

Dear Parents

We come to our first Exeat weekend (particularly important to those in Y6-8!) in very good shape. New boys have settled in remarkably quickly and there is a superb atmosphere in school. Boys are already busy undertaking a wide range of opportunities and there have been some great sports fixtures this week also. As ever, if there are niggles and issues, please do speak to your son's tutor, or other relevant member of staff, as soon as possible so that we can sort them out.

I was in Helsinki in the early part of this week looking at Finnish schools, and Finnish teacher training, because the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) rank Finland as one of the top performing countries in PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment). It was a fascinating experience, with one or two areas for us to think about and improve our own performance. However, what struck me most was that many of the staples of the Finnish system are to be found here, not least the focus on developing independence in our boys and trusting them to do the best they possibly can. I will also travel to Denmark later in the year, with a chance to research best practice there also.

Many congratulations to our first round of prefects, who were announced this week. I look forward to seeing them develop, and to who will join them in the next round.

Please see below for details of the calendar over the forthcoming weeks.

YEAR 3

YEAR 4

Y4 Trip to Ickwell, Tuesday 26th September

The Y4 boys are off to our nature reserve site at Ickwell on Tuesday to do some bushcraft. Please see the letter [here](#) for a reminder of how the day will run. If you opted for your son to have a packed lunch, please remember to send one in with him.

YEAR 5

Prep School Golf Squad trials, Tuesday 26th September

The Y5-8 Golf Squad trials take place after school on Tuesday 26th September. To assist with the selection procedure, we will be taking all those interested to the driving range at Bedfordshire Golf Club, where a golf professional will be there to help assess ability. To sign your son up and for further information please see [here](#).

YEAR 6

Prep School Golf Squad trials, Tuesday 26th September

The Y5-8 Golf Squad trials take place after school on Tuesday 26th September. To assist with the selection procedure, we will be taking all those interested to the driving range at Bedfordshire Golf Club, where a golf professional will be there to help assess ability. To sign your son up and for further information please see [here](#).

YEAR 7

Y7 Spy Challenge Trip, Monday 25th September

The Y7s are off to Spy Games in Milton Keynes on Monday. Please see the original letter [here](#). Boys need to come to school in games kit, including full tracksuit and go to registration as normal. Boys will be provided with a packed lunch but they may also wish to bring a few suitable snacks too. We will return for Period 7 Games so they should bring boot bags and mouthguards which can be left at school. We are still missing a few payments and these will need to be handed in before your son can go.

Y7-8 French Trip, 24th - 29th March 2018

We are delighted to announce that we have organised a six day residential visit to the Burgundy region of France in March next year for the Y7-8 boys. This trip has run every two years since 2008 and is always very popular. For further information please see [here](#). Please note that all deposits and forms need to be back by **Wednesday 4th October**.

Prep School Golf Squad trials, Tuesday 26th September

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YEAR 8

Y8 Trip to EngFest 2.0, Tuesday 17th October

An opportunity has arisen for us to take a small group of boys from Y8 to the sold out EngFest 2.0 at the Institution of Engineering and Technology in London during half term. For further details of how to sign your son up if he is interested in going can be found [here](#). The deadline for registering for the trip is **Wednesday 27th September**.

Y7-8 French Trip, 24th - 29th March 2018

We are delighted to announce that we have organised a six day residential visit to the Burgundy region of France in March next year for the Y7-8 boys. This trip has run every two years since 2008 and is always very popular. For further information please see [here](#). Please note that all deposits and forms need to be back by **Wednesday 4th October**.

Y8 Bushcraft Trip, 13th - 15th June

We are also pleased to be able to offer the Y8 boys a trip as part of their post exam programme. It's a 3 day, 2 night residential trip to Broughton Woods near Milton Keynes. Run by The Bushcraft Company, the boys will sleep in shelters or bell tents and take part in lots of bushcraft activities. For the trip letter please see [here](#) and for further details on the itinerary please see [here](#). Please note that all deposits and forms need to be back by **1st October**.

Prep School Golf Squad trials, Tuesday 26th September

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ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Exeat tomorrow

Saturday 23rd September is Exeat (no Saturday school).

Slides from Curriculum and Website Information Evening

We hope that those of you who came to the Information Evening on Wednesday found it useful. For those of you who were unable to come, the slides from the evening can be seen [here](#).

School Photographs

The boys will be having a number of photographs taken over the year. Please see the dates below. Further details will follow.

Sports Teams (Rugby)	Wednesday 15th November
Sports Teams (Hockey)	Wednesday 14th March
Form Groups	Thursday 22nd March
Full School Group	Tuesday 12th June
Sports Teams (Cricket)	Wednesday 20th June

Parent Speakers for Y8 boys

Although it's a long way off yet, Mr Beckwith, our Head of Year 8, is already starting to think about the post exam programme for our Y8 boys. At the end of the academic year, as the Y8 boys begin to think about their futures in the Upper School and beyond, we usually have a number of speakers who come into school and talk to the boys about their careers. If any parent from any year group would be interested in talking to the Y8s about their profession, please could they contact jbeckwith@bedfordschool.org.uk who will be able to give further details.

Prep Guild AGM, Saturday 7th October

The Prep Guild AGM is taking place on Saturday 7th October. It will start at 11.30am in the Seminar Room (above the Upper School library) and everyone is welcome to come along.

Prep Guild Quiz Night, Saturday 7th October

The Prep Guild would like to invite you to join them on their upcoming Quiz Night on Saturday 7th October. Everyone is welcome (adults only) and we would love you to come along for what is always a really fun night. Please see the links for further [information](#) and to [book](#).

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Prep Guild would like to thank all the families who attended the Macmillan Coffee morning last Saturday. We were overwhelmed by your kind generosity and together we raised over £1000, all of which goes directly to Macmillan. In addition to thanking those who supported us on the day, could we also thank all of you who kindly donated cakes and raffle prizes, it was very much appreciated. Additional thanks should go to the stall holders who, in addition to providing raffle prizes, also kindly donated a percentage of their sales on the day.

Book Signing by OB 'Budge' Rogers – Saturday 7th October

We are very excited to announce that we are hosting a book signing by Old Bedfordian 'Budge' Rogers OBE in the Prep School Library from 11.30am to 1.00pm. Budge attended Bedford School between 1949 and 1957, and went on to play rugby at a very high level; representing Bedford, England and the British Lions. Author Philip Stevens has written a biography of Budge entitled *Budge Rogers: Rugby Life* and Budge has kindly agreed to say a few words about the book, sign copies and answer any questions you or your son may have. The book contains a number of stories and photographs from Budge's time at Bedford School. The book is priced at £17.99 and all funds raised from the sale of the books will go to the [RFU Injured Players Foundation](#). If you would like to attend this event, please email Mrs Beverley Marshall at bmarshall@bedfordschool.org.uk by Friday 29th September. If you are unable to attend but wish to purchase a book, please download and complete this [form](#) and return it with the payment to the address shown, and we will arrange for Budge to sign the book on your behalf. You can then either collect the book from the Bell Room or we can post it to you (subject to additional postal charges as shown on the booking form). We look forward to seeing you.

October Half Term Courses

Please see below details of courses running locally over half term.

Cricket Course, age 7 - 12 at Bedford Cricket Club

Monday 16th - Friday 20th October

£25 per day

24 places available

Book [here](#)

Activate Grays Hockey Masterclass, age 7-16 at Bedford School

Thursday 26 October – Friday 27 October (2 days)

£47 per day / £90 for both days

[Link to book](#)

The Grays Hockey Masterclass is a unique nationwide hockey coaching course for both girls and boys aged 7 to 16 years of age. Our course has been custom designed to deliver all aspects of hockey that is ideal for any level of player, whether you are just starting out or you are a potential England player! Whether you are new and want to enjoy your first hockey experiences or have played before, our coaching programme is designed for everyone to benefit, enjoy and develop their game in a fun and safe learning environment.

GoCode Academy Tech Camp, age 8-18 at Bedford School

Monday 16th – Friday 20th October (5 days)

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October (5 days)

£250 for 5 days

10% discount if you book before the end of September – use code 'BEDFORDSCHOOL'

20% further sibling discount if you book more than one child

This 5-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 8 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 for further details and to book - <http://gocode.academy/kids/techcamp/>

For the calendar please click [here](#)

For sports fixtures please click [here](#)

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

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
23/09/2017			EXEAT
24/09/2017			EXEAT
25/09/2017	09:00	14:45	Y7 Spy Games Trip
26/09/2017	08:50	16:05	Y4 Trip to Ickwell

26/09/2017	16:30	17:45	U10, U11, U12, U13 Swimming v Aldwickbury (H)
27/09/2017	09:00	10:15	National Poetry Day workshop for Y7 & 8
27/09/2017	10:30	11:55	National Poetry Day workshop for Y5 & 6
27/09/2017	13:30	14:45	National Poetry Day workshop for Y3
27/09/2017	15:00	16:10	National Poetry Day workshop for Y4
28/09/2017	09:00	11:55	Y6 Talented Art workshop
30/09/2017	10:00	12:00	Open Morning
06/10/2017	09:00	14:45	Y8 Talented Art workshop
07/10/2017	11:30	13:00	Budge Rogers Book Signing (Prep School)

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](#)