

Bursaries



www.bedmod.co.uk/admissions

contact our admissions team on admissions@bedmod.co.uk

Welcome

from the Headmaster



Combining a 250-year-old tradition with a modern outlook Bedford Modern School is an unpretentious, tolerant community where our students can flourish as individuals. We inspire them all to develop a sense of curiosity and a love of learning by providing a breadth of stimulating academic opportunities and an extensive co-curricular programme with the focus on participation, enjoyment and achievement.

The BMS community is inclusive, extensive and down to earth and we want students to leave us with high academic attainment but also the emotional intelligence and self-awareness that allows them to adapt and flourish in the fast-paced world in which we live.

Our means-tested bursaries have been devised to provide an outstanding opportunity for students with potential either academically or within the Creative Arts or Sport. The decision to award a bursary is based on the level of an individual's performance in the annual entrance assessments and given at the discretion of the Awards Committee which meets once a year in the spring term.

If you feel that you can make the most of the opportunities here at BMS, want to develop your talents still further and enrich the lives of those around you then please come and visit us and see what we have to offer.

Mr D Payne
Headmaster





Introduction

All bursaries are means tested and the amount will, therefore, vary according to family circumstances. They can range from a small percentage of the fees up to payment of the full amount.

We offer both academic and subject-specific bursaries in Sport, Art, Performance Arts, Music, IT and Design Technology.

You may apply for bursaries in the following year groups:

- Academic – Years 7, 8, 9 and 12
- Music – Years 7, 9 and 12
- Sport – Years 7, 9 and 12
- Art, Design Technology and IT (ADIT) – Year 12
- Performance Arts – Year 12

Please note: we have a limited fund to provide assistance with fees and assistance is not guaranteed if a place is offered.

The Application Process

1. Complete and return the Registration Form together with the Registration Fee (£150) and a copy of your child's birth certificate.
2. On the Registration Form ensure that you have ticked the appropriate box on the bottom of the first page.
3. You will then receive further details regarding the online bursary application process. The deadline for submitting the bursary application including your financial information is 01 December 2025.
4. In addition, if you are applying for a bursary in Music, Sports, ADIT or Performance Arts, this additional paperwork will be emailed to you and once received please complete and return to our admissions team by 01 December 2025 or email admissions@bedmod.co.uk.
5. Notification of bursaries awarded will be included in the individual offer letters which are sent out in February. (Please note that any offers are provisional at that stage based on the financial information you have supplied).
6. Bursaries awarded are re-assessed annually.

Academic Bursaries

Students wishing to enter Years 7, 8, 9 and 12 are able to apply for an Academic Bursary.

- It is likely that students will be in the top 10% of all candidates sitting assessments in each respective year group.
- For those wishing to enter Year 12, students must also show an intellectual inquisitiveness in the assessment interviews and be predicted 9 or 8 in the subjects they wish to study with most if not all other subjects predicted 8 or better.



Joining BMS in Year 7, I was originally very apprehensive; the notion of a 'private school' bore heavily on my mind as a lifestyle of hard work and pressure. However, the past seven years of my school life have been utterly incredible. BMS can only be described as a place of opportunity, where everyone's talents and interests are explored in collaboration with friendly and passionate members of staff.



Specialist Bursaries

Students will need to perform well in the entrance assessments before being considered for a specialist bursary. They may then be invited into school for a subject-specific assessment in January.



Sport

Sports bursaries are awarded for entry into Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12. All applicants must obtain supporting references from their respective coaches (for example: county, academy, high performance).

Criteria:

Entry into the relevant year group.

Area 1: Performance student athlete (any sport)

If the student demonstrated elite or professional in any sport, the school would consider awarding a sports bursary. The athlete will already be identified by their National Governing Body (NGB) and would be expected to be either:

- Competing at Junior or Senior National/International Level
- Nationally ranked (subject to sport)
- Elite or professional potential

Area 2: BMS Core Sports (Rugby, Hockey, Football, Netball, Cricket, Rowing, Water Polo)

A student would be expected to be a minimum of county standard in one or more of these sports.

Area 3: Associate Sports (Athletics, Tennis, Table Tennis, Skiing)

Consideration would be given to an applicant who participates in one of our associate sports. A student would be expected to be a minimum of county standard in one or more of these sports.

Where there are mitigating circumstances in Areas 2 and 3 above, for example the sport does not have a county structure in place at that age group, the player would be expected to excel in his or her club or school team.

Assessment:

Stage 1: All applications will be considered by a Sports Bursary Committee and those that are successful will move on.

Stage 2: An evidence-based assessment with a process specific to each individual application. The assessment may include one of the following:

- Observing the applicant performing at their highest level of competition (live or by video)
- Testing of physical ability through a number of recognised fitness tests (strength, power, speed, agility, VO2 Max)
- Testing of generic sporting ability or sport-specific ability through drill-based assessment or small-sided games (subject to sport).

Stage 3: A formal interview.





Music

Bursaries are available on all instruments or voice in any style of music.

Criteria:

- Entry into the relevant year group (7, 9 or 12)
- Year 7: minimum grade 5 standard of performance
- Year 9: minimum grade 6 standard of performance
- Year 12: minimum grade 8 standard of performance.

Assessment:

- Students will be expected to perform two contrasting pieces on their first study instrument.
- Aural and sight reading tests will be given at a level appropriate to their first study standard of performance.
- There is an option (not a requirement) to perform on a second study instrument or voice.
- There will be an interview to include discussion of music, participation in wider musical events and general understanding of music.

Art, Design Technology and IT (ADIT)

Criteria:

- Entry into Year 12
- Portfolio of work
- Reference from Art or DT teacher

Assessment:

- Practical task in school. Art would include a timed, observational drawing task.
- DT would include a timed design problem.
- Interview regarding your portfolio. Present 7-10 sheets of work demonstrating technical ability across a range of media. Photos can be added if required.





Performance Arts

Depending on whether a student is interested in Drama or Musical Theatre, certain aspects of the criteria below will apply. Further details will be advised in advance.

Criteria (compulsory):

- Entry into Year 12
- Outstanding ability in acting (Drama), or at least two disciplines from acting, singing and dancing (Musical Theatre)
- Grade 9, 8 or 7 predicted at GCSE Drama and/or Dance
- Stage experience
- Reference from Performance Arts teacher or director.

Criteria (desirable):

- LAMDA qualifications: minimum Grade 6 working towards Grade 7
- ISTD dance qualifications: minimum Grade 7 (ballet) and Grade 6 (modern)
- Professional performance experience (NYT, NYMT, professional workshops, professional performances, summer schools).

Assessment:

- Performance of a prepared song, two contrasting speeches (individual choice) and a piece of dance (solo) for Musical Theatre or two contrasting speeches (individual choice) for Drama
- Justification of choices of script and decisions made (verbal)
- Interview with Director of Performance Arts and Director of Music
- Where further auditions are required, shortlisted students will be required to perform a taught song and take part in some improvisation work as part of a Drama lesson.

SIXTH FORM RESULTS

A Level Results 2025

15%
A*

46%
A* - A

91%
A* - C

GCSE Results 2025

27%
9

49%
9 - 8

98%
9 - 4

