

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a black school blazer over a white collared shirt, is seated at a desk and looking towards the right. Behind her, a young man with brown hair, also in a black school blazer, white shirt, and a striped tie, is looking down at an open book. The background shows a window with a view of a brick building and greenery. The overall scene is a classroom setting.

CONSCIENTIOUS
BEDE'S

First Year Courses

BEDE'S
AMBITIOUS
**ACADEMIC
2023
HIGHLIGHTS**

156
**A-LEVEL
CANDIDATES**

42%
**A/A* GRADES
AT A-LEVEL**

92%
**MERIT &
ABOVE
AT BTEC**

100%
**PASS
RATE
IN 37
COURSES**

65%
**A*-B GRADES
AT A-LEVEL**

86%
**A*-B AT A-LEVEL
MATHEMATICS**

42%
**A-LEVEL STUDENTS
ACHIEVED
AT LEAST 1 A/A***

41%
**9-7 AT
GCSE**

51
**GCSE PUPILS WITH
AT LEAST FIVE
9-7's GRADES**

36
**SUBJECTS
OFFERED
AT GCSE**

94%
**GCSE
PASS RATE**

50
**PUPILS WITH
PLACES AT
RUSSELL GROUP
(or equivalent)**

39
**SUBJECTS
OFFERED AT
A-LEVEL/BTEC**

18
**A-LEVEL
SUBJECTS
WITH 100%
A*-C**

175
**GCSE
CANDIDATES**

Welcome

Welcome to Bede's School where we foster a community of discovery which encourages every individual to develop their passions and achieve their potential. We are delighted to present you with this comprehensive booklet, designed to help you to understand our school's values, ethos, and educational offerings.



At Bede's, we value individuality, diversity, and respect, nurturing an inclusive community where every pupil feels valued and supported. Our holistic approach to education ensures that pupils not only achieve outstanding academic results but also develop essential life skills, resilience, and a sense of social responsibility.

Our extensive range of extracurricular activities, sports, and performing arts opportunities allows pupils to explore their passions and talents beyond the classroom. We prioritise pupil well-being and maintain an open line of communication between staff, pupils, and parents, ensuring a collaborative partnership in your child's educational journey.

John Tuson
Deputy Head

Welcome to the First Year Curriculum Booklet. This booklet serves as a guide to the subjects and learning opportunities that await pupils in the coming year. From core subjects like English, Mathematics, and Science to a wide variety of other subjects including Creative Arts, Performing Arts, Humanities, Languages, Physical Education and much more besides.



The First Year offers a rich and engaging educational experience. Pupils should prepare to expand their knowledge, develop crucial skills, and explore interests as they embark on this exciting chapter of their academic journey.

Nicholas Abrams
Assistant Head: Academic

The First Year at a pupil's senior school should be bursting with excitement, challenge and opportunity.

It should prepare pupils for the massively important public exams that lie ahead while enabling them to enjoy the luxury of knowing that those exams are still some way in the future.



The curriculum for such a First Year should recognise that, as pupils take the first tentative steps towards a more adult state-of-being, they are open to and enthused by a host of possibilities. It should take seriously its role in preparing those young people for the life ahead of them, both at school, work, home, and play.

In short, the First Year needs to be the very best year a child has ever had at school – a year which helps that child to reach a position where a series of yet- more wonderful years can follow in the future.

As we have developed our First Year Curriculum, we have sought to create an experience that will offer academic rigour to all, that will excite and inspire, and that will prepare our pupils for the challenges that lie in wait. At the heart of that curriculum remains a strong focus on the core subjects that will provide the building blocks for any child's education: English, Maths, Science, and Languages. There is a heavy emphasis on the creative subjects for which we have a justifiable reputation for excellence, while exploration of the world in which we live offers an exciting introduction to the humanities.

There will be generous sporting opportunity and The Flourish Project that will enthuse and develop the pupils that it is our privilege to educate. It is a real joy to present the First Year programme to you; I hope you will be inspired and excited by what you see.

Liam Backler
Head of First Years

Our Vision

Where every child finds joy in their pursuit of brilliance

Our Mission

We continue to craft a more joyful education.

Cultivating a vibrant learning experience, motivating us to pursue our individual best.

Providing a festival of opportunity, enabling us to discover new passions and develop new talents.

Building a kind-hearted community, inspiring us to enhance the lives of others.

Our Values

Be Compassionate

Because a caring community fosters belonging.

We expect our community to show kindness to people of all ages, genders and ethnicities, maintaining campuses where every person feels joyful and energised.

Be Courageous

Because fortune favours the brave.

We challenge our community to stand up for what is right, providing them with a safe environment where they can take bold action in pursuit of brilliance.

Be Curious

Because wisdom can be found off the beaten track.

We encourage our community to discover unlikely passions and hidden niches, releasing them into a wealth of opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

Be Conscientious

Because dedication is a spearhead of success.

We ask our community to throw themselves wholeheartedly into every endeavour, taking responsibility for their journey and inspiring others to do the same.



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The Bede's First Year Experience

Whether a pupil joins us as a sports scholar looking to represent their country or a mathematician driven to study Pure Maths at Cambridge, personal tutors at Bede's are tasked with identifying what each individual excels at and facilitating that pupil's success.

Tutors of First Year pupils will be tasked with working one-to-one with each and every Bedian during their first half-term to ensure that they are aware of the diverse opportunities available to them.

For some pupils, these one-to-one meetings will have simple outcomes while for others this introductory conversation will be the beginning of a journey of discovery.

To a certain degree, this function has always existed at Bede's, but we have formalised the process and will be feeding back to parents, via parent consultations and through tutor reports, to provide examples of how we are enabling the success of every individual.

We hold the very highest of ambitions for our pupils and, underpinned by our supportive educational environment, will continue to operate our four week long target-setting cycle to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to be outstanding. Furthermore, bolstered by our co-curricular pledge that every pupil must engage in a service, creative and action-themed activity for at least one half term during each year that they are with us, tutors will also work with pupils to identify the most productive, relevant or useful activities available to them from the options available at Bede's.

The objective of this first core tenet of the First Year Curriculum is to ensure that each pupil receives the very best education possible, whoever they are or want to be.

As for those who have absolutely no idea who that person is, we see it as our responsibility to help them discover – or, at the very least, help them move a little closer towards an answer.







Amelia - First Year

I moved to Bede's this year - at the start of First Year. I chose Bede's because as soon as I looked around the school, I felt that there was a kind atmosphere and everyone who I spoke to was friendly. I am interested in Art, and the facilities and teachers here are fantastic. During the first settling in days, I truly noticed how easy it was to make friends due to the sense of belonging that I felt from across the school.

I am a Day pupil in Bloomsbury house. Our common room is shared with the year above and everyone in my house is approachable. Our Housemistress, Mrs Newbery, is lovely and is there for all of us in the house.

I enjoy studying languages - my favourite is German. My teacher makes our lessons engaging and enjoyable. Not only do I find the language itself fascinating, but also learning about the culture too.

In terms of co-curricular activities, at the moment I am participating in football, netball and yoga. There are countless activities and sports for you to choose from. Before I came to Bede's, I was never too interested in sports, but the facilities are outstanding. The coaches believe in every pupil and the lessons are unique and rewarding.

Bede's is unlike any other school that I know of. There is more of an equal balance between academic lessons and co-curricular activities. You spend lots of time outside, discovering your passions, which leaves you energised and inspired during academic lessons. There is so much opportunity for you to figure out your interests and talents and work on these.

I have found that at Bede's, there is always someone you can count on. There is a lot of support from your Tutor, your teachers and your peers. Meeting new people is never difficult with all of the various classes and activities that you can take part in.

I have recently been awarded an Ovation Award for academic excellence and the Headmaster's Award for outstanding grades which I am very proud of. For my GCSEs, alongside the core subjects, I will be studying Religion and Philosophy, French, Art and German. I am hoping to have a career in the fashion industry and to travel the world.

Ashford - First Year

I started Bede's at the beginning of this year - First Year. I am from America and I visited quite a few schools in England but my family and I were most impressed with Bede's - the breadth of what they offer here is extensive.

Settling in went smoothly - there is a 'buddy' system that means that for the first couple of weeks you have help moving around and finding your way.

I am a full boarder in Stud House. I would describe Stud as a tight knit community of over 60 boys who genuinely all feel like family. When I first started, I felt a little intimidated by the older pupils, but I soon learnt that every one of my peers in Stud is approachable and I feel I can talk to them about anything.

At first, I found it hard to get used to having so many subjects and a completely new system. I persevered and asked lots of questions to my older peers and teachers and soon found myself syncing into a routine.

My favourite subject is Maths, thanks to my teacher Mr Richards. He has taught me that Maths can be fun when you feel confident! When I was finding some topics tough, he took the time to break it down step-by-step and I have improved enormously during this year.

As part of my activities programme, I play football in the U14A group, as well as take part in athletics, American football, and Model United Nations. There is a diverse range of activities on offer at Bede's. The football facilities are outstanding and my football coaches have taught me how to rise to the pressure of being in the U14A team.

At Bede's, there is always an opportunity to try new things - you don't even have to be good at them! There is a safe space for you to explore what you may be passionate about. I never thought I would be part of the Model United Nations team but now I am, I love it!

There are even opportunities outside of academics and the co-curricular programme. Even from a boarding perspective, we go and explore new places on weekends.

I feel that I have made a lot of progress in my time at Bede's already. I received a Distinction for excellent work as part of the Active Citizen Flourish Project. I spoke at the Headmaster's meeting about benefits to boarders of having UK bank accounts. This is something the school is actively looking into and I am glad to be a part in making change. I have also received an Ovation Award for maintaining academic excellence, football prowess and pastoral maturity which I am extremely proud of.

At GCSE, as well as the core subjects, I have chosen Photography, Geography, Spanish and Business Studies. I am hoping to one day become a doctor or a professional footballer. Both of these pathways are possible at Bede's. They provide many great events and talks from experienced specialists so you can get to know different careers in more detail. There is a fantastic careers department who you can go to if you need help making decisions about your future.





Madeline - First Year

I joined Bede's at the start of this year - First Year. My brother who previously came to Bede's, shares my interest in performing arts. I saw how brilliant the facilities and opportunities were at Bede's and I couldn't wait to get started. I spent many years watching 'Cabaret' - the school's musical showpiece and longed to be up on that stage! It was a phenomenal experience to have performed as part of the Cabaret Singers in December 2022 - I cannot wait for more performing opportunities in the future.

I am a Day pupil in Charleston house. Charleston has become a safe space where I can relax. There is a real community feel within the house thanks to my Housemaster, who is great at bringing the whole house together. I can go to him with any problem and he will help me to tackle it. There is zero tolerance for bullying at Bede's and this creates an accepting, kind and harmonious community. I have made true friendships at Bede's that I am sure will last a lifetime.

This community feel is noticeable throughout the school. As well as the entire supportive Bede's community, there are many niche communities of people with similar interests. You get to know many different people as you embark on various co-curricular activities as well as your academic lessons. Teachers see the potential in every pupil and will give chances in all areas that pupils want to be involved in. Each individual feels prioritised and that feeling is unique to Bede's.

In terms of academics, my favourite subjects are Drama and French. My teachers are brilliant at explaining things clearly and ensuring that everyone understands the topic. Teachers are understanding and are confident in pupils, which makes pupils believe in themselves more. The co-curricular activities that I have taken part in so far are Cabaret Singers, Hockey, Athletics and now the Junior Production, which I have achieved a main part in. I could not believe the volume of activities - it was tough to choose! I plan to try all sorts of unique ones in the future!

As for my GCSE choices, I plan on studying Drama, Music, Film and Media and French. It was a tough decision as there were even more subjects that I enjoyed! But I am hoping this selection will help guide me to a career in the journalism or TV industry.

Summer - First Year

I started Bede's at the beginning of First Year in Stud House. I joined Bede's from Hong Kong. Before coming here, I had never left South East Asia. It was daunting at first to come to a new country, new school and new home, but I had nothing to worry about. I soon settled into Stud House - a cheerful, sporty, welcoming place where I have made friends for life. I was first drawn to Bede's due to their incredibly unique zoo and Animal Management A-Level course! In the future, I would like to become a Veterinary Nurse and this course will provide me with hands-on experience that is hard to come by.

The zoo was one of the first places I visited when I arrived and I fell in love with it! There are over 70 species of animals at the zoo - from common pets like bearded dragons to beautiful birds like hornbills. The zookeepers, who I can now call friends, are always willing to share their knowledge and guidance of all of their creatures.

One of my subjects that has taken me by surprise during my time at Bede's is Drama. I had never tried Drama before and from just the first lesson I was surprised by my confidence and passion. I am now part of the Junior Production. After expressing nerves to my teacher Mrs Lewis, I am playing a carefully thought out role that doesn't include too many lines as English is my third language and I am unfamiliar with performing. With that being said, I cannot wait to build my confidence and be part of many more performances in the future. I am pleased that due to my merits for Drama and English, I have received an Ovation Award.

As well as Zoological Society, the other co-curricular activities that I have participated in include mixed martial arts, cooking and darts. Mr Trenaman makes the darts club incredibly fun - I was only able to take part in the first term because my activities slots were quickly booked up with other commitments but now I get to play darts on Saturdays.

For GCSE, as well as the core subjects, I am studying Drama, Design Technology, History and Religion & Philosophy. I chose these subjects due to my fantastic teachers, who have ignited my passion for learning. All of the teachers at Bede's believe in your goals as much as you do and will do everything they can to help you achieve.



The First Year Curriculum

First Year pupils at Bede's will have the following number of hours per week dedicated to the respective curriculum areas:

Thirteen and a half hours of 'Core Subjects'

This includes 3.5 hours of English, 3.5 hours of Maths, 4.5 hours of Science and 2 hours of Modern Foreign Languages/English as Another Language.

Six hours of Co-Curricular Time

This is made up of the three 2-hour activity slots each week during which pupils can designate which activities they would like to take part in from an extensive list of clubs and courses, including the many Bede's Sports Academies.

Note: the 6 hours listed above does not include weekend, lunchtime, break-time or evening activities.

Three hours of 'Creativity'

This includes lessons covering course content on two 'carousels', one of which encompasses Ceramics, Photography and Music or Design Technology, Fine Art and Graphics.

Two and a half hours on 'The World'

This includes Humanities-related lessons covering course content associated with Politics, including 'The Mother of Parliaments'; History, including: 'The Campaign for Women's Suffrage' and 'The Holocaust'; Geography, including 'Sustainability' and 'Global Hazards', and; Religion and Philosophy, including 'An Introduction to Philosophy' and 'Science and Religion'.

Two hours of Sports/Physical Activity

This is broken down into a range of sporting activities including gym time, swimming, athletics and some sports training, but is distinct from the Co-Curricular Programme.

The core games and PE programme is complemented by The Flourish Project's PE programme that allows further investigation into fitness and health and assessment of a pupil's own performance. It allows a platform for understanding the importance of physical activity and lifelong

participation and provides an insight into what further study of PE at GCSE and BTEC would be like. It allows for study of GCSE sports such as badminton, table tennis and rounders where pupils can develop their knowledge of the rules, skills and tactics, building towards a competitive game.

Two hours of 'The Flourish Project'

This includes time studying an extensive carousel of subjects with a focus on developing the 4Cs; Compassion, Curiosity, Conscientiousness and Courage. Pupils' Curiosity will be piqued as they develop the skills of Digital Literacy in IT and Media Literacy in Film and Media. The time spent in the school zoo and lessons on active citizenship will call upon pupils' sense of Compassion. As pupils explore the world of entrepreneurship, work and careers they will realise the value of their Conscientiousness and Courage as they explore future pathways and the value of 'soft skills'. Time spent in Cookery will be enhanced by developing the 4Cs around the role of Food and Nutrition in society.

Instead of these carousels, pupils can also choose to take 'Options' subjects including Computing, Drama, Latin, Classical Civilisation or elite athletes can take part in our Cricket, Football, Hockey or Tennis Development programmes.

One hour of PSHE

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education supports pupils in developing knowledge, skills and attributes needed to stay healthy, safe and prepare for life and work in the modern world. PSHE education helps pupils to achieve their academic potential, and equips them with skills they will need in the future.

PSHE at Bede's is delivered across all areas of the school including lessons, tutor time, assemblies, workshops, chapel, in the Health and Wellbeing Centre, sign-posting to online resources, and more.

In the First Year, pupils have a 1 hour PSHE lesson every week, and will rotate on a carousel to cover four topics in depth, linking with the core themes, throughout the academic year.





The Week

A standard weekly timetable for a pupil at Bede's contains 24 lessons, along with 6 hours of activities programme. When pupils arrive there are sessions with their tutor and house to help prepare them for the day ahead and deliver key messages.

There are also numerous sessions available after-school, for example the After-School Academy on Monday and Tuesdays where pupils can receive both extra support in their academic subjects, The 42 Club on Thursdays (an enrichment programme) and late stay prep where pupils can complete their homework before departing.



FIRST YEAR SAMPLE TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Arrive at School	Tutor Time	Chapel	House Assembly	Tutor Time	Tutor Time
Period 1	Mathematics	Biology	PE Games	Languages	Creative Carousel 1
Period 2	The Flourish Project	English	PE Games	Physics	Mathematics
10:40	BREAK				
Period 3	Creative Carousel 1	Mathematics	Physics	English	English
Period 4	Languages	Chemistry	English	The World Carousel	Creative Carousel 2
13:10	BREAK				
Period 5	Activities Programme	Activities Programme	The Flourish Project	Activities Programme	Physics
Period 6	Activities Programme	Activities Programme	PSHE	Activities Programme	The World Carousel
17:00	FIRST BUSES DEPART (16:30 on Weds/Fri)				
After-School	After-School Academy: Science	After-School Academy: Maths	Late Stay Prep	The 42 Club Lecture	
18:30	DINNER				
19:15	LATE BUSES DEPART (Monday - Thursday)				

The Activities Programme

Co-curricular activities enable everyone to develop their strengths, qualities and their self-confidence in order to help them flourish. They teach courage, curiosity and compassion, as well as making many lifelong friendships and memories that last far beyond Bede's. Playing a full and wholehearted part within the Activities Programme is key in developing the connection needed with others in order to build our kind hearted community. It is also integral in fulfilling our mission for everyone in the School to find joy in the pursuit of brilliance. Therefore we hope that everybody finds their niche, enabling them to release their talents within a world of opportunities. You are at Bede's for several years, but these experiences help to form who you are for the rest of your life.

Activities fall under 4 different categories - Sport, Clubs & Societies, Languages & Culture and Creative & Performing Arts. Every pupil of the school has three activities per week.

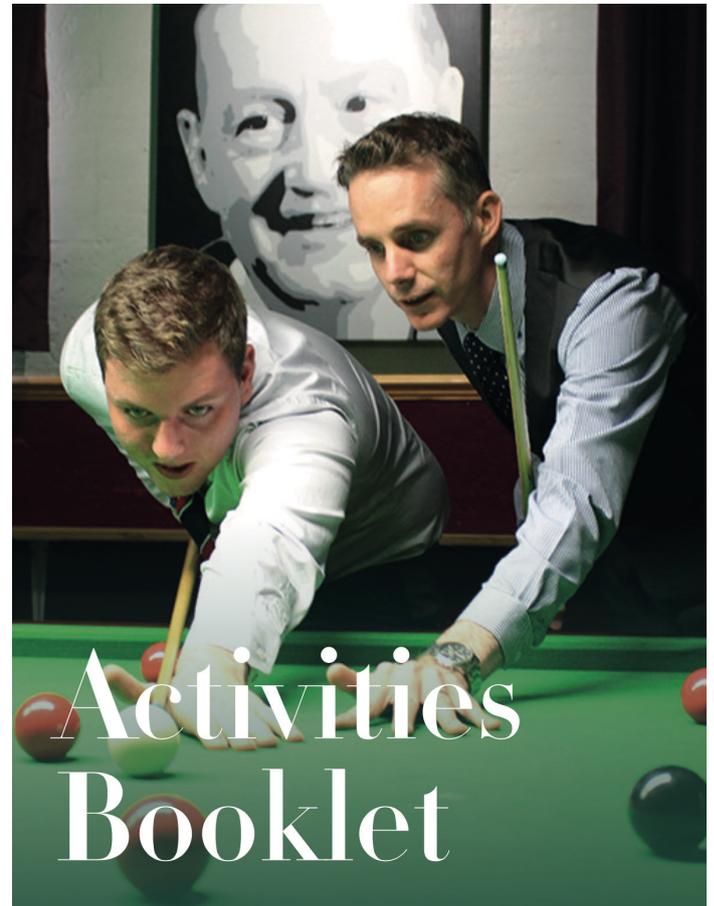
Sporting Activities are important in making sure that pupils are fit and active, whether it's a team or individual sport, we encourage all pupils to pick at least one sporting activity. For those pupils who live for sport, we want to make the most of the months ahead. For everyone else, we want you to stay fit and healthy as we believe in good health and exercise for all.

There are Languages and Culture Activities which provide the chance to support pupils with their studies, or extend them and push them further within an impressive supra-curricular programme. Studying Classical Greek, Researching Chemistry or learning Japanese are amongst the wide range of Languages and Culture Activities.

In Societies & Clubs pupils can join a Film Club, spend time in our fantastic Zoo or get those baking skills up-to-scratch (and hopefully bake some cakes for parents to enjoy). There's an eclectic mix of Societies & Clubs with something new to try for everyone.

Finally there are the Performing and Creative Arts Activities: amongst the highlights are our superb drama teachers offering a range of theatrical related activities, the music department hosting choirs and bands a-plenty or pupils can join the Art Department in a wide range of opportunities.

There's never been a more important time to develop hobbies, passions and interests to run alongside our academic programme. Research tells us that they definitely assist in the development of a sense of well-being, promoting positive mental health and building self-confidence. We hope that pupils look forward to the programme as much as the staff who run these exciting activities.



Carousel Options

Creative Carousel One



Ceramics

Ceramics is one of the oldest human inventions where humanity has been able to explore function, abstract and figurative form. On this course pupils will explore both handmade functional ceramics and also the sculptural form. This course will provide a wealth of design skills for the pupils to be challenged by and for them to develop ideas independently. Previous Ceramics pupils have gone on to study architecture, interior design, product design and have become prop designers for the film industry. Working with clay can certainly open up many design based careers.

Photography

Studying Photography prepares young people for careers in the creative industries, and has been popular at Bede's for several years now. This Option provides a 'crash course' in this area, with pupils learning darkroom and Adobe Photoshop skills as well as the opportunity to create their own cameras.

Music

The Music carousel focuses on three core topics: Film music, 12-bar Blues, and Textural and Ambient studies. This bespoke programme has practical music at its core. By introducing pupils to composing techniques and performance skills, this programme caters for all pupils from complete beginners to more experienced musicians. The composition tasks are delivered using specialist music software such as Logic Pro and Sibelius. This is coupled with a focus on enhancing pupils' listening skills by appraising a wide range of musical styles and genres. Teamwork and collaboration are central to the course, and all pupils come away with a knowledge of piano skills, composing, listening, and appraising music.

Opting Out



Pupils who wish to opt out of Creative Carousel One may choose to study one of the following for the whole year:

(Please note depending on specific pathways and choices, some of the alternative options may not be available to pupils on the Legat programme or those participating in sports academies).

Computing

The aim of this course is to build upon the pupil's fundamental knowledge of the world of computing. Pupils will investigate design methodology, creating basic algorithms, developing programming skills and creating and testing simple programs using Small Basic and Python. The course also includes a unit on webpage development using HTML, how to build user-interactivity with JavaScript, and work with CSS to develop web pages.

Latin

First Year pupils have the option to study, Latin. The Latin course is language oriented and builds a rock- solid foundation so that if you choose to stay with the subject up to GCSE or beyond, you have all the basics at your fingertips.

Drama

This exciting option is designed to appeal to any pupil who is interested in drama and theatrical performance. The year is largely practical and enables pupils to collaboratively explore creative ideas and develop innovative work both as an individual and as part of a group. We seek to develop confidence in our drama pupils throughout the year and offer a range of experiences; using and developing improvisation techniques; performing from a script; analysing and evaluating live theatre; as well as providing an introduction to theatrical design.

Our pupils tell us that one of the biggest highlights of the course is the Shakespeare monologue competition, which in 2019 saw six of our pupils reach the South East Regional Finals of the English Speaking Union's competition with one pupil going on to represent Bede's at the national final. Another highlight is their devised performance to a local primary

school audience and the third is our annual visit to watch a live theatre production.

Pupils selecting this option will have a lot of fun in the process of learning new skills, whilst also providing those pupils who may be interested in pursuing the subject at GCSE level an excellent foundation for the course.

Learning Enhancement

Pupils may opt for (chargeable) Learning Enhancement lessons to be scheduled as part of their academic programme, however it would be usual for prior discussion to have taken place with the LE department before selecting this option. These small group lessons, of 90 minutes a week per option block, are taught by qualified specialist teachers supported by curriculum subject teachers where appropriate.

Football Development

The Football Development programme is offered to those players who have been awarded a football scholarship or exhibition. Typical activities on the programme consist of coaching, Strength and Conditioning, fitness work and flexibility, all of which are combined to help the holistic development of the player.

Hockey Development

The Hockey Development programme is offered to those players who have been offered scholarships. The programme comprises technical, tactical, psychological and Strength and Conditioning components aimed at scholars and/or county players. With individual and group sessions, and using the latest coaching philosophies and feedback technology, the scheme sees dedicated coaches provide players with every opportunity to maximise their potential.

Creative Carousel Two



Design and Technology

This course is designed to introduce a number of core areas associated with Design Technology GCSE.

Pupils manufacture a wooden storage box, including a metal or plastic inlaid feature on the box lid, developing an understanding of the materials, how they can be manipulated, joined and finished.

They are taught to visualise and present ideas as well as model in 2D and 3D on the computer, and output to computer controlled machines.

Art

The art carousel aims to emulate the variety of disciplines as pupils progress through the school.

Traditional drawing and painting skills run through everything we do in Art and key skills from mark making and colour theory will be explored in this subject.

Pupils who select this option gain fundamental skills in Art and Design that will prepare them for future work in our successful department.

Graphics

At A Level, Graphic Communication is one of our most popular subjects and Bede's pupils go on to study Graphic Communication, Computer Game Design and Web Design at some of the top universities.

In the First Year, pupils will gain an understanding of the importance of Graphic Design and Illustration in our daily lives and explore drawing Photoshop skills and project development.

Opting Out



Pupils who wish to opt out of Creative Carousel Two may choose to study one of the following for the whole year:

(Please note depending on specific pathways and choices, some of the alternative options may not be available to pupils on the Legat programme or those participating in sports academies.)

Computing

The aim of this course is to build upon the pupil's fundamental knowledge of the world of computing. Pupils will investigate design methodology, creating basic algorithms, developing programming skills and creating and testing simple programs using Small Basic and Python. The course also includes a unit on webpage development using HTML, how to build user-interactivity with JavaScript, and work with CSS to develop web pages.

Classical Civilisation

First Year pupils have the option to study Classics. Pupils who opt for Classics will be introduced to Greek and Roman mythology, art, archaeology, and architecture which will set pupils up perfectly to continue studying it in depth at a higher level. No prior knowledge is required for Classics. Classes are small with individual attention.

Drama

This exciting option is designed to appeal to any pupil who is interested in drama and theatrical performance. The year is largely practical and enables pupils to collaboratively explore creative ideas and develop innovative work both as an individual and as part of a group. We seek to develop confidence in our drama pupils throughout the year and offer a range of experiences; using and developing improvisation techniques; performing from a script; analysing and evaluating live theatre; as well as providing an introduction to theatrical design.

Our pupils tell us that one of the biggest highlights of the course is the Shakespeare monologue competition, which in 2019 saw six of our pupils reach the South East Regional Finals of the English Speaking Union's competition with one pupil going on to represent Bede's at the national

final. Another highlight is their devised performance to a local primary school audience and the third is our annual visit to watch a live theatre production.

Pupils selecting this option will have a lot of fun in the process of learning new skills, whilst also providing those pupils who may be interested in pursuing the subject at GCSE level an excellent foundation for the course.

Learning Enhancement

Pupils may opt for (chargeable) Learning Enhancement lessons to be scheduled as part of their academic programme, however it would be usual for prior discussion to have taken place with the LE department before selecting this option. These small group lessons, of 90 minutes a week per option block, are taught by qualified specialist teachers supported by curriculum subject teachers where appropriate.

Tennis Development

The Tennis Development programme is designed to develop the all-round capabilities of players and is open to good school level players who should be committed to playing in teams if they are picked.

The programme incorporates a full range of tennis strokes and techniques alongside strength and conditioning, flexibility and fitness work.

Cricket Development

The Cricket Development programme is open to those cricketers who have been awarded a scholarship or exhibition.

This programme is designed to enhance all-round player performance.

The course incorporates batting, bowling, wicket-keeping, fielding skills and techniques alongside strength and conditioning, flexibility and fitness work.

Languages Options

Languages



Modern Foreign Languages

Our First Year pupils can choose to study one of the following languages (for those pupils wishing to study two modern languages should discuss this with the Head of Year to ascertain the subject combinations that are available): French, German, Mandarin and Spanish. Whilst the First Year French course is intended for pupils with prior study or knowledge of the language, the German, Mandarin and Spanish courses are aimed at pupils who either want to study the language as their first foreign language or at pupils with some prior knowledge in the language.

Pupils will quickly develop confidence across the four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking the language, and will begin to work on GCSE topics, ready for progression into the Lower Fifth. The study of the languages is enhanced by trips abroad and an introduction to the history, geography and culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

During activity time, our First Year pupils also have the exciting opportunity to study Chinese, Italian and Japanese from the beginning with Russian also offered for native speakers who wish to further their knowledge of the language.

English as an Additional Language

Non-native speakers have their English lessons in small classes within the EAL department. Four hours per fortnight of support are available to those who we deem to need a little extra help at an additional cost.

Pupils in the First Year are entered and work towards one of the Cambridge ESOL suite of exams. They are a world-recognised set of exams, accredited by the British Council, and a secure test of English levels.

Learning Enhancement

Pupils may opt for (chargeable) Learning Enhancement lessons to be scheduled as part of their programme, however it would be usual for prior discussion to have taken place with the LE department.

These small group lessons, of 90 minutes a week per option block, are taught by qualified specialist teachers supported by curriculum subject teachers where appropriate.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who should parents/guardians turn to if they have any questions of concerns.

In the first instance, always contact your child's tutor as they will be the key contact for each individual child.

How does the school use Common Entrance results?

Some schools use common entrance to assess their Year 8 pupils. The results of these, or any other end of Year 8 assessments and exams, are sent to Bede's. This information is then used alongside other academic data to help place the pupils into their initial core subject sets.

How frequently is homework set for First Year pupils?

Prep (or homework) is set regularly with approximately 7.5 hours of independent work per week. There is a prep timetable to help pupils manage their workload and ensure that they can complete prep around their other commitments.

Are pupils placed in sets for subjects?

In English, Science, Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages, pupils are placed in appropriate sets. These sets are determined by information received during the application process (e.g. Common Entrance results, School Reports etc.). During the course of the First Year there are multiple opportunities to move sets so that pupils are in the right set to both challenge and support their academic progress.

When are GCSE options selected?

The process for selecting GCSE options begins during the First Year at the end of January. There will be presentations and consultations to assist pupils and parents throughout the process.

Are there end of year exams?

At the end of the Autumn and Spring terms there are in-class assessments in the core subjects. In the Summer Term, there are core subject exams that cover all of the content taught in the First Year.

Do I have to study a Modern Foreign Language?

No - but please talk to the Head of First Years in the first instance to find out what is right for your child.

The school reserves the right to guide a pupil towards specific courses if, in our opinion, the pupil's best interests are served by following a particular programme.



BCURIOUS**EDE'S**

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