

BEDDE'S

CURIOUS

AUTUMN 2025





Inspiring Workshops in Performing Arts

This term, the Bede's Performing Arts department has been buzzing with creativity, welcoming several industry professionals to lead specialist workshops and masterclasses for our pupils.

Our Legat dancers enjoyed some dynamic workshops this term:

Classical Ballet with Owen Morris: Professional dancer, teacher, and choreographer Owen Morris led an intensive session for our Legat pupils. He conducted a full professional company class and taught Giselle repertoire, providing a substantial boost to their classical technique and artistry.

Musical Theatre Jazz with AMDA: The dancers also experienced a specialist musical theatre jazz workshop with Eugenio Contenti from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA). The day proved incredibly successful: three of our Upper Sixth dancers auditioned for the college during the session and were each successfully offered a place to further their training in America!

On 17 November, we welcomed renowned pianist Joanna MacGregor to lead an inspiring masterclass. Ms. MacGregor, who is also the Head of Piano at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music, worked individually with a selection of our talented musicians, providing detailed guidance that deepened their understanding and performance skills.

Our BTEC Production Arts pupils were thrilled to welcome the amazingly talented costume designer Jo Headland to Bede's for an inspiring workshop. Pupils gained fascinating insights into the world of professional costume design, exploring the entire process - from initial concept development to the intricate details required to bring characters to life on stage and screen.

These exceptional guest visits ensure our pupils are connecting directly with the professional performing arts industry, enriching their learning far beyond the classroom.



Can You Dance?

Super Convention trip to Liverpool

What a weekend! Our dancers returned from an unforgettable Can You Dance? (CYD?) Super Convention trip to Liverpool, and it was more than just a dance convention - it was a chance to build incredible bonds, share special memories, and shine on stage.

The weekend began on Friday, October 10th, with the company enjoying some quality time together. Pupils from different year groups mixed, forging new friendships and strengthening the supportive community that makes our school so special. After a fantastic evening meal in Liverpool ONE, we settled into the hotel, ready for the busy day ahead.

Saturday was packed with inspiration and hard work. Our dancers dove into a range of masterclasses, from ballet to hip-hop, soaking up knowledge and technique. They also had the opportunity to watch spectacular performances from other schools and colleges. Then, it was our turn to take the spotlight! The dancers embraced the challenge of the 360-degree stage, performing brilliantly to a high-energy piece inspired by Tina Turner choreographed by our Head of Dance, Sherrie Pennington.

Performing to all four sides of the audience, they showcased their versatility and passion for dance. Sunday saw the company take to the main stage for the highly anticipated College Showcase section. Our dancers were simply magnificent, performing the captivating number 'Dream On,' choreographed by Amira Kendall and Emma Manes. They represented the school with immense professionalism and talent, sharing the stage alongside top vocational colleges like Wilkes Academy, Laine Theatre Arts, and MEPA College.

We could not be prouder of every single pupil. Their passion, discipline, and excellent representation of the school throughout the weekend were truly remarkable. This trip created lasting memories and reaffirmed the bright future of our dancers. Well done, everyone!



Legat Dance Captain Q&A

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

I began dancing at just two and a half years old, focusing exclusively on ballet for many years. During the Covid period, I decided I wanted to seriously pursue dance. That decision led me to find Bede's and the Legat Dance Academy online and I started in Year 10. Initially, the learning curve was steep since I wasn't used to training in so many different styles. However, with dedication, I saw a significant improvement in only six months. The teachers here truly acknowledge hard work and that encouragement prompted me to apply for the role of Dance Captain, which I was thrilled to be appointed to.

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

To me, being Dance Captain is all about being a positive role model - someone the other dancers can look up to, just like I looked up to the captains when I was in the lower years. My main focus is making sure everyone feels comfortable and truly belongs here. I also serve as a link between my peers and the faculty; the teachers rely on me to collect the dancers' feedback and notify them quickly if any issues come up. I really enjoy being that trusted person my peers feel comfortable approaching.

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

My approach is to stay organised and plan my time carefully. During Legat sessions, my focus is solely on dance. Then, after school, I use my prep time to concentrate on academics. I keep everything in a pretty strict routine to manage both disciplines effectively! On Saturdays, I participate in the RAD Assistant Training award, which involves helping to teach the Legat Associates. This programme has been invaluable for my leadership, as it has taught me to adapt my teaching style depending on the age group I'm working with.

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

One of the best things about Bede's and Legat is the sheer convenience - everything is right here! We can move quickly and easily between academic lessons and dance sessions. Because Legat is a smaller company, we get a lot of valuable one-to-one feedback, which is absolutely essential for both personal growth and technical improvement.

What are your future goals in dance or beyond?

My dream career involves performing across various platforms, whether that's dancing in musicals, making appearances in music videos, or touring with major pop stars. Alongside performing, I'm keen to develop my skills in teaching dance. I'm currently working toward admission to a dance college - that's the vital first step before I can start the audition process.

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

Handling all my current responsibilities has actually made me feel well-prepared for the real world. Managing so many tasks is great training in being adaptable. As Dance Captain, I'm constantly focused on the needs of others, not just my own, and that perspective is perfectly preparing me for working in a team environment in the future.



Les Misérables

SCHOOL EDITION

Ten weeks. That's how long we dedicated our co-curricular activity time, committing hours upon hours of rehearsal to transform this ambitious idea into reality. Rehearsing Les Misérables has been a crucible for something truly transformative, a whirlwind of intense focus, boundless fun, and pure creative energy—a testament to teamwork at its absolute best.

The excitement is palpable tonight, as we stand on the eve of taking down the set from the Miles Theatre, only to immediately begin the logistical feat of resurrecting it at the prestigious Attenborough Centre. This dedication encapsulates the spirit of the entire process.

Every minute has been maximized, whether working diligently backstage, commanding the onstage action, or holding the rhythm together in the pit. The process itself was an astounding demonstration of artistry, driven by the exceptional talent of our creatives and sixth form leaders from music, dance and drama departments.

We were fortunate to have a highly talented and reliable cast who embraced the scale of this show with total dedication. Critically, this cast is drawn from Year 9 through 13 and represents every house in the school, making this a genuine, whole-school effort. The result is a production featuring both incredible solo performances—moments of breathtaking emotional clarity—as well as truly

stand out ensemble moments where the collective energy becomes overwhelming. It has simply been a joy to watch this growth.

This wasn't an 'off the peg' show; everything—from the beautifully crafted, non-hired set pieces to the bespoke costumes—was brought together with such care and thought. The barricade scenes, in particular, demanded everything we had. They represented a massive technical and emotional challenge for all of us, but seeing them come together has been nothing short of a triumph. Now, with the move underway, we are ready to share this unforgettable experience with the wider audience.

Brooke says, "The journey of the show from September to now has been absolutely incredible and I am immensely privileged to have shared the rehearsal process with such a uniquely talented and inspiring cast who are all so supportive."



Behind the Barricades: Pupils Master Professional Production Management

With opening night approaching, our BTEC Production Arts pupils are meticulously crafting the world of 19th-century revolutionary Paris. This isn't just a school show; it's a rigorous, real-world professional experience where students manage high-stakes production elements.

The Stage Management team is fully responsible for detailed logistics, mastering technical skills like scenic finishing by overseeing the construction of major set pieces, including the massive staircase. They are also finalising historically accurate props, such as 3D-printed and aged muskets, guaranteeing every item is correctly set for complex scene changes.

The Costume Design team is managing an immense challenge, having made and collated some 200 costumes. They have planned detailed costume breakdowns for every moment, outfitting nine prisoners, 30 'poor people,' and 18 factory workers. This preparatory work ensures the team is ready for the hundreds of items and complex quick changes essential to the epic show.

By handing them the reins of this major production, the BTEC course is equipping pupils with the practical confidence and leadership skills required for a professional portfolio, managing a complex show right up to its final curtain.

Orlando says, "Working on *Les Misérables* has been intense and professional. The BTEC Production Arts course has tested my skills, from planning every prop inventory to set finishing, and it has absolutely proved that I am ready to manage a major production."





Autumn Term Music Highlights

Bede's Musicians take centre stage!

What an incredible term it has been for Music and Performing Arts at Bede's! Our pupils have truly demonstrated their talent and passion, showcasing the vibrant and joyful education that allows every pupil to thrive. From radio interviews to concert performances, their achievements have been outstanding.

Spotlight on Junior Talent: The Junior Concert

The Junior Concert on 12th November 2025 was a magnificent showcase of our younger pupils' skills. Here at Bede's, all pupils' talents are celebrated. The evening included a diverse and captivating programme: Eli impressed the audience with two contrasting pieces: a cello performance of JS Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 (Prelude) and a singing and guitar performance of Niall Horan's "This Town". We heard two wonderful renditions of "Journey to the Past" from Anastasia, performed by Poppy and Isla respectively. Other memorable performances included Pearce singing "Somewhere Only We Know" and a beautiful flute duet of "City of Stars" by Jeannie & Katie.



On Air: Eastbourne Youth Radio

We were delighted to take part in Eastbourne Youth Radio 2025, where a group of our talented pupils, led by co-presenters Grace and Ernie, gave listeners a real flavour of life at Bede's.

The broadcast featured fantastic live music performances: Equilibrium, featuring Ernie, Ed, former pupil Johnny, and Tom, rocked the airwaves with songs by Oasis and The Arctic Monkeys; the Lower Sixth BTEC Band - Taleen, Siena, Tom, Orlando, and Tom delivered show-stopping renditions of "Blame It On The Boogie" and "Get Lucky". The radio audience was treated to a beautiful duet from our forthcoming production of Les Misérables. Tom (Jean Valjean) and Cordelia (Cosette) performed the captivating "In My Life". Solo performances highlighted individual excellence, including Year 9 pupil Macarena from Mexico City, who performed Alicia Keys' "Girl On Fire". We also heard Archie, in the Upper Sixth, perform his own composition, "Golden Boy," as he prepares to study music production at BIMM next year.

Beyond performance, our pupils are dedicated to making a difference. We heard from the Her Voice pupil committee, championed by pupils like Corinna, Sophie, Emilia, and Frankie, and hearing how they actively ensure that equality and diversity are integrated into school life. Ably assisted by Mr Driver and Mrs Dove, this initiative helps foster a sense of sisterhood, champions the voice of girls, and works to empower and support all girls through actions. It was wonderful to share these amazing talents with the on-air audience and we look forward to going back next year.

Equestrian Success

Well done to the Bede's equestrian team for a brilliant outing at the Hurst College Show Jumping Competition at Hickstead!

A fantastic debut for the team of Upper Fifth pupil Molly, Lower Fifth pupil Georgie, and Year 8 pupil Charlie, all jumping excellent rounds! Congratulations to Upper Sixth pupil Chloe for a brilliant 4th place finish in a very busy class!

Interested in joining the team? Contact our Equestrian Coach, Katy
katy.mckeogh@bedes.org



Bede's Returns to the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s Tournament!

After a nine-year break, Bede's is excited to announce our return to the world's premier rugby sevens event - the Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s Tournament! Please mark your calendars for March 23-24, 2026, as our talented young athletes will take on top teams from across the globe on this iconic pitch.

This opportunity is the result of four years of dedicated effort. Our journey began with humble, once-a-week sessions on the Old Golf Course pitch - often without poles or lines - and has grown into rigorous, twice-weekly training at Eastbourne Rugby Club. Our boys have poured their heart and commitment into every drill, transforming persistent effort into a cohesive squad ready for this challenge.

This tournament is more than just a competition; it's a wonderful chance for our players to represent Bede's at an event legendary for launching careers and creating unforgettable memories. We would be honoured to have your support!

While it falls in the first week of the Easter holidays, we encourage you to join us. Come and be part of the excitement, show your commitment to the team, and help propel our boys forward. We believe in their ability to rise to the occasion!



Windsurfing

Congratulations to Lower Sixth pupil Sophie, who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the iQFOiL event at the prestigious Youth Sailing World Championships in Portugal in December! Good luck Sophie!



Record Participation and Success for Bede's Football

This term has been exceptional for Bede's Football, with a massive 151 games played across our boys' and girls' teams. It is fantastic to see so many pupils enjoying the game and, notably, to witness over 25 nationalities coming together to forge strong friendships on the pitch.

The success this season has been outstanding. Our 1st XI (18A) currently sits 3rd in the HUDL national league, boasting impressive results like the recent 4-0 home victory against Ardingly.

The younger teams are also dominating, with the U15A and U14A squads performing brilliantly in the South East Elgin League and looking set to qualify for the semi-finals. A huge highlight was the U15A's 2-0 win against Eton in the ISFA Cup, moving them into Round 4.

Individual excellence has also been recognised: congratulations to Fraser and Sadie for their selection for England, and to Ben for being selected for the ISFA U16's.

The whole school community is incredibly proud of the hard work and competitive spirit shown by all players!





Pasha's Tennis Success

Pasha has had an outstanding term and has been climbing up the tennis ladder and working extremely hard. He works with incredible discipline and passion on and off-court (making the most of his bespoke gym programme, on-court and off-court swim recovery - all provided in the school timetable).

Pasha has won six Men's grade 3 events, reaching the last 8 of nationals and off the back of this, being invited to GB training camps. Pasha has now started to compete in Junior International Events (ITF's) and recently qualified for an ITF in Loughborough where he reached the Semi-Final gaining world ranking points.

Pasha finishes the year in the top 10 in the country. Pasha will continue to compete in ITF tournaments next year, supported by Bede's Director of Tennis, Mrs Byrne.

New Year 7 & 8 Lower School

From September 2027, the School will introduce a brand-new, purpose-built Lower School at its Upper Dicker Senior School campus, running alongside the established provision at Bede's Prep School in Eastbourne. The cornerstone of this new development is the construction of a brand-new purpose built facility which will be a true "school within a school" featuring:

Modern Classrooms and Science Laboratory: Tailored learning spaces, including a state-of-the-art science lab.

Dedicated Social Hubs: A large common room and a flexible dining space, fostering community and collaboration.

Purpose-Built Outdoor Space: Dedicated outdoor areas designed around the developmental needs of this age group.

Pupils will benefit from enhanced access to the Senior School's outstanding facilities, including the extensive sports centre, arts and DT rooms, dance and drama spaces, and music rooms. In addition, pupils will benefit from being taught by subject specialists from across the Senior School academic faculties.

Architects and a construction company have been appointed, and the planning process for the new facility is currently underway.

The new Lower School at Upper Dicker will operate alongside the current, successful provision for children in Years 7 and 8 at the Prep School, which will continue to provide a nurturing environment for pupils.

Bede's School looks forward to sharing further detailed information over the coming months to help parents explore these exciting opportunities and determine the best approach for their child's future development.



Peter Goodyer, the CEO and Headmaster of Bede's Senior School, commented on this news by saying, "We are delighted to announce this significant strategic development. Crucially, the new Lower School will run alongside our highly successful existing provision at Bede's Prep School in Eastbourne, which will continue to operate unchanged. This means we are offering families complementary options at the critical Year 7 entry point, ensuring parents can choose the environment that is perfectly matched to their child's unique needs and personality. Whether pupils thrive on the continuity of the Prep community or benefit from earlier integration into a Senior School environment, we are truly offering the best of both worlds."



Golf

The golf team has enjoyed an exceptional season, showing impressive skill, dedication, and teamwork against some of the South East's strongest schools. Throughout the year, they secured convincing wins - alongside the occasional defeat - against opponents such as Lancing, Hurstpierpoint, Sutton Valence, and Eastbourne College. They have also reached the County ISGA Scratch Matchplay final, to be played early next year.

These fixtures sharpened their competitive edge ahead of the Schools Golf regional event on the Old Course at Royal Ashdown Forest. The team delivered superb individual and collective performances, ultimately winning the prestigious team title and strengthening Bede's reputation as a leading golf school.

A major highlight was Jack's selection to represent England U18, a national honour that inspired the squad. Notably, the team still won at Royal Ashdown even while Jack was on England duty - a fitting end to a historic season.



Hockey

We have enjoyed a tremendously successful Autumn Term on the hockey field, with both boys' and girls' teams achieving remarkable results in regional and national competitions.

Our indoor hockey teams secured top spots in highly competitive events. The U16 Boys were crowned Sussex Indoor Champions and progressed to the Southeast Regional Finals at St George's. The team performed admirably, qualifying second in their group to reach the semi-final stage. In a tight match, they narrowly lost to the winners, St George's. This is a fantastic achievement at a high-level regional competition. The U15 Boys showcased their talent in the Schools Indoor Championships, securing five victories out of seven matches against some of the country's top hockey schools. Their performance culminated in a thrilling 3rd/4th place playoff against Kingston Grammar School, which they won 2-1 to proudly secure the bronze medal.

We are thrilled to celebrate the selection of numerous Bede's pupils for the Talent Academy (TA) programmes. Congratulations to Lilian, Zeb, Jesse, Will, Jack and Olly who have been selected for East Grinstead Talent Academy. Congratulations to Ella, Charley and Emilee who will join Sevenoaks Talent Academy.

The girls' teams have also had a successful term, showing great progress across all age groups. The U14 Girls team finished as Cup Runners-Up in the UKSA tournament. Our 1st XI Girls and U14 Girls continue their journey within the National Knockout Competitions. We wish them the very best as they progress into the later stages of these tournaments!



BEDE'S
ACADEMIC
2025
HIGHLIGHTS

99%
MERIT &
ABOVE
AT BTEC

40
SUBJECTS
OFFERED AT
A-LEVEL/BTEC

92%
PUPILS INTO
FIRST CHOICE
UNIVERSITIES

82%
A*-B GRADES
AT A-LEVEL

93%
GCSE
PASS RATE

100%
PASS
RATE
IN 59
COURSES

36
SUBJECTS
OFFERED
AT GCSE

10 Reasons for Academic Success at Bede's

This term, we published a document detailing the ten reasons behind our pupils' academic success. Our outstanding 'Value Added' scores - consistently placing us in the top 1-3% of schools nationally - reflect an innovative approach that moves beyond grades to measure individual progress.

Here is a summary of the ten reasons why a Bede's education delivers unparalleled academic success:

1. **A Personalised Pathway for Every Pupil:** Our curriculum moulds itself to the pupil, not the other way around. We offer flexible subject combinations, accommodating all A Levels and BTECs, ensuring pupils can pursue the unique programme that suits their interests and aspirations.
2. **Innovative Academic Mentoring:** Senior academic staff provide personalised, one-to-one tutorials, proactively supporting and challenging all pupils, ensuring no pupils go "under the radar".
3. **Exceptional Teaching Excellence:** Our teachers are passionate mentors. They are committed to lifelong learning, pioneering the use of laptops for exams and explicitly teaching revision techniques in every subject.
4. **Embracing Technology:** We lead the way in preparing pupils for the future by actively encouraging them to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a tool, equipping them with the ethical framework to use it responsibly and effectively.
5. **Academic Academies:** With over 100 optional sessions, our Academic Academy Programme is an integrated part of school life. It offers everything from core skills support and revision clinics to specialised Oxbridge and Medics masterclasses, providing a framework for specialisation crucial for university applications.
6. **Superb Facilities:** Our campus features outstanding resources, including a theatre, design studios, and an incredible on-site zoo. We believe that co-curricular activity—from sport to caring for our exotic animals—directly enhances academic prowess.
7. **Happiness Breeds Success:** We are committed to nurturing the whole pupil, linking academic achievement directly to personal, social, and emotional wellbeing. This is supported by an integrated PSHE programme and a robust support network.
8. **Building Professional Skills:** Beyond exam content, we prioritise equipping pupils with critical professional skills. Through activities like debating groups and volunteering, pupils develop communication, critical thinking, emotional intelligence and leadership abilities, preparing them for life beyond the classroom.
9. **Reading Changes Lives:** Our dedication to literacy is foundational. We ensure that every pupil develops strong reading habits, which in turn improves comprehension and critical analysis across all subjects.
10. **Life After Bede's:** Our comprehensive Careers Service offers personalised interventions, guiding pupils through the UCAS process to secure competitive destinations. We help pupils secure places at top universities and prestigious degree apprenticeships, ensuring they are ready for the challenges of the future.



Highlights of SHAPE

From Home Host to Global Debates: a Stellar Autumn Term for Bede's MUN!

The Bede's Model United Nations (MUN) society experienced a highly dynamic Autumn term, highlighted by hosting its largest-ever conference and attending two external events.

The term launched on 7 October with Bede's MUN III, welcoming 162 pupils to debate the theme: "2030 Under Threat? Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals." Led by Mr McIntosh and Mrs Webster, delegates tackled crucial global targets, from infant mortality to forced marriage. A notable success was the inclusion of Prep School pupils, who demonstrated impressive maturity, with a Year 8 pupil successfully passing a resolution. The day ended with a dramatic General Assembly (GA) crisis involving a fictional invasion of Greenland.

Momentum continued on 15 November, as a team representing Italy attended RGS Guildford. The group, spanning First Year to Upper Sixth, debated Global Vaccination and Mental Health, culminating in an exciting GA addressing a global pandemic. Mysha was awarded "Highly Commended Delegate" for her contributions to debates on Religious Practices against Women.

The term concluded on 1 December with 21 pupils attending Benenden School, representing Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia, and India. Bedians took on leadership roles, with Joseph and Noa serving as Deputy Chairs. The constructive and intense debates saw Boris (Russia) exercise his veto power and Harrison pass a resolution regulating Private Military Contractors.

The term was a triumph for Bede's, securing numerous awards at Benenden. Anthony received an Honourable Mention, Lilian and Emilia were named Commended Delegates, and Harrison and Immy were awarded Best Delegate for their consistent contributions. Pupils honed vital negotiation skills through the "buzz" of the home conference and the alliance-building at Benenden, praised by Sixth Former Pippa as a "definite success."



Bede's Economists take on the City of London!

Our recent trip to the City of London offered an invaluable opportunity to bring classroom economics lessons to life, immediately providing a tangible reality to concepts about the UK's financial system and global markets.

A key stop was the area surrounding the London Stock Exchange Group. While we didn't go inside, being in the epicenter of financial activity highlighted its central role and allowed us to discuss its evolution in the global economy.

We walked the historic banking streets, including Lombard Street

and Threadneedle Street, emphasising London's centuries-long history as a financial hub. This helped us understand the dramatic shift from traditional face-to-face dealings to today's high-speed, globalised financial system.

An educational highlight was the Bank of England Museum. This provided a deeper understanding of the central bank's critical role in economic stability. Exhibits on inflation, interest rates, and monetary policy were perfectly aligned with our macroeconomic topics, and the chance to hold a genuine gold bar made complex ideas highly engaging.

As George (Upper Sixth) noted, the tour "successfully bridged the gap between economic theory and real-world practice," offering an exciting glimpse into potential future careers.



A Journey of Remembrance and Reflection: Bede's pupils visit Krakow and Auschwitz

On Friday 17 October, 31 pupils from Years 11–13 set off early for Krakow, Poland, on a profound and historically significant trip. Beyond classroom learning, the experience offered powerful opportunities for personal growth and reflection. The most impactful element was the visit to Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. Auschwitz I, the original concentration camp, revealed the harsh daily conditions and forced labour endured by prisoners, with displays of personal belongings emphasising the regime's inhumanity. At Auschwitz II-Birkenau, the vast death camp where around one million people were murdered, pupils experienced a moment of deep silence. The expansive landscape, marked only by the chimneys of destroyed barracks, underscored the immense scale of the Holocaust while reminding pupils of the individual lives lost.

In Oświęcim, pupils used an app to trace pre-war Jewish life and learn about notable families. They later visited Schindler's Factory, now a museum recreating wartime Krakow and the Jewish Ghetto. A meeting with Holocaust survivor Anna Janowska-Ciońcka—who shared her childhood experiences and answered pupils' questions—was especially moving. The trip fostered empathy, understanding and a deeply personal engagement with history.



A Christmas Carol in Art:

Bede's Creative Arts Past, Present, and Future!

By the end of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" Scrooge, a changed man, says - "I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year". A great positive sentiment at the end of one of the classic Christmas stories. Scrooge was famously visited by visions from the past, present and future - so this seems like a good way for us to reflect on the Autumn term.

As we head into the festive season one of our talented First Year scholars, Mae, created Bede's Christmas card - a lovely celebration of Christmas and the talents of Bede's pupils.

The Autumn term has seen The Creative Arts Faculty visit our own pupils of Bede's Past, Bede's Present, and very excitingly, Bede's pupils yet to come.

Many Bede's Alumni have gone on to great things including becoming freelance Photographers, Animators, Computer Game Designers, Prop Designers, Theatre Directors, Architects - to name just a few. Last year Creative Arts Bedians achieved excellent results - 89% A* to A at A Level Art and 77% 9 to 7 at GCSE Photography, Ceramics and Art. As ever you can explore the work at our showcase website - www.bedescreativeartsfaculty.org or follow the Bede's Creative Arts Faculty on Instagram.



This term we have been working with our own Bede's Prep school and with numerous prep schools around Sussex. We have run Workshop days including animation, design technology, printmaking, and photography. Our own Bede's Sixth Formers have been involved in running some of these sessions and they have been a huge success. A young Prep pupil said after visiting Bede's Senior School that "It was the best day ever" - high praise indeed!



Looking to things yet to come we have just announced our Creative Arts Faculty New York trip in December 2026. In December 2024 we took 38 Pupils to New York City for 3 nights. We saw New York from the top of the Rockefeller centre, took a ferry on the Hudson River, strolled through central park, saw the Guggenheim, Times Square and walked the Highline - almost doing 80,000 steps in the process. We are looking to create new memories next year.

So as Scrooge says at the end of A Christmas Carol - we will continue to "live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!". We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2026.



Costa Rica

A 21 strong group of impressive Bedians toured Costa Rica for 11 days and were taken into a different world full of colourful wildlife and scenery - caiman, parrots, iguanas, poison dart frogs, turtles, spider monkeys, sloths, butterflies, bullet ants, bats, blue crabs and an array of spectacular birds.

Starting in Tortuguero, we zoomed on boats, stopping frequently to capture magnificent scenes of turtles, birds and monkeys, through four main canals that make up a 65 mile long aquatic highway that runs through Tortuguero National Park. Our guided nighttime beach walk gave us the rare opportunity to see a turtle laying her eggs.

We made chocolate by crushing cocoa beans, adding chilli, cinnamon and raw cane sugar and then used the freshly separated cocoa butter as hand lotion.

We saw how bananas are sprinted on lines attached to people runners straight to the lorries ready for export, saw the tiniest non sting (we loved this part) bees making honey used for medicine (only 200ml made per hive per year), we made sugar cane drinks and crunched on coffee beans! Pineapples and ginger were in abundance growing either side of the roads as we travelled through lush land and the Chiquita & Del Monte labels now have so much more meaning behind them when we shop.

We hiked to view the active Poas volcano, appreciated the thunderous volume of water cascading over the La Fortuna Waterfall, we patted volcanic mud from mudpools on our skin and relaxed in hot springs from the volcano, swam in the smallest National Park's protected beaches and visited a puma & jaguar rescue and conservation centre.



Tirimina Biological Reserve



Dawn Wildlife Boat Tour



Maleku Community

We had a fantastic Tour Guide - Marco and with Roy, our bus driver, we travelled across the central volcanic seam of 127 volcanoes and visited both Caribbean and Pacific sides to Costa Rican, staying in many hotels, eating a lot of rice and beans - the national 'casado' dish - and then we finished our tour with a typical Costa Rican dance.

An amazing experience in a country that lives by the phrase 'Pura Vida' - pure life!



La Fortuna Waterfall



Festive Fireside Tales

In the penultimate week of term the library hosted Festive Fireside Tales, its annual celebration of Christmas, reading and brilliant pupils. Staff invited pupils who have leapt to the top of Santa's 'Nice' list this year, to enjoy an eclectic selection of readings - a seasonal space adventure by Ray Bradbury, ably read by Mr Betts; a poetic warning to those who don't believe in Santa Claus, by Ogden Nash and read, complete with American accent, by Mr Curtis; a letter from Mark Twain, in the guise of Father Christmas, to his three-year-old daughter was narrated with aplomb by Mr Richards; the story of how the donkey was chosen to carry Mary to Bethlehem, told by the donkey and written by Jeannette Winterson, was beautifully read by Mrs MacKenzie; the Brothers Grimm story of The Elves and the Shoemaker was told by our own resident elf, Miss Arduino; and The Twelve Days of Christmas, but not as you know it, written by John Julius Norwich and read by yours truly.

Proceedings were concluded in the very best way, with a visit from Father Christmas himself, delivering specially selected books for all the students who had been invited by their teachers. This event is one that takes a huge amount of work but is, without fail, a fun and rewarding experience, and the most perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit!



Big Book Borrow

On the last full Friday of term, the library was transformed into a mini Christmas book festival for the bi-annual Big Book Borrow. This is a prime opportunity for students and staff to choose a book to read over the holiday, with curated tables of carefully selected library books that will hopefully engage and inspire. The event was attended throughout the day by a host of English classes, who browsed and selected books by fairylight, and are now all set for the Christmas break.



‘Breaking Free’ writing competition inspires English pupils

The tenth annual Autumn term writing competition, inspired by the phrase ‘breaking free’, encouraged First Year English pupils to craft imaginative prose. Over one hundred pupils submitted work, with a final shortlist of twenty vying for the top spots. Judges were impressed by the sheer variety of topics, which included stories of desert island solitude, Andean treks, and polar expeditions. Narratives based on Greek mythology, such as the tales of Icarus and Prometheus, were also popular, as were comic takes on the prompt - including a story about summer work experience in a dinosaur suit! Congratulations go to the overall winners: Lizzie, Darcey, Marley, Katie, and Charlie.

As part of the prize, the pupils welcomed New York Times and The Guardian journalist Gloria Dickie virtually from Bangkok. Gloria discussed the making of her book, *Eight Bears*, and offered practical advice on structuring writing, finding an angle, and editing under pressure. She used her Guardian article on Thailand’s monitor lizards to demonstrate how to conjure a specific place and mood, providing a valuable real-life example. She left pupils with an inspiring task: write a story based on a walk.

The winning entries are published in the 2025 edition of *Small Island*, the creative writing magazine which launched in October. Prize-winners will also join a spring writers’ trip to the V&A storehouse in London for inspiration.

Pupils have further opportunities to explore their passion for writing, including a poetry masterclass, an open poetry competition, and the annual eco-writing competition.

To request a copy of *Small Island*, please write to: matthew.oliver@bedes.org.



Pupils Celebrate MFL Week

Bede's Languages Week, held the week of September 22nd, celebrated global languages and cultures under the theme, "Languages Open Hearts and Minds." The aim was to highlight the many advantages that languages offer to both pupils and staff.

The week kicked off with an inspiring online Q&A session for Upper Fifth and Sixth Form MFL pupils featuring Bede's alumnus and linguist, Gus Freeman. Gus shared accounts of his travels and the opportunities he gained through language study, encouraging pupils to be curious in their learning.

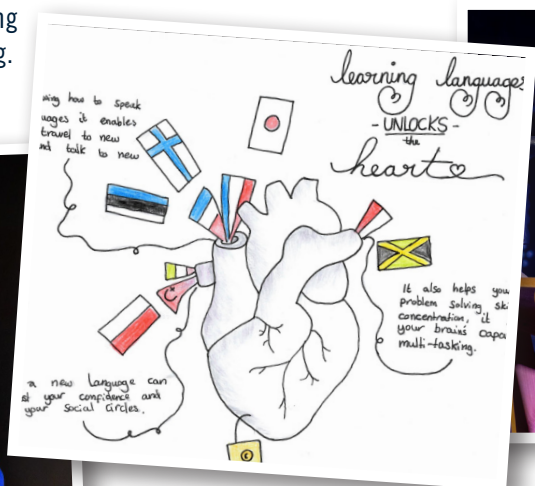


Events and Highlights

A variety of exciting events were available to all pupils and staff across the Senior and Prep Schools. These included an art competition inspired by the theme, language quizzes, and a delicious multicultural menu from the catering team. Prize winners for the art competition were Seb, Mae, and Stephanie.

The annual Multilingual Open-Mic Event took place on September 25th, bringing together an enthusiastic and confident cohort of pupils from both the Prep and Senior Schools. Participants entertained the audience with songs, poems, and prose in nearly a dozen native and second languages, embodying the theme "Languages Open Hearts and Minds."

German pupils also held their first social masterclass, celebrating German culture with a nod to the recent viral craze: "Pudding mit Gabel!" (Pudding with a fork). Led by Mrs. Ray, pupils discussed the importance of human connection while engaging with this quirky trend. Pupils of German and German speakers should look out for future German social opportunities.



STEM Stars Soar:

ESA Harwell Visit Inspires Next-Gen Explorers

Thirty Senior School pupils experienced the future of space technology at the European Space Agency (ESA) site at Harwell Campus, gaining insight into cutting-edge innovations and careers.

The day began at the ESA's 5G/6G Hub, where pupils learned how space infrastructure is being used to develop and test the next generation of mobile connectivity for faster data transfer, crucial for remote sensing and interplanetary communications.

A highlight was meeting two campus companies. Lacuna Space captivated pupils by explaining their mission to launch small satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to provide global connectivity for IoT (Internet of Things) devices, tracking assets worldwide. Next, Oxford Space Systems (OSS) showcased their innovative, deployable antenna structures, surprisingly fabricated using technology similar to a knitting machine—a blend of craft and high-tech engineering.

The afternoon focused on Earth impacts, with an Earth Exploration session highlighting the critical role satellites play in monitoring climate change data like sea levels and deforestation.

The trip concluded with an exciting demonstration of an advanced robot dog being developed for Human and Robotics Exploration. This autonomous quadrupedal robot is set to assist in human rescue missions and conduct detailed planetary surveys, igniting conversations about its indispensable, low-cost role in future deep space missions.

Max, Upper Fifth commented, "The thing I found interesting about the day is listening to how they design and make the satellites and put them up in space."



Mastering the Multichannel:

Digital Campaigns in the Real World

Upholding BTEC standards, our marketing pupils are honing their digital skills by developing high-stakes, real-world product launch campaigns.

Amelia, an impressive pupil, recently presented a comprehensive campaign portfolio for a new, high-market lipgloss. Acting as a genuine marketing strategist, she embraced the challenge with total commitment.

Her project included conceptualising and filming a professional advert, mastering storyboarding and video editing. She then executed her strategy by building a dedicated product website with strong visual assets, pairing it with a blog for organic traffic.

The formal presentation of her multichannel strategy was noted for its clarity and strategic justification. Amelia's professional portfolio ensures she is well-equipped with practical skills for a future career in digital marketing.

Amelia commented, "My digital marketing plan included a multichannel strategy where I created my own blog, website and viral video to promote a new high market lipgloss - I loved the creativity behind it!"



Visiting Speakers in the Autumn

This term, Bede's hosted a diverse lineup of guest speakers, providing pupils with invaluable, real-world expertise across several departments.

In the SHAPE Faculty, pupils attended an Oral History Masterclass with Dr. Tania Staras from the University of London. Dr. Staras discussed memory, and detailed how oral history captures the experiences of minority groups often absent from formal records.

The department also welcomed Holocaust survivor Dorit Oliver-Wolff. Born in Yugoslavia in 1936, Dorit and her mother fled the war, surviving unimaginable horrors. Her talk was a powerful testament to resilience, urging peace and sharing her core principles: 'hate no one' and 'never say 'no thank you'.' A defining thread was the power of artistic expression; she found hope through singing, even defiantly singing a Hebrew song in front of German soldiers.

The Business and Economics department launched SHAPE week with Mr. Martijn de Bruin, who offered an "inside track" look at the 2008 Financial Crisis. Drawing on his personal experiences at Credit Suisse, he explored the crisis's causes, contrasted US and European responses, and examined the long-lasting effects on the banking industry, connecting firsthand experience to economic theory.

The 42 Club hosted former Google Director and ethical investor Alex Gawley.

His inspiring career path spanned astrophysics and finance to becoming Director of Product Management for Gmail and Google Calendar. He emphasised his advice: "you don't know the ways it could go right until you try." Gawley now runs Zero Carbon Capital, an ethical venture fund that invests in technical climate change solutions, such as eco-friendly cement and tidal energy turbines, blending innovation with profitable investment.

Finally, the English department welcomed a wide array of distinguished writers and alumni, all exploring the question: why do words matter? Alumni including barrister Anna Moody, Senior Policy Advisor Ana Entwisle, and Marketing Manager Lily Potter discussed the centrality of language in law, the charity sector, and team management. Professional writers like Guardian football journalist Jamie Jackson and New York Times environmental journalist Gloria Dickie (live from Bangkok) shared tips on crafting compelling content, while A-Level pupils enjoyed a 'Lunch with Larkin' Q&A with biographer Professor Zachary Leader.



Round the Houses

Bloomsbury

We have celebrated many successes individually including First Year sporting prowess from Charlotte in football, Lower Sixth Lilian and Upper Sixth Gigi in hockey, Upper Fifth Sadie performing at the highest levels in football, Upper Sixth Sophie in windsurfing on an incredible pathway journey to GB greatness. We have had literary distinction from First Year Lizzie, Upper Fifth Immy and Lower Sixth Lilian, and Lower Sixth Pippa shining with MUN accolades. We have leading roles in Les Mis with our Upper Sixth and a huge house engagement and involvement in music, dance and drama, performing and backstage in general.

We have shone in house competitions this term leading the way on the hockey pitch and pumpkin carving, narrowly missing out on first place with the Christmas cake decorating.

Above all, we have learnt about growth and respect in Bloomsbury House, how to be kind and compassionate. This Christmas every member of Bloomsbury took home a Christmas tree as a symbol of growth, support and setting roots that are strong. We enjoyed the carol service and house trip to Eastbourne, a delicious meal, and pottery painting a Christmas decoration as a keepsake which I hope the pupils treasure.

I am forever proud of the pupils in our house and what they achieve on a daily basis astounds me. They ALL work so hard and try so hard, I am very grateful to them. Looking forward to the Spring term ahead we have a parent social coming up with a crafting and memory making evening, as well as our House Formal and Evensong in March!



Dorter

The Autumn term is one of the busiest terms in Dorter's calendar. The academic year started with over 30 new girls joining us in Dorter. They settled in incredibly quickly, becoming part of the 'Dorter family' and diving straight into house life. Beyond participating in all school-wide activities and events, we celebrated being Dorter with our own special Wednesday night activities. These have been a huge hit, featuring everything from fire-pits and s'mores to creative cooking sessions. We also hosted a highly successful, boarding-wide Halloween party again this year, complete with spooky costumes and wonderful games created and hosted by our dedicated Prefects!

Dorter has been riding high on success this term and has won a variety of house competitions but the highlight has to be winning the Big Song House Song Competition with Deis with our very own rendition of Madonna's 'Vogue'. Not only did we sing incredibly well but the Big Song was also choreographed by Dorter! We have also ended the term with winning the Christmas Cake Decorating Competition!

Christmas holds a very special place in Dorter and this year we held our annual Christmas tree decorating afternoon where crepes were made and eaten and all girls in the house made their own decoration for our enormous tree. We also held a Christmas Pod Decorating competition which was fiercely fought between the girls.

Les Miserables was another highlight this term and watching all the Dorter girls who performed on stage was a moment of immense pride for the Dorter staff!



Camberlot

Camberlot House has enjoyed a highly active and successful term, marked by House competition victories, enriching experiences, and a strong focus on community and wellbeing. Ms Excel's tutor group celebrated their challenge victory (combined merit total) with a continental breakfast, and our First Years kicked off the academic year successfully with a fun bowling trip.

House spirit was vibrant at House Competitions. House Music was an incredible night, showcasing the contributions of our pupils, particularly the band. Prefects organised evening activities, planning a four-team football tournament on Bonfire Night and a lively Karaoke Night, which served as excellent practice for the Stache Bash.

Community and mental health remain top priorities. We reinforced our commitment to wellbeing on World Mental Health Day and International Men's Day, demonstrating our support for one another. Camberlot also hosted a successful 'Stache Bash' for the Charlie Waller Trust, featuring musical acts from the "Cambo boys." Social events, including the triumphant return of the Colour Run, proper weekend breakfasts and BBQs, and a successful walk

in Friston Forest, helped new friends connect and encouraged a vital break from technology.



Dorms

As I chase the last of the over-excited Juniors to bed, it's hard to believe this term began back in September, when nearly a third of our boys were new and walked into Dorms not knowing a soul. The table-tennis table — the beating heart of the house - quickly sparked early cohesion, but it was the steady stream of events that truly cemented connections. House Music, quizzing, inter-house football, basketball, and our speciality, ultimate frisbee, all gave the boys chances to collaborate and compete for house points.

Farebrother's Sunday football, Sushi Nights with Jayne and Hiromasa, game evenings and relaxed BBQs back at the house were firm favourites, helping turn unfamiliar faces into a community.

The boys are currently recovering from the double whammy of our Christmas Party and House Outing — both featuring outrageous amounts of food and equally outrageous games. Moritz is almost full!

As we head into the break, I know the boys will be glad to see their families. However, I feel they'll be looking forward to seeing each other again come the new year.



Charleston

Charleston House wrapped up a vibrant term filled with competition, spectacular events, and successful integration. The term began with the Amazing Race, a superb team-building exercise that quickly forged bonds and collaboration, helping our newest pupils settle in and become a vital part of the House machinery.

This spirit carried through fun, action-packed House Competitions, culminating in the spirited House Cross Country on the South Downs and the visually stunning Glow in the Dark Netball, which even saw parents joining the action.

Celebrations were key, starting with the spectacular House Formal Dinner. The girls then showcased their dedication in the dazzling House Music competition, a memorable spectacle of joy. Beyond the House, Charlestonians were proud to star in the fantastic school drama production. The term concluded on a festive note with the inaugural House Carol Sing-Along, set to become an annual tradition.

Individually, we celebrated the phenomenal success of Mia, who achieved a remarkable double gold medal haul at the IDO World Dance Acrobatic Championship.

A major focus was personal growth, highlighted by the transformative Outdoor Pursuits Trip to the Peak District for First Year girls. They navigated challenges, returned stronger, and, crucially, forged new, enduring friendships.

Mr M wishes all girls and their families a well-deserved, restful, and joyful break, anticipating another term of achievement and spirit in the New Year.



Stud

This term has been a long and jam-packed one with year group trips, house comps, and the pièce de résistance, our victory with Crossways in the House Music Competition.

The First Year and Lower Fifth have been bowling and golfing whilst eating at the golden arches restaurant in Hailsham (McDonald's) and the Christmas tree is now up for the last two weeks of the year. If you would like to know more about life in Stud, check out our Facebook page and our Instagram feed as all of the events are photographed and uploaded.

We are in the process of preparing for 2026, and the many different events that this brings such as the Stud Formal Dinner, in which, this year - as it falls in the same week as St David's day - we will be celebrating all things Welsh, the Upper Fifth, Lower and Upper Sixth trips out, many other House comps, and a lot more besides.

We at Stud wish all who are associated with the House a Happy Christmas break and a prosperous New Year and we look forward to the days getting longer and the ground drier. As they say in Wales 'Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda'.



Knights

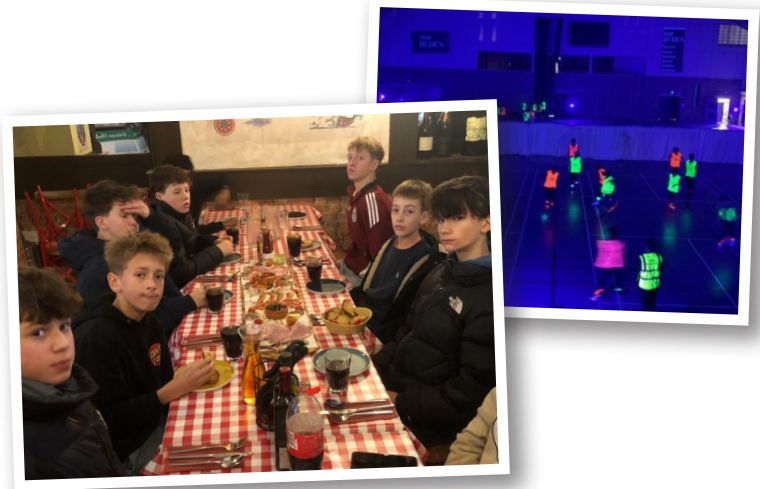
It has been a pleasure to see a number of pupils make significant progress this term. It has been a busy period balancing assessments with various house events and academic enrichment.

Knights hosted a major House Charity Week, raising over £1100 for the Pologate Children with Cancer Fund. This involved the challenging Landmark Challenge, where pupils collectively ran more than 480km. Other fundraisers included a popular Glow in the Dark football tournament, a quick-selling steak bake-off, and a milkshake madness event.

The festive House Outing began with a beautiful Carol Service at St Saviour's Church, Eastbourne, where several pupils performed readings and in the choir. This was followed by a three-course dinner at Gianni's and a competitive afternoon of ten pin bowling

and laser quest.

In the arts, many pupils were involved in the school's production of Les Misérables. Four Lower Fifth pupils demonstrated teamwork by creating a snowman-themed Christmas Cake, securing 7th place. End of Term Awards went to all-rounders such as Pearce (Drama, Music, Sport) and George (Peer Mentor, Choir), recognising their broad contributions to school life.



Dicker

The long Autumn term has been jam packed, as usual. The Dickerites have done a great job. The house has been led brilliantly by George and Jack, along with the prefects. Community and gratitude nominations have continued.

The Prefects have also done a great job in choosing their favourite nominations and presenting them to the house each week. This term we have been looking as a community at Growth Mindset. Each Dickerite has embarked upon a 'Rose, Bud, Thorn' journey: each of us has been thinking about those things that we are already good at (the Rose) and how we might lead with this attribute within the house; next we will be choosing a skill that we would like to develop that we perhaps haven't got round to (the Bud); and then a challenge - perhaps a task or self-development that we are fearful of, or know we should try to encourage self-growth (the Thorn). Each of us will be working on these skills and challenges over the coming year. We are excited to see the personal development within our community and the resulting skill-sets that we acquire and conquer. As always, the boys have approached this with admirable attitude.

Dicker continues to be represented within all school arenas - we have six of the 1st team football squad - Toby, Alfie, Will, Reuben, Bobby and Max. And we also offer huge congratulations to Fraser who was selected for the England U17 football team. In the Arts, Tom has been given the lead in Les Miserables. Tom is ably supported in the cast by Oscar, with Ronnie offering technical support. Academically, our brilliant Dickerite Toby topped the merit tables in the house with over twenty merits.

Wishing everyone a great holiday and festive period. Well done Dicker!



Crossways

It has been such an exciting term here in Crossways. We welcomed a record breaking number of new pupils to our house, so many that we nearly fell off the stage on the first day of term's welcome event!

We started the term with our outing to Bewl Water inflatable water course, which was chillier than usual but saw us throwing ourselves down slides and off the top of the tallest tower! Since then Wednesday evenings have been organised to bring the house together with Christmas Card making, Dare Jenga, Bingo and hot chocolate nights, all of which have been enjoyed by many year groups together.

Our teamwork in House Competitions, in particular spectacular efforts in the Cross Country and House Singing, gained us second in the table which we were absolutely thrilled about. Recently, Crossways girls have also been representing the school in Model MUN competitions, successful sports teams and most recently the mind-blowing school production of Les Miserables. We are so proud of all our girls who get up on the big stage and do incredible things.



Deis

Deis has really hit the ground running this term, making fourth place in the Bede's Amazing Race and gaining an incredible first place for the seniors in our Cross Country event.

The interhouse music competition saw every boy in the house singing on-stage with the girls of Dorter, the whole house entry winning this fiercely fought and closely marked competition- well done everyone who sang, maybe getting quite a long way out of their comfort zone, and did their best- fantastic result! Sadly we did not get a top place in the competition overall.

In the next round of House Competitions, the boys remained determined and got overall first place by doing their absolute best in a huge range of competitions- superb!

We achieved third place in the Pumpkin Carving and the Christmas Cake decorating competitions- consistent culinary decorators.

Our major event this term was the formal dinner and evensong, which featured a large number of our students boldly displaying their musical talents, as well as an encouraging message about our continuing support for the Chailey Heritage Foundation from a leader involved in the work.

Finally we are (at the time of writing) about to head off for a Christmas outing: lunch at Donatellos and a lively afternoon of trampolining at Sky High.



BCURIOUS**EDE'S**

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