BERKSHIRE LTA TENNIS AWARDS 2023 School of the Year

Bradfield College







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Bradfield College is multi-award winning, on a club, coach and officiating level. The college won Berkshire LTA Tennis School of the Year and were National Finalists in 2023 for their outstanding provision of tennis throughout the year and outside of college. This has opened up exciting opportunities in the UK and abroad for young players.





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MAKING TENNIS ACCESSIBLE AND ENJOYABLE

Bradfield College delivers tennis as part of the co-curricular programme and provides pupils across all age groups the opportunity to participate in extra and co-curricular activities, including LTA competitions.

Over 200 pupils access tennis during the summer term and through weekly competitive fixtures against other schools. Pupils from years 9-13 are coached by LTA accredited+ tennis coaches.

Players who compete in LTA sanctioned events have the opportunity to train 12 hours per week in the Performance Programme. Some have gone on to achieve US scholarships.

2022 saw the school reach the finals of the Boys and Girls year 11-13 at Sutton as well as winning two titles at the ISTA schools championships, notably the Youll Cup.



COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES: LEAGUES, CHAMPIONSHIPS, INTRA- AND INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

Bradfield College not only develops talent but creates events to involve a range of pupils. Director of Tennis, Damian Fuller, launched the ISGTL (Independent School Girls Tennis League) – now in its seventh year – to engage more girls in competitive team tennis. 96 girls from eight different schools compete for the ISGTL Cup annually.

The college provides extensive opportunities for pupils of all ages to compete:

- LTA sanctioned schools events; years 9 &10, 11-13 and National Championships
- Fixtures throughout the year against tennis specialist schools
- Annual college tennis championships for 14, 16 and 18 & Under boys and girls (circa 100 pupils competing)
- Inter-house competition
- The ISL (Independent Schools League) and ISTA Championships (Independent Schools Tennis Association)
- Prep School tennis event each June

Three pupils were selected to represent the ISTA representative side vs the AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis Club) played at SW19, raising the college's profile.



OVER OVER ACCESS TENNIS BURING THE SUMMER TERM



STRONG, SUSTAINABLE LINKS WITH LTA COACHES AND VENUES

In addition to the eight LTA accredited+ coaches solely dedicated to college tennis, the venue is the performance administration hub for Berkshire LTA. The coaching team provide County Cup coaching for age groups in the 11 - 18s Boys and Girls.

Bradfield hosts numerous County VETS matches and an LTA Learning Difficulty two-day event. Over 1,800 players are linked to the facility either through membership or Pay & Play, and there are 211 juniors on coaching programme and three ladies' teams – previously only one.

All pupils are encouraged to play tennis outside of school and to look to play in LTA sanctioned events ranging from Match plays to G3. Some of the pupils are playing G2, Tennis Europe and ITF events.

With links to local primary schools and support from a charity, Bradfield is engaging players from a very young age, offering quality coaching resources and opportunities to pursue the game. If there isn't an existing event or pathway for a particular group, they are more than willing to create one!



We're very proud of our young players. The Bradfield College coaching team seek to support all pupils with encouragement, training and opportunities, and of course by spotting and nurturing talent. Consistency is key, so we ensure tennis is delivered every term, during the summer holidays and also by establishing external links so pupils can play for their local club. There are now a range of competitive and social tennis opportunities in the area, many of which the college have helped set up, run and host."

Damian Fuller, Director of Tennis

