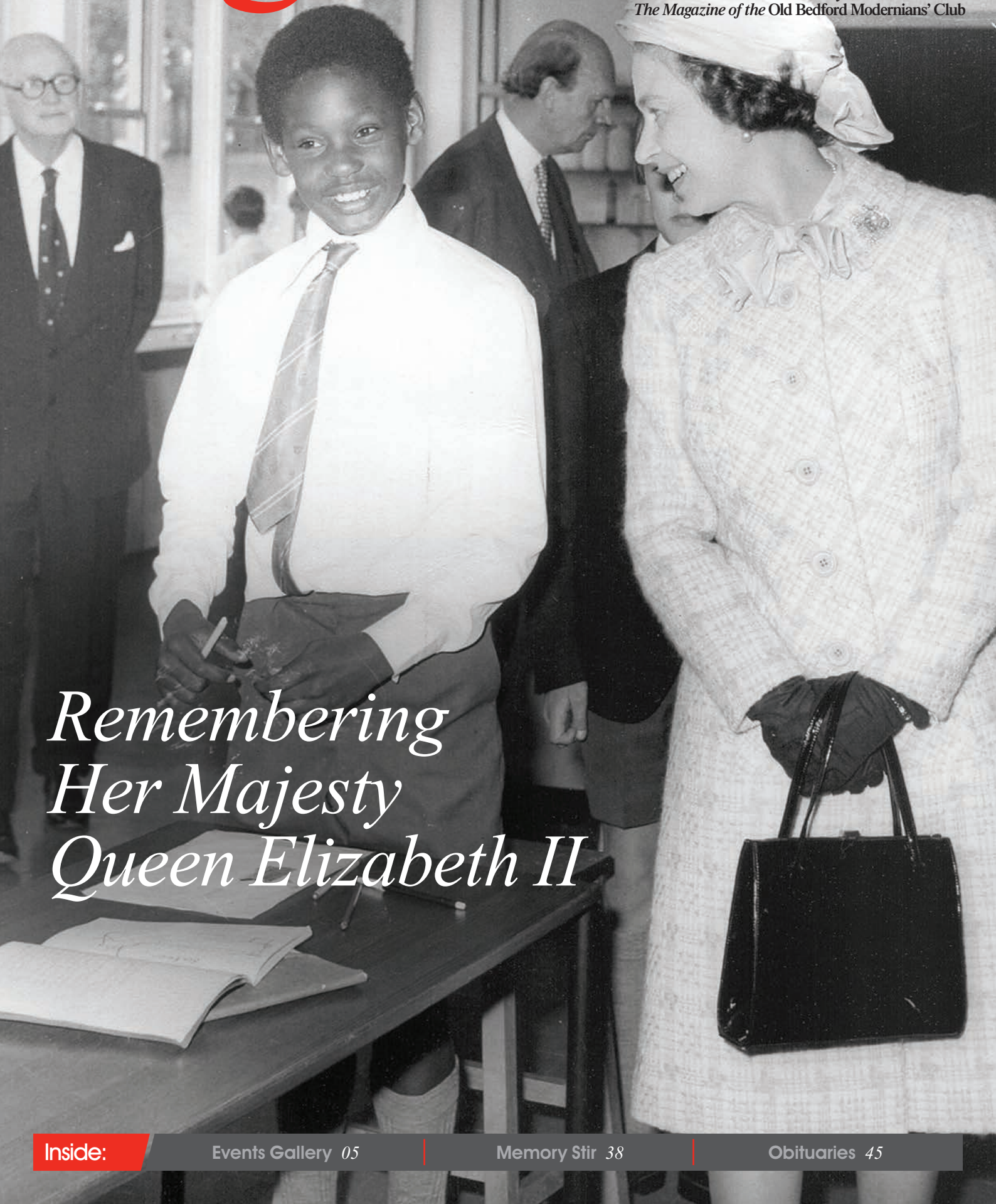


Eagle News



Issue 123 July 2022 - June 2023
The Magazine of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club



Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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The Magazine of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club

Founded 1892

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July 2022 - June 2023

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022) - a tribute to the longest-serving monarch in British history. See full story on page 20.



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Letter *from the Head*

Alex Tate

The end of this academic year will also mark the end of my tenure as the Headmaster of this wonderful school. My last visit will be for A Level results in August 2023 on what I feel sure will be a day of celebration as always. This was certainly the case last year when our public examination results were, once again, the best in Bedfordshire by some margin and you will find more detail on this in the pages that follow.

I have spent a tremendous six years here and it has been a real privilege to lead such an incredible community of staff, students, parents and OBMs. I was lucky to have been given this opportunity as my first Headship and I will always remember the warm welcome I received when I first started. The positive memories I will take away with me are too numerous to mention but I would like to take the opportunity to take a brief look back.

Undoubtedly the greatest challenge was dealing with COVID-19 and the rapid introduction of online learning which rather dominated my time here. I will never forget standing on the front steps watching the students leave on that fateful day in March 2020 ahead of national lockdown. It remains the saddest day that I have experienced during my time in education. The upset and distress of the Year 11 and Year 13 students was heart-breaking, and it affected teachers and parents alike. However, staff worked tirelessly to develop an online curriculum, teach, mark and assess work remotely and there were some wonderful gestures of support for the wider community such as delivering 250 pairs of lab safety specs to Bedford Hospital to help protect frontline healthcare workers. It's hard to believe that we introduced social distancing and compulsory face coverings and turned the sports hall into both a COVID-19 mass testing centre and a

vaccination centre. We got rather used to bubbles, zones, outdoor handwashing stations and self-isolation procedures and then, of course, we had to cope with TAGs and CAGs (teacher-assessed and centre-assessed grades) when public examinations were cancelled. We even developed online open events and entrance assessments. It all feels rather surreal to think of it now, but I look back proudly at what we achieved under such difficult circumstances; a true testimony to the strength of the BMS community and the dedication of the staff without whom none of it would have been possible. In years to come, I'm sure I will appear in the School Archive as the Head who led the school through a global pandemic. I can think of worse ways to be remembered!

Aside from that, I have thoroughly enjoyed walking the pitches on a Saturday or joining cheering families on the riverbank. There has been so much to celebrate with teams and individuals achieving local, regional and national recognition in all sports – far too many to cite here.

Similarly, it's been a joy to watch the fantastic school productions, dance shows and speech and drama showcases and listen to some outstanding music played by talented students of all ages in orchestras, ensembles and as solo performers. BMS rightly has an outstanding reputation in this area of school life and once again our students gain national recognition in their chosen fields on a regular basis.

I have equally found great pleasure in meeting OBMs at the many and varied events we have hosted. I have enjoyed hearing all the wonderful stories of BMS from days gone by and, as I have said on several occasions, I am always staggered by the ongoing loyalty you show for your school. That we welcome more than 150 OBMs to the annual London Lunch every year is impressive indeed, and never more so than the year when the 'Beast from the East' threatened to derail us.

The school roll has increased steadily year on year, and I am delighted that BMS remains such a popular choice locally. This bodes well for the future. I was, of

course, delighted that the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) once again rated BMS as 'excellent' in all areas following their inspection last year.

All of that said, it is the everyday things that I will miss the most. Hearing the views of the Year 7 students when they join me in my study for cookies and juice, seeing individual students thrive sometimes against the odds, popping into common rooms and chatting to staff and students during break times, having lunch with members of the student leadership team, attending House events, hearing the excited chatter following a school trip as students talk of the memories they have made while on them. All of this makes BMS the unique place that it is. I will be extremely sad to leave but it is time to allow a new Head to steer the school through the next phase of its development and I am confident that it will continue to go from strength to strength under Mr Payne's leadership.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the determination, commitment and good humour of all BMS staff who always put the wellbeing of the students first and I would like to thank them unreservedly for all that they do. I would also like to pay tribute to the Senior Leadership Team without whom my job would have been immeasurably harder and far less enjoyable.

Your tremendous support during the past few years has been very much appreciated and never taken for granted. The BMS community is a very special one indeed and I am grateful to have been a small part of it. Rest assured that I will always remember the 'School of the Black and Red' with great fondness.

With my very best wishes to you all

Alex Tate
Headmaster

OBM Club President

Following a close-run contest between three strong candidates, Tony Wildman (1960-67) has been elected as the next President of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club. He began his two-year tenure at the OBM Club Founder's Dinner on Friday 23 June 2023, succeeding Robin Wills (1960-69) who had been in post for four years.

An honorary position, the President acts as a figurehead for the association, engaging and re-engaging OBMs and attending certain events in the OBM and school calendar as the OBM Club's representative.

Headmaster Alex Tate said: "I am delighted to welcome Tony as the new OBM Club President.



Tony (L) receiving the President's chain from Robin (R)

"I would also like to thank Robin for his unwavering support of the association and the school during his extended time in the role which spanned the 'COVID years'. I am sure that Tony will bring equal energy and dedication to the role."

Changing Places!

Following the departure of Deborah Burrows at the end of March 2023 after 13 years' service, we were delighted to welcome Emma Adkins to BMS as our new Alumni Relations Manager.

Emma has already immersed herself into the role and brings with her both experience and enthusiasm. She said: "I am delighted to have joined Bedford Modern School as the new Alumni Relations Manager and I have been made to feel extremely welcome during my first few weeks in post, both by colleagues and by the OBMs that I have had the pleasure of meeting. I have a background in communications and events and I'm looking forward to using my experience to ensure the OBM Club continues to thrive and that you are all proud to be members.

"I hope to meet many of you in person in the coming months through our OBM events and school visits. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to drop me an email to introduce yourself and share any memories you may have of your time at BMS."

Julie Ridge, Director of External Relations, added: "I am excited to be working with Emma who I have no doubt will build on Deborah's hard work and ensure that the OBM Club continues to develop.

"I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Deborah wholeheartedly for her support of the OBM Club during many years. She has organised numerous first-class events, arranged careers advice and opportunities for a huge number of current and former students from within the BMS community, and ensured that members stayed connected, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. She leaves to pursue an exciting opportunity in a Bedford-based educational charity, and I wish her every success."



eadkins@bedmod.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 16 December 2023
OBM Club Christmas Lunch

Friday 22 – Saturday 23 March 2024
OBM Sports Weekend

Friday 01 March 2024
OBM Club London Lunch

Friday 21 June 2024
The Founder's Dinner

Please be aware all dates are subject to change

OBM Events Gallery (July 2022 - June 2023)

Netball

On Saturday 09 July 2022 we were delighted to welcome back a group of OBMs for a friendly netball tournament. The two OBM teams played against each other as well as current students, and there was a lovely atmosphere in glorious sunshine. The afternoon concluded in the Rutherford Building, where players and spectators enjoyed a selection of sweet and savoury treats along with some well-deserved cold drinks.



Cricket T20

Friday 15 July 2022 was a perfect summer's day for the traditional OBM Cricket event. Playing in the tournament were three OBM teams composed of leavers from the 1990s, 2017 and 2018-2020 and they were cheered on by spectators, some of whom came from as far as Australia and New Zealand. The 1990s team, managed by Charlie Wade (1986-97) won the coveted Chinneck Cup, and Year 10 student Toby was awarded the Millman Cup for his outstanding performance. A special mention must also go to the 2017 team for overturning the strong lead of the BMS 1st XI, winning their final game of the day in an impressive display.



OBM Events Gallery (July 2022 - June 2023)

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch took place on Saturday 10 December 2022, during the coldest start to meteorological winter since 2010. Although dangerous pitch conditions led to the postponement of our annual rugby and hockey matches, more than 80 guests attended the meal in the beautifully decorated Refectory. Former staff members and OBMs were welcomed by a group of BMS musicians playing a festive repertoire, before sitting down to a traditional two-course Christmas meal with all the trimmings. It was wonderful to see former students who left BMS as early as 1946 and as recently as 2022 all enjoying each other's company.



To see more please visit the photo section of the OBM website at obmclub.bedmod.co.uk

London Lunch

The London Lunch, held on Friday 10 March 2023, was back to full capacity following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions. With 170 guests in attendance there was a familiar buzz in the Members' Dining Room of the House of Commons as we enjoyed a three-course meal with drinks.

We would like to thank Richard Fuller (1971-81) MP for sponsoring the event, as well as James Stonor (1990-95) and John Fordham (1970-80), whose groups kindly sponsored tickets, contributing to a total of 20 OBMs in full-time education being able to attend.



OBM Events Gallery (July 2022 - June 2023)

Spring Sporting Events

Our spring sporting events took place on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 March 2023. Football, hockey and netball matches were held at BMS on the Friday, attracting more than 80 OBMs, before players and spectators retired to the King Room for refreshments.

The jam-packed programme continued on Saturday with the annual water polo tournament taking place at the school, held this year in memory of the esteemed Steve Monico (1965-74). This was followed by the OBM Rowing and Race Day: a 400m regatta style race and competitions for traditional trophies, followed by dinner at The Embankment Hotel overlooking the water.



To see more please visit the photo section of the OBM website at obmclub.bedmod.co.uk



Henley Royal Regatta

We were delighted to see OBMs and current and former parents on Tuesday 28 June 2023 at Henley Royal Regatta as they stopped by the BMS gazebo to enjoy light refreshments with us. Despite narrowly missing out on qualification this year, our senior crews also joined us before soaking up the atmosphere of the most prestigious regatta in the world.



OBM Events Gallery (July 2022 - June 2023)

Founder's Dinner

More than 120 guests joined us for the Founder's Dinner on Friday 23 June 2023, many of whom belonged to large reunion groups. Our Senior Monitors provided tours of the school before all our guests sat down to enjoy a three-course meal and drinks, while perusing the boards and booklets which had been specially designed to reflect their years at BMS. The atmosphere was spirited, and it was, as always, an absolute pleasure to see so many former students and staff reminiscing together.



News

David Payne Appointed Next Head of BMS

We are delighted to announce that David Payne has been appointed as Bedford Modern School's new Head and will join the school in January 2024.

Mr Payne has been Senior Deputy Head at Portsmouth Grammar School since 2019. He was previously Head of Sixth Form at Victoria College in Jersey and before that Head of Geography and Deputy Head of Sixth Form at St Albans School. He attended Rugby School and graduated from the University of Edinburgh with an MA in Geography before obtaining his postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) at the University of Oxford. He also holds an MEd in Educational Leadership.

Outside of the classroom Mr Payne enjoys outdoor pursuits, has enjoyed coaching and refereeing rugby throughout his teaching career, and has experience of leading the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme in previous schools. He is married with three children.

Commenting on his move to Bedfordshire, Mr Payne said: "It is an enormous honour to be appointed to the role of Head of Bedford Modern School. I was drawn to the school's values and its commitment to excellence in the holistic education of young people and have been impressed with the school's desire to retain its tradition of academic rigour whilst simultaneously continuing to focus on the forward-looking development of character. I have been struck by the warmth of the community in my visits to the school, where there is a clear culture of care and kindness, allied to a focus on the creation of opportunities and support for the students."

Shirley Jackson, Chair of Governors, added: "I am delighted that David will be joining the school, and I speak on behalf of everyone here when I say how much we look forward to working with him. I am also enormously grateful to Alex Tate who has made such a significant contribution to BMS's success during the past six years."

"In the interim period before David takes up post fully, rest assured that the school remains in the safe hands of Senior Deputy Head, Andrew Whomsley and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team."



West End Debut for Shanyia

In July 2022 Year 9 student Shanyia Tsoto made her West End debut as Young Tina in *The Drifters Girl*, directed by Jonathan Church, acting alongside famous soul singer Beverley Knight MBE.

The Drifters Girl is a jukebox musical which premiered at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle on 09 October 2021. It is based on the story of the American vocal group The Drifters, who rose to fame in the 1960s with hits such as *Under the Boardwalk* and *Save the Last Dance for Me* and their manager, Faye Treadwell (Knight). Shanyia played Faye's daughter who acts as a narrator of her mother's life story.

At just 12 years old, talented Shanyia performed for six months at the Garrick Theatre, co-owned by Nica Burns and Max Weitzenhoffer of Nimax Theatres. Shanyia said of this unique experience:

"It was great, I loved it. It definitely taught me to be more organised as I still had to stay on top of schoolwork and get ready for tests. I would study in my dressing room between performances. I learnt a lot of life skills." Her run ended in July before she returned to school in September 2022.

Performance arts has always been one of Shanyia's great passions. Aged four she began her stage training with Stagecoach Performing Arts School in Milton Keynes, and was selected to dance in troupes in theatres across the country. In 2019, she performed as young Eponine in *Les Misérables* at Milton Keynes Theatre, and from January to August 2021, Shanyia acted in the *Matilda* film which hit UK cinemas in November 2022. She enjoyed this experience and wishes to do more television and film work in the future.

Shanyia's mother added: "Shanyia had the most amazing experience on *The Drifters Girl* and learnt a lot from all the cast and crew she worked with. She also showed great courage, work ethic and resilience with her schoolwork and exams. We are super proud of her."



Celebrating Outstanding Exam Results

BMS staff and students celebrated outstanding GCSE and A Level results in the summer of 2022.

On 18 August, despite a fall in top grades nationally compared with the 2021 teacher-assessed grades, BMS A Level students bucked the trend and achieved even higher, with 69% of grades awarded at A* or A and half of all students obtaining three A grades or better. A tremendous 90% of grades were ranked A*-B and 26 students received three A*s or more. As well as this, 92% of students secured a place at their first-choice university.

It was the first time that this cohort had sat public examinations as their GCSE grades were based on assessments made by teachers on individual attainment and performance. Receiving their results marked the conclusion of a disrupted and challenging few years for these students, all of whom have remained committed and determined throughout.

A week later, on 25 August, Year 11 students received their own excellent results. There was a marked increase from 2021 in the top grades awarded, with 53% ranked 9 or 8 which is equivalent to an old A*. The number of grade 9s awarded also rose to an impressive 30%.

On these fantastic achievements, Alex Tate commented: "It has been an absolute pleasure to watch both these year groups grow and develop. The COVID years took their toll on everyone, but these students have consistently shown resilience and good humour and these results are an accurate reflection of their continued hard work and personal dedication – at times against all odds. I am always thrilled when students achieve grades higher than they were expecting. Their success is richly deserved.

"I would like to pay tribute to the staff here at BMS who have shown unwavering support for their students during turbulent times and ensured that their education continued uninterrupted by adapting so quickly to new methods of teaching."



Zak Appointed as Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet

In November 2022, Year 13 student Zak Mounter was appointed as the sixth and final Bedfordshire Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet for 2022-23.

The Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Susan Lousada, serves as HM The King's representative for Bedfordshire. Her cadets support her in carrying out her duties and their responsibilities include attending large civic services and remembrance parades. They also support on royal visits, which Zak was able to do in December 2022, meeting His Majesty King Charles III at Luton Town Hall.

To be selected, the cadets nominated must be inspirational members of cadet forces from across Bedfordshire who have made outstanding contributions to their community. Zak's appointment reflected the enthusiasm with which he approaches leadership and volunteering roles in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at BMS, at school as a whole and in his local area.

Zak joined the BMS CCF in Year 9, and four years later became the Senior Cadet leading the Navy Section. In May 2022 the Section completed the 'Coast to Coast Cycle Route', during which Zak acted as the student leader. Throughout the 150-mile trip he supported and mentored junior cadets, encouraging them through inclement weather and the physical hardships of this endurance challenge. He also took on extra responsibilities on the many sailing trips he has attended and has completed Royal Yachting Association qualifications in sailing.

His Commanding Officer explained more about Zak's work outside of the CCF in his citation, stating that: "Zak volunteers at his local primary school, holds basic and intermediate level St John Ambulance first aid qualifications and is working towards his Gold Duke of Edinburgh qualification. He is currently learning British Sign Language. As a sportsman he is a National Regatta sailor, plays club rugby outside of school, and fives and hockey at school first-team level. A keen endurance athlete, he has completed two marathons and four half-marathon distance races in aid of charity."



OBM Lodge Award

Year 13 student George Western has been awarded the 2023 'Old Bedford Modernians' Lodge Award for Personal Achievement'. Master of the OBM Lodge, Andrew Young (1968-77), explained: "George has been helping at Tibbs Dementia events and writing some excellent poetry, whenever asked, to fit a particular theme or event since he was 12 years old. In his final year at BMS he has been an absolute stalwart of the small group attending Music4Memory sessions as part of the school's enrichment programme. He has joined in wholeheartedly with anything thrown at him, charming everyone with his willingness, cheerfulness and unassuming nature."



News

John Fordham Raises Thousands for 'Making Me'

On Sunday 18 September 2022 OBM John Fordham (1970-80) organised a 'Tour of Bedfordshire', cycling 120 miles around the perimeter of the county to raise funds for the mental health charity 'Making Me'.

Endurance events such as these are familiar to John, as just before this cycling tour he had completed an eight-day ride around the south-west coast, covering 509 miles and nearly 50,000 feet of country-road climbing.

For the county ride, which finished at the Bedford Park bandstand, John was joined by his sons Matt and Joe, plus a group of friends

including fellow OBMs Simon Parrott (1975-80) and Simon Christian (1980-90).

'Making Me' was founded by John's wife Liz, and the aim of the charity is to equip children with the knowledge and understanding to stay mentally and emotionally well. This is achieved by delivering resources and workshops to children in primary schools, designed to develop children's emotional literacy and build their resilience. To date they have delivered their workshops to almost 40 schools in and around Bedford (including BMS), reaching approximately 10,500 children.



21-Mile Charity Swim

OBMs Dominic Boon (1985-94), Adam Boon (1985-92) and Luke Perry (1984-95) completed a swim stretching across 21 miles of open water on Friday 14 October 2022, raising nearly \$9,000 for the Cable and Wireless Charitable Foundation.

The trio have become the first ever UK swimmers to complete the route, which went from Smugglers Cove in St Lucia to Martinique, as well as the first ever relay team to take on the course. They completed their swim in 15 hours and 29 minutes, with each OBM swimming continuously for one hour, taking a two-hour break, and then repeating this cycle. They ended their swim by signing 'BMS Relay' and their names upon the St Lucia Yacht Club wall.

Brothers Dominic and Adam Boon met Luke during their time at BMS, and the group were a part of the school water polo team. They remain friends more than two decades later and have continued their passion for swimming.

Dominic is a founding member of the Cable and Wireless Charitable Foundation, and its core aim is to provide relief to Latin American and Caribbean communities following natural disasters such as flooding, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The charity also helps to fight digital exclusion experienced in the Caribbean by providing connectivity and devices to local schools. As well as raising money for this admirable cause, Dominic, Adam and Luke were keen to use this challenge to put their own physical and mental resilience to the test.



Jessica Volunteers in Building Blitz

In November 2022, Year 13 student Jessica Hughes spent a week in Cape Town where she worked alongside 250 volunteers from Mellon Educate to renovate two local schools as part of their 2022 'Building Blitz'.

Mellon Educate is a development charity which has, to date, built or renovated 32 schools and worked with the South African government to house 175,000 local people in high-grade permanent homes. Their annual 'Building Blitz' requires volunteers from around the world to raise sponsorship funds before attending a week of building and refurbishing housing and school buildings in Africa.

In December 2021 Jessica began working towards the fundraising goal for her trip. She raised money in several ways - including running a mile every day in August 2022 and selling some of her own possessions on eBay to make personal contributions towards her target.

Arriving in Cape Town on Saturday 12 November 2022, Jessica was assigned to Injongo Primary School alongside 107 other volunteers, to begin a full refurbishment of the building. The team worked in hot and windy conditions to build four new classrooms, a playground, a toilet block and a kitchen, as well as renovating existing classrooms. The kitchen was one of the most significant additions to the school, along with a covered eating area, as all meals at Injongo had previously been cooked and eaten outside. Jessica said: "I had no previous construction experience – it was all completely new to me. As a first-year volunteer, I was known as a 'labourer' and did a lot of general tasks like mixing cement and making wheelbarrow trips. I did a lot of plastering as I really enjoyed that."

During the week there were also trips out for volunteers to visit one of Mellon Educate's literacy hubs. The charity funds a literacy hub area in every school they build or refurbish, where one-on-one tutoring can take place. Jessica visited a school built in the 2015 Building Blitz where she sat with a young student, listening to him read and playing literacy games with him. This was a fantastic opportunity to see her hard-earned sponsorship money in action.

Jessica added: "Doing something like this makes you realise just how lucky you are and really puts things into perspective. It has changed my outlook and I would definitely like to go again."



News

Fun Cup Win for OBM Trio

In October 2022, father and son Grahame Butterworth (1962-69) and Craig Butterworth (1987-98) along with fellow OBM David Cartwright (1979-86) pulled off an impressive win at the Fun Cup Endurance Championship.

The Fun Cup, Europe's leading endurance motor racing championship, was brought to the UK by Grahame in 2002. He devised the framework around which the championship still operates before later selling his interests. All races are between three and eight hours long and each team has between two and six drivers. The cars utilised are identical purpose-built race cars powered by VW 1.8 litre engines.

The trio took part under the team name 'GCI Racing' in car 111, the vehicle used by the winners of the first UK Fun Cup more than two decades ago. The car was prepared and managed by Grahame, whilst David offered support with pit work and Craig served as one of the team's two drivers.



They raced in nine rounds between March and October 2022, eventually finishing in first place with a final score of 530 points. This is a fantastic result, especially considering that the trio were up against top drivers including Freddie Hunt, son of the former world champion James Hunt, and motorcycle legend John McGuinness.

Grahame said: "When I created the series all those years ago, I never expected to be back two decades later to take part and bring home a championship. It has been a proud achievement for us all."

Multiple Accolades for John Lloyd

On 07 June 2023, Dr John Lloyd (1960-69) received the Institute of Health Promotion and Education's (IHPE) Diamond Fellowship Award. Presented to him at the House of Commons by Karen Buck MP, the award recognised his work in health and public health over the years, as well as his contributions to the organisation in his various roles as President, Honorary Vice President and Fellow.

John was also recognised for his artistic work in the 2022 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and has been elected a member of the prestigious Birmingham Art Circle that meets at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA).

John's artwork can be seen on Instagram:
[@johnlloyd_quantyrlane_art](https://www.instagram.com/johnlloyd_quantyrlane_art)



Debating Triumph for BMS Team

On Wednesday 07 December 2022 Year 13 students Emily Ireland and Zak Mounter won the Office of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Schools' Debating Competition, defending the title for the school for the second consecutive year.

The competition, open to pairs of students aged 15-18 from the same school, was established in 2021 by Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye as a way to boost local students' public speaking and debating skills. During each round, participants are informed of the designated motion ten days in advance of their debate, as well as the stance they will be taking.

Initial rounds took place in early November and were open to schools across the county. This was followed by the semi-finals, hosted at Bedford Police Headquarters.

The final round took place in the prestigious Grand Committee Room at Westminster, a secondary debating chamber within the House of Lords, secured as the venue for the competition by North East Bedfordshire MP Richard Fuller. This saw Emily and Zak up against strong teams from Sandy Secondary School and

Stockwood Park Academy. The debate was centred around how to decrease national debts accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic and Zak and Emily's given position was to argue for raising taxes to decrease these debts, as opposed to the other teams, who were arguing to borrow to invest or cut public spending.

Emily explained: "I opened the whole debate and was the first speaker which was very nerve-wracking, but it allowed me to lay the debate out in a way that would benefit us most, giving me the confidence to intervene the opposition with hard questions about their motions. When we found out we had won we were both shocked as the opposition argued extremely well and it was very close. We were really happy and so were our supporters who came down to London with us."

Stuart Baker, Head of Politics at BMS, added: "I am thrilled for Zak and Emily. They were so impressive in their research, the delivery of their arguments and the way they rebutted the opposition – and to do it all in Parliament was an amazing opportunity. It is fantastic for BMS to win the trophy in successive years."



BMS Linguists Celebrate Bamberg Exchange

Between 16 and 23 March 2023, as part of their GCSE and A Level German studies, 18 BMS students in Years 10-13 welcomed exchange partners from Clavius Gymnasium, a science and technology specialist college in Bamberg.

Bamberg is a town in upper Franconia, Germany, with a rich history dating back to the ninth century. Bedford and Bamberg developed contact in the early 1970s which culminated in a formal town twinning, signed in 1977.

During the Clavius Gymnasium students' visit to England they attended lessons at BMS and spent time with their host families enjoying local activities or day trips to London. They also had a walking tour of Bedford and spent days in both Bletchley Park and Cambridge.

International exchanges are unique opportunities which allow students to

develop their language skills and expand their cultural horizons. One student from Clavius Gymnasium wrote in summary of their experience: "I had a great time here and enjoyed all of the trips. The week went by way too quickly – I'd absolutely recommend taking part in the exchange to others."

Friday 17 March 2023 was a particularly significant day for them, as students from both schools attended a tree-planting ceremony on Bedford Embankment in celebration of the 45-year anniversary of the twinning of their towns. The Mayor of Bedford Borough Dave Hodgson was present, with members of the Bedford Bamberg Association who funded the tree and its commemorative plaque.

BMS students visited Bamberg earlier in the academic year, from 14-21 October 2022. They similarly attended lessons, spent time with their host families and

enjoyed a wealth of opportunities in the local area including excursions to Nuremberg, Coburg and Staffelberg, as well as a tour of Bamberg itself.

Adam Robinson, Head of German at BMS, added: "It has meant so much to the students involved to take part in the exchange and meet young people from another country. It has been heart-warming to see great friendships emerge and to see the students communicate with each other and improve their language skills. On a personal note, the two combined weeks of the exchange have been my most rewarding and enjoyable since becoming a German teacher. I look forward to seeing the exchange continue to flourish in future years and seeing eager young linguists throw themselves into such a fantastic opportunity."





Red Eagle Racing Speed to Finals

On Wednesday 22 March 2023, four students placed second in the East Midlands Regional Final of the F1 in Schools UK Challenge, held at Boston College UK.

F1 in Schools UK is a challenge which requires teams of students aged 9-19 to use Computer-Aided Design and Manufacture (CAD/CAM) software to design, produce, test and race miniature cars. The challenge comprises a Primary Competition for students aged 9-11, as well as a Secondary Competition which includes three classes: Entry, Development and Professional.

The BMS team, Red Eagle Racing, is composed of Year 10 students Louis Bordas, Oliver Higgins, Edward Jackson and Oliver Wilson. They competed in the Development class, having already raced in the Entry class last year.

In preparation for the competition, the students were responsible not only for the development and manufacture of their car, but for raising money to fund their research and marketing. Red Eagle Racing found a £450 sponsorship opportunity with Aero Tec Laboratories Ltd, a Milton Keynes-based company.

On the day, scoring was based on several different components: the manufacture of the car according to competition specifications, the evolution of the design process, and the strength of the team's brand identity and communication skills. Alongside racing their car on a custom-made, 25-metre track against another school, the team were required to submit a design portfolio and an enterprise portfolio, as well as deliver a verbal presentation on what they had learned from the process and how it could inspire their future career choices.

Red Eagle Racing were awarded 'Best Design Portfolio' across all three classes, and 'Best Engineered Car' in the Development Class. This launched them into competing in the National Finals in June 2023, where they built on the valuable feedback they received from judges to ensure that their design and presentation was of an extremely high standard.

Mr Jones, Head of Design Technology at BMS, added: "I am so pleased to see the hard work and dedication that the students put into this challenge. Many of their competitors were Sixth Form students, so it is particularly impressive that they succeeded in getting through to the National Finals. They will be fully supported in future ventures by our Design Technology department – we are extremely proud of them."

An Historic Year for the British Monarchy

The beginning of the academic year was tinged with sadness as we mourned the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II after her death on 08 September 2022.

We paid tribute to the Queen by flying the union jack flag on campus at half mast, holding a minute's silence ahead of all sporting fixtures and delivering assemblies to students which explored the long life of a dearly loved monarch dedicated to the service of her country.

We also looked back on the royal visit to BMS which took place on 11 May 1976. The event was part of Her Majesty's first visit to Bedford since being crowned in 1953 and BMS was the last stop of the day for her and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. They were given tours of the school, which included displays of students' work and sporting activities, and many students, from both Junior and Senior Schools, had a chance to meet the royal couple. Before they left, the Queen planted an English oak tree on the gyratory which still flourishes today. A lasting reminder of the longest reigning monarch in our history.



Nine months later, we marked the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty The Queen Consort. Our Junior School students celebrated with a selection of activities including writing and performing a coronation rap, testing their knowledge in a regal quiz and making bunting. They also sent a card to Buckingham Palace, signed by every child in Years 3-6.

The coronation weekend happened to coincide with the 157th Bedford Regatta, which brought back happy memories of the then Prince of Wales presenting a trophy to our captain of boats in 1998, following the BMS crew's victory in a race to commemorate the official opening of the Renaissance (Butterfly) Bridge in Bedford.



Bidding farewell to the longest-reigning monarch in Britain and celebrating the first British coronation in more than 70 years were significant historical events which made a profound impression on us all.

Inaugural Cultures Fortnight

Monday 03 October 2022 marked the beginning of the very first 'Cultures Fortnight' at BMS where we celebrated diversity in our school community and worked to promote inclusion and understanding in several ways: Sixth Form students delivered assemblies to younger year groups and at lunchtimes our caterers recreated students' family recipes originating from all over the world. This was accompanied by decorations, flags and music in the Refectory. The initiative culminated with 'National Dress Day' on Friday 14 October, which was a chance for students to come to school wearing clothing that they felt represented their culture and nationality.

Cultures Fortnight was inspired by five Sixth Form students who wanted to acknowledge and address the different experiences that students from minority groups face in their daily lives. It was also noted in our 2022 Independent School's Inspectorate report that, although the quality of students' personal development was excellent, they: 'did not always

demonstrate a wide enough appreciation, knowledge and understanding of diversity'. Mrs Wright, our Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Mr Whomsley, our Senior Deputy Head, worked with these students to create an initiative that would increase awareness of cultural diversity throughout the school.

After Cultures Fortnight concluded, every student in the school was sent a digital booklet containing the treasured family

recipes which had been prepared throughout the two-week period. Printed copies were specially commissioned for students who had volunteered recipes or proven particularly helpful in the planning and organisation of this feat, to recognise their hard work.

At BMS, we feel it is extremely important to discuss and celebrate the meaning of dress, food and music, and how these aspects can contribute to an individual and collective cultural identity. We were delighted that this initiative was successful, and we hope to establish Cultures Fortnight as an annual tradition at school.



The Year in Music

The music provision at BMS continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Mary Perry, Director of Music. Mary succeeded John Mower (1984-2021) two years ago, and with a strong team behind her, she has built upon his strong legacy.

Mary writes: 'This academic year has seen fantastic growth in the music department, and I am, as always, in awe of the outstanding commitment and dedication that our students display. Our co-curricular music provision continues to thrive and audiences have been delighted with the mixture of traditional and contemporary repertoire featured in the many events on offer over the past 12 months.

The ensembles we currently offer include: Senior Orchestra, Big Band, Jazz Collective, Sinfonia, Jazz Quartet, Groove Collective, Whole School Choir and Chamber Choirs, as well as intermediate and advanced strings and rock chamber groups. These groups are exceptionally well attended and, in some cases, are entirely student led. Some of our other co-curricular groups have strong links with other areas of the school. For instance, we have a student band who supported both our school productions, and certain students are invited to take part in our Music for Dance ensemble, developing compositions to accompany choreography in our annual Dance Showcase.

Our formal performances were, of course, major highlights of the year and the Christmas Concert and Festival of Nine

Lessons and Carols featured festive classics and stunning orchestral pieces. Four months

later, Senior School choirs, ensembles and soloists took to the stage once again for the Spring Concert, which showcased the most varied programme yet at such an event. From Handel, Rachmaninoff and Chaminade to vocal African and Jazz fusion pieces, Adele's Skyfall and themes from Aladdin, there really was something for everyone.

We have continued to offer opportunities for more informal performances which have proved extremely popular. Our programme of lunchtime concerts continued: half-hour afternoon slots in which Senior School students can perform for their peers and teachers. These have featured a huge range of genres and are often used by students to maximise their valuable practice time. Our students also shone in other small-scale performances, such as our Open Mic Night and Chamber Music concert. Events like these can be extremely important opportunities for our performers to build confidence and resilience whilst continuing to hone their skills.

The sense of community within the music department at BMS is unparalleled, and I am delighted that this extends far beyond just staff and students. It has been great to see the Bedford Modern Singers, a choir of parents, alumni and friends of BMS, gaining members and supporting events within school.

I'm so pleased with the progress we have made this year and the steps taken to broaden the range of music our students enjoy making. It is a privilege to be able to provide performance opportunities for enthusiastic young people of all ages and abilities. I am also extremely grateful to the OBMs who contribute to the music department at BMS through donations, volunteering their time or simply coming to support our events. I would encourage you to purchase tickets to any upcoming performances in the next academic year – you will not be disappointed!



Mary Perry Director of Music

RAM Junior Academy

Marianne Gorton, Year 11, and Catriona Piper, Year 8, have been accepted onto the extremely competitive Junior Academy programme at the Royal Academy of Music.

Junior Academy is open to talented musicians aged 12-18 and runs every Saturday during the school term. The programme will offer trombonist Marianne and percussionist Catriona a variety of performance opportunities alongside likeminded young people from across the country, as well as intensive one-to-one lessons and specialist classes.

Both students are active musicians at BMS. Marianne currently plays in a trombone ensemble, the Big Band, the Senior Orchestra and the Groove Collective, and performed in the band for our Year 7-10 musical in June. Catriona also plays in the Senior Orchestra, as well

as the Jazz Collective and a rock group. She accompanies the Chamber Choir, alongside her lessons in orchestral percussion, drumkit and piano.



NYJC Summer School

Year 12 student and talented pianist Charlie Blades has achieved one of 45 places on the National Youth Jazz Collective's (NYJC) Summer School programme for 2023 from a field of 115 applicants.

The NYJC is an organisation which seeks to offer opportunities to jazz enthusiasts aged 8-18. At their Summer School, Charlie will be working alongside England's most gifted young jazz musicians. The course aims to help players of all styles, traditions and instruments to hone their craft and develop their confidence in small group settings, one-to-one teaching lessons and large jam sessions, guided by 11 of the nation's leading jazz educators.

Charlie, who hopes to study at The Juilliard School in New York one day, is a valued contributor to our co-curricular music provision. He currently runs a four-piece Year 12 jazz quartet and performs as a pianist in the Big Band and Groove Collective. He also plays the saxophone with the Concert Band.



He added: "I'm really looking forward to learning from highly acclaimed British jazz musicians. It will be intense but enjoyable. I'm also excited to meet people my age who are just unbelievably good musicians."

Festival of Performance

Throughout the week beginning 23 January 2023, the Music Faculty at BMS launched its inaugural Festival of Performance. Led by an expert practitioner together with Mrs Perry, each of the five lunchtime sessions focused on different musical instruments and featured students at all levels.



Monday was dedicated to piano, followed by vocal performance on Tuesday, then wind and brass. Thursday saw the turn of students playing the drum kit, tuned percussion and guitars, and we finished the week with our string players. Around 50 students were involved in total, having signed up for the opportunity in the autumn term. They performed their chosen pieces before receiving individual feedback and advice from that day's guest. Every session ended with a stunning performance from our visiting musicians, which inspired the students and undoubtedly deepened their enthusiasm for the subject.

Three of these visiting musicians were OBMs: Greg May (2015-20), Immy Churchill (2015-20) and Gus Walleff (2008-19). The trio are currently pursuing exciting musical ventures. Immy is a jazz singer at the Royal Academy of Music, whilst pianist Greg and percussionist Gus are honing their crafts at the University of Cambridge and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama respectively.

Immy commented: "The students were so inspiring to me, and it was great to see how varied their choice of repertoire was. It was a joy to hear them sing. Today wasn't about judging their performances – it was about offering advice and support which will lead them to an even healthier relationship with their practice."

Greg added: "It was great to come back to BMS where I always really enjoyed playing. Today was a fantastic experience in which both the students and I learned something."

NCO Selection

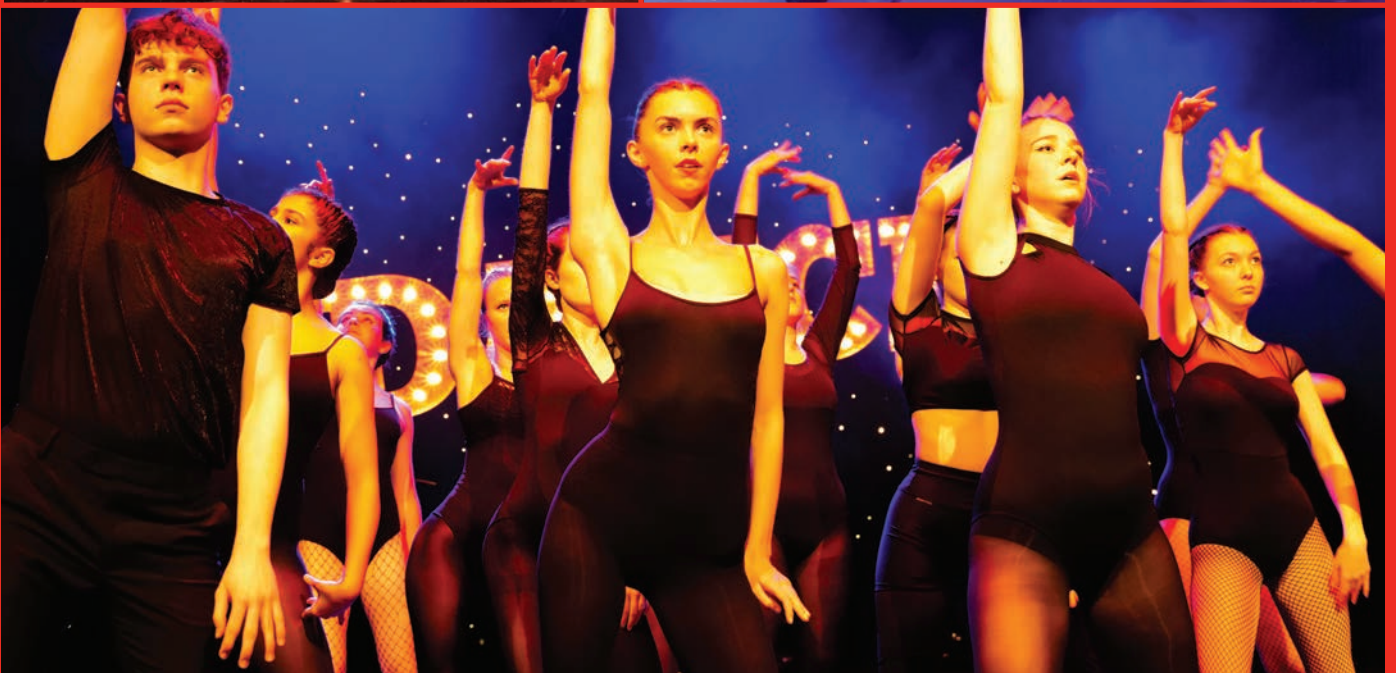
Junior School student and accomplished musician Dele was selected as a violinist for the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain (NCO) Spring 2023 Projects Programme. This involved two weekends of daytime performance-based activities and practice sessions, during which she performed alongside other talented young musicians, often playing new pieces specifically composed for them.



News

#GreatNightOut

In February 2023 we held our annual dance showcase – a two-day extravaganza of dance and entertainment. The programme covered a wide range of dance styles performed by both groups and individuals and often accompanied by BMS musicians and singers. Some of these amazing performances were even choreographed entirely by our students.



Our Year 11-13 students dazzled audiences in May 2023 with a heartwarming, humorous and thought-provoking rendition of the musical *Our House*. Revolving around the iconic music of ska and pop band Madness, the show tells the story of London lad Joe Casey and the two vastly different paths he can choose to follow in life on the night of his 16th birthday.



News

In June 2023, more than 100 students took to the stage for a riotously funny performance of the classic musical *Me and My Girl*. Audiences delighted in the antics of the unapologetically unrefined main character, Bill Snibson, as he ruffled noble feathers around Hampshire. Students and staff alike could be heard humming *The Lambeth Walk* for some time after the final performance!





In both of our major productions it was clear to see the amount of tireless hard work which had gone on behind the scenes to produce such seamless shows. The complex set and costume designs were also, as always, simply stunning. Bravo everyone!

An Introduction from Mr Kirkpatrick

"It is hard to comprehend that I have completed my first year as Director of Sport and Fitness at BMS. In September, I introduced myself to the BMS community after an unprecedented summer of sport. As a nation, we played host to The Commonwealth Games, the Hundred cricket competition renewed what seemed to be a dying love for the game and, of course, The Lionesses united the country in their campaign for European success. This highlighted the fact that sport, no matter the format, the gender, the politics or even the money, can be enjoyed by everyone.

"At BMS we aim to provide our student community with the tools and the positive experiences to foster a love of sport that stays with them well after they leave the BMS gates. For some this may involve striving for national success in their chosen sport. For others it may mean taking part in healthy inter-school competition on a Saturday afternoon or simply enjoying their time in Games and PE lessons.

"All students deserve to feel valued and to have the opportunity to develop through the delivery of a thriving and modern sporting provision. I am gifted with an exceptional team of talented, forward-thinking staff who

understand our mission at BMS. I am also grateful to the supportive parental body who have been so welcoming and insightful in this first year, providing me with experiences to shape the future direction of sport at the school. But most of all, I am grateful to the energetic student body for their efforts and for representing the school in sport so fantastically.

"It has been a pleasure to meet many OBMs at various sporting events across the year and I look forward to working closely with you as a community to develop a sport and physical activity provision that you would be proud of. I leave you with a range of sporting highlights from the academic year."



Ben Kirkpatrick
Director of Sport and Fitness

Gymnastics



In October 2022, Year 10 student Callum Inkson was awarded bronze in his age category at the British Gymnastics English Trampoline and Tumbling Championships. Just a week later, he travelled to Portugal to represent England at the 2022 Loulé Cup. This was Callum's first international competition and he managed to qualify to compete with the final eight gymnasts.

Swimming

On 28 June 2023 we held our very first Junior School Aquathlon for our Year 5 and 6 students. Our young athletes completed several lengths of the swimming pool, followed by a quick change and a race around the field. It was wonderful to see them cheering each other on and enjoying this exciting new challenge.



Athletics

Continuing Success for Becca

Year 12 student and para athlete Becca Scott has gone from strength to strength during this academic year. She medalled in two events at the National School Games over the summer of 2022, as well as discovering that she was accepted for the England Athletics Youth Talent Programme (YTP) at the start of the 2022-23 autumn term.



Year 10 student Oliver Wilson placed first in the U15 boys' category of the Bedfordshire Cross Country Championships on 07 January 2023. This followed his successful track season with Bedford and County Athletic Club, in which he won the 800m and 1500m U15 county titles and raced for Bedfordshire at the South of England Athletic Association Intercounty Championships. Based on this, Oliver was selected to represent the East of England at the TCS Mini London Marathon Championships in April 2023, where he placed in the top 50% of finishers with a time of 8:59 across 2.6km.

The National School Games is an annual multi-sport event for UK elite athletes aged 17 years or younger, held last year at Loughborough University. Selection is based on performance; the top eight athletes in the country are accepted for each category.

Becca achieved Silver in the Para Long Jump with an impressive distance of 4.70m and Silver in the Para 100m with a time of 14.18 seconds, as well as competing in the Universal Relay with several teammates.

A few weeks later, on 08 September 2022, Becca was informed that she had been selected for the 2022-24 YTP. This two-year course, which consists of workshop days delivered by coaching leads and industry professionals, is the first step on the England Talent pathway and is open to young athletes from the age of 16. Becca was invited to apply as she is on the Paralympic Pathway. This year around 400 people applied, with spaces going to only 220 of the top athletes in the country. She will learn more about nutrition, sport psychology and media training, among other topics.

In February 2023, Becca went on to place sixth and seventh in the 60m races at the UK Athletics Indoor Championships and the Birmingham World Indoor Tour Final. Following this, she also competed in the England Athletics Indoor Para Championships on 12 March, coming second in both the long jump and 60m race.



What's more, Becca has also been selected as one of 18 young sportspeople who will receive sponsorship from Aldi. Aldi is the UK's fourth-largest supermarket and official partner of Team GB and ParalympicsGB. Organised by SportsAid, the funding will help towards costs such as kit, travel, accommodation and nutrition. Becca will also have access to relevant educational workshops, appear at Aldi store openings and be involved with promotional campaigns alongside professional athletes.



Sport

Hockey

U14As Celebrate Regional Success

On Tuesday 15 November 2022 the BMS U14A girls' hockey team became regional hockey champions, following their success at the England Hockey Tier 2 Regional Tournament.

The team travelled to Redbridge Sports Centre with their coaches Mr Marsh and Miss Brady, where they played five games against Felsted School, Queenswood School, Stamford School, Langley Park School for Girls and King's Ely. With three wins, one draw and one loss, the girls moved through to the semi-final against Bedford Girls' School.

Before this game, OBM Miss Brady (2011-22) gave a few words of encouragement about her time in the 1st XI hockey team, which bolstered their confidence. The well-fought game ended 0-0 and went through to penalties, which resulted in a 3-1 win for BMS.

The team went on to compete in the final against Queenswood School in another difficult game. This too went to penalties, and after four penalties each, the score stood at 3-2 to Queenswood School. Year 9 student Bethan saved the opposing team's fifth penalty, and Alex, also Year 9, scored a fifth BMS penalty, bringing the score to 3-3.

The intense game then went to 'sudden death' penalties. Mr Marsh explained: "Alex stepped up again and scored, and then Queenswood School took their stroke...but Bethan saved it and pandemonium ensued as the whole team ran and congratulated her!"

The players have made BMS history as the first team to become regional hockey champions. They went on to represent the East region at the National Finals on Monday 06 February 2023. In preparation for this competition, they were grateful to receive a visit from Olympic gold medallist Robert Cliff, who spoke to them about teamwork and game strategies before presenting them with a set of commemorative tops.



Rowing

During the last week of the Easter break in April 2023, several BMS rowing crews took to the water in the small town of Sabaudia, Italy, to prepare for the forthcoming regatta season. They fully committed to an intense but enjoyable programme, attending multiple training sessions each day and spending their evenings analysing video footage of their performance. They also made time for all-important exam revision. The students represented the school impeccably and it was brilliant to see them offering support to one another, setting themselves goals and making solid progress.



Netball

County Champions

During November 2022, our U14 and U19 netball teams became County Champions in the National Schools Competition.

The U19 County Round was held at Bedford Academy on Tuesday 08 November. The BMS team won four games of the five that they played and emerged victorious in the final, winning by four goals.

A week later the U14 tournament took place at the same venue. Here, the BMS team played six games, winning five and drawing in one before ultimately triumphing in the final. Five members of the squad were also part of the winning BMS hockey team at the Tier 2 Regional Tournament the day before, and despite being tired from this feat, they put in a tremendous amount of hard work during every one of their netball games.



The students went on to compete in the Regional Round of the competition at Stanborough School on Saturday 28 January. Here they played against teams from across the East region who had been victorious in their own County Rounds. They were a credit to the school and took advantage of this unique learning opportunity to further develop their skills.

Year 9 student Olivia secured one of 26 places in the U15 Saracens Mavericks Futures Squad following a selection trial with around 150 girls from across the region. A talented netball player for BMS, North Bucks County and Milton Keynes Netters, Olivia now also receives individual training with Saracens Mavericks to develop her skills.



Sport

Squash

BMS Players Reach National Schools Finals

On 15 March 2023, a team of five BMS squash players went all out in the England Squash National Schools Championship finals, held at Edgbaston Priory Club. After three hard-fought matches the girls placed fourth in the tournament, and as a result, fourth nationally in their age category. They played extremely well and learned a lot from their experience which will stand them in good stead for future competitions. It's great to see squash going from strength to strength at BMS, with more than 60 students currently training.



Cricket

U14 Team Take County Cup

On Friday 08 July 2022, our U14 cricket team won the County Cup in a hard-fought game against Bedford School. This resulted in their qualification to represent Bedfordshire in the National U15 Lord's Taverners trophy competition in summer 2023.



Year 8 cricketer Emma has secured one of 28 places on the Sunrisers Cricket Emerging Player Programme (EPP) following several days of trials over the 2022 summer period. Emma currently plays cricket for Northamptonshire and at BMS, and the EPP will give her excellent opportunities to stretch herself and continue developing her skills.

Rugby



Saints 7s Series Trophy

On Tuesday 18 April 2023, the BMS U13 Rugby Sevens team were crowned overall winners in their category of the 2023 'Saints 7s Series'.

The competition, created in 2012, is one of the 'Saints in the Schools' programmes run by the community team of local professional rugby union club Northampton Saints. It aims to make rugby more accessible to schools across the region,

as well as provide a competitive environment which emphasises the importance of sportsmanship and teamwork to young athletes.

Open to schools across the country, the series is split into four categories: U13 and U18 boys, and U15 and U18 girls. Regional rugby festivals for each category have taken place throughout the spring, with the winners and runners-up invited to compete in Finals Days.

12 schools were involved in the U13 Finals Day, held on the main pitch at Franklin's Gardens, the home stadium of Northampton Saints. The BMS team played extremely well throughout, culminating in an exciting 20-15 win in their final game of the tournament.

Mr Hawken, Head of Rugby at BMS, added: "The boys are a credit to the school. They played amazingly well throughout the tournament and on Finals Day. They thoroughly deserved their win."

Martial Arts

Year 11 student and Taekwondo athlete Aiden Notley, who previously ranked No.2 in the UK for his age and weight group, has been named U18 Heavyweight Champion following his performance in the UK International Taekwondo Federation Finals in May 2023. He will now compete in the adult category next season, an exciting learning curve which will see him taking on challengers up to the age of 35.



Sport

Women In Sport Week

Between 05 and 09 June 2023 we celebrated Women in Sport Week at BMS. Students of all ages had a go at yoga, fives, rowing, boxercise, tchoukball, ultimate frisbee, rugby, aqua aerobics, football and mountain biking, among many other activities. Presentations on the subject and videos from OBM professional athletes were shown in tutorial times, and our female students also took part in inter-year netball, cricket and rounders events.



Whilst we are proud to offer sporting opportunities to all our students, we are aware that nationally, there is a steep decline in female sporting participation between the ages of 11 and 16 and we aim to combat this at BMS. It was fantastic to see students of all abilities fully embracing the opportunities offered to them and tackling each new challenge with good humour, confidence and excitement. We are grateful to the inspirational teachers and coaches who spearheaded this annual event, and who serve as fantastic role models to our students every day.



Water Polo

Vice-Captainship for Eve

Year 12 student Eve Barnes is vice-captain of the U17 English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA) England Water Polo team and in July 2023, she will fly to Turkey to compete in the U17 Women's European Water Polo Championships. A dedicated and talented player, Eve received The Udal Trophy for Outstanding Sporting Achievement at the end of term in recognition of all her hard work this year.



Year 11 students Ed Carpenter and Joe Vesztrocy were selected for the East Region team at the U18 Inter-Regional Water Polo Championships, held in January 2023. Their team placed third after some very close matches, and Ed was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the East, a title voted on by the coaches of all teams present.



Golf

Year 8 golfers and twins Charlotte and Annabel Denyer took first and second place in the Buckinghamshire Girls Autumn County Medal, with Charlotte winning the 2022 Buckinghamshire County Girls Order of Merit. Prior to this, the girls had also represented Bedfordshire Schools in the George McPartlin trophy at Canon's Brook Golf Club on 18 September 2022, where their team secured the runners up trophy, conceding by just one point.



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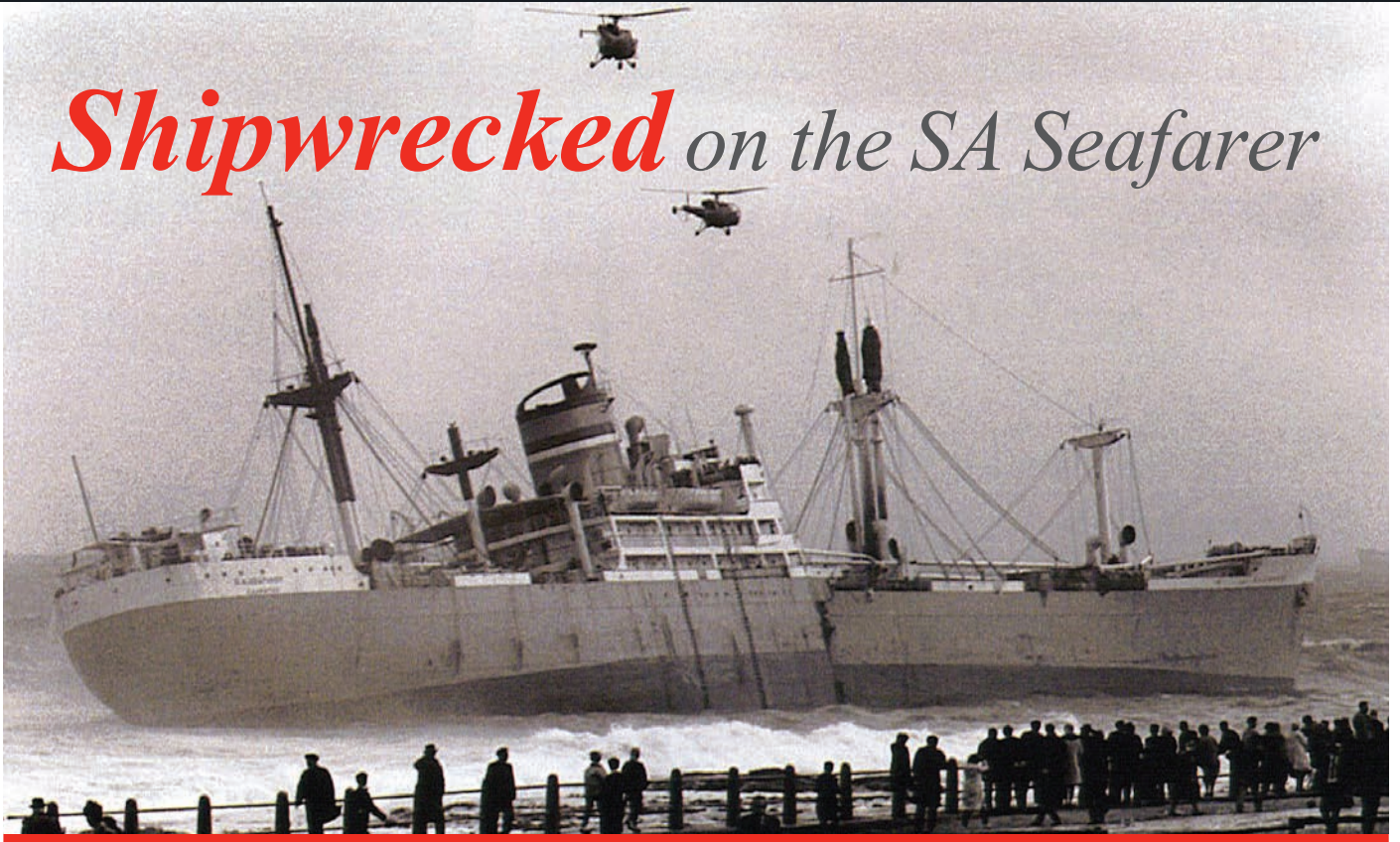
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Shipwrecked on the SA Seafarer



Friday 01 July 1966. The first colour television transmission in Canada takes place. Manuel Santana wins the Men's Singles title at the Wimbledon Championships. NASA launches Explorer 33, a spacecraft which will attempt to orbit the moon. And shortly after midnight, the SA Seafarer lurches onto a reef a mile off the coast of Cape Town, beginning a process that would turn the vessel to wreckage by morning. Onboard are 12 passengers and 63 crew members: one of whom is **OBM Andrew Arthur (1954-61)**. After this event, Andrew would go on to spend the next five decades in South Africa, before returning to England in 2018. In November 2022, Andrew visited BMS for the first time in 60 years and told his thrilling, firsthand account of a life-changing night and the events leading up to it.



He writes: 'Within three months of completing A Levels, I found myself on a train bound for Southampton to commence training in the Pursers' Department of Union-Castle Line shipping company. This was quite a culture shock, even after surviving the JET era at BMS.

An ocean liner is a city in itself and must be self-sufficient. In addition to the army of catering personnel, cooks, bakers, and storekeepers, there was also a shopkeeper, hairdresser, photographer, masseur and swimming pool attendant (for the first-class passengers), plus lift operators and switchboard services.

The Pursers' Bureau oversaw the welfare and entertainment of passengers, plus crew wages and port documentation. In addition, queries were handled, traveller's cheques were changed, postage stamps were sold for the next country visited and shore excursions were arranged.

My first posting was on the RMS Pretoria Castle, where I spent my first Christmas at sea in 1961. After this I was transferred to a

smaller vessel, the Kenya Castle, an intermediate ship to east and south Africa via the Suez Canal. Several postings followed, in which I saw Las Palmas, the Caribbean region, several South Pacific islands, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

It would take many pages to list all my experiences - some that cannot risk being published! But some events that stand out include: the 'tablecloth' over Cape Town's Table Mountain, South Pacific sunsets, the Jacob's Ladder staircase in Saint Helena, the entrance to Dar es Salaam harbour, the smell of cloves offshore from Zanzibar, travelling down the main street in Curaçao with houses on both sides, and night transit through the Suez Canal.

By 1965, I was Assistant Purser on the SA Seafarer, a small cargo vessel which only carried 12 passengers.

On 30 June 1966, we were preparing for arrival in Cape Town when at 00:04 I was literally thrown out of my bunk! I dressed quickly, put on my lifejacket, and marshalled the passengers into the lounge – the crew were seen to by the Bosun.



All around us we could hear the grinding of metal and the sound of moving tables and cutlery from the dining room as the vessel moved from side to side. All lighting went out when the engine room flooded, and we only had battery-powered emergency lighting. The ship's whistle was continuously sounding: seven short blasts, followed by one long blast, as we were only a short way from Green Point Lighthouse on the Cape Town shore.

Radio communication was made by morse code to Simonstown and messages were relayed to rescuers near the ship. Shortly afterwards, we heard a South African Air Force helicopter overhead, and eventually a two-way radio set was dropped, enabling direct contact.

To this day, I shiver when I hear helicopter blades, especially when seeing the red rotating lights.

The captain was so concerned the ship may keel over that he ordered everybody to stand on deck to prevent being sucked under. This was in a raging gale, and water from the seaside was breaking over the funnel before being thrown back over the deck. We were advised we would be rescued at daybreak as it was too dangerous in the dark, bearing in mind the aerials, stanchions and railings being displaced.



Soon we were ready for evacuation. Three helicopters were involved, and once they were over the ship, a loop descended from one of the aircrafts whilst battling against the wind and rain. We placed this over our bodies and lifejackets, and then we were winched into a warm cabin. We were not allowed to bring any possessions.

There was a full passenger complement, including a 75-year-old couple, an expectant mother and a three-month-old baby. The baby was tied to a burly sailor and in true tradition, the captain was the last to be airlifted at 10.30am. No one was killed or injured – all 75 people were saved.

Once on terra firma, we were examined by a doctor and driven to the local Merchant Navy academy nearby for a shower and dry clothing. We were all cold, wet and miserable, but grateful. That cup of tea from the ambulance crew was the best I had ever tasted!

Afterwards, we were advised that the helicopters had a guillotine to cut the harness should there have been any danger posed to the aircraft or crew. This was the first time they had performed a live rescue and all crew received awards for their part played in this drama.

It is interesting to note that when applying for my first job in South Africa, I was able to write 'shipwreck' as my reason for leaving my last position! How many others could state that?!



Memory *Stir*

David Jenkins Staff (1979-2018)

In his retirement, David takes online art lessons, and he drew this piece of the schools' Boathouse in November 2022. He writes: 'When I first started teaching at Bedford Modern, I coached the school's 2nd VIII. I did that for a couple of years. It was very intense. We did coaching sessions three or four afternoons a week, and most weekends we went off to various regattas and Head of the River races. I think from memory that the boys won four or five of those events.'



For those couple of years, the Boathouse was a home from home for me. Then John Butler, who ran all the sailing, left and Peter Squire asked me to take it on. Doing both was just too much, but sailing was a sport I'd done from the age of two, so it was an obvious choice. As a ten-year-old the family moved from the home of sailing on the south coast to Henley-on-Thames where there's a bit of rowing sometimes! I did row at school myself and before becoming a teacher had spent a year as the boatman at Shiplake College, so I remember being quite sad to give up on the rowing. Doing this drawing stirred some happy memories for me.'

Oliver Clayson (1988-98)

attended the OBM Cricket T20 on 15 July 2022, travelling all the way from New Zealand with his two young sons. He was delighted to be able to pose for a picture against the old school boards in the Cricket Pavilion which display his father's name, Jeremy Clayson (1964-71) who was in the 1st XI team during his final year at BMS.



Philip Johnson (1963-73)

On 26 November 2022, Philip travelled from Cheshire to watch the BMS 1st XV play a fixture against students from Champion School, 50 years on from his own time in the 1st XV.

He writes: 'Nigel Chinneck (1974-2017) made me most welcome and pointed me in the direction of the King Room for coffee. That was the first time I had been in there. It used to be the Combined Cadet Force equipment store when I was at school.'

The match was good to watch with an exciting finish. I managed to have a chat with the Headmaster before leaving.'



The 1972 BMS 1st XV

Les Walke (1963-73)

writes: 'I always enjoy reading Memory Stir, especially when names or events coincide with my time at BMS.'

Issue 122 revived Richard Claridge's name in my brain. I was in Richard's third-year English class in the year he started teaching at BMS, so I was possibly one of his first students. I remember in particular his kindness and approachability, quite revolutionary traits among the staff at that time. Adrian Hoare's name also rekindled nightmares of hours logging over A Level History essays.



Like Nige Armstrong and John Dynes from recent issues, I took part in the infamous minibus trip across Europe to Turkey in 1970. Their memories triggered other recollections of the curiosity, kindness and generosity of the Turkish nomadic shepherds and villagers we encountered.



Intrepid explorers, in groups of four, were abandoned in remote parts of the Turkish rock desert and mountains for week-long hikes. To ensure we had some vague idea of where we were at least once a day, we usually camped next to trails marked on the map. Nomads would pass along these trails on their way to and from market with wagons of fruit and vegetables - every single one would stop, ask

us what we were doing using sign language and, without fail, insist on giving us armfuls of their produce.

Our arrival in a small settlement one afternoon caused quite a stir. A crowd gathered and, in no time at all, a feast was put together in our honour, with the entire village joining in the banquet in the community building, where we ended up sleeping many hours later.

If anyone else has any specific memories, diary entries, or photos from that trip - or any of the other Duke of Edinburgh adventures of that time - such as the Lyke Wake Walk, Snowdonia or Isle of Skye - I'd be delighted if you'd like to share them with me on

leslie@communicaid.se. And greetings from sunny Sweden to any other readers that might remember me!

David Yorke (1952-59)

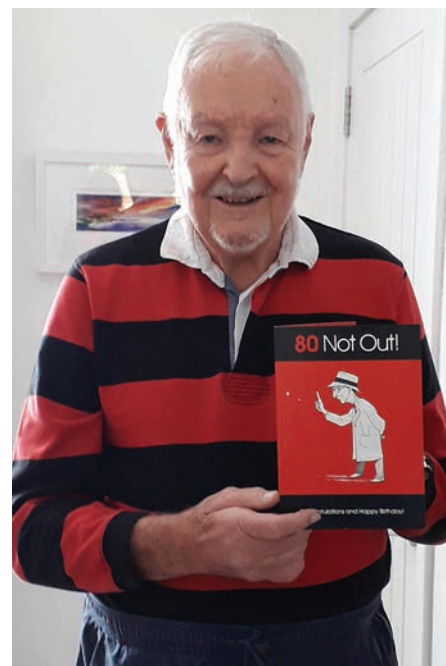
writes: 'On receiving a card from school to mark my 80th birthday, I have been invited to review the influence being a 'Modersquasher' has had on my life to date.

Undoubtedly the part music has played has been a principal guide, thanks to the motivation provided by the inimitable Fred Rawlins. I became a chorister at the age of 10 and still sing in the choir at Dunblane Cathedral, 70 years later. I was also Chairman of Stirling Male Voice Choir for more than 20 years.

I have lived more than half my life in Scotland and I have always tried to put back something into the communities in which I have lived. I have been very active in the Probus Organisation, having served two terms as President locally, and I am currently Honorary Treasurer at the Auchterarder Branch where I now live.

Two of my grandchildren have graduated with their Master's degree from Strathclyde University and a third grandson is in his second year at Stirling University. My youngest granddaughter is well into her Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Becoming a 'Modersquasher' and adopting the school's ethos undoubtedly influences your attitude to life in general and prompts you to 'give something back' - I have and will continue to do so!



Memory *Stir*

Mark Robertson (1941-47)

Staunch supporter of the OBM Club, Mark Robertson is also a proud grandfather of two OBMs, Adam Wilson (1995-2003) and Luke Wilson (1995-2005) and great grandfather to two current Junior School students. At Christmas, they all got together and showed their pride in their school by donning BMS uniform and OBM ties. A very special family moment!



George Cullen Staff (1954-89)

celebrated his 95th birthday with his family at the end of February 2023. George is highly regarded by the countless students on whom he had an impact during his 35 years teaching English and PE at the school, and he was touched by the many messages he received from OBMs on his special day.



Richard Claridge (1953-61) Staff (1967-2000)

writes: 'In early June, I was delighted to welcome John Quenby (1953-58), a former OBM Club President, as an overnight guest at my seaside home in West Sussex. The visit was arranged following our meeting at the London Lunch in March. Prior to that we had not seen each other or spoken for 65 years. We enjoyed a profusion of anecdote, especially about our Kempston Rural childhood, as befits a pair of octogenarians who are fully aware that they have entered the phase of 'oldfartdom'.

Since schooldays, the course of our lives has differed markedly. John's enterprising nature led him to a variety of careers in which he travelled widely. In retirement, he trained himself to become an amateur archivist, and among other things agreed to clear and reorganise the BMS archives when Richard Wildman (1956-65) had to retire due to ill health. Coming from a family of Bedfordshire millers, John has recently digitised the company's story, especially focused on Bromham Mill.

By contrast, I opted for security, returning to the 'homely nest' only six years after flying it, and spent almost the whole of my career teaching at BMS. How sad is that!

We enjoyed our schooldays at BMS, but do not view them through rose-tinted spectacles. The 1950s was a period of post-war austerity, and the regime of J E Taylor (1946-65) was harsh, with strict rules enforced by corporal punishment. Executions still took place in Bedford Gaol, within yards of the Bedford High School for Girls! Then came the cultural revolutions of the 1960s, and in BMS, the liberalising headmastership of Brian Kembell-Cook (1965-77) which culminated in the move to Manton Lane.

John and I found we share a love of cricket. He is a dedicated follower of the England team and a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club. I continued playing until the age of 50. In recalling some of the outstanding junior players I had coached at BMS, I mentioned,

among others, Kieran Patel (1991-98), who represented England at U15 level. When John Price, the former Middlesex and England fast bowler, came to the school as the representative of a kit manufacturer to take orders from the master in charge of cricket, Nigel Chinneck (1974-2017) introduced Kieran, aged 12, to him, saying: "This boy could play for England one day." At this point in my reminiscing, John exclaimed: "How amazing! Last week, at the Test match at Lord's, I met up with Richard Groom (1953-60) who was with John Price!"

Finally, we shared the shock and sadness of the sudden death of Simon Diffey (1977-80). John knew him well, through their passion for motorsport - historic racing cars in particular. During my editorship of *The Eagle*, from 1990-2000, I enjoyed a good working relationship with Simon, whose family firm printed the magazine. He never failed to deliver a good-looking product on time. Our thoughts were with Simon's bereft family.'



Jonathan Bracey (1982-90)

remains in close contact with Robert Cox (1971-2006) some 30 years on since leaving BMS. Robert was Jonathan's form tutor for the Sixth Form, as well as his Art teacher for a number of years.



Paul Middleton (1950-61)

visited BMS on 22 November 2022 to gift various flutes and whistles to Year 11 student Adam Lloyd. Paul and his late wife Pippa played and promoted traditional Irish music in southern Spain and he formed part of the European Ceilidh Band at the 2018 Irish Fleadh in Cáceres. Adam, who was named All Britain Champion for whistle playing in his age group in 2021, was delighted to receive the much-loved musical instruments and Paul had the opportunity to see Adam perform a medley of themes on the traditional Irish flute during a lunchtime concert at BMS.



Mike Biggs (1991-2001)

coordinated the 2023 OBM Rowing and Race Day and writes: 'All attendees mustered at lunchtime for a 400m regatta style race. Messrs Smith and McEwen organised the OBMs, and we were thrilled to have races for both the Rex Wisler Cup and Barcock Blade.

In the end, BMSBC won both trophies, with all participants having thoroughly enjoying themselves.



The evening was hosted at The Embankment Hotel, Bedford, with the guest speaker being a certain Mr David Jenks' Jenkins (1979-2018). It is always a great honour to have a former staff member to our evening supper.



Since starting this event in 2005, I am so glad that I see so many OBMs returning to Bedford for a whole day's worth of catching up. I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2024, for more fun at the river.'

Andrew Young (1968-77)

is the current master of the OBM Masonic Lodge. He writes: 'The OBM Lodge is more than 90 years old and has resumed activities following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today the Lodge has just under 50 members and meets at BMS and around Bedford at various dates during the year. Membership numbers have fallen in recent years as some of those living away from Bedford have found it difficult to attend regularly and, for some, advancing years have played their part too. Now that the worst ravages of COVID-19 are behind us, the Lodge is keen to receive new members.

Freemasonry has existed in England for many centuries. Its roots lie in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built our castles and cathedrals. For Freemasons, there are four important values that help define their path through life: Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity. We think these principles ring as true now as they have at any point in history. Freemasonry is not just a male-only organisation. The OBM Lodge holds family activities and has good relations with the local female masonic order.

I would be pleased to hear from any OBMs, parents, staff and others with connections to the school who may be interested in finding out more about the Lodge. I can be contacted on youngaobm@outlook.com.'



Memory *Stir*

Farewell to Long-Serving Members of Staff

On 15 July 2022 we said goodbye to former Head of Mathematics, **Simon Brocklehurst (1986-2022)**, who retired after 36 and a half years at BMS. He transformed the lives of countless students during that time with his phenomenal knowledge of the subject. A talented musician, he also played an active role in co-curricular music whether that be singing in the school choir, as an accompanist or playing the organ at the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.



On 09 December 2022, we bid farewell to Junior School Head, **Joanna Rex (1992-2022)**, who made the decision to retire from teaching. BMS Junior School students have been the beneficiaries of her inspiration and encouragement for 30 years and as Head for the last 11 of those she ensured that the Junior School flourished. Well-known for her fantastic sense of humour and enthusiasm, she has always been hugely admired by the children in her care. The phrase 'sit up straight!' will, we feel sure, be remembered by them all!



Emma
Reece
(2008-10)

We had great pleasure in welcoming students, staff and special guests to our Academic Awards evening on 23 September 2022, in which we celebrated outstanding individual achievement across all subjects in the Senior School. We were delighted that OBM Emma Reece, Head of Political Affairs at the UK Committee for UNICEF, could join us as our guest of honour to present the prizes to our deserving students. It was a very special occasion indeed.



Russell
Beard
(1971-80)

officially took up his appointment as the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in April 2023, and we were honoured to host his installation ceremony at BMS on Friday 24 March. In this role, Russell will represent the Sovereign in the county and uphold responsibilities conferred by the Crown. He will also focus on fundraising in the local area.

One of the few students to be educated at both the old and new school sites, Russell was a keen sportsman and played for the BMS 1st XI. He continued to support BMS long after leaving, becoming OBM Club President in 2013 and also acting as a school governor.



Nick O'Quinn (1999-2010)

On 07 July 2022, more than 70 young and inspiring students were joined by their families, staff and special guests for the Junior School prize-giving event, in which we celebrated some of the fantastic work completed during the year. We were delighted to welcome back OBM Nick O'Quinn, currently a Strategy Director at brand purpose consultancy Revolt, to present the awards. Congratulations to the prize winners and our thanks to Nick for his support and words of encouragement to the children.



Christopher Wilson (1957-65)

provided television commentary for the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on global news station Al Jazeera, which reaches 350 million households across 110 countries. Christopher has written a number of royal biographies, produced three Channel Four documentaries on royalty, and appeared regularly as a royal commentator in TV documentaries in Britain and across the world.



Always Welcome Back

These are just a few of the OBMs who we have welcomed back for visits, tours and reunions this year.

Nitin Parsooth (1993-2001)

celebrated his 40th birthday in September 2022, for which his wife organised several surprises, including a lunch with former teachers Mr Else and Mr White in the Refectory. This was followed by a tour of the facilities, during which Nitin was surprised once again down at the Cricket Pavilion by the arrival of his much-loved former cricket coach, Nigel Chinneck (1974-2017).



James Kerr (1997-2006)

returned to BMS on 09 June 2023 to reunite with Mr White and long-time friend George Darlow (2003-06). Though James has previously been back to play in the OBM Cricket, this was his first time visiting the main school site in more than 16 years. During his time at BMS, James was captain of the 1st XI cricket team and an inimitable goalkeeper in the 1st XI football team.



Memory *Stir*

Peter Mills (1965-74)

gathered a group of five OBMs for a tour of the school on 23 October 2022, approximately 50 years after they left.



Simon Browning (1954-63)

flew to the UK in May 2023 from Australia, where he emigrated in 1971. Simon visits the UK to catch up with family and take part in various motorsport activities, and we are honoured that he found time in his busy schedule to visit BMS and tour the buildings.



Ravi Shah (1998-2005)

visited BMS on 27 January 2023, where he enjoyed a school lunch with his former teachers Mr White and Mr Tapper. Ravi said that their impact on his schooldays helped to shape him into the person he is now, and it was a delight to see them catching up.



Paul Nash (1973-80)

spearheaded a 1980s leavers' reunion, held on 04 November 2022. 30 OBMs met for a drinks reception in our state-of-the-art Science Centre, where they reminisced over photos and materials from the School Archive, before they travelled to The Embankment Hotel in style – in BMS minibuses! There they continued their celebrations, joined by former masters George Cullen (1954–89), Richard Chadwick (1971–2009) and Nigel Chinneck.



If you would like to visit us, please contact our External Relations Team on externalrelations@bedmod.co.uk

Obituaries

Peter Dyer-Smith

1957-61

County House. Died 12 May 2022.

Peter's brother, Richard (1957-62), writes: 'It is with sadness that I announce the death of my older brother Peter. After a short illness he died in Zurich University Hospital, Switzerland, on 12 May 2022 at the age of 80. Peter had been living in Switzerland with his Swiss wife Geri and three sons since the mid-1970s.

Peter and I started together at Bedford Modern School in September 1957 following our parents' move to Sharnbrook. Peter was successful with his academic studies at school, winning a place at City University to study Mechanical Engineering on a sandwich course sponsored by Richard Costain. Apart from his academic success, Peter achieved much on the playing fields. He was a good all-round athlete, representing the school in athletics, cross country, rugby and cricket. He was a speedy winger on the rugby field and a medium-fast opening bowler. I was lucky enough to play with him in the 1960 rugby 1st XV and in the 1961 cricket 1st XI. In his final year, Peter was Head of County House.

Following his Mechanical Engineering degree, Peter moved to South Africa in 1969 where he worked for a number of years for Brown Boveri. Subsequently he



moved back to Europe with the company, living in Langnau, south of Zurich.

In the early 1980s Peter joined Ozonia Ltd, a company which was developing the use of ozone in the purification of water. He soon became a leading expert in the use of ozone and in subsequent years designed and commissioned ozone treatment plants in several UK water companies and in a number of countries around the world including China.

After a short spell in the USA, he returned to Switzerland, moving to Baden, the home

of Brown Boveri. Towards the end of his working life, he and a work colleague succeeded with a management buy-out of the testing laboratories in Berne of the company they worked for. Peter continued to work on a consultancy basis for several years after his retirement helping companies develop the use of ozone in water treatment.

Peter will be very much missed by his family, me, his two other younger brothers, and by his many friends here in the UK and elsewhere.'

Simon Diffey

1977-80

Shakespeare House. Died 14 May 2022.

Dan Austin (1972-82) writes: 'Simon tragically lost his life in a road traffic accident on the A6 in May last year. So sudden and a shock for everyone, he was taken too soon when he had so much more giving and living to do.

He attended Rushmoor Preparatory School from 1974-77, then became a boarder in Shakespeare House at BMS from 1977-80. His time at BMS was a very happy one where he was not exactly academic. On leaving education he took the opportunity offered to him to work with a friend in his garage workshop with the possibility of an apprenticeship. As Simon was brought up in a motoring family surrounded by cars and motorbikes, a spanner or screwdriver was second nature to him.

At this time his father's business, Merry Printers in Luton, was expanding and it was suggested that he might like to learn the print trade... and eventually join the family business. He did this by experiencing all aspects of the industry, by working with other allied trades and attending a course at The London School of Printing where he excelled.

He joined Merry Printers in 1986 starting at the bottom on the shop floor and continued to learn. Later he became the face of the company and was their front man on the road. As, over the years, he had obtained work from many people he knew it was the best excuse to deliver their parcels of print personally.

In 1989 Simon married Debbie and had two children, George and Christine. In 2000 Simon's father retired and he took over the reins of the family business, later joined by his brother James (Jimbo). He remarried in 2004.

Along with his day job, his real passion was old cars – the older the better. He was lucky when a dear friend loaned him a 1929 Austin 7 in which to compete. He entered everything: trials, hill climbs and driving tests at which he proved he had talent. This prowess soon became known, and he was asked to drive other people's beautiful historic cars, some of which were famous and had been driven by well-known racing drivers of the past. His parents' proudest moment was when he drove a 1955 Maserati 250F at Monaco.

Obituaries

Simon's philosophy came true in as much as: "If you have a dream, work hard to achieve that goal and dreams do come true – in time."

The following are excerpts from the Eulogy delivered by George at his funeral:

"...if he was sitting here today, at somebody else's funeral, I can imagine that with a cheeky grin he would have said: 'Don't worry, cheer up. I know a few alternative lines in *The Lord Is My Shepherd* that we can sing instead' and 'Have you seen the size of the organ? It's massive!'"

"...He was like a fantastic firework display, loud and bright, shockingly entertaining and

only sometimes smelt a little eggy afterwards. But after the show is over you don't mourn the death of the firework or dwell on the sacrifices those rockets made, you hold onto the warm feeling of joy and happiness they gave you. They were purposeful, they had meaning and there is beauty in that."

"...I think about what dad would say. I can almost hear him saying it: 'Georgie boy, keep your chin up son, if you can't win - get noticed, and keep your foot hard in.' I just really hope that he is doing big skids with Jimbo on the racetrack in the sky."



David Hyde 1961-69

County House. Died 13 June 2022.



David's wife, Maddy, writes: 'David was born in Biggleswade on 27 October 1952, the first-born of Eileen and Waller Hyde. He attended nursery, infant and junior schools in his hometown, and aged 11 he passed the entrance exam to Bedford Modern School. He wasn't particularly academic at school, but he excelled at sport, particularly rugby and cricket. He later left Bedford to go to the Sixth Form at Stratton School, Biggleswade.'

David had an enthusiasm for life and was interested in many things other than sport - he loved music and taught himself to play the guitar. He had a beautiful voice and sang in the church choir. He also collected stamps and old cars, which he repaired and serviced himself. He loved doing magic tricks and learnt how to develop his own photographs. When he was younger, he spent many an afternoon fishing and on holidays too. In later years, his passion and great knowledge of horse-racing led him to having a flutter often, as well as going to many racecourses all over the world.

In 1971, David went to work at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Thurleigh, and he spent three decades there as a Higher Scientific Officer, working on testing aircraft in the wind tunnels. Once again, sport played an important part in his life, representing the

Ministry of Defence and the Civil Service on numerous occasions playing table tennis, tennis and cricket for them in both the UK and abroad.

Biggleswade Young Farmers' Club was an important part of his social life, and he attended many events with his first wife. He produced a play for the county drama competition and designed a hovercraft float for the county rally.

His marriage ended in 1990 and he travelled extensively, both on holiday and playing sport. He went on rugby tours with Biggleswade, and with his cricket teams from Biggleswade, Henlow and Potton. Table tennis was his best sport, playing for the county as well as travelling to Melbourne to play in the World Veteran Championships in 1994.

David also played tennis to a high standard, and this is where he met Maddy. They played at Biggleswade Conservative Tennis Club, and both later went on to represent Bedfordshire tennis in the over-35s tournament at Eastbourne.

Maddy and David got engaged in Barbados in 2010 and married in a Wimbledon-themed wedding at Moggerhanger Park in June 2012 before honeymooning in St Lucia later that year.

In 2004, he took a part-time job as a caretaker/gardener at Mountstar Metal in Biggleswade, which later became European Metal Recycling. He enjoyed his work as a handyman, doing health and safety checks and fixing things.

Sadly, David became ill in early 2021, and bravely fought his illness until he passed away on 13 June 2022. It is poignant that he died in Bedford Hospital, the town where he had spent so much of his life. He leaves his widow Maddy, sisters Joanna and Clare, and a large family who, as well as his many friends, will miss his lovely smile, great sense of humour, cheeky antics and kind heart.'

Roger Hammond

1974-79

South House. Died 19 June 2022.

Andy Gell (1970-79) writes: 'Born in October 1960, Roger joined BMS in 1973. At school he was a good all-round sportsman, without excelling in any particular sport, and he was a single-figure handicap golfer for many years. With Graham Marsh, he reached the final of the Aer Lingus schools (boys) golf championship in the late 70s. Roger was a lifelong supporter of Everton FC.

He was a senior monitor, leading the team attached to the then 5th formers, a member of the RAF section of the CCF and of South House.

I have particularly fond memories of an A Level Geography field trip during which we stayed for a week in a youth hostel in Norwich. The trip was led by Head of Geography Colin Furneaux (1966-96) and 'Digger' Roberts (1972-91), Geography teacher and larger-than-life character, utilising the newly purchased second-hand school coach which Digger drove. Attitudes were fairly relaxed in those days and, with Jon Gray (1972-79) and others, Roger and I would sneak out to the local pub each night,

peering furtively through the window first to make sure that Colin and Digger weren't already in there.

After school Roger went into the accountancy profession. He always had a good head for figures and worked hard to achieve chartered status as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales in 1984. From there he progressed to partner status in 1995 and was the co-owner of Haines Watts Accountants in Bedford at the time of his death. In August 2017 Roger joined Graham Marsh (1974-79), Jon Gray and I for a four-man reunion at the RAF Club in London. This was the first time that we had all been together since we left BMS in June 1979. There was much catching up done and I understand that Roger often talked afterwards of how much that evening had meant to him.

I met with Roger and his sons for a round of golf at Newquay a couple of years ago and, with his partner Carol, he visited my home in Truro one evening last year. I wish that we had seen more of each other during our adult lives.

Roger was as decent and honest a boy, man, father (to two sons), brother, uncle and friend as one could wish to meet. He suffered from health issues for the last few years of his life but kept working until the end. His funeral was held in Bedford on 08 August 2022.'



Roger (second from R) at the reunion in 2017

Obituaries

Reginald 'John' Kitchener

1945-50

County House. Died 20 June 2022.

John's grandson, Tom (2000-07) writes: 'John joined BMS from a school in Sandy, the town where he lived all his life. After leaving BMS John became a legal executive and worked for Leeds Smith for many years.

He was an active part of the Bedfordshire community, holding various roles on town and parish councils and was a member of Probus Club and Sandy Conservative Club. He was a lifelong Christian and attended St Swithun's Church, Sandy.

He is greatly missed by wife Margaret, daughter Susan and his grandson, Tom Skinner, who also attended BMS.'



Arthur 'Aggie' Coomb

1938-47

North House. Died 29 June 2022.

Arthur's son, Peter, writes: 'Arthur joined the school during the war and it's fair to say his sporting achievements outweighed his academic prowess. He mainly excelled in cricket, rugby and athletics, although he was one of those pupils who was good at most sports. He first played for the 1st XI in 1944 and then captained them in 1946. He was due to captain them again in 1947 but left to do his National Service in the Navy, much to the disappointment of P J King.

In rugby he first played for the 1st XV in 1945 and captained them in 1946, in his last year at school. Athletics-wise he was a medal winner in discus and high hurdles at London Athletic Club's National Schools' athletics meeting in 1946. He used to tell a story of an inter-school athletics meeting in which he threw the discus, beating a long-standing school record. The distance had to be ratified by P J King, but when he was found and they returned to the discus quadrant, the marker had been removed so the distance could not be recorded, and no record was broken.

His sporting achievements continued after he left school. In fact, in the season he should have captained the BMS 1st XI for the second year (1947), he played cricket for Bedfordshire in the Minor Counties Championship. While doing National Service he seemed to spend most of his time playing cricket for the Navy and Combined Services alongside future England captain P B H May.

After National Service he was back playing cricket for Bedfordshire and was picked to play for Minor Counties XI against South Africa, India and Australia. He also played rugby for Bedford Blues from 1949-55, making around 100 appearances for the 1st XV.



After moving to Norfolk in 1956 he played cricket for them until 1963, captaining them on several occasions when the great Bill Edrich was not available. At the time he was one of the few bowlers to take 100 wickets for two separate counties. I'm sure he would acknowledge that little of this would have been possible without the amazing grounding in sport he received while at BMS.

Having worked on the sales and marketing side of the Agri-Chemical industry all his life, he retired to Cornwall in 1991 to pursue his passion for sea fishing and generally messing about in boats.

Having successfully outwitted cancer a couple of times in his lifetime he finally lost his battle but died peacefully at home surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife Denise and two sons, Peter and OBM Tim Coomb (1970-72).'

James Bruce De Fontaine-Stratton

1943-51

North House. Died 09 July 2022.

James's daughters, Caroline, Deborah and Eleanor, write: 'There are facts about a man's life and there are facts that tell you about the person. The most important facts about our father are the ones that tell you about the person he was.

Daddy loved Bedford and his time at Bedford Modern School was important to him. We were fortunate enough to visit just days before his death. His lifelong love of rowing and rugby were nurtured at BMS, and memories of his time there never seemed to fade.

Growing up he read voraciously, and rarely left the house without something to read. Philosophy, theology, mystery novels and everything in between were devoured with equal enthusiasm. Though he didn't learn that dyslexia was the reason for his academic difficulties until he was in his forties, Daddy went on to get a BA in Sociology from Goldsmiths College, University of London, before achieving a Master's in Sociology and an MPhil from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

Joining Her Majesty's army at 19, he was sent to Malawi where his lifelong love of Africa began. Being one of very few officers who learned Chichewa exemplified Daddy's desire to know people for who they were rather than through a filter placed by someone else or society.

Returning to England, Daddy started teaching at Greenslade Secondary School in the East End. On the fateful night of February 14, 1967, he saw Dorothy Mckoy across the room at a wedding reception, and the course of his life changed in so many unexpected ways. He wouldn't have changed any of it for the world. They travelled across the UK and Europe as a

couple, and as a family we travelled around the world, including five years on the Pacific Island of Guam where Daddy was ordained as an Episcopal Priest and taught high school science.

Returning to New York, Daddy taught as a science teacher and then worked as a parish priest in churches throughout the Bronx – where he played an important role in the Bronx Episcopal AIDS ministry at the height of the epidemic - and in Poughkeepsie, NY before retiring in 2008. Former parishioners still remember his firm and loving guidance, and his depths of wisdom and knowledge. His passion for cooking and baking blossomed after his retirement and he drew on his love of science and its chemical reactions.

Through his life Daddy went by various names - James, Jamie, Jim, Mr Stratton, Mr de Fontaine-Stratton, Father Stratton, Big Jim, Daddy and PopPop. However, he was always the same person.

He never let an opportunity to express his love for us go by, and we couldn't have asked for a better husband to our mother, father to us and grandfather to our children.'



Anthony 'Tony' Bateman

1975-82

West House. Died 01 October 2022.



Graham Welsh (1976-81) writes: 'Anthony Bateman, or Tony as he was almost universally known, was born in Bolton, grew up in Biddenham and Ickwell, and attended St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Queens Park before moving to Bedford Modern Junior School in 1975.

The tragic death of his mother when he was only seven cast a long shadow over these early years, but he was nonetheless already developing into the affable and sharp-witted person who would go on to touch the lives of so many. He showed an early enthusiasm for sports (initially football, later cricket) with a love of music emerging soon after – two great passions that were to remain undiminished throughout his whole life. For any budding musician back then, the BMS music department provided an excellent seedbed. Tony was taught violin, then viola by Felix Manning, a teacher whom he still held in the highest regard years later and whose commanding musical stature influenced a whole generation of BMS string players. As a very limited viola player myself, I was fortunate to share a desk with Tony in the school orchestra, marking the beginning of a friendship that was to endure for 45 years.

Obituaries

After completing his schooling at Mander College of Further Education, Tony studied viola and piano at the Royal Academy of Music before securing his first professional position with the Orchestra of Scottish Opera in Glasgow as sub-principal viola, a post he held for six years. Both there and in Manchester, where he subsequently joined the Hallé Orchestra, his musical acumen together with his convivial nature and unique humour made him a highly popular and esteemed colleague.

Perhaps not obvious to all during his schooldays, Tony possessed a wealth of intellectual talents that now began to blossom. A degree in Arts from the Open University was followed by an MA in English Literature from Salford University and crowned by a PhD in 2005. Tony memorably appeared in the Hallé Orchestra team on University Challenge (describing Jeremy Paxman as 'utterly charming' offscreen but a 'rottweiler' on-air) and, when a physical impediment sadly forced him to stop playing and leave the orchestra after 15 years, he successfully developed a second career as an academic, freelance writer and editor. He wrote programme notes and educational material for a number of orchestras (listed on his aptly named website 'Music Unwrapped') and contributed articles to *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *Classical Music* showcasing his talent as an original and entertaining wordsmith, often coupled with a penchant for off-beat subject matter. (A feature on composers and their cats springs to mind here).

True to his lifelong obsession with cricket, his legacy includes the book *Cricket, Literature and Culture*, and he was co-editor of both *The Cambridge Companion to Cricket*, published in 2011, and *Sporting Sounds*, a fascinating collection of essays exploring connections between music and sport.

Tony's untimely death, resulting from a previously undiagnosed condition, robs all of us who were privileged to know him not only of his warm friendship, insightful intellect and acerbic wit, but also and not least of his

profound and infectious love of music. He is survived by his brother Paul Bateman (1971-78).'

Graham would also like to extend his thanks to Mark Connolly (1977-84), who knew Tony from their very first day at primary school.

Selwyn Peter Michael Arter

1965-70

School House. Died 24 October 2022.

Barry Topping (1962-70) writes: 'On 25 November 2022, I attended the funeral of Selwyn Arter at St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church in Colinton, Edinburgh.

Prior to Selwyn attending BMS, he had been a pupil at Buckland House School in Devon from the age of seven. Selwyn was a Boarder at School House from the age of 13 and many of his contemporaries will remember him for his interest in swimming, particularly butterfly stroke, and for his mathematical and scientific prowess. In fact, one of my abiding memories is of Selwyn, sitting in 'The Bridge' at School House listening to the BBC World Service on an earphone while reading a heavy book on mathematics.

Selwyn's father (also called Selwyn) decided that Selwyn should attend his former school, BMS. Caroline Adams, Selwyn's sister, told us that their parents had met on a troop ship going to the Malayan Emergency and that Selwyn was born in Hong Kong.

Selwyn went on to study Mathematics, Physics and Psychology at Bede College, Durham University, and subsequently a postgraduate qualification in education. In 1998 he obtained a Master's Degree for Social Sciences in Education from Edinburgh University. Selwyn taught at the Friends' School, Saffron Walden and subsequently took up a position at Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh in 1988, becoming Head of Mathematics and also Swimming.



For his contemporaries at BMS, Selwyn had the capacity to disappear for a few years and then suddenly appear again. It was always a great joy to meet with him and discuss BMS and much more. During Selwyn's funeral it became apparent that he was missed by very many people and that his kindness was greatly appreciated. The church was full of people from diverse walks of life who came to celebrate Selwyn's life. Friends, former pupils, former teaching colleagues, an archive librarian, an academic from the economic world who had benefited from discussion on mathematical modelling, an elderly lady he helped with her garden, and so the list went on.

Selwyn was always sending notes and cards to many people. These often contained long letters with a great assortment of matters including heraldry, history, mathematics, psychology and education. He was a true polymath who could have chosen a career in any one of his many fields of interest.

In the later years, Selwyn often sent emails that he circulated to a group of former School House boys.

Robin Wills (1960-69) reflected: "Selwyn's emails were always unexpectedly diverse as to subject matter, but he had a great gift for making connections between seemingly unconnected events or themes. He also kept this group together and will be greatly missed."

Rupert Travis (1964-71) said: "He was a valued friend from those far off days in School House ... I think that we all benefited in some way from having known Selwyn".

Andy Archibald (1961-69) wrote: "A head full of the most arcane and fascinating knowledge and, most important of all, with an enthusiasm that celebrated it all. We will miss his emails very much. He was the glue that held us all together."

Mike Ayles (1963-70) remembered: "He was charming in company, amazingly (almost annoyingly!) prolific in his almost superhuman attention to detail and always upbeat and cheerful."

Selwyn was a very special and gifted person with lots of insights and a wealth of knowledge that he shared with us. He is sorely missed.'

John Terence Vendy

1954-59

East House. Died 06 November 2022.

John's daughter and stepson, Caroline and Dave, write: 'John Terence Vendy, known to one and all as John, was born on 30 August 1943 in Bedford to Fred and Gertrude. He had one older brother, Michael, who unfortunately died aged 14 when John was three years old. John was educated at Goldington County Primary School and Bedford Modern School, and on leaving school moved on to the Royal Navy.

John graduated from HMS Collingwood, Portsmouth on Monday 16 September 1963. In 1965 he was assigned to the 23rd Escort



Squadron and HMS Rhyl, specialising in weapons, radio and electrical. In September 1968, John began his submariner chapter with HMS Repulse as a Radio Electrical Artificer, later spending nine months in the United States working alongside the US Navy within the Guided Missiles School. John retired a Warrant Officer after a full, extended career of faithful service to Queen and country. He was very proud of his work as an electrical engineer within the Royal Navy.

John married Pat on 02 March 1968, and soon after settled on the west coast of Scotland, where both of John's children, Michael and Caroline, were born.

John enjoyed travelling all over the world, especially to the Caribbean, but also included visits to Shetland and Orkney, where John was much keener on the locally crafted food and drink than the weather.

John was incredibly proud of his family; in Caroline and Ashleigh's decision to join the police service as well as Sean's notable achievements in badminton.

John met Sandra in Scotland when they both worked for the Navy. They were a perfect match as two of the easiest-going people around. They married on 20 December 1991 and were inseparable ever since. In marriage, John became stepfather to Dave and Andy. They moved to Suffolk and enjoyed a very happy retirement together.

John enjoyed many visits to Brazil to visit Dave and his wife Simone, and he travelled to the United States to visit Andy who lived there with his daughters Mackenzie and Amanda.

John was mild-mannered, loving and accepting of others. He was always contented, but especially with family and friends. He leaves behind his widow Sandra, children Caroline and Michael, grandchildren Ashleigh, Sean, MacKenzie, Amanda, Andrew, Ryan, Morgan, Kian and Callum, and great grandchildren Miami and Teagan.

Jeffrey West

1961-69

North House. Died 04 December 2022.



Jeffrey's wife, Juliet, writes: 'Jeff was born in Salisbury and spent his boyhood in Amesbury where the proximity of Stonehenge and visits to Salisbury Cathedral made an early impression. At the age of 10 the family moved to Bedford for his father's work and Jeff attended Bedford Modern School.

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Jeff's initial engagement with conservation was prompted by the orgy of development threatening the town in the 1960s and he also took part in archaeological excavations at Elstow Abbey with David Baker (1961-71). He went to Worcester College, Oxford in 1969 to study PPE, followed by a BPhil, and became an active member of the university archaeological society.

In 1974 Jeff joined the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments of the then Department of the Environment. Apart from a two-year secondment to the main department, he remained with what became English Heritage until 2005. His various roles included advising on scheduled ancient monuments, managing the national team responsible for advice on historic building grants and listed building consent and later directing the conservation and public opening of more than 100 historic properties across the Midlands and East Anglia. Between 1974 and 1979, he directed an important research excavation at Haughmond Abbey in Shropshire, emphasising the intellectual context of its Augustinian community in his contribution to the report published in 2014. Jeff ended his career as Policy Director where he played a major part in developing the 2000 Power of Place report which set new directions in sustainable conservation and public participation. He received an OBE for services to the historic environment in 2006.

Jeff resigned to train as a priest in the Church of England in 2005 and, following ordination and a curacy, served from 2011 as Associate Priest at St Mary's Banbury where his profound spiritual gifts, particularly as a preacher, were greatly appreciated and his carefully researched guidebook is a lasting legacy. Area Dean of Deddington for five years from 2012, he was appointed an honorary canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford in 2017. He also served as Chairman of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, on the Diocesan Advisory Committee and on the Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods. His excellent judgement, meticulous attention to detail, well-chosen words and pragmatism made for a remarkable contribution to the

many organisations in which he served. When Jeff spoke, everybody listened, and his softly spoken nature belied an incisive ability to distil and articulate the essence of an issue and speak for all.

In 1987 Jeff married Juliet Allan, an Oxford friend and office colleague, at All Saints Church, Shorthampton in Oxfordshire where he is now laid to rest.

Jeffrey West died on 04 December 2022, after a short illness, aged 72.'

Tom 'Tommy' King

1943-50

South House. Died 12 December 2022.

Susie King, Tom's wife, writes: 'Tom was the third of four King brothers (PP, RE, TJ and SD) who gained scholarships to BMS and, between them, attended between 1941 and 1954. Coxed by his younger brother, Sid, he rowed in the 1950 VIII which was narrowly beaten by the eventual winners at Henley Royal Regatta. He competed in junior and senior sculling events and was the only single sculler to represent the school in an open regatta – joining the final at Maidenhead and then losing (he said: "not surprisingly!") to CBM Lloyd, a Cambridge Blue who had already won the Grand at Henley.

He was accepted at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, University of London, in the autumn of 1950 and graduated MB, BS in 1956. Subsequently he qualified MRCP in 1964 and DRCOG in 1958.

In his first year at St Mary's, he rowed in the University of London Boat Club VIII in both the Tideway Head of the River and HRR in the Thames Cup and took a Wigford IV to Henley Royal Regatta which won through to the final on the Saturday.

Tom was a House Surgeon at St Mary's in 1956-57, House Physician at King Edward VII Windsor, SHO in Obstetrics and Gynaecology



in St Albans, Surgeon Lieutenant in the Royal Navy 1958-61 and Medical Officer and Paediatric Registrar in Barnet General and St Mary's. During the 35 years he worked as a Partner and Senior Partner in private general practice in Basil Mansions, Knightsbridge, he held numerous other medical appointments in the city and beyond. Between 1976 and 1990 he was a member of the Medical Executive Committee, Amateur Rowing Association and in 1981 acted as Medical Officer to the GB Rowing Team at the World Rowing Championships in Munich.

He rowed in Bedford as a schoolboy and in his first year at St Mary's in the ULBC VIII in the Tideway Head of the River and in the Thames Cup at Henley Royal Regatta. After an interval, he returned as what he described as a 'fanatic veteran oarsman' at London Rowing Club. Over the years he competed as a sculler, in IVs and in VIIIs in numerous regattas at home and abroad, and, in a IV, won gold medals at FISA International regattas in Prague (1983) and in Sweden (1987).

Tom was a keen social golfer, was Captain at Roehampton in 2000 and a devoted member of both New Zealand and Rye Golf Clubs. He enjoyed the camaraderie of golf and was usually accompanied on the course by his constant companion, Teddy the wire-haired dachshund.

Tom faced many painful and disabling physical challenges over many years, especially so during the last five years of his

life. He was extremely stoical throughout, never complained and never gave up. He died, a month after his 90th birthday, suddenly and peacefully whilst sitting in front of the fire watching a rugby match at home in Putney and 300 people attended his Thanksgiving service at All Saints in Fulham.

Tom spoke fondly of his time at school to which, he always said, he owed so much. He maintained links with a few contemporaries and with the town and always enjoyed reading his copy of *Eagle News!*

Norman Wellington

1951-58

West House. Died 22 February 2023.



Norman's daughter, Caroline, writes: 'Norman grew up in Kempston with his parents Olive and Leonard, and his older brother Peter. He attended Bedford Modern School from 1951 to 1958 – the first two years with Molly Kingston at the Juniors. Norman enjoyed his school years, especially the sporting activities.

From school he took an apprenticeship with WHA Robertson in Bedford where he also studied at Mander College. Here Norman passed his ONC and HNC in Mechanical Engineering.

His second job was with Hoveringham Gravel, followed by another at Unilever and then finally on to WR Grace in St Neots where he worked as a Design Engineer for more than 25 years.

Norman met Joan in 1961 and they married in 1964. They lived in Bedford for several years, eventually settling in St Neots. They had three children: Susan, Caroline and Paul. Norman was a real family man, a great father and a fun grandad to his six grandchildren. He was always happy to mend broken toys and bikes and was known to be kind and friendly to everyone.

Norman played rugby for Bedford Athletic after leaving school and in later years took up golf and snooker. His hobbies included restoring classic cars, gardening and DIY.

After retiring from work, Norman enjoyed chauffeuring brides to their weddings in his fully restored Daimler. Norman was happy to reconnect with his old school friends though the book launch of *The BMS We Knew*. We regret that the meeting he planned with his old best friend John Moore (1951-56) never took place due to living in different countries and the pandemic.

Norman was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and sadly passed in Bedford Hospital from aspiration pneumonia on 22 February 2023.'

Fred Samuels

1964-72

South House. Died 25 March 2023.



Obituaries

Fred's daughter, Caroline, and friend Stefan (1982-1989) write: 'Peacefully with his two daughters present at Campbell House Hospice, Collingwood, Ontario on Saturday 25 March 2023, Frederick Edwin Samuels of Tillsonburg, Ontario, died aged 70. Beloved husband of the late Nancy E. Samuels (2018). Loving father of Laura and Catherine. Dear brother of Patricia (Jon) and Lindley (John) all of England. Lovingly remembered by his nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends in Canada and the UK. He will be sadly missed by his dog Monty.

Fred strongly believed in honesty and integrity. He was generous to a fault and always treated everyone he met kindly and sought ways that he could assist anyone in need. A life-long learner, he was blessed with a very high IQ and quick wit. Fred was a private pilot, having proudly participated in the Bedford Modern School Combined Cadet Force growing up in England.

Fred always kept Bedford Modern School near and dear. Fred would often share stories of his past times at BMS with friends and family and be the first to tell stories about people who attended BMS and went on to invent or discover things. Fred was truly proud that BMS was a part of his life. In Canada, he was one of the founding members of the OBM Club Canadian Chapter. At its height, the Canadian Chapter comprised 10 OBMs. Most members would meet once a month for a beer and a curry and to solve the world's problems one beer at a time.

Fred was an eternal optimist and was looking forward to a summer getaway to the United Kingdom and his favourite place in the world, Dungeness in Kent. Fred left the earth wearing his OBM tie, had no regrets and was grateful for the full and adventurous life that he lived. He loved a pint with friends and so if you remember Fred from your days at BMS, please raise a glass to his memory.'

Hedley Cox

1939-44

County House. Died 17 October 2022.

Peter D Cox writes: 'It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the passing of one of your former students and lifetime members of the OBM Club, Mr Hedley J Cox.

Hedley studied at Bedford Modern School during the Second World War years. He graduated in 1944 and worked as a student at the engineering firm, W H Allen in Bedford. He later worked as a motorcycle racing mechanic at Veloce Ltd in Birmingham, England.

He held third place in his first race in the Junior Manx Grand Prix in the Isle of Man in 1950 before retiring. He later designed and built a 500cc racing motorcycle, which he named the 'Covel'. This machine he gave to Bill Dawson, in England, who restored it.

In 1955 he emigrated with his wife to Canada, and then to the USA. This marriage proved to be disastrous and ended in a divorce in 1965. He never remarried.

He worked and raced all across the United States, and obtained Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Wisconsin and St Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas.

He spent 14 years as a Design Engineer attached to the US Air Force. He retired in 1991 and spent his last years living quietly and modestly in San Antonio, Texas, and his investments made him fairly comfortable.

He authored two books on the subject of motorcycles: *From the Race Shop Floor* in 2009 and *A Guide to Motorcycle Racing* in 2015.'



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