



Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

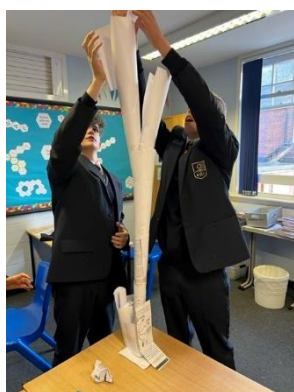
I was delighted to be able to help out with the transport for the Key Stage 1 trip to Bedford Park where they enjoyed an autumn walk. The pupils also enjoyed looking at the colours of the leaves and studying nature, all of which will be talked about further in the classroom. Thank you to the children for being so well behaved and showing off BGI School so well in our local neighbourhood.



Key Stage 1 have been learning all about amazing animals in their creative curriculum lessons this term. Last week they enjoyed a fabulous trip to Milton Keynes Theatre to watch a production of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. The children enjoyed seeing the book they have been focussing on in the classroom come to life!



It is great to see our secondary girls enjoying their science lessons. Pictured are Year 7 with some of their models of specialised cells, which all look fantastic, with some original ideas on display. I know Year 9 girls have also been creating models in their chemistry lessons as I saw the parts of an atom being glued together in my own house recently by my daughter. The Year 9s even took it one step further to make sure they covered everything there is to know about atoms, by performing a drama sketch. Great cross-curricular activities with drama and art featuring in science lessons.



It isn't just the pupils at the Kimbolton Road site who have been enjoying the practical side of learning, our Year 9 pupils at Shakespeare Road enjoyed experimenting in their PSHEE lesson recently, all in an effort to show their teamwork skills, by seeing which team could build the tallest paper tower. A fun task, but it demonstrates the importance of planning, engineering and communication skills.

Since we introduced Business Studies into the Sixth Form in 2016 as an A-level it has become increasingly popular, so much so that we also introduced the Cambridge Technical Business Studies single and triple qualifications, which entail coursework and examinations. We were delighted by the excellent results and introduced the subject at

GCSE level, which is also very popular, with many of our current Year 9s indicating that it will be one of their option choices. To support their course our Year 13 students went to the Business Show held at the Excel Centre recently,



where they listened to a number of speakers and enjoyed finding out information for apprenticeships. Thank you to Mrs Beattie and Mrs Morris for accompanying the students.

Mock examinations have been going on across the two sites for both GCSE and Sixth Form students. I am very pleased with the overall attitude our senior pupils have had in relation to their mocks, approaching them in a conscientious manner. I would like to thank Mr Evans and Mr Jones for the excellent arrangements they have overseen for the mocks.

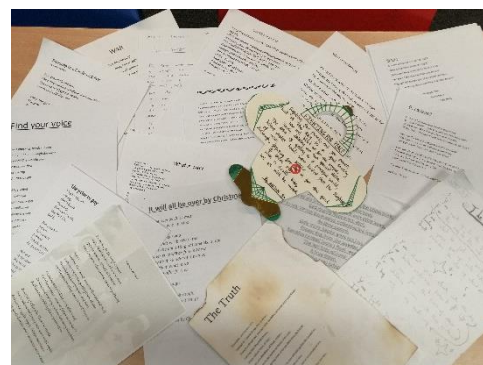


Whilst I am sure that many of the pupils may feel with the festive season rapidly approaching that they can totally relax, I would urge you to ensure that they have a sensible revision timetable in place. Of course, they should take time out from their studies, but little and often really is the key to revision to help embed what they have been learning so far. That advice will be the same from now right up until the last formal examination in June 2023. The next six months or so is all about hard work and regular revision in order to achieve their best, then, if they have any concerns they will be able to ask their teachers for support rather than try to cram everything in at the last minute.

English

Year 8's have been studying WW1 poets with Mrs Mahoney this term and they have used their learning to create some excellent poetry! Their poetry has been impressive and engaging and has captured the voices of the times incredibly well. Some particularly excellent pieces came from Oliver Holman, for his poem entitled, 'Senses' and Ben Handscombe's poem entitled 'Women of War'.

Poetry must be in the blood for Ben as we had the privilege of hearing War poetry written by his Great Grandfather in our lessons. Thank you so much for sharing these with us Ben.



It was lovely to see our swimmers being able to participate in the London North ISA competition on the 18th November. Swimming galas have certainly been missed

because of the Covid Pandemic. Well done to everybody who took part, particularly our double medal winner, Audrey, with gold and bronze. Excellent effort all round.





It was great to see the U10 rugby team head off to Colchester for the National ISA Tournament, winning 4 out of their 7 games. Some good team tries I am told, so demonstrating skills to build on for the years ahead as a team. A great effort by all.

Please follow us on our social media accounts for more sports news.



We have had an exciting few weeks in senior girls fixtures, starting with the U16 Netball squad coming 3rd in their county tournament. This was followed by the U14 Netball squad having a closely fought battle in their county tournament narrowly missing out on 2nd by 1 goal in goal difference. Well done to both squads for their great performances. The U15 Netball squad will be representing the school in their county tournament next week and we wish them good luck! The spring term fixture card, outlining all upcoming fixtures for the next term for years 7-11, will be sent out in the coming week so please keep an eye out for it.

Junior Stars of the week

Class	w/c 14 th November	w/c 21 st November
Forest (Reception)	Adam Pacuka	Eliana Kehinde
1M (Meadow)	Karnail Kali-Rai	Layla Masih
2C (Clover)	Angel Lawal	Harry Elliott-Willey
3E (Emerald)	Micah Ofori	Joshua Michael
3W (Willow)	Arabella Taylor	Godfrey Sandati
4J (Jade)	Rupert Wilson, Arthur Lees and Arhaan Sayed	Henry Kotecha
4S (Sage)	Eliza Burchell	Jack Miller
5W (Woodland)	Khushi Masih	Matilda D'Cruze
5P (Pine)	Valentina Lopez Aliseda	Spencer Pinnock and Megan Pyatt-Slade
6J (Juniper)	Ayda Okoli	Stephen Muniu
6F (Fern)	Sam Burchell	Leo Mehmi
6L (Laurel)	Joshua Miller	Eliana Kehinde



Listening to our pupils is really important within the school, so when the Junior School Council said they wanted to run a 'Design your own t-shirt' competition, how could we refuse. This was done as a fun activity to raise awareness of Children in Need and the winners were James, Holly and Iris, as judged by the Junior School Council. Well done to everybody who took part.

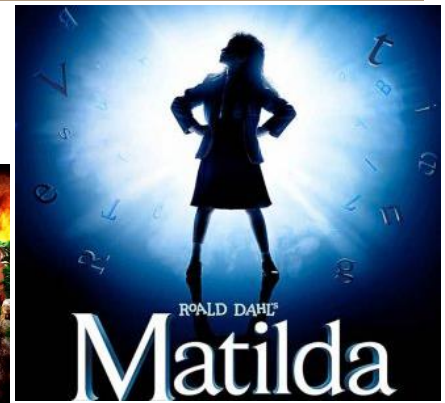
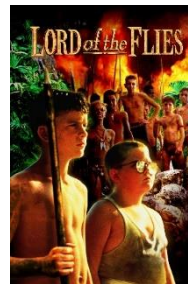
Life prior to the Pandemic was always about families being involved in their child's learning journey; we enjoy the opportunities to invite families into the school and the Phonics Workshop in the Reception class was one of those. We've had great feedback about the workshop and the pupils especially enjoyed sharing fun learning games with their loved ones. Thank you to all those who came along.





Preparations for the Junior School Nativity are in full swing and I have heard some lovely singing being rehearsed. I am also pleased to hear that the pupils in Years 5 and 6 will be performing the show 'Matilda' in the Spring Term, which is something I am sure many of us will look forward to seeing.

Added to that, our senior pupils are preparing to perform the 'Lord of the Flies' Play in the New Year, which is another thing to look forward to.



Nursery News



The Nursery children have been extremely busy in the lead up to Christmas. Our oldest children have been independently making their own Christmas cakes ready to share with their families. The children have taken great pride in their cakes and demonstrated an excellent understanding of self-care when washing their hands, keeping spaces clean and handling knives.



The toddler children have been immersed in sensory play with a particular favourite being a gooey dinosaur swamp. These types of activities are a great way of encouraging children to use a wide range of language such as "stringy" "gloop" "stretchy" and to strengthen their fine motor skills, using their fingers to pick up small objects and save the dinosaurs from the slime by scooping them up.



They have been enjoying water play by making rainbow rivers using paint and water watching the colours mix in together; and using paint brushes and cars to explore the marks of the colourful water, we jumped in the rainbow river while saying colour names.



The theme of fine motor skills and creativity continues in the baby unit as they take the time to decorate their Christmas tree, the children demonstrated excellent turn taking skills when hanging the decorations and enjoyed feeling all the different textures. An excellent sensory resource is mixing cornflour and oil to make snow. The babies then used this to explore with their polar bears and penguins.



Nursery Date for Diary: Don't forget to come to our fabulous Christmas stay and play on Saturday 10th December from 10.00-Noon for fun Christmas activities, coffee and mince pie. The event is free to attend and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Principal's Awards

Nashiya Reed, Elyn Daniel and Holly Lenton for Year 9 science.

Qais Ghazzawi and Alejandro Lopez Aliseda for art.

Oliver Stock for Science.

Eva Cookham and Eva Pape played the piano as pupils entered the hall; they had composed the piece themselves.

Tana Mahachi, Perpetual Nyamtowo, Deborah Nyamtowo, Toluwa Alade and Christiana Kaguda all read speeches/poems they had written.

Tilly Norman, Kitty Pape, Prisha Parekh, Charlie Allen, Elsie Francis, and Poppy-Grace Duff danced a piece they had choreographed in Dance to close the show.

Oliver Holman for his WW1 inspired poem.

Personal Pursuits



Well done to Joseph who took part in the Hitchin Open Meet recently, coming home with two gold medals, two silver and a bronze to add to his collection of swimming successes. Great effort Joseph and I was pleased to hear that you made County times too.

As a former PE teacher, I was pleased to hear about Asad in Year 4 and his passion for running. He realises the benefit of a good diet to help his fitness, which in turn will help him reach his goal of running at national level. Asad takes part in park runs and is a member of Active Training World, he is also running to raise money for GOSH and has raised nearly £200. Asad has already won cross country medals for BGIS and I know there is more to come from him, I look forward to seeing his success!



A reminder that the Senior School Choir will be performing at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church in the town centre on Wednesday 30th November 2022 and you can go along to support them. The time we have been allocated is 3pm, but please bear in mind that we are not organising timings, so there may be some waiting around, which is a perfect opportunity to look at all the Christmas trees on display. There is a small charge of £3.00 for entry to the Festival which is donated to charity.

We like to encourage our pupils to perform as it helps to boost their confidence and the choirs across both sites are a great opportunity to do that. We don't expect the best soloists, just enthusiasm and a smile to create a great ensemble. It is really nice to see that more and more pupils are joining the choirs and enjoying the chance to sing a variety of pieces. I look forward to watching them perform on Wednesday.

Also, a reminder that our Christmas Carols in the Playground will be taking place on the last Thursday of term, so please sign up to attend if you haven't already done so. We are hoping that the weather is kinder to us this year, but bring brollies just in case! All the family is welcome.

This will be my final Blog of 2022 as I will send out the usual end-of-term letter in the final week. I hope to see many of you over the next week or so at one of the festive events and for those of you who are on the ski trip, I look forward to seeing you at 3.00 a.m. on Saturday the 10th December at the meeting point on Cowper Road.



Kind regards

I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH
Principal