

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

We were pleased to welcome Mr Woodward to our Senior Leadership Team after the Easter break as Head of Sixth Form, but he also gets involved with the younger age groups too and recently conducted an assembly for Years 6 to 13 all about wellbeing opportunities and the importance of taking care of ourselves.

I am tremendously pleased to say that Mr Woodward has been really positive about joining the BGI School Team, when asked to sum up his first few weeks here, he said "To put it simply, it's been fantastic. This is because I have been made to feel incredibly welcome by staff and students. The teachers are caring, committed and kind while the students are evidently happy, engaged and positive about their school. These are exactly the attributes that a successful school needs and it is clear that we have them in abundance. Thank you to all for making me feel part of the team and in particular the Sixth Form staff and students."

Extended Project Qualification

We offer Sixth Form students the chance to take the EPQ, which is a qualification that helps them develop and demonstrate their project management skills and provides opportunities for extended writing, both of which are highly valued for progression to higher education and employment.

Students can tailor their project to fit their individual needs and interests. We have had all sorts of projects over the years, such as comparing the infrastructure of theme parks across the world, investigating the ideas surrounding the Panacea Society, to exploring famous battle strategies. It really is each individual's choice of topic. The outcome of the project can be a design, performance, report, dissertation or artefact and students share their project with the school community during a presentation day, which we held recently. The project can be completed alongside other subjects and will add to the UCAS points available to earn.



Parent Meeting

Accompanying my Blog in the email attachment you will find a copy of the Parent Council Meeting Minutes. We discussed the Teacher Assessed Grades for GCSE and Sixth Form together with assessment dates and timetabling for the other secondary year groups. Please join us for the next Parent Council Meeting if you would like to become more involved in day-to-day school matters. The date will be advised shortly.

Covid-19

As you are aware, we have issued guidance about the continued wearing of masks for applicable secondary age pupils and staff. Bedford Borough has issued guidance due to the increasing numbers of the Indian Variant in Bedford. If you have any concerns regarding Covid-19 you may contact us at any time using hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk or by telephoning the office. We will hold a Teams Meeting to ask Covid-19 related questions soon, so please watch out for the invitation to attend. Obviously, we really do not want to have to go back to online learning, so caution is recommended.

Rain, rain, go away!

The weather really isn't being kind to us recently and rather than showers, we've had awful downpours. This has been rather annoying, as we had wanted to make the most of getting the children outside more. However, June looks more promising, so fingers cross more outdoor enrichment opportunities can take place.

Duke of Edinburgh

I have been delighted with the enthusiasm of our DofE pupils this term and I know they are looking forward to making the most of the great outdoors on their upcoming expeditions. I was out at the weekend buying some more camping gear so that they are well prepared. Fingers-crossed the weather does perk up!

Summer Fete

Please make a note in your diaries that the Summer Fete will be held at our Kimbolton Road site on 3 July 2021 between 11am to 1.30pm. This is a normal part of the school calendar, so pupils are expected to attend or they should advise us of the reason they cannot. We look forward to seeing our families at this event subject to the Covid-19 restrictions being lifted on the 21st June.

Nursery News

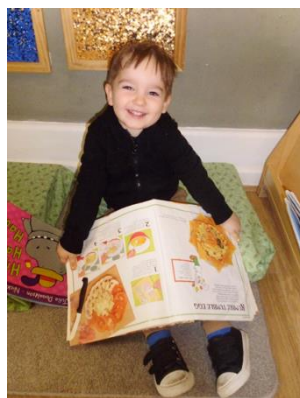
As spring has sprung, the nursery has been making the most of the sunny intervals and also been making good use of their wellies during those rain showers!

The babies have been venturing out to explore our local nature areas, with the team making sure that they have lots of fun collecting interesting sticks, pinecones, feathers and stones to use during play when they return. Blossom was also collected to create painting masterpieces and to add to water to let the babies splash around in a beautiful scent.

Our toddler team have been planting vegetables in their garden, exploring what plants need in order to be healthy. The toddler children have learnt to be very respectful of growing plants and are excited to be cooking with the produce when it is ready.

Our pre-school children have been using their outdoor spaces to create structures using items such as crates, tarpaulin, rope and pallets. The children have worked with the team to share their ideas and think about how to solve structural problems. After a lot of hard work, we ended up with some fabulous creations ranging from a lion's cage (scary lion included) to hotels for us to visit on holiday.

The pre-school children are all fascinated with mini beasts so it is a common occurrence for the team and children to be pulling up logs and slabs to see what can be found. Ms Dempsey has created a wonderful chart to name all the different types of slugs to broaden the children's curiosity and knowledge.



Junior Maths Challenge

At the end of April, 35 students from BGI took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. This is an annual event sat by thousands of schools across the UK and gives year 7 and 8 pupils the chance to face some challenging maths problems. The challenge is set and marked by the University of Leeds and we have just received our results back. We are very pleased that so many pupils too part and are delighted with their results. The top 40% of participants get awarded certificates and we are proud to announce that 4 pupils have been awarded bronze, 2 pupils silver and 2 pupils gold. The pupils that were awarded a gold award, one of which is Year 5, have also qualified for the next round, the Junior Kangaroo, which will take place in June. We wish them all the best in this event.

Goodbye

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Oona Bradshaw who is leaving our Kimbolton Road site next week. I wish her well for the future and I would like to thank her for everything she has done for the school. She will be missed by the pupils and staff.

Kind regards



I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH
Principal