

Dear Parents

It was great to see so many of you at the Autumn Concert last night. Thank you for your support. As I said last night, it is really beneficial for the boys to play in front of such a bumper audience, with such warm and supportive applause. And didn't all the boys do well and really deserve that applause! A superb evening's entertainment, thanks to talented boys and the inspirational music department.

A huge thank you, also, to all the parents who helped wrap the presents ahead of the Prep Guild Christmas Gift sale next week. Rosie Biffa, our new chair of the Prep Guild, tells me that the presents were wrapped in record time.

This week we also had some enjoyable rugby fixtures against Bishop's Stortford College, Milton Keynes Prep, Maidwell Hall and Oundle and the swimming gala against Bedford Girls' School on Tuesday saw a first win for the boys for a while.

Finally, it was good to welcome the Two Steves for their last ever Schools visit. One of the Steves, Steve Skidmore, our new patron of reading, will be back on 8th December for an event which takes place in the library (see below).

I hope you enjoy the weekend, and the boys take full advantage of the exeat weekend to rest for the final three weeks of term before the Christmas holidays.

YEAR 3

Prep Guild Christmas Gift Sale, Wednesday lunchtime

The Prep Guild are running a Christmas Gift Sale next week. Please see below for further information. Y3 can purchase gifts on Wednesday at lunchtime.

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

Thank you to all those boys who have signed up to sing at the Kiosk in Russell Park on the morning of Saturday 2nd December. Could any remaining [forms](#) please be completed as soon as possible. Please see Mrs Gedye's letter with further information [here](#). Thank you also to those boys who have said they can sing at the Red Cross Christmas Fair tomorrow.

YEAR 4

Prep Guild Christmas Gift Sale, Wednesday lunchtime

The Prep Guild are running a Christmas Gift Sale next week. Please see below for further information. Y4 can purchase gifts on Wednesday at lunchtime.

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

Thank you to all those boys who have signed up to sing at the Kiosk in Russell Park on the morning of Saturday 2nd December. Could any remaining [forms](#) please be completed as soon as possible. Please see Mrs Gedye's letter with further information [here](#). Thank you also to those boys who have said they can sing at the Red Cross Christmas Fair tomorrow.

YEAR 5

Prep Guild Christmas Gift Sale, Tuesday lunchtime

The Prep Guild are running a Christmas Gift Sale next week. Please see below for further information. Y5 can purchase gifts on Tuesday at lunchtime.

Y5-6 Trip to Tignes, July 2018

Further to the notice in last week's bulletin about the summer trip for Y5-6 boys, please see [here](#) some further details about the option of going to Tignes. We would be grateful if you could please take a look at the brochure via the link in the letter and complete the short [questionnaire](#) to indicate whether or not your son would be very likely, quite likely or not likely to attend the trip.

YEAR 6

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

On Monday the Y6 boys will be participating in a map skills and team building trip to Ickwell during the school day. Please see the letter [here](#) for a reminder about what to wear. Could boys please bring a rucksack big enough to hold a coat and a school packed lunch. They should also bring a plastic bag to hold any rubbish or wet clothes and a change of shoes as they may get muddy! We hope they have a great day.

Y6 Art lesson next week

Y6 boys will be doing clay work in their art lesson next week, so could they please bring in a named art overall or old shirt as they will be getting messy! Thank you.

Prep Guild Christmas Gift Sale, Tuesday lunchtime

The Prep Guild are running a Christmas Gift Sale next week. Please see below for further information. Y6 can purchase gifts on Tuesday at lunchtime.

Y5-6 Trip to Tignes, July 2018

Further to the notice in last week's bulletin about the summer trip for Y5-6 boys, please see [here](#) some further details about the option of going to Tignes. We would be grateful if you could please take a look at the brochure via the link in the letter and complete the short [questionnaire](#) to indicate whether or not your son would be very likely, quite likely or not likely to attend the trip.

Y6 Jersey Sports Tour, March 2018

Please see [here](#) a letter from Mr Phillips about the selection procedure for the Y6 Sports Tour to Jersey in March.

YEAR 7

Prep Guild Christmas Gift Sale, Thursday lunchtime

The Prep Guild are running a Christmas Gift Sale next week. Please see below for further information. Y7 can purchase gifts on Thursday at lunchtime.

Y7 Planetarium / Observatory Visits, Mon 27th Nov, 4th Dec, 11th Dec

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.

Y7-8 Disco at Bedford Girls' School, Thursday 7th December

Tickets should be available from reception next week for the Christmas Disco being held at the Girls' School on Thursday 7th December.

YEAR 8

Prep Guild Christmas Gift Sale, Thursday lunchtime

The Prep Guild are running a Christmas Gift Sale next week. Please see below for further information. Y8 can purchase gifts on Thursday at lunchtime.

Y8 Gothic Film Night, Thursday 30th November

For those boys who have signed up to the Y8 Gothic Film Night on Thursday, the evening will start at 5.30pm in the EMH with pizza and drinks being served in the interval. Boys can be collected from the Burnaby Road exit at 7.30pm. Boys do not need to be in uniform. We hope they enjoy the film.

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](#).

Y7-8 Disco at Bedford Girls' School, Thursday 7th December

Tickets should be available from reception next week for the Christmas Disco being held at the Girls' School on Thursday 7th December.

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

House Drama, Friday 1st December - tickets now available

There are just a few tickets left for this term's House Drama Competition on Friday 1st December which is at 6.30pm in the Quarry Theatre. 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!

Prep Guild Christmas Gift Sales

As mentioned above, the Prep Guild are once again running a Christmas Gift Sale next week, which provides boys with an opportunity to purchase gifts for all of their family members: mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents and even pets! There will be one example of every gift on display for boys to look at, and then the boys can purchase the gift

ready-wrapped. The gifts are mostly in the range of £2 - £8. If boys would like to make some Christmas purchases they should bring their money in a named envelope or wallet and may give it to their tutors for safekeeping. Younger boys may also like to have a written list of family members to buy for and there will be lots of Prep Guild representatives to help the boys with their selections. Boys are reminded that they may not unwrap or play with any of the gifts they buy, they should all go home fully wrapped for placing under the tree! Please email your son's tutor or prepguild@bedfordschool.org.uk with any further questions. The gift sale will take place in the Atrium on the following days:

Y5-6 Tuesday lunchtime

Y3-4 Wednesday lunchtime

Y7-8 Thursday lunchtime

Celebration of the newly refurbished Library, Friday 8th December at 4.30pm

On 8th December at 4.30, our Patron of Reading, Steve Skidmore, will be joining us to celebrate the refurbishment of the Inky library. We feel that this is a good time to celebrate and promote reading, with our first visit of our new Patron of Reading and the increasing success of the Accelerated Reader programme. During the day, Steve, who has visited the school recently with his writing partner, will be conducting writing workshops with Year 8 pupils, and he will join us afterwards in the library. We will be inviting a boy from each tutor group to attend the event, and other boys and parents are most welcome to join us for a cup of tea and look round the refurbished library. If you would like to come, we ask that you please do not park in the pick-up area in the Prep School but in the Burnaby Road car park. Thank you.

Chapel Choir CD now available to buy

The Chapel Choir Christmas CD is now available. Here is a short promotional video of one of the CD tracks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHu9OnMIN7Q&feature=youtu.be>. This is an ideal Christmas present for friends and relatives! If you wish to buy copies they are available from the school shop for £10. Boarders can get a chit signed by housemasters and have the cost blue-billed. For day boys who want multiple copies but don't want to bring cash into school, parents can ring through and pay by card. Either call in to the shop in person or purchase online here: <http://www.bedfordschoolshop.co.uk/a-bedford-christmas-634-p.asp>

'Christmas in a Box' Charity Appeal

One of the charities the school would like to help this Christmas is the 'Christmas in a Box' Charity [Appeal](#) run by Bedford Foodbank and All Nations Church, which aims to provide local people in crisis with hampers at Christmas. Next week, each form will divide up the items on the suggested shopping list (items include a box of chocolates or a carton of custard for example) and we are asking each boy to contribute one or two items from the list, if possible. One boy will also be asked to contribute a box wrapped in Christmas paper. The items need to be brought in **by Wednesday 6th December**. We hope the appeal will not only help 26 local families but also raise awareness among the boys about the difficulty many families face at Christmas time.

Bedfordshire Refugee & Asylum Seeker Support Toy Appeal

Another charity the school would like to help this Christmas is the BRASS charity on Tavistock Street. They are collecting new or nearly new toys to give out to the children at their Christmas party. This might be a good opportunity to sort through the boys' bedrooms to make room for any new toys they might receive this Christmas. Please could any donated toys or gifts be handed in to Prep Reception **by Friday 8th December**.

New Speech and Drama teachers and so long to Mrs Keane

I am writing to let you know that Mrs Keane will be stepping back from Speech and Drama teaching to concentrate on other areas of life. She let us know her intention early this term, and kindly agreed to continue until we found a suitable replacement. We are delighted to have found two suitable replacements, Ms Ana Diego Iverson, who is a Lamda teacher with several theatre, film and directing credits to her name, and Mr Simon Rawlings, who is also a vastly experienced Lamda teacher, actor and director, who also teaches at the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School in London. They will be starting with us in the next few weeks. Miss Portsmouth and Mrs Bell will be in touch with those who will be taught by one of our new teachers in due course. A huge thank you to Mrs Keane for her inspiration of the boys under her care. I know that she will be keeping a close eye on how the boys are getting on, but we will miss her.

Red Cross Christmas Fair, Saturday 25th November, 10am - 4pm in The Great Hall

Please join us for the annual Bedford Red Cross Christmas [Fair](#) tomorrow, a sure way to get you into the festive spirit. The fair will be opened by the High Sheriff and there will be a range of stalls, seasonal refreshments, Father Christmas, plus you will be treated to a

performance by the Prep Choir, who will be singing a selection of Christmas carols. £4 per ticket, under 10s go free.

November 2017

Mr Allen, Mr Phillips and Mr Mallalieu are now in their last week of the Movember campaign and would be grateful for any donations for their fine efforts. Further information on how to donate can be found [here](#).

Carols at the Kiosk in Russell 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. All parents are invited to come along and support the boys. It's always a lovely way to start the festive season. The boys will be singing from 10.00 - 11.00am.

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'.

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
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	12:00	13:00	Y5 - 6 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	12:00	13:00	Y3-4 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	12:00	13:00	Y7-8 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	10:15	10:45	Carols at the Kiosk (Y3-4 Choir)
04/12/2017			2nd Language modules change over
05/12/2017	12:00	13:00	Y5 House Squash
07/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Table Tennis : U12A - Wixams Academy (A)
07/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Table Tennis : U13A v Lincroft School (H)
07/12/2017	19:00	21:00	Y7-8 disco at BGS
08/12/2017			Patron of reading to work with Y8 classes
08/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Official opening of the Inky Library
09/12/2017	09:30	12:15	Activity Morning for prospective Y7-8 pupils

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](#)

