

Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 24 April 2026

NEWSLETTER



Monday 27th April

Year 11 Collective Worship
Year 6 into 7 Parent Coffee Morning
Year 13 A Level Art Exam

Tuesday 28th April

Year 10 Collective Worship
Year 13 A Level Art Exam

Wednesday 29th April

Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship
Year 7 & 8 Junior Maths Challenge
Year 13 A Level Art Exam

Thursday 30th April

Year 7 Collective Worship

Friday 1st May

Year 12 & 13 Collective Worship

Next week:
Week B

Assembly Theme:
"Wonder"

Head Students

#BestOfBishop

We were delighted to appoint our new Student Leadership team just before Easter. Here is a message from our Head Students:

As new Head Students, we are delighted to welcome back all students for the start of a new term at Bishop Stopford School. This can be the start of a new chapter, and you will be undoubtedly met by a number of new opportunities and experiences.

We value the entirely unique culture here, which upholds our core values of faith, truth, justice, responsibility and compassion. We also celebrate our community which allows students to thrive and unlock their unique potential. Throughout our time here, we have found that we have come to embody these core values and implement them not only in the school environment but also in wider life. That's what makes our school so special: the lessons you learn are for life.

Bishop Stopford School allows you to grow both as a student and a person, providing numerous opportunities and activities such as musicals, concerts, sports events, competitions and incredible residential. Your growth is further supported by excellent staff, connecting with peers and the positive ethos that is reinforced all through the years.

We are so excited to begin working with you in order to help make a difference and introduce new opportunities to help you make the most of your time here. Whether through School Council meetings, organising whole school events, sending out polls and listening to your ideas, we are committed to making this chapter both a meaningful and memorable one!

Amrita & Dhruv





**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children
of God.**

Matthew 5:9

How can you be a person that brings peace into your classroom today?

This week, our Bible verses for form time registration have considered PEACE.

In a world where peace can be sorely lacking, turning to God's Word to seek His peace can bring hope and reassurance and certainty.

As we look at our own government and world leaders around the globe, I would challenge them with the same question asked of our students this week on Monday's slide. I wonder if politicians were to consider this question deeply and honestly and altruistically, what responses it might elicit? And if they were to act on their answers, how this might bring change to our aching world?

How can you be a person that brings peace into your classroom [home, world] today?

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.

Well done to the following amazing student:

Yasmina Bikuki (7C) for completing the Luke@Lent Readathon completing a reading of Luke's Gospel over Lent As part of the National Year of Reading. Wonderful!

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 - Uniform

It's been lovely to return for the summer term with blue skies and sunshine. Students have been thoroughly enjoying their lunchtimes on the field.

In light of the increasing summer temperatures and following a student vote, we have adapted our uniform for the summer to help students feel more comfortable.

From Tuesday 5th May, students can wear our summer uniform. For students in Years 7 – 11, this comprises:

- a pair of knee length tailored black shorts;
- a Bishop Stopford School branded polo shirt (worn without a tie).

This uniform must be worn with regular school shoes and black or white socks. The polo shirt must be tucked in.

The shorts and the branded polo shirts are **optional** parts of our uniform. Students are, of course, still welcome to wear their usual uniform throughout the summer months, or they could wear shorts with their shirt and tie, or the polo shirt with their skirt or trousers.

In previous years, we allowed students to wear PE kit on hot days. Because we have introduced a permanent summer uniform, this is no longer an option. We believe that this will provide greater clarity and consistency.

From **Tuesday 5th May**, Sixth Form students will not be required to wear a jacket or tie, but the rest of their dress code still applies. Casual skirts and dresses are not part of the dress code. **Lanyards must still be worn at all times.**

Branded polo shirts are available to buy from our uniform supplier via the link on our website: [School Uniform](#)

Mrs Smith

Transport/Driving

Last week, we met with local councillors and the Headteachers of four other local schools to consider jointly how we can address the problems of inconsiderate driving and parking in an area where the pressures on traffic infrastructure are enormous. We look forward to taking this work forward with transport surveys across all schools involved,

We have noticed an increase in students being dropped off in the morning nearer to school than Glebe Avenue and will therefore be increasing our patrols next week.

Please follow our simple request: do not drop students off beyond Glebe Avenue on the Headlands.

Miss Silverthorne

Sports News

Year 8 (U13) Handball

Congratulations to the squad who competed at the South of England Regional Finals this week. They achieved the silver medal. This final placing means they will travel to the National Schools Finals in June in Nottingham. Despite a small setback at the start due to a longer than planned journey, the boys got straight to work. They played with real grit, determination and skill.

This was notably demonstrated in one game going down 0-5 but eventually winning 9-7! The boys played 4 matches and won 3. They were unlucky to lose the 4th game as they tired due to having to play back-to-back games. Well done to all involved !

Mr Young



Speaker of the House!

I am incredibly proud of Amelia Persaud (10G). Last week, she not only visited the Houses of Parliament, but delivered a speech she had written regarding the proposed social media ban.

It is wonderful to see our students engaging in matters of real importance to them. What is even more impressive is when students like Amelia join civic groups and contribute to the national debate at the highest level. We are delighted that she represented Bishop Stopford School in such a professional manner. Well done Amelia!

Please do read her speech below.

Miss Silverthorne

My name is Amelia, and I am part of the Fair Education Alliance Youth Steering Group. In recent meetings, we've discussed the proposed Under-16s social media ban. While our group has a diversity of opinions, there was a strong consensus: a full ban is not the solution. At first glance, a social media ban may seem appealing: it promises a safer online environment. But I would say safety cannot be achieved by simply removing access. In fact, removing it may force young people into more dangerous parts of the internet. The responsibility of a child's safety online is shared among parents, teachers, government and social media companies. Young people cannot bear this alone.

Social media carries real risks—addiction, exposure to harmful content, grooming, and impacts on wellbeing. Yet it also plays a vital role in young people's lives. For many, it is a "third space" beyond home and school, to connect, express themselves, and find communities. Personally, I became involved in the Fair Education Alliance through social media. Denying teens this outlet could, in some cases, harm mental health rather than protect it.

Blaming young users alone is unfair. Social media companies and governments must prioritise safety over profit. Surely they would rather have young people using their sites safely rather than not at all? Our Youth Steering Group believes that removing addictive features like infinite scrolling, and introducing more useful safety measures (eg not being able to add people without their consent) is far more effective than a blanket ban. These improvements would benefit all users, not just those under 16. So social media platforms should be including this all the time.

Even for those of us who use social media sparingly, its value is clear. Platforms like Pinterest support learning, creativity, and school projects. Others such as LinkedIn support professional development. If we consider that young people are increasingly being given a voice in society - for example, through voting at 16 - it seems contradictory to deny them access to platforms where they can find information about political parties and social issues. Social media, when used responsibly, can be a valuable tool for awareness and education.

A full ban could pressure teens to break rules or feel excluded, potentially worsening mental health. That said, some restrictions are appropriate. The fact that under-5s in the UK have access to a phone is simply not ok. Perhaps a ban for a younger age category would be reasonable? But a blanket ban for under-16s risks being overly controlling, encourages rule-breaking, and limits opportunities for responsible engagement.

We need a balanced approach: clear guidelines for parents, better education for adults, and increased awareness of online risks. Many parents did not grow up with social media and need support to guide their children effectively. At the Fair Education Alliance Youth Summit, polls showed that young people want stricter consequences for adults who exploit online platforms and increased government investment in safety measures. These steps create a safer, functional environment for everyone. **Amelia Persaud**



Music Congratulations

Congratulations to our brass band, who once again took to the county stage, this time in Spinney Hill Theatre, on Sunday 19th April, 7pm. They took part in NMPAT's Brass Festival - a mammoth event, featuring schools from across the County, over 3 sessions throughout the day. Our band performed an energetic set, introduced with aplomb by Rhoda Jones, including Guns 'n' Roses 'Welcome to the Jungle', 'Livin' la vida loca', featuring a virtuosic solo by Sarah Harris, and 'Let me entertain you', with choreography, audience participation and Oliver Canfield playing the trombone whilst jogging!

The evening culminated with a massed band performance of the three school bands and the County Youth Brass band. They filled the stage and blew the audience away with their rendition of 'You can't stop the Beat'. (Hairspray)

Huge thanks to Mr Turnbull for all his hard work preparing our students, and NMPAT for the preparation. The evening was made even more special as former students Tommy Cundell and Emily Roberts were also part of this event.

We are very proud of our band: Jordan Hardy, Dylan Williams, Ruth Jones, Oliver Canfield, Daniel Rose, Jonah Goldsmith, Charlotte Mantle, Sarah Harris, Jonathan Matthews, Oliver Haseldine.



Congratulations also to Jonah Goldsmith, Daniel Rose, and Oliver Canfield who have just won the National Youth Championships with the award-winning Youth Brass 2000 band. They have exciting times ahead as they will represent the Nation at the European Championships this weekend in Linz and again next year in Switzerland.

The National Youth Championships of Great Britain is an example of what Brass Bands England does best. It is the type of 'feel good' event that money can't buy, based on an ethos that ticks every funding box Arts Council England requires to be filled. This year 42 ensembles and over 1,300 youngsters made their way to the impressive King Edward's School in Birmingham for a day of inclusive music making.

The event's Yamaha Championship Section contest promoted a level of performance excellence that continues to provide a vital stepping stone to the adult banding environment. The highest placed English band representing the Nation at the European Championships in Monteux in 2027 was an all too familiar winner, Youth Brass 2000!

This was their tenth victory since 2014, a remarkable achievement given the turnover of youngsters MD Chris Jeans inspires each year. On this occasion his smaller than usual band contained at least seven debutant players. The remarks from the judges of praise, and admiration. The type of confidence building support that any player, conductor, band, or Arts Council funded organisation couldn't put a price on.

Well done to Alfie Kean (7Y) for passing his Grade 3 piano practical with distinction.

Mrs Armstrong

Hampton Court Palace

Last Friday, Year 12 History students visited the beautiful Hampton Court Palace to support the Tudors' topic of their History A Level. As well as exploring the palace itself, they were given a specialist session by a guide at the palace tailored to the 'Mid-Tudor Crisis' section of their course. Erin and Imogen explain why they found the day so helpful:

'At Hampton Court, we were given a short tour of key places in the palace which enriched our learning about Tudor England. It opened our eyes to how valuable it is to have such rich history preserved for us to experience today. We were given a book of sources to interpret which deepened our understanding of our level course and the significant role the palace played in the Tudor government.'

Mrs Parnell



Subject	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
GCSE Art	External exam – Planning and Testing	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 50px; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="color: green;">GCSE EXAMS</h2> </div>
GCSE Computer Science	Revision of Key Areas	
GCSE Drama	Preparation for Exams	
GCSE English	Consolidation and Preparation for all the English GCSE Exams	
GCSE Food	Revision	
GCSE French	<u>GCSE Speaking Exam</u> Preparation for other papers	
GCSE Geography	Pre-release Paper 3 preparation and consolidation	
GCSE Health and Social Care	Revision	
GCSE History	Superpower Relations and the Cold War: The End of the Cold War – 1970-91 Preparation for the Exams	
GCSE Maths	<u>Exam Preparation</u> Review of identified topics from mock exams and formal assessments. Review of high frequency topics. Timed practice questions focusing on problem solving and exam technique.	
GCSE Music	Revision	
Core PE	Options (Boys and Girls)	
GCSE PE	Revision (Papers 1 and 2)	
GCSE Product Design	Revision	
PSHE	Revision	
GCSE RE	Revision	

Year 11 Curriculum

GCSE Science (Triple)	Biology: Module 7 (Ecology) Chemistry: Module 8 (Using our Resources) Physics: Module 7 (Electromagnetism)	<h1>GCSE EXAMS</h1>
GCSE Science (Trilogy)	Revision	
GCSE Spanish	<u>GCSE Speaking Exam</u> Preparation for other papers	
GCSE Textiles	Revision	

Other	<p>GCSE MFL Speaking Assessments (13.04.26 to 24.05.26)</p> <p>GCSE Drama Practical Exam (16.04.26)</p> <p>GCSE Art Exam (23.04.26 to 24.04.26)</p> <p>GCSE Exam Period (begins on 08.05.26)</p> <p>Last Day for Year 11 (23.05.26)</p>	<p>Year 11 Prom (19.06.26)</p> <p>Year 12 Induction (29.06.26)</p>
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Extra-Curricular Activities

The updated Clubs & Activities Guide for the summer term can be found on our website: [Extra-Curricular Activities](#)

As you will see, our enrichment programme is extensive with currently over 60 clubs, activities and societies available to students. There really is something for everyone!

The purpose of our clubs and activities are many, but we want to give opportunities outside the classroom to enable each student to reach their unique potential. Please encourage your child to attend.

Most activities are hosted by staff, but some groups are managed by students. Our Sixth Form societies, for example, are 'by students for students' – in turn developing their leadership skills.

Mrs Wood

Bishop Stapford School
faith | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion

Important Dates

27 APR Year 6 into 7 Parent Coffee Morning	8 MAY Year 13 Study Leave begins	8 MAY Year 8 Reports issued
12 MAY Isle of Scillies Parents' Information Evening - 6pm	13 MAY Year 8 HPV Vaccinations	14 MAY Year 12 Progress Review
10 MAY Year 10 Ensemble Evening	21 MAY Year 11 Study Leave begins	22 MAY School Closes for Half Term

Cucina

WEEK 2
Cucina

Week Commencing: 03/11/2025 24/11/2025 15/12/2025 05/01/2026 26/01/2026 16/02/2026 09/03/2026 30/03/2026 20/04/2026

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS	VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS
MONDAY Pork & Beef Sausage, Served with Mash with Onion Gravy	MONDAY Vegan Sausage Casserole with Gravy (VE)
TUESDAY Beef Lasagne with Homemade Garlic Bread & Garden Peas	TUESDAY No Waste Cauliflower Cheese Pasta Bake (V)
WEDNESDAY Hand Carved Roast British Turkey, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables, & House Gravy	WEDNESDAY Cheese, Onion & Leek Pie, Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy (V)
THURSDAY Sweet & Sour Chicken, Served with Fried Rice	THURSDAY Sweet & Sour Tofu with Fried Rice (V)
FRIDAY Chip Shop "Fryday" Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas & Tartare Sauce	FRIDAY Jamaican Squash Pastty with Chips & Peas (V)

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
Fork Friendly Falafel Kebab (VE)	Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)	Singapore Fried Rice (VE)	The Big Plant Burger (VE)	Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)

DESSERTS				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Sauce	Pear & Ginger Crumble with Cinnamon Custard	Jam Sponge with Custard	Baked Churros	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		
MONDAY Tomato & Basil Pasta	TUESDAY Pasta in a Cheese Sauce	WEDNESDAY Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza	THURSDAY Creamy Pesto Pasta	FRIDAY Margherita Pizza

TRATTORIA

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

