



Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 4th September 2026

NEWSLETTER



Monday 7 September
Year 11 Collective Worship

Tuesday 8 September
Year 10 Collective Worship

Wednesday 9 September
Year 12 & 13 Collective Worship
Year 12 Transition Information
Evening for Parents

Thursday 10 September
Year 7 Collective Worship
Year 7-11 Flu Vaccinations

Friday 11 September
Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship

Unlocking Unique Potential 2026-7

#BestOfBishop

It has been wonderful this week to welcome our students back to school after what we trust has been a good summer. The start of a new academic year is always a great moment to re-state our mission: to unlock the unique potential of everyone who is part of our community.

For some, these are first days at Bishop Stopford School; for others these are 'last days' – the final year here. And, of course, many in between. We know, too, that some families will be new to school; others well-versed in our systems.

The same is true for staff. We said goodbye to some in the summer and are now delighted to welcome new colleagues who have already been made to feel very much at home:

Mr Davis (Maths)	Mrs Gregory (DT)	Miss Howes (MFL)
Miss Jones (Drama)	Mrs Jeffery (Maths)	Mrs King (DT)
Ms Mason (MFL)	Miss Safford and Mrs Salisbury (English)	
Mr Starmar (TA)		

While this week is a new start, it is built on very strong traditions which are the hallmark of our wonderful school. The pictures above show the delights of the summer because of the incredible results our hardworking students achieved. We will continue to support each individual in this new year to help them to live up to our core values every day. What better way could there be to build that sense of belonging which is so precious to us all?

Miss Silverthorne

Next week:
Week A

Assembly Theme
New Beginnings





Praying Psalm 19

As we start our new academic year filled with hope and expectation, with thanks and praise, with joy and humility, we pray Psalm 19 and particularly its final words:

*May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen*

The painting above was created by a group of Year 8 students last term as their Faith in Action project. It will soon hang in the Science corridor to complement the three paintings previously painted two years ago - Psalm 19 verse 1. The Science corridor will have the first verse at one end and the final verse at the other.

Mrs Hutchinson

Celebration of Achievement

Our Celebration of Achievement takes place on Thursday 17 September, not December as has been in previous years. The event is for students who took GCSE and A Levels this summer and their families. We will celebrate each student, with the opportunity for every student to be personally congratulated on stage by our Guest of Honour and the school on their many achievements.

Places are at a premium, so please return your reservation as soon as possible.



Guest of Honour this year is Bishop Alex, the newly installed Bishop of Brixworth. We were delighted last term to be chosen as the hosts for the national announcement of Bishop Alex and then had an exclusive invite to his installation at Westminster Abbey in July. We look forward to welcoming him to share his wisdom on this auspicious occasion.



Miss Silverthorne



Safe Space – Return to School

It is lovely to hear the school full of noise as we begin the new school year. It's been wonderful to welcome students back and to meet our new students. We know that the coming weeks will be an adjustment as we transition back into the usual routines. Ensuring uniform and bags are ready the night before, and setting the alarm clock a little earlier all help to support this.

To ensure a very positive start, there are a few reminders to keep the community safe:

- Students must be in their form rooms at 8:35 and therefore on site by 8:30;
- Students who arrive before 8:15 must be in central spaces: the Foyer or the area outside it, or the Olive Grove;
- Parents are not allowed to drop students off on the school site without prior arrangement (eg for exceptional medical reasons). If you drive your child to school, please drop off at Glebe Avenue or higher up the Headlands for safety reasons.

If you have any queries regarding your child, please email their form tutor or Head of Year; if you have a general query, please email the Main Office via enquiries@bishopstopford.com.

Mrs Smith

Changes to Free School Meals (FSM)

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:

<https://northnorthamptonshire.synergy.hsc.accesscloud.com/SynergyWeb/>

West Northants:

Complete the online application form:

[Free school meals and pupil premium | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please get in touch: pnorwood@bishopstopford.com

Mrs Norwood

UKMT Maths Challenges 2026/2027

We're excited to be running the full UKMT Maths Challenges programme again this year — a great chance for our students to test themselves against national competition, sharpen their problem-solving skills, and, for top performers, qualify for exciting follow-on rounds.

Senior Challenge — Wed 7th October: all Year 12 and year 13 Maths students will be entered. If a student in Year 13 wishes to opt out they can do so. If this is the case, they must contact me (wlewis@bishopstopford.com) **before Friday 11th September**.

Intermediate Challenge — Wed 27th January: for Year 9 Group A and Year 10 Group A students; opt-in for Year 10 Groups B/C and Year 11 Groups A/B. Further information will be sent out nearer the time.

Junior Challenge — Wed 5th May: for Year 7 and 8 Group A students. Top scorers qualify for the Junior Kangaroo or Junior Mathematical Olympiad in June! Further information will be sent out closer to the time.

If you have any questions regarding these challenges, please contact me.

Good luck to all our mathematicians!

Mr Lewis

Ready for lessons

As we welcome students to the start of a new school year, please follow the link for a reminder of classroom equipment students need each day. [School Uniform - Bishop Stopford School](#)

Mr Keane

The Big Future Survey – have your say!

As students return to school for the new academic year, the Children's Commissioner has written to us to ask for support in completing her national survey, The Big Future.

The survey can be completed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

She says, 'I would be very grateful if you could support your pupils to fill out the survey at the start of term by:

- sharing the survey directly with pupils through your school or college email system;
- sharing it with parents and carers across your wider school community; and

Every child's voice matters, and I want to make sure that children and young people in every school and college, in every community, have the opportunity to shape the picture of childhood that I will share with Government.

Thank you for your support in helping to make sure your pupils' voices are heard as we begin the new school year.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England



Recruitment

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

Finance Manager

Exams Office Manager

Teaching Assistant

The successful candidates will work alongside colleagues, senior staff and governors and will contribute to unlocking students' unique potential.











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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're got money on your account before lunch. Check if you're eligible for free school meals!
- ☐ Free School Meals (FSM) – If you have FSM, 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's best.
- ☐ Pick your meal – choose from tasty hot meals, hand-held bites or chilled grab-and-go options. Look out for combo deal!
- ☐ 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
- Related spaces, friendly service & contactless payment
- High food safety standards

back to school

Welcome back to your

SERIOUSLY FOOD COURT



Each day, choose from:

- Hot main meals or 'grab-and-go' takeaway wraps
- 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

Meal deals available!

FSM

Look out for the Free School Meal logo! Anyone who receives a FSM can choose a great meal.

SAVE OVER £300 PER YEAR!

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.

MADE YOUR WAY!

StreetVibes is here Tuesday – Thursday!

Mix things up midweek with our StreetVibes street food. Choose your base (like noodles, rice or a wrap), add your protein, then top it your way.

There's something new each week – from zingy noodles to loaded spagetti and saucy wraps.

Visit the restaurant to see what's on!

Hot Meal & Dessert

Pick from daily hot meals or favourites such as topped jacket potatoes and pasta, pane and combine with a hot hummus dessert or a piece of fruit!

LOOK OUT FOR THE CHILL DEAL STICKERS!

chill deal

Grab a quick cold bundle. Choose any 4 items marked with the Chill Deal sticker (excluding filled rolls, meat or sensory snack pots, and mini home bakes).

...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 mixing it up or grabbing a lighter bite.

Bakery Favourites

Flapjacks, 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!