

Principal's Blog

Edition 48 – 20 September 2024



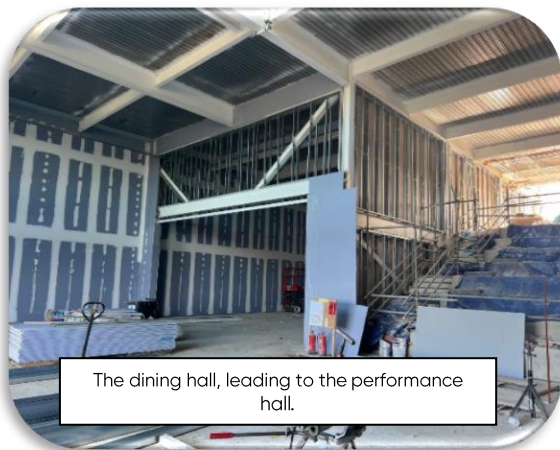
Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

I was delighted to welcome our pupils to the school for the beginning of the new term, one which is a transitional period with all pupils from Reception to Year 11 at the Shakespeare Road site, with the school now being fully co-educational. It has been a really wonderful start to the school year and there is a great atmosphere on site, with the pupils already settling into their new routines and behaving superbly.

I would like to thank you all for ensuring that the pupils returned to school in correct uniform. Indeed, I have received high praise from a teacher at another nearby school who told me how the pupils stand out and look incredibly smart. The sixth formers are also settling into their temporary surroundings at the Kimbolton Road site and I would like to thank them for embracing the business style dress rules so well.

This is an opportune time to thank the staff for helping to shift the classroom spaces to accommodate the timetabling this term, whilst also being involved with the planning for their new classrooms at the new site. The time and effort given is greatly appreciated and helps to ensure everything is running smoothly. Our Data Manager, Mrs Gooch, has done a good job of organising a very complicated timetable and room requirements, not just for the current sites, but ensuring a second version of room requirements is ready for the new site too, so I would like to thank her for her efforts.

I have visited the new site many times over the summer and can advise that we are at the stage where the colours of carpets and furniture have been finalised, teaching walls finalised, kitchens finalised and I have brought in local suppliers to install audio and electrical equipment for performance purposes. I have taken a number of the teaching staff to visit their classrooms recently and they were delighted with what they saw, having found it hard to picture from the plans, but the reality far exceeding their imaginations! It's been a long road to this stage, nearly 10 years since the land was purchased, but the new building is very much a reality now!



The dining hall, leading to the performance hall.

In fact, I can hardly believe it is nearing 10 years since this whole process started, but my message in the 2015 Annual Review celebrated the news of the purchase of the 40-acre site. Little did we know at that stage just how many hoops we would be forced to jump through in order to get to this stage. I am delighted to now be in a position to plan the move and official opening ceremony! I have always believed in perseverance, it was something instilled in me as a youngster, and perseverance has got us to this point, despite the hurdles. It is a great lesson and relates to the message we try to teach our pupils, never give up!



Dining hall & events area



Glass incorporating the BGI branded colours, showing our distinctive identity.



The sports hall is taking shape – it's a bit bigger than the current Randall Hall!



In a month or so, this will be transformed into a paved terraced amphitheatre for picnic tables, so pupils can enjoy their lunch outside when the weather is nice, making the most of the great outdoors.



Space to enjoy now and room to develop in phase 2.



Open Morning
Saturday 28th September 2024
10.00 a.m. to midday

Open Morning: Our next open morning will be held on Saturday 28th September at the Shakespeare Road site, pupils involved will have been advised of their roles for the morning by their form tutor. This will be a different type of open morning, without the usual tours of the premises. Instead, families will be able to view the details of the new site and listen to talks about what Bedford Greenacre can provide for their child, as well as being able to chat to teaching staff. Having our current pupils in attendance to answer questions and lend a hand is always helpful because

they are the very best advertisement for their school. So, thank you in advance to everybody who comes along to help out. The main open morning for Years Reception to 11 takes place from 10.00 a.m. and the Sixth Form presentation will take place at 9.00 a.m. for current Year 11 pupils and their parents.

We have received an influx of registrations for the open morning, record numbers want to find out about our school, which is fantastic. Rest assured that we want to remain a relatively small school, one which can provide a personalised approach and where teachers know their pupils well. We have a limit on how many pupils we can have on the new site, which is 680, and we want class sizes to remain small, so you will not see any massive increase in pupils on roll.

Parent Council: The next Parent Council Meeting will take place on Friday 27th September 2024 at Shakespeare Road at 9.00 a.m. This will tie in with the PTFA's coffee morning in support of MacMillan. Everybody is invited to attend this meeting should you so wish, or just attend the coffee morning. Enabling opportunities for parents to voice their opinions helps to ensure Bedford Greenacre is successful and your input is valued. The topics to be discussed at the meeting include an update on the new build; the plans for moving to the site; the relationship and sex education syllabus and examination results from summer 2024.

Fond Farewells: As well as looking forward to the next chapter in the School's history, we also want to give our former pupils, families and staff the opportunity to celebrate the past, with a Christmas Celebration taking place at each site to mark the closure. If you would like to attend, please register as soon as possible to help us organise numbers. Please also share the details with anybody you know who previously had links to either Rushmoor or St Andrew's Schools.



Rushmoor memories

Christmas reunion

Are you a former pupil or staff member of Rushmoor School in Bedford? If you would like your last chance to visit the old buildings, please come along to our Christmas Celebration on Thursday 5th December 2024 between 5.00-7.00 p.m.

We hope to welcome many former pupils and staff to this trip down memory lane, with canapés and bubbly for you to enjoy. During the evening, you may also register to attend the official opening of the School's brand new premises under its new name of Bedford Greenacre Independent School.



To register your attendance at this Christmas event, please email hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk

Please state how many people will be accompanying you, maximum 3 per former pupil or staff member.



St Andrew's memories

Are you a former pupil of St Andrew's School in Bedford? If you would like your last chance to walk through the famous blue door, please come along to our Christmas Celebration on Thursday 5th December 2024 between 5.00-7.00 p.m.

We hope to welcome many former pupils to this trip down memory lane, with canapés and bubbly for you to enjoy. During the evening, you may also register to attend the official opening of the School's brand new premises under its new name of Bedford Greenacre Independent School.



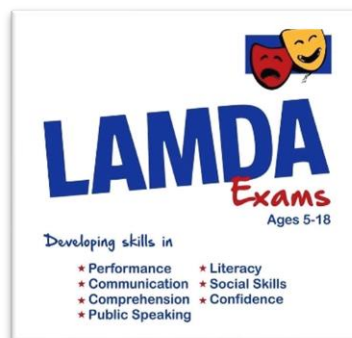
To register your attendance at this Christmas event, please email hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk

Please state how many people will be accompanying you, maximum 3 per former pupil.

LAMDA Success: Very well done to Sienna and Jack who recently passed their LAMDA examinations in acting solo and speaking verse and prose. They each achieved distinctions.



For those wishing to participate in speech and drama lessons, please contact the school office for further information.



LAMDA Exams
Ages 5-18

Developing skills in

- * Performance
- * Communication
- * Comprehension
- * Public Speaking
- * Literacy
- * Social Skills
- * Confidence

Junior School Stars of the Week

Class	w/c 9 September 2024	w/c 16 September 2024
Forest (Reception)	Blake Holmes	Anastasia Magirescu
1M (Meadow)	Sante Lucrino	Ano Hwata
2C (Clover)	Orion Nelson-Languaigne	GianLuca D'Anna
3E (Emerald)	Ismaeel Bacon	Nicolo Spiniello
3W (Willow)	Mino Blazinskas	Oliver Watt
	Jacob Walker, Seb Dean, Daniel Bertram & Arun Nibber	Chloe Forton
4J (Jade)		
4S (Sage)	Karan Nibber	Sanuel van Nieuwkerk
5W (Woodland)	Teddy Whiteside	Oliver Prosser
5P (Pine)	Oliver Paolucci	Arabella Taylor

6J (Juniper)	Ru Wilson	Rafael Mehmi
6L (Laurel)	Arthur Lees & Freddie Penning	David Enwukue & Kai Fehr

Personal Pursuits

For those new to the school, we like to share news about what our pupils are getting up to outside of school, therefore, if you would like to send me details about personal pursuits your child is involved with, please email hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk. This can include sporting successes, charitable work, learning new skills such as first aid courses, completing challenges such as climbing a mountain. We are pleased to share them in this blog or on our sports Instagram account.

I was delighted to hear about Seth competing in the annual Bedfordshire County Closed at the end of the summer. He played outstanding tennis and defended his title as U14 Boys County Champion, U14 Boys Doubles County Champion, U14 Mixed Doubles County Champion, U16 Boys County Runners Up and 3rd in the U18 County Mixed Doubles. He also became Club Champion Winner at Riverside in U14 and U16 Boys singles. Very well done to Seth on these achievements.



Well done to Rohan who had the honour of singing at Bedford's Mayor and Speaker's Charity Dinner and Auction last Friday evening. The event raised over £9,900 for Creating Memories, East Anglian Air Ambulance and The John Bunyan Museum. Rohan received wonderful praise from the Council, stating he captivated the audience with his musical talent.

Well done to Ahil and Arhaan who represented Wollaston Cricket Club in the Northamptonshire League. Ahil represented U13 and scored more than 250 runs from 10 games. He scored thrice 50 runs which included a fifty in the final Cup Game. He was awarded the best Player Award by the Club. Arhaan represented U11, scored more than 100 runs and took 20 wickets. He was awarded a medal by the Club for his performance.



Principal's Awards

Harry Elliott-Willey – Year 4
Finley Kelly – Year 2

Please see overleaf news from the PTFA about upcoming events, including the Macmillan Coffee Morning and a dinner, disco and drinks evening. Please note that the Auction of Promises scheduled for the 4th October 2024 will be postponed to coincide with the dinner, with the date to be confirmed shortly.

Kind regards

I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH
Principal

News from the PTFA

Take a Seat campaign – be part of our school forever!

To mark a very special moment, the opening of our new site, your name or the name of a loved one can be engraved on a unique plaque to be placed in the new BGI drama studio. Your "Take a Seat" donation will help fund the retractable seating in the studio and ensure many more audiences within the School and across the wider community will enjoy performances there.

If you would like to find out more about this initiative, the PTFA will have an information stall outside school from 8.30 am on Friday 27 September 2024 to answer all your questions.

Parents' Council and MacMillan Coffee Morning

Come along to the Parents' Council meeting and breakfast on Friday 27 September 2024 to hear about issues that relate to school, policies and procedures (including an update on the new school build). We will be supporting the Macmillan Coffee Morning campaign too.



Opening Dinner and Disco

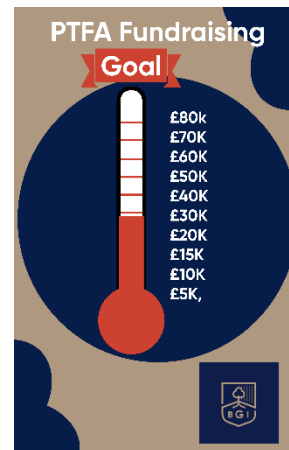
Due to the progression of the build, the PTFA are now planning to host a dinner, disco and drinks evening for parents and friends of the school early in 2025 to celebrate the opening of the new site. The date will be confirmed shortly, but the plan is to include an auction of promises with all the generous promises we've collected to date. Watch this space! This means that the Auction of Promises scheduled for the 4th October 2024, will now be postponed and will now coincide with this celebratory event.

Shop opening dates
Friday 4 October
Friday 18 October
Friday 8 November
Friday 29 November
Friday 13 December
*Open from 9am to 10.30am

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

Over the summer holiday, the uniform shop was open to new parents and the support was fantastic! The PTFA has also decided to open more regularly – every two weeks on a Friday in term time – see the dates below. The shop operates from the Kimbolton Road site and is accessible directly from Pemberley Avenue.

Thanks too for the donations received over the summer, helping us to be a sustainable school. The smaller sizes keep coming in and we are always grateful for more to benefit other families within the school community. Please leave any items of uniform or trainers/football boots with Gina and Anna at the school reception.



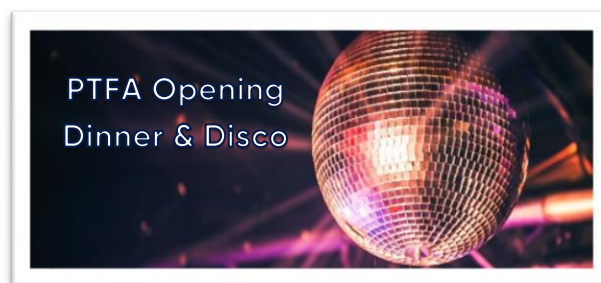
PTFA
TAKE A SEAT

Sponsor a plaque to mark a special moment, the opening of our new school.

For a minimum donation of £50, your name, or the name of a loved one, can be engraved on a unique plaque displayed on a recognition board in the new BGI drama studio.

Your "Take a Seat" donation will go towards the retractable seating planned for the studio and ensure many more audiences within the School and across the wider community will enjoy performances.

Contact Gina or Anna if you would like your name to be forever a part of BGI School.



**Become a member of the BGI PTFA or Helper's List, email Gina or Anna
hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk.**