



BEEDE'S

CURIOUS

SENIOR SCHOOL



Peter Goodyer
Headmaster



Every child is unique, each possessing hidden talents which wait, like treasure, longing to be unearthed.

At Bede's, we foster a community of curiosity which encourages every individual to find and develop these passions, seek new horizons, develop lasting friendships and achieve their potential.

By presenting our pupils with the prospect of innovation, exploration and experimentation, all the while championing choice at every turn, here each Bedian is nurtured to find joy in their pursuit of brilliance, to develop a genuine love of learning.

We are also, significantly, firm believers that if children are able to find joy during their time in school then their joyful experiences will inform their successes – so much so that every teacher and pupil at Bede's is united by the idea that if we support one another and work hard then we can all exceed every expectation. This philosophy is built on our belief in belonging, where pupils are able to be and in time become.

This culture of compassion and conscientiousness enables Bede's to nurture inquisitive minds and, in combination with the opportunities our campus provides, creates the conditions for unforgettable memories.

The more time I spend here the more I realise that this is a truly remarkable place. As such, I hope that your discovery of our school will mark the beginning of a new journey full of joy, knowledge and exhilarating challenges.

A PERSONALISED EDUCATION

John Tuson
Deputy Head



At Bede's, we truly treat children as individuals.

As no two pupils are the same, our school is geared towards enabling everyone to identify their personal passions and then acquire expertise in their specific areas of interest.

While achievements in public examinations are a major measure of success, it is our ultimate objective to ensure that Bede's works for the children rather than the other way around. We have no interest whatsoever in raising 'identikit' children, and for this reason we offer a considered and diverse array of high quality courses both within the academic timetable and as part of our unique co-curricular programme.

Pupil choice is paramount in every year group, underpinned by guidance from our team of Personal Tutors, with the end result being that one child's week at Bede's will look markedly different to that of their peers.

To achieve these outcomes, we work closely with every pupil who joins us, whether they have a very clear idea of their ambitions or are unsure as to what they would like to achieve during their time at school, and really listen to their hopes, fears and aspirations.

Whether in the First Year, Fifth Form or Sixth Form, our whole approach to the curriculum emphasises openness and celebrates experimentation, with every child actively encouraged to take their time, try their hand at as many things as they can and come to understand that there is a world of opportunities open to them.



THE FIRST YEAR

The majority of pupils join Bede's in Year 9 and for this reason our 'First Year' curriculum has been carefully designed to provide children with unparalleled opportunities.

As GCSE selection takes place during the First Year, the main aims of the programme are to introduce the children to a truly expansive array of subjects, including a number of bespoke courses designed by Bede's staff.

From the wealth of visual and performing arts options including ceramics, photography and music to traditional humanities subjects such as history, geography, religion and philosophy, every First Year pupil is encouraged to try as many subjects as possible before they make their final GCSE decisions.

Fundamental to the programme's success is, of course, a strong emphasis on the core academic subjects; our English, Maths, Science and Modern Language departments enjoy more time with our First Years than all others, and each has specially-designed First Year programmes to both inspire and rigorously prepare pupils for their future academic life.

Elsewhere, the unique Flourish Project offers every individual a wide range of important primers and introductions to skills not otherwise covered in traditional academic curricula; subjects addressed include, mindfulness, nutrition and cuisine, careers and personal finance, internet safety, film-making and hands-on environmental work in our one-of-a-kind animal management department. With a whole-year Outdoor Pursuits Trip, at the end of the first half-term, designed to develop friendships and promote a sense of camaraderie, a number of First Year-only competitions to celebrate individual achievement and a selection of co-curricular options available three afternoons a week, the First Year at Bede's is a genuinely exciting approach to Year 9.



THE FIFTH FORM

When entering the Fifth Form, Bede's pupils embark on one of the most important and exciting legs of their educational journey. During these years, enriched by outstanding teaching from our exceptionally well-resourced academic departments, our Year 10 or 'Lower Fifth' pupils begin personalised programmes created from our carefully curated range of GCSE and BTEC options. Supported by their Personal Tutors and Head of Year, both of whom travel with pupils across the two years of the Fifth Form, pupils then complete their programmes at the end of Year 11 ready to embrace the challenges of Sixth Form study.

Along the way, Bede's teachers are tireless in support of every individual's ambitions, working with them to achieve their goals and enabling them to become as independently minded, spirited and motivated as possible.

With all of our academic departments empowered to make their subjects as practical and hands-on as possible, the focus during the Fifth Form is not simply on those all-important exam outcomes but also on building passions, connecting learning to the real world and putting knowledge into practice. We do this through our links to local organisations and through a programme of lectures from a range of visiting speakers representing industry, academia and the arts.

Finally, every individual is encouraged to remember that so long as they work hard then the choices they make in these years will very rarely close off their options for Sixth Form study or beyond; rather, the Fifth Form at Bede's is there to open doors, and we therefore pack it full of opportunity, creativity and wonder.

When pupils join the Sixth Form at Bede's, their relationship with the school shifts towards a new style of learning.

Our Sixth Formers select their own subject specialisms and are encouraged to take advantage of every amenity available to them within their chosen departments. These academic faculties are open in the evenings and at weekends for one-to-one and small group tutoring, and Sixth Form Tutors are continuously available during term-time to offer guidance in all aspects of School life.

Most importantly, every teacher at Bede's will do everything they possibly can to help their pupils with whatever challenges they might face, and if there is a single thing that stands out about our Sixth Form experience then this would be it.

Beyond these considerations, the expert team in the Sixth Form office are wholeheartedly dedicated to ensuring our pupils access the very best university courses possible, and the new Bede's Diploma has been engineered to enrich and round-off the experience by offering Sixth Formers those sought-after skills employers are increasingly looking for.

Alongside specialist tutoring for every individual in the highly respected Extended Project Qualification, the Diploma enables pupils to access volunteering opportunities, presentation and leadership coaching and guidance on a truly diverse array of enrichment topics.

With all of this behind them, our Sixth Formers are therefore empowered to work in a manner which suits them best and on those things about which they are most passionate.

As a result, our pupils achieve exceptional outcomes both in terms of their exam grades and their lives after school, where our alumni go on to pursue courses and careers as diverse and unique as they are.

BE CONSCIENTIOUS

I joined Bede's in Year 7 after being blown away by their Sports and Performing Arts departments on an Open Morning. I am now an Upper Sixth Day pupil, currently studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Chemistry and an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Having originally started Bede's as a Drama scholar, as I continued my journey through Bede's, my teachers opened my eyes to a side of academics that I had not seen before. I became very interested in STEM subjects and as a result, I studied harder and with my teachers encouragement, I decided to change my path and strive for a career in STEM - in particular, aerospace engineering.

I am very proud of all of my achievements whilst being at Bede's, in particular winning the International UK Space Design Competition and achieving 11 '9's at GCSE. However, my proudest achievement has to be becoming Head of my House.

Bede's provides many opportunities beyond the curriculum. No matter what your interests are, the teachers are there to support you and help you to discover your talents. All of the activities you can get involved with are accessible for anyone at any level. You can gain a taste for a wide range of pursuits - I have participated in many activities, from hockey to debating.

Beyond Bede's, I hope to one day be a part of a programme which might involve aerospace engineering from a structural, material science aspect. Or I would like to be an F1 Engineer! Whatever happens, I would love to come back to Bede's and inspire young pupils, particularly girls, to pursue STEM subjects.

Ellie
F1 Race Engineer



BE COMPASSIONATE

I joined Bede's Prep School halfway through Year 3, so I thought I knew what to expect in advance of coming here.

In reality, I have been constantly surprised at the range of things I have tried during the First Year. The experience has really helped me grow, and I have made so many friends across all the year groups. It genuinely feels like we all have a common bond.

I'm the sort of person who likes doing things for themselves, but I understand that not everyone's the same. Thankfully, the teachers at Bede's want you to be yourself, so you're encouraged to try loads of things and are supported in all of your ambitions, whatever they may be.

Personally, I want to be a vet and have done since I was six, so it might be no surprise to learn that Animal Management is my absolute favourite. The range of animals you engage with is amazing, and I really appreciate the way Mr Juniper and Mr Jones have helped me to acquire practical science skills and knowledge.

I've learned so much, from how and what to feed the different animals to how to construct habitats, and I think it's amazing that, once I'm in the Sixth Form, I will even learn how to deliver medication. What other school can you think of where you can help to look after and breed endangered species every week?

More generally, it's very special to be at a school where I feel like I'm listened to and where staff show genuine compassion – and where I genuinely like all of my teachers. The kids here are so lucky. I wouldn't change a thing about it.

Tilly
Veterinarian



BE CURIOUS

Without meaning to be controversial, my old school wasn't interested in guiding children towards what was best for them as individuals.

When we came to Bede's for a tour, I just loved the feel of it. I met Mr Backler, the Head of First Year, and he emphasised the idea that the curriculum at Bede's works around you, rather than you working around the curriculum. That suits me as I have never felt like I fit the model of the classic independent schoolboy.

Thankfully, from my first lesson here it was clear that I was in a whole new world. Every teacher at Bede's is so passionate and really cares. They love their subjects and all want you to succeed, and that passion is infectious. It makes you want to be your best and give everything a try.

As a result, I have learned and experienced so many things across this year that I would never have thought of beforehand. I am by nature a curious person and my teachers have encouraged me to pursue incredibly diverse topics beyond the curriculum.

Also, when it comes to Drama at Bede's, I love that it doesn't matter which year group you are in. There are parts for anyone, whatever age, and there are so many things to involve yourself with in the Drama department beyond just acting.

As I'm looking at being a director, I personally feel that I have been cultivated and helped to find myself but, honestly, you could say that about all of my friends and they are all different.

That's because Bede's is a school for all types of people from every walk of life, and it helps you to see that you can be anyone and do anything.

Max
Director



OUR CO-CURRICULAR PHILOSOPHY

Phil Wise
Deputy Head Operations



At Bede's we educate the whole person, and because of this we give equal importance to Academic, Pastoral and Co-Curricular aspects of life.

This holistic approach to education is not just an add-on. It is our strong belief that learning takes place beyond the confines of the classroom and, with this in mind, we place creativity, service and action at the heart of the pupil experience.

In practice, this means that Bede's pupils can pick from a wide array of over 100 clubs and activities and over a dozen sporting opportunities each week, with each pupil's decisions guided by their Personal Tutor.

These Co-Curricular choices are important, in particular for our older pupils for whom the programme, in conjunction with the Bede's Diploma, offers the opportunity to develop specialisms which meaningfully enrich their CVs.

Through this work, Bede's pupils are ultimately enabled to leave the school knowing who they are and what they want from life.

At Bede's, we challenge all pupils to be courageous by trying something new and discovering their own passions. Furthermore, they do so with the skills and experience they need to pursue the things which matter most to them, whether that be a passion for additional languages, qualifications in climbing, sailing or experience of breeding endangered species at our Animal Management department.

Indeed, whatever a young person's needs, passions or interests, the Bede's Co-Curricular Programme truly enables them, increasing their confidence, broadening their horizons and building a sense of empathy which truly sets our pupils apart.



THE ARTS

Bede's, beating heart is its creativity, and every pupil at the School is given as much training and encouragement as possible to not only participate but to lead.

We strongly believe that children should develop hobbies and skills that are personal and special to them, so from learning how to make jewellery, to designing websites, to building furniture - we encourage every pupil to try something new and embrace the unknown.

In our Drama department, for example, the children not only perform, but are trained in how to create costumes, manage the sound and lighting, apply their own make-up and that of others as well as how to direct.

These opportunities are equally available to our dancers within the Legat Dance Academy, (the oldest residential dance school in the United Kingdom), where pupils enjoy a professional level vocational dance programme at the same time as completing their academic studies.

We also celebrate choice, and our Music department gives equal priority to classical and modern music, with would-be songwriters and school bands receiving as much attention as the members of the orchestra or chamber choir.

In the Art School itself, pupils can choose to be trained in techniques that have remained unchanged for thousands of years, alongside those that are truly cutting-edge; experimenting with stop-motion animation, film-making, metalwork and much more.

Led by the pupils as far as is possible, this provision makes Bede's a remarkable place to study and, most importantly, ensures that the principles of flexibility, variety and independence underpin every aspect of school life.

Bede's has an enviable sporting reputation, with three core sports (cricket, football and hockey and four competitive sports (basketball, netball, swimming and tennis). Academies run from the Prep School through to the Senior School in cricket, football, hockey and tennis.

The School boasts County, Regional and National titles in many of the aforementioned sports, whilst numerous pupils gain professional contracts and national honours each year.

There is significant variety available and pupils can participate in both high level competition and participation sport. The school offers many sports clubs, including badminton, rock climbing, sailing, rugby 7's and gym conditioning.

Our campus includes our Sports Complex, within which we have an eight-court multi-purpose sports hall, fitness suite, squash courts and a competition-size swimming pool, as well as an international standard floodlit water-based hockey pitch, a multi-use games area, seven tennis courts, two netball courts, numerous grass pitches and cricket ovals and nets set amongst 120 acres of idyllic Sussex countryside.

While facilities are obviously important, what truly sets Bede's apart is our coaches, amongst whom are ex-England and British sportsmen and women. Their passion is infectious and inspiring, with their coaching sessions reinforced by a comprehensive fixture list and training programmes that ensure every pupil has the opportunity to represent the school in at least one sport of their choice during their time here.

Each sporting academy has a Sports Development Programme which prepares elite sportspeople for lives in professional sport and offers Bede's athletes every opportunity to truly excel in their sport.

BE COURAGEOUS

Cricket has always been my passion. I started playing cricket when I was seven years old for my brother's club and was playing for Surrey by the time I was nine. I love cricket because it is a team sport but there is a really strong individual dimension to it as well.

I joined Bede's in the Sixth Form so I could increase the time I spent playing cricket and because of its coaching reputation and the excellent facilities. At my last school I was really only able to play once a week, but when I started at Bede's I was playing 15 hours during the school week on top of my matches and training for the South East Stars. I was able to squeeze in one to one training with the Bede's coaches during my free periods which helped develop my game. Being able to tap into training with expert coaching at any given opportunity gave me such an advantage.

I joined Crossways House as a weekly boarder and although there were times when it was hard to juggle my studies with training and competitions, I always felt like my House helped me find the courage to keep it all going. Being a boarder also saved crucial hours for me in the week which I could invest into my training. I literally had all the expertise at my fingertips to really develop as a player.

A year after I joined Bede's I was selected to play in The Hundred competition which I am hugely proud of. In my first match at Lords I scored 50 which was a moment I will remember for the rest of my life. A few months later, I was off to Australia with the England Women's A Squad, accompanying the Ashes team. My final year at Bede's went by in a bit of a blur to be honest, but it was always a great feeling returning to my coaches, teachers and friends at Bede's after the highs of a tour or tournament. Bede's will always have a special place in my heart however far my cricket career takes me.

Alice
Cricketer



TEAM
BEDES
CRICKET 100 01

BEDES
CRICKET 100 01

100
01

GRAY-NICCOLLS
SILVER

BEDES

TOTAL
WKS
OVERS

12

BE PASSIONATE

I have been playing for Brighton and Hove Albion since I was seven years old in their Academy. I absolutely love playing for Brighton but every year the stakes have got higher and there have been times when it can be tough dealing with the pressure of it all. Becoming a professional footballer is my dream so I guess it comes with the territory.

I joined Bede's in Year 9 from Blatchington Mill School in Hove. As well as playing for Brighton, I wanted to go to a school which could offer me the very highest level of competitive football, strength and conditioning coaching, as well as support with my Brighton and Hove Albion pathway. As soon as I arrived at Bede's, Mr Morriss (the Strength and Conditioning Coach) developed a bespoke programme for me, working alongside my club and school coaches and that has been an important part of my development.

When I started in Year 10, my training commitments at Brighton really ramped up as I was training with them two days a week on top of weekend matches. The teachers, coaches and my tutor all seemed to have a lot of experience in supporting pupils on professional sporting pathways and this made it so much easier to juggle all my different commitments.

In my final year before leaving Bede's to take up my scholarship with Brighton, I was part of the 1st XI football team that won the ESFA National Schools Cup. The Final was played at Stoke City's ground and I loved everything about that day; the camaraderie on the coach, the match itself which was a real nail-biter, and all the amazing support we got at the ground and back at school.

I hope that in the future I will play in more Finals and win more trophies, but I'm pretty sure that winning the Cup with Bede's will always be right up there as one of my favourite moments.

Harry
Footballer



TEAM
BEDES
FOOTBALL

TEAM
BEDES

BEDÉ ENLIGHTENED

I joined Bede's at the Prep School when I was 8 years old, so I have been here for pretty much my whole school life.

Art has always been my thing, ever since I was a little kid, and right from the Prep School I took every chance I could to draw and paint. I even used to come in for optional art sessions on Saturday mornings, and did my first fine art portrait when I was in Year 6.

Most schools would never encourage you to do something like that, and even though I was scared at the time it was the start of me learning to take the initiative and understand that I could do it, by myself.

Of course, my GCSEs were stressful, but even in subjects where I struggled like Science and Maths I somehow managed to get A grades. I was obviously really happy with my results, but I was also surprised. I worked hard and had great support from my teachers, but just didn't see my four A*s and four As coming!

I'm now in the Sixth Form and I'm studying two separate A Levels in Fine Art and Graphics plus Photography and Media Studies. I have my own space in the Art Studios and I spend as much time there as I can, which means, once you add it up, that I spend about 25 timetabled hours a week studying Art, which is exactly what I want.

Looking ahead, I would love to go to Central St Martins but in a way I would like to just start work and get some professional experience. The main thing is that by the time I leave I will have been at Bede's for 10 years, and that's 10 years of training that has meant that I can now choose to do whatever I want to.

That is obviously a very good feeling.

Alina
Artist



BE INDIVIDUAL

I came to Bede's from Bermuda. The School had been recommended to me by some family friends and I have to admit I couldn't wait to start my education here and try out the enormous range of extra curricular activities that would be available to me. I joined Camberlot House in the Lower Fifth and from the moment I arrived it felt like home. I remember very vividly the Prefect who guided me during my first few weeks and the advice he gave me. He told me that Bede's and Camberlot House would give me so much, but I should try and give back as well and that was something I really held on to, so when I had the chance to apply to be a Prefect, I went for it as I knew this would be my chance to help others.

Jayden
Sports Scientist

Football was one of the main reasons I came to Bede's - with ex-professional coaches, amazing pitches and facilities, plus the connections with Premier League football clubs, I knew it was the right school for me. Somewhere I could truly follow my passions whilst learning all the important academics. During my four years at Bede's I was part of the team who won the Hudl League - which features the top nine footballing schools in the country. I also have amazing memories of our pre-season tours to Valencia and Lisbon.

The friendships I have made at Bede's will last a lifetime. I'm still in touch with people who left the school years before me; the connections you make through boarding feel really special and brilliantly global as well.

When I leave Bede's, I am going on to Nottingham University to study Sports Science which I hope will provide a pathway to a career somewhere in the world of sport - my great passion.

I've been asked what advice I would give someone starting out at Bede's and I would certainly tell them to take the opportunities which come their way - there will be a lot of them but you could regret it if you let them pass you by!

CREATIVITY INTELLIGENCE HAVING FUN

ALBERT EINSTEIN



BE AMBITIOUS

I joined Bloomsbury day house in the Lower Sixth. One of my favourite things about my time at Bede's has been doing my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award which I take part in during activities time on a Monday. We learn all the things you would expect like map reading and have a lot of fun putting up our tents. We have the most incredible adventures and learn essential skills for life and work. I cannot wait to embark on our final challenge with my peers.

I knew when I arrived at Bede's that I wanted to go on to study medicine and Bede's have helped me prepare for that. They have supported me in finding volunteering opportunities which has been great preparation for my future medical pathway. I have had amazing support from so many teachers who have helped me every step of the way with my medical school applications and my A levels.

Despite all the pressures that come with applying to medical school, I have always tried to make time for other things that I enjoy. There are so many things on offer at Bede's and this is, after all, one of the main reasons I came here in the first place. I have tried my hand at cookery, got involved in drama, played lots of new sports, including netball (which I love!), and I've kept up the violin. At the end of the day, it's great to have a big passion but you need to keep a little perspective on things as well. The opportunity to try so many new activities at Bede's and discover things I love to do has really opened my eyes to all the possibilities the world has to offer!

Jemima
Doctor



BE CREATIVE

I joined Bede's in the First Year from Uckfield Community College mainly so I could combine my dance and academic studies better. Before I started at Bede's, I was dancing pretty much every evening after school which could be stressful as everything was always such a rush.

I started dancing at the age of three and it has always been my real passion. Before I came to Bede's, modern dance was the genre I loved most, but recently my focus has changed a bit and I now enjoy contemporary and jazz the most. I love all the workshops we get involved with at Bede's; Cats was one my favourites but I also loved the Samba and African dance themed ones as they were totally different from any dance I had done before.

Juggling studying and the Legat programme can be intense at times; during the Sixth Form I was dancing for 20-25 hours per week and studying hard for my A levels, but my personal tutor and Legat teachers have helped me create a schedule which balances all my commitments. Although my tutor doesn't know much about dance, she made it her business to find out about it so she could support me! It's always pretty special to look out and spot her in the audience at the Legat shows.

The things I will remember most about my time at Bede's will definitely be the shows. The first time I took part in Cabaret it blew me away - I had no idea the scale of it and how professional all the staging and costumes would be. I just loved the energy of it all - it was so exciting! The annual Legat Showcases have also been a huge highlight. I had just one costume change in my first one, but in my last one I had ten different changes during the show.

The wonderful thing about Legat and Bede's is that it has allowed me to keep my options open for the future; I have been considering whether to go to university to study psychology or on to a performing arts college. It's been a tough call but I have finally decided to take the dance route and I can't wait to see where this path takes me.

Freya
Dancer



PASTORAL CARE

One of Bede's defining characteristics is our commitment to enabling every individual to become the very best version of themselves.

Fundamental to the success of this approach to education is our Personal Tutor system, with every girl and boy having a dedicated member of staff who looks after only a handful of pupils and who knows every one of them extraordinarily well.

Our Tutors are on hand to assist their tutees every single day and will help with whatever challenges they might face, be that navigating the many choices available to them at Bede's, finding enrichment opportunities they might not have otherwise thought of or guiding them towards specialist advice.

Often this means enabling pupils to reach greater heights both academically and socially, or taking on leadership roles within the School such as on one of our House or School Councils, enacting changes to the way Bede's runs which genuinely make a difference.

We also proactively work to promote emotional resilience, healthy living and mindfulness, and these endeavours are supported by everyone at Bede's, from our Academic departments to our Houses, from the School Chaplaincy to our forward-thinking Medical Centre.

This culture of compassion and proactive care permeates every aspect of life at Bede's and is something we are exceptionally proud of, as enabling our pupils to be healthy, happy and productive is the most important thing we do.



THE BEDE'S COMMUNITY

Every pupil at Bede's belongs to one of our ten day or boarding houses, and this system of organisation is not just notional.

Each house at Bede's is a physical space to work, relax and meet with Personal Tutors. Every house has its own common rooms and work areas, its own kitchen, and enjoys a busy schedule of events including formal lunches, dinners, charity fundraising drives and trips outside of school which foster a sense of family, identity and belonging.

At weekends, although there is no formal school on Saturdays, all of the houses are open and activities run across the day, with each boarding house hosting Saturday night entertainments alongside a number of whole school events, such as Sunday trips which day pupils can opt to join.

Of course, our boarders live in the stunning boarding facilities at Bede's and come from every corner of the globe, bringing with them a rich array of cultural influences which are celebrated both in their respective houses and within the school community at large.

Unlike at many schools however, there is little distinction otherwise between Bede's day and boarding pupils and their experience of school.

Rather than subdivided, all form fond friendships, living and working side-by-side on a day-to-day basis which ensures that the entire school community operates as one.





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