

A Year in Review

2024/2025

That they be *good* men.



The beginning of a new school year is always a special moment. It brings fresh energy, new possibilities and a chance to reflect on all that our boys have achieved. This summer, they excelled.

More than half of all A-Level and IB grades were A*-A and 85% A*-B, and nearly three quarters of GCSEs were marked at 9 to 7—our best ever results. These outcomes are testament to the boys' determination and effort, and reflect the strength of our academic leadership, the breadth of our curriculum and the richness of our academic enrichment programme, Floreat.

Their university destinations are equally exciting, with boys heading off to a wide range of top institutions. You can read more about their next steps in the pages ahead.

We also returned to the wonderful news that Bedford School is a finalist for Independent Boys' School of the Year in the Independent Schools of the Year Awards. This recognition reflects our deep commitment to shaping good men—young people who live by the values of responsibility, integrity, curiosity, endeavour and kindness.

As proud as we are of these achievements, our focus remains, as always, on helping every boy to flourish. We believe that education is about drawing out the unique spark in each boy, from the Latin 'educere'—to lead out, and we offer an extraordinary range of opportunities to help boys discover who they are and to find their passion both in and for life.

Boys thrive here. They feel known, challenged and supported, and they enjoy themselves. That matters. Because while a great education sets you up for life, childhood should also be fun.

Do come and meet them. I look forward to welcoming you.

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 include a meeting with the Head Master (or another senior member of staff in his absence), so that you have the opportunity to discuss your son's educational needs in more detail.

To book a personal visit, please email admissions@bedfordschool.org.uk.



Dr Shetal Arjan with six of our medics (L-R): Adhu Mahesh, Abdullah Khalid, Charlie Eggleton, Ruben Jacob, Muhammad Alom, Sahvan Jutla (Upper Sixth)

Bedford's Future Medics

In a year marked by academic excellence, there was even more to celebrate – all nine boys who applied to read Medicine secured their places at university. Their success is not only a testament to their hard work and determination, but also to the school's tailored and deeply supportive approach to preparing boys for one of the most competitive university courses in the UK.

Behind the scenes of this remarkable achievement is Dr Shetal Arjan, who leads the school's Medical Society and Floreat, Bedford School's academic enrichment programme. Dr Arjan plays a pivotal role in guiding aspiring medics through the demanding application process. "These boys have shown incredible resilience, a genuine passion for helping others and a willingness to go above and beyond. I'm proud beyond words," Dr Arjan explains.

The path to Medicine involves one-to-one guidance, competitions, visits, mock interviews and careful nurturing of potential. Boys with an interest in the field are encouraged to join the Medical Society, which Dr Arjan describes as "more than just a club" going on to say, "It's a space where like-minded boys come together to explore ethical dilemmas, practise interview techniques and support one another. Some of the strongest friendships are formed there."

"We really get to know each boy. That's what makes the difference. We offer tailored support at every stage, helping them build confidence and clarity in their applications."

Dr Shetal Arjan, Head of Academic Extension and Enrichment

88%

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

"I am thrilled for this excellent group of boys, who have not only worked hard in the classroom, but have taken full advantage of all the extraordinary co-curricular and sporting opportunities that they have here at Bedford School. They leave with an array of interests, and with good friends, as articulate, well-rounded, responsible, kind young men. We are proud of every one of them."

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



*Top university destinations by the number of boys taking up places in 2023, 2024 and 2025 combined



Future Medics Put to the Test

Back in December, Upper Sixth Formers aspiring to study medicine took part in a Mock Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) at school - a vital step in preparing for the competitive world of medical admissions. The event was led by six highly experienced General Practitioners, all of whom regularly sit on university interview panels and help design MMI questions for medical schools.

The session authentically simulated the real MMI experience, challenging boys with a series of timed, scenario-based questions designed to assess their communication, ethical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Sahvan Jutla (Upper Sixth) reflected, "The mock interview helped me prepare for my real medical interviews as it used similar questions to what could be asked."

The experience offered not only a taste of what lay ahead but also provided boys with invaluable feedback from professionals at the heart of medical education. For these aspiring doctors, it was a crucial opportunity to sharpen their skills and build confidence for the journey ahead.

Stepping into the Courtroom

As part of Floreat, Bedford School's academic enrichment programme, three boys took part in the prestigious Sir Gavyn Arthur Mock Family Court Experience at Bedford Family Court.

Isaac Adeyemi-Abere, Kitan Balogun and Samuel McMurran (all Lower Sixth) were given the unique opportunity to prepare and present a mock family law case, advocating against one another in real courtrooms used by the Bedford Family Panel. The day also included a Q&A session with a panel of judges, offering rare insight into the workings of the family justice system.

Beyond enhancing their understanding of legal proceedings, the event helped the boys develop essential skills such as public speaking, critical thinking and persuasive argument - all of which will serve them well in any future career path.



Career Mark Gold II

In March we were awarded the prestigious National Quality in Careers Award, Career Mark Gold II. This year is the fourth time we have re-validated this award, and marks the endorsement of our outstanding boy-centred, future-focussed and impact-driven careers programme.



Quick Bites

Exploring Global Horizons

Boys interested in studying overseas had the exciting opportunity to attend an Overseas Universities Exhibition hosted by The University Guys. The event offered valuable insights into international application processes, educational systems and global career prospects. Boys engaged directly with admissions directors and received personalised advice on studying abroad. One-on-one consultations helped them explore options and plan their next steps with confidence. It was an inspiring afternoon that opened minds to the possibilities of a truly global education.

OB Careers Convention

This year's OB Careers Convention was a resounding success, coinciding with National Careers Week and bringing together students from across the borough. Now in its eighteenth year, the event was held online for the fourth consecutive year, spanning three evenings. This year, we hosted twelve sessions featuring 60+ experts across a wide range of careers, including investment banking, cybersecurity, scientific research, aviation, law, engineering, and medicine. With participants from fourteen schools, including eleven state schools, we reinforced our commitment to giving back to the wider community and making this our most inclusive Careers Convention yet.

A Taste of Oxford

A group of Lower Sixth boys embarked on an inspiring visit to Oxford, exploring Wadham and Jesus Colleges. The trip offered a deep dive into the competitive admissions process, with engaging talks, a city tour and a Q&A with Wadham's Admissions Office. Boys left motivated to aim high and craft standout applications. Lucian Davis (Lower Sixth) reflected, "Oxford taught me the value of curiosity and academic passion. Its pursuit of excellence was truly aspirational." A day packed with insight, ambition and academic inspiration.

Virology Research Projects

Fourth and Remove Form boys from the Virology Research Group took part in a simulated diagnostics lab, challenged with identifying viral infections. Using advanced techniques like gel electrophoresis and polymerase chain reaction, they analysed patient samples to distinguish between seasonal flu and the novel influenza Q virus. Dr Shetal Arjan, Biology Teacher and PhD in Virology, praised their precision, curiosity and critical-thinking.

Meanwhile, the Senior Virology Research Group launched Phase 2 of their project, now investigating the Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV). The team is exploring which plants best host TMV and whether younger saplings are more susceptible. Thanks to purified TMV stocks from Rothamsted Research, the boys are conducting new infections and monitoring for viral activity. They plan to publish their findings in the Young Scientist Journal - a brilliant example of real-world science in action.



Quick Bites

Chemistry in Action

Fourth and Remove Form boys proudly represented Bedford School in the Mid-Anglia heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench competition. Tasked with creating an iodine clock and completing a team-written chemistry challenge, the boys showcased both scientific knowledge and teamwork. They secured an impressive fourth place, with judges praising their practical skills. One judge remarked, "Their results showed a clear trend with little scatter - excellent experimental work." A fantastic achievement and a brilliant display of budding scientific talent!

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

The prestigious Cambridge Chemistry Challenge pushes Lower Sixth Formers beyond the syllabus - and this year, Ian Wong rose to the top, earning the elite Roentgenium award. Out of 14,745 entries, only 73 students achieved this honour, and Ian has been invited to Cambridge University this summer. Frank Peng, Ryan Cheung and Edward Ji also impressed with Gold awards, while many others secured Silver and Copper. A brilliant result from our young chemists!

Big Ideas, Brilliant Minds

This year's Harpur Science Forum Lectures brought world-class thinkers to the stage. Professor Richard Wiseman impressed with insights into illusion and psychology, blending science with magic. Nick Lane explored the mysteries of mitochondria, anaesthetics and consciousness, while Professor Jon Butterworth captivated audiences with his take on physics and the universe. From magic to mitochondria, it was a mind-expanding series that left boys inspired and curious about the world around them.

Aerospace Exploration

Sixth Form physicists enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Aircraft Research Association enjoying hands-on activities like airflow simulations and wind tunnel testing. The boys also explored cutting-edge aerospace engineering and its rich history. "It was fantastic for them to see where their studies could lead," said Mr Watson, Physics teacher. "And a great chance to witness world-class engineering right here in Bedford." A hands-on glimpse into the future of physics and flight!

Young Scientists Shine at the Royal Society

A group of boys joined forces with pupils from John F Kennedy Catholic School to present collaborative research at The Royal Society Conference in London. Representing the Young Researchers Zone, they showcased the DNA Snowdrop Project - a pioneering initiative that began at Bedford School last year and continues to grow. The project explores the genetic diversity of snowdrops using DNA barcoding techniques, blending botany with molecular biology.

Visitors to the conference, including Professor Chris Whitty, were impressed by the boys' knowledge, enthusiasm and ability to communicate complex science with clarity and confidence.

The DNA Snowdrop Project exemplifies the school's commitment to real-world, research-led learning, with boys embracing the role of young scientists with professionalism and passion.



Bedford School boys with Prof Chris Whitty



OBs Robert Menhart and Reuben Glenville

Physics Gym Inspires Future Engineers

Two OBs Robert Menhart (17-22) and Reuben Glenville (20-22), delivered an inspiring Physics Gym and shared their experiences as students of Engineering at Cambridge University.

The visit began with a Q&A session, where Robert and Reuben offered valuable insights into the Oxbridge application process, their academic journeys and the importance of entrance exams. Jameson Liang (Upper Sixth) explained, "Reuben told me that trying different methods in interviews helps you to stand out."

The highlight of the visit was the Physics Gym, where the OBs challenged boys with advanced mechanics problems. Their clear explanations and creative problem-solving approaches brought A-Level and IB concepts to life.

Mr Alex Watson, Physics teacher, commented, "It's so important for OBs like Reuben and Robert to come back to school. Their shared experience makes success feel achievable for current boys."

Stem Cell Science Comes Alive



[The power
of peer-led
learning]

Akram El Gabour (Lower Sixth) sparked a scientific buzz with a hands-on investigation into stem cell regeneration, captivating members of the Biology Society with a unique experiment involving planaria - tiny flatworms famed for their regenerative powers.

Inspired by a New Scientist article, Akram designed the project as part of his Floreat Sixth Form enrichment task, which encourages boys to explore academic interests beyond the curriculum. His passion for regenerative medicine led him to propose a super-curricular course that would not only educate but engage other boys.

Teaming up with Biology Ambassador Jibrán Baloch, who founded the Biology Society, the pair transformed Akram's concept into a practical experiment. Jibrán discovered that planaria, when cut into halves or thirds, can regenerate under specific conditions, for example clean water, low light and regular feeding. With guidance from Dr Arjan, the experiment was approved and prepared for school use.

The duo promoted the sessions through school notices and ran a trial to refine techniques like pipetting and microscopy. The result? A fascinating, boy-led exploration of stem cell science that brought complex biology to life.

Following the success of the sessions, Akram then delivered his course to Upper School boys, sharing his enthusiasm for regenerative medicine more widely.

This project not only showcases the initiative and curiosity of our boys but also highlights the power of peer-led learning. Through Floreat, boys like Akram are turning academic passion into real-world exploration.

Floreat is our dynamic academic enrichment programme designed to extend learning beyond the traditional curriculum. It empowers boys to pursue intellectual passions, develop leadership skills and engage in meaningful boy-led initiatives and has been continuing at pace this year.

A Night of Linguistic Talent

In a vibrant celebration of language, logic and leadership, Bedford School's Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department hosted the UK Linguistics Olympiad - an evening that not only showcased the school's academic ability but also embodied the spirit of Floreat.

Held on a buzzing Thursday evening, the event was masterminded by Fraser Morgan (Lower Sixth), whose passion for linguistics and initiative in leadership brought the Olympiad to life. With the support of Mrs May, Head of MFL, and Dr Schneidemesser, Fraser orchestrated a record-breaking evening, drawing 20 boys from the Fourth Form to the Lower Sixth into the world of linguistic puzzles.

"I ran several preparation sessions with past questions, worked with teachers to organise supervision, a room and food, and got the word out through email and notices," Fraser explained. His efforts paid off, as boys from diverse academic backgrounds - ranging from Physics to Computer Science - came together to decode unfamiliar languages, from Native American verb systems to Egyptian hieroglyphics.

The Olympiad exemplifies the Floreat programme's mission, to foster intellectual curiosity, leadership and cross-disciplinary exploration. Fraser's involvement didn't end with the event - he has also designed a Descriptive Linguistics course, which he taught to Prep School boys, further extending the reach of Floreat's enrichment ethos.

Leadership Shines in British Science Week

British Science Week was a vibrant celebration of curiosity and boy-led learning - hallmarks of the school's Floreat enrichment programme. This year's theme, Change and Adapt, inspired a packed schedule of hands-on experiments, peer-led talks and real-world scientific exploration.

At the heart of the week were our Upper School boys, who stepped confidently into leadership roles. From delivering engaging science presentations to Prep School pupils, to guiding younger peers through planaria dissections and complex chemistry demonstrations, their enthusiasm was infectious.

Floreat boys also took on advanced scientific challenges, including infecting saplings with Tobacco Mosaic Virus and analysing results using professional molecular biology techniques. Meanwhile, Sixth Form physicists constructed a 10-metre pendulum in the Great Hall to measure gravity and Earth's rotation - an ambitious project that captured the spirit of scientific inquiry.

The week culminated in the Talalay Science Prize, where boys presented original research to a panel of expert judges.

Floreat in Action...



Linguistics Olympiad

From Netflix to the Classroom

From the editing suite to school, Ms Hannah Keep is bringing real-world storytelling into the classroom. The newly appointed Head of Media Studies launched *Attack on London: Hunting the 7/7 Bombers* on Netflix - a gripping documentary five years in the making. As Senior Producer, she curated voices from survivors of the attack to former prime minister Tony Blair, crafting a powerful narrative around one of Britain's darkest days.

With over 13 years in documentary film-making, Ms Keep is no stranger to the ethical and emotional weight of true stories. "You must always prioritise the wellbeing of your contributors," she says - a principle that now shapes her teaching.

Her industry insight is already transforming the A-Level Media Studies course. "The boys start planning their first films in Lower Sixth," she explains. "I speak from experience, not theory." From TikTok to traditional film, she encourages boys to find their voice and tell meaningful stories.

As she steps into her new role, Ms Keep is not just teaching media - she's inspiring the next generation of creators to tell stories that matter.



Ms Hannah Keep

Quick Bites

Inside Parliament

Sixth Form History and Politics boys explored the heart of British democracy on a visit to Parliament. From observing debates in the Houses of Parliament to learning about the vast Civil Service, the trip offered a deeper understanding of how the country is run. Thomas Taylor (Upper Sixth) reflected, "Watching the debates in person is very different from TV. They cover topics that aren't always in the spotlight but are still incredibly important."

Outstanding EPQ Results

Sixth Form boys once again excelled in their Extended Project Qualifications (EPQs), with an outstanding 87% achieving A* to A grades and 100% securing A* to B. Alongside the Bedford School Independent Project (BSIP), the EPQ allows boys to explore topics they're passionate about while developing vital skills in research, analysis and independent thinking.

Oracy Excellence

Adam Purdie (Fourth Form) achieved an outstanding second place in a prestigious regional Shakespeare speaking competition - an impressive feat, especially as Bedford School's first-ever entrant. Performing Macbeth's iconic "Is this a dagger..." soliloquy, Adam captivated judges with his clarity, expression and emotional depth. His success reflects years of dedication to Speech and Drama which began in Year 3 of the Prep School.



Alex Lamb (Upper Sixth)

Alex Reaches Finals of National Library Award

We were thrilled that Alex Lamb (Upper Sixth) was named a finalist in the prestigious Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Awards (PLAA). Now in its twelfth year, the award run by CILIP's School Libraries Group and the School Library Association, celebrates the exceptional contributions of pupil librarians across the UK.

Nominated by Miss Lauren Chatley, Library and Information Manager, Alex stood out for his dedication, leadership and role-modelling within the school library. Judged by a panel of experts from the children's book world and school library community, the award recognises the positive impact pupil librarians have on their schools and peers.

Reflecting on the news, Alex said, "I was shocked and surprised that I'd made it, but was very happy overall. Helping to ensure the library runs smoothly so everyone can get the most out of it has been my favourite part."

He also praised the support of the library team, especially Mrs Shirley, and described the library as a calm, welcoming space for both study and relaxation.

Pop Shines in Maths Olympiad

In a display of mathematical brilliance, Pop Immaraporn (Remove Form) achieved the highest score in the East of England in this year's prestigious Hamilton Mathematical Olympiad. His performance earned him a coveted gold award, placing him among the top 20 students nationally, with indications suggesting a likely top 10 finish.

This exceptional result is a testament to Pop's dedication, sharp analytical mind and tireless preparation. His success has also secured him a place on the UKMT Olympiad Mentoring Scheme, a programme reserved for the country's most promising young mathematicians.

Miss Rebecca Jackson, Head of Mathematics, remarked, "This level of achievement is incredibly rare - only twice in the past 20 years have we seen this at Bedford School."

Pop humbly credited the Maths Department for their support, especially Mr Prior and Mr Sahota. "It was a pleasant surprise to score so well," he said. "The past papers helped loads. I'd say to others - hard work really does pay off."



Pop Immaraporn (Remove Form)

[Fostering curiosity
and collaboration]

The Rise of Robotics

Five keen Computer Science boys visited Stowe School to compete in a regional round of the VEX V5 robotics competition. It was the school's first time entering this event, and the experience gained was invaluable.

The next rounds were at Radley College and John Warner School in Hoddesdon. With experience from their last competition, the boys built a brand-new robot design and, like any iterative development process, some aspects worked, and others did not. Nevertheless, each step taught them more about engineering, programming, tactics and ability.

Heat after heat, their robot improved becoming more robust and gaining new features as they watched and learned. At John Warner School, this progress shined through as the boys climbed the leaderboard, finishing in fourth place in the regional competition.

Bedford School champions digital innovation through a rich co-curricular programme that includes three weekly robotics sessions, alongside esports and competitive coding. Robotics, in particular, offers pupils a dynamic blend of engineering, programming and strategic thinking, fostering creativity and resilience through hands-on problem solving. Events like the VEX V5 competition not only sharpen technical abilities but also build essential life skills, such as teamwork, adaptability and confidence - preparing boys for success in an increasingly digital world.

Bebras Success Across the School

Boys participated in the Bebras Logic Challenge, a prestigious competition that aligns perfectly with the school's strategic focus on digital technology. This year, an impressive 584 boys from Year 3 to Year 13 entered, showcasing our commitment to nurturing digital skills across all age groups.

Results this year were nothing short of spectacular, surpassing both local and national benchmarks. We were thrilled to announce a significant increase in the number of gold awards, which are awarded to students in the top 10% nationally for their age category. This year, 60 boys earned this distinguished accolade, up from 49 last year, highlighting our dedication to excellence in digital education.

A special mention must go to the four boys, Evan Byrne (Year 7), Aauram Ganju (Year 6) and Matthew Byrne and Arjun Chawla (both Fourth Form) who achieved a perfect score of 100% in the challenges, demonstrating exceptional logical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The Bebras Logic Challenge not only helps foster a love for digital learning but also prepares boys for a future where digital skills are paramount. Our success in this competition underscores the school's commitment to providing a forward-looking education that equips boys with the tools they need to excel in an increasingly digital world.



A Journey through Computer Science

Thirty-three enthusiastic Fifth Form Computer Science boys embarked on an educational adventure to the Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. The trip offered a unique opportunity for the boys to delve into the evolution of computer technology, tracing its roots back to the 1970s.

Upon arrival, the boys were greeted with a fascinating array of devices that have significantly influenced the landscape of personal and business computing. The hands-on experience began with coding a projectile simulation program in BASIC on original BBC Micro computers. This exercise not only highlighted the evolution of programming languages but also underscored the enduring principles of computational thought and logic. The boys quickly realised how far syntax has come, comparing the vintage BASIC language to the modern Python language they use today.

The trip also provided a practical understanding of user interfaces. The boys interacted with various systems, experiencing first-hand the challenges of console-based interfaces compared to the intuitive graphical user interfaces they are accustomed to. This contrast deepened their appreciation for modern advancements in user interface design.



Coding Excellence

It was a standout year for Computer Science at Bedford School, with 60% of A-Level grades at A*-A and 100% at A*-B. Our leavers headed to top universities including Loughborough, Newcastle, Birmingham and Bath, with courses ranging from Computer Science and Mathematics to Artificial Intelligence.

Among the top performers was Edgar Maddocks (Upper Sixth) who built a neural network from scratch, exploring reinforcement learning through checkers – a remarkable achievement. Naman Ahuja's (Upper Sixth) passion for aerospace led him to create an aerofoil simulator and he has now joined Airbus on a prestigious degree apprenticeship.

Computer Science GCSE, results were equally impressive, with 58% of grades at 9-8 and 78% at 9-7.



Edgar Maddocks (Upper Sixth)

Computer Science SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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



Ready2Lead?

Bedford School was proud to, again, host the Harpur Trust-run Ready2Lead? programme, a unique leadership initiative designed for Lower Sixth students across the borough.

Events featured speeches and workshops from a range of entrepreneurs, including CEOs Sophie Stock from Fun 4 Young People and Luke Brown from Spiral Freerun CIC, who shared their experiences of overcoming challenges to build successful organisations that support young people in the borough. OB Harry Beard (13-18) also discussed how the evolving world offers new opportunities for Gen Z to become innovative leaders.

Students had two months to design and implement their projects, drawing inspiration from the Families Plan for Bedford Borough 2022-2027, which focuses on six key themes that highlight what matters most to young people. The programme culminated in a special celebration event in which students presented their projects to a highly-esteemed panel of judges that included Bedford Mayor OB Tom Wootton (78-87).

Mr Simon Everitt, founder of Ready2Lead?, reflected, "Over the past five years, Ready2Lead? has engaged with all the borough's sixth form providers, bringing together young people to learn from experts from various fields. Diversity is at the heart of our vision: to enable young people in our borough to know the unique, positive impact they can have on their world."

OB Leads Entrepreneurship & Real Estate Mentoring Programme

An exciting new mentoring scheme was launched for boys interested in careers in real estate or entrepreneurship.

The programme is generously led by OB Robert Fitzjohn (03-09), CEO and Founder of Fitzjohn Estates. His goal is to help boys navigate their career paths and reassure them that it is okay not to have all the answers right away. "I hope I can help boys to ask those questions they might not want to ask their parents and encourage them to follow their passions," Rob said.

The first session provided a comprehensive introduction to the world of real estate; Rob shared insights into how he established his company and the challenges he overcame. Additionally, he offered valuable entrepreneurial advice that the boys found thought-provoking and inspiring.

James Dooley (Lower Sixth) told us, "Personally, I found the session particularly useful because Rob allowed us to ask lots of questions. It is brilliant to hear real world experience from someone who can relate so well to the position boys are in now, who aren't sure what they want to do in the future. Rob has a refreshing approach to the working world and assured us that experiencing bad jobs is just as important as experiencing good ones."



OB Robert Fitzjohn

Pitch Perfect

This year's Ivy House Leadership cohort wrapped up their journey in style with our annual 'Pitch Fest' where boys stepped up to the challenge to deliver powerful elevator pitches to a room full of visiting entrepreneurs and business professionals. It was truly inspiring to witness their honesty and self-awareness as they shared their aspirations with confidence.

Many boys walked away with valuable contacts, networking opportunities and expert advice – a testament to the impact of this experience.



Quick Bites

Entrepreneurship in Action

Year 10 boys dived into the world of entrepreneurship during their weekly Academic Enrichment lessons. Their hard work culminated in a series of presentations, in which teams showcased their innovative ideas to their peers and a panel of esteemed judges including OB Gary Ewing (78-83) of Montmartre Patisserie and OB Bruno Reddy (88-98) of Times Table Rock Stars. The team of Ben Zanna, George Harrison, Sebi Searle, Edward Parrish and Milo Goodwin stood out for their coherent teamwork, potential to tap into an untapped market, scalability and unique selling proposition of becoming the Vinted or Depop for school uniforms and equipment.

Ignite - Inspiring Young Entrepreneurs

This year, Bedford School launched *Ignite Bedfordshire - Empowering Young Entrepreneurs*, a new initiative connecting students, educators and business leaders to spark innovation across the county. Sixth Formers from across the borough developed and pitched enterprise ideas through a series of workshops, culminating in a marketplace-style showcase hosted in our Great Hall. In partnership with Young Enterprise and supported by leaders such as HM Lord Lieutenant Susan Lousada and former High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Bav Shah, Ignite aims to nurture bold, purpose-driven entrepreneurial thinking.

Start Up!

Sparks Entrepreneurial Fire

As the dust settled on GCSE exams, around 20 ambitious boys chose not to rest, but to return to school for Start Up! Week, our dynamic Entrepreneurship Award programme, now in its third year. This high-energy, real-world challenge is designed to turn ideas into action - and it is working as Start Up! is proving to be a launchpad for the next generation of change-makers.

Over just three and a half days, the young innovators were tasked with forming teams, generating business ideas and developing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP). The week culminated in a pitch session to a panel of seasoned entrepreneurs, and what followed was nothing short of inspiring.

From anti-chafing underwear to music and game promotion platforms, and from work experience matchmaking to food truck tracking apps, the diversity of ideas showcased the boys' creativity, courage and commercial curiosity. Eight distinct ventures emerged, each with its own unique flavour and potential.

The panel were all visibly impressed and their feedback was more than encouraging, "To see how far you've come in just three and a half days is incredible. I can't wait to see all of the projects and their progress come September," said OB Harry Beard (13-18), founder of ODITI.

Bav Shah MRICS added, "The creativity and energy you have brought to this is inspiring."

The entrepreneurial energy continued with a special extended assembly titled *In Conversation With...*, featuring Bav Shah as the guest speaker. In a podcast-style interview led by Mr Simon Everitt and Misha Savitski (Lower Sixth), President of the Entrepreneurship Society, Bav shared his journey from chartered surveyor to global traveller, entrepreneur and former High Sheriff.

[Revolutionary
thinking]



Bedford School Mohali A Historic Partnership

We are thrilled to announce the opening of Bedford School's first international school in Mohali, India. The brand-new, purpose-built school will be called Bedford School Mohali and is set to open its doors in April 2026, marking a historic milestone as the first British international girls' school in India and the first British brand in North India.

Located on the outskirts of Chandigarh, Bedford School Mohali will provide exceptional education for girls aged 4-18 through the British curriculum. The 14-acre site will feature both day and boarding options, promoting academic excellence, character development, and personal growth in a supportive and dynamic environment.

In line with all we set out to do here in Bedford, and in partnership with family-run Doon International Education Society, Bedford School Mohali's mission is to develop intellectually curious, resilient and confident young women who are equipped to thrive in an ever-evolving world, delivering this through an education that blends academic rigour with creativity, critical thinking and a strong sense of community responsibility.

We are incredibly excited to take the Bedford School ethos and values to Mohali. Bedford School Mohali will be a beacon of excellence, nurturing young women to become leaders and innovators in their communities and beyond. Our partnership with Doon International Education Society is a testament to our shared commitment to providing world-class education and nurturing a global community of learners."

James Hodgson, Head Master



Architect's Impression of Bedford School Mohali



Movember

The Mo Bros went on an incredible journey this Movember, raising funds and awareness for men's health with a series of fun and engaging activities. Their efforts, as always, brought the school community together in support of this great cause.

Open Mic Night, held in collaboration with Bedford Girls' School (BGS), was filled with superb performances that created a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere. Pupils from BGS and Bedford School participated in a **Movember Quiz**, written and run by Thomas Taylor, Tanay Rai and Millan Verwoert (Upper Sixth). While the traditional **Movember Curry Night** saw Mo Bros, along with their families, gather in the Café Bar for a night of delicious food and community spirit. The Mo Bros organised a **Silent Auction** with an array of generous lots, including Saints tickets, Six Nations tickets, afternoon tea vouchers and restaurant vouchers to name just a few.

The **Scorpion Football Tournament** saw boys from across the school taking part in a thrilling three-a-side, three-minute knockout competition. The costumes were a sight to behold, featuring everything from bananas to lifeguards and Toon-ami characters! BGS Sixth Form hosted a **Movember Netball Match** for both boys and girls and a **Dodgeball Tournament** saw fantastic participation, with excellent outfits and fun times all around.

The Prep boys got creative by making moustache-shaped biscuits, designing a giant poster to support Movember, making fake moustaches to wear and having important discussions around men's health.

Movember Citizenship is an integral part of the Mo Bros' campaign, focusing on raising awareness about men's mental health and fostering important conversations. Girls from BGS joined the discussions to talk about consent and healthy boundaries in relationships, emphasising the importance of mutual respect and understanding.

Boys Champion Inclusivity

Boys led a Citizenship afternoon on microaggressions, aiming to address subtle, often unintended behaviours that can leave others feeling marginalized or misunderstood. Miss Wedad Rattab, Teacher of Philosophy and Religion, commented, "The boys were at the heart of this initiative. They didn't just raise the issue, they shaped how it was addressed. From collaborating on the content to delivering key messages, they took real ownership."

Their efforts were supported by BAFTA winner G Turawa, who shared his own experiences with microaggressions. His presence and story underscored the importance of empathy, understanding and respect in building a stronger community.



Quick Bites

Aarnav Shines for Cancer Research

In a heart-warming display of determination and compassion, Aarnav Varaganti (Fourth Form) became the youngest person to complete the Shine Night Walk half-marathon raising over £3,300 for Cancer Research UK.



Volunteering in Malawi

Thirteen boys from the Fifth Form to Upper Sixth spent part of their summer in rural Malawi, taking part in a unique volunteering and cultural experience. From leading sports sessions and visiting schools, to supporting medical outreach and special education centres, they immersed themselves in village life making a meaningful impact on those around them.

It was a challenging yet deeply rewarding experience, where kindness, resilience and teamwork shone through. Friendships were formed, perspectives broadened and memories made that will last a lifetime. Boys described it as "literally the best thing I have done in my life" and "life changing".



Enrichment Day for Local Schools

One of the year's most joyful highlights was our annual Enrichment Day, where we welcomed over 100 children from local primary schools for a vibrant celebration of learning and community.

Throughout the day, pupils rotated through activities led by the boys who regularly visit their schools as part of our Community Partnership Programme. The day offered a carousel of engaging sessions – from Shakespearean drama and history hunters to mathematical origami, computing wizardry, Mandarin language and culture, and expressive art workshops. Children enjoyed expert coaching in the cricket nets, followed by a match on our immaculate 1st XI pitch – a memorable experience for all involved.

Mr Chris Prior, Head of Community Partnerships, shared, "What is so rewarding about this scheme is the genuine two-way benefit – our partner schools gain meaningful experiences through the activities, while our boys develop confidence, empathy and maturity through the relationships they build."

Quick Bites

Mastering the Art of Mime

In a brilliant workshop by Stephen Smith at 3dumbtheatre, boys learned the intricate technique of mime. The session was particularly beneficial for those working on their GCSE devising piece as they focused on the importance of simplicity in theatre.

Exploring Verbatim Theatre

The National Theatre's Alecky Blyth introduced the boys to her unique method of verbatim theatre, involving actors wearing headphones and listening to interviews while onstage, then repeating the words. Boys described it as "truly inspiring" and noted how it was "interesting to learn about staying focused on the interview while also matching the small details in the voice."

Drama Enrichment Inspires

Professor Ben Poore from the University of York delivered a captivating lecture entitled *An Echoing Chamber*, focusing on the adaptation of Gothic novels for the contemporary stage. His insights into the transformation of classic literature into modern theatrical productions left the boys eager to explore these themes in their own work.



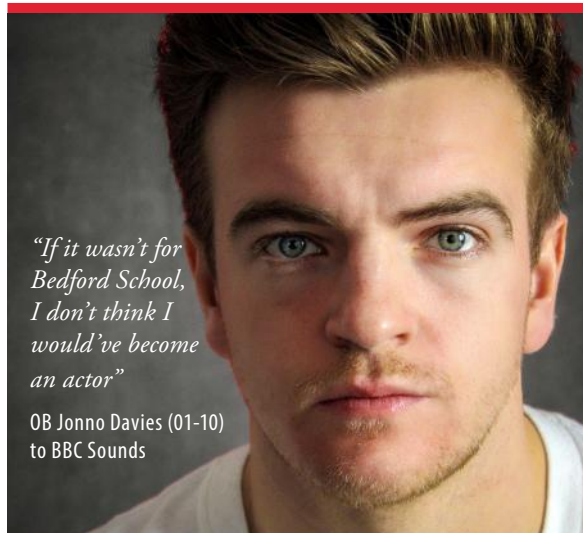
Art Competition Judge
OB Matthew Orr (75-81)

Detweiler Competition Celebrates Creativity

The Creative Arts were once again celebrated at our annual Detweiler Competition, this year on the theme 'Structure'. Parents, teachers, OBs and members of the Bedford School community were able to immerse themselves in the boys' 2D and 3D artistic depictions of 'Structure' before moving up to the Great Hall to watch the drama pieces and listen to the creative writing and music entries.

Art entrant Clement Rahwangi Gough (Upper Sixth), summed up the experience, "All the different interpretations of the theme are fascinating."

You can read the boys' entries and see the winners in this year's Detweiler Competition's booklet here:



"If it wasn't for Bedford School, I don't think I would've become an actor"

OB Jonno Davies (01-10)
to BBC Sounds

Leading Man Jonno

Old Bedfordian Jonno Davies (01-10) achieved critical acclaim as he took the lead role in Robbie Williams' Oscar-nominated musical *Better Man*. Jonno explained that it was his Head of Drama while at school who encouraged him to follow his dreams and become an actor. Since then, Jonno has starred on Broadway, on numerous TV shows, in films including *Kingsman: The Secret Service* before taking on the role of Robbie Williams in the guise of a monkey.

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**.

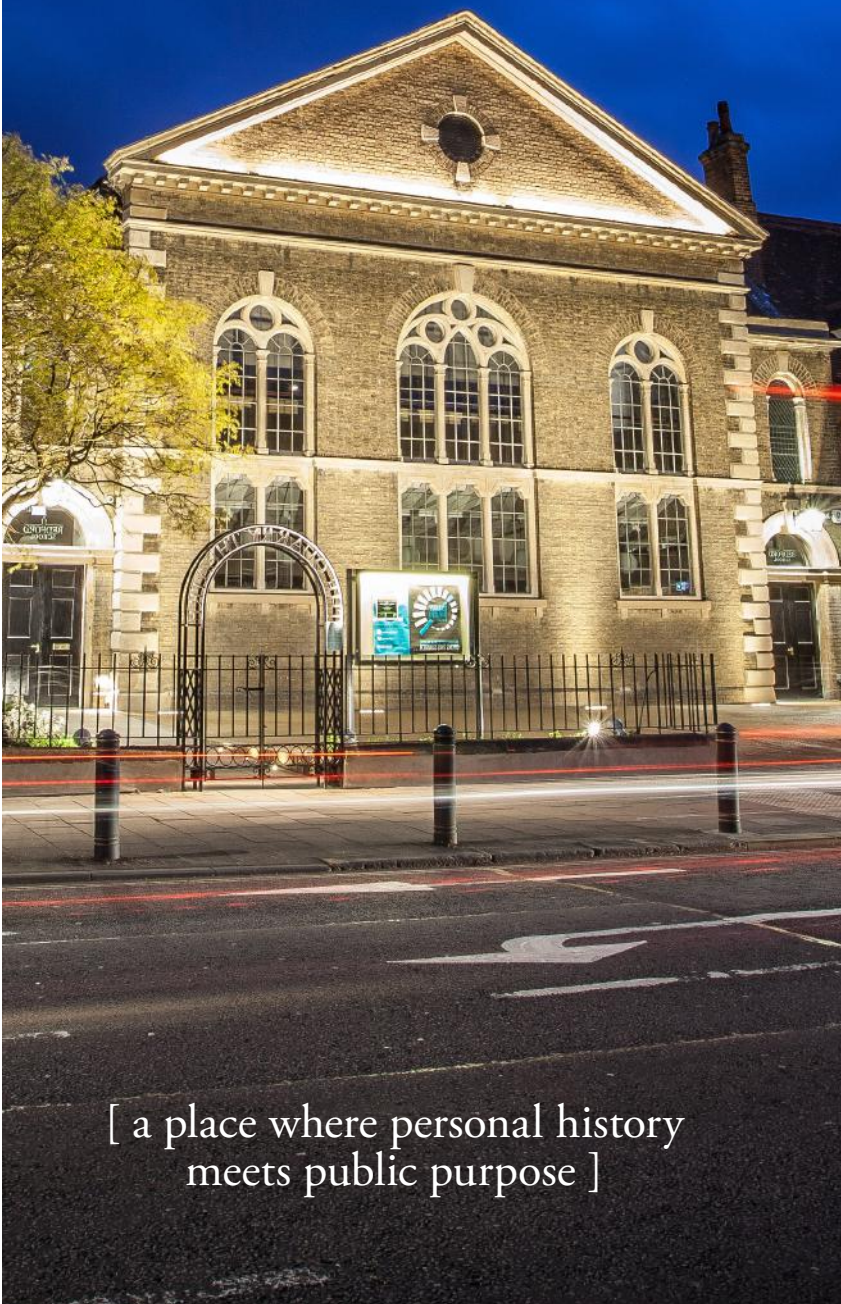
Learning the Importance of Physicality

We welcomed back OB Harun Ćehović (15-17) to run a specialist workshop for our drama scholars titled *The Importance of Physicality on Stage*. Harun's dynamic approach and practical exercises helped boys understand the significance of physicality in performance, drawing from the methodologies of renowned theatre practitioners. Reflecting on his journey at Bedford School, Harun shared, "It was thanks to the drama department and The Quarry Theatre that I became interested in acting and doing shows here. Bedford School really was a life-changer for me in every sense – it just gave me so many opportunities and allowed me to follow as many paths as I wanted. It was so generous and knowledge-giving."



Drama scholars exploring physicality

A Decade of *The Quarry Theatre* at St Luke's



[a place where personal history
meets public purpose]

Ten years ago, a quiet transformation took place in Bedford School. Where once stood a 19th-century Moravian church and its adjoining 18th-century Minister's House, a new kind of sanctuary emerged - one not of worship, but of creativity, community, education and performance. The Quarry Theatre at St Luke's opened its doors in 2015, breathing new life into a Grade II listed building and establishing itself as a brand-new theatre for Bedford School, as well as a cornerstone of Bedford town's cultural landscape.

As we celebrate its 10th anniversary, the Quarry Theatre stands not only as a triumph of architectural preservation and innovation, but as a vibrant hub for artistic expression - bridging the historic with the contemporary, and Bedford School with the wider community.

From the outset, the theatre was designed with education at its heart. Every detail was crafted to support learning for Bedford School boys - not just for budding actors, but for aspiring directors, set designers, lighting technicians and stage managers. A specially designed overhead grid allows boys to safely crawl across and rig lighting, avoiding the need for traditional ladders and enabling them to learn professional techniques in a safe environment. Backstage areas are fully accessible and functional, giving boys the opportunity to explore all aspects of theatre production.

During the school day, the theatre is alive with activity. Lessons take place daily for boys aged 7 to 18, offering them a chance to develop not only their creative talents but also essential life skills - teamwork, communication and problem-solving while also building their confidence. Whether they are performing under the spotlight or working behind the scenes, boys are immersed in an environment that encourages curiosity and self-expression.

Today, the Quarry Theatre is a cornerstone of Bedford's cultural life. It hosts a diverse programme of public performances - from drama and music to comedy and film - while offering Bedford School pupils a dynamic learning environment where creativity is nurtured, confidence is built, and professional-level productions come to life.



Bedford School boys on stage in a 10th anniversary performance of *A Servant to Two Masters*

Creative Arts Festival

This year's Bedford School Creative Arts Festival was a vibrant and joyful celebration of the imagination and talent of our boys across the creative disciplines. From stage to studio, and gallery to concert hall, the festival brought together the school community in a shared appreciation of the arts.

The festival opened with a riot of laughter as boys brought Lee Hall's adaptation of *A Servant to Two Masters* to life. With impeccable comic timing and boundless energy, the cast delivered a fast-paced, slapstick performance that had the audience in stitches.

The **End of Year Art Exhibition** was a stunning showcase of visual creativity. The Art School was transformed into a gallery space filled with thought-provoking and technically accomplished work from the Upper Sixth and Fifth Form boys. Congratulations to Jake (Upper Sixth) awarded Best in Show and Jack Guest (Upper Sixth) who received the Head Master's Art Prize – both richly deserved.

Renowned art critic and writer Martin Gayford delivered a captivating keynote talk, **How Painting Happens and Why it Matters**.

The **Creative Arts Festival of Music** was a spectacular musical showcase. From the intimate elegance of chamber performances in the Chapel to the powerful energy of full ensemble pieces in the Great Hall, the evening captured the week's artistic spirit.

The festival drew to a close with **A Jazz Evening at the Quarry Theatre**, featuring the Bedford School Jazz Orchestra and the New Jazz Collective.



Finn Bantock (Fifth Form)

Cellist Finn Excels

Music Scholar and cellist Finn Bantock (Fifth Form) has been accepted into the Junior Programme at the prestigious Royal College of Music in London. After an incredibly competitive audition process, Finn is eagerly looking forward to studying with the renowned Hungarian cellist, Pal Banda. Finn was also awarded the Young Musician prize in Toddington, was invited to masterclasses at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Open Strings Masterclasses in Denmark, as well as winning first prize in the Concerto category at the Bedfordshire Festival of Music and Drama.

Vocalists Enjoy Music Fellow Visit

The Bedford School Music Fellowship Programme gives pupils a wonderful opportunity to work with some of the finest musicians throughout the school year. The Fellows for each music faculty (Brass, Keyboard, Strings, Vocal, Woodwind) provide a wide range of musical activities, including giving recitals, directing ensembles, leading workshops, performing with school groups and generally being inspirational guides to our young musicians.

As part of this programme, we were delighted to welcome into school our Vocal Music Fellow, Sarah McDonald, currently Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, Director of Ely Cathedral's Girl Choristers and Organist to the University of Cambridge. She took time out of her busy schedule to spend an equally busy day here, filled with workshops and masterclasses for groups of singers and composers across all school year groups.

In the morning, Sarah gave three masterclasses to boys throughout the school who have singing lessons. Later in the day, Sarah enjoyed a workshop with the Consort Choir, our joint chamber choir with pupils from BGS, and her day culminated with the Chapel Choir, with whom she took sectional and full rehearsals in the Chapel. The trebles in the Chapel Choir enjoyed the warm-ups with ridiculously high notes, and lots of work was done on improving their psalm-singing.

Sarah was friendly, inspirational to all ages and was a font of knowledge, which she freely shared; all pupils in attendance benefited greatly from her visit.

Sarah said of her time here, "An incredibly rewarding day spent at Bedford School, working with choirs and singers from age 8 to 18. So much fabulous singing: very encouraging!".



Sarah McDonald delivering a masterclass

Quick Bites

Art Talks

The Gilbert Lloyd Art Lecture Series was, once again, packed full of insightful and enlightening talks this year.

Martin Gayford took us on a visual journey through the history of the city known as 'La Serenissima', the 'Most Serene' in his lecture *Venice: City of Pictures*.

Harriet Idle, a PhD candidate in Film Studies at University College Dublin, explored film genres in *Killers, Cowboys, Gangsters: Journeys Through Film Genre*.

Artist and painter, **Jake Attree** delivered a fascinating lecture entitled *Explaining the World to Myself Through Drawing*.

A Triumph of *Talent*



Over four unforgettable nights and one matinee, the Quarry Theatre stage was transformed into 19th-century France, as Bedford School and BGS unveiled their joint production of *Les Misérables*.

From the moment the curtain rose, it was clear that months of hard work, dedication and passion had gone into this production. The powerful vocals, stunning set design and meticulous attention to detail transported the audience to the heart of Victor Hugo's timeless story. The live music, performed by the talented musicians of Bedford School and BGS, added an extra layer of depth and emotion to the show.

Behind the scenes, the technical crew, comprised entirely of pupils from both schools, played a crucial role in the production's success. They expertly managed the lighting, microphones and sound levels, ensuring that every performance was seamless. Their hard work and technical prowess were evident in every scene, making them an indispensable part of the team.

Drama Teacher, Miss Danielle Boughey, explained, "From our first rehearsals, it was clear that this collaboration was much more than just a school production. It became a shared mission, an opportunity to learn from one another, and a chance to grow as performers, musicians and people. Pupils from both schools have worked tirelessly, pouring their hearts into every note, every scene change and every character, with each rehearsal revealing new layers of talent and commitment."



A hub for *Health & Wellbeing*



[a dedicated safe
place for boys]

The teenage years can bring challenges, and while we always aim for boys to learn and embed strategies for their own self-care and positive wellbeing through Citizenship mornings, mentoring and myriad other opportunities, we also know that there are times when they may need extra support. The new Health and Wellbeing Centre, housing the medical centre, counselling service and Chaplain, enables the school's wider pastoral team to work collaboratively to provide the best possible joined-up care for boys. It creates a warm and welcoming environment in which boys can step away from daily school life and feel at ease.

Alongside a larger medical centre and private counselling rooms, the centre also incorporates a quiet area and a garden where boys can take in a few peaceful moments or reconnect before returning to lessons.

The new centre also allows for a dedicated doctor's treatment room, the re-introduction of onsite physiotherapy and the opportunity to welcome external providers into the school to deliver additional support services to boys.

Lead Nurse Jill Turner-Webb explains, "We are passionate about giving every boy the best possible care and recognise that boys' physical and mental wellbeing impacts their school experience. The new centre allows us to support boys when they need help, whether physical, mental or emotional. This truly joined-up pastoral care provision is a real benefit for every single one."



"The new space works well to protect the confidentiality of boys accessing support and offers them a safe place that feels separate from the school to offload their worries."

Amanda Horlick-Coutts, Lead School Counsellor

National Boarding Week

As the summer term drew to a close, our boarders marked National Boarding Week with a joyful celebration of everything that makes boarding life so special. Spearheaded by the Boarding Schools Association, the week is a highlight of the boarding calendar, offering boys a chance to unwind after a busy academic year.

Evenings were packed with activities, including the ever-popular **Laser Tag**, where boys competed in house teams on the main school pitch, and **Film Night** at the Quarry Theatre, complete with ice cream. A screening of the latest Marvel film brought the whole boarding community together in true cinema style.

A firm favourite was **Taste the World**, a themed dinner celebrating the diverse cultures within our boarding houses. Boys sampled dishes from around the globe, sharing stories and flavours in a vibrant, communal setting.

The week culminated in the **Boarders' Games**, a hotly contested finale filled with laughter and friendly rivalry.

We also welcomed prospective families to our **Boarding Open Evening**, offering a glimpse into the warmth and energy of boarding life at Bedford. National Boarding Week continues to be a memorable tradition – a celebration of community and lifelong friendships.



Boarders' Spring Dinner

Over 200 members of our boarding community donned their dinner jackets and bow ties to gather for this year's Boarders' Spring Dinner. This special event, exclusive to our boarding community, celebrates a wonderful year of boarding ahead of summer exams.

We were honoured to have OB Richard Man join us this year. He delivered an inspiring speech on how boarding has shaped his personal and professional life, emphasising how the friends you make in boarding truly become lifelong friends.



Flexi BOARD

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

Visit the school website to find out more.

Quick Bites

Celebrating Lunar New Year

Our Lunar New Year festivities included a Chinese New Year Concert showcasing the incredible talents of boys and staff, who performed a variety of Chinese music and songs. Boys also sampled traditional Chinese sweets and food and decorated their boarding houses with red lanterns.

Trips Galore

Boarders enjoyed a variety of fun outings this year, including trips to London, Cambridge, Thorpe Park, Box End Park, go-karting, bowling, local restaurants and the school's own nature reserve at Ickwell.

Celebrating Cultures

The school community came together to honour the richness of the world's cultures by dressing in cultural outfits or the colours of their national flags, creating a beautiful tapestry of diversity. Highlights of the day included 'Foods of the World' tasting sessions, where boys had the chance to indulge in culinary delights from across the globe and 'Pin Your Heritage on the Map'.

Forging Elite Partnerships



We were thrilled to announce two formal collaborations with elite sports clubs in the region this year. Whilst we had already built strong links with both Northamptonshire County Cricket Club and Northampton Saints Rugby Club, with many OBs signed by each, these official agreements bring with them additional benefits to further enhance our cricket and rugby programmes.

The new partnership with Northamptonshire County Cricket Club (NCCC) sees our elite cricketers receiving high-performance training; our existing cricket programme will be enhanced with NCCC's expertise, giving coaches and players access to specialised training sessions, skill development programmes, and first-class facilities. Boys will also get the opportunity to meet the players at the NCCC ground and even take part in some of their training sessions.

In return, our picturesque grounds and superb facilities, such as the indoor and outdoor cricket nets and school gym, will be used by NCCC's age-group cricket programme, benefitting young cricketers from across the region.



Every Tuesday, before the first games session of the week, Northampton Saints rugby coaches lead a 15-minute staff INSET aimed at enhancing the quality of rugby training delivered by the school's coaches.

The initiative aligns with the Saints' coaching and training philosophy, emphasising the appropriate development of players. By equipping coaches with these tools and strategies, the programme aims to foster a more effective and cohesive training environment.

Director of Rugby, Mr James Hinkins, commented, "These sessions are crucial for maintaining a high standard of coaching and, by providing our coaches with the right tools and knowledge, we can ensure that our boys receive the best possible training, which is essential for their development and success on the field."



Top 20 of Schools for Sport Nationwide

Bedford School was recognised in the 2024 School Sport Magazine's Top 200 Sports Schools list, securing an impressive 18th place out of all schools across the country. This achievement places Bedford School in the top 0.5% of schools for sport nationwide, and as the third-best independent boys' school – testament to our dedication and excellence in a wide range of sporting disciplines.

The School Sport Magazine's prestigious list includes both state and independent schools, compiling results from more than 20 different sports and over 120 different events. This comprehensive ranking highlights the breadth and depth of boys' talents and the hard work of our dedicated coaches and staff.

Mr Ayden Duffy, Assistant Head (Co-Curriculum & Partnerships), expressed pride in this accomplishment, stating, "This recognition reflects the commitment and passion of our boys and staff. It is an honour to be ranked among the top schools in the country, and we will continue to strive for excellence in all sporting endeavours."

Quick Bites

National Cup Triumph

Max Innes, Fergus Tongue, Tom Wright (all Upper Sixth) Sammy Inman, Owain Harries and Justin Fasanya (all Lower Sixth) along with OBs Ferdi Barnett-Vincent, Aiden Reid, Charlie Constantine and Dylan French helped Olney RFC Colts to triumph by beating Rosslyn Park in the National U18s Colt Cups Final.

Sevens Success

The U14 team reached the final of the prestigious Reigate Rugby 7s. Whilst the U15 team beat Whitgift 29-14 in a thrilling final to retain the John Pieroni trophy at the Wimbledon College tournament with George Millar (Remove Form) deservedly named player of the tournament.

Saints DPP Selection

Four talented Fifth Formers - Oliver Surley, George Simmonds, Will Tierney and Henry Pask - have been selected for the prestigious Northampton Saints Rugby U17 Developing Player Programme (DPP).

Our Elite Community Partnership with Northampton Saints, which ensures that our boys receive top-tier coaching support services throughout the academic year, has been instrumental in this success.

Will explained, "The school has played a massive role in the development of my skills and leadership on the pitch. I was lucky enough to captain the U16 first team this season and am grateful that I can benefit from the year-round daily rugby sessions available."



L-R: Henry Pask, Oliver Surley, George Simmonds & Will Tierney



"Undoubtedly, if it were not for Bedford School, I would not be the rugby player I am today."

OB Fraser Dingwall (13-17)

From Bedford School to England

On a memorable evening filled with inspiration and insight, the school community gathered for *An Evening with OB Fraser Dingwall (13-17)*. The captain of Northampton Saints and England international returned to his roots to share his journey from Bedford School to the pinnacle of professional rugby.

The evening was more than just a talk; it was a masterclass in ambition and perseverance. Fraser Dingwall's journey is a powerful reminder of what can be achieved with passion, hard work and the right support – something Bedford School continues to provide all its boys.

A Season to Remember

The rowing season began in spectacular fashion for Bedford School at the Bedford Head, where over 100 boys braved cold, wet conditions to gain valuable race experience. Their winter training - both on the water and in the new indoor Rowing Performance Centre - paid off, with 12 eights competing across categories from 1st VIII to J14C.

Senior crews led the charge, with the 1st VIII winning the event overall and the 2nd VIII finishing just behind, ahead of Star Rowing Club's 1st VIII, which featured several Old Bedfordians and teacher Mr Palmer. The Colts A also impressed, winning the J16 category and outperforming several Oxbridge college crews. Later, the senior squad split into smaller boats and continued their winning streak in coxless fours, coxed fours and quads.

Momentum continued at the BASHER Regatta, where nine crews raced in fun match-ups. The 1st/2nd VIII placed third overall, while the J15C and J14A crews each won their first race and placed second in the next. The J16A crew earned bronze at the Junior Inter-regional Regatta.

At the Bedford Regatta, the 1st VIII triumphed for the third consecutive year, winning the Open Eights after a strong showing at Nottingham City Regatta earlier that day. The Colts A crew also made headlines, defeating Radley and University College, Oxford.

The season's highlight came at the National Schools Regatta, where the 1st VIII reached the A final for the first time since 2018, and the J14A crew matched that feat for the first time since 2008.

Capping off the season, the 1st VIII reached the quarter-finals at Henley Royal Regatta, falling only to eventual winners Shiplake College.



Driving Performance Gains

Since the launch of our dedicated Rowing Performance Centre, the facility has already begun transforming our rowing programme. Equipped with state-of-the-art strength and conditioning equipment, it provides an environment focused on high performance and continuous improvement.

Indoor training now takes place in this innovative space, featuring 30 new Concept2 machines. Available before and after school, as well as during lunchtimes, these machines allow boys to balance training with academic commitments. This flexibility has led to significant gains in aerobic fitness, with several school records broken.

On the strength and conditioning side, tailored programmes have been developed for all age groups. These have boosted boat power, as well as reducing injury rates. The comprehensive training ensures our rowers are physically prepared to perform at their best in competition.





Tech meets Technique in Sarnen

One of the highlights in the school's rowing calendar was the annual trip to the Swiss National Rowing Centre at the stunning Lake Sarnen in Switzerland. The calm conditions offered the boys miles and miles of wide-open waters to perfect their technique and build their stamina against a backdrop of white-tipped mountains.

Telemetry technology and sensors in the boats provided real-time data to both the coach and crew members bringing valuable marginal gains in technique and performance.



African Adventures

Over 90 boys from the U16 and U18 rugby and hockey teams travelled to South Africa over the summer for an unforgettable tour. They played three sets of competitive fixtures against local schools and enjoyed a range of incredible experiences - from ziplining and powerboating to exploring Table Mountain, Boulders Beach and the vibrant Langa Township.

The tour concluded with a breathtaking visit to Aquila Game Reserve, where the boys spotted four of the Big Five - the perfect end to a trip filled with sport, adventure and lifelong memories.

National Semi-Finals

The U16A hockey team went on a remarkable cup run reaching the semi-final of the National Tier 2 championships - an incredible feat from a talented group of players. The closely-fought quarter-final was a highlight of the hockey season. In front of a passionate home crowd, the boys came from behind to win a thrilling end-to-end match against Bradfield College 4-3.

The 1st XI were exceptional, losing only two games all season. Meanwhile, the U15As and the 2nd XI both remained unbeaten, delivering exciting and convincing performances.



Quick Bites

Rising Star

At just 15 years of age, talented young cricketer Zarell Harding (Remove Form) was selected to represent Barbados at U17 level in the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars 2-Day and 50 Over Championship in Trinidad & Tobago.

England Talent Academy

Will Jackson (Fifth Form), Ollie Jackson and Harry Mullen (both Remove Form) proudly represented Cambridge in the England Hockey Talent Academy Cup at the University of Nottingham. A fantastic achievement and a testament to their commitment and passion for the sport.

SPORTS Scholarships

We offer generous sports scholarships for outstanding talent in cricket, hockey, rowing, rugby and golf.

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



Young Talent Shines in National Cups

The cricket club achieved an impressive 70% win-rate across all matches this season. The standout highlight for the 1st XI was a memorable victory over Stowe in the National T20 competition. Key contributors included Mustafa Haroon (Lower Sixth), who excelled with the bat, and Harry L'Estrange (Lower Sixth), who was outstanding with the ball. They were well supported by the fearsome pace of Zarell Harding (Remove Form), the swing of Alfie James (Lower Sixth), and the controlled spin of Zack Jepp (Fifth Form).

In the age group teams, both the U17s and U15s reached the quarter-finals of their respective national cup competitions - an excellent achievement.



A New Era for Football at Bedford

This year we launched a revitalised football programme, centred around a new training ground in Cople featuring two full-size pitches and three grid areas. This centralised facility supports smoother transitions between teams and a more cohesive training environment.

Leading the initiative are UEFA A licensed coaches Tony McCool and Chris Winton, who, alongside staff and external coaches, have re-energised the school's football development plan.

"Our aim is to help every boy enjoy and excel in the game," explained Mr Chris Prior, Master in Charge of Football. "The passion of our players and coaches is truly inspiring."

Quick Bites

Double Football Triumph

Edward Page (Fourth Form) enjoyed an incredible few weeks of footballing success, winning the prestigious Sori Cup in Hungary with his Oakley U14 team and then helping Bedford Town U14s to lift the Bedfordshire County Cup.

Swimming Stars

Three boys excelled at the Bedfordshire Swimming County Championships. Oliver Chadwick (Remove Form) won two golds and a bronze, Oliver Meier (Remove Form) took home one gold, two silver and three bronze medals and Daniel Meier (Lower Sixth) won two golds, two silvers and a bronze.

Table Tennis Masterclass

Boys enjoyed a special table tennis masterclass with former England international player and renowned online coach, Craig Bryant. Craig provided expert coaching during the session, as well as an insightful Q&A.

Beach Volleyball

Our U18A and B Beach Volleyball teams excelled at the Independent Schools Beach Volleyball Tournament - taking 3rd and 4th place respectively! Even more impressive, they beat Brighton College on their home sand!

County Table Tennis

Bedford's U16 table tennis teams claimed first and second place at the county table tennis championships, with the A team winning a thrilling all-Bedford final to reach the regional stage.

Champions!

The final of the prestigious Cricketer Cup between the Old Bedfordians and Old Tonbridgians was a nail-biting affair, with the OBs emerging victorious by two wickets, with six balls to spare! In what was the highest-scoring final in the competition's 55-year history, Bedford's outstanding batting performance eventually proved the difference.

This was the first time the Club had reached the final, having come agonisingly close on two earlier occasions. Across their six matches, the OBs drew on thirty-five players, demonstrating the depth of talent the Club can call upon.



The Cricketer Top 100 Schools



Bedford School was once again recognised in The Cricketer's Top 100 Schools Guide, marking the 10th anniversary of this prestigious accolade.

Lions Call-Up for Emilio

OB Emilio Gay (11-18) earned his first ever call-up to the England Lions squad, facing India 'A' in a two-match series held in Kent and Northamptonshire. Emilio top-scored for England in the second test with 71 runs and took the catches of Indian openers KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal. This recognition came after a sensational season in the County Championship with his new club, Durham.



OB and Durham Cricketer Emilio Gay

Parent Partnership



The Bedford School Parent Partnership Programme helps parents support their sons through the teenage years by offering expert talks, workshops, and curated resources on key pastoral topics.

The academic year began with a compelling Parent Partnership talk delivered by renowned psychologist and parenting expert Dr Maryhan. Her talk, *How Not to Screw Up Your Kids*, offered practical advice and real-life insights into parenting teenagers. She emphasised the importance of a collective approach, reminding us that "it takes a village to raise a child" - a village that includes schools, communities and parents working together to nurture resilient young adults.

In February, the school hosted its annual Parent Partnership Conference, coinciding with Children's Mental Health Week. The event provided parents with valuable guidance on raising teenage boys. Henry Gillham and George Gutteridge (Lower Sixth) opened the conference, highlighting the importance of strong adult relationships and expressing heartfelt thanks to parents for their support.

The morning featured breakout sessions on key topics, including *Online Safety*, *Effective Study Skills* and *Understanding Anxiety*.

The keynote speech by Tina Lond-Caulk, *Eat Well and Feel Great*, explored the impact of nutrition on academic and physical performance, offering actionable advice for parents.

A panel discussion and Q&A session, led by Parent Partnerships Lead, Mrs Fiona Whiteman and Vice Master Mr Sam Baldock, allowed for open dialogue and anonymous questions.

The event concluded with a themed lunch for all in the Cafe Bar, featuring brain-boosting tuna pasta bake, probiotic-rich kimchi salad, and a heart-healthy yoghurt station.

Parent feedback was overwhelmingly positive, praising the range of topics and practical insights.

"The event was extremely informative in a wide range of subjects and really helpful."

Parent attending the school's fourth annual Parent Partnership 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 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. 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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