
BEDFORD
SCHOOL
That *each* become *more*.
A Year in Review
2025-2026



That *each* become *more.*

Joining Bedford School at this moment in its history feels particularly special. I have been overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome my family and I have received, and by the pride and affection that so many people clearly feel for this wonderful school.

My first weeks have given me the opportunity to listen, to learn and to experience Bedford life at close quarters. What has impressed me most is the strength of the community. There is an energy and purpose about the school, but also a generosity of spirit that comes through in conversations, in classrooms and corridors, and in the enthusiasm with which our young people embrace school life.

There is much to be proud of in the year captured in these pages, and I hope you enjoy discovering some of the people, moments and achievements that have made it memorable.

At the same time, our eyes are firmly on the future. 2027 will be a landmark year for Bedford School. As we celebrate our 475th anniversary, we will also begin an exciting new chapter as we welcome girls and become a co-educational school. It is a significant moment in Bedford's story and one that we approach with enormous excitement and confidence.

For nearly five centuries, Bedford has evolved while holding fast to what matters. As we look ahead, our opportunity is to take the very best of that inheritance and build upon it, creating an exceptional education for girls and boys and ensuring that Bedford continues to thrive for generations to come.

For families considering Bedford, I hope these pages give you a flavour not only of what happens here, but of how it feels to be part of this community. I have experienced that for myself over these first few months, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be here.

With very best wishes,

Michael Sloan

Head Master



With Heartfelt Thanks

This year marked the end of an important chapter for Bedford School as James Hodgson stepped down after 12 years as Head Master.

James led the school with warmth, ambition and a deep commitment to the boys in his care. During his tenure, Bedford strengthened its academic performance, invested significantly in its facilities, and continued to offer the breadth of opportunities that he believed were central to a Bedford education.

A particular passion was the Community Partnerships Programme. James championed the importance of service and giving back, believing that volunteering with local schools, charities and care homes not only benefits the wider community but also helps pupils develop empathy, perspective and a sense of responsibility.

His influence has touched generations of pupils, parents, colleagues and Old Bedfordians, and his legacy will endure long beyond his time as Head Master. We thank James for his outstanding service to Bedford School and wish him and his family every happiness for the future.

Book a Private Visit

We warmly invite families to come and meet us, and explore the school in person. Each private visit will be tailored to your family's interests and 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 child's educational needs in more detail.

To book a private visit, please contact our admissions team.

admissions@bedfordschool.org.uk

01234 362216



Looking Back. *Looking Forward.*

This publication is, by its nature, a celebration of the year just gone: the achievements, experiences and people that have made it memorable. But as we look back, it would be impossible not to acknowledge a development that will shape Bedford School for generations to come.

In September 2027, Bedford School will become fully co-educational, welcoming girls throughout the Prep and Upper Schools for the first time. Across the range of year groups, girls will be able to experience the same breadth of academic, sporting, creative and co-curricular opportunities that have long characterised a Bedford education.

The timing is significant. In 2027, Bedford will also celebrate its 475th anniversary. As we approach that milestone, becoming co-educational marks an important new chapter in a story stretching back almost five centuries.

Preparations are already well under way. Burnaby House is being transformed to provide a dedicated home for girls in the Upper School, both day and boarding, while academic, pastoral and co-curricular provision are being carefully reviewed and developed ahead of September 2027.

What will not change is just as important: Bedford's academic ambition, outstanding pastoral care, strong House system, sporting tradition, boarding community and extraordinary breadth of opportunity will remain at its heart.

So, while the pages following this one celebrate a remarkable year at Bedford, this page looks forward to a broader community and an exciting new chapter in the school's long history.

The same school. A wider door.

"Bedford School has continually evolved in its 475-year history, but always stayed true to its values. It has long been known for the quality of its academic education, co-curricular prowess and pastoral care, giving young people the strongest start in life."

John Holland-Kaye,
Chair of the School Governing Body

Discover more about our move to co-education and our plans for September 2027 and beyond.

The *Future* Takes Shape



Over the past year, some of the most important work at Bedford has been concerned not with what you can see today, but with what comes next.

Following the announcement that Bedford School will become co-educational from September 2027, detailed planning has been taking place across the school to ensure that the Bedford of the future builds confidently on everything that makes it distinctive today.





A New Sixth Form Centre

Plans have also taken shape for an exciting new Sixth Form Centre, opening in September 2027 and designed specifically for this distinctive stage of school life. It will create a shared space where Sixth Formers can study, collaborate and spend time together, while enjoying the greater independence and responsibility that come with these final two years.

With generous working areas, meeting rooms and a café, the Sixth Form Centre will complement the Library for quiet study and pupils' single-sex houses, adding something different: a focal point for the whole Sixth Form community. It will be a place for communal study, conversation and collaboration, where girls and boys can work alongside one another as they will at university and in the world beyond school.

Built around how Sixth Form really works, it will give this important stage of school life a centre of gravity of its own.



"A thriving boarding house is much more than somewhere to live. It is a community where pupils feel at home, form strong friendships and develop confidence and independence. Burnaby will provide that same sense of belonging to our first girls, day girls and boarders alike, while giving them the opportunity to shape the character and traditions of their own House from the very beginning."

James Marriott, Head of Boarding



"We encourage pupils to set high expectations and provide them with the structure and support they need to reach their potential. Pupils become increasingly independent learners, taking advantage of the opportunities available to them."

Anna Smith, Academic Year Head, Sixth Form

Discover more about Sixth Form life at Bedford and the opportunities that await.

A Home for Girls

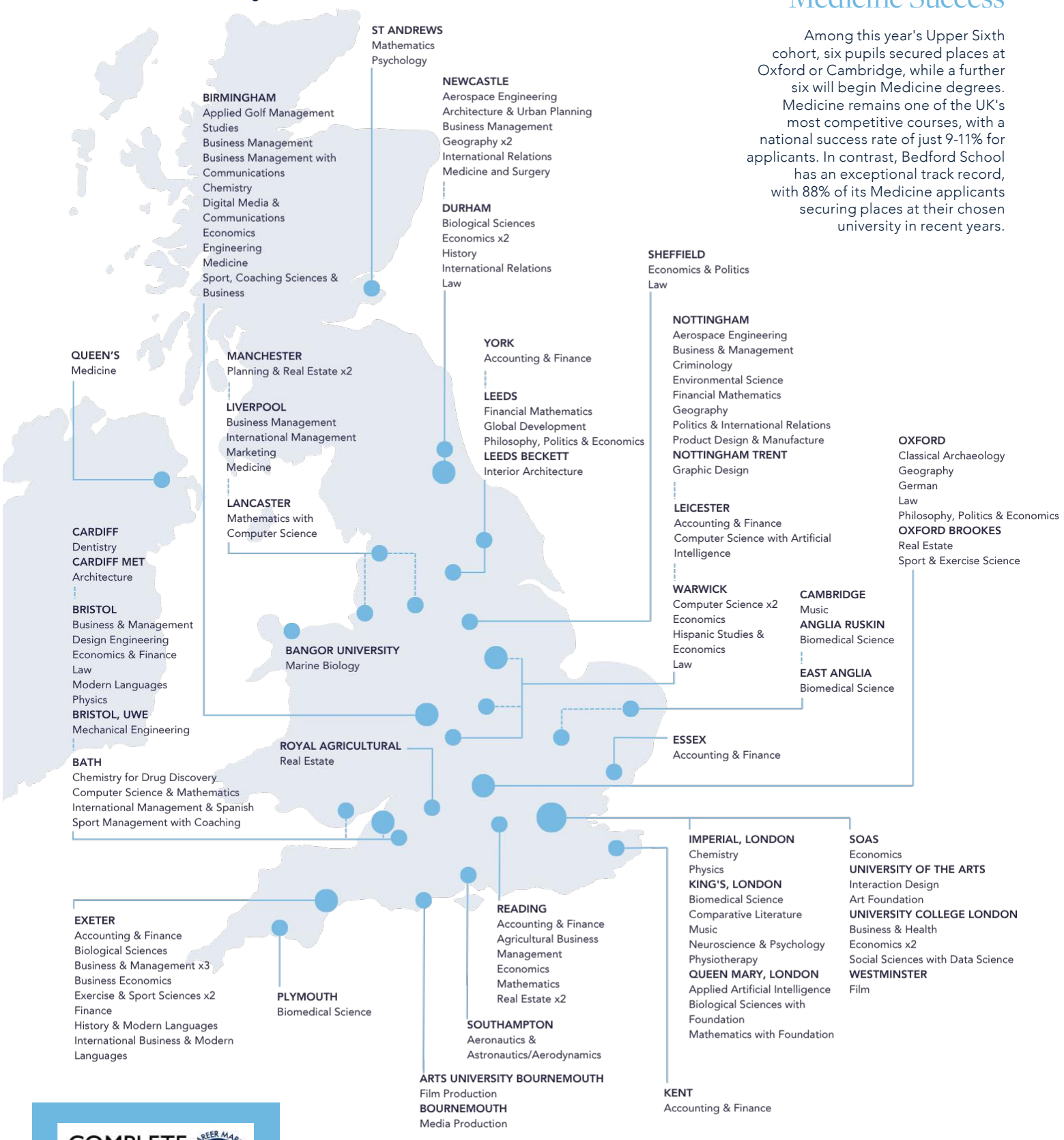
Burnaby House is being transformed to become a dedicated home for girls in the Upper School. Initially bringing together day and boarding pupils, it will provide a welcoming community and a strong sense of identity from the moment the first girls arrive.

Upper School pupils will continue to belong to single-sex day or boarding houses, while learning and taking part in the wider life of the school together.

University *Destinations* 2026

Oxbridge & Medicine Success

Among this year's Upper Sixth cohort, six pupils secured places at Oxford or Cambridge, while a further six will begin Medicine degrees. Medicine remains one of the UK's most competitive courses, with a national success rate of just 9-11% for applicants. In contrast, Bedford School has an exceptional track record, with 88% of its Medicine applicants securing places at their chosen university in recent years.



ST ANDREWS
Mathematics
Psychology

BIRMINGHAM
Applied Golf Management Studies
Business Management
Business Management with Communications
Chemistry
Digital Media & Communications
Economics
Engineering
Medicine
Sport, Coaching Sciences & Business

NEWCASTLE
Aerospace Engineering
Architecture & Urban Planning
Business Management
Geography x2
International Relations
Medicine and Surgery

DURHAM
Biological Sciences
Economics x2
History
International Relations
Law

SHEFFIELD
Economics & Politics
Law

QUEEN'S
Medicine

MANCHESTER
Planning & Real Estate x2

LIVERPOOL
Business Management
International Management
Marketing
Medicine

YORK
Accounting & Finance

LEEDS
Financial Mathematics
Global Development
Philosophy, Politics & Economics

LEEDS BECKETT
Interior Architecture

NOTTINGHAM
Aerospace Engineering
Business & Management
Criminology
Environmental Science
Financial Mathematics
Geography
Politics & International Relations
Product Design & Manufacture

NOTTINGHAM TRENT
Graphic Design

LANCASTER
Mathematics with Computer Science

LEICESTER
Accounting & Finance
Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence

OXFORD
Classical Archaeology
Geography
German
Law
Philosophy, Politics & Economics

OXFORD BROOKES
Real Estate
Sport & Exercise Science

CARDIFF
Dentistry

CARDIFF MET
Architecture

BRISTOL
Business & Management
Design Engineering
Economics & Finance
Law
Modern Languages
Physics

BRISTOL, UWE
Mechanical Engineering

WARWICK
Computer Science x2
Economics
Hispanic Studies & Economics
Law

CAMBRIDGE
Music

ANGLIA RUSKIN
Biomedical Science

EAST ANGLIA
Biomedical Science

BANGOR UNIVERSITY
Marine Biology

ESSEX
Accounting & Finance

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL
Real Estate

BATH
Chemistry for Drug Discovery
Computer Science & Mathematics
International Management & Spanish
Sport Management with Coaching

IMPERIAL, LONDON
Chemistry
Physics

KING'S, LONDON
Biomedical Science
Comparative Literature
Music
Neuroscience & Psychology
Physiotherapy

QUEEN MARY, LONDON
Applied Artificial Intelligence
Biological Sciences with Foundation
Mathematics with Foundation

SOAS
Economics

UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS
Interaction Design
Art Foundation

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
Business & Health
Economics x2
Social Sciences with Data Science

WESTMINSTER
Film

EXETER
Accounting & Finance
Biological Sciences
Business & Management x3
Business Economics
Exercise & Sport Sciences x2
Finance
History & Modern Languages
International Business & Modern Languages

PLYMOUTH
Biomedical Science

READING
Accounting & Finance
Agricultural Business Management
Economics
Mathematics
Real Estate x2

SOUTHAMPTON
Aeronautics & Astronautics/Aerodynamics

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH
Film Production

BOURNEMOUTH
Media Production

KENT
Accounting & Finance

COMPLETE CAREERS — CAREER MARK

We are proud to have been awarded the prestigious National Quality in Careers Award, Career Mark Gold II. This marks the endorsement of our outstanding pupil-centred, future-focussed and impact-driven careers programme.

86% of pupils went on to Russell Group or Times Top 30 2026 universities

Pupils gained degree apprenticeships with leading firms including Network Rail, Workman LLP & Westbury Street Holdings.

International university places included University of Toronto (Canada), NYU, University of Arizona, Cumberland University (USA), HKUST (Hong Kong), University of Otago (New Zealand) and Monash University (Australia).



Outstanding Success Across IB, A-Levels & GCSEs

Bedford School pupils achieved exceptional results across the International Baccalaureate (IB), A-Levels and GCSEs, marking one of the most successful examination years in the school's history.

The IB cohort recorded an average score of almost 38 points, with half of the boys achieving 40 points or more. At A-Level, 52% of all grades were awarded A* to A and 80% A* to B, with pupils progressing to leading universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial and St Andrews. Alongside places at leading universities, leavers are pursuing international golf and rugby scholarships, degree apprenticeships, art foundation courses and even specialist flight training.

GCSE pupils also excelled, achieving Bedford's second-highest results on record, with 72% of grades at 9-7 and 93.2% at 9-5. Among them, 21 boys secured results made up entirely of Grades 9 and 8.

Community Expertise at its Best

The Old Bedfordians (OB) Club Careers Convention continues to go from strength to strength, providing boys with invaluable insight into a wide range of career pathways.

Representing sectors as diverse as law, medicine, engineering, science, finance, media, consultancy, architecture, computer science and the creative arts, contributors ranged from professionals working at major international organisations such as Deloitte and BAE Systems, to those running successful local businesses.

The event ran over three successive evenings and offered pupils a unique opportunity to hear first-hand about different professions, the skills and qualifications required and the realities of working in those fields.

A fixture in the school calendar for more than *20* years

220 pupils from *23* schools across Bedford Borough

12 online sessions across three evenings

Over *65* speakers, including OBs, parents, former parents & teachers.



Financial Literacy for Life

Upper Sixth boys benefited from two bespoke financial education sessions delivered by Ethan Waller and George Davey of Titan Wealth Planning. The initiative was sparked by OB Andrew Fearon (83-88), Joint CEO of Titan, and developed in partnership with Lucian (Upper Sixth), who surveyed his peers to identify the financial topics most relevant to them.

Using this feedback, Titan designed two tailored workshops covering vital real-world subjects, including student finance, budgeting, tax and National Insurance, credit cards, car finance and investing. The sessions equipped boys with the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions as they prepare for life beyond school.

Oxbridge Evening Welcomes 300 Guests

Bedford School welcomed more than 300 pupils and parents from seven local schools for a borough-wide Oxbridge Information Evening. The keynote address was delivered by Mike Nicholson, Director of Recruitment, Admissions and Participation at the University of Cambridge, who provided practical advice on what Oxbridge looks for in applicants and how pupils can prepare for success.

The evening also featured contributions from OBs Oliver Burridge Dean (10-20) and Ruben Glenville (20-22), alongside current pupils and recent leavers, who shared their experiences of applying to and studying at Oxbridge. A Q&A and networking session gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions and gain valuable advice.

Quick Bites

Oxford Candidates Trip

An inspiring day in Oxford gave pupils a valuable insight into one of the world's leading universities. From admissions advice and college tours, to hearing directly from current students and tutors, they gained a clearer understanding of how to develop their academic interests and strengthen future applications. The day ended with a city tour led by OB Ed Lamb (10-17) leaving boys informed and motivated for the opportunities ahead.

Medicine Mock Interviews

Aspiring medics gained valuable experience of the medical school admissions process through a realistic Multiple Mini Interview programme. Supported by experienced GPs, Mr Hodgson, Mr Baldock and Mr Pattni, boys rotated through six challenging interview stations, tackling scenarios under timed conditions and receiving detailed feedback on their communication, reasoning and interview technique.

PwC Partner Inspires

Esther Rawlin, Partner at PwC, joined us for an inspiring fireside chat, sharing her career journey to one of the most senior and respected positions in the profession and offering valuable insights into the opportunities available at PwC and beyond. The session sparked thoughtful discussion, leaving boys with practical advice, greater confidence and fresh inspiration for their future careers.

Studying Music at Uni

Three OBs returned to school to share their experiences of studying music at university. Daniel Hutchins (18-23) (Royal College of Music), Feyi Okusanya (17-22) (Leeds University) and James Watson (17-22) (Newcastle University) offered valuable insights into everything from conservatoire training to campus life, giving boys an authentic perspective on the pathways available to aspiring musicians.



Project *Snowdrop:* Advancing Scientific Discovery



Following two highly successful years of pioneering research, Project Snowdrop 2026 is now underway, with a new cohort of pupils embarking on this unique scientific journey. Earlier in the year, the boys travelled to Anglesey to collect 16 different snowdrop samples before returning to Bedford School to begin the process of isolating chloroplasts and extracting DNA from each specimen.

The next stage took place at the world-renowned Rothamsted Research, where pupils experienced life inside a commercial research laboratory. Under the guidance of Dr Stephen Pearce and his team, they followed advanced scientific protocols, including using a nanodrop machine to confirm the presence of DNA, purifying samples and carefully loading them onto a MinION DNA sequencer.

The visit also provided an opportunity to tour research growing facilities and learn about cutting-edge work on genetically modified wheat. Combining fieldwork, laboratory science and access to leading researchers, Project Snowdrop offers an exceptional opportunity for pupils to engage with genuine scientific research. The boys approached every challenge with enthusiasm, curiosity and professionalism, gaining valuable insight into the world of modern genetics and biological research.



Science in Action

Members of our Virology Research Group took to the lab for an exciting programme exploring the world of medical diagnostics. Taking on the role of healthcare professionals in a simulated airport COVID testing environment, boys gained first-hand experience of the processes used to detect and monitor infectious diseases.

A highlight was a micro-pipetting practical, where boys developed the precision and technical skills needed to handle tiny volumes of liquid, an essential aspect of working with genetic material in modern laboratories. The hands-on session brought science vividly to life, giving boys an insight into the accuracy and attention to detail required in biomedical research.

Quick Bites

Exploring Scientific Frontiers

Jimmy (Lower Sixth) achieved outstanding success in the RCSU Science Challenge. Through extensive independent research and guidance from Physics teacher Mr Crisp, Jimmy created a compelling five-minute video explaining the challenging scientific concept of superconductivity. His success further fuelled his interest in the field, leading him to explore its applications in nuclear fusion at an Oxford University taster lecture.

Using Data to Drive Change

Tristan (Upper Sixth) was selected as a finalist in the Office for National Statistics Data Challenge 2025 for Geography. Using analytical tools, he investigated inequality in Queens Park, Bedford, producing a detailed report that included policy recommendations for future development. Reflecting on the project, he highlighted the striking differences in employment and education levels between neighbouring streets, gaining valuable insight into how data can inform policy.

Racing into Formula One

Max, Arthur, Fin, Aarnav and Michael (Remove Form) represented Bedford School in the Formula 1 in Schools Challenge at Aston University, gaining valuable experience in engineering, problem-solving and teamwork. After weeks of designing, engineering and testing, the team produced a Bedford School-branded miniature F1 car using CAD software, manufacturing components and testing performance in the Physics wind tunnel before presenting their work to judges.

Stretching Mathematical Minds

We were delighted to welcome OB Jason Lotay (87-98), Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, for an engaging problem-solving session with Lower Sixth mathematicians, exploring challenging concepts including a three-dimensional application of Pythagoras' theorem and a proof of the formula for a sphere.





Rising to the Challenge

Four talented mathematicians, Josh, Alvin, Eesa and Oscar (Lower Sixth), represented Bedford School at the UK Senior Team Maths Challenge. The team tackled a demanding series of mathematical puzzles and problem-solving rounds that also tested their communication, teamwork and strategic thinking.

Facing strong competition from across the region, the boys achieved an impressive ninth-place finish out of 20, a testament to their skill and collaborative approach.

Celebrating Curiosity during British Science Week

British Science Week provided a fantastic opportunity for boys across the school to celebrate curiosity and scientific discovery through a wide range of engaging activities.

The week began with an assembly led by our Sixth Form Science Ambassadors, encouraging boys to ask questions and think critically about the world around them. Fourth Form boys tested their scientific vocabulary in the Science Spelling Bee, with Oscar crowned champion after a closely contested final. Elsewhere, Fourth and Remove Form boys showcased their research and presentation skills in the Science Presentation Competition, while the Chemistry department hosted a hands-on Science Club special. Snowdrop boys enjoyed a memorable visit to the Wellcome Genome Campus, analysing DNA sequences and learning valuable lessons about the realities of scientific research. The week concluded with the prestigious Talalay Science Prize, where six Lower Sixth boys presented impressive research projects to a panel of senior staff.

Designing for Independence

Jonathan (Upper Sixth) produced an outstanding Design and Technology project that combined technical expertise with a genuine desire to improve people's lives. Inspired by his grandmother, Jonathan designed a seated, variable-resistance exercise device to help elderly users safely strengthen their leg muscles and maintain mobility. The adjustable system allows users of different abilities to exercise comfortably, even while carrying out everyday activities such as watching television.

Using Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining, durable materials and a professional chrome-plated finish, Jonathan developed a fully functioning prototype that was tested in two care homes. Feedback from residents and healthcare professionals was overwhelmingly positive, while the school physiotherapist confirmed the design's suitability for strengthening key muscle groups safely.

Jonathan's project exemplifies how creativitiy and thoughtful engineering can make a meaningful difference to people's independence and quality of life.





Questioning, Researching, Excelling

This year's Upper Sixth Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) cohort achieved an outstanding 92% A* or A grades. The EPQ develops skills in independent research, critical thinking and academic enquiry, and pupils embraced the challenge with maturity and ambition.

Projects explored contemporary issues including social media's impact on jury impartiality, the concept of digital immortality and the ethics of trading defence stocks. The breadth and quality of their research demonstrated intellectual curiosity and thoughtful engagement with complex social, technological and ethical questions, while preparing pupils for university study and beyond.

Quick Bites

Debating Under Pressure

Two teams of boys enjoyed a memorable day of competitive debating at the historic Cambridge Union, tackling four rounds of challenging motions with just 15 minutes to prepare each. As first-time competitors, the boys impressed with their confidence, adaptability, progress and sportsmanship.

Award-Winning Filmmaker & Teacher

Head of Media Studies, Ms Keep, received a prestigious True Crime Film Award in London for her acclaimed Netflix series *Attack on London*. The award recognises outstanding achievement in film-making and is a fitting tribute to the dedication and talent of Ms Keep and her production team.

Democracy in Action

Twenty-seven Lower Sixth History and Politics pupils gained first-hand insight into British democracy during a visit to Westminster, watching live debates in both Houses of Parliament. With expert guidance from Mr Vann, they explored Parliament's history and workings, and how legislation is scrutinised and national issues debated.

Debatir en español

James and Harry (Upper Sixth) represented Bedford School at a Spanish debating competition, tackling three challenging debates entirely in Spanish. Demonstrating impressive linguistic skill, cultural understanding and resilience, they developed their fluency and critical thinking while representing the school with distinction.

Pioneering Sport Science

This year marked an important milestone as Bedford School's first cohort of BTEC Sport & Exercise Science pupils completed their qualification, with an outstanding 94% achieving Distinction* or Distinction grades. Over two years, boys explored sports psychology, biomechanics, performance analysis and physiology.

Highlights included a visit from Catapult Sports, where pupils used GPS tracking, wearable technology and advanced analytics to analyse performance, and an educational trip to Manchester featuring cryotherapy, performance testing at Manchester Metropolitan and Loughborough Universities, a BBC visit, the National Cycling Centre and live ice hockey and football.

As the first cohort to complete the course, these boys have helped establish Sport & Exercise Science as an exciting and forward-thinking Sixth Form pathway.



Geography in the Field

Fieldwork remains at the heart of Geography at Bedford School, giving pupils first-hand experience of the landscapes, environments and communities they study in the classroom.

Fourth Form pupils explored biomes and environmental geography at Kew Gardens, while Remove Form geographers visited Hunstanton to investigate coastal management, comparing managed and unmanaged coastline and assessing the impact of groynes.

For Upper Sixth geographers, the highlight was a five-day residential in North Wales, where they investigated carbon cycles, coastal management and urban change in locations including Betws-y-Coed, Criccieth and Llandudno, while designing and conducting their own fieldwork enquiries.



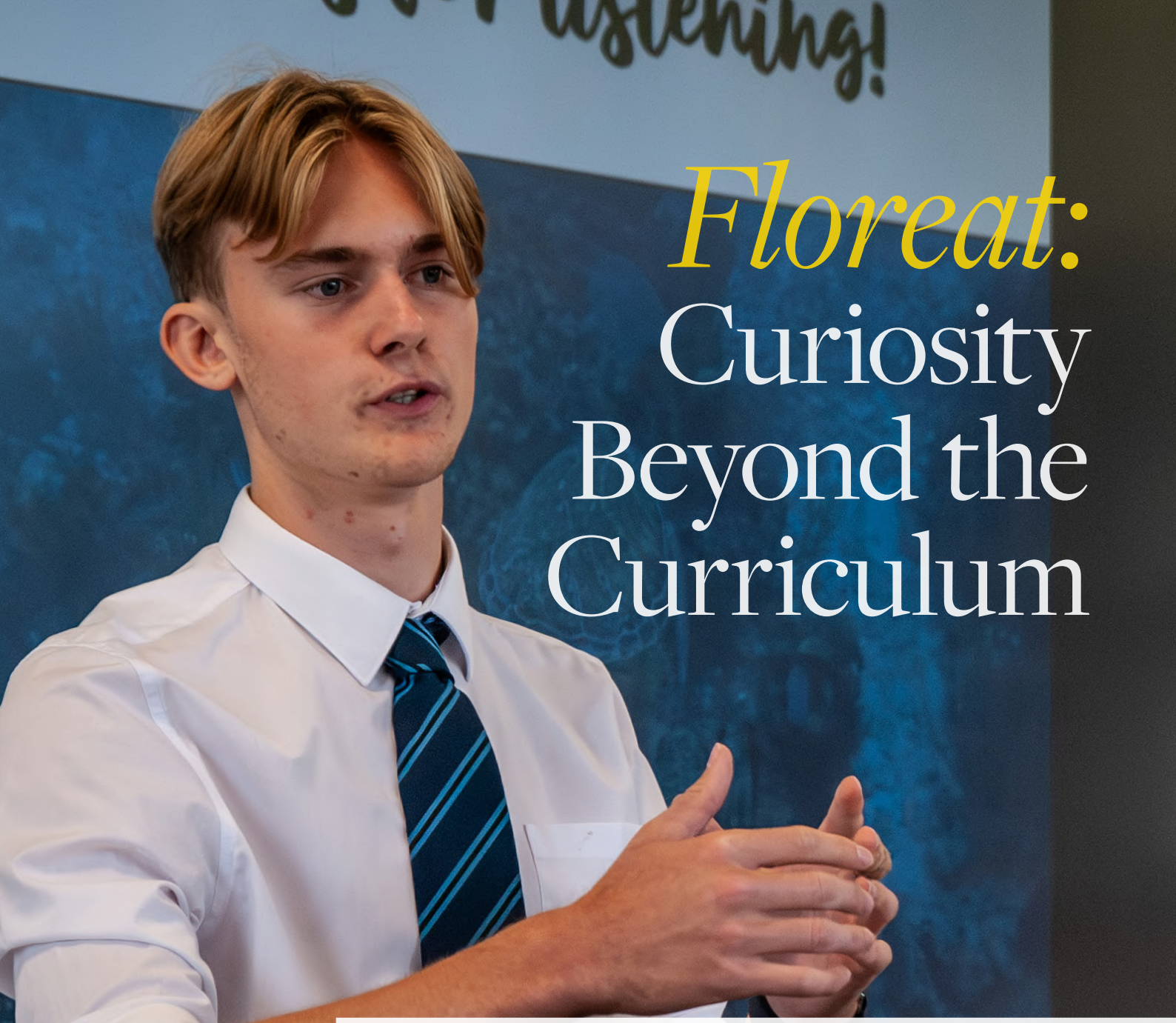


Mock Election Brings Democracy to Life

Boys across the school explored British democracy through a full mock parliamentary election. Designed to mirror a real political campaign, Upper Sixth pupils acted as party candidates, while Lower Sixth boys served as election officials and vote counters.

In the run-up to polling day, candidates created manifestos, designed campaign materials and promoted policies on key national and local issues. A special assembly and lively hustings then gave them the chance to present their views and answer questions, sharpening their public speaking and critical thinking skills.

Seven school constituencies took part, giving boys hands-on experience of the electoral process and the value of democratic participation. The project deepened political understanding while building communication, teamwork and leadership skills.



Floreat: Curiosity Beyond the Curriculum

Our Floreat programme continues to provide boys with opportunities to explore subjects beyond the curriculum, encouraging intellectual curiosity, independent learning and a genuine love of discovery.

A highlight of the year was a fascinating presentation by Oscar (Lower Sixth), who introduced his super-curricular course, Exploring the Underwater World. Harnessing his passion for scuba diving and marine biology, and drawing inspiration from the school's Biology expedition to Mexico, Oscar delivered an engaging overview that blended scientific theory with real-world experience. His presentation offered a glimpse into the wonders of marine ecosystems while demonstrating how learning can be enriched through personal interests and hands-on exploration.

Oscar's course is just one example of the breadth and ambition that characterise Floreat. Throughout the programme, boys have developed and delivered their own courses on a remarkable range of topics, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with their peers. Subjects have included Quantum Mechanics, Artificial Intelligence in Medicine, Financial Markets and Philosophy in Sport, reflecting both the diversity of interests within the Sixth Form and the willingness of boys to challenge themselves academically.

By placing boys at the heart of the learning experience, Floreat encourages them not only to deepen their understanding of specialist subjects but also to develop valuable skills in research, communication and leadership. The programme has become an important part of academic enrichment at Bedford School, providing a platform for boys to pursue their passions, inspire one another and engage with ideas that stretch far beyond the classroom.

Through Floreat, curiosity is celebrated, independence is nurtured and learning is taken to exciting new horizons.

Robotics Reaches a Major Milestone



January saw a major milestone for robotics at Bedford School as we hosted our first VEX V5 Robotics Competition. VEX, one of the world's leading robotics programmes, challenges pupils to design, build and code robots capable of completing demanding engineering tasks - requiring creativity, teamwork and sharp strategic thinking.

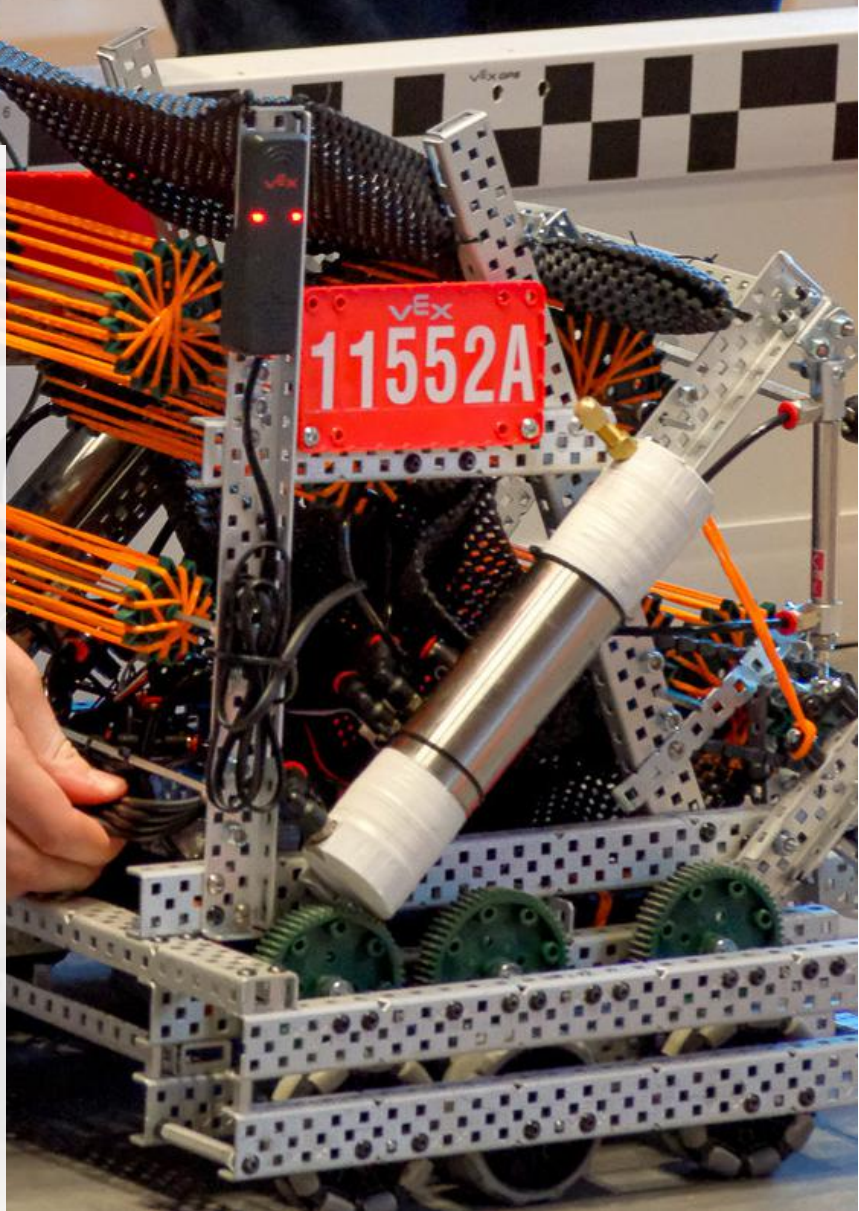
Thirteen schools attended, including Haileybury, Haberdashers' Boys' School, City of London School and Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. The atmosphere buzzed with innovation as teams refined designs, tested ideas and tackled challenges under pressure.

Bedford pupils showed impressive resilience throughout, continually improving their robots through design tweaks, coding updates and technical adjustments - embracing the iterative process at the heart of engineering.

The event capped off a busy season in which our teams competed in five regional competitions, often travelling across the country before dawn. Their commitment to developing engineering, programming and problem-solving skills has been outstanding.

Significant progress has been supported by generous sponsorship from OBs and parents, enabling investment in upgraded equipment such as lighter aluminium frames, advanced pneumatics, new motors and tools. Funding has also supported competition entry, new team kit and access to a 'hero bot' for experimentation.

With growing expertise across the school, the future of robotics at Bedford School looks very bright.



Introduction to Aerodynamic Simulation



A group of our Floreat academic enrichment pupils embarked on an exciting eight-week Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) project in partnership with Dr Adam Preece from the Aircraft Research Association (ARA). The programme, Introduction to Aerodynamic Simulation, provided a fascinating insight into the technology used to model airflow around cars, boats and aircraft.

Using industry-standard ANSYS CFX software, the boys developed new technical skills while exploring the principles of aerodynamic design and simulation. Through a series of guided activities, they learned how computers are used to predict and analyse airflow, helping engineers improve performance, efficiency and safety across a range of industries.

The opportunity to work alongside an experienced industry professional with more than 20 years of expertise proved particularly valuable, with pupils engaging enthusiastically, asking insightful questions and gaining a deeper understanding of real-world engineering applications.

The project offered a unique glimpse into the world of aerospace research and engineering, while helping pupils develop problem-solving, analytical and computational skills. We look forward to following their progress and celebrating their achievements at the conclusion of the programme.



Programming Competition Success

Nine boys represented the school at the prestigious Lockheed Martin Programming Competition, an international event held simultaneously at venues across the UK. Competing in the Advanced category, the team delivered an outstanding performance, securing an impressive second-place finish after leading for much of the day. In a dramatic finale, they were only narrowly overtaken in the final moments.

The achievement reflects the strength of our thriving Competitive Coding Club, led by Head of Computer Science, Mr Forrester. Running twice a week, the club brings together enthusiastic coders from across the year groups to tackle complex challenges, develop logical thinking and sharpen problem-solving skills. Pupils learn collaboratively, sharing techniques, comparing solutions and working through problems together.



Computing Through the Decades

Fifth Form Computer Science pupils travelled back to the early days of personal computing on a visit to the Centre for Computing History. The trip offered a fascinating opportunity to explore how modern technology has evolved while gaining hands-on experience with the machines that helped shape the digital world.

A highlight of the visit was programming in BBC Basic on original BBC Micro computers from 1981. Pupils also attended an engaging lecture on processor and technology design before exploring the impressive Mega Processor, a giant working model that demonstrates the principles behind the processors found in every modern computer.

The experience brought classroom learning to life, helping pupils connect the foundations of computing with today's advanced technologies.

Quick Bites

Coding, Robotics & Ethics

Computer Science pupils broadened their thinking at the annual Lovelace Ethics Debate, joining pupils from Bedford Girls' School and Bedford Greenacre Independent School to explore topical ethical issues arising from technology and society. The event developed their debating skills while encouraging thoughtful consideration of different perspectives on the most relevant questions facing the modern world.

Radley Robotics Rumble

Our Robotics team enjoyed a fantastic day at the Radley Rumble Robotics Competition, returning to school full of enthusiasm and pride after securing 10th place out of 16 teams. While the result was encouraging, the real achievement was the remarkable improvement shown since last year. Having struggled in the previous competition, the team returned with a more robust robot, stronger strategic thinking and excellent teamwork.

Exploring Careers in Tech

A-Level Computer Science pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit to AMD's UK Head Office in Cambridge, gaining a fascinating insight into life at a global technology company. The day included tours of cutting-edge server facilities, hands-on PC workshops and sessions on PCB design, showcasing the innovation behind modern computing.



Inspiring the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

Upper Sixth BTEC Enterprise and Entrepreneurship pupils were privileged to hear from entrepreneur Lauren Troiano, founder of the Female Founders Club, during an engaging talk in the Quarry Theatre.

Lauren shared her entrepreneurial journey, discussing the challenges she faced, the lessons she learned and her motivation for creating a network that supports women in building and growing their business ideas. Her insights offered pupils a valuable perspective on leadership, resilience and socially responsible enterprise.

The boys responded with thoughtful questions, exploring topics such as organisational values, social responsibility and sustainable business models. The session provided an excellent opportunity to learn directly from an experienced entrepreneur and encouraged pupils to think critically about how businesses can create both commercial success and positive social impact.

Quick Bites

Youth Empowerment Award

Our pioneering Ready2Lead? programme celebrated a major milestone this year, winning the Youth TV Aspire Award for Youth Empowerment.

Launched in 2019 by Bedford School and The Harpur Trust from an idea by Physics Teacher Simon Everitt, the programme has supported around 600 Sixth Formers across Bedford Borough. Through leadership training, community projects and hands-on challenges, pupils have built confidence, initiative and the skills to make a meaningful difference.

Learning from Real Entrepreneurs

Lower Sixth BTEC Enterprise & Entrepreneurship pupils gained sharp, real-world insight into starting a business thanks to visiting entrepreneurs Toby Desforges and Naomi Fielding.

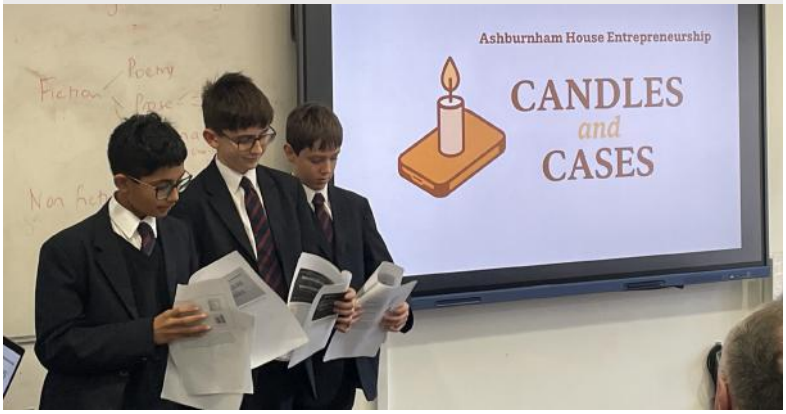
Toby, Managing Director of CPR Wrap Europe, outlined the journey of launching a product designed to boost confidence in delivering CPR, speaking candidly about risk, setbacks and the determination needed to turn an idea into a viable venture. The session grounded classroom learning in reality, highlighting hard work, resilience and the value of understanding an industry from the bottom up.

House Entrepreneurship Competition

Entrepreneurship remains a key focus, with pupils developing innovation, leadership and problem-solving skills through a range of academic and co-curricular opportunities. The annual House Entrepreneurship Competition, now in its third year, gives pupils a hands-on chance to put these skills into practice.

With just four weeks and a £10 budget, teams launched ventures ranging from hand warmers and customised phone cases to handmade candles, sustainable water bottles and a digital advertising service for a local clothing brand. Their projects showed impressive creativity, resilience and commercial awareness, with many adapting ideas in response to real-world challenges.

Judging was no easy task with local businessman, entrepreneur and OB Andrew Murphy (75-86) praising the boys' professionalism, teamwork and entrepreneurial spirit. Congratulations to Bromham House, the overall winners, and to all pupils who proved that entrepreneurship thrives on initiative, creativity and turning ideas into reality.





Entrepreneurship in Action

Joseph (Upper Sixth) views entrepreneurship as taking opportunities, testing ideas and learning from each experience. This mindset earned him a place on the shortlist for the Youth TV Aspire Award for Young Entrepreneur in Bedford Borough - a moment he calls "a great way for me to leave my legacy" as he prepares to leave Bedford School.

Over the past year, he has built a diverse portfolio of ventures, from YouTube content creation and website design to email marketing and social media consultancy for local businesses, all contributing to his nomination.

Through the Entrepreneurial Society and Start-Up programme, Joseph has learned directly from business leaders while inspiring younger pupils. He's also embraced setbacks, including an early clothing brand that didn't take off, as lessons in resilience and adaptability.

His journey captures something of the school's ethos via creativity, courage and initiative built through real-world experience. It's a reminder that entrepreneurial success often begins with the confidence to take the first step.

Empowering Tomorrow's *Leaders*



In a world shaped by rapid technological change and evolving career opportunities, entrepreneurial thinking has become an essential life skill. Whether our pupils go on to establish their own businesses, pursue academic research or thrive in professional careers, they will need the confidence to solve problems, think creatively, communicate effectively and turn ideas into action.

We are committed to developing these skills from an early age, creating opportunities for boys to explore leadership, innovation and enterprise beyond the classroom. Two flagship programmes, The Ivy House Award and Ready2Lead?, play a central role in this journey.

The Ivy House Award encourages all pupils to begin with the most important aspect of leadership: understanding themselves. This year, 70 pupils from Bedford School, Bedford Girls' School, Mark Rutherford School and Biddenham International School joined the programme, exploring the theme, "Before leading others, we must first lead ourselves." Through reflection, discussion and shared experiences, pupils developed greater self-awareness and a deeper understanding of what authentic leadership looks like.

Leadership, however, is not only about reflection; it is about action. Through Ready2Lead?, hosted at Bedford School and run in partnership with The Harpur Trust, more than 100 Lower Sixth Formers from nine local schools came together to explore leadership in practice. Inspired by guest speakers including Youth TV founder Urban Judge and entrepreneur OB Harry Beard (13-18), participants developed projects designed to address real-world challenges and create positive impact within their communities.

Together, these programmes embody our commitment to nurturing the next generation of changemakers. By combining entrepreneurial thinking with practical experience, pupils learn how to lead with creativity, purpose and compassion. The result is a culture where innovation thrives, ideas are encouraged and young people are empowered to make a meaningful difference in the world around them.



Charity Run Brings Community Together

One of the most eagerly anticipated events in the school calendar, the Charity Run, once again brought the whole school together for an afternoon of fun and generosity.

Held under clear blue skies, the event began with the entire school gathering at the Langham Pavilion for a lively warm-up, setting the tone for an afternoon full of energy and house spirit. Boys and staff embraced the occasion, with houses sporting themed items linked to their chosen charities and house representatives encouraging their teams with enthusiasm and good humour.

The festive atmosphere extended beyond the run itself. Families, pupils and staff enjoyed cheering on participants while soaking up the sunshine, with the Longholme Café trailer serving hot drinks and two ice cream vans proving particularly popular throughout the afternoon.

Most importantly, the Charity Run showcased our commitment to supporting others. This year, boys raised funds for 11 charities selected by members of the day and boarding communities, generating an impressive total of more than £9,500. It was another powerful reminder of what can be achieved when the Bedford School community comes together behind causes that matter.



Giving Back at Christmas

The spirit of generosity was on full display across our community during this year's Christmas Gift Appeal, led by Vir (Upper Sixth) in support of local charity FACES Bedford.

Thanks to the kindness of pupils, parents and staff, more than 100 gifts were donated to help bring joy to families across Bedford Borough during the festive season. From popular books and games to thoughtful presents for children of all ages, the donations were distributed by FACES to those who needed them most.

For Vir, the appeal was inspired by the principle of seva, the idea of selfless service, which has long been an important value within his family. By organising the collection, he provided a meaningful way for the school community to support others and make a difference.

The festive giving did not stop there. Fourth Form pupils contributed more than 10 boxes to the All Nations 'Christmas in a Box' appeal, while Bedford Prep School donated over 20 additional boxes, helping to spread even more seasonal cheer. Together, these initiatives reflected the compassion, generosity and community spirit that are at the heart of Bedford School.

Quick Bites

Brothers Bring Kindness to Communities in Bali

Vir (Lower Sixth) and Kian (Fourth Form) spent their summer making a real difference through a charitable project in Bali. Using funds from Kian's Arthur Tisdall Speech Day Award, they partnered with The Apurva Kempinski Bali to support an orphanage and an elderly care home, personally delivering food supplies and wheelchairs to those in need.

Stationery Donations

More than 700 items of stationery were donated by families across the Prep School and Upper School as part of a community campaign to support local families. The donations were presented to FACES Bedford, helping local children and young people prepare for the new academic year.



Special Recognition for Outstanding Community Service

Lukas (Fifth Form) received a Special Recognition Award from the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Coordinator for Bedford in recognition of his exceptional contribution to this year's Poppy Appeal.

Demonstrating remarkable commitment and selflessness, Lukas dedicated his half-term holiday to volunteering at the Royal British Legion stand in the Harpur Centre. Throughout the week, he helped raise both funds and awareness for the Poppy Appeal, generously giving up his free time to support a cause close to his heart.

His efforts made a lasting impression on the local Royal British Legion team. Speaking to the Bedford Independent, Janie Vallace, Chair of the Kempston and District branch, praised Lukas's dedication, saying, "He is just 15 years old. He turned up on one of our stands out of the blue and then sat there for the entire week of his half term. He gave up all of his time to help."

Lukas's award is a wonderful recognition of his kindness, initiative and commitment to serving others, and we are incredibly proud of the positive impact he has made within the wider Bedford community.

Record-Breaking Movember Campaign

Raising an extraordinary £45,259 through a month of fundraising, awareness, education and action, this year's Mo Bros topped the Movember Schools Challenge and were named Team Fundraiser of the Year at the Bedford Independent Everyday Heroes Awards.

Led by this year's Upper Sixth Mo Bros, the 2025 Movember campaign united pupils, staff, parents and the wider community behind a shared mission to raise awareness of men's mental and physical health, while generating vital funds for the Movember charity.

Throughout the month of November, the school hosted an ambitious programme of fundraising events. The inaugural Movember Ball launched the campaign in style, raising an impressive £10,000 in a single evening. This was followed by a packed schedule of activities including weekly cake sales, dodgeball, Mo Netball, House Tug of War, a silent auction and an Open Mic Night. Together, these events helped create a month full of energy, creativity and community spirit. There were some amazing individual efforts, too. Joseph (Upper Sixth) ran at least 10km every single day in November, all to raise awareness and funds for the campaign.

A particular highlight was *Tachelife*, the latest instalment in Bedford's much-loved Movember film tradition. Created by the Mo Bros and inspired by Blur's *Parklife*, the film spread the campaign's message far beyond the school gates and was even shared by Movember HQ in Australia, sending it global!

Alongside fundraising, education remained at the heart of the campaign. A dedicated Movember Citizenship Morning saw boys leading discussions on mental health, suicide prevention and testicular cancer awareness, while Mo Bros worked closely with younger pupils to encourage open conversations about wellbeing and supporting others.

The awards received were fitting recognition of a campaign that has started important conversations and demonstrated the remarkable power of a community united behind a common cause.









Art for *Good*

This year saw the launch of the Art for Good Award, an inspiring new initiative created by OB Freddie Peacock (10–21).

Since leaving Bedford in 2020, Freddie has built a successful career in contemporary art and design, studying at Central Saint Martins, winning a Louis Vuitton design award and collaborating with major global brands.

Created to support aspiring young artists, the award recognises pupils who demonstrate exceptional creativity and a commitment to making a positive impact through the arts. The inaugural recipient, Sean (Upper Sixth), will work with Freddie on an original painting to be displayed in school and sold via an online auction, with proceeds supporting Sean's chosen charity and artistic development.

Alongside the project, Sean will gain invaluable insight into life as a professional creative. The Art for Good Award promises to inspire future generations of Bedford School artists while showcasing the power of creativity to drive positive change.



Quick Bites

Art History Prize Winners Celebrated

A passion for art and culture was celebrated through this year's Art History Prize award. Donated by Dr Janice Johnson, the prize recognises enthusiasm and achievement in the subject. This year's winners were Oliver (Lower Sixth), who claimed first prize for a third consecutive year, Jo (Lower Sixth) in second place, and Jonathan (Fourth Form) and Lewis (Lower Sixth) in joint third. Congratulations to all for their dedication and passion for Art History.

Artist Ryan Hawaii Inspires

Members of the Afro-Caribbean Society and Art Society enjoyed an inspiring joint lecture from contemporary artist Ryan Hawaii, who shared insights into his creative practice and the importance of art history and social context. The engaging talk prompted thoughtful discussion and questions from pupils, and Ryan also took time to review Upper Sixth artwork before touring the school.



Competition Showcases Creative Excellence

The Great Hall Foyer was transformed into a vibrant celebration of creativity as boys from across the Upper School showcased their talents in this year's Detweiler Competition. One of the most eagerly anticipated events in the creative calendar, the competition challenged pupils to respond to the theme *Stillness and Motion* through Art, Drama, Music and Creative Writing.

The result was an impressive and diverse exhibition of work, demonstrating both technical skill and imaginative thinking. Director of Art, Mrs Florence Burbridge, praised the boys' dedication, describing the exhibition as a reflection of their "long hours, dedication and boundless creativity."

Among the winners was Ben (Upper Sixth), who claimed the Art (Sculpture) prize with a striking piece inspired by contemporary artists. Creative Writing winner Freddie (Lower Sixth) impressed judges with a thoughtful piece inspired by literature, visual art and the contrast between stillness and movement, while Riddha (Fourth Form) was recognised in Drama for work inspired by his passion for chess.



Print Room Refurbishment

A major refurbishment of the Art School Print Room has transformed the space into a bright, open-plan workshop. The project was made possible through the generous support of OB Gilbert Lloyd (50-58), whose continued commitment to the arts has also helped improve the Art School entrance and Sculpture Studio. The redesigned space has been warmly welcomed by pupils and staff, offering improved visibility, greater flexibility and a more professional workshop environment.

A key addition is a second printing press, a Hunter Penrose etching press, which is already providing Sixth Form artists with exciting new opportunities to develop their skills.

The enhanced facilities support a printmaking programme that is exceptional at school level. From the Fourth Form onwards, boys explore a range of specialist techniques including monoprint, drypoint etching, collagraph and linocut, often using equipment and processes more commonly found in higher education.

Creative Arts Festival Inspires

Creativity took centre stage as the Bedford School Creative Arts Festival brought together boys, staff, parents and guests for a week of performances, exhibitions and showcases celebrating the breadth of artistic talent across the school.

The festival opened with an inspiring keynote address from OB and award-winning actor Jonno Davies (01-10), who encouraged boys to pursue their passions with resilience and confidence.Reflecting on his own journey from school productions to major roles in *Better Man*, *Hunters* and *Kingsman*, he reminded boys that determination, courage and a willingness to take risks can open unexpected doors.

Throughout the week, audiences enjoyed a rich programme that included the President's Lunchtime Concert, the GCSE, IB and A-Level Art Exhibition, the Fourth Form Theatre Company's production of *Choices*, A-Level Media Studies film screenings and the ever-popular House Drama Competition.

The festival culminated in spectacular musical performances, showcasing the exceptional talent and creativity that continue to flourish at Bedford.





Harry Potter Casts a Spell

The Quarry Theatre was transformed into the Wizarding World this year as *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* captivated audiences across four sold-out performances. Directed by Mrs Antoinette Keylock and staged in partnership with Bedford Girls' School and Goldington Academy, the production was a fitting celebration of ten years and more than 2,000 performances at the Quarry Theatre.

Featuring impressive stagecraft, imaginative set pieces, striking costumes and theatrical illusions that left audiences wondering "how did they do that?", the production showcased the extraordinary talent and dedication of the entire cast and crew. Magical highlights included disappearing characters, dramatic transformations and inventive staging that brought the beloved story to life.

Beyond the spectacle, the play explored themes of friendship, family and communication. At its heart is the complex relationship between Harry Potter and his son, Albus, as they navigate expectations, misunderstanding and ultimately forgiveness. These themes resonated strongly with audiences, particularly as the production coincided with the school's annual Movember campaign, which promotes the importance of conversation and positive mental health.

Outstanding performances came from Lukas as Harry Potter, James as Albus Potter and Rory as Scorpius Malfoy, whose friendship provided much of the play's warmth and humour. Ava delivered a commanding performance as Hermione, while Chloe impressed as the mysterious Delphi and another Chloe brought comic relief as Moaning Myrtle.

Reflecting on the production, Mrs Keylock noted that the story is about far more than magic, exploring relationships, identity and forgiveness, themes that remain deeply relevant to young people today.

Nominated for a National School Theatre Award, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child was much more than a school production. It was a celebration of creativity, collaboration and storytelling at its very best, demonstrating the power of theatre to entertain, inspire and spark important conversations.



As You Like It Delights Quarry Theatre Audiences

Romance, comedy and Shakespearean wit took centre stage as our school production of *As You Like It* entertained audiences at the Quarry Theatre. Featuring a talented cast and dedicated backstage crew, the production brought one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies to life with energy, humour and creativity.

Set in the Forest of Arden, the play's tale of mistaken identities, friendship and love captivated audiences, with pupils delivering confident and engaging performances throughout. The production showcased not only the acting talent of the cast but also the hard work of those behind the scenes, from technical support to costumes and stage management.

Performed over two evenings, the show was warmly received by families, staff and friends of the school. It provided another wonderful opportunity for pupils to develop their performance skills while sharing their passion for drama with the wider community.



Head of School Inspires Aspiring Performers

Members of the Drama Society were treated to an insightful and inspiring talk from Head of School Henry (Upper Sixth), who shared his experiences of joining the prestigious National Youth Theatre (NYT) and the impact it has had on his personal and creative development.

Speaking candidly about the application process and his time with the organisation, Henry explained how NYT helped him develop the confidence to work with new people and adapt quickly in unfamiliar environments. He described it as an opportunity to collaborate creatively, meet talented young performers from across the country and build valuable lifelong skills.

The experience has already supported Henry's applications to leading drama schools, including LAMDA and RADA, demonstrating how participation in programmes such as NYT can open doors on and off the stage.

His presentation provided valuable insight for younger pupils considering opportunities in the performing arts and was a powerful reminder of the confidence, resilience and ambition creative pursuits can foster.

Creative Arts Scholarships

We reward outstanding talent in Art, Drama and Music.

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

Quick Bites

Masterclasses in Theatre-Making

Drama pupils enjoyed workshops on various elements of stage performance. There was a session on mime led by actor Stephen Smith, one by Nick O'Brien on realism and Russian theatre practitioner, Konstantin Stanislavski, and another led by Verbatim Theatre practitioner Alecky Blythe. There was also a flying workshop by Frantic Assembly and a stage combat workshop given by Drama Graduate Assistant Mr Selvey.

2:22 Theatre Trip

In the autumn term, Drama pupils were treated to a trip to Milton Keynes Theatre to watch *2:22 A Ghost Story*, by Danny Robins. The thriller contains a few jump-scares, but the boys survived unscathed, and had a fun evening.



Rock Night Strikes a Chord for Charity

Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School joined forces for Rock Night 2026, an unforgettable evening of live music that showcased the talent, creativity and confidence of young performers from both schools.

The night featured an impressive range of performances. Ben (Upper Sixth) captivated the audience with a full 12-song set, while Lower Sixth band Sound Barrier kept the energy high with a lively 45-minute performance. Wallace (Upper Sixth) also impressed, demonstrating remarkable skill on the guitar despite having played for only a year.

The atmosphere throughout the evening was electric, with enthusiastic audience participation adding to the occasion. Highlights included powerful performances from Toxic Gossip Train, whose rendition of Linkin Park's *A Place for My Head* brought the house down, and Bedford Girls' School pupils Ava and Polly, who joined Bedford School musicians for memorable performances of *Need You Now, Livin' on a Prayer* and *Don't Look Back in Anger.*

Behind the scenes, pupils working on sound, lighting and event management ensured the evening ran seamlessly, demonstrating impressive professionalism and teamwork.

As well as celebrating music, Rock Night also supported a worthy cause, raising £830 for charity and making the event both entertaining and meaningful. It was a fantastic example of collaboration, community spirit and young people performing at their very best.

A Year of Outstanding Music-Making



Music flourished throughout the year with a series of memorable concerts showcasing the remarkable breadth of talent across the school. From the festive celebrations of the St Cecilia's Concert to the intimacy of the Spring Chamber Concert and the grandeur of the Joint Choral Society Concert, audiences were treated to an outstanding variety of performances. Repertoire ranged from Purcell's *Trumpet Tune and Air* and Shostakovich's *Festive Overture* to works by Bach, Schubert and Weelkes, alongside jazz, film music and even a world-premiere composition by the Jazz Orchestra. Small ensembles, orchestras and choirs all excelled, while pupils from Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School collaborated with the Eagle Choir for a spectacular choral performance. Together, these concerts highlighted not only exceptional musical skill and dedication, but also the spirit of collaboration, creativity and shared enjoyment that lies at the heart of music at Bedford School.

Chapel Choir Excellence

The Chapel Choir enjoyed another outstanding year, reinforcing its reputation for musical excellence. A highlight was the presentation of the prestigious Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Gold Award to Charlie (Lower Sixth), Fraser and Koya (both Upper Sixth) at St Paul's Cathedral. The highest accolade in the RSCM Voice for Life programme, the award recognises exceptional choral singing, musicianship and understanding of liturgical music.

Their achievement reflects the Choir's culture of ambition and excellence. A further 13 pupils also gained RSCM awards this year, with Bronze and Silver medals recognising dedication, commitment and performance under examination conditions.



Quick Bites

Young Composer of the Year

Elias (Fifth Form) was named Bedfordshire Orchestral Society's Young Composer of the Year, recognising his creativity and growing talent as a musician. His winning composition, *A New Discovery,* was written for string orchestra and inspired by film music and the works of Sibelius. Elias, who plays piano and violin to Grade 8 standard and has recently taken up jazz piano, credits the school's musical opportunities and GCSE composition programme for helping him develop his skills.

Choral Scholarship Success for Koya and Harry

Koya and Harry (Upper Sixth) both secured prestigious Choral Scholarships at King's College London and Trinity College, Cambridge respectively. The achievement reflects years of dedication, hard work and musical development, from their early experiences as choristers to becoming leading members of Bedford School's musical community.

Chapel Choir Sings at Ely Cathedral

The Chapel Choir enjoyed a memorable and prestigious opportunity this year, singing Evensong at Ely Cathedral, one of the country's most magnificent sacred spaces. The boys spent the afternoon rehearsing under the guidance of Mr Aldhouse, Organist and Director of Music at Ely Cathedral, before leading a beautiful service in the cathedral's inspiring surroundings. Performing in such an iconic venue was both an honour and a valuable musical experience, allowing the choir to showcase its talent, discipline and commitment to excellence.

House Singing Hits the *High Notes*

The Great Hall was filled with music, energy and House spirit as the much-anticipated House Singing Competition returned for another memorable evening. With parents, staff and pupils packing the hall, the event showcased the enthusiasm, teamwork and musical talent that make House Singing such a highlight of the school year.

Each House delivered spirited performances, tackling a programme that ranged from popular unison songs including Boulevard of Broken Dreams, It Must Be Love and Pink Pony Club to more challenging part songs such as Lovely, You Really Got Me and The Longest Time. Conductors led with confidence and flair, while the audience embraced every moment, particularly the interactive staff performance of Bedford by the River.

The competition was adjudicated by renowned musician Hilary Davan Wetton, whose thoughtful and encouraging feedback reflected the exceptionally high standard of performances throughout the evening.

After much deliberation, St Peter's/Talbots were crowned Unison winners, while Ashburnham/Sanderson's, Crescent/Pemberley and Paulo Pontine/Redburn shared the Part Song title. The overall House Singing champions were Ashburnham/Sanderson's.

Celebrations continued long after the final notes had faded, with pizza, extended bedtimes and plenty more singing back in the boarding houses.

A *Royal* Review

Bedford School was honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on 18 March 2026 for a special occasion celebrating service and remembrance.

On the warmest day of the year so far, cadets from Bedford School, Bedford Girls' School, Bedford Modern School and Bedford Greenacre Independent School gathered for their Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Annual General Inspection. Following her arrival, The Princess Royal met Head Teachers and Contingent Commanders before inspecting the parade and reviewing an impressive march-past.

The visit also marked a significant moment in the school's history as The Princess Royal unveiled a new Memorial Board in the Memorial Hall, honouring 21 Old Bedfordians who lost their lives in the First World War. Discovered through extensive historical research, their names now join the 756 OBs already commemorated, a fitting addition during the Hall's centenary year.

Attended by relatives of those newly recognised, the unveiling created a powerful link between past and present, ensuring their stories continue to be remembered.

Reflecting on the occasion, Head Master James Hodgson described it as a privilege to welcome The Princess Royal for an event that showcased the dedication of Bedford's cadets while honouring those who served and sacrificed.

The visit was a proud and memorable occasion for the Bedford School community, celebrating leadership, service, remembrance and the enduring strength of the Combined Cadet Forces across the town.



RAF Cadet Honoured as Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet

RAF Cadet Stirling (Lower Sixth) was appointed as one of five Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets for Bedfordshire for the year 2025/26, supporting the Lord-Lieutenant in official duties throughout the year, including civic ceremonies, remembrance events and Royal visits. The appointment was in recognition of his exemplary leadership, service and commitment within the RAF section of Bedford School's Combined Cadet Force.

At the commissioning ceremony, the Lord-Lieutenant praised the cadets, saying, "Their appointment marks the beginning of a year of service and is a recognition of their dedication, discipline and leadership. Each of them stands as a shining example of the values that strengthen our communities."



National Boarding Week Brings Pupils Together

National Boarding Week brought extra fun, friendship and community to Bedford School's Boarding Houses, giving boys the chance to relax and celebrate after a busy exam period.

Highlights included the popular Taste the World evening, where boarders sampled international cuisine, and a competitive Combat Archery tournament that showcased teamwork and House spirit. A relaxed Film Night with popcorn and ice cream provided an opportunity to unwind, while the week culminated in the much-anticipated Boarders' Games, a highlight of the boarding calendar.

More than a programme of activities, National Boarding Week celebrated the strong sense of belonging, shared experiences and lasting friendships that make boarding at Bedford School so special.

Boarders' Spring Dinner Celebrates Community

Now in its fifth year, the Boarders' Spring Dinner remains a highlight of the boarding calendar, bringing boys and staff together ahead of the summer exam season.

Held in a cabaret-style Great Hall, the event featured a delicious buffet and provided an opportunity for boarders to socialise across year groups and houses. Kasper (Upper Sixth) reflected on the event, saying, "I loved talking with friends and with people I don't usually sit with. The whole evening encouraged socialising and helped build lasting memories."

Guests also heard from OB Tim Bouscarle (01–06), co-founder of Chilly's Water Bottles, who shared insights from his career and encouraged boys to embrace opportunities and pursue their ambitions with confidence.







National Recognition for Art

Sean (Upper Sixth) received national recognition for his artistic talent after winning the Boarding Schools' Association Supporting Excellence Award for Best Senior Artwork.

Inspired by boarding life, his award-winning piece explores the cultural diversity of his Boarding House community, celebrating the different backgrounds, perspectives and shared experiences that create a strong sense of belonging.

Deeply personal in nature, the artwork reflects the friendships and experiences that have shaped Sean's time at Bedford. The award is fitting recognition of both his artistic ability and the values at the heart of boarding life.



Lunar New Year Celebration

Boys, staff and parents came together online to celebrate the Lunar New Year in a joyful event that united the Bedford School community across countries and time zones.

The celebration began with New Year wishes from Vice Master Mr Sam Baldock, followed by a pupil's reflection on his family's traditions in Singapore. Members of the Chinese Society then entertained viewers with readings, poetry, music and song.

Pupils enjoyed Chinese finger foods and exchanged red envelopes filled with sweets, a traditional symbol of prosperity and good fortune. The event concluded with a shared tea toast, bringing families together to welcome the Year of the Horse.

Quick Bites

Ivan's Assembly on Mid-Autumn Festival

In October, Ivan (Upper Sixth) led a thoughtful assembly about the origins and traditions of the Mid-Autumn Festival. He reflected on his celebrations in China with his grandparents, and how, while here, the Boarding House becomes a second family with whom to celebrate, with Chinese food and decorations.

Dining with Dipna

Celebrity chef Dipna Anand visited school, spending time with pupils discussing food, culture and the value of trying new flavours. Boys enjoyed freshly made naan bread and mango lassi at break, while Dipna also worked with the catering team to develop a Punjabi-inspired lunch featuring butter chicken, pilau rice and rice pudding.

Celebrating Cultures

Culture Day celebrated the rich diversity of the school community. Boys wore clothing to express their own cultural identity and lunchtime was filled with activities celebrating global heritage, including a 'Pin Your Heritage' world map, snack tasting from around the world and a Culture World Cup football competition.

Emilio's *England* Debut

OB Emilio Gay (11–18) walked out at Lord's to make his England Test debut against New Zealand in the opening match of the summer – a proud moment for him, his family and the entire Bedford School community. In doing so, he became the second Bedford School opener this century to play Test cricket, following in the footsteps of OB Sir Alastair Cook (98–03), who fittingly presented him with his cap on debut.

It was a landmark moment in a journey that began at Bedford School. Now aged 26, Emilio honed his skills and developed his early game here and at Bedford Cricket Club, before progressing through the county pathway with Northamptonshire and, most recently, Durham.

Despite his rise through the professional game, Emilio has remained closely connected to Bedford. He regularly returns to school, supporting events and inspiring the next generation of cricketers. This year alone, he delivered a batting masterclass for boys and even turned out for the Head Master's XI against the Leavers XI in our annual showpiece match on the final day of term.

There is immense pride in seeing him succeed – not only for his achievements on the field, but for the example he sets off it. His journey reflects the values of perseverance, integrity and passion that define the Bedford community.

He would turn up for training always with a bounce in his stride, lots of energy and really knew what he wanted"

Will Montgomery, Deputy Head (Academic) and one of Emilio's former coaches



Zarell Shines for Barbados

Congratulations to Zarell (Fifth Form), who was selected to represent Barbados Under 19s at the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under 19 Men's 50 Over Championship - an outstanding achievement and a testament to his hard work, talent and dedication. Barbados went on to defeat Jamaica in the final match to secure the title for the second consecutive year, with fast bowler Zarell producing a superb match-winning performance. He was named Man of the Match after taking four wickets for just 24 runs, a fitting reward for his impact on the tournament.



Cricketing Legend Sir Viv Inspires

In March, we had the extraordinary honour of welcoming one of cricket's all time greats, "The Master Blaster", Sir Vivian Richards into school. Widely regarded as one of the most naturally gifted and influential cricketers in the history of the sport, the West Indies legend's visit was an unforgettable experience for boys, staff and guests alike.

Throughout the day, he shared stories from his remarkable career, offered words of encouragement to young players and emphasised one core message: "Believe in yourself."

A packed audience of boys and staff gathered in the Great Hall for a Q&A session with Sir Viv, who spoke with honesty and humour, telling the boys, "People talk about a blend of confidence and arrogance. I wasn't arrogant. I just believed I was good enough to be there."

Later, Sir Viv delivered a batting masterclass for the Prep School 1st XI and then spent time over lunch with boys from the Upper School 1st XI and members of the school's Afro Caribbean Society.

As the visit came to a close, Sir Viv reflected on his time at Bedford School, saying, "I'm highly impressed with what I have seen here at your school. Some of the questions asked by the young fellows were so special, and I can see why you guys are here at this particular institution."



Hockey Success at Every Level

Our hockey teams enjoyed a highly successful and fiercely competitive season, winning every block fixture bar one - a clear sign that excellence runs throughout the entire programme. In a remarkable campaign, the 1st XI finished just one win short of reaching the national quarter-finals, while the U16As showed outstanding development across the season and signed off in style with a superb 10–1 home victory over Stowe.

The school's partnership with Bedford Hockey Club continued to flourish, with six boys from the Lower Sixth and Fifth Form representing the Men's First Team and many more playing across the club's squads. Will (Lower Sixth), Ollie and Harry (Fifth Form) also represented the Cambridge Talent Academy at the TA Cup in Nottingham - the culmination of England Hockey's high performance talent cycle. Defender Harry captained the side in their opening match, highlighting the strength of our pathway and the dedication shown by all three players.

Quick Bites

Swimming Success

Xavier (Remove Form) qualified for both the British Championships and England National Championships across an incredible 13 events this season - the result of months of hard work, discipline and determination and a remarkable achievement given the strength of competition at national level.

Fantastic Fives

Bedford School faced off against the University of Cambridge in an exciting fives fixture, eventually coming out 116-98 winners. The 1st IV put on a stellar performance with Sam McMurran (Upper Sixth) clinching a hard-fought singles win against Cambridge's third seed, OB Rob Menhart (17-22), now completing his Masters in Engineering at Cambridge.

Inspiring Masterclasses

The pre-season cricket programme gathered real momentum thanks to an inspiring winter masterclass series. English batsman and wicketkeeper Adam Rossington set the tone with an outstanding batting session focused on key scoring options in the one day game, followed by former South African Test cricketer Andrew Hall, who delivered a specialist pace bowling masterclass.

Sports Scholarships

We offer generous sports scholarships for outstanding talent in all of our major sports, including cricket, hockey, rowing, rugby and golf.

Find out more at:

bedfordschool.org.uk/scholarships

Success Across the Board

The commitment, attitude and standards shown by Bedford School rugby teams during the 2025 season were exceptional. Across every age group, boys trained and competed with intensity and purpose, consistently demonstrating respect for officials, opponents and the game itself.

A standout moment came when the 1st XV ran out on the Championship pitch at Goldington Road for their National Plate Quarter Final against Oakham School. In a gripping contest that finished 29–29, it was the extraordinary support from the Bedford School community that truly stole the show. A sea of boys in full voice and parents rallying behind the team created an atmosphere that will live long in the memory.

The 1st XV enjoyed further highlights throughout the season, including a dramatic 28–28 draw against Rugby School in front of a buzzing home crowd and a remarkable comeback away at Haileybury, overturning a late deficit to secure a 24–20 victory.

October half-term showcased the depth of talent across the school, with the U14, U15, U16 and U18 squads competing at prestigious festivals and tournaments nationwide. In an outstanding collective achievement, every team reached the final of their respective competition - with two sides lifting trophies.

The U15s delivered a series of outstanding performances to win the Langley School U15 Rugby Tournament beating Ipswich 14–5 in the final to claim the title. Making their own mark, the U14s won the inaugural Bedford School Rugby Festival, overcoming strong opposition including Trinity College, Wellington College and Northampton School for Boys.

The U16s also impressed on the national stage, battling their way to the Plate Semi-Final of the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens, finishing inside the top ten out of 250 competing schools - a tremendous achievement.

With around 300 boys representing Bedford School at each block fixture, this was another hugely successful season. The clear progress, strong values and thriving culture across the programme provide real confidence for the future of Bedford School rugby.





Welcoming Our New Director of Sport

We were proud to welcome Mr Ian McGowan as our new Director of Sport when he joined us in September 2025. After studying at Queen's University Belfast and Loughborough University, Ian spent 12 years at prestigious schools including Harrow and Merchant Taylors School. Alongside teaching, he is also an ECB Level 4 coach and is East Midlands Regional U15 Head Coach for the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Foundation – one of cricket's most respected and competitive development pathways.

Mr McGowan's philosophy centres on the premise of pupil first, athlete second. "It's about understanding each pupil - what motivates them, what challenges them - and using physical activity to facilitate learning and develop character. In my experience, pupils respond best to positive reinforcement and praise. Confidence is key."

His vision is clear: "I want every pupil to have the best possible experience of PE and Games - a meaningful programme that's inclusive and inspiring at every level and delivered by highly motivated, qualified staff."

"To parents considering Bedford School for their child, I would say this: we offer outstanding facilities and opportunities, but more importantly a community of caring teachers and coaches who know the pupils well. That's rare. Our staff coach the games, understand their academic and personal lives, and support them holistically."

Boys Inspired by Sports Psychologist

Briony Brock, a leading sports psychologist, delivered two inspiring sessions on how boys can perform at their best, whatever their sport or level.

Boys learned how easily attention drifts to uncontrollables such as opponents, weather or decisions, and how this creates stress and affects performance. Through practical strategies, they were shown how to reset, refocus on a controllable, and act with commitment, leaving with a sharper, more resilient mindset.



"The biggest thing I learned was that we don't have a finite amount of energy to think about everything all at once, and we waste limited mental energy on the non-controllables."

Fin Rennie, Golf Scholar



Saints Academy Success

A number of boys proudly represented the Northampton Saints Academy in fixtures across the season, with boys selected to compete at U16, U17 and U18 level.

Raff, Kai (Upper Sixth), George, Will, Oliver (Lower Sixth), George, Basil and Isaac (Fifth Form) all gained valuable experience that will undoubtedly elevate their performances back on school turf. Isaac (Fifth Form) also enjoyed success playing for the Saracens Academy alongside training at the Scotland camp.

Their hard work and talent shone through as they stepped confidently into elite rugby environments, many playing on Premiership grounds and against some of the country's strongest academy teams.

Elite *Partnerships*

Bedford School is proud to partner with several elite clubs to foster sporting excellence. Boys benefit from high-performance training and specialist coaching, enhancing the school's provision with advanced skill development programmes, targeted sessions, and access to outstanding professional facilities beyond the school gates.

Quick Bites

Will's Path to QPR

Will (Fourth Form) has earned a two-year contract with the U14 Queens Park Rangers FC Academy. Will has found that boarding has helped him to balance the demands of school life alongside a busy sporting schedule. He enjoys representing the school football team and has also benefited from the physical training and gym sessions that have helped support his football development.

Trio Step Out for the Blues

Three OBs stepped out for Bedford Blues RFC in their final league game of the season. Kayde Sylvester (18-20) enjoyed a successful season as a regular starter with the Championship's Play-Off finalists, whilst Northampton Saints and England U20 players Aiden Ainsworth-Cave (15-24) and Jonny Weimann (18-24) played the final few games of the regular season for the Blues as part of the two clubs' strategic partnership.

Top of the Rankings

Henry (Upper Sixth) is ranked No. 1 in the UK for U20 Fencing - the result of years of dedication and hard work. As a boarder, he has thrived in a structured, supportive environment that helps him balance training, travel, competitions and academic commitments, with the boarding community providing encouragement throughout his journey.

Rafael Takes World Silver

After 10 years in the sport, Rafael (Fourth Form) returned home from the Junior Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu World Championships in Wolverhampton with a silver medal and the title of World Championship runner-up. This was a remarkable milestone, especially having taken bronze at the British Open earlier in the year.



1st VIII Make History

The 1st VIII delivered an outstanding regatta season, highlighted by recording the fastest 2,000m time in the school's history and a superb run to the third day of the Henley Royal Regatta. They opened their Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup campaign in emphatic style, producing a commanding victory over Eton College, before edging a much tighter race against Reading Blue Coat on Day 2. With powerful, technically disciplined rowing throughout, the crew represented Bedford School with distinction. Other notable successes included a memorable double, beating Notts City in the morning and winning Bedford Regatta in the afternoon, and finishing 7th in the A Final at the National Schools' Regatta.



Putting in the Hard Work in Sarnen

32 boys headed to Sarnen in Switzerland for our Easter rowing camp, enjoying an incredible setting on the water. The boys worked exceptionally hard throughout the camp, both on the water and back at the centre fitting in revision sessions. A standout moment came on the final morning, with a pre breakfast outing on mirror flat water, rewarded by a breathtaking sunrise over the mountains. The 1st VIII, 2nd VIII and Colts A crews made excellent progress, setting them up for a fantastic summer racing season.

Ewan & Oliver Win Double Gold for GB

Ewan (Lower Sixth) and Oliver (Upper Sixth) achieved international rowing success after winning double gold for Great Britain at the 2026 Coupe de la Jeunesse in Lucerne, Switzerland, helping to cement one of the most successful seasons in the school's rowing history.

Racing together in the Men's Pair, the boys claimed gold medals on both days of competition at the prestigious international regatta, finishing ahead of crews from rowing powerhouses including Germany, Spain and Italy.

Their success was made even more remarkable by the fact that they competed as an all-Bedford School crew, coached by Bedford School's First VIII Coach, Mr Rudkin, who was selected to coach the pair for Great Britain.

Oliver said, "Crossing the line, I felt overwhelming pride and couldn't have hoped for a better end to my Bedford School rowing career than winning for GB in an all-Bedford crew."

Adding to the celebrations, Bedford School boys Stanley and Ben represented England at the Home International Regatta on the same weekend, helping the Men's Eight secure gold at Under-23 level.



High-Performance Collaboration

Thanks to the generous support of OB Brian Cawley (60–69), our rowers now benefit from a transformative partnership with the Light Blue Clinic, a specialist sports performance centre based in Cambridge and closely aligned with the elite athletes of the Cambridge University Boat Club.

This collaboration brings personalised, science-backed training directly to our boys. Senior athletes enjoy weekly strength and conditioning sessions with the Light Blue Clinic Perfomance Director, as well as individualised training plans and three cycles of fitness testing throughout the year, giving them the tools to track progress, refine technique and maximise performance.

With this investment in elite-level support, cutting-edge sports science and individual development, we are not just preparing our boys to compete, we are preparing them to excel.



Supporting *Parents*



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.

This year parents enjoyed individual talks from Anita Cleare on *How to Get Your Teenager Out of Their Bedroom* and Dr Ashish Bhatia on *Sleep Made Simple.*, as well as a packed Parent Partnership Conference at the close of Children's Mental Health Week. The event brought together expert speakers, staff and families for a morning focused on supporting teenage boys through the challenges of adolescence.

The conference opened with an introduction from our boys, before parents took part in three specialist-led sessions:

Keeping Teenagers Safe

Mr Richard Denton of Bedfordshire Police shared key insights into keeping young people safe, including understanding Serious Youth Violence (SYV) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), and the signs parents can look out for.

Parenting Teenage Boys: Understanding and Managing Anxiety

Ms Kate Medlin, Psychodynamic Counsellor, explained what typical teenage anxiety looks like, outlined when to be concerned and gave practical techniques to support boys' wellbeing. She also highlighted helpful indicators, strategies and further resources for families.

Supporting Your Son Through Secondary School

Ms Katharine Radice, Author of The Parent's Guide to Exam Stress, outlined how parents can adapt as the educational environment changes, offering advice on encouraging constructive conversations about school, developing independent study habits and supporting boys through exam periods.

The morning concluded with an *Ask the Panel Q&A* led by Mr Sam Baldock, then Vice Master, followed by lunch in the Café Bar which gave an opportunity for parents to continue discussions informally.

Parent Partnerships



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