

19<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> January will be a staff training day**, with students back in school the following day (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>) 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...**

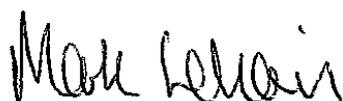
I wrote last time about the tweaks to processes and changes to the curriculum that we are making from January. I have been delighted at the way students and their families have responded – and thank you again for the feedback received.

**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**

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