

The Bishop's Stortford High School A truly all-round education









Welcome from the Headteacher

At The Bishop's Stortford High School we pride ourselves on being an academic school, which maintains high standards and expectations, within a Christian ethos, and provides superb opportunities for every student. By combining excellent behaviour and high quality teaching with our very successful extra-curricular programme, we really do deliver 'a truly all-round education', which is reflected each year in our impressive GCSE and A-Level results and the quality of our teams, clubs and performances.

The school's motto: 'Respice, Aspice, Prospice' encourages us to reflect on our past experiences, make the most of the present and prepare effectively for future challenges. In March 2017 Ofsted judged us to be *Outstanding* in every category and their report was full of high praise for the experience our students gain: "Pupils make excellent progress over time because teachers promote high expectations, through ambitious target setting, rigorous assessment, strong subject knowledge and high-quality teaching." and "Pupils are polite, confident and articulate. They are rightly proud of their school and eager to speak about their successes." A very special 'Black & Gold spirit' exists amongst students and staff, which is strengthened by the unparalleled enrichment activities that take place beyond the classroom.

We build positive relationships so that all students are provided with the care and support they need to enjoy school life. We develop independence, resillience and leadership in our students, and we very much work in partnership with parents to ensure we achieve positive outcomes. We encourage an open dialogue between school and home so that parents can play an active role in their child's development.

As construction of the new school is now underway in St James' Park development, we are currently projected to relocate to the new site in the spring 2023. This is clearly an exciting time for the school with some fantastic new sport and performance facilities, creating the ideal learning environment for our current and future students.

We are fully committed to developing thoughtful, capable, responsible young people who care about their own progress, want to learn and are keen to contribute to our community. This is a great school, staffed with passionate, inspirational teachers, and is a special place for children to learn and grow. I very much hope you will gain a sense of this during your visit.

Mr Dale Reeve BSc (Hons) Headteacher





A New School with a Traditional Ethos

For several years we have been working on a project to relocate the School to the St James' Park development zone in the south of Bishop's Stortford, less than half a mile to the south of our existing site. Construction is underway on a Six Form Entry school (6FE = 180 students per year group) with the infrastructure designed to cope with potential growth in the future.

Our aim is to provide a state of the art new learning environment for our students, whilst retaining the strong ethos and proud traditions that help make TBSHS *Outstanding*. It promises to be a fantastic site that combines high-quality teaching spaces and excellent enrichment facilities to support our superb extra-curricular programme, which will also provide great facilities for the whole community.

The project is being funded by the proceeds of the sale of our existing site, along with contributions from the DfE and local authorities. We will also be hoping that our own fundraising efforts will help us to provide new equipment and further resources to really optimise the quality of experience for our students.

"The high-quality teaching in the school is typified by the exceptionally strong working relationships established between staff and pupils. These working relationships are well supported by teachers' excellent subject knowledge. As a result, the well-matched combination makes a significant contribution to pupils' progress and the calm, orderly learning environment which is a particular strength of the school."

OFSTED 2017



Excellence for All Within a Caring, Moral and Safe Environment

At The Bishop's Stortford High School we believe education should combine academic excellence, personal fulfilment and moral and spiritual growth. We offer a 'truly all-round education' to all our students. TBSHS prides itself on promoting excellence in all areas, whether in the classroom, or through our outstanding extra-curricular provision.

We aim to:

- → Set high expectations for everyone in all aspects of school life
- Provide high quality teaching that engages all learners and delivers academic success
- Enrich the lives of all students with a wealth of opportunities beyond the classroom
- Create responsible learners, who can face challenges with confidence, both now and in the future
- → Equip all students with the skills and qualities they need to contribute successfully to society

We aim to give each student the opportunity and support to develop their full potential within a caring, safe and disciplined environment based on traditional values of mutual respect. All our students are encouraged to develop habits of responsibility, self-discipline, respect for others and cooperation which will enable them to be responsible, effective members of the local, national and international community.

The School has a strong spiritual and moral ethos. The emblem of the mitre indicates not just the school's close association with the town of Bishop's Stortford, but is also a symbol of the Christian ethos that infuses the life of the school.

"The school instils good values and provides many opportunities for boys to grow as individuals, whatever their strengths or weaknesses."
OFSTED 2017







"The very strong programme of careers information, advice and guidance is highly effective in raising aspirations and promoting the range of progression opportunities beyond school, including apprenticeship routes." OFSTED 2017







Helping all our Students to Reach Their Full Potential

The Bishop's Stortford High School is a high-achieving academic school. From the outset boys are encouraged to be meticulous and self-disciplined in their approach to their studies.

Students at the School study a five year programme of study, culminating in the majority of students completing 9 or 10 GCSEs. In their first two years, students follow a common core curriculum, in-line-with the requirements of the National Curriculum. This consists of English, Mathematics, Computer Science, Science, Art, Design Technology, Drama, Modern Foreign Languages, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education, PSHE, Religious Studies and Citizenship. In Year 8 students continue to study one language from French or German

In Year 7 boys are primarily taught in all-ability groups, although there is a degree of setting in Mathematics and Languages. Further setting by ability is introduced in Year 9.

In Year 9 students can narrow down the number of subjects they study before making their final options choices and deciding which subjects to study through to GCSE level. As such Year 9 is a GCSE Foundation Year.

In Year 9 students study their Foundation GCSE courses equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to start their GCSE courses in Year 10. In Years 10 & 11 all boys will study for GCSEs in English (usually Language and Literature), Mathematics, Science, an Humanity and a Modern Foreign Language. The remainder of students' study is made up of

option subjects which currently include Art, Business Studies, Design and Technology, Drama, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Separate Sciences. Boys also have RS and Citizenship and Physical Education lessons.

All students in all year groups follow a Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education curriculum.





Sixth Formers at TBSHS are Leaders and Role Models



The Bishop's Stortford High School's Sixth Form is an integral part of the School community.

Over half of our Sixth Form is made up of students who completed Year 7 to 11 at TBSHS, and over 80% of Sixth Form students decide to progress to university each year with others gaining excellent apprenticeships in a variety of careers. The school regularly sends students to leading UK universities including Oxford and Cambridge in addition to supporting applications to highly competitive apprenticeship schemes.

As they enter Post-16 study they will be joined by a large number of students from other schools to create a community of 360 students, of which over third are female. In this diverse Sixth Form we offer outstanding teaching across 26 subjects, which allows all students to pursue a broad curriculum to equip them for the challenges they will face at Post-18 level.

Our high academic standards are mirrored by our outstanding enrichment and sports programme and we take great pride in our holistic approach to developing each and every individual. All of our Sixth Formers have access to an unrivalled range of extra-curricular activities, established student leadership opportunities, a dynamic Citizenship programme and opportunities to support local and national charities. We are very proud of our school value of community and we regularly host Sixth Form events and trips to develop friendships and bring the cohort together. Our ethos and standards ensure our sixth formers become important role models and valued leaders in our school and beyond.













Pastoral Care and Academic Tutoring

At The Bishop's Stortford High School we place great emphasis upon the central role the tutor plays in your child's academic, emotional, social and personal development.

Every tutor works hard to ensure that your child has the best possible pastoral support whilst at TBSHS. The tutor is a confidante, advisor and role model; your son's first stop for help and support. We also believe in the important part the tutor plays particularly in the academic development of every student. Through our Tutoring Programme, we ensure that every child is taught not only what to learn, but also the best way to learn it, taking into account their own preferred learning styles and methods.

At TBSHS we operate a Year Group system for grouping students in forms. From Year 7, your son will stay with his form group, ideally with the same tutor, until he completes his GCSEs in Year 11. In the Sixth Form, your son's form group will consist of mixed Year 12 and 13 Sixth Form students.

The Form Tutors and Heads of Year regularly communicate with parents, both individually and through Standards Evenings, Parents Information Evenings or the reporting cycle. They are also available to discuss students' welfare at a time mutually convenient to staff and to parents.





"The extensive programme of enrichment and high-quality, impartial careers information, advice and guidance ensure that pupils and students are very well prepared to take their next steps in education, employment and/or training." OFSTED 2017













The House System

The importance of the House System at The Bishop's Stortford High School reflects the emphasis that the school places upon extra-curricular involvement and competition, leading to excellence in all areas.

When your son joins TBSHS he will be placed in one of six houses: Chantry, Dane, Meads, Shaw, Twyford or Waytemore. Every house has members from year 7 to year 11. Each House is led by a Head of House, assisted by the House Presidents, roles filled by members of Y11, and Captains and Deputies who are elected in each form in years 7 to 10; these students are expected to help to organise House activities and to arrange teams for the House competitions. The House system is an important way in which students can immerse themselves in the life of the school outside of lessons and also take on important roles of responsibility.

The House calendar is busy and varied. The Houses compete in a wide variety of disciplines including music, sport, drama, debating and quizzing. All the major House competitions can be attended by the students' family and friends. House points are awarded for all the competitions, and also to individuals for achievement and endeavour in and out of the classroom. At the end of each academic year, the House that has amassed the most House Points is declared the House Champions and within each year group the house with the most points wins the year group house shield.



Enriching Your Child's Experience

Central to the ethos of The Bishop's Stortford High School is the commitment to "a truly all-round education".

At TBSHS we believe that school is more than just what happens in the classroom; all students' lives should be enriched through cultural, sporting and wider experiences.

Our marvellous staff are committed to running clubs, teams and societies. Along with the many sporting and music activities, our outstanding extracurricular provision includes public speaking, debating, Model United Nations, art club, chess club and much more. For the Autumn-Winter Term 2021 Year 7 students have a choice of more than 50 extra-curricular activities to attend each week starting before school and going into the evening, Monday to Friday. The range of opportunities is vast and all students are expected to play a full role in the extra-curricular life of the school.

Many students at TBSHS take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme – the character-building and challenging programme for young people aged 14 or over (Year 10-13).

We are equally proud of the opportunities we offer our students to visit places in the local area, UK and further afield. This year we are once again planning for the Year 7 students to visit Yorkshire on the Bushcraft trip, Epping Forest for geography fieldwork and Warwick Castle (History). Later on in their time at TBSHS these students will have the opportunity to play cricket in Guernsey, ski in Austria, practise their languages in France and Germany and play rugby in the southern hemisphere. These trips are just a taste of our offer!

We are currently developing an online system so that students and parents will be able to see what's on every day and sign up to clubs on a range of devices.









"The Bishop's Stortford High School has been a leader in supporting LGBT pupils and challenging bullying. Their education programme about LGBT issues is a model for schools across Britain." Peter Tatchell, Human Rights Campaigner, Citizenship Speaker, March 2019







The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme combines service, adventure and new skills for young people and allows pupils to show personal initiative and independence, by working towards an Award which is well-regarded by both universities and employers.

We have active groups at Bronze (Year 10) and Gold (Years 12 and 13) Award Levels. The Award encourages pupils to involve themselves fully in the extra-curricular options open to them at TBSHS and perhaps try an activity which they would not otherwise have considered.

Both levels of Award require a commitment to regular participation in a programme of activities which the students choose within each of the four Award 'Sections':

- → Physical Activity
- → Volunteering
- → Skill
- → Expedition

The Gold Award also includes a Residential Section, which requires a week-long trip away from home, with new people. The students select their own activities in most of the Sections, keeping track of and logging their participation and development online. In school, we monitor their progress and organise the Expedition Section: Training, a Practise Expedition, and finally an Assessed Qualifying Expedition.

The students don't just get blisters, a certificate and – at Gold level – a visit to The Palace, but they gain skills, confidence, a real sense of achievement, and memories that will last a lifetime.







The Stage is Set at TBSHS





Extra-curricular Drama thrives at The Bishop's Stortford High School. It is a vibrant and exciting feature of school life and a real strength of TBSHS providing 'A truly all-round education'.

The school has an annual cycle of dramatic presentations and expects to put on a series of performances each year. From our Whole School Production, House Drama and our GCSE, and A Level Drama and Theatre Studies performance evenings. Boys from every year and our Sixth Form girls have the opportunity to audition for productions, play in the band, design the set, work in lighting, sound and backstage or front of house. We have two designated drama studios one of which is purpose built and used for performances; additionally the main school hall is also used for larger scale productions.

Enthusiasm for Drama at TBSHS is shared by countless students and staff and brings them together to work collaboratively on projects which require commitment, discipline and teamwork. We believe such challenges build character and develop self-confidence, social and communication skills.

Productions most recently have included: Les Misérables, A Midsummer Night's Dream, School of Rock, Our House, The Tempest, Guys & Dolls and Grease. Past productions include the first UK school production of Rent, the theatrical adaptation of George Orwell's political novel Animal Farm, Black Comedy, The Real Inspector Hound, A Chorus Line, What the Butler Saw, Sweeny Todd, Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, Wind in the Willows, Oliver, Jesus Christ Superstar, Macbeth, Godspell and Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and a highly successful production of the rock 'n' roll musical Return to the Forbidden Planet by Bob Carlton, set on the Intergalactic Starship Albatross.

We have had several students starring in West End Productions, National Theatre tours and on television with Billy Price gaining a lead role of Sid Sumner in Hollyoaks. Each year our students get into National Youth Theatre, National Youth Music Theatre and go to Drama School or to University to read Theatre and Performance Studies.







Music Hits the Right Note

TBSHS is proud of its musical tradition and provision; music really is at the heart of our school. A large percentage of our students learn a musical instrument, and many more participate in the extensive extra-curricular programme offered by the Music department. Music at TBSHS is an inclusive and supportive network of committed staff and students, who all strive for excellence in performance through dedicated and purposeful practise.

We offer an exciting and varied extra-curricular music programme where all students, who learn a musical instrument in or out of school, are expected to contribute. The bands – including the National award-winning Concert Band - cater for musicians of all abilities. They give regular concerts in and out of school and have toured regularly, including to Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Poland, Estonia, Holland, Normandy and Barcelona.

The Concert Band and Swing Band have both performed at the Royal Albert Hall and accommodate the most advanced performers in the school. Alongside this, there are a wide range of other chamber groups that rehearse weekly, including: string ensembles, brass ensemble, big band, two jazz bands, and a variety of rock and soul bands. The choirs – both lower school and our senior chamber ensemble - perform at all of our concerts, tours and Christmas and Easter Services. The Music department is also involved in the bi-annual school productions run by the Drama department. All of our singers and instrumental players are encouraged to audition for County and National music groups.

The most prestigious part of our concert programme is our annual Music Festival, in which the title of Musician of the Year is awarded to the most outstanding performer. In recent years we have enjoyed performances from Derek Nash (Jools Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra), Craig Ogden (Classic FM artist), Joe McGlohan (Reba McIntire/Etta James), Roland Chadwick (The Modern Guitar Trio) and Jazz trombone legend, Jiggs Whigham (Glenn Miller; Count Basie; Stan Tracey) to name a few.

The Student Music Leadership Programme encourages young musicians to take on a production role within the department by managing/leading ensembles, and supporting the organisation and running of concerts.

We offer a diverse range of individual or group instrumental lessons which are taught by a team of visiting teachers offering: piano/keyboard, voice, violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone(s), trumpet, French horn, lower brass, drums, bass guitar and both classical and electric guitar.

We look forward to welcoming you and working alongside you in the music department at TBSHS; we will be committed to helping, inspiring, guiding and encouraging you towards your full potential.







A Sporting Life





PE and Games are a central part of the life of The Bishop's Stortford High School. We aim to develop fully the potential of all our students in lessons, as well as through our extensive and unrivalled programme of extra-curricular activities. It is our hope that all our students take the opportunity to enjoy sport in order to develop an active, healthy and balanced lifestyle for the rest of their life.

The School's sporting facilities are among the finest of their kind in the country. Our fantastic Jobbers Wood sports complex boasts six football and rugby pitches, plus three cricket pitches. The School also boasts a gymnasium, large sports hall and an extensive sports field with a pavilion including a modern weight training facility.

Staff dedicate many hours to organising and coaching our teams and squads. We have an impressive and prestigious fixtures card in all major sports, playing against leading independent and state schools at Local and National level. The School competes in many major national competitions, which has seen us become the National U14 football champions (2020) and National U15 football champions (2016), finish 8th in the country at Football (2015), current U18 County Cup football champions (2018 & 2019), U15 County Cup football champions (2017), current U14 County Cup rugby champions (2018), English Schools National Golf finalists (2017 & 2019), 3rd in the country at Tennis (2013) and 12th in the country at Swimming (2013) amongst other successes in Athletics, Cross-Country and Karting.

Each weekend TBSHS fields up to 15 teams in the major sports: Rugby and Cross-Country in the Autumn term; Football in the Spring term; and Cricket and Athletics in the Summer term. All students regardless of ability are encouraged to participate and represent the school at a range of sports with over 40 hours of extra-curricular activities taking place every week including Cross-Country, Running club, Squash and Swimming Club alongside the more traditional activities.

There are many opportunities for students to participate in sports tours both at home and abroad. In the last three years students from TBSHS have competed against their counterparts in Guernsey (Junior Cricket), Ghana (Football whilst working in the local communities), Holland (Cricket Coaching) and South Africa (Senior Rugby Tour). We aim to organise a major tour every three years with the Senior Teams travelling to New Zealand for rugby in 2022 and Sri Lanka for cricket in 2023.









Travel and Trips to Broaden Your Mind

We know that our students will best flourish if they lead rich and varied lives to develop the fullest range of their talents. Thus, we are proud of the shape of our curriculum, our sporting and musical heritage and the extraordinary breadth of our extra-curricular provision.

Throughout their time at TBSHS, students are given many opportunities to take part in trips, either as part of the curriculum or as an enrichment activity. The School runs many theatre and cultural visits, as well as subject-based expeditions.

Students may also be given the opportunity to take part in Language Exchanges with students in France and Germany. They can attend Model United Nations conferences held in schools in the Netherlands and some of their students reciprocate by participating in our annual Stort MUN event.

We believe passionately that the students who attend our school are the global citizens of the future and should be able to play a full part in their world. This is also the reason why we attach such great importance to them learning foreign languages.

Among other recent destinations for school trips are the United States, Russia, Germany, Spain, Poland and Switzerland, in addition to ski trips to Italy and Austria. The 2018 Rugby Tour to South Africa is one of several the school has successfully organised in recent years. With the rugby and cricket tours of the last two summers impacted by the global pandemic, the rescheduled trips to New Zealand and Barbados respectively are looking very exciting prospects. Recent Music tours have included Belgium, Spain and France, with large numbers of students performing to the public.









Becoming Good Citizens



An important aspect of The Bishop's Stortford High School is our education in global citizenship and national and global values. This is important for learning and life.

This aspiration at TBSHS is driven by assemblies, our Christmas and Easter Services, Interact, the United Nations Team, Citizenship and Religious Studies classes, Year Group visits to sites of spiritual, moral, cultural and spiritual significance, for example the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey in Year 10 and Wimbledon Mosque, Buddhapadipa Temple and Tennis in the Autumn of Year 7, our school hymn "Jerusalem" and prestigious local, national and international guest speakers and the School Council. This ethos is embedded in the respect, thoughtfulness, listening, humility and service we aim to show to all in each curricular and extra-curricular domain.

Interact continues to be a fine case study of both student leadership and moral values. Interact is led by the students to help the vulnerable in society. Interact also works in partnership with the Rotary Club and benefits from the wisdom of local Rotarians. This year the current team raised over £18,000. Interact helps charities both local, national and international. A highlight of the Interact Year is Showcase, a variety show for good causes which raises over £2000. A previous presenter of Showcase, Greg James, is now a BBC Radio 1 and BBC 3 Presenter whilst previous performers, have won national recognition for their music and comedy respectively.

The School attracts high calibre speakers to share their philosophy, values and experience. Former students and local champions give freely of their time and inspire our students whilst we have also hosted Oscar-winning actors, nationally regarded journalists, sporting champions, international campaigners, political change-makers, a Buddhist monk and an Archbishop of Canterbury. On these occasions, our guests are always impressed by the students, their respect and their questions. The students are the stars.







Working in Partnership with your Children



The Bishop's Stortford High School is a community where students, parents and teachers work together towards shared goals. Parents' support and encouragement has been, and continues to be, vital in enabling our students to flourish in their education.

The School has three distinct fund-raising groups, which each aim to mobilise support from the community of the School to provide equipment, improved facilities and opportunities for our students. The three groups are Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA), The Parents' Sports Association (PSA) and The Mitre Fund.

The Mitre Fund is also a registered charity to 'advance the education of students at the Bishop's Stortford High School, by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities for education at the school'. It provides a platform for making either one-off or regular cash donations to the school, to support specific enrichment projects and to allow the School to continue to deliver an outstanding experience for all of the students to engage in. These contributions are invaluable in assisting with the provision of facilities for the School in the pursuit of excellence and enhancing our students' educational and extra-curricular experience. The Fund makes purchases, which the School would not otherwise be able to make from its allocated budget. Proposals from the School are subject to approval by the Trustees. Purchases this year include a 3-D Printer for Design Technology, Ergonomic and LED Microscopes for the Science Department, School Counselling services for all year groups, Wi-Fi Tablets and computer desking plus electronic chess clocks for the Chess Club. Other recent purchases include Music Technology: Software, licences and computer equipment; drinking water fountains; new stage lighting for the hall; funding for new work stations in the sixth form and a substantial contribution to the canopy installed adjacent to the servery.

The school's PTFA has worked to provide many major additions to TBSHS including a Broadway Studio Theatre with professional lighting and staging. They also purchased school minibuses, our grand piano, outdoor table tennis tables and contributed to the new servery canopy fund. The PTFA's fundraising and social activities provide something for everyone, including bingo nights, quiz nights, discos and the annual Christmas Candlelit Ball. They also run a second hand uniform stall throughout the year, to help with the costs of keeping growing boys looking smart. Furthermore, they generously provide refreshments at major School events including Parents Evenings and Open Evenings, which helps create such a welcoming atmosphere.

A small group of passionate and forward-thinking parents, aided and encouraged by the PE Department, set up the PSA approximately 20 years ago. The aim was to enable students of all abilities to have as many extra-curricular sporting opportunities as possible. The PSA today stay true to these values. Raising approximately £60,000 per annum through varied fundraising evenings, events subscriptions and The PSA Prize Draw. Their funds support both mass participation and elite athletes and are committed to making our students' sporting life at TBSHS as fulfilled and varied as their academic life.





Safeguarding

As a School we are totally committed to ensuring our School community is a safe place in which to learn and work. We comply with all legal protocols and best practice procedures to make sure our students experience TBSHS as a safe place to learn.

All staff are responsible for safeguarding children and receive regular safeguarding training and undergo enhanced DBS checks. Miss Wendy Butler is the TBSHS Safeguarding Lead and Mr Dale Reeve, Mr Robert Stark and Mrs Natalie Miles are the Deputy Safeguarding Leads.



"Pupils gain high-quality personal and social skills that make an outstanding contribution to their academic progress and life beyond school. As a result, they are excellent ambassadors for the school's work and typically reflect its values in their conduct and demeanour. These values are embedded in the culture and ethos, the 'spirit of the black and gold', which is well promoted by staff at all levels."

OFSTED 2017







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