

BEDDE'S

CURIOUS

Spring 2025



EVENTS

PYEMONT LECTURE: MICHAELA STRACHAN

On 11 March, Bede's Senior School welcomed renowned wildlife presenter, conservationist and most recent runner-up of 'Dancing on Ice', Michaela Strachan, as the latest speaker in their Pyemont Lecture series.

With a remarkable 30-year career in television, Michaela shared her incredible journey, captivating pupils, parents and staff in an evening of conversation with Headmaster, Mr Peter Goodyer. She shared stories of her passion for wildlife conservation and her extensive experiences in the world of television broadcasting.

Best known for her nature and wildlife programmes, including the long-running BBC series 'Springwatch', 'Autumnwatch' and 'Winterwatch', Michaela has become a beloved figure in British broadcasting, bringing the wonders of nature into homes across the nation.

Michaela spoke about her career journey – beginning on the stage, studying musical theatre at the Arts Educational College in London and performing in the West End. However, her career took a fascinating turn into television, where she became a familiar face on iconic children's programmes of the 1980s, such as 'The Wide Awake Club' and 'The Really Wild Show'.

Her recent projects, including impactful documentaries like 'Ice Age' and 'Swimming in Sewage', demonstrate her unwavering commitment to raising awareness about critical environmental issues. Adding to her already busy schedule, Michaela has also just finished as runner up in the latest series of 'Dancing on Ice'.

A highlight of the visit was Michaela's time spent in Bede's Senior School's own zoo. Accompanied by pupils, BTEC Animal Management teachers and the zookeeping team, she learned about the diverse range of over 70 species of mammal, reptile, amphibian and bird housed within the school's facility. She even met three Grandidier's Vontsirras, a little-known species of mongoose with just a thousand remaining in the world.

"Michaela's visit was truly inspiring," said Peter Goodyer, Headmaster at Bede's Senior School. "Her passion for wildlife and her dedication to conservation resonated deeply with our community. We are incredibly grateful for her time and for sharing her invaluable experiences."



NEWS

BEDE'S RANKS AS NUMBER ONE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL IN SUSSEX FOR VALUE-ADDED

Bede's is celebrating remarkable results in the newly released Department for Education (DfE) national performance tables.

Bede's is thrilled to share that 'Value Added at Key Stage 5' has earned the school an exceptional national ranking of 54th out of 2,541 schools in the UK, placing Bede's in the top 3% (2.12%) nationally. By a significant margin, Bede's is the most successful independent school in Sussex in terms of Value Added measures.

This outstanding achievement follows impressive GCSE and A-Level results last year, where Bede's pupils achieved remarkable success, with 45% of GCSE/BTEC Level 2/Cambridge National grades at 9-7 (or equivalent) and 80% of A-Level/BTEC Level 3 grades at A*-B.

Value Added measures the progress pupils make between Key Stage 4 (GCSEs) and Key Stage 5 (A-Levels), providing a crucial indication of the impact a school has on pupil learning. Bede's exceptional Value Added score highlights the school's ability to empower pupils to exceed their expected potential and achieve academic success at the highest level.

"We are absolutely delighted with these Value Added results," said Headmaster, Peter Goodyer, "This ranking reflects the dedication and hard work of our pupils, the expertise of our teaching staff, and the supportive learning environment we foster at Bede's. It demonstrates the significant progress our pupils make during their time in Sixth Form and underscores our commitment to providing an outstanding and holistic education."

The DfE's publication of national performance tables marks the first release of this data since the Covid pandemic. Bede's is delighted to be recognised nationally for its commitment to excellence in education.



BEDE'S

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CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

BEDE'S PARTNERSHIPS AND SOCIAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Spring term is always very busy for the partnership program and this year has continued in the same vein. We welcomed four different schools at the beginning of February to participate in our public speaking day. Pupils worked on voice projection, intonation and control, ably supported by our Sixth Form drama pupils. At the end of the morning, everyone was able to deliver a speech on a topic of their choosing. The Drama department were also able to invite two local primary schools along to watch their lower schools' performances.



At the end of March, we were delighted to welcome back the Young at Heart community to work with the Sixth Form sports leaders award pupils. Community members were able to participate in curling and parachute games. A fun afternoon was had by all, whilst pupils gained experience and knowledge for their all important qualification.

participate in a variety of sports along with friendly games at the end. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn and train with expert coaches.

We invited four schools to our annual careers fair. Over 50 exhibitors from universities and the world of work were able to talk to and advise pupils on potential future careers.



Last week four schools took part in our annual debating competition. Local MP Stella Spiteri kicked off proceedings, before pupils debated on topics including how AI bots would be useful for the NHS and ways to cut waiting times, as well as the environmental issues surrounding single use plastic.



We welcomed our Sixth Form pupils along with a local school to listen to world renowned author Abi Dare. Abi spoke about her book 'The Girl with the Louding Voice' as well as life growing up in Nigeria, her move to the UK, the challenges faced being a female in a male dominated environment and a woman of colour. Her experiences made for a fascinating and thought provoking talk.

We recently welcomed a local SIBS group (a charity which supports young people who have a sibling with a disability). The children had fun making cakes in the food room.



Mary Leggett
Head of Partnership and Social Responsibility

PERFORMING ARTS

Mr Scamardella, Mrs Pennington and Mr Rennison give accounts of enormous endeavour and achievement throughout the term by a swathe of enthusiastic musicians, dancers and dramatists and as witness to many events, I can attest to the brilliance, as well as resilience, shown by our pupils. Much quiet work goes on throughout the term too; the fantastic Instrumental and LAMDA lessons that ask our pupils to be prepared and organised for their weekly coaching and I thank our teachers for being a constant source of inspiration and encouragement.

At our inaugural Performing Arts Assembly I thanked pupils for their support of one another through their attendance at performances and urged those who could be enriching their cultural diet through signing up for the occasional event, to do so!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and guardians, for all of your support in taxiing your child to weekend trips, weekend rehearsals, late finishes and attendance at performances; your support means so much to us all.

Karen Lewis
Director of Performing Arts

DRAMA

We are delighted to share with you the exciting activities and accomplishments of our Drama department over the past term. It has been a busy and rewarding term, filled with creativity, learning, and outstanding performances.

This term, Mr Rennison worked with our scholars to deliver a Public Speaking masterclass to 45 visiting pupils in the Miles Theatre. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop their confidence and communication skills while sharing their expertise with others. Our Upper Fifth pupils performed their scripted pieces to a visiting examiner as part of their GCSE Drama Component 2 Exam. The evening showcased a variety of theatrical forms and was a testament to the hard work and talent of our pupils. We were thrilled to host a screening of *The Importance of Being Earnest* as part of the NT Live series, which was enjoyed by a great audience. Tickets for our next screening, *Dr. Strangelove* on 5th June, will be released soon. Keep an eye out for further details.

The Upper Fifth also enjoyed a trip to see *Animal Farm* at Stratford East, which provided them with valuable inspiration and insight into professional theatre. Additionally, our pupils attended two outstanding productions in one day, *Punch* at the Young Vic and *Oedipus* at the Old Vic. These experiences have enriched their understanding of contemporary translations of classical theatre.

During our Open Morning, the Lower Fifth shared their open rehearsals for their devised performances, giving visitors a glimpse into their creative process and the hard work they have been putting into their projects. We were also fortunate to welcome professional choreographer Winifred Burnet-Smith, who worked with the Upper Sixth on their production of *Crave*. Her expertise brought a new dimension to their performance, and we are incredibly grateful for her contribution.

Thank you for your continued support of the Drama Department. We look forward to sharing more exciting news and achievements with you next term!



Will Rennison
Head of Academic Drama

PERFORMING ARTS

Q&A with Lower Sixth pupil, Raffi

One of our remarkably talented pupils Raffi has recently landed a role in the upcoming horror film, 'The Caged'. We caught up with her to discuss the film, her time at Bede's so far and her long term aspirations...

Congratulations on being cast in 'The Caged'! Is there anything that you can tell us about the film and your character without giving away any spoilers?

Thank you! 'The Caged' is a horror film, based on true events. It centres on a family who move into a haunted Essex cottage, a place that once held witches captive in the 1500s. I play the daughter, and let's just say, things get unsettling!



Tell us about yourself and your acting career...

I've been acting since I was five, which is crazy because it happened completely by accident! I went with a friend to an audition for 'The Theory of Everything,' thinking nothing of it, and I got the part. That's how it all started! I signed with an agent and have been working ever since. Playing Claire in 'Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children' was amazing, and then, in 2022, I got to play my first lead in 'Vesper'.

When did you join Bede's and tell us about your time at Bede's so far...

I joined Bede's last September for Sixth Form. Prior to this, I was homeschooled. I am really enjoying studying my A-Levels so far and have found it really easy to adapt. Everyone is so welcoming here.

How have you managed to balance your schoolwork with your filming schedule?

The timing of my filming schedule is actually quite fortunate, as I'm currently deep into AS Level revision. Any downtime I have on set will be dedicated to studying! My teachers have been incredibly supportive, staying in close contact and providing me with revision materials.

What has been your favourite part of your time at Bede's so far?

I absolutely loved being part of the school production of 'Black Comedy' last year. I don't get to do much theatre, so it was an amazing experience.

What are your long term aspirations and plans for the future?

I am hoping to continue to act professionally. I hope to either go to drama school or start working straight away after I have finished my Sixth Form studies.

What would you tell other pupils who are hoping to follow in your footsteps?

My advice is to be a sponge for knowledge and seize every opportunity. Focus on constant improvement. Bede's provides so many fantastic opportunities, from guest workshops to theatre trips and performance platforms. I strongly encourage everyone to take full advantage of them!

PERFORMING ARTS

Q&A with Legat Dance Captain, Hannah

Meet Upper Sixth pupil Hannah - our 2024/25 Dance Captain at Legat Dance Academy! In this Q&A, Hannah shares insights into her role as Dance Captain, what makes Legat training unique and her plans for life beyond Bede's...

Can you tell us about your dance journey and how you became Dance Captain at Legat Dance Academy?

My dance journey began at the age of two with baby ballet in my hometown of Winchester. When the pandemic disrupted my dance lessons, my parents looked for schools that combined academics and dance. Their search led them to Bede's, which I joined in Year 9 as a boarder in Dorte, my wonderful house.

What does being Dance Captain mean to you, and what responsibilities come with the role?

For me, the role of Dance Captain is all about creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for everyone. I know that at times, balancing dance classes, rehearsals and academics can be stressful, so I try to put people at ease. I encourage my peers to throw themselves into every dance and let go of any self-consciousness. Rather than focusing on myself, I try to observe others during rehearsals, offering support and guidance to anyone struggling. Ultimately, I want to make sure everyone feels happy with their experience in Legat.

What has been the most rewarding part of being Dance Captain so far?

I have loved seeing everyone's growth and increased confidence within The Company since the start of the year.

How do you balance your leadership duties with your own dance training and academic studies?

While I love supporting my fellow dancers, I know I need to prioritise my own development, especially with auditions this year. I've been making a conscious effort to dedicate time to solo practice in the studio during my free periods. Being a boarder really helps me balance everything. As soon as Legat rehearsals are finished, I can head back to house and focus on my studies.

How would you describe the dance training at Legat? What sets it apart from other dance academies?

Legat provides comprehensive training in a wide variety of dance styles. What sets it apart from other dance academies is its warm, family-like atmosphere. There's absolutely no toxicity, something our teachers make sure of! They're incredibly supportive and even offer guidance on personal matters.

What are your future goals in dance or beyond?

This year, I have auditioned for dance colleges and hope to pursue a degree in Musical Theatre. My initial goal is to perform on cruise ships, with dreams of one day reaching the West End! Longer term, I'm also interested in teaching and choreography.

How do you think your experience at Legat and as Dance Captain has prepared you for life after school?

Living away from home and my parents, while being fully responsible for myself – from managing my sleep, learning choreography, balancing academic life and navigating daily challenges – has prepared me to enter the world beyond Bede's as a much more independent and confident individual.



PERFORMING ARTS

LEGAT

From breathtaking performances to inspiring workshops, and even a trip to Sadler's Wells, this Spring Term has been a whirlwind of growth, creativity, and sheer passion.



The term commenced with a theatre trip to Sadler's Wells, where our Legat dancers and Associate pupils were mesmerised by Matthew Bourne's iconic production of Swan Lake. This brilliant performance was made even more special by the sight of our very own alumna, Matthew Amos, shining brightly amongst the iconic swans. A true testament to the heights our graduates can reach!

We have also had a series of inspiring masterclasses, bringing industry professionals to the Legat studios. We were privileged to welcome Suzanne Shaw, who rose to fame in the band Hear'Say, providing our pupils with invaluable insights into the multifaceted entertainment industry. Ellie Olds led a vital nutrition workshop, emphasising the importance of fueling the body for optimal performance and Hannah Levitt-Collins, fresh from her appearances in the blockbuster movies "Wicked" and "Better Man," delivered a musical theatre jazz workshop.



Our annual photoshoot with Drew Tommons captured our dancers' talent and dedication. We also celebrated the success of our pupils in their RAD ballet and Rambert Grades exams, a huge well done to all who participated!



After the half-term break, our focus shifted to preparations for the world's largest dance event, Move It, held at the ExCeL from March 7th-9th. Our dancers spent an exhilarating weekend engaging with vocational colleges, participating in classes with industry professionals, and were even treated to an inspiring performance by Diversity on the main stage. Our dancers shone in their performances, showcasing their talent and serving as exemplary ambassadors for Legat and Bede's.

Following Move It, our dancers had the opportunity to visit Italia Conti, where they enjoyed a tour of the facilities and participated in classes with Head of Contemporary Jatie Tucker and Musical Theatre Jazz performance class with Katie Warsop. We were also thrilled to catch up with our alumna, Caitlin Bentman, who is thriving in her first year on their dance degree course.



The Legat Solo Awards, held on March 21st in the Miles Studio, showcased an array of exceptional dance talent, judged by renowned UK choreographer Alistair David. Pupils performed solos across ballet, contemporary, tap, and jazz, each demonstrating impressive skill and artistry.

After careful deliberation, First Year Lucy Lester won for ballet, Upper Fifth Freddie Whittingham for contemporary, Lower Sixth Isla Stammwitz for tap, and Upper Sixth Lara Prenzlin for jazz.

The awards highlighted the dedication and talent of the pupils, and the school's commitment to nurturing their artistic development. The upcoming production promises to be a memorable showcase of their achievements.

Amidst this whirlwind of activity, rehearsals have been in full swing for our highly anticipated end-of-year production, "A Moment in Time," to be held at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne on June 19th! This spectacular production will feature 90 of our amazing pupils, showcasing their incredible talent and dedication. Make sure you purchase your tickets now for this unforgettable event! Visit www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk/events/bedeslegat2025

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC

As I write, the last two weeks of the Spring term have been as busy and productive as ever: the BTEC gig last night in the redecorated Recital Room was a tribute to our amazing Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth BTEC bands: the whole music department is buzzing after such a great pupil-led event. As I write, we are deep in preparations for next Monday's concert with the local Music Service, Create Music, where we will join with 40 of their talented young musicians in a joint ensembles' concert featuring a whole range of different pieces from Roy Hilton's Bedfe's Boogie, to Pirates of the Caribbean with the string groups and an eclectic set of pieces ending the programme with Van Halen Hits. This has been yet another exciting term: a full range of small-scale concerts, exam performances and scholars' recitals, pupil-led bands performances, and a visit to the Royal Festival Hall in London to hear the London Philharmonic Orchestra and world-renowned soprano Renee Fleming perform a captivating programme of Strauss and Wagner.

January was dominated by academic taster sessions, preparing our pupils for GCSE, A-Level & BTEC Music courses. Our GCSE and BTEC Music courses continue to be popular and A-Level Music is still studied at Sixth Form, where a majority of schools no longer offer this.

We were really pleased to showcase our BTEC musicians and help to give them an opportunity in performing at outside venues and in February, just before half-term, we were invited to perform in an open-mic gig at Printers Playhouse in Eastbourne. Both the Lower and Upper Sixth BTEC bands, and Siena Jovic, serenaded our parents and friends at the gig, which was a wonderful experience for all involved.

The Scholars' Recital in early February was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our fabulous music scholars in a captivating programme of repertoire ranging from JS Bach, to Ella Fitzgerald and then to Billie Eilish. Our music award holders were given the opportunity to showcase their array of talents, performing in front of an intimate audience. Parents and friends were serenaded to a wide range of styles and different performances, and we were delighted to host yet another recital to a wonderfully supportive audience in the Recital Room.



This year, we continue to showcase singing at the forefront of our school

community. The house chapel singing competition continues apace, and the decibel meter was once again in action this term, encouraging everyone to 'raise the roof' in familiar hymns: the most recent congregational hymn has been 'Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory', and the current leader board is hotly contested!

In February, just after half-term, we welcomed over 60 Prep School musicians from our own Prep School, St Ronan's School, Skippers Hill and Lancing College Prep, Hove. A musical extravaganza with three diverse pieces including Abba's Money, Money, Money, How To Train Your Dragon and Aliens in the Attic, gave all musicians a fantastic opportunity to showcase their skills and orchestral experience. This was a wonderful occasion to celebrate orchestral playing and learning all about new and different repertoire for budding musicians across the South East. It was also an important opportunity to show how Bede's is a leading voice in developing young musicians and their orchestral playing and to show how playing a traditional instrument can be seen as great fun!

After half-term, we were delighted to welcome four partner schools: Uckfield College, King's Academy, Ringmer, St Paul's Catholic College and Cardinal Newman School from across Brighton and Sussex in an afternoon band workshop led by Jason Douglas (Sussex University). It was fantastic to see real partnership in action: to be able to share facilities, talent and expertise with other pupils and teaching colleagues from across the community is what a joyful education at Bede's is all about.

A number of taster sessions were held throughout the term, enabling pupils studying academic music to gain a flavour of GCSE, BTEC and 'A'-Level Music and have their minds extended and enriched by all the possibilities of music as a career path.

The Bede's Singers were fortunate enough to perform at a Come & Sing Day led by Katherine Dienes-Williams, the Director of Music at Guildford Cathedral. Both parents and pupils came together in an afternoon of singing popular songs by John Rutter; the folk song Swing Low, Sweet Chariot and a choral arrangement of Keane's 'Somewhere Only We Know'. It was the first time parents and pupils have joined in an afternoon of singing and it is definitely something that we want to foster at Bede's.

Next term, we have a whole host of events including the Music Theatre Showcase, led by our singing teachers Rick Simonetti and Gillian Ramm, The Leavers' Recital, a pupil-led gig, chapel concerts, and of course, Speech Day. We look forward to welcoming you at one, or all, of these events!

Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

CREATIVE ARTS

The Creative Arts Faculty began the Spring term with fond memories of our fantastic trip to New York City. Thirty-eight pupils and staff from across the faculty spent four days exploring the city, taking in iconic sights such as the Rockefeller Center, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Statue of Liberty. Our pupils were exemplary ambassadors for Bede's, creating lasting friendships and finding inspiration in the vibrant city. We've been delighted to see evidence of this inspiration in their work, particularly in the GCSE exams before the Easter break and in the upcoming Upper Sixth exams. To get a glimpse of our New York adventure, please visit the Creative Arts Faculty Instagram account (@bedescreativeartsfaculty) where you'll find a brilliant video showcasing the trip. You can also see the culmination of their work in our End of Year A-level show on Friday 20th June.

Trips are a vital part of inspiring our pupils. The Media department organised a visit to Pinewood Studios, allowing pupils to experience the magic of filmmaking first-hand. We are also looking forward to our third annual Oscars ceremony, directed by the talented Miss Logan, which will take place after Easter. This evening celebrates the pupils' hard work and is a highlight of the Bede's calendar.

We were keen to involve parents in the creative fun too! Mrs Walpole and Mrs FitzGerald hosted a successful evening for parents and Upper Sixth pupils from Bloomsbury House on Thursday 6th February. We were even joined by a former pupil! The evening was a relaxed and enjoyable experience, with everyone trying their hand at clay

modelling under the guidance of Mrs FitzGerald and Mrs Walpole. The atmosphere was warm and filled with laughter and creativity, providing a wonderful opportunity for everyone to unwind and explore their artistic side. The resulting flower creations were truly impressive, and after firing, the pupils added colour to their parents' creations. It was a lovely collaborative effort, and generous donations were made to the charity Demelza.

In celebration of AI Week, we are excited to announce Bede's first Artificial Intelligence Art Competition. If you know anyone with aspirations of becoming an "Android Da Vinci", a "Robotic Rembrandt", or a "Cybernetic Picasso", this is the competition for them! Pupils are invited to create stunning AI-generated images or short films (maximum 3 minutes). Entries will be judged on creativity, artistic skill, and inventiveness, with extra points awarded for work that feels uniquely human! The deadline is 24th April, so there is still plenty of time to get involved.

We began the term reminiscing about our fantastic New York trip, and we end it looking forward to the Summer term, when all the projects come together in our End of Year show in June. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jonathan Turner
Head of Creative Arts Faculty





ACADEMIC

BEDE'S AI WEEK

Bede's AI Week proved to be a huge success, engaging pupils across year groups in exploring one of the most exciting and fast-moving areas of technology. Packed with thought-provoking debates, inspiring guest speakers, ethical discussions, and creative challenges, the week showcased both the opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence — and how well our pupils are already engaging with these big ideas.

One of the standout events was the AI Pupil Panel Discussion, which drew such a crowd it was standing room only. Pupils debated the hot topic of whether pupils should be allowed to use AI tools like ChatGPT to help complete schoolwork. There were strong arguments on both sides, with many recognising AI's potential as a research and learning tool, but also expressing concerns about fairness, originality, and learning the skills themselves. The discussion then turned to the idea of writing to the exam boards, urging them to update their guidance on AI use in coursework. It was clear that pupils felt passionately about the need for clearer rules in this fast-changing area.



The panel ended with a fascinating debate on AI's impact on future employment. Patrick proposed that AI will ultimately lead to more job creation than job losses, arguing that history has shown technological change often opens up new industries and opportunities. Seb argued the opposite, warning that AI could make many jobs obsolete, particularly in creative and professional sectors. After a well-fought debate, Patrick narrowly claimed victory, but both sides made compelling points, leaving the audience with much to consider.

The week also saw a fascinating AI 42 Club Talk from James Blackwell, founder of the education-focused AI startup QuizGecko. James shared his experience of selling his first company in a multi-million-pound deal and the lessons he learned along the way. Pupils were inspired to hear how James spotted a gap in the market, built his own AI business, and is now helping schools and pupils with AI-powered quiz tools. He also spoke about the skills pupils will need in an AI-driven future, including

adaptability, problem-solving, and creativity — qualities that can't easily be replicated by machines. James encouraged pupils to think big and consider how they might use AI in their own future ventures.

Meanwhile, Bede's podcast team got stuck into the complex ethical challenges surrounding AI. In their AI Podcast, pupils explored the impact of AI on creativity — from writing and music to art and film. They debated whether AI-generated content could ever really replace human creativity, and if it should. The podcast also examined how AI could influence public opinion and elections, raising important questions about misinformation, data privacy, and democracy. Finally, pupils explored the darker side of AI, including the potential for AI to be weaponised or misused — a reminder that technological progress must always be balanced with ethical responsibility.



To round off the week, pupils had the chance to unleash their creative side in Bede's first AI Art Competition. Budding digital artists were challenged to create AI-generated images or short films of up to three minutes. Entries were judged not just on their technical quality, but also on creativity, inventiveness, and how uniquely 'human' the final product felt. The competition proved a fantastic way to explore the creative potential of AI tools — showing that, far from replacing human imagination, AI can be a powerful new medium for creative expression.

Overall, Bede's AI Week was a brilliant celebration of the curiosity, creativity, and intelligence of our pupils. It sparked important conversations about the future of technology, gave pupils a taste of entrepreneurial thinking, and provided a platform to explore the ethical challenges that will shape their world. AI is here to stay — and our pupils showed that they are ready to face that future with confidence.

Nicholas Abrams
Assistant Head: Academic

STEM

ABRUZZI

As part of our Formula 1 in Schools activity, our team was offered the unique chance to be one of the first groups to test the new simulator equipment at Abruzzi, originally an online based company dedicated to sim racing equipment and race clothing. The business was started by two former Bede's pupils with a passion for business and doing things differently. They invited our team along to test their simulators and have a look around their warehouse before they opened to the public later in the year. Their setup included 4 F1 style simulators (with options for other styles) and 4 karting simulators. There was even a carbon fibre simulator setup that had been specifically made for a very discerning customer, ready to be packed up and shipped out. The pupils each got time on the F1 style and the karting simulators, starting with a practice set, qualifying and finally a race. We were able to look around the developing showroom and see their collection of racing memorabilia including some sections of Kevin Magnussen's F1 car and several racing suits of famous drivers. The pupils loved it and left the warehouse with enormous smiles on their faces, asking us "when can we go back?".

Quotes from pupils:

"I think that Abruzzi was a great way to experience what is actually like being behind the wheel of a F1 car or go-kart and this will help build on my knowledge of how racing cars work and how the structure of the car will really affect the aerodynamics and speed of our module."

"I enjoyed my time at Abruzzi, I think it was a great team bonding experience. This has strengthened our bond and allows us to work better together on projects. They had many different experiences there and we went on the GT3 and the go-karting ones. These were incredibly realistic and gave us a bit of insight into how real drivers feel during the races."



Kimberley Gregory
Science Teacher

GALACTIC CHALLENGE

In January, Bede's welcomed 80 pupils from seven schools, to compete in the Galactic Challenge 2025. Ages ranged from 10-13, for the most part, but the majority of pupils were at the younger end of the spectrum. They were split into four vibrant teams and once everyone had eaten breakfast and been given a short introduction to the competition, they were led to their work-rooms by Bede's pupils who were there to help guide their efforts in producing a proposal for a settlement on Mars in 2055 focusing on preserving and highlighting 'Mars heritage', specifically the sites of previous Mars missions.

The morning was very productive and persuading teams to break for lunch was a bit of a challenge! After the break, the teams had two hours to complete their presentations.

"It was terrific to see pupils this young present their ideas to an audience of their peers and parents", said Mr Richards, the organiser of the Galactic Challenge. "but above all showed that the competition is very much open to pupils of all abilities and backgrounds. Imagination, artistic skills and, above all, the ability to convey their ideas to the judges are not always associated with pupils with a science and maths background, so it was great to see such a high standard of work this year".

Four excellent proposals were presented, but in the end the winners' medals were awarded to the team of Astrodyne Delta composed of pupils from Bede's Prep, Croydon High School, Lancing Prep (Worthing), and Skippers Hill. A further thank you to Jenny Lyons from the Space, Science and Engineering Foundation and our returning alumni, Alex Gee and Nell MacLachlan in helping with the running of the competition.



Bill Richards,
Mathematics Teacher

STEM

ROBOTICS AND AI

Robots can be seen everywhere, they are seen in movies such as transformers, terminator and the creator. They can also be found in industrial places such as factories and even some grocery stores have delivery robots. The simple definition of a robot is a machine that is programmable and can carry out complex tasks. If we take this definition and apply it to everyday objects, that means that some cars, especially self-driving ones, are robots. The truth is that robots are surrounding us.

Taking part in robotics and building robots is essentially like a gigantic puzzle. You have 'muscles' which are the motors that enable movement, the 'eyes' and the ears' which are sensors that allow it to be able to see and hear. Finally the main component of a robot is the microcontroller which is essentially the brain and tells it what to do. Putting them all together is often a lot simpler than people think. It really is just as simple as plugging cables into ports and connecting parts together, Similar to Lego and K'nex.

Building the robots from the individual parts is almost like going on an adventure. You are able to experience many different challenges which need to be solved. It also allows you to learn about other fields of engineering too including my favourite, electrical engineering. It allows you to expand your knowledge and test your problem solving skills and then get a very rewarding feeling once you have completed it and it works.

What is it that actually allows robots to function? Well the simple answer is ordinary people like me and you that are specialised in programming languages such as Python, C++ and Java. Python is considered one of the easiest programming languages to learn and is very versatile. I've been learning and programming in Python for about five years and have built things running from simple totalling programmers to a fully functional scientific calculator and mini games such as snake. The possibilities are endless. But what really makes a robot as independent and as smart as everyone perceives them? That's where AI (Artificial Intelligence) comes in. This allows the robot to learn, memorise, recognize shapes and patterns, follow commands and even play games. The AI in robots is almost like a voice in the head / the brain itself that has basic information that can be expanded on and added to.

Almost everyone has used AI in some shape or form. The most well known are Google and their Gemini AI, OpenAI and their ChatGPT and Microsoft and their Copilot. They are tools that can be seen as very helpful and useful in many scenarios. I personally use them when repairing electronics, as they can often help give a sort of guide as to what an issue may be with the device after I provide them the diagnostic information. AI has helped me save a lot of time and in return, they collect the information and analyse their responses to

the information we give to help them learn and expand their own knowledge.

When robots and AI come together the possibilities really are endless. What could happen in the near future is very uncertain when it comes to these two things. But what is certain is that these will play a huge role in many people's lives and they could really benefit society. For example, many jobs just will not have to exist because robots will be able to do it. Therefore people who learn about coding, robotics, and engineering in general will always have roles to play as expanding the robotic range will always be something that is needed and wanted.

Ethan Ives
Upper Fifth pupil

MATHSFEST 2025

In March we took four of our best Lower Fifth mathematicians to the annual Regional Maths Fest Competition held at Ratton School, Eastbourne. The competition emphasises group work and the pupils' ability to think outside the box, with rounds this year including solving problems relating to wrapping presents as well as broken calculators.

The competition was contested by eight or so of the local state and independent schools over four rounds. All of our pupils performed exceptionally well and represented the school impeccably achieving first prize overall. From memory I believe this is the first time we have won the overall prize in a number of years so congratulations to Immy Oscroft, Joseph Berry, Himson Wong and Sophie Bahadur.



Stavros Manos
Head of Mathematics

STEM

PI COMPETITION

As part of this year's STEM week, which ran from the 10-14th of March, I introduced a Pi competition. It took place every lunchtime and was open to everyone. In this challenge, pupils were encouraged to recite as many digits of Pi as they could recall. If they could recite more than 10 digits, they would get a small prize of a chocolate. Furthermore, Pupils that recited the most digits in their year would win a special prize. Many people could recite around 7 digits of Pi immediately, with a lot of people listening to a song that helped them remember. A few people showed dedication by returning day after day after learning more digits, and to have a greater chance of winning the bigger prize.

In First Year, a number of pupils could recite a considerable number of digits of Pi. Jessie Hiscox repeated 23 from memory and Henry Nunn could recite 33 digits. However, Callum Hersey could recount the most number of digits: he recited an amazing 129 digits! This would have been extremely difficult and was a very impressive effort. Unsurprisingly, this was the highest number of digits a pupil could recite from the entire school.

Ben Loetz listed 26 integers of Pi, which was the most digits recited in Year 10. Eloise Morris and Elijah Morris both came close: Eloise with 18 and Elijah with 21 digits. In Year 11, a few people could name a significant amount of Pi. Freddie Whittingham named 29 figures, while Moon Ng recited the most; she repeated a remarkable 45 digits of Pi. In the Sixth Form there were also very impressive results; in Year 12 Elliot Varndell recited 39 digits and in Year 13 Sonny Pettett repeated 20 digits, which were both the most digits in their respective year groups.

Not willing to let the pupils have all the fun, some teachers got involved and competed with each other to recite as many digits of Pi as possible! Mr Froom and Mr Backler showed up every day to try to beat each other and their own score from the previous day. On Friday, the last day of the competition, they decided to somewhat work together, Mr Backler would name one digit and then Mr Froom would name the next. This went on until the 115th digit without any mistakes. This was a very intense competition and everyone around could see how determined they both were to get the next digit. Mr Froom later recited more digits to us, recounting 201 digits of Pi from memory! He revealed that he learnt so many numbers using old cricket scores!

By the end of the week, many pupils (and teachers!) had demonstrated dedication and determination to improve their scores. The aim to beat previous scores and achieve the highest score for each year group certainly encouraged many to improve their recollection of Pi. (The chocolate rewards also helped!) This competition ran extremely smoothly and a lot of people got involved.

Thank you to all those who helped me set up and run the stand throughout the week. And special congratulations to Callum Hersey, as the pupil who recited Pi to the most digits by a significant margin.

Pippa Nunn
Upper Fifth pupil

TOP OF THE BENCH

Recently, I took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition. Here, I will explain what we had to do, how I found it, and what I personally thought the best parts of it were. The competition starts off with 57 regional heats across the world. The winning teams from each local section then goes through to the finals. The winning school of the finals is crowned Top of the Bench. Each school picks two people from Year 9, one person from Year 10, and one person from Year 11.

In the competition, there are two parts: a practical experiment and some exam style questions. For our practical part of the competition we had to form liquid copper sulphate and then test it to see how pure it was. It was challenging to begin with as most of the topics are ones you do not learn at Year 9 meaning we had to make sure we read the instructions correctly to ensure we carried out the tests in the right way. In the end we managed to complete the experiment and complete the tests correctly.

The second part of the competition consisted of 20 multiple choice questions. They progressively became more difficult with some questions we knew straight away; others took a few minutes of thought and process of elimination. We finished this part of the test with 17 out of 20 marks, coming third in this section. Overall, as a school we came third in our area.

I would definitely recommend this to anyone with an interest in STEM subjects particularly science, more specifically chemistry. It is a fun way of testing your knowledge and your work to the best of your ability and meeting new people who also have a common interest. I would happily take part in this again for the following years to come and encourage others to do the same.

Overall, this is an amazing event and a great opportunity to get involved in some chemistry fun and I certainly recommend this to all who get the chance to take part.

Callum Hersey
First Year pupil

STEM

BEDE'S MONDAY MEDICS: EXPLORING FINAL FRONTIER OF HUMAN HEALTH

We are thrilled to share the highlights from our most recent Monday Medics club meeting, where we ventured into the fascinating realm of space medicine.

On Monday, March 10th, our largest ever Monday Medics gathered together to spend the evening eating space snacks and asking plenty of questions during our lecture.

Dr. Cameron is a F1 doctor fresh from the European Space Agency's Human Space Physiology Training program. His captivating lecture provided our pupils with a unique glimpse into the world of space medicine, highlighting the extraordinary challenges faced by astronauts and the ingenious solutions being developed.

Key Insights from the Lecture

1. Microgravity Marvels: Pupils learned about the significant bodily changes occurring in space due to the absence of gravity, including fluid shifts and vision problems.

2. Space Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome (SANS): This condition, affecting astronauts' vision and causing headaches, intrigued our budding medics.

3. Vestibular Challenges: The lecture explored how the lack of normal gravity inputs leads to disorientation and balance issues in space.

4. Innovative Countermeasures: Our pupils were fascinated by solutions like negative pressure suits and centrifuges being developed to combat these issues.

5. The Psychology of Space Travel: Long-duration space missions present unique mental health challenges, emphasizing the importance of careful astronaut selection and support.

6. Mars Mission Mysteries: The lecture touched upon the additional challenges of prolonged radiation exposure and communication delays for future Mars missions.

7. Earthly Benefits: Pupils were excited to learn how space medicine research advances healthcare technologies here on Earth.

At Bede's, we believe in providing our pupils with experiences that go beyond the traditional curriculum. The Monday Medics club offers a space where curious and compassionate pupils can explore health, disease, ethics, and problem-solving in unique contexts. Making a successful application to Medicine or Veterinary Medicine isn't just about the highest grades; successful pupils are also able to demonstrate a passion for medicine outside the curriculum.

Our pupils have the benefit of an extremely successful and established medics programme that stimulates curiosity in the lower years and creates successful applications in the Sixth form. Whilst the national medical application success rate is just 20%, the Bede's pupils who have participated in the Monday Medics sessions have a success rate of an impressive 86%.

Julia French
Head of STEM Faculty

2025 BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

An incredible performance from Anna Scott and Charlotte Watkins in the 2025 British Biology Olympiad, 15,221 pupils around the world from 906 schools took part. Top 2% achieved a Gold Award and Top 12% achieved Bronze Award.

Anna Scott achieved the highest Gold award following on from our previous successful Gold awards over the last few years. Charlotte achieved a Bronze Award – a fantastic achievement whilst playing representative hockey and preparing for her A levels following offers to study Veterinary Medicine at several Universities. Anna is looking to read Ecology at University and will undoubtedly go on to achieve exceptional academic success.

Nancy Morton-Freeman
Head of Biology

SHAPE

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE MORNING

Back in January the Business & Economics Department hosted Bede's First Year pupils for a dynamic Business Enterprise morning. Pupils delved into various areas of study, engaging in entrepreneurial thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. A highlight was a challenge to create a new cereal bar for the 2028 LA Summer Olympics, with standout creations including 'Coco Jump, Eat, Sleep, Coco Jump, Repeat' 'Goldie Bars, Going for Gold' and 'Performance, Packs a Punch', along with a range of other inventive concepts. Teachers were thoroughly impressed by the pupils' capabilities and innovative ideas, which showcased the potential for many pupils to have a promising future in the world of business.

The session also included an introduction to Economics. Pupils were challenged to consider options, draw conclusions, and present their ideas on topics such as policies to reduce inflation and where government budget cuts could be made to reduce a budget deficit. There was an obvious buzz within the department, and I would like to thank both the department staff and all of our First Year pupils for their enthusiastic support for this event.



BEDE'S PREP 'CITY FROM SCRATCH'

At the start of the month a number of Lower Fifth pupils headed down to Bede's Prep to deliver our 'City from Scratch' workshop to the Year Seven cohort. After a short presentation pupils set to work on their design brief, which was to create their ideal urban centre, considering a wide range of factors such as the environment and sustainability, transport, governance, the economy and taxation, as well as approaches to welfare, social justice and equality. The pupils came up with a range of incredibly innovative and creative ideas, and our Lower Fifth pupils received some excellent feedback from the Prep School staff. They showed great courage, finding the experience to be both rewarding and nerve-wracking; Rosie Gibbs (Bloomsbury) said 'I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Prep School as the pupils were engaged and full of ideas. The experience was lovely and I can't wait to see which city won!' This was echoed by Max Mottram (Deis), who stated 'it was a very memorable experience, meeting old teachers and other pupils, and it was great to be back in the Prep School'

My thanks to Rosie and Max, as well as Joseph Berry (Dicker), Flo Clark (Bloomsbury), Luis Li (Camberlot), Immy Oscroft (Bloomsbury), Scarlett Tye (Dorter) and Oliver West (Deis); they were all amazing and threw themselves into the challenge!



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

BEDE'S

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SHAPE

SHAPE MASTERCLASS

Mr Slinger ran a workshop-style masterclass on behalf of the Geography department on the topic: 'Does globalisation make for a more sustainable world?' In the workshop, which was well attended by pupils from the First Year all the way up to the Upper Sixth, Mr Slinger challenged the pupils to think about the impacts that a more globalised world is having on the lives of people and the planet. The many positives of globalisation were discussed and compared to the downsides that a more interconnected world has brought, with a particular focus on the environment. The concept of sustainability was looked at and pupils were asked to judge whether it is possible to achieve all three 'pillars of sustainability' successfully whilst allowing components of globalisation, such as TNCs, to operate as they currently do. There were some great responses from the pupils during the discussion.

Following the workshop, a competition asked those who attended to engage with a series of online questions relating to the themes discussed. Highly commended entries came from Matilda Jackson-Clutton (Upper Fifth, Bloomsbury) and Levi Routledge (Upper Fifth, Deis), but both Josh Ting (Upper Sixth, Stud) and Nithil Kongala Liyanage (First Year, Knights) got to grips brilliantly with the material to win the two prizes on offer. Well done to all the pupils who took part and thank you to Mr Slinger for putting on such a fascinating masterclass.

Robin Martin-Jenkins
Head of Geography

LOWER SIXTH HISTORY TRIP TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE

In March, the Lower Sixth Historians visited Hampton Court Palace recently to participate in a Tudor Study Day. This involved a keynote lecture from Tracy Borman (author of *Elizabeth's Women*) on 'The Tudors at Hampton Court Palace', an object handling session exploring 'King Henry VIII: Man and Myth' and a tour of the Tudor apartments focusing on the Mid-Tudor Crisis. Pupils also had a bit of free time in the afternoon to explore the palace. Charlie Yates (Lower Sixth, Crossways) said 'It was a nice day out and fun to see history brought to life in such a monumental place. The speaker was very engaging and interesting', and Anthony Morris (Lower Sixth, Stud) was of the view that 'The lecture was very interesting and

engaging; Tracey Borman's talk was fascinating - it was an amazing experience to be able to learn in such a historic palace.' My thanks to Miss Chinn and Mr Davies, who led the visit.



HMD COMMEMORATION

In February, a group of Bede's pupils attended the Holocaust Memorial Day event at the University of Sussex, having the opportunity to listen to testimony from Peter Summerfield (sadly his twin brother George was unwell), who lived through the early stages of Nazi persecution and escaped Germany just days before the outbreak of WWII. Pippa Nunn (Upper Fifth, Bloomsbury) said 'The event was very moving and powerful; I felt that it was extremely important and valuable to hear the first hand testimony of Peter Summerfield.' My thanks to Mr Turner, who accompanied the pupils on this important and moving experience.



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

SHAPE

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT SOUTH- COAST REGIONAL FORUM

In March, Bede's hosted the EYP regional forum at Michelham Priory, a suitably grand location! The day involved teams from nine schools debating a wide-range of thought-provoking topics including balancing the increasing use of AI in workplaces with the protection of jobs and workers rights, addressing the cost-of-living crisis, balancing the protection of ocean biodiversity with the need to maintain a healthy fishing industry and implementing feminist town planning strategies to ensure safe and practical urban development. The Bede's team, consisting of Boris Bland (Lower Sixth, Dorms), Bea Crawford (Upper Fifth, Crossways), Melanie Ferretti (Lower Sixth, Dorter), Emilia McLelland (Lower Sixth, Crossways), Noa Moreno Berrocal (Pre-Sixth, Crossways), Anthony Morris (Lower Sixth, Stud), Pippa Nunn (Upper Fifth, Bloomsbury) and Harrison Odendaal (Upper Fifth, Dorms), performed admirably and were unfortunate to just miss out on selection for the finals in September. Emilia's view was that 'the EYPUK day was so interesting, each of the topics had a wide variety of arguments for both for and against, and it was so nice to meet others and have some fun later in the day.', whilst Melanie said 'it was fun being able to debate with other schools and engage with a variety of current topics.' This was a great opportunity for our pupils to showcase their talents and interact with pupils from a wide range of schools. I would like to thank Miss Webster, who prepared the Bede's pupils for the debates, and the staff from Estates, Holroyd Howe and Transport, who stepped up at very short notice to ensure that the day was a resounding success.



VISIT FROM JAMES MACCLEARY

As well as talking to the EYP delegates, James MacCleary (our local MP and Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Europe) visited the Senior School to speak to our current and prospective A Level Politics pupils. He gave interesting and engaging insights into how he became involved in politics and starting in Parliament as a newly elected MP, as well as giving his views and answering questions on a diverse range of pressing issues such as Ukraine and political developments in America. Alice Clay (Lower Sixth, Charleston) said 'I really enjoyed hearing his open and honest opinions on political matters while also learning about his journey to becoming an MP in the House of Commons.' This was a great opportunity for our Politics pupils, and we look forward to inviting him to Bede's again in the new school year.



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

SHAPE

MODEL UN CONFERENCE AT FELSTED SCHOOL

Amidst the vast array of schools from the south-east attending the 25th annual MUN conference at Felsted School in Essex, the Bede's Model United Nations (MUN) team was relatively small, consisting of nine pupils; Boris Bland (Lower Sixth, Dorms), Massi Couper (Lower Sixth, Charleston), Melanie Ferretti (Lower Sixth, Dorter), Noa Moreno Berrocal (Pre-Sixth, Crossways), Nithil Kongala Liyanage (First Year, Knights), Anthony Morris (Lower Sixth, Stud), Henry Nunn (First Year, Deis), Larissa Starkey (Lower Sixth, Bloomsbury) and Freya Wood (Lower Sixth, Bloomsbury). Nevertheless, we were effective in bringing forth constructive and innovative solutions to the table. Each Bede's MUN delegate represented one of two demanding member states: Finland and Algeria, and participated in the subsequent delegations – Security Council, UNOOSA, Human Rights, EcoSoc, Ecology and Health – as their respective countries.

For most, the morning of Sunday 2 March began in a less than ideal way. Having to wake up in the early hours for a two hour coach journey up to the radiant and sunny Felsted School was most certainly a great feat. Upon arrival, we wasted no time and jumped straight into action, combating fast-track resolutions and developing diplomatic speeches toward our committee debates. At the impressive opening ceremony we were fortunate enough to be in the presence of guest speaker and former Felstead pupil Mark Cutts, a renowned specialist in crisis management during recent conflicts and disasters, with over 30 years of experience with the United Nations and other international institutions managing relief operations in some of the world's biggest crises, including Afghanistan, Gaza, Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He delivered a very thought-provoking speech where he depicted chronicles of his times operating as a volunteer in a multitude of refugee camps around the globe, and gave us a striking statistic which lamentably does not receive enough worldwide coverage, which is that an estimated 250 million children worldwide are not enrolled in school. However, one thing he mentioned that stuck with me, and I quote, is "Education is a privilege not many have, and you are one of the lucky ones." I wholeheartedly believe this is something worth taking a moment to reflect over.

The theme of FeIMUN'25 was 'Ending the cycle between Poverty and Conflict: Breaking the Chain.' Each committee had two to three topics to debate, such as the Human Rights Committee that handled complex and sensitive topics, where I was tasked with representing Algeria. There was a singular fast-track resolution on the question of protecting women's rights to an abortion submitted by the delegate of the USA, which sadly did not pass, and another successful committee resolution proposed by the delegate of Egypt pertaining to restoring the right to vote for ex-prisoners to the House.

In other councils such as UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs), there were various eccentric yet effective clauses passed, like the formation of a new dialect consisting of a selection of languages, namely Russian, Mandarin... to communicate with extraterrestrial life outside of Earth. After a rigorous yet rewarding day of high-level debate, at sundown, we made our way back to the hotel nestled in the town of Braintree for a quick rest and afterwards ensured that the MUN tradition of going bowling and to Zizzi's afterwards for a delicious dinner remained alive.

On the following day, as previously established by the heads, the committees were merged and grouped according to their designated countries, making for an amplified and enriched debating atmosphere. Bede's delegates, such as Larissa Starkey (Lower Sixth, Bloomsbury) and Boris Bland, the delegation of EcoSoc, spoke eloquently and courageously delivered versatile speeches on behalf of Finland and Algeria – respectively in our joint council. Chaos unfolded when a petition to sanction China and Mexico and eliminate their right to vote due to numerous occurrences of disrespect towards other delegates caused great turmoil in the House, and in no time murmurs began to spread. Thanks to diplomacy and compliance on both ends, it wasn't long before the issue had been resolved. The concluding event of the day was the General Assembly, where the entire committee hall was presented with an emergency broadcast spotlighting the imaginary crisis of the takeover of the Panama Canal by unknown forces which were eventually uncovered as troops funded by the USA. Immediately, mayhem had taken over the room, and everyone scrambled to draft up resolutions and vigorously debate for the remainder of the conference.

Although this residential committee had been a nerve-wracking first for many, I'd like to emphasise the exceptional job of all the delegates and specifically mention the satisfactory turnout of awards where Larissa won as commended delegate for EcoSoc. Well done to her!

Last but certainly not least, on behalf of the MUN group, I'd like to extend my gratitude and thanks to our teacher, Miss Webster, for taking the time to organise this conference and additional housing matters as well as supplying us with guidance throughout. Additionally, I'd like to thank the bus driver, Mo, for taking the time out of his busy schedule to accompany us all the way up and entertain us with his amusing jokes!

Noa Moreno Berrocal
Pre-Sixth pupil

LANGUAGES

EAL

The Lower Fifth and Pre-Sixth EAL pupils enjoyed an exhilarating day at the Branching Out Activity Centre, engaging in a trio of thrilling activities: a zip wire, high ropes, and a colossal swing. This outing proved to be a remarkable team-building experience. It was inspiring to witness our pupils venture beyond their comfort zones and confront their fears, although the high swing elicited quite a few spirited screams!



Jane Savage
Assistant to the Head of Faculty

MFL

To kick off the term, our Lower Sixth linguists hosted a vibrant Languages celebration for the Prep School. Year 8 pupils enjoyed a diverse range of language-focused activities, including Spanish descriptive games ("who am I"), an introductory German snakes and ladders session, French competitive "guess who," and a Mandarin Chinese New Year celebration with calligraphy. Our Lower Sixth pupils expertly facilitated these workshops, inspiring their younger peers.



Veronique Ganiwet
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

ANTHEA BELL PRIZE

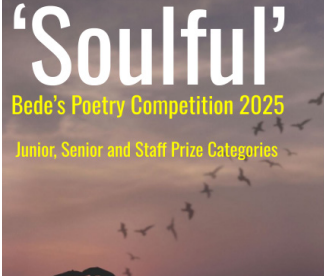
Our advanced French and German linguists are participating in the prestigious Anthea Bell competition, hosted by the University of Oxford. This competition challenges them to translate a poem from either French or German into English, using provided glossaries and dictionaries. The unique aspect of the Anthea Bell competition lies in its emphasis on creative interpretation; judging focuses on how effectively pupils capture the original poem's mood and style, rather than seeking a single "correct" translation. Their work will be evaluated by a panel of pupils and staff at Queen's College, Oxford.

Thank you to Madame Bonheur and Ms Ray, who have been guiding our pupils during this process. Good luck to Morgan Kings, Corinna Noon, Ismini Miserocchi, Margot Cabaret, Isabella Thomas, Charlie Crane, Ona Onofeghara, Zac Ward and Noa Moreno Berrocal!

Veronique Ganiwet
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

BEDE'S POETRY COMPETITION 2025

Following on from the success of last year's brilliant competition and prize-giving with Sarah Crossan, the English department once again held a school-wide poetry competition. Entries came in across year groups as well as from members of the teaching staff. It is always heartening to see the human experience expressed so individually in creative language choice, and among many worthy entries, the category winners were - Django McGowan in the First Year, Immy Oscrift in the Lower Fifth, Hiromasa Yajima in our EAL category and Evie Moore in the Sixth Form.



'Soulful'
Bede's Poetry Competition 2025
Junior, Senior and Staff Prize Categories

Announcing the Bede's Poetry Competition for 2025

This competition is open to all.

We invite you to think about and share experiences which stir the soul.

Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

Upper Fifth pupils took in the RSC's imaginative staging of A Midsummer Night's Dream this half-term. It is always good to see a classic play reimagined for the contemporary era, but Eleanor Rhode's production did a superb job of keeping the comedy and playfully subversive romantic plots relevant for a young audience. One of the highlights was undoubtedly Matthew Baynton's turn as Bottom - complete with silly walks and lurid costumes - but the pupils especially enjoyed the depictions of Duke Theseus and Sirine Saba's interpretation of faery queen, Tatania.

In the same month, Sixth Form pupils had the chance to see another one of their set texts too - Shakespeare's late, great drama of magic and reconciliation, The Tempest. Produced by Bede's alumnus, Jamie Lloyd, and starring Sigourney Weaver as the magus Prospero, this version daringly departed from conventional staging choices for this play, giving pupils a great opportunity to discuss afterwards how they saw the scenes.

Lloyd's production gave the group plenty to ponder as he applied his characteristically modern, somewhat muted and boldly stripped-back style to Shakespeare's final play. Critics will argue over Weaver's portrayal of Prospero, but regardless it gave the group much to discuss about the aesthetic and dramatic choices of this version.

The pupils were wowed by the beauty of the theatre itself - and the cavernous stage was designed in characteristically modern style, with a dark-toned and dune-like set adding an otherworldliness to the play's already adventurous mood.

Despite its divisive nature, this production will prove invaluable to our A Level pupils as they look to deepen their study.



LIT ACADEMY SESSIONS

By popular demand, Tuesday 21st January saw the return to Lit Academy of Mr Sealey's superb interactive presentation of Crime Writing. Enthusiastically attended by both pupils and staff, Mr Sealey delivered an energetic and seamlessly professional presentation in which we were enthused by expertly chosen texts, and inspired to consider our own ways of approaching crime fiction writing. A very lively session!

This year, the Lit Academy has expanded both in roll and in reach, and it is exciting to have greater input from the wider Languages Faculty, taking 'Literature' beyond 'English'. On Tuesday 4th February, Mr Charles Collins, with Year 12 Mandarin pupil Larissa Starkey, offered a spell-binding presentation of ancient Chinese poetry or Fu, revealing a tradition of poetry as part of everyday living for rich and poor, educated and uneducated alike. It was a privilege for the Lit Academy group to have access to the vault of specialist cultural knowledge that is Mr Collin, and the question and answer session after the presentation elicited intriguing and delightful responses.

Always meticulously prepared and engagingly passionate, Mme Bonheur held an ambitious Lit Academy session on Voltaire's short story The Golden Tooth. This was a thought provoking session from a range of angles, as we covered philosophy, and morality, as well as literature - and touched on the issues of studying language in translation.



LANGUAGES

ENGLISH WEEK

The English Department started the year with intent by laying on a lively and interactive English Week from 20th-24th January. Among busy events every day to take part in, were an assembly promoting links between reading, writing and wellbeing, a poetry competition connected to wellbeing and PSHE, a superb and inspiring author visit where crime writer Jo Furness visited the school and talked with a riveted audience (Wednesday 15th January), and a journaling workshop – again, emphasising writing for wellbeing. The finale was a ‘Big Quiz’ across Thursday and Friday for every English teaching group, and pupils were challenged with questions on famous writers, etymology, dialect words and famous misquotations.

As part of the week, it was superb to welcome crime writer Jo Furness. Given that our Upper Sixth study the genre as part of their syllabus, pupils enjoyed hearing directly from Jo about plotting, characterisation and the writer’s craft. As well as discussing the appeal of crime fiction, Jo’s talk raised several thought-provoking questions: are humans really ruled by reason, morality, and the greater good, or are we far more primitive and selfish in our motivations? Pupils raised brilliant questions of their own, especially about the use of perspective and the value of empathy in reading, and our pupils went back to their set texts with a fresh perspective on the genre.



OXFORD SCHOOLS UNION DEBATES

In mid-February, English pupils took part in the regional heats of the prestigious Oxford Schools Union Debates at Sevenoaks School. For anyone unfamiliar with the format, pupils are given the motions just fifteen minutes before the start of the debate. Quick thinking is, of course, essential, as is the ability to draw from a wealth of cultural, historical, economic and current affairs knowledge. The first debate focused on the impacts of Globalisation, whilst the second debate challenged pupils – rather controversially – to consider if it would ever be right to curb democratic rights. Both motions brought out the best

in our pupils, especially our first time debaters, who received some really encouraging praise from the judges of their heats. A big thank you goes to our Sixth Form pupils Tom, Alex, Ben, Boris, Jasmine and Massi for being such superb ambassadors for Bede’s. In lower school lessons, it has also been great to introduce more pupils to debating. Recent topics have included the use of AI in the NHS and measures to re-wild the environment in Sussex. For those new to debating, we have national and regional competition entries planned for next year.

VISITING POET JOHN MCCULLOUGH

A packed library assembled excitedly on Wednesday 5th February to welcome published Brighton poet Dr John McCullough, for a live poetry reading with Q and A, and the announcement of the Bede’s Poetry Competition winners and runners up. McCullough read nine of his published poems in an engaging and performative manner, after which Mr Oliver conducted an in depth interview about the origins and methods of the work. Audience questions came thick and fast, and only just left time for the announcements of the poetry competition winners.

As soon as this up-beat lunchtime event had come to a close, McCullough decamped to ST4 for a well-attended poetry writing workshop.

It was inspirational to see how efficiently McCullough held the attention of the room and effectively taught specific methods for poetry writing. Everyone in the room was able to write two poems by learning expert approaches, and many felt confident enough to share their creations with the group. This was a fantastic enrichment experience!



Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

LIBRARY

BEDE'S COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

The Bede's Community Book Club, or BCBC as we've taken to calling it (much nattier!) is now established, and since our inaugural meet-up in October we've met twice more - our Christmas gathering was particularly delightful as there was mulled wine and mince pies and it felt wonderfully festive.

So far this term we've read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune - a 'Marmite' choice that had a fairly even split of lovers and haters; *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt, which was unanimously agreed to be marvellous (what's not to love about a grumpy mystery-solving octopus?); and *Juliet, Naked* by Nick Hornby, which hasn't been discussed yet, so watch this space!

BCBC is open to everyone in the Bede's community, staff, pupils and family members alike, so if you're interested in joining us please email me at sarah.evans@bedes.org.

Perfect for rainy days and a little gentle distraction during a busy school day, there are now a variety of quiet board games and jigsaw puzzles available in the library at lunchtimes, with chess thus far proving to be the favourite.



BRILLIANT BOOKS & BISCUITS

Our reading activity continues to be a popular choice, with 15 pupils signed up this term to listen to and read along with some award-shortlisted Young Adult fiction. They all get a copy of the book to keep, so they can read along if they wish, although the majority prefer to do mindful colouring while they listen, and a few even do jigsaw puzzles.

This term we've enjoyed a glitzy Hollywood thriller, a far-flung historical adventure, an Arthurian LGBTQ+ love story, and the brilliant *Glasgow Boys* by Margaret McDonald, which deserves a namecheck because it was so very, very good - main characters Finlay and Banjo have lodged themselves in our hearts.

READING AMBASSADORS

We have made great progress with our reading corner enterprise, as we endeavour to create Book Nooks all over campus. With the help of Mr Potter and his excellent DIY skills, Stud House now has not just a book nook but an actual reading room, with a very smart Potter Original bookcase and comfy chairs - there are even little coffee tables and reading lights! And after an extremely fruitful visit to Lewes Flea Market, Mr Betts now has a super little reading corner in his classroom.

If you have any books on your shelves that you're planning to have a clearout of your bookshelves at home and have any that would be suitable for our teenage audience, we would happily welcome donations! Please contact me in the first instance - sarah.evans@bedes.org.



LIBRARY

WORLD BOOK DAY

March 6th was World Book Day and throughout that week we celebrated our love of books and reading across the school, with competitions, teacher book reviews and even a lunchtime read-aloud. At the start of the week all tutor groups were given two challenges - a Massive Wordsearch, and a Covert Covers competition, with chocolatey prizes for the most correct answers.

Some of our teaching staff reviewed a book they loved when they were a teenager and these little video treats were played during tutor time every day!

On the big day itself, the library hosted a lunchtime Brilliant Books & Biscuits Nostalgia Special. Our guests enjoyed lashings of hot chocolate and cookies, while they listened to Miss Arduino and me read from some favourite children's classics, including *Wind in the Willows*, *Frog and Toad*, *Pippi Longstocking*, and *James and the Giant Peach*. It was a really fun week and Miss Arduino and I loved putting it all together.



OPEN MORNING

In March the library hosted the school Open Morning, with the English and Languages departments taking up residence, ably assisted by several current English and Languages pupils. The Languages department had created a treasure hunt around the library, and the English department ran an Easter-themed Haiku Challenge, as well as handing out copies of the superb *Where the World Ends* by Geraldine McCaughrean to all potential new pupils. It was a busy and positive morning with many prospective families visiting.



BOOKS AND BEYOND

Last but not least, the library now has its own page on the school website, where you will also find the new library blog, *Books & Beyond*. I'm really excited to launch this new platform where I'll be able to connect with you beyond the library's four walls, to share all the latest library news and celebrate all things reading!

Get the scoop on the latest books in our collection, and help choose your next read with reviews and recommendations from staff, pupils and me. Stay in the loop about upcoming book clubs, author visits, workshops, and other splendid events happening in the library. Find out more about some of your favourite authors, series, genres and more, and be inspired by reading challenges, prompts and book lists.

I look forward to sharing my passion for books and reading with you, and further fostering an enthusiastic community of Bede's readers. Follow **@bedeslibrary** on Bluesky and Instagram for even more about books and reading.

Sarah Evans
Librarian

INQUIRY LEARNING

The Spring Term has been a whirlwind of engaging activities, challenging assessments, and memorable events. Our pupils have risen to the occasion, showcasing their diverse skills and unwavering commitment in both academic and extracurricular settings. We've also made significant strides in expanding pupil engagement through collaborative partnerships with local primary schools. The sheer volume and variety of activities packed into this term is truly remarkable!

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

BTEC PRODUCTION ARTS

Our BTEC Production Arts pupils have been making great progress in their studies and practical work this term. The pupils had the incredible opportunity to participate in the National Theatre's NT Live Contributor Day, where they worked alongside industry professionals such as Armando Iannucci and Indhu Rubasingham to gain invaluable insights into the world of theatre and production. The highlight of this term is undoubtedly our pupils' professionalism on our full-scale production of *Treasure Island*. From set design and construction to lighting, sound, costume, and stage management, every aspect of the production is being handled by our talented pupils. They are applying the skills they have developed throughout the course to bring this classic tale to life in a dynamic and engaging way.



Will Rennison
Head of Academic Drama

BTEC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Following the completion of the first mock examination, the Lower Sixth are engaged in the review process designed to cement understanding and refine critical thinking skills. This review extends beyond simply re-examining past papers; it involves a deep dive into the ethical theories covered at the beginning of the academic year, with a particular focus on their practical application in real world scenarios. To foster critical thinking and nuanced ethical reasoning we used a specific case study of the practice of farming animals for fur. Pupils who have done particularly well in Animal Management this term include Isla Burger and Tess Dean who have received faculty recognition awards for their hard work and dedication to the subject.

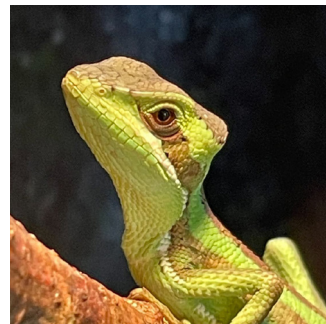
To strengthen our ecocentric arguments, the class explored the environmental impact that escaped fur farmed animals on native ecosystems. A particular focus is on the impact these escaped animals have had on the UK water vole populations

Water voles have experienced a 90% decline as released American mink from fur farms are capable of entering water vole burrows.

Another part of the coursework involves establishing the right environments for enclosed animals and evaluating whether certain scenarios meet the ethical and legal requirements. Examples we have discussed and explored include:



False Tomato Frog



Casque Headed Iguana



Madagascar Day Gecko

Paul Juniper
Head of Animal Management

INQUIRY LEARNING

BTEC APPLIED SCIENCE

The Upper Fifth pupils have completed a series of Chemistry practicals, looking at the effects of temperature, catalysts, concentration and surface area on the rate of a chemical reaction. The practicals were fun but we then had to battle through graphs and analysis of data. Now, we are using our findings and applying them to the commercial production of ammonia in the Haber process, a topic also included in the triple science syllabus.

The image below shows Faith observing the reaction of sodium thiosulfate with iron (III) nitrate over a cross drawn on a piece of card.



The Lower Fifth class has embarked on an exciting exploration of the cosmos, delving into the vast expanse of the solar system and the universe. This subject, consistently captivating to pupils, has sparked a wave of curiosity and engagement.

The initial phase of their research centered on the familiar yet endlessly fascinating solar system. Pupils investigated the diverse characteristics of the planets, their orbital mechanics, and the various celestial bodies that populate our cosmic neighborhood.

Building upon this foundation, the class transitioned to a more ambitious topic: the Big Bang Theory. This exploration aimed to provide pupils with a deeper understanding of the universe's origins and evolution. To further challenge and develop their analytical skills, pupils aiming for distinction were tasked with a critical evaluation of the evidence supporting the Big Bang Theory and describe alternative explanations. A special mention must go to Benjamin Dunkley who has worked incredibly hard this term, always completing his work on time and to a high standard which is why he was awarded a faculty recognition award this term.

Kathy Clarke
Science Teacher

BTEC BUSINESS

The Spring Term has been a period of intense activity and focused learning across all year groups. The Lower Sixth have been diligently preparing for their upcoming summer exam, in which they are required to create and develop a marketing campaign, balancing this with the development of comprehensive real-world marketing campaigns and exam technique refinement while completing their final Unit 1 assignment. Throughout this process, they have been actively analysing the dynamic business environment, exploring the various factors that influence business markets, and understanding how these influences shape consumer behaviour. Crucially, they are learning to apply these concepts to real-world, after-school scenarios, considering how marketing strategies must adapt to the challenges and opportunities faced by businesses operating in their local communities and beyond.

Our Upper Sixth pupils are diligently working towards the completion of their final unit, which delves into the intricacies of recruitment and selection. To solidify their understanding, they've been actively engaged in realistic mock interviews, providing invaluable practical, hands-on experience that will serve them well as they soon transition beyond the classroom environment.

The Upper Fifth pupils are now in the final stages of their business plan promotional campaigns. They have been creatively producing web page advertisements, posters, and social media content, while also carefully evaluating the critical financial implications of their campaigns. They have been pitching their plans to the Bedes Dragons!

Meanwhile, the Lower Fifth pupils have been immersed in their first Unit 3 assignment, exploring the various factors and trends impacting start-up businesses. This foundational research, focusing on entrepreneurial risk and reward, will prepare them for the development of their own business plans after the Easter break. It has been insightful to observe their thorough analysis of the challenges and risks associated with entrepreneurship. Two pupils in particular have worked impeccably during this term and were awarded a faculty recognition award for their hard work; those pupils were Florence Boyes and Leo Ferigo.

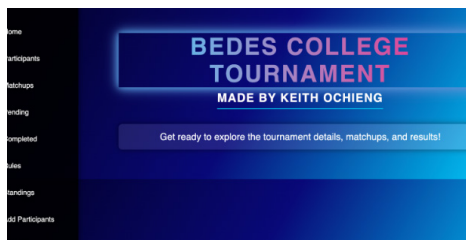
It has been a remarkably productive term for all, and the Easter break will undoubtedly provide a well-deserved opportunity for pupils and staff alike to recharge and return with renewed energy for the Summer Term.

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

INQUIRY LEARNING

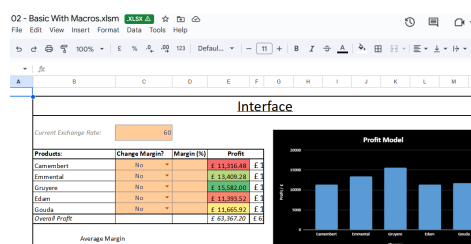
BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Over the last few weeks our Upper Sixth pupils have been steadily working their way through the final tasks towards their National Foundation Diploma, completing units in programming, website design and data modelling.



I am delighted to say that the pupils are all on track to achieve their targets. The screenshots above are part of a larger application designed to run a sports event,

allowing users to create teams, add players, create events, enter results and calculate the overall points for each team and individual. Well done Keith!



And this page from James' report on Data Modelling shows the current sales for his Cheese Company!

Well done to Ife for her almost perfect score in

her mock exam in the Lower Sixth Unit 1 Paper. I hope you enjoyed the chocolates!

The Upper Fifth are now preparing designs for their final unit, creating a website, and the Lower Fifth have just completed their first unit, creating a 5 minute news bulletin using tools such as iMovie, capcut and PowerDirector and are now moving on to creating animations. Every term the Inquiry Learning Faculty hand out recognition awards to those pupils who are going above and beyond in their subject and are seen to be working particularly hard. This term I have nominated Garth Hooton and Francis Gordon who have been model pupils this term, well done to both of you.

In addition to all of this activity, both the Upper Fifth and Lower Fifth took part in an Esports competition, a busy but fun term.

Chris Betts
Head of Computing and IT

BTEC PERFORMING ARTS (DANCE)

Our BTEC Performing Arts groups are all currently working towards their performance pieces that are to be showcased in a special evening held on Wednesday 30th April in The Miles Studio.

The Lower Fifth pupils have been creating journals documenting their progress within their dance skills and setting themselves SMART targets. They are also working on group pieces in contemporary and jazz to perform at our BTEC Showcase evening on 30th April. Anya Lee-Davis is the recipients of this term's faculty recognition award for her hard work and dedication throughout the whole of this term.

The Upper Fifth cohort are busy creating their own material for the stimulus 'The Climate'. As part of this project the Upper Fifth pupils also have to design the lighting, source the costumes, create programmes and document the whole process in their own journals. It truly is a group effort and it is wonderful to see the dancers collaborating together. Lexie Pettett was a standout pupil in the Upper Fifth this term and so has been awarded a faculty recognition award for this term.

The Lower Sixth pupils are also working towards a group performance as part of their 'ensemble project'. They are choreographing to the title 'Six' and the dancers have chosen to develop this theme by



looking at the wives of Henry VIII which has been made into a popular musical.. Francesca Eve continues to work so hard in our BTEC lessons and so was awarded the faculty recognition award for this term.

The Upper Sixth pupils have been creating presentations based on the Performing Arts, investigating developments in live and recorded performance work as well as the structure of the industry. They have been exploring different types of employment and considered how future developments in the industry may provide potential opportunities for the future. It is a brilliant opportunity to find out more about an industry they may be working in one day. They have also been choreographing to the stimulus Colours of Life. Dance captain Hannah Millen has worked so hard this term and was awarded the faculty recognition award for this term.

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

BEDE'S

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INQUIRY LEARNING

BTEC MARKETING

This term has been exceptionally successful for our Upper Sixth Marketing pupils. Not only have they completed the demanding course, but several pupils finished ahead of schedule, demonstrating outstanding time management and dedication. Their final marketing plan presentations were delivered to a high standard, showcasing their ability to apply cutting-edge marketing strategies in a professional context. The career interviews are well underway, providing pupils with invaluable industry-relevant experience. We eagerly await the final examination results, which will determine if our pupils have secured the necessary grades to dedicate more time to their other subjects during the Summer Term. Additionally, our Diploma pupils are about to embark on their final unit: influencer marketing, a new and particularly engaging area of study that reflects the evolving landscape of digital marketing.



The Lower Sixth have been diligently working through their communications plan, and recently completed a mock examination in preparation for their upcoming summer assessments. Overall, we were pleased with the results, but we recognise there is significant potential for further improvement, particularly in applying theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios. In addition to their core studies, our Diploma pupils have been actively developing digital marketing campaigns, utilising platforms like Instagram, Google sites and facebook, and analysing the impact

of branding on their chosen businesses, demonstrating a strong grasp of contemporary marketing principles. Monty Everett's exemplary commitment, which shines brightly both in his academic pursuits and his involvement outside the classroom, has earned him this term's well-deserved recognition award.

This term has been marked by an immense amount of work and achievement across both year groups, highlighting the pupils' ability to adapt to a fast-paced and ever-changing marketing environment.

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

BTEC MEDIA

This term has been all about finishing television ads and starting to shoot and edit our 5 minute horror films. The pupils have worked incredibly hard, really making sure that the tiniest details are comprehensively covered. From lighting, to sound-design to costume and prop choices, I have been really impressed with the way that they have engaged with their creative projects. This year we have a range of horror projects, from subtle psychological chills through to full gore 'monster in the basement' shocks. The bi-annual trip to New York was also a great success, with BTEC pupils getting the chance to film on the streets of Manhattan under the tutelage of experts from the New York Film academy.



Next term we are delighted to host another masterclass from Maia Adelia. Maia studied BTEC Media at Bede's between 2016 and 2018. She now works for Sky and the BBC as part of their non-fiction units, producing a range of documentaries on issues such as prison reform and gang culture. It was great for the pupils to see how she used the platform that her BTEC provided. We are also delighted to announce that Bede's will be hosting a multi-school studio lighting workshop in the summer term. This is a great chance to learn a host of new techniques. More information to follow on this in due course.

Now, we are gearing up for the big annual Oscar Night show on April 23rd, which is a fantastic chance for all the Media pupils to come together and see their creative work on a big screen. See you at the show and dress to impress!

It is with great pleasure that this term's recognition award has been presented to Florie Maltz, celebrating her remarkable achievements and commitment.

Rick Williams
Head of Media

INQUIRY LEARNING

BTEC MUSIC

The past few months have been incredibly busy for our BTEC music pupils offering a huge variety of musical opportunities for our Upper and Lower Sixth BTEC Music pupils, showcasing their talent and dedication across a variety of exciting performance opportunities.

For our Lower Sixth pupils, the term began with a significant milestone: their first ever public performance! The Printers Playhouse in Eastbourne provided the perfect stage for their debut, and they rose to the occasion with impressive energy and enthusiasm. This initial performance was a crucial step in their musical development, giving them valuable experience in front of a live audience. The upper Sixth pupils also performed at the Printers Playhouse which was another opportunity to showcase their skills to the audience of parents.



Adding to their performance portfolio, the Lower Sixth also participated in a dynamic BTEC workshop day. This collaborative event saw four state schools join us for an afternoon of intensive band workshops.

Pupils worked together, honing their skills and preparing for a final performance in the Old Dining Room. The culmination of the workshop was a vibrant rendition of Camila Cabello's "Havana," demonstrating their ability to quickly adapt and perform as a cohesive unit. This day not only enhanced their musical abilities but also fostered valuable connections with fellow musicians from the wider community.

Meanwhile, our Upper Sixth pupils have been working very hard to organise their own gig which raised money for the arts charity 'CREATE' which provides artistic opportunities to those who previously wouldn't have access to cultural activities. Their hard work culminated in the Upper Sixth band hosting an unforgettable evening of soul and funk in the newly refurbished recital room. The concert marked the room's inaugural return performance, and the Upper Sixth delivered a show that truly celebrated the space. Their professionalism and musical prowess were evident, creating an electric atmosphere that left the audience wanting more.

James Aburn
Assistant Director of Music

BTEC PSYCHOLOGY

The BTEC Applied Psychology pupils have been working incredibly hard on both exam preparation and coursework. The Lower Sixth pupils have expanded their knowledge of health psychology even further, considering how health related behaviours are influenced by thoughts, genetic predisposition and the environment they live in. They have explored different treatments for stress and addiction, and practiced mindfulness whilst in role during our group therapy sessions. The Upper Sixth pupils have now completed the final edits on their research projects, and this week presented their analyses of their chosen sports performers for their sports psychology assessment. Some pictures of their work can be seen below, again demonstrating an impressive standard of work. Chloe Bremer and Ted Burke were stand out pupils of the term and were recognised for their hard work with a faculty recognition award, congratulations to you both.

Laurence Collier
Psychology Teacher

HOME ECONOMICS

This term we have been continuing to focus on the upcoming practical exam after Easter. Pupils are required to cook a two course meal and in preparation for this, pupils have been making their own pasta. Using a pasta machine, they were then able to create different shapes and combine with a variety of homemade pesto sauces, whilst other pupils continued to practice other cooking skills and techniques. Jack Pace has worked really well this term and was awarded the faculty recognition award for Home Economics this term.



Mary Leggett
Head of Food and Nutrition

INQUIRY LEARNING

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Academic PE Department is preparing for the two main summer exams taking place for Key Stage 4 examination PE courses, alongside BTEC assignment tasks. There have been a good number of pupils making use of the extra study support sessions in advance of the assessment dates, which has been good to see.

CNAT Sport Science and CIE IGCSE PE has seen some innovative teaching within lessons to help prepare pupils for the examined content. A focus on the four main methods of revision has been an area reinforced in lessons, which is going into its final stage of exam question preparation.

Academic PE has seen a range of enrichment and extension opportunities this term, including dissection of hearts, lungs and muscles. This has helped with consolidation of anatomy and physiology for units across all courses we teach. In GCSE Upper Fifth lessons, we have video-called the Row For It 2025 team, before and during their Atlantic crossing. During the video calls to the boat, we revised multiple chapters of the GCSE PE specification, looking in particular at risk, psychology, nutrition and injuries.

Lower Sixth BTEC Sport Coaching pupils will be completing the largest unit of the year on Friday 21st March. This includes planning and practical sports coaching which has been ongoing since October half term. There has been some excellent coaching taking place, with some pupils being recommended to go on to gain qualifications in a variety of sports National Governing Bodies (NGBs) outside of school.

In Upper Sixth BTEC Sport Coaching lessons we are doing health screening. Pupils are taking part in practical screening consultations where they work with a peer to role play the health care professional and patient. Pupils develop their communication skills and understand what it takes to deliver tests and feedback in a professional, caring manner, along with the importance of physical activity and healthy active lifestyles to support positive physical and mental health, insights that will support them throughout their life. A number of pupils have worked really hard this term but a special mention must go to Sophie Clark, Felix Hamida, Martha Flack, Chloe Littlestone and Indy Brown who all received faculty recognition awards this term.



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.

The First Year, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth have been studying various topics on the PSHE carousel this term including; Self Concept, Substance Misuse, Managing Risk & Personal Safety, Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing, Sexual Health, Fertility, Contraception & Parenthood, Positive Relationships & Relationship Values, Consent, Bullying, Abuse & Discrimination. There have been some fantastic discussions taking place across the school during PSHE, and it has been a real pleasure to see pupils participating and engaging in these relevant and meaningful lessons.

We have also highlighted various PSHE calendar events including:

- Safer Internet Day
- Interfaith Harmony Week
- National Apprenticeship Week
- Eating Disorder Awareness Week
- International Women's Day
- Neurodiversity Celebration Week

This term has been a whirlwind of enriching PSHE events, fostering crucial conversations and developing essential life skills. Pupils actively participated in Safer Internet Day, exploring online safety and responsible digital citizenship. Interfaith Harmony Week saw pupils engaging in respectful dialogues and learning about diverse faiths. During National Apprenticeship Week, they discovered various career pathways and the benefits of apprenticeships. Eating Disorder Awareness Week prompted thoughtful discussions on mental health and body image, while International Women's Day celebrated female achievements and promoted gender equality. Finally, Neurodiversity Celebration Week highlighted the strengths of neurodiverse individuals, encouraging empathy and understanding. Through these diverse activities, including workshops, presentations, and creative projects, our pupils have gained valuable insights and broadened their perspectives. A special shout out has to go to Elijah Morris and Isabel Fergusson who were nominated by their teachers for a faculty recognition award, Elijah and Isabel approached this term's PSHE topics with a real sense of maturity and curiosity.

Pamela Nikiteas
Head of PSHE

INQUIRY LEARNING

EPQ AND HPQ

Things are starting to take shape in both the EPQ and HPQ projects in the Lower Sixth and Lower Fifths. Pupils are well on their way with their draft dissertations, artefacts and performances, and are starting to prepare for their presentations after the Easter break. We have seen ideas and questions develop into topics such as 'To what extent can the criminal justice system be improved to provide more mental health support both in and out of prison?', 'Is the use of additives in food detrimental to our health?', 'To what extent does plastic surgery worsen Body Dysmorphic Disorder in patients receiving cosmetic procedures', and 'To what extent does social media affect fan's behaviour in football?' for EPQ (Level 3).

More topics have included 'Create a visually and technically successful short stop motion animation in the style of Laika Studios', 'What influenced the start of religions?', 'What has been the influence of presidential debates on election outcomes?' and 'Can revenge be morally acceptable?' for HPQ (Level 2).

With such a diverse range of topics covered this year, it is going to be interesting to watch the presentations in the summer term. A number of pupils have worked especially hard on their research projects and so have been awarded a faculty recognition award, those pupils are Grace Hoeltschi, Immy Oscroft, Corinna Noon and James Berry. Well done to those pupils.

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

LEVEL 3 SPORTS LEADERS AWARD

This term saw our Level 3 Sports Leaders immersed in a flurry of community sports initiatives. They once again brought joy to the 'Young at Heart' group with engaging Walking Football and Curling sessions. A highlight was the Mini Swimming Festival, where 40 enthusiastic Year 4 and 5 pupils from Pevensy and Westham dove into the fun, trying Mini Water Polo and a range of playful aquatic challenges like 'Swimming for Treasure' and 'What's the Time Mr. Squid?' To raise smiles for Comic Relief, our Leaders ventured to Polegate Primary School, launching Bede's first-ever 'Giggle Games.' Over 90 Year 4 pupils participated in a morning of laughter-filled activities, including 'Belly Laughing Bowling' and 'Joking Statues,' proving the power of sport to bring joy and activity." Well done to

Alhan Hussain who has been making really good progress towards his Sports leaders award and so has been awarded a faculty recognition award.



Kyra Merchant
Physical Education Teacher

ARTS AWARD

The Arts Award encourages young musicians to actively participate in music activities, which strengthens their practical skills. It also emphasises critical listening, research, and communication, all of which are vital for a successful music career.

Furthermore, the higher levels of the award involve passing on skills to others and leading projects, which builds leadership and teaching abilities.

Leona Baker, studying Arts Award, writes:

For my Arts Awards I have recently finished my work experience at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill as part of the Technical Team. I am also writing my Arts Issue which is based on "Building a following as a musician in the 21st Century", I am collecting research and writing about the struggles when it comes to the music industry in the 21st century. I have also put together a Q&A asking Mr Hopkins (Music Technician at Bede's) questions about his experience in the music industry and advice he would give the younger generation on how to get "good" in the music industry.



Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

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 Hau Tak Ng!

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

I'm in the Upper Sixth and studying three A-Levels: History, Religion & Philosophy, and Politics.



What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Performing "Please Please Please" by Sabrina Carpenter at House Music 2024.

What has been your greatest disappointment?

Last summer I visited the Red Brick Warehouses in Yokohama, Japan at sunset to take some pretty photos at the adjacent seafront promenade. I didn't know there was going to be a music festival that night—by the time I was there they'd already set up a bunch of stuff that completely blocked access to the promenade!



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

I think people often underrate staying in the present day—we've got plenty of interesting people in our time; plus, you wouldn't have to give up modern conveniences!

Which places in the world are on your bucket list?

The nemophila fields of Hitachi Seaside Park, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan.

What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?

The lavender fields at Farm Tomita, Hokkaido, Japan.



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

Hayao Miyazaki, Isabel Allende, Mieko Kawakami, Yūko Tsushima, Al Gore.

Which songs would you pick on Desert Island Discs?

"Intersection" by Atarayo

"Evening Calm, Somewhere, Fireworks" by Yorushika

"Zenzenzen" by RADWIMPS

"Saturn" by ZUTOMAYO

"Acacia" by BUMP OF CHICKEN

"No place to stay" by Nao ft. Isui

"Secret" by IU

"Mojito" by Red Velvet

Which songs are your greatest guilty pleasures?

"Bed Chem" by Sabrina Carpenter and "Better Left Unsaid" by Ariana Grande.

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

The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende.

Best advice you have ever been given?

"Le vent se lève!... il faut tenter de vivre!"

Paul Valéry, Le cimetière marin

Favourite TV show?

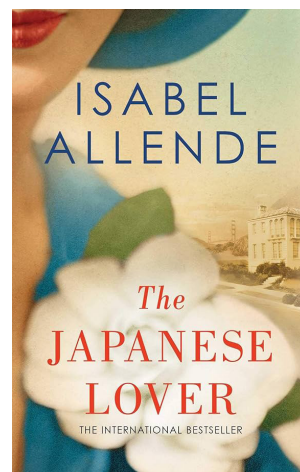
Violet Evergarden.

Favourite film or TV character?

Clementine and Joel in Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

Jiro and Nahoko in The Wind Rises (my favourite film!)

Hodaka and Hina in Weathering with You



GET TO KNOW THE BEDE'S COMMUNITY

Next up is English Teacher, Mrs Arduino...

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

I was brought up in South London and went to school in Croydon.

After A Levels, I went to University to study English Literature at Royal Holloway, which I loved. Afterwards, I worked in a German bank in London to earn some money to go abroad. I moved to Bangkok and lived there for 3 years whilst teaching in a Thai school. After that, I lived in a kasbah in Morocco for 2 years and taught at the Rabat American School. On returning to England, I completed my PGCE in Ormskirk. My first teaching job in the UK was in a school in Horsham. It's weird to think I've just summarised 25 years of my life in 7 sentences!

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

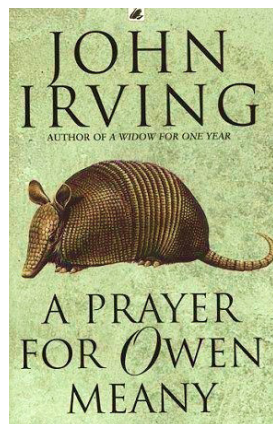
Most definitely, having 2 lovely daughters. They're really good company and I'm lucky to have them. (They love books too, which is a slight relief).

What has been your greatest disappointment?

No laughing now...but not performing in a West End musical! I'd have loved that. I don't for one minute think I have the talent for such a thing, but I think I could have given singing in the chorus of Les Mis a good go.

Who are your ideal dinner guests?

It would be wrong not to say William Shakespeare, but I wouldn't let him out the door without crafting a sonnet on the back of a napkin for me. He may find that somewhat annoying. Then I'd invite all my English colleagues to come and share the occasion with me. That would be an ideal dinner for me. Just Shakespeare and lots of my actual friends.



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

I think reading Jane Eyre for A Level cemented my love of literature for ever. Mr. Rochester, that brooding Byronic hero, kicked started it all. And the independent, strong willed Jane of course.

What is your favourite book and why?

As a teenager, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest really moved me. Then again, I should

mention John Irving's A Prayer for Owen Meany, which may have been the book that gave me the biggest surprise as a young reader. I'd never read anything like it before. It's funny and terrible and such a unique story. Utterly brilliant.

How do you relax?

I have no problem relaxing. Give me a book, a lounge and bit of sunshine and I'm happy. I do like throwing myself around a netball court twice a week, but that hardly counts as relaxing, especially when I can't get the ball in the net. It's great fun though.

Best advice you have ever been given?

Our careers officer at school said she thought I'd make a good teacher. I hadn't even considered it before then. It must have sown a very deep seed, because I've never wanted to do anything else. Being in a classroom is where I feel most comfortable and happy.

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

Meeting superb colleagues who have since become lifelong friends. The people at Bede's are what makes my job such a pleasure. The English Department are an awesome bunch of kind, funny and hugely intelligent people. Right now they'll be thinking, 'she probably means me..'

What were you like at school?

A terrible chatterbox. I loved school especially English, drama and being in the choir. But one thing I loved the most was being with my friends everyday. What a treat. I really cherish those years.

What were your favourite lessons at school?

Obviously English, but I always loved French and RE too.

Was there any type of school dinner you couldn't stand?

We didn't have school dinners. I used to take a packed lunch. My dad made it for me every morning, bless him. We did have fresh doughnuts delivered from the bakery each break time though. Very naughty, utterly delicious. They were 15p each!

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

That's a very hard question to answer without sounding like a dinosaur. Try to put your phone away from time to time and enjoy the real things that are right in front of you. Don't vape - it's really bad for you. Be kind to yourself.

SPORT

NAIJANNI SELECTED FOR ICC U19 CRICKET WORLD CUP IN MALAYSIA

Sixth Form pupil NaiJanni Cumberbatch was selected to represent the West Indies ICC U19 Women's Cricket World Cup, which commenced on 18 January in Malaysia.

NaiJanni, a talented all-rounder, has consistently impressed with her exceptional cricketing skills throughout her time at Bede's. This is her second time representing the West Indies in this competition, the first being two years ago. Reflecting on her selection, NaiJanni said, "I am incredibly honoured to be selected for a second time. This is an opportunity I am truly thankful for, knowing how many others would value it. I'm grateful for the recognition of my hard work. Since my last U19 World Cup appearance two years ago, I've gained valuable experience, honed my skills, and developed a deeper understanding of the tournament. I believe that I am a better player now with a better mindset."

NaiJanni attributed her success to rigorous training and the unwavering support of Bede's. "My training has been going amazingly," she stated, "I'm hitting the ball better than ever before. Now it's time to transfer that success to the main event! My journey to the U19 World Cup wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of Bede's. The School has not only nurtured my cricketing abilities but also helped me grow as an individual. I am grateful to the coaches who have invested so much time and guidance in my development."

This news comes alongside the announcement that three Bede's alumni – Alice Capsey, Freya Kemp, and Ryana MacDonald-Gay – are currently representing England in the Women's Ashes across various squads in Australia.

The ICC U19 Women's Cricket World Cup is a global stage for young female cricketing talent, and Bede's is immensely proud to see NaiJanni competing at this level.



Alan Wells
Director of Cricket

BEDE'S

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SPORT

ANTIGUA CRICKET TOUR



26 Bede's pupils, 15 boys and 11 girls, embarked on the school's first ever cricket tour to Antigua. The trip was incredibly well organised from this end by Karen-Mae Hill the High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, for which we are very grateful.

The accommodation was idyllic, set on one of the 365 beaches Antigua has to offer. The staff were incredibly friendly and many of the hotel guests were very interested in seeing 26 Bede's pupils in their tour kit. Many of them would ask how the game went today. In fact the games went very well - the girls were undefeated and the boys only lost one of their 6 games. The boys played against a West Indies full One Day International player - Jewel Andrew. He is probably going to be the best cricketer the vast majority of our pupils will ever play against! He did score a century against us but we still managed to beat them - which was an amazing effort!



The grounds we played at were superb, we even managed to play at the Sir Viv Richards Test stadium and at the same time had the chance to meet Sir Viv himself along with Sir Curtley Ambrose and Sir Andy Roberts - something all the pupils will remember forever. We did one day of sightseeing and ended up at the World famous Shirley Heights at sunset - a photo opportunity not to be missed.



Many hours of beach cricket were played and many burgers consumed at the all inclusive hotel! I have been on many school cricket tours but I would say this was the best. The location, the cricket, the people, the effort that everyone put in to make it successful was second to none. However, what made it so special for me were the pupils. We had countless comments from other hotel residents complimenting us on the behaviour of our pupils, which for me is far more important than any cricket result.

I'd like to thank Mr Turner, Mr and Mrs Lenham, Kash Ibrahim and Jamie Hall for all their hard work and professionalism throughout the whole tour

Alan Wells
Director of Cricket

SPORT

TENNIS

It has been another busy tennis term with lots of pupils playing at both a performance and participation level. Firstly, well done to Ella Belk who with her team of Bede's pupils managed to raise over 3k for 'Bright Ideas for Tennis', and participated in a 24 hour tennis marathon with the likes of Tim Henman, Greg Rusedski and Harriet Dart (along with other top British players). Both girls and boys 1st teams have continued to train hard indoors at the David Lloyd this winter. It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming our Bede's parents on court in our open sessions on a Tuesday morning. We look forward to a full term of fixtures after Easter.

This year has seen some great individual and team successes for the Boys Tennis team. This year's U18 squad features Jack Ford (Year 12, Deis House), Henry Hughes (Year 11, Deis House), Pasha Hrytskiv (Year 10, Knights House) and Harrison Clowe (Year 9, Knights House).

Whilst also competing for Bede's, the four boys are also busy representing Sussex in the County team as well as playing individually at regional and national level. The boys are the top four



ranked boys at U18 level in Sussex - an accomplishment all the more remarkable given that Pasha, Harrison and Henry are all still competing at U16 level. As well as playing for the County the boys are all busy competing in national and regional LTA tournaments. Pasha and Harrison have recently had some impressive wins at regional level, making it through to the quarter finals of national tournaments. Pasha has also been busy gaining some impressive wins in European tournaments. Henry and Harrison will be competing in the Under 16 Nationals in Nottingham over Easter which features all the top players in this age group nationally.



Jack and Pasha also won awards at the recent Tennis Sussex Awards, with Pasha being awarded the Most Improved Junior Player of the year and Jack Ford also won the prestigious Brian Edwards award for being a superb role model of the sport!

Commenting on the team, Bede's Director of Tennis Francesca Byrne said, "I'm really excited about the summer tennis season ahead as this is the strongest boys' team we have had in the last decade. Last year we finished top 10 in the National Finals and I'm really hoping we can go one stage better this year. There's a real camaraderie amongst the team despite the differences in their ages - Harrison is 14 years old still. The boys are on court with me and the other coaches for around 12 hours each school week as well as training and competing in their holidays and weekends and I'm sure this commitment and the Team Bede's spirit will stand us in good stead over the next few months."



Francesca Byrne
Head of Senior School Tennis

SPORT

HOCKEY

The girls 1st team continued their Tier 1 league and national cup run. Unfortunately, getting knocked out by Haileybury in the ISHC Cup, where they reached the last 16 of the nationals. Thank you to the Upper Sixth for their commitment to the hockey program and the team - Amy Wakeham-Dawson, Georgie Wakeham Dawson, Eliza Hutchison, Charlotte Watkins, Nell Drake, Mia Gaymer.

The Junior boys had an enjoyable season. The U14's complete their first season at school having played eight fixtures and finishing with a 75% win ratio and scoring 23 goals in the process. They put together some great performances in the cup beating Hurst and Kent College to make their way to the last four in the region before coming up against a strong Whitgift Side.

Our under 15 have also had a successful season. Building on their performances from last year the group also beat Hurst in the ISHC cup and also finishing with a win ratio of 75%. Many players in the team have also gone on to represent the boys U18 A which is a great achievement.

The boys 1st XI have had a relatively successful season. There have been strong wins against Worth, Claremont and an Ardingly XI. Senior player Theo Isachsen has led from the front with 5 goals, along with Toby Leonard's defensive mastery, who have both been a vital influence on a young and progressing squad. The young group have played some great hockey, with the future of boys hockey looking very exciting.

Chris Borsoi
Director of Hockey

FOOTBALL

The 15B boys' team showcased significant seasonal growth, culminating in a well-earned place in the Elgin League playoffs. The 18C and 18B boys' teams further demonstrated their strength by reaching the Elgin League Semi-Finals. Notably, the 18B boys' team's outstanding run in the ESFA National Cup has placed them among the top four teams nationally, with the exciting prospect of a match against Hampton and the potential to play at Stoke FC Stadium. The 18A boys' team has also enjoyed a stellar season in the HUDL National League, currently holding a commendable 3rd position. The 14A and 15A boys' teams displayed their competitive spirit by reaching the County Cup Semi-Finals.



The girls' teams have matched this level of success. The U15 girls have continued their impressive journey in the National Cup, reaching the Quarter-Finals, and have also advanced to the ESFA Cup Semi-Finals, having lost only one game this season. The U18 girls have made a strong start to their ISFA league campaign with a decisive victory over Charterhouse.

Individual accolades further highlight the extraordinary talent within our ranks. Issy Ranger, currently at Brighton, has been identified and invited to join the Women's England Talent Pathway, and Maia Reddington, also at Brighton, is performing

well. Niyah Hawtrey, Auden Ruelle (ISFA U18), and Maddy Franks have all earned representative honors with Eastbourne Borough U18s. Sadie Gregory continues to represent England and Chelsea. On the boys' side, we proudly congratulate Liam Doyle and Harvey Boddy on signing professional football contracts, paving the way for their post-6th Form careers. Sadie Gregory (England U15s) and Kobe Agbude (ISFA U18s) have represented their countries and associations with distinction. Additionally, Sam Wheatcroft, Max Collins, Lewis Richardson, Dami Di Michelli, Kobe Agbude, and Stelio Papadoplous have all represented Sussex Schools FA, demonstrating the depth of talent within our program.



David Caryer
Director of Football

SPORT SWIMMING

The 2025 swim season has been another year of triumph for the Bede's team, building on the momentum from last year's successes, including the boys' senior team's win at The English Schools relay finals. The season began positively with dual meet victories against Hurst and Downlands.

A significant highlight was the recent Super League finals, where the entire swim team, including the prep school, showcased their talent after advancing through four regional competitions in Sussex and Surrey. The finals, held at the K2 Crawley Leisure Centre, saw Bede's swimmers achieve a remarkable medal haul, with the senior boys winning their section and the combined efforts of all swimmers earning Bede's the overall Super League championship trophy. This outstanding team performance is to be commended. The focus now shifts to the English Schools individual swimming championships, where Oliver Charman, the reigning champion in two backstroke events, hopes to continue his winning streak.



Phil Osborn
Head of Senior School Swimming

NETBALL

Everyone has shown incredible commitment and improvement in their playing abilities this season.

Our teams represented Bede's exceptionally well at the SISNA tournament, The Nationals and the Sussex Cup showcasing great skill and sportsmanship.

In addition to our regular fixtures, we had 2 teams playing weekly in the Eastbourne Adult Netball League. Captains Rosie Coupland (U19) and Cecily Sesodia (U16) have both led their teams with determination and focus. The U16s have had an outstanding season in the league, winning 11 out of 14 matches and currently sitting 2nd in the table. They've also been the top goal-scoring team overall. A special mention must go to Darcy Ogden, who has scored over 240 goals and played more than 38 games this year – an exceptional achievement!

The U14's have started their Bedes netballing journey with a great season. The effort and improvements from all the girls has been fab and whilst we've had some losses we've also had some emphatic wins too with a few close games along the way. Lots of the girls have played in a variety of positions throughout the season which will improve their understanding of the game hugely.

The U15's continue to make excellent progress and have focused on skill development and team cohesion. In some games this season they have had to adapt to different playing styles and maintain their composure under pressure. Their commitment and drive has been outstanding with two of our players Natalia Turner and Bella Kinniburgh often playing up as well as being strong team members within their own age group.

We look forward to next season as all these players move up and continue to develop and make the Bede's sports department proud with their continued determination and commitment.

Tiffany Pennington
Netball Coach

SPORT

EQUESTRIAN

A fantastic term for our equestrian team! They delivered fantastic performances at the arena eventing qualifier at Goldeen Cross Equestrian Centre in March. Upper Fifth pupil Bea had a particularly successful day, securing 6th place with Belle and qualifying for the National Championships at Hickstead in May with her impressive 3rd and 2nd place finishes with Buddy.

They also recently had a successful weekend at Coombelands Equestrian Centre in Pulborough. The team of Chloe, Lara and Bea all jumped clear rounds with quick times to win the class. This has qualified them for the National Schools Championships at Addington in October! Great work!



Katy McKeogh
Equestrian Team Manager

GOLF



At the end of the Autumn term, 8 Bede's players entered an International Schools Golf tournament held in Portugal.

During the first two rounds the players struggled to find their form, however, things then began to look up during day 3 and 4.

On the third day, on the O'Connor Course, Ryan Wills came fourth in the scratch tournament, shooting 10 over par, in a field of over 50 players.

And then finally, in the fourth and final round Ryan's younger brother, Jack, came 1st shooting 78, 6 over par, on the very challenging Faldo Course. Also, with a very notable score of 9 over Par, Jake Sales came 5th with an 81.

During the same round but in the Stableford competition, Chris Metcalfe came 1st with 46 points and Oscar Bover came 2nd with 43 points

In the team event, Bede's team A won with 133 stableford points. The players were Jake Sales, Oscar Bover, Jack Wills and Charlie Ferris.

Bede's B team came fourth, the players were Ryan Wills, Chris Metcalfe, Monty Bennett and Albie Anderson

Mr Betts and Mr Manos would like to thank all the players for their excellent behaviour throughout the trip.

Chris Betts
Leader of Golf activity

ROUND THE HOUSES

As we wrap up this dynamic term, I'm thrilled to share the extraordinary energy and community spirit that has defined **Charleston**. It's been a whirlwind of achievements, highlighting the diverse talents and compassionate hearts that make our House truly exceptional.

Our term began with a culinary flourish, as Jasmine and Ella secured a remarkable runners-up award in Bede's Star Chef competition, inspiring Ella to host a delightful Charleston Bake Off that brought together parents and pupils in a celebration of baking brilliance. The kitchen was certainly a hub of creativity!

Charity Week showcased the entrepreneurial spirit of our newly appointed House Prefects – Ella, Sophie, Evie, Jessica, Noor, Leona, and Grace. Their highly successful charity car wash, tuck shop, and hotdog sale raised significant funds for Ufalu. Furthermore, our pupils' commitment to giving back was evident in the resounding success of the sports kit charity collection.

In terms of leadership, we are immensely proud to congratulate Sophie, Evie, Jessica, and Grace on their appointments as School Prefects. A special commendation to Jessica, who will serve as Deputy Head of School, and to Grace, as she takes on the role of Head of House. We also congratulate Ella on her appointment as Deputy Head of House. Our sincere gratitude goes to Georgie and Sadie, the outgoing incumbents, for their dignified and poised leadership throughout the year.



Beyond these accomplishments, we dedicated time to celebration and learning. Faith Week offered moments of reflection, International Women's Day sparked thoughtful discussions on accelerating

equality, and Neurodiversity Week fostered a deeper understanding of inclusivity within our community.

Of course, the thrill of House competitions is integral to Charleston life. We celebrated victories in Junior Netball, the Bake Off, the Media Quiz, and the Run and Row, showcasing our pupils' collective talent and teamwork.

Amidst all the excitement, our pupils remained steadfast in their academic pursuits. Their diligent approach



to mock examinations and commitment to excellence were truly commendable. It is particularly gratifying that we were awarded the Woollett Trophy for Most Improved House for Academic Effort, a fitting testament to the purposeful and conscientious approach our pupils have adopted towards their studies.

This term has been a testament to the vibrant, compassionate, and talented pupils of Charleston. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and eagerly anticipate their continued success in the terms to come.

This term has been a jam-packed one with Year group trips, House comps, and the wonderful **Stud House** Evensong and Formal dinner. The theme for the evening was 'Commitment' and because



of the proximity in date to Burns night, the boys were spectacularly decked out in their tartan finest, from the odd pocket square or plaid bow tie, to full Scottish evening dress!



The First Year, Lower 5th, and Upper 5th had their year group trips to the metropolis of Hailsham for

bowling, and the English Riviera (Eastbourne) for golf driving range, and Laser Tag. Please do check out our Facebook page as all of the events are photographed and uploaded.

We are in the process of getting some of the most artistically gifted boys to help out with our House Dance this year. 'Don't stop Me Now!' by Queen promises to be a challenge but I'm sure the boys will rise to the occasion with their version of interpretative dance.

We are very excited about the planned full refurbishment of Stud House which will be taking place over the summer break and Mr Potter and I are now fully conversant in swatches and soft furnishings!

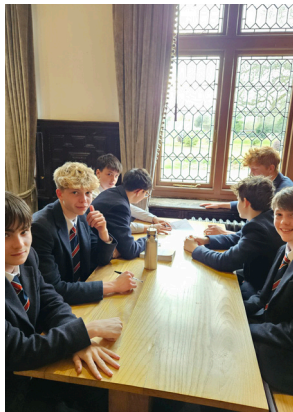
We at Stud wish all who are associated with the House a Happy Easter break and we look forward to the possibility of less rain in the coming months.

A short, but jam-packed term for **Dicker House**! We started with our Dicker house Formal, in which we celebrated the theme of 'Resilience'. As well as some wonderful entertainment from Tom Lilley, Patrick Rodohan, Rupert Anderson-Holmes, Albert Sellens and

ROUND THE HOUSES

Ona Onofeghara we were also given the finest Head of House speech from Harry Burgum.

As well as continuing our bi-weekly gratitude and achievement nominations, this term we have also focused on the subject of Positive Masculinity. What is positive masculinity? Dicker has sought to define it and recognise it. The house was asked to consider the role models and the behaviour we have in Dicker which expound the virtues of Positive Masculinity. Over the term, our cohort has recognised almost two hundred actions within categories of; self care; empathy; emotional authenticity; challenging gender stereotypes; supporting our community. It has been thought provoking and an important start to a journey forwards.



We had our annual hour 24 hour football challenge this term, which we completed with a record number of 42 Dickerites staying overnight. Our success has led to almost £3,000 being raised for Save the Children. We also held our annual Creative Challenge, which saw each Dickerite present their own creation to the house - most popular this year were baking, magic tricks and the learning of a musical piece. Hats off to the Dickerites, who all threw themselves into the challenge.

In the final house competition standings, we currently find ourselves in second place. And academically, we are first among all the boys houses for average effort grades. Great stuff Dicker! The Dickerites really have earned their Easter Break! Well done everyone!

Spring Term has been a hive of activity in **Dorter House**. There have been many special moments the girls have taken part in - from a giant snowball fight to Galentine's night to Charity Week to Family Brunches to Tutor Trip Outings - there is always something happening in Dorter.



This year, Dorter has been raising money for Barth Syndrome Foundation and our Head of Charities, Hannah Millen and the Prefect Team planned and executed a fabulous week of

fundraising supported by all the girls in Dorter. Saturday Night we held a Boarding-wide "Just Dance" evening social which was amazing fun and it was great seeing boarders from all houses joining in and dancing. During the week, we held our very first raffle (all prizes were kindly donated), and a tuck and cake shop every morning. All the girls did an amazing job!

We have had a plethora of tutor outings this term with Years 10 and 11 going out bowling with pizza. Mr Cook's tutor group completed a wonderful rope activities course which saw the pupils climbing and swinging high up in the trees! The girls displayed wonderful courage plus friendship as they supported each other. In house, we have enjoyed Wednesday evening get-togethers and the annual Dorter Galentine's Get-together to celebrate being together and the friendships everyone enjoys in house.



Dorter continued to perform exceptionally well in all the House Competitions and, amongst all our other winning moments, we were crowned winners of the inaugural Holroyd Howe House Bake Off Competition.

Another fabulous term in Dorter where the girls continue to impress with their kindness, passion and generosity of spirit.



The Spring Term in **Camberlot** has been a whirlwind of activity, filled with sunshine (well towards the end of the term), laughter, and memorable moments. From Saturday nights around the fire pit, roasting marshmallows, to the joy of Pancake Day

(thanks to Edward and Wendy's delicious creations).

The return of sunny weather saw our garden buzzing with life during house lunches, while well-being walks around Arlington Reservoir provided a refreshing escape. Sporting adventures were a huge hit, with golf trips for all years groups, offering both fun and a welcome break from studies. Even if some club heads outpaced the balls, everyone enjoyed the experience.

Weekend evenings were filled with entertainment, from the energetic

ROUND THE HOUSES



Cambo Karaoke to intense Bingo nights. We also enjoyed friendly competition with short mat bowls and strategic, but often intense negotiation gameplay with the board game Catan. The term concluded with a sense of camaraderie

and achievement, with everyone committed to House competitions in House Dance, hockey, table tennis, swimming, chess, cooking and debating to name a few, this set us up for a relaxing Easter and ready for a fantastic summer.

This term has been an incredibly busy time in **Bloomsbury House** with a plethora of activities, showcasing the diverse talents and dedication of our pupils. From the competitive spirit of house competitions to the focused effort in academic support sessions, our pupils have truly embraced every opportunity.



The term kicked off with academic rigor and focused revision before the mock exams and in class assessments. Pupils worked hard towards coursework completion and classwork revision. Beyond the classroom, our pupils have represented the school with pride in numerous fixtures, showing exceptional sportsmanship and skill. The dedication to rehearsals for music and dance performances has been equally impressive, resulting in captivating performances that showcased the pupils' artistic flair with Legat's Move It!

At the end of the term we have seen house competitions igniting a healthy rivalry and fostering teamwork. We witnessed incredible displays of athleticism in the house netball, strategic thinking in the engineering challenge and taskmaster, and creative expression with World Book Day book cover design being won by the Upper Fifth and the wordsearch won by the Upper Sixth. Alongside this, our pupils have demonstrated remarkable commitment to their academic progress, taking full advantage of the extra support sessions offered. The dedication shown in these sessions is a testament to their desire to excel.

The experience of mock exams and in-class assessments has provided invaluable preparation and insight, equipping our pupils with the tools they need to succeed in future examinations. These experiences have

not only tested their knowledge but also their resilience and ability to perform under pressure. They have enabled pupils to highlight areas to focus on in more detail in preparation for the summer exams.

We have celebrated time together in the house with parents taking part in the clay evening, creating beautiful flowers that have been fired and since painted by the pupils ready to take home.



To conclude the term, the highly anticipated house formal provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils and staff to celebrate their achievements and enjoy a memorable evening together. The atmosphere was filled with camaraderie and laughter, creating lasting memories and I would like to thank our speaker from Demelza for highlighting the work they do as a local charity, the charity we are supporting this year.

Overall, this term has been a resounding success, filled with learning, growth, and enjoyment. We are immensely proud of the pupils' achievements and look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in the future.



The **Knights** boys have achieved some tremendous success in this term's House Competitions, finishing second in the table tennis thanks to Zac Travers-Calvert and Morgan McGivney-Greenslade and gaining a podium place in the Run and Row Endurance event thanks

to the stamina shown by Pasha Hrytskiv and Ben Foley. George Lythgoe and Ned Marsh showcased their skills in the basketball and this term's quiz masters were Barnaby Perry, Eshan Ryder-Valdes and Ashton Walser who demonstrated brains and bravery in the quiz category and Arty Verrall and Monty Bennett delivering in the film quiz. Josh Robinson and Harrison Clowe served up some excellent tennis and Etienne Mills-Bennison represented well in the



ROUND THE HOUSES

squash. Saving the best for last, our hockey team featuring Monty Treherne, Charlie Lombaard and Zach Hockley clinched a 5-2 victory in the Hockey. What a way to cap off the term!

Harvey Boddy has signed a youth contract at QPR's academy and Harrison Clowe and Pasha Hrytskiv were selected to represent in the Sussex U18 team. Knights boys have also received many ovations and merits in school as well achieving great things outside of school as well. Well done to all the boys who have been recognised this term for embodying Bede's values.

The Spring Term is one of two halves. The first when nights are long, days short, a tough return from Christmas at home. By the end energy is in the air as the sunshine peeps through and lights up Bede's and **Crossways** each morning and evening. Looking back over the term Crossways has embraced the seasons with fervour and enjoyed some wonderful events which have truly embodied our values of: 'Making Crossways a place where we all belong', 'Life Through Friendship', 'Making brave Decisions' and 'Making a Positive Impact on the World'

This term traditionally hosts the annual Crossways 24 Hour Disco. This year we raised money for two charities: local Raystede Animal Home and Sanyu Babies, an Nigerian Orphanage. Both charities expressed their sincere gratitude for our support which they badly need. The girls rose to the occasion once again, hitting the dance floor at 1pm Friday, dancing all day and night and fully earning the sponsorship contributions. By 1pm the following Saturday they were ready to hang up their dancing shoes!

During the same week we added to the amount raised through bake sales at break and lunchtimes: cupcakes were devoured, cookies shared and brownies gobbled up! Not a crumb was left. The stall was manned by Crossways girls every day, a superb team effort.

The end of the Crossways Term is marked by our Formal Dinner. This year the theme was Community and Ms Hopkins made the Recital Room look spectacular. Margot's Head of House Speech embodied beautifully how the Crossways and Bede's Communities have contributed to her becoming the confident young woman she is today, with friends, direction and purpose in her life. It was warmly received by everyone. We also heard from Dr Onofeghara how her sisterhood communities have supported her life. She encouraged us



all to never take the Crossways community for granted. It was a heartfelt and fun night, with a finale of fantastic dancing!

Individuals in Crossways were recognised in today's assembly for their achievements in both Academic and Sport areas of Bede. Dani C was awarded a junior academic prize and Noa B a senior Academic prize for consistent academic achievement. Sports colours went to: Niyah, Auden, Bay, Chloe C, Martha, Daisy, Matilda, Darcy, Bea and Libby. Well done to all of them.

Thanks go as ever to our amazing team of tutors and matrons, who are constant supporters and advocates for our Crossways Family.

This term, our boys in **Deis House** continued to fight hard in house competitions, particularly the end-to-end challenge mirroring Mr Glover's rowing expedition, in which we achieved a mighty second place. This kept our place in overall rankings...

Our prefects also set up a popular Fifa tournament to raise additional funds for our house charity, still ongoing.



In terms of our other house competitions, Deis continues to put our best foot forwards in what is a very competitive top end, but we have made an excellent

start, in top place when this round of the competition began- and we'll find out soon where we have ended up!

Our pupils have enjoyed various events: Darts, Engineering Challenge, Drama Games and Basketball. Hopefully we can retain our brilliant position to the end of the year and win overall?



In other charity news, our Charity Week is in the summer term, and we are also in the process of organising a visit to our selected charity (Chailey Heritage) so we can see what a good cause the money is going to. Watch this space for reports on those events!

Dorms House has seen a flurry of success this term! We're thrilled to announce our victories in house table tennis, chess, basketball, and the junior quiz. Whilst they did not translate into progression in the house comps Our "give it a go" spirit and teamwork have truly shone through.

ROUND THE HOUSES

In a remarkable display of endurance, Dorms virtually rowed (ran and cycled) across the Atlantic, raising vital funds for Alzheimer's research in support of Mr Glover. This incredible achievement reflects our commitment to both physical challenge and community support.



Our formal dinner was a wonderful celebration in which we reflected on our new house motto, "Many cultures, one community," a testament to our diverse and inclusive spirit.



As the Easter break approaches, many will be immersed in exam preparation. While dedication is admirable, remember the importance of balance. Take time to connect with friends and family, and immerse yourselves in the restorative power of nature. A refreshed mind is the best foundation for exam success. Enjoy your break!

