

Dear Parents

Well done to all those boys involved in sports fixtures, quizzes, concerts and assemblies this week. Especially impressive were the Prep School Senior Choir and the Chapel Choir, who sung so beautifully at Mr Wickens' funeral on Monday. The Y7 and Y8 quiz team hosted a team from Bedford Girls' School on Thursday, and enjoyed a closely fought victory in a tough quiz, and we welcomed Howard House charity, Bedfordshire Down's Syndrome Support Group, who spoke well about the excellent work they do.

All rugby teams had their photo taken on Wednesday, and details of how to order online will be sent to you shortly.

In this edition of the bulletin, look out for some exciting upcoming events for the boys to be involved in. Also, if any boys (or interested parents) would like to suggest a word to go on our word wall in the library, please write to Mrs Lumley Wood:

ALumley-Wood@bedfordschool.org.uk

Today we will be handing out the new Prep School creative writing magazine, entertainingly titled The Inky Blot, which is a collection of poetry and short stories written by Bedford Prep School boys last year. I hope your son brings it home so that you can see the sort of excellent creative work the boys have done. This year we hope to include a piece of writing from every boy in the school, and this depends on them handing it in. Look out for announcements about this, starting with the message below.

We look forward to welcoming all Year 8 parents to the Year 8 Open Morning tomorrow, where you will get the chance to look around the Upper School and start to be able to visualise the exciting next steps in your son's education.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

YEAR 3

Y3-4 Choir Boys, Carols in the Park, Saturday 2nd December

Our Y3 and 4 Choir boys have been invited to sing at the Kiosk in Russell Park on the morning of Saturday 2nd December. It's a wonderful opportunity for the boys to experience singing for a wider audience and there will be refreshments for the boys afterwards. Please

see Mrs Gedye's letter with further information [here](#). Could all parents of Choir Boys please indicate on the [form](#) whether their son is able to come by Friday 24th November.

YEAR 4

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YEAR 5

Y5-6 Summer Trip, 8th – 13th July – Save the Date!

Boys in Year 5 and Year 6 are normally invited each year to take part in a trip to Bude in Cornwall. Unfortunately, this year we were let down by the company we have used for over a decade. However, we are busy finding an exciting alternative for our Year 5 and Year 6 boys abroad, which we hope will be even better, most probably Tignes in the French Alps, which would be a stunning location for a trip. Tignes is a great skiing location, and an equally exciting summer sports location. We have the dates arranged for the 8th to the 13th July, the week after the end of term. The trip is likely to cost in the region of £850 which will cover flights, accommodation and all activities. We are currently arranging all aspects of the trip and will communicate details in due course. We will do an assembly for the boys, and hold a meeting for parents when we know full details. In the meantime, if your son is in Year 5 or Year 6 and this is something he would like to do, please do save the date.

YEAR 6

Y6 Geography Map Skills and Team Building Trip to Ickwell, Monday 27th November

On Monday 27th November, the Y6 boys have an opportunity to participate in a map skills and team building trip to Ickwell during the school day. Activities will include map work, a treasure hunt, mud making and the chance to work with fire. For further information please see the letter [here](#). Please note that the online form in the letter needs to be completed by Thursday 23rd November.

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YEAR 7

Y7 Planetarium / Observatory Visits

To aid with their studies of the forthcoming Earth and Space topic, the Y7 boys have a wonderful opportunity to visit the Bedford School Planetarium and Observatory after school in the coming weeks. Three occasions have been arranged so far. They are:

Monday 27th November

Monday 4th December

Monday 11th December

There will be a planetarium slide show and an opportunity to ask questions. If the weather is suitable, the boys will also be able to observe through various telescopes including the main observatory instrument.

Please ensure the boys have suitable (warm) clothing. We will assemble outside the Wells Building after school and then the boys will be accompanied up past Chapel and will access the observatory from the gates halfway down Pemberley Avenue (next to Phillpotts boarding house). Please pick the boys up from these gates too, at around 5.45pm. (Boys who are not collected at 5.45pm will be taken back down to the Prep School).

If your son would like to attend, please ask him to sign his name up a.s.a.p. in the relevant column on the sheet outside WS2. Boys should not sign up until they have checked the date with their parents.

YEAR 8

Y8 Gothic Film Night, Thursday 30th November

On Thursday 30th November, Year 8 are invited to a Gothic Film Night in the EMH. We will be showing Alejandro Amenábar's production of The Others starring Nicole Kidman (please see further film details [here](#)). The film is rated 12 and has moments that may worry those of a nervous disposition. Attendance is not compulsory, but we do promise a scary evening to those who are brave enough! The evening is free and there will be an interval where pizza and drinks will be served. The event will start at 5.30pm and boys can be collected from the Burnaby Road exit at 7.30pm. Please confirm attendance via this [form](#).

If the boys enjoy the Gothic Film Night, they may also want to attend the 'Christmas Gothic' performance on Sunday 17th December at the Quarry theatre. Dyad Productions present three seasonal tales of terror perfect for dark Christmas nights (age rating 10+). Further details can be found [here](#).

Upper School Open Morning for Current Y8 Boys and Parents, Saturday 18th November 2017

The Upper School will be holding an Open Morning for all Year 8 parents and guardians tomorrow. This will provide you with an opportunity to tour the Upper School and to meet with some key members of staff.

The programme for the morning will be:

10.00am	Arrival and refreshments in the Erskine May Hall Foyer
10.15am	Boys join their parents after periods 1 and 2
10.30am	Welcome by the Head Master, James Hodgson, in the EMH
11.00am	Tours of the Upper School
11.45am	Refreshments in the Great Hall and an opportunity to speak to key staff
12.30pm	Event finishes

For those travelling by car, we would be grateful if you could arrive via the Burnaby Road entrance, where our Security Team will be on hand to direct you to parking. There is no need to confirm your attendance, however please don't hesitate to contact our Admissions Team on 01234 362216 if you have any questions.

Scholarship and Bursary Awards

(for Current Y8 Boys as they Join the Upper School in September 2018)

Application Deadline Friday 1st December 2017

A range of scholarships are available to current Bedford Prep School boys as they move into Year 9 in the Upper School. Scholarships are awarded to boys who excel academically, or show outstanding talent in Art, Drama, Music or Sport (Rugby, Hockey, Rowing, Cricket and Golf). Boys who show ability in two or more of these areas and/or demonstrate other particular strengths may be considered for an all-round award.

Up to 20 Scholars will receive up to a maximum of 10% of annual school fees from the Harpur Trust. Up to 12 of these Scholars may receive up to a further 25% of annual fees if they demonstrate exceptional talent. This additional funding, from the Brian Saville Scholarship Fund, gives a total award of up to 35% of annual school fees.

Financial support is also available to boys entering Year 9 on a means-tested basis through our Bursary Award Scheme. If you would like to receive further information about the scheme, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Department at admissions@bedfordschool.org.uk or by telephone on 01234 362216.

Please note that the closing date for Scholarship and Bursary applications is **Friday 1st December 2017**. Applications received after this date can unfortunately not be considered.

Scholarship application forms can be collected from the Prep School Reception or are available to download from the Admissions section of the school website [here](#).

ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

No Swim Squad Training - 21st or 28th November

Due to the swimming matches scheduled, there will be no swim squad training sessions on either the 21st or the 28th November.

Autumn Concert, Thursday 23rd November

Our Prep School Autumn Concert is taking place at 7pm on Thursday 23rd November (not December as we incorrectly stated in last week's bulletin) in the EMH. All parents, friends

and relations are invited to attend and we hope to see many of you there. If your son is in one of the ensembles below he will be performing in the concert and will need to back in school at 6.40pm. **All performers need to be in a white shirt.** Please see [here](#) a letter from Mrs Gedye regarding the arrangements for the performers. Please note that there is a form within the letter which needs to be completed by **today** please.

Beginner Steel Pans

Intermediate Steel Pans

Advanced Steel Pans

Y3 Choir

Junior Choir

Senior Choir

Intermediate and Senior Guitar Ensembles

Prep Chamber Orchestra

Junior Strings

Prep School Band

Jazz Band

Advanced Recorder Ensemble

Senior Brass

Prep Orchestra

Junior Brass

Message from the English Department

We hope you enjoy the first edition of 'The Inky Blot'. Your son will bring his copy home with him today and a digital copy will also be available shortly. Preparations for next year's edition have already begun and to that end, this year's 500 Word **Short Story Competition is now OPEN for entries!** This competition is open to ALL boys in the Prep School. Please see further details about the competition and the submission details [here](#). Happy writing!

House Drama, Friday 1st December - tickets now available

Tickets for this term's House Drama Competition on Friday 1st December at 6.30pm in the Quarry Theatre are available now. The allocation is three tickets per family at this stage, but more will be available nearer the time. Tickets can be collected/reserved from Prep Reception and are free. This year's competition is being judged by local actor Richard Mann and the theme is: *Folktales From Around the World*; we look forward to seeing you on the 1st December!

Author Visit, Tuesday 21st November

On Tuesday we will be welcoming 'The 2 Steves', otherwise known as Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore, authors of the Action Dogs and I Hero books, to talk to all boys. They have visited us before and were extremely entertaining and the boys found them really inspiring. They will bring books with them for boys to buy and have signed if they want to. **If your son would like a book please send him to school on that day with some money** in a named wallet or envelope. The list prices for their books start at £5.99 and their book range can be seen [here](#).

Accelerated Reading update

The school has now read 1,926 books which is 59,132,049 words. Congratulations to Charlie Eggleton and Murray Silk for becoming double millionaires and Sachin Kambli, Jamie Wallwork, Pablo Peraire Navarro, Edward Dagg, Tom Barnes and Ben Rioch for achieving their millionaire status.

Parents' Guild Grand Christmas Draw

The Parents' Guild are once again holding a Grand Christmas Draw which will be drawn on Monday 11th December. This year's prizes are three individual luxury Christmas hampers and three pine Christmas trees. Tickets are £1.00 each and are available from the Bell Room, the Nearly New Shop and the Prep School. Tickets can be purchased using this [form](#) (which must be completed if anyone under 16 is purchasing tickets on your behalf). Please make cheques payable to 'BSPG'.

Parents' Guild Movember Event and Rugby Teas, Saturday 18th November

To help support the boys in their fundraising for the Movember charity, the Parents' Guild will be serving refreshments in the Langham Pavilion on Saturday 18th November from 2.00pm onwards. The Guild will also serve the post-match teas for parents of both the Prep School and Upper School Rugby matches with afternoon kick-offs in the Langham Pavilion instead of the Dining Halls. The Parents' Guild will be supplying the refreshments and, as always, post-match teas will be free of charge, therefore any donations towards the Movember charity will be gratefully received. Parents supporting home teams and visiting teams will be most welcome, so we would be grateful if you could point any visiting parents in the right direction. Please note that there will be no refreshments for parents in the Dining Halls for any afternoon games, only for visiting boys. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
17/11/2017	16:30	17:30	Prep School Informal Concert for Strings
20/11/2017	08:00	19:30	Prep Guild Wrapping Event
21/11/2017	08:00	19:30	Prep Guild Wrapping Event
21/11/2017	09:00	10:15	Author's talk for Years 5 & 6
21/11/2017	10:30	11:55	Author's talk for Years 3 & 4
21/11/2017	13:30	14:45	Author's talk for Years 7 & 8
21/11/2017	16:30	17:45	U9, U10, U11, U12, U13 Swimming v Bedford Girls (H)
22/11/2017	08:00	19:30	Prep Guild Wrapping Event
23/11/2017	14:00	15:30	Y5-6 Science Quiz Heat 1
23/11/2017	19:00	20:30	Prep School Autumn Concert
24/11/2017			Prep School Mufti Day
24/11/2017	16:30	17:30	Table Tennis : U12/13A v Goldington Academy (H)
25/11/2017			EXEAT
26/11/2017			EXEAT
27/11/2017	09:00	16:00	Y6 Geography visit to Ickwell
27/11/2017	15:30	16:30	Table Tennis : U13A v Westfields School (A)
28/11/2017	08:30	13:45	Prep School Guild Christmas Sale
28/11/2017	16:30	17:45	U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13 Swimming v Aldwickbury (A)
29/11/2017	10:00	13:45	Prep School Guild Christmas Sale
29/11/2017	18:30	20:00	Eagle House Open Evening
30/11/2017	09:00	11:55	Y6 Talented Art workshop
30/11/2017	10:00	15:00	Prep School Guild Christmas Sale
30/11/2017	17:30	19:30	Y8 Gothic Evening

01/12/2017	13:00	13:30	Y3-5 School Council meeting
02/12/2017	08:00	12:30	U11A rugby tournament at Rushmoor
02/12/2017	09:00	11:40	Y8 Talented Art workshop
02/12/2017	10:00	11:00	Carols at the Kiosk (Y3-4 Choir)

For the full calendar please click [here](#)

For sports fixtures please click [here](#)

For Speech & Drama lessons next week please see [here](#)

This term's letters are also available to view in the Parents' section on the school website on the [Parents' Letters Page](#)

For details on all the concerts, exhibitions and lectures this term, please see the [What's On Page](#)