



# Advantage Schools | Autumn Term Newsletter – December 2021

## VIP Visitors

On 1st December BFS was delighted to welcome author Seth Burkett. Seth is a prolific writer who was the first English footballer to play professionally in Brazil. He is the author of "Tekkers" and was one of the authors interviewed by Mr Cox.

BFS was also lucky enough to host Vijay Mistry, drummer of The Kaiser Chiefs, who came to speak at one of the 'Future Leader's' lunches



## Christmas Activities

As you would expect in the run up to the Christmas holidays, pupils at Elstow have been preparing for lots of performances. Pupils in reception and Years 1 and 2 will be taking part in performances of the Nativity, whilst those pupils in Years 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to perform in the beautiful Elstow Abbey



## Can I kick it?

In the previous edition we mentioned the work of Paul Watson to get football boots to some of the millions of children around the world who don't own any shoes, nevermind football boots. We were delighted to receive word that not one, but two boxes of donated boots have arrived in Zanzibar, an island in the Indian Ocean to the East of Tanzania.

We are going to keep collecting so if anyone has any football boots or astro trainers that are still in good condition, but no longer fit, please donate them to this fabulous cause.

## Get Active!

Elstow understands the importance of helping pupils stay fit and healthy and offer enrichment opportunities in school. Over this term pupils have had the chance to join an after-school dance or football club. Pupils in Years 3 and 5 have also had the chance to take part in multi-school sports competition at Biddenham, a fantastic opportunity to be out having fun with their peers and enjoying some healthy competition.

***"I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying."* – Michael Jordan**



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### "He's Behind You"

Pupils in Reception and Yr1 at Elstow were lucky enough to have a stage company come and perform a pantomime. Stage Ed did an adapted version of Aladdin and all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed it.



### Wadham College, Oxford University

Earlier in the term a group of Year 11 pupils had the amazing opportunity to visit Wadham College, Oxford University. The visit gave them the chance to receive academic mentoring, a tour of the College as well as conduct interviews with current Oxford students.

### Couch to 5K

As part of the BFS Electives program, Mrs Lehain and Mr Normanton ran a couch to 5K session. In November the students, and anyone else who wanted to take part, completed the Bedford parkrun. Congratulations to all involved, that is an amazing achievement! AND they enjoyed the experience so much that this is going to become a regular thing for anyone in the AS family to join in with – probably the last Saturday of the month



### BookBuzz

In November, Year 7 pupils each received a book as a gift from BFS as part of the BookBuzz programme. The pupils got to choose from a range of texts, including the hilarious 'Funny Life of Teachers' to the moving adventure story 'When Life Gives You Mangos'. One student said of the books "I'm so grateful to have been given a book," said Mannat (7MB). "The book that I chose is so funny!"



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### **The Advantage Schools Family is Growing**

We are delighted to be able to announce that Queens Park Academy has officially joined the Advantage Schools family and we look forward to sharing good news from them in the next edition. All of the colleagues have been at Advantage Schools training and we've enjoyed getting to know each other. We know that this will make all of our schools better.

We have also appointed the Founding Principal for Houstone School, our brand-new secondary school opening in September 2022 Ms Elizabeth English who said,

"It is an honour to be appointed as the Founding Principal of Houstone School and I am very much looking forward to getting started in my new role. The families of Houghton Regis and beyond are so deserving of an excellent school and I am fully committed to delivering this objective for their children. I believe in students being happy, safe and successful at school, with access to an aspirational academic curriculum."

### **"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." – Dr. Seuss**

Lastly, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to Tim Blake as Principal of BFS. Mr Blake has been at BFS for the best part of a decade taking over as Principal in 2019. We shall all miss both his leadership and friendship. Of course we wish him the very best of luck in his new role and have no doubt he will be as successful there as he has been at BFS, farewell Sir.

"From milestones and targets,  
To motivation and progress.  
From failures and setbacks,  
To moving ahead and success.  
You stood with us through all of these things,  
Your leadership is what gave us wings"



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