

Principal's Blog

Edition 45 – 17 May 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

It has been a busy couple of weeks since my last Blog, with residential trips galore! Year 9 visited Blue Peris, Year 6 headed for Longtown and Year 7 went to the PGL site at Caythorpe. I hope all the pupils enjoyed the opportunities that these residential trips provide and my thanks to the staff who made them possible.

Our next Parent Council Meeting takes place on Friday 7th June at 9 a.m. at Shakespeare Road. A light breakfast will be provided for those coming along, so please email the school office to advise us if you will be attending, using hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk. This will be an important meeting to gain parental views on the year ahead as we rapidly move towards the transitional phase in September before the relocation in early 2025. All are welcome at the meeting, and I look forward to seeing you if you can attend.



There has been some interest in the school opening before 8.00 a.m. for pupils to have breakfast when we move to the new premises. If this is something you would welcome, please email to let us know that you would like this to be an option for your child, using hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk

The Year 11 and 13 pupils are now well into their formal examination period, and I am pleased with their sensible approach demonstrated over the first couple of weeks. The rest of the senior pupils have their summer assessments in the weeks ahead, as follows:

Years 7 and 9	3 rd June – 21 st June
Year 8	17 th June – 21 st June
Year 10 – classed as mocks and assessed on work from the year using past GCSE exam papers. Core subjects will be sat in the exam hall to best prepare pupils for what they will experience in May and June next year. Grades will be reported at the parents evening in September.	3 rd June – 21 st June

It is advisable, particularly for our Year 10 cohort, that a revision timetable is used in order to prepare themselves fully for the assessments and the half-term break is a great time for them to do a sensible amount of revision – little and often!

Junior Stars of the Week

Class	w/c 6 May	w/c 13 May
Forest (Reception)	Drai Karavadra	Ano Hwata
1M (Meadow)	Adam Pacuka	Grace Kitchener
2C (Clover)	Brogan Holmes	Arthur Parker
3E (Emerald)	Cameron Newbury	Luca Newman
3W (Willow)	Ishaani Krishnakumar	Jade Michael
4J (Jade)	Abigail Holland	Scarlett Muniu
4S (Sage)	Simba Hwata	Oliver Eastwood
5W (Woodland)	Ru Wilson	Isabella Ianiri
5P (Pine)	James Warne	Alfie Moore
6J (Juniper)	All of 6J for a great trip to Longtown	Holly Ardis
6L (Laurel)	All of 6L for a great trip to Longtown	Sienna Williams



It was lovely to see the Key Stage 1 pupils learning all about some Italian cuisine! Look at the concentration on their faces when working with the dough. I firmly believe that learning to fend for yourself is vitally important and it's never too early to get started with cooking as a life skill. Indeed, when I first became Head at this school, I introduced food technology to the curriculum as, up until that point, it had just been a club run by our former Chair of Governors, Graham Bates, who shared my views on cookery being an important life skill. We were both delighted with the interest in the subject when it was first introduced here and it has gone from strength to strength, with it taught throughout the year groups, culminating and an option of Catering and Hospitality offered to our senior pupils as a BTEC. My mother was a

cookery teacher, so it is something I learnt from an early age, and I think it is great to see these youngsters having this opportunity at Pizza Express. Perhaps we have some budding chefs of the future in our midst!

Or, we might have some historians amongst this particular cohort. The children certainly enjoyed their trip to the site of Bedford Castle and were blessed with brilliant sunshine, which made it even better! It is not known exactly when the castle was built, but it is believed it was shortly after the Conquest in 1066, but the first official mention of it is in 1138. The children learned all about its battles and conquests and how it was designed, which helps to bring what they are learning in the classroom to life.



Learning outdoors is a wonderful experience for the pupils, particularly when the sun is shining! We cannot wait to have so much land available to them when we move to the new site, which will mean more opportunities to learn outside. In the meantime, it was lovely to hear about Year 2 enjoying Forest School activities, collecting natural materials which they then used to make cyanotype prints with help from the power of the sun. Art mixed with

nature – fantastic!

Year 4 have been getting to grips with the practical side of science, learning all about electricity. I am sure these fun experiments help to really embed the topic and provide lots of fun along the way!



Nursery News



The entire nursery has been making the most of the sunny weather this week and spending lots of time outside enjoying various activities. The babies were having great fun in the kitchen with water play.



The Forest School environment came to life with the rope swing, mud kitchens and teepee! It was wonderful to see the children's imagination sparked into life and teamwork, inventive and creative 'stories' taking place all around the garden.



The letter of the week is 'v' and vegetables were cut up and tasty kebabs created – it was great that all the children were able to name the vegetables – although refusing to put any on their own kebab they didn't like!

Sports New



I am pleased to see that the Under 9 mixed cricket team won their District qualifier recently. It was also good to hear about the Year 3 and 4 athletics team coming third in the District County Event, where they competed against 40 schools. As it's the summer term, there are plenty of opportunities still ahead for cricket, athletics and rounders in Games lessons, in afterschool clubs and at fixtures. It is great to hear about these sports accomplishments and particular mention must go to Yuvi Singh who was awarded player of the match in the U12 cricket fixture recently. Also special mention to Godfrey Sandati and Harry Stock who were awarded top points and third highest points respectively in the recent District athletics.

PTFA



Bedford Greenacre Independent School
Parent/Teacher/Friend/Association

Summer Swish Swap
Friday 28th June 2024

Is it time to shake up your wardrobe? Why not donate your pre-loved clothes to our Swish Swap Event, then come along on Friday 28th June 2024 at Kimbolton Road.

A small bar will be open with nibbles. Parking is available on the playground.

Tickets from £15, booking is essential. Contact Gina or Anna in the school office. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. or VIP tickets are available for an early entry at 7.00 p.m.

It is always great to see fresh ideas, and the PTFA Committee has come up with another one for the summer months, a clothes swap – The Summer Swish Swap! I hope you are able to have a clear out from your wardrobes and go along to support this new idea. I am sure it will be a fantastic evening and a great way to meet up with other parents in a relaxed atmosphere. Tickets are on sale please contact Anna or Gina. I would like to thank our wonderful PTFA, your contribution to the School is truly valued.

Pre-loved Uniform Shop – going strong and always looking for donations

The shop is closed now for exams, the PTFA have added extra dates in June and July and in August/September for new families joining the school – see the dates below. The shop operates solely on the basis of donations from within the BGI school community. They are keen to expand the number of smaller sizes for the benefit of other families. They accept all items either piecemeal or in a huge bag at the end of term! We're really grateful to parents who are supporting this recycling and helping us be a sustainable school. All funds raised are added to our PTFA fundraising targets. Please leave any donations with Gina and Anna.

Opening dates

Friday 21 June 9am -1030 am

Friday 5 July 9am -10.30am

Saturday 6 July – pop up at summer fayre

Friday 19 July 9.30am -10.30am

Friday 9 August 9.30am -10.30am

Monday 2 September 9.30 am - 10.30am

Personal Pursuits



Congratulation to Seth who was part of the U14 County Cup for Team Beds Tennis last weekend in Oxford. Bedfordshire finished second overall in a tight competition against Cambridgeshire. This year, Seth has represented Bedfordshire at U14, U16 and U18 County Cup weekend team events and continues to compete in tournaments in both singles and doubles most weekends, showing his commitment to the sport, which is to be commended.

Every Sunday morning, James participates in the Bedford Junior Park Run at Jubilee Park, where everyone can walk, jog, or run a 2k course.

On a special Sunday, coinciding with the London Marathon, James completed his 21st run, covering the equivalent of a marathon. To celebrate, he received a special wristband. Congratulations James on this fantastic achievement.



Events Calendar Summer Term 2024

Event	Date	Comments
Parents Council and Parents' Breakfast	Friday 7 June 2024 – 9am	Shakespeare Road
Pre-loved Uniform Shop	Friday 21 st June 2024-9am-10.30am	Kimbolton Road site
Swish Swap Shop	Friday 28 June 2024 – 6.30pm/7pm	Kimbolton Road site
Pre-loved Uniform Shop	Friday 5 July 2024 – 9am	Kimbolton Road site
Summer Fayre	Saturday 6 July 2024 – 11am-1.30pm	Kimbolton Road
Junior Sports Day – Rec-Y3	Thursday 4 July 2024	BGI Sports Field
Senior Sports Day – Y4 and above	Monday 8 July 2024	Athletics Stadium
Senior Culture Day	Tuesday 9 July 2024	Shakespeare Road
Junior Culture Day	Thursday 11 July 2024	Shakespeare Road

I am currently at the Independent Schools Association's Conference, which is a great opportunity for school leaders to share ideas. The itinerary includes a wide range of topics including toxic masculinity, equality, future proofing independent schools with a holistic approach to development, lessons from Shakespeare's Henry V on inspirational leadership, reducing academic anxiety and the use of artificial intelligence in schools. Lots of ideas to cascade down to staff!

Kind regards



I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH

Principal