



# Bishop Stopford School

Week Ending: 28 March 2025

**NEWSLETTER**



## Monday 31 March

Year 11 Collective Worship  
Year 12: Bishop Lecture (2)  
Sports Tour 2027 Launch Meeting  
for Parents

## Tuesday 1 April

Year 10 Collective Worship  
Year 12 Lincoln College Visit  
Year 9 Spring House Games

## Wednesday 2 April

Year 8 & 9 Collective Worship  
Year 11 GCSE Drama Exam

## Thursday 3 April

Year 7 Collective Worship  
Year 10 Spring House Games  
Year 11 Spring House Games

## Friday 4 April

Year 12 Collective Worship  
Year 11 Eucharist  
Year 12 History Trip  
Celebration Assemblies

**School closes for Easter Holidays**

**Next week:**  
**Week B**

**Assembly Theme:**  
**Spirituality**

## Head Students Reflect on their Year

**#BestOfBishop**

Last week saw the appointment of our new Head Students. Congratulations to Udelle Hopson and Ollie Jesionek on their new roles! This means we must say goodbye and thank you to the outgoing Head Students, Isla Harvey and Preston Sserukeera, who have been superb ambassadors for our school.

The role of Head Student is multifaceted, involving leadership, representation, and service. They represent the student body at public events and speak at assemblies and open days. They are also positive role models, demonstrating the school's values, leading student initiatives and the Student Leadership Team.

Head Students also liaise between students and school leaders, conveying student concerns and ideas, and playing a role in the School Council. They assist with organising and participating in school events and help with school tours or supporting younger students as they do so. Overall, they are expected to be exemplary students who contribute positively to the school community, demonstrating maturity, responsibility, and excellent communication skills.

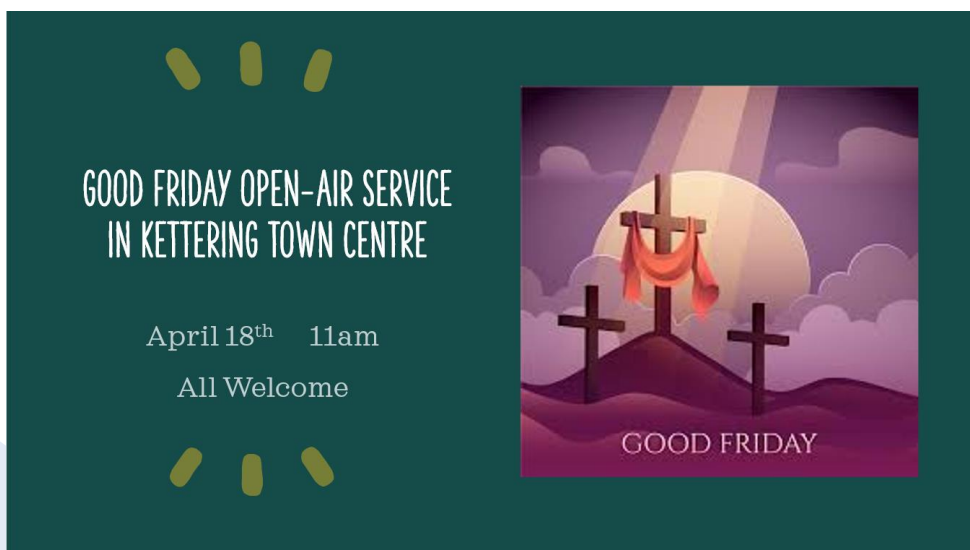
*Isla said, "Over the past year I have been afforded some amazing opportunities to represent the school in a variety of capacities, whether it be speaking to prospective parents and students at open events or the privilege to read at the school carol service. I believe that I have personally developed in the role as it has challenged my organisation, leadership and public speaking skills. I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside the Student Leadership Team to produce successful school-wide events and when our hard work to put an event together pays off."*

*Preston said, "I believe my unique experience has been both educational and rewarding. The opportunities to get to know countless students across the year groups, host our first ever whole-school Culture Day and speak in front of parents of future Bishop Stopford students was truly amazing. Taking this role allowed me to connect with so many members of my school community and learn more about what kind of leader I want to be for them. But most of all, it has taught me to embrace collaboration. Being a leader within the school doesn't mean having only your ideas for the school to be accounted for, but everyone's ideas - even outside the Leadership Team. And I believe Isla and I have tried our very best to implement everybody's ideas and opinions in everything we did. Best of luck to our successors and thank you to everyone at Bishop for letting me be a Head Student."*

Thank you for a wonderful year, Isla and Preston.

**Miss Silverthorne**





Kettering and District Churches Together are delighted to invite you and your children to an open-air service in Kettering town centre on **Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. I am assured that the sun always shines for this service! The service takes place at 11am directly outside Toller Church, Gold Street, after the Walk of Witness from various church locations. If you are interested in joining the Walk of Witness first, do check with local churches for their set-off times:

- St Andrew's;
- St Peter and St Paul's;
- Christ the King;
- Open Door;
- Central Methodist Church.

The service is well attended and is a place for the body of Christ to come together on this most significant of days. Churches Together would love our young people to be a visible and valuable part of our local church community and so we encourage you to consider joining this Good Friday service as part of your Easter remembrance.

**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:

Catriona Noble (9G) and Thomas Pickford (8Y), members of the 5<sup>th</sup> Kettering Scouts, who were presented with the Chief Scout's Gold Award. This is the highest award a Scout can earn. Thomas also won a performance award at the 60<sup>th</sup> Glendon Gang show which was staged at Corby Cube.



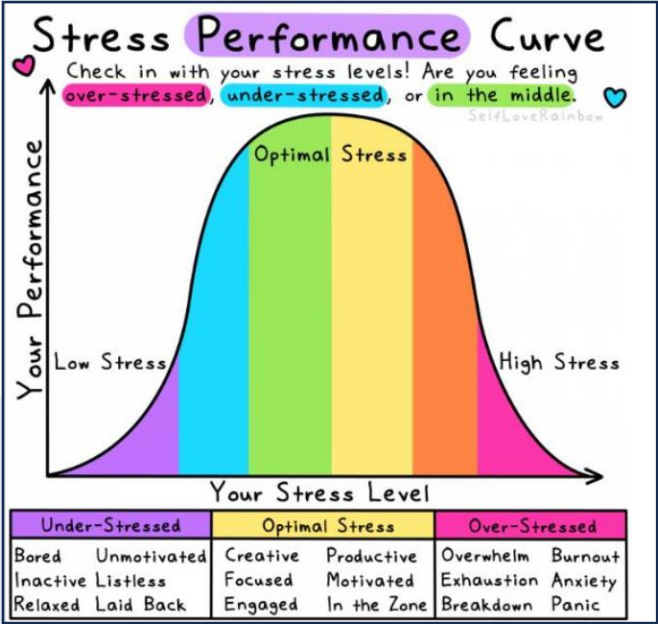
If you know of any student who you think is eligible for a Core Values in Action award, please email [newsletter@bishopstopford.com](mailto:newsletter@bishopstopford.com)

**Mrs Peach**

# Safe Space

The Mental Health Support Team came into school to lead workshops for Year 11 and 13 students to support them in managing their mental health during this exam period. Alongside the work we do in school, these workshops allowed students to see that success and achievement doesn't need to be to the detriment of wellbeing. Instead, preparation, balance and routines can enable effective revision to occur, while still offering space for hobbies, rest and time with families and friends. The team discussed healthy and unhealthy habits, challenging negative thinking, and practical ways of refocusing when we feel the physical symptoms of stress.

The graphics below are some of those shared with the students which may support discussions at home, too. While some stress can create the urgency that allows us to perform well, too much can be detrimental, and identifying the early signs can help young people to manage their stress in healthy ways.



### 4-7-8 breathing technique

This breathing technique can aid relaxation and sleep. Start by sitting or lying in a comfortable position.

**Repeat technique 4 times**

Please note: If you're not used to this breathing technique, it can make you feel light-headed, so don't practice this whilst driving. If you feel light-headed, try halving the time and build up to 4-7-8.

### Early Warning Signs Bingo

Difficulty concentrating or mind going blank

Fatigue

Sleep disturbance

Lack of sleep

Changes to appetite / weight

Revisiting same topics or questions

Restlessness or feeling on edge

Social withdrawal

Increased heart rate

Muscle tension

Sweating

Irritability

If you are worried about how your child is managing their stress about exams, please contact their Form Tutor or Head of Year.

Mrs Smith





## Year 10 Examinations

Year 10 students will be involved in examinations after the Easter holidays.

These will take place from Tuesday 22nd April 2025 until Thursday 1st May and will be sat in exam conditions to replicate what will happen in their public exams next year.

Mrs Thomson (Exams Officer) has sent through to students and parents a copy of individualised mock examination timetables which includes rooming and seat allocations. The students can also see their timetable on Edulink under the "Exams" tab.

To help students and parents prepare for the exams we have created the following resources:

1. A document outlining what topics will be examined in each subject and where subject-specific materials can be accessed. This was sent to parents this week and to students as an Edulink Homework task.
2. Generic resources around how to revise and prepare for the stresses of the exam period. This can be accessed via the link below:

[Revision Support — Bishop Stopford School \(fireflycloud.net\)](https://fireflycloud.net)

These should prove extremely useful in the lead-up to the exams.

**Mr Kirke**

## 'Hamilton' Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, we had the fantastic opportunity to travel to London to see 'Hamilton'. Following the show, we were treated to a technical demonstration gaining an insight into the lighting, sound and stage management of the show. Students were also taught about careers in the theatre from front of house to stage performance. We were challenged to look through the roles listed in the programme and find one that matched our skill set. This demonstrated that there are careers in the theatre for everyone!

We also took the opportunity to visit Buckingham Palace.

*"A fantastic performance in all aspects of theatre."* - Ella

*"The Q and A and technical demonstration was an added bonus – it was inspiring to see aspects of theatre that you would not normally see at a performance."* - Hannah

This trip was made possible by Rev Tom Houston of St Andrew's Church and his colleague Elaine. We would like to say a very big thank you to them.

Many a potential collaboration with Kettering Arts Centre at St Andrew's Church was discussed in the minibus on the way to the theatre. Exciting times!



**Mrs Fraser**

# Music and Drama News

## National Festival of Music for Youth

When it comes to professionalism, excellence, resilience and awesome teamwork, you need look no further than our Brass Band.

They performed a challenging and varied programme on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, in Cripps Hall, Northampton, as part of the regional round of the Music for Youth festival.

In true brass band tradition, they opened with a March, 'Venthone', written by English composer Ray Steadman Allen, who composed it while living in Kettering.

They then moved the audience with their sensitive rendition of John Rutter's beautiful Gaelic blessing. The mood was changed again as they travelled to Brazil for a Samba, which featured Isaac Lavender on bass trombone, performing a bespoke arrangement by Mr Turnbull of one of Isaac's virtuoso Diploma pieces, 'Dance Profane'.

To conclude we were taken back to the 1950s, to feature drum kit soloist, Oliver Haseldine in 'Born to Hand Jive' from the musical Grease, which included some audience participation.

The band dedicated their performance to Mr Turnbull, who had worked so hard preparing them for this National event. They did him, and the school proud, in every way.



## 'Guys and Dolls' After Show Party

On Tuesday 25th March 2025 all those involved in 'Guys and Dolls' had the opportunity for a catch up and sing along whilst eating pizzas provided by Cucina. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to meet up with the friends they had made in other years during the project and celebrate their success.



Congratulations to:

Kaia Dawson (9P) for achieving grade 5 piano with distinction.

Matthew Clark (10W) for achieving Grade 7 piano with distinction.

Esther Hobbs (11S) for achieving grade 8 violin with distinction.

Isaac Lavendar (13E) for achieving his 2<sup>nd</sup> Diploma. He now has bass trombone ARSM with merit.

Fabulous achievements and the result of a lot of dedication and practice.

**Mrs Armstrong**



## Languages in Sport

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, we welcomed Steve Eadon from Mingalaba to deliver assemblies and outdoor sports sessions to Year 8 and Year 9. Steve spent 11 years with Arsenal football club working in community outreach and was able to talk to our students about the incredible opportunities he had, and the people he was able to meet as a result of his languages skills. And he did all this, despite not having been enthusiastic about languages at school! Year 8 students also participated in a one hour football session where they had to combine simple instructions in Spanish with a football based warm ups and games.

Here's what our students had to say:

*"Meeting Steve Eadon was brilliant because I am an Arsenal fan. Learning new words in Spanish really inspired me because I love sports and languages and I could do that in the real world just like Steve! I'm so grateful for the opportunity to meet someone like him."* Nathan Olajiga (8P)

*"Meeting Steve was nice because he told us all about what you can do if you know different languages. He told us jobs you can do in the football industry that wasn't just being a player or a manager. Then we used our Spanish knowledge to say basic things whilst playing football."* Mia Phull (8P)



Mrs Smith

## Alumni Corner

### Our Alumni Network Keeps Growing!

Our alumni community continues to expand, with many former students sharing their inspiring journeys through 'pen portraits'—just like the one from Adrian. These stories will be displayed throughout the school to motivate our current students.


Adrian now lives in Vanuatu in the South Pacific, where he works as a doctor. Despite being thousands of miles away, he remains connected to our school and recently reached out to join our alumni network. A huge thank you to Adrian for sharing his journey and proving that the Bishop Stopford spirit knows no borders!


Feeling inspired? Reconnect with Bishop Stopford and fellow alumni by filling out this short form

[Bishop Stopford School Alumni](#) or scan the QR code:



#BSSAlumni #StayConnected #GlobalNetwork #60YearsOfBSS  
Mr Harwood





**FACT FILE**

**Name: Adrian Claydon**

Attended Bishop Stopford School: 1977 - 1984

**A Levels:** Biology, Chemistry, Maths

**After Bishop Stopford School:** Fellowship Royal Australasian college of physicians

**Employment:** Doctor of Gastroenterology in Vanuatu (Island in the South Pacific)

#bestofbishop  
#alumni

“ Bishop provided me with the stepping stones to travel to the other side of the world. The picture shows the family care centre in Vanuatu where I work. It combines the skills Bishop Stopford set me on the path to acquire (becoming a doctor) and my faith and being able to give something back. ”



# Sports Fixtures Review w/c 17/3/25

The first set of Spring House Games took place last week for Years 7, 8 and 11. Students competed in Mixed Hockey, Touch Rugby, Volleyball, Crossfit and Girls' Football, with Year 11 competing in Flag Football, Handball and Netball

## Congratulations to the winners:

Year 7: Souths , Year 8: Norths, Year 11: Easts

The Year 10 and Year 9 games take place next week.

Meanwhile the U14 Boys' Hockey played their first game of 11 a-side Hockey over at Leicester Grammar School narrowly losing 1-0 despite dominating possession and territory. But that's sport....

Year 7 Boys' Basketball took 2 teams to the District Qualifier Tournament, with Team White coming first and Team Blue finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place. They now qualify for the Top Tier District finals.

The Year 10 rugby squad join the Year 11 in making their second successive County Cup Final in defeating Prince William School on a gloriously sunny day.

Year 9 and Year 8 Football produced two comprehensive wins against KSA.

Year 7 Netball took part in a district round robin tournament, where they won all their games against schools in the local area.

Finally, to end a busy week, the Year 9/10 Girls' Football played over at KBA in a preparation tournament for the District Finals this week where they drew 3 games and lost 1.

| HOUSE/SPORT | Girls Futsal | Touch Rugby | Boys Volleyball | Girls Volleyball | Crossfit | Mixed Hockey | TOTAL |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------|--------------|-------|
| NORTHS      | 2            | 1           | 4               | 1                | X        | 1            | 9     |
| SOUTHS      | 4            | 6           | 6               | 4                | X        | 6            | 26    |
| EASTS       | 6            | 4           | 2               | 2                | X        | 2            | 16    |
| WESTS       | 1            | 1           | 1               | 6                | X        | 4            | 13    |

| HOUSE/SPORT | Girls Futsal | Touch Rugby | Mixed Hockey | Crossfit | Boys Volleyball | Girls Volleyball | TOTAL |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|-------|
| NORTHS      | 6            | 4           | 6            | 2        | 6               | 6                | 30    |
| SOUTHS      | 1            | 1           | 4            | 6        | 4               | 2                | 18    |
| EASTS       | 4            | 2           | 1            | 1        | 2               | 1                | 11    |
| WESTS       | 2            | 6           | 2            | 4        | 1               | 4                | 19    |

POINTS: 1<sup>st</sup>: 6, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 4, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 2, 4<sup>th</sup>: 1

| HOUSE/SPORT | Netball | Handball | Flag Football | TOTAL |
|-------------|---------|----------|---------------|-------|
| NORTHS      | 7       | 10* (7)  | 4             | 18    |
| SOUTHS      | 8       | 4        | 7             | 19    |
| EASTS       | 8       | 10       | 5             | 23    |
| WESTS       | 3       | 3        | 10            | 16    |

Played in separate Band A & Band B and results combined.  
POINTS: 1<sup>st</sup>: 6, 2<sup>nd</sup>: 4, 3<sup>rd</sup>: 2, 4<sup>th</sup>: 1  
\* Equal on points but had to use players from other Houses therefore 4<sup>th</sup>!

Mr Flannigan

## Second Hand Uniform

As you may know, we stock and sell good quality items of second-hand uniform.

We are always grateful for any donations. Currently we are low on the following stock:

- Blue jumpers – all sizes
- PE hoodies - smaller sizes
- PE shorts
- PE skorts

If students have any outgrown or unused items, please drop them into the Octagon office.

All items are checked, washed and resold for £3.00, with the funds used to benefit all students.

Should you wish to purchase items please use the order form at: [Bishop Stopford School - School Uniform](#)

Mrs Kilborn



# Coffee Morning 2025

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we invited parents of our new intake of Year 6 students to visit. It was wonderful to have them in school to talk about the exciting times ahead as their children progress from primary school to a secondary education with us. Over the course of the morning parents met key staff, spoke to our Student Ambassadors, and toured with them some of their favourite places of Bishop Stopford School. The feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, and our Student Ambassadors were singled out for their work.

Noah McNab (7P) led us in a Bible reading, and Angelica Perslow-Sefiani (7S) in prayer, then Polly Guyett (7P) and Andrew Mlengandale (7D) gave speeches on their experiences of being a new Year 7 at Bishop Stopford. They shared how they have become a part of the Bishop community, after arriving from different small primary schools. If there are any questions from either those who could attend or not, please use the key contacts below:

**Safeguarding:** Clare Smith Deputy Head of Pastoral, Safeguarding and Wellbeing

**General information:** Lee Stevenson Key Stage 3 Pastoral Lead

**Pupil Premium:** Presheena Norwood

**Transport/uniform/admissions:** Kirsty Smith

**Inclusion:** Bianca McGregor Lead SENDCo

**Head Teacher:** Jill Silverthorne

## Key Dates:

| Event                     | Day              | Date                                          |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Primary School Visits     | Weekdays         | Beginning in May and running until mid-June   |
| CATS Testing day          | Saturday         | 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2025 8:30 – 15:00       |
| Transition Days in School | Monday & Tuesday | 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 |
| Parent Transition Evening | Tuesday          | 8 <sup>th</sup> July 17:00 – 19:00            |
| Start of Year 7           | Wednesday        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025                |
| Admissions Pack           |                  | Week commencing 7 <sup>th</sup> April         |

We really look forward to our new students starting at Bishop Stopford School this year.

Mr Stevenson

# Tutor2u Grade Booster Sociology Conference

*Our teachers, Mrs. Taylor-Smith and Mr. Keane, thought the Tutor2u Grade Booster Sociology conference would be beneficial in helping us achieve our desired grades in August. We were really grateful for this experience, as it enabled us to feel more comfortable approaching essay questions and encouraged us to be more reflective about our gaps in knowledge. The conference consisted of four workshops. Within the workshops, there was an interactive element where we could answer questions and win prizes. A number of Bishop students won pens and stickers, and one student even won a notebook (a rarity). We recommend this experience for future students, and we hope to see our ‘Grades Boost’.*

**Maryam Ahmadu and Ndem Asonganyi 13X**





# Recruitment

We currently have the following exciting opportunities for outstanding and ambitious individuals:

Teacher of Science  
IT Apprentice Technician

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

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# Cucina

**WEEK 1**

Week Commencing: 31/03/25, 21/04/25, 12/05/25, 02/06/25, 23/06/25, 14/07/25

### CLASSIC HOT & HEARTY

| CLASSIC MAIN MEALS                                                                               | VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>Lemon & Herb Piri Piri Chicken with Spicy Rice                                  | <b>MONDAY</b><br>Piri Piri Quorn, Macho Peas and Spicy Rice (VE)                   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br>Chicken Chow Mein                                                              | <b>TUESDAY</b><br>Hoisin Tofu Chow Mein (VE)                                       |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>Honey Glazed Roast Gammon, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy | <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>Crunchy Topped Macaroni Cheese, House Salad or Seasonal Veg(V) |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br>Mexican Style Beef & Tortilla Lasagne                                         | <b>THURSDAY</b><br>Smokey Plant Based Chilli, Served with Rice, Nachos & Corn (V)  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br>Chip Shop "Fryday" Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas & Tartare Sauce    | <b>FRIDAY</b><br>BBQ Bean Burger with Chunky Chips & Peas (V)                      |


### DESSERTS

| MONDAY                                   | TUESDAY                 | WEDNESDAY                          | THURSDAY                   | FRIDAY                      |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Spiced Pineapple Cake with Vanilla Sauce | Apple Strudel & Custard | Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce | Cookie Dough Fruit Crumble | Fruit, Jelly & Yoghurt Pots |

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) | Vegan Ramen 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 | Mozzarella & Tomato or Pepperoni Pizza | Creamy Pesto Pasta | Margherita Pizza |

