

Dear Parents

We have had another busy and productive week with a good number of sports fixtures, and some fun events. Good luck in particular to the U13 Hockey team who are playing in the Regionals for the IAPS competition. Somewhere in the busy week, Housemasters and Houses have found time to rehearse for the House Singing competition, which takes place in the Great Hall next Friday (see details below). All parents and families are welcome, and it is a really enjoyable event. To repeat our request of last week, we would be grateful if you could help your son to learn the words by heart, as one or two are quite rusty.

Well done to all the Harry Potters who turned up to school on Thursday. I thoroughly enjoyed watching a classful in the morning. They were doing maths rather than Defence Against the Dark Arts, but there was a certain magic nonetheless!

In Monday's whole-school assembly this week we welcomed the medical centre team who talked to us about staying healthy and introduced the boys to CPR. On Wednesday Mr Mallalieu piqued our interest with a fascinating talk on atoms.

A huge thank you for taking the time to read through the bulletin, especially for the items which particularly affect your son. All items are important, although can I particularly draw your attention to the Head Bumps info below. Also, a trailer for the "Evening of Mild Amusement" back by popular demand. A chance to see your son's teachers send themselves up in the name of charity (see below).

Have a great weekend!

YEAR 3

Parents in cloakrooms

We would like to politely remind you that parents should not be going into the Year 3 and Year 4 cloakrooms in Nash's and Tisdall's either with or without their sons at the start and end of the school day. We would be grateful if you could say your goodbyes in the mornings and greet your boys in the afternoons outside the buildings. This is actually for regulatory reasons, but it is also very good for the boys to get into the habit of managing their own possessions to a certain extent. Many thanks for your support with this.

Fantastic Beasts Picture Competition

The deadline for entries has been extended to Monday lunchtime. Please bring your picture to one of the libraries before 1 pm for it to be entered.

YEAR 4

Parents in cloakrooms

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Year 4 Performing Arts Morning at Bedford Girls' School, Friday 9th February

Further to the message last week about this event, we really would be very grateful for more parent-volunteers to accompany the boys and teachers while walking between the two schools, in order to keep the boys safe. Setting off from BPS at about 9am, 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). We would be extremely grateful for any assistance.

YEAR 5

YEAR 6

**Y6 Parents' Evening, 4.30 – 7pm in the EMH
Tuesday 20th February (6M and 6V)**

Thursday 22nd February (6N and 6S)

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 Y6 Parents' Evenings which take place the first week back after half term. 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 3rd February) 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

YEAR 7

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

Monday 5th February (7M and 7S)

Tuesday 6th February (7V and 7J)

A brief reminder about next week's Parents' Evenings for all Year 7 parents/guardians. To book your appointments, please visit <https://bedfordschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>. For more details please see the booking guide [here](#).

Please note that appointments can be made until noon the day before, at which point the booking system will close. Should you wish to make any changes after this time please contact prepinfo@bedfordschool.org.uk .

Finally, in the interests of ensuring that all parents get to speak to their son's teacher at the allotted time, please can I urge all parents not to go beyond the 5 minute time slot per subject which you book. Should a longer discussion prove necessary, please make

arrangements to speak to your son's teacher at an alternative time, rather than taking the time booked by another parent. Thank you.

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 next week 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 next week 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.

ALL PS YEAR GROUPS

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week (5th - 11th February). During this week, we will be speaking to the boys about this important topic, focusing in particular on how kindness can help your overall wellbeing. Many of the resources we will be using have been produced for schools by CHUMS. CHUMS is a Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People, providing support to many children throughout Bedfordshire. Parents can refer directly into this service through a link on the website. The CHUMS website also includes links to other websites available for parents and carers who need information to help them support their child's emotional wellbeing. Please contact Miss Donley, Assistant Head Pastoral (rdonley@bedfordschool.org.uk), or your son's Head of Year, if you have concerns in this area.

<http://chums.uk.com/parents/>

Important information about the treatment of head bumps from the medical centre

From next week we are going to trial a new system in the Prep School when a boy receives a bump to the head which requires treatment. This system works well in other schools and will hopefully ensure effective communication between staff in school as well as between school and home.

When a boy receives treatment for a head bump in school, he will be issued with a red paper wristband. The wristband will display the boy's name, the date and the time of the incident and a 'yes' or 'no' relating to whether or not they should be taking part in sports activities. It is hoped that the wristband will provide an additional prompt to parents (and staff in school) that the boy has had a head bump. It should be worn for 48 hours.

In addition to the application of the wristband, the following procedure will be followed by the school nursing team:

1. A text message (or email in the absence of a mobile phone number) will be sent to the boy's primary carer, alerting them of the injury
2. Head bump guidance (describing the signs and symptoms to be aware of following a head bump) will be emailed to parents
3. Prep School teachers will be sent an email alerting them to the injury

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the medical centre.

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. Parking is via the Burnaby Road entrance where security will direct you.

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.

Prep School Quiz Club Success

The Prep School Quiz Club came third yesterday in the National Schools' General Knowledge Quiz Regional Heat at St. Faith's School, Cambridge. Dylan Uppal (Y3), Prejeev Suhitharan (Y4), Fraser Morgan (Y5) & Alex Lamb (Y6) answered question on famous artists, scientific equations and pop songs (amongst others) on their way to third place overall in a hotly contested quiz. We wait to see if their score is high enough to take them through to the semi-finals...

Evening of Mild Amusement, Friday 16th and Saturday 17th March

Following the success of previous 'Evenings of Mild Amusement', parents and boys are invited to an 'Evening of Mild Amusement 2018.' The evening will consist of some 'mildly amusing' playlets and sketches performed by members of the Prep School staff, who will be giving up their time and laying aside their dignity in the name of charity. All money raised on the night will go to this year's House charities.

Peter Bunzl Author Visit, Tuesday 27th February

We are delighted to welcome author, film-maker and animator, Peter Bunzl, to the school on Tuesday 27th 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 8th February**. Cheques should be made payable to Bedford School Trust.

Bedfordshire Speech and Drama Festival 3rd-10th 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 this week, all boys should have received 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 have received 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) 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 21st February 4:45 - 6:30pm (approx.)

Years 5 & 6 Wednesday 28th February 4:45 - 6pm (approx.)

Years 3, 4 and 7 Thursday 1st March 4:45 - 6pm (approx.)

GoCode Academy Tech Camp, 12th to 16th February at Bedford Prep School

Calling all budding coders! If your child is interested in coding, is between 6 and 18 years old, don't miss this opportunity for them to learn more about coding and programming, as well as improve key skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and communication at the next GoCode Academy Tech Camp running during February half term.

This five-day intensive Tech Camp is packed with fun activities, challenges and workshops, where children can build websites, mobile applications and games using Scratch, Python and Minecraft. Whether your child is experienced or a complete novice, GoCode's team of highly experienced instructors are passionate about giving young people an advantage in a digital era where technology skills are in high demand.

The camp runs from Monday 12th – Friday 16th February, between 10am and 4pm and costs £350 per pupil. If your child is interested in coding, please see the [flyer](#) or visit the GoCode [website](#) for more information and to reserve a place.

Start Date	Start Time	End Time	Description
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	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	14:30	16:10	Prep School House Singing
09/02/2018	16:10		Prep School Half Term Begins
19/02/2018	08:40		Second half of term begins
20/02/2018	12:00	13:00	Y7 House Squash
20/02/2018	13:00	13:50	Y5-8 Internet Safety presentation
20/02/2018	16:30	19:00	6M & 6V Parents' Evening
21/02/2018	16:45	18:30	Y8 Showcase for Bedfordshire Festival
22/02/2018	16:30	19:00	6N & 6S Parents' Evening

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](#)