

## FINAL ASSEMBLY – AUTUMN 2016

Any round up of this term must acknowledge that it has been overwhelmingly overshadowed by the death of Mr Bennett. As a consequence, I propose to start in a moment with the Arts reports, and initially Music, which will take pride of place. However, it has also been a term of great creativity and celebration. I urge you to read Mr Tighe's end of term letter to parents tonight when you get home; it is simply packed with examples of academic creativity and excellence. For now, I concentrate mostly on the extra-curricular achievements.

### MUSIC

The musical highlights of the term have included:

- Open Mic night, in collaboration with Bedford Girls' School – a celebration of all things contemporary, with boys from Y7 to Sixth Form performing in small groups, accompanied by mood lighting and video, provided by Ollie Walker.
- St Cecilia's Concert – the biggest concert of the term. All of the major Upper School groups performed. There was real variety from the rhythmic drumming of the 8-man Percussion Ensemble to the full forces of the First Orchestra performing the final movement of Shostakovich's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony.
- Carol Services – the two carol services (Day Boy and Boarding) provide a platform for the Chapel Choir to perform. They continue to be on excellent form, singing a very well contrasted selection of pieces from the Medieval era to the present day. It is quite rare these days for a school to be able to put on a full carol service with traditional readings and choral pieces.
- Sweeney Todd – this was an adventurous exercise in every possible way: set design, choreography, music, technical challenges of the band being in a different room to the main theatre auditorium. The piece itself is hugely challenging but also immensely rewarding, especially when everything falls into place, which it did in a remarkable way.

And some individual news:

- Harry Guthrie has been offered a place in the National Youth Choir, which, as its name suggests, is the country's top youth choir.
- Jason George and Felix Asare put on their own excellent concert earlier in the week.
- Our multi-talented Head of English, Mr Hopton, composed a carol which was picked yesterday as one of Radio 3's top six new Carols of 2016. It is playing daily on Radio 3 now, and you can hear it on the Radio 3 website – and also vote for it to win this national competition.

### DRAMA

Since September, in the Quarry Theatre, there have been nine professional productions, two school plays (Sweeney Todd and Macbeth) as well as concerts and academic lectures, a film festival, Prep School House Drama, a 40th anniversary exhibition of Bugsy Malone images, debates and the live broadcast of a BBC radio programme, Any Questions. We have also been given a grant from the

Bedford School Trust to install the equipment to live stream shows from the National Theatre in the New Year – an exciting new development for 2017!

Finally - when the rest of the school goes on holiday today the theatre staff and some Bedford School pupils who are in the Quarry Youth Theatre, will be staying for an extra week in order to take part in our adaptation of J.K Rowling's 'The Tales of Beedle The Bard'. Hopefully some of you will be coming to see it – especially the Harry Potter fans!

Academic Drama has continued to flourish. Our new Academic Drama Society started the term with a special lecture on Grotowski by Professor Allain of the University of Kent. Each week staff and students have given lectures on a variety of topics, including Commedia dell'Arte, National Youth Theatre, actors' exits and entrances and playwrights such as Tennessee Williams. All meetings have been very well attended.

The Drama department has organised over 20 workshops and trips, including trips to National Theatre, Almedia and Globe.

A particular mention again for 'Sweeney Todd', which was amongst the best pupil productions I have ever seen. Special mentions to Logan Jones, Jack Hutchings, Jonathan Maladine and Thomas Liggins - they performed with utter conviction and maturity and would not have been out of place on a professional stage. The standard of singing and acting was outstanding.

## ART

The school has hosted three exhibitions in the Foyer Gallery this term, by printmaker Dale Devereux Barker RE, Les Miller, then the ever popular Staff and Friends exhibition. Dale returned to the school in December to do an all-day artist master class on silk-screen printing with the Sixth Formers.

The Arts Faculty visit to New York with Drama and Music in half term was then followed by an exhibition in November of drawings and photos by the artists on the trip.

Gilbert Lloyd lectures this term included the 'Pitmen Painters' in September given by the art critic and writer William Feaver and more recently Professor Christopher Green from the Courtauld who lectured on Picasso, Matisse and friends and the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.

The school recently hosted a pre-heat of ARTiculation, the national competition for talking and speaking about art. Lower Sixth pupil, Jaynil Patel, was selected to progress through to the next round in Norwich in February.

The new Architecture and Art Societies have been taking place regularly on Monday and Friday lunchtimes respectively, a particularly memorable lecture was given by Tom Rainbow (Upper Sixth) on the connection between Jazz and American painting for the Art Society.

## SPORT

The Bedford School **Rugby** Club has had a successful season winning 105 of their 189 fixtures. The success of the club is not measured on wins, as it happens, but it is worth noting the spread of the teams who won three quarters of their games: the 1st XV, U16 C, U14C and 3rd XV – a great mix and depth. Not only is wide participation important, but also the development of key personal traits such as integrity, desire, bravery and humility to name but a few. With this in mind, one of the stories

of the term has to be the 5th XV. They faced an Oundle XV on the 1st Team pitch in their final fixture of the season. They had contested two previous encounters with Oundle culminating in a negative points difference of 71. An uphill task for the boys and an expected loss on paper. However, the grit, determination and sheer doggedness of the 5th XV kept the boys in the hunt and they played some quite brilliant rugby at times to come back to 12-12 with a last minute try. This team has been led superbly well by Jasper Tsao, who certainly led by example and demanded high standards from his teammates. Much of the success of this final game can be attributed to his leadership.

Other notable mentions are the teams that had a huge turnaround from the previous season. The U15 A and B teams won just three games between them last season, whereas this year 17 games were won, which can be largely attributed to a determination in training and matches and a genuine desire to improve.

Looking around the Rugby Club it is evident that there is a common theme to move the ball freely and all teams have a genuine commitment to perform at their best. Boys play with pride and resilience to compete when the odds are stacked against them; furthermore, when we win there is a necessary level of humility: traits that will stand all rugby players in good stead for their future.

### **1st XV Honours Caps**

Jack Dalton
Fraser Dingwall (Captain)
Colston Kane
Will Kerr
Faysal Olaybooye
Fraser Strachan

### **1st XV Colours**

Will Bowes
Will Entwistle
Conor Finch
Ted Hicks
Oli Hind
Ryan Hussey
Peter Jamieson
Ed Johnson
Ben Kight

Alfie Orchard
Joe Rogers
George Seward
Joe Wallace

### **2nd XV colours**

Aaron Borland
Andrew Zhu
Matthew Fordham
Joshua Garrett
Marcus Lake
Jack Ciuro
Alexander Dennis
Harry Donougher
Freddie Elston
Darcy Clements
Barnaby Ollerhead
Alexander Shepherd
Frankie Hearnshaw
Thomas Batten
Alexander Churchill

### **3rd XV colours**

Rukudzo Msindo
Dan Lewis
Oliver Blundell
George Andrews
Shaylen Tomlinson- Patel

Jamie Barnes
Felix Iles
Harry Marks
Thomas Stewart
Harrison Burgoine
Will Willcocks
Chizu Chukwu

#### 4th XV colours

Toby King
Benjamin Wilshaw-Quinn
Stephan Vargas-Pritchard
Max Humphreys
Thomas Parry
Alexander Sporton
Tom Ackroyd
Felix Whelan
Harry Lawson
Sam Barden

#### 5th XV colours

Jasper Tsao
-------------

So, in sporting alphabetical order...

The **Badminton** A team won six matches out of seven, beating teams from Oundle, Stamford, Stowe and Uppingham. The B team won one match out of five but have high hopes for next term as the team members have responded well to the coaching sessions.

The Under 14 team and the Under 16 team both won the Bedford round of the National Badminton Competition and move forward to the County Round in February. Our star player this term has been Edric Yeung (Removes); he has remained unbeaten in the A team matches and played first singles in the Years 10/11 competition.

Saturday afternoon Badminton Club has remained popular throughout the term and is open to anyone who does not have another sporting commitment.

**Badminton Colours:** Archie Young-Lee and Marcus Hong

The senior **Basketball** squad have a strong core of Upper Sixth players, who could do very well in the upcoming league campaign. The team have managed three victories this term, which is promising indeed. The Under 16's ended with a 50/50 record in the league and performed admirably throughout. The Under 14's won 4 and lost 2 in their league campaign. A special mention must go to William Monk and Joseph Briggs, for their prolific scoring.

The **Boat Club** has raced at 8 events this term, winning categories at many of them, including a double Colts win at the Cambridge Head, and wins for every age group at the Star Head in November (including one for Dr Suthers!).

40 boys also experienced unseasonably good weather at the Pangbourne training camp during half term – which was a huge success.

Next February, Olly Mitchell and Connor Sheridan will join the other 148 boys from all over the country in the next round of testing, on the pathway to the Great Britain team.

Indoor house rowing was a close run affair, with Paulo Pontine and St Cuthbert's tied in the Junior event. Paulo Pontine won by 1 point over St Cuthbert's in the senior event to take their unbeaten record to 5 years.

The **Golf** team have had an extremely busy and successful term;

In the HMC Foursomes National Competition the team have defeated Felsted and Framlingham to progress through to the regional semi-final, which will be played next term. In the I.S.G.A Matchplay National Competition the team have defeated St Alban's and Aldenham to progress through to the regional final next term. The team also won the County Schools' Scratch Team event to progress through to the National Schools Final, which will be played in the summer of 2017. Robert Holden collected the Boys Individual County Championship prize in the process. In the HMC singles, Harry Brown came 5<sup>th</sup> in the region in the U16 scratch competition. And finally, in friendlies the team have defeated Haileybury and Millfield.

It was a tale of what could have been for both the U16 and U18 Bedford **indoor hockey** squads this term in their major competition. They played close games but lost key moments, in highly competitive national finals qualifiers. The U16s finished an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> – missing out on qualification by one place.

In **Squash** the U16 V stole the show, winning 100% of their matches. In the 1<sup>st</sup> VI this term's most valuable player was Charlie Axford, winning 75% of his matches at seeds 1 and 2; and a special mention must go to Jonathan Hosking, the most improved player in the 2nd team.

**Table Tennis** continues to grow in prominence as a sport and the boys have a new championship table on delivery to accompany the tables already in the Rec Centre. The boys have been well led by two excellent players, Adison Cheng and Alvin Choi. The 2016 House competition was played by year group over a 4-week period, with Paulo Pontine crowned the overall champions.

## SPORTS DAY

Junior Winners	Paulo Pontine	F9	Mid	-
Intermediate Winners	Crescent	D22	Mid	-
Senior Winners	St Peter's	F40	Top	-
Overall Winners	St Peter's	D10	Bot	-

## ATHLETICS

The Caxton Spencer Trophy	Will Barnes	A23	Top	E
is awarded to	<i>Paulo Pontine</i>			

The Rudolph Adams Challenge Cup	George Seward	A24	Top	E
is awarded to	<i>St Peter's</i>			

## RUGBY

Fourth Form House Rugby	Paulo Pontine	E24	Bot	-
Removes House Rugby	St Cuthbert's	E8	Top	-
Colts House Rugby	Crescent	E19	Bot	-
Senior House Rugby	Bromham	E15	Mid	-

The Heald Cup for Best Player	Alex Todd	F27	Top	E
in the 5th XV	<i>St Peter's</i>			

John Carter Place Kicking Cup	Luke Williams	E5	Mid	E
	<i>Crescent</i>			

## ROWING

Junior Indoor Rowing	Paulo Pontine / St Cuthbert's	F10	Bot	
----------------------	-------------------------------	-----	-----	--

Senior Indoor Rowing	Paulo Pontine	F5	Top
----------------------	---------------	----	-----

## FIVES

Senior House Fives	Crescent	E3	Top
--------------------	----------	----	-----

## BADMINTON

Junior House Badminton	St Cuthbert's	F4I	Top	E
------------------------	---------------	-----	-----	---

## COMMENDATIONS

The first goes to Luke Lee for his talk on his work with a team in Korea and then in Siberia trying to clone a Woolly Mammoth. For me, what was interesting about this was that it all started when he read a New Scientist magazine article in the library; it caught his interest, so he wrote to them and the rest is history.

The second goes to a hugely talented musician, Tom Gulliver for having written, recorded, produced and released his first album, "Before the Fall".

## MOVEMBER

This year's Movember campaign once again raised awareness of men's health issues and all the boys involved did an amazing job. They organised different events every week, taught over 400 of you about health issues and raised £8,162 in total. This fantastic total helped us to win the national schools challenge and even put us 23rd highest team in terms of fund raising out of all the companies in the UK as well! The main aim of Movember is to get you thinking and talking about your health and we hope that this is working. One of the ways to spread this to a wider audience is to make videos and we were delighted that the mental health and music videos have been viewed well over 100,000 times so far on social media and that several other schools and organisations have told us that they will use them in their health education programmes. A huge well done to all the Sixth Form boys who gave their time and energy to Movember this year.

## CCF

The CCF term actually began in the summer break with the NCO Cadre course at Chicksands in the penultimate week of the holiday. The term itself started with a bang (pun intended) in the shape of the CADSAAM small arms shooting competition on the first weekend of term.

The Fourth Form were recruited in the fourth week of term and, after a fortnight's training, joined the Corps in our Annual General Inspection, taken this year by the Chief of Staff of the Intelligence Corps.

Two days after this the half term holiday signalled the start of Adventurous Training and for the first time two expeditions were undertaken. The first involved a team of 10 cadets paddling, walking and power boating in and around the Isle of Wight and this was followed in the second week by a party undertaking a challenging series of peaks in Snowdonia.

The autumn field weekend occurred on the first weekend back after half term and provided an opportunity for the recruits to experience living in the field for the first time. This they did very well despite sleeping outside in sub-zero temperatures.

## CAREERS

Bedford School has just been awarded a National Career Mark for its outstanding careers provision. There are only nine other independent schools who have achieved this. Well done to Mrs Lincoln and those who have helped along the way. Arguably the highlight of this term was an attendance of over 200 for a Careers in Engineering evening.

## CATERING

Having won every award in the Sodexo book last year, our magnificent catering team won two more this year:

- Divisional service excellence in catering award.
- Divisional star business manager award to Will Dixon.

Fantastic news again for the team – and no surprise at all to us.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

I have just been informed that our team that competed at the Senior Team Maths Challenge Regional Final in Cambridge last month have qualified for a place at the National Final in London on February 7<sup>th</sup> 2017. The boys are:

## UPPER SIXTH

Tonny Lou

Luke Qian

## LOWER SIXTH

Chester Wang

## FIFTH FORM

Henry Shaw

## CLUBS

Reflecting on creativity, a word about clubs. There have been several new ones this term: psychology, philosophy, drama, art, architecture, darts and cheese. Well done to those who set them up! Do make it your business to attend more clubs next term. And, in fact, you can take your lead from the next four characters.

## HEAD MASTER'S SCARVES

Whilst I try not to exclude anyone altogether from a scarf, I make an attempt to veer towards those not already in the most senior posts in the school; I do not always succeed, but that is the basic intention. This term there are four.

The first winner is a true Renaissance man. He has excelled in numerous areas of school life and has achieved all he has with a winning smile, a gentle persona and a calm demeanour. He is a first-rate academic reading the IB course and with a goal to study medicine. His wide-ranging academic interests encompass philosophy and science; but he has also won a commendation at the Detweiler Arts Competition. He has been an excellent President of the Harpur Science Forum and has led the Biology Society with aplomb. He runs enjoyable Prep School enrichment classes for eager young scientists. His contributions to the artistic life of the school have, too, been many and varied, encompassing playing the violin in the Orchestra, singing in Chapel Choir and a scene-stealing role in *Inherit the Wind*, a major school production when he was only a Fifth Former, to name but a few.

Arguably more importantly, he is the archetypal good 'house man': he led the Pemberley House Singing and has run the house's successful Movember campaign – as well as playing a wider role in the charitable life of the school. He is, moreover, a genuine role model for the younger boys and gives his time freely to them about the House. He is **Rikki Msindo**.

The next young "Man" has made his mark this year by making the Movember film which received in the region of 100,000 hits. He is simply everywhere. He takes photos regularly in the Quarry Theatre; he filmed the whole of the Jacqui Dankworth concert and is making a promotional video for her upcoming national tour; he has started his own photography company; and he even found time to deliver the last line in *MacBeth*, having worked on the AV in the same performance. As a Head of House, he has shown careful and caring leadership throughout. He has coxed boats all five years he has been in the Upper School, and is now in line to cox the first VIII. He is planning to study Psychology at university due to his experiences as a volunteer counsellor. He is as proud of the school as we are of him. This man is **Rich Man**.

The next recipient has demonstrated great versatility and dedication on stage, performing a lead role in *Anything Goes*, a comedic role in this term's production of *Sweeney Todd*, as well as a variety of challenging performances in *Macbeth*, *Peter Pan*, and *Inherit the Wind*. His academic strength and drive was acknowledged with him winning this year's Bedford School Independent Presentation competition, with his outstanding analysis of Mycenaean warfare. He is one of the Heads of the English Society and Editor of MDLII, a member of the School's shooting team, and a Grade 7 singer. Except

for when on stage, he rarely hogs the limelight, as demonstrated in the way that he modestly and effectively co-ordinated this year's highly successful Movember Campaign for the School. Well done to **Angus Watson**.

The best way to describe the final recipient is a true polymath. His abilities span the arts and science: he is a musician, a short story writer, a poet and an artist. In addition, he is a talented physicist and mathematician. He is a gifted linguist. He has won school prizes for his outstanding GCSE grades and for his literary analysis, and has been awarded academic stripes. He has been runner up in the Fowles Essay Prize Competition and for the Detweiler (with a piece of work that the former head of English called the best piece of writing he had seen from a Lower Sixth boy).

He has been described as quiet. True, he doesn't blow his own trumpet, but he is erudite, articulate (he reached the regional finals of the ARTiculation competition in 2015) and as head of Art Appreciation delivered an outstanding lecture on the relationship between jazz and contemporary art. He has also spoken on hip-hop lyrics and religious painting. He is part of the English Society, and part of the editorial team on the school magazine, MDLII. He is a talented painter, and his work has been exhibited in the Higgins as part of the Harpur Trust's 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. He is also a musician – a guitarist and drummer, and has appeared recently in the open mic night and rock night. He is, undoubtedly, one of the real academic powerhouses of the school. He is widely regarded in his house as one of the coolest people around. He is of course **Tom Rainbow**.

## MONITORS

I have the option of making up some boys to become monitors at the end of this term. We started with 17 this year. Perhaps these boys could come forward for a handshake as they become monitors for 2017, in reverse alphabetical order!

- Jack Hutchings
- Charlie Gee
- Chizu Chukwu

Finally, we also celebrated 125 years of the OB Club – you will all be an OB one day – it is a wonderful Club to join, with friends of the school all around the world. My thanks to Mr Garrett for orchestrating this.

Well done to you all for this term; and have a great Christmas.