



TO CARE
TO LEARN
TO ACHIEVE

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL
A Specialist Business and Enterprise College
with Applied Learning
Headteacher: Mr P McCaffery

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you are all well. I can't believe that we're approaching the half-term holiday already! I certainly feel like the first seven weeks have gone by really quickly. I am delighted with how well our students have settled in this half term and how hard they are working overall.

Some good news

Congratulations to Oliver Baxter in Year 8 and Shannon Cottam in Year 9 who have been selected to join the Royal Northern College of Music Pathfinder programme. Shannon has also been selected to attend Greater Manchester Youth Wind Orchestra and recently passed her Grade 5 flute exam with Distinction.

We are one of 5 schools in the country running a National Theatre pilot project which helps to develop students' social and employability skills. It is testament to the strength of Bedford Arts and how well we are regarded by institutions such as the National Theatre.

Good luck to our Year 10 GCSE dancers who are performing at the Old Courts in Wigan with the Tuck Shop Dance Theatre Company in November.

Enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities

You will find attached to this letter a wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities that we are proud to be able to offer to our students. Please encourage your child to join one of these clubs as it could be a great way to meet new friends, gaining new skills along the way.

Extra-curricular participation in PE has been extremely high and it has been wonderful to see our students competing in Netball, Football and Rugby.

The Year 7 boys were lucky enough to be invited to a tournament organised by Manchester United. This was a great day for our students where they were able to develop new skills and enhance their game play.

Girls' Netball has got off to a fantastic start with Years 7, 8 and 9 all playing in their first festivals of the Year. Year 8 won 2 out of 3 games and both the Year 7A and Year 10 Teams have won all their games. Year 9 and 10 both played excellently in their first league matches winning 4-0 and 10-0 respectively.

Our next enrichment day is scheduled for Wednesday 24th November. Enrichment days are a real highlight of the academic year for our students and staff alike. They give our students the chance to work on a range of skills and experience a variety of opportunities outside of the classroom.

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Our Year 7 students will have an Arts based day. This includes hip hop dance workshops, tie dying t-shirts in Art, singing in Music with a world-renowned choral director, and working with a word poet in Drama.

Our Year 8 students are taking part in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) based day learning about topics, careers and opportunities within the world of STEM.

Year 9 and Year 10 students are having a Public Services Day where they will learn about the valuable roles that public servants play in improvements in society. We have police, fire fighters, paramedics, the army and many more organisations ready to share their knowledge and wisdom with our students about their world of work and the careers opportunities that exist in these areas. Year 11 students are having an Employability Skills Day, where they will take part in mock interviews, receive talks from colleges, apprenticeships and university providers. These experiences are designed to ensure that all students are well prepared for their next step after Bedford.

Recovery curriculum update

We know that the pandemic has resulted in lost learning for some students. To address this, I am pleased to confirm that we have now appointed Academic Mentors in English, Maths and Science. These staff will work with small groups of students to support and address any gaps in learning. This half term we will also be extending the support we can offer our students through the National Tutoring Programme. Details to follow.

Weekly Lateral Flow Testing

Thank-you for encouraging and supporting your child to take twice weekly lateral flow tests. In doing so you are helping us limit the spread of the virus in school which in turn will limit the longer-term disruption to student learning.

Dates for your diaries for next half term

When	What
Wednesday 3 rd November	Y9 HPV vaccinations
Wednesday 10 th November	Flu vaccinations
Wednesday 11 th and 18 th November	Y8 HPV vaccinations
Wednesday 11 th November	Y11 Examination Evening
Wednesday 24 th November	Enrichment Day
Friday 26 th November	Y11 Business Unit 1 exam
Friday 26 th November to 15 th December	Y11 GCSE Mock Exams
Monday 6 th December	INSET day (students not in school)
Thursday 9 th December	Christmas Concert
Thursday 16 th December	Final day of term

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Have a great half term break!

Yours faithfully,



Mr Paul McCaffery

Headteacher