



WHINCHAT

2024

2025

BEDFORD PREPARATORY SCHOOL



WHINCHAT MAGAZINE
AUTUMN 2025

Below:
Aveer's got talent



BEDFORD PREPARATORY



SCHOOL



Whinchat 2024-25

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INDEPENDENT BOYS' SCHOOL OF THE YEAR



★★★★★ WORLD LEADING BOARDING SCHOOL

WHINCHAT

Editorial team:

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Photographer:

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Printed by:

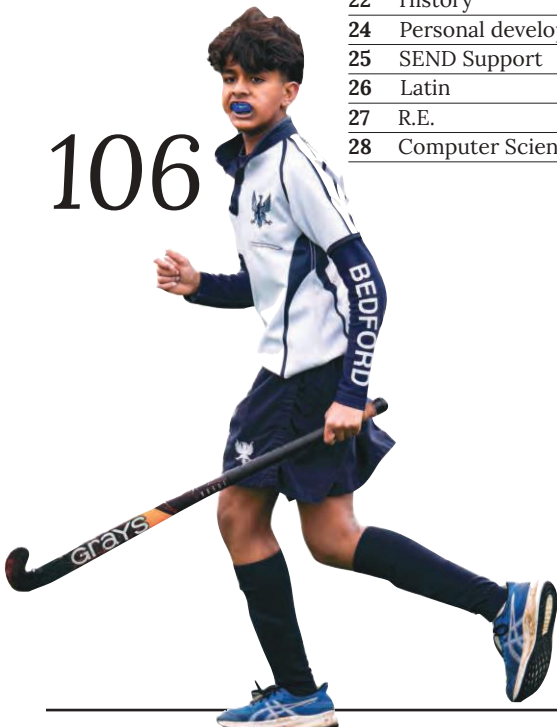
Pureprint Group,
Uckfield, East Sussex

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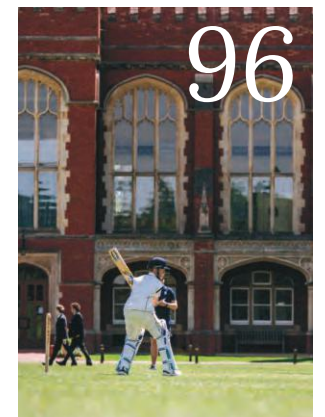
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Thank you to all the staff and boys who contributed to this magazine

Produced by



Osborne Creative

WELCOME TO WHINCHAT MAGAZINE 2024-2025

As the school year draws to a close, it's a natural moment to reflect—not just on what's been achieved, but on the journey we've shared.

This has been a year marked by curiosity, creativity, and quiet determination. Whether in classrooms, on stage, on the sports field, or in the everyday rhythm of school life, our boys have continued to grow—not only in knowledge, but in character and kindness.

What makes our Prep School so special is not just the achievements we can measure, but the spirit that runs through everything we do. It's in the friendships formed, the challenges embraced, and the small victories that often go unseen. I'm incredibly proud of every boy who has contributed to the life of the school this year; each one has a story worth telling.

My thanks go to the Whinchat team for capturing so many of those stories in the pages ahead. Their work offers a vibrant snapshot of school life—moments big and small that together tell the story of a remarkable year. You'll also find a wonderful summary of individual highlights in the Head Boy's speech later in this edition.



We're fortunate to be supported by an exceptional community. Thank you to our parents for your encouragement and involvement, and especially to the Prep Guild. Your generosity of time and spirit continues to enrich school life in countless ways. A special mention must go to Melissa Morgan, whose vision and creativity brought the new Atrium to life. With the support of Debbie Macey White, she has helped create a space that now sits at the heart of our school—both physically and symbolically.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated and talented teachers, and to our committed and talented Governors. And finally, to the boys: thank you. Your energy, humour, and enthusiasm make this such a rewarding place to lead. This magazine is a celebration of you—your efforts, your progress, and the memories you've made.

I hope you enjoy this look back at a year filled with learning, laughter, and lasting moments. **W**

WORDS BY
Mr Ian Silk, Headmaster



What makes our Prep School so special is not just the achievements we can measure, but the spirit that runs through everything we do



Oscar McCartie

Head Boy

HEAD BOY'S SPEECH 2024

Thank you, Mr Silk. Headmasters, governors, special guests, staff, parents, and boys – welcome to our Speech Day 2025. It is a great pleasure and honour to be standing here today as the Head Boy of Bedford Prep School. Today, we come together as a community to celebrate the many successes and achievements of the boys throughout the year. It feels like just a moment ago that I was chosen to be Head Boy – a moment that's gone by quickly, but one that I'll always treasure. When my name was called out, I was shocked, then happy, and then immediately panicked about writing this speech. Looking back on my time in the Prep School, there are many moments I'll always remember: the Egyptian Museum in Year 3, the trips to Ickwell, and of course, the amazing PGL trip in Year 7. Zip wiring, dragon boat racing, and much more – it was a fantastic experience. But this year, one of the funniest moments has to be at Christmas, when I missed an entire morning of lessons helping Mrs Beveridge and Mrs Hargreaves

untangle fairy lights for the EMH. It felt like trying to solve a Rubik's Cube... blindfolded... underwater. And I'm still not sure we ever got them all sorted – so if any of the fairy lights blinked in Morse code during assembly, now you know why. This year also marks a special milestone. Mr Silk has now been the Headmaster of the Prep School for 12 years – over a decade of service and dedication. I know that for a fact because he kindly sent me the previous 11 Head Boy speeches as inspiration. (Though I started to wonder whether he just wanted me to copy and paste one... I resisted. Mostly.) But seriously, Mr Silk, you've brought energy, enthusiasm, and a unique sense of style to the role – especially when dressing up as Where's Wally or Winnie the Pooh every World Book Day. In fact, we've all spent years trying to find Wally – and now we know, he's been in the Prep School all along. You've listened to us, guided us, and inspired us. So, boys – take a moment to reflect on all that Mr Silk has done for us in his time here.

And also, take a moment to say thank you – because this is probably the only time we're allowed to say his name in assembly without getting "the look."

SPORT
This year has truly been extraordinary for sport at our school. What fills me with pride is how many pupils had the chance to represent us—some featured weekly, others stepped up just once. That inclusive spirit is what we celebrate and aim to build on.

UNBEATEN U10 RUGBY TEAMS
Our U10A and U10B rugby teams finished the season undefeated – not only in regular matches, but also across all the festivals they attended. That consistency speaks volumes about their teamwork and determination.

CRICKET TRIUMPH & HIGHLIGHTS
The U13A squad won our T10 competition, with Ameer scoring a century and several players recording hat-tricks. Meanwhile, the U12s pulled off a thrilling win against a visiting South African side – secured on the penultimate ball.

Swimming on the Big Stage
A huge well done to Luke Toland, Austin Reddy, and Kuba Kopec, who all qualified for the IAPS finals. They experienced swimming at the Olympic Pool in the London Aquatics Centre – not something many achieve at this age.

TABLE TENNIS EXCELLENCE
The U13 table tennis team progressed all the way to the National Semi-Finals – top 16 schools in the country – with Nayan Pattni making a key contribution to that success.

SOARING IN GOLF
Over 25 boys took up golf this year. The U13s competed broadly, with Oliver Smith and Nathan Nolan finishing second in the National Finals. Our U15s – Nathan, Oliver, Jacob Schouten, and Jack Greenwood – played in the national Swifts competition across the UK, including Scotland, York, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire.

COUNTY CHAMPION BADMINTON
Our U13 badminton team were crowned county champions, winning every match on finals day. Rishit and Haneesh stepped up to the U14 regionals, where they secured a well-deserved second place finish.

HOCKEY HIGHLIGHT
The U13Bs triumphed 2-1 in a thrilling match against The Perse. The U12As lifted the IAPS Plate, while the U11Bs recorded a dominant 9-1 victory over Felsted.

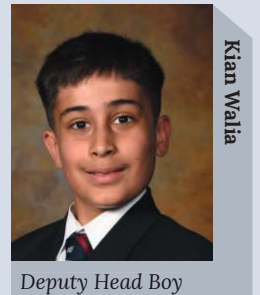
MUSIC
Wow – what a year it's been for music! Honestly, there's been so much

going on, I don't even know where to start... but here goes nothing! The concerts this year have been absolutely epic. One of my favourites was the Autumn Concert. "Saturday Afternoon" by the senior choir? Hilarious. I was crying with laughter, and not just because of the singing – Oliver Gibson on that tiny trike? Legend. I couldn't tell if he was about to start a race or get pulled over by the music police! House Singing was awesome this year too. The energy – just brilliant. Big shout-out to Howard for winning the unison singing with Drops of Jupiter, and Harpur for smashing the part-song with Let It Be. Loads of boys have been doing instrumental lessons, and we had some serious wins at the Bedfordshire Festival. So many people placed in the top three in their categories, which is amazing. Everyone who took part – you should be really proud of yourselves. Oh, and the Composition Competition? That was seriously cool this year. Some of the Year 8 entries were so good, I thought I might need earplugs... but, like, in the best way possible. It was loud, it was creative, and it was awesome. And House Music? Next level. So many people performed and just completely nailed it. Whether it's a big fancy concert or just a small one in the music room, it's always fun hearing everyone play and sing. Before I move on, I just want to say a massive thank you to Mrs Gedye and Mr Roberts and the music



Freddie Gibbs

Deputy Head Boy



Kian Walia

Deputy Head Boy



Head Boy's Speech 2024

department for making all of this happen. You've been amazing and we couldn't have done any of it without you.

I hope this speech is 'Cool Beans' enough for you!

DRAMA:

The Drama department has truly thrived this year, bringing us a host of unforgettable events.

From House Drama to Bedford Prep School's Got Talent, the Bedfordshire Speech and Drama Festival, LAMDA exams, and the School Production, it's been a year filled with creativity and enthusiasm. Let's not forget the variety of drama and drama tech clubs that continue to inspire students to explore their passions.

At the festival, our boys showcased an impressive range of talents – from dramatic scenes and duologues to business pitches, prepared readings, prose performances, and poetry recitations. Their creativity and hard work were evident in each of their performances, and they earned fantastic results. We also saw a strong commitment to their LAMDA exams, with the boys eagerly awaiting their results.

The House Drama competition was a brilliant celebration of devised work, with Howard lifting the trophy. It was a fitting tribute to World Book Day, and we must also



The wonder of Bedford Prep School's Got Talent with Olly Stopford on the Drums

congratulate Daniel Lee for winning the Most Promising Actor award – a well-deserved recognition of his skill and dedication.

The Prep musical, *Mission Implausible*, had the audience in fits of laughter, tapping their toes, and holding their breath as our bumbling heroes raced against time to rescue the professor and save the world. The energy and

talent on stage were truly remarkable.

A special mention goes to Thomas McDonald, Gabriel Roberts, and Olly Stopford, who were selected to perform at the opening ceremony of Bedford School Mohali. This prestigious event, attended by honourable guests, featured performances that truly impressed and left the audience in awe.

Thank you:

As I wrap up, I'd like to say some well-earned thank-yous.

First, to my Deputy Head Boys, Freddie Gibbs and Kian Walia, and to the entire prefect team – thank you for your support throughout the year. I couldn't have done it without you... mostly because you were always the ones reminding me what I'd forgotten.

To my former teachers – Mr Whitbread (not

Mr Shortbread, as my stomach still tries to call him), Mr Maitland, Mrs Aldridge – who I had the pleasure of being taught by for two years (though she may not quite call it that!) – Mr Mason and Mrs Gedye. Thank you for your guidance, patience, and the occasional humorous comment that made lessons so memorable.

And a big thank you to Mr Guest, who was a pillar in my time here and has made a big impact on me with his quick-witted jokes and sense of humour. I wish you good luck on your next journey.

And to all the teachers at Bedford Prep – thank you. You work incredibly hard and help shape us every day. Everyone has a favourite teacher – and

while I'm tempted to tell you mine, I'll hold back... because what kind of Head Boy would I be if I caused a staffroom debate?

Now, before I finish, I'd like to share a quote, as it is tradition on Speech Day:

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." – Dr Seuss.

So to Year 8 – as we prepare to move on – let's steer ourselves forward in the right direction.

And let's not forget to occasionally steer into the lunch hall queue before the Year 7s get there.

Thank you for listening.

“

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose DR. SEUSS

Salvete & Valete



MISS ABIGAIL RAI

We are delighted to welcome Miss Abigail Rai to the Prep School as our new Late Room Supervisor, taking over from the much-respected Mrs Brattle. A recent graduate of the University of the Arts London, where she achieved First Class Honours in Illustration, Miss Rai brings both creativity and a thoughtful, nurturing approach to her new role. Her academic journey includes a Distinction in Level 3 Foundation Art and Design from Gloucestershire College, as well as an A Level in Children's Play, Learning and Development – an ideal blend of artistic flair and educational insight. She has also contributed her time and talents to the local community, volunteering at The Higgins Bedford to run children's workshops, and leading creative sessions for adults in Camberwell, including zine-making and rubber-stamp design. We look forward to the energy, imagination, and care she will bring to our school community this September.

MRS MICHELLE ALDRIDGE

After 17 years of dedicated service, Mrs Aldridge bids farewell to our Prep School community. As Head of Design and Technology, she has led the department with creativity, passion, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Beyond the classroom, she has played a vital role in school life – supporting the CCF, guiding her tutor groups with care, and serving as Housemaster of Whitbread, leading the House to numerous victories with pride and spirit. Mrs Aldridge now takes up a new post at Lord Grey Academy in Bletchley. We thank her for all she has given to the school and wish her every success in this next chapter.



MRS ALLISON BRATTLE

Mrs Brattle has been the warm and reassuring presence behind our Late Room for the past five and a half years. Drawing on her background in teaching, she has run the provision with thoughtfulness, efficiency, and genuine care for the boys in her charge. Her quiet dedication and support for both pupils and colleagues have made a lasting impact. As she retires to the south coast with her husband, we extend our heartfelt thanks and wish her a restful and fulfilling retirement.



MISS TANYA BYGRAVES

We extend our sincere thanks to Miss Bygraves, who joined us from Bromham Primary School to cover Miss Bamber's maternity leave. In her time with us, she has brought warmth, professionalism, and a wholehearted commitment to school life. Her passion for teaching has been evident in every aspect of her work, and her enthusiasm for musical theatre added a lovely personal touch to her presence in the school. Though she now moves on to a part-time permanent role at our neighbours, Bedford Modern School, we have a strong feeling this won't be the last we see of her. We wish her every success and happiness in the next stage of her journey.

MR STEPHEN GUEST

Affectionately known as "Guesty" to generations of pupils, parents, and colleagues, Mr Guest has been a cornerstone of Prep School life for the past 17 years. His contribution has been highly valued, whether coaching on the sports field, teaching in the classroom, or leading countless ski trips with his trademark enthusiasm and good humour. Though based primarily in the Prep School, Mr Guest's talents have also been shared with the Upper School, where he enjoyed great success coaching rugby teams through many strong seasons. A stalwart of the staff cricket team, the Ousels, and a formidable force on the staff quiz team, his encyclopaedic general knowledge and quick wit have made him a much-loved figure across the school. He also brought great energy and fun to the House Quiz competitions, which he hosted with characteristic flair. At Final Assembly, the boys gave him a rousing chant – a fitting tribute to a teacher who has given so much and been such a popular and inspiring presence. He leaves with our deepest thanks and very best wishes for the future.



MRS NICOLA WALTER

We are grateful to Mrs Walter for joining us during Miss Hone's maternity leave and for the energy, warmth, and professionalism she brought to our school community. She arrived from Riseley Church of England Primary School and quickly became a valued member of our team. With a BA (Hons) in English Literature from the University of Birmingham and a PGCE in Secondary English, Mrs Walter brought both academic rigour and a love of learning to her teaching. Her interests in music, drama, debating, and school council enriched the wider life of the school, and her thoughtful, positive presence has left a lasting impression on pupils and colleagues alike. We thank her for all she has contributed and wish her every success in the future.



Aveer Nagpal wows in
Bedford Prep School's
Got Talent

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

This year, pupils across all year groups embarked on a rich and varied literary journey. Year 5 explored the vivid characters of Roald Dahl, the classics *A Christmas Carol* and *Macbeth*, and developed their transactional writing through the world of *Harry Potter*. Year 6 honed their journalistic and persuasive writing through a balloon debate, explored the magical *Storm Keeper's Island*, and brought Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to life. Year 7 analysed the dystopian world of *The Giver*, traced the roots of English via *Beowulf*, studied *Romeo and Juliet*, and sharpened their rhetorical skills. Year 8 tackled challenging new schemes, including a fresh exploration of *Hamlet* and with it a History of Art lesson on Ophelia by John Everett Millais, and a new unit on broadsheet and tabloid writing, alongside studies of Gothic literature, poetry, and persuasive speech writing. Across the board, boys developed analytical, technical, and creative skills through the study of poetry in the summer term, rigorous grammar teaching, and commitment to the Accelerated Reader programme.

COMPETITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS OF TALENT

This year, pupils from Years 3 to 8 took part in a wide range of enriching speaking and performance opportunities that showcased their confidence, creativity, and command of language. The Shakespeare Slam saw boys bring scenes from the Bard's plays to life with energy and flair - 1st place - Jack Efe Taylor; 2nd place - Daniel Lee and Major Grewal; 3rd place - Jeremy Dunn, while the Key Stage 2 Poetry

Year 7 were asked to observe trees and their qualities before writing a monologue from the perspective of one during our poetry unit.



ENGLISH REPORT


WORDS BY
Ms. Sophie Bamber, Head of English

Recitation highlighted the boys' ability to perform with expression and understanding. House Debating gave pupils the chance to develop their critical thinking and teamwork skills, presenting persuasive arguments on a range of topical issues. Year 6 impressed in their Balloon Debate (1st place - Hector Simms; 2nd place - Mithun Kesireddy; 3rd place Gurshaan Powar and Tommy Barker; Highly Commended - Oscar

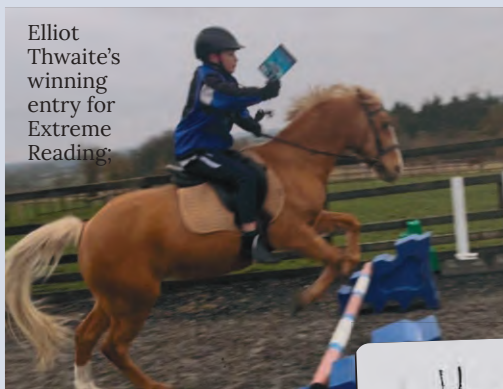
Craddock), passionately advocating for their chosen characters, while Year 7 demonstrated their rhetorical prowess in the Public Speaking Competition, delivering powerful speeches on issues that matter to them. All boys from Years 3 to 8 also took part in the Wonderverser Poetry Competition, showcasing their originality and poetic voice in a national writing event that celebrated creativity and imagination. The Extreme

Reading Competition inspired boys to think outside the box and capture themselves reading in the most unusual or imaginative locations. Their creative entries celebrated a love of reading that extended well beyond the classroom.

DEBATING

The Debating Society has gone from strength to strength this year, with pupils from Year 5 to Year 8 developing their oracy, critical thinking, and teamwork 

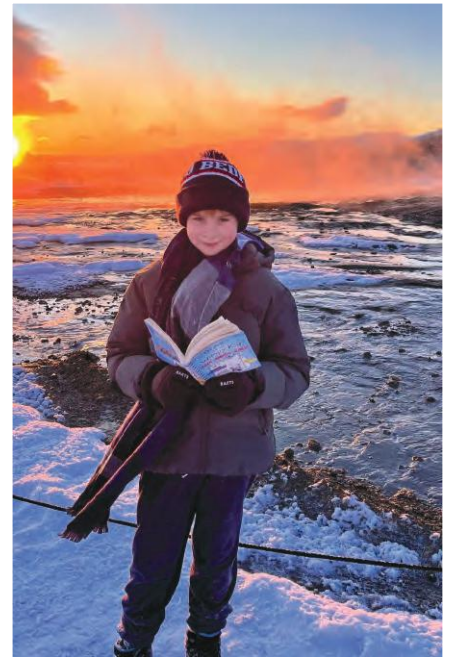
English



Elliot Thwaite's winning entry for Extreme Reading;



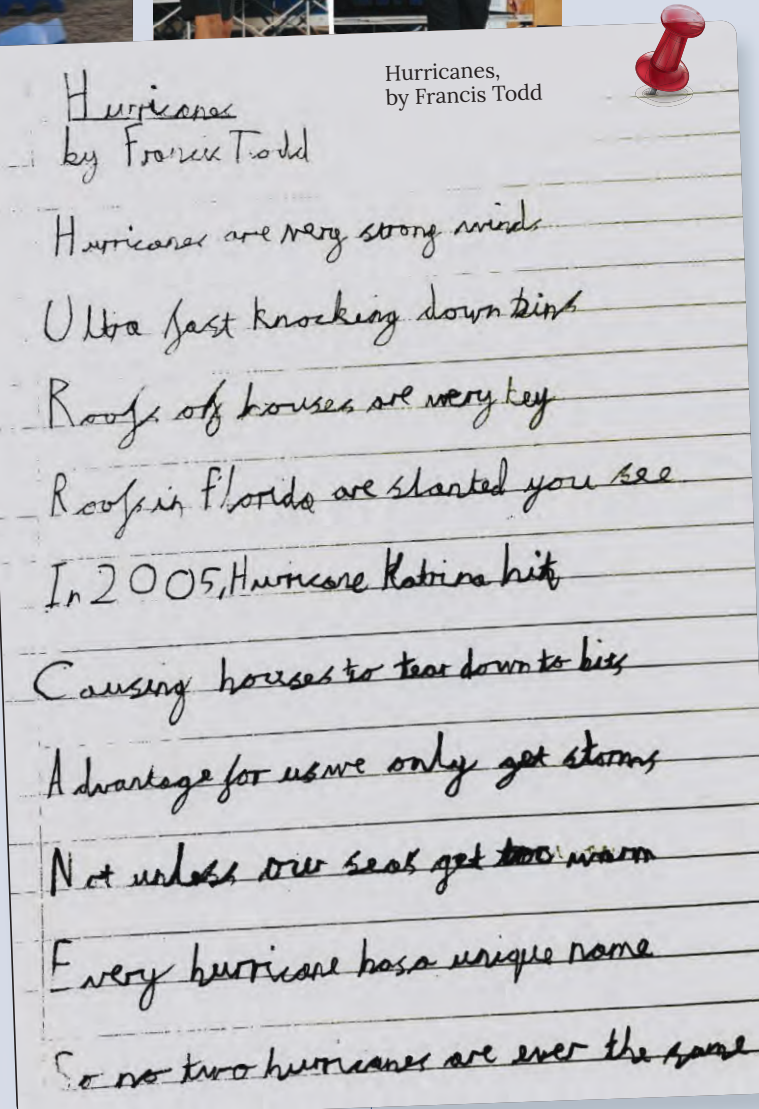
Left: Poetry recitation finalists
Right: Rupert McGuinness at the Great Geysir, Iceland
Below: Y7 Public speaking finalists;



skills through spirited discussion and structured argument. A particular highlight was the friendly fixture against Bedford Modern School, where our boys proved themselves to be worthy opponents, presenting well-reasoned, articulate cases under pressure. The House Debating Competition also showcased the society's growth, with pupils from different year groups, Year 5s working impressively alongside more experienced Year 8, demonstrating confidence, clarity, and mutual respect in debate, arguing whether dinosaurs ought to be brought back to life and the concerns surrounding single-use plastic. The society has fostered a culture of collaboration and intellectual curiosity, and its continued success is a testament to the boys' enthusiasm and commitment.

READING AMBASSADORS

A special mention goes to Mrs Rossington's Reading Ambassadors, a committed group of boys who generously give up their time to support and inspire others across the school. Whether recommending books, listening to younger pupils read, or helping to create a culture of reading for pleasure, their enthusiasm has had a real impact. Their efforts have been beautifully supported by Cocoa, our much-loved reading therapy dog, whose




calming presence has made reading sessions especially enjoyable. Cocoa has played a key role in helping reluctant readers build confidence and discover the joy of reading.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we reflect on a year filled with literary discovery, creativity, and growth, we're proud of all that has been achieved and excited for what's to come. The



English Department remains committed to nurturing a lifelong love of reading, writing, and critical thinking, and next year promises even more engaging opportunities - look out for some intriguing detective fiction in Year 7, an in-depth study of *The Woman in Black* in Year 8, and a drive to develop confident, fluent handwriting across the board. A sincere thank you to all the boys, staff, and parents for their enthusiasm, encouragement, and support - your contributions have made this an inspiring and memorable year for the department. 




Magical scenes from our World Book Day celebrations

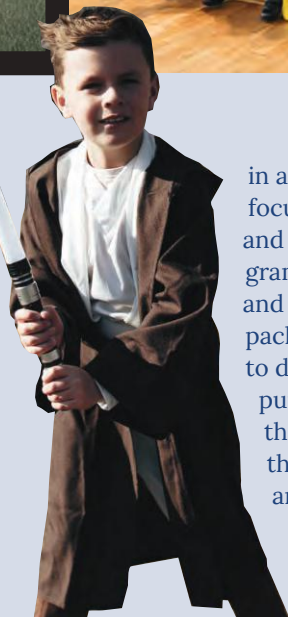


At Bedford Prep School, our passion for books and reading is at the heart of everything we do, so World Book Day is always a highlight in our calendar. This year, we made it even more exciting by combining it with our termly Curriculum Collapse Day, transforming the timetable into a celebration of all things literary.

Throughout the day, boys took part

in a fantastic mix of activities focused on reading, writing, and grammar. From designing grammar-themed board games and writing persuasive pitches packed with silent letters, to discovering the power of punctuation and mapping out their personal reading journeys, the day was full of creativity and fun. Homophone bingo

brought laughter and learning together, while the arrival of the energetic and entertaining 'Punctuation Man', Barrie McDermid, was a real showstopper. His musical grammar lessons, packed with comedy, singing, and interactive quizzes, had boys of all ages laughing and learning. The day ended with a real buzz, and pupils left inspired to use punctuation more accurately and confidently in their own writing. 



Mathematics



Below:
Y6 engaging the
house maths
challenge

MATHEMATICS REPORT

WORDS BY **Mrs Kathryn Lee,**
Head of Mathematics

It's been an exceptionally rewarding year for our young mathematicians in the Prep School. Their consistent dedication, resilience, and enthusiasm for problem-solving have truly stood out and impressed us as a department. Throughout the year, the boys embraced a variety of mathematical challenges—each one offering a thrilling platform to demonstrate their growing skills, creative thinking, and passion for the subject.

TIMESTABLES ROCKSTARS

Our Y3 and Y4 boys proved they truly were rockstars back in November when they performed superbly in the Times Tables Rock Stars 'England Rocks' Competition. The boys came 44th overall and fifth in the region—an epic and much-deserved result.

From Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th November, the boys played for up to an hour a day answering times table questions on the TT Rockstars website.

They were one of 4,493 schools taking part, which produced some pretty big

numbers overall: 30,188 classes, 384,508 students and 201,618,322 correct answers! So, to do so well is all the more impressive.

Special congratulations must go to 4O, who came 13th in the region, and 4C, who came 17th. **Kaveish Elanko** in Y4 was our top pupil with 18,609 answers, and **Prithviraj Dessai** was the top pupil in Y3 with 6,134 answers. Further honourable mentions go to **Brendan Bansal** (12,705), **Billy Kotsidis** (11,853) and **Harry Findlay** (9,971) in Y4 and **Joseph Bright** (3,300), **Beau Faulkner** (3,132) and **Hugo Appleton** (2,884).

The brilliant Year 3 and Year 4 boys further cemented their rockstar status by winning the 'Harpur Trust Summer Times Table Rock Off'—a special National Numeracy Day challenge that brought together pupils from Bedford Prep School, Bedford Girls' School and Bedford Modern School in May.

Armed with quick fingers and sharp minds,

Mathematics



the boys raced through their favourite maths games to rack up the highest average number of correct answers. Their energy, enthusiasm and determination were incredible.

Special congratulations to 4O, who scored a class average of 1151, and the awesome **Brendan, Kaveish** and **Prithviraj**, who all scored over 4,000 answers!

PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

In November, Year 5 and 6 boys competed in the Primary Maths Challenge. Over 64,000 students participated across the UK. Outstanding efforts from all our boys who rose to the challenge.

UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

The UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) is a national charity dedicated to nurturing a love of mathematics and strengthening problem-solving skills through a range of prestigious competitions and enrichment opportunities. Each year, our top mathematicians in Year 7, along with all boys in Year 8, rise to the challenge by taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge—a demanding and enriching test of logic, reasoning, and creativity. This year, we are delighted to celebrate the success of many pupils who earned certificates in recognition of their mathematical talent and hard work.

BRONZE

YEAR 8
Riddha Athreya, Abbas Baig, Siddhant Chauhan, Jeff Chen, Eben Clarke, Arjun Dey, Alex Harrison, Rory James, Jacob Jemmett-Gabrys, Harry Jordan, Dhan Katechia, Siddhu Lankipalli, Louis Loughnane, Rory McDonald, Harry Middleton, David Mmamelu, Laith Shadid, Luke Toland, Lukas Tucker, Joseph Willard.

YEAR 7

Aris Diakakis, Ben Foster, Kuba Kopec, Daniel Lee, Adeiza Ogedengbe, JP Palmer, Lachlan Watson.

SILVER

YEAR 8
Isaac Dailey, Nikhil Das Gupta, Curtis Garcia-Morgan, Ilyas Hosein, Robin Hu, Dimitri Korontzis, Ethan Lad, Benedict Long, Nason Newton, Jonathan Pugsley, Veer Ramani, Austin Reddy, Jacob Schouten, Samarth Serish, Oliver Smart, James Stockwell, Charlie Tillison

YEAR 7

Sahil Bhukhan, Jeremy Dunn, Richard Guan, Collin Heiermeier, Roshan Mukinthan, Leon Saldias Carveny, Kavir Saxena, Vihaan Shukla, Brandon Zhang

GOLD

YEAR 8
Ahmed Ali, Ibrahim Amin, Haneesh Bala, Noah Campbell, Anson Choi Wong, Oliver Gibson, Abdullah Ismath, Oscar McCartie, Edward Neale, Tiantian Yao, Arsene Maxwell

YEAR 7

Evan Byrne

Seven boys did so well in the challenge that they were invited to take part in the Kangaroo round:

Evan Byrne, Aashman Sharma, Arsene Maxwell, Haneesh Bala, Abdullah Ismath, Noah Campbell and Oliver Gibson. Special congratulations goes to **Arsene Maxwell** for scoring best in school in both rounds and **Evan Byrne** best in year.

One of the most electrifying moments of the year has undoubtedly been the annual Year 6 House Cup—a thrilling blend of brains, strategy, and sheer determination. Fuelled by a shared love of Maths and a healthy dose of house rivalry, the boys brought their

A-game to a series of fast-paced, team-based challenges. From cracking codes to conquering number puzzles, all the way to physically charged problem-solving races, their teamwork, logic, and agility were on full display. The atmosphere was electric, and after a fierce contest, it was Harpur who emerged victorious.

All boys continued to enjoy the online Maths platforms DoodleMaths, MathsWatch and CenturyTech to further their learning. A special mention goes to the following Year 5 boys **Jack Xiong** and **Rohan Dasgupta**, and Year 6 boys, **Tommy Barker** and **Giuseppe Rampello**, for their exceptional commitment to DoodleMaths.

Each week, the Maths Clinic run by Mr Harries has welcomed Year 7 and 8 boys keen to sharpen their skills, tackle challenges, and grow in mathematical confidence. More than just a support session, it has become a collaborative space where pupils not only seek help but also encourage and guide one another through problem-solving. Whether brushing up on tricky topics or diving into extension work, the clinic has fostered a real sense of camaraderie and curiosity—all under Mr Harries' expert guidance.

As we bid goodbye to another school year, we remain proud of every pupil's progress and passion for mathematics, and we can't wait to see where their curiosity will take them next. **W**



UKMT Kangaroo round contestants



Their consistent dedication, resilience, and enthusiasm for problem-solving have truly stood out and impressed us all



Science



SCIENCE REPORT

WORDS BY

Mr Dan Mason, Head of Science

Science comes alive through experiments conducted in school

As another exciting school year draws to a close, the Science Department has once again enjoyed another year of hands-on, engaging experiences that have really brought learning to life in the most dynamic ways.

CHEMISTRY IN ACTION – FIREWORKS DAY!

In November, the students witnessed a Fireworks Day celebration courtesy of Daryl Fleming of Titanium Fireworks. He showcased a stunning display of different coloured flame tests and demonstrated the science behind pyrotechnics, revealing how various elements produce vibrant hues when ignited. It was an unforgettable lesson in chemistry that combined spectacle with learning, leaving students amazed by the wonders of chemical reactions.

A WINDOW TO THE

UNIVERSE

During the Autumn Term, students in Year 7 were treated to an evening stargazing at the planetarium and observatory, as well as a talk by Head of Astronomy, Mr Guise looking into some of the weird and wonderful planets in the Universe. Meanwhile, the Year 5s had an introduction to our solar system in the planetarium and also did some stargazing through various telescopes. With guidance from Mr. Guise, students posed insightful questions, expanding their understanding of the universe.

YEAR 7'S OUTDOOR CHEMISTRY ADVENTURES

Nothing makes graph-drawing practice more exhilarating than adding a little fizz and spectacle! Our Year 7 students took their learning outdoors, armed with clipboards, cola, lemonade, and Mentos,

ready for some hands-on data collection. As foamy eruptions soared into the air under the bright sunshine, students sharpened their scientific inquiry and observational skills - a perfect blend of chemistry and fun.

EXPLORING THE HUMAN BODY – YEAR 8'S DISSECTION EXPERIENCE

Understanding the complexities of the human body is fundamental to biology, and our Year 8 boys had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge through hands-on learning. With expert guidance from their teachers, they observed a pig heart dissection, exploring its intricate structures and functions. This immersive experience provided visual learners with a valuable understanding of how the heart works, reinforcing theoretical concepts in a truly unforgettable way.

PHYSICS IN ACTION

Abstract physics concepts can seem daunting, but not when demonstrated through interactive experiments! For our Year 7 students, Newton’s Laws of Motion came alive through engaging demonstrations of balloons whizzing across the lab.

DEBATING MEETS DISCOVERY AT BEDFORD PREP

This year, Bedford Prep School saw the exciting fusion of science and debate in a dynamic House Science and Debating Competition. Over 30 students took part in the preliminary rounds, tackling bold topics such as “This House supports efforts to bring dinosaurs back to life,” “This House would ban animal testing,” and “This House would ban genetically modified crops.”

The finals were a true showcase of intellectual speaking and listening skills, as boys presented well-researched arguments in front of the whole school.

RESULTS

1st

BUNYAN

Nikhil Das Gupta, Oliver Stopford and Dimitri Korontzis

WHITBREAD

Hugo Walker, Jacob Schouten and Rory Brodie

2nd

HARPUR

Arjun Dey, Paddy Hurley and Callum Bennett Howard; Tommy and Matt Barker, Ilyas Hosein

A SCHOOL FULL OF LIFE

Bedford Prep School is home to an incredible array of creatures, from the new arrival of Lincoln the leopard gecko to old favourites Stormfly the bearded dragon, Michelle the tortoise and Andes the guinea pig. Boys engage with these animals through our beloved Animal Care Club. Learning to care for them fosters responsibility, empathy and a deeper understanding of biological systems.


In the Summer Term, Year 4 and Year 6 delved into animal adaptations, uncovering how different species survive and thrive in their environments. Year 6 students also enjoyed a day at our stunning Ickwell nature reserve, where they observed and sketched land and pond insects, bringing classroom learning into the real world.

LOOKING AHEAD

Exciting changes have arrived with the



introduction of Mrs. McDougall, who has brought fresh energy to the Year 5 curriculum. With her passion for science education, students have flourished under her guidance, engaging in new experiments and innovative learning approaches.

Four students also got through to the national science quiz finals at Oxford University. Well done to Tommy Barker, Matt Barker, Sam Wolfson and Dhillon Sangha. 



As foamy eruptions soared into the air under the bright sunshine, students sharpened their scientific inquiry and observational skills

Geography



Breaking into Geodes to reveal the crystalline structures within

GEOGRAPHY REPORT

WORDS BY **Mr Ed Loader**, Head of Geography

As ever, the aim in Prep School Geography is to educate the Year 6, 7, and 8 boys with exciting and engaging lessons that inspire them to take an active interest in the world around them.

YEAR 6

Our Year 6 pupils began with the exciting topic of Rocks, Fossils & Dinosaurs. Their first lesson introduced the formation of geodes within rocks, and the boys had the opportunity to break open a geode, discovering the crystalline structures inside

and learning how gas pockets within igneous rocks lead to their creation. They explored the three main types of rock and how they are formed: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. They also learnt how these rocks can transform from one type to another over vast geological timescales through the rock cycle.

We helped embed this knowledge using Starburst sweets! The boys cut them up to represent sediments, compressed them into a sedimentary rock, ironed them into a metamorphic

rock, melted them to create magma, and finally cooled them into an igneous rock.

The boys then moved on to fossils and how they form, with a focus on the Mesozoic Era and the three periods of the dinosaurs.

Their second topic was Rivers. The pupils learnt about the different parts of a river, the processes that occur within them, and the features created by these processes. The boys used their creativity to build models of a drainage basin using everyday objects, labelling the different parts to show their understanding.

They also studied waterfalls, gorges, levees and, of course, oxbow lakes.

The final topic of the year was Population. In this unit, pupils explored the factors that drive migration, changes in birth and death rates, and the reasons behind the global population rise. This section supported the boys in developing their skills in graph plotting and data interpretation. We then moved on to explore potential problems and solutions associated with large-scale population growth, focusing on China's One Child

Policy—its implementation and whether or not it has been considered ‘successful’. Finally, the boys consolidated their understanding of key population concepts through a game using jelly babies. Different coloured sweets represented different sectors of society, and the boys discovered how external influences affect groups within their jelly baby population—prompting migration from country to country!

A few quotes from the boys:
 “Geography in Year 6 is fun, interesting and interactive.”
 — **Daniel Zuotong**

“I loved it when we melted and squashed Starburst to show the rock cycle. It was fun to see how it all worked in a 3D example, which stuck in my memory. I also enjoyed the population planning decision-making games!”

— **Hector Simms**

“Geography was the best this year because I really enjoyed learning about oxbow lakes and when we modelled the drainage basin system using everyday materials. The creative lessons really helped me to better understand all the tricky terminology and processes.”

— **Josh Ham**

“I have really enjoyed Geography this year because everything we have learnt about is ‘real world’, which I find fascinating. It has made me really appreciate how complex our living environment is.”

— **Matt Barker**

“My favourite two lessons this year were when we smashed rocks to reveal geodes and when we played the population jelly baby game!”

— **Sebastian Appleton**

Well done to all the boys in

Year 6 – it’s been a pleasure watching your understanding develop this year.

YEAR 7

Year 7 began with the grandest of topics – Plate Tectonics! We explored the structure of the Earth and the characteristics of each layer before delving into the fascinating story of Alfred Wegener and how he pieced together the evidence that the world’s continents are moving. Once we had understood the mechanisms that drive tectonic movement, we investigated each individual plate boundary, discovering the features created and the processes involved. In true Art Attack style, the boys then made a ‘big picture’ of a plate boundary using their own bodies, with a photo taken from above.

We then moved on to examine the hazards associated with these boundaries, focusing specifically on earthquakes and volcanoes. The pupils explored the ‘three Ps’ – Prediction, Protection, and Preparation – and had the opportunity to design and build their own earthquake-proof structures using spaghetti and marshmallows!

The second topic was Map Skills. This involved developing locational knowledge, interpretation, and a range of other important geographical skills that will be essential throughout the boys’ future studies. The boys showed fantastic enthusiasm in tackling the challenges associated with maps. A highlight was our orienteering task, where pupils raced around the school site locating orienteering stamps using six-figure grid references. Congratulations to Ben Foster and Dayen Sagoo, who were the fastest

to complete the course!

The boys also consolidated their learning through creative activities, including ‘Text Races’ – a speed competition to test their knowledge – and the challenge of planning a route up Mount Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) in Wales. From grid references to contour lines, they’ve certainly elevated their skills!

Finally, Year 7 tackled the thought-provoking topic of Tourism. The pupils explored different types of tourism, the development of resorts, and how they relate to the Butler Model. They also considered why tourism is so important to the economic growth of countries. The year concluded with a fantastic project: planning a dream holiday for one of three fictional families – the Bungee family (adventure lovers), the Palace family (culture seekers), or the Green family (passionate about sustainability). It was a real treat to see the boys enthusiastically sourcing activities and global destinations suited to their family’s needs.

“I enjoyed the last few lessons on tourism where we acted as travel agents. I chose the Palace family; they like to learn about and explore the culture of a place. This was a fun way to learn about tourism in different parts of the world.”

— **Harry Martin**

“I particularly enjoyed learning about plate tectonics this year, as it’s one of the areas that fascinates me most. We had a great time and learnt a lot.”

— **Jeremy Dunn**

“In the two terms I’ve been here, I’ve enjoyed the many activities—especially in the tourism unit, from designing a resort to creating a family holiday.”

— **Leon Saldias**

“I have thoroughly enjoyed using map skills to complete an orienteering task. It was very enjoyable as we explored the school and found specific locations during a lesson.”

— **Kavir Saxena**

“My favourite part of Geography this year has been learning about different types of tourism and how they affect a country’s economy.”

— **Jack Efe Taylor**

“I loved it when we learnt about map skills. It was fun to see how we can use a map, which stuck in my memory. I also enjoyed planning the route up Snowdon.”

— **Divit Vadde**

“I loved the movement breaks, the questions Mr Loader asks, and the resort designing game.”

— **Jasper Yeomans**

“I really enjoy arriving at Geography lessons—our starter questions help get my brain into gear.”

— **Adeiza Ogedengbe**

Overall, the students in Year 7 have worked hard through a creative, exciting, and challenging curriculum.

YEAR 8

In Year 8, the first focus was Glaciation—a wide-ranging topic with links to various other subjects, designed to develop the boys’ curiosity about the world around them. As well as learning about glacial landscapes and formations, the boys planned a journey to the South Pole in the year 1907 (deciding which items they would need to take with them), explored the factors that influence our climate, learnt about the iceman Ötzi and what we know about his life, investigated the factors that led to the sinking of the Titanic, and studied the



Geography



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Above Art attack style recreation of plate boundaries.
Far left Designing earthquake proof structures.
Left More Geode breaking

“

growth of glacial tourism.

Their second topic was Coasts, where the pupils built on their prior learning from the Year 6 Rivers topic. They investigated the processes at work along coastlines and how these processes create the stunning coastal scenery found across the UK. Coastal management was a key part of the topic. Armed with a solid understanding of both hard and soft engineering methods, the boys took on the role of coastal management experts, called in to save the struggling settlement of Sandytown. They were tasked with planning, budgeting for, and implementing various coastal defence methods to protect four key areas of the town—and then presenting their proposals to the rest of the class. While the people of Sandytown may have struggled, it's safe to say the Year 8 boys' confidence certainly hadn't been eroded...

Finally, the boys turned to their Human Geography topic of the year: Urbanisation.

They examined how global population structures have changed over time and how the Industrial Revolution and levels of development have led to rapid urban growth and the rise of 'megacities'. We explored the problems and solutions this creates, with particular case study focus on Kuala Lumpur and Mumbai. The boys learnt to categorise problems into three key areas—Social, Environmental, and Economic—and worked to identify potential solutions for each. The topic concluded with a creative challenge: designing their own sustainable city, structured to avoid the issues highlighted in our case studies. This was an ambitious task, but it was fantastic to see the boys approach it with imagination, thoughtfulness, and a healthy dose of humour.

A few quotes from the Year 8 boys:

“I have really enjoyed Geography with Mrs Hone this year. Some of the

highlights have been the urbanisation scavenger hunt—which was really challenging—and when we made the features of a headland out of playdough.”

— **Xavier Clark**

“I found the Kuala Lumpur urbanisation case study really interesting. I like applying my knowledge to real-world global examples like this.”

— **Siddhu Lankipalli**

“Year 8 Geography isn't just maps and facts; it's about exploring our world. Coasts aren't just land meeting sea—they're dynamic borders, shaped by time and tide. Geography this year was one of my all-time highlights of the Prep School.”

— **Charlie Tillison**

“I joined partway through the academic year, but the support I received in Geography has been next level. I've felt challenged to do my best while also comfortable asking for help. My favourite activity was the scavenger hunt—it was something out of the

ordinary.”

— **Lukas Tucker**

“This year, my favourite topic was probably urbanisation and GDP per capita. I found it fascinating to see what factors influence whether a country is considered successful.”

— **Abbas Baig**

“Geography has been really fun this year. We started by making corries in the glaciation topic, then built coastal features and learnt all about complex erosional processes. We finished by doing a treasure hunt around the school, applying all our urbanisation knowledge. It's been great!”

— **Abdullah Ismath**

A huge well done to all the Year 8 pupils for their fantastic work this year—and to all the boys in Prep School Geography for making it such an enjoyable and memorable year.

— **Ed Loader**

Year 6 boys
enjoying a non-
uniform day



A* Modern Foreign Languages



**MFL
REPORT**

WORDS BY
Madame Chloe Neilson, *Head of Modern Foreign Languages*

It has been a wonderfully busy and enriching year in the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department, filled with cultural celebrations, international connections, and linguistic adventures that have brought language learning to life for our pupils.

AUTUMN TERM HIGHLIGHTS

We began the year with a vibrant celebration of the European Day of Languages, where pupils took part in a special assembly and a creative T-shirt design competition to promote the joy of language learning. Congratulations to Rafael, whose beautiful design captured the spirit of multilingualism and was crowned the winner!

In October, 40 enthusiastic pupils from Years 6 to 8 embarked on an unforgettable trip to Château Warsy in Picardie, France. The week was packed with activities exploring French history and culture, all while immersing themselves in the language through real-life practice.

Back at school, our Día de los Muertos competition saw pupils designing imaginative costumes to honour the Mexican festival, and our budding artists showcased their talents in the MFL Christmas Card Competition, creating festive greetings in multiple languages.

A new and exciting initiative this year was the penpal exchange launched by Mrs. Gregori between our Year 8 Spanish students and a school in Valencia. Pupils exchanged letters and participated in live video calls, giving them a fantastic opportunity to practise their Spanish and build international friendships.

SPRING TERM HIGHLIGHTS

The Spring Term brought even more highlights. Mrs. Loader and Year 4 delighted us with a charming French production of *Le Gruffalo*, showcasing their growing confidence in speaking French.

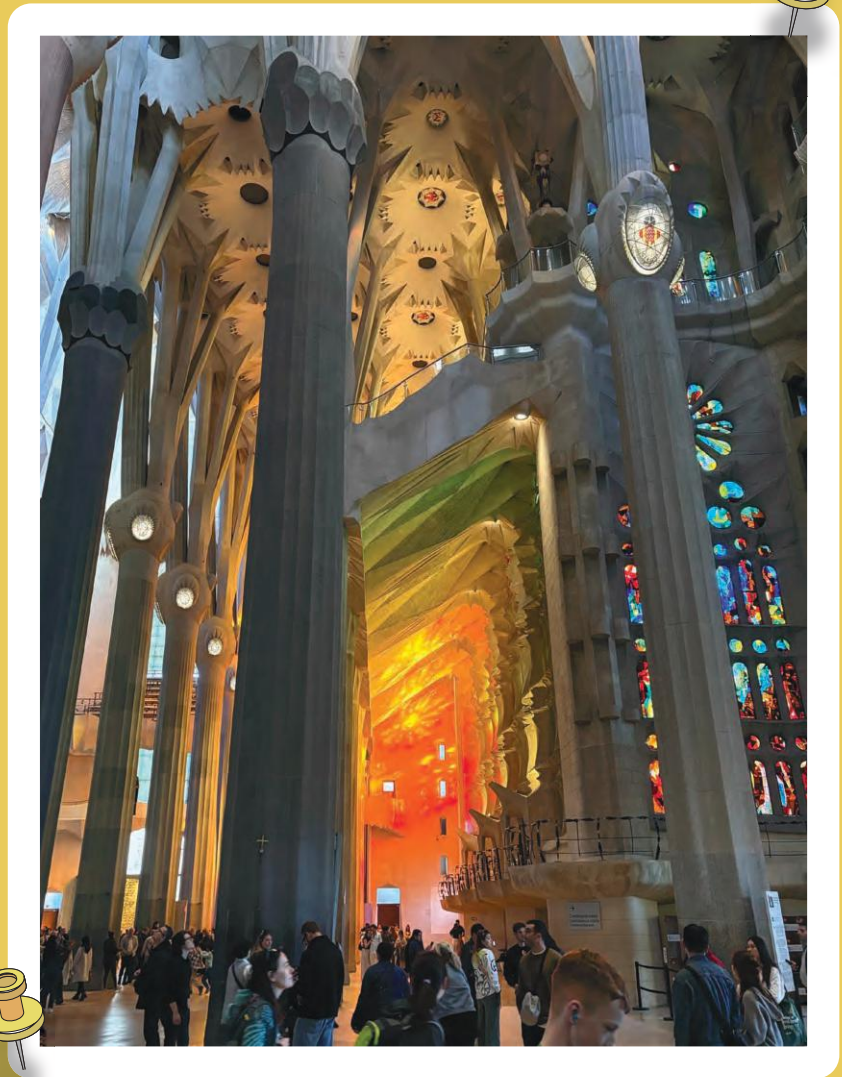
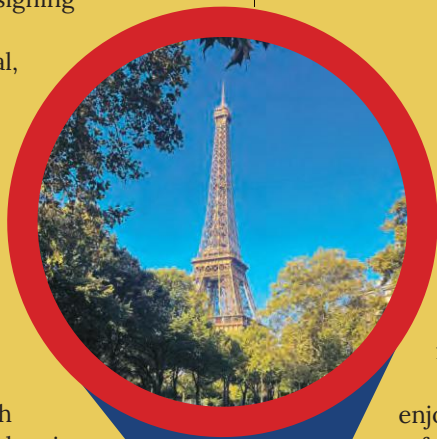
Meanwhile, our German students visited Bletchley Park, where they explored the vital role of linguistics in codebreaking and



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even had the chance to interact with an Enigma machine.

Year 8 French students enjoyed creating and performing marketplace role plays, culminating in a hands-on activity where they bought real fruit and followed a French recipe to make delicious fruit kebabs. They also welcomed visiting students from Collège St Jacques in Le Puy-en-Velay, sharing school life and practising their French together.

Our Year 7 pupils have also been busy developing their conversational skills through café role plays, where they practised ordering food and drink in French. To bring the experience to life, they sampled traditional French drinks such as grenadine and diablo menthe, adding a fun and authentic flavour to their learning.

EASTER BREAK AND SUMMER TERM

Over the Easter break, 30 Year 8 boys travelled to Barcelona, immersing themselves in Spanish culture and visiting a local school to further develop their language skills through authentic interaction.

This term, we proudly launched our Language Leader Programme, where selected pupils took on mentoring roles to support Year 7 students in choosing their language options. Our Year 8 French classes also enjoyed some French cooking sessions, preparing traditional dishes such as quiche and tarte tatin—a delicious way to combine language and culture!

It has been a truly fun-filled year in the MFL department, and we are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to embracing new languages and cultures. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead! **W**

A School trips

EXPLORING HISTORY AND CULTURE IN PICARDIE, FRANCE

In October, 40 of our Year 6 to Year 8 boys embarked on an unforgettable five-day trip to the picturesque Picardie region of France. Our journey began in the charming village of Warsy, where we stayed at the comfortable and historic Chateau Warsy.

Day 1: Our young historians delved into the poignant history of World War I, visiting significant museums and monuments. The Thiepval Memorial and the Albert Museum provided a deep and moving insight into the past, fostering a greater understanding and respect for history.

Day 2: The adventure continued in Amiens, where the boys marvelled at the grandeur of Amiens Cathedral. They practiced their French skills in a local café and market, immersing themselves in the vibrant culture. The day concluded with an exhilarating high rope experience, challenging their courage and teamwork.

Day 3: Paris awaited us with its iconic landmarks. The boys climbed the Eiffel Tower, taking in breathtaking views of the city. A serene boat trip on the Seine River



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Below: posing in front of the Eiffel Tower

MFL TRIPS

WORDS BY

Madame Chloe Neilson, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

followed, offering a unique perspective of Parisian life. The day was topped off with tasting local delicacies and enjoying the beautiful grounds of Chateau Warsy.

This trip was not only educational but also a fantastic opportunity for our students to bond, explore new cultures, and create lasting memories.

DISCOVERING THE WONDERS OF BARCELONA, SPAIN

In April, 25 of our Year 7 and Year 8 boys, accompanied by our headteacher, set off for a thrilling three-day adventure in Barcelona, Spain. Our journey began with a flight from Luton to Barcelona, and we wasted no time diving into the city's vibrant atmosphere.

Day 1: Our first stop was the iconic Camp

Nou stadium, where the boys were awestruck by the grandeur of one of the world's most famous football arenas. Lunch at Montjuic offered stunning views over the city, setting the perfect tone for our trip. We then settled into our hotel in Platja D'aro and enjoyed a fun-filled evening of bowling.

Day 2: The morning was spent in the local town of Sant Feliu de Guixols, where our students practiced their Spanish at a local school and participated in a town trail with their new friends. In the afternoon, we returned to Barcelona for a captivating walk through the Gothic district and a guided tour of the magnificent Sagrada Familia.

Day 3: Action and adventure were the themes of our final day. The boys kayaked in the local bay and coves, experiencing

the natural beauty of the area. This was followed by an exciting football match against a local team, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship. Before heading back, we had the opportunity to practice more Spanish in local shops and enjoyed a quick round of pitch and putt golf.

These trips provided our students with invaluable experiences, from historical insights and cultural immersion to thrilling activities and new friendships. We are proud of their enthusiasm and the memories they created, which will undoubtedly last a lifetime.

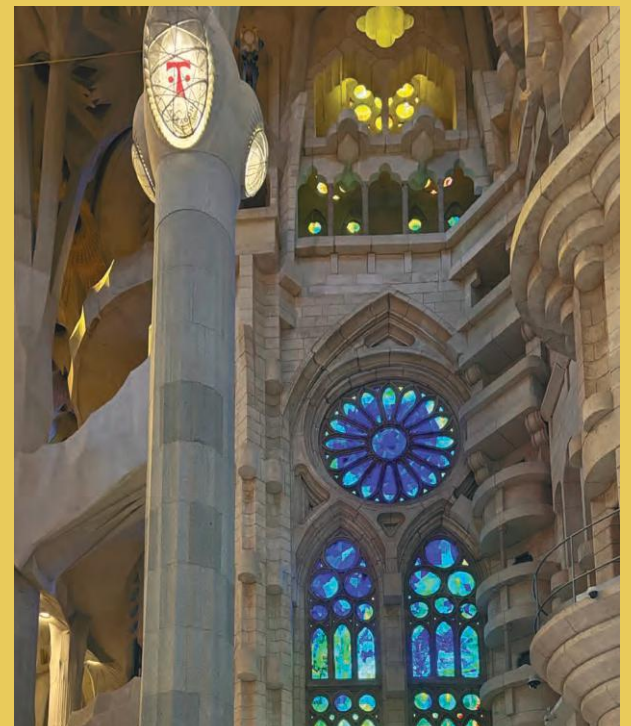
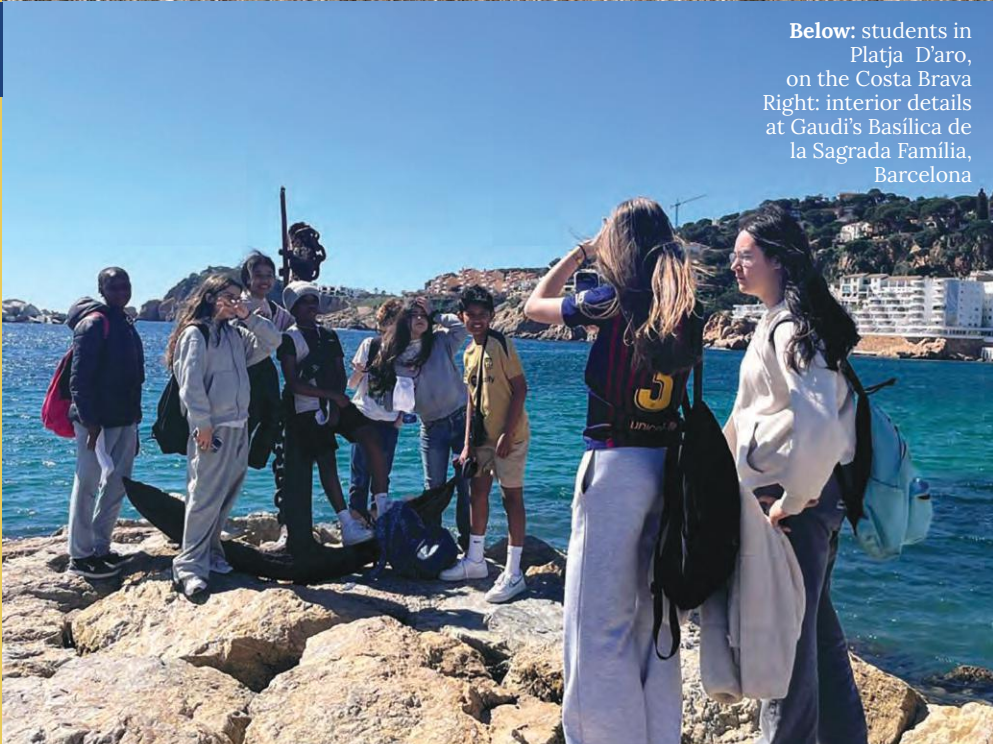
Many thanks to Mrs Walker, Mrs Dale, Miss Ems, Miss Gregori and Mr Silk for making these trips possible.

Below: Thiepval Memorial



“Thiepval Memorial and the Albert Museum provided a deep and moving insight into the past”

Below: students in Platja D'aro, on the Costa Brava
Right: interior details at Gaudi's Basílica de la Sagrada Família, Barcelona



History



HISTORY REPORT

WORDS BY

Mr Paul Dennis, *Head of History*

YEAR 6

I found Year 6 History was fun and interesting even though I already knew a lot about it by watching almost every Horrible History episode! One of my favourite things we did in Year 6 was making the origami paper boats representing the English and the Spanish boats in the Spanish Armada; another was the trial of whether Mary I deserved her title 'Bloody Mary'. I liked this because I really enjoy debating. I'm really looking forward to learning about the Stuarts and I want to know even more about the Gunpowder Plot and the English Civil War. At the start of the year, I wasn't expecting much of history, I thought it would be just a boring teacher droning on about dates and facts. But Year 6 History has proven

me wrong. I have been amazed at how kind the teachers are and how many fun and interesting things I have done throughout the year, from making an origami Spanish Armada, to a trial of whether Mary I deserved her nickname "Bloody Mary." I have had lots of fun learning about the Tudors and I look forward to the Stuarts next year..

Seb Walker and Tommy Barker, 6B

YEAR 7

In Year 7 history we have covered many exciting and interesting topics. First in the Autumn Term we looked at the Gunpowder Plot and James I. We completed many thrilling tasks and activities, one

of which was designing a poster and film trailer for a film on the Gunpowder Plot. In the Spring Term we started to look more on James' death and the reign of Charles I. We also looked at the religious tensions between him and Parliament and how that led to the English Civil War. In the final term we focused on the on Charles' execution and Oliver Cromwell. We had a debate on whether Oliver Cromwell was a hero or a villain and learnt about what happened to his head after he died! Overall history in Year 7 at Bedford School has been an array of fun learning and most of all enjoyment!

Thomas Gray and Kuba Kopec, 7AG

History



Far left: Year 6 stage a trial to debate whether Mary I deserved her nickname, 'Bloody Mary'.

Left: Year 4 prepare for battle on Roman Day.

Below: Year 6 role play to help understand the Dissolution of the Monasteries.



YEAR 8

Aaron and I have loved our Year 8 history lessons kicking the year off with the Industrial Revolution. It was very interesting learning about how England evolved to what it is today and learning about Britain became a global superpower. We then moved on to the mysteries of Jack the Ripper and the brutal murders of the canonical five and the gore of his actions. Then in the Spring Term we shifted to the British Empire, learning about the power of our country and the way that Britain ruled its empire. We also learned about the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, where we learned about the discrimination towards millions of African people as they were forcibly moved to a new continent. Then finally we loved learning about the Civil Rights movement in the USA, talking about the segregation of people and how they fought back against the laws. We are really looking forward to history in the Upper School where we will learn more but will miss the lessons in the Prep School.
Jasper Stone & Aaron Evans, 8N

TOWNSEND-WARNER PRIZE



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The Townsend-Warner prize this year consisted of two papers. The first qualifying round was purely knowledge based with many of the answers being one word. Two sections that came up were on revolutions and assassinations, the people with the highest result moving forward. The second paper started with a question asking for you to write completely on two subjects, this was not an essay but tested your ability to write cohesively and your knowledge of the subject. This was followed by a creative task asking for you to write either a letter to a family member while travelling around Britain in certain times or to write a description of a place in a time of your choosing. The final and hardest question asked for an essay on one of a variety of different historical topics. Your second paper was marked, and your score was then added to the score of the first paper. You were then placed according to your combined score. Overall this is an incredibly fun experience and I would recommend it to anyone interested.
Jeremy Dunn, 7K

Personal development



Below: Who knew PSHE learning could be this tasty? Healthy eating never looked so good!



OUR PD LESSONS ARE ROOTED IN THE SCHOOL'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE - "THAT THEY BE GOOD MEN."

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

WORDS BY
Mrs Alex Gordon,
Head of Personal Development

Personal Development (PD) plays a vital role in supporting the growth of well-rounded, thoughtful, and responsible young people. Our PD lessons are rooted in the school's guiding principle - "that they be good men." Through engaging, age-appropriate topics, we help pupils build the knowledge, skills, and values they need to thrive in today's world. PD also supports our Future Skills Curriculum, encouraging pupils to grow in confidence, empathy, and resilience

as they prepare for life beyond the classroom.

TERM 1 - RELATIONSHIPS

All boys focused on building positive relationships through kindness, respect, and empathy. A highlight was our whole-school anti-bullying competition, where pupils submitted wonderfully wacky odd socks photos to celebrate individuality and inclusion. Year 8s also took on the challenge of writing a rap about consent, showing creativity and maturity in tackling an important topic. Across the school, pupils learned how to show respect and tolerance, manage conflicts, and support one another in

meaningful ways.

TERM 2 - HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We all learned how to take care of both our bodies and our minds. Year 3 pupils had fun making colourful fruit kebabs while learning about healthy eating and the importance of balanced snacks. We also explored emotional wellbeing, with lessons on recognising feelings, managing stress, and practising mindfulness. Pupils across all year groups took part in lessons on identifying risks and staying safe—helping everyone understand how to stay healthy and happy every day.

TERM 3 - LIVING IN THE WIDER WORLD

Pupils explored how they can make a difference in their communities and beyond. We learned about money habits, digital safety, and how to make responsible choices both online and offline. Topics such as diversity, sustainability, and democracy helped pupils reflect on their role in creating a better world. Careers education was also included, giving pupils the chance to explore different jobs, develop employability skills, and understand how their learning connects to future opportunities.



CONSENT RAP

Listen up here's what to do
Consent means respect that is true
Always ask don't just guess
Only go ahead with a clear yes
A hug or touch or holding hands
Make sure the other person understands
If they say no or seem unsure
Stop right there and be mature
It's not just words it's what you do
Be kind and careful that's up to you
Consent is cool it shows you care
Always be fair and always be aware

By Oli Hudson and Reuben Scheepers, Year 8



Academic support



Y3 and Y4 boys with their reading ambassadors from Y5 and Y6 presentation day



Above: Ben in Y7 teaching Y4 Dragon Boys (Freddie) about Storm-Fly

WORDS BY
Mrs Debbie Rossington,
 Head of Academic Support

This academic year has been another dynamic and productive one for the Academic Support Department. Over seventy boys have accessed varying levels of support, reflecting our commitment to meeting individual learning needs across the school.

In Years 3 and 4 the boys have benefitted from a variety of additional support; from small group handwriting sessions, practical Maths lessons, Lego Therapy and the infamous Dragon group in Year 4 to name a few. In the older years, targeted interventions have included additional Maths and English support. Some boys in Years 7 and 8 have also benefitted from a slightly reduced timetable to allow for additional English and Maths lessons. These tailored sessions have enabled students to make meaningful progress in core subjects.

We were pleased to extend our Wordshark spelling programme to Year 6 this year, which proved highly effective in supporting spelling development. Additionally, a new small group reading initiative was introduced for reluctant readers in Year 8, fostering greater confidence and engagement with reading.

One of the most rewarding aspects of our provision continues to be the reading intervention programme, where older boys are paired with younger peers as reading buddies.




Y5 and Y6 boys with their reading ambassadors from Y7 and Y8 presentation day

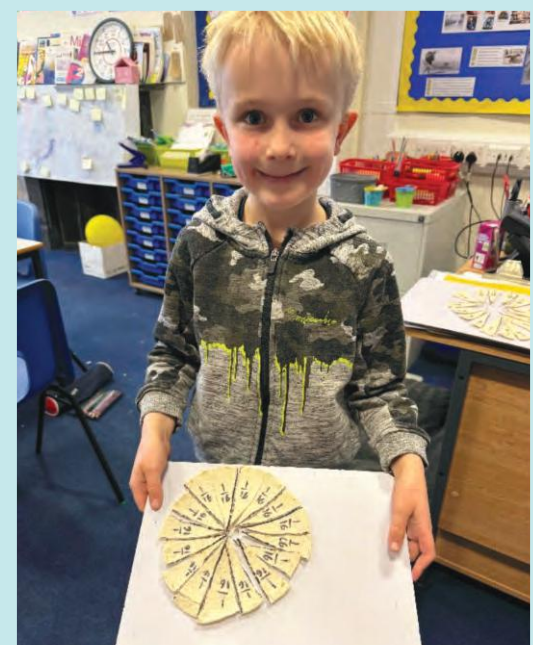
This initiative not only supports literacy development but also nurtures positive relationships and encourages leadership and empathy among the older students.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue supporting our pupils as they progress through Bedford School, ensuring that every boy has the opportunity to thrive and reach his full potential.

Years 3 and 4 boys with their reading ambassadors from Years 5 and 6 – presentation day!!

Years 5 and 6 boys with their reading ambassadors from Years 7 and 8 – presentation day!! 

Right: Benji in Y3 learning about fractions using flatbreads



ABC Latin

LATIN REPORT

WORDS BY
Miss Moira Comani,
Head of Prep School Latin



Above: Prep and Upper school boys during an enrichment session about Caesar delivered by US students

Left: Y8 trip to Verulamium- introduction to archaeological objects handling



Y6 LATIN REPORT 2024/25

In Year 6 this year, we had the fantastic opportunity to explore the captivating culture of ancient Greece and Rome. Our journey began with delving into Greek history, followed by an exploration of the myths and legends of ancient Greece. Witnessing the enthusiasm of the students as they immersed themselves in tales of gods, epic quests, and legendary expeditions truly enhanced our learning experience.




Y7 LATIN REPORT 2024/25

Throughout this year, we embarked on an extensive exploration of Latin grammar and the captivating realm of ancient Roman life. We discovered the intriguing similarities between Latin and contemporary languages, mastering the intricacies of tenses and declensions. In our study of classical civilisation, we traced the footsteps of Caecilius, an ancient Roman banker, and his family, immersing ourselves in the vibrant tapestry of Pompeii. Our examination of Roman society unveiled multifaceted aspects, from the intricate dynamics of slavery to the riveting spectacles of gladiatorial combat. Excursions to the Roman baths in Welwyn and immersive activities at the Roman museum provided unforgettable experiences.



Year trip to Verulamium museum

Y8 LATIN REPORT 2024/25

In Year 8, our exploration of ancient Roman society persisted, delving into the cataclysmic eruption of Vesuvius. In our language studies, we ventured into new linguistic territories, mastering cases such as the dative and genitive. This deeper understanding empowered us to render translations with greater precision and tackle complex Latin texts with confidence. 

Religious Studies



YEAR 7

Joe Parsonage

MY YEAR 7 R.E. JOURNEY

This year in Year 7, we learned about two world religions and talked about some really deep questions about life. First, we looked into Christianity—especially the life of Jesus and his followers. Then we explored Islam and the Five Pillars, which are very important to Muslims. After that, we got into philosophy and ethics, learning about famous thinkers like Socrates and Plato and the kinds of questions they used to ask.

In the Autumn term, we began by learning about Early Christianity. We talked about the Holy Trinity (that's God as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) and then focused on Jesus and the people who followed him. I thought this part was really interesting because it helped me understand more about what some of my friends believe and where those beliefs come from.

When spring came around, we moved on to Islam. We learned about the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and how he's a role model for Muslims. I liked this topic because a lot of my friends in the school follow this religion, and it was interesting to learn things about their life, like how they pray and what they believe. We also studied the Five Pillars—Shahada, Salah, Zakat, Sawm, and Hajj—and had some cool discussions



R.E. REPORT

WORDS BY

Miss Louise Williams
Head of Religious Studies

about which one we thought was the most important and why.

To wrap up the year, we dove into philosophy and ethics. We asked each other big questions like “What is the meaning of life?” and had Socratic debates, where one person keeps asking questions until the other

person either agrees or runs out of answers. It was fun and made me think in new ways.

Overall, I really enjoyed learning about different beliefs and ideas. It helped me understand the world and the people around me better. I'm excited to keep learning more and look forward to my future studies in R.E.



Above: Ollie Adhikary produced this beautiful piece of artwork based on The Messiah

YEAR 6

Ollie Adhikary

HEADMASTER'S COMMENDATION FOR BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK ON THE MESSIAH

I really enjoy our year 6 R.E lessons! Throughout the year, we learn about Christianity and Buddhism, and have lots of philosophical discussions. In our studies on Christianity, there was an assignment to create a piece of artwork, or make a model based on the Crucifixion. I have always liked stained glass art, so I chose to do this. The rich and vibrant colours and patterns, often feature floral patterns, geometric shapes or narrative scenes is something that I admire and enjoy looking at, which is why I wanted to do something similar for my RE project.

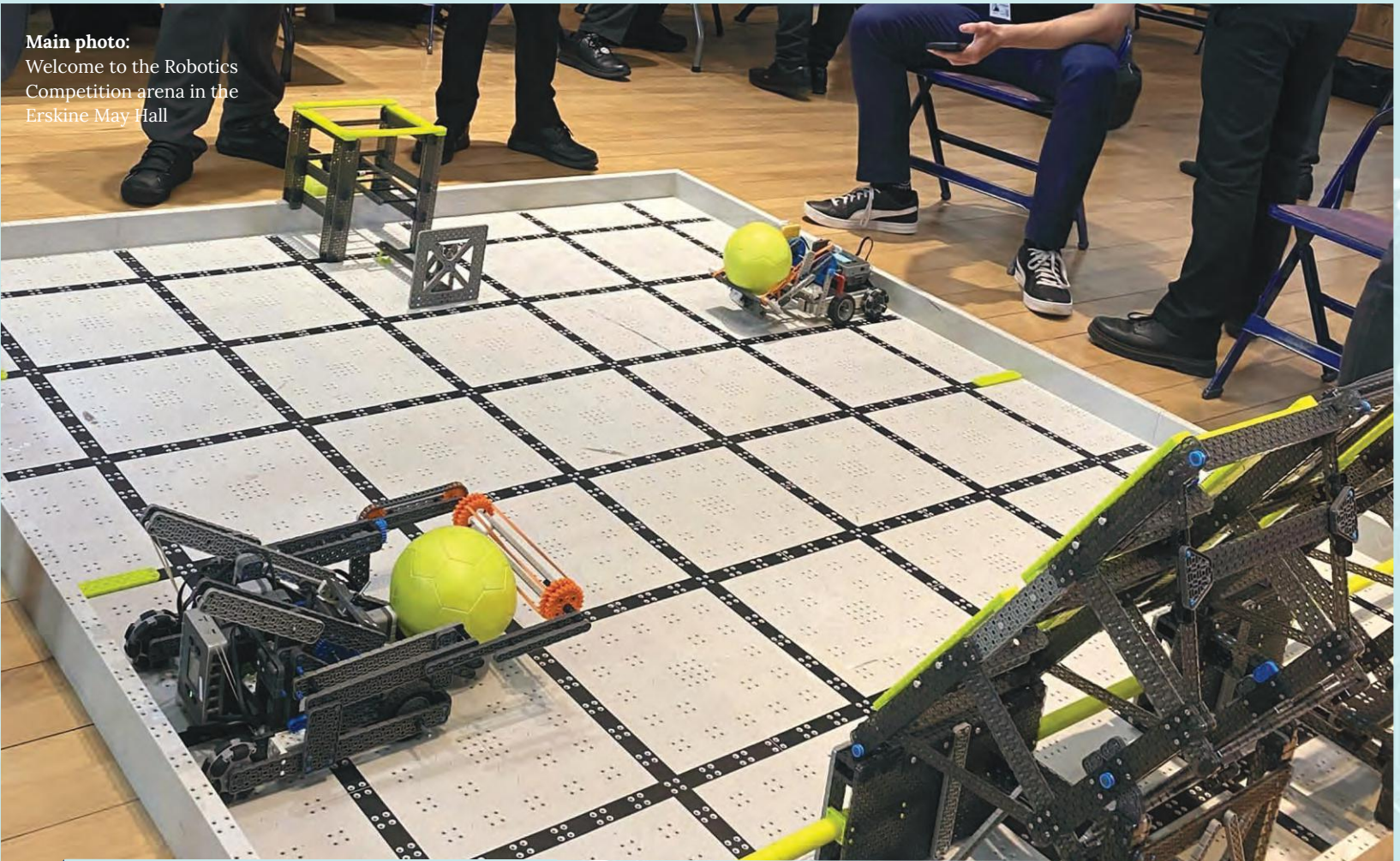
For the design itself, first I drew the pattern on a piece of paper. I then taped the design under the glass so that it showed through and I could use it as a guide.

To create the art, I outlined everything with black acrylic paint using fine brush. This process took a bit of time. I had to wait 2 days for it to completely dry so it wouldn't get damaged.

When the black paint dried out, I used my acrylic paints to create colourful design. For some parts like the sky, I used two or three different colours trying to achieve attractive and blended colours. For other parts like the flowers, I used bright and vibrant colours. The whole process took me around five days! I am happy with my project and I think I will try to create more stained glass art in the future.

Computing

Main photo:
Welcome to the Robotics
Competition arena in the
Erskine May Hall



COMPUTING REVIEW

WORDS BY **Mrs Kashta Dale**,
Head of Computer Science

This year has been a busy and rewarding one for the Computing Department, with students across all year groups engaging in a wide range of practical, creative, and thought-provoking activities. From robotics and coding to digital safety and AI ethics, the curriculum and co-curricular program have offered something for everyone.

We began the year with Coding Week, which focused on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. Each lunchtime, the Digital Leaders supported students from Year 3-Y8 in the Computing classroom to explore hands-on activities. These included coding via Scratch and the Micro:bit as well as experimenting with machine learning tools to incorporate this into their coding. The sessions were well attended and gave students a chance to

try something new and build on existing interests.

In lessons, pupils developed a broad set of digital skills. All year groups worked on computational logic and e-safety, covering important topics such as digital wellbeing, cyberbullying, AI ethics, deepfakes, and cybersecurity. Coding was a key focus throughout the year. Scratch was used in Years 3 to 6 to introduce programming concepts in a visual and accessible way.

In Years 6 and 7 students explored the Micro:bit, "My favourite part of the year was using the Micro:bit because it's very cool and I like that you can make any image with it," said Leo Watt in Y6.

In Year 7 and 8, students progressed to text based coding using HTML, CSS and Python. Monty Pool in Year 8 explained that, "I liked making the website this year using HTML because I learnt the behind the scenes of how a website works."

Mrs Carrington has taken her Year 3 and 4 computing classes by storm by introducing Minecraft Education into the classroom making strong cross-curricular links with

Topic. The boys in this phase have started a craze which extends beyond their year group having influenced other boys across the school to explore the leaning platform at break times. Watch this space for a Minecraft Education Club starting next year.

Alongside programming, students learned about computer networks, binary, how the internet works, and computer hardware. In IT lessons, they developed practical skills in word processing in Year 3 and beyond; PowerPoint through the Bedford Project in Year 4, and Archie Tomlinson in Year 4 told us, "I loved when we did the 'Becoming Bedford.'" Boys learned how to make spreadsheets in Year 8, and explored creative tools for 3D modelling in Year 6, photo editing in Year 5, and video



production in Year 7, where students made their own YouTube style videos reviewing or educating their viewers on topics of their choice using CapCut and Clipchamp to edit their content – their focus and enjoyment was palpable.

Mrs Claire, has had a similar experience this year, leading Year 4 into Podcast mania by implementing Adobe Podcast into her classes this year. The boys have enjoyed scripting and crafting their own podcasts this term. It has been wonderful to watch them master their expressive voices and edit sound to convey meaning so effectively.

Practical computing was a strong feature of the year. In Years 3 and 4, students used Lego Coding to learn programming through hands[1]on problem-solving. In Years 6 to 8, students took part in Robotics Club, where they worked in teams to build and program robots to complete a variety of challenges.

A highlight of the year was our Robotics Competition, which we hosted at school in the EMH. We welcomed students from Heron Hall Academy in Enfield, Bedford Academy, St Edmund’s College and Roseland Primary School and while all the robots worked impressively, the teamwork, creativity, and technical skills of Rosland Primary and our very own Prep School were able to win the competition. Congratulations to our Prep school winners: Jonthan Pugsley, Ethan Ashley and Harris Robertson. Thank you to everyone involved, including our brilliant adjudicators from John Warner School and our very own Anson Choi Wong Year 8.

Students also had the opportunity to take part in several external and internal competitions. These included the Bebras Computing Challenge, the Perse Coding Challenge, and the Coolest Projects Showcase. A new addition this year was the House Coding Competition, introduced by our Student Digital Leader, Nikhil Das Gupta. This event gave students the chance to represent their Houses in a creative coding challenge based on the theme of Magic, and was judged by the Digital Leaders themselves.


Our Digital Leaders have played an important role throughout the year. They led Safer Internet Day assemblies, attended the AI Summit in London Queen Mary’s University, and completed several projects or as they call them ‘missions’. These missions included designing posters to promote safer internet use, creating a training course for new Digital Leaders, producing videos for the school library, and helping to judge the House Coding competition. Their work has helped to make digital learning more student-led and collaborative.

Reflecting on the year, Mrs. Dale, Head of Computing, said: “It’s been great to see students getting involved in so many different aspects of computing this year. They’ve shown real interest and independence, and it’s clear they’re developing skills that will be useful well beyond the classroom.”

We also asked one of our students to share their thoughts, and Kaveish Elanko in Y4 told us that “Computing has a variety of different

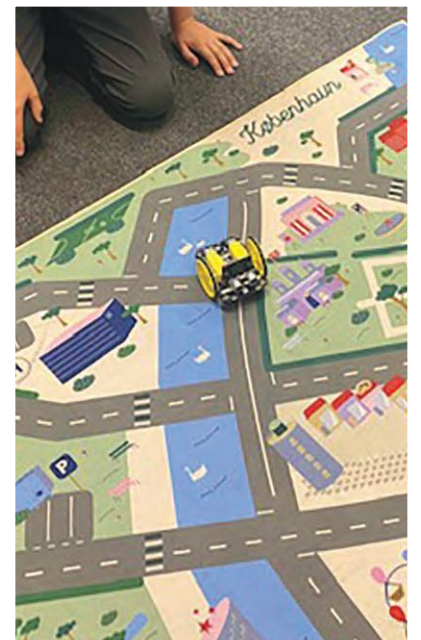
topics to learn, and I liked that.”

Y5’s Theo Aftab added, “at the beginning of the year, I thought that our Computing lessons would get more boring as I got older ... but in fact our lessons this year have been even more fun than last year!”

Overall, it’s been a full and varied year for the Computing Department. We’re proud of what the students have achieved and look forward to building on this next year. 



It’s been great to see students getting involved in so many different aspects of computing this year. They’ve shown real interest and independence, and it’s clear they’re developing skills that will be useful well beyond the classroom.”



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The winners of the VEX Robotics Competition (for the second year running)

Music



The choir performing at the Autumn Concert in the Great Hall

MUSIC REPORT

WORDS BY

Mrs Joanne Gedye, Prep School Head of Music

With another academic year coming to a close, we take great pride in celebrating the many musical successes that have filled our halls with joy, creativity, and talent. The boys, supported tirelessly by our passionate Music staff, have impressed us time and again with their energy, progress, and flair for performance.

This year's Prep Informal Concerts were, as always, a highlight, giving our young musicians the chance to build performance skills and confidence in a relaxed, supportive setting. It was particularly heartening to see so many new faces stepping forward to share their musical journeys—each performance a testament to the pupils' developing skill and growing self-assurance.

Our larger seasonal concerts, in both the Autumn and Summer Terms, lit up the school calendar with vibrant performances from across the musical spectrum. Choirs, ensembles, bands, and orchestras delivered memorable renditions that captivated their audiences and showcased the remarkable breadth and depth of musical ability within

the department. A particular favourite that will forever remain etched in the memory of many will be the Year 5–8 Choir's performance of 'Saturday Afternoon' by Alan Simmons – Oliver Gibson careering around the Great Hall on a mini go-kart a comedy gold moment!

The competitive spirit shone brightly in our House Singing, Composition, and Prep House Music Competitions. These events not only gave boys a stage for their individual talents but also encouraged them to collaborate, explore new ideas, and demonstrate courage through creative expression. We applaud everyone who took part and shared their passion for music.

Taking centre stage, this year were two outstanding musical productions. The Year 3 and 4 mini-musical, *One Night in Spooksville*,


charmed audiences with its catchy tunes and hair-raisingly spooky story, while the Year 5–8 production of *Mission Implausible* brought laughter, suspense, and spy-themed thrills. With a script full of twists and a vibrant cast of 57 pupils, the show was an unforgettable theatrical adventure packed with humour, heart, and a healthy dose of chaos.

As always, none of this would be possible without our exceptional Music team. Their commitment to nurturing musical talent is unwavering, and we thank them for every moment of support and inspiration they've shared. This term, we bid a fond farewell to three of our long-serving and much-loved colleagues: Mr. Bantock, Head of Strings (2014–2025), Mrs Bantock, Head of Piano (2014–2025), and Mr Childs, Head of Bass and Woodwind (2018–2025) who after a collective 29 years have been a guiding force for all our instrumentalists

Inset: A star comic turn by Oliver Gibson



both in the Prep and Upper Schools. We will miss their wealth of knowledge and enthusiastic leadership, particularly inspiring and encouraging our boys to take up orchestral instruments in the Prep School. I sincerely hope their legacy will continue to echo through the music made here for years to come. On behalf of all the Prep boys we thank you for your amazing energy and enthusiasm. Fortunately for us, Mrs Bantock will re-join us in the new academic year teaching the piano. We also say goodbye to Mr Ford our brilliant graduate organist who is off to do a masters in Organ Performance in Berlin in September. We wish you all the very best!

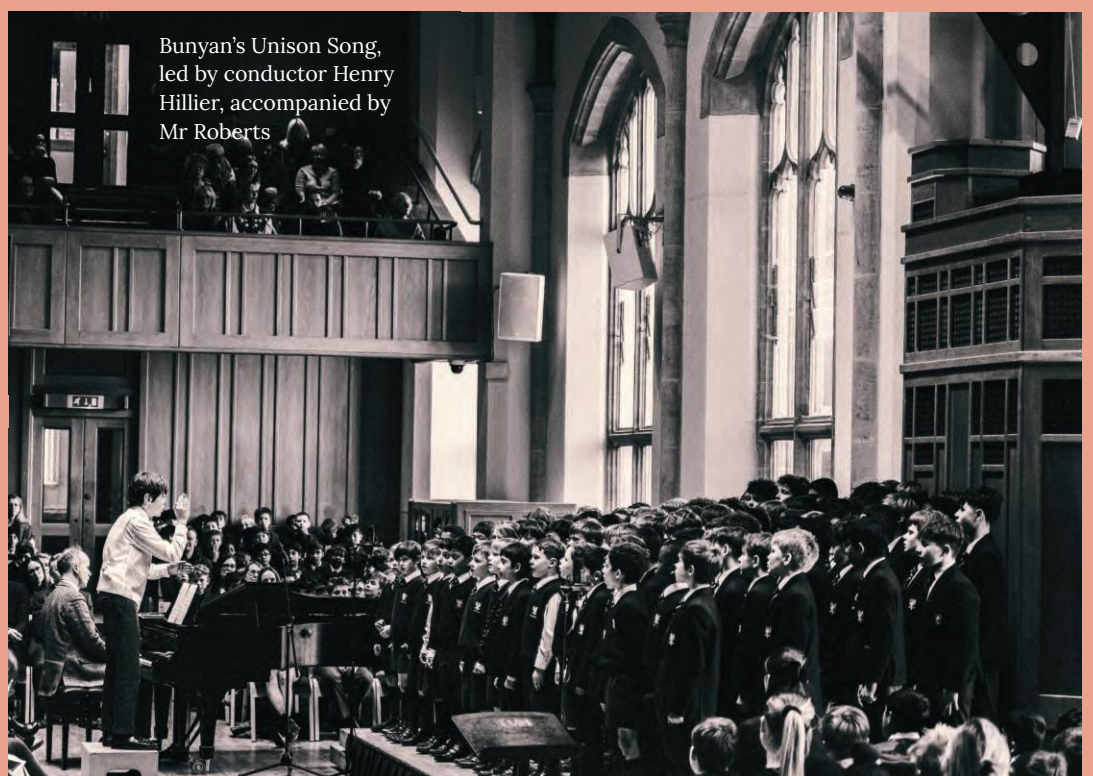
Looking forward, we are filled with excitement for what lies ahead. The accomplishments of this year have laid strong foundations for even greater musical adventures to come. Our sincerest thanks to all pupils, staff, and families who have supported the department—we can't wait to see where the next note takes us. 



The accomplishments of this year have laid strong foundations for even greater musical adventures to come



The House Music cups ready for the winning houses. Below: Harpur celebrate winning the Part Song Trophy



Bunyan's Unison Song, led by conductor Henry Hillier, accompanied by Mr Roberts

🎵 Musical Theatre

Scenes from
One Night in
Spooksville by
the talented Y3



MUSICAL THEATRE

WORDS BY
Mrs Joanne Gedye, Prep School Head of Music

ONE NIGHT IN SPOOKSVILLE

From the chilling tale about 'Things that Go Bump in the Night'; travelling to the 'Horror Hotel'; meeting Hector the Spector, Spooky Suky and Big Mac; eating at the Crazy Café, hearing about poor Trembling Trevor who cannot get warm and poor Gary the Ghost who eventually found love;

Meeting Mr Head, the headmaster of Ghoulish School, and boogying the night away at the Dark Disco, 'One Night in Spooksville' was a kaleidoscope of spooky tales and ghoulie fun, performed by the gruesomely energetic and spooktacularly talented Year 3 and 4 Choir in the Spring Term. What an amazingly enjoyable show it was, brilliantly accompanied by Mr Roberts on the piano and enhanced by the

genius lighting prowess of Mr Simpson in the tech box, our Mini-Musical this year was an extravaganza of crazy ghoulishness. Truly a night to remember!

MISSION IMPLAUSIBLE

When the brilliant Professor Sandy Beach is kidnapped, it is up to four of MI5's most unlikely agents to save the day. Enter a world of high-stakes espionage, outrageous gadgets and villainous masterminds—led by the nefarious Dr Yes. Move over, Bond and Bourne—this was a spy caper like no other!

The Prep School's latest musical extravaganza had the audience in stitches, tapping their toes and holding their breath as our bumbling heroes raced against time to rescue the professor and save the world.

With dazzling performances, catchy songs and a plot full of twists (including a trip to the Isle of Wight), Mission Implausible was a night to remember.

Mission Implausible was a truly fantastic production by the 57 strong cast of the Year 5–8 Choir. The show was full of energy, with brilliant dancing, clear and confident



Inept spies played by outstanding actors in scenes from Mission Implausible.

singing, and strong acting that brought the story to life and left the audience buzzing. The lighting effects added an exciting atmosphere to each scene, and the live band, consisting of three OBs, Isaac West, Ben Pickering and James Pinkney, not to mention our very own Mr Roberts and Mr Ford who rearranged the songs, was outstanding, providing the perfect soundtrack throughout the performance. Special thanks to the amazing Mrs Gedye and Mrs Turton, whose direction and hard work made the entire show such a huge success. It was a performance to remember and a proud moment for everyone involved. It was a truly unforgettable performance!

Words by Kian Wallia Year 8

“The boys worked tremendously hard, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them—on and off the stage. It’s been a joy exploring the world of spies, secret agents, and dastardly villains with them. We hope the boys will treasure the memories of performing in this brilliant show.”

Mrs Gedye and Mrs Turton



Enter a world of high-stakes espionage, outrageous gadgets and villainous masterminds - led by the nefarious Dr Yes



Design Technology



DT REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr Ian Armstrong,
Head of Design Technology

It has been a journey of creativity and hands-on learning for boys in Design and Technology.

In Years 3 and 4, they explored foundational skills through exciting projects like fan-powered cars, owl-themed pencil holders, Roman swords and shields, and woodpecker doorknockers. These activities encouraged problem-solving and imaginative thinking. Interviews with Beau and Gabriel revealed how these projects built their confidence and sparked a love for the subject. “We really enjoyed making the owl pencil holder - we got to shape and finish the wood ourselves. I felt proud building the fan-powered cars,

even though wiring them was tricky. Learning to saw was a new skill for me, and now I feel much more confident. Once you learn the skill, it gets easier and more fun!”

As they progressed into Years 5 and 6, their projects became more complex and technically advanced. In Year 6 boys reflected on their growth in craftsmanship through projects like phone amplifiers and gaming controller stands. “This year in D&T has been

amazing and I’ve come a long way since Year 3. I really enjoyed making a phone amplifier and a gaming controller stand. Finishing a project and taking it home gives you a real sense of pride. It’s been a great year.” Michael Piercy-Hughes.

In Year 7 they embraced digital design using SolidWorks CAD software.

They also delved into electronics, learning about circuits, soldering, the properties of materials, and developed their sketching skills.

“We have had some amazing experiences on learning to use the computer aided design

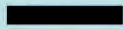




WHINCHAT

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software which brought our ideas to life. One of the most valuable skills we've developed is soldering - this allowed us to carefully assemble circuits, ensuring strong and reliable connections between components." Alessio Valentino-Tucker and Nayan Patel

By Year 8, they confidently made projects and mentored peers, showcasing their skills in soldering, CAD, and collaborative problem-solving. "I mostly enjoyed the steady hands game project using a soldering iron by myself and checking if the circuit works and if it doesn't, going through the troubleshooting steps to get it working. I learned some new skills in computer-aided design - I think I have done very well with lots of help from my teacher. Highly recommend!" Stanley Banks

Across all year groups, the D&T curriculum has helped boys to think creatively, work collaboratively, and develop practical skills that will serve them well into the future.



I really enjoyed making a phone amplifier and a gaming controller stand. Finishing a project and taking it home gives you a real sense of pride

Year 8 pupils enjoying their DT in the workshops.



01



ART REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr Phil Studd, *Head of Art*

As we conclude another vibrant and creative year in the Art Department, it is a pleasure to reflect on the enthusiasm, imagination, and progress shown by our boys across all year groups. Art continues to be a valued and enriching part of the curriculum at Bedford Prep, offering each boy the opportunity to explore his creativity, develop technical skills, and express himself in a supportive and stimulating environment.

Throughout the year, pupils have engaged with a wide range of media and techniques, including drawing, design, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. The projects are carefully chosen to encourage both individual expression and collaborative work, with themes inspired by nature, culture, history, and the locality. Our top year delivered some outstanding mixed-media self-portraits—this was the first time we have implemented this format. Likewise, Year 6 boys put their investigation of colour theory into practice, organising tints, tones, and shades to

create three-dimensional shapes.

The youngest cohort painted in the style of the earliest artists, producing their own prehistoric paintings on sculpted plasterboard. Year 4 constructed exciting and humorous Machine Monsters and also

This page and opposite show winning entries for the House Art competition



02



WHINCHAT

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manipulated clay in slab form to realise their designs for African masks, making relevant links to Cubism. Year 5 explored the eccentric world of Hundertwasser, composing and painting ecological landscapes with a personal message. I am proud to say that boys across the school respond with curiosity and commitment, producing work that is both thoughtful and visually striking.

The standard of work produced for this year’s exhibitions and displays has been exceptional, and it has been a joy to celebrate the achievements of our young artists with the wider school community—the recent House Art Exhibition being a prime example.

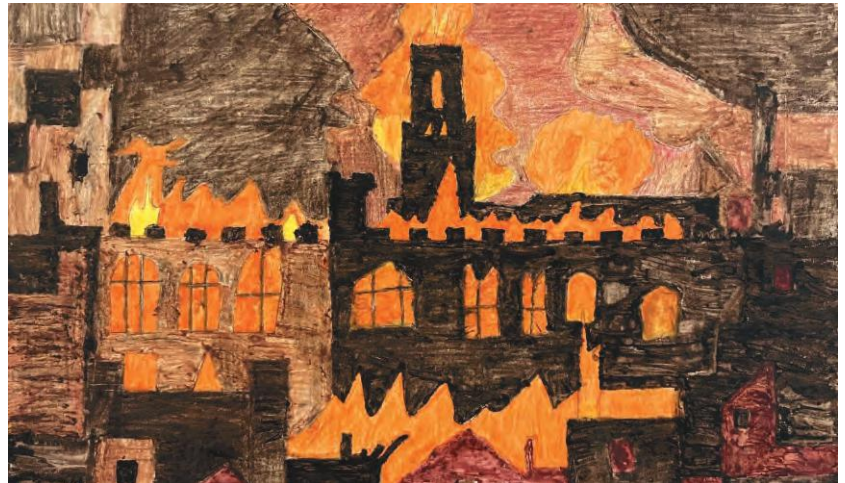
As a department, we always seek to support cross-curricular learning, contributing to projects and learning in other subject areas. For example, boys in Year 3 extended their knowledge of the Ancient Egyptians by learning to construct ceramic sarcophagi. This term, we supported Year 6 science studies on insects by developing their observational drawing skills.

At Bedford, our aim is for boys to appreciate art beyond pencil and paper: we must go further, and I can see and hear that

we do. Listening to boys as they leave our art rooms—reflecting on their achievements and their enjoyment—is good evidence that we are on the right course. Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this year’s successes and continue to nurture the creativity and confidence of every pupil.

We thank all pupils for their hard work and enthusiasm, and we look forward to another year of artistic exploration and achievement. 

YEAR 4



03

HOUSE ART COMPETITION 2025

‘The theme of this year’s House Art Exhibition was ‘In the Style Of. This allowed boys to choose an artist, contemporary or from the past, from any background and culture, and then deliver an artwork using their ideas, methods and techniques. Boys could work in two or three dimensions, using a media that would work for that artist. The theme offered boys to be as creative as they wanted: some chose to reproduce an artwork, others delivered an image personal to them but incorporating a technique associated with their artist. A few boys tried to merge one artist with another. The exhibition received 50 entries from boys across all year groups. This was our lowest number of entries for a while and so we will look to rectify that next year.

However, congratulations go to Harpur for amassing the highest total of all 4 houses. This is the second year in a row they have won the trophy. Will they be back for more in 2026?

Judge’s Results

Y3-Y4		Y5-Y6		Y7-Y8	
1st	Joseph Bright, Y3 BUN	1st	Arthur Macey-White, Y6 WHI	1st	Ben Foster, Y7 HAR
2nd	Ernest Walsh, Y4 WHI	2nd	Leo Watt, Y6 HAR	2nd	Xavier Clarke, Y8 HAR
3rd	Kaveish Elanko, Y4 BUN	3rd	George Middleton, Y5 HOW	2nd	Freddy Burton, Y8 HOW
C	Jiahe Yao, Y4 HOW	C	Ben Gray, Y5 WHI	C	Sebastian Bodfield, Y8 HOW
C	Jacob Mustoe, Y3 HAR	C	Sachin Dey, Y6 HAR	C	Archie Taylor, Y7 BUN

OVERALL RESULT

HOUSE	ENTRIES	PTS	POSITION	POINTS	TOTAL SCORE	POSITION
Bunyan	24		18		42	3rd
Harpur	32		30		62	1st
Howard	28		18		46	2nd
Whitbread	16		20		36	4th



04



05

*For individual artist credits turn to page 111

 Art

YEAR 5



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07

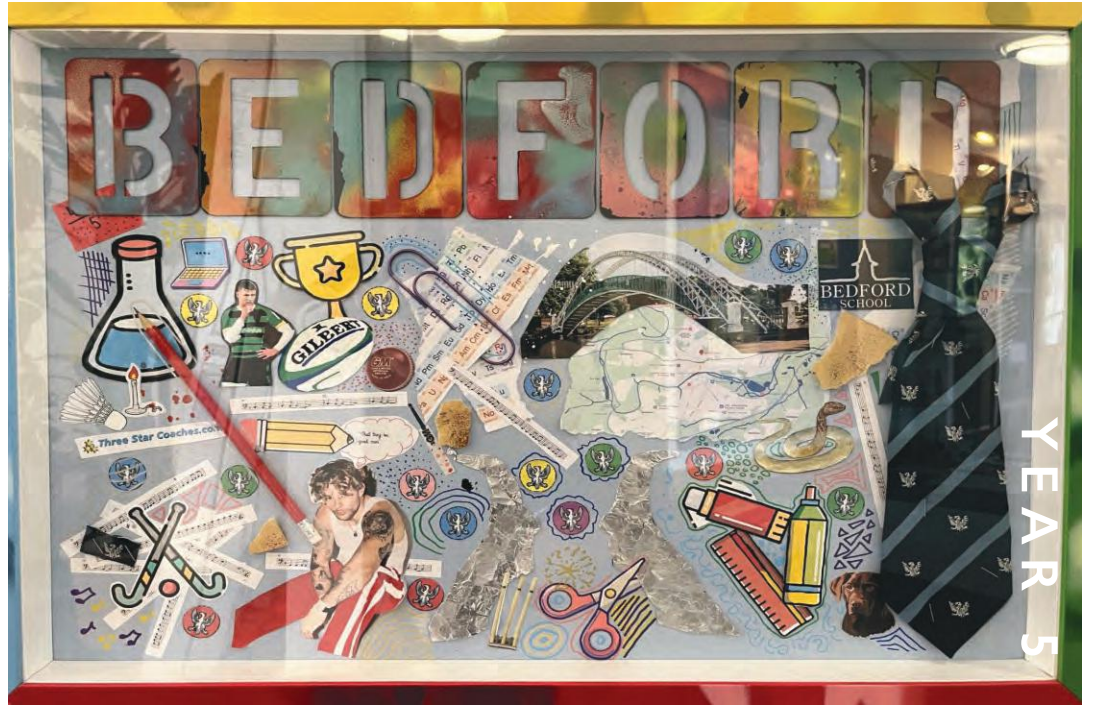
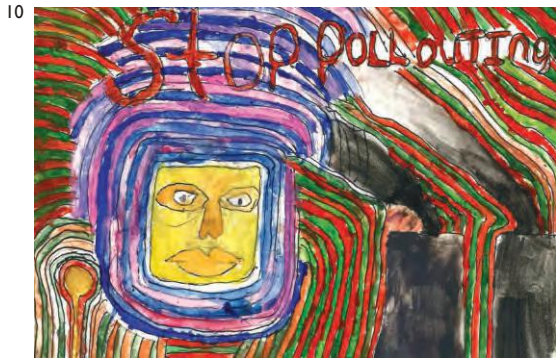


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YEAR 6



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YEAR 6



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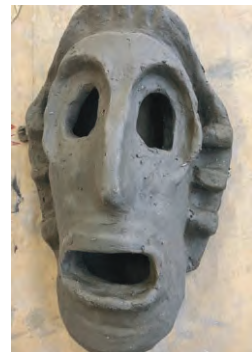
YEAR 7



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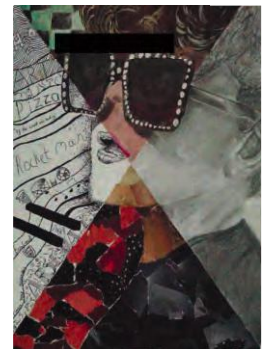
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WHINCHAT
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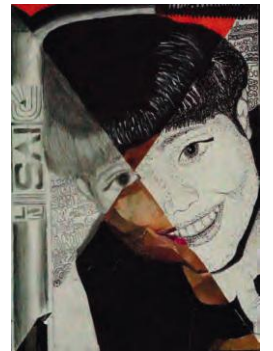
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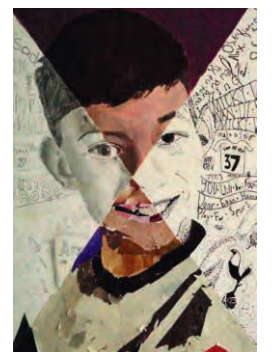
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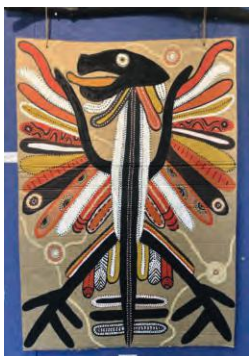
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*For individual artist credits turn to page 111


Drama


DRAMA REPORT

WORDS BY
Mrs Patsy Turton,
Head of Prep School Drama

What a fantastic and action-packed year it has been for Drama at Bedford Prep School! From energetic performances to individual achievements, our pupils have shown creativity, dedication, and a real flair for the performing arts. Here's a look back at some of the year's highlights.

BEDFORD PREP SCHOOL'S GOT TALENT


The year kicked off with an electric atmosphere at Bedford Prep School's Got Talent. Pupils from across the school took to the stage to showcase their diverse abilities. From comedy sketches to musical theatre and dramatic monologues, the range and standard of performances were incredibly high. It was wonderful to see so many students gaining confidence and enjoying the spotlight.

HOUSE DRAMA

House Drama remains one of the most exciting and fiercely contested events on the school calendar. This year, each house brought energy, imagination, and teamwork

to the stage. The creative interpretations and commitment shown in rehearsals and performances reflected the passion our pupils have for drama. Judging was no easy task, and the event left us all inspired by the depth of talent across all year groups.

SCHOOL MUSICAL

Our school musical, *Mission Implausible*, was a standout event that drew a full house over a couple of nights. From lead roles to chorus members, every pupil involved played a vital part in bringing the production to life. The professionalism, enthusiasm, and sheer joy that came through in every performance made it an unforgettable highlight of the year. Professor Sandy Beach was kidnapped, and it was up to four of MI5's most unlikely agents to save the day. We entered a world of high-stakes espionage, outrageous gadgets, and villainous masterminds—led by the nefarious Dr Yes. Move over, *Bond* and *Bourne*—this was a spy caper like no other! It had the audience in stitches, tapping their toes, and holding their breath as our bumbling heroes raced against time to rescue the professor and save 



Speech & Drama



Above: MI5's finest are held by Dr Yes's impregnable prison

Right: A solemn moment from House Drama

Left: Bedford's Got Talent



Drama

Scenes from BGT and House Drama



the world. With dazzling performances, catchy songs, and a plot full of twists (including a trip to the Isle of Wight), Mission Implausible was a night to remember.

BEDFORDSHIRE SPEECH AND DRAMA FESTIVAL

Our students represented Bedford Prep brilliantly at the Bedfordshire Speech and Drama Festival. Competing against pupils from across the county, they delivered powerful and polished performances in a variety of categories. We were proud to see so many of our pupils recognised with placements and awards—a true testament to their hard work and skill.

OPENING CEREMONY PERFORMANCE

A special mention goes to Thomas McDonald, Gabriel Roberts, and Olly Stopford, who were selected to perform at the Bedford School Mohali opening ceremony. This special event hosted honourable guests, and the performances truly blew them away.

LAMDA EXAMINATIONS

We are delighted to report another successful year of LAMDA examinations. Pupils from across the school took on the challenge of

preparing and performing a range of pieces, and the results were outstanding. Many achieved Merits and Distinctions, reflecting both their talent and their commitment to developing their performance skills.

DRAMA CLUBS

It has been a brilliant year for co-curricular Drama Clubs at Bedford Prep School, with pupils engaging in a wide range of activities that have developed their creativity, teamwork, and confidence—both on and off the stage. From our youngest performers to our behind-the-scenes tech crew, each club has had a rewarding and exciting year.

LIGHTING & TECH CLUB

The Lighting and Tech Club has gone from strength to strength this year. Pupils have learned how to operate lighting desks, set up sound equipment, and manage cues during live performances. They played an essential role in events such as Bedford Prep School's Got Talent and House Drama. Their professionalism, calm under pressure, and growing technical expertise have been hugely impressive. This dedicated team truly are the unsung heroes behind the scenes.

YEAR 3–4 DRAMA CLUB

The Year 3–4 Drama Club has been full of fun, imagination, and energy. Pupils have worked on building core drama skills such as voice projection, movement, and characterisation through games, improvisation, and short scenes. Their enthusiasm each week was infectious, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence grow.

YEAR 5–6 DRAMA CLUB


Our Year 5–6 pupils took their drama work to the next level this year, exploring storytelling, script work, and ensemble performance. They tackled a variety of scenes, both comedic and serious, and experimented with staging and character development. The club was full of creativity and collaboration, with pupils beginning to take more responsibility for shaping their own performances. Their end-of-term showcase was a huge success and a testament to their progress and dedication.

YEAR 7–8 DRAMA CLUB

The Year 7–8 Drama Club provided a fantastic outlet for our older students to refine their acting skills, explore more complex themes, and take on leadership roles within group work. This year, the club focused on devising original scenes, interpreting scripts with nuance, and understanding stagecraft. Their maturity, creativity, and passion were evident in every session. Several members also participated in school productions and LAMDA exams, bringing a high level of skill and enthusiasm to the wider drama community at Bedford Prep.

Drama offers far more than just the chance to perform. It builds confidence, encourages teamwork, strengthens communication skills, and nurtures creativity. It teaches pupils to listen, to empathise, and to think critically—all while having fun and developing a love for storytelling.

This year, I have watched our pupils grow not just as performers, but as individuals. Whether stepping out of their comfort zone, supporting a friend backstage, or bringing a character to life on stage, every child has taken a step forward. Their enthusiasm, courage, and imagination have been a joy to witness.

I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them. It has been a privilege to guide and support them on their drama journey this year, and I look forward to seeing what they achieve next. 

Speech & Drama

BEDFORDSHIRE SPEECH AND DRAMA RESULTS 2025

Business Pitch	Year 5-8	Kian Walia, Oliver Smart	1st
Dramatic Scene	Year 5-7	Callum Benett, Adeiza Ogedengbe and Jack Efe Taylor	1st
Dramatic Solo	Year 7-8	Oliver Smart	1st
Duologues	Year 7-8	Orson Pettengell, Oliver Gibson	1st
Duologues	Year 7-8	Wilfred Squire, Freddy Burton	1st
Prepared Reading	Year 4	William Kotsidis	1st
Write and Speak a Poem	Year 7-8	Callum Bennett	1st
Business Pitch	Year 5-8	Gene Baker	2nd
Business Pitch	Year 5-8	Ilyas Hosein	2nd
Dramatic Solo	Year 5-6	Ben Smart	2nd
Dramatic Solo	Year 5-6	Henry Lincoln	2nd
Dramatic Solo	Year 7-8	Jacob Jemmett-Gabrys	2nd
Dramatic Solo	Year 7-8	Thomas Hanbury	2nd
Duologues	Year 7-8	Gene Baker, Jacob Jemmett-Gabrys	2nd
Prepared Reading	Year 3	Dillon Kapur	2nd
Prepared Reading	Year 4	Kaveish Elanko	2nd
Prepared Reading	Year 8	James Holt	2nd
Presentation	Year 5-8	Oliver Stopford	2nd
Prose Reading Duet	Year 7-8	Arvin More, Akal Marvaha	2nd
Verse Speaking Duet	Year 4 & under	Henry Jenkins, Karum Thandi	2nd
Verse Speaking Duet	Year 5	Matthew Page, Edward Lewis	2nd
Verse Speaking Solo	Year 6	Joseph Costin	2nd
Verse Speaking Solo	Year 6	Sachin Dey	2nd
Verse Speaking Solo	Year 8	Arjun Dey	2nd
Verse Speaking Solo	Year 8	Wilfred Squire	2nd
Write and Read a Story	Year 3-4	Patrick Kavanagh	2nd
Write and Read a Story	Year 7-8	Nikhil Das Gupta	2nd
Write and Speak a Poem	Year 4-6	Alfred Meredith	2nd
Write and Speak a Poem	Year 7-8	Wilfred Squire	2nd
Dramatic Solo	Year 5-6	Mithun Kesireddy	3rd
Dramatic Solo	Year 5-6	Ryan Ramnarain	3rd
Dramatic Solo	Year 7-8	Kian Walia	3rd
Duologues	Year 7-8	Nikhil Das Gupta, Henry Phillips	3rd
Duologues	Year 7-8	Owami Sithole, Noah Campbell	3rd
Group Poem	Year 5-6	Sachin Dey, Will Paull and Gurshaan Powar	3rd
Prepared Reading	Year 3	Antonios Anastasios Pachidis	3rd
Prepared Reading	Year 4	Brendan Bansal	3rd
Prose Reading Duet	Year 6 & under	Ryan More, James McCartie	3rd
Prose Reading Duet	Year 7-8	Sebastian Bodfield, Oscar McCartie	3rd
Verse Speaking Duet	Year 4 & under	William Kotsidis, Matipanyasha Marauka	2nd
Verse Speaking Duet	Year 4 & under	William Lombaard, Francis Todd	3rd
Verse Speaking Duet	Year 4 & under	Ernest Walsh, Archie Tomlinson	3rd
Verse Speaking Duet	Year 5	Sridhar Manikanda Prabhu, Rohan Dasgupta	3rd
Verse Speaking Duet	Year 7	Major Grewal, Joseph Parsonage	3rd
Verse Speaking Solo	Year 6	William Paull	3rd
Verse Speaking Solo	Year 7	Gabriel Roberts	3rd
Write and Read a Story	Year 5-6	Nathaniel Roberts	3rd
Write and Speak a Poem	Year 4-6	Daniel Zuotong	3rd
Write and Speak a Poem	Year 4-6	Thomas Barker	3rd
Write and Speak a Poem	Year 7-8	Charlie Williams	3rd



Enrichment

ENRICHMENT REPORT

WORDS BY

Ms Chloe Neilson, *Head of Enrichment*

JUNIOR SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

This year, a selection of took part in the Junior Schools' Challenge, a national general knowledge quiz competition for pupils aged 11-13. Modelled after the University Challenge format, the event tested a wide range of subjects through fast-paced starter questions and themed bonus rounds. Representing the school were Jacob Schouten, Eben Clarke, Jeremy Dunn, and Vihaan Shukla, who competed in three separate online fixtures during their lunchtimes against St Colman's, Stockport Grammar, and Hampton School. Another team, Nayan Pattni, Evan Byrne, Rory James, and Ilyas Hosein, faced Eastbourne Prep. The questions challenged students on topics such as mythology and chemistry, asking, for example, for the Greek equivalents of Roman deities (Mars/Ares, Vulcan/Hephaestus, Venus/Aphrodite), or to identify elements like Oganesson (atomic number 118), Tantalum (73, named after a mythological figure), and Francium (87, a highly radioactive alkali metal). The competition was a fun and intellectually stimulating highlight of the year.

HOUSE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

From sport and history to geography and

television, boys from Years 3 to 8 put their general knowledge to the test in the highly anticipated House Quiz Final, held during assembly. After a series of form heats, the top scorers from each year group were selected to represent their Houses in the grand showdown.

The final saw House teams made up of the brightest quiz minds from each year group, including Joseph Bright, J. McCartie, Ryan More, and Ibrahim Ahmed from Year 3; Timothy Fung, Oscar Montgomery, Brendan Bansal, and Ernest Walsh from Year 4; Harvey Ambrose, Nathan Omofonma, Ben Smart, and Ben Gray from Year 5; Freddie Folbigg, Daniel Zuotong, Will Paull, and Dhillon Sangha from Year 6; Jeremy Dunn, Charlie Suthers, Aashman Sharma, and Sam Meyers from Year 7; and Rory James, Oscar McCartie, Seb Bodfield, and Jacob Schouten from Year 8.

Compered by our brilliant quizmaster, Mr Affleck, the competition was as entertaining as it was impressive. Laughter, tense moments, and applause filled the hall as boys showed off their knowledge and quick thinking, with even staff and audience members joining in for a few bonus questions! Congratulations to all who took part and a special well done to Whitbread, this year's champions!



QUIZ CLUB GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Following the excitement of the House General Knowledge Competition, the Year 3 to 6 boys from each House team took their quiz skills to the next level by representing their Houses in the national Quiz Club General Knowledge Competition the very next week. In this



Above: Prep School boys enjoyed a spooky, creative writing session
Right: Y5 used images to help develop creative writing skills



high-stakes online event, teams joined a live video call with a professional quizmaster and competed against 70 other schools across the country, using their devices as digital buzzer pads to answer questions in real time. The competition demanded not only quick thinking but also excellent teamwork and focus. Whitbread's team—Ben Smart, Will Paull,



Enrichment

Ryan More, and Brendan Bansal—performed brilliantly, progressing to the semi-finals. Their achievement was a testament to their hard work, general knowledge, and calm under pressure.

QUIZ CLUB SCIENCE

The success of our online quizzing efforts continued with the Quiz Club National Science Quiz, where Tommy Barker, Sam Wolfson, and Dhillon Sangha achieved a fantastic second place out of over 70 prep schools. In a follow-up event, they placed 14th out of more than 50 schools - an excellent result that earned them a spot in the prestigious national final, taking place at Oxford University on 4th July, the very last day of term. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work, curiosity, and passion for science.

ROUND ONE OF THE QUIZ CLUB SCIENCE QUIZ

Tommy, Dhillon and Sam realising that they had qualified for the next round of the competition!

QUIZ CLUB MATHS

This year, the Quiz Club's Maths Challenge brought an exciting change by mixing boys from different age groups to work together. The students had a great time collaborating across year levels, combining their strengths and ideas to tackle a variety of very tricky maths questions. This new format not only made the challenge more engaging but also helped the boys learn from each other and enjoy teamwork while sharpening their problem-solving skills.

■ **Y4:** Zachary Rawling 4V; Brendan Bansal 4O;

Oscar Montgomery 4C; Mati Marauka 4C

■ **Y3:** Karum Thandi, Dillon Kapur, Gobind Bansal and Ibrahim Ahmed

■ **Y5:** Jack Xiong 5S, Ben Gray 5H, Joshua Reid 5B, Rohan Dasgupta 5B;

■ **Y6:** Matt Barker, Kian Fanning, Aauram Ganju, Barnanbus Fung

NATIONAL CHOCOLATE DAY COMPETITION

For National Chocolate Day, the boys of the school took on a fun and flavourful challenge from home: baking a chocolate cake with a creative twist. Boys put their own spin on the classic dessert, incorporating unique ingredients like mint, caramel, chilli, or even fruits. They submitted photos of their delicious masterpieces, which were showcased during the school assembly. The event proved that baking knows no bounds, and neither does imagination.

Wilfred Squire (pictured right) baked a unique chocolate cake using kidney beans and coconut sugar, with heart-shaped pralines hidden inside, a Swiss meringue topping, and blow-torched effects, making for a creative, slightly less sweet, and delicious treat.

Rory and Thomas McDonald made moist, doughnut-shaped chocolate cakes with a twist—one topped with caramel buttercream and the other with chocolate buttercream.

NATIONAL PI DAY

The school celebrated National Pi Day with a fun baking challenge where students created pies and cakes decorated with the Pi symbol, combining creativity and math in a delicious way.



SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Our Sixth Form lectures and seminars were a huge success, featuring a wide range of engaging topics. From British Science Week presentations on evolution and chemical reactions by Joseph Edwards, Jamie Maling, Jibran Baloch, and Ivan Yu, to talks on pH indicators by Kasper Yu and Ayaan Tarique. Physics was explored through Sam Gray's introduction to electromagnetism, while computer science sessions covered cybersecurity and AI prompt injection, led by Tom Kelly, Stirling Smallwood, and Fraser Morgan. Additionally, Fraser Morgan presented on the language quirks of French, and Lucian Davis discussed the economic impact of tea, showcasing the diverse interests and expertise within the Sixth Form community.

HOUSE DEBATING

The House Debating Competition reflected successful collaboration between the English and Science departments, who jointly ran a series of lively lunchtime preliminary heats. These sessions helped whittle down representatives for each House ahead of the final. Boys from across year groups, impressively including Year 5s debating alongside experienced Year 8s, showcased confidence, clarity, and mutual respect as they tackled topics such as whether dinosaurs should be brought back to life and the environmental concerns surrounding single-use plastics.



Left: Ben Smart, Will Paul, Ryan More and Brendan Bansal realising they had qualified for the semi-finals of the Quiz Club Science Quiz



EXTERNAL COMPETITIONS

As part of the annual IF Oxford Science and Ideas Festival, pupils were invited to explore the wonders of science through poetry. Whether inspired by biology, chemistry, physics, or another scientific field, young poets were encouraged to let their creativity flow and express scientific curiosity through verse. We're proud to feature Francis Todd's imaginative and thoughtful entry, which reflects the powerful intersection of science

and the arts. **SEE PAGE 8**

Vikranth Prerapa's entry to the Author of Tomorrow Award

The Author of Tomorrow Award is an international competition aimed at discovering the next generation of adventure writers. Part of the prestigious Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize, it invites young people from around the world to submit a short piece of adventure writing in English each year. We were incredibly proud of Vikranth Prerapa for entering this competition and thoroughly

enjoyed reading his story, which carried an important message about the value of wildlife conservation.

YEAR 3-4 MATHS CHALLENGE

This friendly, online, inter-school competition gives teams of Year 3 children the opportunity to apply their mathematics knowledge and teamwork skills to solve problems and answer challenging questions, putting their reasoning skills to the test. Boys spent several lunchtimes and breaktimes practising the different problems.

CURRICULUM COLLAPSE DAY WORLD BOOK DAY AND GRAMMAR SLAMMER

This year, we combined World Book Day with our termly Curriculum Collapse Day for even more fun. Throughout the day, boys swapped their usual lessons for a brilliant array of activities connected to reading, writing and grammar.

Above: The audience engaged in House Debating competition.

Right: Expelliarmus! It must be Harry Potter Day.





Academic Enrichment



Gunpowder plot

CURRICULUM COLLAPSE DAY

WORDS BY

Mr Paul Dennis, *Head of History*



Above: A demonstration of how gunpowder makes fireworks go bang on our Curriculum Collapse Day

'Gunpowder, treason and plot' was the focus of our latest Curriculum Collapse Day on Thursday 6 November.

During the exciting day, which went with a bang (quite literally), boys in the Prep School swapped their usual lessons to explore a whole carousel of activities on Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot.

The boys uncovered the history behind



one of the most infamous plots, from why a plan was hatched to blow up the Houses of Parliament with King James I inside to the individuals behind it – even creating their own 'guys' of either Guy Fawkes or Robert Catesby before burning them in the Welly.

In French, boys explored the equivalent French Revolution before enacting, filming and editing reels of the key moments. In Spanish, they learned about Fallas Mascletà with its explosions of gunpowder and colour.

Fireworks also inspired music, as boys crafted bassoons and clarinets beautifully decorated as fireworks.

In Art, sgraffito and ink and watercolour portraits of Guy Fawkes added even more colour to the day.

And there were even more pyrotechnics in the science labs and on the Inky pitch. The

Academic Enrichment




This page and opposite: Scenes from our Gunpowder Plot curriculum collapse day



And there were even more pyrotechnics in the science labs and on the Inky pitch

boys saw first-hand how different metals create the brilliant displays that light up the skies on 5th November. Our thanks go to parent and Director of Titanium Fireworks, Darryl Fleming, who gave the brilliant outdoor talk on the science of fireworks; from the chemistry behind the colours to the physics of their propulsion. He also delighted boys with flares and bangs.

Thank you to all the staff who created activities to help inspire the boys. 



Houses



House Trip
walk along
the Seven
Sisters cliffs

EAGLE HOUSE REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr Ed Loader, Eagle Housemaster

On a sunny September day, the Eagle House boarders arrived ready for the start of the new year. What was evident right from the off, was how the returning boarders and the new arrivals were going to get along famously and look after one another. Within half an hour of them being in the house, the boys had taken themselves away to play together, football on the astro and table tennis in the games room, immediately becoming staples in the daily life of the boys!

Our year has been fantastic, with busy weeks of work, lessons and evening activities around the school site, and weekends filled with exciting trips and adventures. Rather than attempt to write up everything that Eagle House does through the year, several of the boys have given their thoughts.

It's been a great year in Eagle House! We've shared many funny moments, enjoyed

loads of activities, and gone on some really exciting trips. For example, we played laser tag, visited waterparks, gone bowling, visited trampoline and ninja warrior parks to name just a few, in the house we have had countless games of Werewolves, and took part in loads of football and water polo matches (which the Year 8s won, obviously), and much more.

In the Autumn Term, we often played games indoors. Sometimes it was Wink Murder or Frog Murder, but we also played Werewolves, which is a bit like The Traitors. Other times, we played board games and chess, and had loads of fun competing with each other.

In the Spring Term, we spent a lot of time playing football in the Sports Hall, often Year 7s versus Year 8s. We also went swimming—though it was mostly water polo. We also occasionally played basketball and

badminton.

In the Summer Term, we had loads of events. During National Boarding Week, we played laser tag against the Upper School houses, had a massive dinner featuring Japanese, American, Hawaiian, and Italian food, and competed in the Boarders' Games—though sadly, Eagle house didn't reach the dizzying heights of our 2nd place last year, finishing fourth.

Another highlight of the summer term was the House Trip. We hiked along the Seven Sisters cliffs, went to Thorpe Lakes for the aqua park, and also visited Thorpe Park.

Overall, Eagle House has been a brilliant experience for us this year. I'd like to thank Mr Loader and the rest of the staff for making it such a memorable time.

— Anson Choi Wong and Arsene Maxwell Y8s

To start off, I just want to say that Eagle House has been an amazing place to stay—an absolute privilege.

It has opened up a world of new friendships and taught me how to be independent. Eagle House feels like a second family to me, where I feel safe and treated with kindness wherever I go. From playing laser tag to visiting escape rooms, I love going on trips every week and feeling excited about where we'll go next.

Boarding is fun, really fun—but when you board at Eagle House, it's ten times better! I love boarding here. It's so much fun, and everyone becomes so close that it truly feels like having a second family.

Beyond the fun, Eagle House also offers incredible support. Whether you're going through a tough time and need someone to talk to, or just aren't feeling well, the Eagle House team is always there. They're kind, caring, and always ready to help—just one more reason why this place is so special.

I also really enjoy our weekend schedule: going into town with friends, staying up late to watch a movie on Saturdays, heading out

on exciting trips, and ending the week with Chapel.

To sum it all up, boarding at Eagle House is an absolute privilege. I'm so grateful that my first experience of boarding has been in such a fantastic place, surrounded by amazing staff, wonderful people, and a truly special boarding house.

- Elliott Keggin Y7

From first starting boarding at Eagle House to completing my first year, it has been an amazing and wonderful adventure. I feel so privileged to share what it's like to be a boarder.

What I love most about boarding is how it's taught me to live with others, appreciate different views, and get along with boys I might not normally hang out with. Of course, it's not always easy, I personally struggled with homesickness during parts of the year, but if you ask any boarder, they'll tell you it's something we all go through.

Thankfully, Mr Loader and his team are always there to help. They support us every

step of the way, especially when we're feeling down. That's why I think they're so kind and helpful—always guiding us to make the right choices and shaping us into young men.

Another amazing part of boarding is the sports facilities and the wide range of activities we get to enjoy. From house football matches to silent werewolves games—you name it, we do it!

Every week, we get to go into town with our friends, and on Sundays, we go on house trips. Whether it's laser tag, escape rooms, or our epic end-of-year trip—like riding roller coasters or hiking in the mountains—it's always something to look forward to.

Best of all, boarding is open to everyone. Whether you're full-time, weekly, flexi, or just staying for a night or an afternoon, there's a place for you. That means my friends can come and experience boarding life too.

Thank you so much for reading, and I hope you'll come and join us in the boarding house! 🏠

- Noah Anstock Y7



Having fun on one of the many weekend trips



Easter Egg hunt



Hanging on at Thorpe Lakes Aqua Park

Houses



BUNYAN HOUSE REPORT

WORDS BY

Mr. Dan Mason, Bunyan Housemaster



Above: Bunyan House spirit on show
Left: Archie Taylor's Picasso-inspired piece for the House Art competition

It has been another fantastic year for Bunyan House, filled with enthusiasm and a strong sense of community. The boys should be proud of how they have supported one another, risen to challenges, and embraced every opportunity that has come their way. From sporting triumphs and creative achievements to moments of leadership and teamwork, Bunyan House has continued to thrive in every area of school life. Here are just a few of the highlights:

BADMINTON

The Bunyan badminton squad had another brilliant year, with standout performances from Adeiza Ogedengbe (Y7) and Finn Spicer (Y6). Congratulations to both the Year 7 and Year 6 teams, who worked hard to win their respective competitions.

Year 7 – Adeiza Ogedengbe, Josh Featherstone, Daniel Lee, Archie Taylor, Nayan Pattni, Sahil Bhukan, Tom Hanbury, Dhillon Waterfall
Year 6 – Ryan Ramnarain, Finn Spicer, Freddy Folbigg, Giuseppe Rampello, Henry Hansen, Yinhong Chen, Will Woodrow, Will Basden.

HOCKEY

The House Hockey Competition was a fantastic display of skill and teamwork, with Bunyan House celebrating a double victory on the pitch!

The Year 5 team, featuring Herbie Squire, Monty White, and Gurvir Sira, dominated play and were clinical in the D, securing a well-earned win after a series of thrilling matches.

The Year 7 team also

triumphed, with Archie Taylor, Daniel Lee, Josh Featherstone, and Dhillon Waterfall leading the charge. Their teamwork, quick passing, and solid defence made them a formidable force throughout the tournament. Well done to all Bunyan teams!

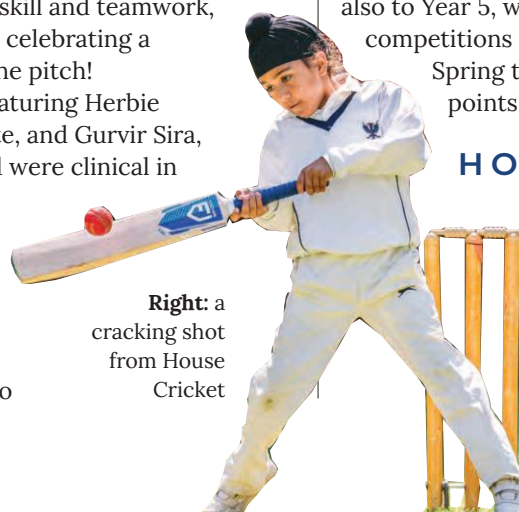
READING AND MERITS

Throughout the year, the boys maintained a steady stream of Future Skills Awards—well done to all! While the yellow flag hasn't always been flying outside Mr Silk's office, we've been very close on several occasions.

Special congratulations to the Year 4 boys, who placed 2nd in the merit count during the Autumn term and went on to take 1st place in the spring term—fantastic progress! Kudos also to Year 5, who won the book reading competitions in both the Autumn and Spring terms, earning valuable house points throughout the year.

HOUSE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

A particular highlight was the House General Knowledge event. The team—Jeremy Dunn, Joseph Bright, Timothy Fung, Harvey Ambrose,



Right: a cracking shot from House Cricket

Houses

Freddie Folbigg, and Rory James—competed fiercely and looked set to take top spot. Though narrowly defeated in a tie-breaker by Whitbread, they earned strong house points and delivered a fantastic effort. Well done!

HOUSE SINGING

This year’s House Singing Competition was a joyful showcase of talent, teamwork—and occasional discipline!

In the Unison category, we performed Make Your Own Kind of Music with unity and enthusiasm, displaying excellent control of dynamics. Despite our spirited performance, we were unlucky to place fourth.

In the Part Song category, our three-part rendition of With a Little Help from My Friends by The Beatles stood out for its harmonies and heartfelt delivery, securing an impressive 2nd place. Special mention goes to Arsene Maxwell and Owami Sithole for their tenor singing. It was a performance that had the whole audience bopping along!

A huge well done to everyone involved—especially Mr Roberts, whose guidance was invaluable. We’re proud of what we achieved and are already looking forward to next year’s competition.

HOUSE DRAMA

This year’s drama competition was a dazzling celebration of creativity and theatrical flair. Daniel Lee earned Best Actor for his portrayal

of the spiteful Mrs Twit, superbly supported by Oliver Gibson as the mean-hearted Mr Twit.

Special recognition goes to Mr Turton, whose imaginative and entertaining adaptation of The Twits earned a well-deserved 2nd place. His direction brought Roald Dahl’s mischievous characters to life, delighting the audience from beginning to end.

HOUSE DEBATING

In this year’s debate, Bunyan House was represented by Nikhil Das Gupta, Oliver Stopford, and Dimitri Korontzis, who delivered a confident and compelling argument against the motion: “This House supports efforts to bring dinosaurs back to life.”


They crafted a persuasive case highlighting the ethical, environmental, and scientific risks of de-extinction. Despite strong counterpoints from Harpur House, Bunyan’s clarity, sharp rebuttals, and logical delivery secured a well-earned victory. Congratulations to all speakers involved!

HOUSE ART

Well done to all the Bunyan students who entered the House Art Competition. All entries were impressive, but two particularly stood out:



Archie Taylor (Y7) for his Picasso-inspired piece, which was highly commended
Joseph Bright (Y3) for his Lego-themed artwork A Million Dots, which placed 3rd in the Year 3–4 category. A huge congratulations to all 12 boys who submitted work—your creativity made us proud!

A massive well done to all the boys who participated in any event this year, and heartfelt thanks to the Bunyan staff: Mrs Lee, Mrs Neilson, Mr Harries, Mrs Turton, Mrs Valentino, and Mrs Bowis. Here’s to another year of growth, fun, and Bunyan brilliance. 



WHINCHAT

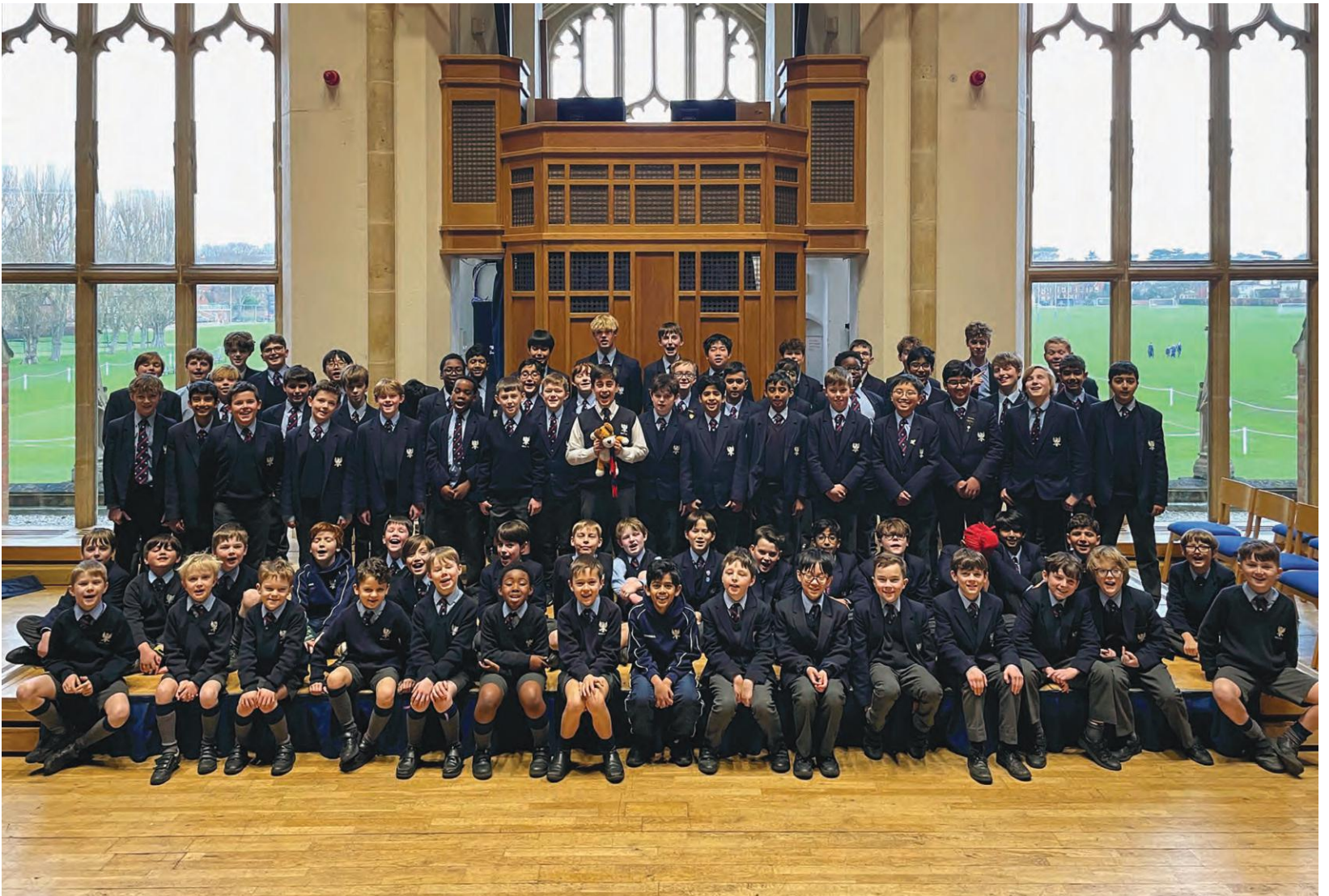
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Above:
The Bunyan House General Knowledge team in full concentration mode

Houses



HARPUR HOUSE REPORT

“In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun.” – *Mary Poppins*

For Harpur House, this spirit has been at the heart of everything we have achieved this year. Whether competing on the sports field, performing on stage or striving for academic excellence, our pupils have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, teamwork and joy. Each term has been filled with moments of hard work and high achievement—but also laughter, camaraderie and a shared sense of purpose that has made every success even more meaningful.

During the Autumn Term, Harpur House celebrated several outstanding first-place finishes. Our Year 8 badminton players delivered a superb performance to claim the top spot, while a determined effort from Year 6 in squash also earned first place. In the

WORDS BY
Mr Andrew Whitbread,
Harpur Housemaster

academic arena, Year 8 readers led the way in the Book Reading competition, demonstrating a strong passion for literature. Additionally, both Year 5 and Year 8 pupils were recognised for their exceptional conduct and contributions, each finishing first in their year group for merits. A festive victory at the end of term saw Harpur’s Christmas tree, located outside the Inky Library, judged as the best decorated in the School – a special thanks to the Christmas fairies, Mrs Blythman and Mrs Lumley-Wood!

The Spring Term brought even more success. On the sports field, our Year 3 football and hockey teams both triumphed,

each securing first place and setting a high standard for the rest of the House to emulate. In athletics, Year 6 pupils ran an outstanding School Run, finishing first and showing great stamina and determination. Academically, our readers in Years 6 and 7 both achieved first place in the Book Reading competition, continuing our strong love of literature. Harpur House shone in the arts, firstly with an impassioned ensemble version of ‘Mathilda’ in House Drama – a huge thanks to Mrs Loader for all her expert guidance. This was topped by Harpur’s stellar performances in House Singing. Unison conductor, Kian Walia, led the House superbly in their toe-tapping ‘Mary Poppins’ medley, gaining a commendable second place. Then, our part song singers, led by Oscar McCartie, produced a spine-tingling rendition of ‘Let it Be’; it was a worthy winner, and received rapturous applause from

the audience in the Great Hall. Thanks, as always, to our very own 'Mary Poppins', Mrs Gedye, for sprinkling her spoonful of sugar throughout the rehearsal period – we are so grateful for all your efforts!

In the Summer Term, Harpur House once again proved that hard work and enjoyment go hand in hand. Our pupils embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and creativity, and their efforts were rewarded with a series of impressive first-place finishes.

We were thrilled to take first place in House Music, where our talented performers captivated the audience with their energy and skill. In the visual arts, Harpur House also claimed first place in House Art, recognising both the quality of our entries and the number of pupils who took part. These victories reflect the vibrant creativity that runs through our house.

In the world of ideas and expression, our pupils triumphed in House Debating, earning us a victory through sharp thinking,

confident speaking and excellent teamwork. And on the cricket field, our Year 6 team delivered a standout performance to secure top spot, showing great skill, strategy and sportsmanship.

A welcome addition to the House calendar saw the House Coding come to the fore, and Harpur achieved a convincing victory; a huge thanks to the boys who gave up many breaktimes to complete their winning submissions.

The Summer Term was a truly memorable

one for Harpur House, culminating in an historic achievement - winning the Nestor Cup for the first time since 2016. Our consistent efforts and outstanding performances across a wide range of events also secured us the Merits Cup for the second time in the year, reflecting the dedication and spirit of every Harpur student. From strong showings on Sports Day to enthusiastic participation in book reading and merit achievements across all year groups, our House has demonstrated excellence in both



We were thrilled to take first place in House Music, where our talented performers captivated the audience with their energy and skill




Left: House Captain Samarth, proudly holds the Spring Term House Cup and the Merits Cup
Right: Harpur House's superb General Knowledge quiz team



academics and co-curricular activities.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated House Tutors and our exceptional House Officers - House Captain Samarth Serish, Vice Captain Oli Hudson, Music Captains Kian Walia and Oscar McCartie, Drama Captain Siddhu Lankipalli, Vice Drama Captain Sam Parrish, and Sports Captain Riddha Athreya. Their leadership, energy, and commitment have been instrumental in making this year such a success.

Many congratulations and very well done, Harpur, for all your numerous successes and accomplishments! It has been fun – Mary Poppins would be very proud of us! 

Houses



HOWARD HOUSE REPORT

WORDS BY

Miss Penny Oakley,
Howard Housemaster

Outstanding work, everyone! Your dedication throughout the year has been nothing short of exceptional. You gave it your all, and I deeply admire the energy, commitment, and positive attitude you brought to every House event and activity. Your team spirit and enthusiasm have truly stood out and made a lasting impression.

AUTUMN TERM HIGHLIGHTS

The Autumn Term was a busy one, packed with competitions—squash, rugby, and badminton, to name just a few. We celebrated notable successes in Year 4 and Year 6 rugby, as well as the Year 4 and Year 8 Reading competitions. While some events proved challenging in our quest to knock the other Houses out of contention...

“Every setback is a setup for a comeback!”
— **T.D. Jakes** –

...there were still many individual achievements to applaud.

Special congratulations to: **Joe Southon (Y6)** for consistently outstanding rugby performances this season. **Ben Brading** and **Charlie Tillison (Y8)** for deservedly receiving their Colours for services to Rugby.

SPRING TERM SUCCESSES

The Spring Term brought a wave of victories in major competitions. One of the standout moments was the House Singing Competition—a true highlight of the year. Howard took a bold risk with the challenging choice of Train’s Drops of Jupiter, and it paid off. The energy inspired by Mr. Sanders, the unwavering commitment from the boys during rehearsals, and the outstanding leadership of our conductor, **Austin Reddy**, came together to create an ‘out of this world’ performance. I was incredibly proud of the boys for winning the Unison Song in what was undoubtedly a closely contested competition.

Congratulations also to Harpur House for their exceptional Part Song performance—it was truly an afternoon to remember!

We also celebrated a fantastic win in House Drama. Many thanks to **Gene Baker** for his key role in bringing the team together and for his comprehensive report:

“House Drama was yet another exciting night in the school calendar. After an intense day of rehearsals, the Howard team of 17 boys were first up to perform their version of Roald Dahl’s James and the Giant Peach. Despite very tough competition and close marks, Howard was crowned the winning House. The judge praised the ensemble piece and its imaginative interpretation, particularly the performances of Aunt Spiker (Avery Adams) and Aunt Sponge (Gene Baker, House Drama Captain). After collecting the trophy, a delighted Gene said, ‘I had one focus as House Drama Captain this year and that was to make sure we won this trophy. I am thrilled that we did it.’”

Thank you to Mrs Silk for planning and preparing everything, and to Mrs Bygraves and Mrs MacDougall for stepping in on the day to direct. The Pancake Races were another highlight, showcasing not only Howard’s agility with a frying pan but, more importantly, our

incredible sense of community. Every heart attached to a blue tie was fully behind our teams—supporting with voice, heart, and soul. Every year group won the first leg of the race. It was VERY exciting!

More Sports Colours were awarded to Charlie Tillison and Ben Brading, this time for Hockey! Despite these numerous successes, it wasn't quite enough to bring home the Spring Term Cup.

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.” — **Zig Ziglar**

SUMMER TERM SPIRIT

With renewed determination, Howard launched into the Summer Term, taking on an astounding breadth of House challenges. As ever, the boys said “yes” to new opportunities—venturing beyond their comfort zones and rising to the occasion.

Events included Cricket, Music, Art, Debating, Sports Day, and the inaugural House Coding and Mythology Competitions. Life at Bedford Prep School is never dull!

Cricket Colours were awarded to **Jasper Stone** and (once again!) **Ben Brading**—how many House Colours ties does one boy need?

The House Music Competition transformed the Erskine May Hall into a magical soundscape. It was a very close-run competition, with Howard finishing 2nd overall. Congratulations to the following boys for their stunning performances:

Gene Baker – drums (1st) Rufus Franklin – clarinet (1st) Austin Reddy – saxophone (1st) Joseph Costin – guitar (1st) Tiantian Yao – guitar (1st) Gabriel Ng – piano (2nd)

“Every time you step into the arena, you gain more than a score—you gain experience, insight, and the courage to grow.”

House Art never fails to inspire. The boys' creativity and thoughtful interpretations continue to impress, visually projecting every Future Skill we hold dear—Curiosity, Responsibility, Endeavour, Integrity, and Kindness.

Special mentions to: **Jiahe Yao – Highly Commended (Y3/4), George Middleton – 3rd Place (Y5/6), Freddie Burton – Joint 2nd Place (Y7/8), Seb Bodfield – Highly Commended**

House Coding resulted in a second placing. Well done, indeed, to all boys who entered and especially to **Sebby Danks** who came first in his Year 5 and 6 age group.

And so to the Final Furlong...

Until the very last week, the competition remained wide open—making Sports Day all the more thrilling from a Housemaster's perspective.

SPORTS DAY

This year's Sports Days were a true highlight. The track echoed with the power and pace of our blue-striped boys, who delivered some truly impressive performances. The events were filled with energy, enjoyment, and strong representation from every year group. Those who stepped up to compete showed real dedication to the House, putting participation and team spirit above all else. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we hope their example inspires even more pupils to recognise the value of getting involved and giving it their all.

Standout performances from: **Milo Rutherford, Joshua Reid and Kasper Marsh** in an extremely exciting Howard 1,2, 3 finish.

Despite the points not always going our way, Howard has remained positive, open-minded, and united. If I had to choose a few words to describe our highlights this year, they would be:

Conscientious, determined, willing, dedicated, humble, good-humoured, committed, consistent, and ever-hopeful.

The boys have participated with fervour and shown great strength of character throughout the year. A huge thank you to my House Officers and staff, all of whom were instrumental in the smooth running of our assemblies and House events.

Our 4th place finish in the overall competition does not reflect the effort, courage, and heart shown by the boys—who, in my eyes, will always come first. Our success has been driven not only by talent but by a deep commitment to teamwork and

perseverance. Whether performing on stage, competing on the field, or cheering from the sidelines, Howard pupils have shown what it means to strive with heart and humility.

“Hope is one of the most powerful emotions that drives us ever onwards.”

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

— **Martin Luther**

And hope we shall—that next year, the mighty Howard will rise again!

“The struggle you're in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow.”

- **Robert Tew**

This reminds us that effort and challenge shape us, regardless of the outcome. Even in moments where victory eluded us, we upheld the highest standards of sportsmanship, always remembering the words of Grantland Rice:

“For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name,

He writes—not that you won or lost—but how you played the Game.”

Howard House continues to shine as a beacon of character and community spirit.

It's been a truly entertaining and inspiring year. We may be short on House points, but I am certainly not short of enthusiasm, fervour, or smiles among the Howard boys. We may have finished last (or fourth, as I like to say), but let us remember the wise words of Ralph Waldo Emerson:

“Men succeed when they realise that their failures are the preparation for their victories.”

Good luck next year, boys! 🏆



WHINCHAT
2024
2025



Above left and below: Austin Reddy led the House to victory in the House Singing Unison Song Trophy. **Above:** The victorious House Drama crew

Houses



WORDS BY
Mr Paul Dennis, Assistant Head Co-curricular

WHITBREAD HOUSE



The academic year 2024-2025 was a fantastic period of growth and achievement for Whitbread House.

Throughout the year, all students within the house showcased their talents, engaged in various academic and extracurricular activities, and fostered a sense of unity.

Whitbread House has consistently demonstrated excellence in academics, and this year was no exception. Numerous students from Whitbread House achieved outstanding academic results and this was particularly visible at Speech Day. The dedication and hard work of our students, combined with the support and guidance of our committed teachers, contributed to our house's overall academic success across all year groups.

In the realm of sports and athletics, Whitbread made a strong impact throughout the year showing great sportsmanship,

dedication and determination to their house.

Our house members participated enthusiastically in inter-house competitions, representing Whitbread in various sporting events. We witnessed exceptional performances in sports such as football, cricket, hockey, squash, swimming, track and field, and much, much more. Particular mentions go to the Year 3 rugby team, the collective squash team and the Year 8 hockey and cricket teams who all won their respective house events! The teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship displayed by the boys served as an inspiration to others.

Whitbread House also thrived in the cultural and artistic spheres, showcasing the diverse talents of our students. Our house members actively participated in music concerts, drama productions, and art exhibitions.

We celebrated the creativity and artistic



Whitbread boys showing Whitbread spirit in various House activities.



flair of our students, with their contributions enriching the cultural fabric of our school and it was great to see boys thriving in the various house competitions; debating, mythology, drama and art!

Contributing to the community has always been an essential aspect of our house's identity. Throughout the year, Whitbread House took part in numerous charity events to raised money for Diabetes UK including some superb individual efforts, most notably Jacob Schouten's epic trek! These efforts embodied the values of empathy and compassion that Whitbread holds dear.

Our House organised and participated in various inter-house competitions, fostering healthy competition and camaraderie among students. From quiz contests and debates to talent shows and pancake races, Whitbread House consistently demonstrated teamwork, resilience, and a spirited drive to succeed.

These events brought together students, teachers, and staff members, creating lasting memories and strengthening the bonds within our house.


I would like to thank all the house officers for their fantastic efforts in supporting the house, but in particular to Jacob Schouten for his outstanding enthusiasm and dedication.

Always being present at all events, for organising all the boys and his fellow house officers. He truly has been one amazing House Captain, a hard act to follow for the next boy to take on this role. I wish all the Year 8s luck for their next steps in their education.

As we reflect on the past year's successes, let us use them as a foundation for further growth and accomplishment in the years to come. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence, embrace new opportunities, and make a positive impact within our school and the wider community. You always do me proud



Whitbread - onwards and upwards for yet another year. Remember boys, the Force is always with you!

Finally, all the boys and staff would like to thank Mrs Aldridge for all she has done to lead Whitbread House with enthusiasm and commitment throughout her years as Whitbread Housemaster. 



Contributing to the community has always been an essential aspect of our house's identity

Festivities



CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2024



Christmas cheer (and jumpers) in plentiful supply at the Prep School Christmas lunch



Festivities





CHARITIES 2024-25

By Mr Paul Dennis

Santa Run
merriment

This has been another successful year helping raise money for our designated charities and we are always incredibly grateful for all the support boys, parents and staff give in helping us raise money.

Royal British Legion: Armistice Day

The Royal British Legion is a UK charity dedicated to supporting members of the Armed Forces community, including veterans, serving personnel, and their families. It provides vital services such as financial assistance, mental health support, rehabilitation, and guidance for those transitioning to civilian life. The Legion also plays a key role in remembrance, ensuring the sacrifices of those who served are never forgotten. Raising money for the Royal British Legion is crucial because it enables the charity to continue offering these life-changing services. Many veterans face challenges such as isolation, disability,

or financial hardship, and the Legion's support can be a lifeline. Donations help fund care homes, crisis grants, and community outreach, making a real difference in the lives of those who have served the nation.

Santa Run

Years 3 and 4 helped raise money by completing laps of the Inky pitch and Prep School whilst wearing festive



headwear. Great fun was had by all with £148 raised for the cause!

Cake sales

Throughout the year each House held a cake sale to support our chosen charity. It was fantastic to see the huge array of cakes, cookies and confectionery concocted by the boys. It is clear we have some future 'Bake Off' winners in our midst! Together the Houses managed to raise over £1000!

Mr Guest – Half Marathon

We're thrilled to share that Mr Guest successfully completed his half marathon in an impressive 2 hours and 6 minutes – a huge personal milestone and a powerful statement of resilience and determination. Running as a proud diabetic and in support of Diabetes UK, Stephen took on this challenge not just for himself, but to raise awareness and show that living with diabetes doesn't mean setting limits – it

means setting goals. And he's done just that, raising an incredible £1,555! "I couldn't have done it without the incredible support along the way," Mr Guest said. "This challenge meant so much to me – raising awareness while proving that anything is possible." A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who donated, cheered, or supported Mr Guest, whose encouragement made all the difference. What will be the next challenge? Turning a half into a full!!! London next year?!

Fearless Five – 100km bike ride

The Fearless Five's 100km bike ride was a huge success. We raised over £1,800 and the time spent cycling, excluding breaks, was 7 hours, which is decent for an off-road route. We had a few minor injuries and punctured tyres, but the group persevered and flourished with an amazing outcome. Mr Silk accompanied us for the first 5km which was a great honour, and we hope he had fun! Halfway, we stopped for a well-earned break at the Shuttleworth Aerodrome, and I enjoyed a full English breakfast to refuel! We then crossed fields and hills to finally arrive back in Bedford near the river, where we had started. It was an amazing adventure, and we would do it again in an instant, especially as so many people donated to help us raise money.

Right:
Staff enjoy contributing to House Charity



Isaac Dailey, 8KD.

Awesome Twosome – Great Glen Way

During the May half term Jacob Schouten and Sam Parrish took on the mammoth challenge of walking 85 miles in 5 days. The pair started at Fort William and made their way across Scotland finishing in Inverness. A fantastic accomplishment that saw them raise over £2000 for Diabetes UK.

Christmas in a box

We are proud to say that boys embrace the spirit of giving at Christmas and think of others in the wider Bedford community. This year, thanks to the generosity of boys, their families and our staff, we created 24 family food boxes (with loads of extras, too) to deliver to the All Nations Church 'Christmas in a Box' appeal. The appeal, which we proudly support each year, shares donated boxes filled with Christmas food and festive treats with families in need in the local community over Christmas.

November

The Prep boys and staff take great pride in being able to help support the Upper School and Movember and this year was no different. The boys were fantastic at showing their support for Movember and raising funds for the men's health charity with excitement and enthusiasm.

Taking a 'Mo-ment' from their busy day, boys came together in the art studio on International Men's Day to craft some fabulous moustaches ready for the designated Moustache Day. The boys also created Movember posters which they signed and decorated with even more moustaches. Most importantly, the boys had conversations, led by our Global Citizen Group Ambassadors, around male role models, breaking stereotypes, emotions and mental health and how they, as boys, can make a positive difference in their community.

Over 90 boys had the opportunity to get busy baking up a storm - it was a scene to behold, and their brilliant baked moustache biscuits raised over £500 in that one event.

Whilst our Prep boys might not be growing real moustaches just yet, that did not stop them from joining in the fun just before the November exeat. Every boy sported a handmade moustache, competing for the coveted class photo competition. Their marvellous moustaches raised both smiles and funds and clearly demonstrated their support for Movember and the Upper boys leading this year's campaign. A huge thank you to Mrs Dale for all her hard work organising events throughout the month.

In addition to this several of our staff helped promote the charity with their questionable moustaches whilst Mr Dennis ran 5km each day as well as completing a half marathon on the 15th and a full marathon at the end of the month helping to raise over £1300. ^w



Left: Theo and Harris don a mo in support of the U6th fundraisers for Movember

Total raised
£12,783.00

Royal British Legion: £371
Diabetes UK: £12,412

Prep Guild



PREP GUILD REPORT

WORDS BY

Mrs Melissa Morgan, Chair of the Prep Guild



Above: Cheese and Wine evening with Wisson Hill

Left: the Prep Guild team staff the bar for Burns Night?

The Prep Guild have been overwhelmingly well-supported this year, both in the parent community and in raising funds that will be reinvested in the school. We would like to thank you all for your continued support in our social and fundraising efforts!

Our social calendar once again started with a coffee morning taking place during pre-season rugby training. This event not

only offered a chance to have a preview of the season to come but also engage with parents new and old.

In October we had enormous success in a wine and cheese evening, hosted by local experts Wisson Hill. This new social event provided a perfect blend of fun, knowledge, and fundraising.

The Christmas Market once again opened up for two days of shopping bonanza! Our parent

Prep Guild



Above: Set up for the Christmas Market

Top right: Fun Day cakes

Middle right: Cheese and wine table display

Bottom right: Fun Day team



helpers wrapped over 2000 presents in record breaking time, and the boys and staff helped us to have one of the most profitable Christmas sales to date.

A few weeks later, the EMH was transformed into an atmospheric Christmas scene with crackling fires and carols, whilst the Prep Guild supplied our parent community with warming mulled wine and mince pies.

In the New Year the Prep Guild

joined forces with the Upper School Guild for Burns Night. This entertaining event offered our parents an evening of haggis, toasts and of course, Scottish dancing!

We were delighted to be part of the refurbishment of the Atrium – part of the Year 3 and Year 4 buildings. Myself and Debbie Macey White worked for over a year on designs to transform an overlooked area into a colourful, and versatile space to be


enjoy. The match was dedicated to her late husband and former guild member Bobbi, with some proceeds going to the Young Carers charity, chosen by their children.

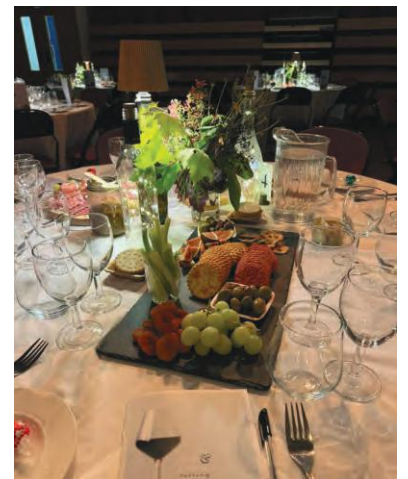
Years 3 and 4 got together for an activity day for which much appreciated ice lollies were provided by the Prep Guild.

The Year 8 Fun Day followed shortly after, and the Prep team adapted to the record high heat and offered refreshing iced coffees to go with the many fantastic baked donations.

The last event of the year was sports day, where once again ice lollies made a welcome appearance.

The committee, in addition to the parent-helpers have been outstanding and none of the above would be possible without their help. I would especially like to thank Laura Palmieri (Vice-Chair), Debbie Macey-White (Secretary) and our treasurer, Anna Heathfield-Taylor for their effort and support this year.

Looking forward to starting it all again in August! 



The committee, in addition to the parent-helpers have been outstanding and none of the above would be possible without their help

appreciated by the whole school. The grand opening took place on the 2nd of May with parents of boys in Years 3 and 4 invited, along with the Prep Guild.

Before we knew it it was time for the renowned Cricket Match of Parents Vs the Ousels (Teachers' Team). Our skipper Paras put together an amazing team but sadly they narrowly missed the victory. The guild pulled out all the stops to support this event, but most notably Pippa Smith who catered for the players and Parv Gill who made 200 samosas for us all to



BSA (Bedford School Association)

BSA REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr Hugh Maltby,
Director of the Bedford
School Association



Left: London networking event in partnership with Bedford Girls School

which bring members together to reengage or discover business connections, which have proven invaluable.

This year we held a joint networking event in London with Bedford Girls' School which focussed on property and law. It was fantastic to see old friendships being rekindled.

Our annual Old Bedfordian Careers Convention, held online once again this year, attracted over 60 guest speakers from a wide range of industries. These speakers provided valuable insights to more than 250 pupils, including students from eleven non-Harpur Trust schools who had the opportunity to ask questions and explore a variety of career paths.

The Bedford School Foundation Trust, which will celebrate its centenary next year, is the school's charitable fundraising arm. This year, it has supported the Prep School in several ways. For example, boys across the Prep School have benefited from day trips and activities at the Ickwell Conservation Reserve, our outdoor activity centre. The Reserve was originally donated by the Colonel G. H. Wells (1884-94) Charity for use by the school and other youth and community groups. Today, the boys enjoy learning about nature and camping in tents funded by the Trust. The Trust has also provided new furniture for the Prep School art department and is always looking at ways of supporting the Prep School.

Over the next two years, we will be celebrating several significant milestones. In November 2025, the Quarry will mark its 10th anniversary. In 2026, the Memorial Hall will celebrate its centenary. To commemorate this, we plan to unveil a new board listing the names of boys who died in WWI but are not currently recognised. And in 2027, the school will celebrate its 475th anniversary, following the issuing of letters patent in 1552. We have much to look forward to as we celebrate the many facets of the school's history.

Eagle Connect (www.eagleconnect.uk), our digital business and social networking platform for parents, Old Bedfordians, and past parents, now has over 2,450 members sharing connections and business opportunities. In the coming year, we hope to organise more networking events to help members of the broader school community connect and collaborate.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone connected to the BSA for their continued support, both for the school and the wider local community. **W**

The Bedford School Association (BSA) is made up of several groups from across the wider school community, including the Prep School Parents' Guild, the Upper School Parents' Guild, the Past Parents Association, the Old Bedfordians Club, and the Bedford School Foundation Trust. The BSA's objective is "to harness the strengths and support of all associated with the school – past and present – for the benefit of all." Over the past year, there have been numerous examples of our community coming together to support the school.

When boys and their parents join the school, they do so knowing they can remain engaged with the school for life. Members of the Old Bedfordians Club often return to enjoy the camaraderie and reconnect with old friends.

Similarly, we frequently welcome back past parents to school events, many of whom are eager to maintain their connection to the school.

Throughout the year, many members of the community have supported the boys in a variety of ways. This has included delivering masterclasses in subjects such as sport and the arts, all of which have enriched the boys' learning experiences. The power of our community is often highlighted at our regular networking events held in London and Bedford



Bedford OB's on a recent reunion in Durham

Trips, events & talks



CHRISTMAS SKI TRIP

WORDS BY
Mr Paul Dennis, Assistant Head Co-curricular

At the end of a long term, 24 boys and three staff set off to Austria. After a smooth journey, the team arrived in Zillertal and sorted ski hire and unpacked before meeting the instructors in the evening. The snow was superb all week (although the final day whiteout made for tough conditions), and all the boys, as well as Miss Cavill, who was making her debut on the slopes, made fantastic progress throughout the week. The action-packed evening activity schedule also helped keep the boys busy, including swimming, Austrian bowling, the popular Tyrolean evening and a lovely visit to Innsbruck for the Christmas market. A huge thanks to all the boys as well as Mr Affleck, Mr Guest and Miss Cavill for a wonderful trip. 



Above:
Scenes from the
Christmas ski trip

Trips, events & talks


EASTER SKI TRIP

WORDS BY

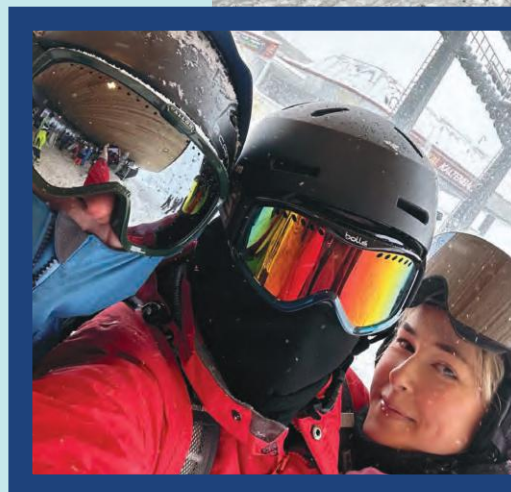
Mr Paul Dennis, Head of History



“THE NEXT THREE DAYS PROVIDED BLUE SKIES AND SUNSHINE ALLOWING ALL THE GROUPS TO ENJOY THEIR TIME ON THE MOUNTAIN”

The second ski trip of the year was another great success. 28 boys and three staff set off at the end of the Spring term and soon arrived in Austria to warm, sunny conditions. Sadly, the first two days on the slopes provided very tough conditions with heavy snow and poor visibility on both days, but all the boys persevered and made great progress with a real highlight being the beginner group skiing from top to bottom on the second afternoon. The next three days, however, provided blue skies and sunshine allowing all the groups to enjoy their time on the mountain. Throughout the week the boys also got stuck into an array of evening activities including a quiz, swimming, bowling and the ever-popular Tyrolean evening. A huge thank you to all the boys for their company as well as Mr Guest and Miss Cavill for their hard work. 

Easter sun made the ski-trip an absolute pleasure on the last three days



Egypt Day



Co-curricular

CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ANIMAL CARE CLUB

It's been another fantastic year for the ever-popular Animal Care Club at Bedford Prep School. Thanks to our brilliant and dedicated monitors, boys from all year groups have had the opportunity to handle and care for a wide variety of animals—from snakes and stick insects to gerbils. One of the highlights this year has been the lovely introduction of two Leopard geckos, quickly becoming a firm favourite with the boys. The club continues to be a wonderful space where friendships flourish and a shared love of animals brings pupils together across different ages.

Lisa Emms

HOBBIES CLUB

Hobbies Club has been a hive of action-packed, creative fun this year, buzzing with imagination and hands-on exploration. From Lego building and drawing, to paper modelling and craft-making, the boys have shown incredible curiosity and creativity in every session.

Penny Oakley

DEBATING SOCIETY

Debating Society gives boys of all abilities a fun way of developing their oracy skills while discussing real world issues.

Sophie Bamber

ART GRAPHICS CLUB

A group of Year 6 boys have been working on the use of a grid to accurately reproduce and enlarge an image of their choice for the school's greetings cards. So far, a cobra snake, Iron-Man and a lion have all been the themes. The results are impressive so watch out for the cards next year!

Phil Studd

LANGUAGES CLUB

We started the year with Italian club and boys have learnt how to meet and greet each other as well as some other foundation language. In the Spring term we were treated to Russian lessons with Kornei and Daniel (Year 7) and in the Summer term we launched Duolingo club.

Chloe Neilson

HISTORY CLUB

A core group of boys have made Tuesday lunchtimes a hive of historical debate and discussion this year. The highlight however was the mammoth game of Horrible Histories Monopoly that managed to last almost the entire year!

Paul Dennis

CLIMBING CLUB

It has been a busy year on the climbing wall.

Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed the climbing challenges at lunchtime and Years 3 and 4 have enjoyed developing their climbing skills after school.

Chloe Neilson

Working with the Lego coding kits, the boys used their natural curiosity and creativity to begin their coding experiments and develop their skills. In this first week, the boys successfully built a robot to help push a boat into the water and programmed the motor to turn when instructed. Speaking afterwards, Joseph Bright said he absolutely loved it and was pleased to join the club. We were also pleased to see the boy's showing cooperation, collaboration, and teamwork skills, and we cannot wait to see where their imagination and coding skills take them next.

Nikki Carrington



GARDENING CLUB

Gardening for all ages - weeding, planting seeds, growing vegetables and sunflowers, watering and harvesting. Oh and digging!

Bex Russell

Clubs & societies

BOARD GAMES CLUB

During lunch breaks, the boys have been enjoying a wide range of board games, card games, and puzzles together. Popular choices include Battleships, Chess, Connect 4, Cluedo, Uno, Mahjong, and many others. The club tends to be especially well-attended during the colder, rainier months when outdoor play is less inviting! Beyond being a fun and relaxing activity, playing these games helps develop important skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and learning how to handle losing. It also offers a great opportunity for boys to socialize and connect with peers from different year groups.

Alex Gordon



where boys could relax, meditate, and recharge; helping them feel refreshed and ready to take on the rest of the day.

Moira Comani

DRAMA CLUBS

It has been a brilliant year for co-curricular Drama Clubs at Bedford Prep School, with pupils engaging in a wide range of activities that have developed their creativity, teamwork, and confidence—both on and off the stage. From our youngest performers to our behind-the-scenes tech crew, each club has had a rewarding and exciting year.

Patsy Turton

MODEL UN

Following the success and the sessions run during Cultural Day last year and by popular demand, this summer term we trialled a Model UN club. The students who attended explored what the UN was, how committees worked before exploring the Rights of the Child. They chose to represent a range of countries and explored the issues that each had surrounding the rights of the child. This all built to a final resolution on how best to support children across the world and ensure the Rights of the Child are met.

Kashta Dale

for Safer Internet Day, set up and judged the House Coding competition, created posters and resources about staying safe online as well as supporting students with tech support throughout the year. The leaders also attended the AI summit in London Queen Mary's University.

Kashta Dale

MINDFULNESS CLUB

This year, our popular Mindfulness Club provided a calm and welcoming space

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

With the BPS team having great success against other schools this year, General Knowledge club has seen plenty of boys coming each Friday to hone their skills and develop their knowledge. A combination of buzzer rounds, Blookets and home made quizzes have kept everyone busy and entertained.

Paul Dennis

GLOBAL CITIZENS

The Global Citizens focused on a different topic each half term from cultural events, environmental themes, mental health and well being and much more. The students created assemblies and workshops where they shared their knowledge about key topics. They created form time activities, ran competitions and raised money for charities such as Moustache Day and Mouche Baking for the Movember charity.

Kashta Dale

DIGITAL LEADERS

Digital leaders train and work hard throughout the year to keep up to date on all aspects of Digital Leadership. This year they helped organise Coding week, delivered year group specific assemblies



3 Year 3

Below:
Extreme Earth
Day, making
volcanoes.

YEAR 3 REPORT

WORDS BY
Mrs Nicki Carrington, Head of Year 3

If one word could sum up this incredible year for Year 3, it would be adventure. From the classroom to the stage, from chocolate factories to coding labs, and from ancient tombs to volcanic eruptions, the boys have embraced every opportunity with curiosity, creativity, and courage.

The year began with a journey back in time to Ancient Egypt. The boys immersed themselves in the world of pharaohs and pyramids, dressing up, exploring artefacts at the British Museum, and transforming the Erskine May Hall into a vibrant museum of their own.

Below: Mindfulness
morning at Bedford
Girls' School



Their Egyptian Showcase was a triumph of learning and imagination, with stunning models, fact files, and even mummified tomatoes on display. Their performance of “Amazing Egyptians” was a joyful celebration of all they had achieved. Another standout moment was the Fireworks dance on Curriculum Collapse

Day, where the whole year group threw themselves into a collaborative performance that quite literally exploded with passion, creativity, and teamwork.

In Maths, the boys proved themselves true Rock Stars—placing 5th in the region and 44th nationally in the TT Rock Stars ‘England Rocks’ competition. Their teamwork and determination were outstanding, and they followed this up with a win in the Harpur Trust Summer Times Table Rock Off, showing their continued commitment to mastering their times tables. The term ended with a display of generosity and kindness as every Year 3 donned a Santa hat and donated to take on the Santa Run challenge for our school

Year 3 3



Opposite right: Trips Week animal encounters with Dinosaur Wildlife and Education Centre and a genet.



Santa Run raising fun for our school charity, Diabetes UK


choir's performance of Spooksville, which was funny, entertaining, and full of energy. The boys performed with confidence and joy, making it a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable event.

The boys also explored wellbeing in a joint morning with Bedford Girls' School, enjoying yoga, mindfulness, and new sports like lacrosse. It was a wonderful opportunity to nurture both body and mind, and the boys embraced it with enthusiasm and maturity.

In the Summer term, the boys' learning turned delicious with a trip to Cadbury World.

From exploring the Aztec Jungle to helping design their own chocolate bars, the day was packed with fun, learning, and of course—chocolate! Their DT and advertising projects that followed were full of imagination and flair. The year ended with a joyful sleepover at Mead Open Farm, complete with animal encounters, a special takeaway dinner, and lots of laughter. It was a perfect way to celebrate the friendships and memories made throughout the year.

Throughout it all, the boys have shown kindness, resilience, and a growing sense of independence. They've supported one another, welcomed new challenges, and embraced every opportunity with open hearts and minds. As they move on to Year 4, I have no doubt that their adventurous spirit will continue to lead them to new discoveries and successes.

Thank you, Year 3, for a truly unforgettable year. You've made us all incredibly proud. 



Throughout it all, the boys have shown kindness, resilience, and a growing sense of independence

charity, Diabetes UK.

Spring brought the explosive excitement of Extreme Earth Day, where the boys explored volcanoes, tectonic plates, and survival in Antarctica. From satsuma models to Minecraft penguin missions, they combined science, geography, and empathy in a truly immersive learning experience. Their creativity and critical thinking shone through in every activity. We were also thrilled to celebrate Ibrahim's incredible achievement in reaching the finals of the 500 Words competition, earning him a place at a special event at Buckingham Palace—a moment of pride for the whole school. Another highlight was the Year 3 and 4



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Trips Week fun at Mead Open Farm

Year 4



YEAR 4 REPORT

Above: What a lovely year group!
Inset: Periscope testing!



Challenge and programmed online turtles with increasing precision. TT Rockstars competitions such as: England Rocks and a Harpur Trust Battle saw fierce but friendly rivalry - one boy's score was so high we

WORDS BY

Mrs Heather Clare, Head of Year 3

If you ever need a Roman engineer, a rainforest explorer or someone to explain dorsiflexion with surprising confidence, look no further than this year's Year 4 cohort.

From the first slice of pizza in September to the final s'more at Bushcraft, the boys have thrown themselves into every opportunity with energy, curiosity and a healthy dose of humour. We began the year with a culinary bang - pizza making to launch our Taste of Italy topic. This hands-on start led into a deep dive into the geography of Italy and followed by the history of Roman Britain, complete with aqueduct engineering, wax tablet writing and mosaic design. The boys wrote letters as Roman soldiers, crafted newspaper reports on Boudicca's rebellion and delivered rousing speeches that would have made the Iceni

tribe proud. Their Roman legacy posters were a particular highlight showcasing their understanding of the topic.

Science lessons sparked excitement (literally) as boys explored electricity through circuit building and investigated how light travels by making periscopes. A nutrition assembly and food tasting session helped them understand the importance of a balanced diet; one boy bravely tried hummus for the first time and declared it "better than expected."

In English, the boys embraced Alan Peat sentence structures and explored the journey of Kunkush - The Refugee Cat and unlikely Viking hero Arthur and the Golden Rope. Their writing throughout the year has showcased compassion, imagination and creativity.

Digital logic came to life in Computer Science, where the boys tackled the Bebras

Year 4

briefly considered checking for extra fingers.

The boys represented the school with pride at Open Morning and assemblies at Polam and Pilgrims. The Christmas Carol Service in the Chapel was a highlight, with readings and beautiful singing. Festive fun continued with Christmas Jumper Day, a traditional roast, and the Santa Run for Diabetes UK, where enthusiasm occasionally outpaced the teachers!

Reading remained a key focus throughout the year, with the Christmas and Easter Reading Challenges encouraging boys to explore a diverse range of books. From ancient myths to modern adventures and a discovery of other cultures, their reading has been varied and impressive. This year we have had many boys consistently meet and exceed their reading targets on Accelerated Reader, with more boys than any other Year 4 cohort obtaining their Millionaire's badge and beyond.

Spring brought a flurry of activity and a renewed focus on community and creativity. Assemblies and lessons led by pupils and staff, explored internet safety, the Hindu faith, inclusivity and diversity, and the morals of Aesop's fables. We marked Black History Month, International Women's Day and Mental Health Awareness Week, encouraging empathy and reflection.

The Becoming Bedford project was a standout. From golf at Russell Park to talks by Ms Kashi and The Higgins' social historian Lydia Saul; the boys explored Bedford's rich history and diversity. Their final presentations, judged by Richard Banks, Lydia Saul and Henry Vann, were persuasive, well-researched and confidently delivered.

Drama and performance continued to flourish. The Year 4 boys brought Le Gruffalo to life with charm and confidence, while the joint Year 3 and 4 choir production of Spookesville was a spooky delight. House Singing was as competitive as ever. The boys also enjoyed a Greg Rutherford masterclass, dorsiflexion was the word of the day.

World Book Day saw a parade of characters from Harry Potter to Paddington, and the Grammar Slammer workshop helped sharpen their punctuation skills. Author Steve Skidmore inspired the boys with tales from his iHero series, and informal concerts gave many the chance to shine musically.

The Holi celebration brought colour and joy to the playground, with a non-uniform day that reflected the vibrancy of the festival. As the sun made a welcome appearance, so did the lion cubs at Whipsnade Zoo, much to the delight of the boys on our summer topic trip. Rainforests came to life through



Magic potions on Harry Potter Day



Augmented Reality on iPads and a wonderful array of Mini Project Preps, which again demonstrated the boys' Future Skills Values and sparked curiosity and wonder.

The refurbished Atrium was officially opened this year: a wonderful space where Year 4 boys proudly share their learning with Year 3, house assemblies take place and learning, and effort is praised and celebrated.


VE Day 80 commemorations were marked with thoughtful discussions, songs and dance in the EMH, while the Seed Sale brought out the fundraising spirit in many - one boy managed to sell three packets of mystery seeds to the same teacher, purely through charm and persistence. Harry Potter Day returned with magical potion

lessons and after-school events in the library.

The Summer Concert showcased the musical talents of the Year 3 and 4 choir and String Buddies; the harmonies were beautiful and the applause well-earned. Bushcraft at Broughton Woods was a triumph: sunshine, survival skills and more s'mores. The boys tackled new challenges with grit and good humour; one group even managed to build a shelter that didn't collapse (a first, we believe). Outdoor Classroom Day rounded off the term with nature-based art, cloud spotting, yoga and creativity. The boys have

Below: A wise bear always keeps a marmalade sandwich in his hat in case of emergency, especially on World Book Day!

embodied our Future Skills values throughout the year, developing communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, leadership and resilience.

Whether presenting to judges, performing on stage or navigating a woodland trail, they have shown maturity, humour and heart. As they now look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of Year 5, we are confident they will carry with them not only the knowledge they've gained, but also the friendships, memories and skills that have shaped their journey in our 'School within a School'. Their time in Year 4 has been full of growth and discovery; the next chapter promises even more. 



Matty makes a tasty pizza

5 Year 5



Below: Year 5
Fun at Box End
Water Park

Year 5 REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr Dominic Affleck, Head of Year 5

Year 5: A Year of Growth, Grit, and Great Memories. What a year it's been for Year 5! From the very first day, there was a buzz of excitement as we welcomed a wave of new pupils and watched them settle in seamlessly. Thanks to the warmth and openness of the year group, our newcomers quickly found their feet, and the three new classes soon felt like home.

The transition from Year 4 brought new challenges and opportunities. With a few thoughtful tweaks to the timetable, boys enjoyed more meaningful time with their tutors, helping them grow in confidence and independence. Whether it was packing their own bags, managing lockers, or navigating their schedules, the boys embraced the responsibilities of life in the senior section—complete with long trousers and blazers!

Our cross-curricular Topic programme, now in its third year, continued to

inspire. From exploring the British Isles to understanding our place in the wider world, the boys tackled big ideas with curiosity and creativity. Highlights included a charming traditional tea party for parents, the eye-opening Sustainability Expo, and a fascinating multi-faith tour of Bedford as part of Religious Studies.

Collaboration with Bedford Girls' School brought even more excitement. The Great Egg Challenge was a cracking success (pun intended!), as boys and girls teamed up to design parachutes to protect their eggs in a dramatic drop from the EMH balcony. And who could forget the Spring Term dance event? Watching everyone throw themselves into Spanish dance with such enthusiasm was a joy.

Sport was a cornerstone of the Year 5 experience. From Rugby and Hockey to Football and Cricket, the boys gave it their all

on Wednesday afternoons. The camaraderie built through away matches and match teas was just as valuable as the games themselves. A special shout-out goes to our unbeaten U10 A & B rugby teams—what a season!

One of the year's standout moments was the three-day residential at Ickwell. Divided into tribes, the boys tackled everything from tent-pitching to talent shows in the unforgettable "Tribes Got Talent" evening. With visits to the Shuttleworth Collection and water-based adventures at Box End, it was a trip packed with laughter, learning, and lasting memories.

It's been a privilege to guide this exceptional group of boys through such a formative year. As they move on to the challenges of Year 6, we know they'll continue to shine. On behalf of Ms. Bowis, Mrs. Hone, Mrs. Russell, Ms. Bygraves, and Mrs. Silk—well done, Year 5. We're incredibly proud of you. **W**

Year 6 

Above and right: High Ropes at Rootd and walks through meadows at Ickwell made for a memorable summer

Year 6 REPORT

WORDS BY
Mrs Charlie Walker, Head of Year 6

As we reflect on an action-packed and enriching year, Year 6 have certainly made the most of every opportunity to grow, learn, and challenge themselves.

Autumn Term:

Building Bonds and Creative Challenges

We kicked off the year with a fantastic team-building day at Ickwell, where the boys immersed themselves in outdoor adventures including den building, fire lighting, a nature trail, and the ever-popular archery tag. These activities set the tone for a year focused on collaboration and resilience.

Later in the term, we welcomed students from Bedford Girls' School for a morning of

Taskmaster-style challenges. The boys and girls worked together to solve creative puzzles that tested their teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. Laughter and learning went hand in hand, and it was a memorable experience for all involved.

Spring Term:

Digital Awareness and Online Safety

In the spring, we visited Bedford Girls' School for a vital session on internet safety, with a particular focus on the emerging issue of deepfakes. The boys engaged thoughtfully with the topic, learning how to navigate the digital world safely and

responsibly.

Summer Term: Science in the Field


Returning to Ickwell in the summer, the boys took on the role of young scientists, conducting fieldwork to support their studies on ecosystems. They explored the natural environment through pond dipping, net sweeping, and sampling with quadrats, and produced some exceptional scientific drawings under the guidance of Mr Studd.

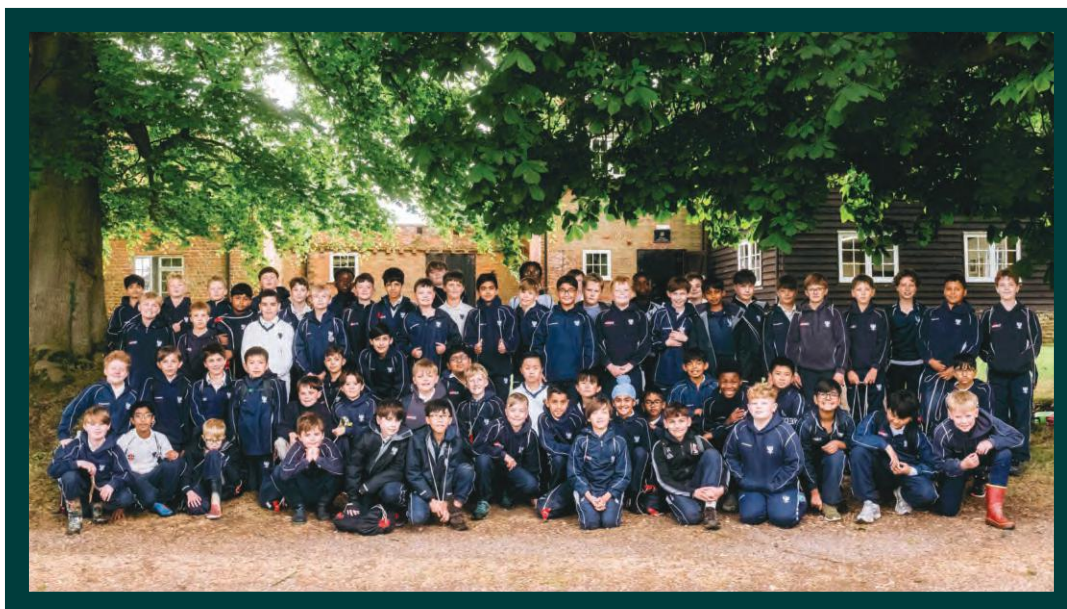
Residential Adventure: Rootd

We rounded off the year with an unforgettable residential trip to Rootd. Continuing our science theme, the boys participated in bushcraft survival and species identification in the woods. They also put their engineering skills to the test by building and racing their own buggies.

The trip was packed with adventure, including abseiling, high ropes, and team challenges. Throughout, the boys demonstrated incredible teamwork, resilience, and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones.

Final Reflections

This year has been a celebration of curiosity, courage, and camaraderie. The boys have grown not only in knowledge but also in character, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved. Here's to a successful and inspiring year – and to the exciting journeys that lie ahead! 



7 Year 7

Another school year has come and gone in what feels like no time at all. As always in Year 7, the year began by welcoming nearly 30 new boys into the year group. Thanks to the warm and inclusive attitude of our 'old boys', they settled in remarkably quickly. It has been a pleasure to watch the entire year group grow over the course of the year - whether that growth has taken place in the classroom, on the sports fields, on stage, in concerts, or in any of the many opportunities our wonderful school offers. Every single boy has made progress in a multitude of ways.

The Autumn Term was a particularly busy one. In addition to their regular lessons and clubs, the boys enjoyed an excellent team-building day at Bedford School's fantastic nature reserve in Ickwell. They built dens, played archery tag, took part in orienteering, and perhaps the highlight of the day, made s'mores around the campfire! It was a brilliant day that helped lay the foundations for some strong, and potentially lifelong, friendships.

On the sports field, rugby was the major sport of the term. Once again, we ensured that every boy in Year 7 who wished to take part had the opportunity to represent the school at least once. From the A team to the F team, all sides played with courage and camaraderie, demonstrating impressive strength in depth across the year group. Well done to all the boys who represented the school in rugby this year - I look forward to seeing your continued enthusiasm next year.

House Drama was another major highlight

of the term and a joy to witness. Billed as 'a play in a day', it was exactly that. From acting and props to lighting and direction, everything was created within a single school day - an incredibly impressive achievement! Howard were this year's winners, but all four performances were thoroughly enjoyable.

The term concluded in style with a joint Bedford Prep School and Bedford Girls' School disco, followed later in the week by the Autumn Concert. A huge well done to the many Year 7 boys who took part, and to Mrs Gedye and the rest of the team, who never fail to deliver a fantastic show.

The Spring Term got off to a swift start. Assessments dominated the early weeks, and as always, our boys approached them with maturity and focus. Following this, they enjoyed a wide range of opportunities, including the Informal Concert, the Bedfordshire Festival of Speech and Drama, the U13 UKMT Maths Competition, visits to the school's very own Planetarium and Observatory, a joint curriculum day with Bedford Girls School, numerous hockey fixtures, and much more. The standout event of the term, however, was the House Singing Competition. This is always a highlight of the school year. Well done to all the boys for giving it their all, with special congratulations to Howard for winning the unison category and to Harpur for their exceptional winning performance in the part-song.

Before we knew it, the final term of the year had arrived. It was another action-packed term, featuring Trips Week, Sports Day, the

Public Speaking Competition, the Summer Concert, End of Year Assessments, and of course, the cricket season. Well done to all the boys who took part in these events, won awards at Speech Day, and to those who represented the school in cricket throughout the Summer Term.

And now, we look ahead to next year. This cohort will move into their final year at the Prep School, and with that comes great responsibility. They will often set the tone for the younger boys, so it is vital that they consistently demonstrate the school's core values. Congratulations to all those who have been given leadership responsibilities for next year - I am confident you will do a fantastic job, and I look forward to seeing your leadership skills develop. For those who were not selected this time, please don't be disheartened. Reflect on the areas you can improve and aim for a leadership role in the future.

Finally, a huge thank you to my brilliant Year 7 team of tutors: Mrs Gordon, Mr Studd, Mr Harries, Ms Kashi, and Mr Mason. Their care and support for the boys have been outstanding, and they have played a vital role in making this such a successful year. The role of a tutor is incredibly important, and I feel very fortunate to have had such a dedicated team.

Wishing all boys and their families a restful and enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing you all again in September. **W**



Above and left: Team-building at Ickwell
Right: a year group photo on the Chapel steps





As we bring the academic year to a close, it's a wonderful moment to reflect on the journey and accomplishments of our Year 8 boys. This cohort of resilient, optimistic young men has faced challenges with courage and emerged stronger, more confident, and ready to embrace the next stage of their educational journey beyond BPS. They have truly embodied the spirit of our school—approaching life with enthusiasm, kindness, and a genuine love of learning.

At the forefront of Year 8 leadership were Head Boy Oscar McCartie and Deputy Head Boys Freddie Gibbs and Kian Walia, supported by an exceptional team of Prefects and Future Skills Ambassadors. Their leadership, maturity, and exemplary behaviour have had a positive ripple effect across the school, inspiring and guiding the younger boys throughout the year.

Right:
Charlie:
Y8's Robin
Hood



The boys have enjoyed a rich array of trips and experiences. Highlights included a joint team-building day with Bedford Girls' School and the ever-popular Summer BBQ—both of which built on the friendships formed at the



Christmas disco. A memorable day at Ickwell and a three-night adventure at the PGL site in Bawdsey Manor, Suffolk, were standout moments. With sunshine overhead and smiles all around, the boys tackled climbing challenges, celebrated success in archery and shooting, and supported one another with characteristic camaraderie. Watching them unplug from electronics and invent their own games around the campsite was a refreshing reminder of their creativity and spirit.



Beyond these adventures, many boys also took part in exciting overseas trips, including cricket in South Africa, rugby in Portugal, a language immersion trip to Spain, and the annual ski trip—each offering unique opportunities for growth, teamwork, and cultural exploration.

Year 8 has also shone brightly in the arts. Whether on stage, in the art studio, or through musical performance, the boys have demonstrated remarkable talent and a willingness to push their creative boundaries. Their contributions to Mission Implausible, House Drama, the Summer Concert, and the

Above, left and bottom right:
Year 8 boys enjoy Trips Week at Bawdsey Manor, Suffolk

Autumn Concert were outstanding, showcasing their versatility and enthusiasm for the arts. We are confident they will continue to thrive as even more opportunities open up to them in the Upper School.

Incredible personal achievements include Henry Hillier, Isaac Dailey, Ben Long, Thomas Hendry and Tristan Price cycling 100km in 7 hours to raise £1800 for Diabetes UK. Sam Parish and Jacob Schouten supporting the same charity raised £2100 by taking on the challenge of walking The Great Glen Way in Scotland. This is an 80 mile walk over 5 days from the West to East of Scotland.

To those boys moving on from Bedford School, we wish you every success and happiness in your new chapters. For those continuing their journey with us, the Prep staff look forward to seeing you flourish as you rise through the school.  



Year 8



Y8 POST-EXAM PROGRAMME

The Summer term has been a very exciting one; once Summer Assessments were done and dusted, boys were able to begin their Year 8 Leavers' Programme. This year, boys have enjoyed an Upper School transition talk and Q&A with current Year 9 and 10 pupils, Life Skills sessions to test how domesticated they are, Appreciation and Reflection workshops, an Upper School Science taster session, a visit to the Upper School Art School, Lifesaving First Aid course, and a host of insightful careers talks from parents and speakers within our school community. The highlights of this year's Programme were, of course, the Come Dine With Year 8 events and the Box End Entrepreneurial Project.

This year's Come Dine With Me events were of an exceptional standard. The boys started planning their events in the Spring term choosing the following themes: 8N - Greek, 8SP - Jamaican, 8PD - the Roman Empire, 8KD - Romeo and Juliet, and 8JG - Under the Sea. They spent the afternoon of their event preparing for their guests' arrival. Boys did everything from designing the room layout, making decorations and table centrepieces from scratch, providing guest entertainment (in the form of quizzes, musical and dramatic performances, live DJs, a temple-building Lego competition and even "pin the heel on Achilles!"), delivering a thank you speech, and designing, preparing and serving a three-course menu. Each class shone for different reasons making it an incredibly tough competition.

8N kicked off the events with Grecian flair and impressed with some good food, top-


class service (by toga-wearing waiters) and very original and creative entertainment. 8SP followed with an incredible three courses of Jamaican food which is among some of the best we have tasted at our CDWM events. 8PD enjoyed their Italian menu and challenged their audience with a super quiz: Julius Caesar or Caesar Salad and some very helpful and charismatic Maitre Ds. 8KD's theme was superbly executed; Shakespearean verse seamlessly interspersed throughout the evening and a delicious menu with some particularly memorable arancini balls. This year's Come Dine With Me events concluded with 8JG who were the eventual victors, thanks to their superb commitment to the theme and excellent teamwork and organisation in the build-up and on the day. Their three courses consisted of a 'Sebastian Sandwich' (croissants with crab meat served to look like crabs), a delicious fish and chips and a sea scape cheesecake adorned with Haribo turtles! Origami octopi, seashells and cartoon fish adorned the tables while we were entertained with a sea-based Kahoot quiz, some wonderfully awful jokes and a highly enjoyable DJ set running throughout the evening. What stood out most though was



their excellent team work on the afternoon and evening of the event where everyone helped where needed and supported each other to secure the win for this class.

The Box End Entrepreneurship Project was superb this year. Boys enjoyed the launch of the project at Box End Park itself after a lecture from James and Hannah Barbour, Founders of the Park, on how to be an entrepreneur. The brief they were given was "What is next for Box End Park?" where they had to come up

with the next big idea for the grounds and pitch their idea, Dragon's Den style, to a panel of judges after a few weeks of preparation. The quality was remarkable and showed such in-depth research into marketing, finances, recruitment and pitching. The final ideas were: 8N: Padel, 8SP: Canopy Quest, 8PD: Splashy Putters Mini Golf, 8KD: Sofa Surfing/Tubing, 8JG: A spa. Judges were blown away by the quality of the work including some in depth budget plans, promo videos, market research and even websites for their new business idea. The winners here were 8SP with their Canopy Quest High Ropes idea. They had realistic and very detailed finances, a well-thought through sensible and enticing idea, a self-made promotional video, a relevant, eye-catching logo and had even factored in monthly safety inspections!

Overall, the boys enjoyed an enriching final few weeks in school and will hopefully take these new skills and memories on with them. 



DANISH PUPILS VISIT

In the final week of the Autumn Term, we were delighted to welcome a group of visiting pupils from Denmark to our school community. Their five-day stay offered a rich blend of academic, cultural, and social experiences, and was a wonderful opportunity for both our guests and our boys to learn from one another.

The visit began on Monday, 9th December, with a warm welcome and a guided tour of the school led by our Head Boy and Deputy Head Boys. The Danish pupils then joined Year 8 classes for the day, quickly immersing themselves in school life and forming connections with their peers.

On Tuesday, the visitors spent the day in the Upper School alongside Year 9 pupils, gaining a broader perspective of the school's academic environment. That evening, they attended the St Cecilia's Day Concert, enjoying an evening of outstanding musical performances that showcased the talent and dedication of our pupils.

Wednesday brought a return to the Year 8 timetable in the morning, followed by a highlight of the week: the Danish pupils delivered a whole-school

assembly in the EMH. Their presentation was engaging and insightful, offering a glimpse into their culture and school life back home. In the afternoon, they took part in a Games carousel, joining in with enthusiasm and energy.

On Thursday, the group continued to follow the Year 8 timetable and later attended the Year 7-8 Carol Service, a festive and reflective occasion that added a seasonal touch to their visit. They loved being part of such an established tradition.

The final day, Friday, 13th December, saw the Danish pupils join their buddies for the school's Final Assembly before departing mid-morning. Their presence was warmly felt throughout the week, and the friendships formed will no doubt continue beyond their time here. We were hugely impressed by their amazing levels of English, and by their ability to express themselves in a highly articulate way.

We are grateful to all the staff and pupils who helped make the visit such a success, and we look forward to future opportunities for international exchange and collaboration. **W**

BBC ACCOLADE FOR Y3 BOY

Huge congratulations to Ibrahim Ahmed (Y3), who was a finalist in this year's BBC 500 Words writing competition!

Ibrahim was one of just 50 children – and 25 in his age group – to reach the Grand Final, held on World Book Day in February at Buckingham Palace and televised on The One Show. With over 10,000 entries submitted, this was a remarkable achievement.

His brilliant story followed a group of boys searching for a cool place to play cricket. They chose to play under mango trees, but their grandfather warned they might knock the fruit down. Their solution? To plant their own mango trees and play beneath those instead!

Ibrahim shared that his story was inspired by his Pakistani heritage and his love of cricket and mangoes.

Alongside writing, Ibrahim is a keen reader – though cricket still wins! He is a reading multi-millionaire, and regularly borrows books from the Inky Library, specially selected for him by our Librarian, Mrs Lumley-Wood. He's also a regular at his local library, and his current favourite series is Diary of an 8-Bit Warrior, set in the Minecraft world.

When asked why he loves reading, Ibrahim said, "Reading gives you knowledge, and you can picture the characters and have them in your head."

We were thrilled to see Ibrahim featured on The One Show – and although he wasn't placed first, his talent shone brightly. He's a remarkable young writer with a wonderful story to tell. **W**

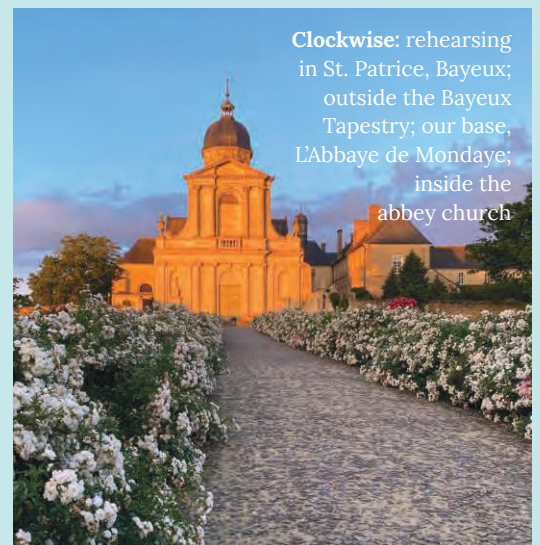


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Clockwise: rehearsing in St. Patrice, Bayeux; outside the Bayeux Tapestry; our base, L'Abbaye de Mondaye; inside the abbey church

CHAPEL CHOIR TOUR TO NORMANDY

WORDS BY

Mr Keith Roberts, *Head of Choral Music and Master in Charge of Chapel Choir*

JULY 2024

Three days after breaking up for the Summer holidays, and two days after coming in for the Upper School Leavers' Service – thank you chaps! – we were back again ready for our summer tour. This year, for the first time in 5 years, it was international. We had been invited by the Abbaye de Mondaye in Normandy to join their community for most of the next week. After rehearsing and packing robes (except for the four who, having checked that their robes still fit, put them straight back on the rail rather than in the hampers, so leaving them in Bedford), we set off for Portsmouth and an overnight ferry to St. Malo. After the excitement of boarding and finding our rooms deep in the bowels of the ship, there was a lot of sleepiness the next day for our first excursion, to Mont St. Michel, and the long drive to Mondaye.

We were welcomed by the brothers and took part in their regular monastic evening Vespers service for the first three days, singing a small item as part of their services, and appreciating their own unique chanting style. During

the days, even with plenty of rehearsal, there was lots of time for activities and excursions. These included a trip to Arromanches and Gold Beach, where we either canoed or went much faster on powerboats round the Mulberry Harbour. There was zip-wiring and a visit to a French supermarket in Bayeux, where we also saw the famous Tapestry. Mondaye is in the middle of the bocage battlefields of Normandy, and we visited a tiny Commonwealth war cemetery, as well as the big British WWII cemetery in Bayeux where we took part in a moving ceremony, reprising *They Shall Grow Not Old*, which we sing at the school Armistice memorial every



year. We also performed a lunchtime concert in the Église Saint-Patrice in Bayeux, attended, among other supporters and passers-by, by a group of Old Bedfordians visiting the Normandy beaches for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Evenings were spent enjoying the balmy evenings in the abbey grounds, losing frisbees, musical washing-up, visiting the frogs in the pond and who-knows-what sort of games of touch rugby. The weekend contained the musical highlights of a hybrid evening service with elements of the Catholic Vespers service and our Evensong, and Sunday Mass at the Abbaye, with plainsong in Latin and French, after which we set off home, watching England lose the Euros final on the ferry.

We were sad to say goodbye to Mr McCleery and Mr Warcaba-Wood, for whom this was the last hurrah of their time at Bedford. Thank you to the other teachers who came: Mrs Rossington, Miss Bassaly and Mr Sanders. Thank you to all the boys, from year 5 to the Upper School, for all the singing, all the rehearsing, and nailing pretty much everything. Thank you also to our groupies – parents and other family members – who supported us throughout, and brought the missing robes over on the ferry! **W**

We were honoured to welcome Matthew Gould as our Guest of Honour on Speech Day. A man of remarkable distinction, Matthew has built an impressive career across diplomacy, technology, and conservation. From postings in Tehran, Islamabad, Washington, and Manila, to serving as Britain's Ambassador to Israel—where he championed scientific collaboration—his contributions have spanned continents and disciplines.

As the UK Government's first Director General for Digital and Media, he played a pivotal role in the NHS's digital transformation, including the development of the NHS Covid Pass. Earlier in his journey, he even spent time teaching in Zimbabwe—a nod to his enduring commitment to education.

Now CEO of the Zoological Society of London, Matthew continues to make an impact, leading vital conservation work, including ambitious coastal restoration projects in Mozambique. Despite a last-minute request from the President of Mozambique to visit London Zoo on the same morning, Matthew made it clear: Speech Day came first.

We were deeply grateful for his presence and very much enjoyed his inspirational talk following the awarding of prizes to this year's prize-winners. In my speech, I said that I was wary of giving advice to teenage boys

and quoted Mark Twain, who famously said, "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years." However, Matthew refused to be bowed by Mark Twain's words. His advice was couched in ways that boys would understand, and it chimed very much with the advice given by our Deputy Head Boys. It was a superb speech.

Also at Speech Day, our Head Boy, Oscar McCartie, gave us his report of the year, which is included in these pages.

The central theme of my speech was the importance of communication, and of continually practising the skills needed for success in the future, which are taught by our Future Skills Curriculum. Here is an excerpt from my speech about communication.

I explained that, in today's world, where perspectives often clash and social media shapes much of what young people see, the ability to communicate with clarity, empathy, and purpose is not just valuable; it is essential.

True communication is not just about speaking: it's about listening. It draws on many of our core values: integrity, curiosity, and kindness. It can be challenging, especially when it means engaging with views very different from our own. But real communication is about honest, respectful,

and thoughtful exchange. It's what fosters understanding, builds connection, and ultimately strengthens community. It's what we have discussed in many of our assemblies this year.

The consequences of poor communication can be surprisingly and comically dramatic. Take, for example, Pepsi's attempt to break into the Taiwanese market. Their slogan, "Come alive with the Pepsi Generation," was unfortunately translated as, "Pepsi will bring your ancestors back from the dead." Not quite the refreshing image they were going for.


Working together and communicating effectively is perhaps the most vital skill we can help our pupils develop. As we approach the end of the school year, the British and Irish Lions are underway in their tour on the other side of the world—where communication is absolutely crucial.

It reminded me of the great Gareth Edwards, legendary scrum-half of the all-conquering 1974 Lions. Frustrated that his forwards never seemed to know where the ball was going, he devised a simple system inspired by their team-building sailing sessions: if the call began with a "P" (for port), the ball would go left; if it began with an "S" (for starboard), it would go right. Everyone agreed it was foolproof. Then came the first scrum. Edwards picked up the ball and confidently called out, "Psychology!"—and found himself completely alone once more.

Communication often hinges on the words we choose—something that became clear to me during a rugby match last autumn. The diminutive captain of the opposition was rallying his players with gusto: "Tackle hard! Never give in! Even if the opposition are giants!" Classic Prep School spirit—brave, bold, and just the right amount of the dramatic.

As the second half kicked off, the captain led by example, throwing himself into tackle after tackle. Impressed, I turned to the gentleman beside me and said, "That boy doesn't know the meaning of fear." He nodded and replied, "I'm his English teacher, and there are a lot of other words he doesn't know the meaning of, either."

But consider this: his English teacher was there, supporting his pupil and wanting the best for him—just like our teachers. And I would like to thank our teachers for their unwavering support for our boys, for seeing the best in them, and for communicating their high expectations.

Speech Day was also an opportunity to say goodbye to our Year 8 leavers, who have been superb this year. Even though they will not be very far away, in the Upper School, we will miss them. 



WORDS BY
Mr Ian Silk, Headmaster

Sport

SPORTS DAY

WORDS BY
Mr Shawn Phillips, Director of Sport



Determination on show as boys give it all for their Houses

The much-anticipated Sports Day was a resounding success, filled with energy, enthusiasm, and unforgettable moments. From the first to the final race and field event, the day was a celebration of athleticism, teamwork, and school spirit.

Laughter, cheers, and applause echoed across the field as students, staff, and spectators came together to enjoy a wide range of events. Whether it was the classic sprints, the thrilling relay races, or the challenging throws and jumps, every event was met with excitement and joy. The vibrant atmosphere reminded us all of the power of sport to bring people together.

Participants demonstrated remarkable dedication in their performance as students gave their best in every event.

Teachers also showed unwavering commitment, ensuring the day ran smoothly and safely for everyone involved. Even committing to beating the Y8 4 x 100m relay team in the last challenge!

Perhaps most inspiring was the resilience shown by many athletes. From overcoming early setbacks to pushing through fatigue, students displayed true grit and determination. Even those who didn't finish first were champions in spirit, showing that perseverance is just as important as victory.

Sports Day was more than just a competition—it was a celebration of community, character, and courage. We are proud of every participant and grateful to all who contributed to making the day a memorable one. **W**



Even those who didn't finish first were champions in spirit, showing that perseverance is as important as victory





RUGBY REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr James Hinkins, *Director of Rugby*



Left:
The U13A discuss
game management
overlooked by
Director of Rugby,
Mr Hinkins

Another whirlwind term has passed and close to 200 fixtures have been played across the Prep School. Late in the first half term, the weather threatened to get the better of us, but fortunately things changed and there were fixtures a plenty throughout the term. That was, of course, until storm Darragh prematurely ended the season. The season saw straight fixtures, triangulars, quadrangulars and mini festivals. Whatever

the format, they are all a great opportunity for boys to reflect on their performance and make progress both individually and collectively. Across the rugby club, the won to loss ratio was roughly 50:50, which demonstrates a great balance of fixtures and the right competitive environment for boys to enjoy their matches, have a meaningful experience and develop accordingly.

While the U11s had a fantastic run of 🏉

Rugby



positive results and close games, the pick of the year groups this year is the U10s. They were simply superb at A and B level. Their record of zero losses this season is no mean feat, they were unstoppable. Someone was overheard referring to them as playing like a pack of wolves, with wave upon wave of unified and unrelenting attack coupled with defending their line with a collective ferocity. They were simply a joy to watch.

Some memorable moments from the season from around the club:

1. The U13As turning over Warwick in a closely fought contest away from home.
2. The U11Bs standout performance by far was against Dragon school where both teams played some excellent rugby. However, it was Bedford's ability to move the ball effectively across the pitch which gave them the edge and the win.
3. The U13Cs, have had a few tough fixtures against Warwick over the years with a fair number of defeats. So, it was a pleasant change in this year's away fixture, having to reduce the number of players on the pitch to make it a more even contest and keep the deficit under 50 points.
4. The U10D coming from 5-8 down to beat Dragon 10-8
5. U11Ds brilliant match vs St Faith's. There was an exciting end to a game which included a goal line drop out! The game finished as draw, which was a fair reflection of the effort and skill on show from both teams.




Above:
The U13 teams take on board advice from Mr Dennis and Mr Hone whilst Ben Brading and James Stockwell support the ball



Someone was overheard referring to them as playing like a pack of wolves – wave upon wave of unified and unrelenting attack coupled with defending their line with a collective ferocity

I would like to thank all staff, for the time and effort they put into their teams, often going above and beyond to give the boys the best experience possible. I would also like to thank the boys as it is them that make the job worthwhile; thank you for giving your best-efforts boys and for

conducting yourselves impeccably. A final thank you goes out to parents for their unwavering support of the boys and the school rugby club, especially with all the last-minute changes and later than expected returns from away fixtures! 

Rugby 7s



Main photo: The U13 team shared the field (and this photo) with the U18 Sevens team

RUGBY 7s

WORDS BY

Mr Paul Dennis, U13A team coach


This year has been a particularly successful one on the Rugby 7s circuit, with teams across the school showing impressive skill, teamwork, and determination.

The U11s enjoyed a fantastic run at the Winchester House Tournament, winning all of their pool matches in dominant fashion. Their performances were full of pace, flair, and commitment—an exciting glimpse of what's to come from this talented group.

The U13s also shone at Winchester House, securing a well-deserved third-place finish against strong opposition. Their season continued with an excellent showing at the inaugural Friday Night Lights tournament at Bedford Athletic, where they recorded two standout victories over Oundle and Ousedale. The

team capped off their season with a memorable debut at the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens, where they gained valuable experience and delivered some spirited performances on the biggest stage in schoolboy rugby.

Meanwhile, the U12s made great strides in their development, culminating in a strong showing at the Reigate Tournament. Their progress throughout the term was clear to see, and they played with increasing confidence and cohesion.

A huge thank you goes to all the boys for their hard work and enthusiasm, and to the staff for their dedication and support throughout the season. Rugby 7s continues to thrive at Bedford Prep, and the future looks very bright indeed. 

The team capped off their season with a memorable debut at the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens, where they gained valuable experience





Rugby



In the Autumn half term, a group of 38 pupils and four staff set off early in the morning for Lisbon. An early start meant that we arrived in Lisbon in time for lunch, and a great opportunity to enjoy the sunshine, stretch the legs and do some sightseeing around the Old Town. Then it was off to the hotel to get into rooms and enjoy a dinner together.

The next day began with an excellent training session led by a professional rugby coach who also played for Portugal at the 2007 Rugby World Cup. The boys learnt a lot and worked hard during the morning. The training session set the boys up for two matches

LISBON RUGBY TOUR

WORDS BY
Mr Max Roger,
Head of Athletic Development

against Cascais Rugby in the evening.

The matches were close and the boys played well, trying to play fast and wide.

On **day 3** the boys enjoyed bowling in the morning, and surfing in the afternoon, which was the perfect way to recover from the matches the day before. The surf instructors were very engaging and the boys really enjoyed their session.

Day 4 was similar to day 2, with training in the morning followed by matches against a local club in the evening. The boys were pitted against very tough opposition, but they showed an amazing attitude, trying hard the

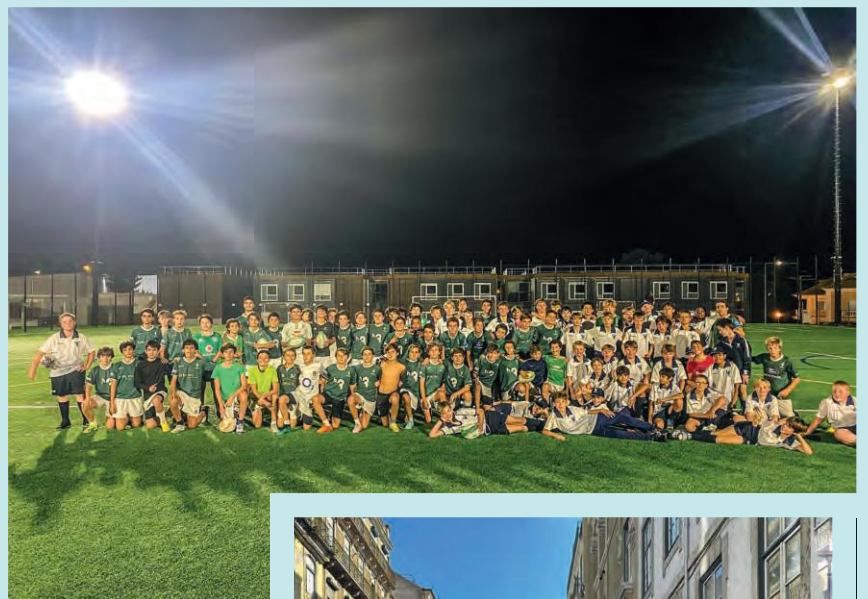


The next day began with an excellent training session led by a professional rugby coach who also played for Portugal at the 2007 Rugby World Cup



WHINCHAT


2024
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whole time and especially working very hard in defence. The matches were played against a backdrop of a beautiful sunset up in the hills above Lisbon.

The highlight of **Day 5** was the stadium tour of S.L.Benfica, which included witnessing their mascot, an Eagle, performing some training, as it swooped around the stands of Estádio da Luz.

Then it was to the airport for a return to the UK. Overall, the boys seemed to thoroughly enjoy the trip, from walking around different tourist spots, trying the most famous Pastel de Nata in the world, enjoying the local food

and playing against local opposition. The boys also spent a lot of time playing games themselves, inside with quizzes and outside on the beach, as well as having time in the hotel pool and quieter time in their rooms. The tour was jam-packed with activities and the boys coped really well with this and impressed with their manners and effort throughout the whole tour. All the staff (Max Roger, Stephen Guest, Andrew Whitbread and Joe Cave) found them a joy to have on tour. 





Badminton & Football

BADMINTON

Congratulations to the U13A Badminton Team comprising of Rishit Kumar, Haneesh Bala, Samarth Serish and Tom Gray on winning the Bedfordshire County Finals. Having qualified from the district rounds they played five other qualifying schools in a round robin format that consisted of doubles and singles matches for the team. They won all five matches

against BMS, Sandy, Denbigh, Henlow and Challney and impressively only losing one game and winning 24 throughout the competition.

This meant the team qualified for a place in the U14 regional finals which was played in Cambridge. Two boys from the Prep School, Haneesh Bala and Rishit Kumar, combined with the Y9s, to compete for a place in the national finals. They did very



Above: Bedfordshire Badminton champs

well winning three of their matches but unfortunately did not qualify as they finished second to a very strong side from Watford. In total over 25 boys represented the school for badminton in the district rounds and enjoyed testing their skills against local schools. The badminton club is so well attended which is fantastic. Well done to all that have played badminton this year. **W**

WORDS BY
Mr Simon Lincoln, Head of PE



ILLUSTRATIONS: VECTEEZY.COM

U13B FOOTBALL TEAM

The U13B football team embarked on a full fixture list this year, comprising eight scheduled matches. Throughout the Spring term, the squad demonstrated commendable commitment in training and competition, consistently showcasing teamwork and, on occasion, flashes of individual brilliance.

The season began on a high note with a commanding 9-0 victory over King's Ely U13C, setting a confident tone for the term. Unfortunately, adverse weather conditions in February led to the cancellation of two fixtures, leaving the team with five remaining matches to contest.

A narrow 2-1 defeat to Bedford Modern School was followed by a spirited away performance against a revitalised King's Ely U13C side, where Bedford emerged victorious with a 4-1 win. The team then faced a well-organised Wellingborough outfit. Despite a valiant effort, Bedford struggled to break down their opponent's resilient defence, ultimately falling 9-0. Nevertheless, the boys showed admirable sportsmanship and took away valuable lessons

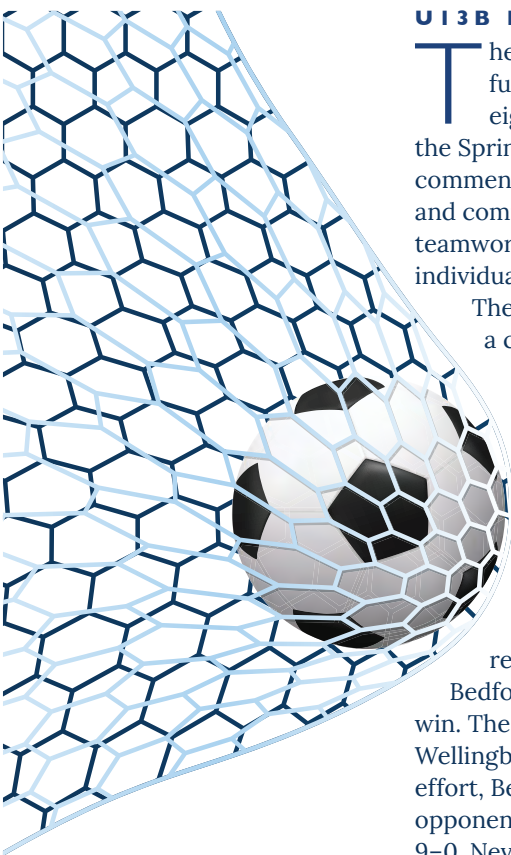
from the encounter. These lessons were clearly implemented in their penultimate match against Bedford Greenacre Independent School. In a tightly contested game, Bedford secured a 3-0 win, reflecting both tactical discipline and improved cohesion. The term concluded with a challenging away fixture against Swanbourne House. Despite numerous attacking efforts, Bedford were unable to convert their chances, and Swanbourne claimed a 4-0 victory.

In summary, the U13Bs played six matches, winning three and losing three. They scored 17 goals and conceded 16, finishing the term with a positive goal difference of +1. Throughout the season, the team displayed unwavering enthusiasm, mutual support, and a resilient spirit.

Special commendations go to defenders Luke Toland and Eben Clarke for their tireless work at the back, midfielders Curtis Garcia-Morgan and Ethan Lad for their determined play in the centre, and forwards Tian Tian Yao and Lukas Tucker for their incisive attacking runs. Well done to the entire squad on a season of development and determination. **W**

WORDS BY
Mr Dai Harries

FOOTBALL



Rowing



ROWING REPORT

WORDS BY
Miss Imogen Bowis, Rowing Teacher

Prep School rowers gliding through the river with grace, power, and just a hint of 'please don't tip the boat'

The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

— Phil Jackson

This year has marked another remarkable chapter in Bedford School's rowing journey. I've had the privilege of coaching boys across the full spectrum of ability—from the eager beginners in the Prep School to the committed athletes of the Senior Squad. It has been especially rewarding to witness not only the continued excellence of the First Eight but also the impressive depth and strength shown by the Second and Third Eights - Many of these boys began their rowing careers in the Prep School, where their love for the sport first took root.

Rowing continues to be a shining example of our Future Skills Values in action—fostering self-discipline, teamwork, and resilience. These are qualities that serve our boys well, both on

and off the water. It's no wonder rowing remains one of the most popular sports at Bedford School.

The 2024–25 season saw over 60 boys in Years 7 and 8 take to the river, whether through games lessons or our ever-popular after-school rowing clubs. From quads and octos to single sculls, the boys embraced every opportunity to learn and grow. It's been a joy to watch them progress from tentative, wobbly scullers in September to confident rowers ready for summer racing.

The Spring Term brought us back indoors for land training, where the boys tackled ergos with determination. Through stamina-building sessions,

technique drills, and fun challenges, they made impressive gains in fitness, core strength, and rowing form.

In May, Bedford Regatta offered a unique experience for some of our Year 8 boys, who volunteered to man the stake boats. Their professionalism and enthusiasm were commendable, and the experience gave them a front-row seat to the excitement of race day—an inspiring glimpse into their future as competitors.

As the summer term drew to a close under a blazing sun, the boys spent time developing their skills in single sculls, ending on a chance to race each other. A special shout-out goes to Luke

Rowing continues to be a shining example of our Future Skills Values in action—fostering self-discipline, teamwork, and resilience. These are qualities that serve our boys well, both on and off the water.



Toland for managing to beat Jonathan Pugsley in the final of the single scull race!

We wrapped up the year with some light-hearted quad racing, mixing boys of different sizes and experience levels. The laughter and camaraderie were the perfect way to end the season. Congratulations to the victorious 'Galaxies' crew—consisting of Dimitri Korontzis, Rory James, David Mmamelu & George Steed—and a big thank you to our coxes, Marcos Fraile-Lara and Anson Choi Wong .

As always, my heartfelt thanks go to our incredible coaching team. Their dedication, patience, and passion make all of this possible. I look forward to seeing how our young rowers continue to grow and shine in the years ahead.^w

 **Cricket**

Preparing to bat in front of the Main School building



CRICKET REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr Simon Lincoln,
Head of Cricket

1ST XI (U13A) REPORT

The 1st XI has had a busy, enjoyable and successful season. Preparations for the tour to South Africa and the cricket season started in September and the progress the boys have made individually and collectively has been outstanding. Under the leadership of Freddie Gibbs and Samarth Serish all the team demonstrated great skill, determination and teamwork that have allowed them to have a successful season. The whole team contributed and brought their own strengths with the bat and ball. As a result, the side have enjoyed great success with 18 games played and 15 wins. This included beating Repton in the IAPS National Cup, Caldicott twice (both home and away) and Derbyshire CCC.

We started the year in 2 cups The David English Cup where we were knocked out in the 3rd round to Worksop College and in the IAPS Cup we met Scarborough College in the 3rd round also who went on to win the competition. The team did defend their title as the Bedford School T10 winners in a very enjoyable afternoon. Well done to all the boys this year being so positive towards each other which meant all played with a smile on their faces even when the game was not going to plan. I look forward to watching the core of the side develop as they move up to the Upper School.

There were some incredible individual efforts this year that included:

- **Oliver Timothy** - Hat-trick vs St Hughes 1st XI 2/5/25
- **Ben Brading** - 96 vs Abingdon 1st XI 29/4/25
- **Aveer Nagpal** - 100* vs St Hughes 1st XI 2/5/25
- **Samarth Serish** - 99 vs Caldicott 1st XI 30/4/25
- **Arthur Mullaney** - Hat-trick vs Bishops Stortford 1st XI 11/6/2025
- **Freddie Gibbs** - 5-17 vs Caldicott 1st XI 18/06/2025

CRICKET HONOURS

Full Colours:

Freddie Gibbs, Samarth Serish, Ben Brading, Ned Neale, Eben Clarke, Arthur Mullaney, Jasper Stone, Joe Willard, Oliver Timothy

Half Colours:

Harry Jordan, Tom Gray, Aveer Nagpal.

2ND XI (U13B) REPORT

A fantastic year for the U13 B team, who have played with aggression and purpose to achieve some brilliant wins. Our victories away against Merchant Taylors' and Caldicott will live long in the memory, as will the togetherness of the group, who worked hard to develop their individual skills and team understanding throughout the season. Special mentions go to Charlie Tillison for some fantastic batting performances, and to Rishit Kumar with the ball, who produced a scintillating spell against Berkhamsted. Oliver Smart also deserves praise for the way his captaincy has developed over the term. A huge well done to everyone involved.

3RD XI (U12A) REPORT

The U12s enjoyed a strong season, finishing with a record of 10 matches played and 6 wins. As the boys continue to grow and move up through the age groups, they've been challenged to adapt their game to meet the evolving demands of the sport—an important focus throughout the season.

The standout moment came in their final match against Cornwell College, a touring side from South Africa. With Bedford needing just 3 runs from the final over, a dramatic finish unfolded. A hat-trick added to the tension, but a leg bye off the penultimate ball secured a thrilling victory for Bedford. A special mention goes to Tom Gray and Noah Anstock for holding their nerve in a nail-biting finish—well done, boys!

4TH XI (U13C) REPORT

Played: 12 Won: 7 Lost: 5

The U13C cricket team enjoyed a fun and rewarding season, with 15 players proudly representing the side over the term. A flexible rotation system ensured that everyone had the opportunity to contribute, and the remarkably dry weather allowed the team to complete an impressive 12 matches.

As the season progressed, the team's all-round game steadily improved, a testament to their enthusiasm and commitment. Their growing confidence was evident in both closely contested victories and dominant performances.

Leadership was shared among several players, fostering a strong sense of teamwork and resilience. Contributions came from all corners—runs, wickets, catches, and run outs were well distributed, highlighting the depth and balance of the squad.

The bowling unit showed real promise, and with continued focus and consistency, it has the potential to develop further in Year 9. Batting, while occasionally powerful, remains the area with the most room for growth. However, the potential is clear, and with dedication, this aspect of the game can be significantly strengthened.

Congratulations to all players for making the season so enjoyable. Your efforts, sportsmanship, and team spirit were a credit to the school.

5TH XI (U12B) REPORT

As the season ends, the U12B team can be proud of an outstanding run—winning 9 out of 11 matches and showing impressive growth, especially in bowling and fielding.



Cricket



From the outset, the focus was on development, teamwork, and a positive mindset. The bowlers made huge strides in accuracy and tactical awareness, often swinging games with disciplined spells. Fielding also improved dramatically, with sharp catches, smart run-outs, and great energy saving vital runs each match.

While individual moments stood out, it was the team spirit and collective effort that defined the season. Every player contributed, and that unity turned tight games into victories.

Well done, U12B—an excellent season full of progress, pride, and promise for the future!

6TH XI (U13D) REPORT

Played 12 Won 7 Lost 5

It's been a fun and rewarding season for all involved, with every player having the chance to both bat and bowl. The team showed fantastic spirit, working together with great energy and supporting each other throughout.

Most boys contributed with the bat at various stages, but special mention goes to Meyer Meadley-Roberts and Rueben Scheepers, who led the way with consistent performances.

With the ball, Arsene Maxwell, Henry Hillier, and Veer Ramani stood out, delivering excellent spells and keeping the pressure on opposition batters.

Behind the stumps, both Charlie Williams and Tristan Price kept wicket superbly all season, showing sharp glovework and strong concentration.

Overall, it's been a pleasure to coach this group. Their attitude, teamwork, and willingness to learn made the season a great success.

7TH XI (U12C) REPORT

Unbeaten Season for Bedford's 7th XI (U12C) Cricket Team

The Bedford School 7th XI (U12C) cricket team capped off a remarkable summer term with an unbeaten run, showcasing skill, determination, and teamwork throughout a limited but action-packed fixture list.

Despite having just five matches on the calendar, the squad made every game count. Their campaign began with a dominant 9-wicket victory away at Caldicott Prep, setting the tone for the season. The return fixture saw Bedford once again assert their dominance, this time at home, cruising to a 7-wicket win.

Momentum continued to build with a solid 4-wicket triumph over Berkhamsted School, putting the team in high spirits ahead of their final challenge against Bilton Grange's U12B side. In what turned out to be a high-scoring thriller, Bedford were put into bat and responded in style, amassing an impressive 151 for 2 in their 20 overs. Bilton Grange fought back valiantly but were eventually bowled out for 127, handing Bedford an 8-wicket win and sealing their unbeaten season.

Key performances stood out across the term. Daniel Halahan impressed behind the stumps and with the bat, while bowlers Theo Kama-Williams, Deeyush Jingree, and Hugo Walker delivered consistently with the ball, helping to keep opposition scores in check.

It was a season to remember for the 7th XI, marked by commitment, camaraderie, and cricketing excellence. Congratulations to all the boys on a superb campaign!

8TH XI (U12D) REPORT

The 8th XI had an enjoyable season despite playing just 3 matches. Beating Caldicott

twice and narrowly losing to Berkhamsted in a thriller.

The boys showed great progress throughout the sessions with many being selected to play for higher teams - a real testament to their dedication to improve their cricket skills! The boys upheld the 'Spirit of Cricket' throughout, with some volunteering their services to opposition teams to ensure we could play competitive fixtures!

U11A REPORT

The U11A team had a strong season, winning 4 out of 7 games. There were significant improvements in skills and game awareness throughout the term. The standout moment was their mammoth total of 207 in a dominant win against Bilton Grange, where Aveer Nagpal and Finn Spicer both scored half-centuries. Will Saunders had an exceptional year in the field, leading the way with 9 dismissals (4 catches and 5 run outs). The team made great strides with both bat and ball, while maintaining energy and focus in the field. Well done, boys, on an enjoyable and successful season!

U11B REPORT

After two close losses at the start of the season, the U11B then went unbeaten for the remainder. Comprehensive victories against MK Prep and Bilton Grange stood out, but the highlight was a hard fought win against Caldicott having lost narrowly to the same team earlier in the season. Pick of the batters was Arthur Macey-White whose powerful hitting saw him score 124 runs throughout the season whilst Jay Sehmbeey showed real class with his off spin bowling, rarely giving the opposition a sniff! Fielding could still be improved but a super season, well done boys!

U11C REPORT

A really enjoyable year for the U11 C team, who have made huge progress. The boys have worked incredibly hard on their bowling this year, with special mentions to Ethan Kuei and Mithun Kesireddy, who have really developed in this area. There were some standout fielding performances, with Freddy Folbigg making some brilliant catches throughout the season and Giuseppe Rampello leading the way behind the stumps. The performance of the season came with a win at St Faith's School, with Reuben Frost and Henry Hanson scoring vital runs. Well done to all those who played in the C team what a really good season!

U11D REPORT

At our first training session of the season,

the boys arrived looking more like a group of enthusiastic novices than seasoned cricketers. This was quickly confirmed in our opening match, where nearly a hundred extras were bowled—a chaotic but memorable start! Remarkably, we still managed to win, thanks in part to the opposition generously bowling even more wides than we did.

From that point on, we set ourselves a clear goal: to reduce the number of extras in every game. I'm delighted to report that by our final match of the season, we had brought that number down to just twenty—a fantastic improvement and a testament to the boys' focus and determination.

The team enjoyed a strong run of results, losing only one match all season. That sole defeat came against a very talented Aldwickbury side—whom we later faced again

and beat in the return fixture, showing just how far the team had come.

Thank you, boys, for a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding season. Keep practicing, keep developing your skills, and I look forward to seeing you back on the field soon. Have a brilliant summer holiday!

U10A REPORT

The boys have been an absolute pleasure to coach this year. They won three out of five games, but the main focus throughout the season was on providing everyone with opportunities to develop during match play.

This match experience, combined with their efforts in practice sessions, has led to a noticeable improvement in their skills — particularly with their batting and fielding. It was especially pleasing to see all catches taken

in our final fixture, a real testament to their progress.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the fantastic run chase away at Caldecott, a game that truly showcased their determination and teamwork.

U10B REPORT

The U10B team had a strong season with positive results against BMS and Swanbourne House. Lots of the boys made fantastic contributions and have all improved their batting and bowling as well as their understanding of fielding positions.

Well done to all the boys who have played for the Bs this season they have been a pleasure to coach.



“

The progress the boys have made individually and collectively has been outstanding


Cricket


SOUTH AFRICA

CRICKET TOUR



TRIP DIARY

Day 1 Arthur Mullaney Y8 and Charlie Tillison Y8

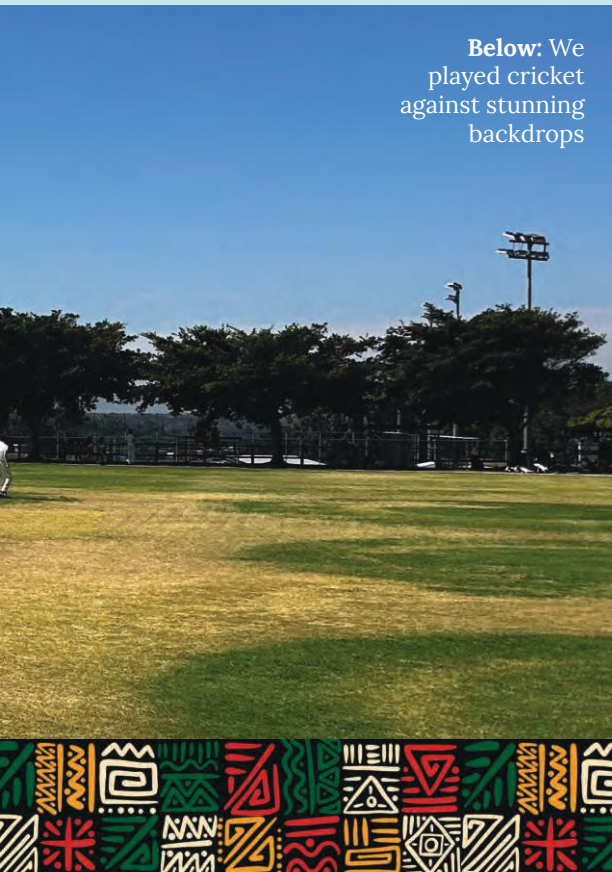
After seeing off the rest of the half term, the African voyage began. We embarked upon the plane and a long night flight ahead. We landed in Cape Town. The day began with a high tempo training session in the baking South African sun but as the sun beamed down the hot weather never disheartened the crew. Following our training session, we set off to enjoy the views from

the top of Table Mountain. It was the perfect day for sightseeing - sunny and still. After a quick and only slightly terrifying cable car ride to the top of the mountain, the boys enjoyed incredible views of Cape Town, Robben Island and the surrounding mountains, named the Twelve Apostles. Reluctantly we had to say goodbye to Table Mountain and headed down to enjoy a meal on the waterfront of Cape Town before a swift return to our hotel and bed, ready for our first fixture of the day in the morning.

Day 2 James Holt Y8

After a lovely night's sleep, we had breakfast and then left for our cricket matches of the day. Taking on Van Reibeek Strand School in an U13 and U12 fixture. When we arrived, we did some training before getting into the match. The U13 team won the toss and put on a strong batting performance, with Oliver Timothy hitting two sixes and Ned Neale scoring 38. We ended up with a total score of 141 on a very tricky wicket.

Unfortunately, the U12 team lost the toss and had to start fielding. However, they put on an excellent performance, bowling the opposition out for just 50 runs, with a



Below: We played cricket against stunning backdrops



standout effort from William Wooton. When it was their turn to bat, they chased down the target in an incredible 3.5 overs.

Meanwhile, the U13 team took to the field, facing treacherous ground conditions and some tough umpiring decisions. Despite giving their best effort under the hot sun, the team eventually lost after some great shots from the opposition. After the match, both teams shook hands in good sportsmanship.

We then enjoyed a delicious meal of steak and hot dogs, had some fun playing around with the whole tour team and the opposition, and headed back to the hotel ready for dinner, and a well earned rest.

Day 3 Freddie Gibbs Y8

After a good night's sleep, the boys set off to play Curro in Durbanville. The U12 team won the toss and elected to bat. They got off to a strong start, with Seb Poderoso scoring 30 and Matt Morgan adding 39. Bertie Martin then contributed an impressive 30 not out, helping the team set a solid total of 183. Heading into the field, the boys were full of energy and eager to get started. Strong bowling performances from Rishi Dhingra and a tight three-over spell from Sacha Ryan, conceding only seven runs, put the team in a great position to win. In the end, the boys bowled Curro out for 91 in 24.5 overs.

The U13 team also won the toss and

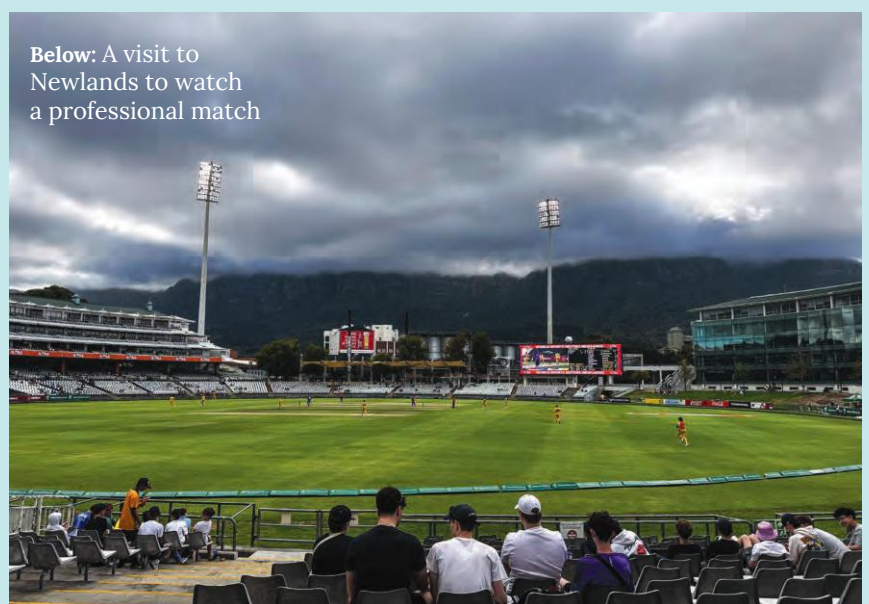


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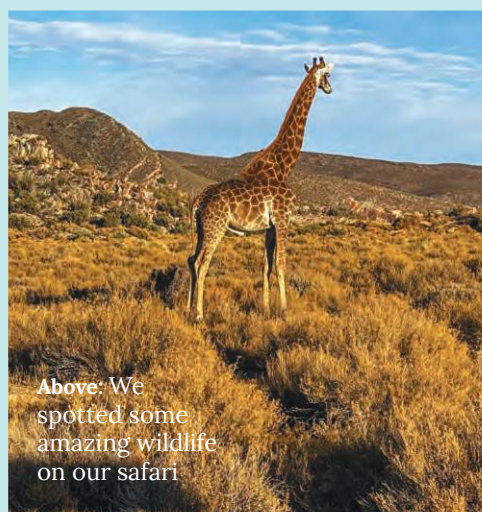


WHINCHAT

2024
2025



Below: A visit to Newlands to watch a professional match




Above: We spotted some amazing wildlife on our safari

chose to bat on a good surface. Ned Neale and Samarth Serish both delivered excellent performances, each scoring 50 not out, with contributions from other players helping to post a competitive total of 188 in 30 overs.

Knowing that half the job was still to be done, the team carried their momentum into the field. A standout bowling performance by Ahmed Ali, who took four wickets, and Arthur Mullaney, who claimed three, put the boys in full control, supported by a long spell of controlled bowling by Jacob Schouten. They eventually bowled Curro out for 91 in 26 overs.

After the match, the team returned to the hotel to rest and recover, preparing to face Paarl the next day.

Day 4 Samarth Serish Y8 and Matt Morgan Y7

On day four, the boys 'snapped' at the opportunity to attend a crocodile farm. Pulses were definitely raised as they watched the staff 



Cricket

feeding alligators by hand, and the boys enjoyed looking down (from a safe distance) at the enormous crocodiles in their enclosures. The boys also had the chance to hold snakes and other creepy crawlies... Steady hands required, which felt like good training in preparation for the match against Paarl School in the afternoon.

The U13 side were courteously greeted by the Paarl players with plenty of hand shakes before the game. Then it was toss time. We lost the toss and were put into the field for the first time in this tour. With beautiful scenery as our backdrop and the scorching sun burning down on the players, it was a picturesque location. At the first drinks the Paarl side were 60-5 with wickets from Arthur Mullaney and Ben Brading setting up a good platform for a strong finish. However, the Paarl boys fought back to post a respectable score of 146-6 in their 30 overs. Even though the Paarl boys made a big comeback this was still a very chaseable target and, with confidence high from previous batting performances, the boys knew if we could repeat this, we would win the game. Freddie Gibbs was top scorer with 56 and, with the helping hands of Joe Willard, Ned Neale and Ben Brading, it was enough to get across the line for what was a great win, especially against a team of Paarl's calibre.

The U12s were involved in a close game against their hardest opposition so far. Bedford lost the toss and were fielding first which, on a hot day, made the task at hand a lot harder. A lack of accurate bowling cost the team, and left them chasing 139 runs, having given 90 away in extras. After a very close chase we were above the run rate needed to win at half time. However, as the innings progressed, we started to slow down in runs and, as pressure started to build, we started losing too many wickets and did not run enough singles. With 15 runs needed in the last over, the boys didn't quite manage to get over the line losing by 12 runs. A great game and played in fantastic spirit.

After the game the boys went to a



restaurant called 'Spurs' and ate a variety of delicious burgers and steak. This was a nice way to end a spectacular day of cricket. Both sides had now played 3 games in a row and had been involved in truly exciting matches. Despite some tiredness setting in, the boys showed no signs of stopping and their enthusiasm for more cricket remained high.

Day 5 Joe Willard Y8 and Ben Brading Y8

Starting the day with a hearty breakfast, the boys set off for the sunny beach. They splashed in the waves, played rugby on the sand, and later visited a nearby pool, where they cannonballed off the diving boards and enjoyed some delicious pepperoni pizza.

Afterwards, we headed to the cricket match, where we were warmly greeted by friendly schoolboys. The Year 8 team batted first, with the highlight of the innings being Ben Brading's outstanding performance—scoring 93 runs off just 49 balls. Unfortunately for Bedford, several other batsmen struggled, with four players getting ducks. We finished our innings with a total of 177 runs.

The boys faced challenging conditions while bowling, with strong winds and experienced opposition batters making it difficult to defend the score. Arthur Mullaney delivered an excellent performance, taking a

wicket with his superb bowling and displaying heroic fielding—at one point, even stopping runs by taking a cricket ball to the crotch. Despite some great moments in the field, too many boundaries and singles were conceded, leading to a victory for Wynberg.

The Year 7 team, however, secured a fantastic win against Wynberg. The tone was set from the very first over, as Gabe Stone bowled a spectacular maiden, followed by a spinning masterclass from William Wootton. Gabe continued his dominance with another outstanding over, where Vihaan Shukla made a brilliant catch off a superb delivery. Matt Morgan then delivered a breathtaking performance, claiming four wickets, while Vihaan took a bowled wicket in his second over. Near the end of the first innings, Rishi Dhingra capped things off with a stunning delivery to round out a superb bowling display.

Opening the batting were Nico Stewart and Jack Nash, who started strong, running every possible single—even with Nico nursing an injured leg. Unfortunately, Nico was bowled, and Jack was run out. Josh Featherstone and Gabe Stone then stepped in, bringing the required run rate down to just four runs per over. Despite their efforts, Josh was caught out, and Gabe was run out. However, Thomas Gray came in and finished the game in style, scoring 30 off 38 balls with solid support from his teammates.

The day ended on a high note with a delicious restaurant dinner and some scrumptious ice cream.

Day 6 Ahmed Ali Y8

The day began with a quick breakfast at the hotel before we set off at around 9:20 for a scenic two-and-a-half-hour drive. After the long journey, we finally arrived at Aquila, the highly anticipated safari park hotel.

While waiting for our rooms, we played a



We set off at around 9:20 for a scenic two-and-a-half-hour drive. After the long journey, we finally arrived at Aquila, the highly anticipated safari park hotel

Cricket

bit of football to pass the time. With the heat rising, we quickly changed into our swimming trunks and took a refreshing dip in the pool. We played various games and had a great time cooling off. After that, we had some free time—some people chose to relax in their rooms, while others stayed outside and played a fun round of crazy mini golf.

Next, we embarked on a breathtaking safari drive through the 2,300-acre park. Along the way, we spotted a wide range of animals, including ferocious lions, rhinos, buffalos, elands, and massive African elephants roaming freely. Our guide shared fascinating facts about each animal as we passed by, making the experience even more memorable.

After returning to our rooms for a bit of downtime, we ended the day with a delicious dinner and an early bedtime—resting up for our final match tomorrow.

Day 7 Jasper Stone Y8

We woke up to a beautiful sunrise at 6:30 a.m., got ready for the day ahead, and set off on an early morning safari. The ride was bumpy, but it was well worth it. We first spotted giraffes, which was a fantastic way to start the day, followed by white rhinos, hippos, zebras, and antelopes. We also came across a sleeping lion—until Ben Brading accidentally disturbed

it. The lion then turned its gaze to Arthur Mullaney, eyeing him as if he were lunch. Meanwhile, an ostrich nearly pecked Samarth Serish, adding to the adventure. Finally, we saw the elephants, as magnificent as ever.


After an incredible start to the morning, we enjoyed the most important meal of the day—breakfast. It was delicious and gave us the energy we needed. We then returned to our rooms to get ready for the match. Before heading to the game, we made a quick stop at a shopping center for lunch. The food was good, but Ahmed Ali had a rough time—first, he waited 20 minutes for his drink, only to receive the wrong order. Another 10 minutes later, he finally got the right one, but just as he sat down, his foot got stuck in a chair, causing him to trip and spill his drink everywhere. Poor Ahmed!

Game time. We arrived at Reddam House, Constantia, warmed up, and, as usual, Freddie Gibbs lost the toss, meaning we had to bowl first. It was a 20-over game, and we started strong, with Freddie taking an early wicket and keeping things tight in his first few overs alongside me. Jacob Schouten bowled very well, taking key wickets, while Ahmed picked up two great dismissals. Jacob Jemmett-Gabrys got an LBW, and I took two wickets—although I still need to work on my

consistency. The opposition posted a total of 126, giving us a solid target to chase.

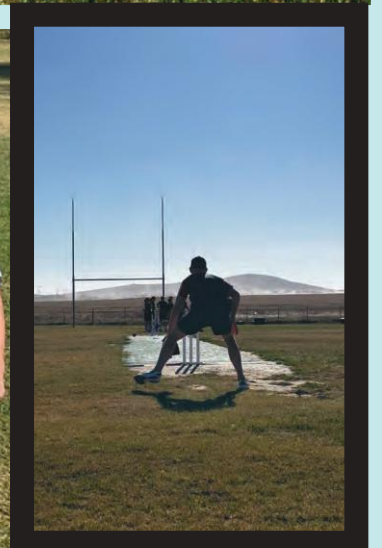
We opened with Joe Willard and Ned Neale, but unfortunately, Joe was out early to a very strong bowler. Ned followed soon after, scoring only five runs. Eben Clarke came in next but managed just three runs before getting heading back to the hutch. Then, Samarth put in a fantastic performance, scoring 32 off 38 balls. Arthur hit three off 11, James Holt contributed 11 off 11, and Charlie Tillison added six off eight. Jacob Schouten remained not out, handling the balls he faced well. Ben Brading played an aggressive knock, hitting 18 off 12, but was eventually caught out. Finally, Jacob Jemmett-Gabrys wrapped up the innings with four off four, finishing not out.

In the end, we fell short, but we learned a lot from the match. Despite the loss, we were all proud of everything we have achieved on an incredible tour.

The final words must be ones of thanks to our amazing teachers for organizing this amazing trip. A big thank you to Mr Brett, Mr Dennis, Mr Loader and especially Mr Lincoln for organising and leading an unforgettable experience. I'm sure that the experience gained will stand both the U13 & U12 cricketers in good stead ready for their return to the cricket season. 



Below: A chance to make some new friends



Swimming

The season began with challenging fixtures in January against Beechwood Park and St Faith's, providing valuable preparation for the upcoming IAPS Qualifiers. The Year 8 team delivered a strong opening performance, setting a positive tone that inspired the rest of the squad to produce some of their best races to date. The team secured a narrow but well-earned victory over Beechwood Park in a closely contested match. Against St Faith's, the team faced tough competition, with their top boys and girls competing, making for a spirited and competitive meet.


Expectations were high heading into the IAPS Qualifiers at Culford School, and the team rose to the occasion with a series of impressive swims. Notable performances included Kuba Kopec in the Year 7 50m butterfly, Luke Toland in the Year 8 50m breaststroke, and Austin Reddy in the Year 8 50m freestyle. The relay teams also performed with cohesion and determination, posting times that put them in strong contention for a place at Finals Day. The commitment and effort shown by all swimmers were outstanding and deserve high praise.

The Spring Term concluded with a friendly gala for Year 3 boys against Pilgrims. The event was filled with enthusiasm and enjoyment, with many encouraging swims from our youngest competitors, highlighting the promising future of our swimming programme.

In the Summer Term, the swimming team had a short but spirited season, highlighted by a thrilling fixture against St Faith's. Despite narrowly missing out on victory, the team delivered several strong individual performances and demonstrated excellent teamwork.

A standout achievement was the qualification of three pupils—Luke Toland, Austin Reddy, and Kuba Kopec—for the prestigious IAPS National Finals. Their dedication, discipline, and determination in training were evident, and they represented the

school with pride on the national stage.

Congratulations to all swimmers for their commitment and teamwork throughout the term. Special recognition goes to our IAPS finalists—your success is an inspiration to the entire squad. 

FULL COLOURS

Luke Toland and Austin Reddy

HALF COLOURS

Kuba Kopec

SWIMMING REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr Shawn Phillips, Director of Sport



Top Bedford Prep School open competitors

GOLF REPORT

WORDS BY: Mr Simon Lincoln and Dominic Affleck, *Head of Year 5*

Golf continues to thrive at the Prep School, with growing enthusiasm and participation across all year groups. The Golf Squad has expanded its training schedule and now meets twice a week, reflecting the increasing interest and commitment among our young golfers.

This year, the U13s proudly represented the school in three competitive tournaments, showcasing both skill and sportsmanship. A particular highlight was the outstanding performance of Oliver Smith and Nathan Nolan, who secured second place as a team in a prestigious national competition at Radley College – an exceptional achievement.

Our internal school competitions were as spirited as ever. The BPS Open was hotly contested, with Jacob Schouten emerging victorious after an impressive round. Meanwhile, Ernest Walsh claimed the inaugural BPS Shield, demonstrating consistency and composure under pressure.

A new and exciting addition to the

summer term was the introduction of the BPS Texas Scramble competition. This fun and strategic format saw staff and pupils teaming up and competing against each other, adding a fresh dynamic to our golfing calendar. The camaraderie and competitive spirit were infectious, and we're already looking forward to the rematch.

Looking ahead, anticipation is building for the annual Staff vs Boys match, scheduled for this coming September. With pride and bragging rights on the line, it promises to be another memorable event in our ever-growing golf programme.

U15 SWIFTS GOLF


This year marked the debut of an exciting new competition introduced by Swifts Golf, creating fresh opportunities for our elite golfers to shine. The Under-15 tournament brought together talented players from both the Prep and

Upper Schools, who combined forces to compete against some of the top school teams across England and Scotland.

The PS players of Nathan Nolan, Oliver Smith, Jacob Schouten, and Jack Greenwood embraced the challenge, travelling to Scotland, York, Oxford, and Berkshire to take part in four fiercely contested tournaments, as well as a prestigious foursomes event.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The standout moment came as the team qualified for the finals of the foursomes competition. There, they delivered a thrilling performance, defeating Culford School and going toe-to-toe with Wellington College and Millfield. Their composure and competitiveness right to the final putt was impressive.

With a young team showing such poise and promise on a national stage, the 2026 season holds tremendous potential. Armed with the experience, skill, and confidence gained this year, they are poised for even greater success ahead. 



A great swing by Ernest



HOCKEY REPORT

WORDS BY
Mr Dan Mason, Head of Hockey

U13

The U13A team had an impressive season, marked by consistent growth and exceptional performances. Despite early-season losses, the team demonstrated resilience and unity, proving their strength as a cohesive unit. Key players like Noah Campbell and Charlie Tillison excelled in creating opportunities up front, while Freddie Gibbs commanded the midfield with skill and composure. Defensively, Ned Neale and Orson Pettengell provided a solid foundation, and Ben Brading's quick reflexes were crucial in goal.

The U13B team had a near-perfect season, losing only to Bilton Grange. Rishit Kumar



in central midfield, and Jacob Jemmett-Gabrys's defensive skills earned him a place in the A team. Seb Bodfield and Nathan Nolan showed great dedication, and the team's standout performance was a 2-1 victory against a very good Perse School. The U13C team had several great performances, particularly in attack. Arjun Sohal excelled when given time and space, while Dhan Katechia and Iacopo Cengarle Desforges were solid in defence. The team showed significant improvement throughout the term,

with all players contributing to their success.

The U13D team worked hard and made notable progress this term. A highlight was their 5-1 win against Stamford School, where they played fast, well-structured hockey.

U12

The U12A team had an exceptional season, led by Captain Tom Gray, whose leadership and performances were invaluable. Josh Featherstone and Sasha Ryan stood out in midfield, while goalkeeper Gabe Stone's quick reflexes were crucial. The team capped off the term with a Gold Medal in the Plate Competition, showcasing remarkable growth and teamwork. The U12B team played some really lovely hockey this term resulting in some fantastic results, including a 5-2 win away to St Faiths and a thrilling 1-0 victory over Bishop's Stortford. Sahil Bhukan has been

Hockey




attitude. Standout performances came from defenders Callum Smith, George Payton and Jack Greenwood, with support from goalkeepers Dom Burton and Freddie Folbigg. The B team developed exceptionally well, showcasing fast, free-flowing hockey with their standout performance being a 9-1 victory against Felsted School. The U11C team had a successful season, with eight wins and only one loss. Their development and work ethic were commendable, with significant improvements in game management and stick skills. The D team had an excellent season, winning all matches except one, which ended in a 4-4 draw. The boys showed great skills and teamwork. With a large squad which frequently changed, the boys who came in settled in nicely and played some good hockey.

U10

The U10s had a fantastic term, showing great

attitude and teamwork. Highlights included an unbeaten afternoon for the As at the Oundle festival. Special mentions go to goalkeeper Will Walshe-Jackson, Herbie Squire's skills and Monty White's finishing prowess. The U10B team also had a super year, working hard on their shape and speed of play. They remained unbeaten all season. Special mentions go to Roman Anthony, who was robust in defence and midfield, Otis Armstrong, who used his pace brilliantly on the right-hand side and Milo Rutherford, whose finishing was, at times, sublime.

Overall, the hockey teams have shown remarkable growth, dedication and teamwork throughout the season. Each team has had standout performances and every single player has contributed to their success. The future looks bright for Bedford School hockey! 

FULL COLOURS

Ben Brading (GK)

Freddie Gibbs

Arthur Mullaney

Ned Neale

Orson Pettengell

Austin Reddy

Charlie Tillison



The future looks bright for Bedford School hockey!



Oliver shows excellent stick control

a real threat for the team going forward and Noah Anstock has covered all areas of the pitch with his work rate making him a standout player for the team. The U12C team had a fantastic season, focusing on doing the basics better than everyone else. Led by Luca L'Ecaros, the team showed great attitude and competitiveness. Highlights included a comeback from 4-1 down to finish 4-4 against Felsted School and a 7-0 win against Oundle. The U12D team made significant improvements, winning more games than they lost and developing their hockey skills. The boys pushed for places in higher teams and delivered great performances both individually and as a team.

U11

The U11s had a brilliant season. The A team played excellent hockey and showed great



The U13B "Bomb Squad" prepare to help their side to victory

 **Bedford Preparatory School**



Abitoye, Temi



Ali, Ahmed



Allingham-Norris, George



Amin, Ibrahim



Athreya, Riddha



Baig, Abbas



Baker, Gene



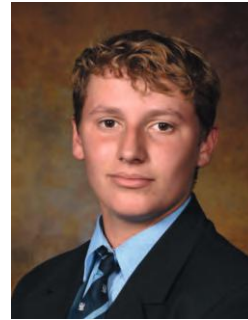
Bala, Haneesh



Banks, Stanley



Bodfield, Sebastian



Brading, Ben



Burton, Freddy



Butler, Leo



Campbell, Noah



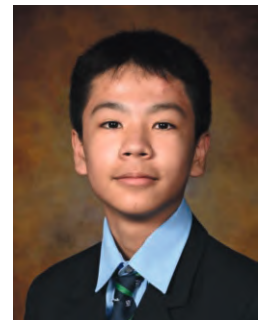
Cassidy, Max



Cengarle Desforges, Iacopo



Chauhan, Siddhant



Chen, Jeff



Choi Wong, Anson



Clark, Xavier



Clarke, Eben



Clements, James



Dailey, Isaac



Das Gupta, Nikhil



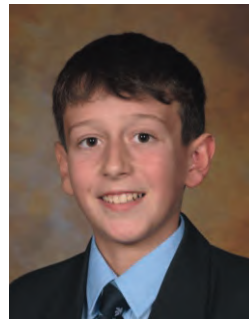
Dey, Arjun



Evans, Aaron



Fraile-Lara, Marcos



Gallego Sanchez, Jaime

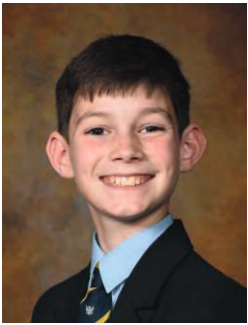


Garcia-Morgan, Curtis



Gibbs, Freddie

Leavers 2024-25



Gibson, Oliver



Gill, SJ



Harrison, Alex



Hendry, Thomas



Hill, Joe



Hillier, Henry



Holland, Gabriel



Holt, James



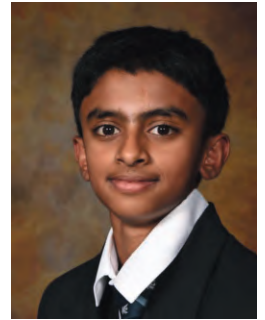
Hosein, Ilyas



Hu, Robin



Hudson, Oliver



Ismath, Abdullah



James, Rory



Jemmett-Gabrys, Jacob



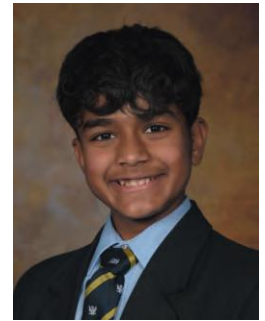
Jordan, Harry



Katechia, Dhan



Korontzis, Dimitri



Kumar, Rishit



Lad, Ethan



Lankipalli, Siddhu



Long, Ben



Loughnane, Louis



Maxwell, Arsene



McCauley, Thomas



McCartie, Oscar



McDonald, Rory



Meadley-Roberts, Meyer



Middleton, Harry



Mmamelu, David



Mullaney, Arthur

Bedford Preparatory School



Neale, Ned



Newton, Nason



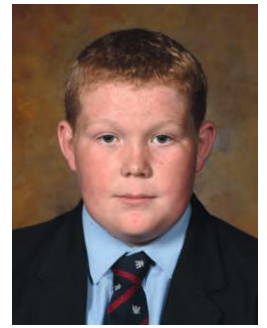
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Parrish, Sam



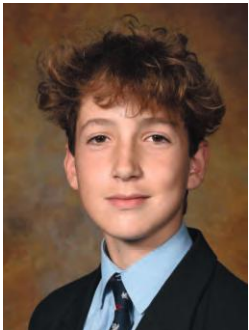
Patel, Harsh



Payton, Oliver



Pettengell, Orson



Phillips, Henry



Pool, Monty



Price, Tristan



Pugsley, Jonathan



Ramani, Veer



Rampello, Angelo



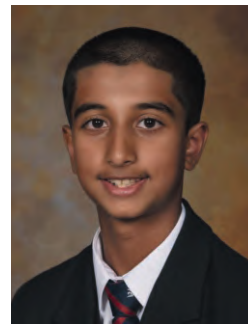
Reddy, Austin



Scheepers, Reuben



Schouten, Jacob



Serish, Samarth



Shadid, Laith



Singh, Karan



Sithole, Owami



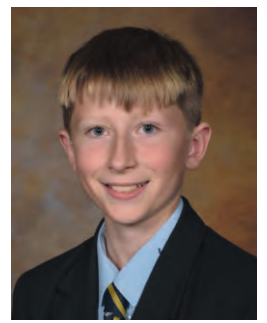
Smart, Oliver



Sohal, Arjun



Spajic, Rafael



Squire, Wilfred



Steed, George



Stockwell, James



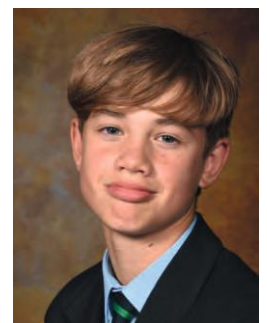
Stone, Jasper



Thwaite, Elliot



Tillison, Charlie



Timothy, Oliver



Toland, Luke



Tucker, Lukas



Upadhyay, Pavit



Vinales Arredondo, Javier



Walia, Kian



Willard, Joe



Williams, Charlie



Yao, TianTian

Art Credits

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02
Y3 | Joseph Bright

03
Y4 | Kaveish Elanko

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Y4 | Jiahe Yao

05
Y4 | Ernest Walsh

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Y5 | Otis Armstrong

07
Y5 | Ben Gray

08
Y5 | Seth Barley

09
Y6 | Leo Watt

10
Y5 | Natey Roberts

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Y5 | Sebby Danks

12
Y5 | Ben Gray

13
Y5 | George Middleton

14
Y6 | Oscar Craddock

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Y6 | Sachin Dey

16
Y6 | Arthur Macey-White

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Y7 | Ellis Gosling

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Y7 | Richard Guan

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Y7 | Elliott Keggins

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Y7 | Luca Lescaros

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Y7 | Roshan Mukinthan

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Y7 | Jack Nash

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Y7 | Joseph Ram

24
Y7 | Leon Saldias-Carveny

25
Y7 | Kavir Saxena

26
Y7 | Thomas Thirakornratch

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Y7 | Evan Byrne

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Y7 | Aryan Chuhhadia

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Y7 | Henry Parrish

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Y7 | Lucian Parrish

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Y7 | James Tierney

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Y7 | Alessio Valentino-Tucker

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Y7 | Aryan Chuhhadia

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Y7 | Archie Taylor

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Y8 | Kian Walia

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Y8 | Sebastian Bodfield

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Y8 | Gabriel Holland

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Y8 | Charlie Williams

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Y8 | Xavier Clark

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Y8 | Curtis Garcia-Morgan

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Y8 | Rory James

51
Y8 | Oliver Gibson

52
Y8 | Jaime Gallego-Sanchez

53
Y8 | Freddy Burton

54
Y8 | Tom McCardle

55
Y8 | Leo Butler

56
Y8 | Noah Campbell

57
Y8 | Anson Choi-Wong

Parting shot



Above: acrobatic Prep School boys during breaktime



Above:
"I am a Jedi:
like my father
before me!"



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FOLLOW US



Front cover:

Concentration
plus imagination =
beautiful art!

Back cover:

"And that's magic!"

That they be *good* men.