

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends

Firstly, I have some staffing updates to share with you.

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Stott back to the school team, our former Assistant Head, who only retired in July last year cannot stay away. Mrs Stott will be working on a part-time basis to cover for Mrs Steward's absence, mainly with her Year 9 English class. Mrs Stott previously taught English and drama to our pupils so we are delighted that she is able to come back to assist. I would like to thank Mr Jones, Head of the English Department, who has been reviewing classwork and planning the lessons over the past weeks to ensure the understanding of the pupils whilst they have been studying Romeo and Juliet. I am pleased the pupils have continued to receive excellent support during Mrs Steward's absence, with differentiated work, key extracts, analyses and short clips to build context of the play. With Mrs Stott returning as a subject specialist, the class will continue to move forward with confidence.

Mrs Hayman-Read, Head of Sport, is currently on a period of absence, receiving medical treatment. Mr Thomas, Head of Junior Sport, will cover her duties. We all wish Mrs Hayman-Read the very best with her treatment and hope to see her back at school soon.

Due to Mr Thomas taking charge of most of the sport, his Year 3 class will be receiving their literacy lessons from Mrs Mortenson, who is the other Year 3 teacher, joining her small class group. Mr Thomas will continue to teach his class for the other subjects where he is timetabled to do so.

Finally, in regard to staffing, due to Mrs Tarlton's absence, her business lessons are being covered by Ms De Sylva, who is fully qualified in business and has also observed the majority of the lessons this year. Mr Evans and Mrs Reilly will also continue to teach business at GCSE level and Mrs Morris will teach both A-level and Cambridge Technical business classes.

We are extremely fortunate to be able to accommodate changes to staffing from within our own ranks without having to rely on supply agencies, which is something we've never had to do. It helps our pupils to have friendly familiar faces to teach them. We are fortunate to have a strong business team, English department and Junior School staff who have worked together to ensure staffing will be covered effectively whilst we are dealing with unforeseen circumstances.

To support their literacy lessons, where they have been reading Roald Dahl's magical stories, Year 3 definitely got the golden ticket... with a trip to the Roald Dahl Museum!

I hope they were suitably inspired by the hands-on storytelling activities and seeing the replica of Roald's writing hut. It will certainly help with their own creative writing.

I was really delighted to have a former St Andrew's pupil return to the school to give an inspiring careers assembly. Amie Gray shared her incredible journey from our school, through to university and onto her current role as a brand marketer at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.

Particularly powerful was her reflection on the values she developed at St Andrew's about working hard and being kind, which are the principles that continue to guide her both professionally and personally. Amie is a wonderful role model for our school community and I am very proud of her and thank her for giving up her time so generously.





Year 5 and 6 headed off to the O2 Arena to take part in Young Voices 2026, which marked 30 years of empowering children through music.

Young Voices aims to inspire a lifelong love of music by giving children the opportunity to perform in the world's largest school choir concerts, believing that music helps to bring people together.

It was good to hear about the Key Stage 1 pupils exploring the fairy garden at Bromham Mill. I am always pleased to see the children enjoy the great outdoors, even if it was a bit wet! From the happy faces in the photograph, they didn't let the rain dampen their spirits.



It was a pleasure for us to be able to host the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition with a number of local schools welcomed to BGI. It is an event aimed to challenge debating abilities and it builds confidence in public speaking as the participants perform, persuade, and entertain the audience with their displays of knowledge on a topic of their choosing. Our own pupils spoke with passion and confidence.

Junior Stars of the Week:

Class	w/c 9 February 2026	w/c 23 February 2026
Forest (Reception)	Otis Griffiths	Sienna Ubhi
1M (Meadow)	Massi Fregapane	Aliza Locke
2C (Clover)	Clara Mattos De Luca	Jason Makombe
3E (Emerald)	Owen Tester-Lowden	Whole Class
3W (Willow)	William Robinson	Ayva Khinda
4J (Jade)	Hugo Chrusciak	Oliver Watt
4S (Sage)	Maggie Wittich-Swain	Amirah Bombata
5W (Woodland)	Arun Nibber	Whole Class
5P (Pine)	Daniel Bertrum	Harry Elliott-Willey
5M (Moss)	Yaz Ismet	Luca Newman
6J (Juniper)	Whole Class	Oliver Prosser
6F (Fern)	Derrick Selyer	Whole Class
6L (Laurel)	Angelo Modica-Amore	Leon Hunstone

Sports News:

On the sports front over the past few weeks, Bedford Town Football Club welcomed our U11 squad to their ground. It was an incredible experience for our players to collect their trophy, take part in a lap of honour at half-time, and for some to walk out with the team in front of the crowd.

We were pleased to partner with Great Denham Junior Parkrun recently to provide marshals for their event. Well done to everybody who participated, particularly Emily Newbury who came first overall.

It was great to have some of our pupils take part in a Kurling Festival, finishing in second place. It's always good to introduce new sports and apparently new age kurling is becoming more popular and is being encouraged by the School Games organisation.

Great to see the netball and football fixtures going strong over the past few weeks since my last blog. I was particularly delighted to see our sports department host the ISA BGI Trophy with 16 schools taking part. Both of our squads put in outstanding performances throughout the tournament and many congratulations to our A Team, who were crowned champions after a hard-fought 1-0 victory. My thanks to Bedford Town FC for providing referees and to Mr Thomas and the sports department for their superb organisation of the event.

Follow us on FaceBook and Instagram for full sports news.



Nursery News

Four-year-old superstar, Otilie Lovell-Tinsley took to the stage for her very first dance competition, representing Belle Etoile Dance school, and shone brighter than ever! Placing 2nd in her jazz solo – beating competitors twice her age – and proudly bringing home a second trophy- the Judges' Award for *Most Promising Novice Soloist* of the entire competition. We couldn't be prouder of this tiny dancer!



Over the past few weeks, the children have enjoyed exploring a range of celebrations while developing new skills. Pancake-themed activities were a particular highlight, with lots of concentration—and smiles—as they practised their gross motor skills flipping pancakes. Learning about Olney's traditional pancake race inspired them to hold their own lively race across the playground.



The classroom has also been filled with the smell of baking as the children explored our shape of the month: hearts. By making Valentine's shortbread biscuits, they practised early numeracy through measuring, comparing quantities and cutting dough into shapes, all while building creativity and confidence.

Personal Pursuits



James completed his final session of The Greensand Trust Youth Ranger programme, a six-month conservation project for 13–18-year-olds. He contributed 390 hours of volunteering at Clophill Lakes, taking part in coppicing, tree planting, mammal surveying, habitat creation and trail maintenance.

He received the John Muir Award, which recognises those who discover, explore, conserve and share their experiences of wild places. Well Done James!

Emily and Joe both competed in the Bedfordshire Swimming Championships over the past two weekends. Joe had an outstanding meet, earning 20 medals across gold, silver and bronze in a full range of strokes and relays.



Principal's Awards:

The following students have been awarded a Principal's Award for outstanding attitude and behaviour during the High School Musical rehearsals.

Amelie Sandford Year 9
 Alfred Finlayson Year 9
 Seb Fawcett Year 9
 Sienna Williams Year 7
 Rohan Regmi Year 10

Conor Smith Year 3 & Finley Kelly Year 3 for numeracy

Finally, I was delighted to hear about a really nice story this week. Some monetary notes flew out of a car on departure recently and one of our junior pupils was honest enough to hand it in to Mrs Mortensen, who then did some detailed investigative work, eventually tracking down the car and owner. This demonstrates how amazing our pupils are and highlights the dedication from our staff in taking the time to go that extra step. I am really pleased that the money found its way back to the rightful owner.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'I M Daniel'.

I M Daniel, BA (QTS), NPQH
Principal