



March 2024

*Dear Parents*

## **Notice of Fees for Academic Year 2024-25**

### ***BGS Annual Fee Increase for Academic Year 2024/25***

Every year I write to parents during the Spring Term to provide an indication of the proposed fees for the next academic year. Traditionally, during the Summer Term I then write to parents again to confirm what the exact fees will be. This year, however, to help families with their financial planning, we have decided to consolidate this process. Therefore, I am writing to you now to inform you of the finalised fees for the 2024/25 academic year.

We understand the pressure on household finances. We continue to be prudent, working hard to manage our costs and to create efficiencies whilst still investing in the fabric of the School. This year we do not have any significant capital projects planned but will be undertaking ongoing maintenance and upgrades to the estate to ensure we continue to offer an outstanding educational environment.

I can confirm that the fee increase for the next academic year will be 4%.

Junior School Fees for the academic year 2024/25: £12,192 (£4,064 per term).

Senior Schools Fees for the academic year 2024/25: £17,133 (£5,711 per term).

Sixth Form Fees for the academic year 2024/25: £17,133 (£5,711 per term).

The cost of school lunches will remain static at £4.90 per day (paid termly in advance).

The charges for Paid for Co-curricular Activities for 2024/25 are attached.

You will be aware of Labour's stated manifesto proposal to introduce VAT onto independent school fees. If Labour are voted in at the next General Election it is the view of the whole independent school sector, that they are highly likely to introduce a change in tax legislation. BGS is well-positioned to face the challenges this will bring; we have a strong, healthy roll and no external debt.

I want to reassure you that we have developed a medium-term financial strategy which stress tests a wide range of scenarios. However, at this point there remain significant unknown elements to any potential policy changes from any new Government, including the timing and details of exact VAT proposals. With that in mind, it is therefore not possible to share our planning assumptions with you just yet, but I commit to doing so as soon as we have a settled position. I am satisfied that we have strong foundations with which to secure a healthy and sustainable school should the VAT proposals come into effect. We remain steadfastly committed to providing an

## **BEDFORD GIRLS' SCHOOL**

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*Headmistress* MRS GEMMA GIBSON

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outstanding education for your daughters and to working in partnership with you on our strategic and financial plans.

As you are already hopefully aware, I am hosting a *Meet the Chair* session tomorrow morning, **Friday 22nd March**. I am looking forward to welcoming you for an informal breakfast meeting **from 8.30 -9.30am**. Please kindly ***RSVP***, if you have not already, to confirm your attendance. I hope you will take the opportunity to come and share your views. It is important to the Governing Body and the School's Leadership Team that we maintain an open dialogue with our community. I will continue to run these sessions regularly so there will be further opportunities to connect across the academic year.

With the end of the Spring Term in sight I wish you and your daughters a restful break.

Yours sincerely

*Mr Neil Harris*  
Chair of Governors

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