



**BISHOPSTROW
COLLEGE**

A pathway to excellence



WELCOME



At Bishopstrow College we create a safe, warm and fun learning environment, where living in a British boarding school becomes a seamless and happy transition. Our students leave Bishopstrow not only able to be in a classroom with native speakers, but being able to compete academically at all levels. We provide the foundations for independent learners who develop a passion for life and learning. Every student is an individual, but it is also important for them to work as a team player, whether it is on the sports field, on a walk in the countryside, in the classroom, or participating in drama or music. Learning at Bishopstrow operates in every environment and every day of the week, but always in English!

Today, we all live and operate in a global environment. Enabling your son or daughter to come and study at the College provides them with a fantastic international experience for life.

I hope that after reading this prospectus and visiting our website, you will wish to accept my personal invitation to contact us to find out more and arrange a visit.

With good wishes,

Lorraine Atkins, Principal

“My communication skills were improved drastically at Bishopstrow College, making it easier for me to make new friends at my next school, Dulwich College”

BISHOPSTROW COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

Bishopstrow College is the UK's only independent International Study Centre, entirely dedicated to helping international students prepare for entry into the UK's leading boarding schools. We are not affiliated to any individual school, so students are completely free to choose where they continue their education. Each term, we welcome up to 80 boys and girls aged 7-17 years.

From the moment they arrive at Bishopstrow, students are immersed and integrated into British life and culture. Throughout their stay, which lasts at least one term and up to a year, they receive intensive preparation for entry into their chosen British boarding school. Students planning to return home to continue their studies, make real progress with their English, whilst also experiencing the globally recognised British curriculum and British culture.

We take small numbers of students, from around 20 different nationalities and a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. This is intentional, since it encourages students to speak English whilst they are with us. All our students share a commitment to study, a strong sense of purpose, high expectations and good manners. Combined with the exceptional skills and dedication of our teaching, boarding and support staff, it makes for a dynamic learning environment, where students can achieve their very best.

KEY FEATURES OF BISHOPSTROW COLLEGE

- Set in eight acres of grounds, surrounded by the beautiful Wiltshire countryside
- Superb teaching facilities, including new teaching and learning centre, with 8 classrooms, library, science lab and IT suite
- Small class sizes, with a maximum of 8 students for English and 12 students for subjects, allowing very high levels of individual teacher time
- Individual Learning Plan for every student, detailing progress and areas for improvement in English, other academic subjects, sports and boarding

Programme Options:

- Lower College Programme (ages 7-11): 7 academic subjects, with a focus on English
- Middle College Programme (ages 11-14): 7 academic subjects, with a focus on English
- Upper College Programme (ages 14-17): 7 academic subjects, with a focus on English
- 1 Year IGCSE / Pre-IB Programme (ages 15-16): 6-8 IGCSE subjects from a list of options, plus preparatory modules for the IB Diploma
- Academic Summer Programme (ages 7-17): 7 academic subjects, with a focus on English
- Exciting programme of extra curricular activities, including daily sports, creative arts, weekend excursions and the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme
- Four-term academic calendar, with flexible start dates
- Short stay courses providing the opportunity to experience British education for 1, 2 or 3 terms
- Day and boarding places available



SCHOOLING IN ENGLAND

Compulsory education in the UK starts at 5 years of age and finishes at 18. At the age of 16, pupils in England take GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations. From 16 to 18, pupils can take a two year A Level (Advanced Level) course, which provides qualifications for university application. The International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB Diploma) is an alternative to A Levels.

Mathematics and English are both compulsory GCSE qualifications for entrance to university.

ENGLISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

BISHOPSTROW COLLEGE PROGRAMME	AGE	NATIONAL CURRICULUM ACADEMIC YEAR	EXAMINATIONS TAKEN AT BISHOPSTROW COLLEGE
LOWER COLLEGE PROGRAMME	7-11	YEARS 3-6	INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
MIDDLE COLLEGE PROGRAMME	11-14	YEARS 7-9	INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
UPPER COLLEGE PROGRAMME	14-17	YEARS 10-12	INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
1 YEAR IGCSE / PRE-IB PROGRAMME	15-16	YEAR 11	INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXTERNAL IGCSE EXAMINATIONS
ACADEMIC SUMMER PROGRAMME	7-17	YEARS 3-12	INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH

TYPICAL ACADEMIC YEAR AT BISHOPSTROW COLLEGE

- Term 1: Mid September – early December
- Term 2: Early January – mid March
- Term 3: End March – mid June
- Term 4: End June – end August

The Academic Summer Programme is a 5 week programme available during Term 4, with two start dates

THE PROGRAMMES

We offer a broad array of English language and academic programmes for boarding and day students, aged between 7 and 17, lasting from one term to a year. In each programme, there is a wide range of academic subject choices and extra curricular activities complement the academic programme.

Class sizes are small, with no more than 8 students per class for English and 12 students per class for subjects and teachers are qualified or trained in teaching English as an additional language.

LOWER COLLEGE PROGRAMME

The Lower College Programme consists of intensive English language tuition and academic study for prep school or 11+ senior school entry.

This is suitable for international students who wish to improve their English, whilst following a traditional programme of academic subjects.



Features

AGE

7-11 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Interview (face-to-face or via Skype), a good current school report and a good character reference

MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEVEL

No pre-requisite

COURSE LENGTH

1, 2, 3 or 4 terms

SUBJECTS STUDIED

English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Creative Arts, PSHE and Science

ACADEMIC STUDY

25 hours of academic tuition and 5 hours of supervised prep

END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT

Internal examinations and external Cambridge English examination (where applicable)

PROGRESSION

Prep school entry or 11+ senior school entry

MIDDLE COLLEGE PROGRAMME

The Middle College Programme consists of intensive English language tuition and academic study for 13+ senior school entry.

This is suitable for international students who wish to improve their English, whilst following a traditional programme of academic subjects.



Features

AGE

11-14 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Interview (face-to-face or via Skype), a good current school report and a good character reference

MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEVEL

CEFR Level A2

COURSE LENGTH

1, 2, 3 or 4 terms

SUBJECTS STUDIED

English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Creative Arts, PSHE and Science

ACADEMIC STUDY

25 hours of academic tuition and 5 hours of supervised prep

END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT

Internal examinations and external Cambridge English examination (where applicable)

PROGRESSION

13+ senior school entry

UPPER COLLEGE PROGRAMME

The Upper College Programme consists of intensive English language tuition and academic study for senior school entry, including preparation for GCSEs, A Levels and the International Baccalaureate

This is suitable for international students who wish to improve their English, whilst following a traditional programme of academic subjects.



Features

AGE

14-17 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Interview (face-to-face or via Skype), a good current school report and a good character reference

MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEVEL

CEFR Level A2 or B1

COURSE LENGTH

1, 2, 3 or 4 terms

SUBJECTS STUDIED

English, Business Studies, Global Perspectives, History, Mathematics, PSHE and Science

ACADEMIC STUDY

30 hours of academic tuition and 7.5 hours of supervised prep

END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT

Internal examinations and external Cambridge English examination (where applicable)

PROGRESSION

Senior school entry

1 YEAR IGCSE / PRE-IB PROGRAMME

The 1 Year IGCSE / Pre-IB Programme offers up to 12 examinable subjects and is an excellent preparation for international students before they begin their A Level studies or the IB Diploma Programme.

This is suitable for international students who wish to complete the IGCSE examinations in just one year.



"Bishopstrow College allowed me to move up to the IGCSE cohort and this helped me build a foundation in subjects that I had not studied previously in China, such as Science"



Features

AGE

15-16 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Interview (face-to-face or via Skype), a good current school report and a good character reference UKiset assessment

MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEVEL

CEFR Level B2

COURSE LENGTH

3 terms

SUBJECTS STUDIED

A minimum of 6 examinable subjects from English as a Second Language or English as a First Language, Modern Languages (arranged at extra cost), Mathematics, Statistics (for more able mathematicians), Combined Science or Coordinated Science, Business Studies, Geography and History

ACADEMIC STUDY

30 hours of academic tuition and 7.5 hours of supervised prep

END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT

External IGCSE examinations

PROGRESSION

Sixth form entry

ACADEMIC SUMMER PROGRAMME

The Academic Summer Programme is aimed at international students who will be joining British boarding schools in the Autumn and at those who wish to sample British education in the summer.

There are two start dates at the beginning and mid-point of Term 4, with the programme lasting 5 weeks.

	LOWERS	MIDDLES	UPPERS
AGE	7-11 YEARS	11-14 YEARS	14-17 YEARS
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	Interview (face-to-face or via Skype), a good school report and a good character reference	Interview (face-to-face or via Skype), a good school report and a good character reference	Interview (face-to-face or via Skype), a good school report and a good character reference
MINIMUM ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEVEL	No prerequisite	CEFR Level A2	CEFR Level A2 or B1
COURSE LENGTH	5 weeks	5 weeks	5 weeks
SUBJECTS STUDIED	English, Geography, History, Creative Arts, PSHE, Science	English, Geography, History, Creative Arts, PSHE, Science	English, Business Studies, Global Perspectives, History, Mathematics, PSHE, Science
ACADEMIC STUDY	25 hours of academic tuition & 5 hours of supervised prep	25 hours of academic tuition & 5 hours of supervised prep	30 hours of academic tuition & 7.5 hours of supervised prep
END OF COURSE ASSESSMENT	Internal examinations	Internal examinations	Internal examinations
PROGRESSION	Return to existing school (in home country) Prep school entry 11+ senior school entry	Return to existing school (in home country) 13+ senior school entry	Return to existing school (in home country) Senior school entry

DESTINATION SCHOOLS

Bishopstrow College is proud that its students secure places at some of the most prestigious schools in the UK and overseas.

GIRLS' SCHOOLS	BOYS' SCHOOLS	CO-ED SCHOOLS
Badminton Benenden Bromley School Bruton School for Girls Cheltenham Ladies' College Downe House Godolphin Godstowe School Harrogate Ladies' College Luckley House Mayfield School Moreton Hall Prior's Field School Queen Anne's School Queenswood Roedean Rye St Antony St George's School Ascot St. Mary's Ascot St. Mary's Calne St. Mary's Shaftesbury St Swithun's Tudor Hall Woldingham School Wycombe Abbey	Abingdon School Caldicott Charterhouse Christ Church Cathedral Cothill House Dulwich College Eton College Harrow Maidwell Hall School Papplewick Radley College St. John's Beaumont Summer Fields Sunningdale Tonbridge Westminster Winchester College	Aldenham Ashdown House Aysgarth School Battle Abbey School Bearwood College Bedales Bedford School Bloxham Blundell's Bradfield College Bredon School Brighton College Bromsgrove School Bryanston Canford CATS College Cheltenham College Clayesmore Clifton College Concord College Cottesmore Dauntseys DLD College D'Overbroecks The Dragon School Eagle House Eastbourne College Edge Grove Elstree Epsom College Felsted Foremarke Hall Glenalmond College Gordonstoun Haileybury Hampshire Collegiate Hurtwood House King Edward's School Witley King's Bruton King's Canterbury King's School Taunton Kingswood School Lambrook
		Lancing College Leighton Park School Lord Wandsworth College LVS Ascot Maidwell Hall Malvern College Marlborough College Millfield Mill Hill School Monkton Combe School New Hall School Oakham School Oundle Packwood Haugh School Port Regis Prior Park College Queen's College Taunton Rendcomb College Repton School Royal Russell School Rugby Ruthin School St. David's College St. Edmund's Canterbury St. Edward's Oxford Sandroyd School Sedbergh School Sevenoaks Shrewsbury School Stonyhurst Stowe School Strathallan School Swanbourne House The Harrodian The Oratory School The Royal Hospital School Uppingham Warminster School Wellington College Westonbirt School Windlesham School Wycliffe College

SPORTS AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The College's extra curricular programme includes a range of daily sports, morning and evening clubs and activities, designed to foster team spirit and the confidence to integrate with others when students move on from Bishopstrow.

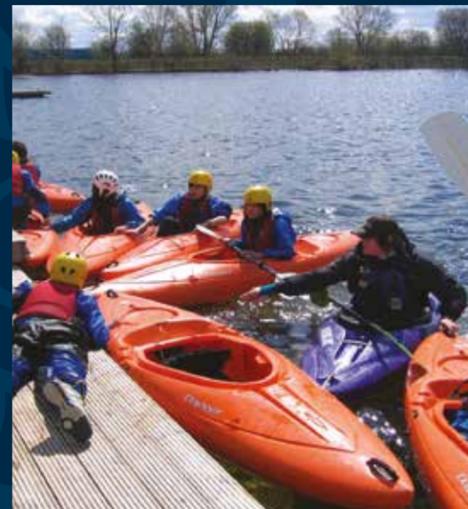
Daily sports include traditional British sports such as athletics, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, netball and rugby, as well as basketball and football.

Morning and afternoon clubs include 'The Crazy Scientist Club', Chess Club, Debating Club, Netball Club and Fitness Club. Weekend activities include country walks, outdoor cooking and survival simulation games.

Other activities include the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme.

Like most British independent schools, we have a House system, with students competing in multinational teams for trophies in debating, drama and sports.

The College is able to arrange other activities such as horse riding and golf on request, for an additional charge.



THE CREATIVE ARTS

For students joining the Lower and Middle College Programme, the more formal English and academic classes are complemented by a programme of creative arts, including weekly art and drama clubs. There are also opportunities for individual music lessons and one-to-one tuition in art (on request).

The activities encourage speaking and listening and help build confidence and develop self expression.

The College makes full use of the importance of Bath as a local cultural centre (and UNESCO World Heritage Site), with regular visits organised for students.



"Being able to pursue a wide range of subjects at Bishopstrow, including Drama and Music, helped prepare me for the broader curriculum that I would have access to at my next school"



TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

As well as our on-site activities, we organise a stimulating and varied programme of fully supervised trips and excursions at weekends. Some allow students to discover places of cultural, geographical and historical interest; others encourage students to sample the great outdoors, through walking, hiking, cycling and other physical pursuits.

Sightseeing, cultural visits and even shopping provide contexts within which speaking and listening skills are put to the test; they are also great fun and provide memories to last a lifetime.

Trips and excursions may include:

- London museums and art galleries
- Cycling and orienteering in local forests
- Outdoor activity centres
- Trips to the beach and coastal walking
- Visits to neighbouring towns and cities, including Bath, Bristol, Salisbury and Oxford

"Rudi regained his self-esteem and is happy and motivated. I believe that Bishopstrow College is a wonderful place for international students to start an English boarding school education. We will be pleased to update you on Rudi's experiences in the future."



BOARDING AND PASTORAL CARE

We take our students' safety and welfare extremely seriously, and our pastoral care has been judged an area of strength by the British Council.

Fully-qualified staff are always available to discuss personal and health matters with students. All boarding staff have first aid training. In addition all students are registered with the local doctor.

Students in the Lower and Middle College live in Barrow House at the heart of the main campus, in shared rooms of between 2 and 8. Upper College students live in shared rooms of 2 or 3 in separate Senior Girls' accommodation within Barrow House and in a separate Senior Boys' boarding house a short distance from the College.

All students have access to indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, common rooms, study spaces and Wi-Fi. All meals are served in the main dining room in Barrow House. We also provide a laundry service.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



Ayaka From Japan
Programme: Lower College Programme
School Destination: The Dragon School

Comments from Ayaka's Agent: Bishopstrow College provided Ayaka with a good start that successfully led to her studying at The Dragon with great confidence. She is showing great progress and enjoying her studies and life at The Dragon School. Mr and Mrs Nakamura wanted to express their appreciation. Thank you again. We wish you and the school a prosperous future.



Stepan From Russia
Programme: Lower College Programme
School Destination: Highfield School; Winchester College (Year 9 entry)

Comments: Bishopstrow College helped me prepare academically for entry into Highfield School and ultimately, Winchester College. Before I came to Bishopstrow, I had limited English language skills and was unable to access any of the top schools in the UK. Now, I am studying at one of the most prestigious schools in the world. Bishopstrow College was the first of many steps required to gain entry into Winchester College.



Rudolf From Germany
Programme: Middle College Programme
School Destination: The Downs Malvern

Comments: Bishopstrow College was known to all of the boarding schools that I visited before moving to the UK. It was recommended on the basis of providing a very good preparation for boarding.



Jah From Thailand
Programme: Middle College Programme
School Destination: Kingswood School

Comments: Bishopstrow College helped me prepare for entry into Kingswood School, by providing exposure to a wide range of subjects, including Music, Drama and PE. The College also helped me prepare for boarding school life. I was able to get familiar with being in a boarding school, become more organised and improve my written and spoken English.



Haoxin (Andy) From China
Programme: Upper College Programme
School Destination: Dulwich College

University Destination: London School of Economics
Comments: Bishopstrow College helped me a great deal academically, for both entry into Dulwich College and my studies later on. Bishopstrow prepared me for interviews (with potential destination schools) and provided me with past entrance exam papers. I was allowed to move up to the IGCSE group and this helped me build a foundation in Science subjects, which I had not studied previously in China.



LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS

Bishopstrow College is set in 8 acres of beautiful grounds, with extensive gardens and playing fields, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Surrounded by clean country air and green space, students are encouraged to spend plenty of time outdoors. We are near the ancient market town of Warminster, with many places of interest within easy reach, including Stonehenge and Bath and the cathedral city of Salisbury.



Bishopstrow College is easily reached by road (M3, M4 and M5) and is close to UK gateway airports.

Trains from Warminster railway station (5 minutes from the College) run directly to London Waterloo and London Paddington stations.

FURTHER DETAILS

For information or to arrange a visit to the College, please contact Sarah Miles, Head of Admissions.



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