

Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 6 December 2024

NEWSLETTER



Events all week:

Year 11 Mock Exams
Praying Parents 2pm

Monday 9 December

Year 11 Collective Worship

Tuesday 10 December

Year 10 Collective Worship

Wednesday 11 December

Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship

Year 7,8,9 Christmas Dinner

Thursday 12 December

Year 7 Collective Worship

Year 10,11,12,13 Christmas Dinner

Friday 13 December

Year 12 & 13 Collective Worship

Christmas Hampers

Next week:

Week A

Assembly Theme:

Advent: our God of Truth

Year 11 Mock Exams

#BestOfBishop

As you may be aware, Year 11 students have just started their Mock Examinations. These are designed to give the students a sense of what to expect next summer as well as to enable them to refine their revision strategies, examination approaches and techniques. We delivered a pre-exam briefing to students last week. Vitally important is that they arrive at their exam venue fifteen minutes before each exam, bring all the necessary equipment with them and behave impeccably.

Students must also retain every marked script in case the Summer GCSE exams are cancelled for any reason. These will be returned to them in the week beginning **Monday 13th January 2025** with their mock grades.

A summary of mock results alongside the final short report of the year will be issued at the end of January.

Exams can be stressful for students so knowing how to prepare effectively is the key to reducing stress and performing well on the day. Fortunately, there are some *proven* methods which will help students as they move into the second week of their exams:

- Say NO to cramming. Studying in 25 minute “blocks” and having 5 minutes rests in between benefits long-term retention.
- Eat well. Ensure a balanced diet. Eating healthy snacks will help (almonds, fruit and yoghurt are good choices).
- Alternate revision venues. According to psychologists, simply alternating the room where a person studies can improve retention. This is because the brain makes subtle associations between what it is studying and the background sensations it has at the time.
- Exercise. Science says that just 20 minutes of cardio can improve memory function. Exercise also serves as a useful “stress-buster” and will increase energy levels.
- Practise, practise, practise. Completing past papers is a highly effective study technique.

Mr Kirke



We are a Church of England School – Christmas is coming!



"Just wanted to email to say how lovely the carol service was last night. It was the perfect start to what is always a very busy time in school and at home. It just made me stop and join with others"

Mrs Coe (Parent)

"That was my very first carol service at Bishop Stopford and I can say it was absolutely wonderful, I loved singing with the school choir and being a part of everything"

Pleasant (Yr 12)

"If I wasn't feeling Christmassy before the Carol Service on Monday evening, I am now! We sung along to some all-time classics, Silent Night, In the Bleak Midwinter before finishing with O Come All Ye Faithful. The atmosphere in the church was that perfect mix of excitable peace! There were some great performances: the Senior Choir and Elise Hale's Flugel horn solo with the brass band was amazing!"

Mr Gay

Thank you to all who donated at the Carol Service. We raised £215.25 for Twinkling Stars Appeal.

Congratulations to the following who were confirmed on the 1st December:

Noah Ward (7D), Archie Gillett (7Y), Harry Gillett (8E), Rocco Rowett (8Y) and Uriel Pledger (10P),

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:

Isaac Fordham (7E) did a Bible reading in church in front of an unusually large congregation. Thomas Pickford (8Y) Catriona Noble (9G), Sicily Pointon (9G) and Katie Pickford (11G) supported St Peter & St Paul's with their Festive Fair. Their commitment in organising and running games throughout the evening helped to raise over £2,000.

Eleanor Powell (7Y) Barty Gardner (8D) Isabelle Munns (9S) Alana Hollwey (9E) and Bethan Clark (11G) took part in a world record attempt Tapathon with their dance school and raised nearly £300 for Children in Need.



Mrs Peach



Christmas Events still to come...



Safe Space

Last week, the [Ivison Trust](#) delivered a webinar for parents about child exploitation. The charity works closely with young people and families impacted by exploitation of all forms. They work closely with the police and other agencies for long term change in areas where gangs are prevalent.

The webinar provided a fascinating insight into how young people are drawn into activities they often know are wrong, and in spite of strong and loving networks around them.

How might young people become involved in criminal activity?

Often, young people are drawn into a world of exploitation through friends who may introduce them to older siblings, cousins or other friends. They may treat them very well initially, buying gifts or taking them to places like McDonald's or engaging in social activities, creating a social contract. Then, the young person is asked to do a favour for someone within the wider group. It is at this point that often they feel unable to say no, given they have gained so much from the group.

What can parents do?

In the webinar we heard from a parent whose son had been groomed. There had been a number of signs, but, others had reassured her that it was normal teenage behaviour. She urged every parent who is worried to raise a concern.

What to look out for:

- Changes in appearance or demeanour
- Weight loss or gain, or significant changes in eating patterns
- Going missing or arriving home after an agreed time
- Anxiety around phone use, or others seeing their phone
- 'Life litter' – unexplained money or products, receipts from places you have not taken them, car keys (often kept by young people when vehicles have been stolen to order), bank cards (with a different name)

Who can parents raise their concerns with?

You can always raise a concern with us. We are well connected with local agencies and work alongside families to access support.

You can also contact:

- The police (101) or social services
- Charities (eg [Barnardo's](#), [The Children's Society](#), [Childline](#), [Ivison Trust](#))
- Fearless – part of Crimestoppers with anonymous reporting – 0800 555 111

If you have a concern about your child or someone else you know, please contact their form tutor, Head of Year or a member of the safeguarding team: safeguarding@bishopstopford.com.

Mrs Smith



Year 9 Options

Options in Year 9 is a very important part of school life. It is an opportunity for students to have choices and to shape the way they want their future to be. The subjects chosen by Year 9 students will affect how time is spent at school for the next two years and may influence what route is followed beyond Year 11.

Year 9 students have been carefully briefed this week about the Options process for 2024-25. They have also been issued with an Options Booklet and an Option Choices Form. These are available in the Curriculum section of the school website alongside a short video for parents explaining the Options process: [Bishop Stopford School – Year 9 Options](#)

Options subjects have prepared some really useful short videos and power points which give more information about specific GCSE courses. A link to these is also in the Options section of our website.

When choosing options, students need to be clear about why they are making the decisions. Good reasons include:

- You will enjoy the course
- It fits your career ideas and plans
- It goes well with your other choices
- It helps to give you plenty of choice post 16
- You think you might want to continue studying it post 16
- Your research shows that it will interest you and motivate you to learn.

Bad reasons for choosing an option include:

- Your friends have chosen it (you may well not end up in the same group as them!)
- You think it's a good option for a boy/girl
- Someone else thinks it is a good idea
- You like the teacher you have now
- You did not have time to research your options properly

We strongly recommend that the Options Form is not completed until after students have received their next report (issued on 10th January 2025) and attended the Year 9 Progress Review and Options Event. This will take place in school on the evening of **Thursday 23rd January**. It will give students and parents the opportunity to find out more about the choices available from subject specialists and students currently studying those GCSEs. The Options Form must be completed by **Friday 31st January**.

Mr Kirke

Music Congratulations

Congratulations to Miles De Barros (7G) who passed his Grade 3 and Grade 4 Music Theory exams with distinction.

Congratulations also to Edith Turvey (10P) who has been awarded a merit in her Grade 6 Cello exam. This week, she is performing in the orchestra with the Earl's Barton Community Concert at St. Barnabas Church in Wellingborough.

Guitar lessons available

We currently have lessons available with our peripatetic guitar teachers. Mr Page and Mr Smith can teach acoustic or electric guitar. Financial support may be available for Pupil Premium students.

Please contact kwatt@bishopstopford.com if you are interested.

Mrs Watt



“Guys and Dolls”

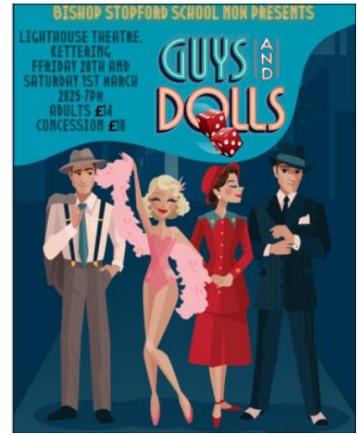
Preparations are well under way for the school show.

Can you donate or lend any of the following items for our set please?

- 8+ identical wooden chairs
- A wooden bench with or without a back
- A trolley which could be adapted to create a newsstand
- 6 small wooden tables
- A Salvation Army flag

Thank you!

Mrs Fraser



A reminder that you can buy advertising space in the show's programme. Adverts cost £20 and are A5 in size. As we intend to print 500 programmes, this is an excellent opportunity to promote your business. If you are interested, please make contact by December 18th: jpointer@bishopstopford.com

Mrs Pointer

Non Uniform Day

A **non-uniform day** is being held on Friday 20 December, with Christmas Jumpers as our theme. A voluntary donation of £1 is suggested with proceeds going to Save the Children. For those wishing to make an additional contribution of £1, this will go towards the schools' *Guys and Dolls* production costs.

Miss Curchin

Celebration of Achievement

Did you take GCSEs and A levels in summer 2024?

Celebration of Achievement

Monday 16 December 2024

6:00 – 7:30pm

Bishop Stopford School Sports Hall

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

Refreshments in the Main Hall from 5:15pm

Parents and students warmly welcome.

**Invitations have been sent to parents.
Tickets must be booked by 3pm on Monday 9 December.**



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

Mrs Wood



Languagenut Congratulations

Alicia Menzies (9W) took part in a national competition on [Languagenut | Digital Language Resources for Schools](#). She came an amazing 26th out of the whole country and has been awarded a £10 Amazon voucher.

Superb, Alicia!

Mrs Rogers-Hussey



Maths News

The Maths department was once again pleased to participate in the annual Maths Christmas Lecture run by the Open University. This year's speaker was Thomas Woolley who is a Mathematical Biologist. The nature of the lecture was the mathematics in a zombie invasion!

The lecture began considering the dynamics of movement in nature such as starling murmurations and herd patterns, then moved to the diffusion principle of infections. This was then applied to the movement of zombies! Our Year 12 students saw how the process of differentiation could be applied to model the rate of movement of zombies across and within populations.

There were several options considered when it came to surviving this "diffusion" of zombies. After showing the maths behind each option, the best way was to run! This however, only delayed the inevitable before the zombies took full control!

We are always proud to support our students for the highly ambitious national UKMT Challenges. Following a successful first round of the Senior Maths Challenge in October, 7 Gold, 10 Silver and 31 Bronze certificates were achieved. We are delighted that the Gold achievers, progressed to the next round of the Challenge: Ben Harris, Simon Sieunarine, Joseph Bowles, Vanik Singh, William Betts and Tommy Watt.

Joseph, William and Vanik were also recognised with Certificates of Merit. This is a fantastic achievement which they will be able to take them throughout their further study.

Well done to everyone who took part.

Mr Lewis

Art Badge Winners

7C Anne Mendez	8C Gosia Lagoda	9C Emma Banham-Hall	101 Elsie Brown
7C Chloe Omorogbe	8D Tilda Short	9C Lily Martin	101 Lewis Hawker
7D Gully Brown	8E Alice Middleton	9D Isaac Wilson	101 Lucy Wilson
7D Evalyn Hogg	8E Harry Gillett	9D Tia Crichton	102 Sofia Santos
7E Elsie Skipper	8G Liya Sujith	9E Ruby Smith	102 Jestina Gillien Taculin
7G Liberty Lambert	8P Mya Banda	9E Aiden Lijo	111 Katie Pickford
7G Riley Cook	8P Arthur Green	9G Bea Warren	111 Bella Suena
7P Rose Davies	8S Betsy Flannigan	9G Catriona Noble	112 Megan Barber
7P Polly Guyett	8S Emily Steel	9P Kaia Dawson	112 Iris Fraser
7S Ava Parkes	8W Farley Turner	9S Aidan Prosho	112 Eilish Martin
7S Reuben Stevenson	8W Zahra Kayani	9S Isla Gray	112 India Lilley
7W Benjamin Fernando	8Y Helena Lister	9W Taylor Snow	
7W Gracie Young	8Y Rosie Darby	9W Fin Elliot	
7Y Albie Dickerson		9Y Miley McGowan	
7Y Lily Skipper		9Y Charlotte Coe	



Below are the most common apps being used by young people. This is not an extensive list but shows the platforms with some of the bigger risks.

App	Age	Comment
	13 and over	Discord - a voice, video and text chat app used by tens of millions of people aged 13+ to tap and hang out with communities or their friends. Parental settings can be found HERE
	13 and over	Instagram - a photo and video sharing app where people can upload photos, videos and messages to share with others. Parental settings can be found HERE
	13 and over	Snapchat - a very popular app which lets users swop pictures and videos (Snaps) with others which are meant to disappear after they are viewed. There is also a messaging feature. Parental settings can be found HERE
	13 and over	TikTok - a social media app which allows users to create, watch and share short videos shot on mobile devices or webcams. Parental settings can be found HERE
	13 and over	Twitch - where people come together to chat and interact live. Think YouTube, but it's live rather than pre-recorded. Parental settings can be found HERE
	16 and over	WhatsApp - a messaging app which uses text, images, video and voice record features to connect with others. Parental settings can be found HERE
	18 and over	Reddit - a network of communities (called subreddits) where people can share information, interests and hobbies. Reddit is an 18+ app and contains many explicit groups. There are no parental controls.

2nd December 2024

A Thoughtful Advent, a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

Advent is here and Christmas is a few weeks away. The finishing tape is in sight. Well done to headteachers, teachers, staff, governors, parents and of course the children of our schools. This won't be easy, but try to put your feet up (just for a little while) over the Christmas break. You really deserve it.

It doesn't seem possible that Advent Sunday has passed. Advent fires the starting gun to commence the frenetic charge towards Christmas Day. Accompanying our journey through Advent is St Cadbury, the patron saint of Advent. St Cadbury ensures that we are all supplied with chocolate, carefully hidden behind a daily door, to sustain us on our Advent journey.

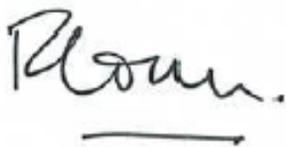
So when does Jesus get a foot in the daily door? After all, it's his birthday that we're preparing to celebrate!

A few years ago, I was amused to hear someone complaining that the church has muscled in on Christmas. CHRIST-MASS. The clue is in the question. Whatever would that person say about the church having an opinion about Advent? One of the key reminders about the real meaning of Advent is the ancient prayer for Advent Sunday. The prayer refers to our celebration of Christmas and it refers to the time when we shall one day see Jesus face to face. It's a both/and. If Advent is only about an event witnessed by some shepherds over 2000 years ago then we could almost be excused for rushing past it on the sprint towards the turkey. But Advent is deeply personal. The prayer encourages us to meet with Jesus day by day, and then one day to meet him face to face.

The prayer also speaks of LIGHT – Jesus himself. At Christmas, one of the well-known Bible readings reminds us that Jesus, the Light of the World, shines in the darkness and that the darkness will never overcome him. This Christmas we remember that Jesus still shines in the darkness of our war-torn world. This Jesus walks beside those living in the fear and carnage of Ukraine or Gaza or Lebanon. He weeps with the injured, bereaved and homeless when times seem too hard to bear. He is a shield and comforter. Jesus is the light of hope when life is relentlessly bleak.

In the comparative peace of our communities in this corner of the midlands, THANK YOU for all that you have done this year to make your schools places of light and hope.

I pray that you will have a thoughtful Advent, a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year – and I pray that, as you have been such a blessing to others over the past year, so God may pour his blessing on you.



The Venerable Richard Ormston
Archdeacon of Northampton and Chair of the Peterborough Diocesan Board of Education

WEEK 3

WEEK COMMENCING
 26/08/2024 16/09/2024 07/10/2024 28/10/2024 18/11/2024
 09/12/2024 30/12/2024 20/01/2025 10/02/2025 03/03/2025

V – Vegetarian
 VE – Vegan

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

MONDAY
 Mozambique Piri Piri Chicken, Fragrant Rice & Crunchy Slaw

TUESDAY

Chicken Makhani Curry with Braised Pilau Rice

WEDNESDAY

Roast Shoulder or Pork, Cracking, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Veg & House Gravy

THURSDAY

Szechuan Beef Noodles with Sesame Stir Fried Greens

FRIDAY

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

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

MONDAY
 Harissa Roasted Sweet Potato & Chickpea Tagine (VE)

TUESDAY

Sri Lankan Split Pea & Cauliflower Curry with Pilau Rice (VE)

WEDNESDAY

Sweet Potato & Goats Cheese Tart with Seasonal Veg or House Salad (V)

THURSDAY

Asian Vegetable, Soya Bean & Noodle Stir Fry (VE)

FRIDAY

Vegan Falafel Kofta with Crunchy Stiracha Slaw, Chips & Peas (VE)

DESSERTS

MONDAY

Pineapple Upside Down Cake

TUESDAY

Warm Blueberry Sponge

WEDNESDAY

Dropped Pancake Bar

THURSDAY

Apple & Mixed Berry Crumble with Vanilla Sauce

FRIDAY

Manager's Special

FRUIT & YOGHURT POTS AVAILABLE DAILY

HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD
 Available Daily

JACKET POTATOES
 Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily



MONDAY

Chinese Style Vegan Noodles (VE)

TUESDAY

Chipotle Chicken Chimichanga

WEDNESDAY

Loaded Mediterranean Street Cart Wedges

THURSDAY

Thai Fried Rice

FRIDAY

Manager's Special

NATURALLY

MONDAY

Fork Friendly Falafel Kebab (V)

TUESDAY

Smoked Tofu & Capanata Burger (V)

WEDNESDAY

Seeded Vegan Sausage Roll (VE)

THURSDAY

Onion Bhaji Skewer with Bombay Potatoes (VE)

FRIDAY

Manager's Special

TRATTORIA

MONDAY

Tomato & Basil Pasta

TUESDAY

Creamy Pesto Pasta

WEDNESDAY

Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza Or Pepperoni Pizza

THURSDAY

Pasta in Cheese Sauce

FRIDAY

Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza Or BBQ Chicken Pizza

Our Vegetarian and Vegan recipes are approved by the Vegetarian Society.

