

Principal's Blog

Edition 59: 16 May 2025



Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

You recently received the Inspection Report and a letter from myself giving a brief rundown of the highlights from the Report. We are extremely pleased with the inspectors' findings, and I particularly liked the part which said that communication with parents is a strength. I have also seen recently on local online social media chatrooms that we have "very strong parent support". I am so happy that the inspectors and our local community believes that we place our families so highly, indeed it has always been important to me to promote an open door policy where parents have a voice, and we do this by the Parental Council Meetings, social functions and regular two-way communication. I believe that working together on planning the move to co-educational provision and moving to this new site has meant that the pupils are happy and everything has run smoothly. Thank you all for the strong support of Bedford Greenacre and please keep telling me what you think. Dates of the next parent council meetings will be Friday 23rd May and Friday 10th October 2025.

Senior SENDCo

Mr Alex Robinson-Welsh joined the school in January as the Senior Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. He is already a familiar person to some of our families, but I thought it was an apt opportunity to introduce him to you.



"I feel incredibly privileged to have joined BGI during such a dynamic time of growth and change. From day one, I've been overwhelmed by the warmth, kindness, and professionalism of the entire BGI community. Before joining BGI, I taught at a local all through school, where I worked primarily in the specialist SEND provision for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). Over the years, I have held several key roles, including Assistant SENDCo, Primary SENDCo, and most recently, Secondary SENDCo."

Enrichment



Year 5 pupils returned from their bush craft adventures tired but happy having enjoyed an amazing time sleeping under canvas, making dens, chatting around campfires and learning some survival skills. It is always a popular trip and this year's proved to be too.

Year 6 also had wonderful adventures at Longtown Learning Centre in Wales.

Both trips encourage team working skills and are great for building resilience. They also often allow the children opportunities to extend their friendship circle, which strengthens the camaraderie within the year groups.



Each year our Key Stage 1 pupils head off to Pizza Express to learn all about making dough and the ingredients used for toppings. I just love the smiles on their faces in this picture and thank the staff at Pizza Express for making it a great experience for them to enjoy.

Will this be the start of their cookery skills... who knows? What I do know is that at GCSE level we offer hospitality and catering and in our superb new food technology room, they will have plenty of opportunities to develop their cooking skills over the years ahead.

Whilst looking at the picture of the children enjoying making pizzas, I remembered some other photographs taken at the Royal Visit in February, which I liked because they show our younger pupils working with the older ones to create cakes for HRH The Duke of Gloucester's buffet, so I thought I would share them with you now. I wonder how many youngsters have catered for royalty?



Coding Challenge

In April, 71 students in the senior school took part in the inaugural Bebras Coding Challenge, which replaced the Oxford University Computing Challenge. The students had 45 minutes to answer as many coding puzzles as possible.

Best in school were won by Angelos Angelopoulos, Rohan Regmi, Zara Clements, Evie Armour, Qais Ghazzawi, Wulf Pottruff and Navin Dhanju in their respective skills categories.

Angelos, Rohan, Zara, Evie, Qais and Wulf also achieved Gold awards for their high scores. Gold and distinction were awarded to Oliver Elphick, Naima Ng'ethe, Katie Connell, Moyo Ehindero and Nethu Liyanagunawardana.

Distinctions were awarded to, Marley Moon, Jayden Saunyama, Scarlett Barber, Myles Heady, Arya Hutton, Izabella Howard, Watida Saunyama, Arthur Surrige, Emily Hewitt, Kyle Mwatutsa and Toby Sutliff.

Merits also went to Elliot Dyson, Krishan Sinda, Zara Webb, Ishika Sinda, Henry Essam, Yazan Ghazzawi, Carmen Forton, Harrison Gerig, Joseph Emms, Cameron Field, Zakariya Khalil, Isaac-James Jones, Harrison Hawken, Millie Cundy, Sophia Hawken, William Carver, Ethan Carradice, Ben Harnan, Josef Zahad, Ellie Palmer, Viren Mistry, Danny Taylor, Eva Wood, Oliver Hart, Isaac Mottram, Kaylah Umeike and Will McPherson.

The challenge aims to build confidence and inspire students to develop programmed solutions to computational thinking problems.

Exam Season



And just like that... exam season is here. We give lots of advice to our pupils on dealing with exams, but we know it is a stressful time for parents too. It reminded me of some tips from The Children's Society about supporting your child's wellbeing during this critical time:

- ☞ Revision is critical, but this must be coupled with break-out time, such as hobbies or activities they enjoy. It's good to get outside and make the most of time away from their books. If they are using a computer screen a lot, plan an active break, such as a quick walk, or a trip to the gym. They need time away from screens.
- ☞ Exams are stressful and not particularly fun so your teen needs encouragement for each exam they sit. Remind them it's about doing their best, not being the best.
- ☞ Listen to your child, let them vent their frustrations and then offer some advice. We're also here to help if needed.
- ☞ The exam season goes by so fast, so plan something for the end of it to celebrate. After all, it is the end of one chapter in their young life.
- ☞ As they head for the results day in August, be prepared. We have provided advice already to our Year 11s and Year 13 students and we can also offer them last minute advice on results day, but your advice is critical as you know your child best.

Junior Stars of the Week

Class	w/c 5 th May 2025	w/c 12 th May 2025
Forest (Reception)	Blake Holmes	Matteo Spiniello
1M (Meadow)	Clara Mattos De Luca	Jude Van Nieuwkerk
2C (Clover)	Owen Tester-Lowden	Eloisa Manser
3E (Emerald)	Angelina Basra	Jack Abrahamson
3W (Willow)	Tristan Hunt	Tommy Murphy
4J (Jade)	Arun Nibber	Daniel Bertram
4S (Sage)	Samuel Van Nieuwkerk	Harry Elliott-Willey
5W (Woodland)	Whole Class	Barney Wilson
5P (Pine)	Arthur Woodlock	Beth Watt
6J (Juniper)		William Findley-Fox
6F(Fern)	Dylan Basra	Kian Howard & Lizee Dass
6L (Laurel)	Whole Class	Tom Hall & Hannah Holland

Nursery News



This week our Fledglings have been celebrating Cinco de Mayo by creating some colourful sun and cactus paintings. They used their hands to make the cacti paintings and different shaped sponges for sun paintings. They have been embracing being a part of the community by visiting the market to buy fruit and looking at different parts of our town, including the Cat Cafe and ducks at Bedford Park.



The Wrens and Fledglings delighted in a collaborative garden play session, creating flower potions and engaging their senses – smelling blossoms, admiring vibrant colours, and discovering how flowers grow and the importance of water in nurturing them.

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the nursery children took part in a range of engaging activities. They coloured in Union Jack flags and Spitfire planes, while learning about the significance of VE Day. We talked about the brave

soldiers who helped keep us safe during the war and explored the meaning behind our national flag. The children were especially excited to watch a video of the Red Arrows flypast, which added a thrilling touch to the day's celebrations.



Sixth Form News



I would like to thank Bas and Lee from The University of Bedfordshire for accommodating our Year 12 business students recently. What a great way to get some hands on experience by having a go at running a coffee shop and creating an advertising storyboard for a new product.

As you can see from the picture above, studying business is a popular option; we offer different courses, CamTech Triple is equivalent to three A-levels; CamTech single is equivalent to one A-level, both of which are a combination of coursework and non-linear exams, and we also offer the traditional A-level course itself. We've had a number of sixth formers having successfully completed these qualifications go on to study business at university or related courses, such as marketing, which is covered as a topic at this level, achieving top-graded degrees.

We are thrilled to congratulate Maddie Year 12 on securing a place in the Bedfordshire Police 2025 Work Experience Programme! This is remarkable achievement, especially considering that this is only the fourth time the programme has been run – and with over 600 applicants competing for a limited number of spots, Maddie's selection is truly something to be proud of.

The programme is scheduled to take place from the 30th June to the 4th July, and we're incredibly excited to hear all about Maddie's experience. What a fantastic opportunity!

Sports News



It was pleasing to see our U15 cricket team beating BMS recently by 4 runs and congratulations to Aahil and Arthur for their notable performances. Also, it was great to hear about students from five different year groups across the senior school competing together, with particular praise to Luke and Heath. Well done to all involved and they looked very smart in their cricket whites.

The girls' team have also been enjoying playing in the District Cricket League recently and I am pleased to hear from Mr Thomas that they are improving which each match. Keep up the great effort!



I am delighted with the news that our Year 3 and 4s competed at a mixed cricket tournament recently, with one team through to the District finals and the other just missing out, coming second in their group. Well done to all players.

Our Year 11s recently had their very last Games lesson. It was a hot day and there was a very competitive netball match between the boys and the girls. At the end Mr Pugh provided everybody with ice lollies to cool down and to mark the end of an era for the cohort. Thank you to Mr Pugh and well done to the girls on their win!



Principal's Award

Hugo Chrusciak Year 3 showed great courage and maturity by speaking openly to the year group about a personal experience.

Derek Selyer Year 5 for excellent maths work.

Mino Blazinskas Year 3 who was awarded a silver in the junior maths challenge.

Personal Achievements



I was pleased to hear about Henry from Year 10 who is doing very well playing for Cambridge United against teams such as Norwich City, Lincoln, Southend United and Chelsea at U15 level. He was also asked to play a year up at U16 level too. Apparently, Cambridge United didn't beat Chelsea, but they did create plenty of chances, with Henry going closest when his header went just wide from a corner. Next up is a match against Luton. Well done, Henry, great to hear you are progressing so well and, more importantly, enjoying the chance to play competitive sport.

Ollie, Jacob, and Evie played in the U13s Cup Final in the Hunts Youth League between Blunham and Hemmingford. By all accounts, it was an exciting game with a tense penalties finish. Well done to these three players and keep up the great effort.



Well done to Hannah Collins from Year 10 who has been accepted into The National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, which is a wonderful achievement given the rigorous audition process. Hannah has superb musical talents, and we have been very proud to have her feature in school performances, even playing for HRH The Duke of Gloucester recently. Playing with a Brass Band at this level underlines her dedication and I congratulate her.



Well done to Barney from Year 5 who was awarded Players' Player of the Year by Bedford Town U10 Yellows as the top scorer of the season with 23 goals. Barney also represented Bedford Hockey Club's First Team at the Regional Tournament, together with his brother, Ru from Year 6. They won against Harlston Magpies to go through to the national finals and finished in a respectable fourth place. They've also played Barford Tigers in Birmingham recently, with their team winning every game.



Congratulations to Tommy from Year 8 who played in a rugby tournament at the weekend with Olney, where his team won all eight of their matches, making them the tournament winners.

I was delighted to hear about Finn from Year 7 who did well in athletics this weekend. He won the silver medal for long jump with a personal best of 4.49m at the Buckinghamshire County Championships. He also achieved a personal best in the final of the 100m race. Superb effort Finn, well done.



Congratulations to Abigail from Year 5 who took part in a 3K race last weekend. 91 participants, adults and children, competed and Abigail finished in third place overall in the female category and second place in her age group in the female category. Her time places her performance at 'elite level.' Recently, Abigail also finished first in the 600m sprint at Bedford Athletic Stadium. It is so good to hear how much Abigail enjoys distance running and all the training that goes with it at Bedford and County Running Club, keep it up Abigail, we're very proud of you!

For those of you who are attending the Quiz Night this evening, I am sure that you will have a fabulous time and my thanks to the organisers.

If you know of anybody who was a former pupil at either Rushmoor or St Andrew's, please mention the Alumni Lunch to them. It's their chance to see our new build, but to also reassure them, that they remain an important part of our school community, with the histories of Rushmoor and St Andrew's never to be forgotten. They are the foundations on which Bedford Greenacre was built.



PTFA Summer Term Highlights – Lots to Look Forward To!

We've got a busy and exciting summer term ahead, packed with events for everyone to enjoy:

Parent Council Meeting & PTFA Coffee Morning – Friday 23 May

Come along for a relaxed coffee and catch-up with fellow parents and the PTFA team after the Parent Council meeting. It's a great chance to hear updates and share ideas.

Junior Colour Run & Hoe Down – June

Two big events to round off the term in style! Expect plenty of colour, music, and family fun – more details coming soon.

Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop will be open on the following dates:

Friday 23rd May

Friday 13 June

Friday 4 July

Pop in for great quality items at budget-friendly prices.

The shop will also be open for new parents over the summer holidays – dates to be confirmed.

A Big Thank You – Take a Seat Campaign

A huge thank you to all the families who supported our *Take a Seat* campaign. Your generosity has contributed to the retractable seating in the new drama studio. After lots of last-minute requests, we are now in the process of engraving the donor stars and hope to have them installed ready for the start of the new academic year.

Finally, if any of you fancy a game of badminton, then we are pleased to offer our courts for hire every Thursday.

Kind regards

I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH
Principal

