

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lest we forget

At the request of a Year Ten student, pupils across all year groups were invited to come in their service uniforms (cadets, guides, scouts etc.) as a mark of respect and to commemorate men and women who lost their lives in service to their country during the wars. On Monday 11 November Mr Galbraith and the participating students took a few moments to remember the fallen and lay a wreath on the centenary school bench. They stood for the two minutes silence at 11.00 am alongside the remainder of the school who also marked the two minutes silence in their classrooms.



There are plenty of exciting articles to read about in this bumper edition!



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
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PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION



Dear Parent/Carer

I was a very proud Principal on Monday 11 November when upwards of 50 of our students wore their association uniforms with such pride for Remembrance Day. To see cadets, guides, scouts and others bow their heads at 11.00 am was very humbling. These young people are already making an important voluntary contribution to our society by showing such positive membership of such excellent groups.

It has been a fantastic term and once again I can announce we will have significantly more than 150 pupils on roll in Year Seven for September 2020. Thank you for your continued faith in us.

The school has made a great stride forward as we become a secondary school. As I write this, our Year Eleven students have begun their mock GCSEs. This process takes place over the next three weeks at school and will provide teachers and students with important information about our young people's current attainment. Best wishes to everybody involved and thank you for your tremendous support of the school.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter-packed as it is with so much information about what we have been up to this half term.

Finally, can I wish you all a happy and restful holiday period. We look forward to welcoming your child back on Monday 6 January 2020.

Ax Gullett



GEOGRAPHY

The Geography Club has begun a Terracycle scheme in school to reduce the amount of stationary waste thrown away. They have made collection boxes from recycled boxes around school, and the scheme to recycle stationary will soon be underway. The recycled stationary will be taken to a local drop off point and after Christmas, the club will decide which charity the money received from recycling will go to.

COOKING & NUTRITION



Year Ten catering students created illusion biscuits inspired by Junior Bake Off. They were set a task to design and create a biscuit that looked like another food.

The students involved all worked really hard and used their creativity to produce some amazing results. **Mrs Brewer**



ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Dear parents/carers,

Our whole school attendance percentage is 96.3% for the year so far. Please help us to keep up this excellent attendance average by ensuring that pupils are organised for school the night before and are only taking time off school for genuine illnesses. Please also be aware that the school cannot authorise absences for family holidays. Our attendance target is: **96.5%**.

The numbers below are for services which could help you should you have any worries or concerns at any time.

Bedfordshire Police HQ (non emergency) - 01234 841212

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000 (24 hour helpline)

MASH team (safeguarding) - 01234 718700 (office hours) or ring 0300 300 8123 (out of hours).

In an immediate emergency always dial 999.

RESTART A HEART

Some of our students took part in a CPR session that was delivered by Sally Togaloo, a local community support worker as part of the 'Restart A Heart' programme. The programme was organised by the East of England Ambulance Service and provides volunteer led CPR sessions to local schools in the area. The students were firstly told about the important signs to look out for along with the steps leading up to delivering CPR. Secondly, how to keep themselves safe in these situations and finally, how to carry out chest compressions and use a defibrillator. Students were then allowed to practice on dummy dolls and were shown the correct technique and speed to deliver the compressions.

The 'Restart A Heart' programme has enabled us to provide this life-saving skill to over one hundred of our pupils and we are very grateful to have been able to take part!



RECYCLING



When Goldington Academy changed the school uniform, donations of clothing were packaged and sent to various homes in third world countries. This particular shirt was received by a young girl who lives in a home where orphaned and slate mine working children live and are cared for.

CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 15th November, Goldington Academy took part in BBC's Children in Need day. The Pudsey Pals organised a range of different activities, including a Lucky Dip, Guess The Name of The Teddy Bear and various sporting events, all to raise money for this fantastic cause. Pupils also came to school in their own clothes and donated to a very busy cake sale which raised over £200! In total, we have raised over £800, beating last year's record! Thank you!



THIS HALF TERM'S HIGH ACHIEVERS

Congratulations to the pupils who have been given achievement points this half term. The top two pupils for each year group are as follows:

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Natalia Hryniewicz-Sudnik Runner up: Martha Mahoney	Sofia Baldasserre Runner up: Lauren Maple	Trang Tran Runner up: Grace Guarneri	Ella Scott Runner up: Olivia Ansell	Raahimah Saeed Runner up: Ellie Stott

Reminder—please inform the school office if you move address or change your telephone or email address so that our records can be kept up to date.

GROW @ GARDENING

Most of the work that has taken place in the garden this half term has been pruning, weeding and tidying up. Over the past few weeks the children have been gathering the leaves that have fallen and blown around the garden area. These have been added to the compost bin and eventually, over time, the leaves will break down into leaf mould. Leaf clearing prevents mould from growing around plants which will stop them from rotting. However, leaf mould has many uses: it can be used for seed sowing, or mixed with garden compost, soil and sand for potting compost. It can also be used as mulch, soil improver, autumn top-dressing for lawns, or winter covering for bare soil.



Adding our own homemade compost to the soil will increase its ability to hold water and nutrients. All our plants, vegetables and fruits are grown organically and we avoid using synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. Organic food contains more nutrients than non-organic, so eating it will provide better nutrition.

The children are really enjoying painting and decorating pots which they'll be using for their Christmas plant sale...



If you want to join us with this activity and plenty more, come along on Tuesday lunch times. Grow@Goldington is suitable for all year groups and both old and new members are welcome.

Mrs Sacre and Mrs Oates

PE DEPARTMENT

YEAR SEVEN & EIGHT FUTSAL TOURNAMENT

A mixture of Year Seven and Eight boys took part in the North Beds Futsal tournament at the Bunyan Centre. There were 10 teams taking part from Bedford and Mid Beds. The boys, who do not play lots of futsal, soon adapted and, with each game, played better. They drew with Bedford Academy and beat Robert Bloomfield and Biddenham to reach the semi-final. They were drawn against Alameda who were the tournament favourites. The boys were magnificent in this game and came away deservedly 3-2 winners, with every player making valuable contributions. In the final they played Bedford Academy again. We were confident after drawing the first game with knowing that we could play better. However Bedford Academy played very well and we lost 3-2. The boys can be very proud of how they played and conducted themselves in both victory and defeat.

YEAR 11 FOOTBALL & BASKETBALL

The Year Eleven football team, run by Mr Finnie, had a couple of games against Biddenham and Rushmoor. Both games were won comfortably and the team played some good football.

The Year Ten/Eleven basketball team have been practising hard with Mr Lucas showing real commitment which has been a delight to see. They had a fixture against Lincroft and, although they lost 21-20, they learnt so much being their first proper fixture. When we arrange more fixtures later in the year I am sure the boys will improve even more.

After Christmas it is time for cross country and football leagues for Years Seven, Eight and Nine. Year Ten begin theirs in February.

I would like to thank Mr Finnie, Mr Lucas, Mr Lincoln, Mr Hall, Mr Llewellyn and Ms Fearon for giving up their valuable time to offer a wide range of activities for the pupils at Goldington Academy to participate in.

BOYS' SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

The Year Seven, Eight, Nine and Ten sports hall athletics teams competed in the District Tournament this half term. They performed superbly and each team had numerous successes.

The Year Nine and Ten boys' team finished first in many of their track and field events and won their competition by over thirty points, which is a fantastic achievement.

The Year Eight boys' team also finished first. They had a closer result, but they came out on top after a really quick 4 x 2 lap relay, winning the race by two seconds which made them the District Champions.

The Year Seven team are a new team, so we were eagerly awaiting how they would perform against other schools. They had been running well in practice, so we thought they may do well. They performed magnificently finishing second overall and losing by just 8 points to Rushmoor.

By finishing in the top two, all teams go through to the Bedfordshire Finals which take place at the end of January 2020.

PE DEPARTMENT

GIRLS SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

Sportshall athletics club has been very well attended and competition was strong to even make the teams. All our teams competed in the Bedford District Competition this term, where some fast running and great technique and power in the field events saw all our teams perform well, ensuring that Goldington Academy was the most successful school in Bedford at the event.

Girls teams

Year 7 Girls – District champions

Year 8 Girls - District Champions

Year 9 and 10 Girls District Champions

Well done to all the squads. They now all go on to represent Bedford in the County Championships in January.



SPORTS LEADERSHIP

The sports leaders have been very busy supporting extra-curricular clubs this term and they have all done a great job of assisting the teachers and developing younger pupil's skills and confidence. They have been invaluable in helping out at Year Seven & Eight Gymnastics Club. We also sent a group of leaders to Hazeldene Primary School where they led pupils from Years Five and Six in Outdoor Adventurous Activities.

RUGBY

It has been a very busy term with a number of rugby and badminton fixtures taking place.

The Year Ten rugby team beat St Thomas Moore comfortably, as well as being runners up in their district competition. The Year Eight team won the same district event, with the Year Seven team finishing third. Congratulation go to Giovanni, Luke, Ned and Rupert in Year Eight who have been selected to represent North Bedfordshire in a district rugby fixture against South Bedfordshire. We wish them well!

BADMINTON

Badminton has also been busy too, with the Year Nine girls team winning their district competition, the Year Ten/Eleven boys team finishing runners, the Year Nine boys finishing fourth and the Year Ten/Eleven girls finishing as runners up.

Badminton fixtures for Years Seven and Eight will begin in the first five weeks of 2020, in addition to the club running on Thursdays. If you have never played before, or just fancy getting fitter and having a really good time in a fantastic social sport, then I look forward to seeing you on court.

PE DEPARTMENT

NETBALL

This term has been very busy for netball with clubs and matches for all five years. I would like to thank the girls themselves for their dedication and enthusiasm and Miss Moyster for her support. Mrs Chapman

Results

Year Eleven

The Year Eleven A team had a great season, winning five out of six matches and ensuring they finished their netball playing career at Goldington Academy as District League runners up. It has been my pleasure to coach such a mature, supportive and fun group of girls over the last six years and I will truly miss them next year.

Year Ten

Bedford District Schools League Champions

The Year Nine A team had some amazing results in the District League – they were unbeaten all season meaning they were once again District League Champions.



Year Nine

The team's play developed over the season and they had some great results in their games ensuring they finished in third place in their District League.

Years Seven and Eight

Clubs for both years have been running all term in preparation for next term's league fixtures. The Year Eight team competed in the District Tournament where they finished as the top state school and only lost to the eventual winners. Two Year Seven teams participated in a mixed indoor netball tournament at the University of Bedfordshire and some mature play saw both teams win their tournaments.



CREATIVE ARTS

ART

Year 9 exhibition at Waitrose Café, Bedford



Waitrose, Bedford, is currently holding an exhibition of still life paintings produced by last years Year Nines. Students worked very hard on their still life project last year in order to develop work in to fragmented Cubist style compositions and progressed in their painting skills too. The exhibition will run until February. It really is a must see!

Printmaking workshop with Katie Allen

Local artist Katie Allen worked with a selection of Year Seven and Eight students in a printmaking workshop on 28 November. Students were introduced to the printmaking technique of collagraph printing. The work produced will be entered in to this years Harpur Trust competition, the theme of which is the fabric of Bedford. Students layered up a variety of materials on mountboard to represent iconic locations in Bedford such as the Embankment. They then rolled their ink on and printed. We had some fantastic results, and now students involved are adding to their prints with mixed media.



FRIENDS OF GOLDINGTON ACADEMY

Are you looking for the opportunity to meet and socialise with other parents? Would you be keen to get involved with social and fundraising events throughout the year? If so, we would love to hear from you! The Friends of Goldington Academy is a small group of parents who work with the school to run events and raise money for equipment and facilities that might not otherwise be available. In the recent past, events have included quiz nights and discos as well whole-school events such as the Fun Run. As the school has transitioned to become a secondary school, we are keen to make our group of parents bigger and are ambitious in our desire to find new, enjoyable, age-appropriate ways to provide additional funding to improve the daily experience for all our children.

If you think you might be interested in supporting Friends, please contact Mrs Ross in the first instance on rossj@goldington.beds.sch.uk

CREATIVE ARTS

DANCE

We have had a busy term with lots of exciting opportunities for the children to enjoy. Starting with Year Eight, our PLP students have been pushed by the wonderful choreographer Dona Greco to create some contact duets over the past three weeks. The students will use this work to develop a whole-group dance piece that will be celebrated in the New Year with a performance at the University of Bedfordshire. We will get to share our work with third year dance students as well as get to see some of the group choreography pieces they have created for their degree.



GCSE DANCE



Our relationship with the University of Bedfordshire has enhanced our Year Eleven students this term as we were able to move some of our lessons over to the university to utilise their dance studios. They have been working exceptionally hard on developing their practical work ready for their NEA exam this term. We have also been working with professional dancer and choreographer, Helen Parlor to help develop their performance skills in preparation for their exam. Year Ten and Year 11 dance students will also

take part in an Anthology day before Christmas. The day will involve them working with James Cousins, a choreographer they study at GCSE. The work that they do will enable them to really deepen their knowledge in readiness for their written exam.

Extra curricular

Our extra curricular work is taking shape this year with two projects well under way. We have again put our application in for U:Dance, a national dance platform celebrating youth dance across the country. We are currently holding our breath waiting to see if we are accepted!



CREATIVE ARTS

DANCE

Trips

We finished the year with a festive treat: we were lucky enough to watch the Royal Ballet’s live streaming of Coppelia at the cinema. This was a great opportunity for the children to see world class ballet dancers from the comfort of a Bedford cinema!



Arts

Thirty-four students got to spend the afternoon at the University of Bedfordshire to take part in an Arts taster day, exploring what the Arts have to offer at degree level. It was wonderful to see the children getting “stuck into” all the activities and probing the students about their real life experiences at university. We hope the afternoon has inspired our students to think about a career in the Arts.

Arts Award Silver

After an exceptionally well received programme last year, we are running Arts Award Silver again this year. The qualification is nationally recognised and gives students an opportunity to explore the arts through their personal interests. We launched it just before Christmas, but if you would like to get involved and haven’t yet expressed your interest, please see Mrs

Oakway House

The dance department has been working with the University of Bedfordshire for a number of years on an inter-generational project called ‘Generations Dancing’ and this year we worked on a new legacy project to bring more generations together through a love of dance.

The project worked with three age ranges: pupils at Goldington Academy; the residents at Oakway House (a residential home for the elderly); and a group of over 50s who are part of the local dance group, New Chapter. We have already started to work with professional choreographer, Leah Waterfield who is leading the project. The aim is that each group work with Leah, and we will come together to share, participate and enjoy our mutual love of dance, across the generations.



CREATIVE ARTS

DRAMA

On the 18 November our Year Nine GCSE drama pupils performed in ACT!'19. ACT is a collaborative theatre festival hosted by Bedford Modern School and takes place annually. Goldington Academy has been invited to enter the festival for the past four years and it has become a calendar highlight for the school. As the festival requirements closely align with part of the GCSE course offered at Goldington, our entry has been open only to Year Nine GCSE pupils and used as a 'mock' experience. This allows pupils to have a performance opportunity in the first term of their GCSE, but also to provide a real-time example of the challenge the course presents.



This year's cohort worked incredibly hard and devised a very comical piece of theatre that experimented with physical theatre and the convention of a play within a play. The audience feedback was positive and each pupil demonstrated their ability. As the groups teacher, I was most impressed with the level of team work and the overarching sense of shared responsibility for the success of the project. Well done to all.

See below for a quote about the experience from pupils. **Mr Stratton**

- Scarlett – “Amazing experience!”
- Roxy – “Something I’ll remember”
- Abigail – “Phenomenal”
- Antonio – “Really built up my confidence”
- Amelie – “Great start to the GCSE course”
- Grace – “I really enjoyed seeing pupils from other schools perform”
- Tinashe – “Great and amazing!”
- Sophie – “We experienced the ‘next level’ of drama”
- Theo – “Brilliant opportunity”
- Chakiele - “An opportunity to improve and challenge ourselves”
- Freddy – “Loved using our own imaginations!”
- Daisy – “A brilliant opportunity”

We started ACT!'19 by taking part in a workshop at Bedford Modern School. The workshop was led by a visiting professional who had previously been a student at BMS; Sam Clemens. Sam has worked extensively in ‘the business’ for a number of years and used his collective experiences to lead us, and pupils from Lincroft Academy and BMS, through an invigorating and inspiring series of exercises. The exercises all had a focus toward the style of Physical Theatre; this was really enjoyable and gave the group and I lots of ideas to take away. The workshop ended with all schools involved in the festival being told the brief: to devise a piece of theatre in a Physical Theatre style. Each school was provided with a story as a starting point - ours was Hansel & Gretel.

“Once we were back in school we used our lessons to explore and devise. This was challenging at times, but also really fun! The experience of ACT! has shown us what Component 1 of our GCSE course would be like and has prepared us for the task ahead. The project culminated in a performance and we were all very excited. Each school went back to BMS where we had a technical and dress rehearsal before the audience arrived. The performance went really well and we were given some great feedback from Sam. It was fantastic to see the other schools perform and I speak for the group when I say we’d love to do something like this again!”

Izzy (Year Nine)

CREATIVE ARTS

DRAMA

Little Shop of Horrors at The Quarry Theatre



On the 28 November thirty of our Year Seven pupils went to The Quarry Theatre to watch Bedford School’s production of The Little Shop of Horrors. We were blown away by the set design, live orchestra and performances. The Audrey puppets were a particular highlight; especially when Audrey 2 ate the cast!

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip, apart from perhaps the walking pace of Mr Stratton on the journey to the theatre!

Hansel & Gretel: The Pantomime

On the 18 December Year Seven will once again be visiting The Quarry Theatre to watch their inaugural professional pantomime. The entire year group and a band of brave teachers will be in attendance – keep an eye out for the next edition of the newsletter where pictures will be published!



Simon Stephens @ The Quarry Theatre



A selection of Year Ten GCSE drama pupils, along with Mr Stratton, attended an ‘ask me anything’ Q&A with esteemed playwright Simon Stephens. Simon is best known for his play adaptation of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* for which he won the 2015 Tony Award for Best Play.

We thoroughly enjoyed hearing Simon speak and our pupils asked some very probing questions into the professional life of a playwright. We would like to thank Bedford School for inviting us. One quote that stood out from Simon can be read below:

“I’ve always tried to write as honestly as I can about kids because they moved me when I was a teacher; they inspired me. They were difficult, and it was difficult teaching. There is nothing I’ve experienced as a playwright that was anywhere near as difficult as that year and a half teaching. It’s defined the person I am.”



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CREATIVE ARTS

MUSIC



Choir perform at The Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival is an annual community event held at St Paul's Church in Bedford. It is always a wonderful way to start the festive season and we look forward to it each year. The choir performed brilliantly this year and were complimented by many members of the public who were in the audience.

Upcoming events:

We are looking forward to our in-house Battle of the Bands which is taking place on 22 January. Winners of this event will go through to the regional KS3 Beds Band Factory at Redborne Upper on 4 March and KS4 Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands at The Stables on 26 March.

We have a number of groups and individuals competing in The Bedfordshire Festival of Music Speech and Drama this year from 7 – 14 March.

Strings in Spring on Tuesday 17 March.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At different times through their education, lots of children can experience challenges, struggles and difficulties with their learning with things such as communication and interaction; cognition and learning; social, emotional and mental health difficulties; sensory and/or physical needs. The reasons for these difficulties are wide and complex. At Goldington Academy, we support children with their learning and their social and emotional development in a number of ways.

Each pupil identified as having additional needs has a profile, which all staff have copies of. The profile contains differentiation strategies to help the child make progress at school.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's learning, please contact me at school by email or by phone. There is a SEND drop-in session once a week, where parents and carers can speak to the SENDCO without an appointment. The details of these sessions are published in the school newsletter, but they are normally held every Wednesday from 2.45 to 4.15 pm during term-time.

Mr Roopnarain, SENDCO roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk

FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES

Monday 6 January		Start of Term
Tuesday 7 January — Friday 17 January		Year Eleven Mock Exams
Wednesday 8 January		Engineering Workshop
Monday 20 January		TDP injections for all Year
Wednesday 22 January		Battle of the Bands (Years Eight—Eleven)
Friday 24 January	All day	Robotics (selected pupils)
Wednesday 29 January	4.30 pm— 8.30 pm	Year Ten Parents' Evening
Thursday 30 January		Year Eleven Mock Results Day
Monday 3 February	All day	Music Industry Day
Wednesday 12 February	4.30 pm— 8.30 pm	Year Eleven Parents' Evening
Friday 14 February— Friday 21 February		Ski Trip to Andorra
Monday 17 February— Friday 21 February		FEBRUARY HALF TERM
Friday 28 February		Amanda Silk Workshop (selected pupils)

