

# The Bolton School *Experience*



**BOLTON**  
SCHOOL  
BOYS' DIVISION



## The Bolton School Experience

The Bolton School Experience is underpinned by our boys' participation in a broad range of enriching and enjoyable activities. Whether it is through clubs and societies, their involvement in various trips and journeys, outdoor pursuits, playing a musical instrument and performing in orchestras and ensembles, their participation in drama, singing in choirs, or taking part in competitive sports and House events, the boys' experiences help establish a sense of social cohesion and play an important role in their personal development as we strive to produce intellectually curious, creative, self-disciplined and well-rounded individuals.





## Clubs and Societies

Pupils are encouraged to explore subjects and themes in exciting new ways and profit from visits by a variety of experts in their fields. There is an extensive and wide-ranging programme of extra- and co-curricular activities on offer to the boys.

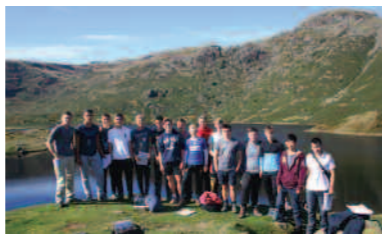
In Years 7 to 9 the boys are encouraged to participate in a minimum of three distinct activities, although many opt to involve themselves in four or five per week, with a balance of physical, artistic and academic activities. There is a very wide range of activities on offer which amongst others includes kayaking, climbing, archery, go-karting, food technology, drama, coding club, animation club, and junior literary and debating society.

In Years 10 to 13 there is an expectation that boys will continue to participate in the extra- and co-curricular programme, but also take up the opportunity to assist in supporting the running of activities, thereby developing and honing their leadership and organisational skills.

Many clubs and societies encourage the boys to gain regional and national recognition for their enterprise and effort, through entry and subsequent success in various competitions and challenges.

*“Clubs and societies are a perfect way to get to know other boys and develop new skills. The variety offered at Bolton School is absolutely incredible – there is something offered to suit everyone, and teachers also invite ideas from students for additional activities.” JACK*





## Trips and Journeys

The boys benefit from a wide variety of trips and travel experiences during their time at Bolton School. Many form an integral part of our curriculum, whilst others arise through an extensive range of optional extra-curricular trips that are on offer.

### Curriculum Trips

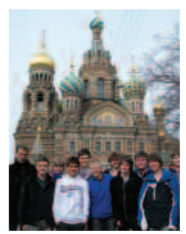
Our boys enjoy various curriculum visits. In Year 7, visits to museums help boys to develop a wider understanding of our heritage, as well as stimulating their curiosity in aspects of the modern and ancient world. The trip to Port Sunlight helps consolidate the strong link between Bolton School and the Leverhulme family. Travelling to Brougham Castle helps the boys to imagine what it was like to live in medieval times, while visiting churches, temples, mosques and synagogues helps develop their spiritual awareness.

In Year 8, visiting Astley Hall and Hadrian's Wall improves their understanding of our social and cultural history, while seeing the Steam

Museum gives an insight into our industrial heritage. A trip to the zoo helps them gain a better appreciation of animal diversity.

In Year 9, viewing art galleries such as the Liverpool Tate Gallery helps to shape their aesthetic awareness. Travelling to Bath, boys also glean a better understanding of classical civilisations. The Fusilier Museum trip helps them grasp military history in a local context, whilst the trip to the Imperial War Museum provides a wider view and a focus on the personal experiences of people in recent military conflicts. Boys also visit Ingleton in Year 9, which together with a trip to Castleton in Year 10 helps to broaden their understanding of regional geography. The visit to a sculpture park in Yorkshire continues to enhance the boys' appreciation of artistic creativity.

Predictably, there are fewer curriculum trips in Year 11 as boys focus on their GCSE studies; however, in Years 12-13 an interesting array of curriculum trips are still offered by different departments, including travel to London and Wales.





### Extra-Curricular Trips

In addition to the extensive programme of curriculum trips, the School offers a broad range of extra-curricular trips; their costs are published to parents before the beginning of each year.

Amongst the range of trips on offer in Years 7-8, a large number of boys opt to go on the cultural trip to Paris at the end of Year 7, and most boys choose to go on the Saundersfoot Camp in Wales at the end of Year 8. The European Football tour to Amsterdam is available to Year 7 and Year 8 every two years, and is also very popular. A significant number of boys go on the short residential trip to London to visit Hampton Court and the Tower of London, whilst some take up the offer of a trip to the Rhineland.

In Year 9, a large number of boys opt to go on the Battlefields trip to Belgium, whilst a significant number go on the French or German

exchange trips available each year, or the Russian St. Petersburg or Italian Naples trips available every two years. There is also an annual ski trip which a few boys from Years 7-9 also take the opportunity to go on.

In the Upper School, the Spanish cultural exchange is popular, together with senior overseas sports trips; in particular, hockey, water polo, football, rugby and cricket tours. Small numbers of boys take up opportunities to go on adventurous bouldering and mountaineering trips, or even to the jungle through Operation Wallacea in the Sixth Form. Many boys also grasp the opportunity to go on a variety of cultural trips, for example to Iceland, Rome and New York.





## Outdoor Learning

At Bolton School there is a longstanding and sustained involvement with outdoor learning. Our programme helps boys develop an environmental and aesthetic awareness of the world around them whilst simultaneously developing important life-skills, including resilience, the ability to work independently in order to complete challenging tasks and activities, as well as the emotional intelligence required for leadership.

In Year 7 the boys undertake a three-day visit to our outdoor centre in Cumbria, Patterdale Hall, in form groups. They are involved in rock climbing, kayaking and mountain walking, which look to challenge and develop their resilience. As they move into Year 8, boys spend a whole week undertaking a small conservation project to obtain a 'John Muir Award' before embarking on a mini-expedition into the mountains, where they wild camp for a night followed by a day of outdoor adventure. In Year 9, the boys are allowed to display greater self-reliance

both individually and within a team as they spend three days camping in the Ullswater valley. As part of the communal living programme, they are given responsibilities for elements of cooking and cleaning, alongside opportunities to lead their group. Boys arrange themselves into groups to select activities from a number of challenging options, including a mountain scramble across Pinnacle Ridge and testing water activities.

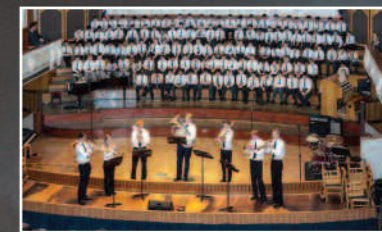
The outdoor learning experiences in Years 7-9 prepare the boys to undertake a two day expedition as part of the bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, which all boys undertake in Year 10. In Year 11 an exciting programme of caving, ice wall climbing, rock climbing, advanced bushcraft, and a host of team building exercises stretch the limits of perseverance of the boys still further. Many boys also choose to enrich their outdoor learning through our scout troop with an annual ten-day summer camp.



## Performing Arts

In life, the performing arts have been shown to have a broad and beneficial effect on overall academic performance; consequently, we encourage boys to take part in curriculum drama and music. These help boys to establish their own voice and give them the confidence to express their individual creativity, regardless of innate talent.

Each year we see well over 500 boys actively involved with the performing arts in one way or another, through the various opportunities we provide to showcase their talents, whether it be through special musical evenings, the various high-quality plays or even the Young Musician of the Year competition or Battle of the Bands. Every year a select number of boys are awarded Arts Colours as a highly prized recognition of their excellence within music, drama, dance or public speaking.





## Sport and House Activities

Some of the country's leading coaches are employed by Bolton School and, under their expert guidance, boys are given the chance to develop their skills, character and confidence over a range of up to twenty sports within school. Through games such as football, rugby, hockey, cricket, basketball, volleyball and aquatic sports, boys learn how to work well in team situations. However, equal emphasis is also placed on the many individual sports offered here that help cultivate determination, self-discipline and enjoyment which include amongst others badminton, archery, athletics and tennis.

Many boys are involved in representative school sport; however, a significant number of our sportsmen and athletes are involved in sport at a regional and national level. We cater for these elite athletes by providing a bespoke programme known as our 'Sports Pathway', which is designed to provide the technical, dietary, organisational and psychological support to help our athletes achieve their sporting aims whilst fulfilling their academic potential.

Other pupils get the opportunity to represent the school through our House system, which for over 100 years has provided all boys with the opportunity to represent their House over a range of sporting and intellectual endeavours. Other activities that boys engage in through the House system also help to instil in the boys a sense of civic responsibility.

The normal curriculum is suspended for three House Days, one in each term, during which boys compete to win the Lyde Cup for their House. The Lyde Cup was first presented in 1903 by the then Headmaster and his wife. The competition now comprises over 250 separate events and involves the whole school, allowing every boy the opportunity to earn house points.

Sports Colours and House Colours are also awarded to a number of select boys in recognition of their excellence, leadership and outstanding commitment within these fields.







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