

A year in review
2021/2022



WELCOME

WINNER
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS OF
THE YEAR 2021
Technology and Enterprise



We are incredibly proud to be the holders of the 'Independent Boys' School of the Year' award; an award that pays testament to the commitment and dedication of our teachers, the enthusiasm and determination of our boys and the wonderful support of their families and our Old Bedfordian community—all are pivotal in making Bedford the happy, vibrant and successful school that it is.

As you will see in the pages that follow, our commitment to providing a holistic, all-round education, tailored to the needs of boys is at the fore, and opportunities abound for them to fulfil their academic potential, discover their passions and pursue them without inhibition—which, I am pleased to say they do, wholeheartedly.

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

I am also pleased in this edition to be able to share our plans with you as we look to build for the future. I hope that you will enjoy following these exciting developments as they unfold and we strive to create an even more exciting future for Bedford boys, not only over the next few years, but for generations to come.

James Hodgson
Head Master

That they be *good* men.



Book a Personal Visit

We warmly invite families to come and meet us, and see 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.



Sixth Form 2022 Destinations

Bedford School boys once again excelled with a superb set of results and top-flight university destinations including LSE, Edinburgh, Imperial College, York, St Andrews, Durham and Leeds, with six boys taking up places at Oxford and Cambridge and eight boys going on to read medicine.

We are also delighted to see a growing number of boys setting their sights further afield and securing places at leading universities in the USA, and boys taking up prestigious degree apprenticeships with leading firms such as PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC).

We also celebrate the variety of interests and choices again this year, as boys go on to read degrees in subjects as far ranging as Computer Science, Theology, Architecture, Product Design, Aerospace Engineering, Law, Politics and International Relations, Fine Art, Biochemistry and Medicine.

Top University Destinations*

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

For a full list of university destinations in 2022, please see page 23.

*Top university destinations by the number of boys taking up places for 2020, 2021 and 2022 combined

91%

of boys have accepted offers at their first or second choice universities in autumn 2022.

"I am hugely proud of this year's leavers. They truly are a group of fine young men who have distinguished themselves across all areas of school life and capped their achievements with a superb set of results. We wish them well as they head their various ways (and look forward to staying in touch as Old Bedfordians)."

James Hodgson
Head Master

Scholarships & Bursaries

We believe in rewarding talent, and our generous scholarships are available to boys who excel academically or show outstanding talent in art, 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.

Exceptional Mathematics

Jason He (Remove Form) achieved an exceptional result in the Hamilton Olympiad, a competition set by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT). Undertaken by 600 qualifying students from the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (in which Jason achieved gold), it is designed to stretch the very best mathematicians. Jason was not only awarded a distinction for his result in the Olympiad but also a gold medal for being in the top 20 students in the UK.

Earlier in the year, Jason also achieved a distinction for his efforts in the U18 British Senior Olympiad and gold in the Senior Maths Challenge.



Jason He (Remove Form)

Forecasting a Decade of Medical Science

Varun Nathan's (Lower Sixth) insightful and thought-provoking forecast for the coming decade of medical sciences and healthcare won him a runners up spot in this year's Global Clinical Network Student National Science Essay Competition, answering the challenge, 'How will doctors practise medicine in 2031?' The competition aims to encourage aspiring scientists and clinicians to think critically about tackling global challenges and change, and is judged by a panel of scientific experts, one of whom – Dr Adeel Iqbal, a London-based Consultant Physician – noted that this year's competition saw an excellent standard of submissions from across the UK.



Varun Nathan (Lower Sixth)

Quick Bites

New College of the Humanities Essay Competition

Max Pearson (Lower Sixth) performed brilliantly in the 2022 New College of the Humanities essay competition, which attracted around 6,000 entries from students around the world. His essay for the English category on 'Why does the modern world need literary critics?' earned him a distinguished third place.

Sharing Scientific Research

Ten boys in the Lower Sixth enjoyed a day of learning about different scientific research projects, when they attended the Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS) Conference.

The boys also shared the findings from their research into the Cosmic Mining Project: analysing Spitzer telescope data to find interesting astronomical targets for the newly launched James Webb Telescope, with their peers from other schools and the wider academic community.

Senior Mathematics Challenge

Six gold, 24 silver and 55 bronze medals were awarded to our top mathematicians from Remove Form through to Upper Sixth Form in this year's UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge.

Physics Olympiad

Sixteen Upper Sixth boys achieved merits – the top-ranking score – in the British Physics Olympiad Physics Challenge. Head of Physics, Dr Palmer, commented, "I am so impressed with the performances of all the students who took part, especially the handful of Lower Sixth Physicists who chose to step up to the challenge and demonstrated calmness and resilience when faced with such challenging questions."

Hobby Writer to Published Author

Kevin Xu's (Fifth Form) writing career started as a hobby to help develop his writing skills and improve his English when he joined Bedford School in the Fourth Form in 2020. Little did he know that his articles would prove so popular that he would become a published author with seven articles (to date) to his name.

Kevin started by writing about his experience of being a boarder in a UK independent school. Keen to share his experiences with families living in his home country, China, Kevin made contact with the China-based teens' current affairs magazine 'Teens' with his first article 'Boarding in the UK', in which he described a typical school day, and how it compared to going to school in China.

His article proved so popular that he was invited to submit more, and, during the pandemic, he became a voice of reassurance as he helped to allay overseas parents' worries by writing about the UK situation and explaining the precautions in place at Bedford. Today, Kevin continues to write for 'Teens' as well as the school's WeChat account (China's social media platform).



Kevin Xu (Fifth Form)

[Inspiring intellectual curiosity]

Extending Academic Ambitions

We encourage boys to always look beyond the academic syllabus, to develop informed, independent opinions and, ultimately, fulfil their full academic potential. Through our wide-ranging academic extension programmes, numerous competitions and myriad academic clubs and societies, opportunities abound for boys to explore and extend their academic ambitions.

In the Lower Sixth, all boys undertake either the IB Extended Essay or the Bedford School Independent Project (BSIP). Now in its seventh year, the BSIP allows boys to explore their chosen areas of interest in a rigorous, critical and often interdisciplinary fashion. This year's project winner Robert Parrish (Lower Sixth) explored the topic 'Why are investors so interested in the art world?'. Inspired by the BSIP, many boys then opt to undertake the Extended Project Qualification in the Upper Sixth — with outstanding results.

School competitions such as the Talalay Science Prize (which gives boys with a passion for science to put their research and presentation skills to the test) offer boys a further platform to exercise their natural intellectual curiosity. The mysteries of the 'Relativity of Simultaneity' was this year's winning project by Dylan Morgan-Jones (Lower Sixth).

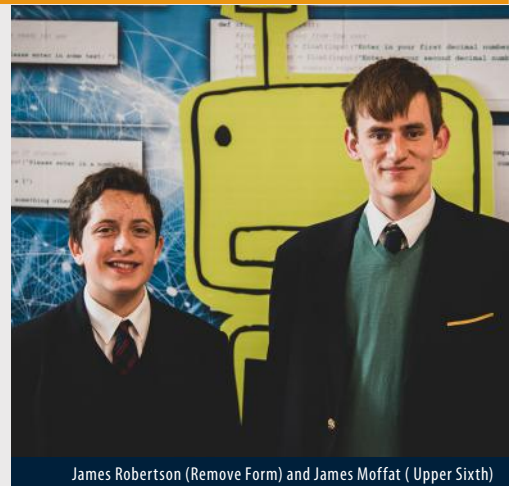
Clubs and societies, ranging from the Harpur Science Forum to Art Appreciation to Pythagoreans Society to STEM Society, also offer boys the opportunity to delve deeper into areas of academic interest, through lively debate, lectures from external speakers or from the boys themselves.

Most recently, boys in the Physics Project Club were inspired to investigate 'How to Improve Acoustic Levels in a School Recording Room', which they submitted for a CREST Silver award. However, their CREST assessor was so impressed that they came away with a Gold award instead.

First Place for Cyber Challenge Boys

James Moffat (Upper Sixth), James Robertson and Muhammed Alom (both Remove Form) 'hacked' their way to first place in the renowned Lockheed Martin CyberQuest Competition. The boys, who competed as a trio (guidelines allowed for five students per team), were placed first in the UK, beating the competition by just one point! What made the win all the more satisfying was that this year's second-placed team had beaten Bedford School to the top spot last year.

The Bedford School boys teamed up to compete against over 300 other students from the US, Poland and across the UK, all of whom were challenged to hack their way into different systems and find security flaws.



James Robertson (Remove Form) and James Moffat (Upper Sixth)

Code Quest

Will Reddy and Joe Travis (Fifth Form), and Varun Nathan (Lower Sixth), came third in the UK in the international Lockheed Martin Code Quest. 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.



Joe Travis (Fifth Form), Will Reddy (Fifth Form) and Varun Nathan (Lower Sixth)

Journal of Digital Learning

2020 saw the launch of the Bedford School Journal of Digital Learning – a collection of papers written by the boys themselves to reflect on digital technologies and how they impact our world.

Issue 4: 'Are Robots a Threat to Humanity?' is hot off the press and addresses the controversial theme of robots versus humans. Whilst machines will always be faster and more accurate than humans can ever be, the human skills of empathy, creativity, imagination and sophisticated communication, amongst others, will be more critical than ever for the next generation. To help boys from both the Prep and Upper School to consider this notion, they were asked to submit an essay to answer the question, "Do robots pose a threat to humanity?". A selection of these essays can be found in this issue.



Read the Journal

Quick Bites

Brilliant Bebras

This year, a record 314 boys from across the school took part in the UK Bebras computing challenge with some superb results. In the elite category Bedford School boys scored an average of 108 compared with the national average of 93 and in the senior category an average of 102 compared with the national average of 88.

Building Together Through Minecraft Club

This year the school created and hosted its own Minecraft servers to enable boys to build together in a virtual world. The boys are responsible for their world, working together to design, develop and maintain it.

Mr Scullion, Head of Computer Science, said, "The Bedford School values are integrity, responsibility, endeavour, curiosity and kindness. Giving the boys this opportunity arguably meets all these values in one go. Building worlds is not a quick task and so it has been great to see how the boys have worked together to start creating a spectacular environment. It also helps them to learn from each other in terms of design and construction."

Digital Leaders

Our Digital Leaders are a group of boys who have a passion for technology and who help promote the use of digital technology throughout the school.

Boys selected to become Digital Leaders undertake the ChildNet training programme, completing the comprehensive programme in their own time over the term.

Once fully accredited, the boys take on the role of Digital Leader and share their knowledge through assemblies, tutor groups and Citizenship mornings, as well as providing advice to staff.

Out of this World *Coding*

Kevin Xu and Vincent Xiang (Fifth Form) saw their coding project go stratospheric when it was selected to be flown up to the International Space Station (ISS).

The exciting new project: Raspberry Pi Mission Zero, run by the European Space Agency, offered young people across Europe the opportunity to conduct scientific investigations in space by writing computer programs to run on Raspberry Pi computers aboard the ISS. The aim of the project was to design a program that could detect moisture from the ISS and give an indication through the Astro Pi computer of whether it was wet or dry.

The opportunity to get involved was too good to pass up for the two Fifth Formers, who were eager to further their digital learning and be in with a chance to see their code used by astronauts – which it was in May 2022.

The boys also suggested that their program be named after the famous scientist and codebreaker Alan Turing, who designed technology during World War II that sped up the breaking of the German code (the Enigma), which, ultimately, brought an end to the war. Alan Turing's father and uncle were both Old Bedfordians.



Kevin Xu and Vincent Xiang (Fifth Form)

[Stratospheric achievement]

Leaders of the Future

Eighty aspiring young leaders from 12 sixth forms across Bedford Borough came together for the third '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 Amani Simpson, who turned his troubled youth around to become a successful filmmaker and entrepreneur. Amani spoke of the steps he took to change his life and write a new story, before helping the students to explore their own uniqueness and to identify what they have that can power them towards an extraordinary life. Zakia Moulaoui Guery, who has devoted her life to giving hope to homeless people and raising awareness of social justice, was the second keynote speaker. Zakia gave the students plenty of food for thought, encouraging them to think about how they could take their extraordinary selves and make a real impact on the people and places around them.



Ready2Lead? Ambassadors with Keynote Speaker Amani Simpson

Gold Career MARK



Bedford School not only retained the nationally recognised Quality in Careers Standard in 2022 but, significantly, was also awarded a 'Career Mark' Gold in recognition of the continuous, exceptional, tailored and professional service provided to every single boy.

ivy house Leadership

In its third year at Bedford School, the Ivy House Award enabled a further 66 Lower Sixth boys to undertake outstanding self-leadership training this academic year. The prestigious award helps boys to gain awareness of and develop their self-knowledge, self-empowerment and self-leadership, empowering them to take the first steps in creating a huge positive change in their lives, future careers and the world.

Quick Bites

Inspiring Careers

Our annual careers fair, now in its sixteenth successful year, once again proved an extremely useful evening for our boys and pupils from local schools. With 64 sessions to choose from, pupils explored a diverse range of careers with professionals, many of whom were Old Bedfordians and current parents, from across the globe during the three-day online event.

Inside Westminster

A-Level politics boys in the Lower Sixth took a look at the inside workings of the Palace of Westminster with MP for Bedford and Kempston, Mohammad Yasin.

The fascinating trip afforded the boys a greater understanding of legislation and the UK economy, and the opportunity to discuss the relationship between Parliament and the Executive.

Theory of Knowledge Shared

Lower Sixth boys studying the International Baccalaureate (IB) joined with fellow pupils from Bedford Girls' School to present their Theory of Knowledge (ToK) exhibitions together for the first time this year. In front of an audience of teachers, they explored how epistemological questions manifest in the world around us. Students selected philosophical questions such as 'To what extent is certainty attainable?', which they explored through the lens of three objects.



Theory of Knowledge Visited

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

The students were fascinated by the archaeological and ethnographic exhibits at the Pitt Rivers, where they learned how the museum is reconciling its colonial legacy and how it is working to support communities for an inclusive future.

The tour of New College provided the students 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.

A Voice for the Future

["You can't really learn it; you just have to do it."]

The entrepreneurial skills of Will Roberts (Lower Sixth) opened up a world of opportunity when his endeavours caught the eye of Bedford Football Club Chairman and local bitcoin businessman, Peter McCormack. The football Chairman came across Will through his 'Young Rugby' initiative at Bedford Blues RFC. The 'Young Rugby' initiative supports, inspires and advises young rugby players who are interested in pursuing a professional career in the sport by bridging the gap between grassroots players and their professional idols, to help them achieve their rugby dream, and saw Will highly commended in the 'Young Achiever Award' in the Bedford Independent Heroes Awards 2021.

Keen to add a young voice to commentate at the club, Peter McCormack approached Will for a trial, which proved so successful that he booked Will for all 15 of the games remaining in the season. Will's great entrepreneurial talent, passion for sport, knowledge of the beautiful game and undeniable connection with both players and fans helped him to take his first steps into his dream career in sports media and the role of lead commentator for the club, albeit on a weekend basis whilst he is at school.

However, always looking to the future, Will has already set his sights on using his 'Young Rugby' experience on social media to raise awareness of Bedford Football Club and put them firmly on the map.

Enterprising Artists

[Making a positive difference]

Entrepreneurship is intrinsically about solving problems and meeting needs, and turning ideas into action to make a positive difference, a challenge we were delighted to see boys undertaking this year.

Drawing on the talents of the artistic and enterprising 'twocustomisers' (otherwise known as Alex Edun and Henry Cudjoe (Upper Sixth)), Jake Pattison (Upper Sixth) used their customisation to support this year's Movember campaign. With their backing, Jake approached Old Bedfordian and England Rugby international George Furbank (13-15) to propose a pair of Movember-themed boots, featuring statistics regarding men's mental health, to be worn on the 'big stage' to raise awareness and funds for the boys' Movember campaign. The OB did not hesitate to take the boys up on the offer, wearing the boots in November for the Northampton Saints fixture against Bristol Bears. He then also helped the boys to auction the try-scoring boots afterwards to raise further funds and awareness.

In a similar vein, Laurie Stredwick (Upper Sixth) asked the 'twocustomisers' to customise a pair of Jordan 1s with a Movember theme to award in a raffle, this time within the school community. Once again, artistic talent combined with entrepreneurial thinking to make a positive difference for the charity, raising valuable funds and the profile of men's health issues with boys.

[Making a significant, meaningful and much-valued contribution]

Giving Something Back

In line with our mission 'to teach boys to think intelligently, act wisely and be fully engaged in a challenging and changing world', we believe that it is vital for all our boys to be responsible citizens who make a valuable contribution to others, so that they can be, in our own words, 'good men', with a clear understanding that with privilege comes great responsibility.

Through our Community Partnerships Programme, which launched in 2020, we aim for every boy in the Lower Sixth (some 140 boys each year) to make a significant, meaningful and much-valued contribution to groups and organisations in the Bedford area, including many local primary schools. Equally valuable, the boys benefit on a personal level through the work they undertake.

Troy Arora and Jamie Wallwork (Lower Sixth) opted to play their part by sharing their love of basketball with primary school children at Goldington Green Academy. Throughout the course of the year, the two boys enjoyed working with a wide variety of pupils. Starting in autumn, they introduced the sport to a group of the school's Gifted and Talented children as part of an enrichment programme to help stretch the children's abilities. In the spring term, the boys worked with children in a lower ability learning group to help improve social, emotional and mental development.

Vicky Moore, Teacher at Goldington Green, explained, "Having Bedford School boys coming into school to teach a new sport is a massive benefit to us and to the children. We are very short-staffed and do not necessarily have the range of expertise to be able to offer such a sport. The children really benefit from playing a team sport as it teaches them vital social skills such as how to cooperate, to be less selfish, listen to others and it gives them a sense of belonging. It also helps greatly with their self-esteem. The children engage with the boys and rarely misbehave as they want to make them proud. It's a great session for them."

Troy and Jamie have also benefited and learned a great deal over the year, developing both their leadership and organisational skills as they planned lessons completely independently.

Troy explained, "I have become a lot more organised and I feel more confident leading the children and showing them what to do. As we have got to know the children, it has been great to see their game develop, and, in particular, watch them grow as a team and see how they communicate better with each other."



Creative Arts *festival*

Alongside talks, workshops and performances by visiting artists, boys enjoyed a wide range of live performances during this year's Creative Arts Festival, which, once again, proved a true celebration and showcase of art, music and drama at Bedford.

Opera singer, broadcaster and music columnist Peter Brathwaite gave this year's keynote speech. Offering a fascinating insight into the world of opera and his career, he also spoke passionately to the boys about recognising that everyone's voice is different, "distinctively their own", and urged them to be authentic to who they are and to use their voices to challenge and change perceptions.

In the Quarry Theatre, audiences enjoyed powerful performances from the boys in *Macbeth* (directed by Sami Hundal (Lower Sixth)) and the National Connections play *Remote*. In the Art School, the incredible imagination and talent of our GCSE, A-Level and IB boys on paper, canvas and in sculpture was clear to see.

On a musical note, the school's Jazz Orchestra, New Jazz Collective and Prep Jazz Ensemble presented an evening of Jazz, Groove and Funk in the Quarry Theatre, transformed for the evening into a jazz club. The final event of the festival was the Summer Choral and Orchestral Concert which, as ever, saw the school's musicians and singers at their very best, and proved a perfect and fitting finale to a superb festival.



Quick Bites

Art Talks

John Duffin gave a lecture on his prints and paintings of city life, speaking about his belief that the greatest artistic results come from the harmonious marriage of subject matter, vision and technique.

Art historian and OB Peter Webb (54-59) gave an illuminating overview of the work of the German Renaissance artist Albrecht Durer (1471-1528), coinciding with the National Gallery's exhibition.

Art historian and writer, Andrea Rose CMG & OBE, gave a fascinating talk on one of Britain's greatest painters Leon Kossoff (1926-2019).

Michael Peppiatt, who is described by the Art Newspaper as "the finest art writer of his generation", discussed 'Giacometti's Studio'.

Performing Partnership

Pupils from Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School came together to take part in movement, singing and acting workshops to lay the groundwork for the exciting joint musical, *Bugsy Malone*, taking place in November 2022.

Collaborative Choral Concert

Sir Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio* was the focus for this year's Choral Concert, offering the combined choirs and orchestras of Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School, Visiting Music Teachers and the Eagle Choir, formed of parents, staff and friends of the schools, a wonderful challenge and joint opportunity to perform.

Articulation Finalist

Tyler Choga (Upper Sixth) wowed with his thoughtful and eloquent talk on the work 'Sharecropper', by Elizabeth Catlett at the regional finals of the ARTiculation competition. The judges, impressed with his insights and for "taking the listener on a great journey", awarded him a place in the grand final at the National Gallery in London.



2D Winner Will Turner (Remove Form)

Designs on Detweiler

Sense of Place was the theme for the 25th Detweiler Competition, and this was captured in many thought-provoking and imaginative ways by boys through art, sculpture, drama, music and creative writing.

As ever, it proved a wonderful showcase for the boys' creativity.

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



Chapel Choir on Tour

The Chapel Choir enjoyed its first summer trip since the start of the pandemic, spending four days in Salisbury where they sang four Evensongs and a Eucharist as a visiting choir at the Cathedral. Visiting choirs cover music at the main services while the regular choir is on holiday, and it was an amazing achievement for the boys, particularly as 17 of the 19 trebles were only admitted to full choir membership in June. Needless to say, it wasn't all just singing, and our Chaplain, Mr McCleery, organised a full programme of activities, including bowling, Go Ape and a cultural visit to Old Sarum. The boys had a wonderful time, and are looking forward to their next trip next summer, wherever that might be.



The Chapel Choir at Salisbury Cathedral



James Watson (Upper Sixth)

Organ Scholarship for James

Organ Scholar James Watson (Upper Sixth) is set to extend his considerable skills and organ playing experience after he was named the new organ scholar at St Davids Cathedral. James will join the team at St Davids this September for one academic year, whilst applying to university to read Music in 2023.

During his year, James will play for all the services in the cathedral and be involved in the organisation of the cathedral's week-long music festival during which he will also give a recital. The cathedral is known for its work in the local community, giving local schools in Pembrokeshire the opportunity to get involved with music – something that James is keen to support. The year will also allow James to gain experience in conducting, and leading rehearsals for choristers. James also hopes to study for the Associateship Diploma of the Royal College of Organists (ARCO) as part of his organ lessons during the year.

Animal Farm

Audiences were left spellbound after enjoying the first Bedford School drama production in 18 months: *Animal Farm*, George Orwell's enduring parable on the perils of totalitarianism. Orwell's menacing and thought-provoking tale was played out by a talented group of boys to a full crowd in our Quarry Theatre at all three performances.

The cast, made up of boys of all ages, from Fourth Form right through to Upper Sixth, all threw themselves into character, adopting many of the nuances created by Orwell, displaying wonderful animal physicality.

The talented cast were supported by a crew of boys backstage, who took on roles in lighting, staging and sound; every job deemed important to keep the 'show on the road', with no one person being the star of the show. It was a huge collaborative effort.

The original score, played by a live orchestra, helped to create a haunting atmosphere, reflecting on the play's manipulation of the animals who are increasingly tricked as the propaganda takes hold.

Antoinette Keylock, Director of *Animal Farm* and Head of Academic Drama, enthused, "This cast have been a joy to work with – we are very proud of their professionalism on and off stage. They have been supported by a brilliant backstage crew – all boys have been resilient and focused; it has been a privilege to work with such a talented, kind and humble bunch."

[*Thought-provoking drama*]



Quick Bites

Music Fellows

The Bedford School Music Fellowship Programme gives pupils the chance to meet, listen to and be coached by top level professional musicians in their field. This year boys enjoyed masterclasses, workshops and recitals from Fellows Gareth Lubbe (strings), Ralph Allwood MBE (vocal) and Ian Clarke (woodwind).

All That Jazz

The school's singers and instrumentalists, alongside pupils from local schools, were treated to a weekend of jazz, funk and groove with jazz composer, pianist and Bedford School music teacher Nikki Iles and Pete Churchill, Professor of Jazz Composition at the Royal Academy of Music and an internationally acclaimed jazz performer, singer, pianist and conductor. Participants gained a taste of the marvellous world of choral jazz singing, before performing with the Nikki Iles & Pete Churchill Trio in concert.

Drama Workshops Inspire

GCSE drama students developed their devised theatre performances with a brilliant workshop delivered by theatre company Paperbirds, the UK's leading practitioners of verbatim theatre.

Old Bedfordian Harun Ćehović (15-17) returned to school to run a specialist workshop for the Fifth and Sixth Form on the Actors' Warm-up, a technique that Harun is studying for his masters in acting at RADA.

Old Bedfordian and established actor Jonno Davies (01-10) delivered a technical workshop to drama scholars on the Laban Movement.

Professor Graham Saunders gave a fascinating lecture exploring the main themes and dramatic features of the work of Sarah Kane and her ongoing influence on many of today's dramatists.

Chapel Choir Record Remembrance Day Single

Our Chapel Choir were honoured to be asked to take part in a special recording project for Remembrance Day with singer and songwriter Jamie Lonsdale. The boys recorded their part of the single 'White Doves of Peace' in the school Chapel, while a full symphony orchestra and a military brass band were recorded at the world-famous Abbey Road Studios in London. The recordings, with added vocals by The Chelsea Pensioners (all retired soldiers from the British Army), were then seamlessly blended in the studio to create the final track, which was, fittingly, released on Remembrance Day.



Choristers recording the Remembrance single in Chapel

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**.

Top Brass Accolades

Daniel Hutchins (Lower Sixth) achieved a double accolade for his musical talent, when he was offered places in both the National Youth Concert Band and National Youth Brass Band. After his successful audition process for the National Youth Concert Band (NYCB), Daniel joined them for a residential course over the Easter break and performed in a concert in the Elgar Hall at the University of Birmingham in April 2022. Then, hot on the heels of his NYCB success, Daniel also successfully auditioned for the National Youth Brass Band: one of the UK's biggest youth orchestras. With the band's 70th anniversary taking place this year, Daniel could look forward to joining them for a number of exciting concerts, including one with the Band of the Royal Marines in the summer, and another at the Royal Albert Hall in London in September.



Daniel Hutchins (Lower Sixth)



Millan Verwoert (Remove Form)

Millan Cast in National Theatre Connections

Millan Verwoert (Remove Form) was selected from over 6,000 young people from across the UK to perform in the National Theatre Connections Festival 2022. The Connections programme brings together some of the UK's most exciting writers with the theatre-makers of the future and provides the opportunity for young people to audition to perform in the plays. Millan was cast as Bobby Brunt, one of the main characters, in the play *No Time Like Tomorrow*, and proudly performed at the Milton Keynes Theatre and the Northampton Royal and Derngate.

Parent

Partnerships

Working in partnership

"I just wanted to thank you again for bringing together such a superb panel for the Parent Partnership Conference. It has really helped to underpin all the issues of parenting teenagers and I can't thank you enough for this."

Current Parent

The new Bedford School Parent Partnerships Programme has been created to help to support parents in navigating their son's journey through the teenage years.

Mrs Whiteman, who heads up the initiative at school, explained, "The pastoral care of our boys is at its best when there is effective communication between all those involved, and with this in mind we have put together a programme to share insight, support and information with parents, working alongside the PSHCE curriculum (Citizenship) that forms part of the boys' learning."

During the year, parents were invited to a number of talks including 'Surviving or Thriving? The Teenage Years', by Dr Hazel Harrison, and 'Sex, Likes and Social Media. Talking to Teens in the Digital Age' by The RAP Project.

The school also held its inaugural Parent Partnerships Conference, which provided parents with plenty of food for thought and practical guidance to support their sons and help them to thrive both mentally and academically. Dr Kathy Weston explored what is needed to raise an emotionally, academically and physically resilient teenager, before parents split into breakout groups to listen to talks delivered by teachers, encompassing a variety of ideas and guidance to facilitate a boy's journey through the school.



Brilliant Boarders' Games

The second Boarders' Games, held during National Boarding Week, proved a massive success, once again, as boarders from both the Prep and Upper School came together to celebrate the end of the year with some good old-fashioned fun.

The boys' natural competitiveness and camaraderie was clear to see as they competed for their houses in games such as Bull Rodeo, Penalty Shoot Out, Whack a Mole and the Vortex Throw, as well as more traditional events such as the three-legged race and a good old egg and spoon race. The success of this now annual and highly anticipated event is down to the boys themselves, who are heavily involved in its planning.



[A celebration of boarding]



Boarders' Spring Dinner

Over 200 members of the school's boarding community donned their dinner jackets and bow ties to gather for the inaugural Boarders' Spring Dinner on Wednesday 27 April.

The special event was held to celebrate a wonderful year of boarding ahead of IB and A-Level exams. After an entertaining speech by TV Creative Director and Old Bedfordian Damon Pattison (82-87) about his time as a boarder and Head of House at Pemberley, the boys took to the dance floor with a DJ set by Feyi (otherwise known as Feyisayo Okusanya (Upper Sixth)).



Taste the World

Boards of all ages enjoyed an array of special activities to celebrate the end of exams and mark National Boarding Week. A 'Taste the World' evening brought together the whole boarding community through food. During the culinary evening, boys were able to try food from across the world, including dishes from Mexico, Greece and Japan. However, the event was about more than just food, it was also a wonderful celebration of our truly international community (with boys from 28 different countries) and offered the boys a greater insight into their peers' varied cultures.

Tai Tsang-Goodwin (Lower Sixth) commented, "During the meal I ate food from many different countries, trying as many dishes as possible. I spoke with my friends from other countries, trying to learn as much as possible about what we were eating."

New Boarders Bond

Our Boarding Housemasters go the extra mile to ensure all boys feel at home from the very first days. With the weekend coming straight after New Boys' Day, it offered a wonderful opportunity for Housemasters and boys to get to know each other.

On the Saturday evening, boys from the Fourth Form to the Sixth Form enjoyed barbecues together and started to forge friendships over team-building games, supported by some of the senior Upper Sixth boarders, who were keen to get involved in the activities. The thoroughly enjoyable evening was followed the next day by a school-wide treasure hunt, sports afternoon and movie night in the Quarry Theatre.

"The best bit about boarding is definitely being able to live with friends from school. It allows a person to make lifelong friendships as they spend their whole school life together."

Kabir, (Lower Sixth)



Bonding around the fire pit

Quick Bites

An Orthodox Christmas
Boys gained a true insight into how Christmas is celebrated in Russia, thanks to boarder Nikolai Sorokin (Upper Sixth) who led a special assembly on 7 January 2022, the Orthodox Christmas.

Celebrating Chinese Culture

Chinese New Year and the Mid-Autumn or Moon Festival both proved wonderful celebrations, full of authentic food, time honoured traditions and shared experiences both in the boarding houses and across the school.

Flexi BOARD

In response to parental demand, 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.



Houses compete together in the new five-a-side tournament

Five-a-Side Brings Boarders Together

Kabir Singh's (Lower Sixth) passion for football inspired him to organise a five-a-side inter-boarding house tournament for his fellow boarders to compete in, as part of their co-curricular programme.

While there is an extensive and diverse range of clubs and societies for both day boys and boarders to choose from, Kabir wanted to set something up specifically for boarders to help bring the boarding houses together during evening downtime. It is very much our ethos to encourage boys who have an idea to follow it through and 'make it happen'. So, Kabir was given the reins to lead the tournament himself, which attracted interest from over 60 boys.

Kabir explained, "It is important to hold events such as this as it gets everyone involved from different boarding houses. It's similar to supporting a football team in real life, as it brings out team spirit and competition with houses and friends."

Superb Summer of Cricket

The Bedford 1st XI enjoyed a superb summer of cricket with an incredible 17 wins and just one draw and three losses.

The finale of the season was a nail-biting finish in the T10 tournament. Despite missing captain Rohan Mehmi and Charlie Mumford, who were both away playing for Northamptonshire and Hampshire respectively, the squad showed their great depth of play to see off strong competition from Norwich School and the Perse School, and defeat last year's winners Oakham, to take the title by a breathtaking single run.



Great for Cricket

Bedford School was proudly named in the top one hundred senior schools in The Cricketer Magazine once again in 2022, for having a compelling commitment to cricket in the curriculum, facilities, fixture programmes and coaching.



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: www.bedfordschool.org.uk/scholarships

Rowing Returns

The Bedford Regatta made a welcome return after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The much-loved event in both the school's and town's rowing calendar provided a wonderful day of racing as well as a joyous social occasion. The Bedford School Boat Club fielded 14 crews and faced stiff competition from the major rowing schools, who were all in attendance. The boys worked hard with some hard-earned and hugely satisfying wins including the J18 coxed four of James Deardon (Cox, Upper Sixth), Sebastian Iles (Upper Sixth), Harry Tongue (Lower Sixth), Nat Lord (Lower Sixth) and Jacob Bailey (Upper Sixth) who convincingly beat Norwich and then Eton College in the final. Their result was all the more impressive when you know that the boys were also half of the 1st VIII coxed crew, who produced their best performance of the season to date, losing to a fast Hampton crew by a canvas. It was also wonderful to see a crew of OBs, racing as the Phoenix Boat Club, quite literally rise from the ashes when they were heralded the fastest crew of the regatta.



Top Flight Rowing

Bedford School Boat Club was honoured to be named in the top 11 independent schools in the UK by Independent School Parent magazine, alongside the likes of Eton College and Radley College.

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 2022 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.

Rugby Masterclass from England OBs

Old Bedfordians and England players George Furbank (13-15) and Fraser Dingwall (13-17) made a welcome return to the school to deliver a skills-based rugby masterclass in May. George focussed on kicking out-of-hand, while Fraser delivered a session on passing with decision-making.

Mr James Hinkins, Director of Rugby, said, "George and Fraser are nothing short of inspirational. They are two players at the top of their game who connect so well with our boys because they were in their shoes only a few years ago. The boys engaged fully and picked up on current techniques, exercises and terminology, which they will put into practice throughout our pre-season training." Thanks to strong links with Bedford Blues and Northampton Saints, boys who play rugby at Bedford School also receive regular coaching from high-profile, professional players, many of whom have competed at international level.





Callum Smyth (Upper Sixth)

Superb Six Nations

Callum Smyth (Upper Sixth) joined the growing ranks of Bedford School rugby players selected to compete for their country in the Six Nations tournament, when he was called up to play for the Scotland U18 squad. Callum enjoyed a superb Six Nations in France, performing very well in both sides of the scrum. He also demonstrated his prowess in the set piece along with some formidable defence and ball carrying. Director of Rugby James Hinkins told us, "We are excited by his future as he looks to develop his rugby career whilst completing a degree course up in Scotland."

US Golf Scholarship

Golf scholar and captain of the school golf squad Alex Robins (Upper Sixth) was delighted to receive an unconditional academic and golf scholarship to study at Shorter University, Georgia, USA from September 2022. Alex is the fourth Bedford School boy in the last three years to have secured a golf scholarship at a US university. Alex explained, "School has given me a lot of progression opportunities, and all of the boys here look to US universities as the next step in their education journey, as they get to play golf all year round while also studying for a degree."

Alex also credits the school's TrackMan golf simulator and the analytical data it provides for helping him to fine-tune his game, coupled with first-class coaching from the school's golf professionals and the head coach at Woburn.



Alex Robins (Upper Sixth)



Bedford School's golf scholars

Golf County Champions

The golf squad enjoyed an excellent season with many successes, including becoming Bedfordshire Schools County Champions, in which Ed Wade (Remove Form) shot +3 to win both the U16 and U18 titles and became one of the youngest victors in living memory, as well as helping the team to victory in the overall event.

The squad's superb play also saw them successfully qualify for both the ISGA and HMC Foursomes Finals.

Quick Bites

Sevens Successes

The Bedford School U16 team proved all-conquering in the Oakham Cup. The team finished the tournament unbeaten, lifting the cup after a 12-5 victory over Sedbergh in the final.

ECB England Tournament

Lower Sixth Former Charlie Mumford's excellent season in the crease for both the school's 1st XI and Hampshire was recognised with a call up from the England Cricket Board (ECB). Selected to play in the ECB U19 'Super 4s' competition, Charlie headed to the National Cricket Centre at Loughborough University in July. Each year, the ECB select just 50 of the best young cricketers in the country to play in the tournament, which also plays a big part in the selection of the England U19 squad.

England Schools National Match Win

James Lumley-Wood and James Hine (both Lower Sixth), who shoot as part of the Eastern Region Squad, were both selected to shoot in the England team in the Schools National Match against Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. Both boys achieved a score of 193/200, contributing to the England win.

National Academy Calls

Sam Barnes (Fourth Form) became the first Bedford School boy to represent the school at National Academy level when he competed in water polo for the East Region at the Inter-Regional Under 16 Championships. Sam is also a National Academy athlete and is the first to represent the school at this level.

A Rugby Season to Remember

There was a real buzz of excitement in the air in September as boys looked forward with anticipation to the rugby season, and for the first time since the pandemic, one with a full set of fixtures.

A brilliant pre-season prepared the 1st XV for their first competitive fixture of the year at the Norwich Festival, in which the squad secured an impressive three out of three wins.

The first home match of the season against Oundle saw the 1st XV come flying out the blocks to secure a convincing win (42-19), to place the squad in the top five teams in the country at schoolboy level that weekend and demonstrate beyond any doubt that they were a squad with the heart and desire to win.

As the season continued, the 1st XV played in some epic battles, with notable wins against Uppingham (40-15), Eton College (17-10), Warwick (19-17) and Dulwich College (29-24) – always one to relish. With the Upper Sixth Form cramming two seasons worth of rugby into one, they started with real purpose. The Lower Sixth boys should be commended for the part they played, knowing that they had to give their all for their teammates in their final year.

Over the half-term break, the squad headed to Edinburgh. An initial draw against the hosts, Merchiston Castle School, was followed by wins in all the group matches and knockout games, and saw the squad safely through to the cup competition on the second day, to face fellow Englishmen, Seaford College. Unfortunately, injuries to a number of the Bedford team meant that they could not fend off the power of the Seaford pack, who took the final victory.

The final home game of the season could not have been more befitting for the boys: Abingdon at home. A comfortable 36-21 victory was just reward for every Upper Sixth Former who remained on the field for the final whistle. It was also reward for the loyal support that the XV had had all season.

In the National Schools Cup, convincing wins against Gresham's School (47-12), local rivals Samuel Whitbread Academy (31-18) and Felsted (38-33), saw Bedford through to the quarter finals of the competition, before an epic game, complete with horizontal hail and icy conditions, away to Kirkham ended their run and the season.

In spring, success continued with sevens, and, as with the National Schools Cup, the squad made the last eight in the Rosslyn Park Sevens thanks to some impressive, skilful and impassioned play.

The 1st XV certainly turned some heads this year, scored some breathtaking team and individual tries and finished proudly unbeaten at home. Every match was a drama unfolding and each one a realisation of why rugby is such an important tool for personal development. For each and every squad from the 1st XV to the U14 H team, it was a fantastic season, which will live long in the memories of all involved.

[Pushing forward together]



With planning consent granted, we are set to embark on the ground-breaking first phase of our masterplan for the future of the school estate.

To fulfil our mission to teach boys to think intelligently, act wisely and be fully engaged in a challenging and changing world, it is essential that we prepare them with the necessary skills for the future. With this in mind, we are delighted to unveil a first look at this exciting development.

At its heart: 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.

The space created by the new building will also allow for the school's pastoral care to be consolidated into a new health and wellbeing hub, offering benefits to all boys, day and boarders alike, and upgrades to four academic departments, three day houses and a boarding house.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to the school through a newly designed entrance and presenting this ambitious new development as early as 2025. 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 garden courtyard



Breakout spaces

Find out more

Please do visit the school website for further information and all the latest developments or email our Development Director Vin Gaten at vgaten@bedfordschool.org.uk



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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