

Dear Parents,

The cycle of knowledge and wisdom is a curious one, where the roles of teachers and students sometimes intersect. As educators, we offer guidance, knowledge, and advice to your children, hoping to nurture their growth and development. We stand at the front lines of their education, sharing our expertise, experience, and insights. However, what is truly remarkable is how often these very lessons return to us, reflecting back the essence of our own teachings.

As you may, or may not, have heard, depending on how much your daughter communicates with you about school news, this year's Christmas Celebration will feature a staff band, and I have the privilege of being the drummer. I must admit that I could never be described as a drumming virtuoso; in fact, I'm a novice in the world of percussion. But as I've reminded our students, we all begin as beginners in any new endeavour.

At this point, I'd like to acknowledge that being a teacher at Bute House can be a bit challenging, especially when we're surrounded by such talented and promising students. I often mention that we can't afford to have an 'off day' as teachers because the girls have high expectations, not just for themselves but also for us as educators.

As I have mentioned on many occasions, I often find myself wandering into the music studio upstairs, listening to the girls as they hone their singing skills. Their musical prowess is undeniable, and the standard they set is truly remarkable. The pressure mounts as I contemplate my role in the upcoming performance, and there is a deep sense of responsibility that comes with it. Responsibility to the girls, yes, but also to my other band members - wait till you hear Mr Vessey on flute and Mr Foster on the sax! Sheer talent!

Today, I encountered a group of Year 4 students practising the Christmas song that will include the staff band. One of the girls, a drummer herself, said with heartwarming enthusiasm, "We're really excited about your drumming." My immediate response was to downplay my abilities, admitting that I was a beginner and that I hoped not to disappoint.

However, what followed was quite moving and filled me with a profound sense of pride. Their words came softly, soothing my self-doubt away: "Ms. Bradshaw, you could never let us down," and "It's so good that you're having a go!" These words were not just an encouragement; they were a reflection of the values and principles we've been imparting to them all along.

As educators, we constantly strive to instil in our students the importance of courage, determination, and the willingness to embrace challenges. We encourage them to pursue their passions, take risks, and step outside their comfort zones. We tell them that making

mistakes is part of the learning process and that effort is more important than perfection. These are the very lessons we aim to impart, and it is humbling and gratifying to see them mirrored in the responses of our students. It is this interaction today that has made my week!

Have a wonderful weekend

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