Bishop Stopford School

faith | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion

Week Ending
8 December 2023

We Care!

Last Friday, we were visited by a representative from *The Good Schools' Guide*, a publication which seeks to showcase the best schools in the country We're very proud to be in this Guide, but even more proud of the what it says about our school community. (Find the best school for your child | The Good Schools Guide)

The representative was one of the Guide's senior editors: she visits schools weekly to assess them and gain up to date knowledge. Our visitor's comments mirrored those from our students in our recent Anti Bullying survey: relationships between students and staff are very positive; students enjoy coming to school and believe they will achieve highly here; students like each other and are supportive of their peers; there are endless opportunities to be actively involved in school life. These are the hallmarks of excellent schools which are safe and welcoming, creating a strong sense of belonging and whose values are central to the community.

We would like to thank parents who contributed to the assessment: the way we look after everyone was highly commended, and our approaches to wellbeing. Our staff engage in training for this throughout the year, including sessions led by students. We offer bespoke support, including 1:1 counselling, mentoring and small group work to develop strategies to support positive mental health.

Central to our work is the value and importance we place on positive relationships. *The Good Schools' Guide* editor recognised this immediately, describing the school as welcoming and friendly. Students spoke highly of their non-teaching Heads of Year, whose availability and proactivity is valued enormously. They spoke, too, of their trusted adult and our 'itsnotok' email address for reporting concerns. It's great to hear them articulate so clearly to whom they can turn when they need some help.

We have just trained our first ever Student Ambassadors too; their role is to support and empower their peers, meeting with and mentoring others who would benefit from their care. We're enormously proud that over 70 students have taken on this important role.

Our school continues to be a place which enables all students to succeed because of our careful attention to all aspects of life for young people. Some of our youngest students told the editor how they saw our school: a community of 'golden opportunities' and 'adventures unwinding'. Praise indeed!

Mrs Smith

Week B
Assembly Theme
Why we are proud of our Community

Events all week
Year 11 Mocks

Monday 11 December

Tuesday 12 December
Year 10 Assembly

Wednesday 13 December
Year 8 & 9 Assembly
Year 7 Rugby Tournament

Thursday 14 December
Year 7 Assembly

Friday 15 December
Year 12 & 13 Assembly

All assemblies will be in the Sports Hall next week due to year 11 mocks.

Bishop is excellent because..

GCSE 2023

Staying in education or entering employment

This shows the number of pupils who either stayed in education or went into employment after finishing key stage 4 (after year 11, usually aged 16)

We are a Church of England School

Our Carol Service at Ss Peter and Paul was an amazing act of worship – beautiful, deeply moving and thoughtful. We were delighted that the Reverend Justin White (from Westminster Abbey, and Provost of Woodard Schools) led our reflection. The following just gives a taste of what a remarkable address this was:

We crazy people believe that, in that little 3½kg bundle of muscle and gristle and fat and fluid deposited into a farmyard manger, glistening with the juices of birth – in that little thing is contained the Author of Everything. The Creator and Sustainer of every quark, every proton, every atom, every molecule, every deoxyribonucleic acid double-helix, every amoeba, every bacterium, every dust-mite, every earthworm, every dormouse, every koala bear, every aardvark, every hippopotamus, every humpback whale, every tree, every lake, every ocean, every mountain, every planet, every star, every galaxy, every galactic supercluster, every universe … the author of everything is contained in that very little thing, puking and mewling in a 1st century Palestinian cattle shed. That is what we are invited to believe. The One "by whom all things were made; without whom was not anything made that was made." The Creator of the Universe has become flesh – has become incarnate and a native of the very world he made. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see / Hail the incarnate Deity / Pleased as man with man to dwell / Jesus, our Emmanuel. So we shall sing in a moment.

And this world into which he comes to dwell is the horror show I reminded you about a moment ago. Into a world of fear and suspicion and murder and violence. A Palestine that sounds very similar to the Palestine of 2023.

So, to be clear, I do like the tinsel and the fairy lights and the santas and the shrink-wrapped little baby Jesus, and the Strictly Christmas Special, and the third helping of Christmas pudding. I really do! But I need to remind you this Christmas that these things don't begin to do justice to the enormity of this thing that has come to pass; this thing we have proclaimed tonight. (See more on page 3).

Mrs Hutchinson

Celebration of Achievement

Our Celebration of Achievement event takes place on Monday 18th December for students who sat GCSEs and A Levels last summer. Invitations have been sent to parents. Tickets **must** be booked by 3pm on Monday 11th December.

Mrs Wood

Carol Service

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* has to be one of the most famous Christmas stories. At its heart, it is a story about learning to recognise the importance of community and the Christian values of love, charity and gratitude which Christmas time inspires. And it was these values which were on display this week in our annual Christmas Carol Service.

Held at the beautiful church of St Peter and St Paul, members of our school community – students, teachers, parents and friends – came together to celebrate, reflect and give thanks.

The theme of our Carol Service, led by The Reverend Justin White and our own Chaplain, Mrs Hutchinson, was 'Christmas around the World'. We reflected on some of the struggles that our world faces and held those in our thoughts who are less fortunate than ourselves.

As part of the service, there were readings given by a number of our students, staff and governors. Musical performances included Toby Schlosser (Year 10) – who sang a magical version of 'Silent Night' in German – and the school choir singing 'Riu Riu Chiu' in Catalonian. Ella Clark (Year 11) performed a beautiful version of 'From a Distance', holding the congregation in awe, and it would also be impossible to overlook the contribution of the talented school brass band which once again, provided a magnificent soundtrack for the evening.

Overall, the Christmas Carol Service was a wonderful evening of reflection, gratitude and joy - and what a privilege to attend!

Our school's spirt of compassion and generosity continues during this festive time. Students in all year groups are busy creating their food hampers and staff too. Please let us know of any involvement in local communities over the Christmas period. We'd love to celebrate with core values in action awards.

Mr S Smith

Core Values in Action Awards

Congratulations to the following students who will receive Core Values in Action awards:

Jack Marsh (10P) spent a very cold 4 hours managing the carpark and flow of traffic at the St Michael's Church Christmas Craft and Gift Fair last weekend.

Barty Gardner (7D) read at St Botolph's Church on Sunday 5th November. Reverend Andy Clark praised him for being better than some of the adult readers!

The following demonstrated our core value of responsibility by helping at recent sporting events for local primary schools. They received excellent feedback from primary school staff and were fantastic role models.

Saif Abu-Ali (9G), Emmanuella Adu (9P), Jeremie Anochie(9E), Finn Bannard-Howes(9D), James Bason(9E), Emmanuela Boakye (9C), George Bradshaw(9S), Erin Brookes(8Y), Elsie Brown(9S), Douglas Cullen(8C), Conor Darby(9D), Ellen De Banke(9D), Sophia Freeland(8C), Ellis Grant(10E), Samuel Hawkins(8G), Scarlet Hawthorne(9C), Rachel Hicks(10G), Maria Ignat(9P), Matthew Kemp(9G), Sean Kennedy(9P), Georgia Maisiri(9E), Olivia May(8W), Jude Mitchell(9S), Abigail Mlengadale(9S), Alieh Nkwenti(9C), Olivia Simpson(9P), Nate Stilwell(9D), Olivia Sweeney(10E), Madeleine Watts(9G), Cameron Whatmore(9Y), Jack York(8C), Haydn Young(10G).

Miss Silverthorne

Safe Space

NGAGE with Aquarius is an early intervention drug and alcohol service for young people between the ages of 10 -18 in Northamptonshire. (Northamptonshire's Young People's Service | Supporting Young People (aquarius.org.uk))

NGAGE works with individuals, families and schools to provide information, education, advice and support in relation to drug and alcohol use. It's a free and confidential service which has had a significant impact on young people locally.

At this time of year, NGAGE becomes particularly busy as Christmas parties begin and plans for the New Year often involve large gatherings, which can involve drug and alcohol use.

Their advice is a great resource for talking with your children about drugs and alcohol: NGAGE - Parent Guide.

Mrs Smith

Sports News

Congratulations to Maisie Hailes (10E) who competed in the Junior Indoor National Championships for archery. She came 3rd in the Under 16 Compound category. Look forward to watching her in the future and here's to many more medals!

Congratulation to Daniel Doyle who represented Northamptonshire County Team Championship at Ponds Forge Sheffield in October. He swam the backstroke leg in the medley relay, achieving a personal best.

Miss Patrick & Mr Coe

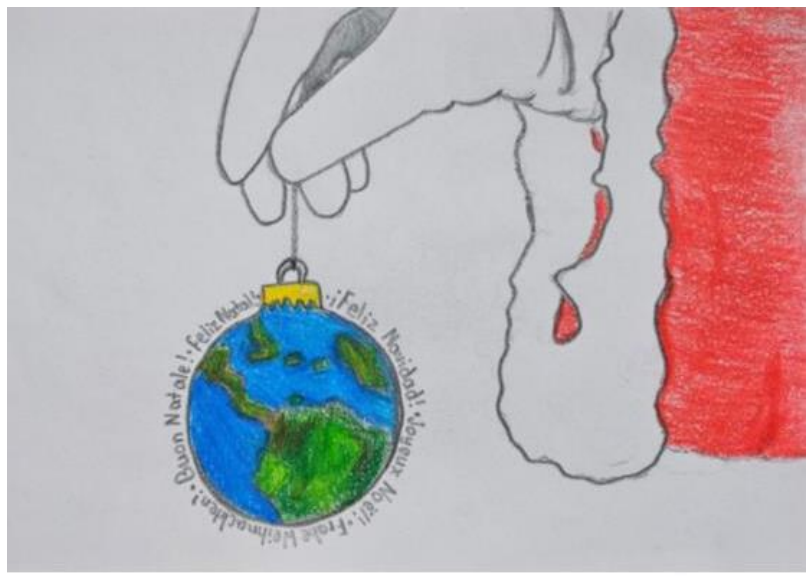
Christmas Card Competition

We had lots of wonderful entries for our Year 7 Christmas Card competition this year…they were so good that it made it very difficult to choose!

Winner…

Miya Philip

Joint 2nd Place

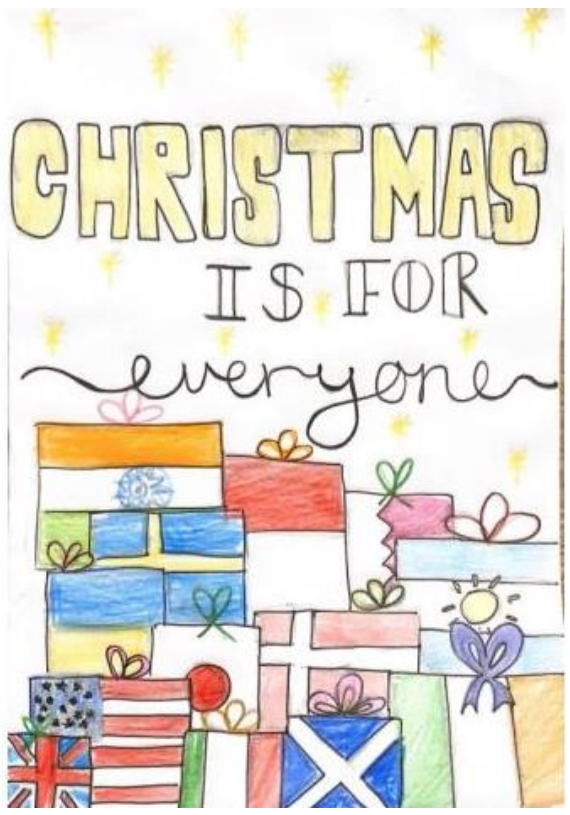


Skyla Evans

Darcy York

Joint 3rd Place

Jenson Atkins



Betsy Flannigan

Poetry Competition

In October, as part of our work to mark Black History Month, students were invited to submit their own poetry, celebrating the achievements and contributions of black women.

We were delighted to receive many high quality entries which made judging really difficult! However, after much deliberation, I'm pleased to announce the winners of our Black History Month Poetry Competition 2023:

1st place – Emmanuela Boakye

2nd place – Ankita Kanoor

3rd place – Michelle Ambrose

We hope to share some of the excellent poetry through the Newsletter in the spring term.

Mr Keane

Year 9 Options

Making curriculum choices in Year 9 is a very important part of a student's time in school. It is an opportunity for them to take control of their education and to shape the way they want their future to be. The options chosen for Years 10 and 11 will affect how time is spent at school for the next two years and may also influence what route is followed beyond Year 11.

Year 9 students have been carefully briefed this week about the Options process for 2023-24. They have also been issued with both an Options Booklet and an Option Choices Form. Copies of 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 also prepared some really useful short videos and power points which give more information around GCSE courses. Links to these are also in the same area of the website.

When choosing their options students need to be clear about why they are making the decisions:

Good reasons for choosing an option 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 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

The Options Choices Form is available online by following the link below.

Year 9 Key Stage 4 Option Choices Form for September 2024 — Bishop Stopford School (fireflycloud.net)

We strongly recommend that the Options form is not completed until students have received their next report (issued on 19th January 2024) and attended the Year 9 Progress Review and Options Event.

This event will take place in school during the evening of Wednesday 24th January 2024 and will give students and parents the opportunity to find out more about the options choices available from subject leads and students currently studying the relevant courses.

The Options Form needs to be submitted by Friday 2nd February 2024.

Mr Kirke

“Parent Survey Feedback

We would like to thank all parents who took part in our recent Survey. We received 165 responses, and were very pleased to see high satisfaction rates, with 92% of parents agreeing or strongly agreeing that their child is happy at school, and 94% that their child feels safe at our school. This closely mirrors our student survey, where 99% stated they felt safe in school. We are very pleased to see that the Survey suggests greater satisfaction than this time last year.

You said	We did
Both… “We are keen for a return to face-to-face parent evenings.” *And…* “I really appreciate the new online parents’ consultation and 99% of the time I find this experience positive.”	*The survey highlights than any one system does not meet the preferences of all parents. We have introduced a face to face parent event for Year 9 (end of Key Stage 3).* • publish within the Essential Information Guide a diary of dates of on-site events which parents can attend. • establish a termly on-site Parent Forum; we will publish the date for next term’s meeting early in the new year. • calendar an additional on-site parent event for students in Year 11 in the Spring term.
“I’m not sure when reports for my child are being issued.”	• publish these dates within the Essential Information Guide. • add the Essential Information Guide to the ‘Noticeboard’ section of Edulink.
“We are not sure what our child is being taught this year.”	• make available Curriculum Booklets, giving a yearly overview of the curriculum for Years 7-11: Bishop Stopford School - Curriculum Booklets • from January 2024, publish a termly breakdown for each year group of the key topics they are studying in each subject
“Too many lessons are with a cover teacher.”	*Terms 1 and 3 have greater cover requirements because of our residential trips to Govilon (Year 7) and The Isles of Scilly (Year 8). We are proud of our extra-curricular programme, but this does have cover implications because teachers are leading and supporting trips.* • review our personal development offer in the light of the concerns raised.

North Northamptonshire Council

Public Health
Sheerness House
41 Meadow Road
Kettering
NN16 8TL
Tel: 0300 126 3000
www.northnorthants.gov.uk

Dear Parents & Carers,

You may have seen about Measles in the news lately so we thought that we would send you some information.

The news focuses mainly on London and Leicestershire at the moment, but we are worried that measles may spread rapidly causing outbreaks.

In North Northamptonshire not as many MMR vaccines have been given as we would like. The figures show a good number have had their first MMR but then not had their second dose, these two doses provide immunity (protection) for a whole lifetime.

Measles is an illness which is very easily passed on to others. However, it is very easy to prevent too. The MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps and Rubella, which is also known as German Measles) is usually given at 1 year old and a second dose at three years old – see the vaccinations your or your child should have and when here UK immunisation programme | North Northamptonshire Council (northnorthants.gov.uk)

This tells you more about the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

If you are not sure if your child or children has had their MMR you can check in your child's red book, or contact your GP surgery. Or you can go here eRedbook - The Digital Red Book For Parents.

If your child is over 13 you can access online records. You can do the same for yourself using the NHS app or NHS website. First, you need to register for online services and prove who you are. You can do this when you create an account. How to get your medical records - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Don't worry if you or your child are not up to date, these can be given at any time at your GP Practice. You do not need a Drs appointment as the MMR can be given by other staff such as nurses. It won't cost you anything as its free on the NHS.

These are the main signs and symptoms to look out for Measles - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

If your child is unwell and you suspect it might be measles call 111 or let your GP practice know, they may do a phone appointment with you. This is because measles is easily passed on to others.

You may be asked to do a test for measles (and mumps and rubella) infection and send it off. This is done by gently brushing the teeth and gums with a sponge on a stick (swab) and is painless even in young children or babies.

If you think you have measles stay off nursery, school, or work for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears.

Also try to avoid close contact with babies, people who are pregnant and people with weakened immune systems, these are especially at risk from measles.

Dr Jane Bethea
Director of Public Health & Wellbeing North Northamptonshire Council

We currently have the following exciting opportunity for an outstanding and ambitious individual:

Teacher of Mathematics
Teacher of Drama
Exam Invigilators

Successful candidates will work alongside colleagues, senior staff and governors and will play an integral part within the school.

Please visit our website vacancy page, where you will be able to view additional information regarding the role.

We hope you are excited by the opportunity to work with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cucina

WEEK 3 — Cucina

WEEK COMMENCING
30/10/2024 20/11/2023 11/12/2023 01/01/2024 22/01/2024 12/02/2024
04/03/2024 25/03/2024 15/04/2024 06/05/2024 27/05/2024
17/06/2024 08/07/2024

V – Vegetarian
VE - Vegan

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS	VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS
MONDAY	**MONDAY**
Pasta Bar – Your Choice of Tomato & Pesto, Pepperoni or Alfredo Sauce with Crunchy Toppings	Roast Stuffed Peppers filled with Quinoa Roasted Tomatoes & Feta Cheese (V)
TUESDAY	**TUESDAY**
Lebanese Chicken & Tomato Curry, Pilau Rice & Fattoush Salad	Aubergine & Chickpea Curry, Pilau Rice & Fattoush Salad (VE)
WEDNESDAY	**WEDNESDAY**
Roast Shoulder of Pork, Crisp Roasties, Roasted Roots & Gravy	Roasted Butternut Squash & Edamame Beans Wellington, Crisp Roasties & Gravy (VE)
THURSDAY	**THURSDAY**
Mexican Birria Beef Stew with Cilantro Lime Rice	Mexican Style Vegetarian Chimichanga & Black Bean Salad (V)
FRIDAY	**FRIDAY**
Chip Shop 'Fryday', Fish, Pizza or Fishcake with Chips , Peas & Tartare Sauce	Beetroot Bhaji & Wilted Spinach Flatbread, Harissa Houmous & Minted Yoghurt(V)

DESSERTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Blackberry & Apple Crumble	Sticky Lemon Sponge & Custard	Spiced Apple Sponge & Cinnamon Custard	Baked Churros with Chocolate Sauce	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

Street Vibes

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Louisiana Dirty Rice (VE)	Mozambique Peri Peri Chicken	Yaroa Dominican - Minced Beef & Pepper Loaded Wedges	Gnocchi with Mushrooms, Spinach & Pest topped with Crispy Onions & Shaved Cheese (V)	Manager's Special

NATURally

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Moroccan Cous Cous & Falafel Bowl (V)	Vegan Bean & Jalapeno Burrito (VE)	Indian Spiced Rice & Paneer Bowl (V)	The Big Plant Burger (VE)	Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Tomato & Basil Pasta	Manager's Special Pasta	Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza Or Spicy Sausage Pizza	Manager's Special Pasta	Mozzarella & Tomato Pizza Or Piri Piri Chicken Pizza

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