



Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 9 January 2026

NEWSLETTER



The Design Museum

Events All Week

Year 13 Mocks

Monday 12 January
Year 11 Collective Worship

Tuesday 13 January
Year 10 Collective Worship
Sixth Form Open Afternoon
Year 10-13 Drama Trip

Wednesday 14 January
Year 12 Collective Worship
Sixth Form Open Afternoon

Thursday 15 January
Year 7 Collective Worship
Sixth Form Open Afternoon

Friday 16 December
Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship

Next week:
Week B

Assembly Theme:
The Power of showing up

The Term Ahead

#BestOfBishop

It is a real pleasure to wish you a Happy New Year – January 2026 marks the continuation of a school year, but also the opportunity to introduce new things too.

An exciting development for us this term is our new website. For the past term, we have been working on this project, and it will be launched in the next few weeks. We believe it is more intuitive, and we would value any feedback you have once it is up and running.

Another focus for us this term is embedding our approach to spirituality. You will have seen us use the phrase *>Something More?* to describe spiritual education – consideration beyond the ordinary of the bigger questions which are at the heart of our humanity. As staff, we considered this in relation to AI on our training day on Monday.

For students, we've begun term considering the Feast of Epiphany and a fascinating exploration of the stars. Contemplation of our amazing night skies consistently points us to ask the question, 'Is there something more? We are excited to continue our work throughout the term, considering the *>Something More?* of each subject in lessons, in extra-curricular work and in assemblies too.

As we start 2026, therefore, we are grateful to be a community where these big questions can be explored. As a Church of England school, that is - of course - part of our mandate.

Miss Silverthorne



We are a Church of England School



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Heavenly father,

As we look back, we give thanks for all the years that have passed. And as we look forward to the years yet to come, we commit them all to You. We praise you for being the God who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Help us to be guided by our School's Core Values which are centred on You, our Everlasting Father

May we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly.

Please bless our teachers, and all who help us to learn. We thank you for their steadfast dedication to unlocking the unique potential you've given each one of us.

May we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly.

Thank you for everyone at Bishop Stopford School who cares for us. We are so grateful for this family where each of us has a place to belong and to thrive. May we always enjoy our community as we do daily life together.

In the liveliness of our school days, may we always come back to You.

May we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Amen

It feels fitting to start the new year with our new school prayer, written by students last year in celebration of our 60 year anniversary.

It would be wonderful if this prayer were carried forward by our school community for the next 60 years- taking us to 2085!

It is a beautiful prayer, and I particularly love the petition at the end. Indeed, Lord! In the liveliness of our school days, may we always come back to You.

May we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Amen

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:

Sophia Lorentzen (9E), Matthew Olupitan (9S), Precious Abiona (10G), and Tom Rochester (13S), for conducting an incredible set of interviews for a national role in the Growing Faith team at the Church of England.

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

Charitable Kindness

Thank you to everyone who donated on our non-uniform day on the last day of term. We raised £1,245.43 for Save the Children by taking donations for Christmas Jumper Day.

Miss Reynolds



THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may overbalance or trip and fall in.

ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can

DO NOT walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

StyWise

Year 9 Progress Review/Options Evening

This month is a particularly important one for Year 9 students. Their reports will be issued today. This gives a clear indication of current academic progress, based on the KS3 assessment mode built around the levels of BUILDING, MEETING, SUSTAINING and EXCELLING.

This report should inform any discussions which take place at the Progress Review/Options Evening, scheduled for Thursday 22nd January. This is a face-to-face event, comprising firstly of appointments in the Main Hall and English block with teachers of core subjects.

Core subject appointments will be concluded after five minutes – mirroring online Progress Reviews. It is vital that we adhere to this time frame to ensure that the evening does not overrun. If there are concerns after this point, parents can email the member of staff for follow up.

The second element of the evening is an Options Fair in the Gym. All Options subjects will have stalls and these will be staffed by subject teachers as well as by Year 10 students who are currently studying those subjects.

We know parents will want to support their children through the Options Process. One way of doing this is to visit the Options page on our website to become fully au fait with the process: [Bishop Stopford School - Year 9 Options](#)

The second way is to attend the Options Fair on the evening and raise any queries there.

This will ensure that well-informed and well-considered choices can be made about the most appropriate KS4 pathway(s). The online Options Form must be completed by **Friday 30th January 2026**.

Mr Kirke

Do you know what your children are studying?

In our recent OFSTED Parent View Survey, over 90% of parents responded in the affirmative to the statement “The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year”. This was really pleasing to see.

Given it is the start of a new term, however, we thought it would still be useful to signpost the following:

Yearly Plans

We produce Curriculum Booklets for students in Years 7-11. These outline what the year will look like across individual subjects and other lessons.

These can be found in the Curriculum section of our website and are accessible via [Bishop Stopford School - Curriculum Booklets](#)

We do not provide a booklet for Years 12 and 13, but detailed information on individual subject content is provided on the Curriculum page of the Sixth Form section of our website: [Bishop Stopford School - Curriculum](#)

Termly Plans

Heads of Faculty and Heads of Department have constructed overviews of specific subject-topics students will be studying each term. There are versions for each year group, and they are updated for the start of each new term.

The Spring 2026 plan for Year 7 is included in this Newsletter and we will include the Spring plans for other year groups over the coming weeks.

All the plans for this term, however, can be found using this link: [Bishop Stopford School – Curriculum Booklets](#)

Mr Kirke



5th January 2026

To all headteachers, teachers, staff, governors, parents, clergy and (last but certainly not least) children of our Diocesan Church of England Schools

May I wish you a Happy New Year, from me and all at the Diocesan Board of Education. I hope you had a good Christmas and managed to find at least a little time to pause, breathe and relax.

For many years, one of the Christmas pleasures in our family has been to watch 'The Muppet Christmas Carol.' Other than some obvious changes to the original work of Mr Dickens (like the addition of an extra Marley and the larger-than-life comedy that always accompanies the Muppets) it's a pretty faithful account of the transformation of Mr Ebenezer Scrooge. At the start of the film (and the book), he is described as "a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone Scrooge. A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner." That's quite a statement. By the end of the story, he is "as good a friend, as good a master and as good a man as the good old city knew." Before Scrooge finds himself back in his own (somewhat bleak) home, he says to 'The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come', "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

If you're wondering what New Year's Resolutions to make, how about being determined to honour Christmas in your heart and keep it all through the year. What does that mean? Well, it simply means bringing the loving, giving, peace-making, life-changing values of Christmas into our daily lives. That is something that so many of already do day by day in your school communities. They are not only Scrooge's values, but they are hallmarks of a Church of England School.

Thank you for making our church schools such wonderful places to be. Whenever I have the opportunity to visit one of our schools, I am struck by the vibrant reality and positivity of the Christian ethos in action. A warm welcome; children enjoyably on task; teachers continually going the extra mile; enthusiastic singing; genuine care; a united community. These things do not just happen, and I am grateful for all that YOU do to make your school the brilliant place that it is today. Thank you.

At the start of this new year, with all the challenges facing us (personally and across the world) let's bring a new determination to honour Christmas in our hearts and keep it all the year. May God bless you with lives that bring the loving, giving, peace-making, life-changing values of Christmas into our school communities day by day.

With my thanks and my best wishes,



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

Year 7 Curriculum – Spring Term 2026

Subject	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2		
Art	Colour Project	Compositional Designs – Based on the work of William Morris and Mathematical Islamic patterns		
Computer Science	Small BASIC	Video Editing		
DT	Food (Unit 1) Food Hygiene Using small kitchen equipment	Food (Unit 2) Designing food products for others Food Packaging	Textiles Sewing machine basics Hand Embroidery	Product Design Marking out materials Shaping wood C.A.D basics
Drama	Rotation Project 1 (Traditional Stories)	Rotation Project 2 (The Tempest)		
English	Everyone a Writer – Caricatures and Viewpoint writing	Orwell's <i>Animal Farm</i>		
Foundation Learning	Applying, across the subjects studied in school, what we know about our learning habits			
Geography	Why are Rivers important? (Focus on Floods in UK and Bangladesh)	Settlements (Focus on Kettering)		
History	Medieval Religion – Why was the Church so important in people's lives?	The Crusades – what were the consequences of the first Crusade?		
Maths	Probability Averages (1) Representing Data Pie Charts	Data and Probability Averages (2) Substituting Function Machines		
Music	Minor Moods – D Minor Composition	Rhythm work		
PE	Boys – Hockey and Badminton Girls – Health Related Fitness and Dance	Boys – Handball and Health Related Fitness Girls – Badminton and Cricket		
PSHE	Puberty and Relationships			
RE	Judaism – A promise keeper	Islam – Did not begot or be begotten.		
Science	Atoms and Elements (Chemistry) Muscles and Bones (Biology) Forces (Physics)	Acids and Alkalis (Chemistry) Current Electricity (Physics)		
Spanish	Mi tiempo Libre	Mi Colegio		
Tutorial	Democracy in the UK - Elections and Political Parties			
Wider-Curricular	Year 7 Communion (09.01.26)	Book Week / Careers Week Year 7 Communion (13.03.26) Spring Concert (17.03.26)		

Parking

We are still receiving complaints from residents about parent parking and irresponsible driving:

- Please do not turn or block residents' driveways.
- Always consider the impact of your driving on student safety and parking on our neighbours' rights.
- We have reduced congestion by locating school buses at Highfield Road. This is a good drop off/pick-up point supervised by staff (8 minute walk).
- If you drop off passengers near Kettering Leisure Village, please do so in their car park and not in the entrances to adjacent roads e.g. Thurston Drive.
- If you must come on to the Headlands, be aware of your speed and the number of pedestrians. Drop off no further than Glebe Avenue (5 minute walk).

Miss Curchin



Sports Congratulations

Congratulations to William Howes (13S) who will be remaining in the U18 Premiership NextGen Squad at Northampton Saints.

He was selected and played in their league game away to Leicester Tigers last Saturday, winning 33-0! He has since been selected to play in their next game away to Newcastle RedBulls this Saturday.

Mr Flannigan



Extra-Curricular Sport Timetable



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EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT TIMETABLE :

TERM 3 JAN – FEB 2026



@stopfordsport



*Activities & Timetable will change for next half term

Start promptly @ 12.30pm from Weds 7/1/26	FIELD	ASTRO	SPORTS HALL	COURTS	GYM	STUDIO	AFTER SCHOOL 3.30pm-4.45pm (Fixture times vary)
MONDAY	Boys Football Yr 9 SDW SHCR	Girls Hockey All Years HED/SS SHCR	Boys Handball Yr 7 & 8 MY SHCR	Recreational Use		GIRLS Strength & Conditioning CD SHCR	FIXTURES
TUESDAY	Boys Rugby Yr 7 MY OCR	6th Form Football League GCR 6 th Form Leadership	Girls Netball Year 7 & 8 HED & CD SHCR	Recreational Use			FIXTURES
WEDNESDAY	Boys Football Yr 8 MF OCR Parkrun All Years MF SHCR		Boys Handball Yr 9 & 10 MY SHCR	Recreational Use		Strength & Conditioning Yrs 7-8 SDW GCR	Year 10/11 & Senior Boys & Girls Basketball Coach Adams SHCR FIXTURES
THURSDAY	Boys Rugby Yr 8 MY OCR		Boys Basketball Yr 7 SDW SHCR	Recreational Use			FIXTURES
FRIDAY		Boys Hockey All years MY/HED SHCR	Girls Basketball Yr 9 & 10 SS SHCR	Recreational Use		Strength & Conditioning Yrs 9-11 MF GCR	

SHCR: Sports Hall Changing Rooms

OCR: Outdoor Changing Rooms

GCR: Gym Changing Rooms

PE STAFF: Mrs Davis CD, Mrs Davies HED, Mr Drew SDW, Mr Flannigan MF, Mr Young MY, Mrs Smart SS

Music News

If students are involved in one of our many musical ensembles, rehearsals start again week commencing 12th January. If students aren't yet involved the new year is a perfect time to start! Everyone is welcome.



Thursday 19th March.

Come and get involved in some of our many choirs, bands and ensembles.



Mrs Armstrong





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Important Dates

12 - 20 JAN

Year 13 Mocks

19 JAN

*Praying Parents
2pm*

22 JAN

*Year 9 Progress
Review and
Options Event*

30 JAN

*Year 11 Reports
issued*

3 FEB

*Year 8 HPV
Vaccinations*

4 FEB

*Year 11 Progress
Review*

9-13 FEB

*National
Apprentice Week*

12 FEB

*Year 13 Reports
issued*

13 FEB

*School Closes for
Half Term*



Recruitment

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

Science Technician

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

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

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WEEK 3

Week Commencing: 20/10/2025 10/11/2025 01/12/2025 22/12/2025 12/01/2026
 02/02/2026 23/02/2026 16/03/2026 06/04/2026

CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

BBQ Chicken Served with Salt & Peppers Wedges, Garden Peas

TUESDAY

Chicken Arrabbiata Pasta Bake

WEDNESDAY

Roast Shoulder of Pork, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy

THURSDAY

Chicken Korma with Pilau Rice & Coriander Salad

FRIDAY

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

VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

MONDAY

Chipotle Quorn Dippers with Salt & Pepper Wedges & Garden Peas (V)

TUESDAY

Crunchy Topped Macaroni Cheese and House Salad (V)

WEDNESDAY

Cheesy Roasted Squash & Parsnip Crumble. Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy (V)

THURSDAY

Cauliflower Bhaji with Pilau Rice & Mint Yogurt (V)

FRIDAY

Crispy Onion Pakora Burger Served with Mango Slaw, Chips & Peas (VE)

DESSERTS

MONDAY

Sticky Lemon Sponge

TUESDAY

Mixed Berry & Apple Crumble

WEDNESDAY

Jam Roly Poly & Custard

THURSDAY

Banana Pudding & Custard

FRIDAY

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

Cucina



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

Buffalo Cauliflower Wings, Served with Salt & Pepper Wedges (V)

TUESDAY

Vegan Singapore Noodles (V)

WEDNESDAY

Hot Falafel Buddha Bowl (V)

THURSDAY

Onion Bhaji Skewer with Bombay Potatoes (VE)

FRIDAY

Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

MONDAY

Tomato & Basil Pasta

TUESDAY

Pasta in a Cheese Sauce

WEDNESDAY

Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza

THURSDAY

Creamy Pesto Pasta

FRIDAY

Margherita Pizza

