

Saturday Bulletin

Also available on the Parent Portal, [here](#)

23 March 2019

At a glance

- [Musicians' work showcased at Spring Concert](#)
- [Kadian Lecture 28 March – invitation to parents](#)
- [Bedales students join thousands for climate march](#)
- [Students debate Brexit in Jaw](#)
- [Pi Day and Intermediate Maths Challenge](#)

- [Petersfield Festival Schools Concert – perspectives](#)
- [Varied and enjoyable Classics lectures](#)
- [Bedales blog – The case for education reform](#)
- [Sports update –](#)
- [Coming up...](#)

Musicians' work showcased at Spring Concert



By Sampson Keung, 6.1

The Spring Concert last Wednesday (13 March) showcased all the hard work from musicians across the school. The concert started with the Concert Band playing *Poet and Peasant Overture* by Franz Von Suppé. All the musicians enjoyed the unique and fun ensemble experience. Our newly established Woodwind Ensemble presented the audience with a rather cheeky piece of music by Debussy – his famous *Cake Walk*. The Percussion Ensemble once again performed a high standard of music, this year joined by three new musicians, who played *Autumn* by Vivaldi and *Mission: Impossible* by Lalo Schifrin, arranged by our percussion teacher, Simon Whittaker-Wade. The Orchestra also amazed the audience with *Dance Bacchanal* from the Opera *Samson and Delilah* by Saint-Saens, as well as the theme tune from Lord of the Rings by Howard Shore. They are both technical, demanding pieces and the orchestra performed them really well. [Read more...](#)

Kadian Lecture 28 March – invitation to parents



By Allen Shone, Teacher of Physics

In memory of former Bedales student [Kadian Harding](#), the Kadian Science Lecture will be held on Thursday 28 March, 5.30-6.30pm, in the Simon Lecture Theatre (SLT). This year, Colin Stuart will present a talk titled *How We'll Live on Mars*, a question that is repeatedly being asked as governments and private companies alike aim to send a manned mission to the Red Planet within the next 20 years (or sooner). The talk will also tie in with the project the Block 3s presented at the end of the autumn term, on the technological and personal difficulties that humans would face if taking a journey to another planet to establish a colony. The Kadian Lecture is especially aimed at those studying in Blocks 3-5, so should be understood by all. We hope you can join us. A biography of Colin and details of the books he has written can be found [here](#). If you would like to attend the Kadian Lecture, please email Allen at ashone@bedales.org.uk.

Bedales students join thousands for climate march



By Milun Syms, 6.1

Last Friday, roughly 60 Bedales students – led by Aggie Livingston and Bella Evershed – joined the masses of students in London taking a stand on the imminent issue regarding their future. As we departed from Waterloo and advanced to Parliament Square, the bold and energetic chorus of various chants and slogans began to pick up and would continue for the entirety of the march. Once the seemingly large group of Bedalians reached Parliament Square, it became clear just how many people were involved, all forming a monumental pack. Instantly immersed in the crowd, everyone was surrounded by brightly designed pickets with various slogans regarding climate justice, with the occasional humorous comment about Teresa May. [Read more...](#)

Students debate Brexit in Jaw

By Clare Jarmy, Head of Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Last Wednesday, Bedales hosted its termly Jaw debate, and what a brilliant debate it was. The motion was current: even as it took place, MPs were in Parliament discussing the self-same questions. Our motion was 'This House would hold a second Brexit referendum'. The quality of the speeches was surely the best a Jaw debate has ever seen. The case for the motion was eloquently made by Eben Macdonald (Block 3), who articulated a persuasive set of reasons for holding a second referendum. He argued: "Over the past two and a half years, the politicians have only been arguing

amongst themselves and we have got nowhere. Only the people can resolve this issue. We are also incredibly unprepared for leaving the EU: we don't seem to have made a single trade deal at all with anyone else." This argument was ably challenged by Blossom Gottlieb (6.2), who, ceding many of Eben's arguments, made the case for nullifying the original referendum and not holding another one. The case for the proposition was then taken on by Ben Bradberry (Block 4), who, having agreed at the last minute to take part in the debate, provided a really robust set of reasons for holding another referendum. Taragh Melwani (Block 4) completed the case for the opposition, with a discussion of the democracy (or otherwise) of holding a second referendum, and the importance, in a school where many people supported Remain, of not belittling or ignoring those who did not. Overall, the occasion was impressive, both in terms of engagement of both the speakers and audience. The motion was carried.

Pi Day and Intermediate Maths Challenge



By Martin Hanak, Head of Mathematics

The Maths Department celebrated Pi Day in style on 14 March. Activities included making our own Pi Day bunting, displaying the first 100 digits of Pi, and exploring convergent series resulting in Pi. Some of our Block 4 students tried to turn the Nilakantha series into a computer programme for calculating Pi but came to realise the limitations of computing with very small decimals. Eben Macdonald (Block 3, pictured) was the proud winner of a Pi-themed competition, winning a homemade apple pie. Meanwhile, Bedales students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February received their results. Block 3 students achieved one silver and three bronze certificates; Block 4 students picked up one gold, two silver and five bronze certificates; and Block 5 students achieved six gold, nine silver and three bronze certificates. Well done to Raef Macnaghten (Block 4), Maggie Luo and Cameron Dejahang (Block 5), who qualified for the next round of the competition, the European Kangaroo, which took place on 21 March.

Petersfield Festival Schools Concert – perspectives

By Cassius Kay, 6.2

This week, a group of Bedalian Chamber Choir singers went along to the Petersfield Festival Hall to perform in a concert to commemorate the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth. We rehearsed and performed this event with students from Dunhurst, Ditcham Park, Churche's College and The Petersfield School, to name but a few. In this event we performed three pieces with a full children's choir of over 200 singers. The pieces were *Mangwani M'pulsele*, *Rain, Rain, Beautiful Rain* and *N'kosi sikelel' i Afrika*. We were led by the former Bedales teacher Phillip Young in this lovely set of evening concerts, which were a great experience to be involved with other schools.

By Julia Bevan, Teacher of English

Members of the Bedales Chamber Choir played a meaningful role in the Petersfield Festival Hall this week. Smartly dressed and performing with skill, they stood amongst students from our neighbouring secondary schools in the spirit of the town's music festival. It was a real pleasure to listen to the intricate harmonies they provided to support the town's junior choirs, who were singing the melodies. With so few male voices among the performers, it was with confidence and unabashed joy that our tenors and basses held their own and enriched the three powerful South African songs that had been chosen to unite our talented local musicians.

Varied and enjoyable Classics lectures

By Morgan Tasker, 6.1

On 12 March, the 6.1 Classics class attended four lectures given by university lecturers and organised by Sovereign Education in London. The first lecture discussed the question of self-determination in the Iliad and provided the class with newfound understanding of the lost epics surrounding the Iliad, as well as the relationship between mortal and man. The second lecture provided a detailed insight into the Homeric code in order to help the class understand Homer's pre-Christianity morality as well as to provide a greater degree of depth to seemingly shallow motivations of many of the Greek heroes. The third lecture provided insight into Homer's use of rhetoric and taught the class of the uniqueness of this style of expression to the Homeric epics. Such speeches are absent from the works of Hesiod. He explained both the formal structure of speeches and the insight they provide. The last lecture talked about the role of women in the Iliad and explained to the audience that Helen may not be as innocent a party as she appears on a cursory reading. A varied and enjoyable day – despite the terrible weather.

Bedales blog – The case for education reform

In an article for TES, Magnus Bashaarat argues that GCSEs do not prepare students for work and further study, that government's obsession with STEM subjects needs revisiting, and that a major curriculum rethink is required if vocational education is to serve young people well and match the ambition of businesses and far-sighted universities. Magnus proposes that GCSE reforms have diminished the learning experience for a generation of children. Universities and businesses, he says, are realising that GCSE exams are placed arbitrarily and meaninglessly at a point along what should be a continuous learning and developing experience at school for young people. He explains: "GCSEs stifle creative teaching, with the curriculum divided into vast subject silos, only a small number of which are currently in favour

with its political architects. However, the orthodoxy of deeming some educational subjects worthy and others less so is suspect." [Read more...](#)

Sports update:

By Spencer Leach, Director of Sport – Boys' U15 Basketball v The Royal School – This week the junior basketball side had a great opportunity to develop as a team for next year against The Royal School. Predominantly playing a year down, there was plenty of court time and a chance to really focus on how to structure our team play in defence and offence. The Royal used their extra height to good effect and proved too strong on this occasion.

Boys' U17 Basketball v Pangbourne – The U17s demonstrated what a good unit they are becoming in a 'super 6s' league match against Pangbourne. Two very well matched teams were within four points of each other throughout. Going into the final two minutes, Pangbourne put Bedales under pressure with a couple of three point shots but Bedales held their nerve and Doug Fox and Lev Borisovets scored the vital baskets to claim a nail biting 41-40 win.

By Kevin Boniface, Head of Hockey – Boys' First XI v Lord Wandsworth College – The first XI boys travelled away to play not only their final game of the season, but for some of the 6.2 boys, their final game in Bedales colours. As has always been the case this season, the team conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. In a physical encounter the Bedales side kept their cool and defensive discipline, limiting Lord Wandsworth to a handful of half-chances. At the other end, the team lacked attacking precision, often cheaply turning the ball over. The half-time team talk focused on bringing the half-backs and wide forwards in to the game more. However, it was a moment of individual brilliance from departing captain Sam Pemberton that broke the deadlock. Sam beat two players at the top of the circle before rifling the ball in to the top corner. Lord Wandsworth replied with more attacking pressure and unfortunately this coincided with the Bedales side losing defensive stalwart Ollie van Hoeken to a nasty head injury. As Bedales reshuffled the pack, they managed a few more half chances, but failed to convert and ultimately paid the price as Lord Wandsworth forced home a scrappy goal and the game finished in a 1-1 draw.

Boys' U14 Hockey v Ditcham Park – The U14s played host to Ditcham Park on Wednesday afternoon. This was a well matched game that ebbed and flowed. Ditcham deservedly took the lead but this seemed to switch on the home side and they became more defensively astute, being well marshalled by Chubbs Bailey and goalkeeper Blu Schneider-Marsan. As the game developed, the more creative Bedales players found themselves able to influence the game. Jac Wheeler being the standout forward, scoring a hat-trick, one of which was a superb backhand strike from the top of the circle. Ditcham had their chances to get back in the game and missed two clear opportunities at the back post. However, the game ended in a lovely moment when Danil Levchenko – who was playing in his first ever hockey match – burst through the Ditcham defence to calmly finish against the oncoming keeper.

By Chloe Nicklin, Head of Netball – U14A Netball v St Swithun's B – The U14A team put in a fantastic performance against St Swithun's. An early lead in the first quarter ultimately secured their victory as the following three quarters resulted in tied scores. The defensive performance from Clemmie, Zoe and Millie has improved significantly over the last few weeks, which ensured we stayed ahead. Great centre court play from captain Millie Harris, feeding the ball into the circle with great speed and accuracy. This team keep going from strength to strength, identifying errors in their game and aiming to improve them whilst on court, a real pleasure to spectate/umpire. The final score was 20 - 12 with Clemmie Pike gaining Most Valuable Player.

By Caz Hulbert, PE Coach – U14B Netball v St Swithun's C – A tough match against a team that was well drilled in set play. They had a strong goal shooter. In the last two quarters Bedales managed to maintain some possession which resulted in Bedales scoring points. The girls worked hard throughout the match and never gave up. Daisy was player of the match.

Train times for boarders

Saturday 23 March – leave Petersfield 13.57 (next train 14.18), arriving Waterloo at 15.14 (15.27)

Sunday 24 March – leave Waterloo 19.30 arriving Petersfield 20.40

Coming up

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

For parents / students

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

23 Mar, Bedales Parents' Association AGM, Lupton Hall, 11.00am

24 Mar, Block 3 Parents' Dinner in the Dining Hall, 7pm

25 Mar, DofE Celebration Event, Dining Hall, 7pm

27 Mar, [Student Directed Performances](#), Theatre

28 Mar, Kadian Lecture with Colin Stuart, SLT (see above article)

29 Mar, Spring term ends, 3.30pm

13-18 Apr, Blocks 4 & 5 trip to Grenada, Spain

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

4 May, [Woodland Tales with Granddad](#), Theatre

11 May, ['Badley Behaved' Dog Show and Fete](#)

12 May, [Youth Dance Platform](#), Theatre

14 May, [Eckersley Lecture](#), Theatre

For students

26 Mar, *Curious Incident...* Sixth Form Dramatists trip

26-27 Mar, LAMDA exams

28 Mar, Oxbridge course at Epsom Racecourse

28 Mar, A Level Dance exam

28 Mar, Staff vs 6.2 Hockey

24 Apr-2 May, 6.1 Internal Exams

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 26 Mar	1.30pm	Girls' U14A Netball Tournament at Hampshire Collegiate	A
Tue 26 Mar	2.30pm	Boys' U14 Hockey v St Edmunds	H
Wed 27 Mar	1.45pm	Boys' U16 Hockey v Lord Wandsworth College	A
Wed 27 Mar	2.45pm	Boys' U14 Hockey v Lord Wandsworth College	A
Wed 27 Mar	4.30pm	Girls' U16A Netball v Churcher's College	H
Thu 28 Mar	2.30pm	Staff vs 6.2 Hockey	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.

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.