



Building Tomorrow's 'Good Men'

SIXTH FORM AT BEDFORD SCHOOL



**WORLD-LEADING
BOARDING
SCHOOL**

**INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
OF THE YEAR**

Education is more than sitting in lessons. It stems from the Latin word 'educere' which means 'to lead out'. As educators, it is our role to reach into the heart and mind of every boy in our school to help him to uncover his own unique skills and talents, find what makes him tick, and prepare him for the world beyond. At Bedford, we start to do this from the very first day he joins us.

As a Sixth Former, the world beyond school is close, and making the right decisions, preparing effectively and being ready to take it on becomes all the more important. At Bedford, we focus on every boy's future. Our mission is to teach each of them to think intelligently, act wisely, and be fully engaged in a challenging and changing world.

In the pages that follow, our aim is to share with you a little of how we do that. It begins with our three areas of strategic focus – digital technology, community partnerships and entrepreneurship, all aimed at equipping boys with the skills they need to succeed. Our academic programme offers structure and choice, with a strong co-curricular programme wrapped around it. And we supplement this with plenty of opportunity for self-development through leadership, service, and a host of other strands.

So that at the end of those two short but action-packed Sixth Form years, boys walk out through our gates, having loved their time at school, supported by a strong sense of self-knowledge and self-worth and fully equipped with all they need to succeed in the world beyond.

Please do come and meet them.

James Hodgson
Head Master

That they be *good* men.



Preparing for the Future

Working with the governors and drawing on their experiences as multinational business leaders and professionals, the school identified three clear areas of strategic focus, designed to equip all boys with the skills they need to succeed in the world of work.

Digital Technology

As the world boys enter on leaving school becomes increasingly digitised, it is vital that their education mirrors this and builds skills to complement its requirements. Every boy needs to be safe and comfortable with digital technology as a minimum, and for those with even greater focus and interest, opportunities need to be provided for them to really fly.

Director of Digital Learning, Mr Paul Scullion, drives the environment and curriculum forward continuously, considering everything from the school's organisational structure to teaching and learning practices, professional development and training right through to the technologies themselves. The school is on a digital learning journey: adapting, improving and maximising the benefit to the boys at every step.

“Every boy needs to embrace the digital world and, for some, the skills they acquire become more than just skills, they develop into *a passion that drives them even further forward.*”

Paul Scullion, Director of Digital Learning

Community Partnerships

Every boy at Bedford, regardless of where he comes from, will play a meaningful role in our local community by taking part in our Community Partnerships Programme. Opportunities are many and varied – boys come up with different ideas every year – but over a significant period in the Lower Sixth, each and every boy will develop his skills as a citizen of Bedford by giving back to an organisation locally.

Opportunities include supporting primary schools by helping pupils with literacy, offering language lessons and coaching sports and games. Boys volunteer at local charities such as Riding for the Disabled and Headway. They visit residents in local care homes and work in charity shops.

“Pupils have a *strong awareness of the world in which they live* and understand the positive contribution they can make to society.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate



Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurial thinking is becoming ever more critical for boys as they navigate an increasingly uncertain world of work in today's age of global and technological transformation.

The real-world skills of problem-solving, teamwork, empathy, resilience, risk-taking, creativity, innovation and collaboration are skills that are vital for boys to learn, develop and apply, whether they take on corporate careers, academic pathways or start their own businesses. To kick start this focus and embed entrepreneurial thinking into school life, an entrepreneur-in-residence was appointed.

Excitingly, as entrepreneurship is intrinsically about solving problems and meeting needs, and turning ideas into action to make a positive difference, boys also have the tools at their disposal to change the world for good.

Bedford provides a unique pathway, deliberately developing an entrepreneurial mindset while providing aspiring entrepreneurs with opportunities to learn specific knowledge and skills to benefit them both now and in their futures.

Throughout the Sixth Form, boys can explore different parts of the Entrepreneurship Programme to develop the key traits of identity, passion, creativity, courage and action.



This highly respected professional development programme has been running at Bedford since 2019, providing the time and space for Lower Sixth pupils to dig deeper into identity and passion, whilst developing essential skills in self-management, networking, effective conversations, wellbeing and pitching.



This hands-on BTEC Level 3 qualification offers boys the chance to learn the essentials of marketing and finance before embarking on their own social enterprise.



Bedford School launched Ready2Lead? in 2019 and has since been working with the Harpur Trust and every local sixth form provider to offer this programme annually. Through a series of workshops and an ongoing locally-focused project brief, Sixth Formers are supported to become more confident leaders.

Structure and Space

Sixth Form life at Bedford is designed to build independence. Boys make choices, take on additional responsibilities and learn to lead, both themselves and others.

The vertical structure encourages Sixth Formers to act as role models for the younger years, leading in their tutor groups, houses and across the school. All Lower Sixth boys are given professional training from an external coach to enable them to mentor and support those younger than them. And the opportunities to take on extra roles and responsibilities are wide and diverse – from leading a society or a musical ensemble, to playing a role in house leadership or more broadly as a monitor (prefect).

In exploring all these different pathways, boys learn resilience, self-motivation, decision-making and time-management skills, supported by experienced and dedicated Tutors and Housemasters throughout.

The working week provides structure across six days, but importantly for older boys, enough space for independent learning and intellectual curiosity to thrive. Sixth Formers have the opportunity to work in separate study rooms in departments and to socialise in Sixth Form spaces within their houses. They often describe themselves as “all in”, regularly encouraging newcomers to “put more in to get more out”. Having time in the day and space across the week to try different things, to explore new opportunities and to develop their learning and experiences further, means that boys progress faster and more effectively on their journey towards independence. Supervised study periods, tutor time and the extra space afforded by a six-day week all contribute healthily towards this goal, whilst at the same time ensuring that boys remain busy and fulfilled.

The Bedford Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BEFORE SCHOOL	Co-curricular Activities					
Tutor Period						
Period 1						
Period 2						
Period 3						
BREAK						
Period 4						
Period 5						
LUNCH	Co-curricular Activities					Matches
Period 6		Games and Activities		Games and Activities		
Period 7						
Period 8						
AFTER SCHOOL	Co-curricular Activities					

“Boys feel they know what’s expected of them, *confident to take advantage of the new opportunities* to decide things for themselves.”

Jo Reid, Independent Researcher



Academic Life

Academic studies centre on the choice of four subjects. Boys choose from 26 options at A-Level, with a further two BTEC Level 3 qualifications, in Sports and Exercise Science and in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship available. From the second term onwards, boys may choose to focus on three subjects, although many will continue with four.

All boys in the Lower Sixth undertake an extended project, designed to develop essential research, time management, and project management skills for the challenges that lie ahead, beyond Bedford. Upfront teaching covering the specific skills required ensures they are ready to take on the task, before they choose to either complete a Bedford School Independent Project (BSIP) or pursue an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) on a topic they are passionate about, even if it lies outside their subject choices.

Dedicated time is set aside within each boy's timetable (within both the Lower and Upper Sixth years) to focus on three significant areas: The award-winning Careers and Higher Education Department ensures that boys are fully aware of all the options available from UK university applications, international options, and degree apprenticeships. Boys have the opportunity to engage with inspiring speakers who challenge them to explore topics beyond their current experiences. And lastly, time is spent ensuring that every boy is well-versed in the latest learning science, empowering each of them to reflect on their learning strategies and maximize the effectiveness of their study time.

Each of these elements is considered vital to boys' development and progress, making them an integral part of the experience offered to every Sixth Former at Bedford.

Three highly impactful leadership courses – Ivy House, Ready2Lead? and the Peer Mentoring Programme (all detailed elsewhere within this booklet) – supplement the academic curriculum to provide a full programme of support.



Find our Sixth Form Courses Guide on the Sixth Form page of our website



The Floreat

Heralding from the school motto "Floreat Schola Bedfordiensis" (may Bedford School flourish), the Floreat is a programme of academic extension and enrichment, designed to bring together a fellowship of students in order to encourage their natural curiosities to flourish.

The programme works to enhance and consolidate the many super-curricular activities on offer in order to develop boys' confidence, resilience and critical thinking skills in preparation for competitive applications in areas such as medicine and law—an approach that has demonstrated considerable success.

Boys regularly hear from external speakers and mentors, get involved in debates, discussions and interview practice, all supported by subject specialists in key skills such as public speaking, academic writing and critical thinking.

*"Teaching evolves as the boys mature
- changes style and seems to get it bang on to
keep them interested."*

Parent, Independent Research Study

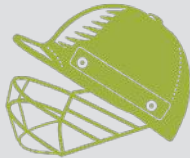


Co-curricular Experiences

A wealth of opportunities exists for Sixth Formers beyond the classroom. Indeed learning to choose between all the options on offer encourages boys to develop a stronger sense of their own identity and motivations.

From academic societies to elite sport, from the purpose-built theatre providing a stage for budding actors and technicians, to extensive ensemble and performance experiences for musicians, Bedford has activities for everyone, many of which take place in conjunction with sister school, Bedford Girls' School.

A Year of Co-Curriculum in Numbers



1256 FIXTURES
ACROSS **34** DIFFERENT SPORTS
6 DAYS A WEEK



109 CONCERTS
AND RECITALS



62 ACADEMIC
SOCIETIES



40 ART EXHIBITIONS,
LECTURES, MASTERCLASSES,
TALKS & TRIPS



148 PERFORMANCES,
LECTURES & WORKSHOPS
IN THE QUARRY THEATRE

"A non-stop merry-go-round of extracurricular activities keeps boys busy."

Good Schools' Guide



Meet the Boys



Reuben Glenville

Reuben left Bedford having secured his first choice offer to study Engineering at the University of Cambridge, with a view to a career in aeronautical engineering thereafter. Having joined Bedford School at the beginning of the Sixth Form, Reuben credits both his parents and his teachers with his success, explaining, *"The teachers at Bedford School are incredible. They go over and above to provide extra workshops, run societies and provide critical thinking opportunities, and they were particularly helpful with my Cambridge application."*

Reuben scored the highest mark of his university cohort in his second-year exams and is often seen back in school delivering Physics gyms and problem-solving sessions with the boys. He also readily shares his own experience of applying to Cambridge University with current Sixth Formers to both inspire and support them to follow in his footsteps.

*"The fact that it's difficult to distinguish between boys who have known each other for eleven years and those as little as two shows what a **tight group** we are."*

Aiden Ainsworth-Cave, Head of School 2024



Aiden Ainsworth-Cave

Aiden reflects on his two years in Sixth Form at Bedford as the foundation for his professional rugby career, a dream he has pursued since he first started playing.

Despite facing challenges, including an injury that sidelined him for a season, he signed a professional contract with the Northampton Saints Senior Academy, joining them shortly after leaving school. Speaking about his time in the Sixth Form, he said, *"The entire PE department was crucial in my recovery and development, helping me reach where I am now. The sports programme at Bedford is exceptional, offering countless opportunities to play in a high-quality environment."*

Aiden also played for England in the U18 Six Nations Festival in Italy and has since been named as part of the England U20 Men's Elite Player Squad for the upcoming season.

But Aiden's mark on Bedford stretched further than his rugby playing. As Head of School, he contributed widely, passing on advice to others on leaving, *"Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Be comfortable feeling a little uncomfortable and get involved. Use what you have learnt during your time here as a framework to help you succeed in the next stages of your life."*

“While academic excellence, tradition, boarding provision and a strong sporting record are what initially draw parents to Bedford, more of than not *it’s the children they meet when visiting who clinch the deal.*”

Tatler Schools Guide 2025



Thomas Li

Thomas joined Bedford in the Sixth Form as a boarder in Talbot's, where music was, and remains, his passion. Having left with outstanding A-Level results, he headed off to Berklee College of Music in Boston, USA and credits being able to study for an A-Level in Music Technology with his success.

“My lessons with Mr Rooke and Mr Hubbard are what I miss most – they helped me immensely with this passion of mine”.

But it was the space between the lessons as well that helped Thomas to succeed. He learned independence by utilising his time in the best way for him.

Thomas didn't get to Berklee single-handedly though, and is quick to recognise the significant support he received from the Careers and UCAS team, who went above and beyond to help him navigate the complex admissions journey from afar.

But when it comes to his most memorable experience at Bedford, Thomas is very clear. Performing his original live music during a Great Hall Assembly is what has stayed with him the most. Reaching out to his audience of 700 fellow pupils and entertaining them with his set was an opportunity beyond compare.



Anish Katechia

Anish left Bedford School Sixth Form to accept a prestigious degree apprenticeship offer from PricewaterhouseCoopers on their 'Flying Start' programme, aiming to qualify as a Chartered Accountant.

“Bedford School provided me with numerous opportunities to enhance my personal statement and PwC application with industry ‘differentiators.’ These unique experiences and activities, such as the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, Maths, Chemistry, and Physics challenges, networking events, careers fairs, and work experience, set me apart from other applicants.”

Anish discovered his career path in the Lower Sixth with the support of the school's Careers and Higher Education team, who helped him identify his strengths and interests, choose his field, and navigate the necessary steps to get there.

“The careers team helped me understand the advantages of the degree apprenticeship compared to the traditional university route. After evaluating the significant benefits and career prospects of this exclusive opportunity, we meticulously planned each stage of the application process and tailored it appropriately.”

Sport for All

Sport is fundamental to life at Bedford. The six-day week affords two full afternoons of sport on Tuesdays and Thursdays, plus further training and competitive matches after lunch on Saturdays. Importantly it is 'sport for all' with every boy able to participate, compete and develop and therefore every boy able to benefit from all that sport has to offer.

Co-curricular sporting activities build on this across the week. Indoor cricket nets and two golf simulators help to ensure that rain does not stop play, and activities abound across thirty-four different sports at all levels, from beginner to elite.

Sport is taught by specialist teachers, alongside professional coaches and academic staff. Partnerships with first class clubs across major sports add resource and expertise. In this way, boys not only receive excellent coaching, but build strong relationships with teachers from classroom to field. Indeed, this interaction between teaching staff and boys outside the classroom is considered a key factor in making the school environment and community truly special.

At elite level, boys belong to the Sports Performance Group and benefit from individual development plans providing a weekly schedule and an annual education programme to enable them to reach their goals. And they do – Bedford boys regularly play at national level across many different sports and go on to secure professional contracts and represent their country after school.

“A fantastic number of current and ex-pupils *compete at county and national level* (former England cricket captain Sir Alastair Cook is an old boy); masterclasses and individual, top-level coaching are all available. The non-sporty are encouraged to have a go at everything with heaps of teams to support everyone.”

Talk Education



Elite partnerships inspire and develop the sportsmen of the future.



A Culture of Kindness and Support

Sixth Form is a time of important decisions, where futures are shaped and fulfilling potential matters. It is clear that in order to thrive, boys need to be happy and supported in their learning and in their overall wellbeing.

Kindness is the value that underpins all else at Bedford, and great emphasis is placed on it within the school community. Inclusion and allyship are encouraged at all times, with boys being taught the importance of this in every relationship both inside and outside school.

The house structure provides every boy with constant contacts in the form of his Tutor and Housemaster who see him daily and regularly check-in on his welfare. Full-time counsellors and the school Chaplain are available to every boy and the onsite Wellbeing Centre provides medical and emotional support to those who need it.

For academic matters, the Academic Support Team works closely with boys to provide individual plans where necessary to ensure that everyone can reach his academic potential.

Bedford works in conjunction with parents, recognising the importance of consistency of support. As such, the outstanding Parent Partnership Programme exists to involve parents, sharing insights and information via a programme of talks and resources to support parents in navigating their son's teenage journey.

"Pupils are highly considerate of each other and the theme of mutual trust and respect for others, regardless of difference, is evident both around school and in the boarding houses."

Independent Schools Inspectorate



The Old Bedfordian Network

Bedford School is a community for life and Old Bedfordians regularly contribute to life at school. The school is privileged to have a wonderfully active and engaged network of OBs, linked through Eagle Connect, the dedicated online social and business networking hub. This, along with a fully-engaged parent body (both past and present) gives Sixth Formers access to incredible support from the working world; a community of individuals who bring with them a vast range of experience, advice, ideas and willingness to support the next generations coming through.



"It feels like *a big, happy community* - my son has big friendship groups, everyone is part of something."

Parent, Independent Research Study

Boarding Life

At a time when boys are growing in independence, Sixth Form boarding offers the opportunity to take that one step further.

Boarders at Bedford benefit from everything the school has to offer. As well as enhanced academic support from tutors every evening, without a daily commute they have more time to devote to co-curricular interests and passions, as well as extended use of the facilities (for example the sports hall and gyms, DT labs, art school, music rooms and the library).

And as the older boys in the boarding house, Sixth Formers develop leadership skills, learning to behave as role models for those younger than them, taking up practical and meaningful roles to add value to the community in which they live.

They develop socially, learning tolerance and respect for others, and with a diverse community they are afforded a global outlook that they would not otherwise have access to. On a more practical front, boarders quickly learn to be organised, to manage their time effectively and to plan ahead – skills that are often noted by parents when they return home!

Most importantly for the Sixth Form, boarding facilitates the development of a whole range of skills that will benefit boys as they move on beyond Bedford. Their transition to university is greatly facilitated when they have already benefited from the strong work ethic and the ability to plan their time that boarding affords. In simple terms, boarding can provide a 'practice run', a soft start where they have been fully supported as they gain the necessary skills for independent living.

Boarding at Bedford in Numbers



200 FULL, WEEKLY & FLEXI BOARDERS



27 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES



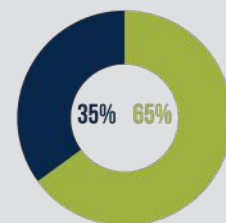
40 BOARDING STAFF LIVE ON-SITE



SIX UPPER BOARDING HOUSES



FOUR BOARDING OPTIONS



**INTERNATIONAL BOARDERS
UK BOARDERS**

"You can spot the guys who went to boarding school - they're not fazed by the whole experience, they just *hit the ground running.*"

OB Boarder on starting university



Beyond Bedford

Sixth Formers at Bedford benefit from individual advice and support to guide them expertly towards the choices that are right for them beyond school. The award-winning Careers and Higher Education team work with every single boy to help maximise his potential.

Options are broadened through the Degree Apprenticeship Academy and International Applications Programme, which guide those for whom these choices are appropriate towards effective applications. Both programmes include regular tutorials, a weekly newsletter, external speakers and mentors alongside individual interviews, counselling and review sessions.

For those looking to apply to the most competitive universities, the Floreat Programme of academic extension works to encourage their academic curiosity and allows them to enhance and consolidate their super-curricular activities into the most effective applications. In 2025, all nine boys who applied to read Medicine secured their places at university.

Support from parents and Old Bedfordians provides an annual online careers fair with over forty panels for boys to attend. And the robust and thoughtfully-designed Parent Partnership Programme offers support to help parents prepare too.

As a result, boys (and families) make successful choices and are well-prepared for destinations Beyond Bedford.

“The Degree Apprenticeship Academy has really shown me the *broad range of routes* someone can pursue after leaving school.

The guidance provided by Bedford was invaluable. The weekly meetings I had with the Degree Apprenticeship Team allowed me to get a wide range of offers that would not have been possible if I were to do this autonomously.”

Upper Sixth leaver

2025 Leavers' Results



50% OF QUALIFICATIONS GRADED A* TO A

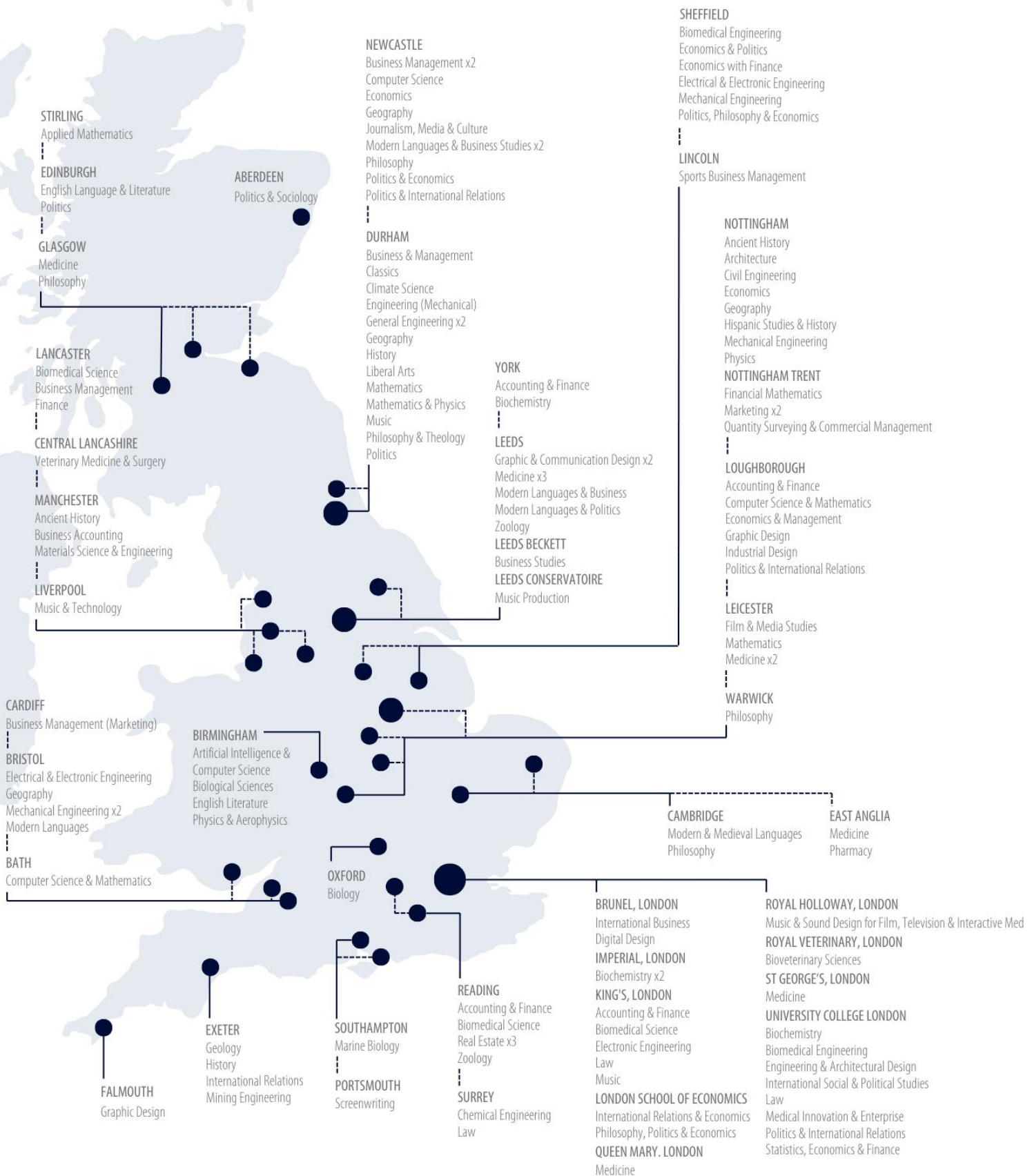


85% OF QUALIFICATIONS GRADED A* TO B



88% OF BOYS TO RUSSELL GROUP OR TIMES TOP 30 UNIVERSITIES

Leavers' Destinations 2025



International destinations included prestigious universities such as the University of Michigan, South Mountain in Phoenix, Melbourne University, Universidad de Navarra and McGill University in Montreal, among others. In addition, several boys earned places on highly competitive Degree Apprenticeships with leading global firms including PWC, Airbus and L'Oréal.

Travelling to Bedford

School Buses

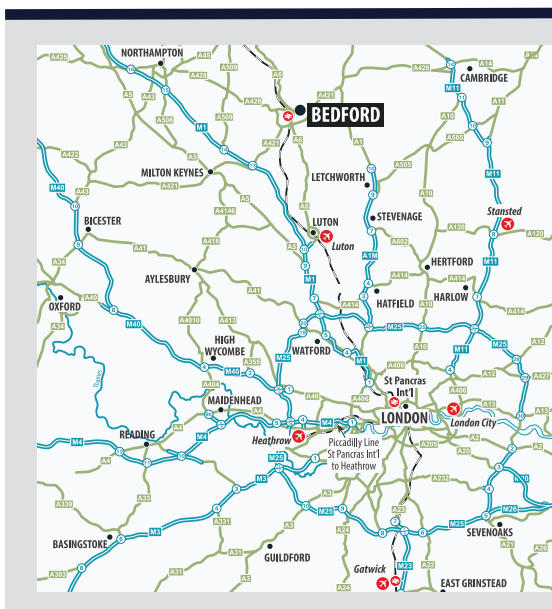
There is an extensive network of school buses operating across Bedfordshire, from Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, including late buses for boys involved in activities after school, available for travel to and from school each day.



Full details of routes and operators can be viewed on our website.

Trains

Bedford railway station offers excellent links into London. London St Pancras International is just 40 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.



Airports

London's international airports are also easily accessed by both road and rail from Bedford.

- Heathrow, 70 minutes by road
- Gatwick, 2 hours by road and direct rail
- Luton, 15 minutes by direct rail



Next Steps

Our Admissions Team will be happy to guide you through the series of steps towards joining Bedford. Please do get in touch by phone or email to begin the journey with a visit to meet us.

1

Visit

We warmly encourage you to visit the school to see it in action, to meet the boys and staff and to get a flavour of life at Bedford. Please do join us at one of our Open Mornings/Evenings or arrange a personal visit which can be tailored to your needs.

2

Register

You can register with us at any time. However, registrations should be made by 1 December in the year before intended entry (2 December in 2024) to allow us to send you all the necessary information about the assessment day in the following January.

We recommend registering early, especially if you also wish to apply for a scholarship/s and/or a bursary (fee assistance), as extra forms need to be completed and returned by the same 1 December deadline (2 December in 2024). More information on scholarships and bursaries can be found on our website.

3

Assessments

Boys who are not applying for an Academic Scholarship are assessed in underlying ability and have an interview with a senior member of staff. We also request a confidential reference form the Headteacher of their current school, which asks for an indication of predicted GCSE grades.

Boys who wish to be considered for the 16+ Academic Scholarship are assessed slightly differently. These boys sit two subject papers of their choice and are assessed on underlying ability. Boys also have a formal interview with the Head Master or another senior member of staff.

Candidates who have applied for art, computer science, drama, music, sport or golf scholarships will be invited to attend a separate assessment day for each scholarship applied for.

Assessments take place in the January prior to September entry. Full entry requirements and detailed assessment dates can be found on our website.

4

Offers and Welcome

Results of the assessments in January are sent by email in mid-February for acceptance in early March. All Sixth Form offers are conditional on boys' GCSE results and are confirmed once these are published in August.

Boys are welcomed to school on New Boys Day (the day before term begins in September) and receive an induction into the Sixth Form at the start of the school year. This Sixth Form Induction Conference provides guidance, sets expectations and offers helpful advice on how to make the most of being a Sixth Former at Bedford School.



Further details on the admissions process can be found on our website.



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