

Dear Parents

As this is the first bulletin of the year, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful family Christmas, and managed to avoid the nasty bugs which were lurking.

Term has started very well indeed and it is great to see the boys back. There are a number of opportunities and events coming up in the following weeks, so we ask you to pay close attention to the calendar and help your sons to keep up to date. Today our study skills week begins for Years 5-8 ahead of their Mid-year exams (in terms of academic year rather than calendar year!). Thank you to those of you who attended Mrs Christian's talk this week; as she said, revision and study skills are improved through continued practice and will develop as boys move up the school. You will find a link to her presentation in this bulletin, especially good for those of you not able to make it to the talk.

All the best for a great term!

YEAR 3

Y3 Games Kit

Many of the boys had missing kit this week. Could we please ask that boys bring in their full kit for Games on a Tuesday and Thursday, including their shin pads, mouth guards, rugby boots and trainers. Thank you.

Toilet or kitchen rolls

We are doing a project which requires lots of toilet and kitchen rolls, so if you have any at home, please could the boys bring them into Nash's Library next week. Many thanks.

YEAR 4

Y4 Games Kit

Many of the boys had missing kit this week. Could we please ask that boys bring in their full kit for Games on a Tuesday and Thursday, including their shin pads, mouth guards, rugby boots and trainers. Thank you.

Y4 Away Game on Tuesday 16th January

On Tuesday ALL Year 4 boys will be playing football away at The Beacon. Teams are being put onto the website.

Year 4 Hungry Boys' Club

For those Y4 boys who have signed up to the club, we will be beginning on 16th January and then continue on the 23rd January and 30th January. This club will take place in the Café Bar in the School Dining Halls on Tuesdays from 4.10 – 5.30pm. I will meet the boys outside Prep School Reception to take them up to the Café Bar. All participants must bring a large tupperware container to the sessions to take home their prepared dishes.

Y4-5 Saturday Morning Sports Club

Our popular Saturday morning club for Y4-5 boys will continue this 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

Toilet or kitchen rolls

We are doing a project which requires lots of toilet and kitchen rolls, so if you have any at home, please could the boys bring them into Nash's Library next week. Many thanks.

YEAR 5

Y5 Mid-year Exams

Just a reminder that the Y5 exams start on Friday 19th January and finish on Tuesday 23rd January.

Hockey Stick

Please note that all boys in Year 5 and Year 6 should have their own hockey stick this term.

Y5-6 Adventure Holiday to Tignes, Summer 2018

We hope you received the invitation for your son to join the trip to Tignes which was sent out yesterday. Open to all boys in Year 5 and Year 6, the trip runs from Sunday 8th July - Friday 13th July and costs £860. Please see Mr Loader's letter [here](#). If your son would like to go on the trip, please send in a deposit of £220 by Thursday 18th January.

Year 5 Hungry Boys' Club

For those Y5 boys who have signed up to the club, we will be beginning on 6th February and then continue on the 20th February and 27th February. This club will take place in the Café Bar in the School Dining Halls on Tuesdays from 4.10 – 5.30 pm. I will meet the boys outside Prep School Reception to take them up to the Café Bar. All participants must bring a large tupperware container to the sessions to take home their prepared dishes.

Y4-5 Saturday Morning Sports Club

Our popular Saturday morning club for Y4-5 boys will continue this 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

YEAR 6

Y6 Mid-year Exams

Just a reminder that the Y6 exams start on Friday 19th January and finish on Tuesday 23rd January.

Hockey Stick

Please note that all boys in Year 5 and Year 6 should have their own hockey stick this term.

Y5-6 Adventure Holiday to Tignes, Summer 2018

We hope you received the invitation for your son to join the trip to Tignes which was sent out yesterday. Open to all boys in Year 5 and Year 6, the trip runs from Sunday 8th July - Friday

13th July and costs £860. Please see Mr Loader's letter [here](#). If your son would like to go on the trip, please send in a deposit of £220 by Thursday 18th January.

Year 6 Hungry Boys' Club

For those Y6 boys who have signed up to the club, we will be beginning on 6th March and then continue on the 13th March, with the final date to be confirmed. This club will take place in the Café Bar in the School Dining Halls on Tuesdays from 4.10 – 5.30 pm. I will meet the boys outside Prep School Reception to take them up to the Café Bar. All participants must bring a large tupperware container to the sessions to take home their prepared dishes.

YEAR 7

Y7 Mid-year Exams

Just a reminder that the Y7 exams start on Friday 19th January and finish on Tuesday 23rd January.

YEAR 8

Y8 Mid-year Exams

Just a reminder that the Y8 exams start on Friday 19th January and finish on Wednesday 24th January.

Y8 Bushcraft Trip, final payment due

Could we please remind you that the final payment of £65 towards the Bushcraft [trip](#) is due by 1st February. We are also still waiting for a few of the December payments of £70 to be made, so could we please ask that all payments are in by the February deadline. Thank you.

ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Y5-8 Revision and Study Skills Information

We hope that those of you who came to Wednesday's Information Evening found the session useful. Mrs Christian's slides are now available on Firefly <https://bedfordschool.fireflycloud.net/psassessment/revision-guidance>

Extra-curricular Activities, Spring term

Our activities list for the Spring term is now on the activities [page](#) of Firefly. Most clubs will be starting next week so do take a look at the timetable over the weekend with your son.

Sports Clubs, Spring term

Our Sports Clubs [timetable](#) for the Spring term is now on Firefly so do encourage your son to try one of the many clubs on offer.

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. 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.

House Singing

Please note that the words to the House Unison songs are now on Firefly <https://bedfordschool.fireflycloud.net/pshouses> and the Housemasters have asked if you could please help ensure that boys are learning their words.

ISRA* Religious Studies Essay Competition Y3 - Y13

HOW CAN RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING BRING ABOUT PEACE?

Open to boys from Y3 upwards, the ISRA Council are running a competition about how religion can promote peace and end conflict. Boys interested in entering need to come up with a short story or essay on how religion can resolve conflict, in no more than 300 words. Information can be found [here](#). Entries will be judged on intellect and imagination. Prizes: 1st prize = £50, 2nd prize = £30, 3rd Prize = £15. Prep school and Senior school entries will be judged separately. Boys should mark their entries with their name, age, school and either Prep or Senior school so that the competition organisers can ensure that they are entered into the right competition. Entries should first be sent to Miss Williams: williams@bedfordschool.org.uk by 27th January and then finally to: admin@isrsa.co.uk by 30th January. Please get in touch with the RE department if the boys want any advice and please copy in your son's RE teacher when sending in entries.

*Independent Schools Religious Studies Association

Invitation to join the Bedford School Choral Society

Calling all singing parents! The Bedford School Choral Society is performing at the end of this term (Sunday 18th March in the Great Hall). Anyone is welcome to join the Society, regardless of experience. We are singing Carl Orff's epic Carmina Burana, a seminal work

full of the sublime and sometimes of the ridiculous! We will sing alongside Bedford School Chapel Choir and Bedford Girls' School Choir and will be accompanied by piano and a full orchestra made up of teachers and selected students, so it promises to be an unforgettable experience. The performance will be on 18th March and the rehearsals are every Thursday at 7.30pm in the Recital Hall, Bedford School, excluding the half term week. If you are unable to make every rehearsal, or if you know the piece already and would like to join later on, or even on the day, then you are also welcome. Please contact Andrew Groom agroom@bedfordschool.org.uk for further details.

Saturday Morning Timetable, Wednesday 24th January

It's Saturday Morning timetable on Wednesday 24th January so Y6-8 boys will need their Saturday timetable books (although Y8 boys have an exam periods 1 and 2).

Mufti, Friday 26th January

The boys may come to school in mufti on Friday 26th January for a £2 donation to our charities.

Exeat, Saturday 27th January

The first exeat of the term is on Saturday 27th January

Bikeability Course, Easter Holiday

Please note that there are some Bikeability courses running at school in the Easter holidays for children from all schools in Years 5, 6 and 7. Please see [here](#) for further information.

Date for your Diary: Music Parents Evening, Monday 5th March

The Music Parents' Evening will take place on the evening of Monday 5th March in the Great Hall. This is for parents of all boys who learn a musical instrument at school. Further details will be issued in due course.

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
12/01/2018	09:00	10:30	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

20/01/2018	09:00	12:00	Y5-8 Mid Year Exams
22/01/2018			Patron of reading to work with Y3 classes
22/01/2018	08:55	16:10	Y5-8 Mid Year Exams
23/01/2018	08:55	16:10	Y5-8 Mid Year Exams
24/01/2018	08:40	12:35	Saturday Morning Timetable
24/01/2018	09:00	12:00	Y5-8 Mid Year Exams
26/01/2018			Prep School Mufti Day
27/01/2018			EXEAT
28/01/2018			EXEAT

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](#)