



Aims of the College

Whole College

Bishop's Stortford College aims to build confidence for life. It is a place of learning – a place where young people have wonderful opportunities to become fulfilled, skilful, happy and ambitious as they begin their adult life. Ensuring this process of all round growth – academically, morally, emotionally, spiritually, athletically and creatively is our aim.

Every pupil is encouraged, taught and challenged to fulfil and to exceed his or her true potential, by being immersed in an environment of discovery and wholehearted participation.

We strive to allow time and space for academic work to be balanced by sport, music and drama and a diverse choice of other activities, including service to the local and wider community. Through this broad and varied programme, we aim to allow our young people to acquire a confidence in their relationships with adults.

We hope that an appreciation and love of creativity will remain with them for the rest of their lives and we make sure that each pupil has the chance to join in and gain new experiences, whatever their interests and abilities.

We aim to give pupils opportunities to exercise responsibility and leadership as well as showing care and concern for their younger peers. The richness of their educational experience here is designed to allow our pupils confidently and constructively to play a full role in and to contribute to our modern society, whatever their chosen path.

We believe that learning should be exciting and a constant challenge, and this is what we strive to achieve.

Since its foundation in 1868 as The Non-Conformist Grammar School, Bishop's Stortford College has had its roots in the Christian faith, whilst welcoming and valuing young people and staff from all faiths or indeed none. Encouraging each pupil's spiritual discovery, values and expression is an important part of the work of the school and is overseen by the College Chaplain.

Senior School

In the Senior School Houses, both boarding and day, are at the heart of the caring community which all Stortfordians become an integral part of, both during and after their time here. They are small enough to achieve that special sense of belonging and community: the family atmosphere this creates is quite deliberately a strong one.

We are designed to be as flexible as possible in the boarding arrangements offered, thus ensuring that our pupils can make the most of their opportunities without losing the benefits of family life. We value the genuine partnership between parent and school in supporting each and every child. We believe that the boarding experience should be fun and we strive to make sure that every boarding pupil looks forward to returning to his or her House at the end of the school day.

We do all we can to provide a secure and structured community for our pupils, in which these young people can strive to exceed their expectations whilst learning to enjoy a healthy lifestyle, and working together in a spirit of cooperation, kindness, respect and enthusiasm.

Our goal is that pupils leaving the College will be confident, articulate, intellectually curious, courteous and of moral integrity.

Prep School

In the Prep School pupils are organised into Forms that are small enough to enable staff and pupils to work closely together. A strong pastoral system provides firm foundations for learning — happy pupils who feel well supported learn well. The role of the Form Tutors and Heads of Year is crucial in fulfilling our aim to provide a secure and structured community for all our pupils, in which these young people can fulfil their potential whilst learning to live and work together in a spirit of co-operation, kindness, mutual respect and enthusiasm, establishing harmonious interaction between pupils and pupils and staff and pupils.

We aim to provide a broad and varied educational experience for our pupils. Within this environment we aim to develop well-rounded, adaptable and interesting young people who are confident, but not arrogant, self-assured but not complacent and who have a sense of responsibility and care towards others.

Pre-Prep School

In the Pre-Prep School we aim to give each child a happy, secure and purposeful start to their education by providing a stimulating, caring environment and a balanced and relevant curriculum to:

- help every child to be a confident, adaptable member of the community.
- enable every child to develop a love of learning.
- help children to have the confidence to tackle any challenge they might come across in daily life.
- give children the knowledge and skills to enable them to work flexibly and think clearly.

- give children the opportunity to acquire the key skills of literacy and numeracy.
- promote listening and thinking skills.
- foster an enquiring mind through activities that promote an interest in, and responsibility for, the world around them.
- help each child make progress in every area of his/her life: academic, social, moral, spiritual, emotional, physical and aesthetic.
- enable children to work individually and as part of a group to discover ways of solving problems.
- give children the opportunity to achieve their highest potential.
- give every child access to stimulating and appropriate activities, delivered in well resourced, pleasant surroundings by committed, experienced and caring staff.

These aims are set within a caring atmosphere in which responsibility, discipline and concern for others are of crucial importance.