

# BEDS

CURIOUS



PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
IN EASTBOURNE



## HEADTEACHER'S INTRODUCTION

**Leigh-Anne Morris**  
*Headteacher*



**B**ede's Prep is a vibrant, energetic and forward-thinking school, which focuses on promoting learning, personal growth and development. We provide pupils with a curriculum that is broad, stimulating and designed to facilitate the highest possible levels of attainment by those who follow it – programmes of study that imbue children with a wealth of skills, a depth of knowledge and an irrepressible curiosity. Every pupil will achieve personal excellence within a happy, safe and stimulating environment.

Our core values of compassion, courage, conscientiousness and curiosity shape a pupil's educational experience. A Bede's education is based upon academic rigour through excellent teaching, encouraging our pupils to explore, question, take risks, and develop their creativity, communication and teamwork – all central to successful life-long learning.

Our kind-hearted community is underpinned by generosity of spirit, mutual respect, warmth and compassion. By providing a festival of opportunities, we enable our pupils to discover new passions and develop new talents motivating them to be the best versions of themselves. Pupils are recognised and appreciated for who they are as individuals. They are supported and nurtured by teachers who really care.

Our exceptional pastoral care is evidenced as happy pupils who are engaged in their learning and actively involved in the wider life of the school embracing every opportunity provided to them. Pupils who are kind to themselves and each other and are gracious about success and failure.

Bede's provides an all-round education where academic pursuits are supported by wonderful co-curricular opportunities and where pupils learn lessons that books cannot give; courage and joy, resilience and self belief, developing into confident globally-minded young people.

I am incredibly proud to belong to such an amazing community where pupils and staff feel empowered, supported and valued.

I very much hope that you will visit us and I look forward to welcoming you in person to share the exciting and vibrant experience enjoyed by our pupils.

## NURSERY

**E**very child has unique abilities, needs and characteristics that make them special. Across the Bede's family of schools this idea underpins everything we do.

Our nursery is open 51 weeks a year, caring for and nurturing children in a genuinely holistic way.

To support and guide every child to be curious, confident and inspired is what motivates us and our friendliness and expertise is a matter of pride.

We are a home away from home for the children here, preparing everything on site, from our home cooked nutritious meals to our fantastic range of activities and learning resources.

By observing the habitual play of the children, carers and teachers at Bede's Nursery identify and plan schematic learning which we tailor to each individual as part of the Creative Curriculum.

Anchored by our cross-curricular, topic based approach, the learning which takes place throughout

Bede's is deep and memorable. The skills we nurture promote lifelong learning and are concerned with critical thinking and problem solving and this process all begins at the Nursery.

It is a place where everything is custom crafted for your child because we believe that if every child is to be truly cherished, stimulated and enriched then the place they spend their days should be just as exceptional as they are.





**T**hese years are primarily concerned with developing critical thinking – a capacity the children increasingly need as they head up through the year groups.

Our unique Creative Curriculum is custom-built to be content-rich and highly personalised. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is the crucial starting point, with our syllabus providing children with experiences which are exciting, enriching and which they can actively explore with the support of the adults working with them.

At the earliest stage, classrooms are structured to help facilitate child-initiated learning. This means that at the start of every school day a series of activities are available to our Reception pupils, including Maths tasks, Role Play, Construction, Small World, Art/Creative and Story/Quiet.

Every child is given daily reading and numeracy tasks but have a free choice as to how they wish to spend large portions of their time. Teachers monitor and guide progress across all key areas, working with all individuals on a one-to-one basis and supporting learning to ensure that each child is stimulated and challenged from the moment they arrive until the end of each day.

With additional specialist lessons in a number of key areas, our provision is nationally recognised as outstanding. The children in these years consistently exceed all expectations and are thoroughly prepared for the next stage of their educational journey.

## YEARS 3-5

**T**he transition into Year 3 at Bede's encourages independence. It sees the children move into the main Prep School where they become increasingly responsible for their learning and develop greater social awareness, coming to understand that they are but one member of a larger community.

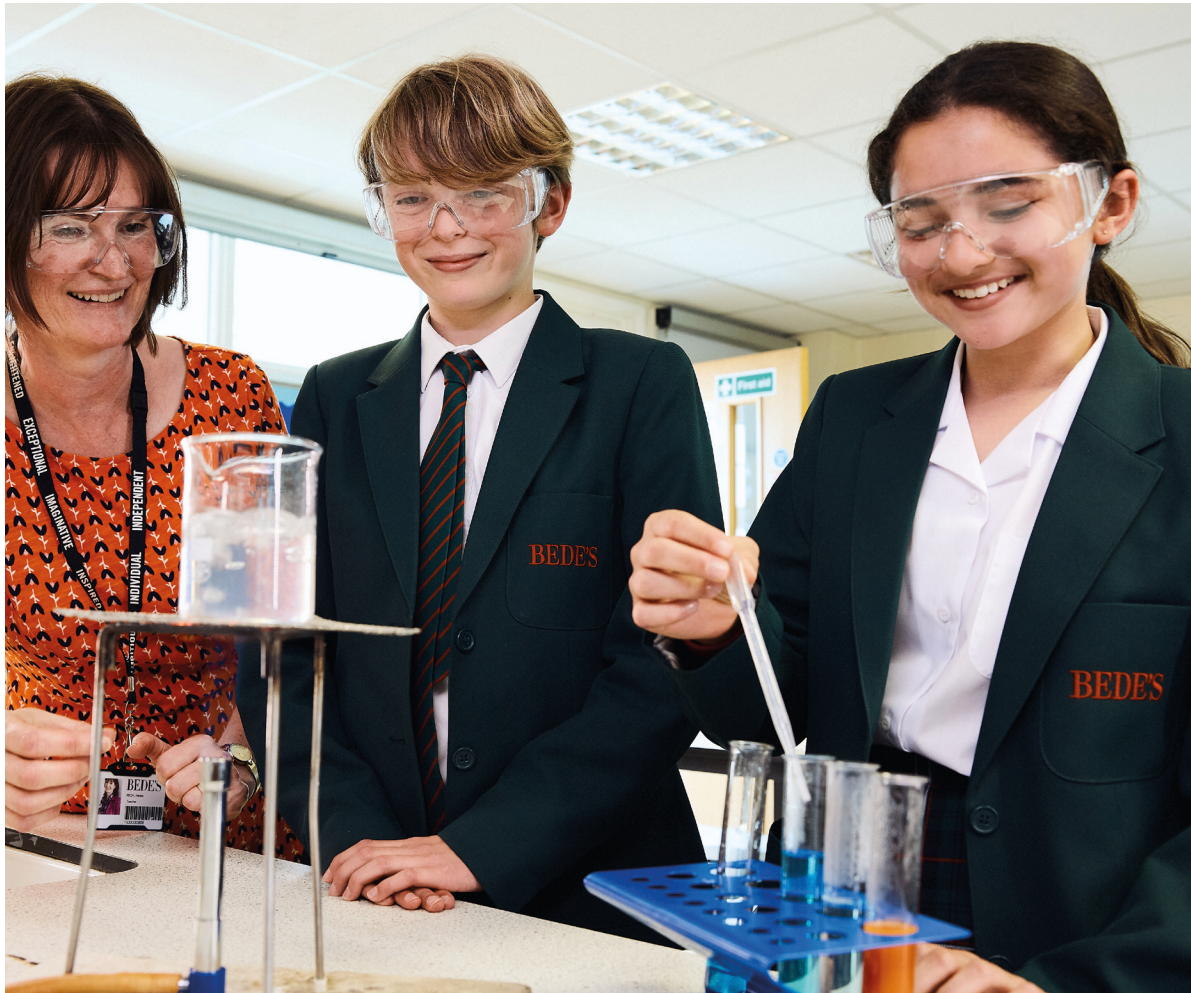
Throughout these years, children are taught predominantly in their form rooms by their Form Teachers, moving around the School for specialist lessons and taking part in a number of whole school events including our innovative Themed Week programme.

As each year progresses, expectations in terms of behaviour and academic achievement are raised and in Year 4 the children embrace further self-reliance both personally and in their learning. This culminates in a five day residential trip designed to develop teamwork, speaking and listening, personal organisation and thinking skills.

Year 5 is the final of the so-called "Junior Years" at the Prep School. The children still spend the majority of their lesson time in mixed ability form groups and are looked after by a Form Teacher but classes are streamed by ability for English, Maths, Science, ICT and French.

The focus for Year 5 is on building self-motivation, self-discipline and personal organisation, with highlights including the Maths and Science Challenges, a range of theatre visits, plays, concerts and trips.





The “Senior Years” at the Prep School are a determinative time for pupils and boast significant opportunities for individuals to distinguish themselves.

Year 6 represents both the end of Key Stage 2 and the point at which the children move away from being taught largely by their Form Teachers. Pupils become ever more mature and independent, building relationships with individual subject teachers and taking much more responsibility for their own organisation.

Year 7 then tends to feel like a big step up and is an exciting and challenging stage of their schooling. For some, it marks an important step in preparing for academic scholarships but for all it is expected that, in addition to working hard in the classroom, pupils will exploit the many Co-Curricular opportunities available to them at Bede's.

Although academically rigorous, our singular objective during these years is to prepare pupils for life and not just exams.

Indeed, it is our hope that every child will look back on these years with fond memories of an educational experience that is unrivalled in its scope, depth and quality.

## ACADEMIC



An education at Bede's Prep School goes beyond the expected.

Every one of our pupils is given excellent opportunities to meet their potential across the curriculum, but we are not a school where children are compartmentalised and channelled towards a given end point. We believe in providing children with rich learning opportunities that stimulate and broaden their knowledge, skills and understanding, and in engaging them in practical experiences which bring learning to life.

In History, our pupils attend a Medieval Day at school, together with spit roast lunch and a chance to try on real armour. In Science, they make rockets from scratch and fire them into the atmosphere from the top of the cliffs overlooking Eastbourne.

In ICT they learn to code, applying their knowledge to design their own video games or program robots to explore the school's corridors and journey between classrooms.

Practices like these ensure that our teaching is innovative, memorable and personal to the pupils at Bede's.

We know that families come to us primarily for an outstanding education, and for this reason we closely monitor pupil progress to ensure we know how the children are developing in each subject, their areas of need and greatest success, and that we are intervening swiftly whenever and however necessary.

For these reasons and more, Bede's truly is a unique place to learn.









## CO-CURRICULAR AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

**H**ow a school approaches its enrichment programme tells you all you need to know about what it wants for its children. At Bede's the activities we offer allow children to share enthusiasms and develop interests. It provides them with independence and choice, giving them the chance to do something simply for its intrinsic pleasure.

Activities and clubs at Bede's Prep School run throughout and after the school day, with children from Year 3 all the way through to Year 8 being inspired, empowered and motivated to succeed. The programme is varied each term and is shaped by suggestions made by pupils.

We have carefully crafted our Co-Curricular and Enrichment Programme to develop soft skills like cooperation, negotiation and empathy in our pupils – skills which are valuable in every aspect of life, from home to the workplace. Children can learn anything from the art of public speaking and interview techniques to cookery skills.

Sporting options feature heavily whether it be netball teamwork and tactics, table tennis, football leaders' qualification, climbing, trampolining or kayaking.

For those wishing to opt for a slower pace of life, they can choose ceramics, needlecraft or origami. Meanwhile those interested in Performing Arts can attend an array of dance clubs, take to the stage in one of our LAMDA or drama clubs or practise in the orchestra, choir or even rock band.

Whatever their choice, we aim to broaden and excite the mind, enrich learning and of course help shape each individual child.

## LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

**A**t Bede's we believe that what happens outside the classroom can be just as important as what happens within it. Providing expansive and inspiring opportunities for our pupils to experience life beyond our campus, is an important facet of this philosophy.

Our academically focussed trips are seamlessly incorporated into the curriculum and are designed to enrich pupils' learning. Whether that is a whole school visit to Windsor Castle, a trip to Birmingham to learn about the Industrial Revolution or a stay at a French chateau to practice newly learned vocabulary, we are always seeking ways to bring lessons to life outside the classroom.

We are also fortunate to have some of Sussex's most beautiful scenery on our doorstep and through programme's such as Bede's on the Beach, which sees our pupils learning about their local environment as well as taking Art and even Maths lessons on the sea shore, to trips to Beachy Head, Cuckmere Haven and Friston Forest, our pupils are encouraged to learn from our rich natural environment.





I have been at Bede's Prep since Reception and feel very lucky to be able to go to this school. We have so many opportunities to try out different activities and sports and are given so much support and encouragement in our academics.

My favourite subjects are Maths, English and Science, but I really enjoy all lessons including music, drama and dance. I would quite like to be a singer/songwriter, but I also have a passion for science and learning about natural habitats. We are especially lucky to have our school so close to the beach and South Downs National Park and we regularly have lessons exploring the natural environment around us which I really enjoy.

I also really enjoy story writing and my teachers are always encouraging me to explore my passion of writing my own mythical adventure stories.

I have lots of favourite memories here, making friends, tennis tournaments, sports days, beach and forest school lessons and school trips. Most recently we went to Hindleap Warren and participated in lots of outdoor activities including bushcraft and climbing.

I don't know what I would like to do when I am older as yet, as I am still discovering new things I enjoy, but perhaps a geologist, a writer or a doctor. Bede's has given me the confidence to aim high and explore my passions so I know I will end up following my dreams!

**Lily**  
*Year 5*



# Bede's CONSCIENTIOUS

I joined Bede's Prep in Year 4 after a taster day and was excited to start here from the very first day! It feels like I have always been here now. It is the best school - everyone is friendly and they make the lessons really fun! There are also a lot of sports to try, including cricket which is my favourite.

There are so many activities to choose from - my favourite is 'Cartooning for Kids' which I do every Monday. Games is one of my favourite lessons too, as I have lots of energy, and it's easy to make friends when you're playing in a team.

My form tutor is really kind and supportive. She teaches Maths, and taught me the 'Bus Stop' method, which I know off by heart now and, even though it was challenging to learn, it has really helped me progress in my maths. I also enjoy Science - last week we were building towers to work out the strongest shape. Our teachers are always finding creative ways to help us to learn in fun ways!

I enjoy going to the library - there are so many books to choose from and our librarian helps to inspire us! I love reading comedy books - I'm currently reading The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole which is entertaining and fun.

**Toby**  
*Year 6*



# Bede's CONSCIENTIOUS

I joined Bede's in the Nursery when I was really little and I really like it here. I have lots of friends.

I like learning, especially phonics. I like my teachers a lot. They're very fun and they help me if I find anything difficult.

I enjoy spending time on the beach and in the woods. My favourite activity is to find things and tick them off on the board. Today we found a woodlouse, a millipede and a worm in our Forest School lesson. We then made a woodlouse out of sourdough and melted marshmallows on a campfire! I also love going swimming and have swimming lessons every week

I also really like the muddy garden and visiting the zoo at the Senior School. We have learnt lots about the animals there - they have lemurs, squirrel monkeys and these funny creatures that smell like popcorn\*.

*\*Binturongs*

**Alessia**  
*Year 1*





## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

**B**ede's has long had a reputation for creativity and, as elsewhere in the school, in the Creative and Performing Arts arena, we strive to provide genuine breadth of opportunity.

In the Art Studio this means that beyond painting and drawing, our pupils are able to hone their pottery skills on a tradition kiln or explore the world of graphic design.

In the area of Performing Arts, the teaching of dance starts from the Nursery offering training all the way through to Year 8, whether as part of curriculum learning, as an after school activity or as part of our specialist programme for those wishing to pursue exams in ballet, tap or modern dance.

Elsewhere, our dramatists are encouraged to take to the stage from a young age with annual performances from Pre-Prep upwards. For some acting will be a passion which extends to participation in the LAMDA programme but for others it will be a chance to stretch themselves to simply perform in front of an audience – one of life's great challenges.

Finally, in the Music department, children are encouraged to learn an instrument and given the opportunity to perform, whether in the Inter-Section Music competition or in one of the myriad performance opportunities throughout the year.

## SPORT

**B**ede's Prep School has a longstanding reputation for sporting excellence.

In recent years our Boys' and Girls' teams have claimed County, Regional and National Championships in Football, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis and Swimming at every level, from Under 8 to Under 12, and these results are achieved through hard work, expert coaching and sheer determination.

Bede's Prep School is inclusive, friendly and encouraging and our sports provision is, like everything else at the school, open to absolute beginners as well as national champions.

Our Sports Academies, which cater for our most talented sportspeople, provide superlative opportunities to train with local clubs as well as our own expert coaches, and include access to our Senior School's unbeatable, nationally recognised facilities.

Our fixture list is expansive and the number of teams we field is expansive too, but all of our efforts in the sporting arena are underpinned by the idea that being active, healthy and involved is fun, and that all children deserve the opportunity to succeed.





**W**e inspire children to be model, outward-looking, cosmopolitan citizens, and enable them to learn that giving is more rewarding than receiving. Everything we do is underpinned by supportive, friendly, superlative pastoral care, and throughout the school we encourage pupils to recognise and use their talents while also developing spiritual, moral and ethical values.

Personal development is strongly fostered by our open, friendly atmosphere, and staff maintain a close knowledge of every child. Robust systems are in place to ensure pupil welfare, and we have permanent, on-site counsellors should the need for them arise.

More than anything however, pupils feel empowered at Bede's. Many take up positions of responsibility in the school, such as in the School Council, where children have their thoughts and ideas not only heard but listened to. The children are involved in setting of rules and procedures, older pupils have the opportunity to become Prefects, and through our House or 'Section' system we develop a sense of community and competition in every pupil.

At Bede's, we enrich young people in the round, so that they may lead full, worthwhile lives as confident, balanced members of their communities, and ensure that by the time they leave us they are responsible, self-confident and can interact maturely both with their peers and adults.

A major benefit of this approach is that our pupils are a joy to be around, whether that be during their time here or in the future, when they return and tell us about how something we did made the difference for them.

# BEDe

CURIOUS

I have been at Bede's forever! I was only three months old when I joined the Nursery and now I am in Year 4. I have always loved the school and many of my friends from the Nursery also followed me into Reception. I also have an older brother here!

I enjoy dance because it's a lot of fun and I really enjoy the opportunity to express myself and make up my own dances with friends. Although I also have dance lessons outside school, the dance lessons at Bede's are really good - we do ballet, tap and modern. Modern is my favourite. My dance teachers are also professional dance teachers who have danced all over the world and I feel very lucky to have them teach me.

I enjoy my other lessons too, especially art, music and drama. We are really lucky to be right on the beach and we often go for lessons there - you don't get to have a maths lesson at the beach at many schools!

When I grow up, I would like to be a vet as I love animals. At Bede's we also like to support community activities such as beach cleans. I like to help marine conservation by removing plastic from our shores.

**Penelope**  
*Year 4*



# BED CURIOUS

I joined Bede's Prep in Year 5 and I am so much happier at school now. I settled in very quickly moving here from my old school. I was given a buddy from day one who showed me the classrooms, the dining hall and helped me to make new friends so it didn't feel so daunting starting a new school. Every day is different and the teachers really help to support me in my lessons.

I have also discovered a passion for sport. I enjoy playing all sport - I play cricket, football, tennis and hockey - everything is on offer at Bede's and the coaches are really supportive and they make lessons fun. We also get to go to the Senior School on a regular basis and get to use the pitches and facilities there.

I'm really proud of getting into the A teams for both cricket and football, and love playing first team matches. My coaches have really inspired me and are helping my performance.

When I'm older, I would like to be an athlete or an actor. They are very different things but at Bede's I am always finding new interests that I enjoy!

**Arlo**  
*Year 7*



# BE CURIOUS

I joined Bede's Prep in Year 2, and I really like it here. Everyone is kind and supportive and lessons are always fun and interesting. Bede's has a family feel and we all feel a sense of belonging. I have made friends easily and everyone is there to help if you need it.

We are encouraged to be courageous and try everything on offer to us (and there is so much to explore!) I enjoy sport (a lot!), and play hockey, netball and football. I enjoy playing in a team. My favourite sporting memory so far is playing hockey against other schools in a big local tournament and being part of the team - I felt very proud.

When I am older, I would like to be a lawyer, as I enjoy debating key issues. We have a debating team at Bede's Prep which I have joined as part of my activity time and this has really helped me understand what I would like to aim for in the future.

**Mimi**  
*Year 7*





## BOARDING AT MEADS END



t Meads End we create a safe, secure and happy boarding environment with an atmosphere which is relaxed and yet purposeful – whether that be for our Full, Weekly or Flexi Boarders.

Children in Meads End are encouraged to excel in their own pursuits, take responsibility for themselves and, as they become older, take a certain amount of responsibility for others too. We help them grow and develop their own aspirations, empowering them as they continue their education and lives, while also developing the social skills required to appreciate the needs of others and to flourish.

We achieve these aims by encouraging the children to pursue their hobbies and interests and participate in house activities, sharing their knowledge and experiences, enabling children to learn from one another. As a team, we collaborate in all aspects of the running of the house and are passionate about and dedicated to supporting and enriching the lives of the children in our care.

We inspire curiosity and enrich the Bede's Prep boarding experience and, with a century of experience managing boarding, consider ourselves to be experts in the field.

## BEDE'S SENIOR SCHOOL

**F**or most pupils at Bede's Prep School, the next stage of their journey is our Senior School in the heart of the Sussex countryside at Upper Dicker. The values of both schools are completely aligned so the transition is a seamless one for most children, who can spread their wings safe in the knowledge that they have been perfectly prepared for the next stage of their educational careers.

At the heart of both schools, is the strong belief that children are not made in a factory and thus are not all the same. There is no such thing as a typical Bede's pupil, for they are typical only in their differences. By offering both breadth and excellence in the academic curriculum as well as in our range of cultural, aesthetic, intellectual and sporting activities outside the classroom, we are able to serve our pupils' uniqueness well.

The House system at Bede's is the backbone of our pastoral provision. Our team of House Tutors offer dedicated support to pupils and we believe that it is by truly understanding a child that we are able to nurture talent, drive academic performance, help children as they navigate life's inevitable challenges and embrace its myriad opportunities.

We place the development of values and a sense of community at the heart of school life and our young people are encouraged to serve, to experiment and lead, succeed and, because we learn more from adversity, venture beyond where they are comfortable.

Our aim is for each child to make an outstanding contribution in all aspects of their lives: in school, in the local community and the wider world.

**Peter Goodyer**  
*Headmaster*  
*Bede's Senior School*





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Bede's Preparatory School  
Duke's Drive, Eastbourne  
East Sussex BN20 7XL

T 01323 734222  
[prep.school@bedes.org](mailto:prep.school@bedes.org)  
[bedes.org](http://bedes.org)