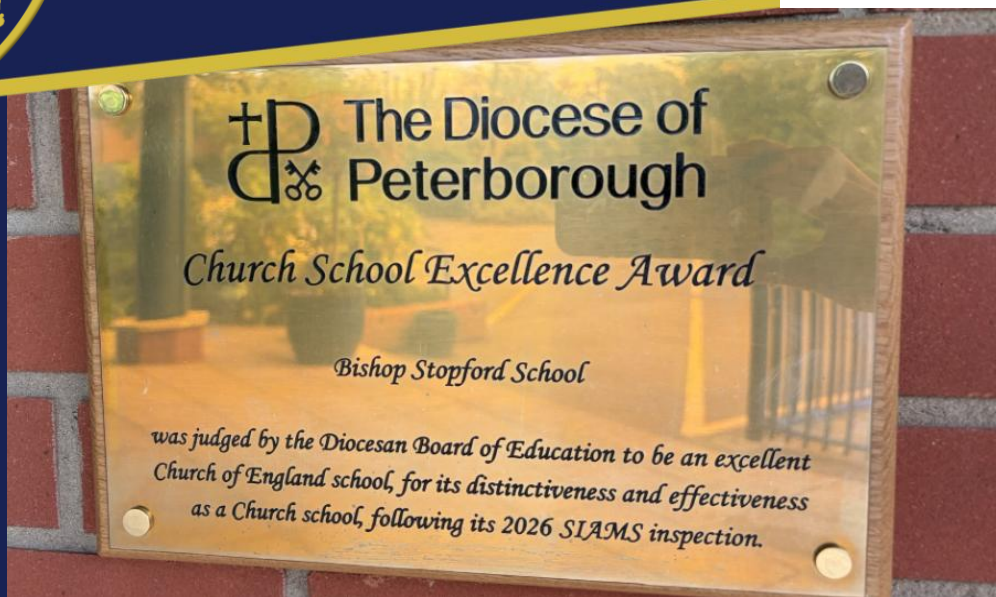




# Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2026

**NEWSLETTER**



## Events all week

### Monday

Year 11 Collective Worship

### Tuesday

Year 10 Collective Worship

### Wednesday

Sixth Form Collective Worship  
Year 12 Study Skills & Young Drivers'  
Conference

### Thursday

Year 7 Collective Worship  
Parent Event- Supporting your Year 11  
Child

### Friday 4

Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship  
Year 11 Communion  
Clubs & Societies Fair

## Next week:

**Week B**

**Assembly Theme:**  
**Safeguarding**

## Our Excellence as a Church of England School

**#BestOfBishop**

What a joy to welcome Archdeacon Alison last Friday and for her to see the excellence of our young people - the heartbeat of our school. Her visit was in honour of our Church School Excellence Award - a gold plaque on the wall of the Octagon - received following our SIAMS inspection in February 2026. I found myself nodding with a silent 'Yes!' in my heart as the Archdeacon responded to Elijah's brilliant question: 'What is the most challenging thing about your role as Archdeacon?' With honesty and with godly wisdom she spoke of the interruptions which can change the course of a day's plans whilst recognising that these unexpected moments are often **the most important thing**.

We are delighted to be judged by the Diocese of Peterborough to be an excellent, distinctive and effective Church of England School, but it is the everyday living out of Jesus's teachings which really matter here. Faith, scripture and prayer are at the core of Bishop Stopford School. This is the rock on which our school was founded, and continues to underpin our ordinary day-to-day rhythm of school life.

I know that our community is compassionate and kind and caring. Staff and students alike take time to stop and listen and respond. We are those who walk alongside others, ensuring that all can find a place to belong.

I am sure that Archdeacon Alison saw and felt something of this as she attended Collective Worship with a focus on 'Acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly' (Micah 6:8) in a hall of over 400 attentive and interactive Year 8 and year 9 students. Her tour of the school, dropping into classes in Art, Maths and the library revealed students calmly engaging in study. Continued on page 2

**Mrs Hutchinson**



## We are a Church of England School

Page 1 continued:

Jesus invites us to 'Come and you will see.' (John 1: 39). This is our desire for each member of our school community: offering the chance to 'Come and see', and to consider the Christian faith. And it is a privilege to welcome members of the Peterborough Diocese into school to come and see, meeting students and teachers and building vital relationships.

We thoroughly enjoyed meeting Archdeacon Alison and our story can be read in the Evening Telegraph: [Kettering faith-based school receives excellence award affirming Bishop Stopford's Christian foundation](#)

**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.

Well done to the following students who were volunteer leaders at St Botolph's Church summer holiday club:

Barty Gardner, Amish Singodia, Adele Boyall, Robyn Willis, Brodie Stableforth and Bethan Clark.

**Mrs Peach**

## Safe Space

### **Behaviour and Rewards**

In the third week of term, it's wonderful to see students settle into new, or familiar routines, and to re-establish the excellent habits which set them up for success.

Safety in school underpins all that we do, and much of that comes from strong community relationships. Positive interactions between all members of the community are seen every day, in small gestures like holding doors open, to more significant relationships, like 1:1 mentoring between a Sixth Former and a younger student which helps them to navigate school life.

Positive culture, strong relationships, excellent habits and foundational routines are reinforced by our behaviour and reward system. Students are recognised for their positive behaviour through achievement points, and areas of concern are raised as behaviour points.

This year, we have made one significant change to our behaviour system. We will no longer be running second chance detentions. Instead, we expect all students to attend their detention on the date it is set. Failure to do so will result in an escalated sanction.

If a student is absent from school, they will be able to sit the detention at a later date, and those students who have specific, identified needs, will be supported to ensure they can attend the sanction.

Please help us at home by talking about this with your child, reinforcing the importance of taking responsibility for their actions by attending any sanctions set. Encourage them to check Edulink every evening, celebrating their achievement points and identifying with them if any patterns of less positive behaviour are emerging.

Thank you for your support.

**Mrs Smith**

## Parking & Driving

I would like to reinforce our reasonable requests regarding parent parking and irresponsible driving.

- Always consider the impact of your driving and parking to our neighbours;
- We have reduced congestion by locating school buses at Highfield Road. This is a good dropoff/pick-up point supervised by staff. (8 minute walk);
- If you must come on to Headlands, be aware of your speed and the number of pedestrians. Drop off no further than Glebe Avenue. (5 minute walk);
- If you drop passengers off on Kettering Leisure Village, do so by the conference centre (12 minute walk), not on Thurston Drive.

We are in active discussions with Kettering Council with regard to potential solutions to these issues. In the meantime, please be considerate in your driving: I am sure none of us would be happy if these issues occurred on our doorsteps.

**Miss Silverthorne**

## Sports News

Elina Patel is making the news as a superb young cricketer. She finished the School Games 2026 and played with Team Dean (Charlie Dean) which is the England U17s prospects vs Ireland / Scotland U19s. This was part of the Ebony Rainford-Brent T20 Cup Competition and the team won all 3 games. You'll be glad to know that Elina finished taking 6 wickets, which was the highest in her group. Well done Elina!

Mr Young



## Confirmation

We are delighted to celebrate the confirmation of Jacob Williams 8P, Davyd Oyabugbe 8D and Holly Perry 9D recently. Confirmations were led by Bishop Debbie, the Bishop of Peterborough.

Mrs Glue & Ms Patrick



## GCSE & A Level Certificates

### GCSE & A Level Exam Certificates

Available from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Family members can collect on behalf of a student as long as the student gives written permission via [enquiries@bishopstopford.com](mailto:enquiries@bishopstopford.com)



# Year 8 Curriculum

| Subject                 | Autumn Term 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                         | Autumn Term 2                                                                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Art                     | <u>Still Life – An Introduction</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                         | <u>Response to Still Life – A Ceramic Project</u>                                    |
| Computer Science        | <u>App Development</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                         | <u>Computer hardware and software</u>                                                |
| DT                      | <u>Food</u><br>Staple Foods<br>Healthy Eating<br>Planning Practical Activities                                                                                                                                                                                               | <u>Textiles</u><br>Developing sewing machine skills<br>Constructing a pattern                                                           | <u>Product Design</u><br>Shaping metals<br>CAD / CAM<br>Target markets<br>Automation |
| Drama                   | <u>Rotation Project 1: Blood Brothers</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                      |
| English                 | Viewpoint Writing – Don't get me started!<br><br>Literary Heritage – Sherriff's <i>Journey's End</i> and the poetry of the First World War                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                      |
| French (Dual Linguists) | Introductory Language                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Introducing and describing yourself                                                                                                     |                                                                                      |
| Geography               | <u>Frozen Continent: Antarctica</u><br><br>Students will consider every aspect of Antarctica, ranging from the climate, who owns it, animals that live and hazards faced.                                                                                                    | <u>What is Development?</u><br><br>Focus on development using the case studies of Ghana and the UK                                      |                                                                                      |
| History                 | <u>The Tudors – Introduction and the Catholic Church</u><br><br>Enquiry – How far did the Reformation change England?                                                                                                                                                        | <u>Problems faced by Elizabeth I</u><br><br>Enquiry – How did Elizabeth I overcome the problems which she faced?                        |                                                                                      |
| Maths                   | Fractions – four rules.<br>Fractions decimals and percentages conversion.<br>Solving linear equations, including brackets and x on both sides.<br>Substitution into expressions and formulae.<br>Simplifying and sharing into a ratio, including exchange rates and recipes. | Percentages of amounts<br>Compound Measures – speed, distance, time.<br>Mass, density, volume.<br>Conversions between speeds and times. |                                                                                      |
| Music                   | <u>Performance Study and Context</u><br>Dvorak 'Largo' and the Romantic period                                                                                                                                                                                               | <u>Ensemble Arrangement and Performance</u><br>The Blues                                                                                |                                                                                      |



## Year 8 Curriculum Cont'd

|                       |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PE</b>             | <b>Rugby and Basketball (Boys)</b><br><b>Netball and Hockey (Girls)</b>                                             | <b>Hockey and Acro (Boys)</b><br><b>Health Related Fitness and Basketball (Girls)</b>   |
| <b>PSHE</b>           | <u><b>Law and Order</b></u><br>British Values / What is the Law? / The role of the Police                           | <u><b>Law and Order</b></u><br>The Criminal Justice System / Reform v Punishment Debate |
| <b>RE</b>             | <u><b>Christianity – Are humans incapable of being good?</b></u>                                                    | <u><b>Christianity – Can we be saved?</b></u>                                           |
| <b>Science</b>        | Topic 1: Earth and Space (Physics)<br>Topic 2: Combustion (Chemistry)<br>Topic 3: Plants and reproduction (Biology) | Topic 4: Light (Physics)<br>Topic 5: Food and Nutrition (Biology)                       |
| <b>Spanish (Core)</b> | <b>La Comida</b>                                                                                                    | <b>Las vacaciones</b>                                                                   |
| <b>Tutorial</b>       | <b>Exploring prejudice</b>                                                                                          | <b>Exploring democracy – pressure groups</b>                                            |

|                         |                               |                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wider-Curricular</b> | <b>Culture Day (23.10.26)</b> | <b>Year 8 Communion (25.11.26)</b><br><b>Year 8 Winter House Games</b><br><b>Christmas Concert</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|              |                                                                                            |                                          |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Other</b> | <b>School opens for Year 8 students (04.09.26)</b><br><b>School Photographs (16.09.26)</b> | <b>Year 8 Progress Review (03.12.26)</b> |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|



# Changes to Free School Meals

## 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:

[Synergy – Enquiry](#)

West Northants:

Complete the online application form:

[Free school meals and pupil premium eligibility for school aged children | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please get in touch: [pnorwood@bishopstopford.com](mailto:pnorwood@bishopstopford.com)

**Mrs Norwood**

# Recruitment

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

- Headteacher
- Head of Music
- Finance Manager
- Exams Office Manager
- Senior Science Technician

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.



Bishop Stopford School, Headlands, Kettering NN15 6BJ | [www.bishopstopford.com](http://www.bishopstopford.com) | [office@bishopstopford.com](mailto:office@bishopstopford.com) | 01536 503503

Company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 7698789  
VAT Registration Number 118 2272 33

# 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!



### Hot Meal & Dessert

Pick from daily hot mains or favourites such as topped jacket potatoes and pasta sauce and combine with a hot homemade dessert or a piece of fruit.



### Chill Deal

Grab a quick and handy Choose any 4 items (max 1) including filled rolls, meat or vegetarian snack pots, meat and home bakes.

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 making it up or grabbing a lighter bite.
- Bakery Favourites**  
Pasta, 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](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals)  
SAVE OVER £500 PER YEAR!



## MORE THAN JUST LUNCH!

At secondary school, food isn't just for lunchtime...

- BREAKFAST**  
Start your day right! Grab toast, cereal, yogurt, or a hot drink before your first lesson.
- BREAKTIME**  
Need a boost? Pick up hot snacks such as our PowerBites pots - noodles, rice, and more - or snack pots and bakes to keep you going.
- LUNCHTIME**  
Your main event! From hot meals to street food style dishes and grab-and-go options, you've got loads to choose from.
- AFTER SCHOOL**  
Pick up a snack on your way out. (Not available at all schools)

**FREE** Free of charge

## back to school CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Top up first** Make sure you've got money on your account before lunch. Check if you're eligible for free school meals!
- ☐ **Free School Meals (FSM)** - if you have FSMs your money will be on the bill automatically like everyone else, so no need to worry.
- ☐ **Head to the restaurant**, queue up and look out for posters to see what food is available, they can help you decide what to eat!
- ☐ **Pick your meal** - choose from tasty hot meals, handheld bites or chilled grab-and-go options. Look out for combo deals!
- ☐ **Food allergy, no problem!** Just speak to any member of staff who will be happy to help.
- ☐ **Try something new!** If you don't like it, bring it back and we'll change it free of charge!
- ☐ **Enjoy!** Sit with friends and enjoy!
- ☐ **If unsure, ask!** Our team are super friendly and always want to help.

## Allergies? No Problem!

All our dishes come with full ingredient and allergen information, and any pre-packaged items are clearly labelled with the 14 major allergens. Need extra support? Our Allergen Buddies are here to help you choose safely, answer questions, and make sure you can eat with confidence every day.



## DID YOU KNOW?

School food is fresh, tasty, and great value - with menus created by expert chefs and nutritionists.

- Better value than most packed lunches or high street alternatives
- Balanced for energy, focus & fuel for the school day
- 90% of our food is made on site
- Options suitable for a wide range of diets, cultures & preferences
- Independently endorsed - including accreditations from the Vegan & Vegetarian Society and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and Marine Conservation Society (MCS)
- Clear allergen labelling & Allergy Buddy support
- Relaxed spaces, friendly service & contactless payment
- High food safety standards



## back to school Welcome back to your SERIOUSLY GOOD FOOD COURT

Each day, choose from:

- Hot main meals or 'grab-and-go' takeaway items
- Sandwiches, wraps, pasta pots, salads & jacket potatoes
- Street food style dishes made your way
- Savoury snacks, fruit pots, home bakes, and much more

**TIME TO TAKE CHARGE OF WHAT YOU EAT...**

**Meals available!**

**Look out for the Free School Meal logo!**  
Anyone who receives a FSM can choose a great meal.  
SAVE OVER £500 PER YEAR!

## Cucina