

Saturday Bulletin

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Global Awareness Cuba trip – perspectives



On 10 December, 16 Global Awareness students set off to Havana to experience eight days of Cuban culture and society. Here are two perspectives from the trip.

By Bella Evershed, 6.2

The Global Awareness trip to Cuba was a splendid escape into a potentially stagnant Havana, as you could clearly see the repercussions of the US embargo on the architecture and vehicles. In spite of this, the city was bustling and extremely welcoming, and we all found it refreshing to escape the Christmas lead-up, with its intense advertising overload. We had varying levels of interaction with the locals, weaving together a picture of what Cuba looked like to them – the impact of the US embargo was still evident, but they were thriving in spite of it. [Read more...](#)

By Abi Wharton, Head of Global Awareness

As a Global Awareness trip, this was an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in different Cuban organisations and develop a deeper understanding of the development of education, health and politics in a system which has been under a US economic and trade embargo for 60 years. We visited a number of different schools engaging in joint English-Spanish conversation classes with Cuban students. A highlight of this was the opportunity to follow each other on Instagram – the internet has only become available to Cubans in the last couple of years. [Read more...](#)

6.2 students hear from renowned psychologists



By Skye Hurwitz, 6.2

In December, 6.2 Psychology students attended a psychology conference in London, where they were fortunate enough to hear talks from renowned psychologists across the country. Speakers at the conference shared their expertise through fascinating lectures about a range of topics, from musicology to hypnotism. The day commenced with a captivating talk from the magician Oliver Meech. Meech completed his degree in Psychology at Oxford and employed his expertise in the art of magic. In disbelief, the audience witnessed Meech's magic tricks, followed by a masterclass on the psychological techniques behind the magic. The lectures that followed were equally insightful. Professor Gianna Cassidy informed us about the benefits of music for wellbeing, sharing research surrounding the psychology of music, such as what makes a catchy song stick and why singing can improve our mental health. [Read more...](#)

Bedales artwork exhibited at Southbank Undercroft



By Daniel Preece, Head of Art

Last year the architects [Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios](#), who designed the Art & Design building and Olivier Theatre, approached Bedales' Art Department to create a piece for a temporary project space at the [Southbank Undercroft](#) – a space that the architects are renovating to transform into an educational space. As the 6.1 art project for the autumn term had been based around the urban environment, it seemed a good opportunity to explore the processes and ideas that had been introduced to the students and to make a response to the architecture of the buildings Feilden Clegg Bradley had designed for the school. This involved drawing from the architecture, creating collages in pairs from these and personal photographs taken. These collages were then combined and used to create a mural that spanned 122cm x 366cm. [Read more...](#)

Unmissable events coming up

The new Bedales Events season gets underway on Monday evening with [New Perspectives'](#) production of [A Fortunate Man](#) in the Lupton Hall, combining John Berger's words and Jean Mohr's photographs from their 1967 book, [A Fortunate Man: The Story of a Country Doctor](#), with archive film footage and contemporary reportage to create a multimedia performance that takes the pulse of the NHS today. Book tickets (£14/£12 concessions) [here](#).

Bedales Head of Art Dan Preece's work is on display at [Tregony Gallery](#), Cornwall's first exhibition of the year, [Assemble^o](#), until 22 January at the After Nyne Gallery. Dan will be delivering an artist's talk at the gallery on Saturday 19 January. Find out more [here](#), and RSVP to info@tregonygallery.com to book a place at the talk.

If you haven't already booked tickets for the Rock Show (6/7/8 February), don't miss your chance to be at one of the most impressive events in the Bedales calendar. With tickets for 8 February already sold out, you'll need to act quickly to secure your tickets for the remaining nights. See the trailer for the show [here](#), and buy tickets [here](#).

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics Florence trip



By Julia Bevan, Teacher of English

Florence in December: sunny but nippy, empty of tourists, lit up for Christmas, and the perfect place to take 22 enthusiastic Block 5 students of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE). On this four-day trip to Italy, we spent one glorious day in Siena, marvelling at the frescos in the Palazzo Pubblico that explored the effects of good governance on city life. There, equipped with amazing audio guides – that meant Clare Jarmy could whisper into her microphone and we could all hear her – we learnt about the powerful but manipulative Medici family and the rivalry between the two Tuscan cities. Back in Florence, we visited the Uffizi Gallery and this time Nick Meigh took the microphone and navigated us through early religious art to the shockingly risqué work of Botticelli and Caravaggio. Amongst all this and hidden gems by Giotto in Santa Croce, there was time for Christmas shopping, ice-cream eating and reflection on how to envisage a Utopian society. In the words of one enthusiastic student: "This is like, almost, the best trip ever!"



Lambing recognised by Small Shepherds Club

Congratulations to Head of Outdoor Work, [Andrew Martin](#), who has been awarded runner-up in the McLellan Lambing Trophy 2018. The trophy is awarded by the [Small Shepherds' Club](#) to the member who demonstrates excellent stockmanship by achieving the highest lambing percentage from their flock, which must comprise at least six ewes, while lambs must survive at least nine weeks. With a lambing percentage of 210 percent, Andrew was narrowly beaten to the top spot by fellow Small Shepherds' Club member Karen Jordan, who topped the leader board by just 15 percent.

Bedales musicians play at memorial gig

By Imo Mayhook-Walker, 6.2

On 15 December, Bedalians old and new gathered to commemorate Mel Hornsby in the George Tavern, London. The gig, organised by Neil Hornsby, Head of Contemporary Music, and Jack Merrett of the band [Famous](#), sought to raise money for [Macmillan](#) and was a huge success. With performances from [Marika Hackman](#), Rosheen Bond, Peter Wilson and Luca Caruso, the evening showcased the musical talent that has grown out of Bedales. Other standout performances included Jasper Ford Welman, Roly Botha, Famous, Louis Giannamore and George Morony, just to name a few. Leavers from last year's 6.2s, including Chilli Chilton and Finn Davidson, also gave performances. I found the evening particularly inspiring as I got to meet Old Bedalians who are now working successfully as professional musicians. The evening was a real testament to Neil, who is held in such high regard by so many people, as shown by the number of former students present. I was lucky enough to perform and found it an amazing experience.

Bedales blog – questioning GCSE

By Magnus Bashaarat, Head of Bedales

In a recent [article](#) by Haroon Siddique in *The Guardian*, Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner expressed concern that Tory education reforms are putting state school pupils at a disadvantage compared to those educated in independent schools. More specifically, the Labour party is demanding an inquiry on the basis that state school pupils are obliged to sit GCSEs whilst many independent schools favour IGCSEs. The former are harder, claims Labour, with MP Lucy Powell arguing that independent schools are gaming the system by offering their students easy options, and insulating them against the effects of reforms whilst they are bedding in. Labour is quite right to want an inquiry, but not on this premise which is shaky to say the least and misses the mark by some distance. One key question concerns the relevance of GCSE level qualifications in an age when education to age 18 is compulsory. Another is about assessment orthodoxies and, in turn, the relationship between these and issues of wellbeing amongst young people that have caused such concern in recent times. [Read more...](#)

Sports update: Learning curve for boys' hockey

By Kevin Boniface, Head of Hockey – U14 Boys’ Hockey v Kings’ School, Winchester – On Wednesday, the U14 Boys’ Hockey team travelled away to Kings’ School, Winchester, for their first game of the season. Kings’ are always a tough opponent and given the fact that this was the first exposure to full pitch games for the Bedales side, as well as some of our players being new to hockey, it was always going to be a steep learning curve. Despite a heavy loss on paper to an incredible Kings’ side, what was evident to those at the game was just how much the Bedales side developed in a short space of time. There is much to work on but there were increasing glimpses of good hockey. Special mentions must go to goalkeeper Josh Baty, whose shot stopping and clearance saves were of a very high standard; defensively he was ably assisted by Elio Mazas and Ed Cobb. Zach Stewart had an impressive second half, making intelligent leads and his comfort on the ball allowed the Bedales side to create a few breakaway chances. The team now has a week’s break before they travel to play Bohunt School on 23 January.

Train times for boarders

Saturday 12 January – leave Petersfield 13.48 (next train 13.57), arriving Waterloo at 14.57 (15.14)

Sunday 13 January – leave Waterloo **19.03** (note earlier departure time), arriving Petersfield 20.40

Coming up

Term dates are on the school website [here](#).

For parents / students

12 Jan, FoBs Meeting in the Sixth Form Social Space

19 Jan, BPA Meeting in the Reading Room

25 Jan, FoBs Tea & Coffee in the Reading Room

25-27 Jan, Long leave weekend

Bedales Events: Book tickets via the links on the [website](#) (fee free) or call the Box Office on 0333 666 3366 (booking fee applies). To set up the ability to place tickets directly on the school bill, please email our Front of House Lead, Amanda on abrewer@bedales.org.uk

14 Jan, [A Fortunate Man](#), Lupton Hall

17-19 Jan, [Blood, Bread & Bone](#), Theatre

17 Jan, [Baroque Recital](#), Theatre

23 Jan, [Music Scholars’ Concert](#), Lupton Hall

24 Jan, [Natalie Williams Band](#), Theatre

6-8 Feb, [Bedales Rock Show](#), Theatre

For students

15 Jan, Block 3 English trip to the Minerva Theatre

16 Jan, Partnership event with TPS and Bohunt

17 Jan, Baroque workshop

18 Jan, 6.1 Biology A Level Lectures in London

19 Jan, 6.2 trip to Dorset

Sport (parents welcome)

Reminder that parents are very welcome to come and support teams: tea will be served to parents in the Dining Hall after matches.

Date	Time	Fixture	Home / Away
Tue 15 Jan	2.30pm	Boys’ U14A Rugby 7s v The Royal School	A
Tue 15 Jan	2.30pm	Boys’ U15A Rugby 7s v KES Witley	A
Tue 15 Jan	2.30pm	Boys’ U15 Basketball v More House School	H
Wed 16 Jan	4.45pm	Girls’ 1st, 2nd & U14A Netball v The Royal School	H
Tue 22 Jan	2.30pm	Boys’ U15A Rugby Sevens v The Royal School	A
Tue 22 Jan	2.30pm	Boys’ U14A Rugby Sevens v KES Witley	A

Notes

Absence: Please send requests for planned absences for routine matters to house staff, and requests for overnight absence to Louise Wilson, Senior Deputy, (lwilson@bedales.org.uk). For on-the-day absence of day students, please email bedalesabsence@bedales.org.uk. Thank you for your assistance.

Read news from Bedales Prep School, Dunhurst: [The Friday Report](#).

Read news from Bedales Pre-prep School, Dunannie: [The Friday Newsletter](#).

Yours,



Magnus Bashaarat

Head of Bedales

If you do not wish to receive these emails in future, please reply with 'no thanks' in the subject line.