

Dear Parents

Assessments finished this week, which included scholarship assessments for a number of boys. We are impressed with the commitment and effort showed by all the boys at this busy time. We ask them now to concentrate on the feedback they are given in order to move their learning on. Please see Mrs Christian's note on this below. This is the first time we have run a study skills week and the first time we have had only two formal assessment periods throughout a year. We have taken into account parental feedback on greater clarity about timings (previously, individual teachers arranged the assessment times, and we now do it centrally). We hope the boys have found it helpful.

Whole school assemblies this week included Reverend Atkins' retelling of the parable of the prodigal son in chapel assembly on Monday, and what we can take from the story, and a timely reminder of the 23rd Winter Olympics on Wednesday. A number of Year 8 boys visually acted out the 15 different sports and identified the attributes of these athletes, which correspond aptly with the school's own values and, most pertinently, the endeavour shown by the 59 GB representatives competing at the highest level in a number of sports, some of which are not even feasible in the UK. Good luck team GB and let's hope our boys can use this inspiration in their adventures.

Let's hope they are also inspired to sing their hearts out for the House Singing competition which takes place on Friday 9th (see below for details). To those of you who haven't been to House Singing before, it is one of our blue riband events, with the whole school involved. Every boy in each House joins together to compete in the Unison song, and a group of around 20 boys from each House sing a more technical Part Song. Housemasters ask me to send a plea to support your sons to learn the words of their House songs.

In Science news, we welcomed new additions to the Prep School recently, who will reside in the Science Department. They are currently temporarily housed in the Science Technician's room, awaiting paperwork! We have four gerbils, three of which have already been named. There are two boys, Einstein and Newton, and two girls, Dotty, after Dorothy Hodgkin (12 May 1910 – 29 July 1994 - the British chemist who developed protein crystallography and received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1964) and one who is yet to be named. We also have two *Carausius morosus* - the Indian stick insect and six *Extatosoma tiaratum* -

Macleay's Spectre stick insect, which cleverly disguises itself as a leaf, and can mimic swaying in the wind. Several other creatures will be delivered over the next few weeks.

Enjoy the Exeat weekend, and please read below for highlights of the next two weeks, the calendar and other useful information.

## **YEAR 3**

### **Y3-4 Football Club on Tuesdays**

Mr Whitbread's football club will be starting next week. Running on Tuesdays after school, all boys are welcome. Boys will need shin pads and trainers and it will run on the Astro until 5pm.

### **Y3-4 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**

### **Y3-4 Football Club on Tuesdays**

Mr Whitbread's football club will be starting next week. Running on Tuesdays after school, all boys are welcome. Boys will need shin pads and trainers and it will run on the Astro until 5pm.

### **Y3-4 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 Performing Arts Morning at Bedford Girls' School, Friday 9th February**

For your information, all boys in Year 4 will be spending the morning of Friday 9th February at Bedford Girls' School to participate with the Year 4 girls in some Performing Arts activities. After registering at BPS in tutor rooms as normal, in normal uniform, we will depart for BGS at about 9am and travel there on foot. We will return to BPS in time for lunch.

In order to ensure safe ratios of adults to boys while walking between the two schools, we would welcome approximately 6 parent volunteers to accompany us. Either you could walk with us in both directions and remain with us at BGS in the interim, or you could walk with us there, head off to do whatever you like in the middle, before re-joining us for the walk back at about 11.30am. If you are able to help with this, please email Mr Maitland ([dmaitland@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:dmaitland@bedfordschool.org.uk)). We would be extremely grateful for any assistance.

## **YEAR 5**

### **Y5-6 Adventure Holiday to Tignes**

Deposits have now been paid to Land and Wave and all students who have made payments are now confirmed on the trip! We will send emails to parents and boys with any relevant information in the coming weeks. There are still 4 possible places remaining so if you are interested in your son attending please email Mr Loader ([eloader@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:eloader@bedfordschool.org.uk)) as soon as possible.

## **YEAR 6**

### **Y5-6 Adventure Holiday to Tignes**

Deposits have now been paid to Land and Wave and all students who have made payments are now confirmed on the trip! We will send emails to parents and boys with any relevant information in the coming weeks. There are still 4 possible places remaining so if you are interested in your son attending please email Mr Loader ([eloader@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:eloader@bedfordschool.org.uk)) as soon as possible.

## **YEAR 7**

### **Y7 Parents' Evening, 4.30 – 7pm in the EMH**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February (7M and 7S)**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February (7V and 7J)**

As indicated in the school calendar, we write to advise you that there is an opportunity for you to meet with your son's teachers at the forthcoming Y7 Parents' Evenings which take place at the beginning of February. The occasion will give you an opportunity to discuss your son's academic progress to date. Appointments need to be made via an online Appointment Booking system. This allows parents to choose their own appointment times with teachers. You will receive an email confirming your appointments. Whilst this is a new system, we anticipate that this will cut down on queues and allow you to make the best use of your time. The booking system opens at noon tomorrow (Saturday 27th January) and appointments can be made up until the day before. To book your appointments please visit: <https://bedfordschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. A link to a short guide on how to add appointments can be found [here](#). You will need to login with the following information:

Son's first name (preferred name on isams)

Son's surname

Son's date of birth.

If you have any questions, please contact [prepinfo@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:prepinfo@bedfordschool.org.uk)

### **Y7 Observatory and Planetarium Visit, Monday 29th January**

An additional opportunity to visit the Observatory and Planetarium has been arranged for Monday for those boys who have signed up on the list outside WS2. 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).

### **Endoscopy in the 21st Century Lecture, Tuesday 6th February**

The second Harpur Science Forum Lecture of this year will be given by Consultant Gastroenterologist Dr Jason Dunn in the Great Hall on Tuesday 6th February from 4.45 - 5.45pm. Although aimed at Sixth Form pupils, this free lecture is open to all ages. Please see [here](#) for further information.

## **YEAR 8**

### **Endoscopy in the 21st Century Lecture, Tuesday 6th February**

The second Harpur Science Forum Lecture of this year will be given by Consultant Gastroenterologist Dr Jason Dunn in the Great Hall on Tuesday 6th February from 4.45 - 5.45pm. Although aimed at Sixth Form pupils, this free lecture is open to all ages. Please see [here](#) for further information.

### **Y8 Bushcraft Trip Information Evening, Monday 12th March in the EMH**

If your son is going on the Bushcraft trip, please add this date to your diaries. We will cover all aspects of the trip including kit lists and further activity details and it will be a good chance to ask any questions you might have. We will be running two sessions, the first from 4.15 - 5pm and the second from 5.15 - 6pm, and boys and other siblings are welcome to attend with you. Could we please remind you that the final balance is due by 1st February.

## **ALL PS YEAR GROUPS**

### **Y5 - 8 Assessment and Study Skills Weeks**

I would like to say how pleased we are with the boys following their work during Study Skills Week and the Mid-Year Assessments. They have worked hard and bought into the process, which was designed to develop their skills in 'learning to learn'. These are lifelong skills and ones which take time to develop. We will review the whole process and refine it further for next year; however, we feel it has benefitted the boys.

The boys will receive their feedback in lessons, and we feel that this time is incredibly important, as it is an opportunity for boys to reflect on what they did well, what worked for them, as well as any areas for further development.

In line with our Growth Mindset ethos, we feel that it is also important that effort is rewarded as much as outcome. Boys will have benefitted from a better understanding of the revision process, and so please reinforce this in discussions at home. We genuinely believe that it is

the processes, not necessarily the marks, which are most important, particularly at Prep School age.

Furthermore, please do encourage boys not to compare marks with other subjects, or year groups. It is easy to assume that strengths lie only in the subjects in which they gained the highest percentage marks. Boys can sometimes adopt a black and white view on matters and declare that they have got a 'good or a bad' mark: for example 70% in English, Maths and French probably do not indicate the same ability. Please join us in celebrating all small steps forward in their learning journey. If you would like to feedback on the process of assessments, please do contact the school.

### **Go Code Free Trial Session, Monday 29th January**

Calling all budding coders from age 6-18! GoCode Academy are running an after school trial coding session on Monday from 4.30 - 6pm in the Prep School. Boys will get an insight into the activities they would experience in the 5 day holiday camp running in half term. For further information on how to sign your child up for the trial session please see [here](#) and for details about the course in half term please see the [flyer](#) or their website <https://gocode.academy/holiday-camps/>.

### **PS House Singing, Fri 9th February**

Half term ends with our very popular and eagerly anticipated House Singing Event in the Great Hall on Friday 9th February. Starting at 2.30pm, the doors open at 2pm and all families are warmly welcomed. Could boys please wear a white shirt.

### **House Unison Songs**

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

### **Peter Bunzl Author Visit, Tuesday 27th February**

We are delighted to welcome author, film-maker and animator, Peter Bunzl, to the school on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February to talk about his books 'Cogheart' and 'Moonlocket'. If your son wishes to purchase a book and have it signed, you can complete the form [here](#) and return it to school with the payment no later than **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**. Cheques should be made payable to Bedford School Trust.

**Bedfordshire Speech and Drama Festival 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2018,  
Bedford Corn Exchange Complex**

Please see the link to our Firefly page [here](#) for the schedule for all performances in the Bedfordshire Speech and Drama festival. In their Speech and Drama lesson next week, all boys will receive a slip with the date, time and venue of their performance(s) at the Festival. As we have so many entries, the boys will need to be escorted to and from the performance venue either by yourself or by another parent. Your son will receive a letter with a reply slip where you should detail these transportation arrangements and return to Prep Reception. Alternatively, please email Mrs Bell ([ebell@bedfordschool.org.uk](mailto:ebell@bedfordschool.org.uk)) with these arrangements.

**Pre-Festival Showcase Performances**

A new addition to the calendar this year is the School Showcase of Bedfordshire Festival Speech and Drama performances. The Showcase will span 3 separate dates for different year groups and will take the same format as an Informal Concert in the EMH. This gives boys the opportunity to perform their piece in front of an audience prior to the Festival as well as allowing parents and families to see their son perform at school as well as at the Festival itself. For further details, please see the letter [here](#).

The dates are:

Year 8	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 4:45 - 6:30pm (approx.)
Years 5 & 6	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 4:45 - 6pm (approx.)
Years 3, 4 and 7	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 4:45 - 6pm (approx.)

**Nature and Gardening Club**

The Prep School's Nature Club has just received the level 1 award from the RHS and is now working towards achieving level 2. The club is open to all year groups and runs on Tuesday lunch times from 12.30pm in W13. This term we are aiming to more fully understand how plants and flowers grow and we will be starting a vegetable patch from scratch. The school has also registered with the RSPB to do the birdwatch. More details to follow!

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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
27/01/2018			EXEAT
28/01/2018			EXEAT
30/01/2018	16:30	17:30	U11 Squash fixture against BMS
01/02/2018	14:00	15:30	Y3-6 General Knowledge Quiz Heat 1 (4 boys selected: leave at 12.45pm, return at 4pm)
01/02/2018	16:15	17:15	Y3-4 Harry Potter Day - activities after school
04/02/2018	08:30	09:30	U11A, U11B Football v Victoria College Prep (H)
05/02/2018	13:00	17:30	U13 ESSA Water Polo fixture at NSB
05/02/2018	16:30	19:00	7M & 7S Parents' Evening
06/02/2018	12:30	13:30	PS House Singing rehearsal
06/02/2018	16:30	19:00	7V & 7J Parents' Evening
09/02/2018	09:00	12:00	Y4 at BGS for Performing Arts morning
09/02/2018	13:30	14:15	PS House Singing rehearsal
09/02/2018	14:30	16:10	Prep School House Singing
09/02/2018	16:10		Prep School Half Term Begins

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](#)