

REFLECTIVE BEDDE'S

Spring 2020



EDITORIAL: GILES ENTWISLE

This Spring Term was a tale of two halves, so much activity packed into a short space of time means that no two weeks are the same, and there is always something really exciting for our pupils to engage with beyond the classroom on a nearly daily basis. And activities and events have not been limited to any one area of school life. We have enjoyed a Languages week, Science week, Galactic challenges, a marvellous year 3 and 4 play, an ancient Greek workshop, a cryptology competition, young engineers challenges, wonderful and engaging spring concerts, stunning LAMDA and music scholarship performances and a stunning choreographic competition, visits out of school, to the Downs and the beach, and the return of the LitFilm Fest after its outstanding debut last year. Just some of the activities which take place beyond the classroom.

The overriding sensation as Headmaster is one of being deeply impressed with each and every one of the pupils at Bede's. The performing and visual arts, through dance and music and theatre bring a critically important dimension to life and work at school. What impresses me most is our pupils' ability to adapt and to learn and to rise to a challenge. So many of the highlights mentioned above simply

happen as part of the waft and wane of school life; all within the context of lessons, assessments, scholarship exams, tutorials, sports fixtures and activities, punctuated with meals and play... Just try shadowing a pupil at Bede's for a day, most of us would give up by lunchtime and yet our pupils are able to participate, perform and deliver often without missing a beat. It's all very normal.



And then this. I have been quoted Vladimir Lenin a couple of times recently. "There are decades when nothing happens and there are weeks where decades happen at once". The suspending of lessons after the arrival of the Coronavirus put a temporary halt to activity at school, and pupils, parents and staff have had to adapt to a new way of learning beyond the classroom almost overnight. The last week of term was an incredibly steep learning curve for all involved and remote learning and teacher and pupil creativity has come to

the fore. In many ways the Easter holiday was suspended for staff, and as I write this editorial, remote learning forums are springing up amongst the teaching body as they embrace the challenges ahead through live video conferencing, screen casting, online collaborative projects, vlogging and so much more. Finding the right balance between on-line and off-line teaching and learning is another element of the remote classroom we are committed to getting right.



In just one week, where this practice is somewhat in its infancy, pupils have already shone. As with all challenges, they have embraced the new way of learning, and whilst only temporary, I am in no doubt that the digital literacy benefits, lessons learned and skills acquired will allow our pupils at Bede's to again raise the level of academic achievement and attainment once back in school. We look for the positives and opportunities and grab them with both hands. With every cloud...



Giles Entwisle
Headmaster



BEDE'S PREP ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW HEADMASTER



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mark Hammond as the new Headmaster of Bede's Prep School. Selected from an impressive field of candidates, Mr Hammond succeeds Giles Entwisle and will take up his post at the start of the next academic year.



Mr Hammond is currently Headmaster at Skippers Hill Manor Preparatory School in Five Ashes, a post he has held with distinction since 2015.

Mr Hammond has a degree in English Language and Literature from Manchester University and, after finishing his PGCE at Cambridge University, he completed an MA in Education. During the early part of his career, Mr Hammond taught in a number of international schools across Europe and, latterly, was a Boarding Housemaster as well as Head of Day House at Junior Kings School, Canterbury. In 2012, he took on the role of Head of Pastoral Care at the Geneva English School before moving back to the UK to become Deputy Headmaster of Skippers Hill in September 2014 and then Headmaster a year later. Mr Hammond will be joined by his wife Sarah and their two children.

In confirming the appointment, Bede's CEO and Headmaster of the Senior School, commented, "I am delighted that we have appointed Mark Hammond as Headmaster to lead Bede's Prep School. Mark is a highly accomplished educational leader, brings with him a wealth of experience and is a worthy successor to Giles Entwisle. I have no doubt that Mark will make a significant long-term contribution to Bede's Prep School."

Commenting on his appointment Mr Hammond said, "It is a huge honour to be given the opportunity to lead such a forward-thinking, innovative and inspirational school. From our first visit, Sarah and I were struck by the warmth of everyone we met and I am looking forward to working with and serving the whole school community over the years to come."

Since the announcement of his appointment, Mr Hammond has visited the Prep School in order to meet staff and participate in training sessions as well as meet some pupils and he is looking forward to meeting parents as soon as possible in the autumn term.



NURSERY HIGHLIGHTS

Our spring term has been extremely busy with lots of new families joining our nursery. The children in our star fish group have been building relationships with key adults and making new friends while playing and exploring their surroundings. Meal times are always lots of fun, full of mess and laughter.

The Jellyfish group has also grown in size and has really enjoyed learning about transport this half term. Their main room was turned into a roadway with a tunnel and a zebra crossing. The children thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful visit to the beach to enjoy the sand and lovely sea air.



Rainbow fish children have become very enthused by their core books; it's been delightful hearing the children retelling stories from memory. The return of three team members has also been a highlight. We were all sad to say farewell to teacher Eileen in her key worker capacity due to her back injury. It is hoped that she will become a part time member of bank staff later in the year. Teacher Megan's baby is due very soon now. We will update you as soon as baby arrives.

The Pre-School children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about people who help us. They were thrilled to meet a real life fireman who showed them his uniform and helped them in a firefighting obstacle course. They have been engaged in a wide range of related activities such as forest school marshmallow toasting, fire painting, role play and games.



The children have also been gaining insight to the world around them. A child from the class initiated our story of the week as during circle time she spoke about receiving letters through her post box. We then decided to base our week around the story, 'The Jolly Postman'. The children all sent letters home, using the school's stamp machine and then walking over to the red post box, showing good road safety awareness. It has been fantastic to hear that the children have already started to receive their letters at their houses.



The children also enjoyed bringing their own bicycles and scooters to nursery to take part in an activity called 'post bikes'. The children all went on the school playground and delivered lots of numbered letters to the correct box that was placed around the playground.



The children and staff also participated and celebrated World Book Day. We had lots of fun dressing up as our favourite book characters and taking part in a range of activities – from having a chocolate cupcake for a snack like in 'The Tiger Came to Tea', making witches' wands like in 'Room on a Broom', making 'Gruffalo' masks, and much more.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful Bede's families, for the support, cooperation and understanding that they have shown at this time. We continue to operate with a skeleton staff now in order to provide childcare for critical workers at this very challenging time and we all look forward in anticipation to welcoming you back when it is safe to return.

Hanna Kerrigan
Head of Nursery and EYFS

Michelle Gladstone
Deputy Head of Nursery and EYFS

GETTING CREATIVE WITH FLOWERS FOR VALENTINE'S



Year 2 Pre-Prep pupils enjoyed a planting workshop at Stone Cross Garden Centre in February.

They learned about the different parts of a flower, the process of photosynthesis, the importance of plants for our planet and that some bugs can be helpful to the garden.

After that, the children all planted up a pot. They were shown how to use a mix of plants and chippings to make a special Valentine's Day arrangement.

The children's visit inspired their garden designs for the Eastbourne in Bloom competition.

Rachel Barrett
Teacher of Year 2



TEAM BUILDING AT THE BEACH

In March, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 went to the beach to do some team building and problem solving skills outside in the fresh air!

We played 'cross the swamp', crack the code and seaweed and stones (aka noughts and crosses!).

In addition, Reception and Year 1 have made bright and colourful cards with jokes inside, that we sent to care homes to cheer up the residents.



SCIENCE WEEK

Pre-Prep had a brilliant time during science week! We had many investigations to do such as test different materials to keep teddy dry, see which items would float and sink to help piglet in the flood and had to be magnet detectives to see which objects were magnetic in our classrooms.



As well as this, the children were given the very important role of a bumble bee and had to take the pollen from flower to flower. At the end of the day, we had a butter competition to see which class could shake the double cream to churn it into butter. Eventually, after a lot of aching arms, the Reception class took the victory!

Millie Brodie
Teacher of Year 1

PETER PYEMONT: 1939 – 2020

VISIONARY PREP SCHOOL HEADMASTER WHOSE PUPILS INCLUDED EDDIE IZZARD AND CHRISTOPHER MARTIN-JENKINS.

He went on to found Bede's Senior School, one of the most successful independent secondaries of the postwar period.

Peter Pyemont, who has died aged 80, was a pioneering and charismatic prep school headmaster who also founded one of the largest and most successful new independent secondary schools of the postwar period.

As headmaster of St Bede's Prep School, Eastbourne, Pyemont applied his conviction that education is about more than academic achievement and includes the development of emotional, social, physical, creative and spiritual faculties.

From 1964, when he took over aged 25, to 1998, when he retired as headmaster, numbers at the School – grew from 40 to around 400 pupils and the school became a charitable trust in 1971.

Among other things Pyemont encouraged pupils to become involved in discussing new ideas and plans for the school, and under his leadership it built an enviable record of success in prep school sport.

The cricket commentator Christopher Martin-Jenkins, a boarder from the age of eight, recalled how “the pain of being wrenched from home and parents had been eased, indeed forgotten, by a game of cricket with my older brother and his friends on the first evening in my new surroundings.”

A highlight of the school year were the plays and musicals Pyemont produced, which left a lasting impression on pupils such as the actor Nicky Henson and actor and comedian Eddie Izzard. Izzard, who played in the school's first football XI, complained on his website that Pyemont “had a strong thing about not putting me in plays”, but the pair became friends, and Pyemont gets a mention in the credits to Izzard's forthcoming film Six Minutes to Midnight.

Finding that many parents wanted their children to benefit from the same approach to learning throughout their school careers, Pyemont began to search for a site for an upper school, and in 1978 the St Bede's School Trust purchased an estate at Upper Dicker, to the north of Eastbourne, formerly the home of the MP, financier and fraudster, Horatio Bottomley.

The following year the Senior School opened with 25 pupils. It now boasts a total of 750 pupils and 223 staff.

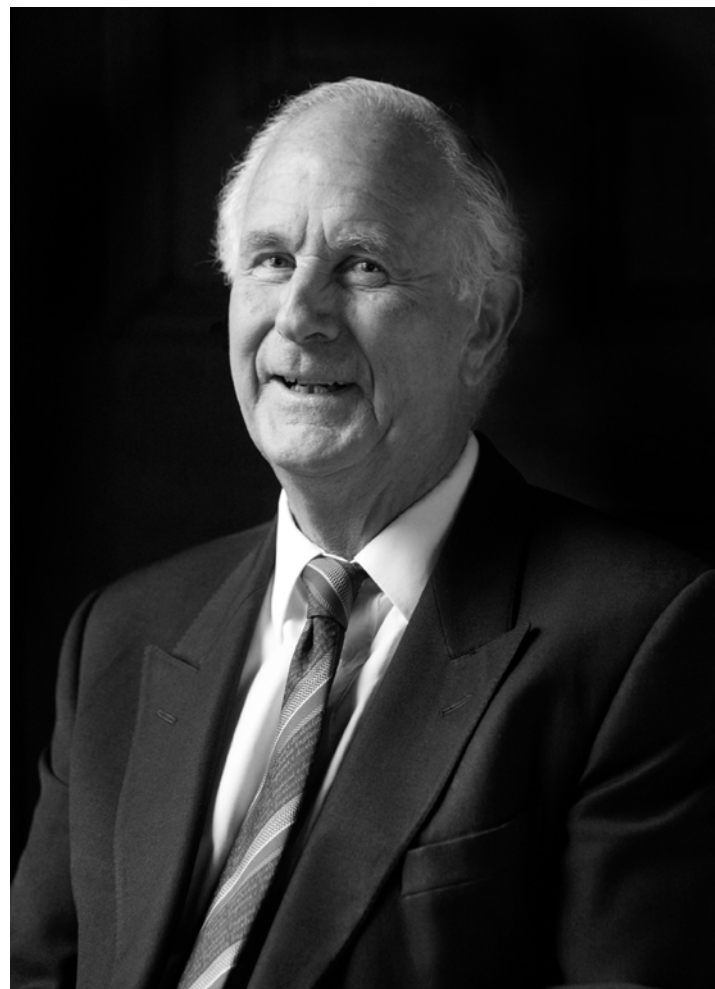
One of seven children, Peter Pyemont was born at Notley Abbey near Aylesbury (later the home of Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh) on May 11 1939 to Wilfrid and Ruth Pyemont (née Johnson) and brought up in Eastbourne. His father was a stockbroker and keen tennis

player who had competed at Wimbledon, and all the family were keen on sports.

Peter attended St Bede's Prep School, where he and his fellow pupil, the satirist Peter Cook, played together in the school's cricket 1st XI and shared an interest in theatre. Cook, Pyemont noted later, “laughed at you”, while Eddie Izzard “laughs with you”.

He went on to Marlborough, where he represented the school at hockey and cricket and reached the final of the Public Schools Rackets Championships. He did National Service with the Black Watch and the Royal Sussex Regiments, quelling the bullies among his fellow recruits, many of them poorly educated conscripts, by reading to them their letters from home; this experience shaped his thinking on the importance of education.

Pyemont began his career teaching history at Chelmsford Hall Prep School, Eastbourne, where he took a diploma in education, before being appointed in 1964 as headmaster of St Bede's, aged just 25.



While there he played tennis, squash and hockey for Sussex, captaining the hockey team for several years. He also captained Eastbourne Cricket Club, played for MCC and was a first-class ski judge.

Pyemont carried on as head of the Prep School after setting up the Senior School, appointing Roger Perrin as its first headmaster. He retired as head of St Bede's Prep in 1998, but stayed on as head of history for a further 10 years.

In 1989 Pyemont had won the Frank Fisher Memorial Prize presented by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company with a thesis on “What the West could learn from the East” and spent three months in Asia, teaching in schools and meeting ministers of education.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he travelled to the former East Germany and established a scheme under which parties of children and their teachers visit Eastbourne to experience life in an British boarding school and learn English.



In retirement, Peter and his brother Christopher, who had taken over as headmaster at St Bede's Prep School, set up a public speaking company, Talking Heads, and gave entertaining lectures on everything from the First World War to the history of skiing.

Pyemont became a founder governor of Gildredge House Free School, also in Eastbourne.

In 1962 he married Elspeth Grant, who survives him with their son and daughter.

Peter Pyemont, born May 11 1939, died February 7 2020

EDDIE IZZARD

We were delighted to welcome Eddie Izzard back to the Prep School for a work-in-progress performance of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations. Eddie's first love was acting and this special evening merged actor and comedian in a reading/performance of this much loved classic. It was an intimate and immersive experience with the audience delighting in his inventive interpretation and evocative characterisation.

The following morning Eddie was back to give a special assembly to our Year 7 and 8 pupils – a first for him and a complete delight for our pupils. Warm, inspirational, funny and totally engaging, Eddie spoke about his time at Bede's, his motivations and love for performing both comedy (in several languages!) and acting. It was a real treat for our pupils from the Senior Years and we are hugely grateful to the time he gave so willingly.

Peter Meier
Head of Senior Years



BEDE'S

Bede's Senior School
Upper Dicker, Hailsham
East Sussex BN27 3QH

T 01323 843252
bedes.org

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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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bedes.org

YEAR 3 AND 4 BRING THE WILD WEST TO LIFE

Despite the wind and the rain that March brought us, the Prep School Theatre became the hot and sunny Wild West for the Year 3 and 4 production of Craig Hawes' 'Ye-Ha'. The storyline squeezes all the mystery and adventure of the old Wild West into a modern and fun musical comedy!



Hawes summarises the play as follows, "Something stinks in Splodge City - and it ain't the drains! Mad Dog McNut and his gang are running wild and Wilbur Hubbard, cowardly cook at the Fordoor Saloon lands the job no-one wants - Sheriff of Splodge. Luckily for Wilbur, Billie-Jo Brisket and her

faithful steed Lightning roll into town to lend a hand, and suddenly the race is on to save the town. It's a rootin'-tootin' tale of crazy cowboys, barmy baddies, masked heroes and hidden gold!"



The Year 3 and 4 children collaborated on this exciting production and delighted their audiences with lots of jokes, uplifting songs and twists in the plot. There was something for everyone in this play. The Year 4 pupils took the lead roles, with those in Year 3 supporting them. From the whole cast toe-tapping 'Stetson Stomp', to the perfectly pitched solos of 'Be a Boy' and 'Where is the Hero in Me?' the children performed with confidence and professionalism. There were many exceptional performances and I was most impressed with those who had really paid attention to honing their American accents!



I would like to thank the children in Year 3 and 4 for their energy, motivation and commitment. They were simply fantastic! As always, there is immense support from staff during a large production, and I would like to thank those who contributed to lighting, music, set, sound, make-up and backstage, as well as the office team and catering. As the last line of the play suggests, "Oils well that ends well".



Laura Burdekin
Head of Drama

PUPILS RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY ON WORLD BOOK DAY

In celebration of World Book Day on Thursday 5 March, pupils at Bede's Prep came into school in mufti dress and engaged in a range of activities to raise funds for Baraka, a growing charity that has been building and supporting schools in various locations across Zambia and Laos.



The schools that Baraka supports are in desperate need of books and educational resources; some classes of 80 children are currently having to share just a few books between them and without any photocopying facilities. With our pupils' and parents' support, Bede's Prep raised a fantastic £276.43 for this marvellous cause - thank you so much to all who donated.

Alongside their fundraising efforts, Bede's Prep children also enjoyed a range of book-related activities.

Miriam McDonell, Teacher of Year 4, says, "Children in 4MM joined in the World Book Day celebrations with gusto by holding an electrifying 'Reading by Torchlight' event in their classroom. The lights went out, dens were constructed, and torches eagerly handed around. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed snuggling up and enjoying a good book with the

added bonus of the class disco ball illuminating the walls as they read. Much fun was had by all and the children were wonderfully calm and relaxed afterwards as they filed out for break time."

Annie Fuller, Head of Junior Years, adds, "In Year 3, we continued to read Ice Palace by Robert Swindells; we are using the detailed descriptive language of this book to help us with our story (myth) writing. In Maths, the children worked in groups to solve clues using our maths skills to find the answer to our World Book Day Conundrum."



We also held a 'speed booking' event, during which pupils were tasked with picking one book to examine for two minutes, after which they noted down one thing that they learned and whether they would read the book in full and recommend it to a friend.

Sherry Wilson
Head of English



YOUNG SCIENTISTS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Pupils in Years 5 to 8 enjoyed a range of fun activities for Bede's Prep's recent Science Week.

Year 5 had the task of making their own miniature car. Joseph and Esther (Year 5) explain, "Everyone accepted the challenge and started making designs. Once we had finished these we started work on the physical car. By Friday all of the cars were finished and it was time to judge which car went the furthest. The overall winners were Callum and Violet in 5TH and Jamie and Arthur in 5SG. Well done to the winners, and also to the rest of Year 5!"

COMPETING FOR CLUES

Our Year 6 pupils travelled to Bede's Senior School in Upper Dicker to take part in a Cryptology Competition organised by the Maths Department and Sixth Form pupils.



It was a day filled with excitement, and the pupils were actively engaged and enthusiastic – as well as extremely competitive! The teams worked well together and aimed to get their answers for the clues to the judges quicker than the others to score the maximum points.

It was a great day, and we are already excited for next year's event.

Shamara Brown
Teacher of Maths

Year 6 welcomed British Heart Foundation initiative Heartstart, which provides free Emergency Life Support training for the community. The children listened carefully to the instructors, who included paramedics and enjoyed working in pairs to put an unconscious patient into the recovery position and using manikins to practise CPR. The session ended with the whole class doing CPR on their manikins to the music of 'baby shark'! A fun afternoon was had by all!



Year 7 created some very special Harry Potter-inspired potions. Harrison (Year 7) explains, "For the bubbling Polyjuice potion we added some ground unicorn horn to a mixture of dragon blood and basilisk venom, along with bat bones, stars and more! The result was a bubbling potion that overflowed out of the small glass bottle."

"The next potion, the Deluminator, magically put out any candle in its way! We sprinkled ground bat bones around the outside of a candle and then added basilisk venom, the candle magically went out! This was my personal favourite."

"The last potion we made was Helious potion. We added basilisk venom to ground bat bones, and put a balloon over the top of the test-tube. We sat back and watched the magic take place! The balloon inflated to almost full capacity!"

In Year 8, pupils were tasked with an engineering challenge. Megan and Jess (Year 8) explain: "As part of our exciting Science Week, one of our competitions was to construct a boat using four paper cups, four drinking straws, 50cm of duct tape and 30cm of cling film. The aim was to keep the boat afloat with as many 10 gram weights as possible. These boats were constructed in our Science lessons and we worked in pairs or groups to win a prize. At the end of the competition we were able to see that there were many different designs and structures. Some boats were more practical but odd in appearance and others were more attractive but lacked in practicality."



Very well done to all who took part – it was wonderful to see so much activity and excitement surrounding STEM from all of our participating pupils!

Helen Rich
Head of Science

LOOKING TO THE STARS AT BEDE'S GALACTIC CHALLENGE

Bede's Prep sent a team of budding engineers to Bede's Senior School for the School's Galactic Challenge event in January.

The event saw 120 children from schools across Sussex and Kent join forces to design a tourist destination on the moon in 2069, a century after the initial moon landing.

The pupils were organised into five teams, Solaris Flight Systems, Columbus Aviation, Astrodyne Delta, Infinity Aerospace and Hyperion Space Ventures. Bede's



Sixth Form Space Design students took mentoring and technical advisor positions and led the teams.

Each team was tasked with allocating a President and then Heads of Department to lead key areas of the design including Human Engineering, Structural Engineering, Operations Engineering and Management. The teams then collaborated to create a design proposal, which they then presented to assembled parents and a judging panel featuring prominent STEM ambassadors and experts from the UKSDC in the afternoon.

Following their presentations and Q&A's, the judges announced Solaris Flight Systems as the winning team, with each pupil receiving a certificate and medal. Mr Richards, Galactic Challenge CEO and Teacher of Maths at Bede's Senior School, says, "We were truly impressed with everyone's efforts and teamwork at this year's Galactic Challenge; for children of such a young age, the ideas, imagination and cooperation shown throughout the day was astounding, and all involved should be very proud of what they achieved."

"This was our biggest year to date in terms of numbers,

and it is fantastic to see the event getting more and more popular year on year. As well as encouraging children to pursue STEM in their studies – and potentially future careers – the Galactic Challenge offers an opportunity for them to build teamwork, communication and leadership skills. We very much look forward to next year's event."

Bill Richards
Teacher of Maths, Bede's Senior School

SOLVING CRIMES AT CSI DAY

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed Thinkers in Education's fantastic CSI, hosted at Bede's Prep.

The event brought children from schools across the local community, and everyone who took part had a wonderful experience. The children were immersed in a battle of wits to solve a crime and collect as many points towards this as possible. They had to collaborate on blood sampling,



finger printing and DNA fingerprinting too. There was so much going on, it was hard for the staff team to compete! Each group had dedicated leaders who made sure that each task was completed and that the evidence was collated accurately. I was amazed

at how professional the children were. I believe the winning team 'Morse' broke every scoring record possible for this particular event, and there were several standout stars throughout the day.



My thanks go out to Matt and Kim (from Thinkers in Education) who effortlessly ran the event, the staff who attended from Ocklynge, St Johns Meads, Park Mead, Pevensey and Westham, Willingdon, Tollgate and West Rise, but the biggest thank you goes to all the children for being brilliant on the day.

Simon Gisby
Year 5 Form Teacher

BEDE'S

Bede's Senior School
Upper Dicker, Hailsham
East Sussex BN27 3QH

T 01323 843252
bedes.org

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BEDE'S PREP WELCOMES BACK LITFILM FEST

Following our fantastic film last year, Bede's Prep welcomed back award-winning filmmakers, LitFilm Fest for more documentary making this term. Children across the year groups researched and wrote scripts on a variety of topics and practised their presentation skills ahead of the two days' of filming. The final film will be shared with parents very soon.



In addition, our talented Year 5 pupils worked with the LitFilm Fest crew to take a stand against food waste in the UK. Inspired by their extensive reading and research, the pupils studied persuasive writing in online campaigns and wrote a letter to our Bede's community urging them to take action against food waste. The crew at LitFilmFest, who promote digital literacy in schools, brought Year 5's work to the screen in a polished performance. We are immensely proud of the pupils' drive and enthusiasm throughout their journey to create this film. You can see Year 5's Food Waste film on the Bede's website (in the Prep School news section): bedes.org/prep.

Sherry Wilson
Head of English



FUN AND GAMES IN MFL

Our Modern Foreign Languages department has had a busy term, hosting lots of interactive activities for pupils to practise their language skills and learn about other cultures.

In French, our Year 4 pupils enjoyed some blind-folded fruit tasting, during which they had to guess the fruit then say the French word for the fruit they were tasting to win points. The children had a lot of fun; it was an entertaining (and healthy) way to practise our food words.



Also in French class, Year 8 enjoyed an escape room activity to revise the topic of human body. The pupils were challenged with breaking

seven codes to unlock the seven padlocks – they loved the activity and managed to escape faster than Madame Alliot had anticipated!



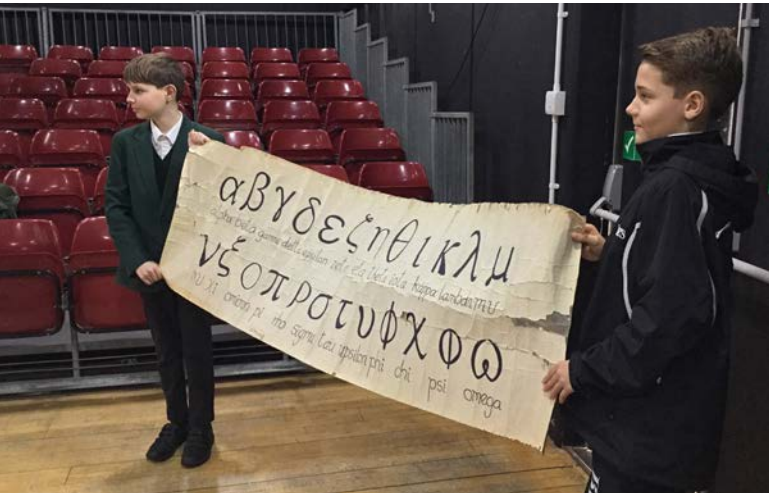
At the beginning of March, Years 5 to 8 enjoyed a morning of flamenco dancing, courtesy of musician Ramón and dancer Anita. The children practised some clapping and tapping coordination exercises, before putting it all together to flamenco dancing moves. The workshops were very entertaining and interactive, and it was lovely to see all the children fully engaged.

Marie Alliot
Head of French

Regina Entwisle
Head of Spanish

CLASSICISTS BRING ANCIENT GREECE TO LIFE

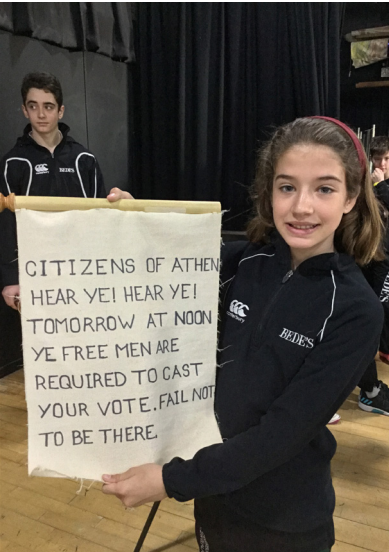
Earlier this term, Year 7 pupils took part in an Ancient Greek workshop organised by the Rainbow Theatre.



The children were fully involved in creating different scenes from Ancient Greek life, which included preparing meals, welcoming and looking after visitors, a day at school, buying food from the market and taking part in public speaking and athletics.

They learned the Greek alphabet, about Pythagoras and the beginnings of democracy, understood the importance of the Greek gods and were treated to a taste of some of the great Greek myths – Theseus and the Minotaur, Oedipus and the Sphinx and Odysseus and the Cyclops.

Amidst acting out the parts of slaves, sportsmen, mythological creatures, orators and market traders, much fun was had by all and the children came away buzzing with facts.



Sally Collins
Head of Classics

FRIENDS OF BEDE'S

The Friends of Bede's have had another busy last term fundraising for Beachy Head Chaplaincy and the school. We held a fun filled Burns Night on the 31 January which provided lots of fun and dancing for parents as well as poetry, haggis and a small dram of whisky. We also hosted two events for the children this term - bacon butties and a French pastry sale. A huge thank you to all the children who have supported these events and for making them so successful. We are now looking forward to being able to fill requests from teachers and choosing our next charity to support.



Many of our Friends of Bede's members are moving on this year as their children come to the end of their time at Bede's and so it would be lovely to have some new volunteers on board. It really is a great way to get involved and you can really do as much or as little as you would like.



Samantha Williams
Friends of Bede's Prep Chair

BEDE'S ENGINEERS TAKE ON THE DT CHALLENGE

We were delighted to host the DT Challenge earlier this term, welcoming teams from six other local schools for a day of STEM-based fun and games.



Each team was tasked with building a hydraulic arm using K'Nex, working as a team to creatively solve problems. Once the hydraulic arms were built, the children had to prove the effectiveness of their arms in a range of tasks including stacking containers and 'saving' ducks.



Many congratulations to all who took part, with special mention to the Bede's Prep team: Clara, Ralph, Finlay and Emily.

Rachael Armitage
Head of Art

BLOOMING LOVELY

A group of our Year 2 artists represented Bede's Prep at the Eastbourne in Bloom competition this term. The pupils created three designs on the theme 'Explorers', which they then submitted at the Locker Room, Devonshire Quarters.



The designs were inspired by the cross-curriculum studies in Art, which have covered a range of historical figures such as Christopher Columbus and Erik Shackleton, as well as explorers in literature including Roald Dahl's 'James and the Giant Peach'. Pupils also enjoyed trips to Stone Cross Garden Centre and Drusillas Park in preparation for the competition.



The Bede's Prep team came second, being pipped to the post by only two points. We all had a lot of fun creating their designs, and they should be very proud of their work.

Rachael Armitage
Head of Art

MUSICIANS TAKE TO THE STAGE

The expanded programme of musical concerts continued this term, with piano, vocal and Pre-Prep concerts.

The piano concerts saw nearly fifty pupils perform. There was huge variety, from pupils in Year 1 to those in Year 8, from beginners to those taking advanced grades and music scholarships. The musical repertoire stretched from Beethoven to the Blues in quick succession. The confidence and enthusiasm of the performers was a delight to watch, and many are already asking when their next concert will be.



The run up to Half Term saw not one, but two extraordinary vocal concerts. Pupils who have singing lessons, in or out of school, performed, mostly by themselves but sometimes with one or two others. Pupils ranged from those in Year 2, who have only just started their singing, to very proficient performers in Year 8. Repertoire included classical pieces, musical theatre and pop. Pupils performed using a microphone, and sang along to backing tracks or were accompanied by Mr Farley. Pupils were all really supportive of one another and enjoyed the experience. It was a particularly momentous occasion for those in Year 8 who were participating in their last vocal concert at Bede's Prep, and a great opportunity for pupils who were due to take singing exams (later cancelled by the exam board) to perform in public.

The Pre-Prep department came together to perform in a 'Wild and Wonderful' concert in the theatre. The variety and standard of performance was staggering. Pupils in

Year 2 led the instrumental playing, adding recorder, glockenspiel and many percussion parts to accompany the songs. Individual pupils who have singing or instrumental lessons performed solos and everyone sang together with great enthusiasm. The songs from 'The Jungle Book' proved especially popular with the pupils as much as the appreciative audience.



Alex Farley
Head of Music

COMPUTER SCIENTISTS COMPETE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

Bede's Prep pupils have seen continued success in Computing competitions and lessons this term.

An elite group of Year 7 and 8 coders took part in the Perse Coding Team Challenge, where they used the Python programming language to write a series of computer programs. This competition is aimed at pupils in Years 7-11 and includes some very tough exercises! Nevertheless Patrick, Jonathan, Nia, Isla and James all achieved 'Higher Participation' awards, and Harrison, Finn and Raphael managed to achieve 'Merit' level; a fine effort indeed.

Having scored a mark in the top 10% of their age group nationally in the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, seven Year 7 pupils took part in the invite-only Oxford Computing Challenge. Harrison, Lilac, Henry, Walter, Nell, Kieran and Archie applied their outstanding computational thinking skills to a variety of coding

problems. We await the final results with bated breath – however, for us they are all already winners for being invited to partake in this prestigious competition!

Remote lessons are already progressing very well. Following an online lesson on the use of binary code in computers on Monday 23 March, Ella (Year 7) was inspired to make this piece of artwork in her garden - it says the word 'HELLO' in binary!



Peter Barclay
Head of Computing

SCHOOL COUNCIL VISITS THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Our School Council visited the Houses of Parliament earlier this term, where they enjoyed a tour of the Palace, Public Gallery and House of Lords, as well as a very special question-and-answer session with Eastbourne MP Caroline Ansell.

This trip was an amazing opportunity for our School Council pupils to learn about politics in a fun and interactive way. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the House of Lords, robing room and walking in the footsteps of Her Majesty the Queen on her route to the State Opening of Parliament. Everyone was fascinated by the history and had a profound sense of awe and wonder as they walked around. Once our tour was over we went into the Public Gallery where the NHS was being discussed, and even joined in the discussion on question 10!

We then met Caroline Ansell MP, who spoke about her experiences of Parliament and what it is like to be a politician. She responded to some great questions from the group, and it was a wonderful opportunity for the children to find out more about life as an MP.



Perhaps we will see some of our pupils on the benches of Parliament in a few years' time!

Simon Gisby
Teacher of History

LET'S DANCE!

At the end of February, Bede's Prep pupils took part in a choreographic competition, organised by Nicci Ullah and Emma Manes. There were two categories – Junior (Years 3-6) and Senior (Years 7-8) – which were judged by Bede's Senior School Teacher of Dance, Mrs Sherrie Pennington.

All of the entries were original choreographies created by the pupils, with some stunning pieces of creative work spanning a range of genres (including contemporary, ballet, street dance and tap) on display.

The Junior trophy was awarded to Anya (Year 5), while the Senior trophy went to Megan (Year 8).

Well done to all the children who participated in this fabulous event.

Nicci Ullah
Head of Prep Dance



MEADS END SPRING TERM REVIEW

Despite ending earlier than any of us had expected when we returned to school back in January, this term has been filled with fun times, some hard work and many wonderful achievements for our boarders.

As ever, we have made full use of our wonderful seafront location when the weather has allowed, as well as some of our less natural local leisure options, including the ever-popular Urban Jump!



In January we also welcomed some new boarders to the house, including Lucia, Fernando and Gaspar from Spain, Raphael from France and Marcus from Hong Kong as well as our lovely new matron Sarah. January also saw the arrival of Barney, our new puppy, who was unsurprisingly an immediate hit with the boarders.

One of the many advantages of living as part of such an international community, is that we can learn about and enjoy each other's cuisines and, with this in mind, the House joined together to celebrate Chinese New Year, with a wonderful feast cooked by Marcus, Nathan, Carson, Lawrence, Lucas, and Valentino.



After half term, with spring making a tentative appearance the children enjoyed some great weekends out including Tully's Farm and a visit to Escape Rooms which proved very challenging indeed!

There was some good news for some of our boarders with the announcement of scholarship awards at the Senior School, the culmination of a lot of hard work and preparation. Finally, the children responded with customary enthusiasm to a new house initiative to reward and recognise acts of kindness and helpfulness, which involves children collecting pom-poms in a jar for their room when they do good deeds.



The sudden end to term with the closure of school due to the Coronavirus outbreak was particularly difficult for our boarding community, with many living so far from home, but we are so proud of how they have coped with everything and we hope that all of our boarders will remember all the fun we have had together this term as well.

Amy Snelling
Meads End Houseparent

BEDE'S

Bede's Senior School
Upper Dicker, Hailsham
East Sussex BN27 3QH

T 01323 843252
bedes.org

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East Sussex BN27 3QH

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bedes.org

SPORT TENNIS

WINNING BIG AT THE TENNIS SUSSEX AWARDS

Pupils and staff at Bede's Prep enjoyed success at the Tennis Sussex awards which were held at the Amex Stadium on Sunday 2 February.

Bede's Prep School picked up the Education award, making this the fourth time in the last five years that Bede's has won the award. Bede's Prep tennis coach, Jane Nash commented, "We are very proud to receive this award. At the Prep School we coach children of all ages and I get just as much satisfaction from watching one of our little ones pick up a racket for the first time as I do coaching a Year 8 County player."

Bede's Prep pupil, Jack Ford also received the Howard Robins award which celebrates junior players who represent the sport's core values.

Bede's was also proud to once more sponsor the County Championships Fair Play Award, with awards presented to boys and girls in every age category from 8 to 18.



Bede's Head of Tennis, Francesca Scollo, summed up the afternoon by saying, "I'm incredibly pleased that Bede's has once again been recognised in the Education category and we are proud to work in partnership with Tennis Sussex to support,

develop and champion the game both within Bede's and across the county."



Francesca Scollo
Head of Tennis

HOCKEY

The U13A Boys Hockey team started their season by beating Skippers Hill, with Lewy scoring 6 of the goals. This was a good starter for the IAPS, where the team just fell short losing in the quarter finals on penalty strokes against St Andrew's. The boys did not let this disappoint them by getting revenge on St Andrew's, beating them 4-3. A magnificent performance by all, and in particular Toby. The team won against Marlborough House, but lost to Ardingly. Their final competition saw the team taking home the trophy at the UKHA tournament, winning every match and not conceding a goal. Well done to them all.

The U13B Boys team sadly had a short season, but highlights saw them beat Skippers Hill, Vinehall and St Andrew's, as well as a draw against Marlborough House. The team performed well and enjoyed playing their matches.

Robert Redhead
Hockey Coach

BEDE'S

Bede's Senior School
Upper Dicker, Hailsham
East Sussex BN27 3QH

T 01323 843252
bedes.org

SPORT FOR ALL

Bede's Prep launched its 'Sport for All' initiative at the beginning of the Spring Term, which sees all pupils in Years 3-8 get involved in a sports-focused co-curricular activity every Wednesday afternoon in addition to their dedicated PE lessons. Alongside competitive sports such as football, hockey and netball, pupils take part in kayaking, horse riding, tough mudder, climbing, crossfit, swimming and much more.



Although these options have been available for a while, this is the first time that an activity slot has been dedicated solely to physical activity, and this is already having a tremendous impact. The



children involved in non-competitive sport get the same kudos and feeling of achievement as taking part in a fixture, and this feeds into their wider school life; they are more cognitively aware, more attentive in lessons, and in even happier spirits than usual. Pupils who were previously not engaged in competitive sport at all are genuinely enjoying physical activity, with many keen to get more involved in their PE lessons as their confidence has risen.

David Byrne
Director of Sport

RIDING TO VICTORY

The Bede's Equestrian team has had a busy term so far, with a fabulous training session at the all-weather Hickstead Arena (a welcome opportunity after all this bad weather) and success at the NSEA Eventers Challenge at Petley Wood.

Matilda (Prep School) had a fantastic speedy round getting the fastest time in the 70cm class.



The team of Ella, Ruby and Lola (Prep School) won the Novice class, with Ella coming fifth individually.

The same team with Bella then came 2nd in the Intermediate class, with Ella coming third individually.

All of the above pupils will go forward to represent Bede's in the NSEA Eventers Challenge Championships at Hickstead in May, which is a great achievement.



Katy McKeogh
Equestrian Team Leader

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bedes.org



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