

## FINAL ASSEMBLY – SUMMER 2016

*(prologue, delivered in fact on Wednesday 29/6/16)*

Today is about celebrating the year gone by and also paying tribute to our Upper Sixth boys, who will also hear more tomorrow. But I start today by referencing a momentous last week in the life of our country. The decision for Britain to exit the European Union was taken by 17 million British people last week, and we must respect that vote or disrespect democracy; given that nobody has yet devised a better form of governing a country, then we will need to live with it. It is a vote which has divided the country; and it is probably fair to say that, no matter how one feels about it now, nobody knows for sure whether or not it will turn out to be the right decision in 20 years' time. One must also acknowledge that the vast majority of Brexit voters did so for good reasons. What I do want to say today, though, is that this school does not in any way condone the implied intolerance of a section of those Brexit voters. It has never been more important to embrace a multi-cultural Britain, to demonstrate our love of mankind, to extend the arm of welcome to people from all different nationalities, backgrounds and faiths. You may remember that I have a very vivid personal experience of this, when I went for the first time into the Jewish Museum in Sydney. It was a humbling experience to be shown round by a holocaust survivor. I was not sure if she would appreciate the fact that my Jewish wife had married out of her religion, yet when I finally took the courage to tell her that I had married a Jew, she was delighted – “what a relief” she said, “it is only by love that this world will sort out its deepest troubles”. Only by love. Never before have we needed to love one another more in this country. Please do not ever forget that. And I want to reassert now that, whatever a few people in the UK feel currently, we will always wish Bedford School to be a strong, tolerant and loving community.

## REPORTS FOR SUMMER TERM SPORTS

### Cricket

A relatively young 1st XI won nearly 70% of their games. The standout performer was Fifth Former Emilio Gay, who had an excellent season with the bat (over 600 runs at an average of 55). Other boys who performed particularly well were Jake Duxbury (480 runs), and spinners Shiv Jhala (30 wickets) and Ben Slawinski (20 wickets), but there were also contributions across the board.

Once again it was excellent to field 4 opens teams, all of whom enjoyed success, though the 3rd XI stretched the definition of success to its broadest possible meaning.

### 1st XI awards

Batting Award:	Emilio Gay
Bowling Award:	Shiv Jhala
All Rounder Award:	Shiv Jhala
Fielding Award:	Ben Slawinski
T20 Player of the year:	Jake Duxbury

## **Full Colours**

Emilio Gay

Shaylen Tomlinson-Patel

Elliot Wingfield

Will Comfort

Ali Hassan led the Under 16A team from the front scoring two hundreds in its short season; and we must be one of the few schools in the country that still gets out an Under 16B team for a number of games before GCSEs.

A strong U15A side had an excellent season winning over 80% of their games. Everyone chipped in at some stage during the season, however the standout players were captain, Harry Gouldstone, Sachin Kalyan, Ross Denton, Alex Rennie and Amaan Mehmood.

The under 15 B fared even better; and though the 15C team lost a number of games, they did beat Harrow – which at the end of the day is all that really matters!

In terms of statistics, the U14A were the team of the year winning all but one game and also securing the County Cup with a win against Bedford Modern in the Final. Tom O'Toole, Mike Catt and Gus Miller were standout players.

Indeed, the whole year group performed admirably, with four teams losing only a handful of games between them.

Junior and Senior House cricket was won by Crescent.

## **Rowing**

There have been 120 boys involved in rowing this term. The Club has had a very successful summer season with regatta wins for all year groups. The highlight for the 1st VIII was finished 5th in the Child Beale Cup at the National Schools Regatta, but they also rowed brilliantly at Henley on Wednesday, just losing out to Hampton; a race you can see on YouTube. The 1st IV also won J18 fours at Bedford Regatta.

The Colts crew had a very strong season, winning Novice Vllls at Bedford Regatta, finishing 2nd at Notts City and Reading Regattas behind Shrewsbury and Pangbourne's 2nd and 1st Vllls respectively. Their highlight was a silver medal at the National Schools Regatta in J16 1st Vllls.

The J15 squad has grown in strength and confidence throughout the season. The A crew won J15 Vllls at Thames Valley Park Regatta and gained the Silver medal in the J15 1st Vllls at the National Schools Regatta. The B crew won novice Vllls at Cambridge Head to Head and finished 13th at the National Schools Regatta

The J14 squad has been one of the strongest groups we have seen for many years, with the B, C, D and E crews frequently beating high ranked crews from other schools. The A crew were particularly successful in the quads, winning at Bedford and Star and making the final at Reading. The B crew won at Bedford Regatta and were dominant in winning the gold medal at the National Schools Regatta.

Arguably, the crew of the season was the J14 C octuple. They were ranked the 11th B octuple in the country at the National Schools Regatta and made the finals of the B events at Star and Reading. They have been a phenomenal C crew and the envy of all the other schools J14 coaches.

### **Athletics**

Another good season has been enjoyed by a small but talented group of Athletes. The Remove sent a strong team of four to the Bedfordshire Schools' Combined Events. Timmy Pong captained the team by example and deservedly finished on the podium in third place overall. Eight boys (Miles Udeze, Ed Blythman, Sean Davis, Louis Case, Will Barnes, Tom Corner, Timmy Pong and Teepee Princewill) were invited to final county trials. Timmy Pong finished first in the 100m Hurdles and second in the 100m. Teepee Princewill was selected in the County Triple Jump Team and will compete in the Nationals in Gateshead in July.

### **Tennis**

The tennis club had a number of successes over the course of the term, including a sound beating of an Oakham side that were until then unbeaten. Fifth former Alisher Tatayev has made the step up to senior tennis with aplomb and will be a strong player in next year's team. The under 15s have beaten Haileybury and the Perse – both strong sides – in recent weeks.

The overall highlight of the season has been the performances of Sam Dalton and Charlie Axford as first pair in the junior side. They have been unbeaten throughout.

Colours: Rob Salvesen, Jayan Chander and Pete Jamieson.

### **DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD**

This year has seen the 60th Birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, with the highlight for His Royal Highness being to meet Mrs Mainstone for a short chat at Buckingham Palace to mark the occasion.

Last week a group of boys of 16 boys from Year 11 and the Lower Sixth passed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Yorkshire Dales, enduring a mixture of soaring temperatures and torrential rain. In total, the boys walked for 21 hours covering a distance of 35 miles; an impressive total over hilly terrain.

I have some silver awards to give out to Chizu Chukwu, Harjeet Sumal and Jack McWhinnie.

### **CCF**

The Corps has been very busy preparing for Annual Camp at Stanta in the second week of the summer break; and for next term, which promises to be one of the busiest on record, with the CADSAAM small arms Shooting competition, the Annual General Inspection, two Adventurous Training expeditions over half term, one to the Isle of Wight in the first week and another to Snowdonia in the second, and a Field Weekend in the second half of term.

## **RIFLE CLUB**

The Rifle Club ran its usual Thursday and Friday training sessions. Membership of the Club has grown steadily and for the first time we are in a position to enter two teams for the British Schools Leagues next term.

## **DRAMA**

The Creative Arts Festival has seen over 2,000 people attending plays in the Quarry Theatre (and the garden), art events and the music concerts. During the festival 119 boys got on stage to perform in plays, over 130 performed in concerts and another large number helped as backstage crew.

Emmet Shiels and Ethan Chappell-Mason (Fifth Form) helped to run a workshop for students from Bedford School, Mark Rutherford and Bedford Academy before going on to perform in Bouncers in the evening. It was an excellent effort on their part. We have also had a team of young people from Bedford School, BGS & Bedford Free School doing work experience, helping to staff the theatre and learning valuable skills which would be particularly useful if they decide to pursue a career in theatre or the arts.

Special mentions for their contribution to the festival go to Logan Jones who directed and acted in a highly effective performance of Punk Rock, Lennart Roesse who played Odysseus in David Farr's adaptation of The Odyssey and the four Bouncers: Ethan Chappell-Mason, Oliver McCormack, Harun Cehovic and Emmet Shiels who recreated a disturbingly accurate vision of 80's Urban Nightlife!

Special mentions for selfless and expert help go to: Jonathan Hosking on lights & sound; Tom Gulliver on sound design and operation for Bouncers; Josh Nethersole on Front of House for every show that happened in the festival and Jonathan Hosking, Conrad Staroscik and Jasper Tsao as key helpers in that regard; and Ify Emmanuel-Odiachi who mixed the visuals for the OX2 Club nights. There was also a huge collective effort from a large number of teachers, whom I'd like to thank, too.

Looking forward to the summer some Bedford School pupils are involved in Bedfringe so we hope you'll come and support them if you're around at the end of July.

The Drama department has also attended 15 plays over the past year, alongside producing devised pieces; it will host its first academic lecture in September, when Professor Allan from University of Kent at Canterbury will lecture on Grotowski.

Particular plaudits for the year must go to Jonathan Hosking and Joshua Garrett, who successfully gained a place in the National Youth Theatre. This is a fine achievement- especially on a first audition! Only 500 out of 5,000 applicants up to the age of 25 are selected.

## **MUSIC**

The term started with a trio of concerts which served to highlight the quality and diversity of what is on offer at the school: Harry Guthrie put on a very successful concert of English Song with other sixth

formers; we had our Prize Winners' concert featuring all of the junior and senior winners in the Piano, Organ, Singing, Woodwind, Brass and Strings competitions; and we had a concert of world premiere performances of music composed by boys in the Fifth and Sixth form. The term has concluded with a flurry of activity within all of the Creative Arts, demonstrating excellence in all areas of Music, Drama and Art, and we have enjoyed two major concerts this week on Wednesday and Thursday which have seen over 130 boys performing in 10 different ensembles, with particular mention going to Bryan Ng for his excellent solo piano playing with the First Orchestra last night in Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. It has also been good to see the live broadcasting equipment in action in the last few weeks, and also to see the two 'Ollie's' running a DJ night in the Quarry Theatre after the stunning Bouncer's production on Tuesday.

Senior Music Prizes are awarded at Prize Giving, but I do have the Junior Prize Winners Amazon tokens here today. Could the following please come forward to collect theirs:

### Junior

Junior Woodwind:	Matthew Fahmy (clarinet)	Remove/Crescent
Junior Brass:	Henry Poppleton (trumpet)	Fourth Form/Sandersons
Junior Singing:	Peter Barrington	Fourth Form/Crescent
Junior Strings:	Alex Papp (violin)	Remove/Bromham
Junior Piano:	Flik Feng	Fourth Form/Phillpotts

### ART

As part of their 450th anniversary celebrations, the Harpur Trust have organised an Art competition open to all schools in Bedfordshire on the theme of 'Recording Bedford'. From the 1400 works entered by 44 schools 140 have been selected for exhibition at the Higgins Museum in Bedford. eight boys from Bedford School have their work included in this selection. Particular congratulations to and Ignatius Ip, who was 2nd in the Fifth Form category and to Daniel Zhou, who won first prize in the whole thing!

The **Head Master's Art Prize** is awarded to a work or body of work exhibited in the Student End of Year show. In this year's exciting and varied exhibition contenders included the coursework portraits of Shay Boyd, and most specifically an imposing and dramatic oil painting of Jake Carter emerging from the darkness, which I thought was amazing. For his exam, Shay also convincingly depicted the power and movement of horses which culminated in two large and impressive paintings, one of which is in the foyer, and which wins the prize for "best in show".

Josh Taylor has been hugely ambitious in the range and variety of work that he has produced this year, most memorably perhaps with his film projection across the front of the school back in March. The work that he didn't burn for that purpose had a real presence and maturity in this year's exhibition.

The winner, however, impressed with the sensitivity and delicacy of the work he produced in both his coursework and exam. A piece inspired by this year's Annual Artist Masterclass with Michael Brennan Wood reminded me of something nautical but was immensely satisfying in the use of different materials, hessian and wood, to create a coherent sculpture. For the exam, he produced some

extraordinary floating installations with objects suspended by delicate threads which had a real presence and maturity. For this remarkable collection of work the Head Master's Art prize this year goes to George Cave.

**Art Prize and 'Best in Show' is awarded to Shay Boyd for his galloping horses.**

**The Headmaster's Art prize goes to George Cave.**

## **PILKINGTON TRUST GAP YEAR AWARDS**

I have cheques for:

- Wilfred Hamilton, who will be working at the Hope Orphanage in Malawi
- Harry Jackson, who will be helping in local schools and assisting the Crosslinks Christian Union in Gambia
- Josh Taylor (BST award), who will be travelling the country to raise awareness of mental health issues and the positive benefits sport can play in tackling them

## **CUPS TO BE AWARDED SUMMER TERM 2016**

### **Cricket**

Junior House Cricket: Crescent  
Senior House Cricket: Crescent  
Redburn Cup for most contribution below the 1st XI: Alex Williams for captaining the 2nd team with maturity and skill

### **Tennis**

Senior House Tennis: Ashburnham  
Junior House Tennis: Crescent

### **Rowing**

House Rowing: Paulo Pontine  
Senior Sculls: Ivan Simon, Paulo Pontine  
Junior Sculls: Lennart Roese, St Peter's  
Junior Doubles: Amun Bhamra and James Zhang

**House Basketball:** Bromham

**House Culinary Challenge:** Bromham

**The LAING BOWL for outstanding sportsman of the year:** Oliver Burgess, Bromham

**The DRAMA CUP:** Alex Wegener, St Peter's, for his contribution to GCSE and extracurricular drama

**The HOUSE INSTRUMENTAL CUP:** Cuthbert's, for being the overall winner of the Senior Music Instrumental Prizes

To be presented and announced by the Head Master,

### **OVERALL HOUSE CUP**

The final points are:

In 6th place with 75 points:	Ashburnham
In 5th place with 76.5 points:	Bromham
In 4th place with 78.5 points:	St Cuthbert's
In 3rd place with 85.5 points:	Paulo Pontine
In 2nd place with 90 points:	St Peter's

This year's **WINNERS** with 98.5 points: Crescent

**The McGavin cup.** This prestigious award honours David McGavin, who was killed in a car accident a few years ago and the cup is awarded to someone who displays the following qualities: **integrity, kindness, perseverance, leadership** in a number of areas of school life. This year it goes to a young man who has faced his own health challenges, about which he spoke to the Sixth Form, been one of the best leaders the Prep School enrichment programme has ever had, has led the Movember campaign, has engaged equally well through this with global and personal issues, was the inspiration behind the annual school charity run, ran a Ball which raised over £17,000 for charity, and has been one of the most generous intellectual powerhouses of his year group, organising and delivering science lectures. He has worked his way tirelessly into the 1st VIII. He is, without doubt, one of the kindest, most thoughtful, boys in the school. This year's award goes to **Max Williamson**.

### **ON TO ACADEMIC NEWS**

As you know, we run a programme called the BSIP this year in the Lower Sixth. BSIP stands for Bedford School Independent Project and all Lower Sixth boys are expected to complete one on a subject entirely of their choosing. Some then go on to turn their research into an EPQ, the Government's Extended Project Qualification, which comes with UCAS points for entry to university.

### **BSIP: A SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

Several excellent essays were shortlisted and the following boys are highly commended for their work: Ted Hicks, James Hirst, Harry Guthrie, Logan Jones, Matthew Diemer, Anthony Tai, Harry Marks and Harjeet Sumal.

However, the winner of the BSIP Essay Prize, for his submission of a wonderfully well-researched piece entitled 'The Future of Medicine: A literature review on the effects of space on human biology and the potential medical applications of such research' is Rohan Sanghera.

Running parallel to this, a Presentation Evening was held earlier this month. It was a phenomenally high standard. Special mentions must go to the Runner-Up Zahan Bharucha, who presented on youth politics and participation, and to Highly Commended finalists Harry Guthrie and Logan Jones.

But the overall winner of this year's BSIP Presentation Prize is Angus Watson, who spoke on Mycenaean Warfare, and who will collect his prize on Speech Day.

## REMOVE FORM PPE PROJECTS

High-quality project work is also undertaken in the Remove Form.

The best PPE project this year was **Henry He** with a prophetic piece of research on the short-term effect on the economy if Britain leaves the EU. The level of research, the care he had taken with the formal presentation of the project and his insightful comment were extremely impressive.

2nd prize went to **Silas Sanders** with a thoughtful, superbly researched essay: How did Jazz change America in the 1920s?

Runners up:

- **Rahul Sheemar** who wrote a thoughtful and extremely well-written essay: 'Life off the pitch' a comparison of the media portrayals of Alastair Cook and Kevin Peterson.
- **Laurence Pleuger** wrote a fascinating essay on the relevance and role of pets in ancient cultures.
- **Will Barnes** who wrote an excellent essay on: Should Britain be ashamed of its colonial past?

I also have the last merit award of the year, for 75 merits, which goes to **Jay Garbutt**.

## CHARITY

The term began with 'An Evening of English Song' organised by Harry Guthrie; raising an amazing £504 for Alzheimer's Society. Then Mr Palmer, Mr Peters and Mrs Medley completed the London Marathon and raised money for Cancer Research UK and the World Wildlife Fund. The first mufti day raised £1,200 for the World Wildlife Fund, Alzheimer's Society and the Road Victims Trust. In June, Charlie Ballard (OB) and Hywel Ford (OB) cycled from Scotland to Cambridge via Newcastle in five days to raise money for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust, and The Road Victims Trust in memory of Archie Wellbelove (OB). The second mufti day raised £750 for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust and Diabetes UK. On Sunday 26th June, Mrs Worboys from the Old Bedfordians Club completed the London Bridges Walk with a group of family and friends and raised money for CRY in memory of her son Rob (OB). The term finishes with Miss Bell, Mrs Medley, Mrs Murray and Mrs Spir taking part in the Bedford 10k Race For Life on Sunday.

The total raised for this term is £8,242 and the total for this academic year is £35,518. The cumulative total since September 2007 is £254,982.



Thank you very to everyone who has got involved. If you are planning a charity event, please get in touch with Mrs Medley, Tom Stewart, Alikhan Bekov, Taliesin Crook or Harun Cehovic.

On Wednesday, 15 pupils from Bedford Girls' School, Bedford Modern and Bedford School painted the local homeless night shelter. They raised money to buy materials through washing teachers' cars, and they visited the shelter last Friday to meet the other pupils and to find out more about the work they do, measure up the rooms and choose paint, etc. The boys in question were Gabriel von der Heyde, Harun Cehovic, Nihat Aslanoba, Oliver Horsfall, Alex Sporton and Julius Cupei.

Before I come to a Final Award, I'd just like to say to you all how lucky we have been to be led by this Sixth Form and by this group of monitors and this Senior four more specifically. They have not only led the way in achievement but in the way they deal with success and failure and in the example they set for all boys in the school, whether young or old. As they pass from being boys of the school to Old Boys of the school, we celebrate a traditional ceremonial moment where the Chairman of the OB Club officially welcomes the leaving year group to the Club by the award of a tie to the Head of School. Could Mr Chris Williams please come forward to present the tie to Aidan.

The staff have been immense; they care deeply about how each and every one of you does and they work tirelessly to create a happy and successful environment. Please do show your thanks to them.

## **HEAD MASTER'S SCARE**

This boy's academic achievements at Bedford School have been considerable. He achieved 7 A\*s and 4 'A' grades in his GCSEs, he came top of the year in the IBI summer mock exams and was awarded Academic Colours at the beginning of the year. He recently achieved a Silver Award in the UK Linguistics Olympiad. He has also been involved in the last two Spanish plays, the latter winning a prize at the Spanish Drama Festival. He has been the co-head of the Spanish Society.

His sporting achievements have been far-reaching, too. He is the Bedford School Cricket Club Captain and is a key member of the 1st XI. He has been a key member of this side for the last three years, whilst also playing for the Northamptonshire U17s, Bedfordshire 2nd XI and for Ampthill Town 1st XI. He top scores regularly in the top Bedford School football teams and has made appearances for the Kempston Town 1st XI in the FA Senior Trophy.

But where this young man stands out is in his proactivity to help others. He has been involved in delivering the Prep School Spanish enrichment classes. He has organised a Spanish exchange to Granada. He has volunteered as a teaching assistant at Castle Lower School. He is a wonderful role model for his tutor group. He has helped out with Prep School cricket and hockey. He is in the Upper Sixth, and yet the prep school boys all know him affectionately as "Dux". He is endlessly kind and considerate. He is, of course, Jake Duxbury.

## **TO ROUND UP**

A Level results day this year will provide the current Upper Sixth with another chance to meet up. We aim to put on some breakfast and coffee in school this year so that you can come in, hopefully celebrate, see your peers, ask any advice from teachers. It will be great to see you all. The same applies to the Lower Sixth that day for AS results. There will be careers and UCAS advice available here too that morning. The IB boys will be in next Wednesday afternoon and we wish them luck.

Before we end, may I remind the whole school that we are very much on show tomorrow, both in this Great Hall and outside afterwards. In my speech I will refer to the highlights of the year; there are very many, so well done to you. After speeches, the whole community is invited to stay on for drinks outside – I do hope that you and your parents will all join us as a nice way to end the year and say goodbye before the holidays. I wish you a happy and restful summer.

We end, as is traditional, with Domus Pater.