



Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 12th September 2026

NEWSLETTER



Monday 14 September

Year 11 Collective Worship
Praying Parents 2pm

Tuesday 15 September

Year 10 Collective Worship
Govilon Parents' Information
Evening 6pm

Wednesday 16 September

Year 12 & 13 Collective Worship
School Photos – Main Hall

Thursday 17 September

Year 7 Collective Worship

Friday 18 September

Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship

Next week:
Week A

Assembly Theme
More about Me

Welcome to Bishop Stopford School

#BestOfBishop

We are very excited for this new year and want to welcome both new students and those returning to our school. We hope this new chapter will continue to bring many opportunities and friendships, that we think will help you grow both personally and academically. That's what makes us so unique: the environment allows you to thrive.

To us, the core values of Bishop shine through in all aspects of school life, in learning and in people. Support is always available and all staff and students are incredibly friendly. And this isn't just in school life- the values are something which everyone who's been at Bishop carries with them into the future.

We are also incredibly proud of the excellent teaching standards and the support our teachers provide. They continue to want to help every student feel confident, discover their strengths and unlock their unique potential.

Our Bishop community is really special to students and staff. As Head Students, we aim to strengthen connections across different parts of our school. We are delighted to have the chance to speak in assemblies and to host events such as culture day and charity fundraisers, as well as being here to support the student body.

We would love to hear your ideas for things we can do in school – please let us know!

Amrita and Dhruv
Head Students



FAITH FRIDAY

'...with your God.'

Help me to live this day knowing that I do not need to worry because You are with me. When I am unsure of my next steps, teach me to look to You, to pray to You and to trust in your unfailing love.

Amen

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 The Bible



Bishop Stopford School
truth | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion

#bestofbishop

We have a Core Value for each day of the week, linking these to our school Bible verse (Micah 6:8).

Monday: Responsibility	And what does the LORD require of you?	1 Peter 4:10
Tuesday: Justice	to act justly	James 2:15-17
Wednesday: Compassion	and to love mercy	Luke 15:20
Thursday: Truth	and to walk humbly	Psalms 19:14
Friday: Faith	with your God	Joshua 1:9

I wonder which is your favourite verse?

Our Collective Worship this week was a beautiful consideration of achieving the extraordinary which lies within each of us, by following the Lord's requirements in Micah 6:8, step by step, day by day, in the ordinariness of our daily lives. Our school Bible verse gives us such clear guidance. As we do this, we create the space and the atmosphere within our community for each one of us to unlock our unique and God-given potential. Thank you to Miss Silverthorne for this wonderful message this week.

Mrs Hutchinson

Core Values

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 a student who may be eligible for a Core Values in Action award, email newsletter@bishopstopford.com.

Mrs Peach



Safe Space – Talking to your Teenager

Many parents report that it can be challenging to maintain a connection with their teenage children. Their growing independence, greater desire for privacy and often the limited time that families have together in the busyness of modern life can create barriers to communication.

The organisation 'Let's Talk Safer Families' are offering a number of online sessions for parents and carers to support their children through modern challenges.

On Wednesday 16th September, they are offering a session called 'Let's Talk Teenagers: Keeping Connection When It Matters Most'. **To reserve your free space please visit our Eventbrite page [Let's Talk Teenagers: Keeping Connection When it Matters Most Tickets, Wednesday 16 September • 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)**

"As teenagers develop their identity and independence, maintaining connection can sometimes feel challenging. This session supports parents and carers to better understand the modern pressures facing young people and how trusted relationships remain a key protective factor.

"We'll discuss healthy relationships, peer influence, consent, online culture, and emerging digital risks, including AI-generated content, harmful online influences, exploitation, and misinformation. The focus is on building confidence, encouraging open conversations, and strengthening family connections during adolescence.

"Suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 13-18 years.

"No pressure to participate. Cameras and microphones stay off, and your name can be hidden throughout the session."

Mrs Smith

Do you know what your children are studying this year?

We believe that the strong partnership built between school and home is a fundamental reason for students' success at Bishop Stopford School.

It is important, therefore, that parents and carers have a clear understanding about the topics and skills their children will be learning in each of their subjects and across the wider curriculum.

This will enable you to offer support, wherever possible, and should stimulate some regular and interesting conversations at home about teaching and learning.

With this in mind, we want to remind you that we produce each academic year a Curriculum booklet for Years 7-11. These outline what the year will look like across individual subjects and other lessons.

We also put together Termly Schedules for each year group.

These booklets and schedules can be found in the Curriculum section of our website and are also accessible via the link below:

[Bishop Stopford School - Curriculum Booklets](#)

We do not provide a booklet for Years 12 and 13, as detailed information on individual subject content is provided on the Curriculum page of the Sixth Form section of our website alongside Termly Schedules for Years 12 and 13.

A link to this page can be accessed below:

[Bishop Stopford School - Curriculum](#)

Mr Kirke

Year 7 Curriculum – Autumn Term 2026

Subject	Autumn Term 1		Autumn Term 2
Art	<u>Introduction to the Formal Elements</u> What is Art and how is it created?		<u>Application of the Formal Elements</u>
Computer Science	<u>Digital Licence Scheme</u> Focusing on developing the basic digital skills needed to engage in all computer-based lessons.		<u>Small basic</u> Programming using sub routines, variables and loops
DT	<u>Food</u> Food Hygiene Using small kitchen equipment Following a recipe	<u>Textiles</u> Sewing machine basics Hand Embroidery	<u>Product Design</u> Marking out materials Shaping wood Construction Methods
Drama	<u>Rotation Project One</u> A focus on <i>Traditional Stories</i> followed by the realisation of a ghost story in response to <i>Darkwood Manor</i> .		
English	<u>Reading Poetry: When We Were Young</u> This study of Poetry anthology will develop ambitious language analysis and knowledge of poetic features.	<u>Play Unit: Frankenstein</u> The unit will serve to develop an understanding of the wider Gothic tradition.	
Foundation Learning	How the brain works, the different types of memory and how learning happens		Effective study habits and how to get the most out of school.
French	<u>Introductory vocabulary</u>		<u>Describing yourself and your family</u>
Geography	<u>What is a Cathedral City?</u> <u>Time to think like a Geographer</u>		<u>Time to think like a Geographer</u> There will be a specific focus on Map Skills and our sense of place
History	<u>Early Migration Enquiry</u> Which group was most significant in the early formation of England?		<u>The Norman Conquest Enquiry</u> How did William gain control of England?
Maths	Number sense and calculations, including adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Negative numbers and order of operations.		Expressions within algebra. Substitution. Solving equations.
Music	<u>Keyboard skills / Singing / Notation</u>		<u>Ensemble Performance</u>

Year 7 Curriculum – Autumn Term 2026 Cont....

PE	Rugby / Basketball (Boys) Netball / Hockey (Girls)	Hockey / Dance (Boys) Health Related Fitness / Basketball (Girls)
PSHE	PSHE: Exploring stereotypes Tutorial: Friendship and the Bishop way	PSHE: Exploring social issues Tutorial: Community and the Bishop way
RE	<u>Christianity – the Creator?</u> Understanding Christianity	<u>Christianity – the Saviour?</u> Understanding Christianity
Science	Topic 1 – Introduction to Science Topic 2 – Energy (Physics)	Topic 3: Cells, tissues, and organ systems (Biology) Topic 4: Particle model (Chemistry)

Wider-Curricular	Culture Day (23.10.26)	Gowilon Visits Christmas Concert Winter House Games
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Other	Year 7 Transition Day (03.09.26) School Photographs (16.09.26) Meet the Tutors Evening (01.10.26)	
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Lost Property

We have a collection of lost property items which are unnamed. For the next three Fridays starting 18 September, all unnamed lost property will be displayed in the foyer for students to check and collect.

After this time, any remaining unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Please encourage your child to check the lost property if they are missing any belongings.

Miss Curchin



Exam/Mock Dates for 2026/2027

Confirmed exam/mock dates for 2026/27

November 2026

GCSE Maths and English resits - **Tues 3rd – Mon 9th November (9.00am start)**

The school is closed for the half term holiday from 2nd - 6th November, but will be open for the students to sit their exams as timetabled

Results Day: **13th January 2027**

December 2026

Year 11 Mocks - **2nd - 11th December**

January 2027

BTEC Health & Social Care Set Task BHS03 (Year 11) – **8th January (1.15pm start)**

Year 13 Mocks - **11th - 19th January 2027**

BTEC Results day: **18th March 2027**

Summer 2027

A/AS Level

Non Examination Assessment (NEA) submissions: Subject teachers will confirm completion dates.

MFL Speaking tests: April/May 2027 - actual date to be confirmed by Head of Languages

PE moderation: From 1st March 2027 - dates to be confirmed by Head of PE

Drama moderation: From 1st February 2027 - dates to be confirmed by Head of Drama

A Level exams: **10th May - 18th June 2027**

Results day: **Thursday 12th August 2027**

Exam timetables will be issued to students in January 2027

GCSE

NEA submissions: Subject teachers will confirm completion dates

MFL Speaking tests: April 2027 - schedule to be confirmed by Head of Languages

PE moderation: From 1st March 2027 - dates to be confirmed by Head of PE

Drama moderation: From 15th January 2027 - dates to be confirmed by Head of Drama

GCSE exams: **10th May - 18th June 2027**

Results day: **Thursday 19th August 2027**

Awarding body Exam Contingency day – **Wednesday 23rd June 2027**

The designation of a 'contingency day' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations in the United Kingdom. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations. Candidates **must** remain available until Wednesday 23 June 2027 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.

Exam timetables will be issued to students in January 2027

Year 10 end of year assessments - **12th - 16th April 2027**

Year 12 end of year assessments - **21st - 25th June 2027**

A copy of all exam/mock timetables plus student and parent exams guidance and information will be available to view on Edulink under the "Noticeboard" tab.

Mrs S Thomson



Recruitment

We currently have the following exciting opportunities for outstanding and ambitious individuals:

Headteacher

Exams Office Manager

Head of Music

Teaching Assistant

The successful candidates will work alongside colleagues, senior staff and governors and will contribute to unlocking students' unique potential.

We hope you are excited by the opportunity to work with us. We look forward to hearing from you.



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Celebration of Achievement

**For students who sat GCSEs & A Levels at
Bishop Stopford School in summer 2026**

Celebration of Achievement

Thursday 17th September 2026

Our annual event to celebrate success and present progress and subject prizes. It is also an opportunity for students to come together as a year group for one last time.

Parents/carers and students warmly welcome.

**Invitations have been sent to parents/carers.
Limited places still available, book now!**



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faith | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion



Changes to Free School Meals (FSM)

What is changing?

Expanded entitlement for families on Universal Credit

From this September, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings.

Going forward, there will be two types of eligibility:

- **Targeted FSM:** for households in receipt of universal credit earning £7,400 or less (includes free meals and additional support such as pupil premium).
- **Expanded FSM:** for households in receipt of universal credit earning above £7,400 (free meals only)

End of transitional protections

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals, even if their family circumstances changed during the rollout of Universal Credit. This is referred to as transitional protections.

Now that entitlement is being expanded to all families on Universal Credit, these protections will end at the end of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

This means:

- Some children may no longer be eligible from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year if their family does not receive Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit
- Eligibility will now be based on current benefit status

What you need to do

Based on new government guidelines parents and carers will now need to re-verify eligibility annually (between 1 July & 30th September). Outcomes will be 'eligible- targeted', 'eligible-expanded' or 'not eligible'. This applies to ALL families.

North Northants:

Applications must be made through the Parent Portal. You will need to create an account:

<https://northnorthamptonshire.synergy.hsc.accesscloud.com/SynergyWeb/>

West Northants:

Complete the online application form:

[Free school meals and pupil premium | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please get in touch: pnorwood@bishopstopford.com

Mrs Norwood

Cucina

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?
From the global flavours of our StreetVibes range to a light and refreshing option from Chill Deal, there's a choice to match every mood, every day!

Look out for the Free School Meal logo!
Anyone who receives a FSM can choose a great meal!

DAILY MEAL DEALS & OFFERS
We've got great food at great value – whether you're in the mood for something hot, cold, or totally street food inspired.

Hot Meal & Dessert
Pick from daily hot mains or favourites such as topped jacket potatoes and pasta, plus and combine with a hot homemade dessert or a piece of fruit!

chill deal
Grab a quick cold lunch! Choose any 4 items marked with the Chill Deal sticker including filled rolls, sweet or savoury snack pots, and mini home baked.

LOOK OUT FOR THE CHILL DEAL STICKERS!

...AND THERE'S MORE!
Love to snack or graze your way through the day? We've got plenty to keep you going - available at break and lunch!

PowerBites
Hot snack pots packed with flavour and perfect when you want something warm and satisfying.

Hot & Cold Deli Picks
From fresh filled rolls and hot wraps, to salads and sushi pots, our deli range is ideal for mixing it up or grabbing a lighter bite.

Bakery Favourites
Flapjacks, muffins, pastries and more are baked fresh daily.

Parents - if you think you may qualify for FSM, check here
Check eligibility at: www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals
SAVE OVER £500 PER YEAR!