



BEDFORD
FREE SCHOOL

www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

5th May 2022

Dear Parents / Carers & Pupils,

Summer Term 2022

It has been a really positive return to school so far. Pupils appear to have been refreshed from their two- and a-bit weeks break and have come back energetic and focused. We have already had a Year 7 progress evening and it was so lovely to see so many families looking very pleased at hearing about their child's progress. There is a Year 10 Information Evening this evening (pupil grade sheets will also be issued) and Year 8 Progress Evening on 12th May, (see below). We look forward to welcoming ALL parents/careers of these pupils.

Trip to Kenilworth Castle

The Year 11 historians visited Kenilworth Castle at the end of the Spring term. On a bright, brisk day, they passed under the shadow of the imposing Norman keep, skirted the outer battlements (built by John in the turbulent Years before Magna Carta), and climbed the magnificent tower built by Robert Dudley in a vain attempt to win Elizabeth I's hand in marriage. Thank you to Mr Normanton, Mr Hayes and Mr Mokhtar for taking them.



Junior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 28th April, over 20 students from Year 7 and 8 took part in the prestigious Junior Maths Challenge organised by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT). The challenge is designed to build upon and broaden learning from maths lessons through demanding and intriguing problem-solving questions. We'd like to congratulate all who took part as we eagerly await the results. Thank you to the maths department who organised this.

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RESPECT • HONESTY • HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Science week events

Science wildlife photo completion, winners:

1st Finley yY8'
'Little bird'
Beautifully captured!



2nd Mason Y8
'Swan, pigeon and duck'
3 birds in one shot...well done!



3rd Mannat y7
'Red Rose',
It really captivates you and draws you into its centre!



Mr Walker, a sixth-year medical student at Oxford University, spoke to our Year 10 students about life training to be a doctor. The talk was described by students as "inspiring", "informative" and has encouraged many to think about a future in medicine.



Year 7 balloon car race

Aspiring engineers in Year 7 represented their form by building a balloon-powered car. All of Year 7 then enjoyed attending the final race!



STEM Murder Mystery

Miss Walker planned a Murder Mystery Event, which involved pupils from all Years coming to the laboratory and completing experiments to determine who the 'murderer' was. This event really captured the minds of our BFS pupils and has prompted some students to think about a future in forensic science.



Year 10 Trip to the Globe Theatre London

Year 10 students visited the Globe Theatre in March to watch an adaptation of their GCSE Literature text 'Macbeth'. As the witches came on to the stage at the beginning of the play asking if we would meet them again in "thunder, lightning or rain", the clouds opened and we certainly met them again in rain! It really did contribute to the gloomy atmosphere that Shakespeare intended in the play. Despite the rain, the students enjoyed the show and received the full Jacobean experience standing in the yard as close to the stage as possible. They were able to see how the characters spoke their lines with emotion and feeling, with the actors playing Macbeth, King Duncan and Fleance all making the pupils feel as if they were part of the scene with them. Thank you to the English department and Mrs Logan for taking the students.



Congratulations

I am delighted to be able to tell you that there have been some internal promotions which have led to the addition of two of our existing colleagues to the Leadership Team at Bedford Free School (see below)

Mr Tom Wood	Deputy Principal	twood@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk
Mrs Fizz Foley	Senior Assistant Principal	ffoley@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk
Mr Cox	Key Stage 3 Lead (y7-9)	mcox@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk
Miss Damon	Key Stage 4 Lead (y10&11)	adamon@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

I have every faith in the ability of these brilliant colleagues and I know that they are driven by a shared passion in the belief that (as in the words of the School's mission statement): "*...given the right circumstances, all children are capable of extraordinary things*".

...what this means in terms of Pastoral Care

You may still contact your child's tutor in the first instance or liaise with their Key Stage Lead if preferred. Of course, we you may still utilise the great expertise of Ms Costin-Webb (now Safeguarding and Welfare Lead), Mrs Lane (was Carpenter) - (Assistant SENCo – on hand to deal with special educational needs where necessary) and our brilliant Learning Mentors also here to look after your children beyond their learning in lessons.

Standards Reminder

We pride ourselves at Bedford Free School on sky-high expectations for our pupils and maintaining fantastic standards of conduct so that pupils may learn in a distraction free zone. The pupils are clear that every rule implemented at BFS is done so for a well-considered reason – we constantly and consistently 'sweat the detail'. Some things that parents can help with at home before pupils leave for their school day are, ensuring children:

- Have the correct school uniform including school trouser (i.e. no fashion trousers such as skinny fit) black shoes; no make-up or hoodies, jewellery does not exceed the '1 rule', no facial piercings, nail extensions and hair to be natural colours only
- Have knee length skirts and (predominantly) black bags
- Have healthy food; no mega bags of crisps', packets of biscuits, sweets, fizzy drinks or chewing gum
- Have all necessary equipment
- Arrive on time to school BEFORE the gate closes at 8:25am and attend daily without fail unless genuinely ill
- Give you their Achievement Cards every Wednesday evening to sign.

Slower-start Fridays!

Please note the later Friday starts indicated below and look out for reminder texts. Remember gates close at 8:55am on these days so pupils **must arrive before this time**.

Kindest Regards



Jane Herron
Principal

Bedford Free School – Key Dates	
Summer term	
5 th May 2022	Year 10 Information Evening (grades formally issued on evening)
6 th May 2022	Later school start 8:55am
12 th May 2022	Year 8 Progress Evening
13 th May 2022	Later school start 8:55am
<i>30th May – 3rd June 2022</i>	<i>HALF TERM</i>
6 th June 2022	Pupils back to school
24 th June – 1 st July 2022	Year 10 Mock Exams
4 th July – 8 th July 2022	Activities Week/Year 10 Work Experience
14 th July 2022	Sports Day
19 th July 2022	Year 10 Progress Evening
21 st July 2022	BFS End of Year Assembly
<i>22nd July</i>	<i>SUMMER HOLIDAYS begin</i>
1 st -2 nd September 2022	Staff training
5-7 th September 2022	Year 7 induction
8 th September 2022	Year 8-11 back to school

Please note that occasionally dates may be altered or cancelled.

There will be notification in case of change.

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