

Saturday Bulletin

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2 February 2019

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The plague: medieval relic or still a cause for concern?



By Richard Sinclair, Head of Biology

Plague! The very word is inclined to strike fear into the heart, but what is it, where did it come from and is it still about? This was the subject of a talk by Dr Tim Mason, a retired lecturer in Microbiology from the University of Portsmouth, who visited Bedales as part of the Biology Lecture Series last week. His lecture covered the history of plague from the Bronze Age, through the mass deaths of medieval times to the atrocities of its use in germ warfare in the 20th century. Archaeologists, digging deep into the skulls of Bronze Age skeletons, have shown us with their DNA analyses that it was only at about this stage that the plague bacteria, a new mass murderer of mankind arose. Over the coming years, periodically reemerging to cause global epidemics, the plague would hone its homicidal skills, bringing us the relentless killer The Black Death. [Read more...](#)

Block 4's script performed in Liverpool



Block 4 student Freya Hannan-Mills' original script, *Swallow*, was brought to life by Olivier Award-winning actress Denise Gough at a sold-out event at the [Everyman Theatre](#) in Liverpool on 26 January. As reported in a recent Saturday Bulletin, Freya's play was selected to be performed at the theatre as part of their [Scratch Morning](#) series, which showcases new talent. The performance, which Freya described as "unforgettable", was well received by those in the audience, with playwright Simon Stephens [taking to Twitter](#) to share his thoughts. "In about 15 years, thousands will claim to have seen Freya's first play," he wrote. "Remember the name." Freya is now preparing to rehearse the full script during the half term break ahead of its premiere at the Tristan Bates Theatre in London on 27/28 February (tickets available [here](#)).

Last chance to buy Rock Show tickets



If you haven't already, don't miss your chance to get tickets to the Rock Show, which kicks off its three-night run in the Bedales Theatre on Wednesday 6 February. With tickets for Thursday and Friday's performances sold out, there are still some tickets for Wednesday remaining – book [here](#). If you're coming to the Rock Show on 6/7/8 February, don't forget to bring some cash to take part in the Rock Show Raffle. There's a chance to win one of the following prizes: a 2½ hour pottery lesson for two people (worth £100) at [Loam Ceramics](#), Westmark Barns, Petersfield; a meal voucher for [Fez](#) (Petersfield); and a Bedales Hamper. We will also be auctioning tickets for a major concert coming up soon – more on that next week! We look forward to seeing you at the John Badley Foundation Bar in the Theatre foyer from 6pm each night for drinks (and free sausages!) All proceeds in aid of the [John Badley Foundation](#).

Public Speaking Competition success

By Jonathan Selby, Head of Government & Politics

On Wednesday evening, at The English Speaking Union's Churchill Public Speaking Competition held at Bedales, Bedales' two teams were placed first and second. One team (comprising Amos Wollen, Leila Issa and Eben McDonald), speaking on the topic that universities should be bastions of free speech, were placed second; the other (made up of Taragh Melwani, Tashi Feinstein and Ben Bradberry), speaking on the topic that Britain should pay reparations to former colonies of the British Empire, were placed first. Leila Issa won the Best Chairman Award for the evening and

Ben Bradberry the Best Questioner. The first placed team now go straight through to the regional final on 13 February in the Guildhall in Guildford.

Insightful Keats lecture

By Thea Sesti, 6.2

After last month's trip to Thomas Hardy's Dorset, English teachers [David Anson](#), [Ed Mason](#) and Lucy McIlwraith took a slightly different group of 6.2 English students to Chichester to attend a lecture delivered by distinguished academic [Professor Nicholas Roe](#) on John Keats' narrative poem *The Eve of St. Agnes*. The lecture was organised in celebration of the poem's bicentennial anniversary and took place the day before the Eve itself, which falls on 20 January. The lecture contained a lot of insightful context to Keats' life as well as that of the poem, evidencing the brutality and viciousness of the criticism the poet had to break through in order to gain a place among the English poets, which indeed he did with much of his 1819 poetry and in no small measure in *St. Agnes' Eve*. [Read more...](#)

Baroque Recital & Music Scholars' Concert – review

By Sampson Keung, 6.1 Music Scholar

The Baroque Recital (17 January) was a great opportunity for Bedales musicians to learn about music from 1600-1750. I really enjoyed how extraordinary the musicians were in the concert. Sara Timossi, who teaches violin at Bedales, showed some really amazing baroque violin skills in the concert, alongside an award-winning cellist, harpsichordist and theorbo player, which we'd never experienced before. This is also the first time that we saw a theorbo, a Baroque string instrument, which we learned about in a fascinating workshop that preceded the concert. Some Bedales musicians even had the chance to play with the professional baroque players, which was a fantastic opportunity and strengthened our playing skills. [Read more...](#)

6.1 students hear from country's leading scientists

By Richard Sinclair, Head of Biology

In January, a group of 6.1 Biologists travelled to the Apollo Theatre, Victoria, to hear a series of lectures by some of the country's leading scientists as part of the [Science Live: A-Level](#) series. Firstly we heard from [Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore](#) from UCL, who spoke about the complexities of the teenage brain and her team's cutting edge experiments which reveal how behaviour is affected by the environment and how we relate to each other through this period of our lives. Sarah-Jayne explained that adolescence is a period of great vulnerability, but also one of enormous creativity which should be acknowledged and celebrated. Next was [Professor Robert Winston](#), who was the speaker at Bedales' [Eckersley Lecture](#) in 2013. He spoke about manipulating human reproduction from his work on in vitro fertilization through to regenerative medicine such as stem cell research and epigenetics, which may turn out to be the most important biological development in the years to come. He warned though that manipulating the human will always be dangerous, uncertain and unpredictable. [Read more...](#)

Bedales blog – Encouraging children to exercise

By Colin Baty, Head of Dunhurst

Recent research by academics at Exeter and Plymouth universities has found that just one per cent of girls and five per cent of boys in Year 5 are getting the recommended amount of exercise each day. Although the study found that a third of pupils averaged an hour per day, official guidelines recommend young people between five and 18-years-old should get at least an hour of moderate-to-vigorous-intensity physical activity each day if they are to stay healthy. This underlines the importance of a curriculum that encourages – requires, even – children to be physically active. An obvious and perfectly justifiable response is to look to the part PE plays in the school day – both as timetabled lessons, and as an extra-curricular feature of school life. However, we should be mindful that the existence of opportunity to do exercise and sport does not automatically translate to good use of the time. In late 2017 the charity Women in Sport reported that only 56% of girls enjoyed being physically active at school compared to 71% of boys. [Read more...](#)

Sports update: Good effort in hockey and netball

By Kevin Boniface, Head of Hockey – *Boys' 1st XI Hockey in the Hampshire Hockey U18 Trophy Competition* – On Wednesday the Boys' 1st XI travelled to Southampton Sports Centre to take part in the Hampshire Hockey U18 Trophy Competition. In their first game the Bedales side got off to a good start, threatening with the pace and power of Loet Brouwer down the right hand side and deservedly went 1-0 up. Unfortunately, they then took their foot off the gas a little which allowed their opponents, HCS, to come back in to the game and earn a draw. In the second match, Bedales once again took the lead but a freak deflected goal gave Peter Symonds College renewed hope, and as the game was nearing the final whistle, Peter Symonds scored a well worked short corner to take the game 2-1. This game appeared to knock the Bedales side, and in their third game against Ryde, they produced a rather lacklustre performance, deservedly losing 2-0. [Read more...](#)

By Chloe Nicklin, Head of Netball – Girls' 1st XI Netball v Lord Wandsworth College – Bedales played in a very competitive match against a strong Lord Wandsworth College (LWC) side. Bedales stayed strong throughout the game and were able to stay ahead in every quarter. Thea Levine played extremely well in defence, gaining lots of interceptions which allowed Bedales to turn over the play and gain more goals. A very much deserved win for the Bedales side, who have been working hard on improving their gameplay. Final score was 19-14, with Hannah Mazas being selected as Most Valuable Player.

By Mariela Presnell, Teacher of Girls' PE & Games – Girls' U15A Netball v Lord Wandsworth College – This week the U15A team faced a strong LWC team for what was sure to be a challenging match. Bedales had a slightly shaky first quarter which saw LWC take an easy lead. During the second quarter Bedales began to settle and were able to get a number of shots away to help bring the score line a little closer. Defensively, Shanklin MacKillop-Hall and Emma Nelson were strong and took a number of excellent interceptions throughout the game. At the end of the third quarter, it became clear that, despite our best efforts, LWC were just too strong and we were unlikely to take a victory. Regardless, the girls battled hard to win the last quarter 4-3, which was excellent. The final score was 24-12 to LWC and the player of the match was Alisia Leach. Well done to all of the team, who worked hard up until the final whistle on an extremely cold January afternoon.

Train times for boarders

Saturday 2 February – leave Petersfield 13.58 (next train 14.18), arriving Waterloo at 15.30 (15.43)

Sunday 3 February – leave Waterloo 19.14, arriving Petersfield 20.40

Coming up

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

For parents / students

4 Feb, Discussion on the Bedales ethos in Dunannie Library

9 Feb, Music Parent Meeting

13 Feb, Eswatini (Swaziland) Project Parent Presentation

13-24 Feb, Half term

27 Feb, [Solo and Blocks Concert](#), Lupton Hall

6 Mar, [Bedales Dance Performs](#), Theatre

18 Mar, Spring Equinox event: [Sauerkraut and Fermentation Workshop](#) (sold out, waiting list available)

20 Mar, Spring Equinox event: [Flower Power Workshop](#) (very limited availability remaining)

21 Mar, Spring Equinox event: [Yoga and Sound Meditation Retreat](#) with Niki Perry Yoga and Selda Soul Space (limited spaces remaining)

23 Mar, Spring Equinox event: [Spring Foraging and Cooking](#) with Hector and the Fox

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

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

26 Feb, [Luke Jermay: Intuition](#), Theatre

7 Mar, [mapdance 2019](#), Theatre

11 Mar, [No Kids](#), Theatre

12 Mar, [Green Ribbon History Lecture](#): Jerome de Groot, Theatre

For students

2-3 Feb, Rock Show All-in Weekend

6 Feb, Art trip to Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

9-10 Feb, A Level Dance / Product & Fashion Design All-in Weekend

11 Feb, Classical Music Prep School Day

11-13 Feb, Block 3 History trip to the Battlefields

12 Feb, 6.1 and 6.2 Valentine's Ball

13 Feb, Field trip to Portsmouth Food Bank

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 5 Feb	2.30pm	Boys' U15A Rugby Sevens v Ditcham Park	A
Tue 5 Feb	2.30pm	Boys' U14A Rugby Sevens v More House School	A
Wed 6 Feb	2.30pm	Girls' U16A, U14A & U14B Netball v Lord Wandsworth College	A
Wed 6 Feb	2.30pm	Boys' U16 Basketball v The Oratory School	H
Wed 6 Feb	4.30pm	Boys' U16 Hockey v Portsmouth Grammar School	A
Wed 6 Feb	4.30pm	Boys' 1st XI Hockey v KES Witley	A
Tue 26 Feb	2.30pm	Boys' U14 Hockey v Winchester College	H

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](#).

Bedales ethos: Please look out for a letter today updating parents on a marketing research exercise undertaken by the school. If you would like to discuss the work relating to the Bedales ethos with Victoria, Colin and Magnus, you are welcome to come and discuss it with them in the Dunannie Library on Monday (4 February) at 5.30pm.

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.