



BEDFORD
FREE SCHOOL

www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

14th December 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

As we approach the end of the first term of this school year, BFS continues to be full of life and bustling. The pupils are still focused and working hard in lessons; after their first set of mock results and feedback from teachers on Progress Evening last week Year 11 are throwing themselves into working on advice that teachers have given. Year 10 are busy with their first GCSE standard assessments and Years 7 to 9 were learning right up until the end of period 3 today before we organise ourselves ready for the Christmas Assembly. We are allowing a little frivolity – we've been having the 'inter-house Carol-Off' this week with London Tigers toppling the reigning champions Cardington Dolphins and the Christmas lunch festivities yesterday were great!

Parent Forum

I have reserved 7pm Thursday 21st February 2019 for a Parents Forum. This is an opportunity for us to gather feedback from you on the school. If you would like to join this please would you let us know in advance by emailing elogan@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk. If there is anything you would like to see included on an agenda please could you mention that in your email too. This is not for individual queries about individual pupils – we are happy to meet you separately over any concerns. It is for matters of policy and procedure. We are interested in what you value that we do, and what you believe we can do better. It would be great to see as many parents there as possible.

School Musical

Legally Blonde is sold out. The performance is imminent (16th and 17th January 2019). We welcomed many pupils from Priory and Elstow Schools this week in the electives slot for a little sneak preview. The school hall was jam-packed as Miss Damon and the cast threw themselves energetically into a very professional reduced version of the show. I can't wait to watch it in full; costumed, lit and set in the very professional Bedford College South Bank Theatre.

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Careers and guidance

To ensure we are fully supporting all of our pupils in terms of careers advice and guidance, all pupils should be given multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to come and talk to small groups of our pupils about your job, the skills required and the different routes of how one may get into your line of work, then please email Mrs Foley efoley@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk with your name, contact details and your current role. We will of course take care of the necessary safeguarding checks.

Parent Surveys

Parents of Year 11 pupils may have noticed that the survey we asked them to complete last week at Progress Evening was longer than the usual one we ask parents to fill out. This new format will be used from now on at every year group's Progress Evening and we will be listening to and taking note of your views.

The survey's format has been taken directly from the one provided by Ofsted. You could really help us by sharing your views in the online version by following the link directly below to Parent View:-

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

Year 10 Progress Evening 10th January

A reminder to all parents of Year 10 pupils to put aside the evening of Thursday 10th January 2019 (the second week back) to attend school with your son/daughter in order to find out how they are doing in their GCSE studies and receive advice about their continuing pathway to academic success. Year 10 pupils will be given their appointment sheets on the first day back and are expected to make appointments with their each of their respective teachers. Parents have mooted to us that sometimes appointments can get out of sync on progress evening. As such we ask that you play your part in helping us keep to time by being mindful of the fact that appointments are allocated for 5 minutes per family.

School Equipment

With over two full week's holiday and some of our children expecting a visit from Santa this holiday, now is an opportune time to ensure your child's pencil cases are fully stocked. We continuously make the analogy of our time in school being like climbing a mountain and how one needs the right equipment to get to the top successfully. Can I ask that you support your child in their climb by prioritising organising them with all the necessary equipment ready for their new term.

January Return and Training Days

We return to school on Wednesday 2nd January 2019. We expect all pupils in full school uniform ready to have a special welcome back assembly and time with their tutor period 1 (new electives will start Friday 4th January) and raring to go with all of their equipment.

A reminder that there is a teacher training day Friday 11th January as we are hosting world class trainers www.learningscientists.org from Scotland and America for two days (the staff will be coming to work on Saturday 12th January too).

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.

...And have a restful break

We have set this year's Christmas holiday dates as such to ensure that all of our pupils receive a very well earned generous break. I watch our fantastic pupils 'Going the Extra Mile' every day; in their learning, in class, their conduct, the respect they have for each other and their teachers, their resilience, enthusiasm and their positivity. I see how hard they work and how they throw themselves into school life. As a result of BFS and home working together, unified, towards making them successful, I see what great young adults they all become. I know that very often on these shorter winter days we get the best of them in school and you pick up the tiredness. So enjoy spending time together as a family, look after each other and I look forward to seeing lovely refreshed faces in January 2019.

Happy new year to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JHERRON', followed by a small dot.

Jane Herron
Head of School

Bedford Free School – Key Dates	
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 (school finishes at 3.20pm)
11 th January 2019	Staff Training Day (school closed)
16 th – 17 th January 2019	'Legally Blonde' School Musical, Bedford College, 7pm (SOLD OUT)
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 2019	Year 11 Mock Exams week
21 st February 2019	Parents Forum, 7pm
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 (provisional)
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 week
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 (provisional)
16 th July 2019	Sports Day
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)