

BSF Newsletter—Autumn Half-Term 2



Spotlight: Maths School @BSF

Beal Sixth Form offers 35 subjects across 4 pathways to meet the needs of all post-16 learners to achieve their full potential and to secure 100% progression to the best possible destination for every student. As part of BSF's high expectations inclusion model, the Beal Maths School pathway, which launched with its inaugural pilot cohort in September 2025, is designed to meet the needs of our high attainers by providing a pathway for students interested in studying mathematics-related disciplines at university and pursuing mathematics-intensive careers and apprenticeships.

All students study A-Level Maths, Further Maths and at least one additional subject from a choice of Physics, Computer Science and Economics. Maths classes take place in a bespoke, state-of-the-art suite of classrooms, including collaborative and interactive spaces named after famous mathematicians (Leonard Euler, Mary Lucy Cartwright and Srinivasa Ramanujan), computer scientists (Alan Turing) and physicists (Stephen Hawking).

In addition to timetabled lessons, delivered by experienced teachers and postgraduate 'academics in residence', students benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, including weekly problem-solving sessions, lectures, masterclasses, intensive preparation for mathematics Olympiads and research-projects into topics designed bridge the gap between school and university maths, such as Quantum Theory, Graph Theory and Knot Theory.

In December, students from Beal Maths School attended 'Maths in Action', an A Level enrichment day at the Emmanuel Centre in London, bringing mathematics to life through talks from leading academics and professional mathematicians like Dr Sammie Buzzard, Professor Aoife Hunt and Dr Tom Crawford. Across the day, students discovered how the mathematics they study extends far beyond the classroom, from modelling climate change in the polar regions to managing crowd flow at major events.

The event showcased both the creativity and real-world impact of mathematics, opening students' eyes to the wide range of directions their studies can take them. Student feedback on the visit was extremely positive, with one student commenting *"the experience reinforced the relevance of mathematics in the modern world and helped develop my problem-solving skills, creativity, and appreciation of how mathematics influences real-world decision-making."*



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Spotlight: Progression @BSF

BSF is proud that 100% of our students secure progression to positive destinations at the end of their programmes of study. Throughout their time in the sixth form, students receive intensive careers education, information, advice and guidance around the different progression routes on offer, delivered through our tutorial programme, assemblies and PSHE lessons. In addition, students have access to a range of online platforms, including Unifrog and Pathway CTM, which provide additional guidance and support.

Last year, of the 381 students who applied through UCAS, 346 (91%) accepted final places at either their firm (85%) or insurance (15%) choices. More than a quarter of last year's leavers took up places at the elite Russell Group of universities, and 7 students secured places to study Medicine. 6 students secured places on higher/degree apprenticeships with a range of high-profile companies, including KPMG, Visa, Grant Thornton, Swift and TFL. The destinations of all our leavers are recorded and celebrated on a 'destinations map' that is produced each year.

For students aspiring to apply for high tariff courses at the most competitive universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, BSF offers a bespoke programme of mentoring and support through our innovative High Fliers and MDV programmes.

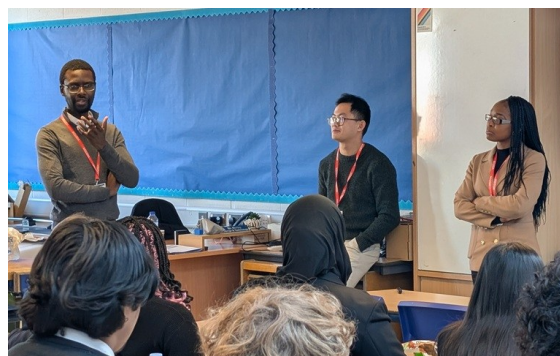
University Destinations 2025



In December, this year's BHS cohort of 26 aspiring medics, dentists and vets were privileged to participate in an interactive medical career guidance event that was delivered by a practicing doctor, Dr. Khadijah Ahmad, from St George's Hospital. The session provided comprehensive insight into the medical career pathway, with a particular focus on preparation for the UCAT admission test and common medical school interview questions.

At TFA, 20 students from years 10-13 were also fortunate to attend a similar pathways to medicine session led by two trained GPs and a radiologist, who chronicled their own journeys from school, through university and into medicine before offering students valuable advice and guidance on the application process.

In January next year, students from both BSF campuses will have the opportunity to participate in a mock Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) preparation session led by medical professionals.



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Spotlight: Academic enrichment @BSF

As the largest school sixth form in the country, we provide students with opportunities to take the curriculum beyond the classroom through participating in extra-curricular, super-curricular and enrichment activities to create independent and creative learners. To this end, all students are required to complete a minimum of six hours of independent practice per subject per week.

To encourage students to deepen their knowledge and increase their academic engagement with their chosen subjects beyond the confines of the curriculum, each department provides students with wider reading lists. In addition, faculties signpost a wide range of super curricular opportunities through the BSF and High Fliers Padlets which are updated regularly. These include lectures, masterclasses, podcasts, documentaries, academic journals, essay competitions and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).



BSF Padlet



Wider Reading Lists



High Fliers Padlet

Departments also invite guest speakers to visit the school. On 5 December 2025, BHS was delighted to welcome the Right Honourable Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Member of Parliament for Ilford North. During his visit, Mr Streeting delivered an inspiring keynote speech to students in Years 9 and 12, sharing his personal journey into politics, his role in government, and his commitment to addressing local and national issues.



Our students engaged him in thoughtful discussion on a wide range of topics, reflecting the curiosity and ambition of our learners. These included questions on the current changes facing the NHS, proposed reforms to the House of Lords and Criminal Justice System and the Labour Party's manifesto commitment to lowering the voting age from 18 to 16 in time for the next General Election. Mr Streeting was also asked what issues his constituents in Ilford raise with him most often and about the review that he has recently commissioned into mental health and ADHD diagnoses.

Feedback from the students on the talk was very positive indeed, with one Year 12 Politics student saying:

'It was an honour to listen to and engage with Wes Streeting, the MP for Ilford North. His speech was incredibly fascinating and truly inspiring. Hearing his story, it is clear that he has overcome significant adversity, showing that with determination and resilience, anyone can make a positive difference'.



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Spotlight: EPQ @BSF

As part of BSF's super-curricular offer, the EPQ launched in December 2025 to 36 year 12 students. The AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an independent research project where students choose a topic of interest and produce either a written dissertation or a practical project with a supporting report. It develops key skills such as research, critical thinking, time management, and academic writing. The EPQ allows students to explore subjects beyond the standard curriculum, helping them demonstrate intellectual curiosity. It is highly valued by universities and employers, as it provides evidence of independent learning and commitment.

Spotlight: Social action projects @BSF

This half-term, Year 12 students have been busy fundraising through the Wings of Hope social action project. Run by a UK-based charity, Wings of Hope, our mission is to give children from all backgrounds the opportunity to develop the life skills essential to reach their potential. During the programme students gain confidence and experience in key skills required for university, job applications and life beyond.

Tracking their progress with their mentor, they work on team building, resilience, creativity, negotiation and communication skills, supported by events run by London Business School and our Speed Mentoring Teams. Through fundraising activities, the teams compete for various awards, with semi-final presentations at the Houses of Parliament at the end of the year. Various awards are on offer to acknowledge different skills developed during the programme, which can be critical for UCAS applications or job applications. Money raised by the teams supports children in India and Sierra Leone gain a valuable education, directly funding places at school.

Team Heartwork raised over £200 for WOHA by selling candy canes accompanied by messages of Christmas goodwill. This festive fundraising effort not only spread seasonal cheer throughout the school community but also helped support the valuable work WOHA does. We are very proud of the kindness, teamwork and generosity shown by everyone involved.



Reminders and key dates

Attendance

A reminder that sixth former's attendance at school is essential for their overall success. As such, at BSF, we have a minimum target of 95% attendance to tutorials/lessons and for each sixth former to be on time, all the time, every day. Research proves there is a strong correlation between attendance and achievement. Students with an attendance rate of less than 90% risk achieving two grades lower than their target grade. It is the responsibility of students and parents/carers to ensure that if absences do occur, that the correct procedure is followed. Progression from Year 12 to Year 13 is also dependent upon students achieving a minimum of 90%

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Uniform

BSF's dress code is designed to ensure that students are dressed smartly, professionally and in a formal/business style, reflecting the ethos of Beal Sixth Form. A reminder that all students must adhere to the policy and that Blazers and Lanyards must be worn at all times. A copy of the sixth form dress code can be found [here](#).

BTEC Exams

Shortly after Xmas, Year 12 and 13 students will be sitting BTEC exams

Unit 1 – Year 12/selected Year 13 students

6 January: 9.00 am and 1.30 pm

7 January: 1.30 pm

Unit 3 – Selected Year 13 students

12 January: 1.30 pm

Unit 5 – Year 13 students

13 January: 1.30 pm

14 January: 9.00 am and 1.30 pm

To enable them to revise effectively, students will be on study leave on the days of the exams but are still expected to attend their Science lessons which will be used to provide focused revision and support. Where students are timetabled for other subjects on the day of the exam, they should remain on site and revise in the designated sixth form study centre.

Year 12 Mid-Year Exams

After Xmas, all Year 12 students will be sitting Mid-Year Progression Exams w/b 26 January. As we approach the half-way point in the academic year, these exams will assess students' progress across all the content that they have covered since September. In preparation for the assessments, teachers and departments have provided all students with clear guidance and structured revision tasks to complete over the long Xmas break. It is important that students use this time productively to prepare for their assessments, which will inform their UCAS predicted grade. Students will receive the results of their assessment on Monday 16 March ahead of the Year 12 Parents & Carers Evening on Tuesday 17 March. Year 12 students will then sit a second round of assessment towards the end of the academic year in June, following completion of the public examinations.

Year 13 Progression Exams (Season 3)

Year 13 Progression Exams (Season 3) are scheduled to take place w/b 2 March and 9 March. Again, teachers and departments have provided students with clear guidance and structured revision tasks for them to complete over the Xmas holidays (copies of this guidance are available to view on the [BSF website](#)). Beginning in January, a structured programme of intervention and support has been put in place to support students to achieve their full potential in the run-up to the public examinations which begin w/b 11 May. A reminder that all Year 13 lessons will continue through until Friday 23rd May and that students are expected to continue attending all lessons through to half-term. These lessons will be used to deliver a structured programme of revision and exam practice. A full copy of the summer exam timetable will be shared with students and parents' next term.

On behalf of the BSF team, we would like to wish all Beal and TFA families a very peaceful, restful and safe festive season and new year, and look forward to welcoming students back on 8.30am on Monday 5th January 2026.