

September 2025

Dear

On behalf of the governors, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families joining BGS and our existing students returning from their summer holidays. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable start to the term.

I would like to pass my congratulations on to the students and staff for the outstanding examinations results. A Bedford Girls' School education is so much more than examination results, but maintaining outstanding educational standards is always an imperative. With over three quarters of grades in Sixth Form at A \*- B (IB and A Level combined) and over two-thirds 9-7 at GCSE, we can be rightly pleased and proud of all that has been achieved. The exams themselves are stepping stones to the next stage, but when I look at the range of destinations and the diversity of courses our students are going on to study, it is impossible not to be impressed. Over 97% of our Upper Sixth cohort secured offers from their preferred universities and 62% will move onto Russell Group institutions. More importantly our students leave us as confident, mature and resilient young women with an inner sense of self and determination. They are ready to grasp the opportunities that open up to them and follow in the footsteps of the impressive alumnae ahead of them. I wish them all the best of success. Our students could not achieve these results without the support and guidance from our expert teachers and pastoral teams. We are fortunate to attract immense talent to BGS and have a staff body who will always put your daughter's best interests at the centre of their decision making. I am extremely thankful for their commitment to our students.

I am pleased to report that despite the challenging sector conditions BGS remains in excellent shape. I know the consistent media stories can be alarming and cause concern. We remain the largest, most academic girls' school within our region. We have an outstanding reputation for our forward-thinking approach to education. We have no external debt and a designated VAT reserve to help us through the period of volatility in the sector. It is inevitable that as the cost of education has risen with the introduction of VAT and national birthrates fall, we will be a slightly smaller school. We need to be agile in how we respond to this; but we are incredibly well positioned and should collectively be enormously proud of what BGS stands for, and of every student who passes through our corridors.

We will continue to manage our costs vigorously and to invest in the key areas that support your daughter's education. We are acutely aware of the financial pressures that many of our community face and are committed to remaining as reasonably priced as we can in the current climate.

I would like to thank you all for participating in our comprehensive parent feedback process in the Summer Term. It has provided us with excellent feedback and tangible actions. It has been wonderful to read your comments about how a BGS education has so positively influenced your daughters and

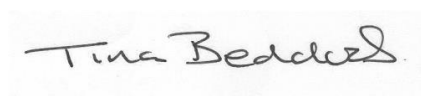
how they have flourished in our care; but it has been equally as important to take stock of the areas that concern you or where we can do better. I am confident that as a school our current strategic plan addresses the majority of your concerns, and that we are constantly moving forward together to ensure that every child feels supported, known, is happy and challenged.

I am delighted to be welcoming Surgeon Rear Admiral Fleur Marshall, MRCP, FCIPD, KHP as our incoming Chair of Governors in February. Fleur's extraordinary military career in the Royal Navy is impressive; her extensive experience will make her an outstanding Chair of Governors. Fleur has a long association with Bedford and the school, as an alumna of Bedford High School. She is excited to get to know the school and our community. I will, together with our governing body and the SLT, be working with Fleur this term to manage her induction to ensure a smooth transition into the role. It has been an honour to serve as your Chair of Governors twice, firstly for nine years between 2013 - 2022 and again for the last year. I am thrilled to handover to Fleur, who shares our passion for the importance and relevance of single-sex girls' education. We have further strengthened the depth of expertise on our governing body this year with the addition of SEND specialist Sally Michaels and female health advocate, Dr Dupé Burgess.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to also extend our thanks for the kindness and support that has been shown to Gemma Gibson during her recent medical leave. It is always imperative that we put our health first; we are all pleased that Gemma is on the road to recovery and will begin her phased return to work from Monday 8th September. We are grateful to John Gardner, who has been a wonderful Acting Head and to the rest of the SLT for managing the school so smoothly in her absence. I know Gemma is very keen to get back to work, I look forward to supporting Gemma and John this term.

I do hope that I have the opportunity to see you in school this term and wish all of the students the best for the year ahead.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Beddoes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'B'.

Tina Beddoes

Interim Chair of Governors