



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. We are now approximately halfway through the school year, and we have enjoyed a hugely positive six weeks of learning since returning in January. In this letter, I am pleased to share with you some of the highlights of this half term and provide a preview of what's coming up for the rest of February and March.

Youth Speaks success

We are thrilled to share a fantastic achievement from our Debating Society, a group that meets every week to hone their speaking skills and expand their knowledge of the world. This month, two of our dedicated teams took part in the annual Rotary Youth Speaks competition. We are delighted to share that both teams won in their respective category. One team was in the Intermediate category and consisted of Izabela (Yr 9), Niamh (Yr 9) and Oscar (Yr 7) and the other was a Senior Team consisting of 3 Year 10 girls, Abigail, Kaitlyn, and Cleo.

Our students showcased not only their exceptional speaking skills, but also their depth of understanding and passion on their chosen topics. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and collaboration of the Debating Society and we wish the two teams success in the next round. Parents are advised to encourage their child to attend Debating Society every Friday lunchtime in L57. We know it can make such a positive difference to students' confidence and knowledge.

In Maths

Well done to all our January SPARX winners!

Year 7: Benjamin B

Year 8: Olivia J

Year 9: Caitlin L

Year 10: Abbie C

Year 11: Corra TT

These students achieved the highest XP points in January. This competition runs every month for each year group.

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Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Our Year 11 students have shown fantastic resilience whilst undertaking their revision for their next mock exams. This has included taking part in relay revision races in the Bistro during strive sessions after school. Lots more of these sessions to come in the run up to the GCSE examinations. Well done Year 11!

Bedford Arts

It's been a busy half term for Bedford Arts with trips, workshops and events for our students to get involved in. Our drama classes attended a National Theatre performance of Jekyll and Hyde, and we took several students to see Hamilton in Manchester. Our Art students went on a trip to the Manchester Museum and the Whitworth, and students from all year groups showcased their talents in our second "Bedford Does Dance" extravaganza.

Our music students have been busy preparing for our next concert, The Spring Showcase, which takes place on the 19th March. Our musical theatre performers have completed their auditions for our summer whole school production, Matilda, which will take place in July. We have also hosted a local, high-profile artist to work with selected students on improving their well-being through arts activities and we have several art workshops planned for next half term, including our annual Art exhibition on the 12th of March.

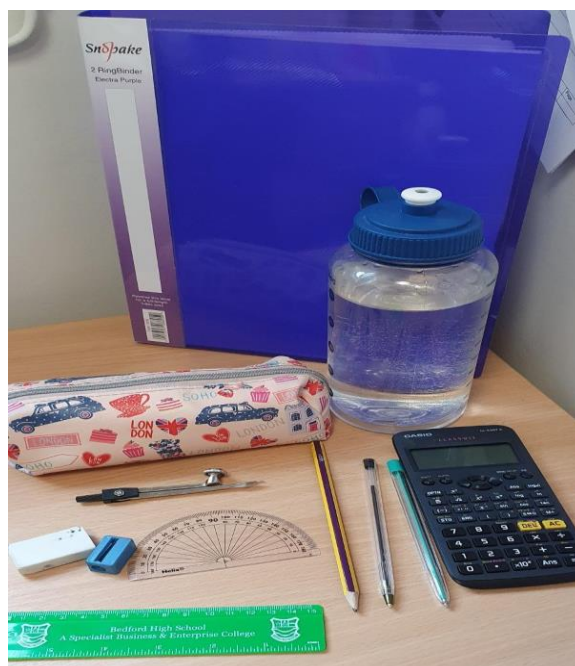
Careers Education

In March we will be hosting Careers Week and have planned a whole host of events including our Careers Fair which sees over 50 employers, colleges and universities come into school to speak to our students to help them plan their future goals. We will also launch work experience with our Year 10s and help our Year 9s complete their option choices for Key Stage 4.

Sports round-up

The Y10/Y11 girls rugby team competed in the Northwest Counties group stage tournament this half term. Having played some brilliant rugby in tough conditions the girls have now made it to the final of the Northwest Counties and will play St Peter's, Wigan. They have also qualified for the Championship School's National Tournament.

Does your child have the correct equipment for school?



When your child is fully equipped for school, this allows their teachers to make the best use of the available learning time each lesson and focus on teaching your child. When your child does not have all the correct equipment, and they turn up ill-prepared for the day ahead, then this has a disruptive effect on the teaching and the learning of all students.

Please check that your child has all the correct equipment for learning and if they don't could you please ensure that they are fully equipped in time for the first day back on Monday 26th February.

Dates for your diary

What	When
Break up for half term holiday	Friday 16 th February
School reopens for half term 4	Monday 26 th February
Start of Careers Week	Monday 4 th March
2 nd Y11 mock exams commence	Monday 4 th March
Careers Fair	Tuesday 5 th March
Year 9 Parents Evening	Thursday 21 st March
2 nd Year 11 mock exams finish	Friday 22 nd March
Y9 Options meetings commence	Monday 25 th March

Finally, I hope that students and staff enjoy a well-deserved half term break, and that families manage to get some quality time together before we return. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,



Paul McCaffery

Headteacher