

Dear Parents

I would like to start with a huge thank you for the donations of new and nearly new toys for BRASS (Bedfordshire Refugee & Asylum Seeker Support Toy Appeal), and also for the food hamper donations for the 'Christmas in a Box' Charity [Appeal](#) run by Bedford Foodbank and All Nations Church. Also, on the theme of charity, it was great to see (and hear!) our Year 5 choir singing at the SoupFest this week.

Despite the increasingly cold weather this week, most of our fixtures have been played this week in great spirit. However, the cold weather forecast for tomorrow means that we have taken the decision to cancel the Year 4 and Year 5 sports activities tomorrow morning (please see below).

We look forward to seeing many of you at a number of events in the next week: Carol Services on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and the celebration of the newly refurbished library this evening at 4.30pm. We will be joined by our new patron of reading Steve Skidmore.

It is hard to believe that it is only a week to go until Christmas, but lots of great events before that.

I hope you have a great weekend; please see below for details of next week.

YEAR 3

Y3-4 Carol Service, Monday 11th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

We are very much looking forward to our Carol Services next week. All boys are expected to attend the Carol Service and must wear white shirts; parents and family are most welcome. The Chapel will be open from 4.15pm and we ask parents to please be seated by 4.30pm. Please do join us in the EMH after the service for mulled wine and mince pies. For any parents unable to attend, please would you collect your son from the EMH between 5.30 and 5.45pm. Boys should make sure that they know the arrangements for getting home after the service/reception. A collection for school charities will be made at the end of the service.

Y3-4 Games in the Spring term

Please see [here](#) some information about Games next term which we hope you find useful.

YEAR 4

Y3-4 Carol Service, Monday 11th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

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Hungry Boys' Club in the Spring Term

Our popular cookery club, the Hungry Boys' club takes place on Tuesdays after school. Mrs Carrington would now like to open the club up to boys in Years 4, 5 and 6. For further details on the club and for information on how your son can sign up please see [here](#). Please note that places are limited.

Y3-4 Games in the Spring term

Please see [here](#) some information about Games next term which we hope you find useful.

Y4 -5 Saturday sports activities

These activities are cancelled tomorrow due to freezing weather and unavailability of indoor Sports Hall. Activities to resume next term with hockey and cricket.

YEAR 5

Y5 Pantomime Trip, Wednesday 13th December

We are looking forward to our trip to Milton Keynes theatre on Wednesday to watch Cinderella with the Y5 boys. Please see Mr Affleck's letter [here](#) with the final arrangements.

Y5-6 Carol Service, Tuesday 12th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

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parents unable to attend, please would you collect your son from the EMH between 5.30 and 5.45pm. Boys should make sure that they know the arrangements for getting home after the service/reception. A collection for school charities will be made at the end of the service.

Y5-8 Mid-year Assessments, January 2018

Please note that Years 5-8 have Mid-year assessments from 19th - 24th January. We wholeheartedly encourage boys to relax and enjoy the Christmas holidays. Therefore, the week prior to the assessments we have introduced 'study skills week'. During study skills week, boys will not be taught any new material in examined subjects but instead will be taught the relevant study skills and strategies in the respective academic disciplines in order for them to be able to revise effectively in school with their teachers. They will also have time to revise. We suggest that boys do not revise over Christmas. Instead they should enjoy a good book, relax and enjoy the break. [Assessment timetables can be found on firefly via this link.](#)

Revision/Study Skills presentation for parents - Wednesday 10th January, 7pm (EMH)

This session is to inform parents of the study skills we will be teaching the boys, which will be beneficial if you wish to support your son at home.

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Y5-8 Games in the Spring term

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Y4 -5 Saturday sports activities

These activities are cancelled tomorrow due to freezing weather and unavailability of indoor Sports Hall. Activities to resume next term with hockey and cricket.

Y5 Rugby BCD teams v Stamford 9/12/17

Decision awaited regarding this fixture and you will be contacted directly if this is cancelled.

Y5-6 Trip to Tignes, July 2018

We thank all those from Y5 and Y6 for their responses to the opportunity for the proposed trip to Tignes. We are now talking to the company in order to finalise a decision and will write to you in due course. If anyone is yet to reply, please do so by completing this [questionnaire](#).

YEAR 6

Y5-6 Carol Service, Tuesday 12th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

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House Rugby

Years 6, 7 and 8 house rugby matches are taking place on Wednesday 13th December between 2pm and 4pm.

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YEAR 7

Y7 Planetarium / Observatory Visits, Mon 11th Dec

Boys who have signed up to the Planetarium visit on Monday 11th December should 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).

Y7-8 Carol Service, Thursday 14th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

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House Rugby

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YEAR 8

Y7-8 Carol Service, Thursday 14th December, 4.30pm in the School Chapel

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Y8 Bedford School Aptitude Test (BSAT), Friday 12th January

On Friday 12th January during periods 1 & 2 the Year 8 boys will all sit the Bedford School Aptitude Test (BSAT). Underlying ability and potential is assessed via the BSAT. It is not a test of knowledge but is designed to identify a student's intelligence, processing capacity and working memory. The test is taken online at Bedford School. Boys who perform particularly well on the BSAT will be invited back for further academic scholarship testing and an interview prior to us selecting scholarship recipients. Boys who have applied for Music, Sport, Art or Drama Scholarships will be required to attend separate assessment days for each area applied for.

[FAMILIARISATION MATERIALS AND SAMPLE PAPERS can be found here.](#) The familiarisation materials and past papers are available to parents and candidates in advance of the assessments and we advise that all candidates should preview the 'look and feel' of the assessments, prior to taking the tests.

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Y8 Bushcraft Trip, June 2018

Just to remind all those boys who have signed up to go on the Y8 Bushcraft trip to Boughton Woods next year, that the second instalment of £70 is now due. Please make cheques payable to Bedford School Trust Central Bank or please pay into our trip account, details of which are in the trip [letter](#).

Y5-8 Games in the Spring term

Please see [here](#) some information about Games next term which we hope you find useful.

House Rugby

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ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Auditions for Emil & The Detectives next week

Auditions for the next Drama production of Emil & The Detectives are being held at the following times in the Quarry Theatre:

Monday 11th December 12.30pm and 4.15pm

Tuesday 12th December 12.30pm

Wednesday 13th December 4.15pm

If your son would like to audition, please ask him to sign up at reception and take an audition sheet.

Mrs Travis

We are delighted that Mrs Travis will be returning to school after Christmas, after her operation this term. As well as taking back her Maths classes, she will also be taking over as 7M's form tutor and we thank Miss Donley for her help as their form tutor this term.

Saturday Morning Timetable, Tuesday 12th December

Just a reminder that it is Saturday morning timetable on Tuesday 12th December for our Y6-8 boys, so the boys need to bring in Saturday morning's books that day.

Prep School Christmas Lunch, Tuesday 12th December

We are looking forward to the Prep School Christmas lunch on Tuesday. To get into the festive spirit, boys may come to school on that day in a Christmas jumper if they have one (over their normal school shirt and still wearing school trousers / shorts.)

Eagle Choir Christmas Concert, Thursday 14th December

You are warmly invited to the Eagle Choir Christmas [Concert](#), an evening of beautiful choral music including Eric Whitacre's Five Hebrew Love Songs and Poulenc's Four Christmas Motets. With mulled wine, mince pies, and the chance to sing along to some carols, it's the perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit. Only £5, tickets available from the Bell Room, Prep Reception or on the door.

Tutor Breakfast, Friday 15th December

On the last day of term, the boys will have a two period tutor time with their form at the start of the day and boys are invited to bring in breakfast items such as croissants, pains au chocolat, muffins, pancakes, fruit or baguettes to share with their class. Please remember that all items need to be nut-free (so no nutella).

Early finish on Friday 15th December

Just a reminder that school finishes at 11.55am on the last day of term and there is no late room on that day.

A Fresh Education

Scholar Mints will be releasing bespoke Bedford School Mint tins on Monday 11th December at the school shop for just £3.50. There is only a limited quantity so get yours quick! For more information visit their website [here](#) and follow us on Twitter @ScholarMints. A percentage of proceeds will be donated to charity.

GoCode Academy Tech Camp, age 6-18 at Bedford School

Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th December (3 days)

£225 for 3 days

10% sibling discount for those attending the same course – discount applies to the additional siblings only.

This 3-day intensive tech camp is packed with fun activities, challenges and workshops, so you can build websites, mobile applications, games and virtual reality. Aimed at 6 to 18 year olds, Tech Camp will push you to develop essential soft skills like teamwork, problem solving, presentation and communication skills, as well as logical and computational thinking abilities. GoCode's team of highly experienced instructors are passionate about giving you an advantage in a digital era where technology skills are highly in demand. The course currently covers Scratch, Python, Web and Mobile App Development and Robotics.

Link to book:

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/GoCodeAcademy?orglink=camps-registration#/selectSessions/2210003>

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>

Asthma Workshop for Parents, Tuesday 16th January

Our medical team will be running a workshop on asthma in the EMH from 4.30 - 5.15pm on Tuesday 16th January. Parents from all year groups are invited, so do come along to the workshop where you will be able to meet the nurses and discuss the issues surrounding the current care of asthma with both the nurses and other parents of children with asthma. There will be books and videos for parents/carers to look at and lots of advice to hand.

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
08/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Official opening of the Inky Library
11/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Y3-4 Carol Service
11/12/2017	17:30	18:30	Mulled Wine & Mince Pies reception for Y3-4 parents and boys
12/12/2017	08:40	12:35	Saturday Morning Timetable
12/12/2017	11:45	12:30	Prep School Christmas Lunch
12/12/2017	14:00	15:30	Y3-4 Magic Show with BGS
12/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Y5--6 Carol Service
12/12/2017	17:30	18:30	Mulled Wine & Mince Pies reception for Y5-6 parents and boys
13/12/2017	11:30	16:00	Y5 Pantomime trip
14/12/2017	16:30	17:30	Y7-8 Carol Service
14/12/2017	17:30	18:30	Mulled Wine & Mince Pies reception for Y7-8 parents and boys
15/12/2017			Y5,Y6 & Y7 Ski trip departs

15/12/2017	11:55		Prep School Term ends
22/12/2017			Y5, Y6 & Y7 Ski trip returns

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](#)