must go to all the pupils, staff and families who have contributed to the initiatives thus far. We donated enough food in the Harvest Festival drive for the Matthew 25 Mission in Eastbourne to keep them serving meals for a month and a half.



We donated 120 'love-in-a-bags' to the Hailsham food bank to distribute to families who may not have the means to share Christmas presents and we donated over 500 different items of sports clothing to the Avengers Rugby Club in Uganda, Hope and Aid Direct Ukraine and the Muslim Charity in Uganda.



In a local village and school initiative, the Knights Carol Choir was created and worked hard to learn the melodies to contribute to the merriment of the Village Shop's annual carols by candlelight. Here they are hard at work rehearsing in the chapel.



Singing in the chapel is going from strength to strength. As an embodied experience, few activities are as potent in bringing people together as singing. Every half term, there is a chance for each house to record a reading on a decibel meeting, where the average and the highest measurement are

added and divided by two for a reading. The highest wins the coveted chapel singing trophy pictured below. In all my time as a chaplain, I have never seen or felt the joy we have had during these singing moments.

Peace, grace and mercy be with you this Christmas and beyond.

In XC,
The Chaplain

Jarrold Taylor
Chaplain

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.



Jarrold Taylor
Chaplain

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CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

PARTNERSHIP AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The partnership year started off with our annual schools council meet on the 9th Oct. Pupils from local primary and secondary schools joined together in a series of “getting to know you” games before working together on what makes a successful school council and how we can support and work together for the betterment of our schools. Oliver Young, Head of Learning Enhancement, spoke about inclusion of those with neurodiversity challenges and Mr Mpandawana spoke about unconscious bias and how to work towards inclusion for all.

In November we were able to welcome the Young at Heart group to an afternoon of games with our sports leaders pupils. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to plan and adapt a session that would be suitable for this age group.

We were delighted and honoured to welcome Jaz Turner back to the school after leaving the Sixth Form eight years ago. Jaz talked to Sixth Form pupils about her successes in the world of paralympics as a solo sailor, despite extensive medical challenges. It was lovely to see her and hear her message.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE VILLAGE

Despite the rain we thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the villagers on Monday 9 Dec at our annual carol singing at the village shop. Hot chocolate, sausage rolls and mince pies were quickly devoured before we sang around the fire pit. The newly formed Knights choir were in fine voice and helped to boost the volume.



SINGING AT BERRY POMEROY

We were thrilled to be invited to sing at Berry Pomeroy care home on the penultimate day of term. It was so lovely for pupils from all year groups to join together with the elderly at this special time of year.

We look forward to all the events planned with the Wealden School Partnership and local community next term.



Mary Leggett
Head of Partnership and Social Responsibility

PERFORMING ARTS

I write this newsletter as our wonderful Cabaret is being packed away and I still have significant ear worms on an audio loop - today it is Brooke Castree's formidable 'Hero' and the emotional 'All I Ask' by Maya Goswami. One new Lower Sixth pupil suggested '**...it brought me closer to many wonderful people and the environment was so encouraging and welcoming that I had a brilliant time...**' and I could see the comradeship and harmony developing throughout production week.

I also had a particularly brilliant time this year working with our four comperes, who had auditioned not really knowing much about Cabaret at all, but I could not have asked for a better group. As one compere put it...**It was my first time on stage in front of a proper crowd. I'm thankful for the staff giving me a chance even though I had no experience and had dedicated all my time to football...**

I cannot thank Mr Scamardella and his team highly enough for all of the hours of preparation and rehearsal that went into giving pupils this life long memory. Alfie Burton playing lead violin on *Summer Storm* by Vivaldi - does an experience get much better than that? Orlando Ross who both performed on stage and worked backstage reported, **Every moment left me speechless and at loss of words... from having laughs backstage with the performers, to stepping up on stage and drumming in front of 500 people, a memory I will never forget and always cherish...**

And of course, the wonderful Legat dancers who are taught so brilliantly by Mrs Pennington, our Head of the Legat Dance Academy, and her team, to create breathtaking dances. I could pick out any number from the fantastic array of choreographic pieces, but I must say the *Nagasaki Charleston* and *Blinded By Your Grace* were utterly jaw dropping - but I could go on. Legat has been as busy as ever and Mrs Pennington describes all of the wonderful experiences that she has programmed for the dancers, who are so lucky to have her ambition and energy driving such wonderful things.

Prior to Cabaret the term has never been busier with masterclasses and theatre events: a crucial element of our educational and creative diet. Only two weeks before Cabaret we had our first NT live '*Prima Facie*' bringing enthusiastic pupils, parents and villagers together to watch a truly outstanding piece of theatre from The National. We also enjoyed a live recording of '*A Monster Calls*' with the Lower Fifth drama pupils that supports their performance and design work.



This came hot off the heels of the School Play, '*Black Comedy*', which was an utter joy to work on. The committed cast were incredible throughout rehearsals and pulled off a play that is heinously problematic to stage. Mr Rennison talks more about how our production arts pupils designed and created our terrific stage.

We've also enjoyed our continuing work with the **Prep School Drama Masterclass** and our Drama Scholars have led the way in delivering bespoke workshops that have developed their collaborative, communicative and leadership skills.

I wish all of our wonderful, hard working pupils, a restful and joyous Christmas and look forward to seeing them return ready for new adventures.



Karen Lewis
Director of Performing Arts

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MEET THE PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARS

We caught up with three of our First Year Performing Arts Scholars: Lucy, Eli and Nina to learn more about their experiences so far during their first term at the Senior School. We learned about some of their favourite moments so far, as well as what they are looking forward to in the months and years ahead.

LUCY - FIRST YEAR LEGAT SCHOLAR

Which year did you start at Bede's?

I started Bede's in Year 5 at the Prep School.

How has your experience of the Senior School compared to your expectations?

At the Prep School, my dance experience was more exam-oriented, which felt quite different from the approach at Legat Dance Academy at the Senior School. At Legat, we dance more as a company and train together, fostering a family-like atmosphere—it's really lovely. Before joining the Senior School, I was excited to be training more frequently and at a professional level, it has absolutely lived up to my expectations so far.

Can you tell us about a specific project or performance that has had a big impact on you?

It would definitely be Cabaret 2024! Dancing with a live orchestra is such a unique experience and opportunities like this are rare. I have never had the chance to dance alongside live music before. I'm in six numbers and couldn't be more excited to perform!

How would you describe the support and guidance you receive from your teachers here?

The Legat teachers are always attentive, checking to ensure we understand each routine and offering extra guidance whenever needed. They also record our lessons, allowing us to review the videos to see where we could improve. We can also use these videos to practice outside of class.

What are you most looking forward to in the Legat programme as you continue at Bede's?

I've really enjoyed the guest workshops led by industry professionals and am excited for more to come. They offer valuable insights into various aspects of the dance world. So far, I especially loved the workshop with AMDA College and some alumni professionals from Bede's—there's just so much to learn!



ELI - FIRST YEAR MUSIC SCHOLAR

Which year did you start at Bede's?

I started at Bede's this year—Year 9.

How has your experience of the Senior School compared to your expectations?

I'm really enjoying Senior School so far. It keeps me busy, and there's always something exciting going on. Music has been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember, and I love how many musical events take place here. Each term features recitals, there's 'Cabaret' every two years, House Music, and opportunities to sing in chapel. Nearly every week, there's something happening!

Can you tell us about a specific project or performance that has had a big impact on you?



MEET THE PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARS

House Music has definitely had the biggest impact on me so far. I've always played the cello and piano, but this year I started learning the bass guitar, and House Music marked my first-ever public performance. The crowd's energy and support were incredible and I had an amazing time—it's been a true highlight of my experience at Bede's so far.

How would you describe the support and guidance you receive from your teachers here?

The teachers here go above and beyond to ensure pupils have exceptional opportunities. If we have an idea, they help us bring it to life and make it a reality. They always find time for everything and provide incredible support. Recently, Mr. Scamardella has even made time to teach me piano.

What are you most looking forward to in the Music programme as you continue at Bede's?

I am really excited for Cabaret. Also, I am looking forward to the musical next year which is performed at a local theatre. I have never been in the pit before which will be exciting. I will be making the most of all the opportunities that are available at Bede's!

NINA - FIRST YEAR PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLAR

Which year did you start at Bede's?

I started Bede's in Year 2 at the Prep School.

How has your experience of the Senior School compared to your expectations?

Although transitioning from the Prep School to the Senior School was a significant step, I felt well-prepared and ready for the change. Having visited the Senior School regularly during my time at the Prep School, it already felt like a second home. So far, my experience at the Senior School has been incredible. Regardless of your ambitions, the faculties offer support and opportunities to help you succeed.

Can you tell us about a specific project or performance that has had a big impact on you?

I am excited to perform in Cabaret 2024 next week! It is such an incredible event—perhaps the highlight of the Performing Arts calendar! All of the teachers and staff work so hard to create such a spectacular show. I performed in Cabaret 2022 when I was in Year 7 as a dancer, it feels extra special this year as I'll be dancing, singing and playing the cello! I couldn't be more excited.

How would you describe the support and guidance you receive from your teachers here?

There's so much care and support here! The teachers create an environment where you feel safe and encouraged. They're always there for every pupil without judgment, offering guidance and motivation in the most positive way. They celebrate your hard work and achievements with kindness, pushing you to be your best. Every teacher in the Performing Arts department is truly outstanding!

What are you most looking forward to in the Performing Arts programme as you continue at Bede's?

I'm especially looking forward to next year's Musical and the Legat Summer Show. Both events offer the incredible opportunity to perform in a professional theatre setting. I watched Guys and Dolls last year and was amazed by how polished and professional the production was—the cast and crew were outstanding. Last year, I had the chance to perform in the Legat Summer Show and took part in two or three numbers. I'm really excited to dance and perhaps sing in the 2025 show!



PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC

Wow - where has that gone?! As I write, we have just finished our eponymous Cabaret 2024, charting the decades and history of popular music from Vivaldi to the Spice Girls. As if that wasn't enough, tomorrow we are preparing for the carol service at St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, before our pupils go on their Christmas outings. Music continues to play a central role in the life of our school - and long may it continue.

The year got off to a fantastic start with auditions for Cabaret, which took place over three days. We also had burgeoning numbers for Bede's Singers and instrumental lessons. To start, the Year 9 Big Sing was a great introduction to music at Bede's and had all Year 9 pupils singing at the tops of their voices to band Journey's 'Don't Stop'. We are delighted that so many new pupils are joining ensembles - particularly Concert Band and Bede's Singers. In mid-September, we held the launch of our forthcoming tour to Bruges in Belgium and will take a group of 16 pupils to host two concerts and take part in a whole host of excursions and tours. Chapel singing this term has risen to new heights with the help of the decibel meter: Stud and Dorter continue to top the leaderboard with their rousing voices of popular hymns and congregational songs.

Our first major event this term was House Music, the theme being Taylor Swift, fresh off her Eras tour herself, and where the whole school was involved in one or more of the four elements: Big Song, Solo or Instrumental category. There were memorable moments here: Tom Groom's drum solo reverberated with skill and technical expertise; Brooke Castree brought the house down with her solo song and Cordelia Fahey wowed us all with her electrifying performance. After half-term, we hosted a number of smaller-scale events, the junior concert featuring a whole host of pupils from First Year to Upper Fifth and then the day after Bede's musicians serenaded the local audience with performances on Eastbourne Youth Radio, held at East Sussex College and featured a number of our talented musicians performing a captivating programme of repertoire, from solo songs, to upbeat rock numbers. This was the first outing for Bede's musicians on Eastbourne Youth Radio and we are very much looking forward to hopefully performing again there next year.

As we look towards the future, and to a new calendar year, we wish all our readers a healthy and happy holiday, and very best wishes for 2025 and beyond.



Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

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PERFORMING ARTS

Q&A WITH DANCER, LARA

Over the summer, Upper Sixth Legat Dancer Lara had the incredible opportunity to attend the Italia Conti summer school, following a visit with Legat earlier this year. Italia Conti generously awarded Legat a scholarship for the summer program, and Lara was fortunate to be the recipient of this exceptional experience. We spoke to Lara about her experience...



Can you tell us about your background and how you first became interested in dance?

I began dancing at the age of two! I don't remember what exactly sparked my interest but all I know is that it felt natural and I really enjoyed it. While I primarily focused on ballet, over time I developed an interest in other dance styles as well.

Tell us about how you got the summer school scholarship at Italia Conti?

Earlier this year, Legat visited Italia Conti, where we had the chance to participate in some classes and tour the school. One of the Course Heads offered a summer school scholarship to one Legat pupil. After an interview with Mrs. Lewis, I was thrilled to be selected!

Tell us about the summer school?

I spent a week there, from Monday to Friday. For four days, we had intense dance training, including jazz, contemporary, ballet variations, tap, musical theatre jazz, acro, strength and conditioning, and even silks and hoops, which was a new experience for me! On Friday, we wrapped up the week with a showcase performance.

What was the most memorable part of your time at the Italia Conti summer school?

I really enjoyed meeting new people and teachers. I believe the best way to learn is to jump in the deep end! I enjoyed receiving feedback from different teachers and gaining fresh perspectives. I also loved connecting with other dancers and making new friends.

How do you balance your academic studies with your dance training and opportunities like this?

In addition to my dance training, I'm studying four A Levels. When I first joined Bede's in Lower Sixth, I was concerned about balancing everything. With only an hour and a half of prep time each day due to my dance schedule, I've learned that prioritising tasks is essential for managing my workload. I usually focus on schoolwork during the weekends. I've also become more aware of when I'm feeling overwhelmed and understand that taking a step back is sometimes necessary. Fortunately, I'm studying subjects I genuinely enjoy, which makes the work more interesting and manageable.

What is next for you?

I plan to audition for musical theatre courses and pursue a four-year program at a school like Italia Conti. After that, I hope to work as a dancer on a cruise ship. Eventually, I would love to move into teaching and choreographing for other dancers.

What advice would you give other aspiring dancers who may want to follow a similar path?

I would advise other aspiring dancers to "know what you want and act on it". Don't be afraid to go for it! If you're truly passionate about something, you'll find a way to achieve it. However, try not to put too much pressure on yourself—don't dwell on mistakes, just learn from them and keep moving forward.

How has Bede's supported you so far in your dance career?

I have found the Legat team incredibly supportive. The faculty is always welcoming, providing advice and solutions to any of our worries. Mrs Pennington, Head of Legat, asked us Upper Sixth pupils what we want to gain from Legat and how the department can improve. She has already implemented changes based on our feedback, which has been great to see.

PERFORMING ARTS

LEGAT DANCE ACADEMY

As the first term comes to a close, we reflect on an incredible few months filled with achievements, creativity, and unforgettable experiences at Legat. Our dancers and faculty have truly outdone themselves, and we couldn't be prouder of the milestones we've reached together.

This term, we were thrilled to host the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), who shared invaluable insights about their courses in Los Angeles and New York. Adding to this, we welcomed back alumna Holly Saw, who captivated pupils with a professional ballet class and a character workshop inspired by her time performing in Matthew Bourne's *Edward Scissorhands*. These sessions have inspired and motivated our dancers, offering them glimpses into the professional world.



Our term culminated in last week's Cabaret, where our talented pupils dazzled audiences with an array of breathtaking performances. Highlights included a beautiful ballet to The Beatles' Long and Winding Road, a sassy rendition of Livin' La Vida Loca, fabulous high-kicking Charleston choreography and a stunning, emotional interpretation of Blinded By Your Grace. The dancers shone throughout however, our talented pupils contributed in the orchestra and choir as well. The Concert Band featured remarkable performances by Nina Hetherington and Katie Farley, while lead vocals from Devanie Travers, Pamela Mariscal Cassis, Angel Yuen, and Harriet Betts left the audience in awe. The choreography, crafted by our brilliant faculty, was outstanding, and the professionalism of our pupils both on and off stage ensured the event was a resounding success. These are moments we're sure they'll cherish forever.

Our pupils have been busy achieving remarkable things outside the studio too! Takondwa Simfukwe and Mia Farley wowed audiences as part of South Coast Ballet's *Alice in Wonderland* at the Congress Theatre and we were delighted to learn that Hannah Millen has

secured a place at Wilkes Academy for their prestigious dance degree course and Malena Bywell has been awarded a full four-year scholarship to AMDA—a phenomenal achievement! We couldn't be prouder of these incredible accomplishments.



Looking ahead, next term promises to be just as exciting, with a packed schedule that includes a theatre trip to see our alumnus Matthew Amos in *Swan Lake* at Sadler's Wells, attending Move It at the ExCeL, a workshop day at Italia Conti, a photoshoot with our talented photographer, Drew Tommons, and the much-anticipated Solo Awards, showcasing the individual brilliance of our dancers.

And even more exciting is that we will also be preparing for our end of year show at The Congress! We are now on sale and hope that you will all be purchasing your tickets to see all the amazing talent in our production of *A Moment in Time* on Thursday 19th June. Head to www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk/events/bedeslegat2025 to find out more.



As we gear up for another vibrant term, we want to extend our thanks to all our pupils, faculty, and supporters for making this term so special. Have a wonderful Christmas, and we can't wait to see you all in the New Year!

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

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CREATIVE ARTS

As we move into the festive season, we are excited to look ahead to 2025, a year in which more than a third of our creative arts pupils will be applying for a variety of degree courses in fields such as architecture, fashion, animation, photography, and fine art. This follows the inspiring journey of 26 pupils last year who went on to pursue similar creative paths. Their success continues to inspire this year's cohort, as well as our budding young artists in the lower years.

In early December, we had the privilege of hosting a portfolio advice seminar led by University of the Arts London (UAL). This session, which explored a wide range of arts and creative courses available at UAL, sparked the imagination of our pupils and opened their eyes to the potential of creative futures. It was a fantastic opportunity to help them envision their own possibilities in the creative world.

Additionally, our Design Technology pupils enjoyed a memorable trip to the MINI factory, a key part of our Design Technology curriculum. This annual visit offers pupils a unique opportunity to see how conceptual design ideas come to life in the production process, allowing them to connect the dots between design, engineering, and branding. It's always a highlight of the term!

The term ended on an exciting note with 38 creative arts pupils from across the faculty setting off to New York City. During their trip, they visited iconic cultural landmarks such as the Guggenheim Museum and the High Line, attended workshops at the New York Film Academy, and experienced the vibrancy of one of the world's most creative cities.

To leave you in the festive spirit, we are proud to share a beautiful drawing of a robin, which was chosen as the official image for this year's Bedes Christmas card.

On behalf of the Creative Arts faculty, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jonathan Turner
Head of Creative Arts Faculty



CREATIVE ARTS

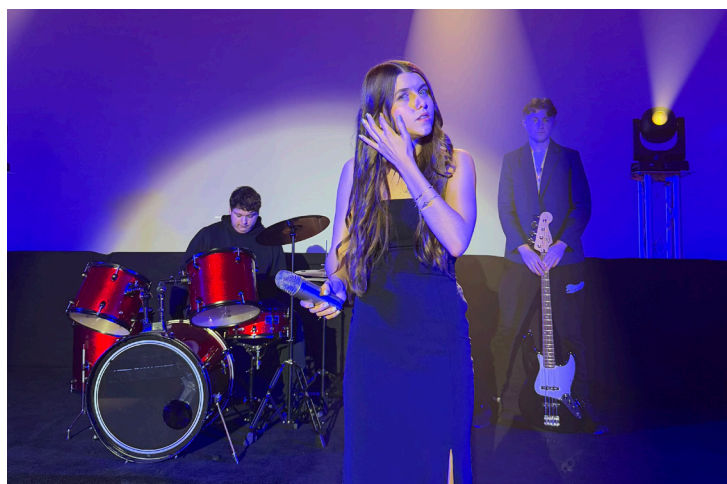


MEDIA MUSIC VIDEOS

A2 Media pupils have had fun filming the 'prom' scene in their '10 things I hate about you' inspired music video to Joan Jetts *Bad Reputation*.

The pupils were fortunate enough to use the set up for the boarders Christmas party to make their dreamy prom scene shine and the band rocked their performance.

Sabrina Logan
Media Studies Teacher



BEDE'S

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ACADEMIC

This has been my 11th Autumn term at Bede's, and it's flown by at a rate of knots. It only felt like last week that we were returning to school in early September – and I certainly miss that month's warmer weather. There has been an enormous amount packed into the previous 13 weeks, and my thanks to all pupils and colleagues for all that they have done to help ensure that it has been so successful.



For many, the term will have started on the 3 September – however, for some, myself included, the term began on the 13 August, with the first results published during the exam results season. This year saw some of the school's best results in a decade and is a testament to the hard work of all in the Bede community. As a school, we place a significant emphasis on both attainment and progress, and it was incredibly pleasing to see Bede's pupils achieve these superb results. Sometimes, a sense of modesty means we don't always shout from the rooftops about our results, and perhaps we should do this more often. Last year's cohort did tremendously well, and we are working towards this year's cohort doing even better.



With this academic year underway, our Upper Sixth pupils have received impressive university offers. As I write this article, I've just returned from lunch with two visiting old Bedians, Milly Gibson (Oxford) & Fearghus Beauchamp (Cambridge), who came by to catch up and share their university experiences. We always enjoy meeting

Old Bedians throughout the year and hearing about their following stages of education and careers. The values instilled during their time at Bede's continue to serve them well, with many Old Bedians showing ambition in their plans.



Whilst both the Easter and Summer terms are dominated by mocks and public examinations for many pupils, the Autumn term provides the foundations for success throughout the rest of the year. We could have fit much more into this term. I am always amazed by the amount of subject enrichment, with pupils making the most of opportunities to extend themselves beyond the curriculum. Whether this is the Model United Nations conference, the SHAPE magazine, the DT Design Museum trip or a Space & Robotics talk with Dr Ezzy Pearson, it has been fantastic to hear how valuable pupils have found these trips and how well these have supported their studies. Our Deputy Head, John Tuson, held his book launch online as part of the 42 Club lecture series, and I believe copies of 'The Zoos of Germany' are still available and make excellent stocking fillers.

As we end a year and a well-deserved rest, I hope that all pupils find time to rest and relax. On top of the mince pies and festive treats, for many pupils, particularly exam year groups, it's the time to consolidate work, practice skills, and ensure that when they return in January, they have improved from where they left off this term and are ready to face the challenges of internal or external exams and assessments in Spring and Summer terms.

Nicholas Abrams
Assistant Head: Academic

STEM

ASTRONOMY ACTIVITY

On a crisp, clear evening at Bede's Senior School on November 20th, pupils were treated to a mesmerising astronomy session using an 8-inch telescope. As they passed across campus, many paused to peer into the eyepiece, discovering the wonders of the night sky.



Under the excellent viewing conditions, Jupiter revealed its striking cloud belts in vivid detail, alongside its four largest moons—Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto—shining like tiny jewels. Saturn, with its majestic rings tilted close to edge-on as seen from Earth, captivated onlookers with its ethereal beauty. The awe-inspiring sights sparked curiosity and excitement among the pupils, turning an ordinary evening into a cosmic journey.

Pictured are some pupils enjoying the celestial views, and a snapshot of Jupiter through the eyepiece (the photo really doesn't do justice to the real thing!).

This term, the Bede's Astronomy Club has delved into the fundamentals of naked-eye astronomy, exploring the wonders of the night sky and deepening their understanding of our place in the cosmos.

Pupils have studied the physical nature of earth as a planet, gaining insight into its unique characteristics. They have also become familiar with celestial coordinate systems, allowing them to locate and track objects in the sky with confidence. The club has examined the visible features of the moon, as well as the apparent motions of the sun, moon, and planets, uncovering the patterns that shape our view of the heavens.

Additionally, they have explored the intricate interactions of the earth, moon, and sun system, including the mechanics of eclipses and their observable effects. The sessions have provided a rich mix of theory and practical knowledge, fostering a keen appreciation for the celestial dynamics that govern our skies.

Oli Froom
Head of Physics

BIOLOGY A LEVEL FIELD TRIP

Our A level Biology pupils recently embarked on an exciting field trip to Cuckmere Haven and Friston Forest, proving that learning doesn't stop within the confines of the laboratory.



The sunny (albeit slightly windy) day provided the perfect backdrop for exploring diverse habitats and ecosystems. Pupils actively engaged in essential A level core practicals, delving into the fascinating world of plant diversity, invertebrate life, and tree morphology. We battled the high tide to collect some fascinating shell and seaweed specimens which helped us understand the effect that abiotic factors can have on the species inhabiting the shoreline.

The picturesque Seven Sisters Country Park Barn offered a welcome retreat for pupils to analyse their findings and complete their written reports.



However, the undisputed highlight of the day was undoubtedly the sighting of a playful seal basking in the incoming tide of the Haven. This unforgettable experience brought the pupils' learning to life and showcased the dynamic interplay between classroom theory and real-world observations.

This field trip was a resounding success, providing our pupils with invaluable hands-on experience and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

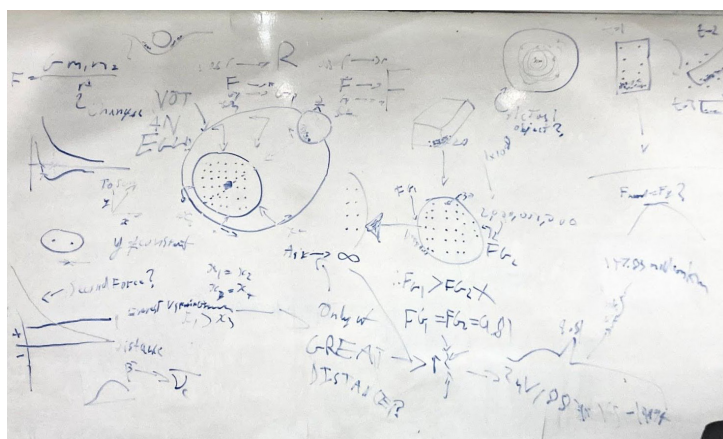
Julia French
Head of STEM Faculty

STEM

SCIENCE FACT OR FICTION

In Dr Carvilles activity; 'science fact or fiction' this term, we have covered various different puzzling topics on our quest to gain a further understanding of where we really are! Some of these topics cover the following;

- What really is gravity? (see picture of the Whiteboard musings of Charlie Hamilton - Andrews!)
- What is the universe really made of?
- Is antimatter real?



Some of the answers we have uncovered are a little mind blowing, such as the universe being mainly made of substances we know very little about, such as the elusive Dark Matter, and Dark Energy, and the fact that antimatter actually is real and is even made in the sun!

We have a wheel that we spin each week to choose our topic of investigation, and the wheel also includes some science fiction options, so sometimes we relax into the world of Dr Who, Star Trek or Star Wars. We welcome new activity members so if you are curious and perhaps a little bit of a science fiction geek, and want to see how much more amazing the REAL world is, do sign up next term!

George Whitnall
Upper Fifth pupil

MATHS TALKS

On November 27th, we were delighted to host Zoe Griffiths from Think Maths to give two brilliant talks to our First Years and our Lower Fifth pupils. The First Year talk was aimed around pattern spotting and noticing fun numerical oddities, including a trick in which Zoe guessed the last digit from a barcode!

The Lower Fifth talk focused on 'Numbers in the News', particularly how data can be cleverly disguised and misrepresented, by differing the scale on a graph or choosing a very small sample size. She also discussed how experimental design can force an outcome, by doing an experiment in the room, based on randomised emojis given out at the beginning of the talk.

The pupils fully engaged with Zoe's seminar, and enjoyed learning about maths in a different way, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have a different approach to learning.



Freya Price
Mathematics Teacher

STEM

PSYCHOLOGY TRIP TO NEPAL

Over the October half term, a selection of Upper Sixth & Lower Sixth Psychology pupils were part of the expedition team to Nepal. A considerable part of their qualifications on both the A level and BTEC covers the treatments for stress, one of which is mindfulness. Given that Nepal is largely Buddhist, there were ample opportunities for pupils to participate in this practice under the guidance of monks at the respective monasteries.

One visit included a trip to the 12th century Boudhanath Stupa. The pupils participated in meditation and a short blessing ceremony (pictured above), and were able to complete a circumambulation of the impressive and beautiful stupa itself (pictured below).

The trip progressed onto Pokhara and then into the foothills of the Himalayas, where pupils hiked for five days and stayed in various tea houses along the way. The scenery was incredible and being in the presence of the mountains was awe inspiring. Pupils hiked to Poon Hill at the height of 3200m to take in the sunrise over the Annapurna mountain range (pictured below, which rose to over 8000m in places), and watched this in silence, being completely in the moment as per mindfulness practices. It was impossible to be anywhere else when faced with this wonderful experience, and the pupils felt very zen afterwards!



Laurence Collier
Psychology Teacher

STEM SILVER CREST AWARD

Alumni Nell McLachlan was awarded a coveted STEM Silver Crest Award for her project on 'Creating a swallowable, biodegradable and plastic free chewing gum.' Nell worked over 30 hours creating a chewing gum and then in a small cohort study compared this tasty chewing gum to several market chewing gums in its biodegradability and plastic free versus normal plastic in taste, longevity and sustainability.

This was an eye opening study that researched sustainable natural ingredients, costs and availability of these ingredients worldwide. The preparation of the gum took precision and a careful balance between the different ingredients to create the chew and remain swallowable. Nell was fastidious and despite many small setbacks always looked for solutions positively. Nell is the epitome of a future scientist and is looking to study Anthropology at Oxbridge.



Freya Price
Mathematics Teacher

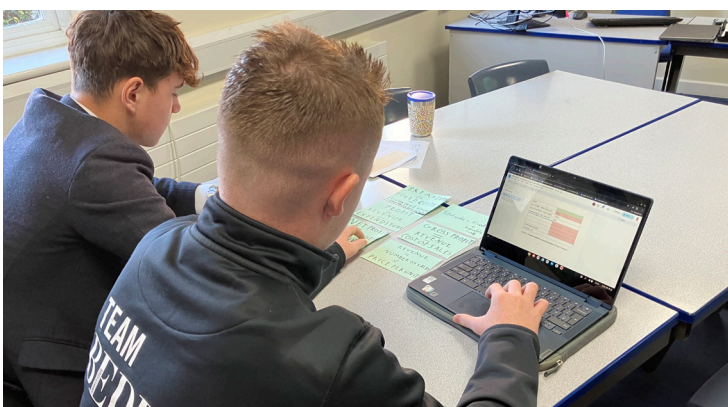
SHAPE

As we approach the end of a term that has been predominantly dominated by assessments, it is good to recognise the hard work and dedication that all pupils have put into their studies. While the pressure of exams and assessments can be daunting, it is essential to celebrate the achievements and milestones along the way; and encourage everyone to have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break!

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

REVISION STRATEGIES WITH DR ONOFEGHARA

Keeping in the spirit of assessments and preparation, and with one eye already on the February assessments, Dr Onofeghara has been sharing with pupils and staff her top tips for preparing for exams. Up there at the head of the list is an emphasis on the importance of starting revision early and creating a study schedule that balances time for revision with breaks to avoid burnout. Also important is practicing past papers to familiarise yourself with the different question formats, as well as honing your awareness of time management. Finally, staying organised with notes and materials can significantly enhance the revision process. Pupils should create a range of visual aids, such as mind maps and flashcards, which can also help reinforce key concepts. Lastly, the research shows that maintaining a positive mindset and seeking support from teachers and peers can make a world of difference. The photo shows Alfie Burton and Harrington Jarrett (both Upper Fifth Deis), who study Business, practicing some key terminology with their flashcards.



Edem Onofeghara
Assistant Director of Studies (GCSE)

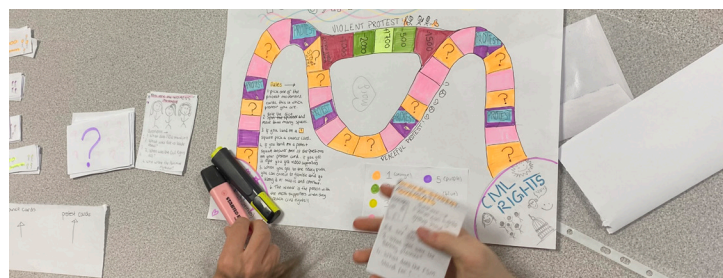
LOWER FIFTH HISTORY LESSONS WITH MISS CHINN

Since the beginning of my teaching career, my goal has always been to bring history to life in the classroom. This term, Year 10 historians have started their first module for the iGCSE exam in a creative way, using practical demonstrations (PD) as a teaching method. PD is an approach that helps to explain key concepts and context in a memorable, engaging, and time-efficient manner. Research indicates that creative learning methods can spark curiosity, clarify difficult concepts, address misconceptions, and strengthen pupils' foundational knowledge. Moreover, PD is particularly effective for creating lasting memories, as it combines semantic memory (facts and information) with episodic memory (personal experiences and events), making it easier for pupils to recall and connect with the material.

Some of the highlights of Year 10's creative learning experiences in the Civil Rights unit include: designing their own Civil Rights Theme Park to showcase the progress made in the 1940s and 1950s; creating a movie poster about Senator McCarthy; role-playing individuals involved in the Little Rock event through a decision-making game; designing history board games to explore various protest movements of the 1960s and 1970s; and participating in a Civil Rights Revision escape room.

Pupil Missy says, "I really enjoy the games and tasks we do in history, especially the creative ones as actively having to use and write information helps me to remember it and when I am revising, I can clearly picture and associate the tasks with that content. My favourite has been making the board games and playing everyone else's. Thank you for thinking of so many fun ways to help us learn."

Miss Chinn will be sharing these ideas and more with colleagues in the Faculty on our upcoming INSET day.



Katy Chinn
History & Politics Teacher

SHAPE

GCSE ECONOMICS CUP

This term has seen the launch of the Jackson Cup, a competition that has sparked enthusiasm among the Upper Fifth Economics groups. The inaugural match has showcased some impressive talent, culminating in the announcement of our first winners! Congratulations to my set who displayed a strong knowledge base at this stage in the course, earning their first win, with a mean class score of 22. The individual winners were Saul Lewis (Upper Fifth, Knights) and Tom Lilley (Upper Fifth, Dicker) who both scored 28/30 - seriously impressive for this stage in the course. We look forward to more exciting matches in the coming weeks!



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

EYPUK THAMES VALLEY

Following on from our success at the EYPUK national final, Noor Rahman was selected to be one of the lead organisers for the upcoming EYPUK Debate in the Thames Valley region. This involves a range of responsibilities, from reaching out to local schools and



inviting their participation, to coordinating logistics and confirming the venue. Noor explained that 'it has been a real privilege to be selected; it has been a fulfilling experience to collaborate with educators, ensuring that all the details are carefully managed to create a platform for insightful and meaningful discussions. I'm proud to be part of a team dedicated to fostering debate and critical thinking, and I look forward to the inspiring conversations that will emerge from this event.'

Noor Rahman
Upper Sixth pupil

MABEL YOUNG - NATIONAL YOUTH CABINET UPDATE

Mabel, who is Bede's representative on the East Sussex Youth Cabinet, and around six months ago was elected to the National Youth Parliament, talks about the demands of her new role. 'For this so far I have been to Warwick University for a conference which I really enjoyed, being able to debate policy statements created by the 395 different representatives from around the country and then voting on them, coming to a conclusion. To be able to meet and discuss current topics with young people from all around the UK was amazing and I am looking forward to doing this more in the future. I have also been to YouthCon run by the National Youth Agency in London to further discuss issues, spoken with an MP about their role and am learning how to be as effective as possible in reaching out to authority in our youth work. I am trying to make the most out of all the opportunities that have come my way, and will be doing more work to truly understand what my passions are within politics. I work with amazing people at our monthly youth cabinet meetings and when campaigning for our local area, and want the impact of this work to be visible in our local community.'

Mabel is an inspiration to all Bede's pupils, and shows that individuals can make a difference and do have a role to play in resolving local, national and international issues. Her next ESYC meeting is in January, and in February she has been invited to observe a sitting of the House of Commons!

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

SHAPE

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT NATIONAL FINALS

In the early hours of Thursday, 5 September, seven Bede's Sixth Form pupils set off on a long journey 'up north', destination Liverpool, where the European Youth Parliament UK (EYPUK) 2024 Autumn National Session would begin that afternoon. Setting aside the fact that some of us had never been to Liverpool before, we were also treading on unfamiliar ground in a different yet exciting way: this was the first time Bede's had triumphed in the EYPUK South East regionals and advanced to the nationals. Our sheer participation alone would blaze the trail for future Bede's pupils to follow. We kept hardly any of this in mind on our way to Liverpool as we were collectively exhausted by the 5-hour-long journey, but we had little clue how much we'd enjoy this excellent opportunity when we arrived at the premises of Liverpool Hope University (the venue) that breezy afternoon.

Unlike the regionals, where all seven of us worked together as a single "committee", in the nationals we were individually allocated into different committees, which meant meeting new people and building new friendships. This was our mission on Day 1, when all the committees assembled for the first time and undertook team-building activities to help us get to know each other. Games such as Paranoid, Human Knot and Two Truths and a Lie were played, instantly allowing us to get to know our fellow committee members better!

Following the joyful friendship-building of Day 1, on Day 2 we hunkered down in our committee rooms, getting to work on crafting our committees' resolutions. Days 3-4 would be the General Assembly (GA) stage, where committees would put their resolutions forward for deliberation and voting, so on Day 2 we had to start from scratch and work collaboratively, writing resolutions that could withstand criticism and offer comprehensive, practical solutions to the problems we were tasked with addressing. This involved defining specific aims and coming up with practical, workable policy proposals. We also benefited from a "devil's advocate" session later in the day where a senior EYP member identified potential flaws and weaknesses of committees' resolutions, to help us improve our resolutions and make them more defensible. As the day came to a close, we at the Bede's team spent an enjoyable evening out at the Liverpool docks - a perfect, relaxing end to hours of serious research and brainstorming.

Day 3 was when the real action started with the opening of General Assembly. For the first time since Day 1's team-building activities, all committees huddled together in one place - this time in the Capstone Theatre auditorium, a fittingly grand stage for the forthcoming debates. What followed was debate after debate where we read other committees' resolutions, wrote points of information (POIs - EYPUK's

way of saying "questions") and position speeches, and strived to speak at every available opportunity. Given that all committees were given roughly the same number of chances to (have a member) speak, trying to have all seven of us speak at some point during the two days of GA was going to be a difficult task. And yet, our eagerness pulled us through - in fact, we went above and beyond. Not only were all seven of us able to speak at some point during the two days of GA debates, we managed the frankly incredible feat of having three Bede's pupils in a row speak! Noor Rahman (Upper Sixth, Charleston) was the first to start off the chain by asking a POI, followed by Prithvi Ann Sharma-Joehnk (Upper Sixth, Dorter) who added her own POI, and ending with Hamish Phillipson (Upper Sixth, Stud) addressing both POIs in a saga which I watched with nothing but delightful bewilderment. If you're struggling to understand how amazing this was, know that this was a chain of coincidences - it was not coordinated in any way whatsoever.

There were other highlights on Days 3-4 as well, such as Euroconcert on the night of Day 3, when I had the privilege of performing solo to my fellow EYPUK participants, and the rest of the Bede's team raised the roof with a collective rendition of "Mamma Mia!". I also had the fortune of responding to POIs on Day 3 and asking one myself on Day 4, and fellow team members Mia Milic (Upper Sixth, Charleston), Massi Couper (Lower Sixth, Charleston) and Zoe Whittington (Upper Sixth, Bloomsbury) also had chances to raise POIs and/or deliver position speeches. In doing this, we were able to significantly improve vital skills such as public speaking, clarity of communication, collaborative work and engaging with an audience. No opportunity to hone these skills was wasted thanks to our eager participation. We even had the chance to sample the cuisine of many European countries during the Eurovillage event on the night of Day 1, when each school prepared food and snacks originating from the country their pupils were tasked with representing!

We were delighted to have had the pleasure of taking part in such a thoroughly stimulating but also enjoyable event, having collectively agreed that we liked doing EYP and were going to miss it and the people we met when we headed back. A little past midday on Day 4, after we finished taking commemorative photos with various people, we ended our trip on a good note and began heading back to Bede's. On behalf of all my fellow Bede's EYPUK team members, I would like to thank Miss Webster and our Bede's transport team member Moe for taking care of us throughout the entire trip. Special thanks also go to Noor for her contributions in putting together this article. Given how much we've gained from this trip, I'm sure we're all definitely looking forward to more experiences like this in the future. And I certainly have faith that it won't be the last time Bede's goes to the EYPUK Nationals!

Hau Tak Ng
Upper Sixth pupil

SHAPE

RATHFINNY WINE ESTATE TOUR

In September U6 A Level Business Studies pupils had the opportunity to visit Rathfinny Wine Estate for a hands-on experience to complement their classroom learning. The tour provided an insightful overview of the history of the Vineyard and pupils visited the RIBA nominated Winery to learn the process and care involved in making high quality wines. Pupils were engaged, asked some fantastic questions to our experienced tour guide and had a great time. The picturesque and tranquil surroundings of the vineyard added to the overall experience and provided pupils with the ultimate learning environment to immerse themselves in.



Barry Jackson
Head of Business & Economics

A LEVEL POLITICS PARLIAMENT TRIP

In November our A level Politics pupils visit Parliament as part of their study of Paper 1 UK Politics. After an early lunch we headed through Parliament Square, weaving through a range of protesters outside before heading to security and collecting our passes.

Our visit started with a short film on the general history of Parliament from its foundation soon after the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. It highlighted the formation of the House of Lords (a political body whose origins predate Parliament), the establishment of the House of Commons and the move to Parliamentary Democracy through the passing of multiple Reform Acts. We began our tour in St Stephen's Hall and Westminster Hall, which is the oldest part of the Palace complex. We then passed into the Central Lobby where we were

shown the pigeon holes of the MP and the statues of several Prime Ministers, as well as the House of Commons and the lobbies where vote counting takes place. Our guide explained about the roles of the various parties and the nature of the front and back-benchers, as well as involvement of smaller parties in the passing of legislation. We then entered the House of Lords which was in session, with a debate on legislation concerning home education taking place. After passing through an extra layer of security we were allowed to enter the public gallery and watch the debate in action. Ben Field (Upper Sixth, Deis) said that 'it was great to visit the 'mother of all parliaments' and see such iconic locations such as the Commons and the lobbies, as well as having the opportunity to hear Jacqui Smith (Baroness Smith of Malvern), Minister of State for Skills, speaking during a debate in the House of Lords; it really does give an insight into the democratic process'.

Overall it was a very interesting and enjoyable visit; pupils will follow up on this by meeting with James McClearly, our local MP, who is visiting Bede's in the New Year.



Evie Moore
Lower Sixth pupil

THE RETURN OF PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

Last term witnessed the return of the well-loved Bede's Philosophy Society. This pupil-led group, led by Anthony Morris (Lower Sixth, Stud), congregates bimonthly in a learned environment with a set focus for each session, as decided by pupils. The Philosophy Society is an informal and exciting environment where pupils can develop critical thinking and hone skills in philosophical debate. Throughout last term, pupils pondered a range of topics, including the role of democracy in contemporary society and how this compares to Plato's allegory of the Ship of State. More recently, pupils enjoyed fruitful debate about the role of Christianity in schools. The Philosophy Society recently

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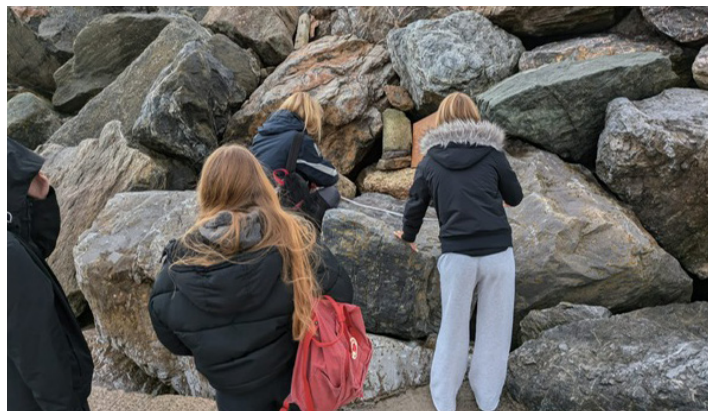
established their core values to be upheld by all members. Their core values are respect, intellectual humility, active listening and empathy.

Next term, pupils will explore the application of ethical theories towards Euthanasia in light of the proposed Assisted Dying Bill in UK parliament. All pupils are welcome to attend Philosophy Society on Tuesdays Week A at 13:45 in 04

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHERS HIT THE BEACH

Just before half term the intrepid Upper Sixth geographers set off for the Field Studies Centre in Slapton Ley on the beautiful south Devon coast, for four days of fieldwork fun. The pupils spent the first three days immersing themselves in the local geography and practising various techniques that covered topics such as the water and carbon cycle, coastal morphology and management, and urban change in Plymouth. The pupils engaged with questions such as ‘how do you measure some of the flows of water in a drainage basin and how do you assess the factors that influence them?’, and ‘why does the Start Bay coastline need protection and what is the most effective method?’, and ‘how do we measure inequality across the city of Plymouth?’



recognise the pupils' contributions and saw, amongst others, prizes given for ‘flying solo – Tommy Paynter (Upper Sixth, Deis)’, ‘straightest bat of the week – Toby Burdekin (Upper Sixth, Knights)’, ‘food connoisseur of the week – Betsy Wilson (Upper Sixth, Bloomsbury)’, and the ‘just get it done award – Charlotte Watkins (Upper Sixth, Bloomsbury) and Tom Pateman (Upper Sixth, Dorms)’.



Pupils then planned their own data collection methodologies before collecting their own data on the last day at their chosen locations. This data was then used to write up their NEA coursework in the following weeks.

The pupils worked extremely hard throughout the trip and one of the tutors at the centre commented that she had rarely seen such a focused group of pupils! An end-of-trip awards ceremony was held to



Joe Beckett (Upper Sixth, Deis), whose birthday was celebrated on the last evening in Slapton, said, “it might not have been the dream place to celebrate my 18th birthday, but the trip was a fun way to get out and see some real geography, as well as getting a good start on our NEA!”

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

BEDE'S

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THE POWER OF PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY PHOTO COMPETITION

The Geography department has run a photo competition this term, in conjunction with the Photography department, in which pupils were challenged to capture evidence of the 'power of physical geography' in a photograph and explain its significance in a 50 word caption.

There were more than 30 great entries, capturing a range of physical geography from locations ranging from the Sussex Downs, to Iceland, Portugal, and as far afield as Japan and Peru. Entries came in from all year groups and it was incredibly difficult to decide on a shortlist, let alone the winners. After much deliberation, the judges decided on the following, all of whom won Amazon vouchers:

1st prize: Hattie Hiscox, for her stunning photo of Mt Fuji in Japan:



2nd Prize: Lulu Xu, for an atmospheric image of a Scottish glen:



Joint 3rd prize: Betsy Wilson, for a beautifully composed shot of a glacial lake in Peru, and Lilia Rush, for a lovely clean photo of Cuckmere Haven:



A special mention must also go to the other shortlisted entries: Oscar Sims, for his photo of the Gullfoss Falls in Iceland, and Brooke Castree, for her photos of the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. Congratulations and thank you to all who took part!

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

SHAPE

BENENDEN MUN CONFERENCE

On 2nd December, Bede's Model United Nations (MUN) Team visited Benenden School to compete in their MUN conference.

The 28 strong Bede's team arrived at Benenden to face around 370 delegates from 22 different schools. This meant that there was more competition to be recognised and fewer chances for us to represent our nominated countries in debate. Some of us were new to Model United Nations, for whom this would be the first conference. While most of us were delegates, Zoe Whittington chaired the Women's Committee and Noor Rahman chaired the SPECPOL (Special Political and Decolonisation) Committee.



We represented the countries of Iran, France, Sudan and Ukraine, all of which differ in their approaches towards certain issues. While Iran focuses on blending religion, modern politics and tradition, France upholds democratic freedoms. Similarly, Ukraine works on strengthening democratic institutions and Sudan pushes for democratic reforms. During the Opening Ceremony we listened to the Secretary General for Benenden speak about multilateralism and encouraged every delegate to cooperate in a productive and amiable manner, while still representing their countries' beliefs, in order to solve the pressing issues at hand. After the Opening Ceremony, we split off into our separate committees to debate a variety of topics, from prevention of an arms race in outer space in the DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee), to the question of freedom of expression and religious beliefs in fundamentalist states in the Human Rights council.

To commence the individual debates, every delegate delivered their policy statement about their particular country's beliefs on the topic of the debate. Immy Oscroft defended Iran's beliefs in the Human Rights Committee by proposing an amendment condemning western countries for negative propaganda, which she succeeded in getting

passed. In the Historic Security Council, I debated the issue of the USSR's deployment of nuclear missiles in Cuba in 1962. This was complicated by the numerous communist countries in the debate, who of course supported the USSR, and, strangely, the United Kingdom delegate, who decided to also support the communist states. Joseph Berry made a speech on behalf of Sudan, making the claim that the Xinjiang Uyghur situation is false and has been created through western propaganda. He made this potentially controversial claim in the Human Rights Committee and received many questions afterwards.



It was a very successful conference for Bede's, with three delegates winning awards. Emilia McLelland won the Commended Delegate award for her work in the Environment Committee when representing France. She argued for protection of the layer of the economy that relies on the existence of diesel vehicles. Harrison Odendaal was awarded Highly Commended Delegate for his speeches and raising Points of Information while representing Iran in the Women's Committee, where he argued to protect Iran's culture and beliefs. Prithvi Ann Sharma-Joehnk was also given a Highly Commended Delegate award, while representing France in the ECOFIN (Economic and Financial) Committee. Prithvi collaborated with other delegates to achieve net-zero emissions globally.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr McIntosh and Ms Webster for their efforts in organising this opportunity for us, and taking us to the event. It allowed us to practise our debating skills, become more confident when speaking in front of a larger audience, and develop communication and negotiation skills during informal lobbying.

Pippa Nunn
Upper Fifth pupil

SHAPE

BEDE'S HOSTS SECOND MODEL UN CONFERENCE

On Tuesday 8th October, Bede's had the privilege of hosting pupils from nine other schools, who joined us for the second annual Bede's Model United Nations conference (or "Bede'sMUN II").

Following months of planning meetings and behind-the-scenes organisational work, I can personally say that it was an absolute pleasure to see it all come to fruition as visiting pupils streamed into the Recital Room that morning, bringing a lively buzz of chatter to the previously quiet room. Some members of the Bede's MUN team manned the welcome desk while others such as myself and my fellow Secretary-General Prithvi Ann Sharma-Joehnk prepared for the imminent opening ceremony. When everyone was seated and the ceremony began, I was again delighted by the sheer number of pupils joining us for a day of intellectually stimulating and rewarding debating—128 pupils, including those from our school!

Following a short speech welcoming the pupils by our Headmaster Mr Goodyer, I delivered a brief opening speech in which I emphasised Bede's school values—the four "C" adjectives: curious, courageous, conscientious and compassionate. I explained the importance and relevance of these values to MUN debating, as this is an activity that at its core prepares pupils to become leaders of tomorrow that solve problems in an effective, empathetic way like those who work for the United Nations. After that, I had the honour of declaring the conference officially open and banging the gavel. Then we were all off to begin committee debates.

With more Bede's pupils able to serve as committee chairs than last year's conference (Bede'sMUN I), we had the fortune of offering more committees for all pupils to participate in. These include committees covering health policy, the environment, special political issues, the arms trade, women's issues, socio-cultural topics and of course the Security Council. It was the work of deliberating specific topics relating to these broader concerns that occupied all of us in committees for the duration of that morning. I was pleased to hear later on in the day that these deliberations were on the whole productive and cordial, with delegates enjoying the process and impressed by the way that committee debates were run. Of course, we did not have to discuss resolutions for the entire morning—there was a short break an hour into committee work so that delegates could take a breather and get their hands on some delectable snacks provided by Holroyd Howe, the caterer for Bede's.

Committee work finished when it was time for lunch, but right before delegates were sent off to the dining hall, they were treated to a news broadcast—starring not only Prithvi and I but also chairs and fellow Bede's pupils Noor Rahman and Zoe Whittington—relaying the first

bits of information on the crisis that would be discussed later during the General Assembly (GA) stage of the conference. This, I was glad to hear, was also received well. After delegates had lunch and arrived in one of two GA rooms (the Recital Room and the Miles Studio), it was time to begin a GA debate on the developing crisis at hand—a Yemeni-registered ship stopping halfway through the Suez Canal and blocking it.

From this point onwards, the two General Assemblies—unbeknownst to each other at the time—diverged rather significantly in their approaches to resolving the crisis. The Miles Studio GA, chaired by Noor, myself and fellow Bede's pupil Pippa Nunn, opted for more peaceful and diplomatic solutions, generally avoiding provoking direct conflict between the parties involved in the crisis. Of course, at some points in the debate, rhetorical sparks flew between some delegates, but this far from characterised the nature of the debate as a whole, which was largely respectful. On the other hand, I was informed later on that the Recital Room GA—chaired by Prithvi, Zoe and fellow Bede's pupil Harrison Odendaal—went in a rather different direction altogether. This could perhaps best be seen in the fact that delegates in that GA persistently wrestled with the prospect of unleashing nuclear destruction on Iran in response to the crisis in the Suez Canal. In any case, both General Assemblies were productive and rarely short of lively discussion on the crisis.

As GA wrapped up later in the afternoon, it was time for the closing ceremony, so all delegates returned to the Recital Room. There, the chairs gave summaries of what their committees were up to during the morning, followed by the announcement of delegates who won awards for making impressive contributions, with reference to committee work and the GA crisis debates. Afterward, Prithvi gave the closing speech to congratulate all delegates on a fruitful and superb day of debate, and declared the conference officially over, marking the end of a long but successful journey that started back in the first planning meeting in January.

On behalf of everyone on the Bede's MUN team, I would like to thank Mr McIntosh and Ms Webster for everything they have done alongside us to make this conference not just a reality, but a successful and fun event for all those involved. Many thanks also to the Bede's pupils—some of whom are aforementioned in this article—who served as committee chairs and GA chairs, thereby playing a huge part in making this conference so impressive and enjoyable ("best conference ever", as some visiting delegates and staff put it). I eagerly hope that next year's MUN conference will prove to be even more impressive, and look forward to continuing to be part of the Bede's MUN team in all of its future endeavours in this school year.

Hau Tak Ng
Upper Sixth pupil

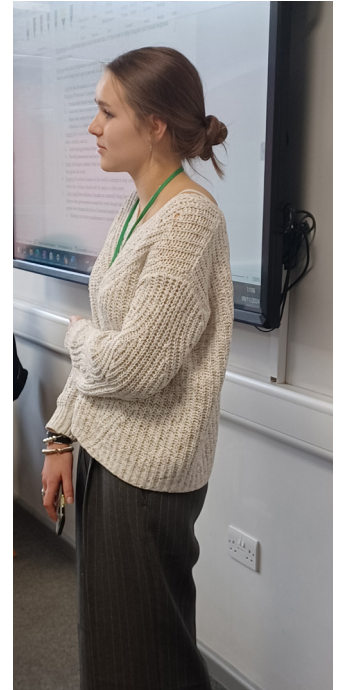
SHAPE

ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL MUN

On Saturday the 9th of November a group of pupils from our Model United Nations society travelled down to Royal Grammar School, Guildford, for an MUN conference. Our team consisted of several countries including the DPRK (North Korea) which made the debate interesting! Each committee discussed two topics, covering a range of important issues: The DISEC committee debated the question of autonomous weapons and the war in Sudan. The environmental committee - the topic of single use plastics and on biodiversity in South America. The ECOFIN committee examined cryptocurrency regulation and combating poverty in Central Asia. The Security Council discussed Kashmir and the Civil War in Myanmar. The Historical Council revisited the Falklands conflict and the Korean War. The Human Rights committee covered forced migration and human rights violations in Chechnya. The Health Committee debated disease in refugee camps and the question of disease caused by climate change and finally the Women's Council on the topic of gender equality and on the question of universal access to education.

The afternoon saw a lively and engaging General Assembly which required committees and delegates to resolve an immediate crisis; the kidnap of Chinese President Xi-Jiangping and his forced transportation to Taiwan. Each committee had to respond swiftly as the crisis rapidly escalated with new and stunning developments.

Overall, we had a fun and exciting day of fruitful debate and discussion. One of our team won an award, with Emilia McLelland receiving the Best Delegate award for her Committee. This was our third visit to RGS and we look forward to returning next year.



Emilia McLelland
Lower Sixth pupil

LANGUAGES

The Languages Faculty comprises a family of dedicated and inspirational departments: EAL, MFL, Classics, English, and the Library. This term we have seen pupils from all departments excel academically, and enjoy a range of enriching and inspiring co-curricular experiences and opportunities.

EAL

From a wonderfully industrious and dedicated cohort, the EAL Department highlighted three pupils for particular commendation at the Languages Faculty Laudation event on Tuesday 19th November. EAL pupils commended were:

Tom Ledieu – Tom is incredibly hardworking and puts his full effort into everything he does. He motivates others to give their best as well. He is always very curious, eager to learn and discover new things. Well done.

Noa Moreno Berrocal – Noa is the best pupil we have when it comes to following feedback and improving her work. Because of this she has managed to produce two excellent coursework essays so far. An absolute pleasure to have in the class.

Pasha Hyrtskiv Year 10, A hard working, resilient young man, who takes part in every lesson. Huge tennis fan/player, and very committed to that sport/passion, and yet never falls behind and always ensures he keeps up with the academic demands. Genuinely passionate about the subject, and improving with every lesson

Jason Cook
Head of EAL

EAL: TRIP TO HAMILTON

On a crisp winter's day, 42 EAL pupils from Pre-6th and Year 12 embarked on an unforgettable trip to London to see the hit musical Hamilton. The adventure began with some free time in Covent Garden, where pupils explored the bustling markets, indulged in delicious lunches, and soaked in the festive atmosphere.

Covent Garden was a true winter wonderland, adorned with dazzling Christmas lights and decorations. Enormous sparkling baubles hung from the historic Market Hall's ceiling, and a towering Christmas tree glittered against the backdrop of charming cobblestone streets. The air was filled with the joyful melodies of street performers and the warm scents of roasted chestnuts filled the air.

Before heading to the theater, the group enjoyed a brief sightseeing tour of London. Iconic landmarks like the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, and the London Eye served as perfect photo opportunities, while the festive lights at Trafalgar Square added a magical touch to the journey.

The highlight of the day was, of course, the performance of Hamilton at the Victoria Palace Theatre. The pupils were captivated by the dynamic storytelling, powerful songs, and electrifying performances that brought history to life in a contemporary and inspiring way.

This trip not only offered a chance to experience world-class theater but also created lasting memories of London at its most enchanting—a perfect blend of culture, history, and festive cheer.



Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

EAL: CHRISTMAS STORY WRITING COMPETITION

This December, our talented Year 9 and 10 pupils took part in an exciting writing competition that challenged their creativity and storytelling skills. The task? To craft an original Christmas story in under 500 words. The results were nothing short of spectacular!

The submissions reflected a wonderful range of themes. Some pupils captured the enchanting spirit of the season with tales of "A Christmas Miracle", while others explored the intriguing and darker side of the holiday with stories more akin to "A Nightmare at Christmas". Regardless of their unique perspectives, each entry displayed a remarkable level of creativity, effort, and passion.

After a thorough evaluation process, we are thrilled to announce the three winners of the competition. These pupils excelled in

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originality, structure, linguistic flair, technical accuracy, and overall engagement. Their stories truly stood out among a sea of impressive entries.

Congratulations to our winners!



Emilia Sevilla de la Fuente - receiving her prize from Mrs Kaye



Paula Contreras Mellone receiving her prize from Mrs Kaye



Regina Terrazas Borrell receiving her prize from Mr Dozagic

Jason Cook
Head of EAL

CLASSICS

Miss Pavlina Saoulidou, in her dedication to promoting Classics within the Trust, lends her expertise to the Prep School where she enlightens and enthuses younger pupils and broadens their cultural landscape.



Consequently, Classics continues to flourish at the Senior School, where the following Year 9 and 10 pupils were commended in the Languages Faculty Laudation event, Tuesday 19th November:

Benjamin Hillman (Y9) and Toby Cutler (Y9): both for exceptional dedication and a very good start in Latin this year.

Maddie McColgan (Y10) and Harriet Betts (Y10): both for sustained dedication and excellent progress in Latin so far

Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

MFL

As is right and proper, the academic year was once again welcomed in with Languages Week, headed by Veronique Ganivet, a celebration of our passion for sharing and learning languages. The MFL department offered a school-wide language and culture quiz, offered taster lessons in a range of languages and across a variety of cultures, and offered a European Day of Languages with many fun activities.

Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

LANGUAGES

MULTILINGUAL OPEN-MIC



This popular event ran once again this year: using the open-mic format to encourage pupils across all year groups to offer an insight into their own language and language identity, we enjoyed readings in a dozen languages. It was a privilege to hear languages including Kinyarwanda, Arabic, Swedish, and Greek, and for pupils to share the language heritage and identity of our community.

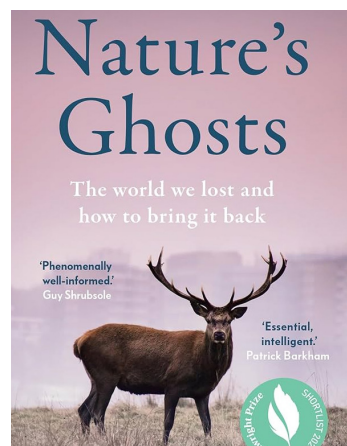
Jane Savage
Assistant to the Head of Faculty

the poems of a particular poet each episode. Supported by the success of the podcast, David and his co-presenters conducted the first live recording of an episode, in the atmospheric Old Chapel Centre in Alfriston on 11th November. The chosen poet was Thomas Hardy and an entertaining, intellectual, heart-felt and thorough discussion ensued - thoroughly enjoyable.

Jane Savage
Assistant to the Head of Faculty

FIRST YEAR EXPLORATION WRITING PRIZE

In the Autumn term, First Year pupils took part in the annual Exploration Writing Prize, inspired by the phrase 'a room with a view' and an intriguing image of a Scottish bothy in the wilderness. Every pupil in the year group took part in the competition as part of their study of creative and descriptive writing. To help celebrate pupils' work, we invited environmental writer and journalist Sophie Yeo for a Q&A on the writer's craft. Sophie, whose recent book *Nature's Ghosts* was nominated for the Wainwright Prize, spoke about her early reading influences and gave invaluable tips on how pupils might hone their own writing skills.



To celebrate some of our best pupils, and to congratulate the winners and runners up of the Exploration Competition, the Languages Faculty held its Laudation event on 19th November.

Exploration Prize-winners: Freya Locke, Elizabeth Reeves and Grace Law. Over 20 pupils were congratulated and rewarded with copies of

ENGLISH

Lit Academy is underway once again, with a diverse programme of extension and enrichment ideas and topic areas that now includes presentations from across the Languages Faculty staff, and the Year 13 pupils as well. The year began wonderfully with an original and compelling presentation on the poetry of Joelle Taylor by Year 13 English Literature pupil Jo Leonard. This was followed by Dr Savage's presentation on *How Literature Escaped Time*; followed on 19th November by Year 13 English Literature pupil Noor Rahman sharing her cultural knowledge and academic expertise of Pakistani poetry, with a presentation entitled *Echoes of Resistance: Postcolonial Themes in Kulliyāt* by Ghani Khan. Plenty of audience participation and interaction from the Years 9 and 10 pupils who attend demonstrates the inspiring and thought-provoking nature of this programme.

It is such a gift to the Languages Faculty that so many of the teachers are involved with creative endeavours beyond their school responsibilities. This term, John Tuson published his second book, *The Zoos of Germany*, launched on 17th October with a 42 Club event which was very well attended and included participants from a number of countries.

David Cheshire, along with two other presenters, is a founder and presenter of the popular English Literature podcast *Versify*, which boasts numerous excellent episodes where three intellectuals discuss

LANGUAGES

Bonita Norris' 'The Girl Who Climbed Everest'



Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

Q&A SESSIONS

Year 13 English Literature pupils, with Year 12 invited along for enrichment, were treated to an online talk and Q&A with Professor Jeffrey Cox of the University of Colorado on Keats' long poem 'Lamia'. It was such a privilege to participate in a highly intellectual discussion of poetic nuance and reference, between an academic expert overseas, our own Mr Oliver, and a group of serious and well-informed pupils.



As well as this, we also welcomed another renowned scholar of the Romantic poets, Professor Jon Mee of the University of York. In this Q&A, pupils considered their other set poems through the critical lens of tragedy and discussed what made Keats' Odes so memorable and relevant for a contemporary audience. A special mention must also go to our lower school academic scholars, whose close analytic reading of Keats' sonnet 'Bright Star' really impressed us on the evening.

Jane Savage
Assistant to the Head of Faculty

LIBRARY

This has been a really busy term for the library with some brilliant new enterprises getting underway.

IDEA SHARING

In September the library hosted librarians from local schools for a morning of idea sharing. It was great to meet other like minded individuals and chat about ways in which we can work together to enrich the lives of our pupils through reading. It was a successful morning and holds promise for some fruitful collaborations in the future.

OPEN MORNING

In October the library hosted the school Open Mornings, with the English and Languages departments also taking up residence, bringing the whole Faculty under one roof for the first time. Ably assisted by some of our Reading Ambassadors, we had a fabulous display and were able to give prospective pupils and parents a great idea of our curriculum and reading culture here at Bede's.



BEDE'S COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

We're so excited about this endeavour! In an effort to encourage reading not just within our pupil/teacher body, but throughout the entire school community, this new book club is open to everyone involved with Bede's - all staff from Senior and Prep, Senior pupils, parents, siblings, aunts, granddads, Uncle Tom Copley and all.

We will read six books over the course of the school year, and meet once each half-term, in the library over drinks and nibbles, to chat about the book we've just read. The books are chosen very carefully by myself and Jeannette Arduino, to ensure that they are uplifting, relatively short, and an enjoyable escape rather than an extra chore in an already busy life.

LANGUAGES

At the start of October we had our inaugural meet-up, which was so lovely. Our first book was *The Storied Life of AJ Fikry* and it got a thumbs up from everyone who was able to attend. If you're interested in joining, please email me at sarah.evans@bedes.org.

BRILLIANT BOOK & BISCUITS

Our reading activity has proved more popular than ever this term, with 17 pupils coming along every Tuesday to listen to and read along with some award-shortlisted YA fiction. The mindful colouring while they listen has also proved to be a hit, with some pupils colouring in bookmarks to match the covers of the books we've been reading. This term we've enjoyed a dash of dystopia, a splash of song and dance and a sprinkling of scary!



READING AMBASSADORS

Our Reading Ambassadors have been hard at work spreading the joy of reading far and wide. We've had some excellent One-Minute Book Chats in assembly, with pupils and staff taking it in turns each week to talk about why they love reading, or a book that has impacted them.

Project RED is underway, as we 'Banksy' our way around the school putting up banners to ensure our reading message is seen by all and sundry.



We have started work on a reading corner enterprise, with our long-term goal being to create Book Nooks all over campus. These cosy little reading areas, complete with comfy seating and fabulous books, will start popping up in whatever promising nooks and crannies we can find, and they will hopefully encourage passing pupils to take some time out with a good book.

In the penultimate week of term we hosted Festive Fireside Tales, a wonderful Christmassy storytelling event. Our RAs invited their favourite teachers, and many more teachers invited pupils who, for whatever reason, have been particularly marvellous this term.

Mr Cheshire gave everyone the heebie-jeebies with a Christmas ghost story, I read King John's Christmas by AA Milne, pupil Jo Leonard gave an excellent reading of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, Mr Rennison brought life to Scrooge with an extract from *A Christmas Carol*. Everyone enjoyed lashings of hot chocolate with marshmallows and some truly enormous cookies.

Before we wrapped up we were visited by Santa, who rewarded the specially invited pupils, along with some of our RAs who were instrumental in making the event a success, with a book chosen specifically for them.

The event was so well attended we ran out of chairs - it was the perfect winter warmer!



BEDE'S

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LANGUAGES

CHRISTMAS BIG BOOK BORROW

In order to send as many pupils as possible off with a book to read over the holiday, the library hosted its annual seasonal Big Book Borrow in December. The all-day event in the penultimate week of term was widely attended by many pupils from all year groups, either as part of their English lessons or purely for the fun of it. Not only did they borrow some excellent books, they also got chocolatey treats and a festive bookmark.



LAST BUT NOT LEAST...

The library gained a tiny sliver of street cred (well, I like to think so) in November when it was used by some A-Level Media pupils to film a music video. For too short a time, I felt almost cool by association...



Sarah Evans
Librarian

SUPRA CURRICULAR STRETCH OPPORTUNITIES

Education is about so much more than the contents of an exam syllabus, and at Bede's we passionately believe in the broader academic development of our pupils. We have enjoyed a well-attended, varied and stimulating programme of lectures, masterclasses and talks all the way through this long and packed term.

Highlights included Dr Ezzy Pearson, a space robotics journalist for the BBC's Sky at Night, who also talked about her book *Robots in Space*. Our own Mr Tuson showcased his extraordinary wit and knowledge at the launch of his new book, *The Zoos of Germany*, which ran late into the evening with questions on everything from meerkat displays to the insemination of white rhinos. We also welcomed a range of academics - our pupils are so privileged to have small group access to internationally recognised lecturers and authors such as Professor Jeffrey Cox of the University of Colorado and Professor John Mee from the University of York.

And that is not all. We enjoyed a superb in-person Recital Room talk on Clinical Psychology from alumnus (and soon to be Doctor) Alice Potter. As well as this, SHAPE Week was a resounding success, with soapbox talks, a pupil-led symposium and special lessons. Mention also has to be made of the Literature Academy on Thursday lunchtimes, where Upper Sixth pupils including Jo Leonard and Noor Rahman led their own masterclasses on poets they are choosing to investigate for their A level coursework.

I would like to say a huge thank you to parents for encouraging their sons and daughters to come along, the adults who help us to organise these extra sessions and, most importantly of all, the pupils themselves, whose commitment, involvement and curiosity make us proud each week. Our Academic Scholars are stalwart participants, but all pupils are welcome, and we often provide very tasty snacks!

Next term, we look forward to English Week (13th-17th January), STEM Week (10th-14th March), a Crime Writing Masterclass, a King Lear Masterclass, an exploration of creative education and much more. Mock examinations will cause a brief hiatus, but there will still be plenty of supra curricular joy to be had.

Joe Curtis
English Teacher

INQUIRY LEARNING

We have had a 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. We are seeing record numbers undertaking vocational programs once again, with over 45% of the Sixth Form undertaking one or more BTEC programs. 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



This month, our dedicated Animal Management pupils have been exploring the critical topics of legislation and animal welfare, equipping themselves with essential knowledge for their future careers in animal care. Understanding the laws and ethical standards that govern animal management is a vital part of ensuring the well-being of animals in professional settings, and our pupils have shown a

keen interest in learning how to advocate for the creatures under their care.

In addition to their studies on legislation, the pupils put theory into practice by designing and implementing enrichment feeding activities for the animals at the zoo. These activities are crucial for stimulating natural behaviours and enhancing the overall quality of life. The Lower Sixth pupils showcased creativity and an understanding of the needs of each species. This hands-on experience allowed them to see firsthand the importance of tailored enrichment and observe the positive impact of their efforts on animal behaviour.

Paul Juniper
Head of Animal Management

BTEC APPLIED SCIENCE

The Upper Fifth pupils have been making impressive strides in their Chemistry studies this term. After successfully completing their mock exams, the pupils showcased their diligence and understanding of the subject, earning commendable results that highlight their hard work and dedication.

Following the exams, they transitioned seamlessly into hands-on learning, conducting practical investigations into making salts. This engaging activity allowed them to apply their theoretical knowledge to real-world chemistry. Through experiments involving reactions of acids with metals, alkalis, and carbonates, the pupils gained valuable insights into the properties and behaviors of different substances.

These practical sessions are part of the examined unit, which requires pupils to demonstrate an understanding of various acid reactions and their applications. The investigations not only reinforced classroom learning but also cultivated essential laboratory skills such as precision, observation, and analysis.

With their mock exams now behind them, the pupils are preparing for the next phase of their curriculum. Following their February 3rd exam, they will delve into more detailed investigations and practical-based studies. This upcoming phase will build on their existing knowledge and deepen their understanding of industrial chemical processes.

Congratulations to the Upper Fifth on their hard work and enthusiasm for learning! Keep up the fantastic effort.

Jessica Johnson
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 outset. 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 and filming of the innovation and enterprise presentations and their 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. As they

INQUIRY LEARNING

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 Recognition awards have been handed out to Theo Tompkins and George Lythgoe in the Lower Sixth and Freya McPherson in the Lower Fifth for their exceptional efforts both in and out of the classroom.

The same has been true for our Upper Fifth who had their Finance exam on the 5th December. They have worked really hard this term investigating their Business finance topic and we eagerly await the results in the New Year. The Lower Fifth have consistently impressed with their dedication to marketing coursework. This term, Jasper Sharpin, Henry Le Boudec, and Callum Waterhouse have particularly excelled in their work on the marketing mix and market research. As they delve into the complexities of KPIs next term, they should make the most of this upcoming break.

At the start of term the BTEC Business Lower Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils visited Drusillas Zoo and Park for an enriching experience. The trip included an educational talk where pupils learned about the business side of operating a zoo, from marketing strategies to the importance of customer service. The talk also highlighted how Drusillas balances conservation with commercial goals, providing valuable insights into real-world business challenges in the leisure and tourism sector.



In addition to the educational talk, pupils had the chance to explore the park and get hands-on with some of its resident animals. They interacted with a Skink, Boa Constrictor, and Armadillo, enhancing their understanding of animal care and customer engagement. The

afternoon was rounded off with time on the park's rides, allowing pupils to see how the park delivers a complete customer experience. This trip combined learning with memorable experiences, offering practical examples for their coursework.

Congratulations to Henry Le Boudec and Callum Waterhouse too for their efforts this term, they won the Recognition award this term for their excellent work!

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 and picture in picture. Over the new year break they will capture more film and then in January 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 during February and all the BTEC pupils will be encouraged to take part.

The Upper Fifth pupils are preparing for their exam which takes place on the 29th of January and are firmly in revision mode. All revision materials and past papers are on the Google Drive and Classroom. With the end of their course in sight, following the exam they will start putting together their plans for their final unit, creating a website. This year they will create 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. Congratulations to Zak Gaymer for an outstanding mark in the recent mock and he has won the recognition award for this term.

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

INQUIRY LEARNING

Programming, Social Media and website development units, good luck to all on completing those.

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

Chris Betts
Head of Computing and IT

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 Ice Dance from Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands.

The Upper Sixth pupils have been working on their individual devised pieces to the stimulus 'Colours of Life'. 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. Hannah has been working with the First Year dancers for her piece inspired by diversity and inclusion.

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

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 complete dance assessments at the end of each term which they watch back to see if, and how, they have progressed throughout the first term.



The Upper Fifth pupils have been collaborating on a group project to the stimulus 'Climate'. They have been busy choreographing the dances and have to consider appropriate costumes, lighting and production elements for their showcase next year.



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 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 in in the Lower Sixth for his continued commitment and Liv Driver in in the Upper Sixth earlier in the term for her determination to understand everything she attempts. So far, so good!



For the In a Year group, having to juggle the demands of a two year program in half the class time is not the easiest, but the group is

INQUIRY LEARNING

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 (21st), where pupils have been investigating the basic marketing principles. A superb start!

BTEC Level 3 Marketing pupils also got to enjoy an immersive learning experience at Drusillas Park. They gained valuable insights into the business and marketing side of running a zoo, including marketing strategies, customer service, and balancing conservation with commercial goals. Hands-on experiences with animals like a Skink, Boa Constrictor, and Armadillo, further enriched their understanding of animal care and customer engagement. By exploring the park's rides and attractions, pupils also witnessed firsthand how a successful leisure and tourism business delivers a complete customer experience. This practical learning opportunity will undoubtedly enhance their coursework and future career aspirations.

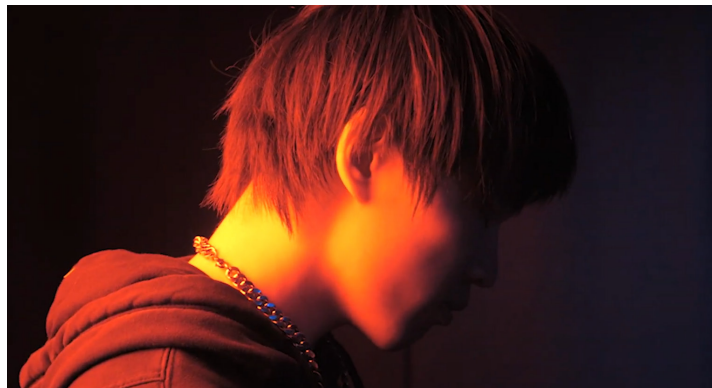


Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

BTEC MEDIA

The Upper Sixth BTEC pupils have had a very busy term completing their music videos and television ads. They have learned a great deal about camera, lights, lip-sync and editing and have produced some fantastic work that really showcases their skills and imaginations. Now, we turn our attention to the final creative assignment whereby the pupils design, shoot and edit their own short horror film, using all the audio, lighting, edit and cinematography skills they have learned across the two years. In the Lower Sixth the pupils are working hard on learning the basics of pre-production, Adobe Premiere Pro and Camera Technique. In theory lessons we have been covering a wide range of media representations in TV drama, newspapers and music

video. A great effort from a really promising cohort! In only a few days, we have the Media and Art trip to New York and both staff and pupils are getting very excited about this amazing opportunity. Well done to all the Media pupils this term and we look forward to seeing you refreshed and ready in January!



Rick Williams
Head of Media & Film Studies

BTEC MUSIC

As always it has been a very busy term for our BTEC musicians. We have had a range of events and concerts this term and members of both the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth BTEC bands have been involved. In November we took a number of pupils down to East Sussex College where we took part in the Eastbourne Youth Radio.



This was an excellent performance opportunity to broadcast their talents across the local area! The Lower Sixth BTEC band have been working on setting the foundations of their band this term, learning how to work well together to get the most out of a musical rehearsal. They are making strong progress on their repertoire and will hopefully be performing their version of 'Wonderwall' at the BTEC gig next term. The Upper Sixth Band have been beaver away at their set list for Cabaret. They have some exciting songs planned which they are playing with real flair. These include two Stevie Wonder favourites 'Sir Duke' & 'I Wish' as well as Raye's 'Worth It' and the ever popular 'Dancing Queen' by ABBA. A special mention must go to Callum Tsoi of the Lower Sixth who has worked really hard this term on picking up the bass guitar and as such has earned this term's recognition award.

James Aburn
Assistant Director of Music

INQUIRY LEARNING

BTEC PRODUCTION ARTS

Our latest production of *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer has been an absolute delight to bring to life. This farcical play, first performed in 1965, cleverly reverses light and dark on stage, creating a chaotic and hilarious narrative. The story follows a young sculptor and his fiancée, who secretly borrow their neighbour's expensive furniture to impress a wealthy art collector—only for the power to fail, the neighbour to return, and mayhem to ensue.

The BTEC Production Arts Crew have worked tirelessly to design and realise the set and props, overcoming numerous creative challenges to ensure everything—from staircases to rocking chairs—works seamlessly. This production has been a true team effort, and we are so proud of everyone involved.



Will Rennison
Head of Academic Drama

where they could finally practice their newly developed skills whilst watching the sunrise. An amazing experience worth the pain on the way up the mountain!

The Lower Sixth pupils have been preparing for their first exam after the Christmas break. They will be tested on their ability to apply their knowledge to a variety of case studies on the topics of aggression, consumer behaviour and gender. So far, their progress has been great with some stand out performances from a few in the group. Ella Venables has won the pupil of the half term for the second time in a row, which is a first for the department but her performance has been first class in lessons, prep and assessments. The pupils will have a few days off for Christmas, but will need to stay “locked in” as they would say ready for that exam in the New Year.



Laurence Collier
Psychology Teacher

BTEC PSYCHOLOGY

This term the Upper Sixth pupils have been working on their independent projects where they conduct some basic psychological studies and build up to completing their dissertation style assessments. Examples of study topics are the impacts of mobile phone use on interactions, age and memory, manners and kindness, and boredom in the workplace to name a few. Their progress on the course was bolstered by some exceptional grades in the summer for their Unit 3 exam on Health Psychology. A few of the class who sat this exam were fortunate enough to experience a trip to Nepal and practice mindfulness meditation first hand at the Kopan Monastery in Kathmandu under the guidance of a Lama. Emma, Will and Maddy were then able to embark on a hike in the foothills of the Himalayas

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Overall a busy term for Academic PE, however very successful to date. We have had some very good successes within the examined content of all courses, with most pupils achieving Distinctions as a result for Units A and B first submissions.

Study support sessions have been very successful for all Academic PE courses. Tuesday evening focuses on IGCSE recall and retrieval, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes are focussed on BTEC and CNAT Sports Science, and Thursday evenings on all courses.

iGCSE Physical Education pupils have been focussed on practical sports assessments and filming. With the deadline fast-approaching, it is important individual filming is sent in to the class teacher. The deadline for all Upper Fifth IGCSE coursework filmed evidence is Sunday 23rd February 2025.

INQUIRY LEARNING



The Upper Fifth Sport Science pupils are completing their final coursework project which has a deadline of 1st December. After Christmas they will be working towards the examined unit.

The Lower Sixth BTEC Sport Coaching pupils are continuing to develop

their practical sports coaching leadership, 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.

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

Ali Rowsell
Head of Physical Education

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 Medical Centre, 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:

- Black History Month 2024 - October
- World Teachers' Day 2024 - 5th Oct
- World Mental Health Day 2024 - Tues 10th Oct
- Men's Awareness Month 2024 - November
- Anti-Bullying Week 2024 - 13th - 17th Nov
- International Men's Day 2024 - Sun 19th Nov
- Peer Mentoring
- 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.

Our EDIB Prefect committee led Black History Month this term. This year's theme, "Reclaiming Narratives," was about taking control of the way black stories are told. For too long, many stories of black history have been overlooked or misrepresented. This theme encouraged us to tell these stories accurately and celebrate the achievements that have shaped our society, reminding us that history belongs to everyone. Black History Month also included an

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 something festive this week in the run up to Christmas. The most enjoyable lesson so far was definitely assisting pupils when making their own breakfast

menu. Hopefully pupils will be able to further develop their skills over the holidays by cooking at home. Also, a congratulations must be extended to Ted Burke who won this term's pupil recognition award for all of his hard work in Home Economics.

Mary Leggett
Head of Partnerships and Social Responsibility

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INQUIRY LEARNING

inspirational talk by Floyd Steadman, rugby player, a headmaster and author. He spoke about his achievements throughout his life and gave pupils an insight into his story.

“Mental health problems don’t define who you are. They are something you experience. You walk in the rain and you feel the rain, but you are not the rain.” — Matt Haig. Throughout November, we promoted discussions about men’s health and wellbeing, highlighting issues and challenges that men face in the modern world. This gave tutor groups the opportunity to reflect on men’s mental health and discuss support available both in and out of school, specifically for boys and young men.

Our Wellbeing Prefect committee led an initiative for Anti-Bullying Week, by encouraging pupils to ‘Say what needs to be said’. This writing competition encouraged pupils to express issues they thought were worth bringing to light. Bullying thrives on fear and by extension silence, so the Wellbeing Committee asked pupils to take control of narratives that they thought were worth sharing. We have had several entries for this competition and winners will be shared in the Spring term.

Pamela Nikiteas
Head of PSHE

EPQ AND HPQ

As we embark on the latest project qualifications this term, we have seen an impressive 36 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 with investigations into ‘To what extent has the Russo-Ukrainian war impacted the global economy?’, ‘To what extent does our mindset really affect recovery and pain relief?’, ‘How does the depiction of body image in the fashion industry influence adolescents’ views on beauty and their self-confidence?’ and a contemporary dance performance inspired by the societal and patriarchal pressures on women.

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 has been the influence of presidential debates on election outcomes?’, ‘How has English football culture evolved over the years and what has influenced these changes?’ ‘Why is Helen of Troy blamed so much for the Trojan war?’ and ‘In organ transplantation, what mechanism could transfer “memories” from donor to recipient?’ Some very interesting topics are emerging!

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

SPORTS LEADERS

The Level 3 Sports Leaders have started off the course strongly, by making a difference within the community. The pupils recently enjoyed designing and hosting a Walking Football event for The Young at Heart group. A really enjoyable and successful event that was enjoyed by everyone and they look forward to hosting them in the New Year for an especially adapted curling competition. A special mention to Harry Clifford and Gerooge Davenport who have both worked really hard this term and received a vocational faculty recognition award.

Kyra Merchant
Physical Education Teacher

ARTS AWARD

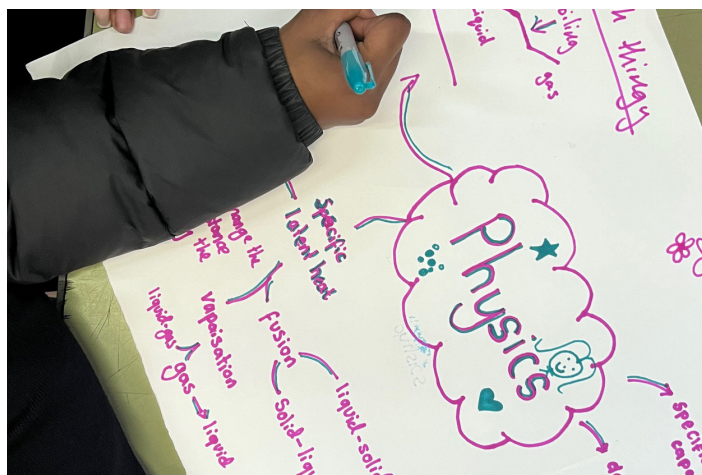
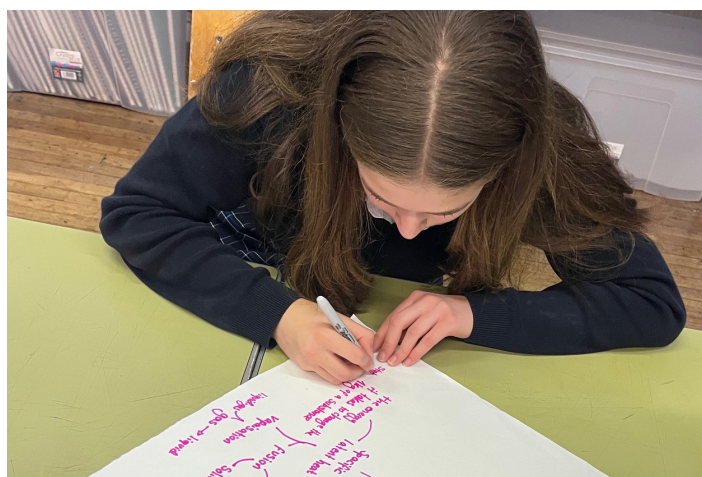
This term has seen Leona Baker start planning her leadership project and extend her skills and abilities in the areas of singing and performing. She has made a positive start towards her Arts Award Level 3 qualification, demonstrating both creativity and commitment in her work. She has effectively chosen a personal project that aligns with her passion for visual and performing arts, showing a clear vision for what she hopes to achieve. Leona has already begun researching artists and techniques relevant to her project, and her reflections on this process show a strong understanding of the connections between her creative journey and the wider arts world.

Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

JUNIOR SCHOOL UPDATE

We recognise that teaching young pupils how to learn is as important as teaching them what to learn. And so in the Junior School (Years 9-11), tutors have been spending time explicitly modelling 'how to learn' to tutees in order to develop pupil independence. From exploring effort and motivation, to learning different revision techniques to support retrieval practice, pupils have been actively learning how to create flashcards, mind maps, revision timetables etc. It's been exciting to see a hive of activity across Tutor groups in the mornings and we are looking forward to building momentum on this as we approach the Spring Term.

Edem Onofeghara
Assistant Director of Studies (GCSE)



BEDE'S

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SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Pre-Sixth

It has been a pleasure to welcome 26 pupils to the Pre-Sixth this year, with pupils from all around the world joining us to complete their GCSE studies and develop their English. The pupils arrived and joined the Lower Sixth at Bushy Wood teambuilding day, trying a range of exciting activities and meeting the Sixth Form pupils, as well as attending the Welcome BBQ and getting involved in a giant rounders game!

Later in the term, the year group gathered in the Sixth Form centre to set their intentions and plan ideas for future activities as a year group, which Mr Sealey was very grateful for – although the pizza delivery was the main attraction!

Finally, the year group had an amazing trip to London to see Hamilton on the West End – an amazing cultural opportunity and a great way to celebrate their first term completed!

Lower Sixth

This term has been an incredibly busy one as we welcomed our new and returning pupils into the Sixth Form. It is such a privilege to be able to guide these pupils into this new and exciting phase of their education.

The start of term saw lots of fun and games to get pupils mixing; our team-building day at Bushy Wood activities centre was a great success as pupils were mixed up into randomised teams and undertook a series of challenges, from climbing and abseiling to making fires and shelters! The day was a tiring one but ended with lots of smiling faces and new friendships forged.

We also held our welcome BBQ for the Lower Sixth, which saw most of the year group turn out on a sunny September evening for games and lovely food from Holroyd Howe. A mass rounders game was the highlight, as well as Mr Sealey's chance to get a few early shots with the waterpistol in!

As the term went on and we settled into academic studies, the Lower Sixth have been guided to start to think about their future plans, having met with Mrs Franks and Mr Sealey to learn about the different routes available after Bede's and how to start preparing. This has been supported by the Sixth Form team's new Independent Study programme for tutors, encouraging pupils to think about what it means to be a Sixth Former and how to manage their time.

Finally, we have had the pleasure of welcoming various Bede's Alumni back to talk to the Lower Sixth, including Matt Amrtson-Ford, who now spends his time guiding visitors and photographing some of the world's rarest animals in Africa, the Arctic Circle and Asia, and Jazz Turner, parasailor who gave the pupils a powerful and moving account of overcoming adversity to reach the peak of her field.

Upper Sixth

The Upper Sixth have also been incredibly busy this year as they return to the vital business of preparing university applications. After a workshop with Mrs Franks to kick-start the new school year in September, the year group has also had weekly drop-in sessions as they finalise their personal statements and send away applications. Many universities have begun giving out offers immediately whilst others will be contacting pupils later next year.

It hasn't been all business, though; the recent Upper Sixth Social, as planned and delivered by the Sixth Form Engagement committee, saw pupils enjoy food, casino games and dancing together in the penultimate week of the year after working incredibly hard – giving them a taste of the fun and celebrations to come at their Leavers' Ball in May 2025!

Justin Sealey
Head of Sixth Form (Engagement)

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 Noah Van Herk!

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

Hello! My name is Noah van Herk, I am in Year 11 at Bede's and I am currently studying my GCSEs which include Drama, Media, Art and DT.



What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Being of a curious nature and born with a mind eager to seek out the weird and wonderful, I would say that earning my scuba diving padi at 12 years old! Scuba diving, although a rarity here in England, is one of the guiltiest pleasures of my life. Being almost weightless, you feel everything, even the way bubbles trickle up your face. I have always compared it to being like an astronaut, and because I earned my licence at such a young age, I quite often am the youngest (and sometimes most experienced!) on any scuba diving exhibition, the longest taking almost a full day to reach!

What has been your greatest disappointment?

Seeing how people change because of people. The way that a person's smile - no matter how bright - can die with a single action or sentence, given the right circumstances. What's worse is there are people who have learnt to master and manipulate this power and inflict it on others. What disappoints me is how a human made of flesh and bone can have the guts to kill another person's smile.

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

The 1920s! The jazz, the music, the theatre! There was no time like the 1920s in regard to these aspects. Perhaps it has been glorified by movies, but being a lover of jazz, theatre and all things vintage, this was the time, and New York was the place to be!

Which places in the world are on your bucket list?

New York! The scene to be for aspiring actors like myself. Athens - the history, the culture, the food! The list goes on and on! Galapagos - the unique and wonderful climate that houses species that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Hollywood - where the magic happens! No real explanation needed there!

What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?

Nepal. I went with the school and it has been one of the best experiences of my life so far, the culture is rich with history and colour, and the locations are so bizarre and unique that at some

times you were stood in the clouds, other times, at a mountains summit, and other times in a dry desert. The people are kind and happy and the food is delicious, and I have learnt so much about myself and the world around me by visiting monks in temples and stupas scattered around this beautiful place!

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

Charlie Chaplin, Wes Anderson, Agatha Christie, Harry Houdini, Heath Ledger and Tim Burton. These people are pioneers in my interests, whether that's acting, filmmaking or reading. They are all such unique and wonderful minds, that all look upon the world in different ways, which were at first criticised but have changed the way the world works forever.

Which songs would you pick on Desert Island Discs?

Frank Sinatra - My Way
Chet Baker - My Funny Valentine
Earth, Wind and Fire - September
Smashmouth - Allstar

I don't have a defined sense of music, much like all aspects of life, I refuse to stay bound to a certain click, but I do have a penchant for older music, like jazz or old love songs, these are a few among my favourites, and I could listen to them for hours on end.

And which songs are your greatest guilty pleasures?

'Cry Me a River', 'Cell Block Tango', 'Double Life'. These are a few of what I call "music video songs", and by that I mean the type of music where you can dance, mouth or sing to with it feeling right. I particularly like to imagine new and innovative music videos or scenes playing to the songs lyrics or tune!

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

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie. I have always been a fan of her, her play 'The Mousetrap' was what got me introduced to her, but ever since, I've been hooked. I look up to her greatly as an author, as she can write a murder so many times without it being repetitive or boring. This book was so great that after reading it, I straight away went to watch the film!

What's your favourite restaurant or pub?

A family owned bistro in Sevenoaks called 'Sopranos'. Their ham and cheese paninis are nothing short of divine.

Best advice you have ever been given?

I cannot remember if I read this, watched it or was told this, or perhaps I thought it up myself under the influence of other famous sayings, but "Never let the world change your smile. Let your smile change the world." I have said this quote so many times it has become like a mantra to me, it reminds me to be the reason someone might smile, the reason that someone might have a good day, and no matter what, never succumb to the stress and anger of everyday life,

GET TO KNOW THE BEDE'S COMMUNITY

because that truly gets nothing done, and in a world of do-ers the last thing I would want to be is a layabout.

Favourite TV show?

Forever imprinted in my mind, it is 'Gravity Falls', the characters, the way they grow, the storyline, the plot. If you haven't seen it, I encourage you to do so immediately as it is truly a binge worthy show.

Favourite film or TV character?

Wes Anderson's 'Grand Budapest Hotel' - the cinematography is unmatched and the story is rich and vibrant with colourful characters played by a talented, star-studded cast. In my mind, it is his best work.

Next up is our Lead Nurse, Louise Lister...

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

I was at St Bede's from Year 1 right the way through to U6. I was a Legat dancer and always planned to be a dancer, but knew it wouldn't be a lifelong career and would like to be a nurse once I had finished performing.



After St Bede's I moved to London and went to London Studio Centre to study Theatre Dance, but left after a year due to gaining dance contracts and teaching jobs in London, Europe and USA. I opened a dance studio in South London and had 2 dance companies; 'Carpe Diem' Ballet and Contemporary company and 'No Limit' Hip Hop dance company where we created full length works and had professional dancers working alongside young people.

When I was ready to stop dancing, I gained a place at Kingston University and gained my Bsc Adult Nursing and worked at St George's Hospital in Tooting. I then went on to study a PgDip in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing at King's College London and worked as a Health Visitor in Lewisham and South London.

I left London 7 years ago to return home to Eastbourne and worked in ITU at Brighton Hospital and for Crisis Response in Eastbourne. I then went to Brighton University to enhance my nursing skills and completed an Msc in Advanced Clinical Practice and came to work as Lead Nurse at Bede's.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

Becoming a mother to my little girl and seeing her thrive at Bede's Prep.

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

Princess Diana, Stephen Fry, Adam Kay, Darcey Bussell and Michael McIntyre.

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

'A Child Called IT'. Made me want to work in Health Visiting to protect and ensure all children have a happy healthy life.

What is your favourite book and why?

'This is going to Hurt' by Adam Kay. Very funny but true to life in the NHS.

How do you relax?

I love to run and swim, sauna and steam! Also, aim to travel at least twice a year to different countries, enjoy different cultures and of course the sun.

The best advice you have ever been given?

Save 10% of every £1 you make and do not live on credit.

What made you decide that Bede's was the place for you?

Bede's has been a huge part of my whole life. My sisters studied here, my dad was an electrician here and years ago my mum was a matron in Crossways. There isn't a time in my life where Bede's hasn't featured. I remember being very tiny, possibly about 3 years old, sitting on the table next to the washing machine whilst my mum was working, and Crossways was over above the kitchen (now the music block). It is such a special place and I love being here.

What would you be doing as a career if you weren't at Bede's?

If I wasn't at Bede's I would still be working in the NHS as a nurse, remaining in Intensive Care or Emergency Care. Perhaps one day nursing on a cruise ship to combine nursing and travelling.

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

Just give it a go! You might end up being really good at something you never dreamed possible, and if you end up being bad at it, at least you know!

If you could be Prime Minister for a day, what is the first thing you would do - in an education context?

Increase the amount of sport, dance and outdoor activity given to children in all schools. Moving, exercise and fresh air is so fantastic for us all, we should do more of it!

SPORT

MEET BEDE'S RISING GIRLS' FOOTBALL STARS

At Bede's, we are incredibly proud to foster incredible football talent. Among them, are female footballers who shine not only as key players on Bede's school teams but also with impressive achievements at external football clubs. We sat down with three of our rising stars to explore their recent achievements, what drives them to keep pushing forward, and their goals for the future.

Maia - First Year

Tell me about your recent footballing achievements?

I moved to England from Germany when I was nine. Growing up, I played for a boys' team in Germany, and when I arrived in England, I had a trial with Brighton & Hove Albion and made it onto the team. I'm now in my fifth season with them. Recently, I had the chance to represent Brighton in the Nike Cup, where I competed in a three-day tournament against teams like Manchester City. At school, I also play for the academy and represent both the boys' and girls' teams.



Is there someone you look up to in football? How has their example influenced you?

I really look up to Beth Mead from the England Lionesses. She plays in the same position as I do and is incredibly talented, so it's inspiring to see her success continue to grow. Lionel Messi is another role model for me. Despite being shorter than most players, he worked incredibly hard to become one of the best in the world. His journey motivates me a lot.

What goal are you working toward currently?

I'm aiming to secure a two-year contract with Brighton & Hove Albion and to advance into the next season. I also have high hopes for my achievements at Bede's. Right now, I'm enjoying both football and hockey, and I'm focused on progressing through the football academy to build a successful future in the sport.

Sadie - Lower Fifth

Tell me about your recent footballing achievements?

I was chosen to join an Under-16 tour with Chelsea, which was an incredible opportunity. During the half-term break, I attended an England U16 camp where we faced Switzerland in two games—winning the first match 4-2 and drawing the second 3-3. Additionally, I played for Chelsea in a match against Brighton, which we won 4-0. I've also represented my school in various cup games.



Is there someone you look up to in football? How has their example influenced you?

I'd have to say Alex Greenwood from the England team. She plays in the same position as me and is also left-footed! Her successful career really inspires me.

What goal are you working toward currently?

I want to keep performing well and enjoying every moment. I'd love to stay involved with the England squad and continue playing for Chelsea U16s.

Issy - Lower Fifth

Tell me about your recent footballing achievements?

I was selected for the ISFA team and will be heading to St James' Park for an Under-16 camp. I'm still playing with Brighton and Hove Albion U16, and last week we faced Southampton, winning 4-1. I scored a goal and provided two assists in the match.



Is there someone you look up to in football? How has their example influenced you?

I would say Lola Brown, who attended Bede's, is a big inspiration for me. She's achieved so much with both Chelsea and England, and since I've followed a similar path, I find her journey really inspiring.

What goal are you working toward currently?

I want to keep playing for Brighton's U16s and aim for consistently strong performances. Ultimately, my goal is to play for England one day.

SPORT

FOOTBALL

This term has already seen over 160 matches played across all the teams with excellent levels of participation across the school. The girls' football continues to grow with both participation numbers increasing and performance teams achieving some excellent results with the U15 team into the last 16 of the ISFA cup. Sadie Gregory has been capped by England U15's whilst Issy Ranger and Maia Reddington continue to have great success representing Brighton and Hove Albion. The boys U18 1st XI have made a good start to their HUDL national league campaign and currently sit 3rd in the table whilst they also completed a successful tour to Benfica football academy in Lisbon. The U14A, U15A, and 16A are making good progress through the early rounds of national and county cups and look to be having very promising seasons. Individually Kobe Agbude has been selected for ISFA U18 whilst also being selected for Sussex U18 whilst Stelio Papadoplous has also been selected for Sussex U18. Max Collins has been selected for Sussex U15's whilst Lewis Richardson and Dami Di Michelli have been selected for Sussex U14's. Finally we would all like to congratulate ex alumni Lola Brown who has recently signed a 3 year professional deal with Chelsea and made her debut in the Champions League vs Celtic recently.



David Caryer
Director of Football

GIRLS FOOTBALL

The girls' football teams have had an exceptional term, with the U15 team making outstanding progress, reaching the last 16 in two national competitions: the ISFA and ESFA Cups. These remaining rounds will take place after Christmas. The U18 team has also performed strongly this term, with the ISFA league for both age groups set to start after the break.

Over the past 13 weeks, the teams have played an impressive 20 matches, achieving 15 wins. Individual performances have been exceptional, with Auden Ruelle standing out for her technical ability and enthusiasm, Lizzie Stanton and Niyah Hawtrey for their athleticism, and Ife Owoigbe for her relentless hard work up front. Martha Flack has been brilliant in goal, while Sadie Gregory, Iris Rouwen, Issy Ranger, and Bay Ellis have impressed with their superb all-around contributions.

The defense has been solid, with Valentina Garcia Moreno Knight, Emilia Sevilla De La Fuente, Freya Locke, and Faith MacDonagh showcasing fantastic tackling and positioning. Maia Reddington and Carlota Fernandez Ruiz Maza have scored some wonderful goals, supported by the creativity of Daniela Cadaval Garci-Crespo, Clementyne Hammond Waters, and Daniela Recio Palma.

It has been a fantastic term of development and success for both teams, and we are excited to see what they can achieve in the post-Christmas matches.

David Byrne
Director of Sport

SPORT

HOCKEY

The hockey season has been busy as always, starting off with the 30 girls heading off on a pre-season tour to Amsterdam at the end of August. This was a great experience for the pupils to experience the best hockey nation in the world and invaluable time bonding as a squad.

Since being back at school the 1st team girls continue to compete in the Tier 1 league and have reached the last 16 of the national knockout cup, the U16 boy reached the south east regional finals for indoor & Mr Furlong's U14's won the UKSA tournament.

Our pupils are also thriving outside of school hockey with 7 of our players being offered places on the EG & Sevenoaks Talent academies Erin Murphy, Gigi Pitman, Laura Hutchison, Will Dumsday, Zebedee Robbie, Harry Oscroft & Emilee Lombaard. Also, Three of our pupils are now playing national league hockey at the weekend for their club sides - Charlotte Watkins (EastGrinstead), Erin White (Sevenoaks) & Toby Leonard (Brighton & Hove).

Chris Borsoi
Director of Hockey



EQUESTRIAN

A good start to the school year for The Equestrian team. Lara, Izzy, Nell, Chloe, Tam, and Bea all competed at the Hurstpierpoint College Inter-Schools Show Jumping competition at Hickstead, delivering brilliant rounds and securing 3rd place as a team with Nell and Tam coming 4th and 3rd place individually!

At the end of October, our team of Nell, Chloe, Tamiza and Izzy took part in the NSEA National Championships, held at Addington Equestrian Centre in Buckingham. The team showed exceptional skill and team spirit with some super jumping rounds over some very challenging courses.

They secured a brilliant 5th place in the 'Jumping with Style Arena Eventing' class - an outstanding achievement at this national level! Congratulations team!



Katy McKeogh
Equestrian Team Manager

SPORT

TENNIS

The Tennis team has had a fantastic start to the term. Both our boys and girls first team travelled to Millfield to compete over a weekend, we played a total of 52 rubbers over the 2 days and won 30-22. All players showed great determination and team spirit. Our girls first team (captained by Ella Belk) are also undefeated this term in the youth LTA league, beating Brighton College and Hurst to qualify for the knockout rounds. We are also very proud of Jack Ford, Henry Hughes, Harrison Clowe and Pasha Hrystiv who are in the U18 Sussex county team and have been invited to a specialist session with Julian Cash (ranked 37 ATP doubles in the world). Whilst our academy players continue to train hard 15 hours a week, our development team are playing up to 6 hours and enjoying success in some friendly fixtures. Well done all!

Francesca Byrne
Director of Tennis

NETBALL

The Under-16s netball team has had an impressive season, playing 7 games and securing 6 wins. Despite battling through some challenging weather conditions, they have shown great dedication and teamwork, particularly in their commitment to the evening league games at the Eastbourne Netball League. Their hard work and perseverance are clearly paying off, and they are building strong momentum as a team. It's a fantastic achievement that reflects both their skill and determination. Keep it up, team!

Alongside the impressive performance of the Under-16s, the Under-18s team has also had a strong start to the season, despite being a mostly new team. Competing in Division 2 of the Eastbourne Netball League, they continue to grow and develop as a unit, showing a lot of potential for the rest of the season. Their commitment and teamwork are evident as they work hard to improve their skills.

Additionally, all year groups have been entered into the Sussex Cup, with the teams gearing up for their first-round matches. We wish them the best of luck and hope they continue to showcase their dedication and talent throughout the competition. Here's to a successful and exciting season ahead for all!

Tiffany Pennington
Netball Coach

HOUSE COMPS: PUMPKIN CARVING



Deis - 1st



Dorter - 2nd



Stud - 3rd



Charleston



Dorms - 3rd



Dicker

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

HOUSE COMPS: CHRISTMAS CAKES



Bloomsbury - 1st



Deis - 2nd



Dorter - 3rd



Stud



Charleston



Knights

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

ROUND THE HOUSES

Camberlot House has had an action-packed autumn term! New pupils have seamlessly integrated into school life, and House competitions have been fierce, culminating in a second consecutive victory in House Music.



Bonding activities like communal cooking and forest walks have strengthened friendships and fostered a strong sense of camaraderie. November was a month of fun and fundraising: the Stache Bash, organized by Mr. Collier, was a huge success, with live music, karaoke, and plenty of mustaches. The Camberlot



Charity Week followed, featuring a hotly contested Santa v Elves football match, a tuck shop, and Christmas karaoke. All these events raised valuable funds for The Charlie Waller Trust.

Many more events have made living in the House that more enjoyable: Halloween Party, Pumpkin carving competition, House football, indoor bowls, nerf wars, to mention a few. As we look back on this exciting term, we're grateful for the contributions of our pupils and staff. We can't wait to see what the next term brings!

We have had an incredibly busy but brilliant term in **Deis House**. The prefect team has gone from strength to strength with how they conduct duties, their contributions to the culture of the house and their leadership in general.



The boys as a whole have pushed themselves to the limit in house competitions, scoring highly across the board from cross country to the general comps.

Winning big song in house music, we then had a top placed Pumpkin design and therefore finished the first half of term in first place in the

house competitions, but who knows what has happened now?

Our formal dinner is the premier event of our house's year. We had a brilliant visiting speaker in the form of Steven Shove (Founder of the Really Wild group), who told us the tale of his polar adventures and the inspiration we can all take from challenging situations. We also had several musical performances including a band and solos in the service and after the meal.



We also enjoyed a house lunch together and as I write we are preparing for our Christmas Trip which will include a carol service, pizza and paintball.

At the time of writing, I'm thanking my lucky stars that the **Dorms** boys are back from their Christmas trip trampolining with only one trip to the hospital! It's been a term packed with excitement, energy, and camaraderie, and I'm delighted to share some of the highlights.

The term started with a bang with our pop up Dormino's restaurant bonding the boys in service making money for charity from our generous family diners.



Our house spirit shone brightly, especially in the Inter-House Football and Basketball competitions. The boys displayed skill, determination, and fantastic teamwork, bringing home well-deserved victories in both events. Their commitment

on the pitch was matched only by the cheers from the sidelines of the many "managers", an incredible effort all around!

The House Music competition proved just as memorable. While the judges didn't place us on the podium (a travesty!) the experience was pure joy. The house truly came together as one, with even our youngest and newest pupils Ben, Tom and Ronald showing remarkable courage by stepping up to perform in the house band. Their enthusiasm set the tone for the term, and the musical energy continued with Ronald and Jaiye shining in the school cabaret.

Away from the stage and field, tutor groups enjoyed fun trips out bowling and go karting with their tutees. Our Upper Sixth pupils took

ROUND THE HOUSES

on a more practical challenge, learning essential cooking skills that will serve them well in the years to come.

We capped off the term in style with the boarding Christmas party, where the boys “shook their stuff” on the dance floor, celebrating the season in high spirits.

As always, I’m grateful for the support of a wonderful team within the house and the wider community of families and guardians. This term has been a testament to the strength and sense of community within Dorms, and I look forward to what next year has in store. Wishing you a wonderful holiday.



Cabaret was another highlight this term and watching all the Dorter Girls who performed either in Legat or singing or compering really was a very proud moment for the Dorter staff.

The final part of the term has been taken up with everything Christmas: Pre-dinner drinks with the Sixth Form; Boarders’ Christmas Party; Secret Santa, Ninja Warriors; 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. For further pictures and details of these wonderful events please head to our Instagram page: [@dorter_house.bedes](https://www.instagram.com/dorter_house.bedes)

Dicker has had an eventful 13 weeks and the boys have done a great job. The house has been brilliantly led by our Head of House, Harry Burgum, ably assisted by his deputy James Berry and the rest of the prefect team. This excellent leadership of the house has led to a super atmosphere within the community, as well as a real cohesiveness in our house events, such as house music and house comps. We are currently near the top of the house competition leaderboard, which is great to see.



The Autumn term is one of the busiest terms in **Dorter’s** calendar. The academic year started with over 30 new girls joining us in Dorter but within a very short time everyone was at home and enjoying all the fun of the Dorter family. The term has seen

Dorter joining in all the school-wide activities and events whilst also celebrating being Dorter with our very own special Wednesday night activities - from smores, fire-pits, cooking and many other events. Dorter even hosted a very successful boarding-wide Halloween party which was full of spooky costumes and wonderful games created and hosted by our Prefects.

Dorter has been riding high on success this term and has won a variety of house competitions but the highlight has to be winning the House Song Competition with Camberlot. Not only did we sing incredibly well but the Big Song was choreographed by Dorter!



A highlight of this term was the Dorter House formal, where we were treated to an incredible meal and wonderful speeches on the theme of Trust - highlighting how important it is not to only trust in yourself but also in others which really forms who we are as part of Dorter. We were also treated to many performances from Dorter pupils which reminded everyone how talented our young ladies are.

This term we have also had over 850 achievement nominations awarded, and over 500 gratitude nominations. It has been great to hear about the huge amount of kindness and other achievements that the boys have done. We have had a number of house debates



(Dickers), the highlight of these debates being 'Would one choose to go forward or back in time?', delivered by Reuben and Albert Sellens against each other. On the academic front, 21 of the house achieved straight 4's in their classroom engagement in our recent effort grades (this is a

quarter of us!). Great stuff!

As always our sporting representation in Dicker has been fantastic right through the house. At the top end, Alfie Sadlier, Lucas Asfour and Toby Kelly have been mainstays of the Football 1st XI and two other highlights in football have been Liam Doyle, who has been selected as the goalkeeper for the England U16 side, and Fraser Widopp who is currently playing a year up for BHAFC.

ROUND THE HOUSES

In the Arts, Tom Lilley, Patrick Rodohan, Will Dodsworth, Ralph Treherne, Ona Onofeghara and Ben Mullis, all performed fantastically in Cabaret. So a term full of wonderful successes, but above all this term in Dicker, it has been the kindness and spirit within the house that has been most noticeable. Well done to everyone.

Knights House have been excellent during the various House Competitions that have taken place. The amazing race provided the house an opportunity to get to know each other as teams are split across the year groups. Sam Philipson, Jo Leonard and Harry Clifford led their groups with distinction. Closely following on from this was the exceptional Cross Country. The top 5 juniors in Knights were Harrison Clowe (19:15) Jasper Akers Douglas, Pasha Hrytskiv, Zach Hockley and Morgan McGiveny-Greenslade. The seniors' places were filled with Sam Philipson (19:11) Dylan Sudan, James Phillips, Ernie Tuppen and Beau Mills-Bennison. However, there were some



pupils who were outstanding and gave of their very best and these were Monty Treherne, Beau Brosnan, Phoenix Holland and Leo Demetriou.

For House Music, Knights were paired with Bloomsbury this year. The boys gave their all to rehearsing their performance of Taylor Swift's "Love Story" and certainly gave a fantastic rendition on the night, but lost out to Deistud in the judging. There was a spectacular effort by Jo Leonard, Arlo Anderson, Beau Mills-Bennison and Patrick McGiveny-Greenslade. Congratulations should go to the brilliant band, comprising Beau Brosnan, Damon Rhodes, Ernie Tuppen and Elliot Varndell, as well as Bloomsbury pupils Liv Driver and Moon Ng who gave a wonderful performance of Champagne Supernova and not only sounded authentic, but looked the part too!



Pumpkin Carving was overseen by Jack Tyrrell and he thoroughly enjoyed the activity and opportunity to showcase his artistic skills.

In the final competition of the term, First Year pupils showed great artistic talent decorating Knight's entry into the Christmas cake competition. Particular skill came from Bertie Williams, Alex Owen, Seb Batten and Leo Demetriou who did the main decorating, with Freddie Hancox, Muraad Abu O and Harrison C also making characterful penguins.

What a term it's been at **Charleston House**! Filled with laughter, friendship, fantastic achievements, and for many of us, a totally new adventure! Welcome to all new Charlestonians!



We kicked off the term with a glamorous House Formal Dinner, where everyone dressed to impress and enjoyed a delicious meal. Our talented girls and staff showed off their skills at Charleston's Got

Talent, and we had a blast at the House Christmas Party and Games Night. The House Outings Day included a trip to Boom Battle Bar for some exciting team-building activities. The House music competition is also a firm favourite for this term. A real festival of opportunities to get stuck in!

Our girls have been working hard academically, and we're so proud of their dedication and effort during the tricky November assessments. They've also been incredibly active, participating in a wide range of sports and activities like hockey, football, netball, MUN, DofE, Knit and natter and many more.

A big highlight of the term was winning the Junior House Cross Country and Junior Hockey events! Our girls showed amazing teamwork and sportsmanship. We also had a great time at the Glow-in-the-Dark Parent-Child Netball Tournament, although I am still aching a little!



We enjoyed getting creative with pumpkin carving and Christmas cake decorating.

The House spirit has been incredible this term, and we've seen some amazing friendships form. Our girls have been supportive, kind, and always up for a laugh. We're so grateful for the support of our parents and staff.

We're already excited about the upcoming events and challenges of next term including our very important fundraising House Charity Week for UFULU! Until then, let's keep the Charleston House spirit alive! Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ROUND THE HOUSES

This has been an action packed term as the mighty **Stud House** have competed in competitions ranging from running around the English countryside for cross country to belting out Taylor Swift songs for House music, from carving pumpkins into spooky spider webs to having the Green Flash motivate the boys to 'move for mental health',



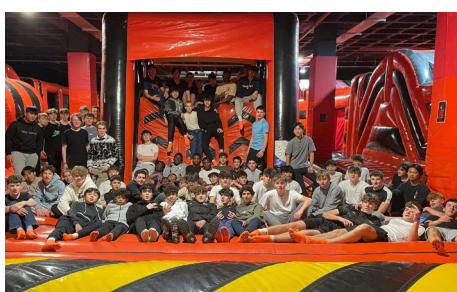
from kicking a football around a field that had a consistency more in common with custard than earth, to putting up the most tacky Christmas inflatables money can buy. We have had a slow start to the House comps this term

but, as Yazoo once said, 'The only way is up' and so we hope and expect to climb from our 8th place to mid-table by the start of next term.

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. Secret Santa is underway as is the opening of all 8 of the advent calendars to ensure every boy gets to open two windows by the end of term. St Nikolaus came last night and left the boys (who had clean shoes outside their rooms) a handful of sweets. How he manages to get in and not set the intruder alarm off we may never know.

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 resident prestidigitator as well as having over 20 cheeses to sample.

We will also have had the Boarders Christmas 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 them all refreshed and rejuvenated to start the spring term.



Pupils in **Bloomsbury** have had an incredibly busy term.

We have had Black Comedy performances from Liv, Martha and Raffi to be applauded. The UK Space Design competition was hosted at the Senior School with pupils Abbi, Hattie and Moon. The dancers and

musicians have been rehearsing ready for Cabaret. Thank you to our Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth who served at the Deis formal and thank you to Liv and Larissa who performed there too!

We have had great success with our netball teams playing in the Eastbourne Netball League with a junior and senior team each week, both teams are doing exceptionally well. Netballers include Rosie, Liv, Freya, Delilah, Mila and Polly. Everyone has been involved in assessment weeks and have developed an understanding as to where their learning is at and what topics or techniques need extra refinement.

The older years' assessment has been in preparation for their final exams that will happen in spring time. There are a number of extra sessions available at lunchtime and evening and the pupils should be encouraged to sign up for to access that support. The term culminates with a lot of Christmas festivity and fun. The Christmas trip this year is in Eastbourne as we enjoy lunch in our favourite restaurant Pomodoro e Mozzarella and then we are bowling and laser quest in the afternoon.

The final house competition of the year is the Christmas cake decorating and it is up there as one of the priorities for this term! I have been truly blown away by the effort of the pupils in this house since September. I have seen a steady increase in pace and work ethic especially in the Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth.



The constant positive role models the Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth supports positive behaviour throughout the house as well and a sense of belonging and house pride with activities such as peer mentoring, Love in a Bag donations and cake Friday. The house as a whole has had a steady and consistent solid effort in their behaviour and academic achievement with the introduction of the Lower Fifth prefects - we look to have a book swap in house as well as other activities.

The First Year have truly spread themselves across all the activities in the school including Legat, hockey, netball, football and academics and have enjoyed a lovely lunch with the Headmaster at the end of November. Thank you to you, the parents, for entrusting your child with us.

I look forward to the Spring term and the sunshine that it will bring. Have a wonderful Christmas when it comes.

ROUND THE HOUSES

Crossways has been abuzz with fun, friendship and Christmas festivities this term. Our annual Countdown to Christmas included a pottery night for First Year and Upper Fifth, Naijanni's Bingo night, Prefects Christmas quiz, Derek the Elf's antics and a wonderful day out at The Towner Cinema and Pomodoros for pizza. We all also loved getting dressed up for the fabulous boarders dinner, thoroughly enjoying spending time with our whole boarding community.



In between Christmas celebrations our Cabaret dancers and singers- Pame, Taleen, Devanie, Alexa, Sofia, Maria, Nat, Isabella and Sofia- worked tirelessly to play their part in the spectacular Cabaret Showcase, what an evening, we were so proud of our Crossways performers.

On the sports pitches, Auden Ruelle has been picked for Eastbourne Borough 1st team with Niyah playing for U18s. First Years Bonnie and Lola have had a great hockey season, we must acknowledge the ongoing successes of our very sporty Upper Fifth in both hockey and football and Naijanni is training for the Barbados cricket team as we speak.

Emilia has been impressive in Model UN with Mesha, Jemima and Bea all following in her footsteps. In Peer Mentoring we all loved hearing about Maddy and Bea's memorable trip to Nepal; as this trip enabled them to embrace a growth mindset, the girls have been challenged to think of an achievable new year resolution they can work towards in the new year.

Lastly we wish Sally a very happy and fulfilling retirement after 23 wonderful years at Bede's, many of which as Matron in Crossways. As Mr Juniper described her, she is truly a 'Matron of Distinction', we thank you Sally for taking such great care of us all over the years.

