

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

As I mentioned in my last blog, I sent out a letter recently reiterating our rules surrounding mobile phones. Pupils at our school have never been allowed access to their mobile phones throughout the school day, including for music, and now the Education Secretary is advising all schools to ban them. This week the House of Lords has backed the ban and changes will be considered by MPs which will see legislation move between the Commons and Lords until agreement on the Bill's final wording is reached. Ofsted will be expected to include the implementation of mobile phone policies as part of future inspections. The government is also advising teachers not to use their phones in front of pupils, which is something I have always strongly discouraged too. There is specific guidance in relation to mobile use for sixth formers and there are also specifics which apply on school trips. Whilst there is continued debate about the academic benefits of banning mobiles in the classroom, it certainly creates a nicer environment for pupils to enjoy without the distraction of their phone.

Studies suggest that schools without mobiles see improved pupil mental health and a stronger sense of community. For example, Norway conducted a national study which showed that mental health issues in girls dropped significantly in a mobile-free school, with bullying rates decreasing for both girls and boys. Generally, schools with bans reported fewer issues with covert filming, cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content. Less phone use also means that schools have fewer safeguarding issues to deal with and staff can spend their time focused on learning instead of problems.

Careers:

I was really pleased to see the response from the pupils about Professor Hindocha's workshop recently. My sincere thanks to him and his team from Bedford Hospital for showing some of our pupils how to suture and running a question and answers session on working in the NHS. What a fantastic session it was and no doubt will have inspired our pupils to consider the various opportunities available in the medical and caring professions.



Our careers guidance is going from strength to strength under the direction of Mr Saunders and Ms De Sylva, with this initiative recently, and another one giving our pupils advice about careers in law. Whilst much of the advice centres around those in year 7 and above, as they are beginning to think about next steps in terms of option subjects in year 9 for GCSE, A-level and Cambridge Technical subjects in Year 11 for sixth form and then the sixth formers considering their university courses, we are also keen to offer wider career ideas to our younger pupils. With this in mind, a Junior Careers Fayre will be planned for the future to keep them well informed and to sow the seeds earlier for them to consider their futures. This is in line with our most recent ISI Inspection Report.



Events:

My thanks go to the PTFA team who gave up their Friday evening last weekend to host the Year 7 and 8 disco. I hope everybody who attended had a nice time. The performance hall is really adaptable and the blackout area provides a great place for dancing.

It is really good to have this facility on site which is going to be used in March for the Spring Ball and then again in June for the Year 11 and 13 Prom. I am told the acoustics are superb!

Maths Challenge:

Our pupils have once again demonstrated remarkable talent in this year's maths challenge, and I am delighted to share the outcomes with you.

Seth Johnson-Magee and Alfred Finlayson both achieved gold certificates, earning themselves a place in the prestigious Kangaroo follow-on rounds. Alongside them, a strong collection of silver and bronze certificates reflects the hard work and mathematical confidence shown across the school.

Among these successes, one achievement stands out for its extraordinary nature. Mino, in Year 4, took on a challenge designed for students in Years 9–11—a leap that would seem ambitious for even the most confident younger mathematician. Not only did he rise to the occasion, he excelled: scoring 59 marks, just two marks shy of a gold certificate, and securing a silver certificate as well as the third-highest score in the entire school.

This is an exceptional accomplishment and a testament to Mino's curiosity, determination, and mathematical ability. We are immensely proud of him, and of all our pupils who took part. Their achievements reflect the vibrant culture of learning and aspiration that continues to grow within our school community.

Nursery News:

Fledglings have enjoyed an energetic and creative month, and I am pleased to share a glimpse of their wonderful work.



In preparation for Chinese New Year, the children transformed their classroom with beautifully decorated lanterns and fans, all crafted while listening to traditional Chinese music. Their enthusiasm for exploring another culture has been a joy to see.

The children also showed great compassion by helping to raise funds for Jamaica's hurricane relief efforts. They baked Jamaican ginger cupcakes and explored a sensory rice tray inspired by the colours of the Jamaican flag, all while enjoying the rhythms of Jamaican reggae music. Their engagement and generosity have been truly heartening.



It has been a month full of learning, creativity, and kindness—qualities we are proud to see flourishing in our youngest pupils.

Junior Stars of the Week:

Class	w/c 25 th January 2026	w/c 2 nd February 2026
Forest (Reception)	Eli Mazura	Nifra Buhari
1M (Meadow)	Robbie D'Anna	Jonnie Walters
2C (Clover)	Noora Buhari	William Dixon
3E (Emerald)	Charlie Spendlove	Ari Karavadra
3W (Willow)	Harriette Soul	Grace Eastwood
4J (Jade)	Tristan Hunt	Reina Bankole
4S (Sage)	Abigail Cunningham	Charles Stewart
5W (Woodland)	Lola Smith	Arun Nibber
5P (Pine)	Lily Eckland	Sophie Surridge
5M (Moss)	Finley Ypey	Sebi Coleman
6J (Juniper)	Ronak Keshav	Alisha Makombe
6F (Fern)	Abigail Holland	Bruno Adgeas Da Mota
6L (Laurel)	Francesca Scott-Brining	Callum Kelly

Sports News:

I am really pleased that our 3G pitch and netball courts are being put to very good use. I have been up to the sports ground to watch fixtures recently and it makes such a difference to have these facilities on site. It is a vast difference since my days as a sports teacher! It is also clear that parents who have come along to spectate at fixtures are really pleased with the new facilities, with really positive comments being made on our social media posts. Recently there was video showing some of the staff, plus the Year 8s cheering our U9 team onto the pitch, which I feel shows off well the supportive environment we have at Bedford Greenacre, with different age groups cheering each other on. Well done to the U9 players, with Abigail Cunningham and Will Orr taking Players of the Match.



Over the past couple of weeks, we've hosted a football tournament for Year 1. There has been a fixture for the U10/11 football squad, with Joel Eade and Noah Fuller being named Players of the Match. I am pleased that we were able to host our competitors afterwards for post-match tea, which is something we've always wanted to do, but as our old games field was off-site, it was difficult. Now it's not, so thanks to our catering team for their assistance.



Our U13 netball team played Webber School recently with Iris Eade taking Player of the Match, they also played Akeley Wood with Player of the Match being awarded to Audrey Jones. The U15 netball team had fixtures with two wins and Iona and Helen were named Players of the Match.



Our sixth formers have the opportunity to be members of local health clubs, either Pure Gym or Towers Health and Racquets Club, which gives them ample opportunity to develop their fitness. We are also arranging fixtures with local schools in the more traditional sports, such as football and netball this season. Last week our sixth form netballers played against BMS, drawing. Thank you to all those who took part and those who went along to support them.

I would like to note my thanks to SSG for providing gymnastic taster sessions for our junior pupils in our gym, which SSG use as the home of their Gymnastics Academy and School Holiday Club.

Geography:

Design met geography recently with Mr Saunders tasking his year 7 class with creating an earthquake resistant bridge. This is in connection with how we study tectonic plate movement, considering how humans can plan, prepare and predict geographical hazards. Well done to all the pupils involved, I hope they found it interesting, they certainly produced some very impressive designs! Have we got some future engineers in our midst? Or perhaps some of these geographers will chase careers in disaster management! I know at least one of our former pupils went on to study physical geography at university and now is a Flood Risk Officer, so all these enrichment opportunities do plant ideas for future studies and the workplace opportunities they provide.



Principal's Awards:

- Evie Redhead from Year 7 received an award for her amazing effort in English and being incredible at reading poetry and enthusing the class with her zest for learning.
- Beth Watts and Arabella Taylor in Year 6 for their efforts in history, English and maths lessons and always giving of their best.
- Liliana Sepede Year 7 for art.
- Connor Bannan in Year 5 for an excellent piece of creative writing.
- Natasha Turpie in Year 6 for a brilliant piece of writing.
- Elizabeth in Year 6 for her fantastic ideas and a beautifully presented book in English.
- Tristan Hunt in Year 4 for his science project on the state of matter.
- Olivia Kofinas in Year 8 for his brilliant, detailed and moving diary entry for a white crew member on a slave ship crossing from Africa to the Americas. It is full of vivid descriptions of the conditions suffered by the slaves and the emotions of the writer. By any standard or age group it is an incredible piece of work.
- Matthew Page Year 7 for his geography homework.

Personal Pursuits:

Well done to Evie Martin in Year 9 who raised £1,170 for Young Lives vs. Cancer by running 50 miles in January. Evie has chosen to support this charity because a family friend's 11-year-old daughter has recently been diagnosed with leukaemia. If you would like to contribute to Evie's fundraiser, please contact Gina at the front desk.

Eva Pape in Year 13 is looking to raise £2,500 for Great Ormond Street and will be running the London Marathon in April. It's a deeply personal journey for Eva who has received treatment from the age of 2 years at the hospital. Watch this space for events Eva will be organising to involve the school community to be part of her fundraising.



I would like to congratulate Elsie in Year 11 and Hazel Martynski in Year 9 who have both earned the opportunity to represent Team England at the Dance World Cup, which takes place in Dublin later this year. Participation in the Dance World Cup is a significant achievement, and I am informed that it provides invaluable experience in performance, culture, teamwork, and personal development. Good luck to them both and the rest of their team who are competing.

Spring Ball – Friday 13th March:

We are delighted to announce that this year's Spring Ball will be held at BGI on Friday 13th March. This is always a highlight of the school calendar and a fantastic evening for parents, carers, staff, and friends of the school. Please see the event poster for full details. If you would like to book a table or purchase individual tickets, we encourage you to do so soon, as tables are already being reserved quickly. Don't miss out on what promises to be a wonderful event.

We have the senior production of High School Musical to look forward to next week and I wish all the cast and crew well with the performances and thank staff and sixth formers who have volunteered to help out on the evening.

This will be the last blog before the half-term break, so I hope all the pupils enjoy that. My usual reminder to the seniors with formal exams in the summer is to use their time over the break wisely and ensure they revise.

Kind regards



I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH
Principal

