



A year in review
2020/2021



That they be *good* men.

At Bedford, our mission is to teach boys to think intelligently, act wisely and be fully engaged in a challenging and changing world. Understanding that world and the skills boys need in order to succeed within it has revealed two clear findings: firstly, the world of work is highly (and increasingly) technological. And secondly, never has it been more important to accentuate the gifts of being human, with empathy, compassion, creativity, imagination, humour and kindness never more critical.

Our current focus, therefore, sits in three key areas: we are proud that our boys benefit from the best in **digital learning**, preparing them for the likely world of work; that they develop **entrepreneurial skills**; and that they make a valued contribution to their **local community** – a contribution that is as beneficial to them as to those they work in partnership with.

Bedford is, as ever, a school rooted proudly in its heritage but one committed to building for the future. I hope you will agree that the following pages demonstrate this commitment and our ambition that our boys be 'good men' in every possible sense.

James Hodgson
Head Master



Book a Personal Visit

We warmly invite families to come and meet us, and see the school in person. Each personal visit will usually include a meeting with the Head Master, so that you have the opportunity to discuss your son's educational needs in more detail. To book your family's place, please email admissions@bedfordschool.org.uk.

To be announced . . .



Independent Boys' School of the year



Effective Brand Communication

Awards 2020/2021



Rising Star Award Winner



PLUS, Tatler's Unsung Hero of the Year Award for Director of Cricket, Mr Gary Steer, The Week's Independent Schools Guide's 'Best of the Best' at sport.





Sixth Form 2021 Destinations

Bedford School boys once again excelled in their qualifications and university destinations - we are particularly proud in this pandemic year that no fewer than 11 boys secured places to read Medicine.

A further four boys left for Oxford and Cambridge, to read Economics and Management, Linguistics, Physics and Natural Sciences (Biological). The most popular destinations with our leavers in 2021 were Durham, University College London, Bath and Exeter.

As ever, there was no stereotype this year and we celebrate the sheer variety of interest and choice, with boys going on to read degrees as far ranging as Computer Science, Theology, Architecture, Agri-business Management, Engineering, Law, International Relations, History of Art, Cancer Biology and Immunology in universities across the UK, as well as top universities across the world, including Germany and the USA.

80%

of boys went on to either a Russell Group or Times Top 30 university in autumn 2021.

"We are hugely proud of our Upper Sixth. They have worked extremely hard in what has been another turbulent year of schooling through the pandemic. Their resilience has shown no bounds and they deserve every bit of their academic success."

An exciting future lies ahead for these boys; they are good men who leave with many varied interests away from the classroom and a strong set of values for life."

James Hodgson
Head Master

Top University Destinations*

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| > University of Nottingham | > University of Reading | > University of Cambridge |
| > Durham University | > University College London | > Cardiff University |
| > University of Bristol | > University of Bath | > Oxford University |
| > University of Warwick | > University of Exeter | > Royal Holloway |
| > Loughborough University | > University of Manchester | > University of Surrey |
| > University of Birmingham | > Queen Mary University London | > Imperial College London |
| > University of Newcastle | > University of Leeds | > King's College London |
| > Nottingham Trent University | > University of Liverpool | > University of York |

For a full list of university destinations in 2021, please see page 19.

*Top university destinations by the number of boys taking up places for 2019, 2020 and 2021 combined

Sixth Form Scholarships

Professor John Roach Scholarships are available for academically talented boys entering Bedford School in the Sixth Form. The generous scholarships, combined with our means-tested bursaries, offer awards of up to 100% of annual fees.

To find out more visit: www.bedfordschool.org.uk/scholarships or call our Admissions team on 01234 362216.

Lockheed Martin Code Quest

German Nikolishin, Tony Zhang and Hasnain Zaidi (Upper Sixth) placed second in the Lockheed Martin Code Quest programming competition in the UK, advanced level. Working as a team, the boys were challenged to write applications to solve a range of individual problems from simple data conversions to string manipulation to more complex matrix transformations. Their superb performance also placed them 65th internationally against pupils from the UK, Australia and the USA.

There was also success for our Remove and Lower Sixth Form teams who took fifth place, and fourth and sixth places in the UK advanced and novice levels, respectively.

German Nikolishin commented, "I think my favourite feature of computer programming is constant learning. As a programmer, you never stop learning; there are always new technologies and innovation to explore and contribute to."



German Nikolishin, Tony Zhang and Hasnain Zaidi (Upper Sixth)

Distinction in Oxford University Computing Challenge



Alex Aellen (Lower Sixth)

Following their brilliant performance in the BEBRAS Computing Challenge, a small group of boys were invited to take part in the elite round of the Oxford Computing Challenge again this year. For a second year running, Alex Aellen (Lower Sixth) was not only invited to take part in the elite round of the competition but also awarded a distinction for his performance.

Encouraging our talented computational thinkers is an integral part of the school's computer science programme, and opportunities such as this help boys to develop their skills and move towards providing programmed solutions to problems.

Quick Bites

Biology Olympians

George Winder and Alexander Linney (Upper Sixth), both gained 'gold' status in this year's British Biology Olympiad, placing them in the top 5% of students worldwide. The boys are also invited to complete further practical and theoretical training and have the chance of being invited to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad. Hugh Halsey, Rohan Jacob, Harry Mason and Rowan Spong (Upper Sixth) all achieved silver awards.

Physics Olympians

Thirteen Lower Sixth boys earned awards in this year's British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) Senior Challenge. Alex Aellen and Reuben Glenville achieved gold awards. Marcus Chien, James Deardon, Dell Kang, Anish Katechia, Ciaran Kilbane, Maxwell Martin, Peter Moore, Sebastian Peacock, Will Turner and Jonah Whiteman achieved silver awards.

Exploring Careers

This year's Old Bedfordians Careers Fair proved to be the biggest ever in its fifteen-year history. Over the course of three evenings, 56 online sessions were held, with over 1,200 bookings, to allow pupils to explore a range of careers open to them.

Boys, along with pupils from Bedford Academy, Bedford Girls' School, Bedford Modern School and Mark Rutherford School enjoyed 30-minute online sessions with professionals, including Old Bedfordians, parents and friends of the school, who generously shared their expertise and experience to cover everything from law to medicine, engineering to scientific research, and art to publishing to support the students.

Floreat Bitesize

Last year we were delighted to introduce Floreat. Now, we are equally delighted to introduce Floreat Bitesize. It is the same brilliant school magazine, written by the boys for the boys. However, as the name suggests, this is a new smaller edition, that is published more frequently.

With the world changing so quickly, the boys behind the publication, Harry Hine, Arun Nanda and Gabriel Davis, were keen to publish their perspectives on events relevant in the media today, rather than from months prior.

Their first Floreat Bitesize included articles on 'The Unspoken Genocide', 'Tigray: An Impending Human Rights Disaster' and 'Auf Wiedersehen, 'Mutti''. As ever, the magazine proved a real eye-opener and a thought-provoking read.

Do take a look at our publications page on the school website to read all the editions.



Arun Nanda, Harry Hine and Gabriel Davis (Lower Sixth)



[Ambitions on
a global scale]

Dance of the Synchronised *Pendulums*

IB students Felix Barth, Maverick Cheung and Ryan Tse (Upper Sixth) decided to investigate the physics of pendulums as part of their pre-university course in the summer term, but chose to do so on a scale previously unattempted by creating a 13 metre-long pendulum.

The pendulum was so long that the rafters of the Great Hall proved the only possible location to suspend it. Taking advantage of the unusually quiet period—in normal times, the Great Hall is busy with assemblies, concerts and talks—Felix and Maverick, with the help of the school's maintenance team, installed their experiment. Not only did the pendulum prove a sight to see, but thanks to its great length, it also ensured increased accuracy as a result of its longer swing time.

While Felix and Maverick conducted their side of the experiment: investigating how pendulums can be used to determine the value of acceleration due to gravity 'g', from the Great Hall in Bedford, Ryan worked remotely from China to determine whether he could detect the slight variation in 'g' due to latitude. Then, collaborating from their separate locations, the boys investigated whether they could use their setup as a Foucault's pendulum to demonstrate the Earth's rotation.

Their ambitious experiment was a great success, as was their wonderful use of technology and creative thinking, which turned the challenges of the pandemic and remote learning into an exciting and unique learning opportunity.

Olympic Boots for Team GB

In the summer of 2020, as a result of a Fifth Form project designed to bridge the gap between GCSEs and the Sixth Form, YBK (Your Best Kicks) was born. Alex Edun, Henry Cudjoe and Maxwell Martin took their love of art and design and transformed it into a profitable business, creating customised Nike Air Force One trainers.

One year on, and with the business renamed 'twocustomisers', Alex Edun and Henry Cudjoe, who are working hard to take the business further, received a major boost when Team GB Rugby 7s star, Dan Bibby, took to the pitch in Tokyo in a pair of custom-designed boots made by the boys.

Their Olympic journey started when entrepreneur and Old Bedfordian, Harry Beard (13-18), helped them see the importance of networking and introduced them to a number of people in the industry who could help them. One of these introductions was Luke Treharne (Welsh Rugby international) who commissioned the boys to design a pair of boots, and from there Dan Bibby, who also sent a pair of boots to be customised.

Speaking afterwards, the boys modestly told us, "It really is so nice for someone to show appreciation of our work on a global stage the sheer size of the Olympics. It's such a huge achievement, one which we will never forget." During the match, the boots were shown in close-up, with commentator, Rob Vickerman remarking, "How about those boots – the Moana."



Alex Edun and Henry Cudjoe (Lower Sixth) and 'The Moana' boot



Young Achiever

Will Roberts (Fifth Form) was nominated for the 'Young Achiever' award in the Bedford Independent Everyday Heroes Awards 2020 for his 'Young Rugby' Instagram initiative. His idea aims to support, inspire and advise young rugby players who are interested in pursuing a professional career in the sport by bridging the gap between grassroots players and their professional idols, in order to help them achieve their rugby dream.

Will created the 'Young Rugby' Instagram account in August 2019, then set about gathering and sharing content from contacts he had made from his days playing at the Bedford Junior Blues. He explained, "The idea behind 'Young Rugby' is to shine a light onto the younger players and help their future careers by using social media as a platform."

Since setting up the account, Will has attracted over 18,000 followers and regularly shares posts and showreels from professional players such as OBs Fraser Dingwall (13-17) and George Furbank (13-15). Fraser has been a real ambassador for the programme and has helped provide useful and inspiring content—even holding a story 'take over day'.

Will's initial plan was also to host training days and special coaching days for the young players at The Blues' ground, on Goldington Road. However, due to the pandemic, Will had to adapt his idea, offering online resources instead. "That's the beauty of social media, if it is used correctly," he explained. "You can reach so many more people, and the information I am putting out is getting more engagement that I could have imagined."



Will Roberts (Fifth Form)

Scholarships & Bursaries

We believe in rewarding talent, and our generous scholarships are available to boys who excel academically or show outstanding talent in art, drama, music or sport, including golf. Bursaries, on the other hand, are means-tested awards, designed to welcome talented boys who would not otherwise be able to access a Bedford School education. Awards of up to 100% of annual fees are possible.

Quick Bites

Ready2Lead?

Bedford School proudly hosted its second Ready2Lead? Conference in Autumn 2020. This year, the conference, which is run by students and staff from Bedford School, Bedford Modern School, Bedford Girls' School and Mark Rutherford School, was held virtually over four evenings. As ever, it brought together Sixth Form pupils from across the borough to inspire a future generation of leaders. Keynote speakers included Elke Edwards (Founder and Creative Director of Ivy House), Amani Simpson (Filmmaker and Entrepreneur), Sam Roberts (Presenter, Commentator and Writer) and Mark Hudson (Founder and Creator of E-Spired).

National Debate Final

Giles Halsey and Toby L'Estrange (Remove Form) and Will Roberts (Fifth Form) competed in the national final of the ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition, which was held over Zoom. Giles spoke powerfully on the Churchill quote, "If we open a quarrel between past and present, we shall find that we have lost the future. While Toby and William were the chairperson and questioner for a speaker from the opposition on the topic: 'Is Twitter making a nonsense of discussion or opening our eyes to the views of others?'.

Linguistics Olympiad

Alfie Willcocks (Upper Sixth) scooped a bronze award in this year's UK Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO). The national competition involves solving linguistic and data problems, and is renowned for the difficulty of its questions.

Entrepreneurial *Thinking*

At Bedford School, we recognise that entrepreneurship "is not about ideas. It is about making ideas happen."* To that end, we are committed to ensuring that boys learn the skills and develop the mindset to bring ideas to fruition, and our first ever E-Day (Entrepreneur Day) was designed to do just that.

As part of their induction into the Sixth Form, our Fifth Form boys enjoyed a day filled with challenges and goals designed to help them think entrepreneurially. Run by our Entrepreneur in Residence, Zubair Junjunia, the day centred around finding solutions to tackle the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the United Nations.

Boys were randomly assigned an SDG target and, over the day, were guided using frameworks through stages of empathising with people affected by their specific global challenge, generating ideas and developing a prototype to solve it before finally pitching to convince their peers of their solution.

The boys were encouraged to be creative and unrestrained in their thinking to develop their ideas, which included developing a high-speed, never-stopping global train network to deliver clean water throughout the world, collecting rainwater in giant boxes floating in the Atlantic, and even thermal-electric generators that would recycle all lost heat energy. However, the winning pitch went to #LoveGreen for a Pokémon Go-style app that encouraged locals to pick up litter and rewarded them for doing so.

Mr Junjunia said, "Collaborative learning, design thinking and enterprise planning – with the support of frameworks, the boys were able to apply these critical skills in developing a solution to solve our global challenges.

Speaking to the groups, one thing that blew me away was their depth of perception as they took a broad global goal and drilled down to identify a specific group affected and empathised with their needs and challenges."

* Quote: Scott Belsky

[It is not about ideas. It is about making ideas happen.*]

A voice for all minorities

At the beginning of 2020, a group of then Fifth Formers came together with a goal of helping to dispel misunderstandings, bias and stereotypes of marginalised groups to make a better society for all. In May, the death of George Floyd triggered worldwide outrage and gave Maxwell Martin, Sami Haroon, David Adeyemi-Abere and Dylan Swain the impetus to take action to set up a representation society, named after, and with the blessing of, the first black Head of School in 1983, Greg Eckersley (78-83). The aim of the society is to provide a voice for all minorities (not just ethnic).

Speaking just after the creation of the new society, the boys explained, "Our intention is to show how prejudices are oftentimes rooted in ignorance; education is, we feel, the key to progress. We see this academic society as a step in the right direction to addressing such conflicts. The Eckersley Society is a safe place for members of the Bedford School community to present on their differences. We wanted to create a platform to host discourse and academic conversation on all issues represented within our school community."

Since then, the Eckersley Society has held several talks including 'How do we talk about race?' by Dr Johnson, Assistant Professor in Human Resource Management at Coventry University and 'Black men's health: why there is a problem and how do we fix it?' by a fellow Sixth Former.

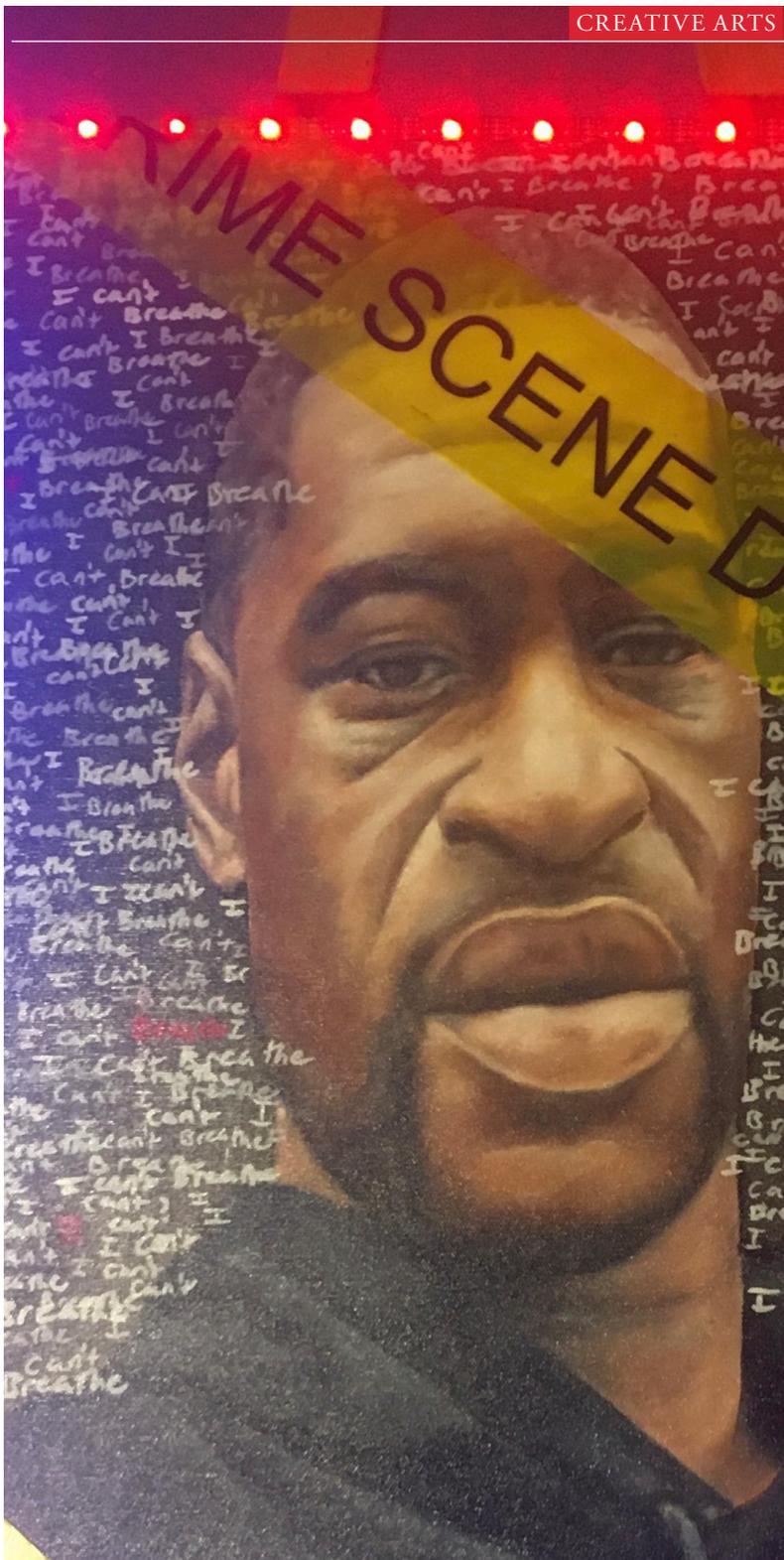
In association with the school's film club, they screened *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, a hard-hitting Australian drama about three mixed-parentage girls taken from their mother by the Government and sent to a training camp for domestic workers. They also joined with the Philosophy and Theology Society for a talk on 'Religion, Race, and Colonialism' following a screening of *The Mission* and an assembly from our Chaplain on 'Race and Images of Jesus'.

The boys are currently working with the school's drama department to create an interview film featuring BAME Old Bedfordians.



David Adeyemi-Abere, Sami Haroon, Maxwell Martin and Dylan Swain (Lower Sixth)

[Making a difference for all]



Detweiler Competition

Each year, the Detweiler Competition proves a wonderful celebration of art, drama, music and creative writing at Bedford School, showcasing the many talents of the boys.

In Spring 2021, and for the first time in its history, the competition could not be held live due to the restrictions of the pandemic. However, teachers were determined that the boys' creativity should still be challenged as well as seen, heard, read and celebrated, so set about adapting the competition for the remote, digital world of the time.

The boys, too, faced many challenges, including working in lockdown without the usual references and inspiration, needing to find alternative ways to stimulate their creativity. However, with the support of their teachers, they rose to the challenge with positivity and enthusiasm, and the subsequent standard of entries submitted by boys was extremely high.

The boys' winning entries on the theme of 'Gods and Goddesses' were shared with the wider community and on social media for the first time in a special interactive booklet. This new approach allowed the boys' outstanding creative work to be viewed, read and heard by its biggest ever audience, who engaged with and enjoyed the competition from home, wherever in the world that was.

Whilst we recognise that an online experience will never compare to seeing art in person or watching or hearing a performance live, we are proud that the flame of the competition did not go out this year, but instead was kept alight by the creativity of both boys and staff.

Visit www.bedfordschool.org.uk/detweiler-2021 to explore their outstanding work.



[Inspiring creativity]

Quick Bites

'Brechtian' Style

Boys welcomed actor Scott Smith, Splendid Theatre Company, for a practitioner workshop covering the works of Bertolt Brecht: the German theatre practitioner and playwright; Scott also helped boys with their devised piece on the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

"Euripides" Heracles

Drama Society President, Dylan Swain (Lower Sixth), stepped up to direct Athenian tragedy, Heracles, for a special year end production. Despite the cast having no experience of Greek theatre, he helped them to deliver a brilliant performance.

Online Creativity

Clubs and societies continued apace, albeit predominantly online, covering everything from how to craft and write a play to an insight into John Piper by art historian, critic and biographer Frances Spalding.

creative ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for art, music and drama are available to talented boys who are passionate about the creative arts. Combined with our means-tested bursaries, awards of up to 100% of fees are possible.

Call our Admissions team on **01234 362216** for an informal chat and to find out more.



Alexander Olleson (Fourth Form)

Young Chorister of the Year

The Bedford School community waited with nervous excitement on Sunday 6 December for Alexander Olleson (Fourth Form) to compete in the grand final of the BBC Young Chorister of the Year. Having wowed judges in the semi-finals the weekend previously, Alexander took to the stage once again and gave the performance of his life to win the prestigious title in great style.

Alexander joined Bedford School in September 2020 on a music scholarship. Speaking after the final, he said, "It was quite nerve-racking at the final but I wasn't as nervous as I might have been. Having been a chorister, I am used to performing live in front of lots of people." He went on to say that, although he felt blessed to have a good voice to start with, it is the years of practice that really matter to reach the top.

Drama and Music Showcase

Two quintessentially British summer evenings were enjoyed by audiences who gathered to watch talented drama and music students perform in the first ever Drama and Music Showcase, held in the stunning surroundings of the Quarry Theatre gardens.

The evening was expertly compered by Will Roberts (Fifth Form), who not only introduced the evening but kept the audience entertained in between the performances, which included extracts from famous plays including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Blue Remembered Hills* and *Lord of the Flies* on the outdoor stage.

With jazz, a string quartet and note perfect performances from our singers, those watching the performance from the comfort of their deckchairs enjoyed both superb music and drama in a magical setting.



Talented Creative

Freddie Peacock (Upper Sixth) joined an elite group of young creatives as part of Guap magazine's '21 under 21' initiative in collaboration with Instagram.

Art Scholar Freddie decided to enter his work after seeing the scheme, which aims to identify a list of emerging and trailblazing creators to help drive culture forward, advertised on Instagram. The scheme is split into five categories: music, sport, art, fashion and make-up, each represented by an industry expert. With a talent in all these areas, Freddie's showreel of work impressed the organisers so much that he was put forward in both the fashion and art categories. As a result of his selection, Freddie, along with a small number of other young creators, will receive entrepreneurial support to help him find his audience and turn his passion into a living.

Freddie has already attended a networking event in London where he was able to meet inspirational creatives including art curator, James Lewis.



Freddie Peacock (Upper Sixth)

Open-Air

extravaganza

The annual Summer Music Concert is always a highlight in the school calendar and a fitting finale to the school year. The sound of music created by the many orchestras and ensembles reverberating around the Great Hall on a summer's evening is wonderful to experience. But what do you do when you cannot stage a concert indoors? Why, go outdoors and go big!

With restrictions this year, bringing all the boys together indoors for a live event was simply not possible. So instead, the music department brought boys together in their year group bubbles (socially distanced) in the great outdoors for filming.

The ambitious project saw boys spread out across the school playing field with the main building behind them as a spectacular backdrop, while they played extracts from Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. The Chapel Choir gathered on the Chapel steps to sing together for one last time before the end of the academic year. It proved to be an experience to remember, not only for those who took part but also for all those who were lucky enough to witness the performances—which was most in the school.

The footage from this memorable and iconic day has now been edited into a 'Summer Music Concert' highlights video, which can be watched on the Bedford School YouTube channel, along with a great selection of music performances and concerts recorded throughout the year.

[*Music al fresco*]



["I'm just so very proud of my House."
Ethan Ofofu, Head of Phillpotts]



Inaugural Boarders' Games

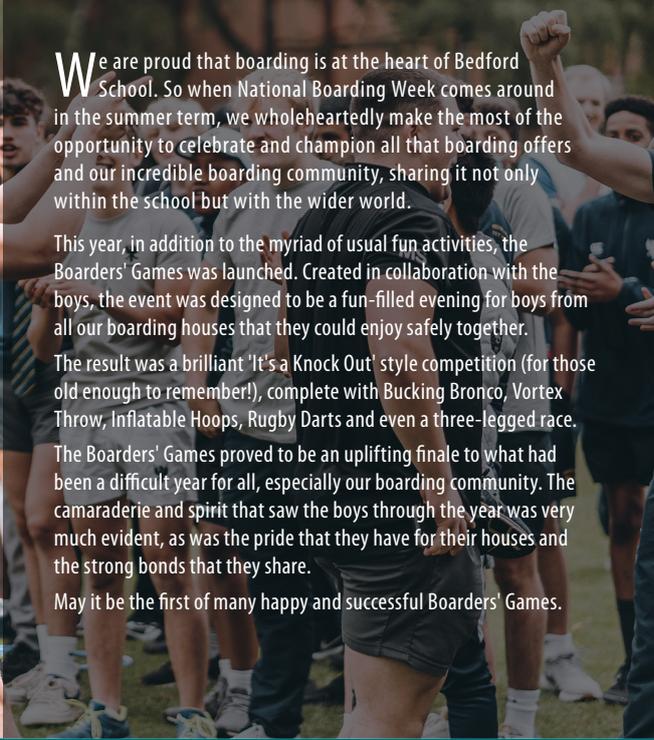
We are proud that boarding is at the heart of Bedford School. So when National Boarding Week comes around in the summer term, we wholeheartedly make the most of the opportunity to celebrate and champion all that boarding offers and our incredible boarding community, sharing it not only within the school but with the wider world.

This year, in addition to the myriad of usual fun activities, the Boarders' Games was launched. Created in collaboration with the boys, the event was designed to be a fun-filled evening for boys from all our boarding houses that they could enjoy safely together.

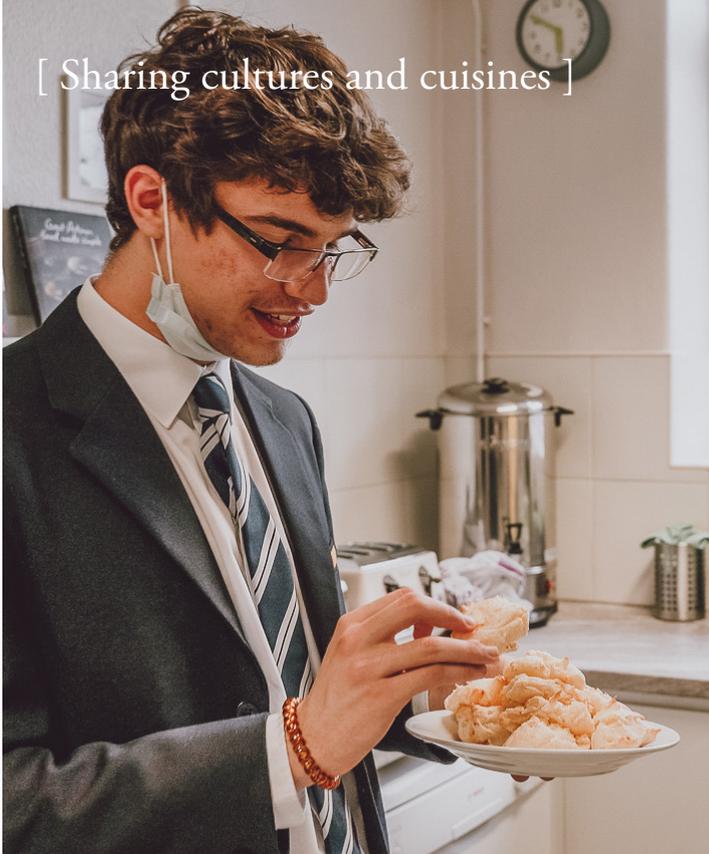
The result was a brilliant 'It's a Knock Out' style competition (for those old enough to remember!), complete with Bucking Bronco, Vortex Throw, Inflatable Hoops, Rugby Darts and even a three-legged race.

The Boarders' Games proved to be an uplifting finale to what had been a difficult year for all, especially our boarding community. The camaraderie and spirit that saw the boys through the year was very much evident, as was the pride that they have for their houses and the strong bonds that they share.

May it be the first of many happy and successful Boarders' Games.



[Sharing cultures and cuisines]



Cooking around the world

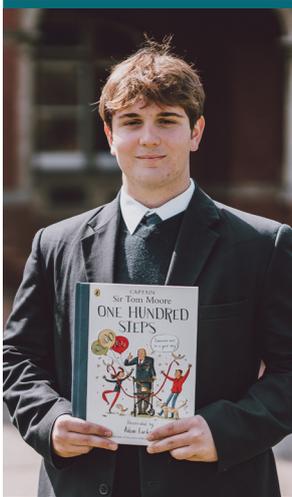
As part of National Boarding Week, boys and staff within our diverse boarding community took the opportunity to share not only their cuisine but also their culture by cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

The authentic dishes and insightful conversations around culture, cuisine and the boys' experiences of boarding in the UK were filmed so that they could be shared with the whole school community.

Maths Teacher Mr Jones commented, "I love learning about other cultures and these cooking sessions highlight how lucky we are in the boarding houses to have such a diverse group of staff and students with such differing life experiences. I know how life-changing living and working in a different country can be and it makes me smile thinking about what our boys are going to experience together during their time here."

You can watch the film at www.bedfordschool.org.uk/cooking-around-the-world





Benjie Ingram-Moore (Lower Sixth)

Captain Tom 100

Bedford School proudly became the first secondary school in the country to pledge its support to the fundraising campaign launched in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore, with his grandson Benjie Ingram-Moore (Lower Sixth) at the helm of the initiative.

Miss Susie Spyropoulos, Head of Charities, explained "From the moment Captain Tom walked his way into the pages of the newspapers, onto our television screens and into all of our hearts, Bedford School has been at the forefront of championing his story. We were honoured to support Benjie and his granddad, who raised more than £39million for the NHS when he pledged to walk 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday. It was the natural step for us to take to continue the inspirational work and inspire hope when it was needed the most."

Reading *One Hundred Steps* to Children in Malawi

On the day that would have been Captain Sir Tom Moore's 101st birthday, Arun Nanda (Lower Sixth) sat down to read the children's story 'One Hundred Steps' written by Captain Sir Tom to children at the Lilongwe Demonstration School in Malawi.

Arun shared the story of the inspirational centenarian, who won the hearts of the country last year, via Zoom with 30 pupils at the school in Malawi in support of the Captain Tom 100 initiative. The reading, however, was just one element of the partnership that Bedford School is working to build with the school. Plans are in development for boys to visit, when it is safe to do so, to work with the school on its rugby training.



Arun Nanda (Lower Sixth) reading to pupils in Malawi



Andy Wong (Upper Sixth) teaching pupils at St James' Primary

Lessons in Languages Spanning the World

Helping children in the community to read and learn new skills has been just one of the projects forming part of the school's Community Partnerships Programme since it began in 2019.

Keeping the momentum going during COVID times has proved a challenge at times, but the boys proved that nothing is insurmountable, with our Head of School, Andy Wong, and Seong Wan Pai (Upper Sixth) testament to this. The two boys continued their Mandarin lessons via Zoom with Year 4 children at local school St James' Primary throughout the pandemic. However, for their last lesson of the year, Andy conducted his part of the lesson from his hotel room in Hong Kong, where he was quarantining, while Seong dialled in from school to deliver an outstanding lesson.

Importantly, it is not just the primary school children who benefit—our boys learn much too, growing in confidence and building communication skills along the way.

Quick Bites

Walking for Parkinson's UK
Joseph Hart (Fifth Form), together with three friends, walked 50km (31 miles) around the city of Cambridge on Easter Saturday to raise £4,100 in aid of Parkinson's UK. The boys, who all have personal experiences of Parkinson's disease, decided they wanted to do their bit to help speed up a cure.

942 Miles for Charity

Brothers Hugh (Upper Sixth) and Giles Halsey (Remove Form) challenged themselves to cycle 942 miles (the distance from Land's End to John O'Groats) around Hertfordshire to raise funds for two charities close to their hearts. Over 33 days they raised £3,635, which they split between the A-T Society and the Songbird Survival charity.

Community PARTNERSHIPS

1,000

pupils from 15 local primary schools and 17 secondary schools have benefited from the programme

35

extracurricular sports clubs run by Bedford School boys in local primary schools

Bedford School boys have read with

300

primary pupils

Latin and Mandarin lessons organised and taught by

40

boys in four local primary schools



Tom Allen, Parwaaz Upadhyay, Ashlesh Chandrapu and James Worker (Upper Sixth)

Movember Recognition

Bedford School's MoBros of 2020 received a special trophy in recognition of this year's incredible fundraising, after the boys raised £25,142 for the men's mental health charity, Movember. Their efforts also earned them the coveted top spot on the Movember fundraising leader board in the schools challenge and the fourth team spot in the UK. Upper Sixth formers Henry Warren and Gurkaran Johal also received trophies for being two of the top three individual fundraisers, with Henry raising £5,329 and Gurkaran raising £3,200.

The charity campaign, which runs throughout November, has become an annual tradition at Bedford School, with hundreds of boys and staff doing their bit for the cause every year. The whole school community is encouraged to come together to raise money for the charity, but more importantly to help raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men's mental health. This year the boys took to Microsoft Teams to deliver messages on sleep and resilience, men's physical and mental health, prejudice and polarisation, as well as suicide in men and anti-bullying, to their fellow pupils.

Susie Spyropoulos, Head of Charities, said, "I am very proud that in a tough year with all sorts of restrictions to contend with, as well as additional school work challenges, the boys once again excelled in this campaign. It might have been easy to take a back seat this year, but instead they rose to the challenge, and their enthusiasm and commitment to take the lead in spreading important health messages to the school community was really commendable."

Quick Bites

Lockdown Charity Endeavours

Inspired by Captain Sir Tom, three Bedford School boys decided to put their time in lockdown to good service.

Oliver Yates (Remove Form) achieved his 300k running challenge and raised over £1,000 for Spiny Norman's Hedgehog Support, which rescues and rehabilitates unwell hedgehogs.

Freddie Tucker (Remove Form) organised a charity golf day along with three other young members of the Highgate Golf Club. Their 'longest day in golf' challenge started at 4.30am and finished at 10.00pm, and raised over £6,000 for five charities.

Joba Thomas (Lower Sixth) raised £455 to buy board games for the elderly in 14 care homes in his home town of Hemel Hempstead as part of a social entrepreneur challenge at school.



Joba Thomas (Lower Sixth)



Top: Artin Lee (Lower Sixth), below: Charlie McCutcheon and Joba Thomas (Lower Sixth)

Boys Say Thank You to Local Hospice

Marcus Chien, Artin Lee, Charlie McCutcheon and Joba Thomas (Lower Sixth) put pen to paper to create a unique show of appreciation for staff working at the local St John's Hospice in Moggerhanger as part of the school's Community Partnership Programme.

Aware that the doctors, nurses, carers and specialists working at the hospice were facing unprecedented challenges this year with lockdowns, PPE, shielding and restrictions on patient visits from loved ones, the four boys wanted to do something to say thank you for all their wonderful work, and spread a little festive cheer. They therefore decided to create personal gifts that would reflect on the particularly difficult year and help to reassure staff for the future. Joba, who penned a beautiful poem called 'Fear Not', explained, "I wanted to write a reminiscent poem about the things they would normally have done this year and to remind them that they will do these things again – it's not always going to be like this."

Mrs Millington, who worked with the boys and delivered their gifts to staff at the hospice, told us, "I felt immensely proud handing over their work to the hospice, and it has been lovely to see the boys contributing to the wider community in such a positive way."



Ethan Ofosu, David Adeyemi-Abere, James Cutler, Harry Hine, Maxwell Martin and Yonathan Sileshi (Lower Sixth)

Reducing Maternal Mortality in South Sudan

Following the school's Ready2Lead? Conference, David Adeyemi-Abere, James Cutler, Harry Hine, Maxwell Martin, Ethan Ofosu and Yonathan Sileshi (Lower Sixth) were inspired to enter the Global Social Leaders Global Goals Competition, which challenges students around the world to engage with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

After learning about high mortality rates, in particular maternal mortality rates, in third world countries, the boys were inspired to develop their fundraising project: 'Drop'. With a strong belief that every child should grow up with a mother figure, and the conviction that they could make a sizable impact with a straightforward solution: packs for mothers containing several hygiene products including gloves, soap, biodegradable bowls, medical gloves and towels to enable more sterile births, the boys launched into the project.

With the fundraising support of the school and advice they sought from the CEO of the charity, Life for African Mothers, the boys have already delivered packages to expectant mothers in South Sudan, helping to make a difference in maternal mortality.

Their positive impact in designing and leading social action also earned the boys a well-deserved place in the semi-finals of the Global Goals Competition.



[Changing lives]

Device Bank Supporting Refugees

In 2020, a group of Lower Sixth Form boys set up the Bedford Device Bank as part of the school's Community Partnership Programme. Their aim was to provide old and unwanted devices such as laptops, tablets, phones and chargers to refugees living locally, to enable them to contact loved ones back home and improve their chances of finding accommodation.

When the pandemic hit later the same year, the need for devices was even more vital to provide refugees with the opportunity to learn and work remotely, making the boys' initiative all the more important.

Thanks to the devices kindly donated by the school community and the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, and organised and reconditioned by the boys, the Sixth Formers were able to help refugees at Yarl's Wood through the charity Yarl's Wood Befrienders. One recipient of a device, praising the boys' initiative, told us, "This is a real game-changer for me. I'm really, really grateful, to get on the internet, to read my emails, do my writing. To me, to be able to communicate and write is more important than food. You people are really making a difference. When you're in this system, when you've been in detention, you get a very bad mind towards the government and you feel like the whole country is against you. It's the support of people like you that shifts that, and you know there are good people out there. Thank you."



Finlay Cummings (Upper Sixth)

Golf Captain Crowned County Champion

Finlay Cummings (Upper Sixth) finished his Bedford School golf career on a high. The talented golf scholar not only captained this year's school golf team, but also played for the school in the HMC National Finals, the HMC Foursomes and the National Schools' Championships, from which he was selected to play in the Men's East of England 'Six-man' competition. Fittingly, Finlay was also crowned Bedfordshire 2021 U25 champion.

Finlay is now set to take his game to new heights as he takes up a golf scholarship at Harding University, Arkansas, USA.

Golf Scholar Wins World Qualifier

Alex Robins (Lower Sixth) was selected to represent the UK in the prestigious 2021 IMG Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego, California, USA, after winning the world qualifier over 18 holes at St Ives Golf Course on Sunday 18 April.

Despite a long time off away from Woburn, the school's training course, as a result of COVID restrictions, Alex was able to keep on top of his training with regular coaching sessions on the school's Trackman golf simulator with the school's golf professional Holly Reddick.



Alex Robins (Lower Sixth)

Quick Bites

England Hockey Pathway

Will Hayward and Arthur Proctor (Fourth Form), and Joshua Stewart (Fifth Form) were selected for the U17 England Hockey Performance Centre squad for 2020/21.

The England Player Pathway forms part of England Hockey's talent development strategy and players selected for the programme have the opportunity to train in an environment that helps realise their potential and encourages them to be the best player they can be. Whether that be learning coaching skills or ultimately going on to play for England or Great Britain, the hockey provision at Bedford School has prepared a number of boys over the years to follow this route.



Joshua Stewart (Fifth Form), Will Hayward and Arthur Proctor (Fourth Form)

The Strava Cup Keeps Competition Active

While traditional sports matches and competitions were put on hold during the spring term lockdown, inter-house sports competition was not. To encourage the boys to keep taking regular physical activity, sports staff created an all-inclusive sports competition across the school, all tracked using the Strava app. Boys were encouraged to record their activities, including cycling, walking, running and rowing on the ergo, to clock up points both individually and for their houses.



SPORTS Scholarships

We offer sports scholarships for cricket, hockey, rowing, rugby and golf.

These scholarships, combined with our generous means-tested bursaries, offer awards of up to 100% of annual fees.

Find out more at:

www.bedfordschool.org.uk/scholarships

Golf in full swing *with new simulator*



[Hitting their 'A' game]

As with all sports, golf suffered at the hands of the pandemic. However, for the school's golfers it was full steam ahead thanks to the introduction of a new state-of-the-art golf simulator located on the school estate.

Golf Captain and scholar Finlay Cummings praised the introduction of the school's new golf simulator, which enabled him and his teammates to continue to practise golf while courses, including Woburn, were closed. He explained, "It's an excellent piece of kit. I get two practice sessions a week on it, on top of the two sessions I have on it with my coach, Holly Reddick."

The simulator, which was generously funded by the Bedford School Trust, enables boys of all ages and abilities to practise their driving skills from a choice of over 60 courses, both existing and fictional. With over 28 data points collected in every shot, boys, together with the school's golf professionals, can accurately manage their performance and hone their technique as they play on a range of courses and in a wide selection of simulated weather conditions.

Since the simulator arrived, even more boys, including boys from the Prep School, who perhaps would not have the chance to play golf otherwise, have been introduced to the sport. School golf professional Holly Reddick commented, "The simulator gives us the ability to track and measure the boys' progress, which really builds their confidence for when they're out on the course. It's an outstanding facility to have."



OB Ethan Vernon (07-18)

Tokyo Olympics for OB

Ethan Vernon (07-18) proudly took to the greatest sporting stage: the Olympics, over the summer to compete for Team GB in the cycling.

The talented young cyclist and his teammates put in superb performances to qualify fourth in the men's team pursuit—breaking the British record in the process, before a controversial and dramatic crash ended the team's Olympic journey.

Undeterred by the crash, Ethan commented afterwards, "It's been an invaluable experience and I'm very grateful to everyone who's got me here. Us four will be back and fighting for the top step again in Paris 2024". And, indeed, he was soon back in the saddle achieving a terrific sprint win at the Tour de l'Avenir to take the stage, just days after competing on the track at the Olympics.

Bedford's Sportsmen's Super Saturday



Darcy McBride (Lower Sixth)



OB Benedict Eggeling (14-17)



OB Emilio Gay (11-18)



OB Fraser Dingwall (13-17)

The strength of sport at Bedford School was highlighted in the most wonderful way one Saturday in September 2020, when current boys and Old Bedfordians made headlines across a whole range of arenas as sport made a very welcome comeback.

Darcy McBride (Lower Sixth) proved that his shot was as hot as ever when he placed first in Juniors (an under 21 competition) at The Churchill Cup. Not only did his performance herald a superb comeback after lockdown but also made him the youngest winner in the competition's 72 year history.

OB Benedict Eggeling (14-17) won gold with the German men's eight at the European Rowing Under 23 Championship in Duisburg, Germany.

OB Ethan Vernon (07-18) represented Team GB at the European Cycling Championships in Plouay, France. Not only did he take part in the Under 23 individual time trial, over a distance of 25.6km, in which he finished 14th, but he also competed in the road race, covering a further distance of 136km.

Four Old Bedfordians took to the cricket field at the same time. Emilio Gay (11-18), Alex Wakely (96-07), Charlie Thurston (07-14) and Harry Gouldstone (12-19), all integral to the Northamptonshire County Cricket team, showcased their cricketing prowess. For Emilio Gay and Harry Gouldstone this marked their debut for the club's 1st XI, and Emilio recorded his first top level half-century.

Sir Alastair Cook (98-03) finished a strong season scoring consistently for Essex County Cricket Club in the Bob Willis Trophy competition. At the time, the statistics for the competition showed Sir Alastair and fellow Old Bedfordian Charlie Thurston ranked fifth and eighth respectively in the number of runs scored.

George Furbank (13-15) and Fraser Dingwall (13-17), who were both selected for the England squad for the Six Nations, both renewed their contracts with Northampton Saints, not forgetting Kayde Sylvester (17-19) who, fresh from the Upper Sixth, joined the club's Senior squad.

Quick Bites

Northants 2nd XI Debut for Henry

Captain of Cricket, Henry Warren (Upper Sixth) was selected to make his debut for Northamptonshire in two T20s v Somerset for their 2nd XI in June, after gaining selection to the club's academy.

Derbyshire CCC Selection for Vedant

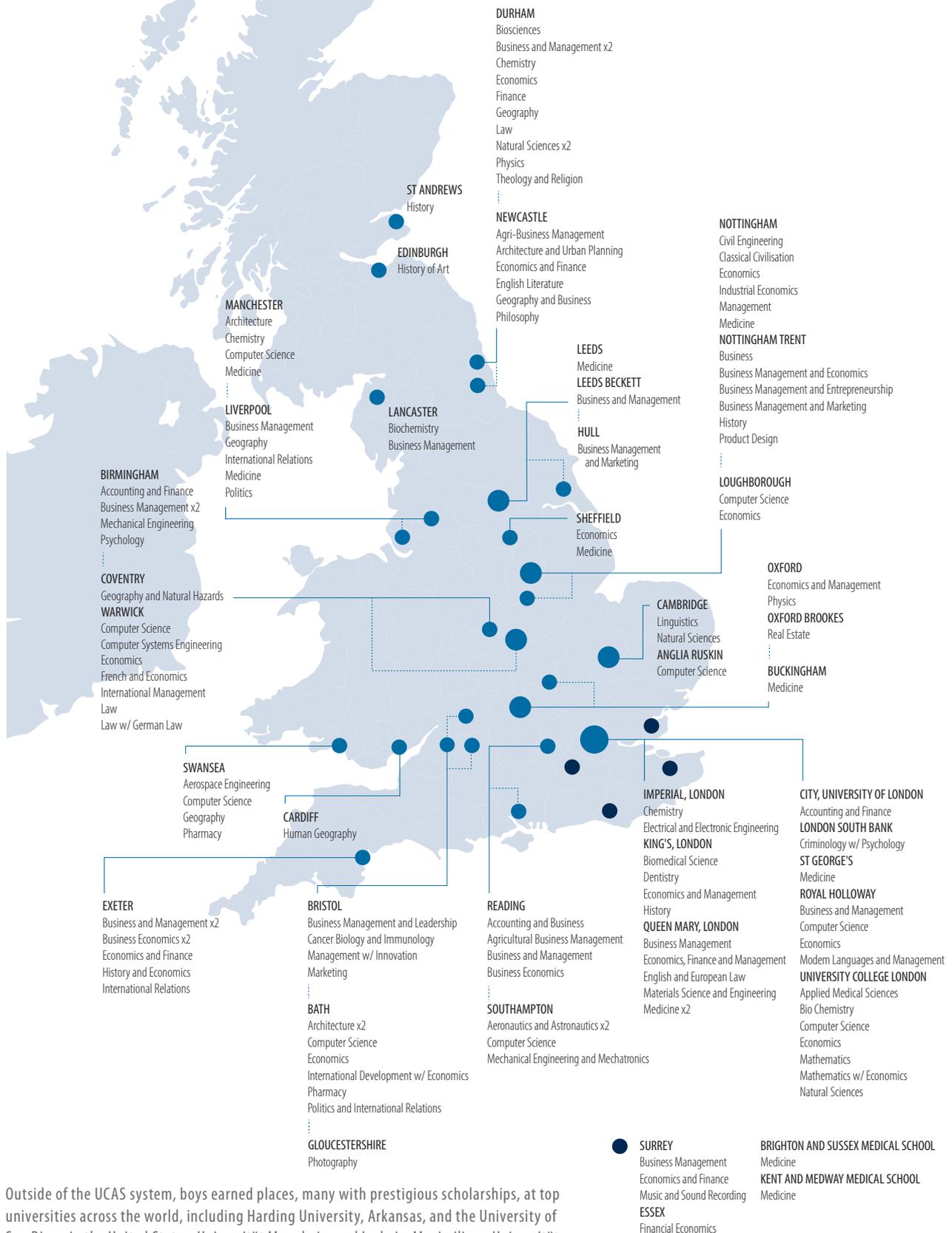
Vedant Somal (Fifth Form) was selected by Derbyshire County Cricket Club to play in their under 18 squad for the 2021 season – two years ahead of his current age of 16 years. Vedant, who has played for Bedfordshire from the age of eight, was selected by the Derbyshire coaches following a series of excellent performances for the school, his local club and for Bedfordshire county. Vedant went on to attend training sessions with Derbyshire to prepare for the season ahead and develop his game with the club's professional coaches.

'Great for Sport'

Bedford School was ranked in 'the best of the best' category as 'great for sport' in The Week Independent Schools Guide.

"Bedford's sports department is well-used to nurturing exceptional talent but just as important is its commitment to promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of sport for all."

University Destinations 2021



Outside of the UCAS system, boys earned places, many with prestigious scholarships, at top universities across the world, including Harding University, Arkansas, and the University of San Diego in the United States, Universität Mannheim and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München in Germany. Boys also gained places on degree apprenticeships with leading firms, art foundation courses and in direct employment.



Bedford School is perfectly positioned for easy access to London and its international airports. Bedford Railway Station offers excellent links into London. London St Pancras International is just 43 minutes away and with trains every 10 minutes at rush hour and two fast trains every hour it is an ideal option for weekly boarders. London's international airports are also easily accessed by both road and rail from Bedford.

There are extensive bus routes across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire for day boys. Visit www.bedfordschool.org.uk/transport for further details.



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