



SIXTH
AT THE
COLLEGE



THE
MODERN
FACE OF
INDEPENDENT
EDUCATION



bishopsstortfordcollege.org

Welcome to Sixth at the College

The Modern Face of Independent Education
is truly epitomised in the Sixth.

Throughout the two years, students are part of a vibrant and unique Sixth Form, where opportunities for intellectual growth and skills development will be central to everything they do.

Delivering an innovative, dynamic curriculum, Sixth at the College prepares students for their future lives and careers. Instilling intellectual curiosity and a love of learning are the cornerstones of their experience, enabling students to achieve academic excellence.

Alongside this, the holistic education offered, ensures students are not just academically prepared but

also equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in the wider world, so when they leave us, they are confident, aspirational, and self-aware young people.



ALEX SWART-WILSON
Head of Sixth Form



Our Values

Academic qualifications are a prime focus for us, yet we know that qualifications alone will not suffice for a life fully lived.

Values are also a large part of the ticket to success. We offer a world-class education where every student is encouraged to develop our core values of belonging, scholarship, and character.

Together, qualifications and qualities are what an education for today and tomorrow must deliver.



Belonging

Values that strengthen our community and bring us closer together.

Scholarship

Values that promote excellence in academics, sport, art, and performing arts. Through these, a lifelong love of learning and a passion are developed.

Character

Values that nurture morals and ethics within each person, ensuring they are a positive member of society.





“The Sixth presents us with so many opportunities. We’re encouraged to go beyond our comfort zones and do things we’ve never done before, which help us to become well-rounded individuals.”

FOUNDATIONS OF THE SIXTH

Sixth at the College

We promote academic excellence, equipping students with the skills and character necessary for future success, whilst emphasising value-added education, scholarship, strong character-forming values, and community; ensuring that every student develops confidence and a sense of belonging.



Academic



Pastoral



Futures



Co-curricular



Stortfordian
Diploma

Our five petals are the foundation of the Sixth, and guide students through the two years of Sixth Form, ensuring their time at the College delivers a transformative education.

OPPORTUNITIES

Life in the Sixth

There is so much on offer in the Sixth. So many opportunities available, ensuring when students leave us, they are ready for life outside school.

From the minute a student joins the Sixth, life will become busy. Fully supported by expert staff, and other students, they will settle in quickly and seamlessly.

Students in the Sixth are encouraged to work hard, however, academic study is complemented by an extensive programme of co-curricular activities, trips, and socials, which run throughout the year. Many trips are linked to A Level subjects whilst others broaden horizons or provide unique sporting opportunities. Destinations include New York, South Africa, Switzerland (CERN), Netherlands, Croatia, as well as an annual Africa Expedition to Zimbabwe and Botswana.

In addition, regular socials, ranging from informal BBQs to formal black tie dinners and balls, help to ensure time in the Sixth is enjoyable and everyone leaves with lifelong memories and friendships.

Here there is a togetherness where none of us is as important as all of us.





A Level Subjects

In an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and academic scholarship, students in the Sixth are stretched and encouraged to reach their full potential.

With a choice of 20+ A Level subjects on offer, students choose three or four subjects to study, enabling them to build a programme best suited to them.

Small class sizes with specialist teachers mean students quickly learn to think critically and in depth, preparing them for success not only in exams, but also for life beyond the College.

All students also have an academic tutor, to provide bespoke guidance as they work towards their A Levels.

Academic support, provided through an extensive range of clinics, examination practice, and language support (if English isn't a student's first language), is also on offer, and built into every student's timetable.

A Level subject options

Art, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, 3D Design: Product Design, drama and theatre studies, economics, English literature, ethics, philosophy, and theology, film studies, French, geography, German, history, mathematics and further mathematics, music, physical education, physics, politics, psychology, and Spanish.



Discover more

20+ subjects to choose from



"A top university has been a dream.
A top university is now a reality."



Academic Extension and Scholarships

Students in the Sixth are treated as individuals and encouraged to build their own unique academic and extra-curricular programme.

Academic extension plays an important part of a student's time in the Sixth and allows them to stretch themselves beyond their chosen A Level subjects.

An Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) offers a unique opportunity for students to delve deeply into a subject of their choice, fostering independent research skills and critical thinking. Academic extension is also offered through academic clubs, and Olympiads, as well as Scholars and Subject Ambassador programmes.

A Medics programme, developed to provide tailored support, guidance, and work experience for students wishing to pursue a career in medicine and dentistry also runs

alongside an Oxbridge programme, which provides academic stretch for those considering applying to Oxford and Cambridge. An AS Level in a Modern Foreign Language can also be studied, all of which helps students to build their supra-curricular profile.

Academic enrichment is fundamental to our provision, with student-led societies ranging from Oxbridge, and law, through to robotics, and engineering.





Scholarships

Scholarships in the Sixth (16+) support our ambition to achieve the highest academic results through significant value-added education, whilst nurturing ambitious students. Scholarships are offered across a range of subjects, including art, music, sport, drama, and design, as well as academic.



Discover more

How to apply





Pastoral

Our Sixth community is diverse and inclusive, with students representing 18 different nationalities. Whether day or boarding, all students in the Sixth are members of one of our ten Houses, which immediately helps to create a sense of belonging and identity.

Regular House competitions, including debating, music, and sport, bring everyone together in a competitive, yet friendly atmosphere. It is here that learning to collaborate, to be a team player, to become friends with diverse, different people, will happen.

House staff work closely with the Head of Year, Academic Tutor, and the Head of Sixth Form to ensure the needs of every student are met during their time in the Sixth.

Members of the Sixth also take leadership roles in their Houses. Whether it be through preparing for interhouse competitions, fundraising for charity, or mentoring younger peers, students develop the skills required for them to thrive at University and beyond.

In the Sixth, we don't just prepare students for their next step — we help them shape their future.







“The Sixth challenges me to take initiative, try new things, and think seriously about how I want to contribute to the world beyond school.”



Futures

Our Futures Department offers expert, personalised guidance to help students navigate the wide range of opportunities available after school.

From the moment a student joins the Sixth, they benefit from unlimited access to one-to-one careers guidance, tailored to their individual aspirations; whether they are considering university, degree apprenticeships, or alternatives.

Students have the opportunity to hear from industry experts across a wide range of sectors, including law, finance, engineering, and the creative industries.

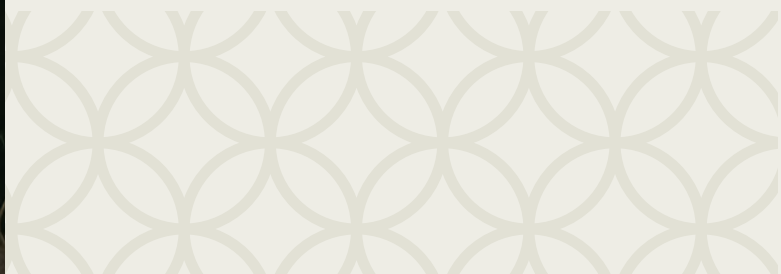
Specialist support is available for those applying for Oxbridge, medicine, veterinary science, and dentistry, as well as for students interested in international university applications.

Guidance for students looking to take up an apprenticeship is also offered, ensuring all pathways are explored and supported.

Pathways

Our Pathways programme is specifically developed to provide students in the Sixth with a comprehensive and enriching experience that prepares them for life beyond school. As well as preparing them for post-18 applications and the world of work, Pathways dovetails with the national curriculum to educate students on the challenges they face now, and in the future.

Visiting speakers cover a range of topics, from student finance and personal branding, through to war photography.







Co-curricular

Flourishing in the Sixth is not just about academics. With our extensive co-curricular programme, students are encouraged to expand their interests, make the most of every opportunity, and challenge themselves through an inspiring programme of activity.

Sport

A comprehensive and ambitious sports programme is offered to students in the Sixth. This ranges from recreational, to elite team sports, with many students participating in our Performance Sports programme, and competing at regional or national level. Students in the Sixth have complete choice over the sports they select to participate in.

Music

Musical opportunities in the Sixth are vast, and students are encouraged to join a choir, ensemble, or band at the start of Year 12, or to learn an instrument for the first time. With a dual focus on inclusion and excellence, it is no surprise that a number of students have been awarded Grade 8 or their Associate of the Royal School of Music (ARSM) Diploma, and secured places to study music at Arden Manchester, Berklee College of Music in Boston, the Royal College of Music in London, and University of Cambridge.





Drama

For students in the Sixth with a passion for theatre, there are endless opportunities on offer. From whole school plays, to performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; from running our Drama Society, to supporting backstage through our Stage Tech Club, there is something for everyone.

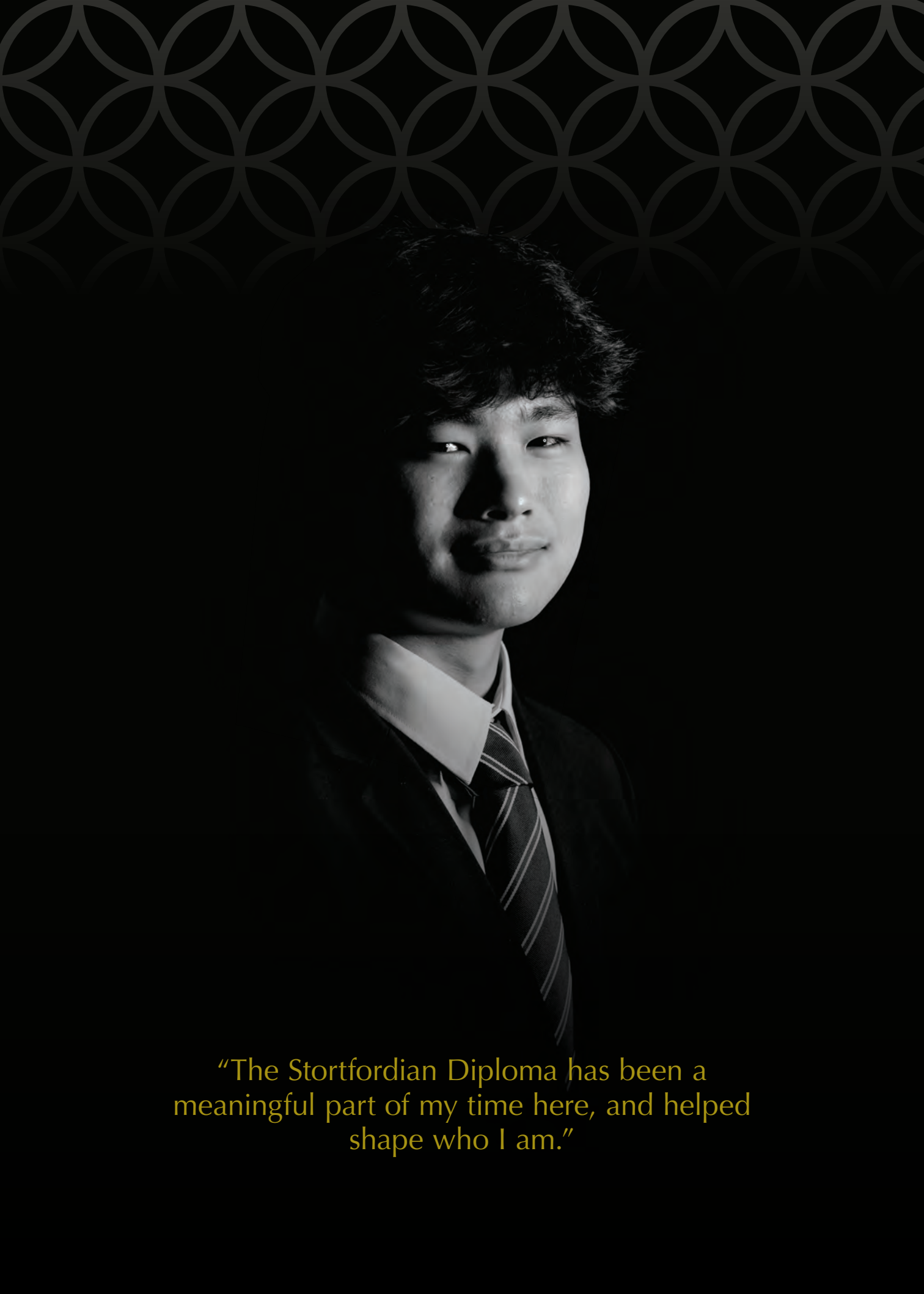
Clubs and Societies

With over 50 different clubs and societies on offer, such as Model United Nations, Medical Society, broadcasting, and technical design, the opportunities for students to discover a new passion, learn a new skill, or expand an existing interest in the Sixth are endless. Breadth and balance are key, and students are all encouraged to try something new.



Discover more

An extensive
co-curricular programme
offered in the Sixth



"The Stortfordian Diploma has been a meaningful part of my time here, and helped shape who I am."



The Stortfordian Diploma

The Stortfordian Diploma is a unique, pioneering programme that complements A Level qualifications.

It encourages students to embrace opportunity, develop greater independence, and enables them to broaden their horizons during their final two years. Encompassing intellectual curiosity, service and leadership, employment insights, and personal growth, the Stortfordian Diploma enables students in the Sixth to build a bespoke portfolio of experiences, that highlights the competencies sought by universities and employers.

The Stortfordian Diploma recognises a student's achievements, both within and outside of the College and includes externally accredited qualifications*.

Volunteering and leadership are key elements, with many students choosing to support or coach younger year groups, to participate in the College's outreach programme, or to take on one of the many College, or House, leadership roles.



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***Qualifications include:**

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Mini-Master of Business Administration (Mini-MBA), International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Trinity Arts Award, Leith's Cookery School, and AS Level Modern Foreign Languages.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Sixth Form Centre

At the heart of the College, the Sixth Form Centre is key to students' time in the Sixth, and offers a dedicated space for students to study, relax, and socialise.



In 2026, the provision available to students in the Sixth will be greatly enhanced with the opening of a new, state of the art Sixth Form Centre. Located at the heart of the College campus, this newly renovated building will incorporate social spaces for students, university-library-style workspaces, conference and meeting rooms, small lecture spaces, and it will be home to the Futures Department.

Sympathetically designed to offer a welcoming, calm environment, the new Sixth Form Centre will offer students zones for focused study and research,

as well as for small and large group collaboration, and socialising.

Designed as a bridge between school and university, the new Sixth Form Centre will drive the progress of independent, curious, and ambitious students.



Discover more

Follow the developments of our
new Sixth Form Centre





Boarding

Boarding in the Sixth is wonderful preparation for life after school, recognising the significance of independence, but providing a structured yet flexible environment that encourages self-reliance and personal responsibility.

It offers an inclusive and friendly environment where diverse backgrounds are shared and celebrated, and lifelong friendships are made. Boarders, who are fully integrated with day students, live in one of four boarding houses (two boys', two girls'), and benefit from some of the best boarding facilities in the East of England.

Different boarding options are available, including full boarding (seven nights a week), weekly boarding (five or six nights a week), and single-night flexi boarding.

An exciting programme of weekend activities provides ample opportunity for fun and enjoyment through a diverse range of trips, sports

opportunities, and creative outlets, within which we encourage boarders to explore their interests and discover new talents.

Revision sessions, guided by academic staff, are run throughout the year, with additional university application support available at weekends to boarders in the Sixth.



Discover more

A range of boarding options are available

OUR CAMPUS AND LOCATION

Our Location

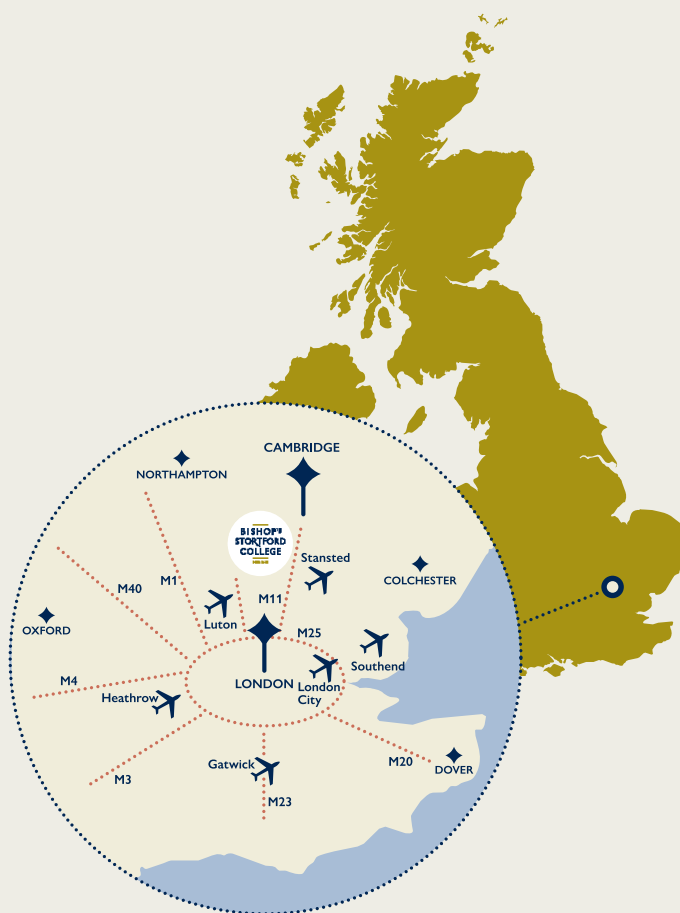
Set in 130 acres of beautiful grounds in Hertfordshire, Bishop's Stortford College is well connected to the rest of the UK via road and rail, and internationally, with easy access to all London airports.



The campus is a peaceful, green, and leafy oasis, with lots of space for students to study, engage in activities, and relax. It brings together a wonderful blend of history and the modern.

Just 10 minutes' walk away, the safe market town of Bishop's Stortford provides all the amenities students need, from cafes and restaurants to the cinema and shops.

With Cambridge just 23 miles north, and London just 27 miles south, the College offers a comprehensive transport service connecting with towns and villages across Hertfordshire and Essex; many of which include pickup from national rail, or London underground stations, for students connecting from London or across the UK.



TRANSPORT LINKS

10 minutes
drive to London
Stansted
Airport

15 minutes
walk to Bishop's
Stortford train
station

25 minutes
by train to
Cambridge

35 minutes
by train to
London
(Liverpool Street)

90 minutes
drive to London
Heathrow
Airport

Daily
bus routes to
north London



Discover more

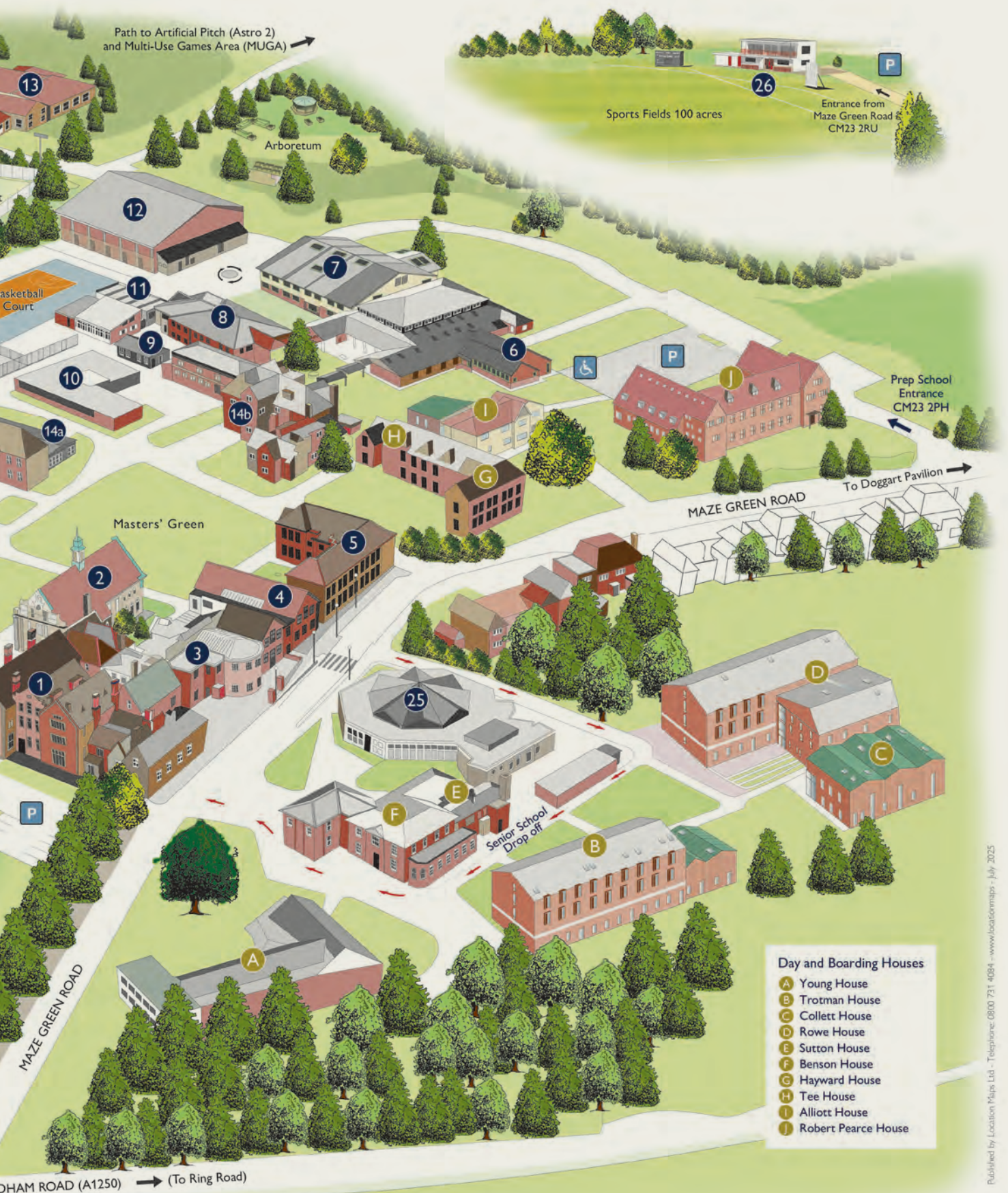
Daily and weekly minibus
services to Bishop's
Stortford College

Campus Map

BISHOP'S STORTFORD COLLEGE

ESTD 1868







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ESTD 1868

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