

BEDDE'S

CURIOUS

Spring 2023



EVENTS

GUEST SPEAKER: BONITA NORRIS

Bede's Senior School welcomed Bonita Norris as a guest speaker on the evening of Wednesday 8 February 2023.

Bonita was the youngest British woman to reach the summit of Everest and the North Pole in 2010. Since then, she has been on five Himalayan expeditions and has reached the summit of some of the world's highest mountains. In 2017, her memoir 'The Girl Who Climbed Everest' was released, and topped the mountaineering books chart.

Bede's welcomed pupils, parents, and staff members of all ages to Bonita's in-person talk, where she spoke about making the decision to climb Everest having no climbing experience, and how she raised £50,000 to secure her place on an expedition. Bonita's tales of bravery, determination, and resilience inspired the audience, who were also given the opportunity to ask Bonita questions in a Q&A session.

Audience members also had the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of her book.



Bede's regularly invite speakers to deliver talks as part of their 'Pyemont Lecture' series, with past guests including John Amaechi and Lewis Pugh.

Headmaster of Bede's Senior School, Peter Goodyer comments, "It was a pleasure to welcome Bonita for an in-person talk which was both captivating and moving. She left her audiences feeling inspired to overcome their own personal challenges following her tales of courage and curiosity – two of Bede's core values. We look forward to many more thought-provoking in-person Pyemont Lectures in the future."

WOODLAND CREATION COMPLETION

Bede's has successfully completed its pledge to plant 2,000 trees on its Senior School site. The initial 1,200 trees were planted last spring and the Grounds team, alongside pupils and members of the Bede's community, have been busy planting the final 800 over the last two months.

This project has been brought to life by the Grounds team at Bede's, who have thought carefully about the placement of the trees. They have ensured a 3-metre radius for each tree to guarantee no overshadowing and the trees have all of the sunlight and space they need to grow. There has been a 12-metre island left in the centre of the trees which will eventually be home to a plaque to commemorate the tree planting experience.

The Grounds team, made up of Leigh, Adam, Ashley and Jason, has played a part in planting every single tree, and they couldn't be prouder of how the project has come together. One member of the team, Jason, comments, "It is quite a vision, seeing all of the trees planted finally. It has come such a long way! Being a part of this eco-initiative and seeing the pupils get involved has been great. It was a lot of work but will be so worth it in years to come, once the trees have bloomed."



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UK SPACE DESIGN CHALLENGE WIN

The UK Space Design Challenge (UKSDC) Final took place over the weekend of the 11 & 12 March at the iconic Imperial College London.

After winning in the Regional round before Christmas, a team of twelve Bede's pupils were entered into the final round. Bede's pupils were joined by over 25 schools from around the UK to compete. The pupils were split into three teams and given a briefing to introduce the concepts of this year's 'request for proposal' (RFP). Each company was made up of 60 pupils, and given 24 hours to design 'Dias', an orbital settlement around the sun set in the year 2095, with a capacity to hold 2,500 inhabitants. The companies had to use their technical knowledge and work collaboratively to produce their final presentation by 8am on Sunday morning.

The Bede's pupils were one of seven schools who were part of the team 'Olympus Mons Trading Company'. From the moment they started work on the Saturday morning, there was not a single quiet moment until 10pm, when the pupils travelled to their accommodation for the night.

At their accommodation, the teams continued working and it wasn't until 5.30 in the morning that pupils slowly filtered back to their rooms, to get woken at 7am to put finishing touches to their presentation before rushing back to the university for the deadline at 8am. The teams gathered in the lecture hall to present their proposals to the judges. After each presentation, the judges asked some intense questions. Once all the presentations were over, the judges left for deliberations. Upon their return, they gave feedback on all the teams work, and they praised Olympus Mons Trading Company for their attention to detail, showing thorough research and understanding – and the team won!

The announcement will be made shortly about the twelve pupils who will be selected to represent the UK at the International Finals which are held annually at NASA, Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

Miss Charlotte Redstone, Science Teacher at Bede's, is incredibly proud of the pupils, she comments, "Mx Price and I were very pleased with how well our pupils worked together with each other and the other members of their team. The group performed exceptionally well and are a credit to Bede's School. In particular Ellie, Nell and Matilda did an impressive job as presenters presenting their work to the judges and all the other competitors in the lecture hall, not an easy thing to do at all and especially on two hours sleep! Their hard work and diligence over the 24 hours were rewarded by winning the National Competition!"



MOVE IT!

Following a round of successful auditions, fifteen pupils from Bede's Legat Dance Academy took to the main stage at the opening of 'Move It' at London's ExCel Centre.

The pupils – aged 14-18 – entertained a packed audience with a group dance called 'Red', choreographed by Bede's Director of Dance, Mrs Pennington and her colleague, Emma Manes.

"This was such an achievement for our dancers," said Mrs Pennington. "Move It is a massive event and it is something that we have always wanted to do. To get through the auditions and take the second slot on the main stage on the opening day is a testimony to all our pupils and their talent."

Their dance, Red, was inspired by the fairy tale, Little Red Riding Hood. Six ballet dancers perform en pointe while being circled by contemporary jazz dancers, who are 'watchers' to the musical backdrop of 'Somebody's watching me.'

"We wanted to showcase how many different dance genres we teach here at Bede's," said Mrs Pennington. "It gave the audience a bigger perspective of what we do and how we have grown in recent years."

Bede's, which set up the Legat Dance Academy in the early 1970s, was named last year as one of the best schools in the country for dance by 'Talk Education' highlighting how the school successfully aligns the dual demands of dance training alongside a high-quality academic programme.

'Move It' is billed as the biggest dance event in the world and brings together thousands of dancers over three days covering all genres from street dance, to ballet, hip hop to contemporary jazz. Attendees have a chance to meet with professionals and also representatives from dance schools and colleges across the UK as well as taking part in classes.

On the second day, Mrs Pennington, who has performed in numerous West End musicals, held one of the main dance classes at the ExCel Centre on behalf of Bede's.

Legat pupils Caitlin, 17, and Angel, 14, said that performing on stage had been a fantastic experience for them both. "It was this massive gathering of dancers," said Caitlin. "It had a real festival feel with thousands of people there."

"We didn't have a chance to practise on the stage before the show," said Angel. "We just had to get up there and do it. It was amazing – there was a sea of people watching and filming us. We had such a great time."

Thirty associate members of Bede's Legat Dance Academy were also able to visit 'Move It' on the second day. "It was fantastic for pupils to have a chance to see what is on offer out there in the world of dance," said Mrs Pennington.



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ZOO UPDATE

We caught up with Hannah Spurgeon, our Zoo Manager, to get the latest updates on our animals.

We are busy planning lots of exciting developments for the zoo, including having a shuffle around in the reptile room, to allow more space for some new species to join us in the future.

We have new residents in the form of two male chinchillas (one of whom is pictured), who have settled in incredibly well and are a firm favourite with lots of pupils. Also in our mammal room, our Grandider's vonsira (pictured) have been growing in confidence, and 'Timmy' loves to show off his climbing skills for any visitors. We have plans to further develop their enclosure to encourage more natural behaviours and learn more about this rarely seen species.

In the outdoor enclosures, our Binturongs have been getting along very well since forming an unrelated pair late last year. We are excited to see how their relationship will blossom through the warmer months when they will hopefully spend more time in their outside enclosure together. The Kinkajou have benefitted from a fantastic new enclosure set-up thanks to a team building exercise with Bede's staff from various departments. The zoo team and the Kinkajous are extremely grateful for everyone's hard work in creating it.



JACK'S CHARITY SKIMARATHON

On the 12 March, Lower Sixth pupil Jack White competed in Switzerland's 53rd annual Engadin Skimarathon.

The Engadin Skimarathon in Switzerland is a prestigious event that first took place in 1969. This year, there were 14,000 participants from over 65 nations all cross country skiing along the 42km race which follows the valley floor from Maloja to S-Chanf.

Jack competed to raise money for CALM - a mental health focused charity that provides life-saving services to anyone who may be struggling.

Despite tough snow conditions, Jack completed the 42km course and, in doing so, raised an incredible £575 for CALM. Well done, Jack!



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CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

BEDE'S PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

This term we were delighted to become members of the Schools Partnership Alliance. The SPA is a charity working to support and promote schools of different types working together – and learning from one another – to improve outcomes for all young people. The overarching aim is to be a force for school improvement and the strongest pupil outcomes for all children, informed by research and driven by impact.

Partnerships come in many shapes and sizes. The most important factor is that they are mutually productive and make a materially positive difference to the educational, social and employment outcomes and opportunities of the pupils educated across them.

On the 27 January, we held our first Inter Schools debating competition. Five different schools in the area joined together for a debating experience led by Head of Languages, Matthew Oliver. MP Nusrat Ghani introduced the morning via a Zoom call, where she highlighted how events like this help to develop critical thinking skills, showing respect to others, gaining understanding as well as providing challenge and persuasion for the different points of view. The format of the morning was explained, before the motions were discussed. The two motions were “should foreign aid be dissolved?” and “should the consumption of meat be banned?” Feedback was given to all pupils with books given out to those that gave a particularly impressive performance. A huge thank you to our pupils that participated but also to all schools involved for their commitment and support.



YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart OAP group were able to join us again in February for a spot of creativity in the Art Rooms.

Art teacher Amy Christie demonstrated how to use a marbling technique to decorate cards for the group to take home for friends and family. Rachel Gibson, leader of the group said “it was a fantastic activity and was so lovely to work with all the young people at the school.”



SKIPPERS HILL

In March we welcomed three pupils from Skippers Hill Prep school to use our cooking facilities.

They thoroughly enjoyed their morning making macaroni cheese and Easter cupcakes. Skippers does not have any cooking facilities, so to be able to offer this opportunity has been greatly appreciated by staff and pupils.



INTER-SCHOOLS

We were delighted to host an inter-schools Year 5 and 6 girls football tournament on Thursday 23rd March.



Eight local schools took part playing six minutes each way. Lots of fun was had as well as observing some excellent skills. This is definitely going to be an annual event for the partnership. Well done to Dallington, Chiddingly and Bede's Prep for being overall winners with special mention to Polegate School who narrowly missed out on the medals.

Mary Leggett
Head of Partnership and Social Responsibility

CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

PREFECTS CHARITY WORK

As the School Prefects come to the end of our tenure, we have been reflecting on our aims and what we have achieved.

One key focus that we have had in our sights this year has been supporting the launch of the brand new Bede's Development Foundation. The Foundation's goal is to increase the number of transformational bursaries the Trust offers to pupils who would not otherwise be able to come to Bede's, specifically targeting pupils from deprived backgrounds across East Sussex. These bursaries are priceless for the pupils receiving them, but the opportunities are only available thanks to generous donations of others.



We are all so grateful to have the privilege to come to Bede's and the idea that we could help to give those same opportunities to those who would not normally be able to attend Bede's seemed too good an opportunity to pass up. We have all benefited in so many ways from being here, whether it be the incredible trips, sporting opportunities, creative arts outlets or academic offerings. We are all who we are today because of Bede's.



To raise awareness and funds for the Foundation we have been running the School Tuck Shop, Sixth Form socials such as the Casino and Curry Night and also the Prefects' Raffle. To date we have raised in excess of £6,000 - something we are incredibly proud of. If you would like to join us in supporting the Bede's Development Foundation please buy a raffle ticket via the Google form link that you have been emailed!!

Thank you for all of your support.



The School Prefect Team
2022-2023

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PERFORMING ARTS

No term is ever as busy as the Spring for our Music, Dance and Drama pupils with exam performances on top of the usual classroom and performance work.

From curriculum exams for our Upper Fifth, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth, to LAMDA exams for all who opt to be taken through this fantastic course. We have had a gargantuan amount of 'inspirational extras' to enjoy, from trips, workshops, concerts and productions and I was delighted to see so many pupils turning up to champion each other - the BTEC music concert in particular showed the support of boarding pupils from across the school. All in all a wonderful experience of lively activity as we step into Spring.

Karen Lewis
Director of Performing Arts

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

A plethora of performances have sprung from the creative minds of our drama pupils.

The department has been simply awash with diligent work and explorations of performance. Pupils have worked with text written in 500BC and have even begun writing their own twenty minute plays. The confines of our building look at times like a cyclone has wrought it worst upon us. Yet, in this ordered disarray the green shoots of genuine originality steadily emerge.

The net cast by the pupils this term has heaved in a shoal of tender and challenging subjects which they are eager to investigate. During break times, lunchtimes, free periods and after school we have been full with busy performers and we applaud our pupil's leadership and daring-do.

Our 'Weekends at the West End' innovation - led and organised by Mr Choithramani and Mrs White has become a very popular way to spend a Saturday, and what's not to love? All transport arranged, wonderful culinary pre-show delights and a fabulous production to exercise creative muscles - in all we've seen the Bede's pupils visit The Old Vic, The Barbican, The Yvonne Arnaud, Chichester Festival Theatre, The Bridge Theatre and The Sohoplac Theatre, to name but a few! All Bedians are welcome to sign up via the pupil hub.

We look forward now to preparing an hour long version of Twelfth Night for the Edinburgh Festival and to welcome you to see our immersive performance, entitled 'Through the Wardrobe', inspired by The Chronicles of Narnia.

Will Rennison
Head of Academic Drama



PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC SPRING OVERVIEW



As I write, we are in the thick of preparations for the BTEC gig (tomorrow) and the whole music department is buzzing after such an exhilarating opportunity (yesterday) to perform with the Old Royal Naval College Chapel in Greenwich, London.

In the Music department, this has been yet another busy and exciting term: a full range of gigs, recitals, pupil-led bands performances, a visit to the Royal Festival Hall in London and an ensemble concert in the

Recital Room to celebrate the work of a number of pupils at the end of the term.

January was dominated by the scholars' recital, celebrating the talents of many of our award holders - performing a captivating programme of repertoire, ranging from Bach to some current jazz masters! Parents and friends were serenaded to a wide range of styles and different performances, and we were delighted to host yet another recital to a capacity audience in the Recital Room. January also saw the new Year 9 'Big Sing' where all pupils in the First Year sang their hearts out, accompanied by a pupil-led band, Mr Aburn and Hopkins and Mr Scamardella directing from the front! Queen's 'We Will Rock You', and Bastille's 'Pompeii' raised the roof to a hearty noise and encouraged everyone to get involved.

In February, we welcomed over seventy Prep School musicians from the Prep School, Holmewood House, Handcross Park, and Lancing College Prep. A musical extravaganza with three diverse pieces including an American folk song, a string-only piece replete with sound effects, and a concert band number, championing woodwind and brass players. This was a wonderful occasion to celebrate orchestral playing and learn all about new and different repertoire for budding musicians across the South East.

A number of taster sessions were held throughout the term, enabling pupils studying academic music to gain a flavour of GCSE, BTEC and 'A'-Level Music and have their minds extended and enriched by all the possibilities of music as a career path.

Next, Upper Sixth Music Scholar Grace Watkins, Sixth Former Flossie Wilson and Fifth Former Josh Ting organised a pupil-led gig in the Miles Theatre, a chance for our budding musicians from all over the school community to come and perform in a relaxed and informal setting. Two concerts spanned the evening - one specifically for pupils, and the other for parents and older pupils. Despite the informal and relaxed atmosphere, this was a stunning evening of performances from pupils Joshua Ting, Anoushka Beardshaw, Devanie Travers, Veronica Travers, Ava Thurston and a number of new musicians, Orlando Ross, Amelie Hargrave and Johnny Juniper.

The Bede's Singers were fortunate enough to perform evensong at the Old Royal Naval College Chapel under the direction of Dr Ralph Allwood in early March. Our choir performed Purcell's *Man That is Born of a Woman*, a hymn, and some pupils joined in the introit, Purcell's *Thou Knowest Lord*. Again, we were thrilled to perform in such an inspirational setting, built and design by none other than the great early Baroque architect Christopher Wren and to have the opportunity of joining a young professional choir, raising our standards even more and giving our young singers such a feast for the senses.

Finally, the term came to a finish with a concert trip to the Royal Festival Hall, hearing Tchaikovsky's iconic and monumental 'Symphony No.5' and Prokofiev's fiendishly difficult 'Piano Concerto No. 3'. The BTEC gig and an ensembles' concert were held in the Recital Room and Miles Theatre respectively, leaving everyone with a warm glow and uplifted, as we approach the end of term and a well-deserved break for Easter.



Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

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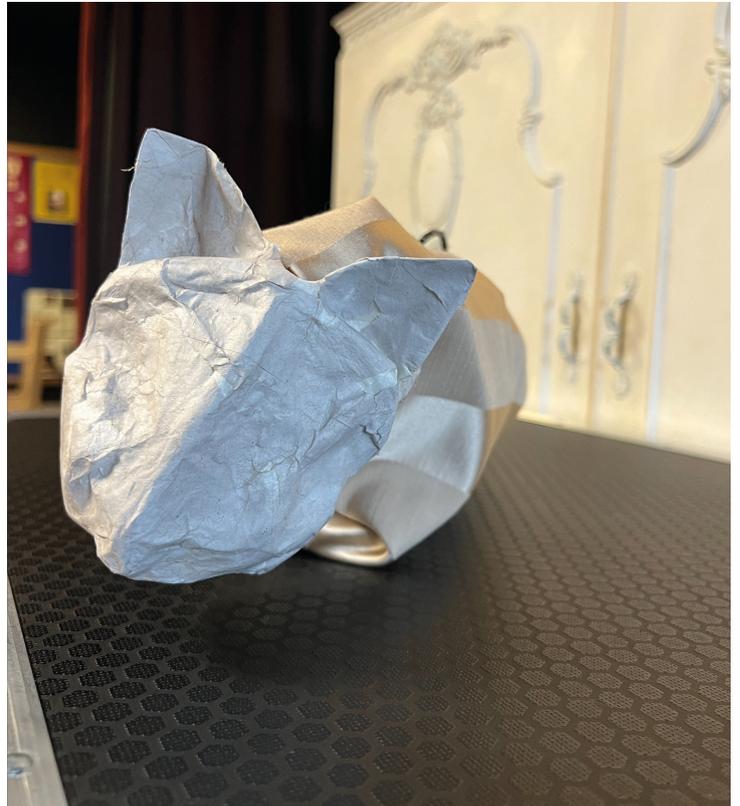
PERFORMING ARTS

TALES FROM THE TECH BOOTH

The Spring term has been one of the busiest ever for our dedicated pupil tech team. From supporting the upcoming Junior School Play, 'Through the Wardrobe', to hosting the BTEC Gig and Rock/Pop Gig in the Miles Studio, overseeing multiple assessed performances across the year groups and, finally, operating the lighting and sound for the Legat Solo Awards, plus all the other smaller events that this term has brought, it has certainly been a busy one!

We've seen new talent emerge in the form of Orlando Ross (First Year, Camberlot), who has begun to take a leading role in the operation of lighting for these events. Max Nash (Upper Fifth, Camberlot) has also continued to shine (or at least controlled the lighting to shine for him) who has singlehanded programmed our lighting desk to allow pupils to busk their lighting performances on a professional desk.

We have also witnessed some amazing creations from Matilda Malsch (Lower Fifth, Crossways), who has created a realistic cat puppet for our performances, stage management assistance and excellent poster design from Mia Greenhalgh (Upper Fifth, Crossways) and Amelia Frohlich (Lower Sixth, Dorte), as well as the rest of our pupil tech team. This is all on the back of the creation and development of our brand new offering for our Sixth Form pupils, which is the introduction of the BTEC Production Arts (Practice) course. This A Level course will see our pupils take various pathways in the Production Arts and learn the skills that are fully transferable within theatre. Recommended for those who want to go into the industry, become a fully rounder performer or wish to take a subject that will offer multiple transferable skills, it is a course that will inspire our pupils and become the forth "threat" in the Performing Arts Faculty. The best bit, the final qualification is worth one and a half A Levels and is fully coursework based. Please speak to a member of the Performing Arts Faculty for more information.



Ben Phelps
Performing Arts Technician

PERFORMING ARTS

LEGAT DANCE ACADEMY

It has not only been a busy term for our Legat dancers but an incredibly exciting one too.

On top of our normal dance classes we have been preparing for our performances and had workshops with guest professionals. Katy-Jo Murfin visited to lead a 'Saturday Night Fever' workshop and Winifred Burnet-Smith, who is one of the artistic choreographers at Rambert, kindly joined us to lead the dancers in a contemporary session. We were also lucky to sit down with senior nutritionist Ellie Olds who supported and educated the dancers on the importance of a balanced diet.



We had a theatre trip to see 'Wicked' the musical at The Apollo Victoria and after the show we were privileged to speak with some of the cast members.



On Friday March 17 we held our annual Legat Solo Awards with our guest judge Lee Hoy. A huge congratulations goes to the following winning pupils for their wonderful performances and commendations.



Ballet - Katrina Cheung
Contemporary - Ayaka Amos
Tap - Imogen Beale
Jazz - Francesca Eve

Of course our biggest achievement this term and the most exciting opportunity for our dancers was our performance at 'Move It' 2023 held at the ExCel Centre in London. This mammoth event which is billed the 'World's biggest dance event' saw the Legat dancers share the stage with some of the industry's leading companies and dancers including Ricky Jinks, Layton Williams and Flawless.

We joined the 'Let's Dance' line up for another performance on Monday 13 March held at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne and what was thrilling for our dancers was knowing that in just a matter of weeks, we will be heading back to this iconic stage to perform in our own showcase 'What A Wonderful World'. Tickets for this event held on Friday 23 June will be on sale imminently and I urge you to purchase your seats and support these amazingly talented dancers.



Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

CREATIVE ARTS

DRAWING AT BEDE'S

I was once walking through London and saw a bit of graffiti scribbled on a wall 'All you need is a pen'. I would adapt it to 'All you need is a pencil' – because with a pencil you can sketch an idea, plan a room layout, write a symphony, invent Mickey Mouse – whatever your imagination allows you to do.

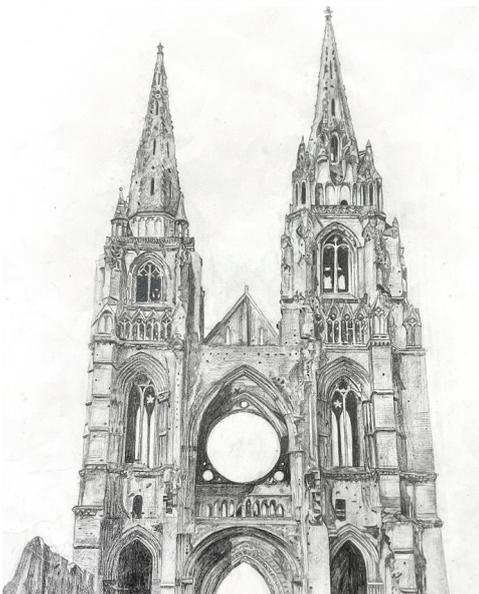
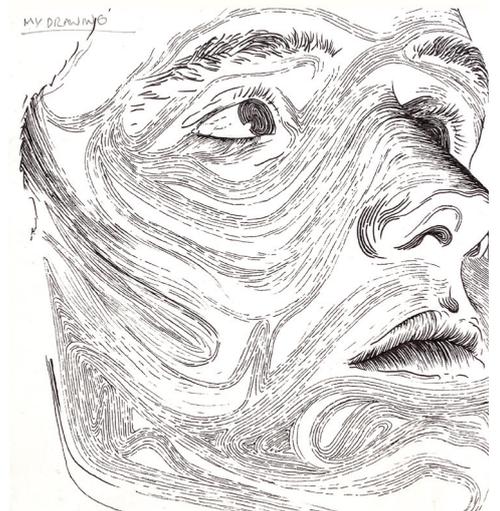
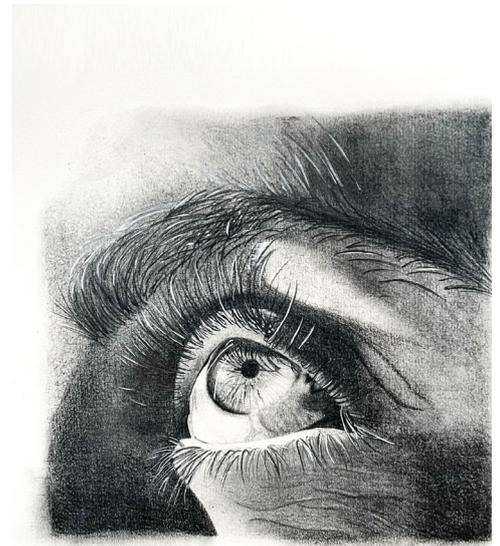
The tradition of drawing at Bede's is central to all we do. In fact, all our disciplines start with the basics – drawing, colour, darkroom skills, building, coiling in ceramics, an understanding of the formal elements – all essential in going on to create exciting work. The 20th Century DADA Collage Artist Kurt Schwitters – a master of the Avant-Garde, always said an artist should have mastered drawing before they venture into experimentation. On this page is a collection of drawings done by Bede's pupils – some as outcomes in themselves, but some as ways to think through a problem – thinking through drawing.

So drawing is central to what we do. However, we also embrace the new - merging analogue and digital, pencil and pixel, clay and projections, chemical and electronic. It is the love and pursuit of image making that drives us. All great artists will combine approaches. Da Vinci explored drawing, painting, invention, architecture, and science. It is only in our modern minds we see a difference between art and science – and we are lesser for it. David Hockney, one of Britain's most famous painters, and a huge fan of drawing, has used photocopiers, iPad and Polaroid cameras to make his images. In an age of digital technology and artificial intelligence it will be how creative people adapt and tweak the technology who will succeed. It is the hand in the machine. In addition, the human made mark will always have an allure – as these drawing show. So, the battle is not between analogue and digital – it is about how we adapt. Many great ideas start with a drawing, a doodle, or a sketch – all you really need is a pencil!

We have put together a little selection of Bede's Pupils Drawings (mainly in pencil).

Jonathan Turner
Head of Creative Arts Faculty

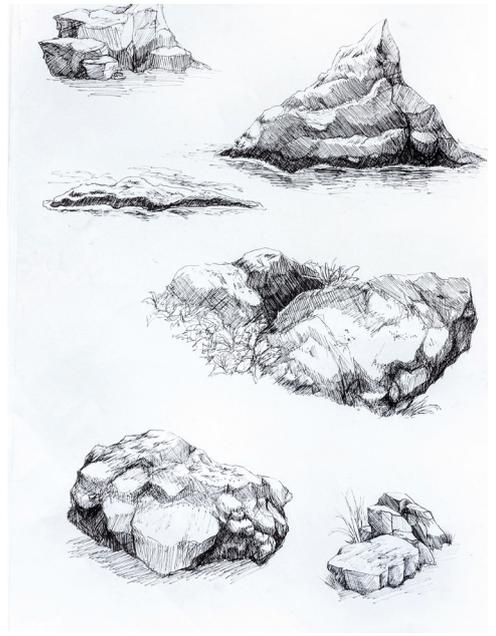
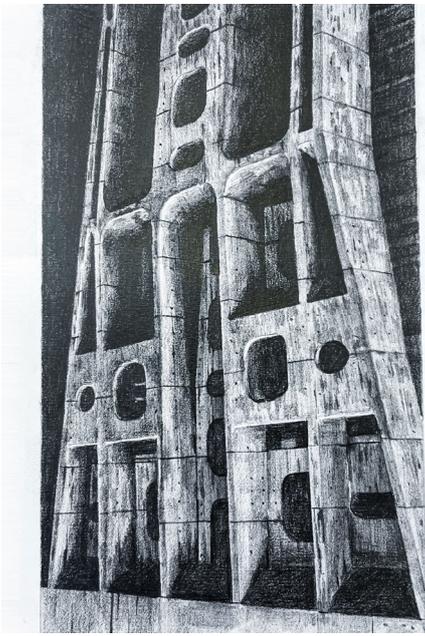




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ACADEMIC

Exams can be a stressful time for all pupils, but with the right preparation and mindset, improvements can always be made. At Bede's we have been spending much of the last few weeks helping pupils understand the best revision strategies. Effective revision is crucial to performing well in exams, and there are several strategies that pupils can use to maximise their study time and improve their chances of success. Here's the Top Six tips that we recommend for all pupils.

Tip 1: Start Early

Starting early is one of the most important things pupils can do to prepare for exams. Procrastination can lead to a last-minute cramming session, which research has proven is not an effective way to learn and can also result in stress and anxiety. Start preparing for exams at least a few months in advance to allow enough time for thorough revision.



Tip 2: Create a Study Plan

Creating a study plan is essential for effective revision. A study plan helps pupils to organise their time and ensure that they cover all the necessary material. We would recommend identifying the topics that are in the exam and which they need to improve on. Then allocate specific study times for each subject. This will help pupils to stay on track and avoid feeling overwhelmed.

Tip 3: Use Active Learning Techniques

Active learning techniques such as summarising, note-taking, and creating flashcards can help pupils to retain information more effectively. By summarising we mean condensing large amounts of



information into shorter, more manageable pieces, while note-taking helps pupils to focus on key concepts and ideas. Flashcards can be used to test knowledge and improve recall.

Tip 4: Practise Past Papers

Practising past papers is, for many subjects, the ideal way to prepare for exams. Past papers give pupils an idea of the format and types of questions that will be asked in the exam, allowing them to prepare accordingly. Pupils should time themselves when practising past papers to simulate exam conditions and build their confidence.

Tip 5: Get Enough Sleep and Exercise

Sleep and exercise are essential for optimal brain function and memory retention. Pupils should aim to get at least 7-8 hours of sleep each night and incorporate regular exercise into their routine. Exercise helps to reduce stress and anxiety, improves mood, and promotes healthy brain function.



Tip 6: Seek Support

Seeking support from teachers, friends, or family members can be beneficial during exam preparation. Teachers can provide guidance and support, while friends and family members can offer emotional support and encouragement. Perhaps being part of a study group with friends could be helpful, as it provides an opportunity to discuss ideas and clarify concepts.

Successful exam revision requires a combination of all of the above. Since the mock exams earlier this term, pupils will have begun their journey towards the summer exams. The three weeks of the Easter break are crucial in this journey towards successful results and, for those pupils taking exams, whilst it's important to have a break, it's equally important to have a comprehensive and well structured revision programme.

Remember, the key to success is not just hard work, but smart work. To all pupils taking exams... Best of luck!

Nicholas Abrams
Assistant Head: Academic

STEM

ASTRONOMY CLUB

On the evening of Wednesday 1 March, clear skies allowed pupils at the Senior School a fantastic view of the close conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Venus above the picturesque backdrop of the lake and woods; this great picture of the spectacle was taken by Hugo Lee from outside the canteen (Venus is the brighter of the two planets, to the right).



Julia French
Head of STEM Faculty

MATHSFEST TRIP

The Lower Sixth mathematicians went on the annual MathsFest to the Royal Institute in London in February.

After a 7am coach departure we managed to get there just about on time despite the London traffic doing its best to make us late. Once there, the thirty or so pupils were treated to some varied and fascinating talks given by four renowned mathematicians all with different backgrounds and using their skills in different ways. We heard from Tom Crawford (Oxford University lecturer and Youtuber) about how he managed to use maths, data and modelling in a purpose built fish tank to predict the flow of plastic waste in the sea,

therefore making it easier to collect and remove. After an interesting talk about maths in MRI scanning by Yolanda Ohene, some day to day mathematical facts by award winning author Rob Eastaway and some useful exam advice by Zoe Griffiths, we were treated to some real life juggling, mathematical sequencing and comedy by Colin Wright. The trip proved to be a huge hit with the pupils and makes a nice change from the classroom and gives them a sneak peak into the sort of applications that maths can be used in after university.



Stavros Manos
Head of Maths

STEM OUTREACH PROGRAM

This term Ingrid Clemo, William Gillett and Albina Mildova have taken the role of tutors/ teachers to gifted and talented pupils from two partner schools in London.

Our Lower Sixth have experienced first hand online learning from the other side of the desk.

Through engaging lessons and activities they have shared not only their GCSE knowledge, experience and tips to younger pupils.

This partnership has been a rewarding success for pupils of both schools and has allowed our talented Lower Sixth gain confidence in the process.

We will be looking in welcoming the pupils at Bede's later in the year.

Laure Finat-Duclos
Head of Chemistry

STEM PREP SCHOOL OUTREACH

The STEM faculty have been inspiring the next generation of engineers with various talks and activities at some of the local prep schools including Bede's Prep, Rose Hill and Skippers Hill.

Some learnt programming with Upper Sixth pupil Sam Craggs - under the supportful gaze of Mr Betts. Others became rocket scientists with either Mr Froom or Mrs Danielsen and their teams of Sixth Form volunteers including Ellie Abel, Peter Moseley, Sam Learoyd and Oli Robson.

Ellie Abel has also given a fantastic inspirational talk to these schools on her journey through STEM and some of the wonderful opportunities she has had as a result of giving herself permission to try something new, and the determination to be good at it!

We are so grateful to the care, kindness and support all our Sixth Form volunteers showed to the younger pupils at each event.



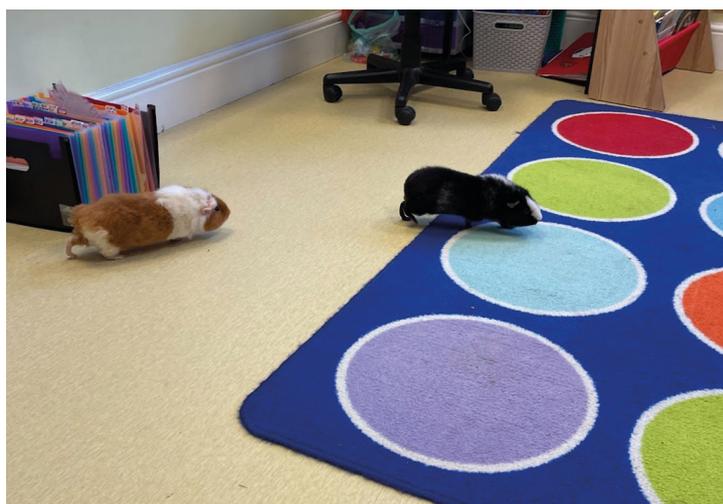
Catherine Danielsen
*Assistant to the Head of
STEM*

PSYCHOLOGY: EXPLORING ATTACHMENT

The Psychology Department was warmly welcomed to the Prep School this half term to help them explore the concept of Attachment.

Seven of our Lower Sixth A Level pupils went to the Prep School for a morning to observe behaviours of nursery school children, and consider

how what they have learnt about the importance of early attachments can show certain behaviours at school. They had a fantastic time and even loved the guinea pigs! We look forward to popping down to the Prep again soon.



Yvette Stainsby
Head of Psychology

STEM

LOWER SIXTH CHEMISTRY TRIP

The Lower Sixth Chemists travelled to Southampton University for a Twilight session hosted by School Teacher Fellow Dr David Read.

Under careful supervision, the pupils extracted organic material from the common spice nutmeg, purifying it, and finally carrying out an analysis to see how successful they have been.

The experiment consisted of multiple parts to produce trimyristin from nutmeg, and lasted for about three hours. First, we stirred the nutmeg in ether and it was filtered to create a solvent, then used a rotary vacuum evaporator to isolate a solid from the filtrate. Next we added acetone (propanone) and heated the flask with a steam bath, before leaving to cool. After a quick break for cookies and squash, it was back to the process of adding cooled acetone to the crystals that formed, and filtering them using a vacuum filter.

When the residue was isolated, the tests began. We first weighed our sample on a mass balance for percentage yield, then separated a small spatula-full of product to perform thin-layer chromatography, a second for IR spectroscopy, and another for the melting point test, all to find if we had a pure sample. When the chromatography was complete, we ran the sheet under UV light and in KMnO₄ solution to isolate the spots on the paper that couldn't be seen by the naked eye. Altogether, I would hope that I could speak for all the pupils who went on the trip when I say that I found this fascinating and it allowed me a unique perspective into what lab work is like in university and industry, and is definitely something I hope to experience again.



*Nina Hryniewicz-Sheppard
Lower Sixth Pupil*

BEDE'S PREP YEAR 7 ENGINEERING DAY 2023

Our Year 7s visited for a day of engineering challenges at the Senior School, with the dual aim of learning that the older pupils at the Senior School are inspiring and that perhaps even maths can be fun, and not necessarily a solo activity. There was a massive amount of collaboration required for the day and each person in a team needed to do their part.

There was a brief with real life bridge designs and ideas as well as some strict rules: the aim was to build a bridge across a 30cm gap and have it withstand the most weight on it's central structure. There were quite a variety of approaches, from size, design, density and shape perspectives, and all the participants made a massive effort.

There was an introductory game of "Split or Steal" where a Boolean choice was not so simple, and everything to play for in the shape of a cookie. There were some workshops on 3D origami design, centre-of-mass with forks and corks and bio-engineering in quick succession in the afternoon.

All of this was followed by the final grand bridge destruction testing. Every bridge supported a lot of weight considering the building materials: just glue and spaghetti! However, special mention has to go "The Breadcrumbs" team (Ollie, Inari, Lucy and Mikey) as our prize-winners this year, whose bridge withstood a whopping 3,200 grams of mass. The "Holy Ones" did very well in second place with 2,400 grams supported and joint third went to the "Dracocorns" and team "Pesto Pasta" whose bridges both withstood 2,200 grams!



*Matthew Peattie
Maths Teacher*

SHAPE

It has been another busy term in the SHAPE Faculty - on top of preparing over 300 pupils for their mocks exams there have been a number of events and trips running, as well as preparation for the second edition of SHAPE Magazine.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Faculty staff who run these events, and pupils and parents who support the many opportunities that are available - and wish everyone a productive Easter break.

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2023

Bede's pupils participated in a range of events linked to HMD 2023, with the whole school commemoration taking the form of an assembly led by members of the Service & Wellbeing Committee. Mr Taylor and I would like to thank Grace Wilson, Ruby Dare-Younger, Sam Craggs, and Helena Abushaban-Corbin and Josh Stockwell for a thoughtful and reflective presentation.

First Year and Fifth Form pupils were given the opportunity to attend the HMD event at Holmewood House School, hearing two thought-provoking lectures on Jewish resistance and the sometimes problematic dual role that Auschwitz serves as both a museum and a memorial. This was followed by presentations from the organisation Generation to Generation, in which two family members talked about their mothers' experiences of the Holocaust, presenting accounts of survival against the odds that were both shocking and uplifting in equal measure.

A number of Sixth Form pupils visited the University of Sussex HMD event, having the privilege to hear testimony from Holocaust survivor Manfred Goldberg BME. Manfred presented online to a large number of Bede's pupils and parents during lockdown, so it was great to meet him and his wife in person. Manfred's testimony was unflinching, with the entire audience reduced to tears at one point, and served as a sober reminder of the need to challenge prejudice, discrimination and hatred at every opportunity.

Finally a small group of pupils were asked to perform at the Eastbourne HMD event. Supported by local MP Caroline Ansell and featuring testimony from survivor Dorit Oliver-Wolff, the evening was a mixture of sombre reflection, readings and music. Bede's pupils Ruby Dare Younger and Charlie Bennett (pictured with Dorit and organiser Jacob Vince), Megan Nel, Max Samland, Will Craggs and Charlie Swan read a selection of poems including 'Terezin' and 'Yad b'Yad'. All of the pupils read beautifully and they received some

amazing feedback from both audience members and the organisers. Charlie Bennett (Lower Sixth, Knights) reflected that 'this was an inspiring and emotional commemoration of those who lost their lives during the Holocaust. Yet more importantly, the event served as a permanent reminder to never forget what hatred and prejudice can lead to. The accounts spoken right in front of me placed what was originally learned in the textbook into a new sense of reality. Dorit Oliver-Wolff BEM led us all in prayer, song and deep thought throughout the night, an experience I will always be grateful for'

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE Faculty

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY TRIP

A number of Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth Religion & Philosophy pupils were recently given the wonderful opportunity to develop their curiosity as philosophers by participating in a reading weekend; wandering through forests, pondering their ideas and debating important concepts.

The trip began with a treatise from Mr McIntosh about the metaphysics of vagueness, followed by Lola Waddingham's talk on the limits of free speech; both of these incited meaningful discussion. At night, games and scary stories were told until late! The second day began with Ruby Dare Younger's talk on Radical Feminism, followed by Zoe Whittington's presentation on 'free will' and Charlie Swan's philosophical pessimism discussion. After spending the day walking and talking there was a welcome and lovely dinner at the King's Arms in Dorking and an impromptu, late-night race through Tesco's! The retreat was peaceful, inspiring and fun, and hopefully the first of many.



Lola Waddingham
Lower Sixth Pupil

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MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Our new Model UN group is flourishing, with a number of pupils representing Bede's in debates at Guildford and Felsted.

Remy Brosens (Lower Sixth, Dorms) offers his recollections of the weekend; 'After a long journey we were welcomed into Felsted School. We listened to the opening address from the Headmaster. Once everyone was settled down in their committee rooms, the Model United Nations 2023 officially started! I was the representative for Italy in the UNICEF committee, and discussed in total three resolutions on the first day. The process was similar to the real debates of the United Nations, a resolution was proposed followed by debates where nations could speak against or in favour of it. After some heavy debating it was time for lunch. We were offered a good meal, although we couldn't fully enjoy it as we were busy convincing other people to get their support for our resolutions!



I can speak for the whole team in saying we really enjoyed this amazing experience. We learned how to debate, how to build relationships and how to speak with more confidence. But most importantly, we had fun. We ended the long day with a bowling game and a tasty dinner, where we all shared our funny moments from earlier that day. It was really one of those moments when you realise how beautiful life can be if everyone is just kind and open to each other.



The next day we woke up early, had a sturdy breakfast and headed towards the final debates of our trip. We sat together with many other committees in a huge, old hall where everyone tried to stand out with amazing speeches. Although it was just a simulation, everyone was behaving professionally. All the different nations went the extra mile to make the best possible decision for their country. We closed our magnificent journey with five resolutions passed and many amendments on other's resolutions. It was fantastic that members of our team were recognised by the judges. Both Mandy Zhang and Tristan Cheng were awarded 'Commended Delegate' and Charlie Bennett was awarded 'Highly Commended Delegate'. We can conclude that it was an amazing and successful conference for us all, especially as this was our first ever Model United Nations Conference!

My thanks to Miss Webster and Mr McIntosh, who have invested a lot of time and energy into an incredibly successful launch of Model United Nations at Bede's.

Remy Brosens
Lower Sixth Pupil

ICELAND TRIP SUMMER 2024

The Science and Geography Departments are delighted to offer First Year, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth scientists and geographers the chance to visit Iceland, the Land of Ice and Fire, in July 2024. More information will be coming out shortly about this exciting opportunity.



Helena Worrall
Head of Geography

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BERLIN TRIP

Over half-term forty-four Lower Fifth, Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils joined us on a study trip to Berlin, having the opportunity to experience the sights, history and culture of this fantastic European capital.

From our base near Alexanderplatz in the heart of the city pupils were able to visit the Brandenburg Gate and Reichstag, cheer on Hertha Berlin in the Bundesliga, experience the shopping district of Kurfurstendamn and visit the Berlin Opera - as well as visiting more sombre sites such as Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the Wannsee Conference House and the Stasi prison at Hohenschönhausen.



Many thanks to Miss Webster, Mr Rohmer, Mr Turner, Mr Davies and Miss Logan for giving up their February break to supervise this trip. The pupils had a great time; Tom Prince (Lower Fifth, Camberlot) was of the opinion that the trip was very interesting, a real eye opener to Berlin and the history surrounding it - it was a great opportunity to experience German culture and the city itself'. Erin Wooldridge (Lower Fifth, Bloomsbury) said 'the walking tours were interesting - I had lots of fun and learned a lot. Overall, I really enjoyed it.' Romilly Smith (Lower Fifth, Bloomsbury) echoed this, adding 'I enjoyed the trams and the walking tours and would definitely recommend it.'



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Bede's recently hosted the European Youth Parliament South Coast Forum, a form of public speaking and debate that seeks to replicate the format used in the European Parliament.

A range of teams from local schools participated in challenging debates around issues as diverse as 'tackling toxic masculinity', how best to ensure 'adequate health care for refugees' and 'keeping young people safe in Europe'. Mandy Zhang and Egor Rogazinskiy made perfect ambassadors for their key debates, ensuring their team were well prepared and participated fully throughout the day. We would like to thank the entire team, who not only performed to a high standard on the day, but also made our guests feel immensely welcome.



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE

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MADAGASCAR TRIP BRIEFING

Towards the end of term, the group attending the Madagascar Biology and Geography trip in the summer got together for the first time.

We did “manao namana” (speed friending in Malagasy), in which pupils had to find out various facts about each other, such as which type of wildlife they are most looking forward to spotting in Madagascar. The pupils on the trip are from a range of houses and year groups and it was wonderful to see them all chatting together by the end of the evening. We all learned some useful Malagasy words (“salama” is hello) and discussed what adventures we will have on the trip. There are some feelings of trepidation about camping on the river bank and going without a shower for a couple of days, but lots of enthusiasm about the opportunity to swim in waterfalls and travel by 4x4! The trip heads out to Antananarivo on 1 July for 11 days and we are sure it will be a life changing experience for us all.



Helena Worrall
Head of Geography

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY IDEAS FORUM

Taking place across three days, the ‘Religion & Philosophy Ideas Forum’ was a resounding success.

Bede’s welcomed Dr Andy Bannister and Dr Sharon Dirckx, who ran a series of lesson drop-ins and lectures for pupils, covering topics as diverse as ‘If there is a God why are there natural disasters and pandemics?’ and ‘Does religion poison everything?’ Charlie Swan

(Lower Sixth, Deis) commented that ‘Dr Bannister’s critical thinking skills were tremendous; he had a huge depth of knowledge, especially, of the counter-arguments (like the evolutionary argument) for his thesis. I was impressed with the way he pushed back and responded to criticisms. It was fantastic to see the pupils who attended and contributed to the discussion, asking probing and challenging questions to the speaker, who always managed to respond in a calm, reflecting manner but still remained passionate about his beliefs. The talk was also thoroughly engaging; Andy asked accessible but provocative questions, making the talk perfect for both the younger attendees and deeper thinkers amongst us.’

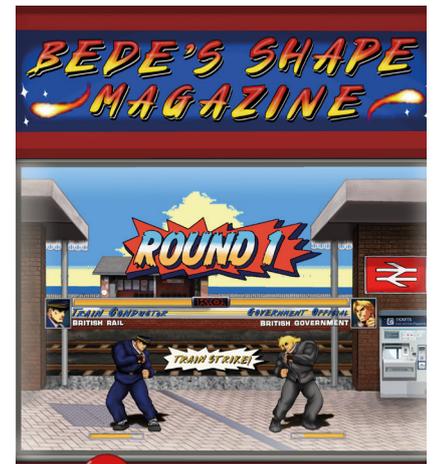


James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE

SHAPE MAGAZINE

Following on from the successful launch of the first edition of SHAPE Magazine during the previous school year, we are pleased to announce that issue 2 will be hitting the shelves soon!

Designed, written and produced entirely by pupils, it is a fantastic showcase of all things SHAPE and highlights the way in which SHAPE subjects shape the world around us. Do check out the amazing front cover artwork produced by Elfie Day (Upper Sixth, Crossways).



James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE

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SUSTAINABLE BANKING

Earlier in the term the Business & Economics Department welcomed guest speaker Peter Beardshaw, who gave an insightful discussion on sustainable banking and the challenges of net zero.

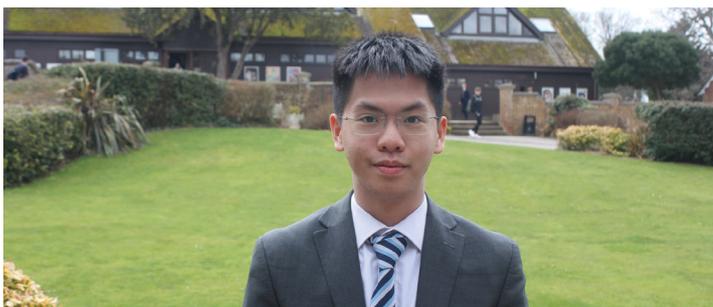


Peter's wealth of knowledge and real-world expertise was hugely enlightening for pupils, sparking a great deal of interest and inspiring many to think more critically about the role of the banking sector in wider society. Lower Sixth pupil Kei Lalor (Dorms), who is studying Business Studies and Economics A Level, commented "I recently attended the Net Zero Banking talk with Mr. Beardshaw and found it very intriguing. It was fascinating to learn how banks are looking to cut out greenhouse gas emissions through net zero banking. And it was particularly interesting to see where the future of banking is headed in the next 20 to 30 years. I was grateful for the opportunity to broaden my knowledge, as the talk is not part of the syllabus, and these types of talks provide great insight into the business world.

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE

INSIDE BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

For this newsletter we chose to introduce "the interview". The first interview is getting to know teacher Mr Waterhouse and Lower Sixth pupil Tristan Cheng (Dorms); they have been asked a series of questions to give us a little insight into their time at Bede's and thoughts and opinions surrounding the world business and economics.



How long have you been studying/ teaching Business?
Mr Waterhouse: I have been teaching Business and Economics for 30 years.

Tristan: I have been studying Economics for 3 years and I plan to continue studying it at A2 and university.

How long have you been a member of the Bede's community?

Mr Waterhouse: 22 years teaching Business and Economics. I have worked in boarding, been Director of Sport and I am currently Hm of Knights House.

Tristan: 3 years. I joined the Lower Fifth and am now in my first year of A Level.

What was the last product you bought - and why did you choose it?

Mr Waterhouse: a TV - my old one broke and this was the cheapest replacement!

Tristan: Samsung A33 phone because I believe it is better value for money.

If you had to describe yourself as a company/ brand what would it be and why?

Mr Waterhouse: My personal brand would be centred around providing accurate and helpful information whilst being flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of others.

Tristan: Apple

Which entrepreneur do you most admire and why is that the case?

Mr Waterhouse: Grant - A friend who started an electricals firm and built it into a thriving SME.

Tristan: Steve Jobs because he introduced a revolutionary product, the iPhone, into the electronics market and it has changed the way we communicate on a global scale.

What business related TV/Media etc do you consume and why?

Mr Waterhouse: Spotify - I enjoy listening to the Killers whilst running with my dog Murray.

Tristan: Shark Tank as it shows many innovations and interesting inventions.

If you had one tip for improved grades what would it be?

Mr Waterhouse: Take responsibility for your own learning.

Tristan: Never be afraid to ask the teacher questions or seek help if you are unsure. If you don't seek advice there won't be a chance, but if you do there is at least some chance.

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE

LANGUAGES

With overseas visits, Chinese New Year, competitions, theatre trips and our World Book Day readings, the Languages Faculty again made sure that there were plenty of extra-curricular opportunities available for pupils this Spring, whatever their interest might be.



On World Book Day, it was superb to welcome pupils and teachers to the Miles Studio for a series of inspiring and uplifting readings, all helping to promote our key message for the year: we read to feel well, to reconnect with ourselves as well as the world around us. Though the evidence for a correlation between academic achievement and regular reading is beyond doubt, what all our live readers made clear - through such a varied range of texts - was that there is so much to enjoy about the printed word. We had poems about encounters with nature, moments of realisation and epiphany, a moving account of finding a new pet, plus lots of wisdom on the nature of happiness. There were so many highlights, from Mr Richards' uproariously funny excerpt from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* to Madam

Bonheur's powerful extract from the Seneca Chief's letter to Washington, but particular mentions need to go to Hau Tak Ng, for his brilliant reading of Verlaine's 'Le Cimetiere Marin', Ava Hooper for her superb choice of 'The Feminine Mystique', and to Devanie Travers and Tom Prince, for sharing excerpts from their own work. We hope live leadings will continue to bring the Bede's community together in this way from now on.

Earlier this term, it was also superb to be able to reward and acknowledge those pupils who are excelling across the Faculty in our 'laudation', either with debating and their languages, or because of their commitment to the Classics and EAL departments. For Classics, Austin McCullen was recognised for his excellent contribution to lessons, whilst Aidan Long impressed in Latin. Prithvi Ann Sharma-Joehnk, Hamish Phillipson, and Tom McNicholl have all been commended for their superb work in Spanish, and, in EAL, Sakura Saito was given a special mention for her superb spirit and contributions to the EAL Club. All the pupils recognised in the coffee and cake laudation truly made their teachers' days, and we look forward to giving even more pupils that encouraging message next term.



Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

LANGUAGES

EAL

This term we have started our international cooking sessions in EAL with the Pre Sixth.

The Pre Sixth is a culturally diverse group, so this is a great way of learning about one another's cultures through food. First off were our Mexican pupils, who chose to cook chicken fajitas, guacamole and salsa with corn flatbreads, and our Spanish pupils who chose a traditional Spanish tortilla. All ten members of the class were involved in the preparation of the ingredients; slicing and dicing vegetables, chopping chicken and blending spices. A couple of them had never cooked before in their life, but were well mentored by our more experienced cooks. Jimena took control of the fajitas, while Isabella made an excellent, authentic guacamole. The salsa was put together under Jule's supervision, whilst Barbara and Adriana produced a delicious tortilla.



Next up we have food from Germany, Hong Kong and Belgium to look forward to.

Jason Cook
Head of EAL

MFL

Our term began with a superb trip to London's Chinatown and to Trafalgar Square to witness Chinese New Year celebrations, including traditional dance and song performed on stage.

It was great to be able to enjoy the bustle and unrivalled atmosphere of the London celebration, especially given that it is the largest event of its kind outside of mainland China. On the day, Ms Yan guided pupils around Chinatown and into a traditional restaurant for a sumptuous meal, complete with a New Year speciality: sweet and sour fish. The group shared more than a dozen wonderful dishes and practised their own Mandarin when ordering their food. In Trafalgar Square, we saw two Opera singers in duet as well as costumed dancing and saw the signs of the Chinese Zodiac represented on stage, including a very mischievous-looking rabbit - the animal of 2023.

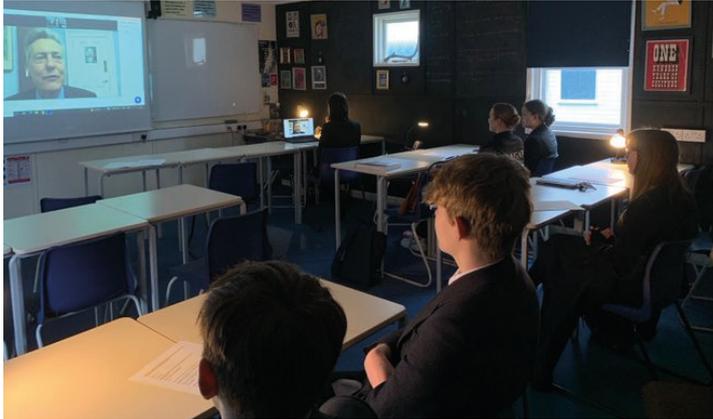
Particular thanks go to Ms Yan for organising this wonderful trip, and to Seamus Coleman, who played a key role in speaking of Chinese New Year in assembly and in translating the names of our delicious dishes on the day!



In German, pupils were fortunate to have a virtual guest speaker in the form of former Government Minister for Culture, Media and Sport and current MP Ben Bradshaw, who spoke with such energy and conviction about the need for all our pupils to broaden their cultural and linguistic horizons as far as possible. Speaking of his own background as a non-native speaker of German, Ben explained how having a second language had been instrumental in his employment in broadcasting in the 1980s, helping him secure a role on the BBC team which televised the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, but also later in business. Bradshaw's message for pupils was a clear one: if fewer pupils are choosing languages, those pupils who do opt for them will be all the more valuable in our future businesses, governments, newspapers and media organisations. A big well done goes to the

LANGUAGES

Lower Sixth German pupils who managed the whole interview by themselves - Marieke Noon, Amelia Frohlich and Caitlin Bentman.



Veronique Ganivet
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

ENGLISH

This term, English A-Level pupils enjoyed two brilliant theatre productions.

In January, Lower Sixth pupils headed to London's newest theatre, Soho Place, to take in Josie Rourke's delightful staging of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It'. With dancing, autumnal leaves falling on the set, scores of songs and wrestling live on stage, this seemed to be theatre at its best; a production which helped audiences savour some of Shakespeare's most bittersweet lines on the folly of love, and at the same time revel in several moments of inspired silliness. For A-Level pupils studying the genre of comedy, it was a perfect way to begin our discussions back in the classroom.



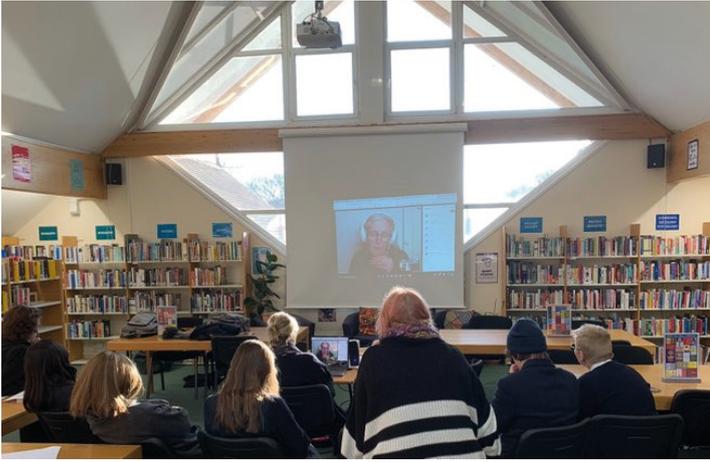
In February, Upper Sixth Literature pupils also took in one of the theatrical spectacles of the year in the form of Neil Bartlett's adaptation of Virginia Woolf's 'Orlando'. Though the novel may be a few years shy of its centenary, this adaptation proved again its freshness, dazzling inventiveness and vitality. It would be fair to say that pupils were bowled over by Emma Corrin's brilliant performance as the eponymous hero, a figure who lives for five hundred years of English history, first as a man, then as a woman, attempting all the while to understand art, life and the meaning of love. For pupils more used to their set texts, Woolf's early novella 'Jacob's Room' and her masterpiece 'Mrs Dalloway', this was yet another chance to re-evaluate their understanding, or to look again at familiar ideas through the lens of a startlingly different text. It will be brilliant to take our understanding of Woolf even further in the summer, with trips to her house at Rodmell and to the Charleston Literary Festival. Given that she once lived within just four miles of the school, we have to wonder if she ever paid a visit to the Dicker...



As ever, we have hosted several virtual guests this term, and with exam season looming, it seemed absolutely right that we focus our attention on those vital things that could easily be forgotten: the importance of creativity, independence and individuality. This half-term, the Brilliant Books and Biscuits Activity, conceived and led by librarian Ms Evans and English teacher Ms Arduino, welcomed author Lisa Heathfield to discuss her novel I Am Not a Number - which just so happened to be the chosen shared text this half term!

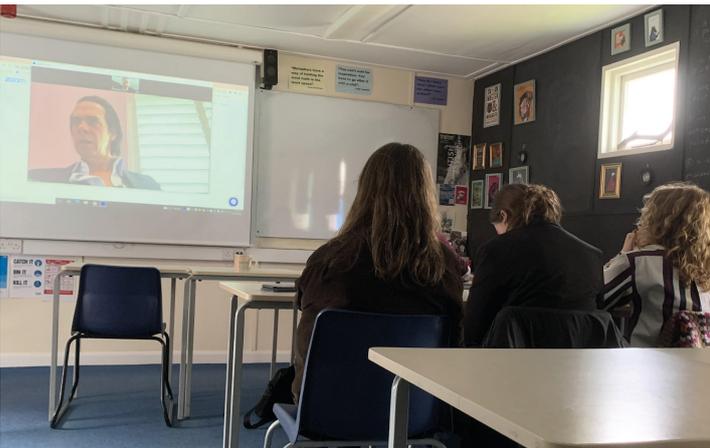
In a wonderfully intimate discussion, Lisa spoke of her own creative process, her personal approaches to developing character and that authentic 'voice' for her narrators, as well as the fine art of editing. As ever, hearing the words of a studied writer really helped bring a new dimension to the novel, and at the same time it served to convince pupils to trust in their own creative powers a little more and go for it. Given that Brilliant Books and Biscuits is now more popular than ever, we know these readers will be back for more, but if they do opt to take Lisa's advice about writing, it is good to know that the Tuesday writing activity is open to all.

LANGUAGES



Sticking with the theme of creativity, and of hearing personal stories about the journey of writing, we were enormously privileged and grateful to have a very special audience in March with arguably one of the greatest songwriters alive today - 'Bad Seeds' frontman Nick Cave.

In a very low-key event, fourteen Bede's pupils were fortunate enough to be joined by Nick for a lunchtime Q&A on song-writing, finding inspirations, the struggles and joys of creating art. Superbly led by unflappable host Mr Cheshire, the conversation roved widely, taking in everything from Michaelangelo and British poet Stevie Smith to ideas about offence in art and the agonies of re-writing. Though one slightly mesmerised pupil rightly summed up the encounter with the words "we could have listened all day", time was short. We were struck most by Nick's intelligence, warmth, boundless curiosity and willingness to struggle with his own feelings of doubt when creating. "Only you can tell the stories you have to say", he reminded pupils, "no one in the world has your voice".



Nowhere is the voice - its potential, power and its vulnerability - more clearly seen than in public speaking, and specifically debating. There is, as any experienced debater will tell you, absolutely no place to hide in such a public forum. No option to sit quietly on the

sidelines. Why, then, did eight Bede's pupils willingly put themselves through this - and all for the first time - in this year's Oxford Schools Debating Competition at Sevenoaks School this spring? The answer is, of course, that it was worth doing because of its difficulty. With no notice of any topics, only fifteen minutes to prepare and fierce competition against other schools, this is certainly one event guaranteed to get the adrenaline pumping, and at the same time test the ingenuity, resourcefulness and resilience of any speaker. On the night, our two motions centred on the ethics of boycotting sporting events on political grounds and on reform of our prison systems, and both subjects brought great responses from our speakers. One member of the group, especially, deserves huge recognition for his resilience. Having had a torrid first heat, finishing in 4th place out of four, he bounced back for round two to tie with the eventual winners of the competition: a huge achievement given it was a first night of debate. A huge well done for brilliant teamwork and resilience to our debaters: George Marsh, Hierronymus Sweerts-Sporck, Harrison Tradewell, Charlie Bennett, Amelia Frohlich, Tom McNicholl, Lola Waddingham and Guillaume Boyer.



Matthew Oliver
Head of Languages Faculty

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INQUIRY LEARNING

We have had a fun-packed busy Spring term with a plethora of different activities, tasks, assessments and events happening. The pupils have been showcasing their incredible skills in both their commitment in and out of the classroom and we have also been extending pupil engagement outside the classroom and creating partnerships with local primary schools - it is a wonder how we can fit this all into one term!

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

BTEC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

We have just launched our Animal Management wildlife conservation trip to South Africa. As a school, we have previously run highly successful conservation trips to South Africa in 2017 and 2018, enabling our pupils to develop their awareness of conservation issues and take part in some work in the field.

This year's trip will go out in October half term and will allow pupils to get hands-on experience helping to make a real difference to endangered species in the wild. Species worked with previously have included Black and White Rhino, Lion, Elephant, Wild Dogs, Cheetah, Hyena, Hippo and a range of other species. It will be a fantastic opportunity for any budding conservationist, and we already have most of our Lower Sixth BTEC Animal Management class signed up!



Paul Juniper
Head of Animal Management

BTEC APPLIED SCIENCE

In Year 10 this term we have been investigating the world of Physics - first in terms of the contradiction that is Ionising Radiation - it is so useful, yet so so dangerous! More recently pupils have been exploring the wonders of the universe and beginning to understand the depths of mystery that still remain unsolved, including 'are we really alone?'

In Year 11, pupils have completed the exam component - still awaiting results - and have since been working on their Chemistry unit - investigating factors which can speed up chemical reactions such as concentration, temperature and catalysts!



Kathy Clarke
Science Teacher

BTEC BUSINESS

Upper Sixth pupils Adam Khan, Ted Carr, Max Lhermitte and Dylan Woolley organised and hosted a five aside football tournament to raise money for the children with cancer charity as part of their 'Managing an Event' unit.

Pupils had to produce an effective plan for the chosen event taking into account all key planning factors such as marketing and promotion of the event, getting resources and liaising with relevant staff members and managing and maintaining a budget. The event was a great success raising money for a great cause and providing pupils with an opportunity during their lunch break to play football with their peers and enjoy a hot dog or two!

Upper Sixth have been busying themselves with exam preparations for the Summer exam series, and have been working studiously on developing marketing campaigns and honing their exam skills, whilst juggling their final assignment on Innovation and Enterprise. Whilst

INQUIRY LEARNING

the double pupils have also been dissecting the requirements of the Leadership and Management and developing their understanding of how to report write and create a presentation alongside their final assignment on strategies for operational success in international businesses.



The Upper Fifth are working on their final assignment which is to complete the promotional campaign for their business plans. Pupils have been busy creating web page adverts, posters and social media advertisements and reviewing the costs of delivering a campaign.

The Lower Fifth pupils have been working on their first assignment for unit 3 and have been investigating all of the factors and trends that affect start up businesses in preparation for creating their own business plan after Easter. It has been interesting watching how they have put down all of the risks and barriers that exist when starting up a business.

All in all a very busy term for all and a welcome break over Easter



should see them re-charged and ready to go again in the Summer term!

*Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning*

BTEC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The BTEC IT pupils in the Lower Fifth have now started their animation unit. We are looking forward to a demonstration from a professional graphics and animation expert who works on accounts such as Barclays, Coca Cola and other leading brands to build animations and graphics to support multi-media marketing campaigns such as website resources, TV commercials and graphics for social media campaigns. This is due to take place next week and all the BTEC pupils will be encouraged to take part.

The Upper Fifth pupils are approaching the end of their course and are currently putting together their plans for their final website, a digital portfolio, which acts as an online CV to demonstrate their skills not only in IT, but their wider interests and subjects in and out of school.

The Lower Sixth form are currently going through their mocks for the examined units and we wish them all the best with those, they have prepared very well. Our Upper Sixth are diligently working through their final course work units, such as the programming, social media and website development units, good luck to all on completing those.

*Chris Betts
Head of Computing and IT*

BTEC PERFORMING ARTS (DANCE)

Our BTEC Performing Arts groups are all currently working towards their performance pieces that are to be showcased in a special evening held on Thursday 4 May in The Miles Studio.

The Lower Fifth pupils have the task of learning 'Danses des Cygnes' from Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake and the Upper Fifth cohort are busy creating their own material for the stimulus 'Inside Out'. As part of this project the Upper Fifth pupils also have to design the lighting, source

INQUIRY LEARNING

the costumes, create programmes and document the whole process in their own journals. It truly is a group effort and it is wonderful to see the dancers collaborating together.

The Lower Sixth pupils are also working towards a group performance as part of their 'ensemble project'. They are choreographing to the title 'Read All About It' and the dancers have chosen to develop this theme by looking at the characteristics of fairy tale characters.



The Upper Sixth pupils have been creating presentations based on the Performing Arts, investigating developments in live and recorded performance work as well as the structure of the industry. They have been exploring different types of employment and considered how future developments in the industry may provide potential opportunities for the future.



This will be the final performances from both our Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth groups so we look forward to celebrating their work with friends and family. If you would like the opportunity to attend the BTEC Showcase on Thursday 4 May at 7.15pm which will see each year group performing then you can reserve your ticket by scanning the QR code.

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

BTEC MARKETING

Great progress has been made with the Upper Sixth BTEC Marketing pupils this term and we are pushing forward with the presentations of their product communications plans and mock interviews.

The group have been pitching their new product ideas and taking it in turns to market their products to an audience. We are almost at the end of the course for some and it has been challenging to complete in a year, but a fantastic way to see how far they have come in such a short space of time. They have developed good presentation and reflection skills as well as applying themselves to deadlines well. Josie has been the recipient of the Faculty Award this term for her excellent work and commitment in Marketing - she has been a superstar!



Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

BTEC MUSIC

This term has been another incredibly busy term for our Lower and Upper Sixth BTEC musicians.



After such successful performances at Cabaret last term our Upper Sixth BTEC musicians have been organising their very own gig. Their gig took place in the Miles Studio in early March and was a huge success raising over £200 for the Teenage Cancer Trust charity. The evening saw the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth BTEC bands give stellar performances of some classic tunes to a roaring crowd. The audience were up and dancing to the sounds of 'Hey Jude' by the Beatles, 'Don't Look Back in Anger' by Oasis and 'Yellow' by Coldplay. One concert goer commented that "this was the best BTEC gig there has been in a very long time" Congratulations to everybody involved, and a special mention to Sophia Titterton-Manos, Jonjo Murphy, and Josephine Tabb for organising the gig and making it such a memorable and successful evening.

James Aburn
Music Teacher

INQUIRY LEARNING

BTEC MEDIA

The Lower Sixth media pupils have been busy researching ideas for a film or TV drama of their choosing. Their ideas range from WW2 fighter pilots, serial killers, body-building and post-apocalyptic dystopias. It has been great to see the pupils consider target audience, market research and production contexts as they build a detailed project that covers all aspects of what it takes to get a media production approved.

The Lower Sixth have started planning their music videos, this is their first taste of pre-production and the pupils are learning how to produce the relevant paperwork such as script proposals, call sheets, shot lists, shooting schedules, budgets, storyboard and more.

The Upper Sixth Media pupils are now fully engaged with pre-production for their short horror films and are busy scouting locations, considering lighting and costume choices as well as researching essentials like fake blood and make-up.

The Upper Sixth pupils are also finishing their Television adverts which they have spent the last term filming and editing - now they are fine tuning and colour grading. They have begun the process of a rigorous self evaluation process for the pre-production and production of these adverts.

Rick Williams
Head of Media

BTEC PSYCHOLOGY

The Lower Sixth Applied Psychology class have now finished their pilot studies and reports, and have presented these to their peers who acted as an expert panel.

The study findings were fascinating, for example a person's attachment type (which is considered to be set within the first five years of their upbringing), correlated positively with their use of their mobile phones. Those with anxious-avoidant attachment styles report almost double the screen time and intensity of anxiety when separated from their mobile phones in comparison to their securely attached peers. Their findings suggested that it is



not the fault of the individuals to use their phones so much, and that their behaviours were predetermined by their early life experiences! I think a follow up study is required here as this sounds a little too convenient to me...

elf Determination Theory

COMPETENCE
PERCEPTION THAT ONE CAN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A TASK HE LOVES THE FEELING OF WINNING HEAVY TRAINING - "I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO WIN!" HE BELIEVES HE COULD WIN EVERY SINGLE MATCH + MOTIVATE HIMSELF
AUTONOMY
DEFINITION OF CHOICE AND CONTROL: OVER EVENTS HAPPENING EG: IN THE COLLIDE, HE CHOOSE TO CONTINUE THE MATCH AFTER HE AWAKE AND GOT SILVER AWARDS HEAVY MADE HIS OWN CHOICE -> FACE THE CHALLENGE -> CONTROL THE RIGHT OF THE PARTICIPATION
RELATEDNESS
PERCEPTION OF CONNECTEDNESS, MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS/ BELONGING TO OTHERS EG: CONNECTION BETWEEN HIS COACH -> BRUNNEN DRIP -> THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIM AND THE FANS -> THE MOTIVATION OF FANS TO COME FROM HIS FANS -> "THAT'S WHAT KEEPS HIM GOING: HIS LOYALTY TO HIS FANS AND KEEPS HIM AS THE SPIRIT OF HIS FANS SKATING FORWARD" BY BRUNNEN DRIP
INTRINSIC MOTIVATION
KNOWLEDGE -> LEARNING FROM HIS FAILURES AND OTHER GREAT SKATER ACCOMPLISHMENT -> MEETS THE CHALLENGES AND TRY HIS BEST IN EVERY SINGLE MATCH -> "TRY TO FIND CHALLENGES AFTER EVERY COMPETITION AND OVERCOME THEM THE NEXT TIME"



The Upper Sixth pupils on the other hand have now moved onto the topic of Sports Psychology, and have been learning about the theories that explain motivation, confidence, arousal and anxiety. They have been applying these to sports performers, teams and their own personal experiences, and are currently developing presentations ready to deliver at their penultimate assessment of their course. Here is a preview of Zenia Man's presentation, and as you can see she has done exceptionally well to apply theory to real life.

Laurence Collier
Psychology Teacher

BTEC PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Lower Fifth GCSE pupils have recently been planning and carrying out their weight training for fitness training programmes in the gym. This will continue until Easter and be filmed ready as part of their ongoing coursework.

The Upper Fifth GCSE pupils have completed their final mock exam prior to the summer which is taking place in May. The deadline for practical coursework is 1 March, ready for processing.

The Upper Fifth Sport Science pupils have started Unit R045 on Sports Nutrition. They have completed their first assignment on the characteristics of a healthy, balanced diet in which they explained the roles micronutrients and macronutrients have in our diet based on The Eatwell Guide. We also looked at food labels and the importance



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of understanding what is in the food products we buy, particularly in face of the current obesity crisis in the UK.

We are now completing the second task of this unit looking at the importance of nutrition in sport. We have been analysing the needs of three different athletes and comparing what they should be eating and drinking before, during and after exercise. See some pictures from the 'masterchef - nutrition special' lesson. Pupils were in four groups and competed to make the best pre, during and post-nutrition snacks. We made protein energy balls and electrolyte sports drinks.



The Lower Sixth BTEC Sport pupils have been busy preparing for their three sports coaching sessions which are taking place throughout this term. There have been some excellent coaching sessions to date, with Bede's sports coaches commending them for their efforts.

The Upper Sixth BTEC Diploma pupils have recently finished coaching their six-week units of work to their classes.

Upper Sixth BTEC Sport pupils are exploring the theory around physical and mental health as part of their studies. Pupils are conducting a series of health screening tests and analysing the results.

In a lesson earlier this week, pupils performed physical tests such as blood pressure using a sphygmomanometer. They conducted health screening questionnaires including PAR-Q, activity levels, diet, sleep and mental health screening. As the unit progresses, pupils will test a client's health and make suggestions to improve health further.

Ali Rowsell
Head of Physical Education

HOME ECONOMICS

Pupils studying BTEC level 2 in Home Cooking Skills have made a wide range of products this term in preparation for their final two course meal practical.

Pupils in the afternoon activity slots were getting ready for Easter with their mini egg cupcakes. We also welcomed Year 3 pupils from Skippers Hill Prep school this week where they made macaroni cheese and cup cakes. The products were enjoyed by both pupils and staff alike.



Mary Leggett
Head of Partnerships and Social Responsibility

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

This term the Finance Group have enjoyed making sense of the turmoil on financial markets and the cost of living crisis in terms of what it means for individuals and their finances.

They have even managed to come up with some suggestions for better money management in these difficult times, well done.

Jane King
Teacher of Economics

INQUIRY LEARNING

PSHE

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education supports pupils to develop knowledge, skills and attributes needed to stay healthy, safe and prepare them for life and work in the modern world. PSHE education helps pupils to achieve their academic potential, and equips them with skills they will need in the future.

The First Year, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth have been studying various topics on the PSHE carousel this term including; Self Concept, Substance Misuse, Managing Risk & Personal Safety, Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing, Sexual Health, Fertility, Contraception & Parenthood, Positive Relationships & Relationship Values, Consent, Bullying, Abuse & Discrimination. There have been some fantastic discussions taking place across the School during PSHE, and it has been a real pleasure to see pupils participating and engaging in these relevant and meaningful lessons.

- Ufulu
- Safer Internet Day
- LGBT+ History Month
- Tackling Sexism
- International Women's Day

Pamela Nikateas
Head of PSHE

EPQ AND HPQ

Things are starting to take shape in both the EPQ and HPQ projects.

Pupils are well on their way with their draft dissertations or artefacts, and are starting to prepare for their presentations after the Easter break. We have seen ideas and questions develop into topics such as 'the future of farming', 'are dictatorships necessarily something to avoid', 'should the death penalty be legalised in the UK' and artefacts into 'the rebuilding of an American military jeep', and 'creation of musical tracks and mixes' for EPQ (level 3) and HPQ (level 2) projects that investigate 'the money in football', 'the dark side of the K-Pop industry' and 'is eating meat sustainable for the planet'. With such a diverse range on interests this year, it is going to be interesting to watch the presentations in the Summer term.

Georgina Wainwright
Head of Inquiry Learning

ARTS AWARD

This term, pupils are starting to work on their portfolios and plan their leadership project. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Arts Award is the 'Arts Issue', where pupils choose a topic to discuss and debate. This year, topics include child prodigies, how Covid has impacted live performance, and the impact of streaming platforms on the performing arts.

Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

GET TO KNOW THE BEDE'S COMMUNITY

We have interviewed one staff member and one pupil to encourage us to get to know each other... First up is Maya Goswami!

Which year are you in and what are you studying at Bede's?

I am in Upper Fifth and my GCSE subjects are Music, Dance, Drama and History.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement at Bede's is having played Pugsley Addams in The Addams Family.



Who are your ideal dinner guests? (Dead or alive)

Michelle Obama
Carrie Hope Fletcher
Zendaya
Emmeline Pankhurst
Indira Ghandi

Which songs are your greatest guilty pleasures?

Olivia Rodrigo - Good 4 u.

What was the last book that you read that was so good you didn't want to finish it?

Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman.

What's your favourite restaurant or pub?

Pomodoro's in Eastbourne.

Favourite TV show?

Glee!

Next up is our Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Mr Cheshire...

Tell us about your role at Bede's?

I am Deputy Head of Sixth Form, English teacher, and Dicker Upper Sixth tutor.

Tell us a bit about where you're from, your education journey, your career past etc.?

I'm from Bedford, the middle of middle England. In Year 9 I earned a scholarship to Bedford School: all boys, lots of rugby, CCF and Saturday morning lessons. But I was inspired by the sensational teaching of Dr Richard Palmer (and before him, the wonderful Mrs Bowker) to love literature in all its forms. I went to the University of Kent mainly because it was the only place I could find that offered an English and American Literature course. Then I did an MA at York, worked in London for a few years, and started teacher training in 2005. After three years at Helenswood, an all-girl state school in Hastings, I came to St Bede's (as it then was) in 2008. And here I happily remain!

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement?

The first two years of teaching are really tough, especially when you have young children and limited self-belief. I am still slightly surprised at myself for getting through that. On a non-professional level I had the daunting job a few years ago of writing and delivering



Which era in history would you most like to have lived through and why?

I would most liked to have lived through the 1920's because I love the music and the fashion.

Which places in the world are on your bucket list?

New York and I would love to travel around South America.

What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?

The Coral Reefs in the Maldives.



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the eulogy to one of my best friends, Pat Long, who died of a brain tumour at 41. Pat was one of the greatest humans ever, and lots of people kindly told me afterwards that I did his memory justice, which despite all the sadness still makes me very proud.

What has been your greatest disappointment?

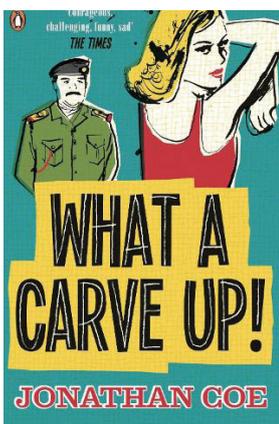
I don't really dwell on disappointments, but the second FA Cup semi-final of 1991 still hurts.

Who are your ideal dinner guests? (Dead or alive)

William Shakespeare, Vladimir Nabokov, my wife, Mel Brooks, Paolo Di Canio and Slash.

What is your favourite book, and why?

The answer to this changes all the time. But for me a really great book needs to be moving, wise, surprising and funny, so a consistent member of my top ten is 'What A Carve Up' by Jonathan Coe. It's a murder mystery, a family saga, a political satire, a love story, and a comedy all at once.



How do you relax?

Some people would say I never stop relaxing, and that might explain why I have chosen a job that is also my hobby. But outside work I have a podcast (of course I do, I'm a middle-aged man). It's about poetry - we have a laugh and take it just seriously enough. I also have monthly Armchair Shakespeare sessions - it has taken a group of us ten years to laugh and discuss our way through the Complete Works. I am obsessed with quizzing. Obsessed with reading. I absolutely love witnessing live music performed by talented and charismatic musicians. I like cooking and eating nice food. I have started 'running' reasonably long distances, which I never believed would happen. And I quite enjoy spending time with my family too.

Best advice you have ever been given?

To become a teacher (this is not a joke). It was a life-transforming moment, and I wish I could remember the name of the woman (a Learning Support Assistant at Bexhill College) who told me to do it. I think she was called Jayne. Imagine not meeting all of the marvellous pupils and colleagues I have known here over the past 15 years. It's actually quite chilling to think about. Thank you Jayne.

What made you decide that Bede's was the place for you?

John Tuson. One of the funniest, wisest, kindest people I have known - he interviewed me on a picnic bench on the lawn on a lovely May morning, and instead of the usual grilling about lesson plans and learning outcomes we talked about music and books, among many other things. It was revelatory, and I was eager not to go back to

teaching in a tower block in Hastings after that.

What were you like at school?

Reserved, cynical, insufferably cool. All to mask my insecurities, obviously. Academically I did enough to get by, but worked very hard at the one subject I loved.

What were your favourite lessons at school?

English! Then a lot of daylight, followed by History. Apparently there were other subjects too but I am a bit hazy on them. English was the one subject where, rather than having to memorise some things, it felt like I was having my personality expanded, and my talent nurtured. Outside of English and History, unlike the lucky Bede's pupils of today, I wasn't blessed with teachers willing or able to make me care about their subjects.

Was there any type of school dinner you couldn't stand?

The food at my school was uniformly bad, to the extent that there was eventually a protest and jobs were lost. I never quite understood why, being happy to shovel down more or less anything.

What piece of advice would you give to today's teenagers?

One of my friends, a brilliant writer and naturally shy woman, has a motto 'stay afraid and do it anyway'. I love that. Most things outside my comfort zone make me nervous but that isn't a good enough reason to hold back. Far better to fail at something than always regret not doing it. (I realise there are some contexts in which this is not always true).

SPORT

BEDE'S SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Bede's has been placed 15th in the latest list of the Top 200 Sports Schools compiled annually by School Sport magazine.

Analysing the results of 120 national events across twenty different sports, the magazine looks at the achievements of both independent and state schools.

The news comes after an exceptional year for Bede's sports department.

In 2022, Bede's boys won the English Schools Football Association U-18 Schools' Trophy.

In cricket, Sixth Former Freya Kemp and Bede's recent alumna Alice Capsey, were awarded professional contracts for 2022-23 by the England and Wales Cricket Board – just two of 18 players nationally to receive such contracts. Both girls have also played for England in the Commonwealth Games. Alice, Freya and another recent alumna, Ryana MacDonald-Gay, all played in last season's The Hundred.

Bede's 1st XI girls cricket team were crowned U18 National 100 Ball Champions for the first time. Last month, Bede's was named as one of the top 100 UK schools for cricket by The Cricketer magazine.

David Byrne, Director of Sport said: "This is brilliant news. We do everything at Bede's to not only make sure our top athletes have the best support and training but also that everyone – at whatever level – enjoys one of the many sports we have on offer.

"That we are number 15 in these rankings is down to the hard work of our pupils, their coaches and teachers."

Bede's pupils enjoy considerable sporting success at county and national level. Upper Fifth pupil Harry Mills, recent alumnus, was awarded a professional two-year Under-18s scholarship at Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, while in hockey, Sixth Former Isabel Field continues to represent East Grinstead Hockey Club and England U18 Girls.

Bede's philosophy of engagement in sport is threaded through all sports and year-round Academy Programmes, from the Pre-Prep years right up to Sixth Form level.

While staff encourage all children to try as many sports as they can, coaches create unique pathways for elite athletes, enabling them to balance academic study with the demands of performing at county or national level.

CEO and Headmaster at Bede's, Peter Goodyer, said: "Bede's coaches and sports teachers very much deserve this recognition. They have true devotion to getting the best out of all of our pupils on the sports pitches."



SPORT - IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We are extremely fortunate to have many talented sporting Bedians. We got to know some of our rising sports stars who we will be keeping a close eye as they gain momentum over the next few years!

SWIMMING

MATTHEW METCALFE - UPPER FIFTH

When did you start swimming and what inspired you to start?

I started when I was really young, and fell in love with it. I continued having weekly lessons and when I was eight, I joined the Mid Sussex Marlins swim club.

Could you describe your major highlights and achievements in swimming so far?

Last year, we made it to Nationals and I was invited to a Swim England camp in Bath chosen by the England Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) with the nation's talented age group swimmers.

In February, I swam in the Sussex Swimming Championships and achieved gold medals in the 100m and 200m backstroke and helped my club to win in the Freestyle and Medley Relays.

What strengths do you think are needed to be a great swimmer?

You always have to have a positive mental state for the training - I currently train for four hours per day. You have to be determined and driven.

Do you have a preferred 'pre-game ritual'?

I listen to music and I try to visualise the race which gets me in the zone to compete.

How have Bede's helped you in your swimming career so far?

Mr Osborn, the Head of Swimming, has provided me with many 1-1 sessions after school or early morning which have helped me to develop my skills. We are currently training hard for the Regional Championships that incorporate all of the South of England counties and hopefully we will go onto the National Championships.

What are your hopes for the future?

I would love to be in the top five in the country for backstroke.



TENNIS

JACK FORD - LOWER FIFTH

When did you start playing tennis and what inspired you to start?

I started playing when I was six years old. A tennis coach from Nuffield Health came to my old school in Hull, he watched me play and asked me to play for a local club. When I was eight, I moved to Sussex and started being coached by Mrs Byrne (Head of Tennis at Bede's). She told me about Bede's and the opportunities here and I started at the Prep School in Year 6.

Could you describe your major highlights and achievements in tennis so far?

Recently, I have been able to take part in international events called ITFs which are made up of the top U18 players from different countries across the world. I am in the top 40 U16 players in the UK. I have an upcoming national tournament in April with the top 40 in the UK that I have been training hard for.



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SPORT - IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What strengths do you think are needed to be a great tennis player?

I think you have to be mentally strong. I compare it to boxing without the throwing punches part! You are on your own up there and you don't know what's coming or how long the match will last. You have to be a quick thinker and resilient. Unlike team sports, there is only one winner - which can be tough when you have worked so hard and so many participants end up disappointed but you have to have the determination to dust yourself off and try again.

Do you have a preferred 'pre-game ritual'?

I try to practise in the morning before the match, and I warm up when I get there. I find a quiet spot for 20 minutes before it begins to get my head in the zone. Also - I try to remember to go to the toilet just before going on!

How have Bede's helped you in your tennis career so far?

Ever since I joined, the volume of tennis I get to play has been enormous. Mrs Byrne provides many 1-1 sessions which has helped me with my technique. The teams we have here at Bede's have bonded so well and we always encourage each other to achieve our very best. In general, Bede's has helped me build my confidence and come out of my shell which has enabled me to strive even further.

What are your hopes for the future?

I would love to one day become a professional tennis player! But as long as I'm playing tennis, I'm sure I will be happy. I will keep training hard and see where it takes me.

CRICKET

ADAM IBRAHIM - FIRST YEAR

When did you start playing cricket and what inspired you to start?

I started playing cricket when I was five or six. Both my dad and my brother are keen cricketers and they ignited my passion for the sport. My brother now plays for Sussex County Cricket Club so he is a big inspiration to me.

Could you describe your major highlights and achievements in cricket so far?

I was recently selected for the Emerging Player Programme (EPP) at Sussex County Cricket Club. There were only about six of us selected across three age groups. This means that I get three training sessions per week with a wider range of professional coaches. It is quite high level and I am very proud to be recognised within this programme.

What strengths do you think are needed to be a great cricketer?

Being a great cricketer requires a high level of skill and timing - it doesn't matter how strong you are! If you work hard and practise often to improve, you can go far!

Do you have a preferred 'pre-game ritual'?

My team and I always make sure to warm up well for a significant amount of time to ensure we are prepped for the game.

How have Bede's helped you in your cricket career so far?

Bede's have helped me with a great start in cricket. I am part of the U14A team and currently training for the first team. I get to train with all different age groups and I get lots of training sessions. Bede's has great professional coaches who have helped me improve my technical ability a lot.

What are your hopes for the future?

One day I would love to play for England! Until then, my more short term goals are to get into Sussex Academy and the England U15s.



SPORT - IN THE SPOTLIGHT

HOCKEY

ERIN MURPHY - FIRST YEAR

When did you start playing hockey and what inspired you to start?

I started playing hockey as part of the PE lessons when I joined Bede's in Reception. As soon as I started playing, I fell in love with the sport and I never stopped playing.

Could you describe your major highlights and achievements in hockey so far?

I got into the Sussex County team last year and we have won many UK Sports Academy (UKSA) trophies.

What strengths do you think are needed to be a great hockey player?

I think that you have got to be mentally strong and show perseverance. If you want it and you try hard, the talent will come! You have to always try to be positive - even going over the basic skills often will help you to progress.

Do you have a preferred 'pre-game ritual'?

My best friend and I have a handshake that helps us to check we have all of our correct equipment with us and gets us into the spirit of the game. Just getting onto the hockey pitch I notice a change in myself and become more focused and determined!

How have Bede's helped you in your hockey career so far?

Without Bede's, I simply would not have discovered hockey! They have started my hockey career and helped me to learn new skills. I now play six days of the week and Bede's coaches have taught me everything I know.

What are your hopes for the future?

I currently play for the U14s and U15s, but I am hoping to get into the 1st XI team next year! One day I would love to play in the Olympics!



ZEBEDEE ROBBIE - FIRST YEAR

When did you start playing hockey and what inspired you to start?

When I was younger, my dad was playing hockey for Brighton Hockey Club and when I was six or seven I also joined his club. It was a lot of fun and I never wanted to stop!

Could you describe your major highlights and achievements in hockey so far?

I am part of the U14s, U15s and I recently started playing for the 1st XI team at Bede's - which I am very proud of. Everyday is a highlight for me as I get to play hockey everyday in activities sessions (three times per week) and academy sessions (twice per week). I also play for East Grinstead Hockey Club outside of school.

What strengths do you think are needed to be a great hockey player?

You need to be fit to keep up with the intensity, you need to have strong passes and good vision. Remember - the Umpire is always right! You need to always have a positive mindset.

Do you have a preferred 'pre-game ritual'?

I listen to music which helps me to go into the game with a positive attitude.

How have Bede's helped you in your hockey career so far?

Bede's build your education around your passions - of which mine is hockey! They provide me with the opportunity to play a lot of hockey within my timetable, so I can focus on developing my techniques from the expert coaches. In particular, the academy sessions have been incredibly



SPORT - IN THE SPOTLIGHT

detailed and helped me to progress as we have one strength and conditioning session per week and one skill-based session outside.

What are your hopes for the future?

I am hoping to one day play for the East Grinstead 1st XI team!

FOOTBALL

LIAM DOYLE - FIRST YEAR

When did you start playing football and what inspired you to start?

I have been playing for as long as I can remember! When I was little, my older brother and Dad always were interested in football and ran my local team, which is a team that I have played for ever since I was a child!

Could you describe your major highlights and achievements in football so far?

Up until a month ago, I played for Crystal Palace Showcase. I did have a trial at Chelsea FC Academy but unfortunately I didn't get in. The goalkeeper coach at Chelsea said that I was performing at academy level and told his brother, who is the goalkeeper coach at Brighton and Hove Albion, and now I am on trial at Brighton!

What strengths do you think are needed to be a great footballer?

You have to be dedicated to the sport so that you remain free from other distractions. You also have to love the sport! It just would not be worth it otherwise.

Do you have a preferred 'pre-game ritual'?

I always put my left goalkeeping glove on first! Also, I like to make sure that I have my kit and everything I will need ready the night before a match as I don't like to be stressed - it can impact your mindset.

How have Bede's helped you in your football career so far?

At Bede's you get to train and play a lot of football if that is what you are passionate about. The facilities here are amazing - the gym is a great addition. The gym programmes that I am given at Brighton Academy, I can work on at Bede's too alongside my strength and conditioning coach, Mr Morriss. The football coaches at Bede's are brilliant and have helped me a lot with my progress.

What are your hopes for the future?

I would like to play in the premier league at Brighton and it would be amazing to one day represent my country!



LOLA BROWN - LOWER FIFTH

When did you start playing football and what inspired you to start?

I started playing football when I was 4 and would watch my brother play. I played at my old school with my sister. We had a great coach who inspired me. At that point, I had no idea that I could create a career out of it! I used to say "when I grow up I want to be like Ronaldo" but now thanks to the progress of women's football - my dream can become a reality!

Could you describe your major highlights and achievements in football so far?

Winning the FA Youth Cup with Chelsea was a huge achievement for me. Making the Finals within the Euros has been too. Just playing for England U17s in general is incredible.



SPORT - IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What strengths do you think are needed to be a great footballer?

You need to be committed, work hard and love football that much that it stays enjoyable as a career! Luckily, I still enjoy football as much as I ever have.

Do you have a preferred 'pre-game ritual'?

My lucky number is 22, so before the match I jump up and down twice and touch the line twice for good luck!

How have Bede's helped you in your football career so far?

The amount of football on offer at Bede's is amazing. Especially with the additional academy sessions too. There are a wide range of professional coaches who can all specialise with different aspects of the game.

What are your hopes for the future?

In the short term, I am hoping that I can win the Euros with the England U17s! In the longer term, I am hoping to play professionally for Chelsea or for a top three WSL club.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Girls' football is growing and it's easy to see why. With more and more young girls becoming interested in the sport, we are seeing an increase in participation and investment in women's football.

One of the biggest signs of this growth is the increasing number of opportunities that are now available for girls to play football. Bede's has linked with Lewes FC, to run masterclasses specifically for girls, providing an opportunity for them to train with experienced coaches and improve their skills.

This year, our Prep School had a full term of girls' football fixtures, giving them the chance to play against other schools and gain valuable experience on the pitch.

Our Girls' 1st XI has been working hard since September, already playing twelve fixtures and reaching the 1/4 finals of the ISFA shield. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of these pupils.

One of our standout players is Lola Brown, who has been away playing for England U17's. Lola is an incredible talent, and we are incredibly proud of her achievements. She is a fantastic role model for young girls who are just starting out in the sport, showing them that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible.

The growth of girls' football is also reflected at the national level. The FA has invested heavily in women's football in recent years, including a new broadcast deal that will see more women's games on TV. This increased visibility will undoubtedly inspire more young girls to get involved in the sport.

Overall, the growth of girls' football is an incredibly positive trend. It provides an opportunity for young girls to develop their skills, stay active, and build confidence. With more investment and support from the football community, we are excited to see where this growth will take us in the future.



David Byrne
Director of Sport

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SPORT

HOCKEY

The hockey winter season comes to an end with the programme finishing on a positive note. Notably, the Girls 1XI finished in a solid mid-table position in the Tier 1 league and the U14 Boys finished fourth in the South East in their regional competition after coming runners-up in Sussex.

We have seen a number of pupils representing in the national hockey leagues for their respective club sides, Will Buttress (Brighton), Isabel Field & Amelia Tait (both East Grinstead) as well as Matilda Collins being named in the Wales U18 national team. A further number of individuals have also achieved successes in being named in regional Talent Academies, the next step in the junior player pathway which is a fantastic achievement. The programme goes from strength to strength with individuals flourishing in school colours and well established for hockey life post-Bede's.



Theo Dowse
Director of Hockey

EQUESTRIAN

In February, both novice and intermediate equestrian teams came second and qualified for the arena Eventing Championships in May at Hickstead.

Congratulations to Issi, Lara, Bea, Chloe (who also qualified as an individual), and Nina (who performed brilliantly in her first competition riding on the Bede's team).

Later in the month, Ruby won the county dressage qualifier in the prelim class with her horse 'Just a Dream'. She goes on to represent Bede's and East Sussex at the County Finals in May. Well done to Issi, Nina, and Bea, who came third in the NSEA show jumping!

Katy McKeogh
Equestrian Team Manager



ROUND THE HOUSES

It has been another busy term for the girls of **Crossways** House and the degree to which the girls have thrown themselves into life in the House and School more broadly has been wonderful to see. We have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year, LGBT+ History month, Book Week and Neurodiversity Week. Miss Yan's Monday night cookery activity has been another highlight.

Dancing has been a feature – we have danced a lot – and thanks to the girls for all the efforts in the house dance competition. Thanks to Uma for pulling the final video together.



The real dance highlight of the term though was of course the 24 hour disco. The girls were amazing and worked incredibly well as a team. The Sixth Formers took us through the afternoon and Lower Fifth came out in a huge burst of energy throughout the night. Skye and Jule, Sophy, Rachel, Emma, Ana Sofia, Regina, Valeria, Isabella and Helena were real troopers. A huge well done to Vivienne who kept going for most of the 24 hours – I have never seen such energetic dancing! Thanks also to the day crew of Matilda, Taleen – who danced from 5am – and our wonderful prefects. We have raised £1,334 on top of our charity week and tuck fundraising. Many thanks to Mr Turner and the prefect team for organising such a fantastic event.

Thanks to our outgoing prefect team for all their work in the house. Some of them have been prefects since Year 11, so that is a lot of duties, hot chocolate making and meetings! We now welcome our new prefects – Mandy, Uma, Nike, Emma, Sophy, Ruby, Helena, Skye, Marlena, Valeria and Caylen.

This term **Camberlot's** formal event took the theme of “togetherness”. The theme was explored not only during the speeches but was also evident in our interactions and celebrations of pupils' achievements. Our Matrons decorated the Recital Room beautifully, the Cambo band played tremendously and we were treated to a wonderful speech from Ms Stainsby.



Throughout the year Camberlot boys have been cooking up a storm in our kitchen on the weekend, with sumptuous smells (most of the time), challenging cooking and delightfully decorated

desserts. A few boys decided to take it to the next level and have a ‘Cook-Off’. Mitra Danraj and Oisín Shine had tremendous fun cooking a dessert for other boarders to taste and judge. This is just one of many activities we have on weekends.

It has not been the most successful term for Camberlot House in the House Competition, but how should success be measured? We currently sit 10th based on results, but in our opinion were 1st on courage and passion. Our senior boys came first in the senior hockey and our togetherness has been evident in all our competitions to date. The most recent dance competition saw our newly formed family groups dance to the song ‘Footloose’.

Our chosen charity this year has been the Beachy Head Chaplaincy – a search and rescue charity that seeks to save lives at Beachy Head. Glenn Ecclestone, who works at BHC came to Camberlot to talk to us about the work they do and how our donation will help them help others.

As cliché as this may sound, it has been another bumper term in **Charleston**. We welcomed Chief Executive Widge Woolsey to speak with pupils in our girls' houses, sharing the work that Ufulu does, and raising awareness about period poverty. A special thank you to our very own Maddie Hutchison for organising this event.



There have been numerous gigs and drama performances with Rebecca Saad, Flossie Wilson, and Grace Watkins in particular leading with the calmness and supporting everyone involved. It was a joy to see their growth in maturity and professionalism. Ava Hooper brilliantly articulated her experience of life at Bede's in front of a packed audience of new parents at a school welcome event and Jessica Allitt gave a riveting speech at the Open Day. Ellie Russell assisted by her peers hosted an Upper Fifth revision night, sharing revision tips. Each pupil had time to ask questions about specific GCSEs that they are doing and how they could improve their revision plans. The term ended on a high with the news that Ellie Abel, Nell McLachlan, Devanie Travers, Scout Allen were part of the team that won the UK Space Design Competition National Finals! They worked together with pupils from six other schools and designed a space settlement orbiting the sun, and greatly impressed the judges with their ingenuity and creativity! Well done Charlestonians on another barnstorming term!

ROUND THE HOUSES

Though the Spring term is the shortest, **Dicker** has packed a huge amount into the term. In February we enjoyed our Dicker Formal and evensong. It was a lovely event. Our guest speaker was Tobey Keeley, a former Red Arrows pilot, who wowed us with his flying stories and gave us some inspirational messages about going outside one's comfort zone and being determined to succeed. Luke Turner and Jacob Watson also fought out a 'Dicker' (house debate) on whether workers should have the right to strike.

During the second half of the term, we passed our 1000th Dicker Nomination of the Year - (the achievement recognition system we run in Dicker to celebrate those things Dickerites achieve that might get missed within the mainstream merit system). Well done to everyone who has been nominated and also who has nominated others.

Our recent news is that we have just completed our annual Dicker 24 hour football challenge. What an event this is! This is now our 8th challenge and it was done brilliantly by the boys. We had over forty Dickerites staying the night and we have raised over £2,500 for Matthew 25, the homeless charity in Eastbourne. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to staff who gave up their time to supervise. Those early hours never get less gruelling! So, well done to everyone for your determination to see it through to the end. A wonderful feature of this challenge was the return of a number of last



year's Upper Sixth boys to help us along. It was great so see them and welcome them back into the Dicker community.

This week we have our Dicker Creative Challenge, which will see each Dickerite perform or show a creative skill that they have perfected over the course of the term. Highlights include magic tricks, piano playing, short films and some baking! We look forward to seeing the creativity of our community. Well done Dicker on another great term.

It has been a busy term for **Bloomsbury**! In February, Amelie Hargrave and Matilda Jackson-Clutton took part in a music gig performance in the Miles Studio. They sang a song called 'Sweater Weather' by the Neighbourhood and they really enjoyed



performing it. They were one of the youngest pupils performing which makes me super proud of them.

Pupils from Bloomsbury were heavily involved in a recent RP trip: Iris Clarke, Scarlett Lamb and Zoe Whittington joined the RP residential trip to Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel. The trip involved discussions of philosophical topics and walks in the countryside. Zoe led a discussion on the question whether humans have free will, while Iris and Scarlett made many thoughtful contributions to the discussions. Iris especially independently invented some very highly respected philosophical theories during the trip!

In March, Bloomsbury First Years enjoyed the company of Mr Goodyer over lunch. A whole host of topics were discussed, including conspiracy theories and having to be ambidextrous when coping with a hand injury! A relaxed and enjoyable time for all, topped off with a brownie.

We have a large cohort of horse riders in the house. Achieving great things is Matilda Jackson-Clutton. She has been selected to represent GB at a home competition this month. As a squad she came second and third at their first big show together, and were selected for a U21 GB camp. Matilda says "There is still much more to achieve but I'm really proud of how far I've come." So are we Matilda, very proud of you.



It was an absolute delight to walk around the beautiful Bede's campus early this term watching the **Knights** pupils take part in inter house competitions. The junior debating was excellent with Saul and James taking first place,

a winning combination. The brilliant and very experienced senior debaters did really well in their competition so well done to Francis and Tom. James took part in cookery and achieved a top three ranking. Kashiffe and George threw their way into the history books in the darts competition. Whilst we were exceptionally good at 'whose line is anyway' thank you to Elliot, Aiden and Sam. Our brilliant performance continued in the quiz with Jago and Dylan using their knowledge of FIFA to dominate in the flag round. On the sporting front we were pleased to have our regular pairing of Ryan and Milo playing badminton and also Jed and Otto competing in table tennis. Our hockey teams played with spirit and determination and I would like to thank Freddie (junior 2nd place) and Josh (Senior 3rd Place) for leading with such maturity and courage. Overall, we are now very comfortable in mid-table and we hope that in the next term we can make a push up the standings.

ROUND THE HOUSES

I was absolutely delighted to attend a dinner at Shelter Hall in February with some Knights alumni who left in 2018. It was great to hear how pupils are entering a diverse range of professions now that their university degrees are completed. Thanks to Tommy Trenaman, Harry Ambrose, Will Fricker, Luca Page, Chris Weatherstone, Luke Noble, Ben Ambrose, Charlie Terras and Harry Tait.



There were some individual highlights as well. Charlie completed a reading of 'Terezin' at the Eastbourne Holocaust Memorial Day event at the Congress Theatre and was awarded a Being Bede's Best. The Sussex Cross Country championship took place in January and we were delighted that Mathias took part. There were over 60 competitors and Mathias managed to place a very commendable 26th.



The Lower Sixth enjoyed dressing up for the social event this term and we also enjoyed a very good formal dinner and evensong. I would like to extend my thanks to all pupils who made this such a special occasion but especially to Luke, who

made a video quiz, along with Sam Craggs and Mrs Franks whose speeches gave us great memories of the evening.

During this term's **Dorter** charity week, the girls held a pop up 'thrift shop' in the Sixth Form Centre to sell unwanted clothes and jewellery. The girls were also busy selling homemade Ukrainian pancakes during lunchtime and holding our annual charity hot dogs and bingo night. All of this was in aid of our House charity UNHCR, The United Nations Refugee Agency, which works to protect people who have been forced to flee their homes due to war or natural disaster. In the final week of term some of our senior girls braved the elements to sleep out in the Dorter garden to further raise awareness and raise vital funds, for our charity.



There have also been some fun relaxing house events this term, the

highlight for lots of girls the ice skating and ice hockey trip organised by Mr Rohmer. Miss Logan has started up an early morning running group which is proving popular for some of our energetic early risers, who leave house at 6.30am for a run around our lovely campus. The whole house also came together to choreograph a set of brilliant dances for the House Dance competition; whilst our Legat girls really excelled themselves it was also wonderful to see our 'non dancer's' put together some beautiful cultural dances, and to see everyone play a part whether it be videoing, performing or editing the final video.



In January, **Stud** had a formal dinner which had a Circus theme with candy floss and popcorn galore as well as an overload of sweets and candies. The whole evening was brilliantly staged and the boys enjoyed themselves very much as well as nearly taking the roof



off the chapel with their rendition of Jerusalem! The boys have slipped a bit in House Competitions with the inaugural House Dance and the Cross Country yet to come. We are 7th overall after being 5th, so will need a big push to try to get our place back as the

top boy's house and the top boarding house. I think we may surprise ourselves with the dancing. 81 boys doing a square dance in a limited space: what could possibly go wrong?

We celebrated, not one, but two pancake days, the first in the house flipping crepes, the second was in the food rooms and we used it to celebrate 'Maslenitsa', an eastern European day when blinis are made. Needless to say, food + Stud Boys = A good time.



The new House Prefect Team will be



embarking on their duties in the next few weeks as the current crop retire. Huge thanks to our Head of Stud, Freddie Freeman and his two brilliant deputies,

ROUND THE HOUSES

Leo Steel and Josh Willoughby. They have certainly set a high bar for the other boys to follow. We staged a Curry and Quiz night in the new Dorms boarding house and the event was extremely well attended so we hope to make this a yearly fixture. We will also be hosting our Stud House Race Night next term.

The new **Deis** Prefect Team has begun to make their presence felt. All who applied succeeded in their application for this appointment, so a huge congratulations to Will Corrigan, Tom Hodges, Noah Parkin, Ollie Robson, Max Routledge, Charlie Swan and Jack White.



Our outgoing team also managed to arrange a Fifa tournament, with proceeds going to the Chailey Heritage Foundation, our house charity. Thanks to Ollie Hayes-Bradley in particular for running this event.



House competitions have now seen us rise to fifth place- that's the top half of the table! So again, congratulations to the whole house for a stupendous competitive effort, including those

who went for competitions that were not their favourite but got stuck in anyway.

The new House Dance competition involved just about everyone (including the staff) and it was certainly presented a fresh challenge for our new Prefect Team, getting everyone organised and dancing. Our chosen song was Kool and the Gang's "Celebration".



Some words from a member of the new House Prefect Team:

"The new Prefect Team of Deis consists of seven members and we are all extremely excited about what we can do for the house in the year to come. So far we have collaborated together to form a duty rota to maintain community and consistency throughout the day in house. The team have also recently experienced their first leadership task in the shape of the House Dance Competition. Our Prefect

Team chose a music track, choreographed dance moves and filmed the house dancing together. In the future, we have many beneficial and important ideas to elevate and further grow Deis as a house and community including charity work and social events. We are all looking forward to increasing our effectiveness as a team and building connections with the house further." - Jack White (Prefect)

In **Dorms** we have hurtled through the Spring term at breakneck speed. House comps, Maths GCSE's, soggy pitches and dance offs in bedrooms kept us busy. It feels like mere moments ago we were warning people off the frozen lake and delighting in watching people make their first snowballs, then being not so delighted when said first snowballs sailed in our direction!

I cannot believe this is the same term that we hosted our first, but not last Curry and Quiz night in conjunction with Stud house. A terrific night for all involved that raised valuable funds for charity.



Further charitable funds were raised during the Dorms Charity Week when we launched our own takeaway pizza business. With Rev. Taylor and crew of Pizzaiolo's that ranged from First Years to Upper Sixth we cooked our way to quite a pleasing profit for our house charity, The Hummingbird Project.

The cooking bug is strong within the house and I felt a swell of pride recently when a pupil, whom the week before had joined in on a fresh pasta making activity, asked for the pasta roller so he could make his own again, unaided the next week. As the proverb goes, teach a man to fish.. I can't help but think of the people this young man may impress in future years with his simple yet highly rewarding skill.

More recently I have been blown away by the strength within our Lower Sixth when it came to the prefect interview process. This year we have selected a record number of prefects and they are already learning the ropes ahead of taking the helm after Easter. Their energy and desire to make their house the best it can be gives energy to all in the house. Plans for an indoor bowling alley are already afoot!

As I write this I am listening to bird song and watching daffodils sway in a spring breeze and I am reminded of how lucky we are to live in this amazing setting. Next term promises much in terms of personal academic achievement, but also of the more valuable the development of those small but rewarding skills that last a lifetime.

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