

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

It was very nice to welcome everyone back to school on Monday 5th September and we were delighted to see how smart the pupils looked in the new Bedford Greenacre uniform. I have been pleased to receive glowing remarks about the new uniform and would like to thank Mrs Djukic and her team, together with Louise from No Limitz, for their work in creating such a distinctive image for the school. Thank you to all our families for spending some of your summer sorting out the uniform in readiness for the new academic year.



The whole school photograph was taken on Tuesday 6th September and truly marks the final piece in the long road that we have been working along in regard to the branding of Bedford Greenacre. The pupils were exceptionally well behaved to ensure the process ran seamlessly, which was important because we were all concerned that the heavens may open at any point! Luckily the gamble to go ahead paid off and the weather forecasts were actually wrong.

We were very pleased to see so many of our families at the Welcome Barbecue which took place on Friday 9th September and thank you for coming along. As always, it is a nice way to start the academic year with the opportunity for families and staff to meet in an informal manner.

As I mentioned in my welcome letter at the end of August, we are delighted to report an exceptional set of results at GCSE, Cam Tech and A level for the academic year 2021-22 which highlight the incredible hard work of both our pupils and staff.

With it being the first full exam series to take place since 2019 there was a great deal of uncertainty around grade boundaries amid lots of talk in the media around a return to previous levels. This did not affect us here at BGIS in the slightest as our pupils' attainment outstripped that of 2019 by a significant margin.

At A level, pupils achieved highly and this enabled all of our Year 13 cohort to gain entry to their first-choice university which is incredibly pleasing. To be able to set our pupils off so positively onto the next step of their journey makes all the hard work worthwhile. We are very proud of all our A level pupils across the board but would like to mention our highest performers in Thomas Berridge, Tommy Stott and Archie Tomblin who each received a very impressive set of results.

Performance in the Cambridge Technical subjects continues to be a real strength of our 6th form and attainment this year was extremely impressive as always. Our commitment to offering these courses is something which makes BGIS stand out from other similar 6th forms and offers a genuine and purposeful alternative to the more traditional route of A levels.

At GCSE level BGIS have excelled this year as we report an incredibly impressive set of results for a cohort which have had much to contend with throughout the covid affected academic years. Performance in the core subjects this year has been phenomenal and has completely justified the investment made to strengthen and expand the English, Maths and Science faculty over recent years. The performance in these areas is genuinely exceptional and we are incredibly proud of all our pupils and staff for their efforts.

Performance in our foundation GCSE subjects continues to be extremely strong and shows very impressive performances across our broad and balanced curriculum. A large proportion of subjects can boast 100% higher level pass rates and performance at the top end of the grade spectrum sees many pupils achieving



grades 7–9. Particularly high performers across all GCSE subjects include Mario Brandon, Rachel Carter, George Clayton, Oliver Codrington, Jelena Ilic, Ismaeel Khan, Pollyanna Soderqvist and Sam Whitney.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils' achievements at every level this year and would like to congratulate them on their significant successes. Of course, the hard work of our dedicated and talented teaching staff here at BGIS has been vital to the pupils' development and we would like to extend our appreciation for their unwavering commitment both in and out of the classroom.

Our new Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts have started the academic year in a fantastic fashion this term so we look forward to the bar being set even higher next summer as we take the next step on our BGIS academic journey.

Bank Holiday – Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

As you are aware, Monday 19th September 2022 will be a Bank Holiday due to HM The Queen's funeral taking place. The School and Nursery will be closed as a mark of respect.

We have also changed our logo and banner on FaceBook to black as a mark of respect and are actively commemorating the life of The Queen during the period of official mourning.

Communication

Engage is the way in which emails, letters and text messages are sent, so please ensure you keep your details up to date via the parent portal. The system stores all communication sent out for easy referral and will also be used to schedule bookings for parental consultations and to send out School Reports, so it is a really useful App to have on your phone. We also report news on our social media channels which allows you to have an understanding of what is going on across all the year groups, so please follow us.

Our website has been updated with a new staff list including all contact emails, it also has the updated term dates through to 2024, which will help when planning family holidays. Please do try to respect term dates and any absence outside the normal school holidays must be requested in writing via the form tutor and approved by the Principal. Taking time out of school does mean that your child will miss valuable learning opportunities, which is of concern to the teaching staff and should be kept to an absolute minimum please.

This Principal's Blog is issued via email each fortnight and is used as a place to celebrate school achievements, deliver news on school life and to advise you of forthcoming events, so please take a minute to read through it. We also enjoy celebrating personal achievements with our pupils, so please email my PA, Mrs Abruzzese, on hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk if you would like me to include any details about your child.

Parent Councils

We hold Parent Council meetings throughout the year in which we discuss various topics about school life from the curriculum content to wellbeing issues. Everybody is invited to attend these meetings and we value your constructive input. This year there will be 2 meetings, a senior and a junior meeting and they will be held via MS Teams:

Senior meeting: Year 7-13 – Tuesday 11th October at 9am, follow this link

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzAyMDM0YmUtMjEyMy00YjhlWEyZDUtODBkNThlYTBlMzBm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22d066209d-f1f2-42e1-8942-c31803c3545e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22057436ed-b2fa-4706-80fc-b5246f1defe7%22%7d

Junior meeting: Reception – Year 6 – Friday 7th October at 9am. Follow this link

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZjI5YWEyYmltN2NiNi00OTczLWJlNmQtMWU3Mzg0Y2VhMzlj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22d066209d-f1f2-42e1-8942-c31803c3545e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f6e14419-2ff5-414b-94cd-d1ad9e506233%22%7d

Open Morning

The next Open Morning takes place on Saturday 24th September from 10am to Midday. From Midday to 1pm Mr Woodward, Director of Sixth Form, and the A-level and Cam Tech teachers will be available to speak to prospective Sixth Form students in the gym. Mr Woodward will give a talk at 12.15pm and then students have the opportunity to speak to subject teachers.

Our best advertisement are our pupils and we encourage them to attend this event to show prospective families around their school. Teaching staff will also ask particular pupils to attend to help with events such as sport and the French Café. If your child is unable to attend on Open Morning please email their form tutor to advise us, obviously we appreciate that some pupils have prior commitments, but we do value as much support as possible.



Assembly

As previously advised in my welcome letter, Years 7 to 13 attended an assembly regarding the harm vaping can cause to our bodies, which was presented by Bedfordshire Police. You may wish to discuss the content of the assembly with them, which will help to support our zero-tolerance policy on this topic, which worryingly is on the rise in the teenage age group in society.

Juniors

I hope that our Junior parents found our curriculum information events helpful. If you were unable to attend or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

The selection process for Junior School Representatives, Junior Heads of House, Junior Sports Captains, Well Being Ambassador and Junior School Council Representatives is now underway. The successful candidates will be awarded their badges at the Junior School Assembly on Friday 16th September.

Nursery News



Our Nursery staff have welcomed back our term time children and new families that have joined us.

The nursery children have talked about Queen Elizabeth II this week. They have been looking at photographs, colouring in their own pictures and talking about how we now have King Charles III on the throne.

Is there a doctor in the house?! Don't panic, the children have been enjoying role play to encourage their imagination and language skills.



Principal's Awards

Well done Jack Miller and Aamna Hasan who received a Principal's award for their literacy.

Personal Pursuits

Well done to Sienna who came first in The Bedfordshire Par 3, 9-hole event recently. Keep up the good work Sienna!

Congratulations to Jesse who worked very hard during the summer holiday and was awarded his orange belt in Karate. Excellent effort Jesse!

Well done to Charlotte and Ben for receiving awards at Blunham Youth Cricket's Presentation, U13's Most Improved Award and Bowling Award respectively.

Kind regards



I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH
Principal