

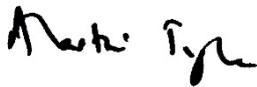
Academic Achievements and Opportunities

Dear Parents,

It has been another packed half term of academic activity. The summary below is designed to give you a brief snap-shot of the many and varied opportunities open to boys since the start of November. Do encourage your son, as we are doing, to take full advantage of similar opportunities in the future, if he is not already doing so!

In particular, I highlight the latest edition of *MDLII*, a boy-edited and driven publication. It is always good to see so many boys contribute articles, and a pleasure to see the diversity of topic they chose to comment on. Click [here](#) to view a copy: perfect reading for a winter's evening!

Wishing you all a relaxing and peaceful Christmas break.



Alastair Tighe
Deputy Head (Academic)

- Congratulations to the following boys for being awarded **Commendations** this half term for work or conduct which exemplifies the School's Core Values in an exceptional way.
 - **4th Form** - **Joseph Piggott** for his letter home from the Trenches, including an original poem; **Oliver Setterfield** for an ambitious Peter Blake artist study; **Rowan Spong** for a fantastic research essay on the value of rainforests; **Andy Wong** for his outstanding commitment towards 'Sweeney Todd'; **Divine Edjejovwo** for an outstanding four-page essay on deforestation which additionally included a poem of his own on the topic and a full page illustration of the issues discussed.
 - **Remove Form** - for outstanding research and presentations in science on why the Moon is moving further from the Earth (**Emmanuel Adeyemi**), on super-luminal travel (**Flik Feng**), the double slit experiment and the quantum eraser experiment (**James Hooper**), the Lorentz factor and time dilation (**Tony Tao**), and on General Relativity (**Ben Watson**); **Ben Sporton** for his outstanding German film review; **Daniel Smith** for sustained and outstanding work throughout the term in DT above that expected at GCSE; **Sean Davis** for his consistently remarkable, enthusiastic and diligent approach to his study of Classical Civilisation.
 - **5th Form** – **Benson Chan** for his impressive sculpture coursework project; **Elijah Cooke** for his impressive RE revision notes; **Luke Lee** for a Physics presentation on Gibbs free energy; **Joshua Nethersole** for his extensive assistance with the stage management of 'Sweeney Todd'; **Thomas Pelling** for his set of detailed solutions with full theoretical explanations for a Maths test.
 - **Lower Sixth** – **Sachin Chambers** and **Winki Chan** for outstanding work in English Oral tasks; **Ethan Chappell-Mason** for his outstanding contribution to the process and performances of 'Macbeth'; **Lewis Cramp** for excellent research on a David painting depicting the death of Socrates and for his help with running weekly extension classes for Prep School boys; **Jaynil Patel** for researching, constructing and presenting an exceptionally perceptive, critical and thorough assessed presentation in English;

Tinashe Mahwendepi for his IBI assessed presentation in English on the way popular culture, in particular Superman, has been used over time to transmit cultural values and political ideology; **Frank Hearnshaw** for his research, writing and presentation in English on popular culture, with particular reference to GTA; **Kieran Duxbury** and **Josh Emerson** for their excellent talks to the Remove Form during the Movember campaign.

- **Upper Sixth - Alex Achba** for outstanding notes summarising philosophy scholars' views; **Dylan Cox** for an outstanding answer on a self-selected difficult Geography extension question; **Chris Lamb** for an outstanding Philosophy IB written assignment; **Oliver McCormack** for an outstanding effort in a literary essay in German on the invention of the curried sausage; **Harry Sivills, Harjeet Sumal** and **Edison Xiong** for impressive submissions of summative tasks in Core 4 of Maths completed over half term; **Benedict Eggeling** for the production of a comprehensive and detailed advice document for future generations of Oxbridge candidates following his own experiences of the application and interview process this year; **Jack Chapman, Simon Cheung, Fraser Dingwall, Thomas Gulliver, Rich Man, Calvin Fang, Oliver McCormack, Anthony Tai** and **Angus Watson** for their very substantial efforts in producing various elements of the Movember campaign including posters, films and talks.
- Four Upper Sixth Form Scientists competed for this year's coveted **Talalay Prize**. **Rohan Sanghera** gave a presentation on 'CRISPAR/CAS The Future of Medicine'; **Tonny Lou** on 'Quantum Tunnelling'; **Wazidur Rahman** on 'Superconductors'; and **Conrad Staroscik** on 'Battery Technology'. All four boys received Commendation for their hard work and self-motivation, with Rohan was declared overall winner.
- Bedford School's mathematicians picked up an incredible 20 Gold, 27 Silver and 49 Bronze in this year's **Senior Maths Challenge**. As a result of their impressive scores, five boys - **Tonny Lou (U6th)**, **Ignatius Ip (L6th)**, **Winki Chan (L6th)**, **Chester Wang (L6th)** and **Henry Shaw (5th Form)** qualified for the first round of the British Mathematical Olympiad. A further 14 boys qualified for the Senior Kangaroo.
- **Tonny Lou, Luke Qian (both U6th), Chester Wang (L6th)** and **Henry Shaw (5th Form)** also competed in the UK Mathematics Trust Senior Team Challenge. They were runners up at the Cambridge Regional Finals, and their high score means they have qualified for a place at the National Final in London in February.
- Pupils from 14 schools across the region joined with teams of Bedford School pupils in our chemistry laboratories to compete in the heats of the Royal Society of Chemistry's **Top of the Bench** competition. The event, which was organised and hosted this year by our own Chemistry Department, pits the best 14-16 year olds in the country in a competition to test their chemical knowledge and practical skills. It was a tight competition but the Bedford School team of **Andy Wong (4th Form)**, **Johnathan Coughlin (4th Form)**, **Daniel Smith (Remove Form)** and **Henry He (5th Form)** came out top to win the heat and the opportunity to represent the region in the UK final next year. Our second team of **Daniel Lumley-Wood (4th Form)**, **George Winder (4th Form)**, **Flik Feng (Remove Form)** and **Alex Ward (5th Form)** also did exceptionally well to take fifth place.
- **Jaynil Patel (L6th)** was one of three competitors selected in a heat of the national competition for talking and speaking about art, **ARTiculation**. He goes through to the next

round at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich. Jaynil represented Bedford School, with other competitors from Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, New Hall, Norwich, The Perse and Walden Schools. He spoke about Richard Long's piece *Labyrinth*.

- The NGO Forum Bosnia and the political party SDA have recognised **Harun Cehovic's (U6th)** IB Extended Essay and are going to use it for a variety of purposes including having it as source material for workshops dealing with the topic of Diaspora and immigration, and also using it as material to aid the promotion of politics and the understanding of immigration among young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Harun is also giving a talk to teenagers in Bosnia in December linked to his Extended Essay research entitled, 'How well did the Bosnian Diaspora adapt in Sweden'.
- **Tonny Lou (U6th)** and **Chester Wang (L6th)** received distinctions in this year's Astronomy and Astrophysics Challenge - they were two of only 23 students nationally to do so.
- Young composer **Alex Papp (Remove)** is an Associate Composer to the Britten Sinfonia this year and has just had a piece workshopped and performed by members of the orchestra and Britten Sinfonia Academy. Alex's *Book of Hours* was performed at Norwich High School for Girls and will be played in a concert at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge in January.
- Following recent auditions for the **National Youth Choir of Great Britain**, **Harry Guthrie (Upper Sixth)** and **OB Edward Wilson (05-16)** have both gained places, as bass and tenor respectively. **Ben Watson (Remove Form)** and **Silas Sanders (5th Form)** have been accepted into the National Youth Training Choir. Harry has also recently been appointed a Choral Scholar at Wells Cathedral for his gap year.
- **Zahan Bharucha** and **Callum Fenton (both U6th)** competed in the first round of the **English Speaking Union Schools' Mace Competition**. They took on a strong Stantonbury Campus team away from home but came away with a victory. This means they progress to the second round, which will be against Oundle in the new year.
- Congratulations to our Head of English, **Mr Nicholas Hopton**, who has made it through the final of **BBC Radio 3's Christmas Carol Competition**. Nick is one of six finalists, and voting for the overall winner is open to the public. To vote, and to hear Nick's setting of the medieval English poem *Alleluia! A new work is come on hand*, please click [here](#).
- In half term 44 boys travelled to New York on a Creative Arts Tour. The artists spent time in all the major galleries and art museums, including The Frick Collection, The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum and The Guggenheim. The drama and music students participated in a number of workshops including an introduction to Method Acting and a workshop with a member of the cast of one of the Broadway shows the tour party attended, *School of Rock*. The musicians also attended a performance of *Don Giovanni* at the Metropolitan Opera. Boys were also hosted to lunch at the Harvard Club by **OB Hugh Lloyd-Williams (68-77)**, and visited the UN Headquarters where **OB Jake Morland (89-94)** spoke to the boys about his role in the UN's Co-ordination and Response Division, responsible for coordinating the UN's response to global humanitarian crises.
- Eight politics students met two former US Congressmen at Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington's family. Martin Frost, a former member of the Democratic Party's leadership team in the House of Representatives, and Phil Gingrey, a former Republican Party

representative from Georgia, answered questions from a select group of students as part of the US Congress's 'Congress2Campus' programme. **Zahan Bharucha (U6th)** and **Zac Rogers (L6th)** were lucky enough to be chosen to ask their pre-prepared questions on fake news and climate change respectively.

- **31 5th Form art students** visited London's **Tate Britain** in early November as part of their current coursework project. The GCSE artists worked directly from their chosen artworks to produce some striking images. Francis Bacon's *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion* proved a highly popular and inspiring artwork.
- The **History Society** was pleased to welcome **Professor Mark White** of Queen Mary University, London who spoke about President Kennedy to a large audience of boys, pupils from other Harpur Trust schools, Mark Rutherford School and members of the wider school community in the Erskine May Hall. This was a serious assessment of President Kennedy's career, his administration and the enduring myth of the 'Camelot' period.
- The **Gilbert Lloyd Art Lecture** this half term was entitled, 'Making Art in the First World War: Picasso, Matisse and friends'. **Professor Christopher Green** from the Courtauld Institute explored the works of Picasso and Matisse who, despite the inescapable presence of the war, attempted to keep alive the expanded possibilities opened up for the arts of painting and sculpture in Paris between 1911 and 1914.
- We were delighted to welcome **Dale Devereux Barker** back to Bedford School following his exhibition at the start of the term for a fascinating screen printing masterclass. Twelve Sixth Form boys enjoyed experimenting with silk screen printing under his expert guidance; producing some stunning work over the course of the day.
- The **Adrian Boult Music Society** met for a lecture delivered by writer and broadcaster **Gavin Plumley** on the Second Viennese school of composers. Gavin touched on some fascinating questions, such as whether or not the world is (as Schoenberg believed) naturally in a state of dissonance, and how atonal music evolved gradually from the highly chromatic tonal music that preceded it.
- The school held its annual mock Oxbridge interviews for the 2016 applicants in late November. We are very grateful to the OBs, parents, past parents, governors, friends of the school and former members of staff who volunteered as guest interviewers for the evening.
- OBs who kindly gave of their time were **William Young (96-01)** interviewing for architecture, **Steve Lyon (73-84)** for economics, **Alexander Watson (01-12)** for Physics, **Dr Jason Reddy (79-84)** for medicine and **Professor Martin Snaith OBE (53-63)** put the engineers through their paces.
- The **Drama Society** have met for a lecture by **Rowan Bascetta-Pollitt** entitled, 'Vocal tone and how it creates meaning in Theatre', and also for a talk on the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain led by **Jonathan Hosking (5th Form)**. **Mr Jonathan Hooley** lectured on Exits and Entrances and **Mrs Jules Crossley** inspired boys with her lecture on the playwright Tennessee Williams. Boys have also had many specialist workshops this term, working with professional theatre companies including **Splendid Theatre** (Brecht), **Idle Motion** (devising/puppets), **Theatre Re** (mime/physical theatre) and **Rhum and Clay** (Jacque Lecoq/devising). The workshops have enriched boy's knowledge and understanding of distinct theatre styles. Particular mention is due to these 4th Form boys who were selected to

participate in a workshop with **Gecko** (physical theatre/devising): **Divine Edjeovwo, Cameron Melly, Harvey Bolger, Henry Tyrer and Ben Barnes.**

- The **Law Society** have discussed at various points this half term political cake baking, Brexit-blocking judges, the study of law at university, cryogenic freezing and stealing cars.
- The **Mitre Club** have met to receive Oxbridge interview advice.
- The **Archer Martin Society** heard a lecture by **Mr Adrian Finch** on the human voice in western music entitled 'Plainsong to Guns and Roses', and were introduced to the game of Bridge. They concluded the term with their 'Big Christmas Quiz'.
- IB2 boys have discussed their Biology and Chemistry Extended Essays in the **Biology Society**. The Society also organised mock medical interviews for U6th prospective medics, dentists and vets with the Lower Sixth acting as interviewers.
- **Ms Rachel Wainwright** spoke about the concept of 'the death of the author' in the **English Society**, whilst **Mr Andrew Grimshaw** led a discussion on First World War poet, Edward Thomas, to commemorate Armistice Day. **Mr Nicholas Hopton** spoke on literature and identity, and the society has also considered Irish Literature. **Logan Jones (U6th)** and **Ted Hicks (U6th)** also gave talks on poets Robert Frost, Jacob Sam-La-Rose and contemporary Irish drama.
- Boys and staff, along with many other local people, formed the audience for a broadcast of BBC Radio 4's political programme **Any Questions?**
- The **Pythagoreans Maths Society** attended a talk by **Mr James Wills** entitled, 'Postulating and Proving Patterns in the primes: The Riemann Hypothesis', and watched the film 'The man who knew infinity' – the story of the Indian mathematician Ramanujan. The **Senior Maths Club** has also met to tackle a wide range of interesting and different problems, in preparation for the Regional Team Maths Challenge.
- The **Psychology Society** have met to discuss how easily people are influenced.
- Members of the **Current Affairs Society** held discussions on the legacy of Castro and on the presidential election in the US; the **Politics Society** also met to consider the outcome of Donald Trump's victory.
- The **Creative Writing Society** have continued to meet on Monday afternoon to work on individual projects.
- The artist **Les Miller** has held an exhibition in the Main Building, exhibiting work that has evolved from a series of imagined dialogues with, and between, several artists. Working loosely within his recurring theme of horizons, he makes an affectionate use of his sources as he explores the ebb and flow of influence and the acceptance and rejection of ideas, confronting the underlying problems of retaining identity.
- The **Debating Society** have met each Friday lunchtime to prepare for internal and external competitions.

- The **Architecture Society** have considered the work of Palladio, one of history's most influential architects.
- 'Lost in Translation: the unique challenge of translating German humour' was the title of a talk given by **OB Mak Ledsom** for the **German Society**. Mak is the author of a modern English translation of the classic German children's story *Mac and Moritz*, which tells the story of two extremely mischievous boys and the terror they wreck on their bourgeois village.
- The **Chinese Society** have met for quiz about modern Chinese history and geography; the Talbot's boys won the competition!
- **Dr Gavin McCormick** gave a lecture to **Classical Society** on 'Philosophy and Theology in a first century city: St Paul's visit to ancient Athens'. The term ended with their annual Christmas Quiz.
- A **Harpur Trust Balloon Debate** took place which considered what is the best form of government.
- Boys had an opportunity to cook up some French delicacies such as crêpes suzettes and bûche in the end of term **French Society** meeting. Meanwhile, boys participated in the regional round of the **French Debating Competition** which considered the motion, 'The UK is right to leave the EU'.
- The **Big Geography Christmas Debate** took place, with a team of 5th Form boys competing against a Lower Sixth team, on a motion considering whether we should spend money on preventing the impact of natural disasters. The adjudicators awarded the prize to the 5th Form team for their clarity of argument and engaging presentation.
- The extension Chemistry experiment club **Initiator** have continued to meet fortnightly. They have tried writing using electricity and looked at some unusual reactions of aluminium.
- The Quarry Theatre has continued to present a range of productions, including **This Might Hurt** by John Godber – a comedy about the NHS; **Adolf** – a challenging piece of political theatre set on the night before the Fuhrer committed suicide; **Key Change** - a raw and illuminating portrayal of women in prison; and **64 Squares**, based on Stefan Zweig's 'The Royal Game'. Boys themselves have presented some powerful pieces of theatre this half term as well, including the school musical **Sweeney Todd** (which included particularly impressive performances by **Logan Jones, Jack Hutchings, Thomas Liggins, Jonathan Malindine (all U6th)** and **Calum Bourne**) and a modern interpretation of **Macbeth**, the process behind which involved reading, dissecting and re-assembling the play to create a unique interpretation - something you might be expected to do in the first year of a degree! The whole cast were impressive, ranging from 4th Form boys to Upper Sixth pupils, with particularly powerful performances from **Ethan Chappell-Mason** and **Conor Hilliard (both L6th)**. Boys have also had several opportunities to go on Theatre trips to London, including to see *Amadeus* at The National Theatre and *No Man's Land* with Sir Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart.

- The inter-house and inter-tutor group **Reading Challenge** has been taking place this term, with numerous boys rising to the challenge to read a variety of books and earn points for their Tutor group and House.
- The school's composition teacher **Dr Emma-Ruth Richards** led a music composition workshop for GCSE, A level and IB musicians.
- **Remove Form Drama students** presented their devised assessment performances in the Quarry Theatre. The pieces were based on war and memory.
- This term the **STEM Society** welcomed **Dr Suzie Sheehy, Dr Ceri Brenner** and **Dr Mark Telling** who talked about particle accelerators, the world's most powerful lasers and looking at molecules using the Diamond Synchrotron at Oxford.
- The Lower Sixth boys taking part in **Young Enterprise** this year have set-up two promising businesses. To start them off in the right direction **Dr Mario Campana** of Goldsmiths, University of London, gave the students guidance on digital marketing. One team had a stand at Bedford market where they promoted their product and raised funds.
- This half term's **Citizenship Morning** had a particular focus on mental health issues. Upper Sixth boys led some of the sessions for junior boys, with discussions on Testicular Cancer, Body Awareness and, following up from the school's marking of Anti-Bullying Week, Cyber-Bullying and Resilience. Guest speakers spoke to the Sixth Form about how to manage stress, coping with pressure and recognising the signs of overload in others. Global Bridge was introduced to the Lower Sixth, a platform which allows a complete 3D profile for our boys in their university applications. AIM Apprenticeships, the UCAS of alternative routes, worked with the Fifth Form to help them create state-of-the-art CVs ready for work experience later in the year. The morning concluded with an address to the whole school by the CEO of **Movember**, and the launch of two fantastic videos prepared entirely by the boys themselves: [Fighting the Battle](#) (which received over 63,000 views via the school Facebook page within the first 24 hours) and [MoPhone Bling](#), a light-hearted music video parody.