



**BEDSTONE**  
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February 2012

Dear Parents

Although this half term has been short, as usual there has been a great deal going on at Bedstone!

Firstly, I know that you will join me in congratulating Mr Andrew Weston on his appointment as Deputy Headmaster at Greenacre School in Surrey. Mr Weston has been a tower of strength on the Senior Management Team in his role as Director of Studies and his leadership of the History department has been nothing short of outstanding. I know that he will be sorely missed by all at Bedstone but this is the right time for him to move on with his family and he takes with him our thanks and very best wishes for the future. Mr Andrew Whittall has agreed to take on the role of Director of Studies and will join the Senior Management Team. In addition, I am delighted to tell you that Miss Bullock has agreed to take over as Head of History. She will assume responsibility for teaching Mr Weston's examination classes after the Easter break.

As many of you will know, Miss Bullock is also teaching some junior Geography. We are very lucky to have a number of our current staff qualified to teach the 'Humanities' and so, in order to allow Miss Bullock to focus on the History examination classes, Mr Lynch, Mr Simpson, Mr Looms and Mrs Rawlinson will take on the teaching of some junior Geography and History classes in the summer term. I have no doubt that continuity of teaching with current staff members and the need for examination classes to be taught by senior subject specialists will ensure a successful and seamless transition.

Mr Weston's promotion has allowed me to address the balance of staffing in the History and Geography departments. I am pleased to announce that, from September 2012, Mr Daniel Marsh will be taking over as Head of Geography. Mr Marsh comes to us from The Walsall Academy where he is a Head of Department. Mr Marsh is very much an 'outdoors' man; recently taking part in expeditions to Africa and Bolivia. His appointment will ensure that Mr Lynch can devote the necessary time to his role on the Senior Management Team in order to help us develop the strategies that we need to move Bedstone forwards over the coming months and years.

Mrs Diana Bradfield retires at the end of this academic year. She joined Bedstone in November 1991 and has fulfilled a number of roles within the College; most notably as a first rate tutor, assisting scholars in the Learning Support Department, English teacher, activities co-ordinator and riding 'guru'. We will be very sorry to see her go and will say goodbye to her at the end of the summer term. We are excited to have appointed Miss Alice Moore to teach English from September 2012. Miss Moore is currently teaching at the British School of Washington. She is local to these parts and started her teaching career in Bishop's Castle.

Your children have, again, impressed me with their enthusiasm, their dignity in their dealings with each other and their unwavering support for the College. You may have read about our cross country successes in the local press. In the ISA Midlands championships our U18 Girls' and U18 Boys' teams were crowned regional champions. Our U16 Girls came second and our U16 Boys, third. The stand-out performances came from Jodie Beddow (second in the U16 Girls) and Jon Bogle-Reyes and Walter Meredith (second and third respectively in the U18 Boys). Sixteen Bedstonian runners have qualified for the National Championships to be held later this term and we wish them all the very best.

I am having great fun assisting Mr Rozee with the U13 football. Despite the regular cancellation of fixtures due to frozen ground, all the football teams continue to train hard and remain positive and enthusiastic. I am hopeful that over the coming years our football fixture list will increase in terms of both the quantity of matches for all the age groups and quality of opposition.

The netball teams are developing well, despite the cold weather and slippery courts! I look forward to reporting on victories a plenty in my end of term letter in March.

For your information, the term dates for the next academic year, (up to the end of the summer term 2013), are now available on the college website.

You may also know that we have decided to allow all future GCSE groups to have a choice of studying either French or Spanish, or indeed both. I would like to pass on my thanks to those third form parents who completed the online survey. With your support, I anticipate using this type of information gathering tool more frequently in the future so that I may quickly gauge your views on specific ideas concerning the development of the College.

Mr Chadderton is about to take forty or so of our scholars to Austria on the annual ski trip. In addition, Miss Flies will be taking a small 6<sup>th</sup> Form group to Paris on a study trip. I am sure that both trips will prove to wonderful experiences for our scholars.

I am very much looking forward to seeing the school production, 'Annie'. This year, all current Bedstone scholars will have free entry to the evening performances on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March. I hope that they will encourage you to come to see what will, I am sure, be a superb show. Please do get in touch with us book your tickets.

Thank you again for your support over these last few weeks and have a wonderful break with your children.

With my best wishes,

*D Gajadharsingh*

David Gajadharsingh  
(Headmaster)