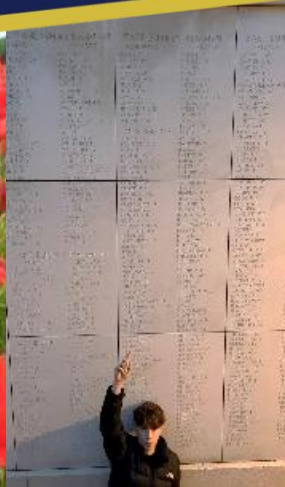




Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 20th March 2026

NEWSLETTER



Monday 23rd March
Easter Unlocked
Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Tuesday 24th March
Easter Unlocked
Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Wednesday 25th March
Easter Unlocked
Year 10 Geography Field Trip
Year 9 House Games
Year 11 English Lecture

Thursday 26th March
Year 12 Celebration Assembly, Main Hall
Year 7 Celebration Assembly, Gym
Year 12 & 13 Communion
Year 13 A-Level Music Recitals

Friday 27th March
Year 8 Celebration Assembly, Gym
Year 9 Celebration Assembly, Sports Hall
Year 11 Leavers Communion, Main Hall
Year 11 House Games
Year 10 Reports

Next week:
Week A

Assembly Theme:
**Celebration Assemblies
with Easter Messages**

Belgian Battlefields Trip

#BestOfBishop

Last week, 80 students and 8 staff visited the World War One battlefields surrounding Ypres. Over the three days, students visited several preserved sites as well as museums.

On the first day, our students visited the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres – an interactive museum where they were able to examine artefacts and displays to explore the impact of WW1 on the Ypres Salient. The building itself was completely flattened during the war, but was rebuilt and preserved as a memorial of the war. After this, we visited Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery – the location of a casualty clearing station and the resting place of 9,901 soldiers, as well as staff Nurse Nellie Spindler, who is one of only two women buried on front.

On the second day, we visited the biggest British and German cemeteries in the area – Tyne Cot (11,856 graves) and Langemark (over 44,000 dead buried on the site). Students were encouraged to compare and contrast the design and atmosphere in the cemeteries and laid wreaths. We also visited the Bayernwald Trenches, where students could walk through the preserved trenches and dugouts of the original German trench system established on the ridge overlooking the town of Ypres.

Our customary visit to the Leonidas chocolate shop took place in the afternoon before dinner. At 8pm, we headed to the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate memorial. This was an extremely moving experience, with three of our students taking part in the wreath laying ceremony, two of whom (Kai Geddes and Jack York) were also able to find the names of their relatives on the wall itself.

Our final day was spent visiting Vimy Ridge, which commemorates over 11,000 Canadians missing in France from 1915-18 who have no known grave. Students also took part in guided tours of the preserved trench system and the underground communication tunnels.

It was an absolute pleasure for our staff to lead this trip. The behaviour of the students was exemplary and we trust they gained a much greater insight into the horrors of WWI.

Mr Jennings



Easter Basket Donations

- Year 7 – Packet of biscuits
- Year 8 – Small chocolate egg (crème egg size)
- Year 9 – Tin of rice pudding (ring pull)
- Year 10 – Tin of fruit (ring pull)
- Year 11 – Tin of baked beans (ring pull)
- Year 12 & 13 – Tin of baked beans (ring pull)



These items will be collected to make Easter Baskets, donated to **St Peter and Pauls Food Kitchen**.

Please support this student initiative to gift Easter bags of food to St Peter's and St Paul's Food Kitchen. Our aim is to make up 200 bags to deliver next Thursday.

Our students have generously offered their time and effort to put these bags together and this project is their idea! The Bible tells us that 'God loves a cheerful giver.' (2 Corinthians 9:7)

'Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.' (2 Corinthians 8:13)

Thank you all!

Mrs Hutchinson

Core Values in Action

Our Core Values in Action awards recognise students for embodying our school's values in their local communities. We always love to celebrate their contributions which represent our school so well.

If you know of any student who you think is eligible for a Core Values in Action award, please email newsletter@bishopstopford.com.

Mrs Peach

Easter Packages

{All food packages will be donated to St Peter and Pauls food kitchen}



Donation per Year Group :

Year 7 – Packet of biscuits

Year 8 – Small chocolate egg (Crème Egg size)

Year 9 – Tin of rice pudding (ring pull)

Year 10 – Tin of fruit (ring pull)

Year 11 – Tin of baked beans (ring pull)

Year 12 & 13 – Tin of baked beans (ring pull)

The deadline for these donations is:
Wednesday 25th March
please :)



Safe Space

There is much in the news about the outbreak of meningitis in Kent. Infections which can cause meningitis are spread through close contact, typically through sneezing, coughing and kissing.

While there have been no reported cases locally, the recent fatalities have led to serious concern, especially for families with young people away at university or living in close quarters with others.

The NHS has a very helpful information page about meningitis which can be accessed here: [Meningitis – NHS](#). A letter from our Council is also included below.

The symptoms of meningitis can develop suddenly. They are sometimes mistaken for flu. These symptoms can appear in any order and not all who contract meningitis have all the symptoms.

If you, your child, or someone you know presents with some of these symptoms, call 111 for medical advice.

Reassurance

Meningitis is usually spread through close, prolonged contact. There is no need for siblings or close contacts to stay off school unless they are unwell.

Further information and support

You can find more information and support here:

- [Meningitis - NHS](#)
- Meningitis Research Foundation (24-hour helpline: 0808 800 3344)
- Meningitis Now (helpline: 0808 80 10 388, 9am–8pm)
- [Meningitis B outbreak: what you need to know – UK Health Security Agency](#)

Mrs Smith



North
Northamptonshire
Council

20/03/2026

Public Health Information

Dear Educational Setting,

Following the meningitis outbreak in Kent please note the advice on signs and symptoms. While cases remain uncommon, we want to ensure parents and carers are informed and know what to look out for. Meningococcal disease (meningitis) is a rare but serious infection caused by bacteria. It can develop quickly, so recognising the symptoms early and seeking medical help promptly is very important.

Symptoms to be aware of may include:

- A rash that does not fade when pressed through a glass.
- Sudden high fever
- Severe headache
- Stiff neck
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Sensitivity to light
- Cold hands and feet
- Drowsiness or difficulty waking
- Confusion
- Seizures

Not all symptoms will appear, and they can develop rapidly. If you are concerned, please seek medical advice urgently, via NHS 111 or your GP practice.

Young people, particularly those moving on to college or university, can be at increased risk due to mixing with larger groups, so awareness and vaccination is especially important.

Vaccination Programme:

• Teenagers

The Men ACWY vaccine, which protects against four types of meningitis (A, C, W and Y), is offered in schools. This includes:

- All Year 9 students
 - Any students in Years 10 and 11 who may have missed their vaccination
- Consent is needed for children to receive this vaccination. The consent form can be emailed to parents from a programme called 'MAVIS'. Please ask your school if you have not had this email.

• Children

From 2015, all children have been offered vaccinations against meningitis B at 8 weeks, 12 weeks and one year. You can check if your child has had this by asking your GP.



Sports News



Matthew Kemp (11G) ran for the County team in the English Schools Cross Country Championship at Sefton Park, Liverpool last Saturday. The course was just over 5k long and Matthew recorded a time of 18.27 mins.

Matthew came a very respectable 231st out of a field of 350 runners. He finished 6th scorer in the County team with only 54 seconds separating Matthew and the County's first runner home, who was 109th.

It was a great run which rounds off a successful cross country season for him. Matthew made the English Schools via qualification from the District, then the County and then the Regional competitions.



Mr Neeson

The Telegraph Media Literacy Programme

Week 2: Sophia Armstrong 12S2:

"This week's Telegraph programme allowed me to reflect on how modern journalism works and how quickly it must evolve. We heard from a political journalist, the Head of Podcasts and two community editors, each offering insights into their unique careers, and how they shape and create news. Something I found fascinating was how supportive the world of political journalism is, and I was surprised to hear how 'rival' journalists support each other in their interviews and writing. The writing competition this week, aiming to review something you listen to, helped me practise writing balanced and unbiased reviews, reflecting on how real journalists analyse their own writing."

Miss Thurlby

Year 10 Mock Examinations

Year 10 students will be involved in mock examinations after the Easter holidays.

These will take place from Monday 13th April until Tuesday 21st April and will be sat in exam conditions to replicate what will happen in their public exams next year.

Mrs Thomson (Exams Officer) has sent students and parents a copy of individualised examination timetables which includes rooming and seat allocations. The students can also see their timetable on Edulink under the "Exams" tab.

To help students and parents prepare for the exams we have created the following resources:

1. A document outlining which topics will be examined in each subject and where subject-specific materials can be accessed. This was sent to parents this week and to students as an Edulink Homework task.
2. Generic resources around how to revise and prepare for the stresses of the exam period. This can be accessed via the link here: [KS4 Exam support - OneDrive](#)

These should prove extremely useful in the lead-up to the exams.

Mr Kirke



Bishop Stopford meets the BBC!

Some of our Key Stage 4 students attended the “For Students, By Students” conference last week, led by the Global Ambassadors from Quinton House. This year’s theme focused on social media and its impact on young people. A small group of our students had the opportunity to listen to inspiring talks from professionals, learn from industry experts, and take part in a thought-provoking Q&A panel featuring documentary journalists and MPs.

Some were even interviewed by the BBC, sharing their perspectives on how social media affects young people today. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage in important conversations and represent BSS with confidence!

Students who attended the conference share their reflections on the event below:

“I personally really enjoyed it as it gave me awareness on certain situations that can happen to anybody. I also enjoyed the socialising aspect and learning how to build a work profile for the future.”

Elliana Kusogbo 10G



“I really enjoyed the conference and found it genuinely eye-opening to hear about how social media affects people in so many ways. One thing that really surprised me was hearing an adult speak in support of using social media responsibly, rather than simply arguing that it should be banned because it’s “bad.” That perspective made me pause and rethink my own views. I realised that I’d mostly been influenced by negative stories from parents and the news, which had shaped how I saw social media. Hearing a more balanced point of view helped me recognise that there are positive aspects too, not just the risks. Overall, the conference felt important and necessary. It gave both young people and adults a chance to step back and think more carefully about social media—understanding both its dangers and its benefits, instead of seeing it in such a one-sided way.”

Precious Abiona 10G

“The conference was truly fascinating - we learnt a whole range of things about both social media and the wider pros and cons of technology. I felt some of the guest speakers were actually too positive about the effects and opportunities of social media, but equally was very interested to learn some of the pros that most never think of! (However, I still hold my view that someone needs to put their foot down - but seeing other viewpoints and possibilities is undoubtedly essential to have a stronger, well-informed argument and opinion!). It helped make young people more aware of the paramount need to be mindful about usage of social media and technology in general - which is highly valuable, as well as to interact with hundreds of other students from across the county. These kinds of experiences are something very valuable that I would love to see more schools and organisations doing. I was hesitant as to whether I should go, but am certainly glad I did now... I'll be back next year! Oh, and most importantly, the donuts were delicious!”

George Mears 11E

Read the full BBC News article here: [Northamptonshire pupils learn pros and cons of social media - BBC News](#).

Miss Lowdon



WWI Belgian Battlefields Trip Cont'd from p1



ESU MACE Debate Regional Finals

Last Wednesday evening, Year 11 students attended the ESU MACE regional finals hosted by Bourne Grammar School. They opposed the motion: "This House would ban private healthcare for procedures already covered by the NHS." They delivered an outstanding performance, presenting well-structured arguments and demonstrating an impressive depth of knowledge throughout the debate. While they did not progress to the competition finals, they represented the school with excellence, and we are extremely proud of them.

Here is what Vanshi had to say - *"For me, the ESU competition provided an invaluable insight into debating. Although initially nerve-wracking, the competition enabled me to gain confidence and I was provided with feedback to aid me in improving myself. I am really thankful for this opportunity."*

Miss Blackburn & Mrs Hainsworth



Catering Prize

Last Friday, we were delighted to have a visit from some of the top managers at Cucina – our catering company. This was a surprise visit, to present Kieran Murphy, our Catering Manager, with a cheque as a recognition of his incredible work. He has been recognised in other employee reward schemes, but this award was nationally significant.

Kieran had no idea that he'd won the award – and was both shocked and delighted!

We appreciate all the work which Kieran and his team do day in, day out to provide excellent food for us all.

As you'd expect, Kieran received his prize, then went quickly back to preparing fish and chips for Friday lunch!

Miss Silverthorne



Easter Unlocked

Mon 23rd – Weds 25th March

For all students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9

An interactive journey from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Emmaus Road

An opportunity for students to consider the Easter account in the Bible as they explore ten engaging zones

We are asking the question: *why might this matter to me?*



Cucina

WEEK 1

Week Commencing: 27/10/2025 17/11/2025 08/12/2025 19/01/2026 09/02/2026
02/03/2026 23/03/2026 13/04/2026

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

Beef Bolognaise with Wholegrain Pasta & House Salad

TUESDAY

Kung Pao Chicken with Vegetable Rice

WEDNESDAY

Honey Glazed Roast Gammon, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy

THURSDAY

Chicken Tikka Masala, Served with Braised Rice & Kachumber Salad

FRIDAY

Chip Shop "Fryday" Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas & Tartare Sauce

MONDAY

Plant Based Bolognaise with Wholegrain Pasta and House Salad (V)

TUESDAY

Kung Pao Cauliflower with Vegetable Rice (VE)

WEDNESDAY

Lentil Sage & Onion Wellington (V)

THURSDAY

Butter Cauliflower & Chickpea Curry, Served with Braised Rice & Kachumber Salad (V)

FRIDAY

Homemade Cheese & Onion Slice with Chips & Peas (V)

DESSERTS

MONDAY

Spiced Pineapple Cake with Custard

TUESDAY

Chocolate & Banana Brownie

WEDNESDAY

Syrup Sponge with Custard

THURSDAY

Oaty Apple Crumble with Custard

FRIDAY

Hot Chocolate Rocky Road

Fruit and Jelly Pots Available Daily

HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD Available Daily

JACKET POTATOES Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily

Cucina



MADE YOUR WAY!

**CHOOSE IT!
ADD IT!
TOP IT!**

Switch up your flavours with our street food-inspired range, available **Tuesday to Thursday**. With weekly rotating choices, there's always something tasty.

Choose a base, add protein, and top it your way!

Visit the restaurant to check out what's on offer each week

NATURally

MONDAY

Pakistani Tarka Dhal (VE)

TUESDAY

Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)

WEDNESDAY

Onion Bhaji & Vegetable Rice Bowl (VE)

THURSDAY

The Big Plant Burger (VE)

FRIDAY

Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

MONDAY

Tomato & Basil Pasta

TUESDAY

Pasta in a Cheese Sauce

WEDNESDAY

Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza

THURSDAY

Creamy Pesto Pasta

FRIDAY

Margherita Pizza

