

A Year in Review
2023/2024

BEDFORD SCHOOL



WELCOME

That they be *good* men.



Boys at Bedford School never fail to amaze me. Our Sixth Formers are a wonderful case in point. Each year, between 50 and 80 apply for about 20 posts as Monitors (our term for prefects) and it is genuinely humbling to read their (quite lengthy) letters. As a result, every year picking between them is also the least favourite thing I do! The sheer range of experience they have had at Bedford is astonishing. Quite aside from the more high-profile activities (sport, music, drama and so on), they draw on learnings from so many different spheres of school life.

In the Sixth Form alone, the boys have particularly highlighted their development as leaders from one or more of the three leadership courses we offer: Ivy House, Ready2Lead and mentoring (I have long thought that schools like our own have talked a lot about “providing leaders for the future” without really deserving it – so we teach it explicitly now in the Sixth Form); they write about what they have learnt from the school’s community partnership work in the Lower Sixth (where they must look after others as well as themselves); they list the opportunities they have taken to speak publicly (assemblies; the Bedford School Independent Project; the Detweiler and the Talalay competitions; debating - amongst many other societies); they reflect on their experience of boarding with friends from different countries, and on the kindness of older boys, when they have needed it.

They have enjoyed being part of groups (often with Bedford Girls’ School), which help to define our PSHCE programme; they have learnt from the push on entrepreneurial activity in the school by starting something up as a team, or with the help of a mentor; or from helping Prep School boys (or even GCSE boys) with their academic work – or simply giving talks on areas of their own interest, to try to spark the enthusiasms of those younger than them. In short, they are ‘finding their thing’ and making the very most of what the school has to offer – and being wonderfully reflective on the lessons that come from such an array of opportunities.

Do come and visit us and explore the array of opportunities on offer for your son at Bedford School.

James Hodgson
Head Master



Book a Personal Visit

We warmly invite families to come and meet us, and explore the school in person. Each personal visit will usually include a meeting with the Head Master, so that you have the opportunity to discuss your son’s educational needs in more detail.

To book your family’s place, please email admissions@bedfordschool.org.uk.



75%

of boys went on to Russell Group and/or Times Top 30 universities

"I sincerely congratulate the boys for their outstanding achievements, which are testament to their hard work, and all the guidance and support from their teachers and families. As a group of boys, they have also given tremendous support to each other – championing and encouraging each other's successes across all manner of academic and co-curricular areas."

Sam Baldock
Acting Head Master

Sixth Form 2024 Destinations

Bedford School boys were once again celebrating a superb set of results and places at top-flight universities including Durham, Imperial College London, Lancaster, Leeds, Loughborough, Newcastle, University College London, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Bath, Warwick, Cardiff and Exeter.

The variety of courses was also a highlight and reflective of the school's inherent diversity. Boys have taken up places in fields such as Architecture, Business Management, Computer Science, International Relations, Biochemistry, Product Design, Russian, Sport Management, Sustainability and Environment Management, Urban Studies and Zoology. As well as the more traditional subjects such as Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemistry, Modern Languages, all types of Engineering, Law, Economics, Finance and Politics.

We were also delighted to see the continuing trend of boys setting their sights further afield as they secured places with golf scholarships at leading universities in the USA, and even more boys taking up prestigious degree apprenticeships with leading firms.

Top University Destinations*

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| > Durham University | > University College London | > University of Oxford |
| > Loughborough University | > University of Warwick | > University of Cambridge |
| > University of Nottingham | > London School of Economics | > University of Southampton |
| > University of Exeter | > Birmingham University | > Imperial, London |
| > University of Bristol | > King's College, London | > City, University of London |
| > Newcastle University | > University of Manchester | > Lancaster University |
| > Queen Mary, London | > Swansea University | > University of East Anglia |
| > University of Bath | > Oxford Brookes University | > University of Liverpool |
| > Nottingham Trent University | > University of Sheffield | > University of Reading |
| > Cardiff University | > University of Leeds | > Leeds Beckett University |

For a full list of university destinations in 2024, please see page 5.

*Top university destinations by the number of boys taking up places in 2022, 2023 and 2024 combined

Scholarships & Bursaries

We believe in rewarding talent, and our generous scholarships are available to boys who excel academically or show outstanding talent in art, computer science, drama, music or sport, including golf.

Bursaries, on the other hand, are means-tested awards, designed to welcome talented boys who would not otherwise be able to access a Bedford School education. Awards of up to 100% of annual fees are possible.



Find out more about Bursaries and Scholarships.



Aiming for Elite UK Universities

As part of the school's Oxbridge Programme, boys from all year groups were invited to a question-and-answer session in December with four recent Old Bedfordians (OBs) currently studying at Oxford and Cambridge. The event provided boys with their sights set on these elite universities an invaluable opportunity to ask questions and start thinking about their academic ambitions and higher education plans.

As well as answering questions, the OBs also gave boys a personal insight into preparing for university applications and food for thought about the attributes they possess or could cultivate that could help them gain an Oxbridge place.

Head Master James Hodgson explained, "As part of our Oxbridge Programme, it was fantastic to welcome these impressive Old Bedfordians back into school. Their advice and guidance to the boys here currently will be hugely helpful to them as they navigate their paths towards achieving their Oxbridge ambitions. Moreover, as an initiative that brings together staff, boys and Old Bedfordians, opportunities like this really do demonstrate the Bedford School community at its best."



Expanding Boys' Horizons

Sixth Formers from Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School explored studying abroad at our fifth Overseas University Roadshow, prompting many to consider educational opportunities outside the UK.

Run by The University Guys, with representatives from internationally renowned universities in the US, Europe and Canada, pupils explored the variety of options that international universities provide and the application process.



Beyond Bedford

Our careers department helps boys navigate the many academic and non-examined and co-curricular options on offer to find a personalised curriculum that is right for them and helps them to go where they want to go next, whether that is Oxbridge, a golf scholarship or degree apprenticeship.

Quick Bites

Medical Admissions

Lower Sixth Form students from Wixams Academy, Sharnbrook Academy, Mark Rutherford and Bedford Girls' School joined Bedford School boys for a talk on the medical admissions process by James Telfer from the University of Nottingham. Mr Telfer offered pupils key insights and strategies to navigate the competitive application process effectively.

Applying to Oxbridge

Old Bedfordian Max Sogan (12-21), reading Physics at Oxford, returned to school to share his top tips on the Oxbridge application process, specifically for boys wishing to read physics.

Employers' Fair Inspires Students

Over 220 students and their parents from around the borough joined Bedford School boys at Bedford School's inaugural Employers' Fair on Friday 16 June.

With a diverse range of employers – 25 in total – all under one roof, the fair provided students with an excellent opportunity to research career options and network with representatives from potential industries and companies.

Students were also able to consider numerous career path options, ask essential questions and find out what qualifications are needed.

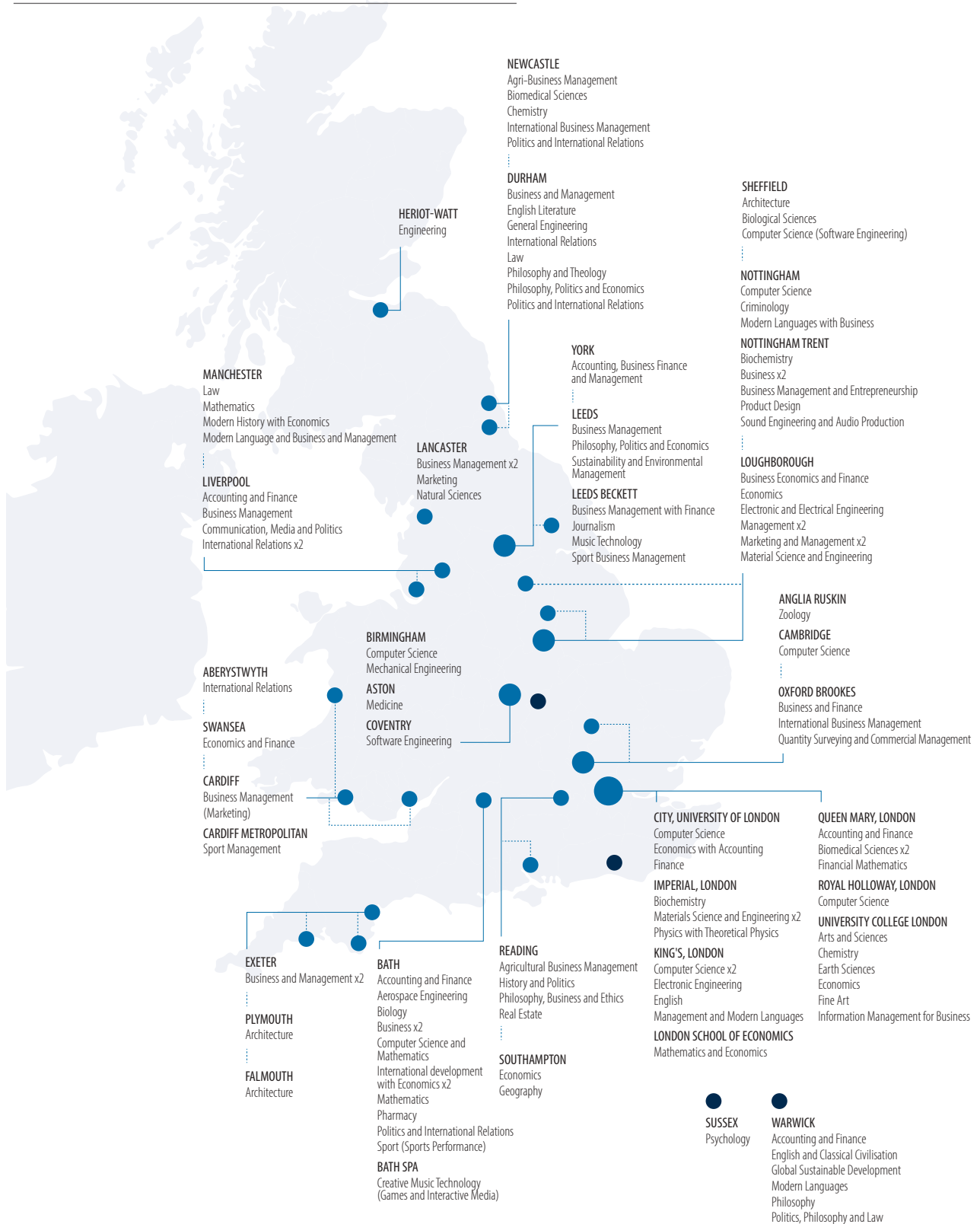
Careers Convention

This year's OB Careers Convention once again coincided with National Careers Week. It was a resounding success, with over 400 students from 14 independent and state schools across the borough and some young OBs tuning in to hear our panel of experts from the OB and school community.

Twelve 60-minute sessions, with over 50 experts involved, were available for pupils to explore diverse careers, ranging from cyber security, investment banking and scientific research to surveying, law, engineering, medicine and more.

An additional and highly popular 15-minute session covered 'How to make an impact in one minute'.

University Destinations 2024



Outside the UCAS system, boys earned places at international universities, including Berklee College of Music and Toronto University and, once again, secured prestigious golf scholarships in the US. Boys also gained degree apprenticeships with leading firms such as Mazars, Bellway and Christie's (Auctioneers).

Top in the World

Jameson Liang (Lower Sixth) was presented with the Top in World award for quite literally achieving the top mark in the world for his Design Technology IGCSE last year.

The prestigious Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards programme celebrates the success of learners taking Cambridge examinations in over 40 countries worldwide. The awards recognise the dedication and hard work exhibited by students and the support and guidance provided by their teachers.

On receiving the award, Jameson said, "I feel very happy and proud of getting the best result in the world for DT, not just for myself, but also for our DT department. I feel very fortunate to have been taught and supervised by such good teachers, and I have accessed such great resources in the DT department at Bedford School."



Jameson Liang (Lower Sixth)



Quick Bites

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

The school's top mathematicians achieved 14 gold awards in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Oliver Jones (Upper Sixth) and Sam McMurrin (Fifth Form) went on to compete in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Challenge and both achieved merits. Will Reddy, as top in the school, went on to sit the Mathematical Olympiad and achieved a merit.

Senior Physics Online Challenge

Christopher Bonnington, Evan Dong, Jameson Liang and Michael Moretto (Lower Sixth) all achieved gold in the Senior Physics Challenge. The challenge offers Year 12 students an exciting opportunity to stretch and challenge their knowledge and encourages interest in wider Physics topics.

Chemistry Olympiad

Justin Ng and Damon Yu (Upper Sixth) were awarded golds in this year's Chemistry Olympiad. The two-hour written exam is designed to challenge and inspire students to push themselves further and excel in the field of Chemistry.

Schools' Challenge National Success

The Bedford School General Knowledge team made their way to The Hall School, London on Saturday 4 May to compete against seven other schools in the Schools' Challenge National Finals 2024 and ended up being placed sixth in the country – a superb achievement for what was their first time competing at such a level.

Schools' General Knowledge Quiz National Champions

Seth Baines (Captain, Remove Form) with Oliver Barbour, Matthew Moretto and Hamish Timmins (Fourth Form) became the first ever Intermediate Plate National Champions in the Schools' Quiz Competition. Winning matches against Norwich and King's School Worcester and both A and B teams from Nottingham High School in the final, the boys displayed excellent knowledge and teamwork. The boys are all members of the school's General Knowledge Society.

Top 100 A-Level Computer Scientist

Ivan Iankov (Upper Sixth) placed in the top 100 students in the UK sitting the AQA Computer Science A-Level in 2024 to win a prize from internet company Netcraft (who specialise in combating phishing, fraud, scams and cyber-attacks). As a prize winner, Ivan is also invited to a prize-winner event to meet other winners and high-performing Computer Science university students.

Picture Perfect 100% Art GCSEs

Harry L'Estrange and Henry Gillham (Fifth Form) secured top marks in the UK for their 2024 Art GCSE exams – both achieving the best score possible – 100%. Their success is testament to their hard work, talent and creativity. Harry commented, "This means a lot to me as I was able to obtain the result that I so wanted, and I know that a lot of it was down to the fantastic work that all the teachers put in to helping and guiding our journeys through the course."



Harry L'Estrange and Henry Gillham (Fifth Form)

Westminster Experienced

A-Level Politics pupil Millan Verwoert (Lower Sixth) enjoyed a unique experience when he shadowed Bedford MP Mohammed Yasin in Westminster for a day. Millan enjoyed a full tour of the Houses of Parliament, which provided insight into the lives of MPs, whips, and civil servants, as well as the role of the Speaker of the House. Millan also attended Prime Minister's Questions and a select committee meeting after contacting Mr Yasin to request the experience. Millan commented, "The whole day was nothing short of fascinating and inspirational; it increased my curiosity no end, and I cannot thank Mr Yasin enough for the opportunity."



Millan Verwoert (Lower Sixth) with Mohammed Yasin MP

Floreat:

Enriching and Extending Academia

The school's brand-new academic enrichment programme, Floreat, was unveiled to boys in the summer term at an exciting two-day event tailored to offer a taster of the programme starting in September.

The Floreat Programme is rooted in the classical ideal of education, emphasising the development of both the mind and character. Designed to enhance and consolidate the many super-curricular activities in school, it brings together a fellowship of pupils to encourage their natural curiosities to flourish.

The academic extension opportunities will be offered to selected boys in the Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms to foster their intellectual curiosity and critical thinking and develop their love for learning beyond the standard curriculum.

Boys will benefit from partnerships with external mentors and other educational institutions and the introduction of new courses and activities. They will also receive coaching from subject specialists in skills such as public speaking, academic writing, and critical thinking while navigating time pressures parallel to competitive university courses.

During the intensive two-day launch programme, boys developed their resilience and critical thinking skills in preparation for competitive applications beyond Bedford School.

Head of Academic Extension and Enrichment, Dr Shetal Arjan, commented, "The world beyond Bedford School is highly competitive, and Floreat prepares pupils to face it with confidence. I eagerly look forward to continuing to work with these pupils this year."

[Encouraging natural
curiosities to flourish]

Ground-Breaking Research

Twenty-four Biology students across the Remove, Fifth and Sixth Forms jumped at the opportunity to participate in a ground-breaking collaborative student-led research project last year.

Partnering with Rothamsted Research and the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI), the boys carried out the first-ever research using DNA barcoding, working alongside and learning from scientists to discover relationships between different species of snowdrops to uncover how different snowdrop species have evolved from a common ancestor by studying DNA sequence similarities and differences.

The project, funded by a grant from The Royal Society, with additional funding from Bedford School Foundation Trust, took the boys to Anglesey Abbey to work alongside experts to identify and gather different types of snowdrop species. The boys worked with bioinformaticians from the internationally renowned European Bioinformatics Institute to find similarities in the DNA sequences at the state-of-the-art science laboratories at the Wellcome Sanger Institute. They carried out DNA sequencing at Rothamstead Research.

Emir Kenrick (Remove Form) explained, "I am enjoying the opportunities we are getting in this project because many of the skills we are learning and the work we are doing is at a postgraduate level and would usually be carried out after getting a university degree. We have been learning important skills such as micro pipetting, and we have been learning the entire process of how to extract and sequence DNA."

The project culmination saw six Remove and Lower Sixth boys present their ground-breaking research at the Royal Society's Annual Student Conference in London in March to leading scientists and students nationwide.

Mrs Jean Mainstone, Teacher of Biology, commented, "This project has enabled students to develop practical skills they would not normally use until they undertook a degree, and to participate in science that has not been undertaken before. They have developed not only their investigative skills but also their communication skills, and to see them present at the Royal Society with such enthusiasm and knowledge was extremely rewarding."



Bedford School Science pupils presenting at the Royal Society

[Cultivating academic ambition]

Black Hole Hunting: Making the Invisible Visible

The spring term saw boys working in teams to learn more about and identify black holes as part of a wider collaborative project run by the Black Hole Hunters, a research team from the Open University and the University of Southampton.

Using data from the TESS satellite, the boys joined a worldwide online community helping find some of the Milky Way galaxy's millions of missing black holes. Black holes are invisible, but by looking at graphs of how the brightness of stars changes over time, the boys could search for an effect called gravitational microlensing, which can indicate that a massive object passed in front of a star – a black hole.

The boys enjoyed a visit from astrophysicist Dr Adam McMaster, who is part of the Black Hole Hunters team, who helped to give them a deeper understanding of light curves and gravitational micro-lensing to help with their search.



Model United Nations

Developing research skills, widening knowledge of current global issues and gaining vital presentation and public speaking skills are just a few of the many benefits boys gain through participation in the Model United Nations.

Pupils from Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School joined forces to run a Model United Nations (MUN) Conference in June. The event offered an exciting opportunity to play the role of delegates from different countries and attempt to solve real-world issues with the policies and perspectives of their assigned country.

Tanay Rai (Lower Sixth), who chaired the UNEP Committee at the MUN Conference, explained, "This experience is essential as our generation is the future; we will be the ones tasked with solving some of the world's most pressing issues. As someone fascinated by public policy, MUN allows me to explore the world of international relations and foreign affairs."

Bedford School's boy-led MUN Society was set up just over a year ago by the boys to create more opportunities to get involved in debating international issues and policies. Since then, the society has grown in popularity, now with over 30 boys involved.

Following on from Bedford School's MUN experience, Tanay Rai and Millan Verwoert (Lower Sixth) were thrilled to go on to represent Nigeria at COP28 after successfully applying to the Oxford International Model United Nations conference.

The Oxford International Model United Nations (OXMUN) conference brings delegates from different countries and backgrounds together to debate pressing global issues and listen to illustrious guest speakers, providing participants with an academically rigorous and culturally rich experience unlike any other.

Vintage Year for Oracy

Public speaking and debating empowers boys to express their ideas and engage with diverse perspectives. Practising these oracy skills, boys equip themselves for future courses and careers that require incisive thinking, crisp communication, engagement with big ideas and the ability to disagree well.

Boys can hone their skills in school in lessons, societies and numerous competitions and at inter-school competitions. This year, these boys have performed exceptionally well and achieved some great successes.

Millan Verwoert (Lower Sixth) and Sam Maling (Upper Sixth) performed brilliantly to secure a place in the English Speaking Union Schools' Mace National Semi-Final, debating the education system, protest movements and the judiciary system. The boys were just pipped to the post by a very strong Radley team.

Henry Gillham, George Gutteridge and Fraser Morgan (Fifth Form) enjoyed notable success in the English Speaking Union Churchill Public Speaking Competition, to reach the National Finals at Churchill College, Cambridge.

Vir Walia, Ralph Franklin (Remove Form) and Charlie Diamond (Fifth Form) were runners up in the Rotary Youth Speaks Herts and Beds area group finals held at Bishops Hatfield School. Meanwhile, Nathaniel Fletcher, Aaryan Nair and Oliver Barbour (Fourth Form) debated the topic of 'Video Games' to win the district finals.

Head of Speech and Drama, Miss Fi Fowler, who coached the boys in the lead up to the various competitions, said, "It is fantastic to see so many boys wanting to compete in oracy. The speeches they prepare, the research they do, the knowledge that they have, and the personalities to complete the package, never cease to amaze and impress me. Everyone, no matter where they end up in life, will need to speak in public at some point. To have the courage of your convictions, the ability to be heard and to structure language in a clear and concise way are a must."



Millan Verwoert (Lower Sixth), Charlie Diamond (Fifth Form), George Gutteridge (Fifth Form), Henry Gillham (Fifth Form), Vir Walia (Remove Form), Aaryan Nair (Fourth Form), Fraser Morgan (Fifth Form) and Sam Maling (Upper Sixth)

[Problem-solving and creativity combined]

Driving Innovation through Computer Science



Will Reddy's (Upper Sixth) Sign Language Translator



Toby Mitchell's (Upper Sixth) Scoring System

Using knowledge and skills gained in lessons to solve a practical problem is a key element of the A-Level Computer Science assessment. The results produced by the boys are always impressive, and this last year was no exception.

Will Reddy (Upper Sixth) created a real-time sign language translator for his assessed project. Using machine learning to map hand gestures, his program, written in Python and C#, could then recognise and convert hand gestures to text when signed to a camera.

Toby Mitchell (Upper Sixth) developed a scoring system for rifle ranges. Using a camera pointed at the targets, his program used the data from the camera and identified the position of the holes on the target to calculate the score. His ingenious project earned him a Head Master's scarf (a coveted prize), and will be put to practical use in the school's rifle range next year.

Mr Paul Scullion, Director of Digital Learning, praised the projects, saying, "It is always exciting to see the boys develop the solutions to their selected problems - no two are ever the same. Within coding, there are great opportunities for boys to innovate and apply creative thinking and problem-solving to develop unique solutions. Through their projects, Will and Toby demonstrated abundant creativity and coding complexity at degree-level standards. I am delighted that both boys have opted to take their talents further by reading Computer Science at Cambridge and Birmingham Universities, respectively, next year.

Perse Coding Challenge Inspires Success

One hundred and fourteen boys from Bedford School joined over 2,500 pupils from across the UK to take part in the Perse Coding Challenge. In the first round, over 50% of Bedford School boys achieved a merit or distinction. Fraser Morgan and David Shirley (Fifth Form) went even further to achieve 100% – a truly impressive result.

Twelve teams advanced to the second round of the challenge, which is open to just 600 pupils. In a superb performance, Ali Khan and Mike Halahan (Fifth Form) achieved distinctions (the highest possible grade) in the challenge.

Mike explained, "This distinction has granted me the ability to gain further confidence going forward into my A-Levels and university courses, which both include great amounts of computer science within them. The subject has provided me with a great opportunity to develop my skills within technology to advance in the way of the future; whilst it requires hard work, the delayed gratification of working for my future greatly appeals to me, due to my interest in entrepreneurship – always seeking opportunity."



Fraser Morgan and David Shirley (Fifth Form)



Ali Khan and Mike Halahan (Fifth Form)

Distinctions in Oxford University Coding Challenge

Twenty-eight boys reached the Oxford University Coding Challenge, which is the second round of the Bebras Computing Challenge.

Brilliant results by Pop Immaraporn (Fourth Form) and Fraser Morgan (Fifth Form) earned them distinctions at this higher level.

"We challenge boys to not only understand how coding works, but to also consider how it can be made more efficient. The challenge and enjoyment of the subject has resulted in the largest ever number of Bedford School students applying for Computer Science-based courses at university."

Mr Paul Scullion, Director of Digital Learning

Quick Bites

House Coding Competition

Kevin Yu (Upper Sixth) helped to make our new House Coding Challenge a reality when he set up an initial competition for boys to test the format.

The talented Computer Science pupil wrote all the questions for the test competition, which proved so popular it will be rolled out in the new academic year for all boys in the Remove Form and above.

VEX Robot Wars

Led by Oliver Harris (Fourth Form) our Computer Science boys have ambitious plans to compete in the VEX 'High Stakes' Robotics Competition in the new academic year. However, they are not entering at school level but have opted to go straight in at university level.

With a new dedicated workshop space created for building and programming the robots, the boys are taking it very seriously and are excited to take part in this new competition for the school.

VEX Robotics Club is just one of many clubs, including Competitive Coding and Virtual Reality Development Club, that stretch, challenge and inspire boys' technological curiosity beyond the classroom.



Computer Science SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are now available on entry to the Upper School to boys who are passionate about programming and problem solving and who are eager to play a full part in our active co-curricular programme.

Find out more from our Admissions team on **01234 362216**.

Ready2Lead?

Bedford School boys joined over 80 delegates from nine local Sixth Forms to develop their leadership in the context of making their own unique and positive difference in our local community for our fifth Ready2Lead? Conference.

Working on issues relating to our environment, identified by local young people, the final market-place style event at Kimberley College was attended by key figures from Bedford Borough Council and Bedford Youth Cabinet, who were excited by the potential of many of the projects.

Bedford School groups showcased their ideas of an awareness raising photography project, a redesigned recycling bin that allowed users to vote on current issues and a resource pack to support primary aged children to make the most of Bedford's green spaces.



Ready2Lead? 2023 Annual Conference

Igniting Entrepreneurship

Our boy-led Entrepreneurship Society has gone from strength to strength. Not only does the society offer boys the opportunity to share current project ideas – with their successes, challenges and failures – it also connects boys with inspiring entrepreneurs.

This last year, Jordon Legg gave the boys an insight in to working in the AI industry. He offered boys advice on becoming and being an entrepreneur, and how they could start their own businesses. Nick Hudleston (OB) spoke on inventing chemicals in the crude oil industry, product design and development, and how he started his own business. Matt Rickard (OB) spoke about his work as COO of Biochar, a charity who teach smallholder farmers sustainable agriculture and co-founder of NFT company, The Blue Marble, who help leading global brands connect with the customers in the digital space. Jay Vitale (OB) CEO of AirForLife spoke about bringing new technology to the market and improving the quality of life for millions of people around the world who suffer from the effects of air pollution, allergens, viruses, bacteria and odours. Jay shared the ups and downs of setting up your own business and the importance of having a scalable market for your product.

Jonathan Hooley (OB) also ran a number of workshops for the boys on developing mission statements.



OB Jay Vitale



OB Jonathan Hooley

Quick Bites

Ivy House Award

Engagement in the Ivy House Award, which encourages boys to aim for the extraordinary by taking responsibility for leading their own life, has continued to grow, with 79 Lower Sixth boys completing the programme this year. Through structured personal reflection and peer discussion, the course provided excellent opportunities for boys to develop a deeper personal understanding in areas including their future clarity, relationships, impact on the world around them, communication style, leadership skills, wellbeing and thought environment.

Start Up!

Now in its second year, the school's Start Up! Award is designed to go beyond talking about ideas and to make things happen. This year, 25 Fifth Form boys took up the challenge of starting their own fledgling businesses, and, importantly, ones that would make a positive difference, in just five days.

Entrepreneurial Old Bedfordians were once again core to the award, supporting the boys and helping to judge their innovative ideas, which included an app to bring athletes together to train and play, a collaboration platform for car meets, an online marketplace for exchanging vinyl records and a programme for those striving for fitness at any age.

START UP!

The Bedford School Entrepreneurship Award

New for 2024

BTEC ENTERPRISE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Our A-Level pathway now includes new BTEC Level 3 Enterprise & Entrepreneurship.

The BTEC provides boys with an additional course option that can be studied alongside other A-Levels to create a total of four choices to start the Lower Sixth.

Find out more from our Admissions team on **01234 362216**.

Nurturing Entrepreneurship

Following on from the success of our entrepreneurial programme 'Start Up!', this year, a new House Entrepreneurship Competition was launched to nurture innovation and key business skills in boys from all year groups across the school.

Boys were challenged: Starting with only £10, how much of an impact can you and your team make in just four weeks?

A range of weekly sessions helped boys to develop their ideas and business pitches. Week one looked at logos and business plans, week two at how to deliver a business pitch, week three was about advertising and product development, while week four focused on selling and presenting.

The boys presented their business ideas to the panel of judges - Mr Sam Baldock, Vice Master, Hugh Maltby, Director of the Bedford School Association and Old Bedfordian Richard Canvin (58-69).

The inaugural winners were St Cuthbert's, represented by Advik Mishra and Emir Kenrick (Remove Form), with a paradigm challenging peer-tutoring platform concept named 'Smart Edge', which considered models where online academic advice could be more responsive and flexible to the needs of school pupils, as well as ensuring its credibility.

Advik explained, "I'm always on the lookout for ways to make things better or more efficient. So, when I saw this challenge, it sparked an idea. I brainstormed, researched, and talked to people to gather insights. It was a mix of observation, curiosity and a desire to create something meaningful that led to the birth of my idea."

Advik went on to say, "Entrepreneurship, for me, embodies the ultimate pathway for creativity, autonomy, and impact. The concept of building something from scratch, seeing an idea take shape, and making a potential positive difference in the world is incredibly motivating. The freedom to explore uncharted territories, take calculated risks, and drive change in industries is what truly captivates me about entrepreneurship. It's the combination of calculated risks and opportunities to innovate and leave a potential positive mark on the world that fuels my passion for entrepreneurship."



Services to the Mo!

Bedford School was awarded the lifetime achievement award: 'Services to the Mo', in February in recognition of the school's ultimate dedication to the Movember cause.

Over the last 13 years, successive groups of Sixth Formers, affectionately known as MoBros, have helped to raise over £150,000 for the men's health charity—a result that has placed them at the top the schools' fundraising leaderboard most years.

Mrs Vicky Marriott, Master in Charge of Charities, who collected the award on behalf of the school, explained, "To be recognised for our ongoing legacy is an honour and one that has come from the involvement of boys, staff and parents over the last 13 years. This [award] shows how important each year group has been in strengthening our legacy and, as role models, how much influence we can have at a national level in raising awareness and messaging."

"Every year we raise the bar in terms of our hopes and expectations, and I am always astounded with what we achieve." And 2023 was no exception. Throughout the month, with Upper Sixth Form boys at the helm, the whole school community pulled together to raise funds for the men's health charity. A silent auction, tug of war, open mic night, special concerts, curry night, cake sale, five-a-side football were just some of the many fundraising events, all contributed to fundraising efforts.

In time-honoured tradition, the boys produced their annual and much-anticipated film. This year's was a parody of Bruno Mars' *24k Magic*, aptly named *23 MoBro Magic*.

As ever, education was at the core of the boys' campaign, with the MoBros delivering assemblies and sessions on men's mental health issues, suicide prevention, testicular cancer and prostate cancer.

"Boys go into the world beyond Bedford not only armed with skills for life but also an understanding of how powerful 'giving back' can be."

Vicky Marriott, Master in Charge of Charities

TOP 10 FUNDRAISERS COMPETING IN THE SCHOOLS CHALLENGE '23	
TEAMS	INDIVIDUALS
01 BEDFORD SCHOOL £16,241	01 JAKE LEESON
02 STON COLLEGE £10,000	02 JAMES LEESON
03 HULL ACADEMY £9,800	03 JAMES LEESON
04 SHELDONHAM COLLEGE £8,000	04 JAMES LEESON
05 HULL HALL HIGH SCHOOL £6,500	05 JAMES LEESON
06 BULLINGDON HIGH SCHOOL £6,200	06 JAMES LEESON
07 BRISTOL COLLEGE £6,000	07 JAMES LEESON
08 THAMES VALLEY SCHOOL £5,800	08 JAMES LEESON
09 LUDLOW COMMUNITY SCHOOL £5,200	09 JAMES LEESON
10 BEDFORD CHALLENGER SCHOOL £4,500	10 THOMPSON

MOVEMBER.COM



Left, Movember front and centre at Bedford School, right: the 2023 MoBros

Boys Lead Enrichment Day for School Children

Enrichment Day, once again, was a day of celebration as 215 children, from schools that boys regularly visit as part of the school's Community Partnerships Programme, came together for a day of fun activity led by the boys.

They enjoyed a carousel of activities, taught by Bedford School teachers and boys, that included Shakespeare drama workshops, a 'Safari with Sound', Mandarin and Chinese culture, Greek myths and cricket sessions.

Chris Prior, Head of Community Partnerships explained, "What is so heart-warming about this scheme is that we can not only see just how much our partners are benefiting from the activities, but also how much our boys are learning and maturing from the partnerships. Feedback from the primary school children who attended the enrichment day was genuinely lovely, many of them commenting how they had made friends with our boys and that was their best bit."



Charlie Doubles Christmas Gift Donations

Last Christmas, Charlie Faulkner (Upper Sixth), came up with an idea to help ensure underprivileged children in Bedford received a Christmas present. So successful was his initiative, that he decided to do it again. However, this time, impressively, there were over 200 presents donated, double what Charlie managed to collect last year.

To help ensure the gifts are delivered to the families that need them most, Charlie enlisted the help of FACES, a local charity that offers practical and emotional support to families under stress. He also took note that the charity are always short of presents for older children, so Charlie made sure to include gifts suitable for a wide age range.



Charlie Faulkner (Upper Sixth)

Supporting Riding Therapy

We are proud to say that Bedford School Lower Sixth formers head out into the community to work with either schools, care homes or local charities each week as part of the school's Community Partnerships Programme. The valuable work the boys carry out is mutually beneficial—challenging and formative for the boys and fulfilling a genuine need in our local community.

Bedford Disabled Horse Riding Association, is one such charity, which a number of our IB students volunteer at for their 'service' strand (Creativity, Activity, Service) of the IB. The Bedford charity's horse riding therapy helps hundreds of disabled children in Bedfordshire receive physiotherapy in a subtle and enjoyable way.

Sahvan, who relished working with them, told us, "Children attending this riding group get the chance to experience a new environment with different activities that they would not be able to do in school and it is lovely to be helping them to do this." Sahvan, and fellow regular volunteers, also stepped up to help out at the charity's annual Christmas party, even playing a part in their nativity play.

Quick Bites

Olly's Marathon Challenge

Olly Pritchett (Upper Sixth) ran the London Marathon in April in aid of The Teenage Cancer Trust to say "thank you" to the charity for "being so good" with his older brother after he was diagnosed with stage 4 Burkitt's Lymphoma Cancer.

Lending a Hand

Louis Cooke (Upper Sixth) and Oliver Phillips (Lower Sixth) attended the MS Therapy Centre's annual art show where they supported the preview evening handing out refreshments and helping facilitate the bidding on artworks.

Will Hayward, Fred Dickson, Charlie Eggleton, James Dagg, Ed Dagg and Oli Smith (Lower Sixth) went to Pilgrims Pre-Prep School to help out at their Colour Run in support of Making Me, a local charity supporting children's mental health and wellbeing.

Rehoming Books and Clothing for Charity

We have donated and rehomed textbooks and library books from the Prep and Upper Schools to local schools, we have collected prom dresses that get to 'go to the ball' once again, run food collections for Impakt Housing and Support and have rehomed old Duke of Edinburgh kit and winter clothes to the Stomp Project.



LAMDA boys

NYT Call Up for Aryan

Aryan Sohanpal (Remove Form) secured a place at the prestigious National Youth Theatre (NYT) this summer. At just 14 years old, Aryan was one of the youngest of the 14,000 young actors to audition. He joins a long list of Bedford School pupils to secure places with the NYT, ten in the last 11 years alone.



Aryan Sohanpal (Remove Form)

Quick Bites

Drama Workshops Inspire

Drama students heard from Saul Hewish from the University of Warwick, who lectured on theatre in prison. Professional actor, theatre practitioner and film maker, Nick O'Brien delivered a specialist workshop on the Stanislavski approach to acting. OB George Robertson gave a fascinating lecture on dramaturgy.

Jazz Workshops

Pete Churchill, our Jazz Music Fellow, gave a day of workshops for boys. In jazz singing, boys were reminded of the importance of knowing their voice part's function within the piece, using articulation to bring the words to life, and blending with the other voices. The boys were also taught about the solfege system, a group of hand signs used to signal the notes of a chromatic scale.

Brilliant Bedfordshire Festival

An impressive twelve Bedford School boys achieved top three placings, with Lower Sixth Formers Kieran Hamel-Henn and Hugo Hodgson invited to perform at the Gala Concert, the festival's finale showcasing the best performances.

Hugo Hodgson and Aryan Sohanpal also received special recognition, being presented with The McKeown Woodwind Prize for the 'Most Outstanding Woodwind Performance' and the 'Most Promising Jazz Musician' trophies respectively.

Celebrating LAMDA

A record 51 boys sat their LAMDA exams this year and all achieved either a merit or distinction for the second time in the school's history. Over 95% of boys taking Grade 7 and 8 (the top two grades) were awarded distinctions.

Since introducing LAMDA lessons in 2015, the school has achieved a 100% pass rate, while helping boys gain a deeper understanding of texts and writing, which can be carried into academic subjects.



Bedford School Chapel Choir in Normandy

Normandy Chapel Choir Tour

Normandy was this summer's destination for our Chapel Choir's annual tour. Staying in the grounds of the beautiful 18th-century Abbaye de Mondaye, the boys sang five full services (three Monastic Vespers (Evening Prayers), Choral Evensong and Mass (Eucharist)). The choir also performed a special concert at the church of St. Patrice in Bayeux and had the opportunity to view the famous tapestry and participate in a Remembrance Ceremony at the Bayeux War Cemetery.

The boys visited the D-Day beaches and learned about the events of 1944, when men from around the world, including many Old Bedfordians, were drawn into a bloody conflict that was fought out in Normandy. Many fun activities also filled the week between the services and rehearsals, from high ropes and ziplines to kayaking, powerboating, and everything in between.

The tour was a wonderful celebration of singing and a highly enjoyable, as well as poignant experience for the boys.

Koya and Angus Selected for National Youth Choir

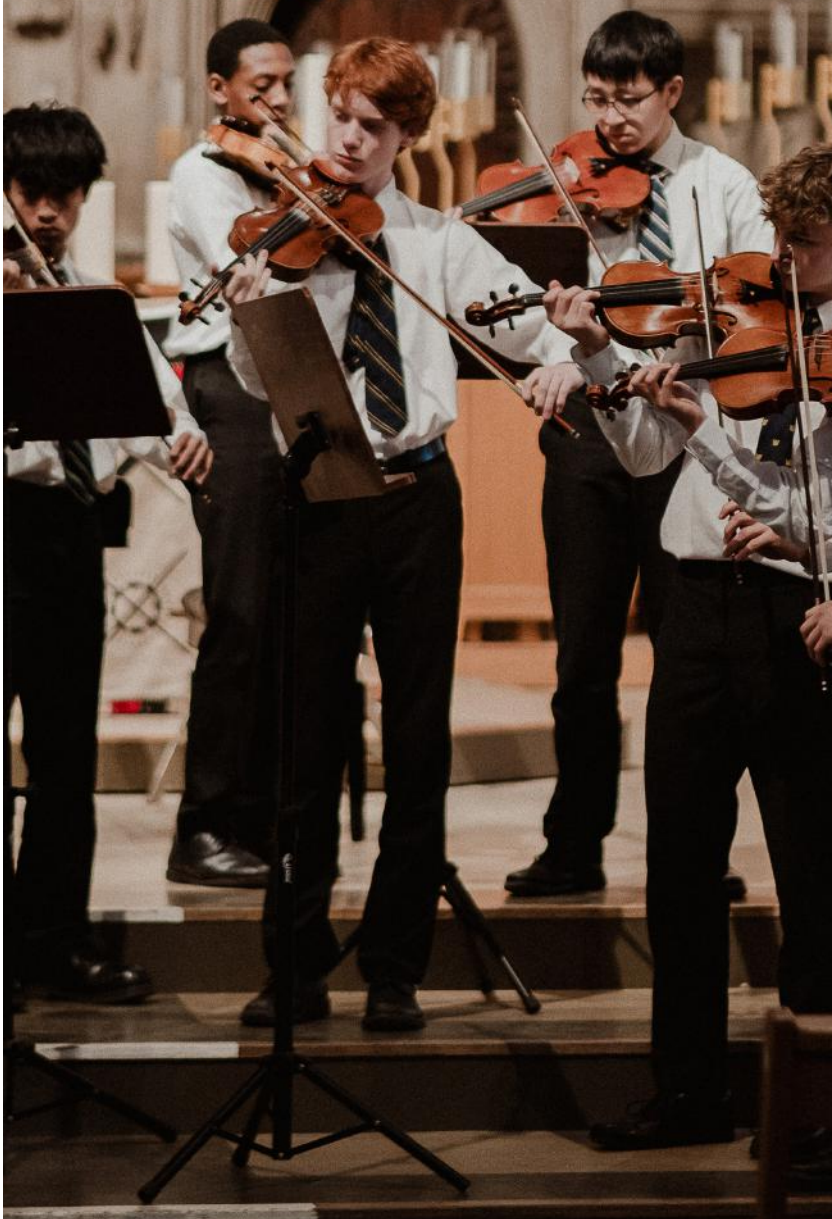
Koya Okusaga (Fifth Form) and Angus Timmins (Lower Sixth) joined Upper Sixth Former Toby L'Estrange in the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. The boys went through a rigorous audition against tough competition from some of the country's top choristers before being invited to join.

Music Teacher and School Choir Master, Keith Roberts, said, "I am delighted and proud that Koya and Angus have been selected to join Toby in the National Youth Choir (15-18 years). This will be an amazing opportunity for them with residential courses and prestigious concerts in which to sing. It is a fantastic achievement for them both."



Koya Okusaga (Fifth Form) and Angus Timmins (Lower Sixth)

Music *on tour*



A selection of the school's finest chamber and jazz musicians and soloists went 'on tour' for the day, delighting their audiences at two very different venues in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

The first was a lunchtime concert in the stunning surrounds of St Albans Cathedral. Ensembles including the Brass Ensemble, Jazz Trio, Piano Trio and String Quartet played a varied repertoire, including Beethoven, Borodin and Bruckner. The programme also included some exquisite solo performances at the piano (Aaron Lim, Upper Sixth), on trombone (Max Leung, Upper Sixth) and voice (Koya Okusaga, Fifth Form, and Isaac Dutson, Upper Sixth).

The concert finished with the Chamber Orchestra, who filled the cathedral with the First Movement of Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings, taking full advantage of the wonderful acoustics of the space to produce a beautiful, haunting sound. All of the boys involved played and sang beautifully for the audience of listeners. One parent told how wonderful it was "to be able to hear them play and sing within such an extraordinary space. It was a truly memorable occasion".

Chair of the St Albans Cathedral Music Trust, Lionel Wallace DL, praised the boys, saying, "I had heard a little about Bedford School musicians before actually 'hearing' them. I left the lunchtime concert with the word 'magnificent' running around my mind. What an experience!"

However, the day of music-making did not end there. As some of the boys returned to school, those in the Jazz Orchestra headed on to Cambridge to rehearse for the evening concert, joining pupils at St John's College School for their annual Jazz Evening.

After an inspiring first half performance by the Bedford School Jazz Orchestra, the musicians joined with pupils at St John's in the second half to play a medley of Disney tunes together. Their joint performance was met with rapturous applause from the audience of parents and siblings.

St John's Director of Music, Simon Kirk, said, "The Bedford School Jazz Orchestra gave a first-class performance of a beautifully conceived set of jazz standards in the first half of the concert and our pupils were greatly inspired and energised by what they heard and saw."



Bedford School Jazz Orchestra with St John's pupils

Quick Bites

Art Talks

Simon Carter, Head of Collections at St Paul's Cathedral, explored the life and work of one of Britain's most accomplished polymaths: Sir Christopher Wren, and the crises and opportunities which enabled his genius to flourish.

Dr James Hamilton expressed how Thomas Gainsborough's romantic evocations of Suffolk countryside in the eighteenth century gave inspiration and direction to the questing and interrogative landscape paintings of Turner and Constable in the nineteenth.

Alison Head and Andrew Dutton's talk provided a fascinating insight into his picture making process.

Dr Albin Wallace returned to school to give a talk about *The Garden of Earthly Delights – A load of Old Bosch*.

Dom Blore OB returned to talk about his career in graphic design.



Strings Fellow, Marcin Markowicz

Music Fellows Inspire

The Bedford School Music Fellowship Programme, provides pupils with wonderful opportunities to work with some of the world's finest musicians. Thanks to a whole range of masterclasses, inspiring recitals and small group and individual lessons throughout the year, boys gained wonderful tailored insights into their chosen instruments and a wealth of advice on how to produce more variety of colour and tone.

A Lesson in Comedy from OB Al Murray

Old Bedfordian Al Murray (77-86), one of the most recognisable and successful comedians in the UK, returned to school to deliver a specialist workshop exclusively for our drama scholars.

During the workshop, Al explained how he got into comedy during 'the golden age' in the early 1990s, when comedy stores and venues were plentiful around London and the big cities, providing a platform for young comedians starting out. Al also spoke about his time at school here at Bedford, explaining that he was lucky to have such great inspiration in his drama teacher, Mike Morrison, who really helped him. Al had known that he wanted to perform, but did not quite know how, but it was the immediate response of laughter that appealed to him.

The workshop also delved into the psychology around comedy and the core principles of stand-up, for example running jokes, the rule of three and word play. Al advised that if the boys were able to practise and master these, then they too will be able to deliver stand-up.



Al Murray with Drama Scholars

Detweiler Delights

The Detweiler Competition is one of the highlights of the Creative Arts calendar, and sees prizes awarded for Art, Music, Drama and Creative Writing.

This year's theme of 'Life & Death' resulted in an exciting array of creative work.

Read watch and listen to the boys' winning entries in our interactive booklet



2D Winner, George Worthington (Upper Sixth)

Carol of the Year

Harry L'Estrange's (Fifth Form) composition *O Virgo Virginum* was played and discussed by composer John Rutter on BBC Radio 3, who named it his favourite new carol of the year.

Harry's piece was recorded by the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge, with Andrew Nethsingha conducting, and released on their recent album, *Advent Live – Volume 3*, alongside pieces by some of the most prestigious choral composers. Talking on it being named as John Rutter's favourite carol of the year, Harry said, "John Rutter has composed some of the most famous and loved carols, so that felt really special."



Harry L'Estrange (Fifth Form)

creative arts SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for art, music and drama are available to talented boys who are passionate about the creative arts. Combined with our means-tested bursaries, awards of up to 100% of fees are possible.

Find out more from our Admissions team on **01234 362216**.

A Christmas Carol



Our drama boys excelled themselves yet again in our latest school production, *A Christmas Carol*. Performed over three nights to a packed Quarry Theatre, this timeless classic, adapted by Karen Louise Hebden, took audiences on a rollercoaster of emotions.

This adaptation also created an opportunity to collaborate further with our music department, with an ensemble of school musicians broadcast live into the theatre from their upstairs studio. The original score was stunningly composed and conducted by Lower Sixth Former Angus Timmins, who had been working on the composition since June. It was a very special moment for him, and the audience, when he came out at the end to take a bow to rapturous applause.



Clue



In this year's Creative Arts Festival, which is always a wonderful finale to the year, boys from the Fourth, Remove and Fifth Forms staged a brilliant performance of *Clue*.

Clue, a stage show based on the classic board game *Cluedo*, is a comedy that requires precise delivery and exaggerated movements, and it was impressive to see how quickly the cast picked up on these elements.

Their willingness to experiment and take risks led to some genuinely hilarious moments, both scripted and improvised.



Celebrating Cultural Diversity

Inspired by the worldwide initiative, World Day for Cultural Diversity, a group of boys in the Afro-Caribbean Society decided to galvanise boys and staff to showcase and recognise the richness of Bedford School's cultural diversity and celebrate and educate others about the varied heritage within our school for the first time.

Under the guidance of Mrs Ore Okusanya, the boys of the Afro-Caribbean Society took the lead in organising the day. Mrs Okusanya shared, "It's truly remarkable that we can do this, and I'm excited to see us embrace diversity, respect for one another, and build an inclusive and supportive community together. The boys have worked hard to make this day happen, and I am proud of them."

Boys and staff were encouraged to come to school dressed in cultural outfits or the colours of their national flags. With their characteristic enthusiasm, the boys organised a wide range of activities throughout the day. These included a 'Foods of the World' lunch in our Dining Hall, allowing everyone to taste cuisines from across the globe and performing music and dance (and offering snacks) from different cultures around the Inky Pitch. Boys took pride in a 'Pin Your Heritage on the Map' activity (pictured), which brilliantly illustrated the diversity within the school. Boys also led a school assembly to commemorate and celebrate this cultural diversity.

In the classroom, teachers were encouraged to include cultural references in their lessons, for example, discussing various outfits worn by boys from different cultures.

Daniel Lushchay (Fourth Form), who represented Ukraine, explained, "The main aim of Culture Day, in my perspective, is to celebrate and enjoy each other's cultures. This school is incredibly culturally diverse, and to not talk and understand all of these different upbringings and surroundings would be a loss. Ultimately, it's a way to understand people better; someone's culture is a massive part of their identity, and this event helps everyone appreciate each other better."

Celebrating Boarding

At Bedford School, we love boarding and recognise that boarders and day boys alike benefit from our strong boarding ethos. With 250 boys and around 40 staff living full-time on-site, our boarding community gives a heartbeat to the school in a way that nothing else can. So we always jump at the opportunity to celebrate boarding in National Boarding Week. For our boarders, this means a week filled with a range of different activities, each one chosen to help them to have fun and celebrate together and create more fond memories of their time at school.

This year the week included a night at the movies, with a screening of the latest Bond film in the Quarry Theatre, where they enjoyed exclusive access to the theatre for the evening. There was an epic Laser Tag evening and a 'Taste the World' boarders' tea, bringing together the whole boarding community and celebrating the diversity of cultures in our boarding houses.

The Boarders' Games—a hugely enjoyable evening of fun games organised exclusively for our boarding community, once again marked the end of National Boarding Week. With games such as giant darts, Bucking Bronco and ladder run alongside some more traditional 'old school' sports day events such as the sack race, the good old egg and spoon race and musical chairs, fun was had by all. In the end, Burnaby House proved victorious, retaining their title from last year, to be crowned the winners of the Boarders Games 2024.



Top left: Boarders' games, bottom left, Laser Tag, Above: Taste the World

Boarders' Spring Dinner

Over 250 boarders, along with staff from their boarding houses, donned their dinner jackets and bow ties for the third Boarders' Spring Dinner to celebrate a wonderful year of boarding ahead of the busy exam season.

Lower Sixth Former Jameson Liang said, "Events such as these are very important in terms of the tradition of our school. The boarders' singing, for example, has been held for at least 30 years, and these traditional activities have become part of the boarders' identity. We can talk to someone who graduated 20 years ago about their house singing and who won, which provides us a sense of belonging and a sense of being a Bedfordian."



Flexi BOARD

Flexi boarding (two or three nights per week) is now available in the Upper School, in addition to full and weekly boarding.

Visit the school website to find out more.

Quick Bites

Celebrating Together

Throughout the year boys joined together to celebrate a whole range of cultural and religious events including the Mid Autumn Festival, Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, Easter and Ramadan, where they broke the last fast at a special Iftar event ahead of Eid the next day.

United through Food

As an all-boys school we appreciate how important food is and also how it unites boys, helping them to celebrate and share in the rich diversity of our community.

This year alongside the many foods from the religious days and festivals above, boarders also celebrated 100 years of the Republic of Turkey with a feast of kebabs and flatbreads.

Meals out at local restaurants and special feasts in the boarding houses also come to the fore to celebrate boys' successes and to recognise all the hard work that goes into exam revision.

Trips Galore

Thorpe Park, Box End Waterpark, and Ninja Warrior were just a few of the fun destinations for boarders this year, along with House trips for karting, bowling and paintballing.



Northamptonshire CCC Partnership

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Northamptonshire County Cricket Club (NCCC), to foster cricketing excellence in young cricketers at Bedford School and across the county.

The partnership brings together two institutions that love cricket and who aspire to the highest levels. It will help promising young cricketers nurture their talent and create a seamless transition for aspiring players to Northamptonshire County Cricket Club's youth and academy teams.

The school's elite cricketers will receive high-performance training, and our existing cricket programme will be enhanced with NCCC's expertise. Players and coaches will have access to specialised training sessions, skill development programmes and first-class facilities. Boys will also get the opportunity to meet the players at the NCCC ground and join some of their training sessions.

In return, the NCCC will use the school's extensive grounds and superb facilities, including the indoor and outdoor cricket nets and school gym, for their age-group cricket programme, benefiting young cricketers from across the county.

We already have strong links with the current NCCC first team – Old Bedfordians Emilio Gay ((11-18) recently departed for Durham) and Gus Miller (15-20) have both worked with the boys on their game.

James Hodgson, Head Master commented, "We're delighted to officially join forces with NCCC. This partnership aligns perfectly with our commitment to holistic education and sporting excellence and together we will inspire the next generation of cricketers."

We are proud to be one of the top cricket schools in the country, with famous cricketing Old Bedfordians such as Sir Alastair Cook (98-03) heading a long list of boys who have gone on to play cricket professionally.



Charlie Thurston OB and Ex Northants Cricketer

Professional Coaching

For the second year running, the boys have been lucky enough to have OB (07-14) and ex Northants cricketer Charlie Thurston on board as a coach. While his main role is to coach the 1st XI, his coaching skills have been utilised by all elite cricketers across the school.

Under the overall leadership of Director of Cricket Mr Gary Steer, Charlie is also supported by former England coach David Ripley and former Northants player David Sales, who come into school to deliver batting and specialist wicketkeeping workshops.

Great for Cricket

Bedford School was proudly named in the top one hundred senior schools in The Cricketer Magazine once again in 2024, for having a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.





OB Ethan Vernon Wins Paris Olympics Silver Medal

Old Bedfordian Ethan Vernon (2007-18), secured his first Olympic medal at the Paris Olympics on Wednesday 7 August. Ethan was part of Team GB that clinched silver in a nail-biting Men's Team Pursuit final. En route to the final, they broke the national record by a massive three seconds, and then went head-to-head with Australia – the favourites to win – in a gripping showdown for gold. Ethan led his team in what became an intense race that tested their endurance to the fullest.

His Olympic achievement not only cemented Ethan's legacy but also marked a historic moment for Great Britain – the nation's 1000th medal across both Summer and Winter Games in modern times. Additionally, Ethan's silver contributes to the school's total count of thirteen Olympic medals and places Ethan among our esteemed list of Olympian OBs.



Jamie Dunk Breaks U19 World Cup Record for Scotland

Jamie Dunk (Upper Sixth) was named Scotland's highest ever run scorer for U19 World Cup Tournaments following a magnificent performance at the ICC U19 World Cup in South Africa.

From his first match against England, where he scored a solid 40, his batting just got better and better. Despite Scotland's early exit after the group stage, Jamie left a notable mark, finishing as the eighth-highest run-scorer in the tournament with an impressive tally of 263 runs in just four matches – a run score to earn the record, despite playing two fewer games than the previous leading run scorer.

Jamie's journey to the World Cup started in July 2023, when he was selected to play for Scotland U19s in the ICC World Cup Qualifiers held in the Netherlands, where he won Player of the Tournament. Jamie's 255 runs at an impressive average of 85 fired Scotland U19s to the top of the table, securing their progress to the finals.

Quick Bites

Bunbury Festival Win

Mustafa Haroon (Fifth Form) was selected to play for London and East in the prestigious ECB U15 Bunbury Festival.

Mustafa played with the best cricketers in the country as they faced other regional teams from the Midlands, the North and the South in the tournament, which they ultimately won.

Mustafa follows in the steps of numerous Old Bedfordians, which have included, in recent years, Gus Miller, Emilio Gay, Rohan Mehmi and, of course, Sir Alastair Cook.

Cricket on Tour

Fifty-nine boys from across all year groups set out to Barbados for the biennial Upper School Cricket Tour in October.

The tour gave boys the opportunity to soak up the country's incredible cricketing culture, and revel in the enthusiasm that Barbadians have for the sport.

Not only did the boys experience playing against the best teams on the island, they were also able to explore some of the beautiful beaches and attractions that Barbados has to offer.

SPORTS Scholarships

We offer sports scholarships for cricket, hockey, rowing, rugby and golf. These scholarships, combined with our generous means-tested bursaries, offer awards of up to 100% of annual fees.

Find out more at:
bedfordschool.org.uk/scholarships



Outstanding Efforts on the Water

High winds, rain, storms and flooding impacted the rowing calendar across the autumn and spring terms, reducing time on the water and competitive opportunities. With the Easter break approaching and limited racing under their belts, boys looked forward with anticipation to the school's training camps with renewed enthusiasm. The Colts and the Seniors travelled to Sarnen in Switzerland, known for its 'magical water'. However, even here they could not escape weather extremes. But after a few days of wet and cold, the weather gradually improved, allowing the boys put their all into the camp and make excellent progress. The J14s and J15s training camp at Radley College battled with high winds and boys were forced off the water and into the rowing tank and on to ergos instead. When conditions gradually improved, great progress was made.

Regatta season thankfully saw improved weather, no cancellations and some spectacular successes. A clean sweep for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd eights at the Bedford Regatta was unprecedented for the school and the boys' determination and focus and sheer joy at winning was wonderful to see. The 2nd eight also raced brilliantly at the National Schools' Regatta to finish fifth.

At Henley Royal Regatta, outstanding racing continued as the school's 1st eight gave Eton a run for their money - with the commentators stating, "Eton will have had the absolute fright scared out of them with this performance - a really well executed race from Bedford." The 2nd eight also put up a valiant fight against favourites, Oxford Brookes University. In their first ever Henley, and as just one of four 2nd eights to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup, this very talented crew were eager to prove themselves, something they had already achieved just by qualifying. With nothing to lose, and in the last race of the season, they gave their all and raced hard. The support from the banks was deafening as they were cheered on. However, the bigger and more experienced Oxford Brookes crew were just too powerful and beat them to the finish line. It was, however, a performance to be incredibly proud of.

Assistant Head Mr Ayden Duffy, explained afterwards, "We were incredibly proud of our two rowing crews and their performances at the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta this week. Their remarkable achievements were testament to the time, dedication and hard work they invested throughout the year. Our boys, along with the exceptional coaching staff, showed unwavering commitment and perseverance, embodying the true spirit of our school. Their outstanding efforts have set a high standard, and we look forward to their continued success."

Saints Professional Contracts

Aiden Ainsworth-Cave and Jonny Weimann (Upper Sixth) signed their first professional contracts with Northampton Saints Senior Academy in front of home supporters at Franklin's Gardens in May. The two boys join six other talented players who also started for Saints' U18s this season when the club reached its third successive Premiership Rugby Academy League final.

Aiden and Jonny also represented England in the U18 Rugby Six Nations held at Parma's Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi in Italy earlier this year. The two boys spent the winter training at the England U18 Development Camp, which, explained Aiden, was quite literally, "a dream come true."

Director of Rugby, Mr James Hinkins, commented, "We are so pleased for Jonny and Aiden and their respective families, as this is a reward for their hard work and dedication to the sport. They have been exceptional ambassadors for the school during their time here and we couldn't be prouder. They both have an exciting future in the game, and we will be closely following their progress. We wish them the very best."

Quick Bites

Scotland Call Ups

OB Callum Smyth (20-22), was selected for the Scottish Under 20s Rugby team ahead of the 2024 Six Nations.

Affectionately known as 'The Truck' during his time playing at Bedford School, Callum has enjoyed an incredible few years since leaving, last year gaining a place with the Macphail Rugby Scholarship and spending six months in South Africa, at Stellenbosch University.

Most recently Callum has been playing with the Glasgow Warriors as one of the 15 FOSROC Scottish Rugby Academy players.

Freddie Drake-Lee (Upper Sixth) was also over the moon to be called up for Scotland for their U18 camp. Freddie was also selected to play for the Lambs Rugby Club.

Rosslyn Park Sevens

Following their win at the Perse School tournament, the U16s started the festival with confidence, winning all four games on day one to reach the last 32. On day two, in the cup competition, they beat Clifton College to secure a place in the semi-final and a top four spot.

The U18s came second in their group on day one, and gallantly fought in the plate competition to finish in the top 24 schools in the country.



Jonny Weimann and Aiden Ainsworth-Cave



Northampton Saints Elite Community Partner

We are thrilled to announce that Bedford School is now an Elite Community Partner School with Northampton Saints Rugby Club.

This exciting new sports collaboration is set to significantly enhance the school's rugby programme, bringing a wealth of expertise and opportunities to boys, to support their development both on and off the field.

As a result of the collaboration boys will receive first-class training and guidance from experienced professionals and visits from Northampton Saints senior players, providing boys with the unique opportunity to interact with and learn from professional athletes.

Community Rugby Coaches from Saints will also lead weekly staff training sessions to enhance the quality of rugby training delivered by the school's coaches.

Boys will enjoy the opportunity to develop their skills and passion for the sport and play with other talented young players at annual Northampton Saints community rugby camps held at Bedford School.

Bedford School boys will receive free entry to the Northampton Saints 7s Series for 2025, offering them a chance to watch high-level rugby and gain inspiration.

Mr Ayden Duffy, Assistant Head (Co-Curriculum and Partnerships) explained, "We are incredibly excited about this collaboration with Northampton Saints Rugby Club. The opportunities it presents for our boys are unparalleled, and we are confident that this will not only enhance their rugby skills but also further instil values of teamwork, discipline and perseverance. We look forward to seeing them thrive both on and off the field."

Six Nations OBs

Old Bedfordians Fraser Dingwall (14-17) and George Furbank (13-15) both played significant roles in the latest Rugby Six Nations Tournament.

Fraser, made his debut in the victory against Italy, and went on to score in the next match against Wales, while George returned for his second Six Nations and scored in both the Scotland and Ireland games.

Understandably, there was much excitement when Fraser returned to school to deliver a specialist training session for our 1st and 2nd XV squads. Fraser started with a position-specific session, delivering a kicking and passing clinic with the fly halves and centres of all year groups in the Upper School. He then focussed on a backs session and ran several skills and games activities that focussed on catching and passing, and decision-making in attack and counterattack. The boys then had a Q&A session.



OBs Fraser Dingwall and George Furbank

U16 Hockey National Plate Champions

Our U16A hockey boys finished their season on a high, beating a strong Abingdon side to win the Tier 2 National Schools Plate Final.

Victories over Stowe, Stamford and Altrincham Grammar School secured the U16 Hockey team a place in the National Final in April at the Olympic Park Stadium.

Abingdon started strongly and took a deserved lead at the 10-minute mark. However, an equaliser from Jack Down was just reward after some excellent attacking play.

Bedford certainly had the better of the exchanges in the second half and took the lead with a strike by Captain Sammy Inman, with 15 minutes remaining. Some resolute defending and one outstanding diving save by Will Jackson, with 50 seconds left in the game, denied Abingdon an equaliser that would have most likely sent the game to flicks. This was enough to secure the victory and the well-deserved title.



Quick Bites

Football National Semi-finalists

Bedford's U15 football team scored an incredible 38 goals and conceded just two to progress to the semi-finals of the National Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) Bowl.

Badminton East Champions

The U16 team of Jacob Yau, Marcus Wai, Yash Stachowiak and Leo Mathew won all their matches at the regional finals to be crowned East Champions and gain a place in the National Finals.



USA Golf Scholarships

Freddie Tucker, Jack Peters and Will Wilkins (Upper Sixth) are continuing their golfing careers after receiving unconditional scholarship offers at US universities.

Jack heads to Keiser University, Florida, Freddie to the PaPenta School of Business, New York and Will to Erskine College, South Carolina.

Freddie, Jack and Will are the fifth, sixth and seventh Bedford School boys to secure golf scholarships at US universities in the last five years.

Golf Double National Champions

The Bedford School golf team finished a superb year by winning both the prestigious HMC Schools Foursomes Final and the inaugural England Golf Schools' Scratch Championships.

In the HMC Schools Foursomes in June, Freddie Tucker and Jack Peters (Upper Sixth), David Wiltshire and Ed Wade (Lower Sixth) and Fin Rennie and Will Mowe (Fifth Form) were up against Reed's School (who defeated them in last year's final) and Winchester.

All three pairs won their matches against Reed's School, and wins for Jack and Freddie and Fin and David against Winchester saw them through to the final against Loretto.

In the final, Jack and Freddie played superbly with three birdies in their first six holes and they never looked back. Loretto tried to spirit a comeback, but Jack and Freddie closed out the game on the 14th green – 5 and 4 victors. Their school careers done, they just had to wait on the pairs behind them, needing one more win for the national title. The middle match was halved, resulting in a playoff on the 1st hole, but a missed putt by Loretto secured a brilliant win for Bedford.

In July, Freddie Tucker captained the Bedford School team to victory and their second national title at Woodhall Spa in the England Golf Schools' Scratch Championships. Captain, Freddie Tucker and teammates Jack Peters (Upper Sixth) and Finlay Rennie (Fifth Form) achieved a team score of 2 under par (the best two scores from a team of three) to defeat Itchen College Golf Academy by one shot. Jack's impressive score of 2 under par set the stage, and Finlay sealed the win with a birdie on the par-5 18th hole, thanks to a superb 'up and down' from the greenside bunker.

New for 2024 BTEC SPORTS & EXERCISE SCIENCE

Our A-Level pathway now includes new BTEC Level 3 Sports & Exercise Science.

Find out more from our Admissions team on **01234 362216**.



Parent Partnership

“The Parent Partnership Programme as a whole is just fantastic – very informative and I’m always learning new things.”

Parent of Fifth Form and Upper Sixth boys

The Bedford School Parent Partnership programme supports parents in navigating their son’s journey through the teenage years by providing and signposting guidance, articles, websites and books and offering a programme of talks and workshops throughout the school year, covering a variety of pastoral topics which affect the lives of teenagers and about which parents may wish to learn more.

The year commenced with the talk ‘Why Every Teenager Needs a Parrot’, from Alicia Drummond who looked at how parents and carers can find the right balance between letting teenagers go and grow, and keeping them safe as they negotiate the choices and decisions that are a part of growing up in the 21st Century. While former professional cricketer, insurance broker and school-teacher, Patrick Foster spoke on ‘Gambling, gaming, addiction and mental health’.

Bedford School pupils, Ayo Odumuyiwa and Thomas Taylor (Lower Sixth) launched our third Parent Partnership Conference, explaining eloquently about how they greatly value the school’s pastoral support. Both boys are members of the Pupil Citizenship Group that links into the Parent Partnerships, to ensure learnings are shared, and parents and staff are able to work together to support boys.

Dr Aric Sigman, our keynote speaker, gave an informative and engaging talk on ‘Teens and Addictive Behaviours: Screens, Gaming, Phones, Vaping and Alcohol’. There were also breakout talks from external speakers and Bedford School specialist staff on ‘Keeping teenagers safe in the digital world’, ‘Neurodiversity and learning differences: How you can support your child’, ‘Nutrition, Sleep and Exercise: the three pillars supporting pupils’ sport and academic performance’ and ‘Parties, Alcohol and Drugs – Guidance and Legal Matters’.

Bedford School’s specialist staff also gave online talks to help parents to support their sons through the exam period, offering a combination of strategies and practical tips, while another aimed to prepare parents of Upper Sixth leavers for life beyond Bedford, with advice and tips for results days, clearing and how to prepare for the move to university.



Bedford School is perfectly positioned for easy access to London and its international airports. Bedford Railway Station offers excellent links into London. London St Pancras International is just 43 minutes away, and with trains every 10 minutes at rush hour and two fast trains every hour, it is an ideal option for weekly boarders. London's international airports are also easily accessed by both road and rail from Bedford.

There are extensive bus routes across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire for day boys. Visit bedfordschool.org.uk/transport for further details.



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