



BEDFORD
FREE SCHOOL

www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

24th May 2023

Dear Parents / Carers & Pupils,

SUMMER TERM EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

In the second week back after Easter pupils were reminded of the following regarding **Safety outside of school**: *“everything we do at BFS is done for a reason, mostly so that we can maximise learning and keep school calm and safe. This includes the rules that apply before & after and outside school. Because the school is situated on a busy roundabout and you have to walk home on some of the busiest roads in Bedford, you should wait on the playground for your siblings and friends, not outside the front of school. The rule about waiting outside of the school counts at all time in the afternoon. Please go straight home. Don't crowd the pavement, be aware and mindful of each other so that everyone gets to safely remain on the pavement and not have to step (or be pushed) onto the road unless a green man tells you it is safe to do so.*

And finally, remember you are an ambassador for BFS. This school will remain on your CV for life. Let's work hard to maintain our reputation so that you all benefit from graduating from a highly regarded school”.

Reward assemblies also took place in the same week; pupils who consistently work hard and conduct themselves in a manner which allows them and their peers to learn effectively were named, praised and applauded. These assemblies are always so lovely. Well done all those pupils who received recognition. Thank you to Mr Cox who organised them.

On 26th April Bedford Free School presented their first **movie**. Some Year 10 and 11 pupils worked together in an elective to create a thriller based on the play ‘The Dream Collector’ by Fin Kennedy. The film played to a packed cinema (the drama studio) and the audience sat glued to the screen munching on popcorn and sweets. It was a lovely evening. Thank you to Mrs and Mr Abrahamson for all their hard work organising and putting the film together and well done to all the pupils who participated.

This half term we have had two **information evenings**, one for Year 10 and one for Year 8. It is always lovely to catch-up with our pupils' families in person and share important information. Thank you to the many parents who attended these events.

One of the presentations, (‘Top Tips for Success’), was given to both year groups on their evenings and to Year 9 before Easter. In summary the Top Tips recommended are:

1. See the value in learning
2. Attend school every day
3. Limit online activity
4. Support the school and the decisions made.

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RESPECT • HONESTY • HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Poetry by heart

We are very proud to announce that Rua in Y8 is a finalist in the poetry by Heart Competition. She is one of only 40 finalists out of approximately 37,000 entries! She will go on to perform in London's Globe Theatre in the next part of the competition – we wish her the very best of luck. Thanks to the English Department who organised and facilitated this.

ON THE HORIZON:

Teachers have been going the extra mile to ensure that pupils can have the opportunity to experience amazing wider-curricular experiences.

Alongside all the usual offerings in Wednesday's electives, music and drama events and the many sporting fixtures and activities, Mr Lewis and Miss Rick have been working hard organising the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for Year 9s and older, Mrs Lehain has also been incredibly diligent in getting the Snowdon expedition all ready for departure on 19th June 2023 AND next year's Snowdon trip too(!) and Mr Cox has been super busy getting Activities Week (Monday 3-7th July) ready and ensuring there is an array of amazing activities for Year 7- 9 pupils to experience.

There are auditions tomorrow, Thursday (25th May) after school for 'BFS has talent. Pupils have been encouraged to sign up for an audition. The actual show takes place on Friday 14th July. This is very exciting. This will be the second time that this event takes place; the last one was in 2019 when the winners were (Audience Choice) a male and female dance pair and (Judges Choice) a female solo singer. The female singer went on to compete in a singing competition on TV's 'The Voice Kids'.

Wadham college visit

There is another event taking place in conjunction with Oxford University. This is on Monday 5th June, straight after the half term break where some Year 10 will be visiting Wadham College at the University in Oxford. Letters were given out at the start of this week and need to be organised and returned by end of this week.

Exams:

Year 10 have their first set of GCSE mocks beginning the week commencing 26th June and Years 7-9 end of year subject exams start on 12th June. If your child tells you they have no homework or revision they are lying! Revision should be ongoing now to avoid cramming. We advise pupils on the best way to revise. This is to do it regularly and often, retrieve the information (don't just re-read it), so: self quiz, use flashcards, look cover write check, fill in gaps with green pen checks etc.

REMINDERS:

Attendance

Attending school every day is so important for your child. You can check your child's attendance percentage, updated weekly, on their Achievement Card. Please compare your child's attendance to the table below. At BFS we aim for 100% and pupils should attend school unless they are genuinely too ill to do so.

100% - 98% No concern

98%-95% Monitor carefully

95% - 90% Concern; at risk of underachievement

90% -85% Severe risk of underachievement

85% Very probable underachievement

Respecting our community – a reminder

For safety and community-minded reasons, the police have asked us to ensure that pupils/parents do not walk through the carparks in between our school and Farm Foods. Please also be reminded that pupils are not allowed to enter/shop in Farm Foods unless accompanied by a parent. In the name of keeping everyone safe, any pupils who breaks these rules will be issued with a correction.

Drop off and pick up...

...should be in **Melbourne Street Car Park ONLY** and never in Cauldwell Street, near to or outside of school. Melbourne Street Car Park (opposite Kids World) is totally free to drop off, and dropping off/picking up your child from there avoids compromising safety and upset for local neighbours and businesses. It is advisable that you park and wait towards the back of the carpark where it is quieter and that you avoid stopping outside or near houses (we have received complaints from residents that parents of our pupils are parking outside homes in Melbourne Street and blocking drives).

Uniform and equipment

To reflect concerns over the cost of living and following discussions at a Governor meeting there will be a change to the uniform policy regarding the school skirt. Please see wording and details of examples and non-examples below.

Please also remember to regularly check that your child has the full and necessary equipment and correct school uniform needed for school. The full uniform and equipment list is attached. Please note:

- Rule of 'one' applies to all jewellery
- No trainers/plimsolls
- School style trousers only (e.g. no skinny / stretchy material / jean style etc.)
- No tracks in hair (or eyebrows)
- No facial piercings

Skirts must be knee length (or below) and black

Examples of straight or pleated 'acceptable' school skirts:





UPDATING CONTACT DETAILS

There have been a couple of instances recently whereby we have had an emergency situation and have been unable to contact parent/carer or another named contact. This has been either because contact details have changed or only one number has been left with us. We will endeavour to audit all contact details and request further points of contact if you have only given us one and we ask that you immediately notify us if you have a change of phone numbers etc. by sending your new details/ additional contact numbers to info@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk

CELEBRATING WITH OUR YEAR 11 PUPILS

Our Year 11s have been hard at work concentrating on their exams which started many weeks ago with drama, art, PE etc. and with the more 'formal' hall-based ones last Monday 15th May. In the morning address on 15th May Y11 pupils heard these words:

"We will wish them good luck but of course it is not down to luck – when Year 11 pupils achieve brilliant successes in August it will be because they had well planned study schedules that they stuck to, they worked really hard and they knew how to execute effective revision. However of course we do have everything crossed for you as you face the very final part of your BFS mountain climb."

We have been very proud of their conduct so far and continue to echo the words above.

They have lots of lovely events to look forward to when they finish taking their exams such as their Leavers Prom, Results Collection and Graduation Ceremony (later in the Autumn Term). As they take their final exams they will have their Final Assembly. This will take place on 12th June during a prep session and so that all staff may celebrate this with them **all other pupils will be dismissed directly at the end of period 6 at the earlier time of 3:20pm.**

I hope you enjoy a restful, quality and sunny half term with your family.

Yours faithfully



Jane Herron
Principal

KEY DATES:

Bedford Free School – Key Dates 2022-2023	
<i>Mon 3rd April – Fri 14th April 2023</i>	<i>EASTER HOLIDAYS</i>
Summer term	
<i>Mon 29th May – Fri 2nd June 2023</i>	<i>HALF TERM</i>
Mon 5 th June 2023	Pupils back to school
Mon 12 th June	Year 11 Final Assembly early finish Years 7-10 (3:20pm)
26 th June – 30 th June 2023	Year 10 Mock Exams
Mon 3 rd July – Fri 7 th July 2023	Activities Week/Year 10 Work Experience/Year 7-9 core exams
Thurs 13 th July 2023	Sports Day
Tues 18 th July 2023	Year 10 Progress Evening/Next Steps event (school finishes at 3.30pm)
Fri 21 st July 2023	BFS End of Year Celebration Assembly
<i>24th July</i>	<i>SUMMER HOLIDAYS</i>
Tues 5 th September 2023	Year 7 join BFS school
Thurs 7 th September 2023	Years 8-11 return to school