NOMINATION FORM

At the Bedford Independent we’re passionate about shining a light on the best things about Bedford Borough. From community campaigns to thriving businesses, the Bedford Independent Awards will recognise organisations and individuals who make our town brilliant.

The ceremony will be held at The Quarry Theatre on 23 April 2020 and will be all-inclusive with a relaxed, theatre style celebration. There isn’t a fee to attend and everyone will be welcomed with a drink and canapes, whilst having a chance to chat and informally network before the ceremony commences.

This isn’t a popularity contest, so one nomination is adequate. The quality and content of the application will determine if the nominee progresses to the finals. You can nominate yourself or your organisation or be nominated by others.

This event is brought to you by the Bedford Independent and is possible thanks to our headline sponsor The Harpur Trust, host sponsor Bedford School and category sponsors Bedford Heights, Brewpoint, Eagle Brewery, Quarry Theatre and Woodfines Solicitors.

To read more about the nominations and find out what’s happening on your doorstep with news as it happens, head to bedfordindependent.co.uk

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<th>Category (see page 3)</th>
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<td>Name of nominee</td>
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Applicants need to write a maximum of 400 words on the form showing how the nominee has met the below criteria throughout 2019. The nominated person or organisation must be based in Bedford Borough.

(Use a separate sheet if needed but remember, maximum 400 words)

Please complete and return to admin@bedfordindependent.co.uk no later than 27 February 2020

By entering you agree to be included in all publicity including, but not limited to, your name and photos.
Shortlisted nominees and nominators will be notified by email by 30 March 2020 if they have reached the final. Each person who has been shortlisted will be able to attend the final with one guest. Finalists will be able to apply for extra free tickets, details of how to do this will be published nearer the time.

Categories

Young Achiever - Sponsored by Bedford Heights

This award honours an individual aged 18 or under who has achieved over and above the expected. We’re looking for young people showing sporting, educational, community or charitable excellence.

Raising the Profile of the Town – Sponsored by The Quarry Theatre

Have you achieved something that has put Bedford on the map? If so, this award is for you. Organisations, event organisers, individuals and charities, tell us how you’ve helped shine a light on Bedford.

Fundraiser of the Year

Our Fundraiser of the Year award honours an individual who has worked tirelessly to raise funds for a single cause or many different causes. Applications need to demonstrate how nominees have gone above and beyond the norm to inspire and motivate others to donate.

Campaigner of the Year

This award recognises an individual who has worked tirelessly to raise awareness for a cause/s. Applications need to show nominees go above and beyond the norm and the impact their campaign has achieved for the cause/s. This could be anything from a charity to a local community issue they have worked hard to raise awareness of.

Excellence in Education – Sponsored by Bedford School

An award which recognises excellence in the education sector. This could be a teacher who is making a real difference, a training provider which has helped students gain valuable experience or a group of volunteers who give young people new opportunities to learn. Applications need to show how they have made a difference to the lives of young people.

Volunteer of the Year – Sponsored by The Harpur Trust

Do you know someone who tirelessly volunteers their time for a charity or good cause? If so, nominate them for our Volunteer of the Year award.

Apprentice of the Year

Have you employed an apprentice who has impressed you with their hard work, proactiveness and the positive impact they have made to your organisation? Applications need to demonstrate the impact the apprentice has had, with testimonials from others in your organisation.
Community Business – Sponsored by Woodfines Solicitors

Does your business get involved in the local community? We want to celebrate the organisation that gives something back - whether by attending community events, staff volunteering or offering your services to charities or community organisations.

Independent Retailer of the Year - Sponsored by Brewpoint

Bedford Borough has an above average abundance of independent retailers and we think it’s about time we celebrated the Borough’s shopkeepers. Applications need to demonstrate excellent customer service, innovative ideas and community spirit.

Unsung Hero - Sponsored by Eagle Brewery

This could be a good neighbour, community hero or act of bravery. Do you know someone who has done something outstanding to help others (that doesn’t fit into any of our other categories)? This is our broadest category and we want to hear inspirational stories about great Bedfordians. They could be anyone from your neighbour, to your scout leader to a family member. If you think they do wonderful things, this could be the award for them.