



Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 25th September 2026

NEWSLETTER



Events all week

Monday

Year 11 Collective Worship
Year 13 Geography Fieldtrip

Tuesday

Year 10 Collective Worship

Wednesday

Sixth Form Collective Worship

Thursday

Year 7 Collective Worship
Year 7 meet the Tutor Evening

Friday 4

Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship

Next week:

Week A

Assembly Theme:

Harvest/ Creation
12-minute Church

Celebrating Achievement of All Kinds

#BestOfBishop

Last week, we held our Celebration of Achievement, for students and their families who took public exams last summer. It was wonderful to recognise each student, and to award prizes for progress in subjects and for commitment to our school's ethos.

While it was wonderful to recognise amazing achievements at both A level and GCSE, we rightly celebrated so much more.

Miss Silverthorne focused on the great sense of belonging here, and how former Years 11 and 13 had exemplified that in so many ways. In her address, she said. *'I am so proud of what we achieve here, but much more importantly of how we live well together. In a world where the mood music is dysregulation and fragmentation, our school is a haven. Not perfect, but perhaps a little more how we'd like to see the rest of society. Throughout their time here, students we are celebrating this evening have embodied that enduring spirit of community magnificently.'*

We were then incredibly privileged to hear from the new Bishop of Brixworth, Dr Alex Hughes, who shared his reflections on what is required to cope with all the challenges and joys which life brings. He reminded us again of the 'ballast' required to keep us stable – our core values and the foundation on which our school is built.

We look forward to what was said on that evening being the tone of all that we do throughout this year.

Mrs Smith



We are a Church of England School



You are invited!

Our Chapel is a gently busy hub before school, during break and lunchtimes. Our activities are led by a fabulous group of volunteers, youth workers, sixth form students and Mrs Hutchinson. Our desire is to build faith with one another.

Daily - 8:10am A short Bible reading, reflection and prayer.

- Monday Week B - REFUEL (Year 12 and Year 13)
- Tuesday Morning Break - Student led Worship and Prayer
- Tuesday Week A & B - Discover Faith (All year groups)
- Wednesday Week A - Gardening Gang (All year groups)
- Wednesday Week B - Boy's Group (All year groups)
- Thursday Morning Break - Staff only coffee time
- Fridays Week A & B - Christian Union (All year groups)

We look forward to getting to know one another more this academic year.

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.

India Lilley – for creating a stunning work of art as a gift for Bishop Alex at Celebration of Achievement.

Our band members for Celebration of Achievement, who led *In Christ Alone* beautifully:

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • <i>Precious Abiona</i> | • <i>Sophia Lorentzen</i> | • <i>Thomas Pickford</i> | • <i>Daniel Counsell</i> |
| • <i>Rupert Fray</i> | • <i>Sebastian Persaud</i> | • <i>Esther Hobbs</i> | |



Safe Space

This week, our assemblies have been exploring how we live well together. Our culture and community is underpinned by our core values, and these provide a solid foundation for ensuring students feel safe in school.

In the assemblies, we've been discussing how our interactions can help us to put the challenges of the world into perspective. This is especially important when the algorithms within our social media make the constant updates feel overwhelming.

Students have been encouraged to be proactive in their approach to safeguarding, including:

- Being encouragers themselves, and enabling others to be fully themselves;
- Fostering a sense of belonging by including others and learning from the diversity within our community;
- Being upstanders, and reporting when things are 'not ok';
- Being actively involved in activities, including our Clubs and Activities Fair, Culture Day celebrations, Open Events and student surveys.

We would welcome continued conversations about this at home, including how to report concerns. Students can:

- Speak to their Form Tutor, Head of Year or other trusted adult.
- Complete a blue form at the HoY office.
- Email: itsnotok@bishopstopford.com (They can ask to remain anonymous.)
- Speak to a Student Ambassador

If you have any concerns about your child, please don't hesitate to speak to their Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Mrs Smith

SEND Support



FREE COURSES!

The following courses are delivered by the SEND Support Service (SSS) and are designed specifically for parents who have children with SEND. These Parent Workshops will be held from 09:30 - 12:00 at the Primary Training Hub, Oakley Vale Primary School, Corby, NN18 8RH.

Understanding Autism in Girls | 1st October 2026

Autism can present differently in girls, which means it is sometimes harder to recognise. Many girls learn to hide, or "mask", their difficulties in order to fit in, which can lead to their needs being missed or identified later. This session helps parents to better understand how autism may look in girls and how to support their wellbeing both at home and in school. We will look at the common signs that may be more subtle or hidden and why girls with autism may feel anxious, overwhelmed or exhausted. You will leave with a clearer understanding of your child's experiences and practical strategies to support them to feel understood, confident and able to thrive.

Understanding Anxiety, Anger and Emotions

2nd & 8th December 2026 | 15th & 29th May 2027

The aims of this course (delivered over two sessions):

- to learn about anger, anxiety and emotions in children and young people with a special educational need or disability (SEND)
- to learn about some of the methods for helping individuals with SEND to manage their emotions

This course is repeated twice over the year

Understanding Sensory Challenges and Exploring Techniques to Support | 28th January 2027

The aims of this course:

- to learn about sensory challenges in children and young people with a special educational need or disability (SEND)
- to learn about some of the techniques for helping individuals with SEND to manage sensory regulation

Implementing Visual Structures in the Home | 23rd March 2027

The aims of this course:

- to understand the importance of visual structure, how it gives clarity and creates predictability
- to explore how and when to implement visual structure

SSS practitioners offer advice and support to young people, families, carers and education establishments for children with a wide range of special educational needs aged 5-18 across North Northants.

Scan or click the QR code to book your course or:
☎ 07730 130 314 ✉ primarytraininghub@brookewestontrust.org



NNC SEND Support Service school age team 5-19 yrs

Children with SEND are at the heart of everything we do. We work holistically with education settings and families to offer bespoke support.

Our core offer

Consultations

Explore presenting issues; advice and strategies offered to parents or school staff.

Workshops

Empowering parents through a range of free workshops run across the year.

Direct work

Bespoke intervention with children on a range of needs at home or at school.

School link

Termly meetings, consultation, advice and collaboration. May lead to direct support.

Who do we support?

Children presenting with neurodiversity.

Children with a SEND need where communication interaction differences are a primary need including SEMH related to neurodiversity.

Children with an EHCP, electively home educated, without a school place or not in education employment or training.

Support is not offered where difficulties are primarily associated with trauma or adverse childhood experiences.

Effective bridge building between school's families and professionals (school)

My emotions have improved. I do not over think things like I used to and I do more activities. (child)

Your advice was incredibly helpful and really valued (parent)

To website



For more information about how to request support please visit our website or email sss.ncc@northnorthants.gov.uk

Approaches used include:

TEACCH

Protective Behaviours

Social Thinking

Social Stories



Valued advice
Bespoke strategies
Increased understanding

Working in partnership:
Education settings
Young people
Families



Right to Withdraw

Religious Education (RE), collective worship and Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) are an integral part of the curriculum at Bishop Stopford School. They make an important contribution to our students' personal development by enabling them to understand different beliefs and worldviews, make informed decisions and prepare for adult life.

We recognise and respect the legal rights of parents and carer, however, in relation to these aspects of school provision.

PHSE, Relationships and Sex Education

Parents and carers do not have a general right to withdraw their child from PHSE.

You may, however, request that your child is withdrawn from sex education taught as part of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), except for content which forms part of the National Curriculum for Science. You should submit this request in writing to the Headteacher. The school will offer you an opportunity to discuss the content, purpose and benefits of the lessons and the practical arrangements arising from withdrawal.

Except in exceptional circumstances, the school will respect a parental request to withdraw a student from sex education up to and until three terms before the student turns 16. From that point, if the student wishes to receive sex education, the school will make arrangements for them to do so during one of those terms.

Religious Education

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education. A reason does not have to be given. If you are considering withdrawal, we ask that you write to the Headteacher, explaining whether the request relates to all or a particular part of RE.

The school will offer an opportunity to discuss the request with a senior leader or the Subject Leader for RE. This is intended to clarify the content and nature of the school's RE curriculum and to discuss the practical arrangements for the student(s). It does not affect your legal right to withdraw your child.

Collective Worship

Parents and carers also have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher. The school will then discuss appropriate supervision arrangements with the parents and carers.

Mr Kirke

Culture Day 2026

On Friday 23rd October we are holding our annual Culture Day celebrations when we invite students to come to school in an outfit which represents their identity. We would also love to welcome as many families and organisations as possible to our lunchtime fair to represent the wonderful variety of cultures which make up Bishop Stopford School.

If you would like to be part of our celebrations, or find out more, email Mrs N Smith (njsmith@bishopstopford.com). Or if you would prefer to complete the form, a member of staff will be in touch. [Culture Day 2026 – Fill out form.](#)

Mrs N Smith



Students Celebrate National Brass Band Championship Win

Two of our students celebrated an incredible musical achievement at the weekend after helping Harborough Band become Second Section National Champions at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain.

Dan Rose, Year 12, and Jonah Goldsmith, Year 13, both of whom are studying A-level Music here, travelled to York with Harborough Band to compete in the Second Section National Final at York Barbican.

The National Championships are one of the highlights of the UK brass band calendar, bringing together bands from across England, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands which have earned their places through regional qualifying competitions.

Harborough Band secured its place in the National Final after winning the Midlands Regional Championships earlier this year. That result was particularly special for the band, marking what is believed to have been its first Midlands Area title for around 70 years.

The band then went one step further in York, producing a winning performance to be crowned Second Section National Champions.

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For Dan and Jonah, the opportunity to perform at a National Final was already a significant milestone in their musical journeys. To come away as members of a national championship-winning band made the occasion even more memorable.

There was another Bishop Stopford School connection on stage too, with the school's Brass Band Director, Mr Brad Turnbull, also performing with Harborough Band. A photograph taken after the results captured Dan, Jonah and Mr Turnbull together with the championship trophy; a particularly special moment linking the boys' musical achievements both inside and outside school.

It was a fantastic achievement for Dan, Jonah, and everyone involved with Harborough Band, and a weekend they are unlikely to forget.

Mrs McNab

Year 9 Curriculum

Subject	Autumn Term 1		Autumn Term 2	
Art	<u>Art with a Message</u> Focus on Picasso's <i>Guernica</i> and a visual response to a news event using Symbolism.			
Computer Science	Cyber Security		Python Programming	
DT	<u>Food (Unit 1)</u> Food Science Raising Agents	<u>Food (Unit 2)</u> Teenage Diets Vegetarianism	<u>Textiles</u> Advanced Techniques Environmental impact of Fashion	<u>Product Design</u> Contexts as starting points. Design Development Testing Functional Prototypes
Drama	Rotation Project 1 – Too Much Punch for Judy			
English	<u>Play Study: Noughts and Crosses</u>		<u>Literary Heritage: A Kestrel for a Knave</u>	
French (Dual Linguists)	Chez Moi		La Nourriture	
Geography	<u>Global Fashion</u> A study of the Trade roles between countries and the need for <i>Fair Trade</i> in the manufacturing of goods		<u>Topical Geography</u> An examination of a series of topical issues, ranging from censorship in China, the dark side of Tourism in Thailand and illegal migration to the USA.	
History	<u>Enquiry – What causes Conflict?</u> Specific focus on World War One		<u>Enquiry – How far did women's lives change after 1918?</u>	
Maths	Algebra Linear Equations Quadratic Equations Powers, roots and rules of Indices		Standard form conversion Rearranging formulae Fractions and Decimals	
Music	<u>Performance, Study and Context</u> Bach Toccata and Fugue, the Baroque period		<u>Listening and Performance</u> Composing with ostianati	
PE	Rugby and Basketball (Boys) Netball and Hockey (Girls)		Hockey and Parkour (Boys) Health Related Fitness and Basketball (Girls)	



Year 9 Curriculum cont'd

PSHE	<u>Addiction and the Psychology of addiction</u>	<u>Staying Safe</u> Stimulant and Depressant Drugs
RE	<u>Enquiry Question 1</u> Is protesting the best action against Racism?	<u>Enquiry Question 2</u> Should we create a superintelligence?
Science	Topic 1: Genetics and Evolution (Biology) Topic 2: Forces and Motion (Physics) Topic 3: Reactivity (Chemistry)	Topic 4: Plant Growth (Biology) Topic 5: Force fields and Electromagnets (Physics)
Spanish (Core)	Mi Trabajo	Mi Futuro

Wider-Curricular	Blood Brothers Trip (11.09.25) Year 9 Communion (17.10.25) Culture Day (24.10.25)	Christmas Concert Winter House Games
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Other	School opens for Year 9 students (04.09.25) School Photographs (17.09.25) 60th Anniversary Celebration Service (26.09.25)	
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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

Mrs Norwood

Recruitment

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

Headteacher

Senior Science Technician

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.



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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 meals or favourites such as baked jacket potatoes and pasta pots and combine with a hot beverage, drink or a piece of fruit!



FSM Chill Deal

Grab a quick cold lunch (Please try 4 items marked with the Chill Deal sticker including salad rolls, salad or favourite snack pots, and main hotmeals).

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 salad rolls and hot wraps, in salads and sushi pots, our deli range is ideal for nibbling it up or grabbing a lighter bite.

Bakery Favourites

Fingerbites, 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!

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 snack 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)



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 (FSMs)** - 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, handbites 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
- 99% 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

Meal deals available!

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

- 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...

Cucina

