

REFLECTIVE BEDDE'S

Autumn 2021



EVENTS

REMEMBRANCE



On Thursday 11 November, the Senior School gathered for a Remembrance Service. Bearing in mind that this was the first time the school had come together for 18 months, the occasion did not need any introduction.

Poems were read before the act of Remembrance, reminding us of the great sacrifice people have paid for freedom from tyranny. As a school, we were all present to this larger reality. It was humbling. The silence between the Last Post and the Reveille united our hearts and minds. There have been few occasions at Bede's which provided such poignancy.

Jarrold Taylor
Chaplain



BEDE'S FEST



On the first Saturday of term, the Bede's community gathered in the sunshine in the beautiful surroundings of the Park at the school to celebrate the start of term with the annual music festival Bede's Fest. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Bede's community to come together to welcome our new pupils and their families and listen to the many talented Bede's musicians who performed from the live stage. Following the day, the Trust donated proceeds from the afternoon totalling nearly £2,000 to the Bede's Foundation in support of transformational bursaries.

We would like to thank all those who attended for the support they have given to the Bede's Foundation by coming along and enjoying the day with us.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who have generously donated money over recent months to our bursary fund.



WINTER WONDERLAND POP UP LIBRARY



On the last Friday before the Christmas holidays we held a pop-up library in the Recital Room, so pupils could choose something to read over the festive break.

The room was transformed into a glittery, twinkly Winter Wonderland, complete with a 'through the wardrobe to Narnia' entrance, hung with fur coats, lots of little Christmas trees, and tables brimming with an extensive and diverse range of brilliant fiction to capture even the most reluctant reader's imagination.

Throughout the day around 300 pupils came through the doors to browse the books on offer, and many borrowed titles that will hopefully transport them to other worlds and eras (and give them a break from their screens) over the next few weeks. They were also able to take some time during their visit to sit quietly and read whilst munching on a little sweet treat or two. It was a really enjoyable and successful day, and Miss Evans in the library wishes everyone many happy hours of yuletide reading. Merry Christmas!

Sarah Evans
Librarian



DORMS DEVELOPMENT

With the end of term approaching, we took the opportunity to have a guided tour of the new Dorms building, led by the site manager, James Ridger.



James explained that they are now in the 18th week of the 40 week build project and that the 70,000 bricks which make up the façade are now in place. Work on the roof is also very nearly complete which will mean the building will be water tight ready for the plaster boarding and plastering to start in January. Installation of the windows has started and will continue into the New Year.

Inside the build, the most striking development is that the built-in bench-style seating in the atrium is now in place. Around 50 people are currently working on site and inside it is a hive of activity with electricians and plumbers busy working on installing the maze of electrical cables and water/heating pipework on the ground and first floors, including the under-floor heating system which will run throughout the main communal areas. We look forward to checking in with James next term to see how the interiors and landscaping work are coming together. Well done to all the Sunninghill team for an impressive term's progress!



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BEDE'S ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

With climate change events such as COP26, Responsible Business Global 2021, and Sustainability Live, 2021 has been a big year for innovation, awareness and generating change to fight against global warming. This is no exception even within our own school grounds at Bede's Senior School. Throughout the year, our community has been investigating all kinds of changes to make our school more sustainable and lower our carbon footprint.

We are proud to be a part of the Eco-Schools programme, which involves a pupil and staff committee to develop changes that promote eco-action. It is important that pupils are included at a decision-making level. Our pupils play an active role in shaping the school's environmental sustainability policies and charting a way forward. Whilst our committee successfully takes on various eco-friendly solutions, they earn what is known as 'flag awards' through the Eco-Schools Scheme. Our committee meets termly to discuss ongoing projects. They currently have many projects planned for 2022 - watch this space!

Over the two-week period of COP26, First Year, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth year groups have contributed to PSHE activities such as learning about what climate change is, how the production, consumption and disposal of food are having an impact on greenhouse emissions and discovering the small steps we can all take to contribute to change. Within their work, pupils have completed a quiz where they made a pledge to commit to



doing one thing to reduce their own carbon footprint. They voted on a pledge(s) that they think the School should make to help reduce climate change.

Some of our members of the Eco-School committee produced a short video which was presented to the school in assembly. The video explained simple ways in which pupils could help fight climate change in their day to day routine. Some easy ways of doing this are to go veggie one day per week, find other methods of public transport rather than drive, and turn off lights when you leave a room. These steps will all play a part in reducing energy and water consumption.

This goes hand-in-hand with our work on the Energy Reduction Programme. This initiative has been ongoing since 2014. Previous and current reports suggest that key areas to

reduce carbon emissions are via reducing energy consumption and reducing our carbon footprint. We are set to achieve these goals by replacing light fittings with LED, insulating buildings through refurbishment and replacing inefficient doors, windows and high usage heating units.

Our pupils have undertaken an environmental audit of the school to identify areas that are of the highest priority. They are developing a number of proposals for projects to help address specific issues around the school such as litter, cycling to school and water saving.

Across the whole school, we are committed to making practical changes to make a difference to the environment. These initiatives are only gaining momentum to progress further in the future.



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CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

YOUNG AT HEART SOCIAL GROUP

On 14 October, the Young at Heart social group from Heathfield visited the Senior School to spend an afternoon at our Zoo.



Ami Brundle, Head Zookeeper, welcomed the members of the community club around the Zoo and gave them insights into life running an on-site zoo and some of our residents! The ring-tailed lemurs were particularly playful and excited to see visitors! Members were invited to hold different reptiles housed at the zoo and hear about how we care for them, what they like to eat and about their habitats. The shy and rarely seen Kinkajou made an appearance too. Rachel Gibson from Young at Heart said: "What a success! Thank you so much for having us - our members were so buoyant on our return. Please thank Amy very much - she was amazing!" Bede's regularly hosts events, talks and experiences for community groups and we hope to continue and extend our partnership outreach with the community groups and schools.

PARTNERING WITH PARKMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

As part of the Sixth Form diploma, forty students are volunteering to read at Parkmead Primary school on a weekly basis.

This is a fantastic opportunity for us to partner with our local school and help young children with their reading skills. Headteacher Mrs West says a 'huge thanks again to the readers who have been with our children this term. The help and support of your students is invaluable.'

COOKING WITH SKIPPERS HILL

This term we were honoured to welcome Skippers Hill to the Senior School for a number of cooking sessions. Skippers Hill does not currently have any cooking facilities so it was fantastic to be able to welcome Year 4 and Year 6 for five cooking sessions making cakes, pizza and other popular treats. Mary Leggett says: "The children were really enthusiastic about learning new skills and their final products were a huge success. It is our hope to be able to roll out cooking lessons to other schools in our area next term".



PARTNERSHIP AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMME AT BEDE'S

It has been so lovely to finally be able to start up our partnership and social responsibility programme again after the last 18 months.

The partnership programme at Bede's seeks to provide opportunities of mutual benefit to the local community and schools. We have had a busy term, with various visits, partnering with our local schools, charity fundraising events and school competitions along with our Christmas gathering with the village. It has been great seeing our pupils helping out and giving back to their local community and I have seen real leadership and altruistic characteristics arising. I look forward to sharing other events that will be happening this year.

Mary Leggett
Head of Partnership and Social Responsibility



CHARITY AND COMMUNITY

PAINT THE TOWN RED - RAISING FUNDS FOR ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE

During the last week before half term both the Prep and Senior Schools were busy raising vital funds for St Wilfrid's Hospice in Eastbourne in their 40th Anniversary year. A staggering £2278.24 was raised with a variety of fundraising initiatives including cake sales, raffles, and wearing red for the day. Well done to everyone involved!



CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

On 13 December, fifty pupils from our boarding houses were able to join with the local community singing carols on the Village Green. It was fantastic to see so many people joining in with the festivities, enjoying the carols, and eating mince pies and sausage rolls afterwards as well as a visit from Santa.

HARVEST COLLECTION FOR HAILSHAM FOODBANK

We have had a long-standing relationship with the local Foodbank in Hailsham. Mr Taylor, our chaplain was delighted that we were able to collect enough food to provide 637 meals for those families in need at Harvest time.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On the 10 December, we wore our christmas jumpers in aid of the charity 'Chance to Shine'. The Prefect team have chosen this as their charity this year, as it supports disadvantaged children to play cricket. It was also a charity close to Ms Woollett's heart, so the Prefects wanted to raise as much money as possible in memory of her.



PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts Faculty: An overview of a busy term



Our much anticipated **Bede’s Fest** started the year with a bang, and as numbers swelled throughout the day to enjoy the panoply of musical entertainment from our talented musicians, we revelled in the glorious sunshine and looked forward to all that was before us.

The term saw our Legat Dancers inspired by Industry professionals such as **Daniel James Greenway** who led a Dancing on Camera lesson for our Legats, followed later in the term by a choreographic masterclass from **Emma Woods** who taught material from The King and I and The Addams Family! The first 42 Club of the year saw the wisdom of **Dr Ralph Allwood MBE** discussing the importance of music, education and the performing arts. Following this was actor, facilitator and theatre-maker **Milly Roberts** exploring immersive and site-specific theatre. Performing arts pupils from across the different departments were inspired to create their own work.



Live theatre visits are a crucial element of our educational diet and have peppered the term: Matthew Bourne’s **The Midnight Bell** in Brighton enriched Legat, **The Long Song** at Chichester challenged our new Lower Sixth A level dramatists, **The Ocean at the End of the Lane** at the National Theatre offered innovation to our Upper Sixth pupils, knee-deep in their A level devising and **The Book of Dust - La Belle Sauvage** at the Bridge Theatre for Upper Fifth dramatists served as a wonderful finale, a week after their GCSE component 1 examination. Gecko’s **The Institute** was offered up to all of our dramatists as part of our in-house programme and we have dipped into much of their tool bag throughout the term.

The **Junior Recital** was a much-anticipated event for our young musicians and a wonderful opportunity for them all to showcase their talents. Legat dancers were involved in auditions for **Alice in Wonderland** early in the term, followed by a delightful performance

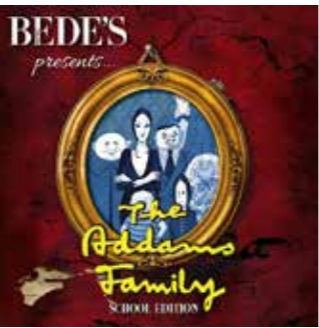
to parents and friends. Mr Oliver, the Head of Languages Faculty and our Librarian, Ms Evans, staged Ayckbourn’s rarely revived 1980’s **Man of the Moment** and the cast did a wonderful job in inspiring nervous laughter amongst the audience who were sitting around the performing space.



Mr Scamardella ran our very first **Year 9 vocal trials**, where we met seasoned singers and those new to sheet music, who will enrich our choirs. Such was the success of this innovation that it will be rolled out at the start of each academic year to unearth hidden talents across the school. R.A.D ballet exams took place in November, under the direction of Mrs Manes, and we await the results!

Next term promises to be jam-packed with events across the faculty. Highlights include a brand new **‘Legat Associate Programme’** starting in January 2022. This is an elite programme for 10-18-year-olds studying at the pre-vocational and vocational level and for those dancers wishing to develop their talent further in a nurturing and creative environment. Acceptance is through an audition process. For further information please contact diana.white@bedes.org

On the 24 March, we are showcasing our orchestra with a black-tie evening in the Recital Room and tickets will be announced via our Events Team early in the term.



Rehearsals for **The Addams Family** have thrummed happily throughout the term and our change of venue to the Devonshire Park Theatre Eastbourne upped the excitement. We have 50 pupils involved in this production and performances are planned for the 27-29th January. Please do not miss out on this opportunity to see this hilarious show, and book your tickets in advance!

My last note turns the spotlight on the wonderful Olivia Clark who has received a talent scholarship to the Institute of Arts Barcelona - well done Olivia we are enormously proud of this well-deserved achievement.



Karen Lewis
Director of Performing Arts

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

This term the Legat Dance Academy was proud to present Alice In Wonderland, an original ballet piece devised specifically for our talented pupils.

The dancers auditioned for their roles in the second week of being at school, and from then on they underwent an intense rehearsal period to ensure the show was ready to welcome our first invited audience on Wednesday 3 November.

The Legat team were incredibly impressed by the dancers’ dedication and tenacity to deliver a ballet in such a short period of time. A huge thanks to Mrs Emma Manes who led and developed the piece and to Ms Fiona Chadwick and Mr Simon Williams for their wonderful choreography.

The atmosphere was buzzing onstage and behind the scenes. The Miles Studio was transformed into Wonderland by our theatre technician Mr Ben Phelps, where Upper Fifth pupil, Alfie Kennedy superbly designed the lighting. The Legat dancers brilliantly delivered three performances to friends and family, demonstrating their talent in a fulfilling and ambitious production. Every pupil rose to the challenge and supported each other as they prepared for this wonderful show.



We were also fortunate to be visited by our lovely Prep School dancers, who managed to watch the last dress rehearsal. They all loved meeting the senior pupils and especially their characters! Hopefully we have inspired another generation of budding young dancers.

Asked about the experience, Upper Sixth pupil Chloe Castree commented “It was a challenge to switch between the characters we were portraying but it was a good experience and we were able to bond quickly with the new dancers.” Echoing these thoughts, Lower Sixth pupil Heather Gibb said, “It was exciting to be able to perform after not being able to for such a long time with a wonderful group of people.”

Also this term we have been incredibly lucky to take part in guest workshops with industry professionals. Daniel James Greenway delivered a ‘Dancing on Camera’ workshop and Emma Woods led an audition style class and the pupils enjoyed a trip to Matthew Bourne’s A Midnight Bell. There has also been some huge successes for our Upper Sixth pupils: Olivia Clark has received a talent scholarship to attend The Institute of the Arts Barcelona, and Chloe Castree has received four university offers to study human geography. We are very excited to see what the next term holds. . . .

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

JUNIOR RECITAL

It was an absolute privilege to welcome pupils and parents back to the Recital Room for the first time in over 18 months for a concert. The concert showcased pupils from First Year to the Upper Fifth. Three of our first year music scholars; Alfie Burton, Walter McKinna and Leona Baker made their debut performance as Bede’s music scholars. Alfie successfully navigated the musical gymnastics of Handel’s Sonata No. 3 for the violin. Walter gave an assured rendition of Cavalryman, and Leona played a Romanian folk tune called Jiana with sensitivity and style. The concert was full of various styles of music from musical theatre performances by Maya Goswami performing ‘On My Own’ from Les Miserablés, and Alfie Kennedy singing ‘Michael in the Bathroom’ from Be More Chill to classical performances by Zac Smallpeice performing ‘Experience’ by Ludovico Einaudi and Josh Slater playing Rachmaninoff’s ‘Prelude’ in D major. Well done to all pupils involved in an impressive evening of high quality music making.

James Aburn
Teacher of Music



PERFORMING ARTS

HOUSE MUSIC

It is safe to say that, despite the vast array of house competitions scattered throughout the year, House Music is always a highlight. Perhaps I'm biased. It is undeniable to say that some houses have always had a certain knack with this competition.



As ever, and in broad terms, the contest was fierce. Five epic renditions of various '80s pop songs were the centre point of the day. And to talk of proceedings, the competition this year was staggered throughout the school timetable to ensure greater social distancing. The whole occasion proved the immense vivacity and enthusiasm of musicians, teachers, house staff and technical crew. Whether it was Studights classy harmonies, or Blicher's multi-faceted offering, all houses had something unique and personal about their performance. Every singer who took part in the small choir song (a maximum of 20 singers allowable) were truly exemplifying what it meant to be a part of a house community. The atmosphere in all the musical items was truly energising, and every pupils effort was unequivocally infectious. It was certainly quite an experience to both be on stage and a member of the audience!

Blicher's small song ('I'm Still Standing') was the first of its kind to grace the day. One might expect nerves - but they certainly did not show. A '80s classic, it did not disappoint, aided by Fearghus Beauchamp's wonderful harmonisations and musical wizardry. Put simply: can you ever go wrong with a bit of Elton John? For their solo, we were lucky to witness Rosie Maitland-Shadwell singing 'Always remember us'. An

emerging vocal superpower, Rosie's singing impressed us all with its passion and skill. Blicher's band also excelled with their song 'Umbrella', where Sophia Titterton-Manos came to the fore fronting the band.



Next up: Chorms. Their small choir exhibited a tour-de-force performance of the classic Abba song 'Lay All Your Love On Me' organised and orchestrated by the incredible Mr Mpandawana and Mr Hickman and their teams. The arrangement simply took our breath away; the harmonies reflected the soft and mellow intentions behind the music; truly put the icing on the cake. For their solo, Charleston's Veronica Travers transported us with her magical and atmospheric performance. The performance was deeply heartfelt and emotive, in simpler terms: what a performer and what a performance! Chorms's band was also executed with extreme professionalism under the expert guidance of Grace Watkins and again, Veronica Travers.

Moving swiftly on to Camberways. The small song was Annie Lennox's iconic '80s number, Sweet Dreams, which was given an electric rendition. Davina Ifie-Sekibo was the amazing vocalist, whose performance left us all on the edge of our seats: the maturity and vocal power she gave was very memorable. There are simply no other words for it, spectacular; her power and style was effervescent. Another strong entry from the band was also performed by Camberways, led by the superb Gladys Chan and Will Quibell. Studights were next. The song Uptown Girl, was originally performed by the American singer Billy Joel, and Studights simply gave it a new lease of life. Remarkable solos came from Seb Robinson and Oliver

Charman who both electrified and enthused the performance with the gusto it needed. The house soloist, Joshua Slater, was exceptional. It is fair to say the Bede's keyboard community is very strong indeed; Joshua gave a show-stopping performance of the Revolutionary Study, by Frederick Chopin. His playing was both elegant and refreshing; which struck a different tone from the raucous energy of the day. The judges certainly had their work cut out! Dorteis were last, but by no means least, and started with Rockwell's 'Somebody's Watching Me' for their small song. The band number, possibly one of the most superb performances of the day, was 'Love Shack' by the B52s. I think you would agree that talent is an understatement, especially taking into consideration their soloist too, who was Maya Goswami, also the winning soloist item.



All in all, the winners were Studights, closely followed by Dorteis who won both the small song and the band. Special thanks must go to Mr Hopkins, Mr Aburn and Mr Prescott and the peripatetic music staff, as well as all the Housemasters and Housemistresses involved. Without their effort and motivation, competitions like this wouldn't happen.

Roll on House Music 2022 - all being well, fully back to normal!

Robert Scamardella
Director of Music

JOSHUA SLATER EARNS PLACE AT THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Joshua Slater has been awarded a place at the junior department of the Guildhall School of Music in London, effective from September 2022. We caught up with Josh to ask him how he was feeling and his hopes for the future:



Congratulations on your place at Guildhall School of Music! What first interested you in the course?

Thank you! I feel so happy to have got in. Guildhall School of Music is ranked as the top conservatoire in the Guardian University Guide music league table. They deliver world-class professional training in partnership with distinguished artists. One of the key reasons I cannot wait to begin my course is that I will be tutored by Chenyin Li who is an internationally recognised, sought-after pianist.

What did you have to do to secure your position?
I had to travel to London on a Saturday to audition at the Guildhall School of Music. This involved performing for a panel of adjudicators and lots of practice beforehand! I usually practice every day for 2-5 hours – although this has been tough during exam season!

How has Bede's helped you on your journey to securing your place?

Mr. Scamardella has been one of the main reasons that I applied for the course! He inspired me to push and apply myself. He went the extra mile and did everything he could to ensure I was prepared for my audition. In fact, I cannot thank the entire music department enough for their support throughout the course entry process.

What are your hopes for the future?

Eventually, I would love to become a Concert Pianist. This is once I have finished university. I would love to start performing professionally when I am 16, and begin my career at 18. I started learning the piano when I was 7 and reached grade 8 when I was just 12 – so having a career in music has always been my aspiration.

What has been your biggest challenge during your time at Bede's, and how did you overcome it?

School in general has had its challenges! But I have learned to find my own way and deal with issues as I go along. Some areas of music have been tough but with the help of my teachers and my parents, I have found a good work ethic. I am still learning as I go!

What has been your best moment during your time at Bede's?

The whole Bede's experience has been fantastic. Not just academically, but particularly finding friends and getting to know so many people has been a highlight.



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CREATIVE ARTS

It has been a great term being back in the classroom in the creative subjects and the pupils have been producing some excellent work. Remote teaching encouraged great innovations that we still use – from tutorial videos to virtual sketch books. However, as creative people the chance to make again with our hands, together and in an analogue fashion has been wonderful for pupils and staff alike. Clay, paint, tools and in person talks have made a welcome return. To spend time ‘in the moment’ and away from the screen really is an important aspect of life and is good for creativity, education and our mental health.



This beautiful drawing of the Manor House (above) exemplifies being ‘in the moment’ due to the hours and ‘looking’ involved. It was wonderful to commission our very talented Alumni Daniel Martirossian to produce this beautiful pencil drawing of the Manor House. Daniel studied at the Bede’s Prep School and Senior School before going on to study at Chichester and gaining a 1st class degree in Fine Art Painting and Drawing. Daniel is now exhibiting widely and winning awards – most recently with his work being ‘Highly Commended’ and exhibited at The Derwent Museum. Daniel’s Photorealist work is breathtaking and more can be seen at his website here www.martirossian.co.uk

To continue the hands-on approach, we have also run a whole selection of workshops, talks and masterclasses over the autumn term that have given the whole of the Bede’s community the chance to explore creative subjects.



Miss Roberts ran a darkroom masterclass giving pupils the chance to create photographic images in the darkroom using some of the earliest photographic processes. There is something magical about watching an image emerging slowly while submerged in chemicals. Some of the First Years have had the chance to be back in the darkroom and there is always the look of wonder on pupils’ faces when they see the process for the first time.

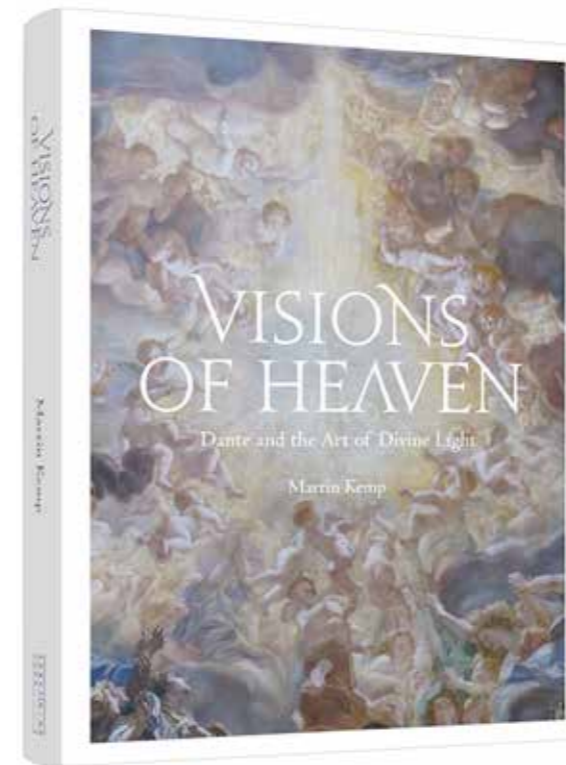


Mr Hammond ran a masterclass where pupils explored different approaches to transferring images and patterns onto clay. This was a practical session and was a great opportunity for any creative pupil that wanted to try

new techniques for creating with clay. This included using image transfers embedded in clay creating a cracked and worn surface with the image breaking through. This tactile approach was continued with Miss Parris’ print making masterclass. Miss Parris and the pupils explored a process where fabulous prints were created using gelatine plates. You can buy expensive pre prepared plates but you can, as our pupils did, create plates out of good old-fashioned jelly. This creates a wonderful surface that creates quite fabulous textures and a great analogue feel.



Mr Williams ran a logo making master class that combined creativity with analysis and Director and Editor, Jay Amin, discussed his fascinating experiences filming in Ghana. Jay’s talk was in person to a full house and his status as an ex-pupil and teacher at Bede’s inspired the pupils to imagine their own creative careers. We were also blessed with a virtual talk as part of our ‘42 Club Presents’.



Renowned art historian Professor Martin Kemp marks the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante with a look at the great Italian poet’s vision of divine light and its impact on visual artists of the Renaissance and the Baroque. A wonderful inspiring talk that combined scholarly art criticism with art appreciation through a visual celebration of light.

All this has impacted on the pupils continuing to create excellent work which will be exhibited at the end of the year. Next term will include Competition in Art and in jewellery making and new activities including a props and mask making activity and a new animation/motion graphics activity. So, inspired by Bede’s pupils, let us all try and stay creative this Christmas and get lost in an analogue act. 2022 is on the horizon – and it is going to be great.

Jonathan Turner
Head of Creative Arts



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ACADEMIC

As we come to the end of 2021, it's been a remarkable year and one that will live long in the annals of history. This time last year, the school was entering another lockdown with the Government announcement, in the dying days of December, that examinations would no longer take place in the summer. They had not, at the time, announced what would be taking place instead although the coming months were full of brand new lexicon: Teacher Assessed Grades, Evidence and Opportunities. A year later and whilst there's some uncertainly still ahead, at the time of writing, it appears as though examinations will be taking place in 2022. Whatever the new year brings, pupils at Bede's will be ready to respond with the courage and curiosity they have developed over the past year.



Across the school there's been a range of exciting academic activities, the list of which could occupy an entire book (and indeed, does occupy an entire website - the Academic Extra-Curricular Activities website that can be found in the weekly newsletter). A taste of which is below...

In the autumn sunshine, the Geography & Biology departments led fields trips out to distant & exotic locations (well, Nettlecombe) with the STEM Faculty twitter page packed with pupils playing in the mud. It was online excitement for First Year Computer Science pupils as they visited the eSports exhibition in London (and the department were also delighted when Amelia Burden scored in the top 10% nationally of the international Bebras challenge). Pupils from First Years to Upper Fifth attended a Rob Eastaway Mathematics lecture - where he gave tips on how to get the most pocket money out of parents! If you've not come across Rob Eastaway and have a child interested in maths - his books are well-worth purchasing for a stocking present. The Languages faculty saw an English eco-writing essay competitions (won with brilliant essays from Ava Hooper and Scarlet Lamb), along with several Modern Languages Culture prizes awarded every day during a week long run (I, sadly, failed to win any of the prizes). There were opportunities to explore the wonders of printmaking in the Creative Arts faculty sessions where pupils made monoprints, collographs, Lino cuts and more besides. The SHAPE faculty ran a popular First Year Masterclass programme that inspired pupils in their study of Humanities. Throughout the school, there wasn't a day that went by without a trip, a lecture, a talk or a session to engage and excite pupils.

Pupils in exam year groups also had the opportunity to practice their skills in the November Trial Assessments. After close to two years since formal exams have run completely, this was an important step to ensuring that next summer goes as well as possible. There will be another round of Trial Assessments in March, ensuring that pupils at Bede's are 'exam-beating' ready for the summer season. Prior to each set of Trial Assessments, we publish guidance to pupils and parents about how to revise appropriately, where these materials can be found, and what parents can do to help. Getting the best grades is very much a 'team game', with the pupils our star-strikers.

Masterclasses for all year groups take place every Tuesday evening with each faculty taking it in turn to lead a session. This term has featured memorable masterclasses in Music with Libby Burgess, the SHAPE faculty publishing their termly newsletter and a Comet Masterclass from the STEM faculty. This term's 42 Club has been hit by cancellations and Covid alike however one of the most popular evening was by the world's leading expert on Leonardo da Vinci, Professor Martin Kemp who gave a fascinating talk on Dante's Divine Comedy.

Academic life at Bede's school starts with engaging & exciting pupils about the subjects they study (or may, in the future, study). We want pupils to be genuinely passionate about the options they have picked for both GCSE and A-Level both inside and outside the curriculum. After that, teachers & pupils work together to draw up battle plans to attack exams and coursework, ensuring the best results possible.



The pupils at Bede's have caring and engaging teachers who aim to ignite a love of learning. As we come into the Christmas break, and recharge the batteries for next year's academic brilliance, I want to thank the teachers and pupils at Bede's for all they do both inside and outside the classroom. It is truly a remarkable school. However this remarkableness isn't down to the buildings, books or facilities - it is down to the people that make up the school and their courageousness, curiosity and kindness. There's a world of opportunities out there and I encourage every pupil to ensure they make the most of their time at Bede's. Have a restful and relaxing break.

Nicholas Abrams
Assistant Head: Teaching & Learning

ACADEMIC STEM BIOLOGY

Upper Sixth A-Level Biology Field Trip 2021 'Trip Happy'

At last Bede's pupils were able to return to Nettlecombe Court after two years and it was so exciting! We were doing what biologists love to do and that is being in the field and having fun working collaboratively! We were so lucky with continual warm autumnal sun, beautiful sunsets and only fresh dew to dampen our wellies.

The aim of the trip is always for pupils to experience being an ecologist and complete an individual investigation (A level Core Practical 10). The first two days focused on learning new river and beach sampling skills and techniques and then the pupils had their own opportunity to study independently and create and follow through with their own hypothesis.

Pupil's memories from the trip were 'catching a fish', 'freshwater sampling', 'playing Twister in the common room in the evening', 'being with friends at the river and the beach' and 'the importance of independent study and teamwork.'

One of our Upper Sixth group said that they enjoyed having no phone service, although the trip was hard work it was fun and relaxing to spend time outside of the classroom with friends in a pretty location.', this had the greatest impact on them.

Luke Burdekin, who is looking to study Biology at University next year explains:

"On our visit to Nettlecombe Court in Exmoor National Park, I enjoyed learning about the wide range of sampling techniques that could be used when carrying out an ecological study. As a group, we spent the week learning different data collection techniques that could be used in the local

grasslands, on the local coastline and along the nearby river to gather data. These techniques were then used as a part of our own independent ecological study. For example, in my study I used a wide range of techniques and sampling skills such as kick sampling to look at how the biodiversity of freshwater organisms changed with water velocity.

As well as carrying out the ecological study, we had a go at using the humane Longworth mammal traps to catch small rodents. After leaving the traps out overnight, we returned in the morning to see we had caught 4 or 5 Wood mice. We were told that this was done to look at the abundance and distribution of species in the area. This process was not only enjoyed by everyone but was also very interesting. Overall, the trip was enjoyed by everyone, and I highly recommend it to anyone who is currently taking the A level biology course or is looking to take it in the near future."



We are already organising next year's trip as we feel it is a vital element to developing the heart and soul of a biologist, and as we discussed the concept of being 'trap happy', as a likely explanation for why we had caught so many Wood mice this year, it felt also a wonderful way to describe how it felt to be back learning in the field - we were definitely "Trip Happy " again.

National Biology Week

Bede's biologists this year celebrated National Biology Week (October 4 - 8) by submitting images of moments of inspiring

nature that they have captured in our 'Nature Spot'. All entries were mesmerising, stunning and awe-inspiring and the opportunity to share each other's images was a true pleasure and a chance to take us away from busy schedules and admire the nature all around us. There were many potential winners and we have posted 65 entries on our Bioweb.

Congratulations to the winners for following entries:

The most breathtaking image - Ellie Besant



The most heart warming image - Charlie Fisk



Most Curious - Mark Lewis



Julia French
Head of STEM

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology this term has been jam-packed! With a new cohort of pupils getting used to the subject and complexities of the course, we have been super impressed with the level of commitment, curiosity and resilience shown by all.

The Lower Sixth pupils have thrown themselves into understanding our memories in depth which has helped with their recent assessments. Learning how and why we forget helped pupils not to forget Psychology! Lower Sixth pupils will be testing out family and friends' memories over the Christmas break - good luck! We have been exploring Gender in the Upper Sixth with pupils considering how fluid gender is today and how we can show compassion and consideration in our day to day lives. Pupils have been fantastic at creating informational leaflets and posters about Gender Identity Disorder and engaging in meaningful discussion around this topical area.

In BTEC we have started to plan and design pilot studies, and it has been exciting to see different ideas come to life. The pupils have also engaged in incredible discussions around aggression, consumer behaviour as well as addictions and criminal behaviour. A full packed term all in all. Pupils have clearly enjoyed the first part of their Psychology journey with one Lower Sixth pupil stating, "I am really enjoying psychology ... the lessons are engaging and interesting while I am still able to leave the lesson wanting to learn more".

Yvette Stainsby
Head of Psychology

CHEMISTRY

It has been a busy term in the Chemistry department. The First Year pupils have been looking at the most important particle in life "the atoms" and they have discovered how the work of Dalto, Thomson, Rutherford and Bohr has contributed to the development of the building blocks of life.



The Lower Fifth have been learning how the properties of different substances is dictated by the way they bond together. They have now been able to explain why metal can shape and why the most important substance to life is a gas in its natural state.

In the meantime, our Upper Fifth have looked at applying their knowledge of separation techniques and how these are used to provide us with an essential ingredient - crude oil which has coincided with a national shortage of petrol in the country. Our Sixth Formers are continuing to develop their knowledge of chemistry in a wide range of topics. This has given our pupils a greater understanding of the ingredients of the Covid vaccine. One pupil said whilst getting his vaccine, "I was reading the information on the vaccine and I understand all the ingredients!" Our masterclass this term was a joint effort with the physics department. We looked at comets, discussed what they are made of, and looked at the most impressive comets known to exist. Our session finished with our attempt to build our own comets using readily available material and dry ice. We even had a competition on which comet had the biggest term.

Laure Finat-Duclos
Head of Chemistry

PHYSICS

Build a Comet Workshop

On November 16, the Chemistry and Physics departments joined forces to run a "build a comet" workshop. The session started with Mr Froom giving an illustrated talk on comets, presenting famous historical examples before going on to explain our scientific understanding of their origin, orbital dynamics and composition. Ms Finat-Duclos and Mr Froom then helped pupils use dry ice mixed with water and a smorgasbord of organic and inorganic materials of their choice, to create their own models of a cometary nucleus. The carbon dioxide and water from the models formed the characteristic cometary gas tails, creating a spectacular sight when illuminated by torchlight in a darkened science lab.

The next evening of November 17, the skies cleared sufficiently for a group of pupils to enjoy views using Mr Froom's telescope outside the Science block. The giant planets Jupiter and Saturn were well placed for observation, affording views of Jupiter's cloud belts and Galilean moons, and Saturn's beautiful ring system. The almost full Moon presented a dazzling spectacle, and there was time for a peek at the colourful double star Albireo. More such evenings are planned for the New Year, weather permitting!



Sussex Universe



On November 24, the Physics department booked the Recital Room for a special broadcast of one of the Sussex University "Sussex Universe" lecture series, delivered by Professor Stephen Wilkins, on the origin of the elements. The lecture provided a fascinating insight into the multifarious stellar and interstellar processes that have forged all elements, from the common elements that represent the essential building blocks of human life, to the rare and precious metals that are coveted for their unique properties. Pupils enjoyed a hearty meal beforehand and were enthused by this exposition of the broad and universal significance of physics in our lives.

South Downs Planetarium

A group of Upper Fifth pupils were treated to a curriculum-based trip to the South Downs Planetarium on December 9. Inside the dome, they were treated to realistic simulations of the night sky from suburban and then rural Sussex, followed by the radically different perspective of Southern Hemisphere observers. The speaker, Dr John Mason, regaled them with a thorough, yet lucid illustrated overview of modern cosmology, encompassing stellar life cycles as well as the origin and evolution of the Universe. The experience provided the triple Science pupils with an invaluable grounding in one of the key topics in their Physics GCSE, before it is covered in lessons in the New Year.

Oli Froom
Head of Physics



MATHS

A busy start to the year as always in the Maths department with a real emphasis this year on making sure we have been able to carry forward the initiatives we put in place for some of last year during lockdown. Google Classrooms have been a real bonus in terms of being able to deliver online content to pupils and the use of Dr Frost Maths has really helped empower the pupils with their independent learning.



More recently we were able to welcome Rob Eastaway, a renowned mathematician, author and worldwide promoter of maths to Bede's who gave an engaging lecture to our First Years, Lower Fifth and Upper Sixth. If your children have come back with what appears to be a good deal for you in terms of pocket money...beware!!! We hope to welcome him back later in the academic year for those that were not able to see him this time.

We have a couple of masterclasses scheduled during the Spring term, the first of which is on Tuesday 25 January where the First Year to Upper Fifth will hopefully take part in some hands-on experiments in mathematics.

Later in the Summer term we hope to host another UKMT style team competition for the First Years and Year 8 Prep pupils.

Stavros Manos
Head of Maths

BEDE'S

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Bede’s Triumph at The UK Space Design Competition

The UK Space Design Competition, like many events, went digital last year and it was with real excitement that Bede’s were able to invite schools to compete in-person once again on Saturday 6 November. Five schools came to Bede’s, including a science club from North London that struggled with public transport and in one case their parents even drove them here, which shows the level of enthusiasm for the event! The six schools were competing in three teams, with Bede’s and the pupils from the science club in London forming Da Vinci Meccanica.



Following technical briefings, the teams began working at around 10am on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a space settlement in cyclic orbit between Earth and Mars for 1000 business travellers in the year 2052. The buzz in the workrooms was terrific to observe and it was clear that all the teams were really enjoying working.

Lunch came around all too soon and teams were dragged, with a degree of reluctance, from their work to grab something to eat, before returning to continue work on their presentations. The teams were given some late observations on their proposals by the ‘Red Team’, who took an overall view and gave minor direction to enable the teams to make improvements prior to the hand-in at 5:30pm and then to supper. After supper, the teams gathered in the Recital Room to present their proposals to the judges – they had 20 minutes for this, followed by a 10 minute Q&A. The judges then disappeared to make their deliberations.

The judges returned and made observations about all the presentations and the Da Vinci team was praised in particular for including a number of innovative ideas and setting their proposal firmly in the future. Additionally, the judges were most impressed by how well the team handled questions on their presentation – they had clearly researched their ideas and knew their proposal well. And the verdict was... Da Vinci won! Bede’s are now looking forward to attending the UK final next March in Imperial College.

Bill Richards, Maths Teacher and Activities Director at Bede’s comments, “We are so proud of our pupils for showing the highest level of innovation and professionalism that I can remember in a Regional. Their victory was very well deserved.”

SHAPE

This has been a busy term for the SHAPE Faculty, with a range of events and sessions taking place across the range of years. The rebranding of the Faculty continues to gather pace; our feeling is that being labelled the Humanities Faculty fails to capture the essence of the full range of subjects – with Business, Economics, Geography, History, Politics and Religion & Philosophy being represented – and our new identity as the SHAPE Faculty will allow us to promote our vision much more uniformly and effectively.

James Whitaker
Head of SHAPE

East Sussex Youth Cabinet

East Sussex Youth Cabinet members gather the views of young people through surveys and workshops, and communicate these views to local decision-makers. They do this to improve young people’s lives and the communities around them, and have worked on projects and campaigns that include

tackling domestic violence and protecting the environment.



Back in November the Bede’s community elected their representative to the ESYC, with all three candidates sharing their message with the pupil body via videos and posters. On polling day turnout was around 50%, and Milly Gibson (Lower Sixth Crossways) was duly elected as Bede’s representative on the youth cabinet; a big thank you also goes to Freddie Freeman (Lower Sixth Stud) and Joseph Connolly (Upper Fifth Camberlot) for their contributions to what proved to be a hard fought campaign. Next term Bede’s will be hosting a session of the European Youth Parliament, which will give pupils another opportunity to be politically active. Milly will serve on the youth cabinet for one year, and is very much looking forward to representing the Bede’s pupil body and promoting their views.



Geography Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a vital part of Geography. It brings learning to life, it teaches vital research skills and allows our pupils to investigate their world in detail. Last year, lockdowns prevented much of our fieldwork. This term it has been very satisfying to once again get out into the field. For five days in September our Upper Sixth pupils, together with their teachers, visited the Field Study Centre in Slapton Ley in Devon. Here they learnt valuable field research techniques in a variety of river, coastal and

urban environments. Each pupil then designed and conducted their own personalised study. A group of pupils visited Plymouth. Here investigations included looking at regeneration, deprivation and inequalities in local neighbourhoods, others asked to what extent Plymouth is a clone town and to what extent features of globalisation are present in the Plymouth CBD. Other pupils conducted cost-benefit analyses to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal defences along the Start Bay coastline. Yet other studies investigated the association between land use and a variety of soil characteristics within the Slapton catchment. On the last night of our stay, the hard work behind us, we relaxed around a fire on the beach, roasting marshmallows in the flames. We were in Devon at the peak of the fuel supply crisis and for a moment it was touch and go as to whether we would find enough fuel for the 6 hour return trip, but being geographers we tracked some down and all ended well. Upper Sixth pupils have spent the remainder of the term working hard to write up their studies in the form of 4,000 word research reports



which contribute 20% of their ‘A’ Level grades. Two weeks later, in October, it was the turn of the Upper Fifth who visited Eastbourne to conduct a coastal study as well as an investigation of differences in the quality of the living environments in two different neighbourhoods. The field skills learned here were consolidated with follow-up work in the classroom. This knowledge and these skills are tested in the end of year exams. All in all this has been a highly successful term in Geography with lots of learning in the outdoor classroom.

Jonathan Slinger
Head of Geography



Business & Economics

It has been another busy half term in the Business and Economics department. Pupils in the Upper Fifth have been sitting trial assessments, Lower Sixth and Lower Fifth pupils have been settling into and making progress with their new courses and Upper Sixth pupils have been working hard to finalise and send off a large number of university applications for Business/Economics related courses.

In terms of the extra-curricular activities taking place, the Bede’s Enterprise Challenge team have been very productive, raising money for their chosen charity through their pop-up Smoothie Shop; they are now in the process of researching and planning their Valentine’s gifting service that they will run next term. The Upper Sixth completed research into Critical Path Analysis and Network diagrams before visiting the “New Dorms” building site to bring project management and planning to life, and many pupils from within the department and Faculty have made significant contributions to the SHAPE Magazine, writing insightful pieces on the topics of the recent supply chain issues and the effects on businesses that have resulted from Brexit. The first edition of this will be published in the next week or so.

Barry Jackson
Head of Business and Economics

Philosophy Society

It has been great to see that the Philosophy Society is now in full swing, led by a strong team of Sixth Formers who have taken it upon themselves to promote the sessions and deliver the talks. Highlights so far have been Evie McCabe leading a session on ‘What makes humans so special?’, Milly Gibson talking about ‘Perceptions of women in the media’ and, most recently, Emily Ostler exploring ‘What is needed for a humane society to exist?’ Every session has seen around a dozen pupils gathering together at Tuesday lunchtimes for a stimulating discussion around a range of important topics. It’s great to see our Sixth Formers developing their leadership, communication and organisation skills, with a special mention going to Atlanta Woodhall for taking the lead role for the society this term, and for being proactive with giving the announcements both in Assembly and Chapel. A huge thank you to all involved, and we look forward to more engaging sessions in the New Year!

Savvas Costi
Head of Religion & Philosophy

COMPUTER SCIENCES

Visit to the European Gaming Exhibition

During late October, which seems such a long time ago, Bede’s Computer Science Department took a group of First and Lower Fifth pupils on a trip to EGX 2021.



EGX stands for European Gaming Exhibition and is a spectacular parade of the latest games for PC’s and Consoles. All of the top gaming organisations use it to launch and showcase their latest games, however, they also give us the chance to talk to developers, watch the games being played by A list champions of the eSports industry, and talk to the representatives about job opportunities in the industry. Cambo First Year pupil Oscar Lewis enjoyed the visit and has written this report.

Today we went on a school trip to EGX 2021. There were plenty of games to play but my personal favourite was a strategy game called “Empires of the Undergrowth”. The game is produced by Slug Disco Studios, and I was lucky enough to speak to the community manager there, Mike Connor. I got to speak to him about advanced tips for the game, hidden secrets, the challenges in producing the game, and so much more. The idea of the game is you play as a colony of ants, deep in the undergrowth. You need to dig up areas of the undergrowth, and find food to feed the queen ant, so she can hatch more eggs containing more ants to either work (digging, or finding food), fighter ants (for fighting enemies you come across, such as scorpions or millipedes), and several more I didn’t get far enough to get. One of the developers said they currently have six different types of ants, but they are working on a new update, which will bring

the amount of different types of ants up to eight. If the enemies break into your part of the undergrowth, and kill the queen ant, the game is over. There is also a story mode, and many more others which I didn’t end up playing. You can get the opportunity, as you progress through the game, to break out to the overworld, which will give you even more food, and animals to fight. I asked them after the visit what programming language they used to make their game and they explained that it is written in C++ and is built using Unreal Engine, which incorporates visual scripting elements too, known as Blueprints.



Bebras Challenge

During November the annual Bebras challenge was held, allowing pupils from all over the world the opportunity to take part in a series of logic challenges. Amelia Burden in Year 10 took part and she explains:



“The Bebras Challenge is a series of logic puzzles designed to introduce computational thinking. It is done in over 50 countries worldwide. There are three types of questions, easy, medium and hard and you aim to complete as many as you can in 40 minutes. Some questions are worth more than others but can lose you marks if you get it wrong.

The highest scoring people across the country get to go to a Computing Week. We did this in class and the questions were quite challenging. I think they really helped develop our logic and programming skills.”

Well done to Amelia for getting through to the next round by getting into the top 10% of pupils across the whole world, the next round is a series of Python Programming Challenges, which is held by Oxford University.

E-Sports Activity

This term we have hosted an eSports activity as part of the IT and Computing Department activities, during this activity we have hosted cronker tournaments, League of Legends, Rocket League comps to name but a few. I am delighted that pupils have also taken the lead in setting up a Minecraft Server, and we have over 40 pupils taking part in this.



Furthermore, the pupils helped carry out a survey to determine what eSports the whole school would like to take part in. By a narrow margin the overall winner was FIFA, so this term we have organised a whole school tournament. Over 40 pupils entered, paying £3 which goes to the Camberlot charity which is to support Children with Cancer. The knockout tournament has been well received and the players are now through to the quarter finals.

Chris Betts
Head of Computing and IT

INQUIRY LEARNING

The Inquiry Learning Faculty covers all of the vocational subjects and project qualifications covered in the School. These are often very creative subjects which are based on real world experiences. We currently run fourteen BTEC courses between the Fifth Form and Sixth Form involving the more creative subjects such as dance, music and esports, all the way through to some more academic courses such as Science and Psychology.

The pupils below have been formally recognised for their efforts in these vocational subjects. Their teachers have commented on their effort and acumen and it has been astounding to see so many of our pupils on the way to achieving their potential across all subject areas. A huge congratulations to all!

Kathy Clarke
Assistant BTEC Coordinator

Applied Science Level 2 U5	Diana Gorbenko
Applied Science Level 2 L5	Valerie Van Tol
Applied Psychology U6	Rosie Nel
Applied Psychology L6	Lianah Mirie
Creative Media	Jonjo Murphy
Marketing Level 3	Max Newberry
Business Level 2 L5	Seb Dopson
Music	Josie Tabb
EPQ	Tabby Newton
IT Level 2 U5th	Callum Hall, Donnie Cecil
IT Level 2 L5th	Jake Hadland
Sport Level 3	Hayden Beaconsfield
Sport Level 2	Alfie Sadlier
Performing Arts (Dance) Level 3 U6	Olivia Clark
Performing Arts (Dance) Level 3 L6	Leni Tschiedel-Nahrmann
Performing Arts (Dance) Level 2 U5	Alfie Kennedy
Performing Arts (Dance) Level 2 L5	Honey Brown
Financial Education	Xanda Foolheea
Sports Leaders	Lorrie Anderson

Some of the pupils awards from last half-term



Henry Olliff
Business Level 3



Eliza Hutchison
Performing Arts (Dance)
Level 2



Mia Gaymer
Business Level 2



Jadya Lutta
Science Level 2

BTEC

DANCE

The BTEC Performing Arts courses have been a haven of creativity this term.

Our Lower Fifth group are working on dance skills and each pupil has led the session in a warm up. I have been impressed with their teamwork and support for each other whilst each dancer has taken ownership of the lesson. We are also preparing a solo performance and the dancers have the opportunity to develop the routine with their own choreography.

The Upper Fifth year are tackling the individual showcase unit of the course and are choreographing their solos to the set theme of Fortune. It has been so enlightening to watch them work and see their creative ideas flourishing.

Our new Lower Sixth dancers are not only refreshing their dance skills but we are looking at dance throughout the ages and how it has evolved. We have been learning original material from Bob Fosse, Gillian Lynne and Matt Mattox and understanding how they have influenced dance.



The Upper Sixth Performing Arts group have been learning about the performing arts industry. We have had two insightful talks with industry professionals David Massey who is the company manager at the hit new musical Back To The Future and Simon Grieff who is a director and producer. The pupils were able to ask questions about their respective jobs and how the industry was affected by Covid.

Sherrie Pennington
Head of Legat Dance Academy

MUSIC

In my Upper Sixth BTEC class, we are focusing on solo performance, and working towards an extended programme of music for March 2022. The focus is on putting together a contrasting programme, to an audience, and both Sam Carey and Louis Davison (pictured) have been working towards this assignment this term.



This term BTEC musicians have been hard at work preparing various pieces of music for concerts in the New Year. The Lower Sixth band have been studying genres by playing songs in different styles, such as Superstition by Stevie Wonder in a Rock style and Something by Fleetwood Mac in a Soul/Jazz style.

The Upper Sixth BTEC band have been busy organising their gig which is going to be taking place in March. They have been coming up with creative and innovative ideas to create an excellent evening of entertainment that is not to be missed! All proceeds from ticket sales of the gig will be going towards the Chailey Heritage Foundation who provides care and education for young people with complex neurodisabilities. More information about this gig will be released in the New Year.

Robert Scamardella & James Aburn
Director and Teacher of Music

BTEC

FIRST PRINCIPLES OF APPLIED SCIENCE

In Upper Fifth this year we have been working on our Chemistry assignments and also working on the Biology and Physics content leading into the exam period. The Upper Fifth enjoyed looking around our school's new boarding house building site, exploring the chemical properties of the materials used in the building, led by the very helpful James Ridger, the site manager.



Kathy Clarke
Assistant BTEC Coordinator

BUSINESS

It has been a very busy term for the pupils who study BTEC Business. All of the Upper Sixth have been through trial assessments ahead of their external exams that will take place in the New Year and the Upper Fifth have been working hard to prepare for their Unit 2 Finance exams that took place in December (good luck to you all!) Lower Sixth and Lower Fifth pupils have been working on and handing in their first assignments and a great number of applications have been made to universities and jobs as the Upper Sixth begin to take their first steps towards a career in Business.

Barry Jackson
Head of Business and Economics

SPORT

This term the Upper Sixth pupils have been discussing physical, mental and social health. We have investigated factors that contribute to both good and bad health, how you can measure your health and what you can do to improve it. They have measured blood pressure, heart rate, BMI and body fat percentages. They have enjoyed the practical element of the health screening tests and been able to use the data to evaluate their own physical health. We have begun discussing mental health and will face some challenging topics. Pupils have approached these with maturity and focus. Following discussions there are signposts should pupils need further support such as Cruse bereavement and the NHS support pages. Pupils will go to use knowledge here to support health screening and evaluation of health for future clients.

In the Lower Sixth, pupils have learnt a great deal on the roles and responsibilities of a sports coach and accompanying legislation and policies they must follow to allow sessions to be safe, inclusive, progressive and fun. They have been taking part in practical sessions to practice their coaching skills and had a go at leading and coaching each other. They have had the opportunity to observe Bede's sports coaches and use wider knowledge to support their session planning.

Mary-Jane Newbery
Head of Physical Education

LANGUAGES

With masterclasses, a visiting poet, a conservationist, a pen-pal programme, writing competitions and even a play, it’s been a hugely enriching term in the Languages Faculty.

“Des centaines de mots arabes sont entrés dans notre langue sans visa ni contrôle à la frontière.” hundreds of Arabic words have entered into our [French] language without visa or border control.”

This was the key message of the French Junior masterclass which explored a magnificent fable, ‘Le Dernier Immigré’, by French-Moroccan writer Tahar ben Jelloun. Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth French pupils were led -online- through this tale by Former A-level duo linguist Lucia Oxenden Rodriguez, currently studying languages at UCL. Lucia took pupils through a fascinating journey into the history of French words and the indelible influence of Arabic language and culture into contemporary French. Our young linguists were left to ponder the organic vitality of language and how it is shaped by those who speak that language. The session was enriching, enlightening, and, as is often the case with fables, enchanting! Pupils can look forward to more MFL Masterclasses in the Spring term too.

In French, First Year French pupils enjoyed the fantastic opportunity of participating in an online penpal exchange with two classes from The Oratoire Sainte Marie school in Auch, West of Toulouse. Our pupils started to get to know their penpals through an exchange of letters, giving them the chance to practise their language skills whilst forging new friendships. Their first conference call meeting in the final week of December was a brilliant way for pupils to wish each other joyeux Noël, and they look forward to a flourishing friendship in the New Year.

Virtual visits were also the order of the day for our junior and senior debating groups, both led this term by English’s Mr Curtis. A big well done is due to senior debaters Milly Gibson, Fearghus Beauchamp and Faisal Atiku Abubakar for giving a great account of themselves in the online regional heats for the ESU’s Mace Debating Competition, good preparation for the Oxford School’s event immediately after the holidays. In other sessions, the debating groups welcomed former pupil and Clinical Psychologist, Alice Potter, who invited pupils to consider mental health in the workplace, and Save the Children’s Kate Oliver, who asked the groups to debate the issue of international aid.

In Classics, a masterclass gave English Sixth Formers the chance to broaden their knowledge of ancient Greek theatre and the origins of comedy and tragedy, an invaluable thing for pupils hungry for a fresh perspective on their set Shakespeare texts, especially the ways in which English Renaissance theatre often knowingly subverts what audiences might expect of a genre. A huge thank you to Ms Saoulidou for hosting such a thought-provoking session!

Ahead of their study of Brian Friel’s great play Translations, English Pre-U pupils enjoyed a virtual visit from Irish poet and writer Nicola Heaney, whose inspiring readings of her own work allowed pupils to begin exploring issues of language, identity and politics for themselves. Pupils loved this virtual meet-up, especially a surprise visit from Carlos the dog, but we do hope to press ahead with our planned literary pilgrimage to Ireland with Sixth Form pupils in Autumn 2022.

Matt Oliver
Head of Languages

Bede’s Eco-Writing Prize

This half-term, the English and Science Departments celebrated a very successful first trust-wide Eco-Writing Prize by hosting a live Q&A conservationist and author of Wilding, Isabella Tree. As part of this inaugural prize, pupils in all year groups in the Prep and Senior schools were invited to write on any aspect of the natural world, local or international, provided that it connected with this year’s stimulus phrase: ‘unseen’.

The competition received scores of entries from pupils in every year from Year 3 all the way up to the Lower Fifth. On the night, Ava Hooper, already a prize-winner this year in the Travel Writing Prize, was announced as winner of her year group category, for a haunting and poetic piece narrated by a fallen tree. In the Lower Fifth, Scarlet Lamb won for a wonderfully crafted poem on the cycles of nature.

Our Q&A with Isabella Tree was everything we hoped it would be: wide-ranging, challenging, evocative and inspirational. Beginning with the story of Isabella’s twenty year journey to re-wild the Knepp Estate in West Sussex, the discussion roved to species recovery, nature writing, empathy and, crucially, why we need to allow our green spaces to be ‘messier’ in order for nature to thrive. One highlight of the evening was the input from our own pupils, with Jack White, Eddie Rowley and Edie Carruthers posing excellent questions on the night and proving, in Isabella’s words, that they are “the influencers of the future” when it comes to environmental activism and change.

All our prize-winners will visit Knepp in the summer for a special safari tour, and they will also be published alongside other competition-winning writing in Small Island, the English department’s creative magazine, in the New Year.

LANGUAGES

Man of the Moment Performance



The Performing Arts and Languages Faculties recently presented a production of Alan Ayckbourn’s ‘Man of the Moment’ which took place at Bede’s Senior School in the Miles Studio. The audience were whisked away to the Spanish Riviera bolthole of lead antagonist Vic Parks, a professional bank-robber and TV personality with decidedly questionable morals. Vic was played with flair and bile by James Thompson who, along with a cast made up of Upper Fifth and Sixth pupils, brought the 1980s excesses right back to life. After stripping their cocktails sticks of pineapple and cheese, the audience entered a performance space housing a real swimming pool, an ably supplied bar and a veranda to view the moral twists of the ensemble.



Cara Hussey brought the self-centred TV presenter Jill Rillington to life as the prying journo aiming to expose the pain of violently boring

Douglas Beechey, a former hero who prevented a bank robbery by Parks and whose future wife was harmed by the con-turned-TV-star during said heist. Leo Wynne-Williams tackled this elusive and beautifully drab character, revealing moments of genuine warmth and mirth. Rosa Westcott played the long-suffering and elegant Trudy Parks, second wife to Vic, a character who sees the gentle nature of Beechey and falls for his brand of kind banality. In the shadows, and constantly cradling a beverage, was business savvy Kenny Collins, played by the ever-so-tranquil Tom Haffenden, who steered the characters around any potential litigation with effortless aplomb.



The play is an acerbic investigation into the moral transgressions of society and the selfish decisions even the kindest among us make. Our tragic heroine takes on an unexpected form when the unassuming children’s nanny called Sharon accidentally snuffs out her secret beau, Vic. This sensitive and complicated character was presented by the talented Elia Neale, a performer who drew moments of sorrow and joy playing this complicated victim-cum-vanquisher.

Though for much of the cast this was a Bede’s drama swan song, the future looks bright in the form of two Upper Fifth performers: Charlie Bennett, who made a literal and metaphorical splash playing the stooge-like gardener Ruy, and Liyana Rawat, who shone as the unfailingly effervescent housemaid Marta.

With grateful applause from the old lags of the Drama Department, we must doff our creative caps to the Head of English, Matt Oliver and Librarian, Sarah Evans for working tirelessly to bring the play to life. Thank you to all those that attended, supported and enjoyed, we raise our Sangrias to you all.

Will Rennison
Head of Academic Drama

SIXTH FORM

English Department Hosts Sixth Form Campfire Readings

On the evening of 21 September, Bede’s English department hosted an evening of fireside readings for Sixth Form Academic Scholars and Cambridge Pre-U pupils, out in Bushy Wood near Hailsham.



Organised by Bede’s Head of Scholars, Mr Vaux, and Bede’s Head of Languages, Mr Oliver, the Campfire Readings were attended by 16 pupils, all of whom began by learning how to light and nurture their own fires with flints and dry brush.

After enjoying some hot chocolate, waffles, flapjacks and brownies, and tea made on Ms Savage’s camping stove, the group then settled into an evening of performing extracts from favoured texts, each chosen by the individual pupil or teacher in question.

Following his recent success in the international Keats-Shelley Essay Prize, resident Romantic poetry advocate Mr Vaux spoke first, giving a blistering reading of Percy Bysshe Shelley’s ‘Ode to the West Wind’ to welcome in the Autumn Equinox.

Next, Lower Sixth Academic Scholar Milly Gibson read a section from her tattered copy of Virginia Woolf’s ‘A Room of One’s Own’, and Design Scholar Theo Plestis read from Flann O’Brien’s surrealist masterpiece ‘The Third Policeman.’

As the evening progressed and darkness fell, the group enjoyed candle-lit readings from other Academic Scholars, including of Homer in Ancient Greek care of Fearghus Beauchamp, of Ovid in Latin care of Ella Doyle, and Dante in Italian, care of Alice Friedman-Carones – all of whom read parallel English translations of their extracts, too.

Ms Savage read lyrical sections from Thomas Hardy’s ‘The Woodlanders’, Mr Cheshire the melancholy poem ‘Some More Light Verse’ by Wendy Cope, and Mr Oliver the transporting first chapter of Jean-Dominique Bauby’s ‘The Diving Bell and the Butterfly’ – all as the woods creaked and fires crackled.

After further readings, including of some art criticism about Caravaggio’s David care of Elfie Day and the opening section of John Wyndham’s ‘The Day of the Triffids’ from Grace Tuson, the evening culminated in a group reading of experimental ghost story ‘Selfies’ by Lavie Tidhar.

This final performance involved over half of the pupils present, including Academic Scholar Edie Carruthers and Lower Sixth pupil Sophia Malik, and offered a spine-chilling take on the pervasive effects of technology. With the readings complete, the pupils then roasted marshmallows over the campfire and dissected the writing they had found most powerful, discussing what moved them and slightly burning their fingers on molten sugar.



Mr Oliver said of the evening, “This event has been long in the planning, with Mr Vaux first floating the concept back in 2019. We have had to be patient through Covid, but we finally got there – during Bede’s Languages Week, no less – and it was well worth the wait.”



Mr Vaux added, “To have had words written across over 2,000 years of human civilisation being chosen and read aloud by today’s teenagers, by fire and candlelight, was absolutely magical. The event was a testament to both the extraordinary scholarship of our school’s pupils and the mystical power of the written word.”

SIXTH FORM & PSHE

Men’s Mental Health Month: Outta Puff Daddys Visit Bede’s Sixth Form Pupils

In light of November being Men’s Mental Health Month, Bede’s pupils have been exploring mental health issues, identifying the causes of poor mental health and learning ways to help each other through difficult times.



Year 12 were visited by Paul Jukes and Don Hurley – two members of the ‘Dad Dancing’ street dance crew and TikTok sensation, Outta Puff Daddys. Since 2012, they have been dancing for entertainment, health and fitness. Their brotherhood provides a safe space to discuss their own mental health challenges, as well as spreading joy and encouragement to their fans on TikTok and Instagram. Their main goal is to encourage men to talk openly about their problems, whether it be to a loved one or a professional.

With over 88,000 followers on TikTok and over 35,000 followers on Instagram, these Dad Dancers’ message is being well and truly heard. Paul and Don spoke to the Bede’s pupils about why mental health awareness is important, how to break the stigma surrounding it, as well as how to support others and self-care.

As a group of men ranging in dance ability, age and profession but all sharing the same passion to dance – they break through all stereotypes surrounding traditional masculinity. Their success has featured in outlets such as BBC News, ITV News, Heart, Capital Radio and more.

Alex Lowe, Head of Pupil Welfare comments, “We are delighted to welcome Outta Puff Daddys to speak to our Sixth Form pupils about the importance of talking to and supporting each other through difficult times. Outta Puff Daddys’ message is one of solidarity, particularly focused on mental health. We hope that all of our pupils feel encouraged to prioritise their mental health and seek help whenever they need it. Thank you for sharing your inspirational story and message.”

Alex Lowe
Assistant Head: Pupil Welfare

PSHE

First Year, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth have now completed three topics on the PSHE carousel this term, covering topics including:

- Self Concept
- Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco, Social Influences
- Managing Risk & Personal Safety
- Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing
- Sexual Health, Fertility, Contraception & Parenthood
- Positive Relationships & Relationship Values
- Forming & Maintaining respectful Relationships
- 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.

Lower Sixth and Pre-Sixth pupils have been working through theory and practical sessions on ‘Learning to Steer’; a reflective practice which encourages them to consider and understand the concept of steering cognition, and how this can be beneficial in various scenarios.

The Upper Sixth continue to work on preparing for their next steps with UCAS preparation time, building a positive online reputation and interview success.



In addition to the timetable PSHE lessons, we have also had several PSHE related events in the school calendar throughout the Autumn Term: World Teachers’ Day, International Day of Peace, World Heart Day, Black History Month, Movember, COP26, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Anti Bullying Week, International Men’s Day, and World Kindness Day.

Also our fantastic librarian, Ms Evans has organised a series of PSHE related displays in the school library this half term. Titles are available for pupils to read around the core themes of Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World.

We believe in the importance of collaboration, therefore we encourage you to discuss your child’s PSHE education with them as well. This is an opportunity for you to share your family values in relation to the topics, building important channels of communication about emotions, the human body and relationships with your child both now and in the future.

Pam Nikiteas
Head of PSHE

GET TO KNOW THE BEDE’S COMMUNITY

We have interviewed one teacher and one pupil to encourage us to get to know each other... First up is Isobel Abatan!

What year are you in and what are you studying at Bede’s?

I am in Lower Sixth and I am studying Maths, Chemistry and English Literature.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Well, I’m only 16 so I hope I haven’t experienced it yet, but besides appearing in this newsletter I’ve chased Adele down Brighton Seafront singing ‘Rolling in the Deep’.

What has been your greatest disappointment?

That Adele ignored me chasing her down Brighton Seafront singing ‘Rolling in the Deep’.

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

Well, there’s no time like the present so I think it’s worth reflecting on the past but making sure some bits of history doesn’t repeat itself.

Which places in the world are on your bucket list?

I would love to go to Finland to see the Northern Lights.



Who are your ideal dinner guests? (No more than 6 please and they can be dead or alive)

At my dinner table I would like Michelle Obama, Aphra Behn, Nelson Mandela and Adele.



Which songs are your greatest guilty pleasures?

This will have to be ‘Brokenhearted’ by Karmin, ‘Drive By’ by Train or ‘Love on Me’ by Galantis. Not to mention ‘Rolling in the Deep’ by Adele.

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

I think I’m gonna have to say ‘The Road’ by Cormac McCarthy. I ended up quite enjoying it but it wasn’t the case that I didn’t want to finish it, it just never seemed to end.

What’s your favourite restaurant or pub?

The Village Shop. This is the only place that will serve me a ham and cheese panini, well done.

Best advice you have ever been given?

I have two older brothers so I think the best advice I’ve been given is ‘If you want something done, do it yourself’.

Favourite TV show?

I’m not quite sure what my favourite TV show is but if you know me you’ll know I enjoy rewatching old ‘X Factor Top 5 Angriest Contestants’ compilations in my free time.

Next up is our Deputy Head, Mr Wise who has just completed his first term here at Bede’s.

Tell us a bit about where you’re from, when did you enter the teaching world, what training did you have, your family?

I grew up in the Northwood/ Eastcote area of London. My parents are both teachers and my Grandfather was too and had a big influence on me when I was younger.



I met my wife Liz whilst we were working together teaching in Slough at Langley Grammar School.

Where did you study?

I completed a BSc in Geography at Bristol University and then stayed a further year to do my teacher training. My most recent qualification was a course in Executive Leadership which followed a Masters in Educational Leadership from Oxford University.

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GET TO KNOW THE BEDE’S COMMUNITY

Where have you worked previously?

Prior to working at Bede’s I was working at a school called Downe House near Newbury. I have always been heavily involved in running Co-Curricular Activities and Pastoral Care.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Being presented with a cap for 100 matches for the MCC by Mike Gatting in the Long Room!

What has been your greatest disappointment?

There are many - I do not advise anyone to support the sports teams I follow!

Who are your ideal dinner guests? (No more than 6 please and they can be dead or alive)

Rugby Player - Jacques Burger, Cricketer and Pakistan President - Imran Khan, Chair of the Greyhound Trust - Lisa Morris, Actor - Denzel Washington, Comedian - Stewart Lee

Do you have any unusual achievements or things that you are proud of that you could tell us about?

In 2017 took part in a charity white collar boxing match and raised a couple of thousand pounds for Cancer Research.

Is there a book that has changed your life/way of thinking?

If I had to choose one that had changed my life it would be Alfred Wainwright’s illustrated guides to the fells of the Lake District.

This made me really think about the landscape when I was younger and made me become interested in geography.



How do you relax?

Spending time with my family in Ashdown Forest, on the South Downs or by the coast. We have a retired racing greyhound called Lily who we love walking.

The best advice you have ever been given?

Live a life based on principle rather than one of comparison. You are enough yourself just as you are.

What made you decide Bede’s was the place for you?

As well as having a strong academic reputation, Bede’s is always looking to find new activities to enable the pupils to find their niche, build a sense of confidence and self-efficacy.

If you hadn’t become a teacher, what would you have done instead?

Something linked to landscape, nature and cartography as I really do love maps! I always thought the idea of designing golf courses or cricket grounds would be fantastic as it would combine my love of landscape and sport.



What were your favourite lessons at school as a child?

Geography, History and Biology. I really enjoy studying things at different scales which is really important if you want to have a full picture.

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

Ok, so two good quotes:

Why not go out on a limb? That’s where all the fruit is (Mark Twain).

Don’t worry or dwell too much on anything that you will not be worried about in 5 years time. Everything good and bad will come....and it will go (First Headmaster).

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SPORT

Alice Capsey named PCA Women's Young Player of the Year



Congratulations to Alice Capsey who has been named the winner of the PCA Women's Young Player of the Year. Alice enters the record books as both the first winner of this prize and the youngest ever player to win one of the PCA's player voted awards. This award comes on the back of a stunning season in which Alice took the inaugural Hundred competition by storm, helping her side, Oval Invincibles to victory in the competition, taking 10 wickets and scoring 150 runs along the way, including a half century at Lords when she was still just 16. Alice also hit 203 runs and took seven wickets for the South East Stars helping them to victory in the Charlotte Edwards Cup.

Commenting on the award, Bede's Director of Cricket, Alan Wells said, "The whole cricket team here at Bede's are absolutely thrilled for Alice on her thoroughly deserved, momentous award. Alice had the most incredible season and is undoubtedly on the pathway to a hugely exciting and successful professional career".

Equestrian Team makes it through to NSEA Finals

In November, Bede's Senior School's Equestrian team – Ella Mackellar, Josie Tabb, Lola Woollard and India Piper-Dadswell participated in the NSEA National Championships in Bedfordshire. The event was held at the newly revamped Keysoe International EC – a world-renowned equestrian centre which has been used by equestrian team training for the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics.

After much training and preparation, the team performed brilliantly. Josie and India both jumped clear rounds, and India finished in third place overall in the Open Class. The team supported each other throughout the competition, and enjoyed each other's successes, which was great to see.



Katy McKeough, Equestrian Team Manager at Bede's, comments, "We were delighted that the Bede's Equestrian Team made it to the NSEA finals again this year, with Josie Tabb jumping a fantastic clear round and India Piper-Dadswell coming individually third in the 1.10m final. It is great to have equestrian events going ahead again safely - with plenty of Covid safety measures in place. The pupils have worked hard to achieve these brilliant results and we look forward to seeing how our team excels in the future."



SPORT

Swim Team Success at The English Schools National Swimming Championships

In November, Bede's Boys Swim Team took part in the English Schools National Swimming Championship. Matthew Chan, Oliver Charman, Matthew Metcalfe and Max Cooper made up the Intermediate Boys Team and participated in the Medley Relay and Front Crawl Relay. The Secondary Schools Team Relay Championships is the longest running championship series organised by the ESSA. It is open to secondary school aged swimmers from across England. The Bede's Boys Swim Team had already succeeded in the Sussex Regionals – ranking 14 out of 20 in the Medley Relay and 15 out of 20 in the Frontcrawl Relay. This meant that they made it through to the finals, which were held at the London Aquatic Centre – the home of swimming for the 2012 Olympics.



In the first Intermediate Boys 4x50m Medley race, the team upheld their position from the previous round – 14. In the Intermediate Front Crawl race, the team performed brilliantly and finished the race within the top 10! This meant they had made it to the final – where they swam even faster than the previous race and ended in 9th position! They completed the race with an incredible time of 1:49:21. These results are outstanding, especially considering the wide scope of partaking schools – some being specialist swim schools. Bede's finished as the 9th fastest in the country!

The boys were chaperoned to the Championships by their coaches, Phil Osborn and Tabby Reed. Mr. Osborn, Bede's Head of Swimming, made the following comment, "In the last two years, we have made enormous gains on the swim team. This is hopefully the start of more success to come. Our performance at the English Schools National Swimming Championships was incredible. Tabby and I are very pleased with the results."

Bede's pupils celebrate success as U18 Boys and Girls Hockey Teams become Sussex Champions

The U18 boys and girls Hockey teams at Bede's Senior School are celebrating fantastic wins at the Indoor Hockey Sussex Championships earlier this term. Both teams already qualified from the County rounds into the Regional phases of the National competition. It was just a question of who would become Sussex champions!

The U18 girls finished in third place in the South region after having their competition on Sunday 20 November. After a fantastic game against Hurst, the girls won 4-0. Standout performances were from Ryana Macdonald-Gay and Amelia Tait who performed excellently and Isabel Field who was outstanding in goal.

The U18 boys also played a nail-biting game against Hurst, where they were victorious with a result of 5-3. Kent Sheard put on an outstanding performance, scoring 4 of the goals.

Theo Dowse, Director of Hockey, comments, "Both our girls and boys U18 squads continue to impress with our indoor programme, translating to success in tournament play. The capacity to play both indoor and outdoor formats gives a well-rounded hockey tuition and enables the pupils to access all forms of our sport. The pupils performed excellently in their county rounds and should be extremely pleased with themselves".

We are now U18 Girls Sussex champions for outdoor hockey as well as indoor, which is a fantastic achievement.



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Cricket

The winter cricket programme is in full swing with many pupils enjoying several hours of cricket per week. Several of them have been selected for their full Sussex squads, including Jimmy Lloyd and Oli Wickes who have been selected for the Sussex EPP.

Much has been going on for Dan Ibrahim who has just returned from the England U19 tour to Sri Lanka. This was a “warm up” tour for the U19 World Cup which will be played in the Caribbean in January. Archie Lenham was also due to go on both tours but was unfortunately prevented by injury. Archie was also awarded the Lord’s Taverners up and coming young spinner of the year.

Alice Capsey was recently at a BT Sports Awards ceremony where she was one of three nominees for the “Rising Star” award. Alice also won the inaugural Sumaridge Estate Wines emerging player of the year. This is on top of her being crowned PCA Women’s Young Player of The Year – what a future Alice has!



It is also great to see Freya Kemp back from injury and gearing up for what I am sure will be a stella season for her. Freya, alongside Mary and Millie Taylor have all been selected for the 12-strong group - 2022 Southern Vipers Academy. They will undertake a full winter-training programme and a series of competitive fixtures next summer. The intake follows an observation and assessment programme and is made up of representatives from the counties in the South-Central region.

Bede’s Senior School has maintained its status as one of the top 100 cricket schools in the country in The Cricketer guide 2022 and likewise the Prep School being one of the top 50 in the country.

Football - ISFA’s National Squad

We are incredibly proud to announce that this term, George Lythgoe, Freddie Verall, Fraser Middleton-Tozer and Hayden Beaconsfield were selected to represent ISFA's National Squad in their age group.

This is a fantastic achievement to be selected from the most talented boys in the country to represent the ISFA national team. Well done also to all of the other pupils who made it to the final trials.



SPORT

Interview with one of our Sports Stars

Lola Brown

Meet Lola - Lola Brown is a First Year who impressed our Football Coaches during her first term at Bede’s Senior School. We caught up with her to learn more about her success so far and her hopes for the future...

Hi Lola! Congratulations on your football success! What has been your proudest achievement this term?

I would say winning a game with the girls team against Claremont School has been one of my favourite moments. I often play with the boys and we win, but the girls team being victorious felt a bit more special!

What are your goals for the remainder of the academic year?

I would love to score more than 10 goals! Hopefully I will achieve this with the help of my coaches and lots of practice.

How has Bede’s helped you progress?

I get to play a lot of football as part of my school programme. In general, I am able to practice football for about fifteen hours per week! The facilities at Bede’s are great - I go to the gym to practice a lot. My coach Mr Blaney has been a great help to me.

Where do you see yourself in the future?

In 10 years time, I hope to be playing professional football in a first team. To get there, I am hoping to go through the age group teams throughout school and eventually even go to America to play football!

Do you have any special ritual before a match?

I do have a pair of lucky shin pads that have proved their luck so far!

Questions for Jodie Kavanagh

Miss Kavanagh started as Head of Netball at the beginning of term. We thought it was time to get to know Jodie a little better by asking her about her career so far and her hopes for Bede’s Netball in the future.

When did you start playing netball?

I started playing netball when I was at school when I was just 14. I played for my school team.



What has your career path been like leading up to this point at Bede’s?

I am a PE teacher. I was a PE teacher for my first year at a local high school, then I moved to Barbados and was a PE teacher for 13 years. I became Head of PE and I moved back here to have my third baby and decided to stay. While I was here I became a fitness instructor for Les Mills - so I’m an RPM Indoor Cycling Instructor too. Then I applied for the Head of Netball post at Bede’s!

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

Well, the previous school I worked at was a private international school with high behavioural structure and high expectations. I felt that the journey moving from one private sector school to another would be good. I’d heard great reports about Bede’s - I knew a couple of people in the PE department who highly recommended it.

What is your favourite part about coaching netball?

It is definitely the hands-on activity sessions with the girls and preparing them for a match. We usually have one training session where we have got to finalise everything, to know that we are going to get it right. We recently took the U19s to a very big competition, the Nationals, and they did really well. We trained really hard in the build-up to that. They absolutely excelled. All of the matches start again in January, which I am really looking forward to. I am eager to see how we fare when we go out and have our fixtures!

What has been your favourite moment during your time at Bede’s so far?

One of my favourite moments was seeing the attendance rise at the netball club. They train so hard and give it 100%. We now have a strong netball club which happens every week, which is great. I love the club’s drive and motivation, even when we are outside in the dark and cold - it doesn’t stop them from playing!

What do you hope to achieve within your netball coaching at Bede’s?

I hope to build a really structured programme that allows pupils to have the opportunity to represent Bede’s, Eastbourne and East Sussex. This is so that they can go through a selection process and move off into different squads on top of the Bede’s squad and push their own individual netball progress forward. I am hoping to secure a strong connection with the Eastbourne clubs and the East Sussex clubs. I want to increase the number participating, the competition level and the number of friendly fixtures throughout the whole year - not just during the season. I want to lift the whole buzz of netball! I will always find space for pupils who want to participate but are not ready for the competition level. Every pupil should have the opportunity to improve and thrive in netball.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Once again and as expected the House Competitions and Activities that have taken place during the course of this term have been filled with enthusiasm and a healthy, but always friendly competitive spirit. It has been great fun watching them unfold and to see the enjoyment on the faces of those taking part.

Looking back to the start of the year when the weather was warmer we witnessed the amazing sight of the Colour Run on the top fields organised superbly by Mr Jones. All of the houses made it to every single competition in the Amazing Race in the balmy early days of September. This event is a great way for new pupils to bond with the rest of their house community and to find their way around the campus. This was the first major competition in the House calendar and it is a fantastic way of uniting the houses. We know that being part of a caring community fosters belonging and part of this is about having shared experiences, making memories and having fun. It was great to hear the pupils all laughing, socialising and being active.



In that first round of the year Dorte won the quiz and Charleston showed their knowledge of animal management, welly-wanging and over the obstacle course. Blooms creatively spelt and smelt and tasted (although perhaps not at the same time) and Camberlot drew and interpreted best in Pictionary. Dorms proved that their abilities in maths meant that they obviously also understood the accuracy and distances required to win in golf and further welly-wanging. Following half-term we were entertained by superb performances in the House Music. The event was masterminded by Mr Scamardella and his incredible team. Following a whole day of musical performances set against an impressive backdrop of sound and lighting it was Stud and Knights emerged at the top of the leaderboard.



This followed hot on the heels of the October House competitions where Crossways Quiz, Cook Off and Art Attack combined with an excellent win in the Senior Girls Hockey saw them take the day. Charleston came second thanks to their sporting prowess in Junior Girls Hockey, Swimming and Squash. Knights did likewise winning the Senior Boys Football, Boys Rowing and Boys Squash.



More recently the Pumpkin Carving was dominated by the boarding houses who all produced frighteningly ghoulish pieces with Camberlot presenting a particularly nasty vegetable that frightened one of the Deputy Heads. However, in the second culinary creation competition of the term, it was Dorms who pipped them to the post closely followed by Charleston. This was the Christmas Cake decorating competition which was displayed in the Old Dining Room during the last week of term. The level of detail on the cakes was something Mary Berry would have been proud of and I was particularly glad that it was not me doing the judging.

Overall this means that Charleston lead the way in the current standings with Stud close behind and there is almost nothing separating Crossways, Dorte, Dorms, Knights and Blooms.



Lastly a fantastic time was had by all on the House Christmas outings which took in a variety of locations across Eastbourne, Brighton and other parts of the county. I know that all the pupils greatly enjoyed their days out with their friends and were really appreciative of the effort that went into the organisation. On this note we are hugely grateful to all of the staff for their efforts in making sure that all of these events could take place. Thank you in particular to Mr Driver for masterminding the events of this term. I mentioned the importance of saying thank you when speaking to the School earlier in the term and I hope that every pupil continues to do this and to be grateful for the chance to compete for their house and to have fun.

Phil Wise
Deputy Head Operations

ROUND THE HOUSES

We start the year in **Dorms House**, with their “traditional” walk. The boys enjoyed the good weather and got to know each other better through games. They then walked to Abbott’s Wood, where they recharged their energy with a nice BBQ. Lots of tired, but happy boys walked all the way back to the boarding house having made memories for life.



As the year progressed, we did not lack opportunities to celebrate our strengths and learn from our weaknesses in House Competitions and we even won an award in House Music this year! The Dorms common room was buzzing.



Dorms Formal Dinner, after our return from the half-term break, gave the boys a chance to reflect on their school-life so far and to realise how much they have grown together. An inspirational speech given by Head of House, Zac, reminded us all how the compassion we show for each other in school and as a house move us closer to achieving our goals.



As the longest and most challenging term comes to an end, Dorms look to each other for support. The boys have had trial assessments and tests, they have given their best, they have basked in the happiness of success or revised their path that will lead to their goals. Tired as we all are, we come together again to compete for the best cake! We have a chance, don’t you think?

Next, we go to **Charleston House**, who had a great start to the year thanks to the awesome Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth mentors, who took the time to look after our new pupils and made them feel welcome. Our new First Years and Upper Sixth have been hugely

appreciative of the extra support at the beginning of the year.

Our thanks to Lucy Hammond and Veronica Travers who took part in Bede’s Fest. It took a lot of courage to stand up in front of that large crowd and they both smashed it out the park!



At the beginning of October, it was the Charleston Evensong and Formal Dinner. This year’s theme was “Autumn Ball” and our pupils



looked beautiful in their autumn dresses. Thanks to our Upper Sixth for organising the superb event. Guest speaker, Hannah Johson, called from Berlin, inspiring the Charleston girls with her female leadership programme for high potential creative leaders in Germany.

Charleston had a blast in House music this year, and were delighted to finish an absolutely brilliant 2nd place overall, with the highlight being that their Small Song was crowned best in category. The girls are especially grateful to Grace Watkins who was the driving force behind this charge.

Congratulations to Nell McLachlan who won the First Year English exploration competition and wowed the house with her amazing writing skills.

Congratulations also to Efe Onofeghara and Devanie Travers who won the Languages competition for Charleston this year!



And well done to Lola Woollard and Nell Drake who competed in the National Schools Equestrian Association show jumping competition in October.

ROUND THE HOUSES



Charleston have been busy decorating the House for Christmas, and have an exciting prize to be won for the most Christmassy common room in the last week of term.

The girls also can't wait for our Christmas outing in Eastbourne for some shopping, a nice meal and a trip to the cinema together.

In **Knights House**, they also started the year enjoying Bede's Fest - a relaxed afternoon with socialising, a barbeque and musical entertainment. Knights House ran a charity ice cream stall in aid of our local house charity, the ABC Fund, at the event. They raised over £80, thanks to the splendid weather! They have been running a number of events during the school day to raise money for the charity, and devoted our weekly Knights Assembly to a Kahoot! Quiz - led by Head of House Ben - to raise awareness of Knights' activities and of how to get involved with the charity work of the House.



The first House Competitions of the year kicked off with the Knights Team Leaders being Ben O'B, James T, Benedict, Ted, Sam G, Ed C, Dan T, Hashim R and Jamie B. The competition is aimed to be a fun, friendship and house spirit-building event with fun activities such as inflatable assault courses, welly wanging and taste tests! Each team leader was asked which member of their team contributed the most to the group, in terms of their team spirit, effort or bravery. The following were then awarded prizes in Knights weekly House Assembly:- Max K, Joseph L, Freddie L, Max N, Bradley W, Basie S, Louie V, Will Jones, Dylan N and Jago A. Whilst the boys were not victorious, they demonstrated some great values, enthusiasm and positivity.

The Lower Sixth got to spend the day at the local Buzz Active activity centre. Fires were made, crates were stacked, archers shot arrows and team work and leadership skills were developed aplenty. One lunchtime, Knights completed a whole house participation event- the 300 miles in an hour challenge! The pupils and staff either ran, walked or mooched around the school sports fields three times to clock up their mileage, whilst giving up their free time during the lunch break. Luckily, the weather was kind to us. Well done all!



Congratulations to Matt M who has been picked for the Swim England National development programme. Mathias P successfully completed his Silver DofE expedition in the Peak District, overcoming a range of weather, terrain and topographic challenges. He led and worked well with the team exceptionally well, demonstrating very good map reading skill and ability.

Camberlot House have had a busy half term with the boys throwing themselves into all things Bede's. There has been a lot of sport, with many boys representing the School in football across the South East; Max Cooper headed to the Olympic Park for a swimming meet; Arthur and Kyran playing in the basketball team and Freddie, Maxim and Theo competed in the first Bede's darts fixture! At the same time, Dan Ibrahim (Upper Sixth) has represented England U19 Cricket throughout their tour of Sri Lanka. Tom, Will, Robbie and Anthony have also been working hard rehearsing for the forthcoming Addams Family production and Sonny joined the Bede's Quiz team.



A highlight of the term was the Norwegian evening that one of our First Year pupils, Edward hosted - cooking up delicious meatballs using a secret family recipe and raising over £100 for Alzheimer's. The final couple of weeks

ROUND THE HOUSES

have very much been Christmas themed - Wham blasting on the speaker at 7am every morning and there have been a whole range of festive events. It started with decorating the House and then we hosted our charity week, selling hot dogs and having our traditional 'Santa vs Elves' day where the boys dressed up and took part in challenges throughout the day...building up to the Hot Dog eating competition. This year's winner was Ernesto (Pre 6th), devouring six hot dogs in record time. Throughout the week the Camberlot boys supported and raised money for the Children with Cancer fund. Finally, the last weekend of term saw the Cambo Christmas party which was a great success - delicious food and lots of fun and games. Tomorrow the boys head off for a friendly game of 'Airsoft' and then it's a well deserved Christmas break.



The girls of **Bloomsbury House** have been (I think!) enjoying being back at school in person, and having 'live' lessons instead of online learning. Our pupils, as usual, have been up to a huge range of things both in and out of school.

Blooms have always had a strong presence in Bede's Drama productions, and now we are getting back to live performances, we are well represented by Freya Wood - Dance Captain - as well as being Alice in Alice in Wonderland, Shona Rohilla - March Hare (and a flamingo and a rose!) in Alice in Wonderland, Antonia Clark in The Addams Family playing Morticia.



As well as the school events, Blooms girls regularly get involved in fundraising outside Bede's. Lower Sixth pupil Ruby Hall conquered her fear of heights and completed a parachute jump from 20,000 feet(!) for an

Alzheimer's research charity. Sophia Manos, Ella Doyle and Liv Shellard brought in some wonderful home-baked cakes for the Macmillan Cake Sale. Upper Fifth pupil Ada Grieve volunteers at Barnado's retail shop in Tunbridge Wells. Kauther al-Robaie continued to run a tuck shop in-house to raise money for Bloom's House charity - this year it's BEAT, supporting young people with eating disorders.



Rayane Belfquih and Iris Henstridge made a good effort in the Hallowe'en pumpkin carving competition, with a creditable 7th place, while Willa Berry and Polina Ryabokon represented Blooms in the First Year Languages House Competition; not to be outdone, Scarlet Redford was the German Language Week competition winner! Honourable mention goes to Lily Flamman, Polina Ryabokon (again), Ava Hooper, Romilly Smith and Corinna Noon who all placed in the top 20 for English Exploration Prizes.

House Music 2021 was not quite 'normal', but at least everyone got to all be together as a House and watch our pupils perform. The ensemble pieces were superb, but as ever it was the bravery of the soloists, performing in front of their peers, that really impressed.



The **Stud House** boys have certainly made a solid impression in House competitions, achieving the highest place for boys' houses. Stud won the House Music with some excellent small choir singing, a brilliant band, and a mesmerising solo. There were also good results in the pumpkin carving competition and cake decorating competition with Stud being placed 4th out of 10 in both.

Team efforts in the senior football and the great egg race were noteworthy. Despite the various restrictions due to Covid, Stud still managed to host year group outings and events: First Years had a barbeque with Mr Potter taking charge of the tongs. Lower Fifth had a pizza night which meant that the local pizza parlours doubled their takings for the week as the boys managed to eat their own bodyweight.



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Upper Fifth went bowling and Miss Finat-Duclos showed some bowling style although the pins did not seem to want to fall over. Lower Sixth went to the golf driving range and a local fast food restaurant. They returned with one club fewer than they went with due to an over-exuberant swing by a certain pupil (KG you know who you are!). Finally, the Upper Sixth shot each other (virtually) at Laser Tag and then stuffed their faces at a burger joint.



Sadly, Stud's Cheese and Wine evening had to be cancelled and will be rescheduled for the Summer term, but the boys were able to sell hot-dogs and raffle tickets for the ABC Fund. Four of our boys also went hamper packing in Peacehaven to help give to those less fortunate than them in the Christmas period. As we move closer to the festive season, the boys will have a Christmas outing with a chance to try out their Ninja-Warrior skills and eat at an Oriental buffet, as well as donning their best (or worst?) Christmas jumpers for the Stud House Christmas Dinner.



Dicker House has had a wonderful term, and everyone should be very proud of their achievements. The term started with our Charity week when the Upper Sixth boys came to the fore in stunning style: standing up to a barrage of water balloons and custard pies in the name of Motor Neurone Disease. It was a fantastic effort. A number of the house staff also put themselves in the firing line!



This term saw the launch of the new Nominations system in house, in which the boys are nominated by staff, each other or parents for the everyday great things they do. We have had over 1,200 Nominations in the categories of: Kindness

and Community, Academic and Intellectual Prowess, Integrity, The Arts, Creativity and Imagination and Sport and Physical Endeavour. It has been tremendous to see all the wonderful kindness, consideration and engagement and to reward everyone for it.

The highlight of the term though has been the Creative Challenge. Each member of Dicker has had to do something creative: perhaps to learn a piece on the piano, perform a magic trick, compile a photographic portfolio, design a T-shirt, or even investigate their family history. All of the creations were celebrated in a festival of creativity in the Recital Room with bacon rolls and hot chocolate.

So, huge congratulations to the members of Dicker house. They fully deserve their Christmas break, and we look forward to starting it all again next term.

Deis House has had a superb term! It was a pleasure to welcome twenty-nine new pupils at the end of August and they should be proud of their excellent contributions to school and the House!



In House Competitions, our Junior Footballers deserve a mention for being the winners as well as our talented musicians (who were teamed with Dorter House) in the House music competition for winning the Band section.

The main highlight for Deis as a House was no doubt our Evensong and Formal dinner on 29 November where the boys were treated to some superb musical performances by Walter McKinna, Alfie Burton, Jonjo Murphy, Donnie Cecil and Sam Carey. These were followed by speeches from Hayden Beaconsfield (Head of House) and Sam Weber (Guest speaker) who spoke about his extraordinary fundraising events; one of which is climbing



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the Aconcagua mountain (the highest mountain in the southern and western hemisphere) in aid of the Chailey Heritage Foundation; which is also our House Charity.

At the time of writing, Deis are really looking forward to our Christmas outing where they will be going to a restaurant for a delicious three course Christmas lunch followed by some bubble football - they are all very excited!

It has been a busy half of term in **Crossways House**. We started with our charity week where we made and sold X-ways cookies and hot chocolate through the week. We also used static bikes to bike the 175 miles from Upper Dicker to Bristol where our charity (Women's Aid and Family Matters), are based. We also wore trousers for the week as a demonstration to highlight women's rights around the world.



Davina contributed to a winning entry in the UK Space Design as the Vice President and Head of Marketing on the Bede's team. We marked Movember with a questionable moustache grown by Mr Corbishley and in the last week of November we took time to consider mental health. This included reading, puzzles, colouring and a mug painting activity organised by Ms Lowe.



As Christmas came we had a lovely house celebration with unbelievable festive decorations including balloon arches created by Mrs Hopkins. As a Christmas trip we went to enjoy high tea at the Grand Hotel in Brighton which was an experience to savour and again we have Mrs Hopkins to thank for the organisation of this fantastic trip.

Many of the girls have represented the school in netball, hockey and football where the school has had outstanding performances. The Legat dancers have also performed in Alice in Wonderland, which was fantastic!

In **Dorter House**, the new school year started with a speed friending in-house event. With thirty-three new girls, this was lively and a great

way to get to know each other! The start of term was filled with lots of team building activities and events. We all had a good time at Bede's Fest enjoying the live music and having picnic in our gazebo at the far end of the lawn, playing games, talking to people from other houses. The Amazing Race was brilliant with the obstacle course and inflatables-we fought hard against the other houses and came fifth!

Many of us had some exciting challenging experiences this term - Maddy, Tati and Sany headed off to the Peak district, where they led the DofE Gold expedition and our Lower Sixth girls went to Bushy Woods for their army day! We also had time to relax together with yoga sessions, a bingo night, open mic night and the Lower Fifth girls decided to put on a lovely film night for the juniors.



We all enjoyed house competitions this term. In House Music we won two out of three categories which is amazing! In the pumpkin carving competition we went one place up, podium finish, bronze medal! A number of Dorter girls have been involved in Performing Arts shows this term. Olivia, Chloe, Zara, Anna, Hannah, Mila, Diana, Franzi, Annika, Edie, Heather and Clara put on a truly impressive performance in Alice in Wonderland and Dorter's up and coming actress Liyana entertained the audience in her role of the Spanish housemaid in Alan Ayckbourn's "Man of the Moment",



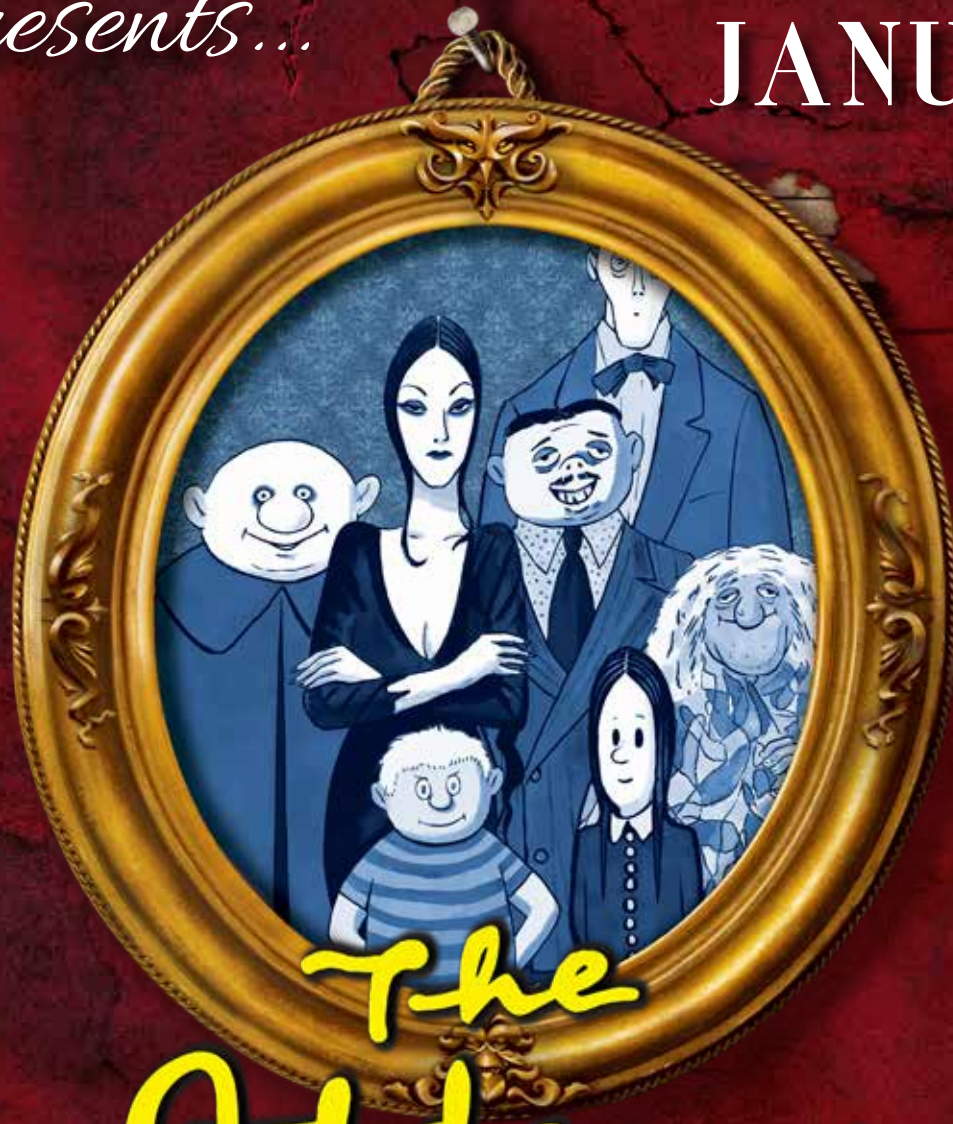
On 15 November we had our formal dinner. Everyone in house looked absolutely stunning in their golden 20s themed dresses and we all came together as one big family and enjoyed the dinner and speeches complete with Gatsby themed decorations!

For our Dorter House charity week we sold pizza and run a clothes and cake sale and even had a burger and bingo night raising £309 for our chosen charity - Duchenne, a charity helping to find a cure for those young boys and girls suffering with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. As we approached the end of term we enjoyed a Hawaiian Christmas themed party. The vibes were great, of course, singing, quizzes, awards and secret Santa gifts. For our House Christmas outing we all enjoyed a shopping trip to Brighton and lunch in an upmarket Pizzeria - the perfect end to the Autumn term!

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