



Mr Russell Slatford MA (Cantab)  
Headmaster

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14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents

It is incredible how much we seem to pack into each week, and even though this one, our last of the Autumn Term, is shorter than most we have raced through it with events aplenty.

The Carol Service was wonderful, thank you for coming along and supporting. St Peter's Church was full and it was uplifting to have so many of the BCS community together. I was particularly impressed by the choir, there must have been 60 singers and the music was sublime. It genuinely gives me the greatest sense of pride when I see pupils from Year 3 and 4 alongside those in Year 13, thank you Mr Lloyd and Mrs Harrison-Poole for the music and Mrs Coulter for bringing this event together. We've also had the Crib Service and Carols around the Tree at the Prep School, a real favourite of mine.

The United Learning ideas competition took place this week at the Prep School, there were some very imaginative and thought-provoking concepts. Six teams of three pupils in each, had made it through to this stage to present their ideas with a hope of making it to the finals that are held in London competing against other finalists from other United Learning Schools. Presenting to a judging panel of Miss Smith, Mrs Waldron and Mr S Coulter, as well as a packed hall of their peers, each team presented their unique 'World Changing' ideas. The winning team Alfie, Edward and Gareth won with their winning idea of creating bricks and buildings from plastic waste from the oceans and re-cycling unwanted plastic rubbish!! Congratulations and good luck in the finals next year.

I have a confession to make, I had two Christmas lunches this week! I suspect I was perhaps the only person who got to enjoy the festive German market feast on Wednesday (there's a short video on YouTube) followed by a traditional Christmas fare at the Prep School on Thursday. Both were fantastic and a big thank you to Sam and her catering teams. It is all the more impressive as on Tuesday evening they were serving up a banquet for the boarders Winter Ball, I was at that one as well, perhaps I've had three Christmas meals? The Winter Ball always starts with the girl and boy boarders carefully paired up coming down the main stairs dressed in their finest evening wear, it has become a tradition and one we will continue to embrace for many years to come. We have an exceptional group of boarders ranging from over 20 countries. Some of them, sadly are leaving us at the end of term, we will miss them, but they are always welcome to visit in the

Curiosity

Commitment

Creativity

Community

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future, as many of them do. We have an excellent boarding staff but have said farewell to a few recently who are moving on to other exciting projects. Miss Shave and Miss Houston have already left us and it will be Mr Morgan's last day today, we wish them all well. We are delighted that Mrs Sienko and Miss Rowe have already joined the boarding team and are making a positive impact in the boarding houses.

We also say 'bon chance' to a few others; Mr Britton has been with us for most of this term teaching in the Business department, Mr Gregory in Physics, has completed his teacher training placement, and Mr Cakebread leaves us for a job closer to home. Thank you all for your hard work and support. In January we welcome Ms Gibbs to Mathematics, Mrs Wintrip to the Business department and Mrs Edwards to PE. Mrs Fermor has joined the Learning Plus department this term.

I was made to work for my delicious Christmas lunch at the Prep School on Thursday and honoured to be asked (again) to be one of the judges for the House Song. It was madness but the greatest show, man... that was two of the songs, my literary skills not good enough to get solo and shotgun into this sentence. Brilliant singing, amazing costumes, especially the lamented carrots some wonderful staff cameos and the winner came from... Studland.

Many of the school Christmas cards have now been sent out, the designs coming from the incredible competition submissions from Eliza Naden, Nancy Naden and top spot to James Coop. Sending these extraordinary pieces of artwork out to pupils, staff, governors and friends of BCS is a great privilege.

Christmas is not a complete break from the delights of academia and I delighted that Mrs Innes has compiled a google free Christmas holiday quiz for Key Stage 3, prizes for the best ones in the New Year, have a go!

I was also really pleased to see that the festive spirit had made its way into A level Chemistry, the pupils had made a colour indicators Christmas tree, I think I've explained that right, have a look on Facebook and Twitter for a photo, brilliant.

Good luck to our swimmers, footballers and tennis players who are in a variety of competitions over the break, and also to Will Kernan who is going to be competing in the Phoenix Mixed Martial Arts Show.



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It has been an exciting, interesting and thoroughly rewarding term. I am hugely grateful to you all for your support, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Best festive wishes

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