



Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 7 March 2025

NEWSLETTER



Monday 10 March

Year 11 Collective Worship
Commonwealth Day Service –
Westminster Abbey

Tuesday 11 March

Year 10 Collective Worship

Wednesday 12 March

Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship
Year 12 Progress Review

Thursday 13 March

Year 7 Collective Worship

Friday 14 March

Year 12 Collective Worship
Year 13 Reports issued
Year 8 Eucharist

Next week:

Week A

Assembly Theme:

Lent

“Guys and Dolls”

#BestOfBishop

What a show!

There are some experiences that you know will stay with you for ever. For us, many of our favourite and enduring memories from school and university days, are the shows and concerts we took part in. It is always a huge privilege to be part of creating these unique memories for new groups of students.

For over 120 of our young people, last week’s performances of *Guys and Dolls* at The Lighthouse Theatre will be a memory they will cherish for life.

Guys and Dolls is a 1950 [Broadway musical](#), with music and [lyrics](#) by Frank Loesser. It is a joyful story, full of colourful characters, including gamblers, show girls, and members of the Save a Soul Mission.

Our cast of over 120 students have been rehearsing since October; learning lines, practising songs and perfecting their character’s moves and choreography and working backstage on props, lighting and creating stage sets. This has been a fantastic community effort; the students have thoroughly enjoyed performing at a local, professional theatre.

On the performance nights, they filled the stage with confidence and joy, rising to the occasion and delighting a packed theatre. They looked and sounded amazing.

The pit band gave a superb performance of the very challenging score, playing with style, excellent ensemble awareness and impressive musicianship. And the actors, dancers, Mission Band, and technicians were absolutely outstanding!

The buzz of hearing a full theatre applauding is a very special feeling, which will undoubtedly be a highlight of many students’ school life.

We are immensely proud of every single person involved in this amazing production, on, under, and backstage; you are all stars: thank you all for your fantastic efforts!

Mrs Fraser and Mrs Armstrong

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Parent Review:

“Wow!!! Bishop has truly outdone themselves once again! Last night was the first of two performances of Guys and Dolls at the Lighthouse Theatre, and wow, what a show! The energy, the talent, the excitement—everything about it was just incredible. Tonight, it’s Granny and Grandad’s turn to join us, but Mum loved it so much last night that she went ahead and bought more tickets. She’s so excited to experience it again!”

As I was reading through the programme, I was blown away by how many people have been involved in bringing this production together. Having been part of our reception’s 30-minute nativity in the school hall, I have a great appreciation for the scale of this kind of show. From the planning, directing, and organizing to rehearsals, choreography, staging, lighting, tech, wardrobe, promoting, chaperoning, and managing everything both front of house and backstage—it’s such a massive effort, and so much of it is done by the children themselves. It’s all come together so smoothly, and you can just feel how much heart and soul everyone has poured into it.

It was so lovely to see so many teachers in the audience, supporting the cast. Everyone involved is doing this for the children, who are absolutely loving every minute of it. I can’t wait to watch it all again tonight! The excitement is wonderful, and it’s been such a joy to see it all come together.

Here’s to the magic of theatre, the amazing teamwork behind it all and the wonderful staff and children of Bishop”.

And now....

If students are suffering from post-show blues, or wish they had been involved – then don’t despair! We are now re-starting junior choir on Tuesday mornings 8.30 in AC1 with our singing teacher, Mr Taylor. All students in Key Stage 3 are welcome to come and sing!

Senior Choir continues to rehearse on Wednesday mornings, at 8.30 in AC1, open to all students in Key Stages 4 and 5.

After Easter, we will be re-introducing Ukulele Magic – open to all students and staff.

Our regular groups continue rehearsing weekly, now in preparation for our Summer Concert in July: Brass Band, Thursdays 3.30-4.30, String Group, Wednesday 12.30 – 1, Bishop Rocks, Friday 12.30-1, and Guitar Group, Fridays 8.30. We encourage all students to come and get involved.

Drama club will also be re-starting again after Easter.





We are a Church of England School

“a buzzing place of conversation, hospitality and discipleship during break and lunchtimes, whilst also a place of refuge, stillness and prayer throughout the day”

The Chapel is a
place of
WELCOME



It is always a joy to have fresh eyes looking at our faith work, and we were delighted to welcome Jude Taylor, **Discipleship Officer and Trainee Associate Minister, Leicester Cathedral**, in to school for a 3-day placement last week. Here is what he saw:

‘It was a joy to spend a few days on placement at Bishop Stopford with Mrs Hutchinson recently. The busy role of the Chaplain is certainly full of variety, and I enjoyed observing collective worship, visiting staff in departments around the school and welcoming visitors from local churches and faith organisations. We also visited a couple of RE lessons, gaining an interesting insight into many of the big questions students are exploring regarding faith and religion!’

The Chapel is a wonderful space at the heart of the school site, a buzzing place of conversation, hospitality and discipleship during break and lunchtimes, whilst also a place of refuge, stillness and prayer throughout the day. Students clearly value this space very much and are very supportive of each other as they journey in faith together. It was very encouraging to meet students of all faiths and ages who gather regularly in the Chapel, and to hear them describe themselves as a ‘family’. I was grateful for their insightful reflections on their experiences of church and school.

I have returned to my usual ministry at Leicester Cathedral with much to reflect on and I am extremely grateful to Mrs Hutchinson, Miss Silverthorne and everyone who offered me such a warm welcome – Bishop Stopford is clearly a place where many care deeply about education and faith, and are working hard to support each other every day.’

Jude Taylor

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 student receives a CViA award this week:

Mohamed Helal (8C) for making Ramadan giftbags and distributing them at school.

If you know of any student who you think is eligible for a Core Values in Action award, please email newsletter@bishopstopford.com

Mrs Peach



Safe Space

It's been a joy this week to see Student Ambassadors taking the lead in assemblies. This is a student led group whose aim is to be the bridge between students and staff, offering friendship, support and guidance to peers.

The Ambassadors have been superb – they have led with confidence and character, with different representatives from the team hosting each assembly.



The ambassadors have shared their goals and spoken with pride about the high levels of trust and safety reported by students. Over 96% of students say they feel safe in school and have good relationships with staff.

What are our goals?

- To make the school a better and safer environment
- For the school to be a place where everyone can fit in and feel comfortable in their own skin
- For everyone to feel that there's someone they can talk to
- To ensure there's someone you trust
- To make the school a closer community



faith | justice | responsibility | truth | compassion

The Student Ambassador team has invited the wider community to give feedback about projects they can run and other ways they can enhance life at school. They're excited to lead new projects and support everyone in finding a space to thrive.

Mrs Smith

Year 7: Inspiring Visit from Ross Montgomery

It was an absolute delight to welcome Waterstone's award-winning children's author, Ross Montgomery back to Bishop Stopford School on Tuesday 25th February.

Love Reading

Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed a dramatic reading of his novel, *The Midnight Guardians*, and heard the intriguing and surprising history behind the plot. Students were also provided with the opportunity to ask the author questions about his career and he offered many top tips of encouragement to inspire future writers.

At the end of Year 6, we gifted all of these students Ross Montgomery's *Spellstone* to read at the end of Year 6 and into Year 7, so they were already familiar with some of Ross Montgomery's brilliant writing and captivating characters. *The Midnight Guardians*, published in 2020, has been selected as the Waterstone's Children's Book of the Month and has also been chosen as one of The Guardian's Children's Books of the Year.

Hannah Romy (7D) said, "I've never seen anyone quite like him – you could tell he was extremely passionate about his writing. I was in awe of his body language and how he articulated his voice to convey the personalities of different characters, and I listened, intrigued about a plot that I usually wouldn't read but solely because of the expressive language and expressions of the author. It was a magical experience and it made me realise how much power an author can have. I'd definitely recommend his books to curious readers who are interested in spending their time reading a good book."

Author Workshop

Ross Montgomery also delivered creative writing workshops to a selection of Year 7 students. Students were able to follow in the author's footsteps and start developing their characters by focusing on specific details in order to breathe life into their characters and practise their creative writing skills!



Mrs Fletton

Key Stage 3 Readathon

Readathon is a sponsored event that raises money for the Read for Good, a programme which supports children in hospital and provides brand new books and resident storytellers to comfort children during challenging times. More can be found about this great cause here: [Read for Good: motivating kids to love reading and helping disadvantaged children.](#)

Students this week read for 10 minutes in every lesson and sponsorship money can still be submitted. The easiest way is via Parent Pay, but we will also accept cash and cheques. Cheques can be made payable to Bishop Stopford School and posted in the red box by the Finance Office. Please ensure that any cash or cheques are in a sealed envelope with name and form of student with the words 'KS3 Readathon'.



Miss Thurlby

Lessons from Auschwitz: A Profound Journey of Remembrance

Our Experience - Charlotte, Eve, Harris, and Sasha

Our participation in the *Lessons from Auschwitz* project was a transformative experience, requiring deep reflection and commitment. To apply, we each wrote a letter of application, detailing why studying the Holocaust is crucial in education, our personal motivation to take part and how we would share our learnings with the wider school community.

Once accepted into the programme, we attended an Orientation Seminar and engaged with various tasks on the LFA website to prepare for the experience ahead.

Then, on October 15th, we embarked on a journey that would leave an indelible mark on our lives. We travelled to Auschwitz, Poland, stepping foot in a place where history's darkest chapter unfolded. The visit was harrowing yet essential, a stark reminder of the atrocities committed and the resilience of those who suffered.

Following our return, we took part in a final seminar, reflecting on all we had learned and discussing ways to share our experiences with our school and beyond.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

On Monday, 27th January 2025, the world marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, as well as the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

This day serves as a poignant reminder of the six million Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust, the millions persecuted under Nazi rule, and the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

Reflections from Our Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau

Every element of Auschwitz-Birkenau was meticulously designed to strip individuals of their humanity. Upon arrival, prisoners lost their personal possessions, had their heads shaved, and were given identical uniforms. Their names were replaced with numbers tattooed on their arms. Every act was an attempt to erase their identities.

The Holocaust was not just the result of a few radical individuals; it was enabled by an entire society—through active participation, passive collaboration, or silence. This grim reality compels us to recognise the dangers of indifference and the importance of standing against hate.

Why Must We Remember?

The Holocaust teaches us powerful lessons about bigotry, discrimination and the consequences of silence. Remembering this history is essential in ensuring that such atrocities are never repeated.

We must recognise the early warning signs of intolerance and division so that we can stand against them. By fostering a society rooted in equality, understanding and action, we honour the memory of those who suffered and work to prevent future injustices.

For the suffering endured, we must never forget.



Mr Jennings

Year 10 Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme Graduation

On Wednesday 26th February, fourteen Year 10 students visited Magdalene College, Cambridge, to attend their graduation – a formal ceremony to celebrate their success in completing the prestigious Scholars' Programme, run by The Brilliant Club. The students have been learning all about the language of film and creative practice from a PhD tutor through weekly seminars since October and have each successfully completed a final assignment in order to graduate. Incredibly, not only did the students each complete the programme, but all achieved either a First Class honours or high 2:1 in their final assignment: a fantastic achievement.

For current Year 9 students who might consider applying in the summer, here is what some of our Year 10 graduates have to say:

'The Scholar's programme was fantastic, getting to participate in a university style learning environment - and getting a real, first-hand look into university life was an invaluable experience, which will genuinely help me make decisions about my future.' – George Mears (10E)

'I not only really enjoyed the Scholars program experience but also found it very interesting to learn a little about my Tutor's PhD. I learned many useful skills such as critical thinking, time management, and even how to reference! The graduation event was a lovely way to celebrate our success and also provided a further insight into universities and how they worked.' – Alicia Rushmore (10G)

'For me, the Brilliant's Club was an invaluable opportunity to explore my talents as well as gain insight into a topic which I previously knew little about. The graduation ceremony gave me an incentive to strive for excellence in every aspect of my life. I was captivated by the library, which had the diaries of Samuel Pepys. It was like a doorway to the past. Overall, I would definitely recommend this for any student who is considering taking part. It was an opportunity of a lifetime and I am extremely grateful for all of the teachers that made this possible.' – Vanshi Patel (10Y)

I am extremely proud of all fourteen students. They have all worked exceptionally hard on their challenging assignments, engaging fantastically with the expert input of our PhD Tutor, Daryl Scott. Very well done, Scholars – we can't wait to see what you achieve next!



Mrs Hainsworth

Sports Congratulations

Congratulations to Acer Prince (7S) who has been selected for the U12 County Cricket Squad.

Congratulations also to Ellen de Banke (10D) who competed with Northampton Neptunes Basketball Club in Stage 2 of the Middle Europe League U16 Girls tournament in Slovakia from 5th to 8th February. Her team previously played in Stage 1 in Hungary in November. Neptunes were the only girls team from England who entered the tournament and they played in a total of 8 games against mostly academy teams from Germany, Slovakia, Hungary and Sweden as well as the national teams from Luxembourg and Romania.

Having completed their participation in the EYBL Middle Europe League tournament, Northampton Neptunes are now entered into the U16 Girls Globasket tournament in Lloret de Mar which is taking place 13th to 17th April 2025. The girls hope to repeat their success in the tournament from last year when they won Division B.

PE Department

Family Science Competition

Mohamed Helal (8C) and his family have been one of our families taking part in the Expert Ed Family Science series which we advertised recently.

This programme aims to provide stretch and challenge for scientists, and encourages families to work together on different areas of science.

Miss Silverthorne received a letter from the Founder of Expert Ed, to let her know that Mohamed had produced an excellent response in the optional follow up activities. As a result, he was awarded a science book, which has also helped him with revision at school for a recent test!

We encourage all families to be involved in projects such as these: what a great way to learn together.



Dr McLaren

Crepe Competition Winners

To coincide with La Chandeleur (Pancake Day) which takes place in France on February 2nd, throughout the month of February we have been asking all Key Stage 3 French students to send us their very best crepe creations.

Our students really have risen to this culinary challenge and we have had over 100 photo entries featuring crepes in all colours, sizes, shapes and flavours. We have loved seeing all your photos and hearing about your crepe triumphs and catastrophes, with many students also telling us how they have made crepes for their whole family!

Picking our winners was incredibly difficult – but congratulations to the following students who will receive a certificate and a prize.



Winners



Kareem Helal (7W)



Mohamed Helal (8C)

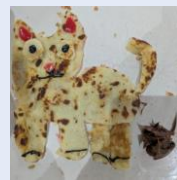


Ben Hawkes & Noah Gardner (9S)

Runners Up



Weston Tysoe (7P)



Ankita Kanoor (8W)



Rayna Shergill (9Y)

Well done to everyone who took part!

Mrs Smith



Alumni Network – Stay Connected

As we celebrate 60 years of Bishop Stopford School, our Alumni network continues to grow. Over 200 former students joining last term alone! It's inspiring to hear their success stories and reflections on their time at Bishop.

One shared, "My time at Bishop taught me the value of developing a strong work ethic. I now consider myself to be forward-thinking, proactive, and passionate - characteristics instilled by my teachers. I have yet to face a challenge where my skills from Bishop haven't helped me succeed. I accredit much of my academic and professional success to Bishop Stopford School."

These testimonials showcase the lasting impact of our school community. Whether you left recently or decades ago, we'd love to reconnect and celebrate your journey.

Join Our Alumni Network!



Be part of our growing alumni community and reconnect with former classmates and teachers. Simply fill out this short form forms.office.com/e/AGJYiLrRhY or scan the QR code to stay updated on events, networking opportunities, and school news. Let's continue building a strong, inspiring network of Bishop Stopford School alumni!

#BSSAlumni #StayConnected #GlobalNetwork #60YearsOfBSS

Mr Harwood

Cucina

WEEK 1					Cucina									
WEEK COMMENCING					V – Vegetarian VE – Vegan									
06/01/2025 27/01/2025 17/02/2025 10/03/2025 31/03/2025					CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY									
CLASSIC MAIN MEALS		VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS			STREET VIBES									
MONDAY Lemon & Herb Piri Piri Chicken with Spicy Rice	TUESDAY Butter Chicken Curry, Served with Pilau Rice & Tomato, Red Onion & Coriander Salad	WEDNESDAY Honey Glazed Roast Gammon, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy	THURSDAY Mexican Style Beef & Tortilla Lasagne	FRIDAY Chip Shop 'Fryday' Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas & Tartare Sauce	MONDAY Piri Piri Quorn, Macho Peas and Spicy Rice (VE)	TUESDAY Gnocchi with Roasted Vegetables in a Tomato & Basil Sauce (VE)	WEDNESDAY Crunchy Topped Macaroni Cheese, House Salad or Seasonal Veg(V)	THURSDAY Smoky Plant Based Chilli, Served with Rice, Nachos & Corn (V)	FRIDAY Jamaican Sausash Pasty Served with Sweet Chilli Sauce & Chunky Chips (VE)	MONDAY Buffalo Cauliflower Wings on Salt & Pepper Wedges (VE)	TUESDAY Chicken Yakitori with Rice	WEDNESDAY Loaded Potato Skins	THURSDAY Garlic & Lemon Chicken Gyros	FRIDAY
DESSERTS					NATURALLY									
MONDAY Syrup Sponge with Vanilla sauce	TUESDAY Apple Strudel & Custard	WEDNESDAY Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce	THURSDAY Pear & Cocoa Sponge	FRIDAY Fruit, Jelly & Yoghurt Pots	MONDAY Pakistani Tarka Dhal (VE)	TUESDAY Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)	WEDNESDAY Vegan Ramen Bowl (VE)	THURSDAY The Big Plant Burger (VE)	FRIDAY Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)	TRATTORIA				
FRUIT & YOGHURT POTS AVAILABLE DAILY					MONDAY Tomato & Basil Pasta	TUESDAY Pasta in a Cheese Sauce	WEDNESDAY Mozzarella & Tomato or Pepperoni, Cheese & Tomato Pizza	THURSDAY Tomato & Basil Pasta	FRIDAY Margherita Pizza					
HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD Available Daily		JACKET POTATOES Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily												

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

