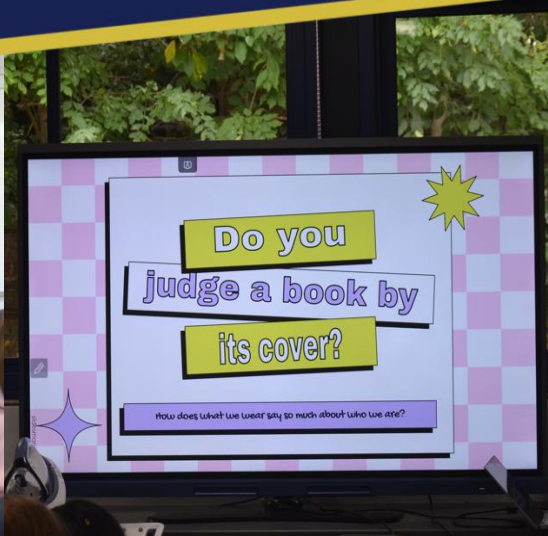




Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 17th July 2026

NEWSLETTER



Events All Week

Monday 20th July

Year 10 GCSE Rock Climbing

Tuesday 21st July

Sports Day

Wednesday 22nd July

Thursday 23rd July

Celebrations Assemblies

Friday 24th July

School closes at 12:30pm

The Superstars of a Super Week

#BestOfBishop

Well, what a week! After months of planning, organising, scheduling and re-organising, this week saw our annual Super Curricular Week take place. And what a week it was! Being a part of the 'Bishop' community, you'll know that we seek to 'unlock the unique potential' of every student. For some, this unique potential can be unlocked through our taught curriculum – the lessons week, in week out. For others, fixtures, clubs or societies provide enrichment needed to help realise their potential.

For all though, a week of 'beyond the classroom' learning which provides opportunities to experience something new, work with different people, listen to other voices and see alternative perspectives can help students to realise their unique potential.

If I were to write about all the amazing events and activities from this week, the newsletter would run to 30 pages or more! However, some highlights of the week:

- Year 8 students who baked cakes and delivered them to a local care home, spending time talking with and to residents, building and fostering a sense of community and compassion.
- Our Alumni who led Q&A sessions with students in Year 10 to share their experiences and provide motivation and encouragement about making dreams become a reality.
- The STEM activity day for students in Year 7 – working in small groups to complete challenges to develop critical thinking, collaboration, teamwork and decision making.
- The CSI Day with Year 9 students- using a range of scientific analysis techniques from finger printing to DNA analysis to solve a 'crime.'
- The visits – Woburn Safari Park, University of Birmingham, The Pinnacle Climbing Centre, Cantabria, Alton Towers, Westminster Abbey.
- The School Walk – a sense of community and achievement felt by 900 walkers!

Providing these activities is a real team effort and we are so privileged to have a team of dedicated and hard-working staff who are ambitious for our students and are willing to go 'above and beyond' to provide such enriching opportunities. I'm sure you would want me to thank them on your behalf for their commitment, teamwork and dedication in making this week happen. (Continued on page 4.)

Mr Keane



We are a Church of England School



Before our Year 8 students set off this week on their 'Faith in Action' projects for Super-Curricular Week, I asked them to "Live as children of God and to shine like bright lights" - and they did!

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.

Mrs Peach

Safe Space – Growing Faith

We are very proud that parents, students and members of the wider community often comment on the outward-facing nature of our school activities. Super Curricular Week is a wonderful example of this, as students engage with a wide range of activities which broaden their horizons and also enable them to give back.

Our Growing Faith Learning Hub aims to do the same. This Church of England funded project is giving our school the opportunity to enact our values beyond our own community. Our Learning Hub focuses on two central strands: *chaplaincy* and *wellbeing*.

This week, we interviewed and appointed our first Young Chaplains, a group of students who will work with primary school students in the local area and support their transition to secondary school. The Year 6 students they meet won't all be coming to us, so we hope that this work will support the move they make to many local schools. In addition, our Hub will fund training for four volunteer chaplains in the local area. In time, we envisage that they will support in a range of settings with young people.

We are working closely with two charities, Souster Youth and Hope for Families, to support parent courses and volunteer training focused on Social and Emotional Health (SEMH). These programmes are designed to empower adults to recognise the needs of young people and to support them to become happy, healthy and resilient.

We'll continue to share news about our Learning Hub via the Newsletter and on Instagram.

Mrs Smith

Great British Summer Savings

A message from the Secretary of State for Education:

"Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings.

To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>

Businesses can find out more about the VAT reduction by visiting GOV.UK and searching 'Temporary reduced rate of VAT for family attractions'."

Miss Silverthorne

A Significant Achievement

Sophie Banks has been shortlisted for the Politics Category of the John Locke Institute 2026 Global Essay Prize!

This year, the John Locke Institute welcomed 100,227 contestants from 183 countries. After assessing every eligible entry, the shortlist was drawn from the top 17.5 percent. To be numbered among the best of the best is a remarkable achievement. Well done for this is a significant achievement, Sophie!

Mrs Hainsworth

U13 Girls' Cricket Regional Finals

The Regional U13 Girls' Cricket, JR66, took place at the stunning Kimbolton School this week. The girls played so well making the final, where they put in a superb display in the field. An unfortunate loss of wickets proved to be the point of difference, nevertheless they finished as impressive Regional Runners-Up!

What a finish to an absolute amazing first season of school competitive Cricket. Congratulations girls: you are awesome!

Mr Flannigan

English Schools Track & Field Championships

Congratulations to both Lily and Isaac Lloyd-Uzoegbu whom represented Northamptonshire at the 101st English Schools Track & Field Championships held at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham last weekend.

Lily competed in the Inter Girls' a year young in the 300m running an impressive 40.81 secs in the heats. This put her in fourth place, narrowly missing out on qualification for the National Final.

Meanwhile Isaac competed in the Senior Boys' 200m running 22.00 secs in the heats, achieving a fifth place.

The 46 English counties are ranked according to population with large counties being allowed to send more athletes. It means smaller counties like Northants have less of an allocation meaning, so those selected have to be performing at a high standard! This puts the siblings' achievements into perspective. Watch this space...

Mr Young

Super Curricular Week - Cont'd from page 1

As this Super Curricular Week is about community, I wanted to share with you some comments from those involved (see below).

'Some Bishop Year 8 students came to a play group at St. Marys church Burton Latimer this morning which I take my little girl to. Just wanted to let you know their behaviour was incredible: so polite and amazing with the little children.'

Absolute credit to your school.'

-Member of the public who met our Year 8 students volunteering at a local toddler play group.

'I want to say a massive thank you for the visit today, the smiles on the resident's face said it more than I can even describe.'

Massive well done to the children for being so brave for performing in front of us.'

We would love to have you back.'

-Manager of a residential care home which Year 8 students visited.

Mr Dean



Talk The Talk

Two fantastic workshops we held in Super-Curricular Week by Talk The Talk for Y8 students. Huge thanks to our incredible trainer, Claudette, who challenged the groups to get 'outside their comfort zone' and stretch their oracy skills, whilst having lots of fun. Both groups demonstrated seriously impressive communication skills- here are the leaders of the future!

Mrs Hainsworth



Library News

From March to June, a dedicated group of students took part in this year's Carnegie Award shadowing scheme, reading all eight shortlisted titles and meeting weekly to discuss each book in turn. It was a brilliant few months of reading, debate and discovery.

This year's shortlist felt like one of the strongest in recent memory, offering a genuinely impressive range of genres and age groups — something our students were quick to notice and appreciate as they worked their way through the list.

As part of the shadowing scheme, our students travelled to Wrenn School in Wellingborough to join students from several other schools for a joint celebration event. The day included a book quiz testing their knowledge of the shortlist, along with a variety of other activities designed to bring the books to life. It was a fantastic opportunity for oracy, with students taking part in public speaking, teamwork and lively discussion — all of which helped build confidence alongside their love of reading.

One of our students shared their thoughts on the experience:

"I really enjoyed the Carnegies this year as the books were interesting and written especially well. My favourite book would have been either Wolf Siren or Not Going to Plan, but this year especially, compared with previous books which have been nominated, the selection was appealing and the books were extremely engaging. The authors created captivating plots while also ensuring that they raise awareness of key issues, for example in Not Going to Plan.

The meetings really increased my confidence with public speaking and gave me an extra opportunity for oracy skills, which I really appreciated.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed my experience of the Carnegies and am grateful for the opportunity."

Aditi Kanoor 9C

A huge well done to everyone who took part — thank you for your enthusiasm, your insightful discussions, and for representing Bishop Stopford School so well at Wrenn School.

There will be lots of opportunities for students in all year groups to take part in reading groups next year, including shadowing the Carnegie Award.

Miss Wood



“The magnificent BSS Brass Band” triumph at the Music for Youth National Festival Finals **- The Largest Youth Music Festival in the world.**

Words cannot express how proud we are of our brass band, as they took to the main stage of Birmingham Symphony Hall, on Saturday 11th July, for the finals of the Music for Youth.

They performed a unique and imaginative programme comprising Guns ‘n’ Roses’ ‘Welcome To The Jungle’, followed by a complete contrast of style and genre in Mozart’s ‘Alleluja’ from *Exultate Jubilate*.

As well as our seasoned brass banders, we were delighted to welcome some Year 10 musicians who are new to brass playing and were equally delighted to be joined by former student Kodi Wilcoxon, and our Year 13 A level group; Alex Duggelby on electric guitar, Brannon Bird on harpsichord, and Ella Clark as soprano soloist.

A huge thank you to all our performers and their families, for giving their Saturday to represent School so superbly at this prestigious venue and event.

We extend our gratitude and respect to Mr Turnbull for his inspirational preparation and hard work, which made this event such a memorable occasion for our students. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated specialist to lead our band, bring out the best in our students, and somehow, make the hard work feel like fun.

Some of the adjudicator’s comments include:

“Your conductor went full Rock ‘n’ roll – it was brilliant.”

“You really got stuck in, but you didn’t sacrifice any tone.”

“Shout out to the rhythm section.”

“Ella, you were brilliant.”

“What a change of style, from welcome to the jungle to Mozart’s, very graceful, delicate world. I didn’t see that coming at all, I thought it was brilliant. Really imaginative programming. Sensitively played, a really lovely treat.”

Well done Bishop Stopford brass band! As the adjudicator said, you were *“Magnificent!”*

Mrs Armstrong

Congratulations to Seb Pandya in 8G who has passed his Grade 2 piano exam with distinction. Well done, Seb!



Changes to Free School Meals (FSM)

What is changing?

Expanded entitlement for families on Universal Credit

From the start of academic year 2026-7, 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 roll-out 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 2025-6 academic year.

This means that some children may no longer be eligible for FSM from the start of the 2026-7 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

If your child currently receives free school meals:

- in most cases, you do not need to reapply;
- your local authority will check your eligibility automatically using the details already held and inform you of any changes to your FSM eligibility;
- in some cases, we – or the local authority – may contact you to confirm your details;
- if you are unsure, please contact us or the local authority for advice.

If your child does not currently receive free school meals:

1. you may now be eligible under the expanded criteria;
2. you will need to apply using the Parent Portal: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/parent-portal>

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact me: pnorwood@bishopstopford.com

Mrs Norwood

Recruitment

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

Exams Office Manager

Senior Network Technician

First Aid and Allergy Lead

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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Cucina

WEEK 3

Week Commencing;
27/04/26 18/05/26 08/06/26 29/06/26 20/07/26

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS	VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS
MONDAY Mexican Beef Nacho Pasta Bake	MONDAY No Waste Cauliflower Cheese Pasta Bake (V)
TUESDAY BBQ Chicken with Salt 'n' Pepper Wedges, Asian Slaw & Garden Peas	TUESDAY Chipotle Quorn Dippers with Salt 'n' Pepper Wedges, Asian Slaw & Garden Peas (V)
WEDNESDAY Roast Pork, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy	WEDNESDAY Roasted Vegetable & Chickpea Pastry Roll with Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & Roast House Gravy (V)
THURSDAY Fragrant Lemon & Herb Chicken with Spicy Rice	THURSDAY Hot Maple & Cajun Quorn Fillet with Spicy Rice (V)
FRIDAY Chip Shop 'Fryday' Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas and Tartare Sauce	FRIDAY Crispy Chickpea & Vegetable Pakora Burger with Mango Slaw, Chips & Peas (V)

DESSERTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Sticky Lemon Sponge	Mixed Berry & Apple Crumble	Chocolate & Whole Banana Puff Pastry Pinwheel	Nut Free Bakewell Sponge	Hot Chocolate Rocky Road & Custard

Fruit and Jelly Pots 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	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)	The Big Plant Burger (VE)	Pesto Pasta with Roasted Tomatoes (VE)	Onion Bhaji Skewer with Bombay Potatoes (VE)	Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pasta in Cheese Sauce	Tomato & Basil Pasta	Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza	Creamy Pesto Pasta	Margherita Pizza

