



BEDFORD
FREE SCHOOL

www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

14th November 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

The school as always continues to be busy, in lessons, electives, wider enrichment activities and taking part in various other school based and wider community events. In daily reflections, we have been considering what it means to be intrinsically motivated and how driving yourself continually through an enthusiastic approach, can help you towards positivity and success. Year 11 are well into their mocks, which began last Friday and continue during this super-busy week. We wish them luck and look forward to giving out their results and meeting with parents to discuss their progress and give further advice on 6th December.

Remembrance Day

Last week marked 100 years since WWI ended. All pupils experienced a very moving and thought provoking assembly given by Mr Blake. On Friday morning Mr Blake also led a poignant morning address which he delivered standing in front of sixty images pasted on windows of the school. These images were of poppies and contained textual information about the fallen soldiers of Bedford. The whole school then lined up at the end of break and listened to poems read beautifully by Megan and Maisie. Following this, we marked the occasion with two minutes of silence at 11am, and heard the Last Post played by Sebastian and Alan Litchfield from the Salvation Army. Remembrance week culminated for us at Elstow Abbey where 5 students; Maisie, Roma, Alessio, Nikita and Jude accompanied Mrs Costin-Webb to read poems in a beautiful service led by one of our Governors, Fr Paul Messam. Well done and thank you to all involved.

GCSE Celebration Event

Last Thursday, 8th November we welcomed back the class of 2018 to receive and celebrate their GCSE certificates and successes. It was fabulous to greet the students again and see how they are maturing further into really fine young adults. We also welcomed back Mark Lehain Founding Principal and were honoured and grateful to have guest Speaker Mr Damon Pattison, Head of Entertainment, North for BBC Studios. Damon engaged us with very wise and often comical stories. He included life advice and fascinating tales about working in the media on shows such as 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' and 'Show me the Monet'. A huge thank you to everyone involved, our current Head and Deputy Head Pupils, staff who organised and attended the event, the year 11 students and their families.

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R E S P E C T • H O N E S T Y • H I G H E X P E C T A T I O N S

Sporting news:

Mr Cox is proud to report that the under 16 girls became joint district champions with Sharnbrook at table tennis. This is a fantastic achievement for a relatively small school. As well as competing in table tennis matches, pupils of both genders are also playing competitions in badminton and basketball. We are also looking forward to our key stage 3 pupils entering a swimming competition soon. On that note, any students who would like to represent the school in swimming should talk to Mrs Monk.

We are pleased to be part of the junior National Basketball Association (NBA) for year 7 again this year. This is an initiative run by the NBA USA to engage more young people. Schools who are fortunate enough to take part are drafted in to represent a real NBA team and receive the full NBA kit to wear when they compete. Bedford Free School will represent one of the following; New York Knicks, Philadelphia 76ers, Brooklyn Nets, Toronto Raptors or the Boston Celtics. We will find out which team next week!

Performing Arts

From Miss Damon and Mrs Goodship:

Our Just Brass students are performing as part of a Christmas Celebration at the Salvation Army Hall on 2nd December.

The show dates (Legally Blonde) have changed to the 16th and 17th January 2019. It will still be performed in Bedford College Theatre and start at 7pm. Miss Damon and Miss Goodship will be making the performance selections for the Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama. Letters for all these events will be sent out imminently.

Science Heroes

Miss McPherson-George would like to let you know that the following pupils are currently at the top of the SAM learning leader board:-

Akash	Teo	Arushi	Jason N	Sathya
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Congratulations to all of you – keep up the hard work!

Review of uniform policy

Following consultation with some very helpful parents and pupils there has been alteration to the wording of our uniform policy in the section regarding hairstyles. The words now read as such:-

*Hair should be **appropriate to a professional place of work**, i.e. no extreme/unusual styles or colours, no shavings or patterns. Hair must be of a natural colour. A student may be asked to tie hair back for health and safety reasons.*

Hairbands/scarves should be plain black; no other hair ornament is necessary.

Thank you to the parents and students who worked with us on this.

Drop-off/Pick-up

May I politely remind you that the agreed and official pick-up/drop-off point for pupils is Melbourne Street car-park. We really need to keep all of our students and local community safe. Please do not use Cardington Road, which is becoming somewhat chaotic with some parents parking on the pavements and using local business' and residents' private drives.

Parents' Forum

We started these last year in order to gather feedback from parents to accelerate our journey to being a world-class school. We would like to introduce them again this term. We have scheduled Thursday 22nd November 2018 from 7-8pm. We will have refreshments available and hope to see you there. Please be advised that this is the same date as Bedford's Christmas Lights switch on so please leave plenty of time to get here. We will have a 'one off' offer of a limited number of places for onsite parking for this event. These places can only be booked with elogan@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk, and are only for the Parents' Forum.

If you would like to attend this forum please email elogan@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk and let her know you are coming.

Christmas Holidays and a January Training Day

A reminder that we finish for the Christmas break comparatively early (last school day, Friday 14th December) and return back after the holidays fairly early (Wednesday 2nd January 2019).

It is also worth noting that we have a teacher training day on an unusual day, Friday 11th January. This is because we are lucky enough to be hosting world class trainers www.learningscientists.org from Scotland and America for two days (as such the staff will really be going the extra mile and will be coming to work on Saturday 12th January).

If you would like to know more or simply be able to support your child with their learning, revision or homework tasks please access the website (address above). It's full of great advice.

Very best wishes,



Jane Herron
Head of School

Bedford Free School – Key Dates	
12 th – 16 th November 2018	Year 11 Mock Exam week
22 nd November 2018	Parent Forum - 7-8pm
6 th December 2018	Snowdon Parents Briefing – Year 7 at 6.30pm & Year 9 at 7.30pm
6 th December 2018	Year 11 Progress Evening & Next Steps Event
13 th December 2018	Christmas lunch (details to follow)
14 th December 2018	Christmas Assembly at St Paul's Bedford
17 th Dec 2018 – 1 st Jan 2019	Christmas Holidays
2 nd January 2019	Back to school
10 th January 2019	Year 10 Progress Evening
11 th January 2019	Staff Training Day (school closed)
16 th – 17 th January 2019	'Legally Blonde' School Musical, Bedford College, 7pm
24 th January 2019	Year 9 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
31 st January 2019	Year 8 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
7 th February 2019	Year 7 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
11 th – 15 th February 2019	Half term holiday
18 th – 22 nd February 2018	Year 11 Mock Exams week
7 th March 2019	Year 11 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
19 th March 2019	Easter Concert (details to follow)
21 st March 2019	Year 9 Options Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
27 th March 2019	BFS Show: Romeo & Juliet
8 th – 22 nd April 2019	Easter Holidays
23 rd April 2019	Back to School
2 nd May 2019	Year 10 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
6 th May 2019	May Day Bank Holiday (school is closed)
9 th May 2019	Year 8 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
16 th May 2019	Year 7 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
27 th – 31 st May 2019	Half term holidays
17 th – 21 st June 2019	Year 10 Mock exams
24 th – 28 th June 2019	Year 10 work experience + Year 7, 8, 9 Activities Week
27 th June 2019	Year 6 transfer day
4 th July 2019	Year 10 Progress Evening (school finishes at 3.20pm)
5 th July 2019	Sports Awards evening (provisional)
10 th July 2019	Summer Showcase
16 th July 2019	Sports Day (<i>confirmed</i>)
19 th July 2019	End of Year Celebration Assembly
22 nd July – 5 th September 2019	Summer Holidays
9 th September 2019	Back to school (Years 8-11)



School Uniform

Boys

Girls

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White shirt with fastened top button 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White shirt with fastened top button
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Trousers – worn pulled up with a belt if necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black skirt <u>knee length</u>: - <i>selected styles from school supplier only. Please explicitly state that you are from BFS and they will advise which skirts you can choose from</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dark coloured or white socks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black tights – no leggings Black/White socks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black trousers; school style (not fashion i.e. skinny, cropped etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blazer (School supplier only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blazer (School supplier only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V-neck jumper (School supplier only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V-neck jumper (School supplier only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tie (School supplier only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tie (School supplier only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black school shoes – (no boots, ‘trainer’ style or plimsolls) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black school shoes – (no boots, ‘trainer’ style or plimsolls)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensible school coat – (no hoodies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensible school coat – (no hoodies)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear nail varnish only – nails kept to a sensible length <u>No</u> make up All facial jewellery and visible body-piercing is inadmissible. All jewellery should abide by the ‘1’ rule i.e. 1 ring, 1 pair of stud earrings (in earlobes only) Hair should be appropriate to a professional place of work, i.e. no extreme/unusual styles or colours, no shavings or patterns. Hair must be of a natural colour. A student may be asked to tie hair back for health and safety reasons. Hairbands/scarves should be plain black; no other hair ornament is necessary. 	

PE Kit

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fleece top (School supplier only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polo shirt (School supplier only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PE Shorts/skorts (School supplier only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tracksuit bottom - no leggings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports socks (School supplier only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trainers with appropriate grip, material and support for the ankles (no high top or plimsolls)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Football boots
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mouth guard
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shin pads
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plain black waterproof jacket (optional)

Equipment List

Attending school with the correct equipment is vital in ensuring that pupils can participate fully in lessons. Please consider the equipment listed below as essential and as a minimum.

Equipment	Notes
School Bag - robust	Predominantly black Must be suitable for carrying equipment and kept in good order.
School Planner	Provided by the school
Achievement Card kept neatly and renewed weekly	Provided by the school
Pencil Case containing: -	Black, blue, red and green pens Pencils and sharpener Colouring pencils Highlighters Eraser Glue Stick Safe scissors (optional)

30cm Ruler	
Geometry kit (protractor, set square, pair of compasses)	These can be purchased in virtually any supermarket – need not be expensive. Some are less than £1.
Calculator	This should be a Casio FX-85GT – available in most supermarkets and shops, and will see you all the way through to A-levels. It even comes in a pink version!
Watch	To be worn on the wrist
Headphones	Small – to be kept in bag unless used in lesson under teachers instructions
Rough note book	Optional
Reading Book	To be brought to school every day (one may be obtained from the school library)
Clear Water Bottle	