

19th December 2014

Dear Parents & Carers,

Family & festivities...

It has been an extremely long, and extremely successful, term. In fifteen weeks we have:

- grown to 470 students (still spaces in Year 7!!!)
- played in nearly sixty sports fixtures
- run fifty-four different electives
- welcomed eleven new teachers
- held five Progress Evenings
- and a Work Experience evening for our Year 10s

In the last 2 weeks alone we have held an inter-house carol competition, had 600 people at our Christmas Assembly at St Paul's church and served up over 250 Christmas dinners to staff and students.

My thanks again to everyone who make BFS the special place that it is.

Start of term arrangements

As I said in my last newsletter, **Monday 5th January will be a staff training day**, with students back in school the following day (Tuesday 6th) at the usual time (8.25am)

Opinions please!

The end of term is a good time to take stock of how things are going. We will be running our own parent and student surveys next term, and **it would also help if you could answer the OFSTED Parent View survey on us over the holidays.** It takes just a couple of minutes to register, has only twelve questions, and the more responses to this survey the more accurate the picture about us.

You can register to do this survey here: <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/register>

Looking ahead to next term...

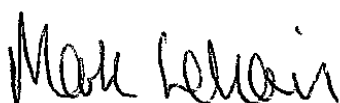
I wrote last time about the tweaks to processes and changes to the curriculum that we are making from January. I have been delighted at the way students and their families have responded – and thank you again for the feedback received.

We are looking forward to working with ABM Catering as they take over the running of the school restaurant. They were selected by the school and students as they offered the best combination of value for money and variety. Students will be able to purchase a lot more "grab & go" options – and it won't just be a meal deal on offer, there will be lots of individual items to buy.

We will also be rolling out **a proper range of breakfast items before school in the morning.** This will start a couple of weeks into term, once we have settled in with the new break and lunchtime menus.

If you'd like more details, check out the school website – we have links on the front page to menus etc.

That's it from me for now. It's been a great term! Have a lovely holiday season with your nearest and dearest - we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting and important 2015!



Mark Lehain.

Key dates

5th January	Staff training day – NO students in school
6th January	Students return to school, 8.25am start, week ONE on timetable
15th January	Year 11 "Next Steps" Evening – all local 6 th forms and colleges will be present, as will the local Jobs Hub to talk about apprenticeships
29th January	Year 7 Progress Evening – 5.30pm – 8.30pm
5th February	Friends of Bedford Free School – meeting in school, 7pm
13th February	School closes for Half Term holiday, 3.15pm
16th – 20th February	Half term Year 11 revision sessions on this week
23rd February	Student return to school, 8.25am start, week ONE on timetable
w/c 2nd March	Year 11 mock exams week
12th March	Year 9 Progress Evening
19th March	Year 11 Progress Evening
26th March	Year 10 Progress Evening
27th March	School closes for Easter holidays, 3.15pm
30th March – 10th April	Easter Holidays "Easter School" sessions for Year 11 and other students