



*A year in review*  
**2022/2023**

WELCOME



The 2022/2023 academic year drew to a close with Bedford School named among Fortune's 250 'World-Leading Schools' for 2023. On top of this, and more pleasingly, we were also awarded a five-star rating, which placed us in their global top 100 - making us one of just six boys' boarding schools in the world to have achieved such a rating.

This new year, I am pleased to say, has started in a similar vein with the wonderful news that we are finalists in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2023 for 'Best Independent Boys' School of the Year'. Bedford School was the proud recipient of this prestigious title just two years ago in 2021, so we are thrilled to be counted within the last six in the category again.

These awards are a tremendous endorsement of all we do as a school and our commitment to ensuring that boys leave us as good men, secure in their values, happy and with the self-knowledge and self-worth to be able to hold their own in any company and take their place in the world.

Over the summer, there was also much to celebrate with our Upper Sixth leavers achieving, as ever, a diverse and wonderful range of university destinations, while our GCSE boys produced the best results the school has ever had.

I hope that, in the pages that follow, you will gain a sense of the boys' many remarkable endeavours and the myriad opportunities open to them as they strive to be 'good men', helping their community, their houses, their teams and each other.

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](mailto:admissions@bedfordschool.org.uk)

That they be *good* men.



St Cuthbert's Day House

## First Step Towards a Re-imagined Estate Completes

We are delighted to announce that the first step in our masterplan for the future of the school estate has been completed with the relocation of St Cuthbert's day house to the building that, in time, will become the school's new pastoral hub.

St Cuthbert's new setting is already making a huge difference to the boys who appreciate the extra space and facilities that it offers, from comfy common rooms (complete with Xbox, pool table, table tennis, table football and more) to study spaces and smaller breakout areas for conversation and relaxation. For boys in the Sixth Form, there is a separate and sizeable common room and kitchen. The spacious day house also allows the boys to come together as a community, both informally and for house assemblies and house events, such as quizzes and peer mentoring sessions. As one Sixth Former explained, "You appreciate the house more as you are all in one place more of the time. It is great for strengthening the bonds between boys from all year groups, giving us an even stronger sense of house camaraderie."

## Find out more

View the school's exciting plans for the estate.



## Building for Their Future

At the heart of the school's masterplan for the estate is a new academic building that will be home to maths, economics, business studies, computer science and entrepreneurship, as well as a resource for our local community. Complete with modern, flexible teaching spaces that cater for blended learning and breakout spaces for group work, its design maximises natural light and the views across the estate.

With a wealth of green spaces, offering areas for contemplation and tranquillity, and the use of environmentally advanced technologies, materials and glazing, the new development has been designed with environmental considerations at its heart.

It promises to be a modern and striking facility that embodies our commitment to prepare boys for their futures, yet one that also fittingly complements the stunning architecture of the existing estate: a future focus and proud heritage intertwined.



Architect's impression of the new academic building



75%  
of boys went on to  
Russell Group  
and/or Times  
Top 30 universities

*“I congratulate sincerely the boys for doing so brilliantly; they have embraced all that we have to offer, inside and outside the classroom, to make the very most of their opportunities. They leave (and leave us) with great memories, good friends, strong values and the confidence to bring their very best to the world around them.”*

James Hodgson  
Head Master

## Sixth Form 2023 Destinations

Bedford School boys once again excelled with a superb set of results and top-flight university destinations including University College London, Oxford, Exeter, Loughborough, Durham, Queen Mary, Nottingham, Bath, Birmingham and Southampton, with six boys going on to read medicine.

The sheer breadth and diversity of courses is equally impressive, from Sports Science, Creative Music Technology, Marine Biology, Media and Communications, Sustainable Built Environments, Music, Multimedia and Electronics, Zoology, Real Estate and Optometry to more traditional choices such as Business, Economics, Engineering, Accounting, Liberal Arts, Computer Science, Architecture and Physics.

We are also delighted to see the continuing trend of boys setting their sights further afield as they secured places with golf scholarships continuing at leading universities in the USA, taking up prestigious degree apprenticeships with leading firms and, in a first this year, even securing the role of Musician-in-Residence at a highly regarded Prep School.

## 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.



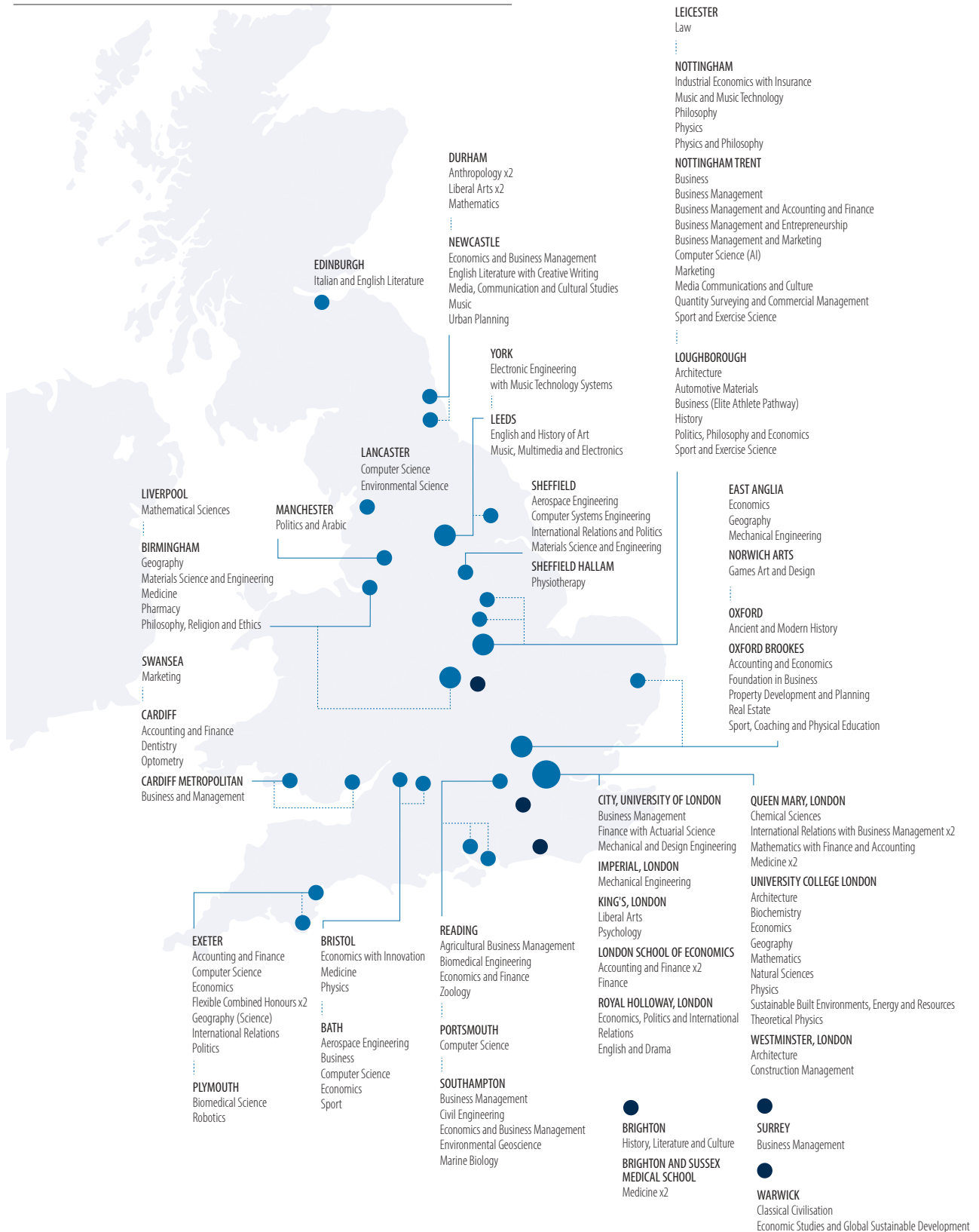
Find out more about Bursaries and Scholarships.

## Top University Destinations\*

- > Durham University
- > Loughborough University
- > University of Nottingham
- > University of Exeter
- > University of Bristol
- > Newcastle University
- > Queen Mary, London
- > University of Bath
- > Nottingham Trent University
- > University College London
- > University of Warwick
- > University of Birmingham
- > King's College, London
- > University of Manchester
- > Swansea University
- > Oxford Brookes University
- > University of Sheffield
- > University of Leeds
- > University of Oxford
- > University of Cambridge
- > University of Southampton
- > Imperial, London
- > City University, London
- > Lancaster University
- > Royal Holloway, London
- > University of Liverpool
- > University of Reading

\*Top university destinations by the number of boys taking up places in 2021, 2022 and 2023 combined

# University Destinations 2023



Outside the UCAS system, boys earned places at international universities, including, once again, a prestigious golf scholarship to the US. Boys also gained places on degree apprenticeships with leading firms such as SDC and on art foundation courses.

## Expanding Horizons

Our Overseas University Roadshow gave Sixth Form boys a unique opportunity to meet university representatives from the US, Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland, prompting many to consider educational opportunities outside the UK.

Meanwhile, new for this year, our inaugural Employers' Fair was attended by a diverse range of employers and over 220 students and their families from both Bedford School and schools across the borough. The fair, in addition to our annual Careers Conference, opened boys' eyes and offered a brilliant insight into many different job sectors and pathways open to them beyond Bedford.



## Quick Bites

### Oracy Culture Award

Bedford School was highly commended in the English Speaking Union's latest Oracy Culture Awards. The award recognises the school's commitment to offering a vast array of competitions, academic and co-curricular activity, including LAMDA, fully woven into the fabric of the school day to encourage oracy and the skillset it provides for future studies and careers.

### Churchill Public Speaking

Outstanding public speaking saw Henry Gillham (Chair), George Gutteridge (Questioner) and Fraser Morgan (Speaker) win the English Speaking Union (ESU) Churchill Public Speaking Competition Area Final.

### Behind the Scenes at the Natural History Museum

Members of the school's Zoology Society enjoyed a unique look behind closed doors at the Natural History Museum, when Alessandro Giusti, one of the curators at the museum (who many boys met on their field trip to Dominica) invited them to explore the Butterfly and Moths section. With some 35 million specimens, some even collected by Charles Darwin, this proved a rare and unforgettable learning experience for all concerned.

### The Romans Brought to Life

Ahead of GCSE exams, our Latin students' studies were enriched thanks to an expert talk by best-selling classical author Ben Kane. The author, dressed in typical Roman attire, spoke with great knowledge and passion about Roman entertainment, from the large-scale spectator events in the arena to the lives of the celebrities of the day: the ancient chariot drivers in the Circus Maximus.

## Leavers Achieve Top IB & A-Level Results

Old Bedfordian Kieran Gilmour, who left school last year, was awarded a Royal Geographical Society Award after achieving the UK's highest raw mark in the 2022 International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level Geography examination.

Speaking on the award, Kieran explained, "The Geography Department at school were exceptional at driving curiosity and sparking interests in my study. They were incredibly helpful in facilitating extra research and knowledge while constantly being enthusiastic to investigate and debate any topics I presented. Classrooms were filled with the atmosphere of discovery."

Fellow Old Bedfordian Reuben Glenville (20-22), who also left last year, is another of the school's high achievers. Reuben was awarded the Salters Horners Physics Prize with one of the UK's highest A-Level Physics examination results.



OB Kieran Gilmour (17-22)

## Engaging in Politics

A-level politics students gained a brilliant insight into the electoral process and the structure of government, the importance of being involved and making your voice heard when they took part in a mock election in the autumn term. Boys standing as candidates generated election campaigns, created manifestos and outlined policies, before delivering speeches and taking part in an authentic hustings ahead of polling. The subsequent election count and mock 'Electoral Commission', provided by Lower Sixth Politics students, used three of the electoral systems studied to illustrate how each might impact the result. The boys also benefited from the first-hand experience and insight of history and politics teacher and local councillor, Mr Henry Vann, who was on hand to make the process as realistic as possible.

Lower Sixth history and politics students also gained real-life insight into the legislative workings of the country through the school's annual trip to Parliament, Westminster and Whitehall. Ben Smith (Lower Sixth) said afterwards, "The trip really helped me visualise and understand the parliamentary system, as well as how the House of Lords and House of Commons work together."



Mock Election Polling



[ Debating real-world issues ]

## *Model United Nations*

Leadership, innovative thinking, public speaking, negotiation, mediation and consensus-building are all key skills for education and beyond. This year, following the setup of a Model United Nations (MUN) Society, Bedford School boys, joined by pupils from Bedford Girls' School, hosted their very first MUN conference to put these skills to the test.

Following a whistlestop tour of MUN procedures and terminology, pupils held a mock committee session on the topic of the lack of aesthetic cohesiveness in global flag design. Playing the role of national ambassadors for UN member states, the pupils researched their assigned country's policies, ideas and culture in order to advocate their stance to the other delegates. Their goal, as within the United Nations, was not to win votes but to reach consensus and pass statements to resolve international issues.

Seth Baines (Fourth Form), acting as the delegate for Germany, told us, "This was an amazing experience and, although we made some mistakes, everyone debated - and it even got heated at times. Given the chance, I would definitely participate in MUN again."

Boys then joined their counterparts at Bedford Girls' School in the summer term for their inaugural conference. Representing four committees: UNHCR, UNESCO, Crisis, and UNODC, pupils debated and drafted resolutions on issues ranging from illicit firearms trafficking to creating more humanitarian corridors.

The full day of debate proved a wonderful learning experience that also widened pupils' knowledge of current global issues.

[ Fuelling academic  
ambition ]

## The Power of Maths

A plethora of academic societies offer boys of all ages the opportunity to delve deeper into areas of personal academic interest through lively debate, lectures from external speakers or the boys themselves. One such society is our Pythagoreans' Society which, now in its second year, has seen numbers multiply exponentially.

Like the majority of the school's societies, it is boy-led, in this case it was by five Bedford School Upper Sixth Formers: Dylan Morgan-Jones, Tai Tsang-Goodwin, Charlie Dowrick, Jamie Wallwork and Nat Lord. This increasingly popular society, now boasting over 80 members, offers boys and their counterparts from Bedford Girls' School and Bedford Modern School a weekly dose of higher-level mathematics.

Members of the society enjoy regular student lectures, such as *When Maths Goes Wrong* by Charlie Dowrick, *Max Tegmark's Mathematical Universe* by Tai Tsang-Goodwin, as well as talks from teachers, Old Bedfordians and external speakers. A real highlight last year was *Adventures in Numberland*, a talk by best-selling mathematics author and journalist, Alex Bellos. Pythagoreans' Society President, Dylan Morgan-Jones, was surprised and delighted in equal measure when the author accepted his invitation and jumped at the chance to come to Bedford School to deliver a series of lectures and special sessions.

In addition to lectures, the society also works through problems beyond the International Baccalaureate and A-Level syllabus and enjoys quizzes. Their Big Team Quiz has developed into one of the most hotly-contested competitions of the school calendar and is a wonderful way to wrap up the autumn term.

Speaking on the success of the society, Dylan explained "A maths-focused society is so important because it connects all the subjects. Working with the other schools also gives you a wider perspective, with talks from further afield. We all mix and work together to solve different maths problems. It's great."

# Enhancing Education Outdoors

Boys at Bedford School benefit from many outstanding facilities and resources, but none possibly quite so unique as the school's conservation reserve - Ickwell.

Designated *A Historic Park* by Natural England and a recognised county wildlife site, with nine hectares of lakes, streams, meadows and woodland, and on-site field centre, the reserve is an invaluable academic resource, which provides boys with a learning environment like no other.

A myriad of academic departments regularly use Ickwell to further boys' learning. With ecology investigations, meadow quadrat surveys, avian surveying and carbon surveying all possible on site, it is a perfect location for scientific studies, not to mention geography fieldwork, art and history. Studies undertaken at Ickwell also feed back into the classroom, with our mathematics students, for example, carrying out carbon data analysis.

Boys studying the IB are also regular visitors, carrying out conservation work such as tree planting, tree seed collecting and coppicing at the reserve for the creativity, activity and service (CAS) element of their diploma each week.

Ickwell is also a wonderful resource for many co-curricular activities: offering a perfect practice ground for Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, which are ever popular with boys at the school, and for exercises by the school's Combined Cadet Force.

The setting not only enhances boys' studies in school but, by being immersed in nature, it improves well-being and fosters an appreciation of and respect for the natural environment.



[ Explore an  
outdoor education ]



Ickwell Field Centre

[ Enhancing learning  
through technology ]



## *A Vision for Technology in the Classroom*

We recognise that the world boys enter upon leaving school is becoming increasingly digitised; therefore, their education must mirror this and build skills to complement its requirements. Every boy needs to be safe and comfortable with digital technology as a minimum, and we need to provide opportunities for those with even greater focus and interest to fly.

The success stories on the page opposite are testament to the school's commitment to digital technology. Indeed, it is one of the school's three areas of strategic focus, alongside community partnerships and entrepreneurship.

Director of Digital Learning, Mr Paul Scullion, who drives our environment and curriculum forward continuously, explained, "Our success in national competitions is founded on the core teaching of computational problem solving and creative logical thought in the classroom. At A-Level especially, 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: a trend we hope will continue following the introduction of our new Computer Science scholarship this year."

The school is also committed to further developing the effective use of technology in the classroom to enhance learning for all boys. Technology is a tool that enables boys to access the curriculum in new and different ways and provides them with a core foundation of skills they can develop as they move into a more technologically driven future. The school's rollout of its 1:1 device programme, starting in September 2023, is evidence of our commitment to enhancing digital learning for all.

Boys lie at the heart of this area of focus and our Upper Sixth Digital Ambassadors are primed to play a pivotal role in delivering our vision of integrating technology into the classroom to work alongside more traditional methods, helping to enhance learning and give boys technological confidence for the workplace environment.

## Triumphant Win in Code Quest

Will Reddy, Joe Travis (Lower Sixth) and Fraser Morgan (Remove Form) celebrated a triumphant win in this year's prestigious Lockheed Martin Code Quest Competition. The competition, which sees 1,600 students from over 600 schools around the world take part each year, challenges students to work together to solve problems using JAVA, Python, C#, and/or C++ programming to complete the 'quest'. The boys' keen aptitude for effective and fast coding proved key, along with their clear strategy in selecting different problems to solve in the time-controlled event, and saw them come out on top. However, they were not the only boys to achieve success in the competition, the other two Bedford School teams achieved third place in both the novice and advanced categories respectively.



Will Reddy, Joe Travis (Lower Sixth) and Fraser Morgan (Remove Form)

## Celebrating Winning Cyber Skills

The team of Siddharth Prabhu, Frederik Simmen, William Tian and Chuck Hu (Lower Sixth) and Fraser Morgan (Remove Form) celebrated a superb second place in the renowned UK Lockheed Martin CyberQuest Competition.

The competition, run by the American aerospace company, challenges pupils to solve dynamic cyber security problems created by world-renowned engineers. Director of Digital Learning, Mr Paul Scullion, said, "To come second in the UK, in such a hotly fought competition, is a fantastic demonstration of the boys' creativity, logical thought and understanding of cyber defence."



## Record Number Compete in Bebras Challenge

A record 700 boys from across the school took part in the UK Bebras Computing Challenge this year with superb results, including 50 boys who achieved gold awards, placing them in the top 10% of the UK for computational understanding and logic.

The challenges in the competition also help boost pupils' problem solving, lateral thinking and time management skills.

## Quick Bites

### Perse Coding Competition

All boys studying computer science in the Remove and Fifth Form competed in the Perse Coding Competition. Ten boys' excellent results saw them progress to the advanced round of the competition.

### Debating the Ethics of AI and Use of Technology

Boys joined with pupils from Bedford Girls' School and Bedford Modern School for two ethics debates on the impact of artificial intelligence on the modern workplace and how much a government should use technology.



## NEW

## 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**.

*"Bedford School places great emphasis on the importance of preparing boys for a truly digital future."*

Mr Paul Scullion, Director of Digital Learning

## Developing Leaders of the Future

Eighty aspiring young leaders from 12 sixth forms across Bedford Borough came together for the fourth 'Ready2Lead?' Conference at Bedford School in October. The conference, created by the pupils, with support from The Harpur Trust and their teachers, aims to excite and inspire, as well as provide students with the tools and confidence to be courageous learners and envision ways in which they can change the world around them.

During this year's conference, pupils heard from inspirational and thought-provoking keynote speakers, including Old Bedfordian Harry Beard (13-18), who helped students to think innovatively about the positive impact they can make on the world around them.

Mr Simon Everitt, founder of the programme, commented, "Over the last four years of Ready2Lead? it has been inspiring to see students from different cultures, faiths, schools and backgrounds learning to appreciate both themselves and one another. Together we are helping our delegates to see that they can make their own unique and positive impact on the world around them."



Ready2Lead? 2022 Annual Conference

## Entrepreneurial Media Society Paves the Way

Entrepreneurship is intrinsically about solving problems, meeting needs and turning ideas into action to make a positive difference. This is exactly what Will Roberts (Upper Sixth) achieved when he took his love of sports reporting and general broadcasting to another level to set up a new school society – the Media Society, at the start of the school year.

Will's initial aims for the society were to focus on journalism, media and broadcasting, primarily in a sports context, and he hoped that such a society would "not only give boys new and valuable skills drawing from all areas of the school (drama, art, English, sport, tech, etc), but would also give younger boys the education and understanding necessary to run and operate [social media] accounts such as the Bedford School rugby and hockey Instagram pages."

With the school set to introduce Media Studies at A-Level in September 2023, Will, along with schoolmate Jacob Foster (Lower Sixth), developed his original concept further to encompass the wider media 'umbrella' including marketing, advertising, branding and design. To help support the boys, Will and Jacob enlisted the help of external speakers, experienced professionals in their own fields, to share their knowledge and provide guidance for boys wishing to pursue a career in media.

As a speaker to the society in February, Jane Geraghty, Group CEO of Landor and Fitch, the world's largest specialist brand and design agency, spoke about *The world of brand creation and transformation* during which she presented examples covering everything from Nike and Apple to Proctor & Gamble and Kellogg's, explaining how and why they present themselves the way they do.

Subsequent guest speakers to the society have included Paul Hutchinson, Co-Founder and Co-Managing Editor of the Bedford Independent, Tasuku Okawa (OB), Chief Editor at DAZN News in Japan and Dylan Stewart, Director of Social Steering and former Social Media Co-ordinator for Formula 1.

## Quick Bites

### Ivy House Award

Lower Sixth boys came together with peers from Biddenham Upper School for a special self-reflection event. The aim of the session was to test the students on their application of the concepts they have learned throughout the award, namely demonstrating an awareness of their thoughts and behaviours when faced with a stressful situation.



Now in its fifth year at Bedford School, the Ivy House Award continues to teach students the skills to be self-leaders and help them thrive at the time when they need it most, as well as equipping them for the future.

### Entrepreneurship Society Shares Innovation

The Entrepreneurship Society has continued to go from strength to strength. Recent speakers included OB Doug Worboys (98-09) who shared the story of his new sports fan app, Jostl. Boys were also able to be actively involved in the entrepreneurial enterprise by assisting with user interface testing.

### Group 4 Projects Shared

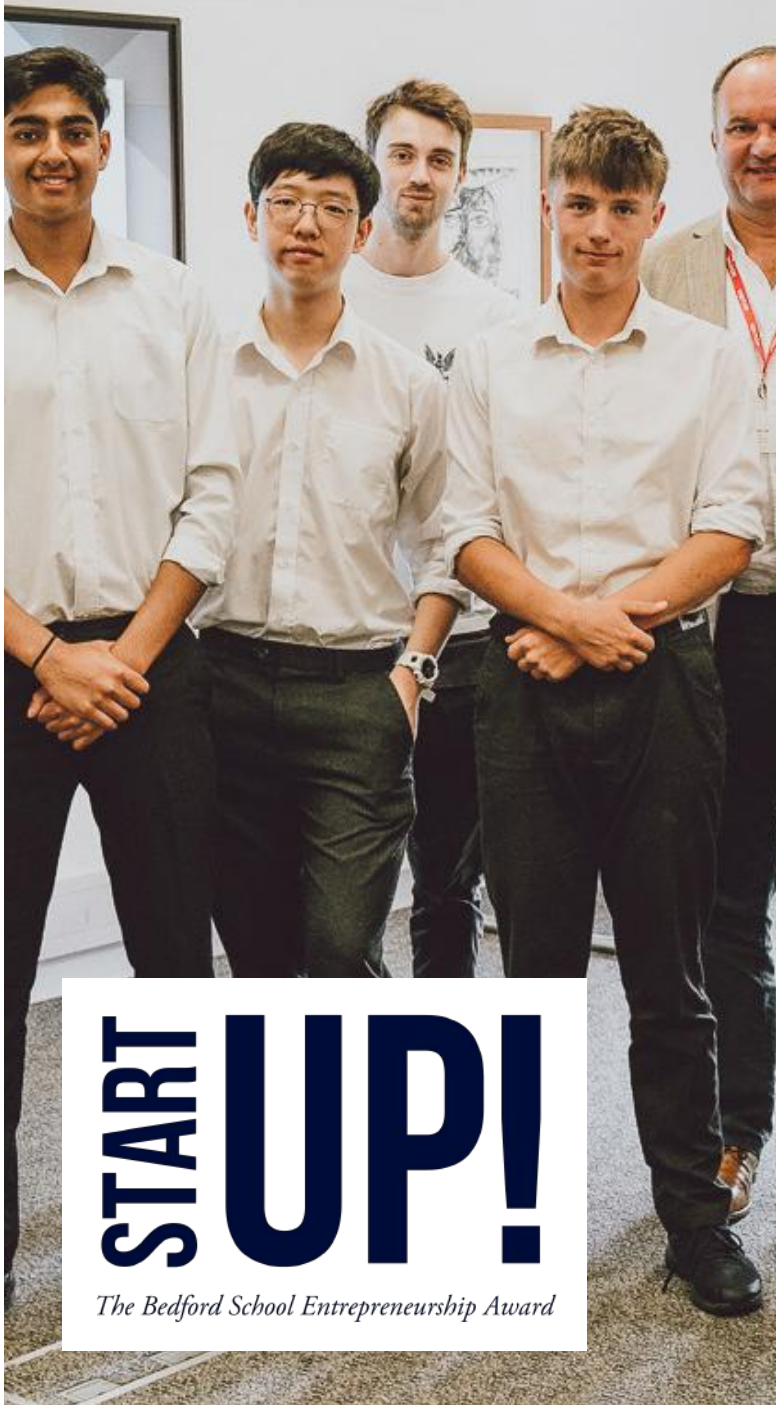
Lower Sixth boys studying the International Baccalaureate (IB) presented their Group 4 Projects exhibitions to boys in the Fifth Form. The project is an exciting and inspiring part of the IB Diploma, which encourages boys to work collaboratively and appreciate the environmental, social and ethical implications of science. The diverse topics chosen this year included *The Science of Medieval Weapons*, *How to Start a Global Pandemic* and *The Science of Formula 1*.

### Theory of Knowledge

IB students from Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School enjoyed a trip to Oxford to tour New College, and visit the Pitt Rivers Museum, as part of their Theory of Knowledge (ToK) studies.

Students learned about how the museum is reconciling its colonial legacy and how it is working to support communities for an inclusive future, while a tour of New College provided them with a deep insight into the inner workings of an Oxbridge college and a glimpse of what life could be like, should their studies lead them there.

# Inspiring *Entrepreneurship*



# START UP!

*The Bedford School Entrepreneurship Award*

**S**tart Up! An exciting new award for Fifth Form boys launched this year to foster a spirit of innovation and equip boys with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in a dynamic business environment.

The week-long award programme, which took place at the end of the summer term, was designed to go beyond talking about ideas and to make things happen.

Entrepreneurial Lead at the school, Mr Simon Everitt, explained, "Our world is one in which we have the opportunity to make a positive impact, if we are prepared to think creatively, work together and put our ideas into action. This is the essence of the entrepreneurial mindset, and Start Up! seeks to help boys to tap into their inner confidence and innovation in order to lead change, both now and in the future."

Working in teams, the boys were challenged to start a fledgling business from scratch, but, importantly, one that would make a positive difference.

Stepping away from their classroom learning and into the business world, boys tested their ideas through market research, including speaking with entrepreneurs and business owners in Bedford to better understand their challenges and opportunities.

Tanay Rai (Fifth Form), who was part of the team whose idea it was to set up a social media account to celebrate local businesses in Bedford, explained, "I thoroughly loved every minute of the experience and loved talking to the local business owners of Bedford. I chose to do the market research as I was keen to develop my communication skills, and what better way to do this than going to talk to people!"

The boys also learned how to build a strong team, plan their business, develop their brand and understand customer needs. Boys worked with entrepreneur and OB Harry Beard (13-18) and teachers from our business and economics department to consider business planning, and our in-house marketing team to help refine their own marketing approach.

Boys spent time working with Sam Roberts, Prep School teacher and renowned sports commentator, on how to communicate their message powerfully and persuasively ahead of the grand finale, where the boys were required to pitch their young businesses to a panel of judges from the world of business.

# Charlie's Christmas Appeal

For most children, a pile of Christmas gifts awaits them under the tree on Christmas morning. However, Charlie Faulkner (Lower Sixth) was all too aware that this is not the case for many children across the borough, with a shocking number receiving nothing at all.

This prospect tugged at his heartstrings and prompted him to act and make a positive difference. Charlie was inspired to create a Christmas present appeal after watching a cost-of-living crisis story on the news, and, knowing how brilliantly the Bedford School community come together when needed, he set about galvanising support to make a real difference at Christmas for underprivileged children.

After contacting Bedford charity FACES (Family and Children's Early-help Services) for their support in delivering gifts to children most in need, Charlie researched how to make donating gifts as easy as possible. He came up with the idea of creating an Amazon gift list, where pupils, parents and teachers could directly purchase presents, with delivery directly to the Bell Room.

Charlie set himself a target of 100 gifts and was overwhelmed with the response. He reached his goal in just six days, and the generosity continued with more gifts flooding in as the school community leapt to support his incredible appeal, which Charlie now looks forward to repeating in 2023.



[ Making a real difference to local children at Christmas ]

# Engaging Musical Workshop

International Baccalaureate (IB) students Thimon Wendelen (Lower Sixth) and Luke Langridge (Lower Sixth) harnessed the power of music to engage and delight a group of 12 children from Grange Academy.

Both boys, who had been volunteering at the local specialist school for pupils with a diverse range of special educational needs since the start of the year for the CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) element of their IB studies, were keen to organise a singing and percussion workshop for pupils.

Working together with Mr Dominic Childs (Head of Woodwind and Brass) on the content of the day, the boys rallied the support of several music teachers and fellow pupil, Joshua Jeganathan (Upper Sixth), to provide the music and offer pupils from Grange Academy's Nurture Group, a select group who benefit from a quieter and calmer learning environment, with a wonderful musical experience.

The musical *Bugsy Malone* was the focus of the workshop and, inspired by the previous term's school production by Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School, the children learned the words to one of the songs and used a large selection of percussion instruments to explore the rhythms, accompanied by our music department staff. It proved an afternoon full of smiles and applause as the Grange Academy pupils celebrated their achievements.



Thimon Wendelen and Luke Langridge (Lower Sixth)

## Clothing Appeal

Boys from the school's Charities Committee were overwhelmed by the incredible response they received when they called on the Bedford School community to support Grange Academy's Clothing Appeal. The pupils at Grange Academy, a local school for pupils with a diverse range of special educational needs, many of whom also come from families facing multiple disadvantages, came up with the idea of using reward points to exchange for clothes or shoes in a pupil-led school reward shop. The committee jumped at the idea and quickly rallied boys, parents and staff to donate pre-loved clothes to the scheme.

A staggering two carloads' worth of clothes were donated and delivered to the school, much to the delight of Grange Academy Headteacher Rachel Timms, who explained, "This has been transformative in terms of the children's well-being and personal presentation. Thanks to the scheme, our pupils can now trade reward points for the items of clothing donated; not having to rely on handouts but being able to feel they have earned items makes them feel a sense of empowerment. The delight shown when they can select an item of their choice is indescribable."



## November Top Guns

To say that the boys at Bedford School take November seriously is an understatement. Each year, they strive to raise the bar higher and higher and put their own unique spin on the campaign. There is always great anticipation over what each cohort will produce, and the boys certainly did not disappoint this year.

Throughout the month, with 80 Upper Sixth Form boys, affectionately known as the MoBros, at the helm, the whole school community pulled together to raise funds for the men's health charity. Tug of war, 'Ready, Steady, Bake', dodgeball, non-uniform day, a silent auction and an open mic night, to name just some of the events, all contributed to fundraising efforts and the 'tash'—synonymous with the charity—was not only sported by the MoBros but this year also painted in scale onto the school's 1st XV pitch, offering a palpable symbol of the campaign and awareness of men's health issues to all entering the school.

Representatives from November, who visited on Citizenship Day during the campaign, were highly impressed by the quality of teaching from the Upper Sixth boys and the engagement of boys of all ages with the content of the sessions and assemblies on men's mental and physical health.

And, in time-honoured tradition, every campaign needs the boys' annual and much-anticipated film. This year's was a comic take on Kenny Loggins' *Danger Zone*, complete with outfits inspired by two generations of *Top Gun* movies, as well as some fine 'taches'.

The boys' brilliant campaign raised a staggering £14,292, which saw them, once again, top the Schools Challenge leaderboard in the UK and receive much-deserved recognition and a nomination from November HQ for 'Services to Mo'—a brilliant result for a 'top flight' campaign.



## Quick Bites

### IB Boys Help Bedford Foodbank

IB Students William Everitt and Ayaan Hanif (Lower Sixth) helped to provide a crucial service to the community by volunteering at Bedford Foodbank each week. Ayaan explained, "It feels good to do something that helps people in our community while applying the school values of kindness and responsibility".

### The Art of Volunteering

Barnaby Williams and Olly Pritchett (Lower Sixth) helped their local MS therapy centre raise vital funds by volunteering at the preview of their art exhibition, featuring a range of work donated by local artists.

### Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal

Boys put their culinary skills to good use when they baked, faked and bought a wonderful array of delicious cakes and bakes to sell at break time, and raised over £600 in the process. A staff raffle by Ashburnham House and a non-uniform day helped take the fundraising total over £2,000 for the cause.

### Singing to Support Cancer Research

The school's Chinese Society collaborated with members of the Chapel Choir and staff to produce a singing video to encourage everyone to donate towards Cancer Research UK, which, combined with a staff raffle, helped to raise £1,821.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

The boarding community's brilliant baking helped support the school's Macmillan Coffee Morning and raised over £220 for this worthy cause.

## Quick Bites

### Drama Workshops Inspire

Drama students enjoyed a dynamic dance workshop with professional street dancer Sam Golle.

Former Prep Head of Drama and Old Bedfordian Mr Hooley (89-95) came back to the department to lead a practical workshop, 'Communicating with belief: physical ease and vocal confidence on stage'. Old Bedfordian Logan Jones (01-10) also returned to lead a playwriting workshop.

Actor and director Guillaume Pigé from Theatre RE ran an inspirational workshop on 'Acting Without Words'. The workshop introduced the 'Corporeal Mime' technique and how to use it within the context of acting.

Professor David Bennett delivered an insightful and fascinating lecture entitled *Bertolt Brecht: The Theory and Practice of a Politicized Theatre*.

### Murray's Charity Folk Concert

Murray Silk (Upper Sixth) shared his appreciation of folk music by organising and performing in a special concert. Murray explained, "I organised the concert as I wanted to create an event dedicated to folk music. I also wanted to create an event which was open and informal, fitting with the community nature of folk music." The evening brought together a range of talented musicians to perform both traditional and lesser-known folk music from around the world, while raising £371 for the Bedfordshire Music Trust.

### Masterful Cellist

Boys and staff were treated to an exceptional musical performance from two masters students from the Royal College of Music. Danish Cellist Safira Nielsen, accompanied by Daniel Adipradhana on the grand piano, played an impressive Masters Platform Concert in the Recital Hall.

## Chapel Choir Tour Exeter

The school's Chapel Choir has a rich history of performing in cathedrals across the country and Europe. For their 2023 summer tour, choristers enjoyed the sights and sounds of Exeter, balancing singing daily services at Exeter Cathedral with a whole raft of fun activities in the lead up to the trip's finale, which saw them singing the Choral Eucharist for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity.



Bedford School Chapel Choir rehearsing at Exeter Cathedral



Henry Gillham (Remove Form)

## NYT Call Up for Henry

Drama scholar Henry Gillham (Remove Form) was invited to the National Youth Theatre (NYT) following a successful audition. Henry joined NYT in Glasgow for their summer workshops. Henry joins a long list of drama students from Bedford School who have trodden the boards at the NYT, nine in the last ten years alone.

## Designs on Detweiler

The Detweiler Competition is one of the highlights of the Creative Arts calendar, and sees prizes awarded in four categories: Art, Music, Drama and Creative Writing. As ever, this year's theme of 'Order/Disorder' prompted a diverse and arresting array of work.

Scan the QR code to read, watch and listen to the boys' winning entries in our interactive booklet.



2D Winner Freddie McPhail (Upper Sixth)



3D Winner Ted Ferris (Upper Sixth)



Merlin Toms (Upper Sixth) Photo © Hydar Dewachi

## Merlin Excels in ARTiculation Final

Merlin Toms (Upper Sixth) performed brilliantly in the regional final of M<sub>A</sub>R<sub>T</sub>iculation, the public speaking competition on the arts, to secure one of just nine places in the national final held at The National Gallery in London.

In the Grand Final, Merlin's well-structured and well-researched presentation impressed this year's adjudicator and Director of the National Gallery, Dr Gabriele Finaldi, who commended him for his incredible ability to analyse *The Raft of the Medusa* by Théodore Géricault, stating how his presentation reminded us of how important it is to look again. Merlin has since been inducted into the ARTiculation Alumni Network, through which a plethora of opportunities are made available to finalists.

# Celebrating *Creativity*



This year's Creative Arts Festival once again proved a true celebration of art, drama and music in all its wonderful and diverse forms.

This year the keynote speech was delivered by digital pioneer and innovator Robert Sloan, Creative Innovations Manager at the Walt Disney Company. Robert spoke with the boys about how to emotionally engage an audience using the latest immersive technology including AR, VR, interactive video and live e-commerce, and how drama and his love of theatre have played an integral part in his career.

The powerful play, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, was the drama production for the festival - not an easy play to perform. However, the boys were exceptional, thanks, in large part, to their extensive studies into the fascinating work of German theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht. Professor David Bennett's insightful lecture was also instrumental in preparing the boys for their performance.

A stunning exhibition of art coursework by Upper Sixth and Fifth Form boys showcased the incredible art produced by our GCSE, A-Level and IB students, with the boys' imagination, ideas and thoughts depicted through paintings, drawings and sculptures.

This year's festival launched and wrapped up with a celebration of music. Starting in the Quarry Theatre, transformed into a jazz club for the night, audiences enjoyed the stunning sound of the Bedford School Jazz Orchestra and several jazz ensembles. The festival then finished in the Chapel and Great Hall with the school's choirs and orchestras drawing proceedings to a triumphant and magnificent close.



The cast of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*



Upper Sixth Art Students

## Quick Bites

### Art Talks

Artist Robin Deacon gave an enthralling and compelling lecture explaining his journey through his time at university and the development of his work.

Anne Desmet explained the various techniques she uses and the inspiration and motivation for her work.

Figurative artist Ian Rowlands explained the importance of drawing to his whole process and how drawing underpins the whole creative process.

Peter Schade, Head of the Framing Department at the National Gallery in London, explained the gallery's approach to framing old masters.

Aidan Huxford gave an insightful talk to the Art Society explaining the importance of composition and lighting, not just to a good photograph, but in all media.

## TV Debut for Aryan

Aryan Sohanpal (Fourth Form) made his television debut in November starring as Toby in the BBC's children's drama *Princess Mirror-Belle*.

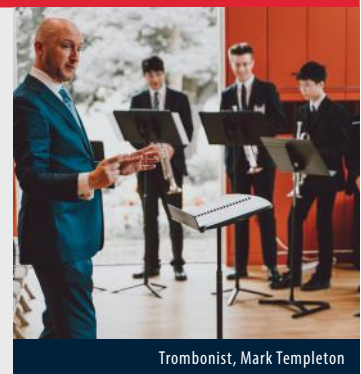
Aryan took his first steps into acting ahead of the pandemic, successfully auditioning for *School of Rock*, where his acting and piano skills (grade 8) saw him selected from hundreds of children. While COVID meant the show did not run, Aryan clearly made an impression on the casting director, who invited him to star in *Princess Mirror-Belle*.



Aryan Sohanpal (Fourth Form)

## 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. They also received a wealth of advice on how to improve their performances, to be more imaginative when practising, and were given ideas on technique and phrasing, keeping time and cueing in ensembles and breathing whilst playing.



Trombonist, Mark Templeton



Classical Guitarist, Craig Ogden

## Springtime in Paris



Art and RE students enjoyed a visit to Paris over the spring half term. With trips to the Pompidou Centre, Musée D'Orsay, L'Orangerie, the Louvre, Musée Rodin and the Musée Guimet, the GCSE and A-Level students experienced first-hand the fantastic range of art that Paris has to offer. For Upper Sixth and Fifth Form boys embarking on their GCSE and A-Level exams, there was plenty of imagery relevant to their exam titles. And, of course, all boys on the trip made the pilgrimage to see the Mona Lisa at the Louvre with Mr Michael Croker, our Director of Art, singling out Gericault's *Raft of the Medusa* as another must-see before they explored the extensive galleries on their own. Daniel Hudson (Remove Form) commented, "I think that the variety of galleries that we went to visit opened my mind to the number of ways you can create an image, and it definitely helped to open my eyes to different perspectives of what I draw."

Meanwhile, Religion and Philosophy students covered all three Abrahamic faiths over the weekend with visits to the Paris Grand Mosque, the Jewish Art and History Museum and Sainte Chappelle. The Panthéon provided plenty of philosophical discussion, with visits to the tombs of both Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Voltaire, whilst a viewing of Descartes' skull in the Musée de L'Homme was a definite highlight.

## Top GCSE Art



Eric Breslin (Fifth Form) was delighted to be recognised by the GCSE exam board for his mark in art, who added a rare note to say, "Eric was one of the highest performers".

## 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**.



# Bugsy Malone

Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School pupils collaborated to perform a sublime and unforgettable version of *Bugsy Malone* to a packed Quarry Theatre over three nights in the autumn term.

With *Bugsy Malone, The Musical* touring the UK, this iconic gangster movie spoof set in a 1929 prohibition New York, was timed to perfection, and the young cast did not disappoint. Playing wannabe gangsters, showgirls and dreamers, they grasped the opportunity to take on this 70s classic and showed true talent and flair as they sang, danced and acted their hearts out.

The musical accompaniment for the show, which lifted the performance to the next level, was provided by a live band made up of musicians from both schools, led superbly by Bedford School's Mr Dominic Childs.

With incredible synchronicity, an ingenious slow-motion fight scene amused and wowed the audience as the cast moved fluidly and elegantly; their movement and intent harmonised and mirrored by the accompanying score. Behind the scenes, pupils excelled as they stepped up to take on director roles for their respective areas.

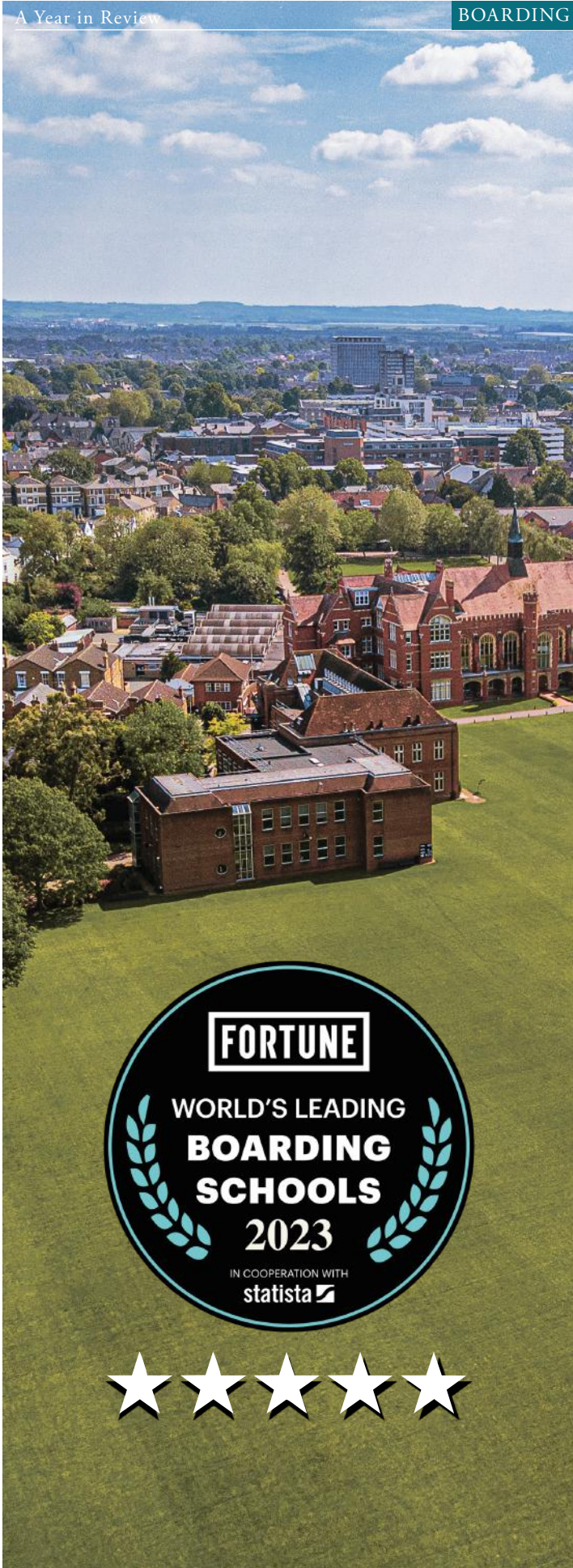


# Teachers

Taking on John Godber's play *Teachers* took Stanley Breed and Henry Gillham (Remove Form) and Matthew Hackney (Fourth Form) on an insightful learning journey far beyond the stage and opened their eyes to the broader world of education.

Throughout the process, the boys explored how the arts are underfunded in many schools across the country and how they are in a privileged position at Bedford. Many discussions, led by the Head of Academic Drama, Mrs Antoinette Keylock, looked at how this play could communicate this fundamental message to the audience.

Mrs Keylock explained, "It's been a long process, and I am so proud of the boys' journey, not only as actors but also how they have embraced the themes and issues. We're an independent school but doing a play about education more widely, and that could be seen as controversial. However, theatre should be challenging and thought-provoking. What's the point of theatre if we don't challenge our audience to think about things?"



# World-Leading Boarding School



Bedford School was delighted to not only be named among Fortune's 'World's Leading Boarding Schools' for 2023 but to also be awarded five stars, placing the school not just in the top 250 schools covered by the report but in the global top 100 and one of just six boys' boarding schools in the world to have achieved such a rating.

The brand-new guide compiled by Fortune (one of the oldest and best-known media brands in the world) in collaboration with Statista, the international data and market research company, is designed to help globally-mobile families choose the right school. The guide was compiled using information gathered over recent months from parents, alumni, educational advisors, heads and admissions staff worldwide.

James Hodgson, Head Master, said, "This accolade is testament to the consistent hard work and high standards achieved by our entire school community. Following the honour of being named Independent Boys' School of the Year, we are thrilled to now receive international recognition, as awarded by parents, staff, agents and alumni from across the world. We are truly delighted and take shared pride in this prestigious award."

## Celebrating Boarding

National Boarding Week raises awareness of the many benefits of boarding and celebrates the important part that the boarding community plays in the wider ethos of the school. For our boarders at Bedford School, 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.

### Laser Tag & Movies

Chosen by the boys, Laser Tag was the first fun activity of the week. Competing in Houses, boys enjoyed an action-packed evening as they bonded in the two-battle, talked tactics and fired lasers.



Boarders also enjoyed a night at the movies, with a screening of *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* in the Quarry Theatre. The boys were permitted exclusive access to the theatre for the evening to kick back and enjoy the film and all the treats that accompany a trip to the cinema, including popcorn and ice cream.



### Taste the World

Day two saw boys 'tasting the world' during boarders' tea. This vibrant, annual event brings together the whole boarding community. Sharing food from around the world, boys learned about each other and celebrated each others' cultural backgrounds. With boys from 28 different countries in our boarding houses, cultural experiences such as these help everyone to appreciate the truly international community in which they live.



### Boarders' Games

The grand finale of National Boarding Week was Boarders' Games. The greatly-anticipated event, now in its third year, saw boys compete against each other in a series of games with something for everyone, no matter their age, strength or athletic ability.

At the end of the fun-filled evening, it was the boys in Burnaby House who were crowned the victors. Outgoing Burnaby Housemaster, Mr Hinkins, commented, "It's a fantastic event to round up the year, and the Burnaby boys were thrilled to have won the games and lift the trophy. Many of them joined the school in September and have grown very close over the last ten months. There's a great culture in the house and this was evident in the way they conducted themselves at the games."



## 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.

#loveboarding

## Quick Bites

### Celebrating Iftar Together

Day boys and boarders spent a wonderful evening in Burnaby House celebrating the end of Ramadan and breaking the last fast at a special Iftar event ahead of Eid the next day.

Following talks on Ramadan by Jibrán Baloch and Ali Khan (Remove Form), the boys shared some prayers in Arabic and English. At sunset, the boys broke the fast with dates and then shared a delicious curry together.

### Welcoming the Year of the Rabbit

Every year boys across the school celebrate the Lunar New Year in a variety of ways, and this year was no different as they came together to welcome in the Year of the Rabbit.

Boys tried their hand at Chinese calligraphy, tasted a range of Chinese New Year food and gave and received traditional red envelopes at Chinese Society. They also led a special assembly both celebrating and educating pupils about the New Year.

# Exciting, Expansive Rugby



Winning more than they lost, and unbeaten before half term, the 1st XV's season was a tale of two halves, with their biggest challenges coming in the second half of the term.

Playing expansive rugby, the 1st XV enjoyed notable wins over Oundle (38-0), Radley College (52-10), Haileybury (26-20), Northampton School for Boys (52-50), and draws against Rugby and Eton College in a hugely successful first half of the term. However, it was the win over Dulwich College that will no doubt live longest in their memory.

'Dulwich Day', as it has become known, is a fixture that dates back to 1882, making it the longest continuous rugby fixture in schoolboy history. This year, a near faultless performance by Bedford 1st XV led to a 40-5 victory and one of the largest points margins in the fixture's long-standing history - a well-deserved victory in a half term, during which the 1st XV retained an unbeaten record at home, renamed by the squad as 'The Fortress'.

The second half of the term brought bad weather and more substantial challenges, not complementary to the 1st XV's expansive, entertaining style of rugby. While the squad's unbeaten record fell, they pushed impressive Oakham and Warwick teams close, and their determination and positivity did not falter; indeed, huge improvements were made, bolstered by individual performances such as Tom Kerr's (Upper Sixth) fantastic 60-metre try, which earned him 'try of the season'.

Throughout the season, the 1st XV provided spectators with highly entertaining rugby as they looked to play a fast game and attack all areas of their field. Their bold approach often bore fruit and certainly had exciting conclusions, with five games decided in the last play, two of which were a draw. So it was fitting that the season ended in a victory that matched their bold approach, a 43-15 win at Abingdon.

At Bedford, whilst we celebrate top-level sporting achievement, we also believe in sport for all and its many benefits. Therefore, we were also delighted by the accomplishments of the Rugby Club's two most successful teams: the U14 Bs, who played 10, won nine and lost one, and the U14Gs, who played three and won three! The U14E team also finished in fitting style with a close-fought win against Abingdon in the final fixture of the year.



## Italian Rugby Call for Antonino

Antonino Muffoletto (Upper Sixth) joined the growing ranks of Bedford School rugby players selected to compete for their countries, when he was invited by the Italian Rugby Federation to train at the Federal Centre of Milan as part of their young rugby talent programme.

Antonino spent three days on a 'full immersion' training programme, which was followed by two days playing with their best U18 and U19 players. In addition, Antonino also had the honour of being coached by the Italian Rugby Federation U18 team coach.



Antonino Muffoletto (Upper Sixth)



# Successful Season of Rowing

[ Pushing forward together ]

The Bedford School Boat Club started the 2023 season in style with a win for the 1st VIII at the BASHER Head, pipping Abingdon to the post. The J16 VIII and J15A VIII joined the 1st VIII in scooping golds at the Hampton Head. The term also saw wins at Star and Peterborough Heads that involved most age groups.

However, the highlight of the spring term proved to be the Schools' Head, where the boys performed beyond the expectations of their coaches. There were wins for the 1st VIII by four seconds, the J16 1st VIII by 15 seconds and the J15 1st VIII by two seconds, seeing them complete a triple of golds for the first time in the school's history—a tremendous result in a race that is a true test of stamina and mental aptitude. Mr Pete Mulkerrins, Director of Rowing, praised the crews, saying: "I am lucky to work with a great group of coaches who have helped develop a technical model that all year groups use. This year's athletes have dedicated themselves to the programme, and I am immensely pleased that they achieved the results they deserved."

After Easter and a highly successful training camp at Radley College, the 1st VIII enjoyed an extraordinary summer with wins at Marlow, Peterborough and Bedford, where they achieved the fastest race of the day in the hometown highlight of the season. Finally, they went on to beat strong international competition from Green Lake, USA, and Brisbane Boys School, Australia, at Reading Regatta.

The 2nd VIII also dedicated themselves to the training programme and received the reward of winning at Marlow, and then being the fastest second eight in the country at the Henley Royal Regatta qualifying races, where they missed out on a place in the Universities event by less than a second.

The stand-out performers at the National Schools Regatta were the Colts group, who took several notable scalps when winning a bronze medal, the first for the school in recent years. The Colts group also won many events around the country, including becoming inter-regional champions; some boys in this group collected as many as ten trophies for the season, while the Star Regatta provided the stage for our junior crews to shine, who won a staggering ten events in a single race day.

All in all, a hugely successful season in which boys can take great pride and encouragement for the 2023-2024 season.

## Technology for a Leading Edge

Elite sport is very much led by science and data, and in rowing, for many years, the data points for assessing performance have been to measure strokes per minute, 500-metre splits, distance moved per stroke, watts produced and heart rate. However, thanks to investment in instrumentation to collect biomechanical data from within boats, our coaches now have the ability to measure everything from the forces applied by individual rowers on the gates and foot stretchers, to oar angles at the entry and release, through to the number of watts a rower is able to produce.

In-boat sensors provide real time information to both the coach and members of the crew via screens, attached to each foot plate in the boat, and on coaches' bicycles. Analysing the data collected by the system, crews and coaches can calculate how to make improvements to technique and performance, and how to optimise the rig and equipment to make all important gains and take a leading edge.



## Summer Cricket Selection Success

Following a superb season of cricket, which saw our U14C, U15C and U16A unbeaten, a 73% win record and a county final for the U14A team, a regional final for the U17s and a national T20 quarter final for the 1st XI, the summer proved equally exciting, with two key members of the school's 1st XI stepping up to play top-level cricket.

Jamie Dunk (Lower Sixth) was selected to play for Scotland U19s in the ICC World Cup Qualifiers in the Netherlands. A successful tournament against Guernsey, Jersey, the Netherlands, Norway and Italy saw Scotland win to secure their place in the ICC U19 World Cup in Sri Lanka in 2024, where they will face England, Australia, South Africa and the West Indies. Jamie has been selected for a T10 competition in Spain in October 2023. He will be the youngest player on the team, and will compete against top players from all over Europe.

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

Mustafa took his place alongside the best U15 cricketers in the country and played against other regional teams from the Midlands, the North and the South in the tournament, which his team successfully won.

Mustafa follows in the steps of numerous Old Bedfordians to represent the school at the Bunbury Festival, who have included, in recent years, Gus Miller, Emilio Gay, Rohan Mehmi and, of course, Sir Alastair Cook.



Jamie Dunk (Lower Sixth)



Mustafa Haroon (Remove Form)

## Great for Cricket

Bedford School was proudly named in the top one hundred senior schools in The Cricketer Magazine once again in 2023, for having a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.



## Professional Coaches give Boys the Edge

Cricket may be played in the summer term, however, work goes on behind the scenes all year round to help boys to develop and hone their skills. This year we welcomed three new professional coaches into the school to work with the boys, coaching them one to one or one to two.

England coaches and former Northants players David Ripley and David Sales started work with boys over the winter months in their respective areas. David Ripley, who kept wicket at Northants County Cricket Club for 17 years, worked with wicket keepers right across the school to help them fine-tune their game. Meanwhile, former England batsman David Sales focused on batting technique during the winter programme, helping the boys to work out scoring areas for shorter format matches and create a plan to hit the boundary.

Old Bedfordian Charlie Thurston (07-14) was the most recent to join the team, helping Director of Cricket, Gary Steer, run the 1st XI. The former Northants batsman first fell in love with the game when he joined the school aged 11 years old.



David Ripley, Charlie Thurston (OB) and David Sales

## Quick Bites

### National Swim Medal Haul

Daniel Meier (Fourth Form) ended the school year with a splash after scooping five medals at the English Schools' Swimming Championships in July. He finished in the top five in all his races and achieved one gold medal (200m fly), three silvers (100m fly, 200m freestyle, 400m freestyle) and one bronze (50m freestyle).

### County Athletics

Three boys stepped up to the podium at the 2023 County Athletics Championships at the Bedford International Athletic Stadium in June. Ayo Odumuyiwa (Remove Form) won gold in the 400m hurdles and Jack Guest (Remove Form) the silver in the same event, while Ferdi Barnett-Vincent (Fourth Form), who came along to support the boys but ended up competing in the shot, achieved a brilliant bronze.



## Hockey Season Ends on a High with National Final

2022-2023 proved an outstanding season for the school's hockey players, with 108 fixtures played and an impressive 248 goals scored. For the 1st XI, in particular, it was a season to remember, one which finished with them as national finalists and with just one loss on their block fixture scorecard.

The 1st XI started their campaign in the England Hockey U18 Tier 3 Championships with a 2-0 victory away to Stowe. Wins against The Leys (4-2) and Harrow (2-0) saw the 1st XI comfortably through to the quarter-final, where they faced Royal Grammar School Wycombe and came away with a 3-0 win. The semi-finals followed the next day against a very strong Sutton Valance team. However, Bedford dominated for significant periods and were 2-1 up after left-back Tom Godber (Upper Sixth) scored a collector's item goal. The concession of a late goal made it 2-2 at full-time. A tense period followed when the match went to penalty shuffles; however, Bedford's training in this area paid dividends, and when Sam Bayley scored the winner, all sighed in great relief to see the boys win the shoot-out 3-0. Special mention must go to Bedford's goalkeeper, Josh Addo, who saved every Sutton Valance shuffle.

The national final at the Lee Valley Olympic Stadium then beckoned for the young team, who took an early lead thanks to a short corner from Josh Stewart (Upper Sixth). However, a spirited response from Bromsgrove saw the lead change hands and move out of reach to give Bromsgrove a thoroughly deserved win. Nonetheless, the Bedford team should be justifiably proud of their fantastic run and brilliant team performance in the Championship and throughout their fixtures this season.



OB Ethan Vernon (07-18)

## Second World Title for OB Ethan Vernon

Old Bedfordian Ethan Vernon (07-18) added a second world title to his record when he took gold at the 2023 Cycling World Championships.

The championships started dramatically when Ethan and his teammates crashed out of the team pursuit defending their 2022 world title. Putting the crash to one side, Ethan took on the Men's Elimination Race, which proved an incident-filled race that saw Ethan crash heavily halfway through the race. Showing great determination, he was soon up and challenging the field, which included Olympic and former World Champion Elia Viviani, who he defeated in the final throws of the competition, to secure his second world title.

In a superb season, Ethan also won stages of the Tour of Rwanda and Romandie.

## Quick Bites

### Bedford Hockey Trio

In a first for the school, two members of staff and a current pupil played alongside each other in the Bedford Men's 1st XI Hockey team in a national league game. Joshua Stewart (Upper Sixth) joined Mr Sam Mee and Mr Lee Hoggett (Director of Hockey last year and our current Director of Hockey) to win against Harlestone Magpies 1-0 in the National Conference League.

### Athletics Success

Bedford School's athletes picked up six wins at the District Athletics Competition in May.

Intermediate boys (Remove Form): Danny Chapman - 1500m, Sam Deardon - 1500m steeplechase, Sam Barnes - 400m hurdles, Ferdi Barnett-Vincent - hammer throw, and Owain Harries, Novie Ikeneku, Shion James, Justin Fasanya - 4x100m relay. Junior boys (Fourth Form): Oliver Sheldon - 1500m.

Many boys went on to represent the district in the County Finals, with four crowned county champions: Ferdi Barnett-Vincent - hammer throw, Oscar Hayward - long jump, Alfred Wright - hammer throw and Justin Fasanya - 4x100m relay.

## 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](https://bedfordschool.org.uk/scholarships)

## Championships Galore for Bedford's Golfers

It has been another incredibly busy year for Bedford School's golfers with many successes, both individually and as a team.

The first weekend of the summer term saw the whole squad travel to the JCB Club for the HMC Strokeplay Tour Championship where they finished tied for first place, only losing on countback. Fin Rennie (Remove Form), Jack Peters (Lower Sixth) and Freddie Tucker (Lower Sixth) then travelled onwards to the ISGA Finals at Slaley Hall, where they achieved third place – the school's highest finish in this event.

The team subsequently reached the HMC Foursomes National Finals by beating Culford in the regional final in a very close game. It was here that the team achieved a milestone for school golf. In beating Radley, Gordon's and Brentwood in the group stage, the team secured a place in the final to play Reed's. Despite a narrow 1-2 defeat, the team of Ed Wade (Fifth Form), Will Mowe (Remove Form), Freddie Tucker (Lower Sixth), David Wiltshire (Fifth Form), Shaun Thomas (Lower Sixth) and Will Wilkins (Lower Sixth) produced the best result for the school in this prestigious competition - a result they vow to better next season to take the title.



## England Development Squad for Golf Scholars

Golf Scholars, Fin Rennie (Remove Form) and Jack Peters (Lower Sixth), both gained selection to the England Golf National Performance Programme.

The world-renowned programme has seen top golfing talent train with them over the years, and to be selected is huge testament to the boys' hard work and progress. Through the programme, Fin and Jack will attend ten training sessions in the off season, gym sessions every Monday night throughout the year and matches against other regions or counties. The programme aims to find and develop players believed to have a real chance of representing their country in team matches.



Fin Rennie (Remove Form)



Jack Peters (Lower Sixth)

## Quick Bites

### National Beach Volleyball Champions

Despite being located in one of the most land-locked counties in the country, boys at Bedford excel at beach volleyball!

Two teams from the school headed to Brighton College's training ground for the National Independent Schools Beach Volleyball Tournament. And while both teams played with skill and in good spirits, it was the Bedford A team who remained unbeaten throughout, to win the tournament and be crowned the U18 National Beach Volleyball Champions 2023.

## OB Golf Scholars Inspire

We were delighted to welcome back to school Old Bedfordians and Golf Scholars Rob Holden (13-18), Finlay Cummings (10-21) and Alex Robins (17-22).

Since leaving school all three have studied at US universities on golf scholarships, and returned to inspire our current talented crop of golfers with information about studying and playing golf in the US.

Rob is a graduate of Ohio University and is back in the UK making his way in the golfing world. Finlay is currently studying International Business at Harding University in Arkansas and Alex is studying Accounting at Shorter University in Georgia.



OBs Alex Robins, Finlay Cummings & Rob Holden



Bedford School's beach volleyball teams



Parent

Partnerships

# Working in partnership

*“Very informative and extremely well presented. Totally invaluable information for us parents..”*

Current Parent

At Bedford School, we believe that the pastoral care of our boys is at its best when there is effective communication between all those involved and with this in mind, starting in 2021, we commenced our Parent Partnership Programme to share insight, support and information with parents, working alongside the PSHCE curriculum (Citizenship) that forms part of the boys' learning.

In 2022-2023, the informative programme included talks and workshops from external speakers including Dr Kathy Weston on 'Future Proofing Your Son: How evidence-based modern parenting can help optimise his potential and prepare him for life', Fiona Spargo-Mabbs of the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation entitled 'I Wish I'd Known: a workshop for parents about young people, drugs, alcohol and decisions' and Naella Grew from Teenagers Translated on 'Understanding Adolescence and Promoting Good Teen Mental Health'. 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 to the move to university.

The keynote speaker at this year's annual Parent Partnership Conference, attended by over 100 parents, was Dick Moore, who spoke very eloquently, emotionally and inspirationally on the subject of 'Adolescence is a war. No-one gets out unscathed! How we cope with them, and how they cope with us.' As in previous years, parents were invited to attend their choice of breakout talks on anything from digital safety to parties and alcohol, as well as nutrition and neurodiversity during the conference.



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](http://bedfordschool.org.uk/transport) for further details.



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