

# BRITISH ENGLISH OLYMPICS

COMPETE AGAINST THE BEST





By entering our competition, your students will hone their English and academic skills, grow as individuals, and represent their school on the trip of a lifetime.

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# WELCOME TO THE BRITISH ENGLISH OLYMPICS

Do you have what it takes to compete  
against schools from around the world?

The British English Olympics (BEO) offers a chance for ambitious international students and schools to put themselves to the test in a series of academic and problem-solving challenges – while visiting the UK, learning about British culture and history, and making friends with other students from all over the world.

## A UNIQUE CONTEST

Taking place each spring, our competition gives students aged 12-16 the opportunity to compete in a series of different challenges designed to help students improve both their English language and academic skills. Our Academic Olympiad currently attracts students from 150 bilingual schools around the world, representing 19 different countries from Latin America, Europe, Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Asia.

Every year, our students exceed our expectations with the passion, drive and commitment they show in their efforts to win the coveted British English Olympics trophy. This year's competition will continue to stretch our students' academic abilities, imagination and spirit.

Would you like your students to develop life-long friendships with a range of young people from different countries? Are you looking for an opportunity to get your students speaking English in everyday situations? If you're joining us for the first time, or if you have competed before, we look forward to welcoming you to the next British English Olympics!

**- The British English  
Olympics Team**



The British English Olympics is hosted by Oxford International, a British Council-accredited organisation that has run English language programmes for more than 25 years and educated over 200,000 international students from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

After competing in our Olympics, many participating schools continue their stay in the UK or Europe by booking one of our high-quality educational tours. You can find out more about these at [www.oxfordinternational.com](http://www.oxfordinternational.com).



19  
COUNTRIES



1500  
STUDENTS



150  
SCHOOLS



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# WHAT IS THE BRITISH ENGLISH OLYMPICS?

Our competition is an exciting English language and academic contest designed for the world's brightest international students.

Our Olympics is a fantastic opportunity for teams of specially selected 12- to 16-year-olds to spend an unforgettable two weeks in the UK. These students represent their schools, cities and countries in a demanding academic competition, while enjoying an amazing British cultural experience – with most schools returning year after year.

## PERFECT YOUR ENGLISH

In many countries around the world, the British English Olympics has become synonymous with academic excellence. The competition provides an opportunity for bilingual schools to challenge and develop the academic and leadership skills of gifted students, while raising the profile of their school. During the competition students compete in a series of debates, presentations, theatre role-plays and song and dance performances in a completely immersive environment.

## CULTURAL IMMERSION

Over the two-week programme, students stay in some of the UK's most exclusive boarding schools and visit some of the country's best cultural attractions. Through these visits, students are able to both enjoy the beautiful English countryside and fully immerse themselves in British culture.

## MEET DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES

At the competition, participants have a unique chance to meet students from all over the world. During their time here, they develop a healthy sense of friendly competition, and also engage in a multicultural exchange to learn more about each other.

## 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Since its formation in 2008, the British English Olympics has gone from strength to strength, growing from a fantastic small contest to a huge event with over 1500 students competing. The 2018 competition will continue this success: we will be opening a new centre at Benenden School – one of the UK's leading boarding establishments – and this year we hope to welcome students from even more countries than in 2017.



## What are the benefits?

### FOR STUDENTS:



Improve your use of English in real-life situations



Develop the ability to express your academic knowledge



Build greater knowledge and understanding of other cultures



Get a head start on future international academic opportunities



Improve your critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills



Develop key skills such as leadership, public speaking, team-building, negotiation, and debating

### FOR TEACHERS:



Share knowledge with other schools



Promote international partnerships and exchanges



Increase the profile of your school – both regionally and internationally

# A HISTORY OF OUR COMPETITION

Since our competition began in 2008, Oxford International has welcomed nearly 9,000 students from over 250 schools. Each year, our Olympics has grown further, attracting an ever-wider mix of nationalities: we now host contestants from around 20 different countries.

In 2018, we are celebrating our 10th anniversary – and hope to have more competitors than ever.



# THE PROGRAMME

The British English Olympics expands students' English and academic skills – whilst also being a lot of fun!

The aim of our English Olympics is to further students' understanding of the English language while helping them develop skills in leadership, public speaking, team-building and time management – all necessary for future leaders. Team members must work closely together, support one another, and strive to be the best they can be.

Every year, the contest focuses on a topical theme, which provides a forum for students to explore important global political and social issues. Previous years have been devoted to subjects such as globalisation, sustainable development, the digital revolution, and social media.

The competition consists of a series of challenges for the teams, which are assessed and graded by a select panel of judges.



## DURING OUR OLYMPICS, ALL SCHOOLS COMPETE IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:



### BEO DEBATE 2.0

Teams are assigned a position to defend in a debate related to the competition theme.



### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Selected students give a presentation on a topic assigned to them in October of the previous year.



### MYSTERY CHALLENGE

Students will be tested on their creativity and ingenuity, using limited resources to achieve their goal. Past Mystery Challenges have included building bridges, towers, planes and monuments.



### WORLD TRAVEL MARKET

Teams are asked to represent another country at an imaginary international travel fair – with the aim of raising interest and attracting visitors to that part of the world!



### DRAMA FESTIVAL

Students must write and perform an original theatrical piece on a subject relating to the current year's theme.



### SONG CONTEST

Teams must choose a contemporary song and then write their own lyrics to the melody of the piece. Their new song is then performed a capella during the competition...

## Sample Programme

| DAY | MORNING                           | AFTERNOON                      | EVENING                         | DAY | MORNING                               | AFTERNOON                                       | EVENING           |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1   | Arrivals                          | Arrivals                       | Film Nights & Sports Activities | 10  | Semi Final                            | Semi Final                                      | Talent Show       |
| 2   | Extended Full Day Visit to London |                                | Evening in London               |     | On-site activities for Semi-Finalists | On-site activities for Semi-Finalists           |                   |
| 3   | Opening Ceremony                  | Culture Work Shop              | Welcome Party                   | 11  | Full Day Visit to Oxford              | Walking Tour and Visit to Christ Church College | Sports Activity   |
| 4   | Skills Workshop                   | Inter-School Mystery Challenge | Talent Show                     | 12  | Grand Final at Christ's Hospital      | Grand Final at Christ's Hospital                |                   |
| 5   | World Travel Market               | Mystery Challenge              | Film Night                      |     | Optional Day                          |   |                   |
| 6   | Extended Full Day Visit to London | West End Musical               |                                 | 13  | Awards Ceremony in London             | Afternoon in London                             | Evening in London |
| 7   | BEO Debate                        | Song Recital                   | Karaoke Show                    | 14  | Full Day Coach Visit to Brighton      | Walking Tour of Brighton City Centre            | Farewell Disco    |
| 8   | Keynote Presentation              | Group Project                  | Sports                          | 15  | Departures                            | Departures                                      | Departures        |
| 9   | Drama Performance                 | Sports                         | Announcement of Semi-Finalists  |     |                                       |   | Disco Party       |

# COMPETITION STAGES

As the contest moves forward, the winners remain... until only one school is left.

The following competition structure is based on 6 competition campuses and 120 schools competing in total. As the number of schools competing changes every year, the numbers at each stage also change slightly to accommodate this. However, from the structure below you will see the outline of how the contest works.



## First Round • 150 SCHOOLS

At each of our 6 campuses, 20 schools will compete in all 7 academic events. The top 8 schools from each campus go forward to the semi-finals.

## Semi-Finals • 48 SCHOOLS

Each of the remaining 6 groups of 8 schools will compete against another. The schools will compete in two events: the Mystery Challenge, and their chosen Presentation (they can choose between the World Travel Market, the Keynote Presentation or the Project Presentation).

## Grand Final • 12 SCHOOLS

The top two schools from each previous group will go through to the Grand Final, where they will compete in the International Forum and a Mystery Challenge.

**Winner**  
**RUNNER UP**  
**THIRD PLACE**



### WORLD-CLASS LOCATION

Previous locations have included the Odeon Leicester Square, the Dominion Theatre and the Theatre Royal – the biggest theatre in the West End of London.

# JUDGING AND PRIZES

Who will get the trophies at our glittering final awards ceremony?

### CAMPUS AWARDS

Each campus will hold its own awards ceremony, with trophies awarded for the best performance of every event in each group.

There will also be a 'Fair Play' award for the school that has contributed most to their campus and shown the best team spirit, along with awards for the talent show and individual excellence.

### GRAND AWARDS CEREMONY AND PRIZES

The climax of the annual British English Olympics is the glittering

closing awards ceremony, which takes place at a world-famous London venue and is attended by VIP guests – ambassadors, cultural attachés and business leaders from participating countries.

The ceremony celebrates the achievements and effort of all participating teams, as well as the second and third-place runners-up and the much-anticipated announcement of the British English Olympics champions. Each school is awarded a plaque of participation, and individual students receive a competition medal and certificate.

# ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

Find out how you and your school can join us at the British English Olympics.

The BEO is a highly academic programme and we recommend you select 10 to 20 of the most gifted students from your school to participate.

## ELIGIBILITY

Please complete the registration form and return it to your local representative.

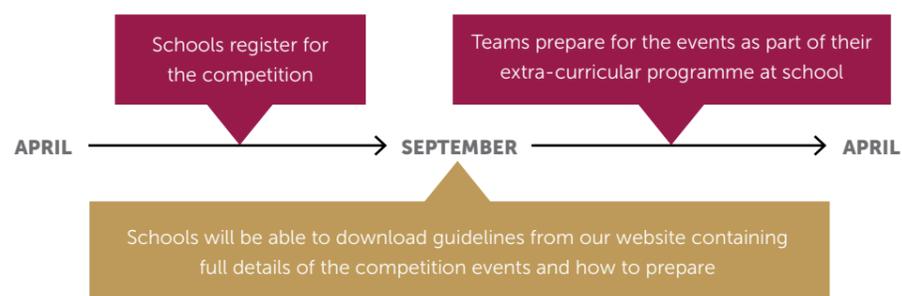
To enter the competition, schools must meet the following criteria:

- Students must be between 12-16 years of age.
- Students must be accompanied by a dedicated teacher having a very high level of English.

To assess your eligibility, one of our academic team will visit or arrange a Skype call to discuss your entry to the competition and present the programme to your students.



## Timeline



## Questions?

Leading up to the competition, our academic support staff are available to answer any questions you may have during preparation.

**Telephone:** +44 (0)20 8293 1188 • **Email:** beo@oxfordinternational.com • **Web:** www.beoprogrammes.co.uk

# CULTURAL PROGRAMME

London, Oxford, Brighton – just some of the places you’ll go with us.

Alongside the academic events of the competition, students will also go on exciting cultural and historical visits during their two-week stay in the UK. Three full-day visits to London, a full day in Oxford and a trip to the seaside at Brighton are all included in the programme.

Before going on these organised trips, students will attend our Culture Workshops: these will prepare them for the visits and introduce them to the most important aspects of British culture and history.



## DESTINATIONS

- London
- Oxford and Cambridge
- Brighton and/or Stratford-upon-Avon



## LONDON ATTRACTIONS

- Big Ben and the UK Houses of Parliament
- Buckingham Palace
- The Tower of London
- Westminster Abbey



## MUSEUMS

- The British Museum
- The National Gallery



## NOTABLE SITES

- Trafalgar Square
- Oxford Street
- Leicester Square
- The London Eye
- Tower Bridge

# LOCATIONS AND ACCOMMODATION

We host our competition at some of the best private boarding schools in England.

To host the British English Olympics, we partner with some of the finest schools in the country, set in stunning locations and surrounded by beautiful English countryside.

All our partner schools are situated within two hours of London with easy access to international airports. All have large common rooms, and meals are provided on campus,

with packed lunches when day trips are taken. Sites are highly secure, with combination codes for dormitory access, security patrols and CCTV cameras.

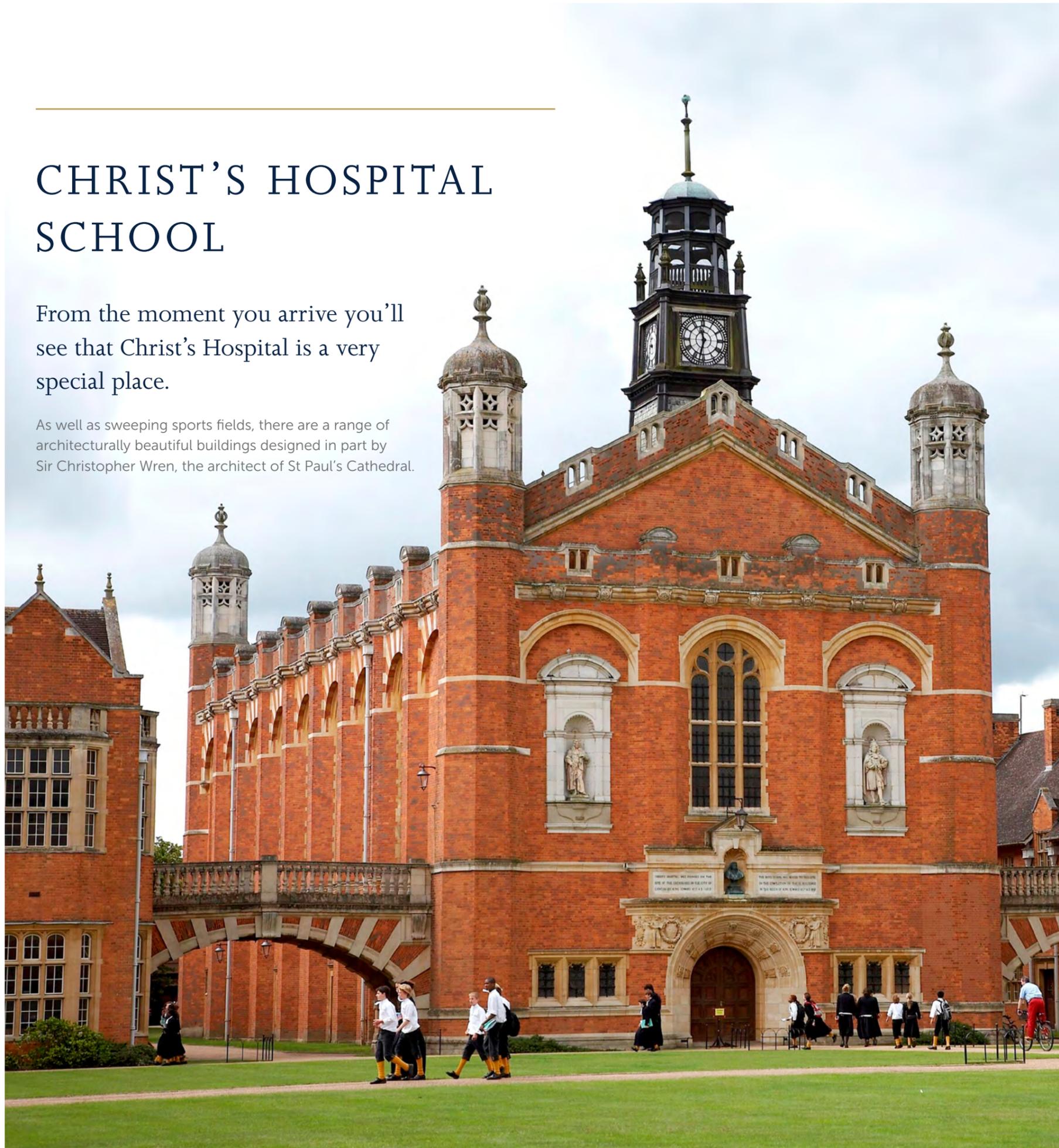
Oxford International staff are housed in the same buildings as the students and are available 24/7 should any issues arise.



# CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

From the moment you arrive you'll see that Christ's Hospital is a very special place.

As well as sweeping sports fields, there are a range of architecturally beautiful buildings designed in part by Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St Paul's Cathedral.



## Featured facilities



Outstanding historic dining hall that has an incredible likeness to the dining hall at Hogwarts in *Harry Potter*



Purpose-built replica of Shakespeare's Globe theatre for performances



Student common areas have satellite TV and DVD access



Classrooms are purpose-built with SMART boards



Sports facilities include over 100 acres of grounds with tennis courts, football pitches and a swimming pool



### ACCOMMODATION

Students will stay in double or quadruple rooms.



### GETTING THERE

London Heathrow (LHR): 1 hour  
London Gatwick (LGW): 30 minutes  
London Stansted (STN): 2 hours

Explore the school at  
[www.christs-hospital.org.uk](http://www.christs-hospital.org.uk)

# ARDINGLY COLLEGE

Ardingly was found in 1858 and occupies a 420-acre site located in an area of outstanding natural beauty in West Sussex. This stunning school is set against the idyllic backdrop of a large lake and rolling countryside.



## Featured facilities



Beautiful main hall and performance spaces



Well-equipped sports and leisure facilities



Swimming pool and large gymnasium



### ACCOMMODATION

Students will stay in double or quadruple rooms.



### GETTING THERE

London Heathrow (LHR): 1 hour  
London Gatwick (LGW): 30 minutes  
London Stansted (STN): 2 hours

Explore the college at  
[www.ardingly.com](http://www.ardingly.com)

# BRADFIELD COLLEGE

Bradfield College dates from the 19th century and occupies its own village in the Berkshire countryside – including a beautiful Anglican church where Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, was baptised.



## Featured facilities



Purpose-built theatre and performance space



Beautiful outdoor Greek amphitheatre



A stunning Anglican church on campus



Recently built music school



Sports facilities include a swimming pool and astro-turf pitches



### ACCOMMODATION

Students stay in single-sex boarding houses that are close to the classrooms and dining hall.



### GETTING THERE

London Heathrow (LHR): 90 minutes  
London Gatwick (LGW): 2 hours  
London Stansted (STN): 3 hours

Explore the college at  
[www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk](http://www.bradfieldcollege.org.uk)

# BENENDEN SCHOOL

Founded in 1923, Benenden School has been one of the leading boarding schools in Britain for the last 90 years.

The school occupies an impressive Victorian mansion situated in 240 acres of beautiful parkland in the heart of Kent – the county commonly known as “the garden of England”.



## Featured facilities

  
Sports centre and outdoor sports areas

  
Indoor swimming pool

  
Design and Technology centre

  
300-seat theatre and drama teaching complex

  
**ACCOMMODATION**  
Students stay in a mixture of single and multi-bedded rooms, with shared bathroom facilities.

  
**GETTING THERE**  
London Heathrow (LHR): 90 minutes  
London Gatwick (LGW): 70 minutes  
London Stansted (STN): 2 hours

Explore the school at  
[www.benenden.kent.sch.uk](http://www.benenden.kent.sch.uk)

# STUDENT WELFARE

The welfare and safety of your students is **our number one priority.**

We want our students to have a great educational experience with us at the British English Olympics, both academically and culturally. Although it is an intensive, challenging competition, we aim to give students a fun and memorable time here, whilst giving parents the peace of mind that they are happy and well looked after.



During the competition, the safety, security and wellbeing of all students is extremely important to us. From the careful selection of our partner campuses and recruitment of our staff, to the academic and cultural programme design and delivery, we take a number of measures to ensure that welfare is safeguarded:



Our experienced staff are on site and available 24 hours a day. It is their role to ensure that students settle in, make friends and use English throughout their stay in the UK. They also accompany and look after students on visits and meet them at the airport when they arrive.



Each campus has its own dedicated Welfare Officer and Student Advice Bureau, which students can visit at any time if they have a problem or need support or information.



We have at least one staff member trained in First Aid at each centre, as well as a doctor on call. Parents should notify us of any medical conditions in advance of arrival.



Upon arrival, students will have a compulsory induction, during which they will receive information about emergency procedures and the code of conduct expected of them while they are here.



We follow British Council and English UK guidelines very carefully.



We are also founder members of Young Learners English UK – a special interest group run by English UK, committed to maintaining high standards for junior courses with a strong focus on student welfare. You can find out more at [www.yleuk.com](http://www.yleuk.com).