

## ***A Celebration of Music***

### ***A reflection on a term full of Music by Mr Keating Robert (Director of Music)***

It has been a wonderfully busy term in the music department which got off to an amazing start with the opportunity for Bel Canto to take part in the Centenary Concert for Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama in October. As regular winners at the Festival Bel Canto was invited to perform alongside world-renowned musicians and actors as the centenary celebration at Bedford Corn Exchange welcomed back former festival performers and some of the rising stars from the latest festivals too.

Bel Canto Choir performed fantastically well featuring Serena Jacob and Ella Bowis as soloists in was our first public outing of the academic year. The audience included the Mayor Dave Hodgson, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Susan Lousada and it was a thrill to perform for such a receptive audience

Our first Senior Informal Lunchtime Recital of the year saw students preparing for exams or trying something new take to the stage in the Assembly Hall. We enjoyed beautiful musical theatre ballads from Serna Jacob, Meg Miles and Polly Taylor. We also had Fiza Hasnain stepping out for the first time with *Ode to the Mets* by The Strokes which she later took onto the Open Mic Night at Bedford School. Meanwhile Year 7 students Sophia Howard, Maria Arvinte and Jasmine Thatcher tried out their new band with *Uptown Funk* by Bruno Mars. The whole proceedings were completed by the Noor sisters Jasmine and Rhianne performing on violin, viola and cello with fantastic performances. It was lovely to see so many student pushing their musical boundaries and trying new styles

After half-term the ever popular *Open Mic* night returned to Bedford School gives an opportunity for students at Bedford Girls' School and Bedford School to stand up and perform popular musical items, either as a solo act or in a small group in support of Movember. The evening was a superb example of students being bold and trying new ideas out either on their own or as part of a collaboration with other students.

Ella Bowis and Stephanie West set the evening off to a great start with some beautifully sung songs followed by Alice Toone with her band continuing the high standard. This trend was followed by Tireni Salako demonstrating her prowess in the same vein. Tesha Wikramanayake and Sienna McFarlane shined, particularly Sienna with her first foray into public performing with her rendition of *Back to Black* a notoriously tricky song to sing nailed with impressive flair. Before a big send off from *Le Fonk* which captured the joyous celebratory attitude of the night.

Meanwhile in the Junior School parents were treated to Teatime concerts as many of our younger students performed for the first time at BGS. There is some real talent beginning to shine and I know many of the students are busy preparing for their Beds Festival pieces in February.

We are so proud of all of the BGS musicians and singers who were part of the wonderful *Bugsy Malone* production; bringing together a live band with singing and and acting to such a high standard takes exceptional hard work, commitment and collaboration. Our students

were superb and it was a delight for the team at BGS and Bedford School to work so closely with them all.

From the oldest to the youngest, we all enjoyed our Year 3 students taking part in the Christmas production, working with Mr Atkins and the Year 3 team to treat their parents to an uplifting show.

We rounded off the term with our Junior and Senior Concerts, the Junior Choir performance at the PTA Christmas Fayre and our magical carol services.

It is wonderful to see over 250 students taking part in our co-curricular clubs this term and that they continue to achieve great results in the Trinity and ABRSM examinations - an enormous achievement.

After a well earned Christmas interval we will be back next term ready to hone our performances and delight our audiences once more.