



BREDE'S

INTREPID

PREPARATORY SCHOOL AT EASTBOURNE



‘Bede’s has a reputation for offering innovation in the classroom, expansive opportunities outside of it and outstanding care in every aspect of school life. For these reasons and many more, the role of Headmaster here is a dream job.’

Mark Hammond
Headmaster

A very warm welcome to Bede's Prep School: I hope that reading through our prospectus will give you a real flavour of what it means to be a member of our school community.

Throughout these pages you will find so many phrases that define the values of our school - a nurturing, caring and innovative community where children are encouraged to be creative, curious and confident.

Bede's pupils are our best ambassadors: valued as individuals, they develop excellent thinking skills across the age range, enjoy a broad range of opportunity whatever their interests and talents

and, perhaps most importantly, develop a genuine sense of social responsibility. By blending traditional values with a forward-thinking approach we provide a secure, stimulating and enriching environment where children can flourish.

We recognise the vital role that parents and guardians play in children's development and as a school we are committed to working closely with home to ensure the best outcomes for all in our care. I very much hope that you will visit us and look forward to welcoming you in person to share the exciting and vibrant experience enjoyed by our pupils.

Mark Hammond
Headmaster





Every 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.

RECEPTION TO YEAR 2

These 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



The 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, French and Latin.

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.

YEARS 6-8

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

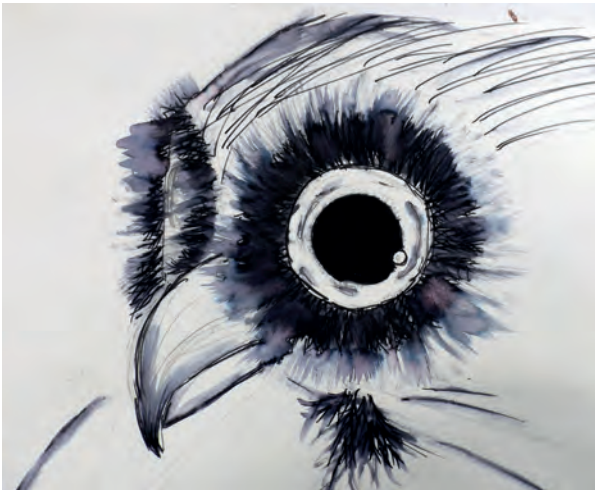
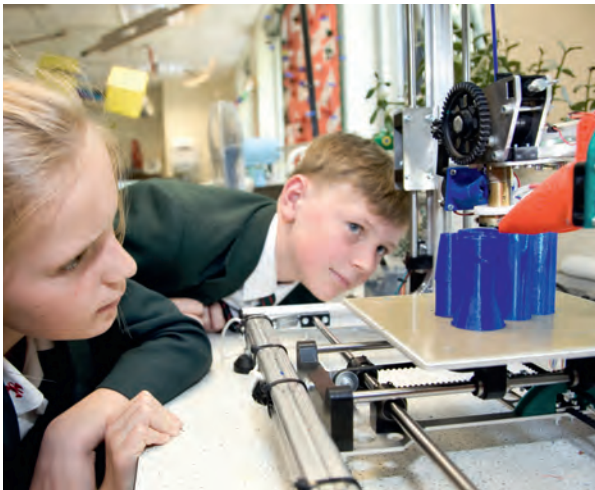
Year 6 represents both the end of Key Stage 2 and the point at which the children move away from being taught largely by their Form Teachers. Pupils become ever more mature and independent, building relationships with individual subject teachers and taking much more responsibility for their own organisation.

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.

As the children begin the final leg of their time with us they then experience their first real taste of external assessment in the form of Common Entrance.

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

How 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

At 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.



CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS



Bede'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

Bede'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.





We 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.

BOARDING AT MEADS END

At 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

For 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



A scenic view of a coastline. In the foreground, the sea is calm with some seaweed visible. In the middle ground, a wooden pier or breakwater extends into the water. In the background, there are white cliffs with some greenery on top. The sky is clear and blue.

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