

REFLECTIVE BEDDE'S

Autumn 2018



INTRODUCING OUR HEADS OF SCHOOL



What has been your proudest achievement at Bede's so far?

Probably Sophie Scholl: Die Lezten Tage, a play in German with English subtitles that I put on last year. It was a huge project that involved students from all over the school, including non-German students and students who had never acted before.
Imogen Lock, Head of School

Being selected as Head Boy of School certainly is the major one, but there was one very different achievement that comes very close. Last year, one of the First Years in my house who was struggling in certain areas asked our housemaster if I could become his mentor. That meant a lot to me, as whilst being a Sixth Former, it's always been incredibly important for me to retain a good connection to the junior pupils as I believe it is very beneficial for both sides if there's a student role model they can look up to and more importantly trust with very private issues.
Gabriel Neumann, Head of School

My proudest achievement at Bede's so far was running to the front of assembly dancing in a full Santa Clause costume, dressing up as Tina Turner and freestyling in

House Music. The list goes on...

Leilanni Nesbeth, Deputy Head of School

My proudest achievement has been being able to develop from someone who struggled academically for many years, who wondered whether they would make it to University, to an academic. Also to evolve from an unwatchable, melodramatic performer to someone who is considering whether or not to pursue it as a career. I'm proud of the journey I've been party to through my education. That's by far my greatest achievement.

Tom McGovern, Deputy Head of School

If you could travel to any time period in history, where would you go?

1920's America.

Imogen Lock, Head of School

I'd really like to experience Rome at the height of the Roman Empire, as I am truly impressed by how well developed they already were back then in terms of their infrastructure and political system.

Gabriel Neumann, Head of School

Back to the 80's when Michael Jackson was popping.

Leilanni Nesbeth, Deputy Head of School

1960's America: great music, general prosperity, an emphasis on home life and it would have been a perfect time for me to leave a time capsule for myself recommending I invest in Bitcoin.

Tom McGovern, Deputy Head of School

The Queen is coming over for dinner - what do you cook?

Pesto pasta, because it's pretty much all I can cook.

Imogen Lock, Head of School

I would keep it simple and just grill a few Bratwursts to remind her of her German heritage. I imagine she gets enough special food all the time, so something simple is hopefully appreciated!

Gabriel Neumann, Head of School

Domino's large size stuffed crust pizza, two litres of english tea and Yorkshire puddings.

Leilanni Nesbeth, Deputy Head of School

I would order Domino's, because I can't cook.
Tom McGovern, Deputy Head of School

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BEDE'S OPENS ZOO EXTENSION



On Thursday 6 September, Bede's Senior School celebrated the extension of its bespoke Animal Management Unit with an official opening by Dr Christoph Schwitzer, Chief Zoological Officer of the Bristol Zoological Society.



The event welcomed Bede's parents, pupils and staff - as well as representatives from Drusillas Park, Chessington World of Adventures and the Zoological Society of East Anglia - for tours, speeches, and drinks and canapés.

Bede's Zoo has been extended with six brand-new enclosures, housing African birds, Madagascan lemurs, and South American squirrel monkeys. The zoo - which originally opened in 2011 - currently hosts over 70 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish and invertebrates. The zoo forms the cornerstone of the Sixth Form BTEC Animal Management course, as well as one of the School's most popular activities, the Zoological Society. Since

Bede's started offering the course in 2013, and since then nearly 40 pupils have completed the BTEC qualification, with the majority achieving distinction level. Pupils who have undertaken the course have moved on to study veterinary medicine, veterinary nursing, zoology and conservation. John Tuson, Academic Deputy Head at Bede's Senior School, says, "With the extensive development of our various animal enclosures, the arrival of a number of new species, and the appointment of the zoo's first manager, 2018 has been a very busy year for the Bede's Zoo.

"With the opening of the new extension, Bede's has a truly unique facility: a zoo which is a teaching resource, which enables

pupils to learn and to pursue their interests, and which allows pupils to participate in national and international programmes for the benefit of wildlife.

"The Bede's Zoo is not, primarily, a facility for sightseers: it is a working part of a school rather than a visitor attraction. However, each month we welcome many groups to the school zoo - from local schools, disadvantaged children, children from our own Prep School, or anyone who is interested in the work we are doing. In this increasingly digital age, there is a lot to be said for the benefits of spending time with a Ring-tailed lemur, or a Kinkajou.

"We look forward to seeing the zoo blossom over the next few years as an increasing number of pupils embrace and enjoy



the academic, co-curricular and holistic opportunities the facility brings."



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HELPING FIND THE ORIGINS OF LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING!



The Physics Department at Bede's is delighted to have been accepted onto a research project as a partner to the Edinburgh Astronomy and Technology Centre.

As part of this programme, Bede's A level Physics pupils will be collaborating with real scientists who are the European leads on one of four instruments in the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) which will be the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope in 2021.

One of the main goals of the JWST is to observe some of the most distant events and objects in the universe and to understand how the universe was formed. The JWST will be the largest space telescope ever built and will facilitate ground-breaking investigations in the fields of astronomy and cosmology.

Along with their partner scientists in Edinburgh, Bede's pupils will be involved in analysing data from the Spitzer Mission, a previous telescope mission in 2003, that collected data from 11,000 stars and bright objects. Pupils will mainly be looking for space gems, a process known as "cosmic mining" and findings from this will help direct the James Webb Mission to focus on specific areas of scientific interest. Commenting on the news, Bede's physics teacher, Dr Suzanne Lewis said, "Our Sixth Form Physics pupils will be operating at the same level as a post-graduate researcher. I was lucky enough to have worked in the field of quantum physics research for several years, and therefore I am personally thrilled that our pupils will be able to gain such a deep insight into the challenges and joys of research work." Early in the New Year, pupils will start completing their online training, learning how to analyse the data. Any findings made by the pupils could be published, and would likely mean that Bede's pupils' names would appear on research papers. The pupils will also be invited to

attend a conference at Queen Mary University London to present their findings along with other partnering schools and researchers.

Dr Lewis added, "The launch date for the JWST is 2021 and it is very much my hope that through this partnership, Bede's will have formed an enduring connection with the mission which will continue after its launch.

"Although this partnership will mainly involve our A level pupils, they will also introduce some of our science enthusiasts at GCSE level to the project and so the insights will be shared as widely as possible throughout the School. I can't wait to get started!"

The Institute of Research in Schools which co-ordinates the project as part of its work supporting pupils and teachers in carrying out their own research in STEM related areas, reports that schools who have been involved in such projects have seen a 40% increase in university offers for STEM subjects as well as in medicine and engineering.

Lower Sixth pupil. Ben Izett, explained what the project would mean for him saying, "This is the first time I will have participated in a real scientific research project and that's obviously exciting. The possibility of being featured in a research project is also highly motivating."

John Tuson, Bede's Academic Deputy Head, summed up the news by saying, "I am delighted for our physicists who I'm sure will benefit immensely from such a profound insight into the world of academic research. I have no doubt that Dr Lewis' own impressive credentials in the world of quantum physics research are one of the key reasons we were selected to participate in this programme and I am looking forward to following the pupils' progress."

FIRST YEAR PUPILS REFLECT ON 'THE LIVES OF OTHERS' IN TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION

In October the winners of the First Year Travel Writing Competition were announced in a prize-giving event and reading by award-winning writer Suzy Joinson.

Over a month after the competition launched, with its intriguing stimulus phrase of 'the lives of others', the year group gathered en masse to gain a very special insight into the world of writing for a living.

Suzy, whose first two novels gained international acclaim, explored with pupils the attributes needed to carve out a successful career, and how to craft the most memorable prose. Explaining the mysterious process of turning those first tentative scribbles into a finished piece, she laid heavy emphasis on two distinct processes: the rush of an inspired first draft, followed by the patient and precise crafting of the finished piece. No writer, asserted Suzy, gets it right first time, reminding us of Thomas Mann's paradox that a true writer is someone who finds writing more difficult than others. The trick, it seemed, was perseverance, something which any of us can acquire. As we reached the end of our interview - a discussion that took in the perils of eating abroad and surviving in tropical heat - one question gave the room a palpable sense of expectation: who would win the competition? With every pupil in the year group putting forward an entry, the judging had never been so tough.

Our short-listed writers were Thea Adams, whose piece on the Detwiler wildfire really caught the judge's eye with its superb turns

of phrase, as well as Renata Trigueros-Santacruz, whose heart-wrenching and emotionally complex tale of a mother really impressed with its ambition and maturity. Completing the shortlist, we had a wonderfully mature, sensitive and evocative piece from Eric Oxenden Rodriguez, whose writing benefitted from a powerful juxtaposition between the settings of Gatwick airport and rural Uganda. And the final name on our shortlist was Will Green, who really impressed with his vivid evocation of favela life in Rio de Janeiro. But there could be only one winner.

For his sun-soaked account of a family holiday to Laganas in Greece, featuring some staggering word choices and a thoroughly exciting encounter with a sea turtle, first prize went to Dorms pupil George Linehan. For the teachers and audience members in attendance, this was certainly a worthy winner, though every pupil could take heart. This year's entries were, by far, the strongest of the last few years. The English department would like to thank every pupil who entered and spent time devising and crafting such varied and interesting pieces. The stimulus phrase inspired some marvellous flights of fancy, from seeing ballet in Russia to Elk stalking in Norway to deep sea diving off the coast of Wales.

Later in the year, we will be able to read the winning entries in full in the Small Island creative writing magazine, and also catch up with a few of the winners in the Small Island podcast.

FIRST YEAR PUPILS LEARN CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY



Our First Year pupils have been learning about Chinese culture by practising the art of calligraphy.

Calligraphy, literally 'the law of writing', has been appreciated as an art form in many different cultures throughout the world, but the stature of calligraphy in Chinese culture is unmatched. In China, calligraphy was considered not just a form of decorative art; rather, it was viewed as self-expression and cultivation. In fact, it is still very common to see people practising calligraphy with a bucket of water and a sponge brush in the parks.



Commenting on the calligraphy lesson, Grace Tuson, First Year pupil, said, "My favourite part was learning how to draw my name in Chinese, which are three very difficult characters."

Matthew Summer, First Year, adds, "It was really interesting and very different from writing in English, because you have to hold the brush straight."

Chinese is introduced in two ways in the First Year at Bede's: as a choice of Modern Foreign Language, and as part of the 21st Century Study. Chinese Study is also embedded in the 21st Century Studies, which is compulsory for all First Year pupils.

Jenny Chen
Head of Chinese



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WASHINGTON: A PLACE RICH IN ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORY

On the last Thursday before October half term seventeen A level History and Government and Politics pupils departed for a long weekend in Washington DC.

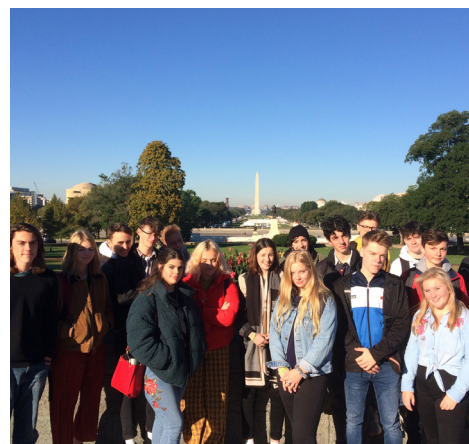
It was an early start; we left for Heathrow at 6.30am for our flight around midday, and 12 hours later were arriving at our hotel in downtown Washington, just a few blocks from The National Mall. After a full day's travelling and dinner at the hotel the group was ready for three days of exploring what downtown DC had to offer.

On Friday morning we were met by Bryan, our guide, who was a former US Airforce officer who had flown VIP flights for a range

none of the protestors who had been mounting a vigil since the appointment of Justice Kavanaugh. After viewing the court room and a range of exhibits we then headed next door to the Library of Congress, an opulently decorated building that houses over 164 million items. After lunch we headed to Ford's Theatre, site of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. He was shot whilst watching the play 'My American Cousin'; unfortunately his bodyguard had chosen an inopportune time to visit a local tavern. The museum outlines the events leading up to the fateful evening, whilst across the road at Petersen House, the site of Lincoln's death several hours later, the story continues with John Wilkes Booth's eventual death. After dinner at Hard Rock (many regretted having a starter and a main) we returned to the theatre to watch a political satire 'Born Yesterday', about Senate corruption in the 1950s.

On Saturday we started our morning back on Capitol Hill, with a visit inside the US Congress. After a passing through Emancipation Hall we had a tour of parts of the building, including the Crypt, the Rotunda and the Old House of Representatives. After lunch at Union Station we met up again with Bryan for a historical walking tour of the Mall, with great views of the White House (alas President Trump was in Arizona), the Washington and Lincoln Memorials, and memorials to a range of conflicts including WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

of politicians. After a great breakfast we walked the short distance to the US Capitol, and were able to grab some amazing photos before the crowds arrived. From there it was a short walk to the Supreme Court, however as the court was not sitting there were



particularly moving, with many veterans and family members remembering friends and loved ones who lost their lives in South East Asia. There was also a visit to the new Martin Luther King memorial, which was powerful and thought-provoking. We then walked around the Tidal Basin to the Jefferson Memorial (our ninth of the tour) before spending the evening at The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, an out of town shopping mall anchored by Nordstrom and Macey's. Needless to say, there were far more bags present in the taxis home! On the final day we started at Arlington National Cemetery. By now we were feeling the pace so took advantage of the 'hop on hop off' tour bus to go straight to the Memorial Amphitheatre, on the way passing the Kennedy grave site, the Space Shuttle Challenger memorial and the Lockerbie Cairn. We witnessed a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (actually four tombs, although one is empty after the remains were identified through DNA and reburied). Our final visit was the Smithsonian Museum of American History. This included exhibits on Civil Rights, US Presidents and US elections, as well as the Batmobile and Dorothy's red shoes from the Wizard of Oz!

Overall it was a fantastic trip, visiting all of the major sites and gaining real insight into the history and politics of Washington and the wider USA; the trip will be running next in Oct 2020, and will be offered to all A Level History and Government and Politics pupils.

James Whittaker
Head of History



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ENHANCING ACADEMICS

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The educational enrichment programme at Bede's forms a vital addition to the School's rich and vibrant academic curriculum.

From the very beginning of their school career, pupils take part in a wide range of co-curricular activities on offer, many of which have strong academic links and benefits - from the English Department Podcast and Masterclass Programme, to the Model United Nations, Politics and Economics Society, Space Science Club, The Duke of Edinburgh Award and Debating Club. First Year pupils have the opportunity to gain insight into the skills and knowledge needed when looking at future careers with the 21st Century Studies Carousel. Here, pupils practice interview techniques and professional introductions, identify employability skills and also go on to complete a careers research project in advance of their GCSE options. On entering Sixth Form, pupils use all of the knowledge, confidence and interests gained in and out of the classroom to focus on their next steps after school - whether that is into university study, apprenticeships, or the world of work. Our Sixth Form pupils also benefit from the Bede's Diploma (a holistic qualification that prepares pupils for further study, increasing their employability and builds soft skills), and our comprehensive Careers Engagement Programme.

CAREERS ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Led by Mrs Deborah Franks, Head of Careers and Employability, the programme was launched just 18 months ago, and has grown significantly in this short space of time, with plans to expand it even further over the coming months.

Speaking about this term's lunchtime careers seminars, Mrs Franks says, "We have welcomed representatives from a wide range of sectors, including the RAF, civil, structural and marine engineering, international

hospitality, law, the media, sales and recruitment, heritage and conservation, and gap year opportunities. "We also welcomed the National Apprenticeship Service for an evening seminar highlighting the opportunities available. This was extremely well attended which was good to see." Alongside group seminars and workshops, Mrs Franks has held one-to-one sessions with more than 50 pupils this term, which includes career profiling, action planning and research into workplace experience opportunities.

"We are lucky to have a large breadth of industry contacts," Mrs Franks continues, "and this is expanding all the time. In the near future, we have plans to host seminars focused on veterinary medicine, brand communication, logistics, banking, criminal justice, personal training and land-based careers.

"We will also be hosting our Careers Fair in March 2019, which will welcome over 50 exhibitors including national and local employers, universities and specialist institutions, alongside pupils from five other local schools. For International Women's Day in the same month, we will host a speed-networking event for female pupils and professionals in industries including construction, cyber security, computer programming and engineering.

"Next summer, we will again host our Lower Sixth Futures Week as part of the Bede's Diploma, which will feature a range of workshops covering life skills, interview intelligence, employability skills and UCAS Personal Statements, as well as a range of talks."



For those pupils who wish to pursue university study, Bede's offers a range of support and opportunities to facilitate this. "We organise scheduled visits to destinations such as Oxford, Cambridge, Sussex, Imperial and other leading UK universities," Mr Paul Gibbs, Director of Higher Education explains. "We also hosts subject specific talks led by visiting speakers - for example, a visiting speaker from Churchill College, Cambridge visits each autumn to speak to our Gifted and Talented Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils." So, what is next for the Careers Engagement Programme? "We will be building our network of mentors to support pupils individually and as mentors, as well as providing resources to enable pupils to research work placements," Mrs Franks says. "It is so important that the programme continues to be an active and evolving offer for our pupils. Giving pupils the opportunity to work on their pre-employment skills allows them to be prepared for the demanding modern-day recruitment and selection processes, and gives them more of an edge against the competition. Allowing pupils the time to focus on their future careers - and the unique blend of skills that they already have to succeed - also gives them real focus and motivation in their studies and beyond. "I'm very proud of what the programme has already achieved, and look forward to building on its success in the future." If you would like to get involved in the Careers Engagement Programme by becoming a mentor, please email: deborah.franks@bedes.org. You can also follow Bede's Careers Service on Twitter at [@BedesCareers](https://twitter.com/BedesCareers).



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GUEST SPEAKERS

Staff and pupils at Bede's have been fortunate to have benefited from the wisdom, inspiration and perspective from an incredible range of speakers this term. September saw pupils and parents gathered together for a talk by Michael Caulfield, Director and Sport Psychologist at Sporting Edge. Using practical tools from performance psychology with inspiring video stories from proven high performers, Mr Caulfield's talk focused on the importance of setting goals. Attendees learnt valuable techniques in how to reach goals, managing challenges and setbacks, and using experiences to build resilience and improve performance. Mr Caulfield also hosted an interactive session on the mind-set required to cope with the challenges many face in a busy, fast-paced world. David Byrne, Director of Sport at Bede's, said, "It was fantastic to welcome Mr Caulfield to Bede's for this fascinating talk and interactive session, which I know our pupils will remember as they look ahead to achieving their own goals in sport and academically'.



got dressed in the period (a much more laboured and time-consuming task than today!), with Ms Conlon ably assisted by Lower Sixth pupil Megan Hume. Attendees also had the opportunity to see authentic handmade costume pieces. A highly valued member of our Drama Department, Ms Conlon and specialises in period dress and underwear.

October also saw Alex Hibbert, polar explorer and author of three books; 'The Long Haul', 'Maybe' and 'Kalaallit Nunaat' talk to the Bede's Diploma pupils about his 2013 'Dark Ice' project, with its aim to reach the North Pole, without resupply, but in full winter conditions, with the sun below the horizon throughout. Unfortunately, due to an unusually poor set of ice conditions from its Greenlandic start point, Alex decided not to risk the 90% chance of needing a rescue, so spent the winter and spring in the local Polar Eskimo/Inughuit community. Alex spoke about the wonders of meeting the Eskimo/Inughuit people, and living alongside them and how much he learnt from the experience about expeditions.

In December we welcomed Higher Education expert, Nick Hillman, to discuss the ever-changing landscape of the universities sector with our parent body. Nick, a multi-talented

journalist and a leading figure in powerful think-tank HEPI, outlined many things, including the differences between student and parent expectation and the reality of university life today, plus several top tips for the future. There were lots of questions from parents at the end of Nick's presentation and we look forward to Nick visiting the school again in the new year if possible amid a very busy schedule. Nick was hugely informative and very engaging and the slides from the talk and a recording should be with all parents across the Trust very soon.



In October, as part of the lead up to Bede's Drama Department's production of *The Crucible*, we welcomed Eleanor Conlon for a fascinating talk on the costume of the period last month. Entitled *Shakespeare's Wardrobe: Getting Dressed in the 16th and 17th Centuries*, the talk began discussing the history of clothing and its significance in everyday life and the theatre. The event also featured a demonstration of how a woman



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EXPLORING THE PATHWAY TO A GREAT CAREER

In November, Bede's parents were warmly invited to an evening seminar on the changing world and growth of apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships, which offer an alternative route to higher education, are becoming big business - as is the Bede's community's interest in them, as I discovered when the Recital Room filled up in November. The Apprenticeship Awareness Seminar was an information sharing event for parents,



carers and guardians, which aimed to offer a balanced perspective on the pros and cons, competitiveness and preparation needed for students considering a modern-day apprenticeship.

We were fortunate enough to be joined by Menna El-Guindy, from the National Apprenticeship Service, who offered the latest information on the development of a the vast range of apprenticeships and their differing levels (Intermediate, Advanced, Higher and Degree), as well as practical advice on how to research and source them. With employers such as Cap Gemini, PWC, The Bank of England, Jaguar, IBM, British Airways, BT, GSK and BAE Systems, all offering pupils early opportunities to earn, learn and progress in industry, there is an obvious attraction for some.

Alongside this, the financial benefits of a degree level apprenticeship - where pupils study for their degree (paid for by the employer) and earn a wage at the same time as gaining early industry experience,

are starting to turn a few heads. These apprenticeships are highly coveted and competitive, (owing to their fast-rising popularity) with national employers, quite rightly, being able to be highly selective in their recruitment processes. Degree apprenticeships are also now offered through a handful of Russell Group universities, giving a further nod, if one were needed, to their credibility and value in the workplace. However, they aren't for everyone, apprenticeships are heavily industry based, and so pupils need to have committed themselves to a career path before embarking on this route. It will come as no surprise that not all young people are ready to do that. Not going to university is also a bold move for many. The life changing, and often life affirming experiences attributed to university life, are somewhat missed out on when taking up an apprenticeship. And let's be honest, a good degree, from an Oxbridge or Russell Group university, is highly unlikely to close any doors for future graduates. Here at Bede's, the Careers and Employability Service aims to ensure our pupils are well informed about their future choices. Pupils interested in apprenticeships are offered tailored support with researching and identifying appropriate roles, as well as practical advice on the application process and being prepared for, what can be a demanding recruitment process. Applying



for an apprenticeship is effectively like applying for a job. Employers are looking for the employability potential of students, just as much as their academics. Thankfully, one of the many splendours of our school is the extensive range of opportunities for pupils to develop academically and personally through their houses, and through the co-curricular programme- all of which, go a rather long way to prepare students for their future careers.

For more information on apprenticeship support at Bede's, please get in touch with Deborah, at deborah.franks@bedes.org

Deborah Franks
Head of Careers and Employability



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TRIPS AND VISITS

The summer holidays and Autumn Term have seen many examples of the numerous rich learning opportunities offered at Bede's.

This year, once again, a significant number of our pupils were involved in educational trips and visits.

MUSIC AND ARTS

The first group to set off, on the first week of the holidays, were some of Bede's musicians and dramatists who flew to Vienna and Verona, where they took part in drama groups, sung in lakeside villas and performed in a cathedral to local residents.



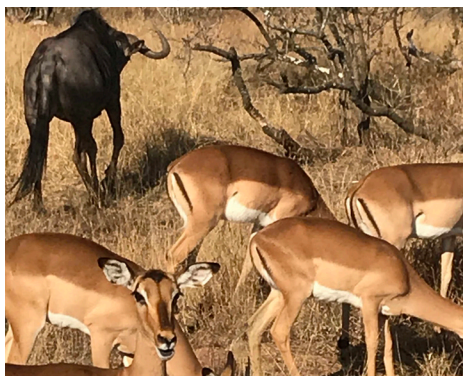
A trip to Verona would not be complete without a trip to Juliet's balcony, something which was particularly resonant for Echo Abraham, who played Juliet in a recent school production.

During the second week of term the English Writer's group and Upper Sixth Theatre Studies pupils enjoyed a trip to the Playhouse Theatre to watch "The Jungle" an immersive and poignant play about the migrant crisis. Many of the pupils commented that this was one of the best plays they had seen and was a very strong reminder of the conditions endured by migrants. Jessica Frisby summed up the experience by saying, "One thought struck me urgently: that we, the next generation, should do more to help these people."



CHARITY AND CONSERVATION

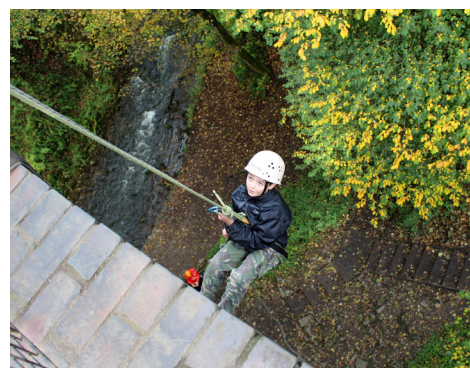
During the summer holidays a group of 15 pupils took part in a wildlife conservation trip to South Africa, led by Ms French and Mr Juniper. The group stayed and worked at Siyafunda Wildlife which is part of the Greater Makalali Reserve, on the edge of the Kruger National Park, and home to a number of endangered species including black and white rhinos, elephants, leopards and cheetahs. The pupils were trained in tracking and telemetry techniques to monitor the various species as well as monitoring drives. Following a week volunteering in the field, the pupils enjoyed two days of camping and safari in the Kruger National Park.



Mr Juniper summed up the trip saying, "This really was a life changing experience for our pupils, who got to see some of the most endangered animals on the planet in their natural habitat. We managed to track both black and white rhino as well as seeing lions, leopards, jackal, hippo and many species of rare birds and invertebrates in their natural habitat."

TEAM BUILDING

The First Year Outdoor Pursuits trip to the beautiful village of Edale in the Peak District provided the perfect opportunity for pupils to come together as a year group, to climb a little higher, step a little wider and dig a little deeper. The week saw pupils trying their hand at abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing and weaselling as well as the ever-popular night hike.



The early days of the Autumn Term also saw the Gold Duke of Edinburgh team head to the Lake District for their expedition.

Over the course of four days and three nights, the team hiked an impressive 80 kilometres, climbed numerous peaks and got soaked in downpours.

Yet the weather didn't dampen their spirits. Despite the expedition being both mentally and physically exhausting, the pupils who took part said it was an incredibly rewarding bonding experience and four days of being 'phone free' provided a good release for seven stressed teenagers!



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LITERATURE AND DISCOURSE

The term started with a truly enriching experience for some of our English pupils as they immersed themselves in the inspiring experience of the Charleston Festival.



Every September, the Small Wonder Short Fiction Festival brings the brightest stars in the literary firmament to Sussex. This year, the Charleston-Bede's Award for a Lifetime's Excellence in Short Fiction was awarded to Dame Antonia Byatt. She is the sixth recipient of the only award to recognise long standing creativity and achievement in the short story genre.

The Charleston Festival also saw four fortunate pupils invited to take part in reading of Virginia Woolf's 'Orlando: A Biography'. It was read in its entirety to mark 90 years since it was first published and was introduced and led by Jeanette Winterston.



EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT

The autumn half term break presented the perfect opportunity for more of our pupils and staff to set off on some trips to enhance learning in subjects including History and Politics and Biology to Washington DC and rural Somerset respectively. A full report of the Washington trip can be read later on in this newsletter.



Our biologists headed to Nettlecombe Court carried out a range of investigations including shore land ecology, identifying the species living in the rivers. The pupils also looked at the local grasslands. These explorations concluded on the Saturday before the group departed when the pupils finished their investigations, collected the data and then ran it through statistical tests before writing up their full findings. The trip leader, Nancy Morton-Freeman said of the trip, "The group were very focussed on their studies during the trip and I was really impressed by how much they achieved away from the confines of the classroom."



In late November, it was the turn of our Lower Sixth geographers to embark on some fieldwork, this time closer to home in Eastbourne. The day began on the top of the Downs before the group moved down into Upper Meads and Seaside Road residential areas to undertake surveys on the environmental condition of the area



and provision of local services. Next, the pupils moved on to the new shopping centre to interview local residents about recent changes in the town, before learning about how the town's history has shaped the seafront.



Our EAL pupils enjoyed a trip to Brighton Theatre Royal to see the stage adaption of Rain Man. The visit took place during Mental Health week and the significance of this emotional production about autism was not lost on the group.

SPORT

Over half term, the senior and junior hockey teams headed to Porto for a five day mid-season training camp. The 38 girls on the trip were fortunate enough to play against local Portuguese opposition in three competitive matches as well as having the opportunity to be coached by Fernando Gomes, the Portugal U18 boys national team coach.



The junior group played against Portuguese national team players in their fixtures and fought admirably in all three matches. The senior groups' highlight was a thrilling draw versus Viso Hockey Club Ladies 1st XI, who play in the National Portuguese Premier League.

The group did have some downtime, and spent time sightseeing around Porto as well as a day on the Porto Atlantic beach.

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CABARET 2018

Thursday 29, Friday 30 November and Saturday 1 December saw the return of Bede's Senior School's annual Cabaret event: a spectacle of music, dance and drama, which once again showcased our pupils' extraordinary talents on the stage and behind the scenes.



Last week, the Sports Hall at Bede's Senior School in Upper Dicker was transformed into an elegant dinner-and-dance concert venue. Guests - including pupils, families, staff and alumni - were treated to performances by Bede's dramatists on arrival, with the theme

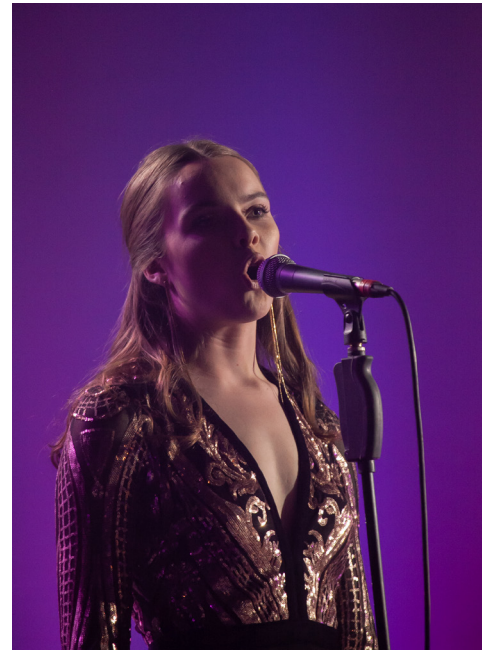


of 'Musicals' setting the scene for what was to be an incredible evening of show-stopping performances. The evening was seamlessly compèred by Echo Abraham, Max Mason, Grace Stannard and Freddie Tuson, who entertained the audience with kind introductions and witty interludes throughout. The first Concert's opening number saw the Cabaret Singers (with solos from Meghan Longden and Will Hopkins), Cabaret Orchestra and Legat Dancers join forces for a rendition of 'This Is The Greatest Show' from well-loved modern musical, The Greatest Showman. This was a spectacle of colour and sound, which provided an extremely high benchmark for the next performances. What followed most certainly didn't disappoint. The next few songs featured a pitch-perfect James Bond medley, courtesy of the Cabaret Orchestra; an operatic performance of 'Waltz Of My Heart' by Head of School Imogen Lock, beautifully complemented by an elegant waltz from the Legat Dancers; and a haunting acoustic version of 'Bang Bang' by Chloe Rayner and Matthew Grant.

The audience was then treated to the Legat Dancers' exquisite ballet piece, 'Serenade', followed by the Bede's Barbershop's first performance of the evening: a powerful rendition of 'Memory' from Cats The Musical. Finishing off the first Concert, we welcomed the Lower Sixth BTEC Band for a harmonious rendition of Adele's 'Rolling In The Deep', joined by a modern dance performed impeccably by the Legat Dancers.

After a short break to eat the delicious main course, the second Concert opened with a tour de force performance of a medley from 'Les Misérables', performed with rousing energy by The Cabaret Singers (with solos from Flossie Wilson, Jess Frisby, Megan Hume, Evan Nayler and Anoushka Beardshaw).

Next, we welcomed Daisy Noton to the stage, who wowed the audience with her outstanding flute solo of the notoriously difficult 'Carnival of Venice'; this was a magnificent performance for a musician yet to take her GCSEs! The Legat Dancers



accompanied the music with whimsical folk choreography, performed, as ever, with accurate precision and poise.

Next up were some genuine showstoppers. The Cabaret Concert Band (with soloists Timothy Scott-Rutt, Joe Marks and Tom



Harrison) and The Jazz Choir featuring Rosa Marks, Ksenia Reimchen, Charlotte Webb, Imogen Lock, Meghan Longden and Lilli Longden, performed an upbeat rendition of 'One Night Only' from the musical Dreamgirls, before Will Hopkins showcased his brilliantly powerful vocals in the jazz rendition of

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'Wonderwall' (seamlessly accompanied by The Jazz Band). The Cabaret Concert Band then wowed with their harmonious Chicago The Musical medley, and Rosa Marks delivered a beautiful, emotive solo performance of 'How Could I Ever Know' from The Secret Garden. Jazz fans in the audience (of which there were many) then enjoyed technically brilliant renditions of the much-loved classics 'Birdland' and 'Sidewinder', performed impeccably by the Jazz Band. Next came Amber Giles' stunning performance of the second The Greatest Showman song of the evening, 'Never Enough'. The ballad was followed by an upbeat rendition of 'Hey Ya!' by the Upper Sixth BTEC Band, accompanied by humorous choreography courtesy of the Upper Sixth Legat Dancers.

Sisters Meghan and Lili Longden then took to the stage to perform a powerful and emotive rendition of 'For Good' from one of the world's most loved musicals, Wicked. For the final performance of the second Concert, The Jazz Choir, Cabaret Concert Band and Bede's Barbershop collaborated in their epic performance of Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Special mention must go to the three guitar soloists, each of whom performed on one of the three nights: Tom



Adams, Oscar Fowler and Matthew Grant.

Following a delicious pudding and coffee break, Concert 3 opened with Jan Apolin and The Jazz Band's smooth rendition of 'Come Fly With Me'. Following this came the announcement that the dancefloor was now open for the audience, with the rest of the Concert providing the perfect soundtrack to dance the night away.

First up was Dancing Queen, admirably performed by The Cabaret Concert Band and The Jazz Choir; then came a beautiful solo performance of 'Son Of A Preacher Man' by Grace Stannard; followed by The Cabaret Singers' upbeat rendition of 'I'm Still Standing' with solos from Flossie Wilson and Megan Hume.

Next, The Jazz Choir once again performed harmonious interpretations of well-known songs - this time 'Best Of Earth, Wind and Fire' and 'Papa's Got A Brand New Bag'. This was followed by a melodious swing version of 'Sing, Sing, Sing' by Amber Gott (also one of our Legat Dancers), Charlotte Webb and Ksenia Reimchen. The Concert ended with a stirring performance of 'Higher and Higher' courtesy of The Jazz Choir and Jazz Band.



However, the evening was far from over! Following Concert 3, the Upper Sixth BTEC band took to the stage to keep the audience dancing with their fantastic renditions of modern pop classics, including 'Uptown Funk' and 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough'. A huge thank you must go to Chris Prescott, of U2 Media, and Steve Hopkins for making the hall look and sound a million dollars; Alexander Bloch for the wonderful visuals; our fabulous caterers, Holroyd Howe and the whole Bede's team for making Cabaret such a continuing and resounding success.

We cannot be more proud of our pupils for their dedication and commitment to delivering their very best performances possible, both on and off the stage. Well done to all!

Robert Scamardella
Director of Music



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BEDE'S PRODUCTION OF 'THE CRUCIBLE'

Earlier in November, this year's Senior Production, of Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible', offered audiences a tour de force experience.

To relay the palpable terror, creeping dread and frantic paranoia, Bede's English Teacher Mr Sealey enlisted Lower Fifth pupils Florence Olley and Amelia Entwisle to review the performance...

On Thursday 17 November, Bede's Lower Fifth pupils enjoyed an incredible opportunity: the chance to witness the words we have been studying in the classroom brought to vivid, anguished, screaming life by our peers in a professional-grade theatrical performance.

The matinée performance we attended took



place in the Miles Studio Theatre within the school's grounds, and featured actors and actresses from the First Year (Year 9) all the way up to the Upper Sixth (Year 13).

As the house lights dropped, the only source of light was a small, smouldering bonfire, making for a mysterious and eerie scene. Then, yelping figures emerged from behind the cracked and warped wood of the Theatre Production Design team's deceptive, enigmatic woodland set. Without any explanation, girls appeared and began to dance, sing and chant as if possessed. All in attendance were immediately entranced by this arcane sequence of events, and by the subsequent repulsions that then unfolded.

The manic, deranged atmosphere created by the actors and staging in this first scene did not stop, with tree-trunks turning to reveal a sick bed, then later the heart of the Proctor

home, and after that a court, and a grimy prison cell.

Set during the Salem Witch Trials, the play explores how paranoia, pretense and petty revenge can play out in traumatic, awful ways. To emphasize the darkness of the story, the production's Director, Mrs Lewis, and her team in the Drama department, created authentically Puritan costumes. Dark, simple and plain, the clothing contrasted with the firework displays of acting that radiated from the young cast.

Of the many notable performances, the most potent came from Freddie Tuson.

His descent, as a young-faced, cocksure John Proctor, saw a prideful deceiver



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BEWITCHES AUDIENCES

transformed, through horror, into an honest martyr. His was the central and most moving element of the production, elevated by a sensitive, modest and heartfelt rendition of Elizabeth Proctor, John's long-suffering wife, care of the ever-skillful Grace Stannard, who acted every inch his foil.

Elsewhere, Max Mason's glowering, haughty Danforth was impressive to a point of effortlessness, and Trinity Gott and Elvis Abraham from the First Year, as Betty and



Herrick respectively, showed great confidence and courage.

Indeed, all of the actors performed phenomenally, and, while this may be something we have all come to expect from a Bede's production, the depth and range of talents on show ought to be recognized, celebrated, and shouted from the rooftops.

With evening performances across the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday,



well over a thousand people saw this year's Senior Production, and those who did not missed out.

Considering all the talk of 'witch hunts' in the news, it is hard to imagine a more timely play for the school to have put on - or a more useful one, considering it is one of our GCSE English Literature set texts!



DAISY NOTON JOINS NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA FOR SECOND YEAR

Upper Fifth pupil Daisy Noton has been accepted into the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (NYO) as a flautist for a second year running.

Daisy has enjoyed a successful year in music, with several prestigious concerts under her belt - including the BBC Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall, her first solo concert at the Opus Theatre in Hastings, and a standout performance of 'The Carnival of Venice' at this month's Bede's Senior School Cabaret.



Commenting on her first year in the NYO, Daisy says, "It has been amazing. I have met some lovely, talented people, and have really enjoyed the variety of music played, from opera to film scores. I also performed to a full audience at the Royal Albert Hall for the first time, which was an incredible experience." Alongside performing, Daisy's role in the NYO encompassed taking part in leadership training workshops and running mentoring sessions for young musicians. "This was really fun, and encouraging younger pupils to engage with music and performance was very rewarding," Daisy says.

Daisy - who will also be taking her GCSE exams next summer - is looking forward to her second year in the NYO, where her performing and mentoring will continue. "We have a range of performances scheduled, and there will be a tour to America - which will include playing at the Carnegie Hall - next summer, and I will be hosting a fundraising concert at Bede's for the trip next year." Mr Scamardella, Director of Music at Bede's, adds, "To have been accepted in to the NYO just once is a fantastic achievement, and to have accomplished this two years in a row is testament to Daisy's talent, commitment and dedication for music. We are incredibly proud of all that Daisy has achieved so far, and know that she has a very bright future."

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ALL AROUND THE HOUSES!



Back in the early days of September, many houses held events enjoyed by pupils, parents and staff in celebration of the start of term.

On Sunday 2 September, boarding pupils from across the Bede's community came together to take part in a Colour Run at Bede's Senior School. The event welcomed pupils from all the boarding houses, including boarders from Meads End at the Prep School. Alex Murphy, Dorter Housemistress, said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for all the boarders to settle into the School environment, build relationships with their fellow pupils from across the boarding community, and - of course - have fun! This is the first time we have hosted an event for all boarders across the Senior and Prep Schools, and this was so well received that we hope to host many more of these events in the future."



There have been numerous events to welcome parents. On Wednesday 12 September, Bloomsbury held their first-ever new parent welcome event organised by the House Prefects. Parents and pupils changed seats between courses, so everyone had the chance to speak with a

wide variety of people. The prefects then spoke about their aspirations for the year ahead in Bloomsbury.



On Friday 21 September, Camberlot and Dorter Houses held a joint parent and pupil BBQ. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet other parents from their child's house and year group, and to see how well the pupils have settled into the house environment. Several parents commented on how much the pupils already enjoy one another's company (a few friendly games of Swing Ball was testament to this), and found the photos of the children displayed in house very heartwarming.

Dorter House also hosted over 70 pupils from across the houses for a Mexican Night. Isabella Casanova Nava, Upper Fifth, created a fantastic menu of delicious food from her home country, including nachos, guacamole and a special Mexican cake. The food was incredibly popular, and disappeared in the blink of an eye. After dinner, we enjoyed a Hispanic-themed karaoke and disco, followed by watching the film 'Coco' together.

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HOUSE COMPETITIONS

The first of this year's House Competitions began back in September with the annual spectacular 'Bede's Amazing Race' with categories including an inflatable obstacle course, pictiary and the highly-contested quiz.



As half term approached, so did the usual excitement in the run up to House Music. With every pupil in the school taking part, the ten houses were blended to form four teams with each offering a soloist, a small ensemble, a small song and a big song. This year the big song was 'This Is Me' from the smash hit musical 'The Greatest Showman'. Although every performance of the evening left us wanting more, there could only be one

winner. This year, and very deservedly, saw Stickways (Crossways, Dicker and Stud) take the top spot.



House Music not only brings the community together, but also allows pupils' creativity and confidence to flourish. It really is one of the highlights of the year.

Next up was our annual pumpkin carving contest, which took place in October - competition was fierce as ever! All of the houses impressed with their wonderful creations and the judges, including Mr and Mrs Goodyer had a very difficult time deciding the winners. The overall winner was Crossways for their creative and beautifully executed Pied Piper design. In second place was Dorter, with special mention for artistic flair for their original and ornate painted piece.

The final House Competition of the term was



Christmas cake decorating which saw Dorter take the top spot, closely followed by Stud. As the Autumn Term draws to a close, the results are as follows...

10th Dorms - 74
9th Knights - 76
8th Dicker - 87
7th Deis - 89
6th Dorter - 98.5
5th Charleston - 102
4th Camberlot - 107
3rd Bloomsbury - 122
2nd Stud - 127
1st Crossways - 141

The points awarded will go towards the House Cup, which will be announced at the end of the academic year.

Rachael Woollett
Co-Curricular Deputy Head



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FUNDRAISING EFFORTS TAKE A



Back in September, the charity fundraising began in earnest across the houses.

Deis House headed down to the lower fields to enjoy a game of Ultimate Frisbee to raise money for the Chailey Heritage Foundation, with each person making a donation to play. It was a tiring match and Mr Pianet seemed to have quite a talent for Ultimate Frisbee! Most importantly, everyone had lots of fun and raised money for Deis House Charity. In October, Crossways embarked on their annual 24 hour disco for the ME Association. The Crossways girls welcomed visitors

from across the houses and they danced throughout the night. A midnight feast of hot dogs and bacon butties were handed out to keep spirits and energy levels high! A feast of nationalities and cosmopolitan tunes from across the world kept those moves going. With everybody's efforts, we reached the final hour with great spirits and emotion and raised a fantastic £5,000 which made it all worthwhile!

Stud House raised over £3,000 for the local charity ABC Fund in 2017-18, and are supporting them again this year in their

aim to 'put a smile on the faces of families who live with illness and disability'. Stud kicked off the year's fundraising with a very sociable 'Cheese and Wine' evening for Stud parents, which also served as a great chance for everyone to get to know each other. With top quality jazz provided by our own Stud musicians to help set a very mellow mood, the warmth and friendliness of the atmosphere was palpable. Parents mingled whilst the boys enjoyed playing table tennis, snooker and various cheese-themed games. Following this, a group of pupils from



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FESTIVE TURN THIS TERM



Stud and Knights volunteered their time to pack bags of food for local disadvantaged families, supporting their joint house charity the ABC Fund.

In the run up to Christmas, there have been numerous fundraising efforts for next year's trip to Nepal, including a cake sale and selling tuck at The Crucible. Milly Widdop also arranged a Christmas Fair and a raffle to raise much needed funds for the community project pupils will be taking part in to help families still recovering from the 2016 earthquake.

December also saw the return of the Santa run as 100 festive boarders from Camberlot and Dorte took Eastbourne Park Run by storm in aid of their annual charity week.

Arriving at the run, the pupils demonstrated phenomenal community spirit and brought a smile to the hoards of committed runners.

Some underestimated the run and set off at electric pace only to find themselves dropping back through the pack, whilst Park Run veterans such as Matt Grant and Jaz Wardle came through in highly respectable times despite the festive felt adornments!

As each pupil finished, those cheering at the finish line got larger, celebrating the success of every boarder who completed the run. The pupils deliberately did not seek fundraising for this event. The whole idea was to help add to and share the sense of community, support and friendship, which volunteer-run organisations such as Park Run embody.



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SPORT HOCKEY

TEAMS TRIUMPH THROUGHOUT THE TERM

This has been an incredibly successful term for girls hockey.

We have had the pleasure of some remarkable individual success stories within our programme and our teams are excelling on the field. The senior girls sides continue to pave the way for our juniors, and have proved excellent role models. The culture that has been created within the school enables those who aspire to achieve great things on the hockey pitch to be in an environment with like-minded young people. The compassion for one another within our Bede's hockey family is one that continues to grow and the continuing drive to better one another is very clear to see. Across the seven teams that we have fielded this year, the girls have scored no fewer than 201 goals in 75 school matches this term - 95 of which belong to the U14A side who were runners-up in their county cup, ranking in the top 12 in the South of England and winning the EGHA 7-a-side cup. Our U15A team have also enjoyed a remarkable cup-run this year, progressing to the quarter finals of the Independent Schools National Cup, which will be played in January 2019 vs Millfield School. The U16 team finished third in their county cup, narrowly missing out on qualification to the regionals.

Many of our pupils have enjoyed playing



hockey on a Saturday this term as part of our partnership with Eastbourne Hockey Club, and will continue to do so right the way throughout the full hockey season. Our pupils have been representing sides all across the club, from the Junior Development League teams right the way through to the Ladies 1st XI in the South Regional Leagues. This partnership has helped further our programme with the provision of a club environment where the girls can to play at the right stage for their individual development, as opposed to being limited by their age.

A junior and senior touring side also enjoyed a mid-season trip to Portugal during half term. This was a fantastic learning experience for the girls not only on the hockey pitch but also learning the cultural differences between the two countries, reflected not only in the destination itself but in hockey cultures and styles as well. Learning about the Portuguese expression and flair on the hockey pitch was an eye-opening experience not only for the players but for the staff as well.

As we say goodbye to our leavers this year, we must also extend thanks their way. The standards they set and the behaviours they practice on a daily basis continues to breed the constant self-improvement culture that has developed, and will continue to develop fine hockey players through Bede's. A thanks must also be extended to all the staff who continue to facilitate this exciting, quickly growing programme. Without the many, many hours they put in not only on the pitch but also in the gym and in the classroom conducting video analysis and performance reviews, none of this would be possible.

Theo Dowse
Acting Director of Hockey



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SPORT FOOTBALL

BEDE'S FOOTBALLERS HAVE ANOTHER FANTASTIC SEASON



The Autumn Term has been as busy ever with over 140 Senior School football fixtures played, across 14 teams and 13 weeks. The season started with the Spain football tour whereby the 1st XI, 2nd XI and a junior squad of 14s and 15s headed to the sunny climate of Benicassim for an intense pre-season in the heat. This tour laid the foundations for the upcoming months ahead. The 1st XI this season look a very promising young side and whilst they have had to endure some disappointing results such as the narrow 1-0 loss to Charterhouse in the ISFA cup, results have been improving in recent weeks such as the fantastic 7-2 win in the county cup quarter final against BACA. They are making excellent progress both individually and as a team which is very pleasing to see, and I certainly feel as they move into the second term they have now adjusted and are ready to compete with the best schools in the country in the HUDL



league. The 2nd XI and 3rd XI teams have of late been on an excellent run of results and performances, with excellent wins for both over Wilsons and Tonbridge. In terms of participation football, this has expanded even further this season with a 4th and 5th team now well established, this year has seen a 6th team develop and playing several fixtures, with the highlight being a 3-1 win against local rivals Lancing. The juniors have had an excellent term with the U15A currently in the quarter final of both the ISFA cup and county cup, whilst the U14As have also progressed through to the quarter final of the county cup whilst qualifying in 2nd place from the Elgin league. What is really pleasing to see is the depth in the juniors this year with both the U14Bs and U15Bs having fantastic seasons in particular, whilst the U14Cs and U15Cs have been very competitive. This is testament to the great work done by those staff with those teams, as they are often playing schools with far bigger numbers on roll. The girls football have begun on their journey of retaining the ISFA cup, something that is never easy to do especially due to the loss of several key players from last year's team. They battled well against Ardingly before losing 2-1, but in the current league format of the cup they still have the opportunity to qualify for the knockout rounds. As I write, the teams are preparing for the last block fixture of the term the tough test of Eton away. Never an easy fixture, but one where results are well earned and it is a fantastic way to finish off a brilliant term of football.

David Caryer
Director of Football

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SPORT TENNIS

RENOWNED TENNIS COACH RHYS HANGER APPOINTED AT BEDE'S



Bede's is pleased to announce that Rhys Hanger has been appointed as the new Tennis Consultant, leading its elite training programme.

Rhys will also advise on the strategic direction for tennis at Bede's and lead on the school's partnership with the LTA, working alongside the Interim Head of Tennis, Francesca Scollo, who also played nationally and internationally for nearly ten years. Rhys played tennis professionally for five years before moving into coaching 20 years ago and is a Level 5 coach as well as an LTA tutor, developing Level 4 coaches. He will combine the role at Bede's with his ongoing coaching work at Virgin Active and his work for the charity, Give It Your Max, which encourages children in deprived areas to take up tennis.

Commenting on the appointment, Bede's Director of Sport, David Byrne said, "We are delighted to welcome Rhys to Bede's. Not only does Rhys bring superb qualifications and experience to this role, but he also shares our commitment to improving performance at the elite level as well as widening participation in the sport."

Rhys also said, "Bede's has always had a superb reputation for its tennis programme, so this is an amazing opportunity for me. I attended an independent school myself and it was my experience there that allowed me to pursue a career in performance tennis, so I understand the important role schools can play in developing talent and nurturing a passion for tennis."

FOOTBALL

ELLISON WRIGHT SIGNS WITH CRYSTAL PALACE FC

Ellison Wright, Upper Fifth pupil, has signed a two-year full time contract with Crystal Palace FC.

Ellison, who joined Bede's on a football scholarship, will move to Crystal Palace accommodation for the start of the contract in September 2019 after his GCSE exams.

Ellison says, "I am so excited to be joining Crystal Palace full time from next year. This is a fantastic opportunity to push forward with my football career on a professional level, with daily training, strength and conditioning and video analysis to improve my performance. I'm also looking forward to relocating and working with the talented athletes and coaches at the club."

Ellison has been playing football since the age of 4, and has enjoyed a successful football career to date, having played for a range of local teams including Uckfield, Tunbridge Wells Angels and Pembury. Ellison was Captain of Sussex in Years 7 and 8, and was part of the first wave of the Bede's

Football Academy three years ago.

"Being at Bede's has been fantastic," Ellison says. "It's a really supportive environment here, and my grades have gone up significantly since I started. Mr Caryer and the coaches have been brilliant, allowing me time out of the Bede's 1st team to focus on my external commitments and ensuring that I'm not overloaded. I have really enjoyed my time here, and am grateful for everything."

Mr David Caryer, Director of Football, adds, "We are very proud of Ellison - he works incredibly hard, and this is why he has had the opportunity to sign for such a prestigious club at his young age. Ellison has really flourished in his time at Bede's, and it has been a pleasure working with him as he has developed into a very capable and dedicated young athlete. We know he will enjoy every success in the future, and look forward to seeing his football career develop in the years to come."



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SPORT SWIMMING

TOM EXALL NAMED CAPTAIN OF THE SUSSEX NATIONAL COUNTY TEAM

Upper Fifth pupil Tom Exall enjoyed success in the pool last weekend at the National County Team Championships, where he swam the 50m front crawl relay in an amazing time of 24.2s, and was named **Sussex Captain of the boys team.**

Tom says, "Being named captain was a great surprise, and I'm absolutely delighted. I'm the youngest person in the open age group (which goes up to 18 years old), and it's very motivating to compete with such talented swimmers in a higher age bracket.

"Part of my role as captain is to organise the younger relay teams and individual swimmers and provide them with land-based warm ups. It's great to help the younger swimmers in the squad and be part of their development."

Tom started swimming at the age of four years old, and currently competes for Hailsham Swim Club and Bede's. Highlights so far include competing in the County Swimming Championships in March, and winning the Swim England 16yrs National title in 50m freestyle at the English National

Summer Championships in August.

Looking ahead, Tom and the rest of the Sussex National County Team will compete in the Sussex League next summer.

"I'll be swimming against a few local teams and members of ex-clubs that I have trained with, so this will be a great experience with some friendly rivalry," Tom says. "I'm aiming as high as possible, and hope to take part in even higher level meets and competitions in the future."

Mr David Byrne, Director of Sport, adds, "We are very proud of Tom's achievements, which are testament to his hard work and dedication to the sport. Considering Tom is yet to take his GCSEs, to have accomplished so much at such a young age is astounding, and we look forward to working with him more in lessons and training to allow him to flourish into the best athlete he can be."



EQUESTRIAN

BEDE'S SHOW JUMPERS THROUGH TO NSEA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Saturday 24 November, Bede's Senior School's Equestrian Team triumphed at the NSEA County Challenge Qualifier at Petley Wood EC in Battle, finishing first place and qualifying to represent East Sussex at the NSEA National County Show Jumping Championships in April 2019.

The team will also compete in the Show Jumping Finals at the Royal Windsor Horse Show next May.

Congratulations to the following Bede's pupils who participated on the day: Ellie Wood, Bella McKeogh, Izzy Hopkins and Emma Jones.

Katy McKeogh, Equestrian Team Manager at Bede's Senior School, says, "We are incredibly proud of the Bede's team for their achievement, which is very well deserved and testament to their hard work, dedication to and enjoyment of the sport. We are so excited to be representing the school at these prestigious events next year, and for now are looking forward to getting back to training!"



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