



BISHOP WORDSWORTH'S SCHOOL

A Church of England Grammar School for Boys





Welcome to
Bishop Wordsworth's School

As they mature,
we encourage boys to
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young men who have
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for both themselves
and wider society.

Bishop's is a unique school in a unique place.

Boys come to us from all types of background, united by their aptitude for an academic education. It is our privilege to foster every boy's ability, and equip him to excel.

The school is renowned for its strong academic tradition and outstanding results, but educational quality here goes well beyond examinations. We fuel boys' wider intellectual curiosity, promote artistic expression, and give opportunities for leadership and personal development. A day at Bishop's brings genuine breadth of activity, challenge and pace, making this a stimulating environment for staff and pupils alike.

Our situation within the Cathedral Close offers a constant reminder of the foundations that underpin school life. We help boys to grow spiritually and, while competition is an intrinsic part of Bishop's, it is balanced by compassion and respect for others. As they mature, we encourage boys to become confident, independent-minded young men who have a sense of responsibility for both themselves and wider society.

I take great pride in leading this vibrant school community, and in all that our boys achieve. To find out more, visit our website, or come to one of the open afternoons and hear the boys' impressions first-hand. We look forward to welcoming you.

Dr Stuart Smallwood
Head Master

What makes Bishop's special?



The Right Reverend John Wordsworth, 1843-1911, Bishop of Salisbury and founder of the school.
School cap c.1910 and Head Boy's badge – originally designed for the School Companies of Service Award in the late 1930s.

History and tradition

Bishop John Wordsworth intended that his school should provide a centre of academic excellence in the heart of Salisbury. Since 1890

Bishop's has fulfilled that mission, and today we educate nearly 900 boys aged between 11 and 18.

Under the shadow of the Cathedral spire our eclectic buildings span the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries, reflecting the school's heritage. This creates a very special atmosphere in which boys are conscious, on a daily basis, of their part in a long tradition of academic endeavour.



Admission on ability

As a Church of England Grammar School and Academy, we set our own entrance test and policy on admissions. Any boy living within reasonable travelling distance of Salisbury is welcome to apply, and boys from the broadest range of schools and backgrounds thrive here.

High expectations and high achievement

Bishop's is one of the best-performing schools in the country and outstanding levels of success are part of everyday life. We never take this for granted, however, continuously supporting and encouraging boys to give full commitment to all that they do. Well aware of our expectations, the boys relish the opportunity to aim high and achieve their goals. Every boy is encouraged to find something at which he excels and to develop self-confidence as a result.



Christian values

Our Church school ethos permeates the fabric of life here – from regular worship in the Cathedral and our Chapel, through religious education, to the way we operate as a community. We welcome boys of all faiths or none, but the Christian values of concern for one other, respect and tolerance provide a moral compass that influences everyone, both personally and culturally.



Right from day one, we work hard to make boys feel valued and welcome.

Spirit of togetherness

As the school motto *veritas in caritate* (truth through caring) suggests, consideration and thoughtfulness are central to life at Bishop's.

Right from day one, we work hard to make boys feel valued and welcome. Within each year there are four tutor groups of 30 pupils, led by form tutors. During Year 7 we monitor these groups carefully, knowing that the happier boys are, the quicker they will settle in and flourish.

Through the house system and a host of other activities boys mix across years, fostering a close community in which older boys can become friends and mentors to their younger peers.

If problems arise the form tutor or the relevant Head of School are the first points of contact and Heads of School operate an 'open door' policy whenever possible. We try to respond quickly and sensitively to any boy in difficulty, and draw in the necessary support. Our Senior Tutor provides an additional source of help and counsel.

We also value close relationships with parents. You will receive regular reports on academic progress, and as well as the formal parents' evenings, there are opportunities to talk informally with staff at 'tutor teas', information evenings and other events.

A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms sitting at a wooden table in a library. They are both focused on reading books. The boy on the left is wearing glasses and a blue shirt, while the boy on the right is wearing a white shirt and a striped tie. Behind them is a large bookshelf filled with books, with a sign that reads 'LOCAL STUDIES' at the top. The scene is well-lit, suggesting a bright, airy environment.

Pursuing scholarship

Rigour, depth and breadth characterise academic life at Bishop's. Boys enjoy being taught by highly qualified subject specialists. Teachers teach so that boys do well – but also to extend pupils' knowledge and understanding beyond the narrow confines of exam syllabi. Throughout, we aim to engender a passion for learning and the skills to pursue that passion independently.

In and out of school there are countless opportunities for boys to develop their academic interests – workshops, lectures, master classes, fieldwork and more. Boys regularly take part in school and national competitions, with many gaining success both within and beyond the curriculum.

The choice of subjects in all years is rich and balanced. Specialist status in Languages and Science has enabled us to expand what we offer, and we make sure boys can take as wide a range of subjects as possible to GCSE Level and beyond.

Lower School (Years 7–9)

Largely, boys are taught within their tutor groups and follow a common timetable. In the first year at Bishop's this includes a modern foreign language – one of French, German or Spanish. In Year 8, boys choose a second language and study both to at least the end of Year 9. Many departments begin GCSE syllabuses in Year 9.

As a minimum, teaching in all subjects follows the National Curriculum, and the knowledge, understanding and skills that boys acquire lay solid foundations for their future studies.

[Middle School](#)



(Years 10 and 11)

In the run-up to GCSEs, a boy has the chance to specialise. As well as the core curriculum, which includes three separate sciences, he chooses four GCSE options, at least one of which will be a modern foreign language.

A significant number of boys sit GCSE Maths and Statistics at the end of Year 10, but most GCSEs are taken in Year 11. Many subjects now follow IGCSE specifications.

Sixth Form

Almost all boys stay on into the Sixth Form, where they are offered a broad academic curriculum, supported by stimulating enrichment courses.

Our extensive collaboration with South Wilts Girls' Grammar School means we can provide a substantial range of A-level disciplines that draw on the expertise and resources of both schools.

Bishop's engenders a passion for learning – and the skills to pursue that passion independently.



Expanding horizons

A broad extra-curricular programme helps boys to understand more of the world, to challenge themselves and to grow as individuals. At Bishop's we aim to provide many and varied opportunities, so that every boy has the chance to find new interests and achieve great things.

Competitive sport is in the lifeblood of the school. Rugby, Cross Country, Athletics, Basketball, Soccer, Hockey and more figure in the sporting calendar, with regular fixtures against schools across Wiltshire and the South West of England. While we are justly proud of our outstanding reputation for sporting success both regionally and nationally, we value equally the commitment of boys who give their best to an activity they enjoy.

The opportunities to experience activities here and abroad are immense.

Music is very strong at Bishop's, and many boys have instrumental lessons at all levels. As well as touring abroad and in the UK, the Choir performs regularly for school occasions in the Cathedral. Boys play in wind bands, brass and string ensembles, and often collaborate to form rock bands of their own.

Drama thrives too, with every age group having opportunities to take part either in clubs or productions. Through our vibrant Art department boys can develop their talents both in and out of lessons. Theatre and gallery trips feature regularly, as do plays, musicals and concerts on a variety of scales, many benefiting from our collaboration with the girls' grammar school.

Over 40 clubs and societies meet during lunch breaks or after school. A boy can become involved in voluntary work locally, play chess, try debating or film-making. The opportunities to experience activities and destinations here and abroad are immense: from outward bound and community service to fieldwork, expeditions and cultural exchange, your son will have the chance to give it a go.



Beyond Bishop's

Almost all our boys go on to higher education and Bishop's has a superb record in university entrance. The majority join top universities, with many embarking upon the most competitive disciplines, and we have a strong and very proud record of success at Oxford and Cambridge.

We encourage boys to start thinking early about future directions. In Lower School your son will have both timetabled and one-to-one sessions on development and career-related matters. Later, work experience, university visits and practice interviews, together with courses such as Medlink, Headstart and Insight into Engineering, all help to clarify options and give useful preparation.

Taking a gap year before university is common, and we can offer information on the opportunities available. Whatever a boy wants to do, we ensure he gets the independent advice he needs to make choices and the support he needs to realise his aspirations.

Bishop's has a superb record in university entrance.

Rakesh Modi 1998–2005



After leaving Bishop's Rakesh obtained a degree in medicine from Cambridge University. He is now studying

clinical medicine at UCL Medical School and, once qualified, hopes to be involved in a competitive specialty within hospital medicine. 'There are many things I am thankful to have learned from Bishop's: the importance of aiming high and planning how to achieve your ambition; the ethos of drive and hard work; and the value of community and of contributing to it positively. I will undoubtedly carry these lessons into my future.'

Trevor Worgan 1994–2001

Trevor graduated from Cambridge University with a Master's degree in engineering focusing on aeronautics. After two years with a leading strategy consulting group in London advising



multinational companies, he was seconded to the US where he specialised in the airline industry.

'Bishop's encouraged me to push beyond my comfort zone to realise my ambitions in both academic activity and sport. Without doubt the Bishop's mentality positioned me to achieve and, as importantly, to enjoy the highly competitive environment in which I now work.'

Richard Hill MBE 1984–1992

Rugby international Richard Hill was one of the game's most highly rated flankers. In a career extending from 1993 to 2008 he won 71 caps for England, 5 for British and Irish Lions,



and 275 for Saracens, and he was a key part of the 2003 World-Cup-winning team against Australia. While at Bishop's Richard gained prominence as a schools'

international and played for Salisbury RFC. Of his time at the school he says, 'Bishop's gave me the perfect academic and sporting grounding for my further education and future career'.

Ralph Fiennes 1976–1981

As one of the UK's most successful contemporary actors, Ralph Fiennes has received numerous nominations and awards for films such as *Schindler's List* (Oscar nominee and BAFTA winner), *The English Patient*, *The Constant Gardener* and *The Reader*.

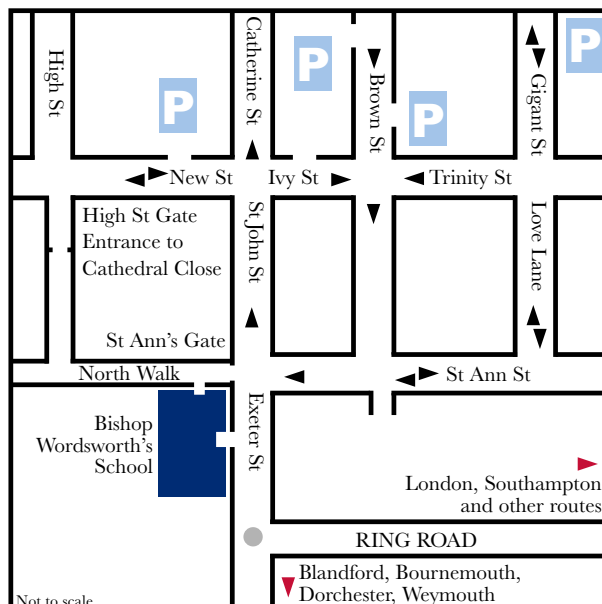


His equally respected stage work includes regular appearances over 20 years with the RSC and National Theatre.

A product of Salisbury's Stage 65 and RADA, Ralph may be best known to young audiences as Voldemort in recent Harry Potter films.



For more information, see www.bws.wilts.sch.uk or contact the Admissions Registrar, Mrs Catherine Short, on 01722 424730 or cms@bws.wilts.sch.uk



The main entrance to the school lies off Exeter Street. Reception is in No 11 The Close, approachable on foot via the North Walk or Exeter Street entrances. The nearest car parks are in New Street and Brown Street.

