

Dear Parents

Mid-year assessments began today after a week of study skills and revision. The aim was to teach these important skills, as well as remove as much anxiety as possible from the process of assessments. We hope you and the boys feel that the week has gone well and that boys feel more ready to tackle assessments. Please remember that the aim of this is to increasingly build confidence in our boys in readiness for the rest of their school career.

On Thursday staff shared their ideas for best practice in Teaching and Learning in our regular Thursday evening INSET sessions. It was a great reminder of how thoroughly creative our teachers are, and the variety of innovative ideas was impressive (as well as being lots of fun!)

Please see below for forthcoming events and I hope you enjoy a wonderful weekend!

YEAR 3

Harry Potter Book Night, Thursday 1st February

Harry Potter Book Night will be taking place around the country on Thursday 1st February. The theme this year is Fantastic Beasts and we will be having themed activities during the day and after school in both the Nash's and the Inky libraries until 5.15 pm. Boys may come into school wearing Hogwarts accessories with their normal school uniform on that day. This year there will be a competition for the best Fantastic Beast picture. This could be a colouring (available from the library), a drawing, painting or collage but should be no larger than A4 please. Beast pictures, labelled with your son's name and class, should be brought to the library by the end of school on Friday 2nd February.

YEAR 4

Y4-5 Saturday Morning Sports Club

Our popular Saturday morning club for Y4-5 boys starts tomorrow.

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

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YEAR 5

Y4-5 Saturday Morning Sports Club

Our popular Saturday morning club for Y4-5 boys starts tomorrow.

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

Games Kit for Y5 Academy Boys

Could the Year 5 Academy boys please ensure they have both their Hockey and Football kit for Games on a Wednesday. They must have: football boots, shin pads, gum shield, trainers, rugby top, blue shorts, long blue games socks, skins if they have them (it is very cold at the moment), full tracksuit, bottle of water and a hockey stick.

Y5&6 Cricket Practice

Boys who would like to be considered for the cricket squads in the Summer are encouraged to regularly attend one or both of these sessions in the Sports Hall if they do not have other commitments: Monday 4.15-5.15pm and Friday 7.20-8.20am. Please bring full cricket kit and wear blue school tracksuit and white school cricket shirt. Please note due to time restrictions, breakfast will not be provided after the morning session so please bring a healthy snack.

YEAR 6

Y5&6 Cricket Practice

Boys who would like to be considered for the cricket squads in the Summer are encouraged to regularly attend one or both of these sessions in the Sports Hall if they do not have other commitments: Monday 4.15-5.15pm and Friday 7.20-8.20am. Please bring full cricket kit and wear blue school tracksuit and white school cricket shirt. Please note due to time restrictions, breakfast will not be provided after the morning session so please bring a healthy snack.

YEAR 7

Y7&8 Cricket Practice

Boys who would like to be considered for the cricket squads in the Summer are encouraged to regularly attend one or both of these sessions in the Sports Hall if they do not have other commitments: Monday 7.20-8.20am and Friday 4.15-5.15pm. Please bring full cricket kit and wear blue school tracksuit and white school cricket shirt. Please note due to time restrictions, breakfast will not be provided after the morning session so please bring a healthy snack.

Neutrinos: Ghosts of the Universe Lecture, Tuesday 23rd January

The first Harpur Science Forum Lecture of 2018 will be given by Professor Mark Thompson in the Great Hall on Tuesday from 4.45 - 5.45pm. This free lecture is suitable for all boys in Years 7 and 8 with an interest in Science. Please see [here](#) for further information.

Y7 Observatory and Planetarium Visit, Monday 29th January

An additional opportunity to visit the Observatory and Planetarium has been arranged for Monday 29th January. This is to accommodate those boys who were unable to attend on one of the occasions last term. Therefore priority will be given to boys who did not visit last term.

There is a sign-up sheet on the door to WS2. Boys should check they are able to attend and then add their name to the list. There will be a planetarium slide show and an opportunity to ask questions. If the weather is suitable, the boys will also be able to observe through various telescopes including the main observatory instrument. Please ensure the boys have suitable (warm) clothing. We will assemble outside the Wells Building after school and then the boys will be accompanied up past Chapel and will access the observatory from the gates halfway down Pemberley Avenue (next to Phillpotts boarding house). Please pick the boys up from these gates too, at around 5.45pm. (Boys who are not collected at 5.45pm will be taken back down to the PS).

YEAR 8

Y7&8 Cricket Practice

Boys who would like to be considered for the cricket squads in the Summer are encouraged to regularly attend one or both of these sessions in the Sports Hall if they do not have other commitments: Monday 7.20-8.20am and Friday 4.15-5.15pm. Please bring full cricket kit and wear blue school tracksuit and white school cricket shirt. Please note due to time restrictions, breakfast will not be provided after the morning session so please bring a healthy snack.

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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

House Singing

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

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, which this year are the brain injury association Headway (Bunyan), East Anglian Air Ambulance (Harpur), Bedfordshire Wildlife Rescue (Howard) and the Stroke Association (Whitbread.)

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
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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
30/01/2018	16:30	17:30	Y7/8 Squash fixture against BMS & Towers
01/02/2018	14:00	15:30	Y3-6 General Knowledge Quiz Heat 1
01/02/2018	16:15	17:30	Harry Potter Day - activities after school
04/02/2018	08:30	09:30	U11A, U11B Football v Victoria College Prep (H)

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](#)