



Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 28 November 2025

NEWSLETTER



Monday 1 December

Year 11 Collective Worship
Carol Service Ss Peter & Paul
Church 6.30pm

Tuesday 2 December

Year 10 Collective Worship

Wednesday 3 December

Year 12 Collective Worship
Year 11 Mocks
Year 8 Progress Review

Thursday 4 December

Year 11 Mocks
Year 7 Collective Worship

Friday 5 December

Year 11 Mocks
Year 8 Collective Worship
Year 13 Elevate Revision Session
Year 10 Reports issued

Annual Christmas Concert

#BestOfBishop

Almost the Beginning of Advent!

Last evening, our Main Hall filled with festive cheer as students from all key stages united for our annual Christmas Music Concert. The event showcased the incredible talent and dedication of our young musicians, creating a magical atmosphere that truly captured the spirit of Advent. A huge thank you to Mrs Armstrong, students, staff, and visiting music tutors who made this wonderful event possible.

The evening showcased performances from students of all years, and staff, highlighting the breadth of musical ability and enthusiasm across the school. Ensembles included massed choirs, string group, rock band, guitars and ukuleles, concert and brass band. There were special performances to start and end the concert from A Level musicians and our increasingly famous Pit Monkeys, alongside some exquisite solo performances from students. This included a school first: a wonderful accordion solo from Masha, y7.

We are, as always, very grateful for all the work of our NMPAT peripatetic music teachers, whose expert guidance throughout the year helps our students flourish in their chosen instruments and vocal studies.

Music holds a unique place in the Advent season. It is more than entertainment—it is a way to connect, reflect, worship and celebrate. For our students, performing in front of family and friends builds confidence, teamwork, and a true sense of belonging.

As we move through Advent, we continue to embrace the power of music to bring us together and inspire joy at our beautiful **Carol Service at St Peter and Paul's church in Kettering next Monday 1st December at 6.30pm.**

Mrs Fletton

Next week:

Week B

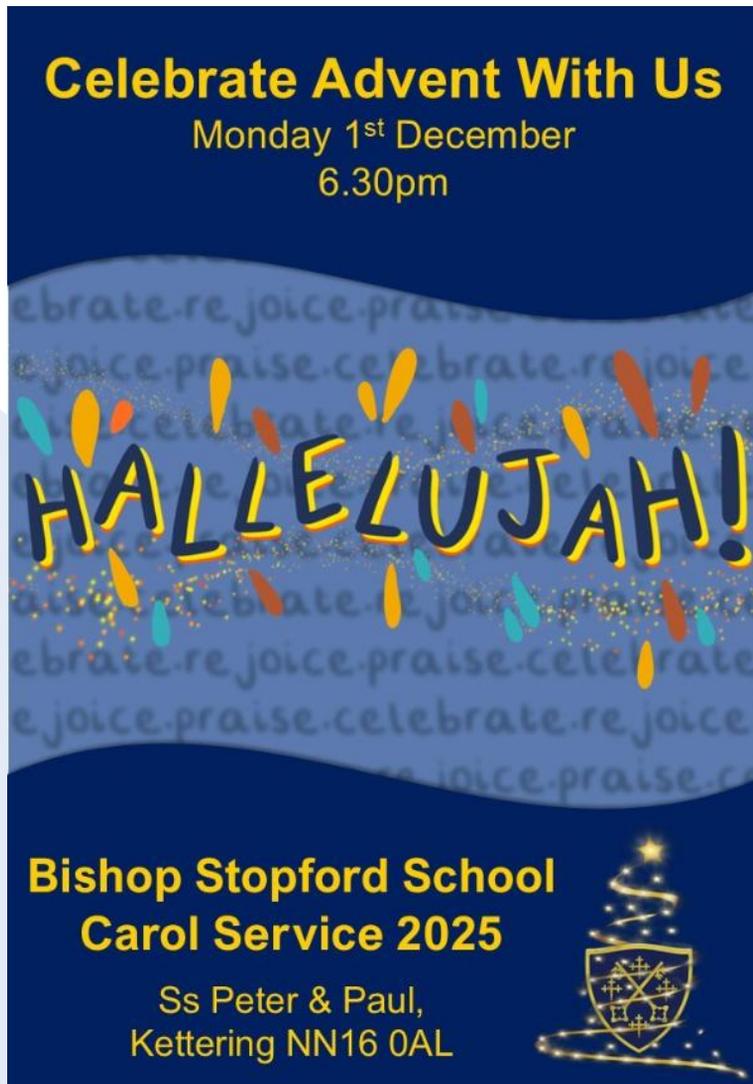
Assembly Theme:

Heads of Year



We are a Church of England School

We invite you all to come and join us in the beautiful church of St Peter and St Pauls' to start Advent and Christmas! The music will be glorious and will soar the heights of the building. The readings will remind us of the preciousness and the power of this time of year. The peace and the prayers will speak to our souls.



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.

The following students receive CViA awards this week:

Matthew Banham-Hall (7W) for showing great responsibility for creating the structure of a Christmas hamper on his own and supporting the form.

Sophia Lorentzen (9E) who received a bronze award for her entry into the Queens Commonwealth Essay Competition.

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 – Blood pressure and obesity

News articles this month have highlighted the concerning increase in the number of children experiencing high blood pressure. Research from the University of Edinburgh and Zhejiang University in China examined 443,000 children from 21 countries. This revealed that more than 1 in 20 children under the age of 19 (6.2%) suffer from high blood pressure, up from 3.2% in 2000.

There is a high correlation between high blood pressure and obesity, another issue which has increased significantly. 1 in 10 children start school obese, and this number increases to more than 1 in 5 (22.2%) by their final year in primary school. Researchers concluded that unhealthy diets, decreased physical activity and increasing childhood obesity are all causes of high blood pressure.

The Chief Scientific and Medical Officer at the British Heart Foundation has highlighted the significant risk of this pattern. Elevated blood pressure in childhood can persist into adulthood, increasing the risk of heart disease and strokes later in life. However, he also reassures parents that obesity-related high blood pressure can be reversed.

At school, we talk openly about healthy lifestyles and promote a culture where physical activity is celebrated, both for recreation and competition. Students have two PE lessons per week and a range of clubs are available every lunchtime, in addition to space for free recreational play and termly House Games. The Olive Grove serves a wide range of food options, including a balanced main meal daily.

The school also has a strong relationship with the School Nurse service. If you are worried about your child, or believe they would benefit from a health-related discussion, please contact your child's Head of Year who can refer them for an appointment.

Mrs Smith

Christmas Card Competition

We had lots of wonderful entries for our Year 7 Christmas Card competition this year. They were so good it made it very difficult to choose. Congratulations to Dinuki whose card was eventually chosen as the winner, and to our other four finalists. All cards will be displayed at the Carol Service on Monday. Well done Year 7!

Winner



Dinuki Jayaweera (7E)

Joint Second

Mary Cullen (7D)



Francesca Palmiero (7S)



Joint Third



Ellena Harwood (7Y)



Antonia Mihalache (7W)

Biology Live Trip

On Monday A Level Biologists attended 'Biology Live' at Birmingham University to experience Biology lectures from experts in the field.

We heard from numerous scientists including Gillian Forrester (the use of thermal imaging to detect a nasal dip and therefore stress in humans and apes), Tim Lament (a marine biologist with expertise in regenerate coral reefs) and Adam Hart (an ecologist interested in estimating the total number of species on earth).

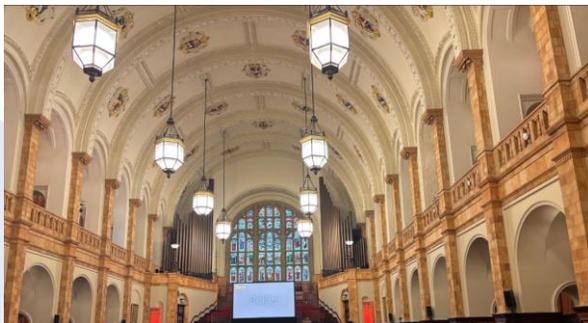
Ahmed Ehsan Ulhaq (Year 12) asked 'How does the knowledge of identifying species affect how they interact with other species', linking the importance of not only just discovering the new species but how they fit into the ecosystem / any potential uses in drug development etc. This was a great moment in a packed educational venue!

Jennifer Rohn (a cell biologist with expertise in infectious diseases) reviewed alternatives to antibiotics to reduce resistance.

Sophie Scott, a laughter scientist, taught us that laughter is only 'contagious' in humans, not any other species.

Finally, we had two examiner sessions giving tips for performing highly in exams.

This was an excellent experience for us all. Students – as ever – were incredible ambassadors for our school.



Mrs Redding

UK Parliament Week

This week, we have been celebrating UK Parliament Week. It's an initiative aimed to increase political awareness, to encourage the younger generation to participate in politics and for them to understand the importance of having their voices heard. UK Parliament Week has been the focus of PSHE lessons for all students.

As a part of our political engagement, A-Level Politics students had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. We were lucky enough to receive a tour of the Parliamentary estate, watch a debate in the House of Commons from the public gallery, and participate in a political party hustings workshop. Another perk was meeting our MP for Kettering, Rosie Wrighting (who attended our school). She shared with us her experience of being the youngest female MP in Parliament and how it has been a struggle ensuring that she is taken as seriously as her fellow older members. However, despite this, she emphasised the importance of young voices in politics and her experience is proof of the need for more young people to participate. She also urged us to get in touch- and this applies to all young people in the area- with questions about the area or for Rosie herself about her experience in politics. You can contact her via email: rosie.wrighting.mp@parliament.uk

So, in the spirit of Parliament and encouraging young voices in politics, our school is holding its very own referendum today which proposes the motion: 'Should the school have an optional summer uniform?'

A-Level Politics students have led 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns, visiting assemblies and lessons and holding events at lunchtime to canvass student and engage the whole school community.

This has been hugely beneficial for us, enabling us to consolidate our learning in practical way. More importantly, I believe it has been of enormous benefit to the wider school community encouraging engagement in the political process and being involved in a key school decision. Hopefully, it will pave the way for future school referenda. After all, what better way to encourage participation is there than to get staff and students involved with a real referendum?

Amrita Johal – Year 12 A-Level Politics student

Celebrating Movember

Celebrating Movember: Mr Neeson & Mr Young

Throughout November, Mr Neeson and Mr Young have been proudly cultivating moustaches in support of **Movember**, raising awareness for **men's health**. Their facial hair has not only drawn plenty of attention but also sparked smiles across the school and encouraged meaningful conversations around physical and mental wellbeing. From laughter in the corridors to thoughtful discussions in classrooms, their efforts have helped shine a light on an important cause — and we're proud to share what they've managed to cultivate!

[Movember - About Us - The Movember Foundation](#)



Music Congratulations

Congratulations to Tahlia Lane for gaining a Merit in Grade 2 Trinity rock and pop guitar exam.

Mrs Armstrong



Final Day

A non-uniform day is being held on Friday 19th December with Christmas Jumpers as our theme. A voluntary donation of £1 is suggested with proceeds going to Save the Children. Donations can now be made via ParentPay if you prefer this option to cash.

School closes at 12.30pm. Students will be dismissed at the following times and RB buses will collect students at 1pm.

- Year 12 & 13 – 12.20pm
- Year 8 & 10 – 12.25pm
- Year 7, 9 and 11 – 12.30pm

Parking

We are still receiving complaints from residents about parent parking and irresponsible driving.

- Always consider the impact of your driving and parking on 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 drop off passengers near Kettering Leisure Village, please do so in their car park and not in the entrances to adjacent roads e.g. Thurston Drive.
- 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).

Miss Curchin





Important Dates

1 DEC
*Carol Service
Ss Peter & Paul
Church*

3 - 12 DEC
Y11 Mock Exams

3 DEC
*Year 8 Progress
Review*

5 DEC
Y10 Reports issued

10 DEC
*Y7 - 9 Christmas
Dinner*

11 DEC
*Y10 - 13 Christmas
Dinner*

16 DEC
*Celebration of
Achievement*

19 DEC
*School Closes for
Christmas Break
at 12:30pm*

Bishop Stopford School
With Courage | Responsibility | Truth | Compassion

Celebration of Achievement Invitation

**For students who sat GCSEs & A Levels at
Bishop Stopford School in summer 2025**

Celebration of Achievement

Tuesday 16 December 2025
6:00pm – 7:30pm in the Sports Hall
Refreshments served from 5:15pm

A celebration of success and presentation of GCSE and A Level certificates.

Parents/carers and students warmly welcome.

**Invitations have been sent to parents/carers.
Book tickets by 3pm on Tuesday 9 December.**



Bishop Stopford School
With Courage | Responsibility | Truth | Compassion

Recruitment

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

PR and Commercial Partnerships Lead
HR Officer and Office Manager
Curriculum Support Assistant
Exam invigilator

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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WEEK 3

Week Commencing; 20/10/2025 10/11/2025 01/12/2025 22/12/2025 12/01/2026
 02/02/2026 23/02/2026 16/03/2026 06/04/2026

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

BBQ Chicken Served with Salt & Peppers Wedges, Garden Peas

TUESDAY

Chicken Arrabbiata Pasta Bake

WEDNESDAY

Roast Shoulder of Pork, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy

THURSDAY

Chicken Korma with Pilau Rice & Coriander Salad

FRIDAY

Chip Shop 'Fryday' Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas and Tartare Sauce

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

Chipotle Quorn Dippers with Salt & Pepper Wedges & Garden Peas (V)

TUESDAY

Crunchy Topped Macaroni Cheese and House Salad (V)

WEDNESDAY

Cheesy Roasted Squash & Parsnip Crumble. Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy (V)

THURSDAY

Cauliflower Bhaji with Pilau Rice & Mint Yogurt (V)

FRIDAY

Crispy Onion Pakora Burger Served with Mango Slaw, Chips & Peas (VE)

DESSERTS

MONDAY

Sticky Lemon Sponge

TUESDAY

Mixed Berry & Apple Crumble

WEDNESDAY

Jam Roly Poly & Custard

THURSDAY

Banana Pudding & Custard

FRIDAY

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

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

Buffalo Cauliflower Wings, Served with Salt & Pepper Wedges (V)

TUESDAY

Vegan Singapore Noodles (V)

WEDNESDAY

Hot Falafel Buddha Bowl (V)

THURSDAY

Onion Bhaji Skewer with Bombay Potatoes (VE)

FRIDAY

Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

MONDAY

Tomato & Basil Pasta

TUESDAY

Pasta in a Cheese Sauce

WEDNESDAY

Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza

THURSDAY

Creamy Pesto Pasta

FRIDAY

Margherita Pizza

