

BEDALES



13–18yrs | Co-educational | Day | Boarding

Welcome to Bedales

Bedales was founded as an alternative to the mainstream 19th century British 'Public School' and, while much has changed since 1893, we still strive to educate the young people in our care with the same questioning approach to learning and living. The school's motto – work of each for weal of all – emphasises both our attention to nurturing the individual as well as coming together in a collective endeavour.

Today, our approach draws on our innovative traditions with Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs) taught alongside five core GCSEs, project-based learning as a key part of our Block 3 (Year 9) curriculum and approaches to boarding, pastoral care and interpersonal relationships that break down unnecessary barriers between the generations, the sexes and the wider community.

Our students finish their journey with us to go on to a wide range of some of the most prestigious academic and artistic institutions in the UK and internationally, joining a host of alumni who are distinctively Bedalian for life. While we take a kinder, more 'child-centered' approach, our students are ambitious and you will find they go on to contribute to society in remarkable ways.

The best way of understanding what we have to offer at all three of our schools is to pay us a visit. We are proud of our community and genuinely enjoy welcoming visitors who come and see us in our campus, nestled in the heart of the South Downs National Park.

See you soon!



Will Goldsmith
Head of Bedales





The Bedales vision

A progressive liberal education based on our communitarian 'work of each for weal of all' principle, that develops creative, critically-thinking life-long learners.

The school motto 'work of each for weal of all' encapsulates the Bedales ideals, which are reflected in the original rules:

"Everyone must try to carry out whatever has been found necessary or helpful for preserving order and promoting the health and wellbeing of all concerned."

13+ and Bedales Assessed Courses

Our Block 3 (Year 9) curriculum is a rich, experiential project-based year. In September, at the beginning of the year, there is a challenging week of outdoor pursuits and team-building in the Lake District. Here, students will work with tutors alongside the dedicated and professional staff at an outdoor education centre in Ullswater. On their return, they begin their Block 3 curriculum, including our new innovative project-based learning in the humanities. Students also get a taste of the co-curricular life of the school, with plenty of opportunities for Sport, Music, and Drama.

Students are encouraged to give something back to the community. This includes weekly outdoor work culminating in a celebration at the end of the year using the produce they have grown and prepared, and where they showcase the fruits of their humanities projects to real audiences. During the course of Block 3 it is expected that each student will establish effective working habits and an appropriate balance between academic work and other pursuits.

Bedales has a long tradition of leading the way in educational change. Our determination to do what is right for our students has led to the creation of a unique curriculum, Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs), for Blocks 4 and 5 (Years 10 and 11) with a range of innovative and intellectually rigorous courses designed to complement a core of I/GCSEs. The curriculum is built around a group of five I/GCSE subjects, plus a choice from 14 optional subjects. Latest additions to the BAC menu include Digital Game Design, Sports Science and Global Awareness. BACs are broad and stimulating, offering significant cross-curricular and independent-learning opportunities. Well-regarded by universities, they provide the ideal foundation for Sixth Form, university study and work. Assessment includes written assignments, presentations, projects and performances, together with terminal examinations as appropriate. Each course is externally moderated. In class, and particularly in BACs, students are encouraged to question, to challenge, and to think for themselves.





“The maturity of the students from Bedales really does stand out, and the belief that they can achieve what they put their minds to encourages the students to strive for big goals without the hesitation of fear.”

Old Bedalian





Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Bedales is an unusually broad and stimulating environment in which to spend the final years at school and to prepare for life beyond, combining serious academic responsibility and opportunities for leadership.

Our aim is that students should leave us with at least three good A Levels or equivalent, with a broad set of subjects encouraging highly-individualised selections. Students receive guidance to select the courses that will support the future they want, but they will not be discouraged from choosing the subjects they love. For example, students at Bedales frequently choose to combine sciences with the creative arts. New course offerings include Digital Photography and Music Technology A Levels, as well as the Global Perspectives and Research Pre-U, where students explore issues challenging

people across the world, and develop valuable analytical, research and problem-solving skills.

Every student's programme includes a combination of academic study, sport, cultural and current affairs, service to the community, and our unique enrichment programme. This consists of a series of one-term courses chosen from a broad range of offerings developed by staff and shaped by student requests. Students also undertake independent projects and practical research as part of the optional Extended Project Qualification.

We expect our Sixth Form students to take on positions of responsibility in the school, such as contributing to one of the many student committees or acting as role model and mentor to our younger students.

Academic monitoring and tutoring

Each student is allocated a personal tutor to oversee academic progress through one-to-one and small tutor group meetings. Openness, high expectations and close collaboration are the guiding principles of all discussion with students. This applies to personal and pastoral matters, and to discipline and academic progress.

Students' progress is closely monitored, and half-termly academic reviews include their own reflections on progress, and are shared with parents. This is designed

to ensure agreement about priorities for students' work, and how they will go about it. A programme of academic enrichment, operating across the curriculum, ensures that our most able students are fully stretched. Activities include additional visits, talks and academic societies.

Every student has a houseparent, who pays particular attention to the student's overall welfare and wellbeing, and is in regular liaison with the student's tutor and parents.





“Bedales is more about presenting children, or really young adults, with opportunities and resources, and letting them take what they want and make the most of their experience at the school.”

Old Bedalian



The school day

The formal day starts at 9am with tutor time. The later start to teaching was introduced in 2020 to enable students to benefit from sufficient sleep and to be fully prepared for learning. After the last class ends at 5.30pm, day students, like their boarding counterparts, enjoy the many events and activities that take place in the school every evening, including Jaw and Civics. The weekly Jaw engages students in moral and spiritual concerns, usually through visiting speakers. The Civics programme gives students the opportunity to hear views and opinions from highly regarded personalities from a variety of backgrounds, industries or professions. These events are very popular

for the students as it gives them a real insight into other lives, worlds, issues and potential careers.

After lunch and in the evenings during weekdays, there are designated times when students have an opportunity to balance their academic life with rehearsals, sports training, further study or to attend a cultural event (such as a concert or play) in our beautiful timber-framed Theatre, which welcomes visiting professional national and international performances. On Wednesday afternoons students take part in sports fixtures, volunteering, other study options, or walk into Petersfield in small groups.



“That an educational institution, instead of being a place of authority and conformity, could, at its best, cherish and celebrate the poetry and romance of life, was, and remains, wonderful and precious to me.”

Old Bedalian





Boarding

Relationships intensify when people work and live closely together – and relationships are key to the Bedales approach and ethos. A family environment is a unique feature, with students from 13–17 years living alongside each other in dormitories where the older and more experienced students are mentors for younger ones, closely supervised by houseparents. Mixed age dormitories are a unique feature of Bedales boarding. In 6.2 (Upper Sixth), boarding and day students live in the separate co-educational boarding house with boys and girls on different floors.

The working day is long at the school and the curriculum rich, and boarders are able to make the most of these opportunities. At weekends, students might choose to relax or take part in a wide range of weekend activities. Events might include a trip to a London exhibition, attending the local Sustainability Fair, assisting at a Bedales function, or a bowling or cinema trip.

Boarders can opt to go home between Saturday lunchtime and Sunday evening, although there are times when attendance at the weekend is required – ‘all in’ weekends for the cast of a forthcoming play, for example.





“It was virtually impossible to try everything because there were just so many things that you could have a go at.”

Old Bedalian





Co-curriculum

From the moment they enter the school, students are encouraged to take part in the wider life of the community. Students might choose to join a choir, orchestra or band, take part in theatre performances or write for a publication. They can attend a variety of talks and performances featuring our own students and an impressive programme of visiting practitioners and performers. The activities programme is open to all students, who can choose from a wide range of cerebral, social and physical activities to follow an existing interest or try something new. Sixth Form students take the opportunity to lead some of these activities and give back to the community that benefitted them.

Our sporting programme combines broad participation and enjoyment of regular exercise, with competitive team sport. We offer access to top quality coaching, outstanding facilities, a competitive spirit (but with a strong emphasis on engagement and seeking individual improvement, at whatever level), and opportunities for gifted and talented sports players to develop elite skills.

Academic societies allow students to develop their interests, exchange ideas and engage in debate beyond the classroom. From maths to poetry and everything in-between, students can either join an existing society or start their own.

The school's voluntary local service scheme might involve students helping younger children with reading at a local primary school or making a weekly commitment volunteering at a charity. We are constantly refreshing our programme of international volunteering and exchanges to make the most of new opportunities; recent trips have included Africa, the US and India.

The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme is a particularly popular option at Bedales, taking advantage of the school's location in the South Downs National Park which stretches across Hampshire, West and East Sussex. Many students progress all the way through to their Gold award.

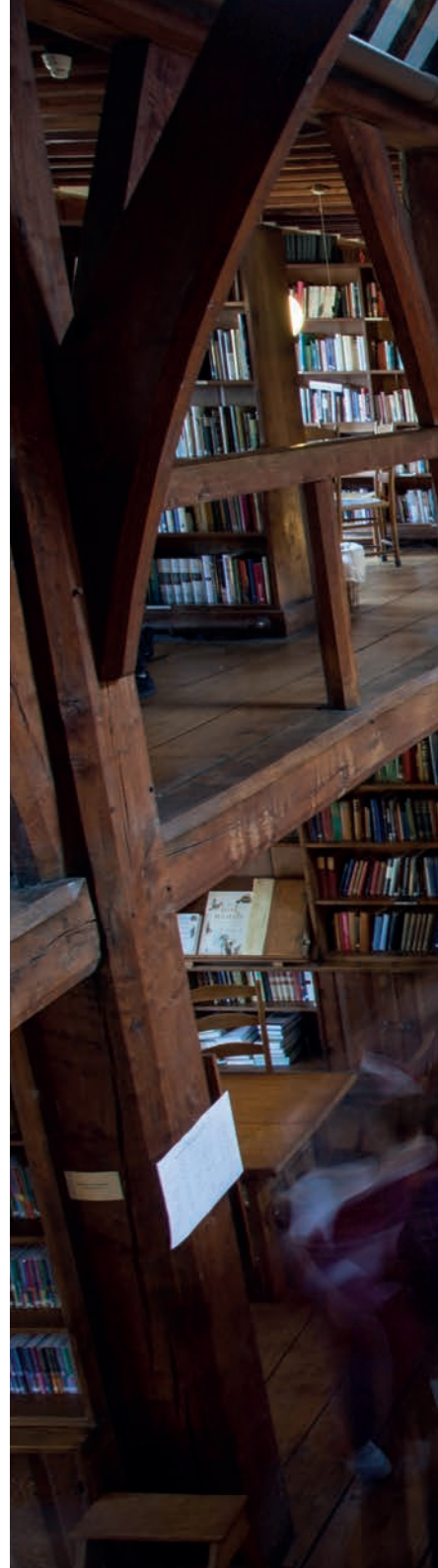
Our Three Schools' Council is a forum where pupils from our Pre-prep, Prep and Senior schools discuss and inform policy and change with senior staff. We were one of the first schools in the country to give pupils such a voice.



Beyond Bedales

Bedales students are attractive to top universities, art colleges and music conservatoires. Besides strong A Level results, students have a reputation for creativity and independence of mind, and have frequently offered universities unusual academic and personal profiles in their applications.

Many of our alumni remain actively engaged with the school, returning to offer advice and support for the students following in their footsteps. We make the most of Bedalians' willingness to learn from each other and to share experiences.







*“Bedales is such an idealistic place,
somewhere that also instils a strong
moral compass in its students, which
is incredibly valuable.”*

Old Bedalian

A large, leafy tree in the foreground of a green lawn, with a large building in the background.

Admissions

Approximately two-thirds of Bedales students are boarders. Most of our families are based in London and the South East UK, whilst about 10 per cent work or live overseas. Central London (Waterloo Station) and the major airports of Gatwick and Heathrow are all approximately an hour away. A daily minibuss service picks up day pupils from surrounding towns and villages.

We are committed to broadening access to the school by offering financial support and the school allocates more than five per cent of its fee income to this. We participate in a number of bursary initiatives which are means-tested and awarded according to need, including the John Badley Foundation, Buttle UK and Royal Springboard.

In addition to academic awards, scholarships are offered in art, design, music, drama and sport. Award holders have access to an individual research grant to develop their specific interests and appetite for enquiry.



To arrange a visit...

If you would like to arrange a visit, request information on open mornings and taster days, or have questions, please contact our Admissions team on **01730 711 733**; email **admissions@bedales.org.uk**; or visit **bedales.org.uk/admissions**





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