

Principal's Blog

Edition 56: 14 March 2025



Dear Parents, guardians and friends

I begin with some sad news about Kenneth Sanders, former Chair of Governors of St Andrew's School. Ken had MND and I was very sad to learn that he passed away last week. It was Ken who I dealt with at the outset of the negotiations which saw St Andrew's and Rushmoor working as an alliance and then merging, leading us to where we are today; he was the driving force to protect the staff and the education of the pupils at St Andrew's School and we will forever be grateful to him for that. I showed him around our new premises just a couple of weeks ago and he said how impressed he was with the new site and he was so grateful for everything that had been done to bring the two schools together and create something amazing. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Since I last wrote my last Blog, we've had a Royal Visit, an Open Morning and an ISI Inspection, so to say the last couple of weeks has been a little intense is probably an understatement.

Firstly, the Royal visit on the 28th February was a huge success, with the pupils all behaving superbly and showing their school off to His Royal Highness at its absolute best. My thanks to everybody who made the visit so memorable and to HRH The Duke of Gloucester for taking the time to visit us.





Secondly, the atmosphere at the Open Morning on the 1st March was wonderful. Our pupils did so well acting as tour guides and showcasing their school for the prospective families. It was clear to see the pupils are really proud of our new site. It was a very busy morning, with visitors from Reception all the way through to prospective sixth formers and my thanks go to the pupils and staff for all your help. The feedback I have received has been very positive.

Then, on Monday 3rd March, I received the telephone call from the ISI Inspectorate that they would be visiting for the normal inspection, which take place every 3 years (we had a material change inspection in December). My thanks to all parents who took the time to complete the survey, the official report will be available in 5 weeks. Please note that reports do not contain one word judgements anymore and have a different framework to previous inspections. Again, the pupils were absolutely amazing and my thanks to them and the staff.

At the beginning of this week, we had the school photographs taken for Juniors and Seniors, which I am reliably informed can be merged to create a whole school photograph, which will be a fitting record to add to our archives to commemorate this new era for the school. With a photograph marking this point, and with the move, official opening and inspection behind us, I am looking forward to the last couple of weeks of this term being a bit less frantic.

As I mentioned in my last Blog, we are keen to commence the second phase of the development, adding more sports facilities, so fingers crossed that the weather is going to keep relatively dry so we can start after the Easter break.

I am pleased to see that we've had a number of enrichment opportunities going on recently. The sixth form trip to Italy looked a fantastic experience, with our business students learning about all sorts of different business settings, sampling tasty cuisine and enjoying some beautiful architecture. Thank you to Mrs Morris, Mr Wallwork and Mrs Kirkham for accompanying the sixth formers.



I was pleased to learn that the junior pupils enjoyed a visit from St. John's Ambulance Service, where they learned all about essential first aid skills. It is so important to know how to handle emergencies because none of us know when we will find ourselves in difficult situations. As a trained first aider myself, I recommend children learning about life-saving techniques and, who knows, these types of demonstrations may even inspire some of our pupils to think about careers in the medical/caring professions.



It was lovely to see our senior pupils helping the younger pupils on Shrove Tuesday, making pancakes. Great fun! Of course, Shrove Tuesday has a religious significance, and our pupils learn about this and other faiths as part of their PSHE curriculum during form time, PSHE lessons and in assemblies.

Fun was also had on World Book Day, with the pupils dressing as some of their favourite book characters and various book based activities taking place throughout the day. One of the activities included

votes for which member of staff best fitted the Mr Men and Little Miss titles, apparently, I was voted 'Mr Busy', which seems very apt for the last couple of weeks.



I would like to thank all the pupils who have taken part in The Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama under the guidance of Mr Roberts, who has reported back to me on every performance. He explained who our pupils were up against and how well they performed; I am very proud of all our pupils and thank them for representing Bedford Greenacre superbly.

The highlights go to Jack Miller from Year 9 who performed his solo monologue as the Cheshire Cat and finished a very credible third, with the judge highlighting his humour and zaniness. Lili Pugh and Iris Eade from Year 7 who performed a poem and were placed second with honours. Alex Thomson and Henry Seacombe were awarded third place for their verse duet in the Year 9/10 age group. Sienna Williams and Holly Ardis from Year 7 were awarded second place for their duologue. Finally, Lily Eade and Molly Fellows from our sixth form won first place for their duologue. Congratulations to everybody who was placed in the competition.

As well as having the opportunity to take part in the festival, the junior pupils also performed as part of an assembly, which was also a chance for them to showcase their performing skills.

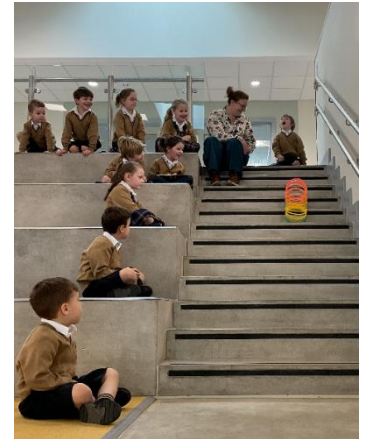




This week the junior pupils had an assembly with the famous Professor Eduardo to mark British Science Week.

Professor Eduardo always brings fun and games into science and the children enjoyed learning about

accidental inventions, including the holes in donuts, slinkies and frisbies. I think the smiles sum up that they enjoyed the presentations.



This week, our senior students brought the enchanting world of Grimm Tales to life with their outstanding production. The children have worked incredibly hard, dedicating countless hours to rehearsals and preparations to deliver an amazing performance.

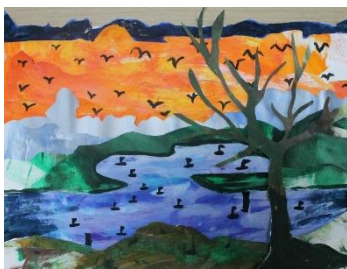


Their commitment and passion was evident in every scene, captivating the audience and showcasing their remarkable talents. We are immensely proud of their efforts and the magical experience they created for everyone.



Congratulations to all the students and staff involved in this fantastic production.

In the lead up to half term, Year 6 participated in a unique and exciting project for BGI. They were invited by Ann Collins of the Bedfordshire Orchestral Society to create paintings inspired by a piece of music. Under the guidance of our Art teachers Ms Garden and Ms Chaplin, the students worked diligently in class to produce their artwork.



The paintings were then projected above the orchestra as they performed live at the Bedford Corn Exchange. The music that inspired this creative endeavour was "The Enchanted Lake" by Anatoly Liadov. The concert was a great success, and we received a lot of positive feedback from attendees. Everyone was very impressed, and we are incredibly proud of Year 6 for their hard work in preparing the artwork in such a short time.



Some of the pupils and their families attended the concert, and we hope to engage in more collaborations with the orchestra in future. This was a fantastic opportunity for all involved, showcasing the talent and dedication of our students.

Junior Stars of the Week

Class	w/c 24 February 2025	w/c 3 March 2025
Forest (Reception)	Jonnie Walters	Eliana Vllasaliu
1M (Meadow)	Brandon Morey	Ano Hwata
2C (Clover)	All Year 2	Ayla Acquah
3E (Emerald)	All Year 3E	Karnail Kali-Rai
3W (Willow)	Arya Sohal	Arun Surabhi
4J (Jade)	Joshua Logan	Cameron Newbury
4S (Sage)	Lily Eckland	Jade Michael
5W (Woodland)	Jesse Bates	Elizabeth, Barney, Satdaya, Florence, Max, Oliver, Bentley, Harris, Joshua Michael
5P (Pine)	Simba Hwata	Godfrey Sandati
6J (Juniper)		
6F (Fern)	Dylan Yarr	Annie Newbury
6L (Laurel)	Hannah Holland	Isla Hawkins & Freddie Penning

Nursery News

We would like to thank all our parents who took the time to give the Nursery Team some wonderful feedback to our inspectors last week via the survey, emails and in person. This really enforces our belief that the team are doing a great job and is much appreciated by all the staff.



Owls conducted an experiment into how strong eggs are and how much they could add on top before they break. We discovered the weight dispersed across the 4 eggs and the wooden plank and logs did not make them break, but Miss Kiki did!



The Nursery children thoroughly enjoyed celebrating World Book Day – we had a wonderful variety of dressing up outfits and favourite book characters, including our very own Paddington Bear!

Mud, Mud, glorious mud! The children explored the feel of the mud on their hands, and faces!



Sports News



I was pleased to learn on Sunday that our pupils performed well at the National ISA Cross County. After going through the difficult selection process to qualify for the nationals, everyone should be extremely proud that they were able to represent Bedford Greenacre at this prestigious event. Particular praise goes to our Head of School, Amelia Curtis, who won bronze, despite only just recovering from a knee injury.

Special praise must also go to Seb Dean from Year 4 who I am informed was running the race of his life and was in second place on the leader's shoulder, but tripped and hurt his ankle. Bad luck Seb, but excellent effort and I am sure you will get your chance next year.

Very well done to all of the team: Seb Dean (Yr 4); Barney Wilson (Yr 5); Hughie Samson (Yr 6); Kieron Kirkham (Yr 7); Adam Webb (Yr 7); Oscar Nurton (Yr 7); Teddy Smith (Yr 8); Zara Webb (Yr 9); Bea Bartishel (Yr 10); Jed Wharton (Yr11) and Amelia Curtis (Yr 13). Thank you to the parents who went along to support the team.

We've also had pupils playing at two other ISA sports events recently, the U10 netball tournament and the U10 boys football festival, where Player of the Match goes to Harry Stock. Well done to everybody who took part.

The U8/9 football team played recently, with Player of the Match going to Cruz Oliver-Hodges and with four teams going to Swarnbourne House recently to play football, Players of the Match go to Barney Wilson, Justin Collymore, Arthur Woodlock and Jude Murray. Excellent effort from all involved in the matches.

It was great to see our sports hall being used recently for a competitive badminton fixture by the Year 7s and 8s, and our thanks to Hitchin Boys School for visiting us.

In the County Relay Cross-Country Championship, I was delighted to hear that our Year 3 and 4 team finished in second place, with our other age groups also finishing strongly. Well done to all who took part.

Well done also to our Year 11 netball team who finished their season with another win. Great effort from all involved.

I was pleased to hear about our junior swimmers enjoying the gala hosted by BMS, and hearing BGI won by three points. Excellent effort from all involved, I am very proud of you.

Well done to the Year 3 and 4 football team who played a couple of weeks back, with Players of the Match being awarded to Oliver Watt and Seb Dean and also to our U10/11 football team who played against Broughton Manor, with Players of the Match going to David Enwukwe and Justin Collymore.



Personal Pursuits



Congratulations to Arthur Surridge who took part in the County Tournament on Sunday 9th March 2025 at Hertford, playing for Bedfordshire's U15 hockey. It is always nice to hear that our pupils are doing well in sports and good enough to play in County level events. Excellent effort Arthur.

Principal's Awards

Scarlett Muniu Year 6 for a beautiful poem.

Samuel van Nieuwkerk Year 4 for swimming.

Harry Elliott Willey Year 4 for History.

Jamie Marshall Year 10 for a great English letter.

Enjoy your weekend!

Kind regards



I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH

Principal