

Principal's Blog

Edition 58: 2 May 2025



Bedford
Greenacre
Independent
School

Dear Parents, guardians and friends

I hope all the pupils had a lovely break. I know that many of the GCSE and A-level pupils came in to the school during the second week for some extra revision and my thanks go to the members of staff who gave up some of their holiday to provide these booster sessions. The formal exams start on Thursday next week, 8th May, so a sensible attitude towards revision is vitally important now and throughout the 6 week exam period. Please remember that staff are available to help with any last minute queries throughout the study leave period.

Last week, the GCSE geographers headed off to Bedford Riverside North to investigate the regeneration of the area by conducting environmental quality surveys and questionnaires with members of the public, which rounds off this topic.



Site update

During the Easter break, the sports field has been levelled and seeded and the access road to the field is near completion. Of course, grass will take a while to be ready for the rigours of rugby and football, but we are heading in the right direction.

We added some 'pod' style rooms during the Easter break, which will be used for one-to-one tutoring and also during the exam season.

The finishing touches were also added to the performance area, with curtains and rails installed to give more staging floorspace when all the tiered seating is fully out by making use of some of the dining hall floorspace.

Talking careers

I am keen to expand our careers provision and I would be pleased to hear from anybody who would be willing to give a presentation about their work that may inspire our pupils for the future. These talks can be aimed at small groups or can be during a year group assembly. If you are able to volunteer, please get in touch using hello@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk. We are interested in all types of industries and if you do not want to give a presentation yourself, perhaps you have a work colleague or a friend who would be interested to help out, if so, please let me know.

Community cohesion

You may have come along to the car event held by Petrol Headonism recently, which proved to be popular. We are looking at lots of different ways to promote our wonderful school within the community and we are hiring out the facilities more and more.



Please spread the word, the sports hall can be used, the function room and kitchen can be hired out for parties, weddings, etc. The performance hall is available for use, together with the classrooms. It's a great location with plenty of car parking and I am reliably informed that the acoustics in the function hall are superb.

Residentials

We are a unique school in Bedford because we cater for all the age groups and quite often pupils start in their early years and stay with us through to sixth form, so it is interesting for parents to know about the enrichment opportunities the children have ahead of them.

This term is full of residential trips, starting this week with Year 5 who are enjoying camping in a field in Oxfordshire and learning bushcraft skills... they are very lucky with the weather this week! After the Bank Holiday weekend, Year 6 will be off to Longtown for their residential and the following week it will be Year 7 visiting Caythorpe for a fun filled few days of adventurous pursuits. Then, just before the half-term break, Year 2 will enjoy an overnight stay at Gullivers in Milton Keynes, which is always a popular trip and starts the pupils off on the whole residential experience. After half-term, Year 8 and 9 head, separately, to Wales for outdoor pursuits, years 3 and 4 will be going to Grafham Water and Year 10 will be trying surfing and body boarding in Cornwall. Not to be left out, some of our sixth formers will be heading off to Berlin if they are studying history and the geographers will be having a residential in Dorset. We also have pupils participating in the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions during this term, with the Bronze group trekking in the Turvey, Harrold areas, whilst the Silver and Gold Groups will go off to The Peak District in July. So a busy time ahead!

After a break for the last couple of years, the ski trip will be back again in December, which is truly unique because we encourage parents and siblings from other schools to come along too. This year's trip has proved really popular and is full, but look out for the details for 2026 if you are interested in attending.

Junior Stars of the Week

Class	w/c 23 rd March 2025	w/c 28 th April 2025
Forest (Reception)	All Reception Class	Eliana Vllasaliu
1M (Meadow)	Olivia Thomas	Barney Chappell
2C (Clover)	Grace Kitchener	Issa Choudhry
3E (Emerald)	Hugo Acquah	Finley Ypey
3W (Willow)	Masha Sternyk	Oliver Watt
4J (Jade)	Hugo Acquah	Finley Ypey
4S (Sage)	Eli Hickman	Maisie-Alice McBride
5W (Woodland)	Bentley Hoffman	All 5W Class
5P (Pine)	Arthur Woodlock	All 5P Class
6J (Juniper)	Sienna Hill	Henry Kotecha
6F (Fern)	Arhaan Sayed	Heidi Jackson Leeks
6L (Laurel)	Oso Twomey	Beau Connolly



As part of the PSHE curriculum covering religious education, Year 5 participated in the Queen's Park Faith Tour. They visited Christian, Muslim and Sikh places of worship, learning about religious traditions and the similarities between each faith, with plenty of opportunities to ask their own questions to help their understanding.

Year 5 pupils had another great enrichment opportunity last week, with a visit to Williams Racing. The

object of the visit was to learn how STEM subjects are important within the motor racing industry. It was a great experience to get up close to the cars and hopefully inspire some of the pupils to think about the wide range of careers available in the motor racing industry.



Junior School Celebration



We were delighted to welcome Junior School parents on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th April for a celebration. It was an opportunity for families to view the artwork the children have created, together with their poems.

The children also sang their hearts out, with some very clever adaptations of famous songs written by the talented Miss Robson. Special thanks go to Mr Day for the musical contributions and to Mrs Mortensen for overseeing the organisation of the work which the pupils wanted to showcase.

Well done to all the performers and thank you to everybody who came along to support this event.



Nursery News



We would like to welcome a new member of staff to our Nursery Team. Claudia has a BA Hons Degree in Early Childhood Education and Level 3 Teaching Assistant qualification.

Over the past month Blackbirds have been looking after 10 furry little caterpillars, watching them grow and transform overtime. Each day they checked in on the caterpillars and would refer to our Butterfly life cycle book to identify what current stage they were on. They created a caterpillar viewing station, watching the caterpillars grow and eventually form a chrysalis. The butterflies emerged and the children were so excited to name them. After leaving their cocoons they could set them free! Some butterflies were a bit nervous to fly away so the children got to hold them briefly before they took off! This was an amazing experience to witness a lifecycle of an insect and has got the children asking questions, making predictions, showing care and concern for things in the natural world. It's been great fun!



Owls have been learning about the 'k' sound in class, and to support their learning they had a go at making some very yummy vegetable kebabs. The children were excited to discuss all the different types of fruit and vegetables they know and smell each one they added to their kebab. They showed great fine motor control chopping up the vegetables and adding them to their skewers.



Wrens have been exploring the colours of the rainbow by sponge painting making colourful marks on paper and learning the rainbow song.

All the children had a great time when they were visited by the Police. After a briefing about road safety, the children were shown all the equipment the police carry on them and listen to the walkie-talkie. All the children were able to sit in the police car and sound the siren and beep the horn!



Sixth Form News

It's been a bustling start to the summer term for our Sixth Form students. Year 12 business students recently visited the University of Bedfordshire, enjoying insightful workshops in business management and marketing—special thanks to Mrs van der Sande for organising this.

Meanwhile, after months of indoor cricket net practice in the new gym, students played the first-ever U18 cricket match against Bedford School this week—well done to all involved!

Year 13 students are deeply immersed in their exam preparations, gearing up for their A-level exams in a few weeks. With our Year 13 Head Student team soon departing.

Year 12 students have been enthusiastically applying for Head Student and prefect roles, with an exceptionally high number and standard of applications this year. Stay tuned for these exciting announcements!

Sports News

We are moving the sports news back to our main Facebook and Instagram accounts, to share our pupils achievements with the entire school community going forward, so please look out for it there, rather than on BGISport.

Our Year 3 & 4 pupils excelled at the district Quadkids athletics competition. The highlight was our dominance in the boys' 400m race. Our squad finished third overall out of over 40 schools, a remarkable achievement against some of the largest state schools.

Principal's Awards

Spike Hoskins-Yapp Year 7 for obtaining 100 house points

Personal Achievements

As you know, we like to share the achievements of our pupils outside of the school day, so please send in details if your child has any news to share.



Well done to Arthur who won the men's goalkeeper award at the end of season.

I was delighted to receive a lovely email about Jesse and his participation in rugby with Bedford Junior Blues, stating that Mr Thomas encouraged Jesse to pursue rugby and that has led to amazing opportunities for him. Most recently, Jesse took part in a two-day tournament organised by Leicester Tigers in Bognor Regis. His team won all six matches and also scored wonderfully with the 'Fair Play Points' which are in respect of players, spectators and coaches' behaviour. Well done, Jesse, keep up the great effort and thank you to Mr Thomas for inspiring another rugby fan!



Christiana achieved remarkable results at the Senior Ladies Wing Athletics Meet on Sunday 27th April. She secured 3rd place in the 200m, 2nd place in the 100m, and 2nd place in the relay. Additionally, Christiana won the overall shield for the Women's category, recognising her as the best performing woman.

She has qualified for the regional competition on 21st June. Congratulations, Christiana!

I am also delighted to announce that after five phases of trials for the Northampton County Cricket Team selection, which spanned approximately four months, Arhaan Year 6 has been selected to play as an U11 county player. Additionally, Aahil Year 9 has been selected to play for the Northants District East Team U15.

Congratulations to both Arhaan and Aahil on their impressive achievements!



We are thrilled to share the news from the Bedford Aquathlon held last weekend. Our very own Emily showcased her incredible athletic prowess, securing an impressive 4th place in her age group.

Emily's dedication and hard work were evident as she navigated through with determination and grace. Her performance not only highlights her personal achievements but also serves as an inspiration to us all.

We are proud to inform you that Owen from Year 2 has been selected for the Bedford County Swim Squad. This is a remarkable achievement, especially at such a young age. We are incredibly proud of Owen's dedication and hard work.



Over the Easter break, two of our Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to perform at The Shaftsbury Theatre in London's West End for their Stagecoach Dance Troupe. Dancing to a 'Strictly Come Dancing' theme, Alexander Simpson, Maisie Eade and Elyn Daniel took centre stage combining modern dance techniques with traditional dances, such as the Paso doble. Well done to them all! I am sure that Mrs Mahoney is proud that two of her GCSE dance students had such a fantastic opportunity. From the glamour of the West End, this week the girls have had their practical GCSE choreography examination where they had to create their own dance based on the given stimulus and then perform it for assessment.

Talking about dance, please remember that at our Kimbolton Road site, ELEV8 provide a variety of dance classes. You can find out more on www.elev8studios.co.uk/bedforddanceschool they are located just behind our Nursery.

Don't forget to book up your tickets for the PTFA Quiz Night on the 16th May if you haven't already done so. It is always a fun (and competitive) evening!

I hope you enjoy the long weekend.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I M Daniel'.

I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH
Principal

A promotional poster for PTFA Quiz Night. The background is yellow with several large, overlapping circles in shades of pink and grey. The text is in bold, pink and black fonts. At the top, it says 'PTFA QUIZ NIGHT' in large pink letters. Below that, it says 'FRIDAY 16TH MAY 2025 AT MANTON LANE' and '6.45 for a 7.00 p.m start until 10.30 p.m.' in black. In the center, there is a graphic with the words 'QUIZ TIME!' in yellow and blue, surrounded by question marks and a starburst effect. Below the graphic, there are three columns of text: '£20 PER HEAD', 'INCLUDES FULL BUFFET', and 'PTFA RUN BAR WITH CASH OR CARD PAYMENTS'. At the bottom, there is a small logo and the text 'PLEASE JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN AT OUR ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT!'. Below that, it says 'Book via Gina', 'gciuro@bedfordgreenacre.co.uk', and 'Reserve a table of 10. First come, first served as we only have 10 tables available'.