



# Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 5 December 2025

**NEWSLETTER**



## Events all week

Year 11 Mocks

### Monday 8 December

Praying Parents 2.00pm

### Tuesday 9 December

Year 10 Collective Worship

### Wednesday 10 December

Year 12 Collective Worship  
U12 District Rugby Finals

### Thursday 11 December

Year 7 Collective Worship

### Friday 12 December

Year 8 Collective Worship

## Year 11 Mock Exams

*#BestOfBishop*

Year 11 students have just started their Mock Examinations. These are designed to give a sense of what to expect in the summer as well as to enable to refine both revision strategies and examination approaches and techniques.

We issued a comprehensive pre-exam guide last month. This outlined the subject content on the papers and signposted students to revision materials and online support.

We also delivered a pre-exam briefing to all Year 11 students in Assembly last week. Learning to adhere to the exams processes is a vital part of the learning. This includes arriving fifteen minutes before each exam, bringing all the necessary equipment and behaving impeccably. Exam protocols are incredibly stringent, and adhering to these at this stage is a crucial part of the training.

Students must retain all their marked scripts in case actual GCSE exams are cancelled for any reason. Scripts will be returned in the week beginning Monday 12th January with mock grades. Their final report will be issued at the end of January and there will be an online Progress Review on Wednesday 4th February 2026. This is a really important evening for all Year 11 parents.

Exam periods can be stressful. Knowing how to prepare well is the key to avoiding stress and performing well on the day. There are some proven methods which will help students as they move through their exams:

1. Say NO to cramming. Studying in 25 minute blocks with 5 minutes' rest in between benefits long-term retention.
2. Alternate revision venues. According to psychologists, simply changing the study space can improve retention. Our brains make subtle associations between what we study and the background sensations we have.
3. Practise, Practise, Practise! Competing past paper questions is a highly effective study technique.

**Mr Kirke**

Next week:

*Week A*

Assembly Theme:

*The > Something More?  
Of Advent*





**‘Do to others as  
you would have  
them do to you’**

Luke6:31

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

GIVING YOUR GIFTS OF TIME AND CREATIVITY  
& GIFTS OF FOOD

Supporting local charities

Let's make Christmas special

**DEADLINE: MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

### It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Our legendary and fabulous Hamper event is happening again this year. We support some incredible local charities and church groups including The Kettering Food Bank, Accommodation Concern, St Peter and St Pauls' Food Kitchen - to name but a few. Each form will design and fill a hamper. Representatives from the charities will join us on the 15<sup>th</sup> December to judge the hampers. They then load their vans, taking the hampers and contents to bless families and individuals in our local communities.

Contributions of food (dry, tinned or long-life) or toiletries, baby milk, nappies or pet food can also be donated to the Food Bank collection points in the Sixth Form Foyer and Reception.

Thank you all so much for your generous gifts of time, creativity, food and life essential products.

**Mrs Hutchinson**

## Christmas Card Competition Winners



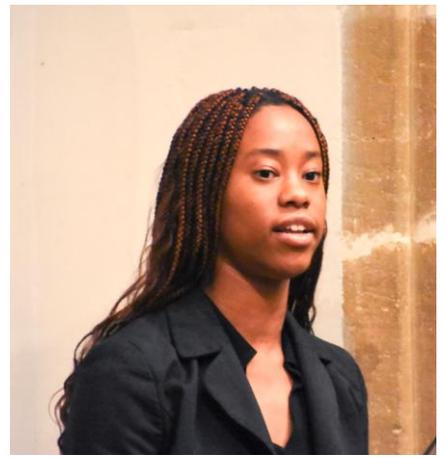
Congratulations once again to our Christmas Card Competition winners.

First Place Dinuki Jayaweera (7E); joint second Mary Cullen (7D) and Francesca Palmiero (7S); joint third Ellena Harwood (7Y) and Antonia Mihalache (7W).

**Miss Silverthorne**

# We are a Musical Church of England School!

A massive well done to everyone involved in our Christmas Concert and Carol Service. These were both very special evenings. We are very proud of you all. Thank you, too, to everyone who donated at the Carol Service. We raised a wonderful £227.23 which is being donated to Hope for Families.



If you have not been involved in a Bishop Stopford School musical event so far, after Christmas is the perfect time to be involved for our Spring concert in March.

We have something for everyone: brass band, string group, concert band, guitar ensemble, Bishop Rocks, junior and senior choirs, and ukulele group. Make your New Year's resolution to come and be part of our vibrant music department!

**Mrs Armstrong**



## Safe Space – Drink Spiking

As Christmas approaches, there are festive parties and social activities for teenagers. Social events at bars, clubs or even house parties are likely to involve alcohol, and young people need to be mindful of the risks of *drink spiking*.

This term refers to a drink being tampered with - typically with a drug - without their knowledge. While teenagers may be aware of this because they have seen videos on their social media feeds, often they are unaware of the significant risks posed. Unfortunately, this can often be viewed as a practical joke, and it is typically more likely to happen to women and girls.

Common symptoms of drink spiking can include:

- Feeling nauseous
- Feeling drowsy, dizzy or faint
- Feeling drunk, sometimes described as feeling 'out of it', despite not having consumed alcohol
- Passing out
- Waking up feeling confused about events from the previous day.

Open conversations are a great way to prepare young people for such social environments and to counter the material they see online. Key protective advice includes:

- Go out with trusted friends and make sure you remain together.
- Always ensure you see the drink being poured.
- Don't taste or drink someone else's drink.
- Throw away a drink which tastes differently from you expected it to be.
- Don't accept drinks from strangers.
- Report concerns to an adult.
- Remove themselves from a situation where they feel uncomfortable.

These topics are covered within PSHE in Key Stages 4 and 5 and we encourage open conversations about them. If you have any concerns about your child, please reach out to their form tutor or Head of Year.

**Mrs Smith**

## Civil Society Group

This term, our Civil Society group is continuing its mission to spread kindness across the school. Last half term we encouraged everyone to take small actions like holding doors open for others, and now we're building on that with a new idea: thank-you cards! These cards are a simple way to show appreciation to classmates or staff. It's not compulsory: we want students to choose to take part.

Our amazing representatives (Isobel Chapman in Year 7, Ollie Povey in Year 8, Thomas Pickford in Year 9, Esther Hobbs, Sophia Armstrong, Ahmed Ehsan Ulhaq, Thomas Murrell, and Finlay Webb in Year 12) will be around at lunchtimes, and sometimes visiting forms in registration with cards. Students can return completed notes to them or drop them in the envelope marked "thank you notes" outside L5. They can design their own cards too - we love creativity!



**Sophia and the Civil Society Team**

# Parent Survey

As promised in the newsletter in November, I'm delighted to share with you the results of our annual Parent Survey.

Firstly – thank you for taking time to complete the survey! Your views are hugely valued.

As you will see from the data below, we received hugely positive responses, which is so encouraging. This is a result of the efforts of all in our community – parents, students, staff and outside agencies - to work in partnership. We're incredibly grateful that our positive relationships are reflected in this feedback. What is particularly gratifying is that this feedback mirrored the feedback in our Student Survey too (see page 6).

262 parental responses were received and 75 chose to leave additional comments. Where a parent raised a specific concern, this has been investigated. Where a parent provided their name, they have been contacted to discuss their concern and to seek to find a solution.

Trying to identify a theme for improvement on the basis of 75 varied comments is a challenge. However, we will look in to parental communication more deeply next term. We will consider volume, speed and type of communication to review if communication can be streamlined and improved.

As always, we are happy to receive further feedback – if you would like to contribute,

Statement / Question	Parent Response (Agree/ Strongly agree)
My child is happy at this school.	94% (2024 = 95%)
My child feels safe at this school.	97%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	92%
The school has high expectations for my child.	89% (2024 = 91%)
My child does well at this school.	91%
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	88%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	93%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	92%
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	90%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	93%

Percentages in green have increased since last year and those in amber have decreased.

**Mr Keane**

## Homework Club - Reminders

Homework Club runs daily after school in the Library to support our Year 7-9 students academically.

To ensure we meet fire safety and safeguarding requirements, all students must have a place booked on SchoolCloud by their parent or carer before attending. We appreciate your understanding that we cannot make exceptions to this policy: it is essential for student safety.

Please note that students attending other after-school clubs or events must not book into Homework Club. These students can wait safely in the Octagon when their club finishes and they are ready to be collected.

Link to book spaces: <https://auth.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/myschoolportal/login/bishopstopford1>

**Miss Wood**



## Student Ambassador-Led Christmas Events

### Bringing the Festive Spirit to school this December!

Students will be aware of the following opportunities open to them:

#### **Monday 8th – Fri 12th December Christmas Crafts in LC1**

At lunchtime for festive crafting fun! Make Christmas cards and decorations, enjoy Christmas music. Keep your creations, share them with someone in school, or donate them to brighten up a Christmas Hamper for our wider community.

#### **Wednesday 17th December Christmas Quiz**

Sixth Form Study Centre. Think you know your festive trivia? Join a team (up to 6 people) and take on our Christmas-themed quiz rounds! **Sign-up closes Monday 15th.**

#### **Thursday 18th December – Navigating Nativity**

Main Hall Lunchtime. Follow the clues to find students dressed up as Nativity characters in various locations around the school, collecting 'gifts' along the way. Main Hall: music, craft and a Christmas reflection with Mr Smart

#### **Thursday 18th December Christmas Movie Night**

A free Christmas cinema night with friends! The Main Hall will be transformed into a festive cinema showing a Christmas film voted for by students. We'll provide the film and hot chocolate — you bring your snacks!

Reserve your place *and* vote for your choice of film using the online form. [Student Christmas movie night Thursday 18th December – sign-up – Fill in form](#)

**Sign-up closes Monday 15th. Parental permission required.**

These events are organised and led by the Student Ambassadors and the Chaplaincy Team, with the aim of bringing members of the community together and spreading some festive cheer.

**Miss Lowdon & The Student Ambassador Team**



## Student Survey

Earlier this term, we asked our students to share their feedback about life at school. The survey is from the Anti Bullying Alliance and students are invited to respond anonymously.

I'm delighted to share the results with you. As Mr Keane outlines on page 5, there are lots of parallels with our Parent Survey.

Students have been invited to meet with their tutor, Head of Year, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or another Trusted Adult if they would like an opportunity to discuss school life at greater length.

These results reveal the incredible attitude our students have towards one another – and the staff who work with them daily. We're incredibly proud of them.

I like going to school	95%
I feel safe at school	98%
I get on well with my teachers	99%
I feel I belong at school	96%
I feel proud to be at this school	97%
I know how to report concerns	99%
If I reported a concern, I know the school would respond to it	94%
I feel I can be myself in school	95%
It is safe to share my ideas in school	97%
I am supported to find out what I am good at and encouraged to fulfil my potential	97%

**Mrs Smith**



## 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  
faith | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion

## School Calendar

**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*



# 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

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

WEEK 1
Cucina

Week Commencing: 27/10/2025 17/11/2025 08/12/2025 19/01/2026 09/02/2026  
 02/03/2026 23/03/2026 13/04/2026

### CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS	VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS
<b>MONDAY</b> Beef Bolognaise with Wholegrain Pasta & House Salad	<b>MONDAY</b> Plant Based Bolognaise with Wholegrain Pasta and House Salad (V)
<b>TUESDAY</b> Kung Pao Chicken with Vegetable Rice	<b>TUESDAY</b> Kung Pao Cauliflower with Vegetable Rice (VE)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Honey Glazed Roast Gammon, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Lentil Sage & Onion Wellington (V)
<b>THURSDAY</b> Chicken Tikka Masala, Served with Braised Rice & Kachumber Salad	<b>THURSDAY</b> Butter Cauliflower & Chickpea Curry, Served with Braised Rice & Kachumber Salad (V)
<b>FRIDAY</b> Chip Shop 'Fryday' Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas & Tartare Sauce	<b>FRIDAY</b> Homemade Cheese & Onion Slice with Chips & Peas (V)

### DESSERTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Spiced Pineapple Cake with Custard	Chocolate & Banana Brownie	Syrup Sponge with Custard	Oaty Apple Crumble with Custard	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

## 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
Pakistani Tarka Dhal (VE)	Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)	Onion Bhaji & Vegetable Rice Bowl (VE)	The Big Plant Burger (VE)	Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)

### TRATTORIA

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

