



ESTABLISHED 19 APRIL 1865 · THE ETON OF THE EAST

Bishop Cotton Boys' School

Nec Dextrorsum, Nec Sinistrorsum

Neither to the right, nor to the left — but straight on

BENGALURU · ESTABLISHED 1865

Prospectus 2026-27

A century and a half of Cottonian life

One of India's oldest and most distinguished schools — the “Eton of the East” — in the heart of Bengaluru.

Bishop Cotton Boys' School was founded in 1865, in the days of the British Raj, as a day and boarding school for the children of Christian families in Bangalore. Named in memory of **George Edward Lynch Cotton, Bishop of Calcutta**, it has grown across more than a century and a half into one of India's oldest and most distinguished schools.

Origins

The School's beginnings lie in a house on High Grounds. It was started in 1865 by **Rev. S. T. Pettigrew**, then Chaplain of St. Mark's Cathedral, who wished, in his own words, to “establish a day and boarding School for the Children of Christian residents in the station and its vicinity.” Its doors opened on the **19th of April, 1865**, founded on the twin pillars of Christian faith and sound scholarship.

The Pope era

It was with the arrival of **George Uglow Pope** — a distinguished Tamil scholar who translated the *Tirukkural* into English — that the present Residency Road site was acquired, for **Rs. 47,500**. Under Pope's stewardship the School grew from strength to strength, winning recognition from the University of Madras. It was Pope who gave the School its enduring motto — *Nec Dextrorsum, Nec Sinistrorsum*, “Neither to the right, nor to the left.”

Revival & continuity

When the standard of the School declined and closure was contemplated by 1906, the members of the **Brotherhood of St. Peter** were invited to save it. **Herbert Pakenham-Walsh** revived the School, and it still keeps the traditions of that age. It was here, too, that **Scouting in British India was founded in 1909**. In 1911 the girls' school moved across the road, where Bishop Cotton Girls' School stands today.

Cottons today

After India gained independence in 1947, the School came to be governed by the **Church of South India**, through the Karnataka Central Diocese, as it is to this day. Its **14 acres** — bordered by Residency Road, St. Mark's Road, Lavelle Road and Vittal Mallya Road — sit in the very heart of Bengaluru. Home now to close to six thousand day and residential students, with a curriculum leading to the **ICSE** at Std X and the **ISC** at Std XII, the School continues to marry its Anglican heritage with a broad, ambitious education. Over more than 160 years, Cottonians have gone on to shine in every walk of life, across India and the world.

The Cottonian Way

Nec Dextrorsum, Nec Sinistrorsum

“Neither to the right, nor to the left — but straight on!”

The motto is taken from the Book of Joshua, and was the family motto of Rev. G. U. Pope. In Scripture the injunction is one of absolute fidelity — to keep the eyes fixed on the path appointed and to waver neither toward comfort on one side nor expediency on the other. Brought into the life of the School, it acquires an equally practical force: the Cottonian is expected to pursue whatever he undertakes with undivided purpose, whether in the classroom, on the field, or in the wider world beyond these walls. It embodies a sense of morality, energy, vigour, clarity and purpose — a sentiment echoed in the School Song: *On, straight on, On Cottonians on!*

The crest — a symbol of service

The School adopted the Cotton family crest as its own. Divided vertically, its *Dexter* half bears the arms of the Bishopric of Calcutta — the Bishop's Mitre, Staff and the open Bible — while the *Sinister* half carries the arms of the ancient house of Cotton of Combermere, its figure-of-eight shapes representing the skeins of Cotton. Today the crest stands not as a reward but as a symbol of service to education: the pastoral authority of the Church and the valour of a distinguished lineage, joined in a single, unified calling.

Faith & worship

The School Chapel, dedicated on **St. Peter's Day in 1911**, remains the spiritual heart of Cottons — a place of quiet and reflection for every generation. Morning assembly, the annual carol service and Founders' Day observances are held within its walls, reminding every boy of the faith that has sustained the School since 1865.

Scholarship

A rigorous education that is never narrow — holding each boy to the highest standard of learning.

Character

Discipline, fair play and a quiet, dependable leadership carried onto the field and into life.

Service

A tradition of duty — Scouting, the NCC and community outreach — born on this campus in 1909.

Academics

One school, every stage of his growth — a seamless path from a boy's first day in pre-primary to his university doorstep, under masters who know him by name.

Bishop Cotton Boys' School is affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), New Delhi, preparing boys for the **ICSE** at Std X and the **ISC** at Std XII. An academic tradition stretching back to 1865, guided by a well-qualified faculty, has long placed the School among the finest institutions in the country, with results that consistently reflect that standing. Three senior streams — Science, Commerce and Humanities — allow every Cottonian to pursue the direction suited to his aptitude and ambition.

Middle & Secondary School — the ICSE

The Middle years (Std VI to VIII) carry every boy through the full breadth of the curriculum — languages, mathematics, the sciences, the humanities and the arts. The Secondary years (Std IX and X) prepare him for the ICSE examination, in which a boy elects either the **Science** or the **Commerce** stream, studying a core of compulsory subjects alongside a chosen elective.

ICSE — Science Stream

COMPULSORY

- English & Second Language
- History & Geography
- Mathematics
- Physics, Chemistry, Biology

ELECTIVE (CHOOSE ONE)

- Computer Applications
- Robotics & AI
- Commercial / Environmental Applications
- Physical Education or Fine Arts

ICSE — Commerce Stream

COMPULSORY

- English & Second Language
- History & Geography
- Commercial Studies
- Economics or Mathematics

ELECTIVE (CHOOSE ONE)

- Computer Applications
- Robotics & AI
- Environmental Applications
- Physical Education or Fine Arts

Senior School — the ISC (three streams)

In the Senior School (Std XI-XII), boys specialise for the ISC examination, choosing one of three streams. English is compulsory across every stream.

Science

Two combinations, PCM and PCB, opening the way to engineering, medicine, research and technology.

CORE

- English, Physics, Chemistry
- Mathematics (PCM) or Biology (PCB)

ELECTIVES (CHOOSE TWO)

- Computer Science, Biotechnology
- Psychology, Fine Arts, Physical Education

Commerce

For the future business leader, entrepreneur or professional in finance and management.

CORE

- English, Economics
- Accountancy, Commerce

ELECTIVES (CHOOSE TWO)

- Business Studies, Applied Mathematics
- Computer Science, Psychology, Fine Arts

Humanities

History, political science and sociology for those drawn to law, public life, the social sciences and the liberal arts.

CORE

- English, History, Political Science, Sociology

ELECTIVES (CHOOSE TWO)

- Economics, Psychology, Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Fine Arts, Physical Education

Subject and elective offerings follow the School's academic policy and may be revised from year to year; the admissions and academic offices confirm the current scheme for a given year of entry.

A campus of heritage & purpose

Fourteen acres in the heart of Bengaluru — buildings of soaring gabled roofs and a multidimensional infrastructure that has served generations of Cottonians with distinction.

Heritage & landmarks

- **Founder's Circle** — a bust of Rev. S. T. Pettigrew at the centre of a beautifully kept circle.
- **Administrative Block** — iconic heart of the campus, office of the Principal for more than a century.
- **St Peter's Chapel** — dedicated in 1911, the spiritual heart of the School.
- **The School Hall** — first built in 1872 under Rev. G. U. Pope; setting for assemblies and prize-givings.
- **Cottons Auditorium** — the Bishop Edward Lynch Cotton Auditorium, fondly the “Great Cottonian Globe.”
- **Pettigrew Resource Centre** — the School Library, a gateway to knowledge for students and staff.

Academic & learning centres

- **I.L. Thomas Block (Kindergarten)** and the **Packenham Walsh** and **Tower** blocks for the youngest boys.
- **Sesquicentennial Block** — its foundation stone laid by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam to mark the School's 150th year.
- **Centenary Block** — inaugurated in 1965 by President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.
- **G.U. Pope Academy, Canon Elphick Block** and the **Ainley Centre of Learning**.
- **Elphick Resource Centre** — Physics, Chemistry and Biology laboratories with a computer learning facility.

Boarding, dining & care

- **Boarding Dorms** — a true second home to boarders from across the country and abroad.
- **Cottons Cafeteria & the Gazebo**, the **Cottons Infirmary**, and a **School transport** service.

Champions on the field, and off it

Cottonians have always been sportsmen in equal measure to scholars — three playing fields, a full sports complex and courts enough for every boy to discover his game.

Competitive sport is not an option at Cottons — every boy plays, every season, because the discipline of the game has always been treated as inseparable from the discipline of the mind. The School fields teams across cricket, football, hockey, athletics and aquatics, supported by an infrastructure built up over generations.

The Cottonian Shield

At the centre of the cricketing calendar sits the **Cottonian Shield**, a storied inter-school competition contested continuously for generations and regarded as **one of the oldest school cricket tournaments in the country** — its finals played, fittingly, on the very First Eleven Field where the whole School gathers for assembly.

Fields, courts & the sports complex

- **First Eleven Field** — venue for general assembly and the Cottonian Shield finals; a world-class turf.
- **Second & Fourth Eleven Fields** — grounds of their own for football and hockey.
- **Sports Complex** — a **heated swimming pool** with badminton, table tennis, billiards and squash courts.
- **Gymnasium** — a modern gym standing beside the heritage Old Gym.
- **Tennis & basketball courts** spread across the campus's three fields.

House colours are worn and defended across cricket, football, hockey, athletics and swimming. It is this constancy — a boy who plays because it is simply what a Cottonian does — that has sustained the School's sporting tradition since its earliest years.

Five Houses, one brotherhood

The Houses redistribute a large community into smaller, more personal units — building loyalty, belonging and healthy competition across every sphere of school life.

The House system traces back to the “Pu-chi teams” of around 1910. In 1933 these were re-formed into Houses honouring the pioneers who shaped the School's character; a fourth House was added in 1956, and a fifth in 1996. Today every boy belongs to one of five Houses, each carrying the name of a man who gave distinguished service to the School.

EST. 1933 Pettigrew	EST. 1933 Pope	EST. 1933 Pakenham- Walsh	EST. 1956 Elphick	EST. 1996 Thomas
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Music, choir & the arts

The **School Choir**, of students and teachers alike, is an essential presence at every Cottons occasion, from morning chapel to the annual prize-giving. The **School Band** is a source of deep pride, leading the March Past and performing at ceremonial occasions, while individual and ensemble instruction weaves music into the daily rhythm of Cottonian life.

Debate, MUN & societies

Debating, **Model United Nations** and elocution sharpen reasoning, research and the art of persuasion, while a broad range of clubs and societies — spanning the sciences, creative arts, technology and community service — ensures that every interest finds a home.

Scouts, NCC & service

Scouting in India began here in 1909. Alongside it stands the School's **National Cadet Corps** contingent, where boys drill, march and train in the habits of a disciplined life. Together with community outreach, these instil discipline, duty and a quiet, dependable leadership that marks an Old Cottonian for life.

A cradle of leadership

For 160 years, Cottonians have gone out from Residency Road to lead in every field of life — in uniform and in government, in laboratories and boardrooms, on the sports field and on the screen.

Among the School's most celebrated sons is **Field Marshal Gen. K. S. Thimayya**, one of independent India's most distinguished soldiers and a former Chief of the Army Staff. In enterprise and technology, **Nandan Nilekani**, co-founder of Infosys and Chairman of UIDAI, stands alongside nuclear scientist **Raja Ramanna** and **Nasir Ahmed**, inventor of the Discrete Cosine Transform. The arts claim three-time Grammy winner **Ricky Kej**, singer **Lucky Ali** and composer **Biddu**; while on the cricket field the School counts England captain **Colin Cowdrey**, together with India internationals **Brijesh Patel** and **Mayank Agarwal**.



Their number also includes statesmen and civil servants such as former Union Home Secretary **Gopal Krishna Pillai**, scholars including Harvard professor **Tarun Khanna**, and naturalist-writer **Kenneth Anderson**. Over the decades the School has been privileged to welcome to its campus eminent guests — among them His Holiness the Dalai Lama and former Presidents Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and Shri Pranab Mukherjee — whose visits have enriched the life of the School and inspired successive generations of boys.

Begin his journey at Cottons

Admissions are open for LKG and for Std XI. Here is everything you need to apply with confidence.

1 Enquire & register

Complete the enquiry, or telephone the admissions office. We share the prospectus, confirm availability for your son's year of entry, and outline upcoming open events.

2 Submit the application

Lodge the completed form with the required documents — a certified birth certificate, recent report cards, and a transfer certificate where applicable — by the published deadline.

3 Interaction & assessment

Boys and parents are invited for an age-appropriate interaction with the academic team. Boys seeking entry to Std XI also sit a brief written assessment in their chosen stream's core subjects.

4 Offer & enrolment

Successful applicants receive a formal offer. Families complete the enrolment documentation and pay the prescribed fees within the acceptance period to secure the place.

Good to know

- The principal intakes are at **LKG** (pre-primary) and at **Std XI** (Science, Commerce or Humanities); occasional mid-year vacancies are considered on merit.
- Cottons is a **day-cum-boarding school for boys** on a 14-acre campus at 15, Residency Road, Bengaluru.
- The School is affiliated to **CISCE**, preparing boys for the ICSE (Std X) and ISC (Std XII), both widely recognised in India and abroad.
- Detailed, current fees are shared with the prospectus on enquiry and are reviewed each academic year.

Contact the School

Whether you are a prospective family, a former Cottonian, or simply wish to learn more about life on Residency Road, the School office is here to assist you.

Bishop Cotton Boys' School

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Office hours

- Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Visitors are welcome during office hours; please telephone ahead to confirm your appointment. A member of the office will respond to written enquiries within two working days.

Nec Dextrorsum, Nec Sinistrorsum — On, straight on, On Cottonians on!