



BEDSTONE
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9th December 2011

Dear Parents

It has been a long and busy term. The autumn term in all schools is probably the most tiring and I can safely say that Bedstone is no exception! I have been delighted to read such glowing end of term reports on so many of our scholars. Like me, I am sure that you will be immensely proud of their achievements this term. The academic work that we do remains at the top of our list of priorities and I would like to ask for your support in discussing any areas of underperformance with your son/daughter so that they can return to us in January with a clear idea of how they can make the most of next term. A number of our more senior scholars will be involved in external examinations and despite the very real need to relax over the Christmas break, I am hopeful that they can find the time to revise for their modules in January.

I am delighted to report on the successes of our swimmers, who returned from the ISA Midlands Swimming Championships with a huge haul of three gold, eight silver and two bronze medals. Congratulations must go to Latasha Lewis, Jack Reynolds, Claire Beddow, Jodie Beddow, Walter Meredith, Isla Meredith, Amy King, Will Aylen, and Ben Chamberlain. These excellent results meant that four of our swimmers were asked to represent The Midlands in the National ISA swimming championships. Impressive swims from Latasha Lewis ensured that she came away with two gold (U15 Freestyle and U15 Freestyle relay), one silver (U13 Freestyle Relay) and one bronze (U13 Medley relay). Claire Beddow secured gold in the U18 Freestyle and Medley relays. Three silver medals were won by Walter Meredith (U18 Individual Freestyle and the Freestyle and Medley relays), and Jack Reynolds won a bronze in the U13 Medley relay. These results are a wonderful reflection of the talent and commitment of Bedstone swimmers. We are very proud of each and every one of them!

Our junior Hockey teams performed miracles in the recent ISA Midlands Championships. The U-15s were crowned Regional Champions and the U13s were placed 3rd, (only on goal difference!), in their age group. Miss Davis and her team of coaches have simply worked wonders with our girls and this momentum is just what is needed to encourage others to view Bedstone as a major sporting school in the region. Very many congratulations to them all! The 1st XI has also had a successful season and it is clear that the improvement they have shown in all positions bodes well for the future. I am so pleased that Hockey is seeing a resurgence under the guidance of Miss Davis and am looking forward to continued progress next season.

Our Rugby teams have also fared well. The 1st XV have had their most successful season for a number of years which has included an excellent victory against Shrewsbury School. They have performed particularly well 'at home' securing a hugely impressive 100% record; played 10, won 10! For a small school like ours to be able to put out a 2nd XV is a remarkable achievement. I am very pleased that the 2nd XV have increased their number of fixtures and finished the term with a fine victory against Wrekin College. The U16s reached the semi-finals of the Luctonians cup and the U15s reached the Semi-finals of

the South Shropshire cup. The U13s have made rapid progress under the guidance of Mr Rozee and their stand out result this term was a thumping victory against Lucton School.

The Badminton players have also done well with the boys being unbeaten in their fixtures against Lucton School and Wrekin College. The girls are improving and should be pleased with their victory against Lucton School.

This term I have re-introduced the tradition of a Christmas tree in the Old Hall. We had great fun getting it upright, and steady! It was wonderful to see so many of our scholars, young and old, really enthusiastic about decorating it. With the addition of Christmas parties for all of our boarding houses, we hoped to have created a genuine sense of Christmas for all our scholars, some of whom are a long way from home.

With regard to boarding, there are a few of issues for which I would like to enlist your support;

1. May I ask that international scholars' parents bear in mind that we would prefer fees to be paid by electronic bank transfer or by bankers' draft, and not in cash.
2. It would help us a great deal if all parents of boarding scholars encouraged their sons/daughters to hand in their pocket money, as requested, to the College for safe keeping upon their arrival each term.
3. I would ask that arrivals or departures from boarding houses at the start and the end of term are arranged between the hours of 7:00 am and 10:00 pm. This ensures that others in the house are not disturbed unnecessarily.

On another note, I would also like to invite all of you who come to support your sons/daughters when they are playing sport, to join us for tea afterwards in the Old Hall. The spread that is put on by our catering team is warm and homely, and just the ticket after a freezing cold afternoon on the touchline!

The Prep school play 'Greece' was a truly magical. I loved every minute of it and was very proud of how the actors and musicians gave their all to entertain us in such a professional manner. I would like to thank Mrs Crabtree, Miss Beresford-Webb, and all the team, who worked so hard to put on such a wonderful production.

The pre-prep nativity play brought together the two central message of Christmas; the birth of Jesus and the joy that children experience at this special time of the year. It was a delight and I would like to thank all those who took part. Thank you also to Mrs Semple, for all her efforts in directing the performance.

I can't believe that a term has already passed. I have very much enjoyed it; especially getting to know the scholars, who really are a superb set of young people.

It only remains for me to wish you all restful, peaceful and above all enjoyable Christmas holiday.

With my best wishes.

David Gajadharsingh
(Headmaster)