

Borough Monthly

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BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Looking for Business Space in Bedford?

The new Bedford i-Hub on Cauldwell Street is set to open in October creating a new business incubator centre in the middle of our county town.

Following investment by Bedford Borough Council, the i-Hub is bringing a 3000 sq.ft Georgian building on Cauldwell Street back into use, offering affordable and flexible office space for new ventures.

Businesses have already signed-up to be part of the i-Hub, and lots of interest is expected in this new offer in Bedford town, close to main roads and public transport links - ideal for a new business.

Once open, the new i-Hub will join other successful Bedford Borough Council i-Brand serviced buildings including the 'i-Lab', 'i-Kan' and 'i-Create', which currently provide a business base and support for over 150 businesses. This new investment represents

the Council's ambitions, as outlined in the Bedford Borough Growth Plan 2018-2022, to promote the local economy and make Bedford Borough a great place to do business.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said: *"Our expanding range of i-Brand initiatives provide high quality business environments for a wide variety of business needs, and are just one of the ways the Council continues to support new and existing businesses in our Borough. The new i-Hub is an exciting opportunity for entrepreneurs looking for a base in Bedford in which they can grow their business ideas."*

To find out more about the i-Hub or other Bedford Borough Council i-Brand serviced buildings please visit www.bedfordi-lab.com or call 01234 834564.



Exam Success - GCSE Results for 2017/18

Provisional GCSE results for the 2017/18 academic year have been released today showing that 63.7% of Bedford Borough students reached the required standard in English and Mathematics at Grade 4 and above (standard pass) and 41.1% of Bedford Borough students reached the required standard in English and Mathematics at Grade 5 and above (strong pass), an increase of around 3% on last year.

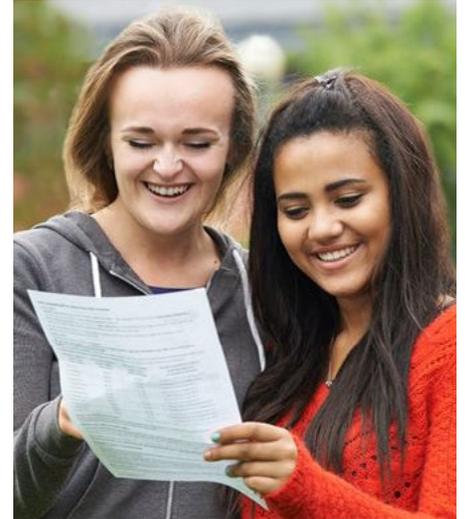
The Average Attainment 8 Score was 45.29 across Bedford Borough - the average score obtained by a student for their best 8 GCSE results.

This is the second year of the revised GCSEs which are graded from 9 – 1. This year, a further 20 subjects were assessed for

the first time in this new way, which includes less emphasis on coursework, bringing the total to 23. Given these differences in context, grading and assessment, it is not possible to directly compare the new grade scale with the old A* to G grades.

Cllr Henry Vann, Portfolio Holder for Education at Bedford Borough Council, said: *“It is great to see an increase of 3% in the number of students achieving a Grade 5 and above in English and Maths. A huge well done to every young person - and all their teachers - who worked so hard to achieve these results. Thank you as well to all the Governors, senior leaders and whole school communities who play such an important role in the educational life of our Borough.”*

A-Level Results!



Exam celebrations for students and staff took place across Bedford Borough today with provisional figures showing that over 98% of our pupils achieved at least 1 A* to E grade and 82% of our students achieved 3 or more A* to E grades at A-level; an increase of around 4% on last year.

Councillor Henry Vann, Portfolio Holder for Education, said *“Huge congratulations to all young people receiving their results across Bedford Borough today and the very best of luck as you look ahead towards the next steps into work or onto more study in further and higher education. Thanks, as well, to the parents, carers and teachers who supported our students and helped them to achieve their potential.”*

There is advice for students about their next steps available from UCAS at www.ucas.com. There is also support available for students at the Jobs Hub, which provides advice about education and training options, help with skills, and job search assistance, and can be contacted on 01234 223510 or the.jobshub@bedford.gov.uk.

Stay Connected!

Don't forget for regular, timely information on the Council, you can follow us on Twitter [@bedfordtweets](https://twitter.com/bedfordtweets), Facebook [@bedfordboroughcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bedfordboroughcouncil) and via our website, www.bedford.gov.uk.

Stay
connected

Your Vote Matters, Don't Lose It

Residents in Bedford Borough are urged to look out for their voter registration details in the post

Local residents are being urged not to lose their voice with local elections taking place in May of next year. Voter Registration detail forms are being sent out to households across Bedford Borough. Residents are being asked to look out for the forms and respond as soon as possible.

Responding is quick and easy. If there are no changes you can simply text 'No Changes' followed by your reference numbers to 07860020080 or call us on 0800 197 3294 to let us know. If you have changes you can notify us of them at www.registersecurely.com/bedford or call us on 01234 718078. Help save money and avoid receiving a reminder by responding early.

Responding to the Voter Registration detail forms will keep the local electoral register up to date and identify any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so.

Philip Simpkins, Electoral Registration Officer for the Borough of Bedford said: "It's important that residents respond as soon as possible, so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register. Simply check the form when it arrives and respond as soon as you can."

People who have moved address recently are particularly encouraged to keep an eye out for the form and check the details. Across Great Britain, 94% of people who have been at their property for more than sixteen years will be registered, compared to 40% of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



Could you be a Reablement Support Worker?

Reablement is about providing personal care to help people regain skills they may have lost due to an accident or poor health, increasing their confidence and independence.

Flexible shifts available. Full training will be given.

 Give us a call on 01234 718333

 Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/reablementapp to download an application pack



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Street Lighting Transformation Complete

The project to replace Borough-owned highway street lights with LED street lights has successfully come to completion this year.

After winning a competitive bidding process, the Council was awarded £5.3million by the Department for Transport and invested an additional £1million, which has seen over 14,000 LED lanterns installed and over 2,400 columns replaced across the Borough.

The new lanterns are low energy and have substantially improved the quality of street lighting across the Borough and provided a green alternative to current lighting.

They have dramatically reduced levels of carbon dioxide emissions from street lighting, contributing to Bedford Borough Council reducing its carbon emissions by 53%. Carbon dioxide emissions from street lights have dropped by around 1,500 tonnes from 2014-15 to now. This is the equivalent of the carbon dioxide emitted by driving over 3.7million miles in the average car, or the average energy use of 164 homes for a whole year.

The installation of these lights has not just reduced their carbon footprint, but the increased efficiency is also saving the Council money. Energy consumption has reduced by over 1,704,000 kWh's from 2016/17-2017/18 which, based on 10p per kWh charge, will have saved the Council £170,000.

Mayor Dave Hodgson said *“This multi-million pound project to replace all of our street lights was delivered on schedule, with good quality and energy efficient lighting now in place across the Borough. I am delighted that we have been able to make this improvement, bringing benefits for local communities, the Council’s finances and the environment.”*



The full benefits of this upgrade won't be seen until March 2019, as that will be the first complete year with over 14,000 LED lanterns installed.

As part of this project, a Central Management System was installed which reports back on power consumption levels, as well as faults that develop.

Do you need help with design? Want to get something printed? Use Bedford Borough Council's ICT Design & Repro Team



- Posters and Flyers
- Business Cards
- Leaflets
- Letterheads/ Compliment Slips
- Brochures
- Duplicate/Triplicate Carbonless Pads
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- Promotional Items
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Online admissions now open!

Bedford Borough Council's online admissions systems is now open to all parents and carers whose children are due to transfer to secondary or upper school in September 2019.

Parents who live within the Borough who have a child in year 6 at primary school or year 8 at a middle school will need to transfer their child to a secondary school or upper school in September 2019. The transfer to Secondary 2019 round and the transfer to Upper 2019 round is available from the 12th September 2018 via the Council website.

For parents who have a child due to transfer to middle school in September 2019, the transfer to middle school application form will go live from the 26th September 2018.

Cllr Henry Vann said *"Applying for a school place is a quick and easy process that can be done online or using the paper application but parents and carers of children should remember make sure to only use one method to apply."*

For further information go to www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions.

30hr Funded Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds across the Borough

From September 2017, 30 hours funded childcare has been available for eligible 3 and 4 year olds. 1,337 children across Bedford Borough currently have access to 30 hours childcare, the highest number in the region.

The 30 hours offer is available for 3 and 4 year olds of working parents in the Borough and parents can apply at the same time as Tax-Free childcare. Children start in their childcare place the term after they turn 3 years old and have received a valid 30 hours code, whichever is later.

Parents who have already applied must check their details are up to date every 3 months to keep their 30 hours free childcare.

Cllr Henry Vann said, *"The early years make all the difference and Bedford Borough Council have ranked first in the region in terms of the percentage of children in a 30 hour place (as a percentage of codes issued). This is a great achievement. I encourage all parents who haven't already to check their eligibility and apply."*

To find out more about your childcare choices visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to check your eligibility or update your details.

Communities working together to safeguard Children and Young People

Bedford Borough Council is inviting members of the public to come along to the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Conference that is taking place on the 6th October 2018 at Ravidass Gurdwara.

Detective Chief Superintendent, Sharn Basra, Lisa Robinson, the CSE coordinator for Bedfordshire and a survivor of CSE will be speaking at the conference. Alongside this, the Children in Care Council Foster Carers will also be available for a Question and Answer session.

The conference will run from 10-4pm with tea, coffee and lunch provided.

Cllr Shan Hunt, Portfolio Holder for Children's Social Care said *"Protecting vulnerable children and young people is everyone's business. We all need to be alert and recognise the signs as well as having the confidence to report any acts of abuse."*

For more information and advice on CSE, visit <http://bedfordshireagainstcse.org> or <http://www.internetmatters.org>.



The Young Turner - Exhibition and Events at The Higgins Bedford



J.M.W Turner (1775 – 1851) *The High Street, Oxford*, 1810 © Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

22nd September – 16th December 2018:
The Young Turner: Ambitions in Architecture and the Art of Perspective

15th November 2018: The Young Turner Curator's Talk

29th September, 27th October, 24th November, 15th December 2018:
Saturday Gallery Tours

The Young Turner: Ambitions in Architecture and the Art of Perspective, a touring exhibition from the Ashmolean Museum, opens at The Higgins Bedford on 22nd September 2018. The exhibition is free to visit and is accompanied by a series of exciting talks and tours.

To celebrate a successful campaign to acquire JMW Turner's unrivalled painting of 'The High Street, Oxford', funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Art Fund; the Ashmolean Museum are touring this exhibition. It will explore the young Turner's interest in architecture and the development of his skills in the art of perspective.

On the 15th November, 2.30pm join the curator of The Young Turner, Helen Cobby, at The Higgins Bedford to explore Turner's extensive connections and artistic output relating to Oxford and its nearby areas, the artist's developing skill in handling perspective and

architectural subjects, and possible influences on his work during the early part of his career. Booking is essential for this event and tickets will cost £5.70 with concessions at £4.60

Saturday Gallery Tours will take place throughout the year on 29th September, 27th October, 24th November and the 15th December, with volunteer and Tate tour guide Andrew Rodgers for a half an hour introductory gallery tour of The Young Turner exhibition. All tours begin at 2pm until 2.30pm and will be free for all to enjoy.

Cllr Sarah-Jayne Gallagher, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture at Bedford Borough Council said "It's so exciting to see these world-class Turners here on our doorstep and to be working in partnership with the Ashmolean Museum. Turner always brings in the crowds and we're sure this exhibition will be very popular."

Local Plan Consultation - Have Your Say

Consultation on the 'Local Plan 2030' starts today (Tuesday 18th September 2018) and is set to run for 6 weeks to Tuesday 30th October 2018.

The Local Plan 2030 sets out proposals for growth and development in Bedford Borough to 2030. As well as allocations for the building of new homes, it also includes provision for jobs and the development of facilities such as schools, transport and shops to support new communities.

This follows a consultation that was held on the draft 'Plan for Submission' between January and March 2018, which received over 3,200 individual comments.

Following this, changes have been made including the removal of a proposed 'Garden Village' to deliver a proportion of the homes required for Bedford Borough. The end of the plan period has also been moved forward by 5 years to 2030.

The Council is required by Government to plan for 14,550 homes to be built by 2030. However, with allocations and permissions already in place for over half this number, new sites are identified for about 6,000 dwellings, some of which will be built after 2030.

The development strategy for the Local Plan has not changed with the main focus for this housing growth continuing to be the urban area of Bedford and Kempston.

Portfolio Holder Cllr Colleen Atkins said *"This Local Plan sets out where growth will take place in the Borough up until 2030, and this consultation invites local residents and other interested parties to comment on the Plan before the Council considers it for formal examination."*

You can respond to this consultation online at www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan2030, or by completing a response form available at local libraries and the Customer Service Centre on Horne Lane.

Responses can also be emailed to planningforthefuture@bedford.gov.uk or sent by post to Local Plan 2030, Planning Policy Team, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford MK42 9AP.

All responses should be made on the official form where possible and returned by 5pm on Tuesday 30th October 2018.

All comments received during the first 'Regulation 19' public consultation that took place in early 2018 will be sent to the examining Inspector. This means that those people who have already replied on a part of the plan that hasn't changed, and where their views haven't changed, do not need to re-submit their earlier representation.

However those who have already commented and want to add to their earlier representation, or make a new representation, may do so.



Local Plan 2030

Planning for the future

