

Dear Parents

We have just had our Final Assembly, which has given us a chance to look back on a few of the highlights of an amazing term. The boys have, as ever, impressed me with their willingness to put themselves out there, and embrace challenges that, frankly, I would never have dreamed possible when I was their age. The singing this week in the Carol Services has been amazing, and the confidence and poise of our readers has been stunning. What's more, there were many more who could have read equally well. The Sport, Music and Drama have been brilliant too this term, and, most importantly, boys have shown great commitment to learning in and out of the classroom.

There are a few notices contained below, plus the calendar for the start of next term. I asked the boys to help out at Christmas, as well as thoroughly enjoy themselves. There is no need for them to do revision, as we have a study skills week (see below) before their mid-year exams, so apart from enjoying reading, and possibly ticking over a bit of maths, we fully encourage boys to relax and spend time with family (perhaps do a spot of washing up!) They work hard enough during the term.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

YEAR 3

Y3-4 Games in the Spring term

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

YEAR 4

Y4-5 Saturday Morning Sports Club

Our popular Saturday morning club for Y4-5 boys will continue in the Spring term.

09.00 - 10.00 Hockey Philpotts Astro

10.15 -11.15 Cricket Sports Hall

The club will run on the following dates:

- Saturday 20th January
- Saturday 3rd February

- Saturday 24th February
- Saturday 3rd March
- Saturday 17th March

Y3-4 Games in the Spring term

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YEAR 5

Y5-6 Tignes Trip, Summer 2018

A separate letter will go out next week with information and details about payment.

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Y5 Hockey

All boys will be playing hockey on Wednesday 10th January so along with their normal Games kit, they will also need to have their own hockey stick, shin pads and mouth guard.

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.

Y5-8 Games in the Spring term

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YEAR 8

Y5-8 Mid-year Assessments, January 2018

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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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ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Late Room

Please find an updated version of the [Late Room Policy](#) that is part of our [wraparound care](#) that can be found on the website. It is important to read if your son makes use of the facility. All day boys in the Prep School can make use of the Late Room between 4.15pm and 5.45pm each weekday. It offers boys the opportunity to complete their prep (homework) or read a book in a supervised setting. There is no charge for boys to attend.

House Singing

Please note that the words to the House Singing songs are now on Firefly <https://bedfordschool.fireflycloud.net/pshouses>.

Sports Clubs, Spring term

Our Sports Clubs [timetable](#) for the Spring term is now on Firefly so do take a look over the holiday and encourage your son to try something new next term.

Nature and Gardening Club

Miss Chaillou's Nature and Gardening Club will continue to run in the Spring term but will now be on a Tuesday lunchtime. Open to all year groups, boys should assemble in W13 at 12.30pm if they would like to come to the club.

Swimming

Squad swimming will begin on Tuesday 9th January at 4.15pm.

Icebreakers swimming will begin on Wednesday 10th January at 7.15am.

Y4-8 Speed trials for the IAPS swimming heats will be held during the Tuesday squad sessions.

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. At 4.50pm there will be a short presentation on inhalers, the use of spacers and what to do in an emergency.

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
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
08/01/2018	08:00	17:00	Staff INSET day
09/01/2018	08:40		Term begins
10/01/2018	09:00	10:15	Y7V & J Esteem Workshops
10/01/2018	10:30	11:55	Y7M & S Esteem Workshops
10/01/2018	19:00	20:30	Revision Skills presentation for parents
12/01/2018			Y8 BSAT tests
16/01/2018	12:00	13:00	Y6 House Squash
16/01/2018	16:30	17:15	Medical Centre workshop for parents: Asthma
19/01/2018	08:55	16:10	Y6-8 Mid Year Exams

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](#)