

# The Rutherford review

## What's new?

- #MRSLITFEST
- AI and Business
- Sixth Form Celebrations
- Key Dates

Motivated  
Respectful  
Successful

# SUMMER ISSUE 2025

As we reach the end of another successful school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we've achieved and to thank you for your continued support.

This year has been filled with students and staff demonstrating our core values of being motivated, respectful and successful every day. Our GCSE and A Level students have reached academic milestones and we look forward to celebrating their achievements in August. There have been many more achievements to include in sport, Computing, STEM as well as Dance, Drama and Music. I continue to be incredibly honoured and proud to be the Headteacher of such an amazing school community.

We do say farewell to some very valued members of our staff team who have committed many years' service to our school. Mrs Stuart has taught at our school for 28 years, Mr Margetts for 8 years and Mrs Carter has been a TA for 19 years! We wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

We also have Mrs Elmetini and Mrs Szaryk leaving as TAs to train as teachers; we wish them well in their new ventures. We thank them all for their contributions and the positive impact they've had on our school community. They leave with our warmest wishes and heartfelt gratitude.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead. The new academic year starts on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 for our new Year 7 and 12s. All other students return on Thursday 4th September 2025. A letter communicating the arrangements for the first week back has already been sent.

As we head into the summer break, I hope it brings your family time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the sunshine. Whether you're travelling, exploring locally, or simply enjoying some well-earned downtime, I wish you a safe and joyful holiday.



Mrs K Foster  
Headteacher

## Winners, BCS Coding Competition

The highly anticipated British Computing Society Coding Competition took place at Cranfield University on 3rd July 2025. Mark Rutherford students competed against fellow coders from schools in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire.

The BCS BBN Branch continues to maintain two strategic initiatives in our local area. Since 2013 we have been running an annual school competition to encourage Key Stage 3 students to develop coding skills and take up Computing as one of their GCSE subjects. The Branch has also been working with the Bedfordshire Police Cyber Hub since its launch in 2015 to help in their Prevent agenda, promoting knowledge to avoid citizens and businesses becoming victims of cybercrime.

### Participation

Students who participated in this year's competition were Emily (Year 7), Zahra (Year 7) and Ryan (Year 7); they have all created games around the theme of 'fake news'. Our Year 9 entries included a micro-bit game designed by Steven called Mobile Micro-bit Security Game and a complex Mobile Security game developed by Oliver using Python programming language. All entries were judged on creativity, selection use, combination and presentation of images and text, appropriate choice and use of programming instructions which included custom blocks, loops and variables. The students had the opportunity to participate in a tour of the Cranfield University site possibly boarding the 737 and visited the Digital Aviation Research and Technology Centre (DARTEC)



## Fourth Year in a row win

Our students faced tough competition from Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, North and West Northamptonshire. Year 9 students Steven and Oliver secured first and third place respectively.



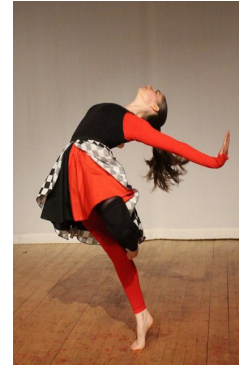
Steven's innovative game created on a micro bit using Python code wowed the judges this year, earning him a first-place position, while Oliver's hours of complex Python coding provided an engaging game on the theme of mobile security. The students also had the opportunity to gain invaluable information and advice about Cyber Choices, before taking photos in Cranfield's Boeing 737 engine.

Mr Mataire

---

## Dance Display 2025!

This year's Dance display took place on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th June. The fabulous evening event showcased the high-level work of GCSE Dance, A Level Dance, BTEC performing arts students as well as pieces from all year's extra-curricular clubs. Tuesday evening opened with a section from the Disney Medley that students from various year groups will be taking to Disneyland Paris to perform. Wednesday evening opened with an extract from our Junior Theatre Festival piece where we performed an extract from 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' the musical. The piece was awarded the 'Outstanding Achievement in Music' award and we were commended on our students' characterisation and energy. Students have worked very hard throughout the year creating imaginative and energetic performances, of all different genres and themes, that were showcased with the highest performance skills. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by both students and their friends and family who came to support.



Mrs Taylor

---

## Popping at Pineapple Dance Studios!

Students from Years 9, 10, 12 and 13 travelled to Covent Garden in London on Monday 30th June to take part in a dance class at the famous Pineapple Dance studios. Students who have opted to study GCSE Dance, currently study GCSE Dance, A Level Dance or BTEC Performing Arts had the opportunity to develop their movement knowledge and experience in commercial dance where their energy and stamina was pushed to the maximum! Students learnt a routine that was delivered by one of the professional teachers at Pineapple. The students thoroughly enjoyed the routine and had a great time.

Mrs Talbot



## Disneyland Paris Performing Arts Trip

The Music Department has been working extremely hard to prepare for the Disneyland Paris performing arts trip at the end of the term, producing wonderful backing tracks for our performers to use and supporting with vocals, harmonies and confidence building.

We continue to run numerous extra-curricular clubs including a brand-new Drum Club offered to all year groups.

Miss Ellison

## Charity Hike

Mr Morgan, Mr Johnson, Mr Snowdon, Mr Marin and Mr Boyde (and Arlo the Collie!) would like to say a huge thank you to all the well-wishers and sponsors who supported us on our charity hike back in May. The going was tough but the weather glorious and the company just about bearable. £1326 was raised in total and both the Bone Cancer Trust and Julia's House are very grateful for the contribution, so thank you to all those that supported, we couldn't have raised that much without the Marky spirit, so thank you! The blisters and strains have just about passed but our appreciation hasn't. Have a great summer; get outside and explore!

Mr Morgan



## Navy Outreach Team

Year 9s had workshops with the Navy outreach team – their task was to build a six-foot radio mast which would be self-supported and have two heavy discs attached to it. The task encouraged students to work in small teams and develop their team building skills. Students also were able to talk to the Navy personnel and find out about their jobs and also what opportunities there would be for them in the Navy. We are having another visit from the Navy to work with Year 8 students building emergency flares.

Mrs Unwin



## Art Exhibition

The annual end of year A Level Art Exhibition was exceptionally well attended. Despite the heat the A Level Art and Photography students all came in to support with the curation and hanging of the show. As you will see from the photographs there were some exceptional pieces of work, which were sensitively and thoughtfully displayed. As a department we are very sad to see the cohort leave but we look forward to hearing how their future plans come to fruition.

Ms Saunders



## Scholastic Book Fair

As part of our annual Literary Festival students were encouraged to visit the Scholastic Book Fair which was setup in the school's Library (Space for Learning)



Students were able to purchase books as an alternative to the texts that are currently in stock in the Space.

As you can see... Mr Johnson, Mr Hopla and Mrs Unwin were all very excited!

Mr Johnson

## Make Your Mark Theatre

The Performing Arts Faculty is proud to announce the success of their recent achievement received from MTI's Junior Theatre Festival that was attended to on Saturday 24th May.

After getting to perform a phenomenal section of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Make Your Mark Theatre Company was presented with an Outstanding Achievement in Music award.

We are extremely proud of everyone involved and cannot wait to start planning for next year's already. Watch this space...

Miss Ellson



## Year 9 - Wembley Stadium Trip

In May we took 36 students on an educational visit to Wembley Stadium. Students took part in a commentary workshop which involved them writing and performing football commentary over historic Wembley Stadium moments including the 1966 World Cup Final and the women's Euro 2022 Final with which the students engaged fantastically well.

We completed a stadium tour which enabled students to see some of the historic moments that Wembley has hosted – both football and non-football – as well as visiting areas such as the changing rooms, press room and going pitch-side.

Mr Taylor



## #MRSLitFest

This Summer term, Mark Rutherford School hosted the annual exciting and inspiring Literary Festival that captivated students and brought literature to life. The week-long event featured a fantastic line-up of renowned writers, poets, and artists, providing our students with unique opportunities to engage with creative professionals. Our guests included:

Kimba: Returning to our school, Kimba wowed students by working with Year 7 and Year 10 classes. His dynamic sessions in poetry and rap song writing encouraged students to find their own voices and explore new forms of expression.



Stephen Davies: Adventure storyteller and novelist Stephen Davies captivated our Year 8 students with his engaging stories and insights into the world of adventure literature. His visit sparked excitement and inspired many budding writers.

James Mellor: Local cartoonist James Mellor collaborated with our Year 10 GCSE Art students and Year 12 A Level Art, English and Media students. Students learned new cartooning techniques and explored visual storytelling, creating some fantastic artwork.

Spoz: Poet, songwriter, and performer Spoz worked with our Year 9 students, inspiring them with his energetic poetry and music sessions. Students had the chance to perform their own poetry and learn more about the art of song writing.



The festival was a tremendous success, fostering a love of literature and the arts within our school community. Students left inspired, motivated, and eager to continue exploring their creative talents.

We look forward to continuing to host more such inspiring events in the future, encouraging students to see the value in reading for pleasure.

Mr Johnson



## Industrial Cadets Bronze Award celebration event

We attended the celebration event on Thursday 26th June at the Watford Grammar School for Boys in their STEM Centre.

Tafara, Fin, Unathi and Harry ensured that the presentation, set up near the front of the STEM Centre, was eye-catching and then there was a welcome speech and information shared about the events of the day.

These events included an Industry Panel (with representatives from Mitsubishi Electric and Barhale), and there was time to look at the other teams' stands and complete a networking quiz. After lunch we had a keynote speaker who spoke about his varied career, before everyone was presented with the Bronze Award badge.

We were congratulated by Mr David Sobo, the Operations Director for EDT, the organisers of the event.

Then trophies were given out for the best teamwork, innovation and project of the year; we were runners up along with Bishop's Hatfield Team and Longdean School in the Innovation category.

Well done to Tafara, Fin, Unathi and Harry for their attitude and behaviour on the day both were a credit to themselves and the school.



Mr Betts



## Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies Students Visit Walsingham Shrine

### A Pilgrimage to Remember

In March 2025, our Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies students took part in the annual visit to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. This trip is a much-anticipated highlight of the Religious Studies Department calendar, and a meaningful part of our students' examination preparation.

Blessed with perfect weather, the day unfolded with a carefully designed itinerary that supported both academic learning and spiritual reflection. The trip offered students a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of Christian pilgrimage, a key topic in the GCSE curriculum, while observing first-hand its significance to faith communities today.

Throughout the visit, our students demonstrated curiosity, maturity, and respect. They engaged actively with the experience, asking thoughtful questions, participating in discussions, and taking time to reflect on the symbolism and atmosphere of the shrine. Their conduct was exemplary, and they represented Mark Rutherford School with real pride.

We are also proud to share that the trip was fully funded by the Religious Studies Department, ensuring that all students could benefit from this enriching experience, regardless of financial circumstances. This reflects our commitment to equity, opportunity, and experiential learning for all.

More than just a curriculum activity, the visit served as a powerful moment of connection between classroom learning and lived religious practice, a chance for students to see faith in action and take a moment of quiet reflection as they approach their final examinations.

We look forward to continuing this valued tradition next year and offering future GCSE Religious Studies students the same inspiring and thoughtful opportunity.

Ms Day



## Dear England Trip

As always, the Drama Department have been busy throughout the term, attending numerous trips and projects. Trips to the theatre allow the students to experience original styles, techniques and gain wider knowledge of how a performance is put together. This term we have been lucky enough to see War Horse, Dear England, and have 3 more very exciting trips coming up including Harry Potter & the Cursed Child. Our GCSE and A Level students completed outstanding practical exam work and we are looking forward to seeing what the next academic year brings.

Miss Ellson

## KS3 Philosophy and Ethics Film Club Launches at MRS!

On Friday 6th June, the Religious Studies Department proudly launched an exciting new addition to our extra-curricular offer at Mark Rutherford School: KS3 Philosophy & Ethics Film Club... and it's already proving to be a huge success!

Running every Friday lunchtime, the club offers a fun and reflective space for students to enjoy popular films while exploring the big philosophical and ethical questions of life. Each week, students enjoy a cinema-style atmosphere, complete with popcorn, and a chance to think deeply, reflect personally, and connect with others, all while watching a great movie.

We kicked things off with the heart-warming and powerful film Wonder (2017), which inspired thoughtful conversations around kindness, fairness, identity, and how we treat others in society.

At the end of each completed film, students are invited to submit a film review, giving them the opportunity to reflect on the film's moral messages and themes. These reviews are entered into a review competition, with prizes awarded for the most thoughtful and creative responses.

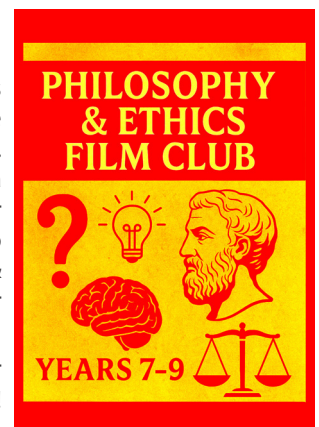
The club has already seen a growing number of students attending and engaging enthusiastically with values like compassion, honesty, and respect, all explored through the lens of storytelling.

Interested in joining?

We are inviting all KS3 students (Years 7–9) to join us when we return in the new academic year. Whether you're a film lover, a deep thinker, or just looking for a relaxing and reflective way to end the week, KS3 Philosophy & Ethics Film Club is the place for you.

Come for the popcorn, stay for the deep thinking and big ideas!

Ms Day



## Year 8 Take Your Child to Work Day

72 students from Year 8 went out with a parent or a family friend for the day, to experience the world of work. They found out all about the jobs their parents/family friends do. Next year we will be expanding our work experience programme across Years 7-10 and will be looking for more businesses to take offer our students a placement, for a day or longer. If you are able to help, please get in touch with our Careers Lead Mrs Unwin at school.

Mrs Unwin



## Business Studies trip to Bedfordshire University

On Tuesday, the 25th of March 2025, Business students attended a conference at the University of Bedfordshire, Luton Campus. The conference covered a wide variety of business-related issues ranging from Business Analytics to International Business and Law. Students had a chance to interact with students from other schools and evaluate opportunities available to them post university, should they pursue a career in the business sector.

## AI and Business

AI is allowing companies to become more productive. It is being used or planned for use in various aspects of business management production. According to one of the key presenters, a significant number of businesses apply AI to improve production processes and automation. A lot of businesses now utilise search engine optimisation features such as keyword research to enhance their presence on the Internet. Companies are also leveraging AI for data aggregation, idea generation and minimising safety risks. Students had a chance to participate in this key business area presented by Golda Komanapalli, one of the keynote presenters.



Students also had a choice to attend any one of the following areas in breakout rooms; Business Management and Law, Aviation and Airport Management, Accounting and Finance, Economics and International Trade.

## Understanding Business Environment- Coffee Shop example

The coffee shop industry has experienced significant growth in the last few years in many countries across the world. An example of the UK market, the number of coffee shops has grown from 10,000 in 2007 to over 25,000 in 2019. In other countries such as Germany this has grown from 14,000 to over 31,000 in the same time period. Students had a chance to hear how understanding business environment can help grow a business. The business environment being political, social, financial and how the disposable income can change business fortunes.

The conference also had input from Business Leaders such as; Bilal Farooq from Greystone Solicitors, Paul Conradie from Grant Thornton and Emily Goss from Rajapack.

## Crafting an Impressive CV

A good CV (curriculum vitae) is like a personal marketing brochure—it highlights your skills experiences, and achievements in a way that grabs attention and makes people want to know more. What makes a CV truly stand out isn't just what's in it, but how clearly and confidently it communicates your value.



Post University, students will begin to prepare for life at work. For that they will need to find a job. A good CV is part of that process. Students participated in a presentation of how to make one's CV impressive and attract the eyes of the employer.

Mr Mataire

## A Year 7 Trip to the University of Bedford- the talent foundry educator event

On Thursday 22nd May, we had a great privilege to take some of our Year 7 students went on a trip called Powering Transformations, hosted by the University of Bedford in partnership with the Talent Foundry Trust with speakers from Dell and other companies to share their current roles and career journeys. It was a day filled with lots of engaging and developmental activities. Our students had the opportunity to have a greater insight into Higher Education, the world of work and business/enterprise.

This was a successful day with our students fully engaged in the project.

Main activities:

1. The day started with an icebreaker - A cup Challenge: Students had to build a pyramid using a string to pick up the cups without touching them with their hands. They learned problem solving, team work and what makes a good and effective team with different roles within it.
2. Social enterprise (develop and idea to solve world problem): Following campus tour, students were asked to think globally and act locally. They had to work in teams, create an idea to solve a world problem. They developed great ideas, made notes, practiced with the help of their teachers and speakers. It was exciting to watch our students collaborate and develop great ideas to solve problems relative to health, the environment/pollution, global warming and renewable energy and present their pitches to the judges. They demonstrated confidence, great presentation skills and made the workshop vibrant.
3. The winning team's idea was to develop a sustainable project/ social enterprise to help the homeless. There was evidence of a strong and effective team, with excellent communication and presentation skills.

Mrs Mussington



## Wellbeing Week 2025 'Community'

At the end of April students and staff took part in activities at lunchtime and after school including: cinema, skipping, bubbles, yoga, relaxation in the planetarium, Bake Off, volleyball, Zen Zone, playdoh and much more! The atmosphere was really lovely around school and we look forward to next year already!

Mrs Purcell



## Cyber Explorers

Cyber Explorers was launched in February 2022 to support and inspire students towards a future career in technology and give them the foundational knowledge to pursue crucial subjects such as computer science.

Cyber Explorers, an initiative led by the UK Government. It is a free educational platform that teaches young people aged 11-14 cyber security skills, exposes them to careers in cyber security and encourages them to consider further study in science and technology. Complementary to the learning programme, the Cyber Explorers Cup is an innovative competition designed to engage students aged 11-14 across the United Kingdom in an educational and interactive cyber security contest.



Our Key Stage 3 Team Terabyte Coding Club students participated in this year's competition for the first time. The team consisted of Emily (Year 7), Zahra (Year 7), Oscar (Year 7 reserve), Harry (Year 9), Steven (Year 9), Matthew (Year 9) and Oliver (Year 9). Jack (Year 11) played an important role supporting the team prior to the challenge, assisting in practice sessions and moral boosting.

The afternoon ended very successfully with Mark Rutherford School being ranked 18th of the Top 50 teams who scored the highest number of points, in the quickest times. In addition to this, Oliver (Year 9) was awarded SCQF Level 5, the highest attainment in that age group. Oliver has grown to be an outstanding Computer Programmer. He is also involved in the BCS Coding Competition taking place on in July.

Mr Mataire

## Shuttleworth College

We took a small group of Year 10 students to Shuttleworth College as part of a taster day. They had great fun taking part in Bushcraft activities as well as having a tour around their Zoology Centre and Equine Centre. They had the chance to meet the staff, speak with current students about their experience on the course and ask any questions. It was a fun day out and inspired the students to think about what they would like to do once they finish their GCSEs.

Mr Paolini



## Hairdressing Trip

Year 10 students visited Brook Hair salon, part of Bedford College group, for a taster day. They had great fun learning hand and arm massage, painting nails in the beauty salon, then quite a hot session blow drying various "heads" in the salon – learning how to section and blow dry properly. They also had a tour round the building, met staff and learnt about the expectations, uniform requirements and how to apply for courses. The students enjoyed their visit and learned a great deal about the opportunities in health and beauty careers.

Mrs Unwin



## Midwifery Trip

Year 10 health and social care students attended a Midwifery taster day at the University of Bedfordshire in Luton. In their STEM lab, students were able to meet lecturers who gave a presentation about the courses, the role of the midwife, skills needed and then some details about health care, birth and baby care. The students learnt how to take blood pressure and monitor oxygen levels, then had a go at delivering a 'baby' from a manikin mother. Feedback from the students was very positive as they said the experience helped them to understand midwifery better.

Mrs Unwin



## Year 8 Football

On 14th May, the Year 8 football team played their District Cup Final against Holywell.

They won their League with a 100% record and then beat Robert Bloomfield 4-1 in the Semi-Final, so confidence was high.

Unfortunately, having had the best chances throughout the second half, hearts were broken when, at 2-2 and with 30 seconds remaining, Holywell snuck a winner against the run of play.

Having fought back from being 1-0 down and then 2-1 down, there was no time to get a third and the team finish the season as League winners and cup runners up.

On the day, goals came from Reon and Ben. There should have been more and, ultimately, this was the difference.

They finish the season with a record of played 8, won 7, lost 1. With 31 goals scored and 9 conceded.

They have represented themselves and the school impeccably throughout the season.



Mr Snowden

Pictured: Lukas, Noah, Dylan, Darcie, Liam, Harry (c), Reon, Shay and Jayden. Milosza, Kai, Ben, Dylan, Tom, Max, Michael and Bradley.

## U13 County Rugby League

On Wednesday 25th June a squad of 14 Year 8 players made the gruelling trip on foot over to Bedford Ath (our neighbours!) to compete in the inaugural U13 County Rugby League tournament and after the hard-fought pool games and a final v Chiltern Academy we ended up lifting the trophy, including being undefeated in the process!

We had 3 tough games where there was only a try difference (including a great win against Robert Bloomfield who were packed with strong, fast Biggleswade players) and a blow out against Bedford Academy which led us to the final to face the also undefeated Chiltern Academy. The boys were exhausted from the heat and exertion but held firm with some fantastic try line defence and the solid marking of their superstar player, who had been causing bedlam against the other teams. He scored 3 against us in the first 6 minutes but when 2 tackles cut him in half within the space of 30 seconds he no longer ran with as much conviction, allowing us to defend far more effectively and break away when we had the ball.

There were some great contributions all round and every player helped us secure the win but there are some notable mentions. George and Pawel were devastating runners, Harry orchestrated the moves beautifully from scrum half, with Finley and Elnathan rocks in defence. We ran out 24-20 winners in the final to lift the trophy! It was a fantastic way to end the extended rugby calendar, they will remember this forever. I look forward to a great year ahead as Year 9 students.

Mr Morgan



## A Summer of Sporting Success at Mark Rutherford School

It has been a summer of outstanding achievement for our exceptional pupils at Mark Rutherford School.

Starting with Athletics, the smooth and composed Rio sprinted to victory, claiming both the Year 7 District and County 100m titles. Year 8 also saw a fantastic string of successes, particularly in the sprint events. The lightning-fast Reon dominated his District 100m races, securing multiple wins with ease. George, known for his distinctive running style, was crowned District and County 200m Champion, while Harry impressed in the 300m, commanding his races from start to finish. These three, alongside Noah, combined their talents to win the 4x100m relay, showcasing teamwork at its finest.

In Year 9, Harry qualified for the English Schools Championships in the 800m, while Fraser not only became County Champion in the 1500m, but also broke the county record and qualified for English Schools—an exceptional accomplishment.

From Year 10, Orla earned County Silver in the 100m sprint, and Archie triumphed with County Gold in the 1500m Steeplechase, also qualifying for English Schools. A special mention goes to Marcus, who, through his dedication outside of school, qualified for the 100m at the English Schools Athletics Championships.

Returning to Year 8, our Boys Rugby team displayed tremendous skill and determination, winning both the District Championship and the County Rugby League title, a testament to their positive attitude and relentless motivation.

In Basketball, the Year 7 Boys delivered a commendable performance, narrowly missing out on the District crown and finishing as runners-up.

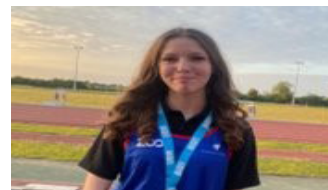
Football also brought strong results across the board. The Year 8 Boys team had an impressive season, winning the District League and finishing as runners-up in the District Cup. Meanwhile, the Year 9/10 Girls and Year 10 Boys teams both finished their seasons as District Cup runners-up, capping off highly competitive campaigns.

Special recognition goes to several Year 7 boys who earned the prestigious 5 Sports Award: Rio, Khalil, Archie, and Jude.

These students demonstrated outstanding commitment, character, and discipline in their sporting contributions to school life.

Finally, this year marked the welcome return of the Victor and Victrix Ludorum awards, celebrating sustained excellence in sport. These were very deservedly awarded to Archie and Georgia, in recognition of their exceptional achievements, professional attitude, and unwavering consistency throughout their time at Mark Rutherford School. They truly embody the values of being Motivated, Respectful, and Successful.

Mr Marin



## SIXTH FORM

### UCAS Discovery Day

On 16th June, all Year 12 students attended a UCAS Discovery Day at the University of Bedfordshire, on the Polhill Campus. At the event, students had time to browse the impressive range of post-18 options available to them, as Universities, Colleges, Apprenticeship providers and more were on hand to give the information, advice and guidance that students need as they consider their next steps and future plans. Students gathered a wealth of prospectuses on the day, and attended various talks on subjects ranging from accountancy to zoology! The day was a huge success and has inspired students to focus on the applications they will need to make as they begin Year 13.

### Academic Mentoring Day- Year 12 Version!

Following the successful and informative visit to the UCAS Discovery Day at the University of Bedfordshire, the Sixth Form took the opportunity to do things a bit differently for Year 12 students on the 4th July, and used the time to work Year 12 students to begin their UCAS applications for courses starting in 2026.

All students received an information booklet to support the process, along with a pack to support the writing of their personal statements – a key part of the UCAS application and a chance for students to 'stand out from the crowd' and showcase their academic endeavours, transferrable skills and extra-curricular interests. We look forward to reading students' personal statements, and working with Sixth Form tutors to ensure that students aim high, are focused on the next steps that are right for them, and are equipped with all the information they need in order to be successful and happy with their post-18 choices.

### UCAS Evening

Following the Discovery Day event and personal statement sessions, Year 12 students and their parents/careers attended an online event delivered by resident UCAS expert, Mr Nicholls. The talk introduced families to the UCAS process, offered hints and tips to secure offers from higher education providers, and kick-started the focus on life post-18 that will come around quickly for students! The event was well-attended, and this is testament to the diligent approach of our Sixth Form students, as they begin to make important choices for their future pathways.

### Jacob Returns!

It was great to welcome ex-student, Jacob, back to the school when he visited to talk to Year 12 students about life as a university student. Jacob, who didn't intend on going to university until the last minute, now does outreach work for the University of East Anglia where he is studying for a Maths degree, to share his experiences with Sixth Form students across a vast number of schools. Staff were so pleased to see Jacob back in the school, that they attended the session too, and were proud of the progress he has made and we hope he realises what an inspiration to others he is.

### Year 12 Induction Day

It was fantastic to welcome over 130 new Year 12 students to the Sixth Form on 8th July, as they returned to Mark Rutherford School after their gruelling exam schedule, to take the next steps in their post-16 education.

New Year 12 students attended their tutor groups with Year 13 students (the ones not on work experience!), who were on hand to ensure a smooth transition for anyone who has been feeling nervous about the step up to the Sixth Form. Classes for all subjects that are taught in the Sixth Form were then provided for students, and teachers did a great job of ensuring that students left feeling excited about returning to the school in September, when they will be able to follow courses in their specialist subjects, their favourite subjects, and in subjects that will prepare them for their future education and career choices.

The day concluded with a brief assembly that the new Sixth Form tutors also attended, and we look forward to students coming back after the Summer holiday, ready to explore the range of leadership opportunities offered post-16, as well as ready to work hard on their new courses.

## Unlocking Potential: Meta Method with The Elephant Group

Ms Vallance and Mr Nicholls attended a meeting led by The Elephant Group, focusing on the Meta Method - a powerful approach to learning that will enable students to develop skills that they will carry with them through Year 11 and beyond, as they learn how to be resilient and independent learners.

The Meta Method is a research-informed programme designed to boost academic performance by teaching students metacognitive strategies—that is, how to think about their own thinking. Developed in collaboration with education experts and piloted in schools across the UK, the Meta Method helps students understand how they learn, plan their study effectively, and reflect on their progress. A group of Year 11 students will be invited to sessions in the Autumn term, to support their work on the Wadham project, and other academic and leadership courses.



## Year 12 Speakers'

The Sixth Form has been pleased to welcome a wide range of speakers to visit our Year 12 students. Many of these are ex-students. In March Jamie Bridge spoke about his role in international drugs policy. This is a career that has taken him from Mark Rutherford School to the United Nations and Geneva. Our next speaker was Sam Laycock who manages the Harpur Centre and led Bedford Bid. She updated students about developments in the town and wider region including the Universal Studios project. Professor Marcus Enoch explored his career and research at Loughborough University. Professor Enoch's areas of expertise include travel plans, car parking, road-based public transport systems, and transport systems at the macro level. Following this Dr Pippa Calver spoke about her Sixth Form studies at Mark Rutherford and work as an academic. Pippa's research investigates restraints that affect the ability of individuals and groups to participate in sustainability.

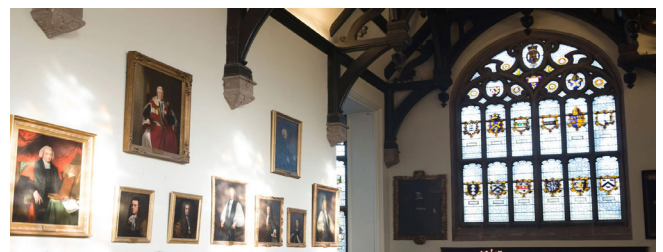
Our final speaker was Jacob Nicholson. Jacob is currently studying Mathematics at UEA and spoke about the benefits of degree study as well as attending university. He spoke highly of his experience at UEA.

Mr Nicholls

## Year 10 Wadham Project

The Wadham Project consists of two groups being given assistance with preparing for university education after Year 13. The Year 10 large cohort had a pleasant visit to Oxford in May accompanied by students from Castle Newnham. The day began with a talk about the opportunities of university education and activities that can enhance academic strengths. There was a tour of the college and lunch in the new restaurant. In the next session there was a talk about Egyptology and how to translate hieroglyphics. The day ended with a visit to the world-famous Pitt Rivers Museum to handle exhibits from Canada. The small group has now selected a book to review and will be reading these over the summer. Criminology and crime are popular topics this year.

Mr Nicholls



## Year 12 Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme

The school wishes to thank Raising Aspirations and the Connolly Foundation for supporting this project. The topic studied this year was street trees with tutorials led by Megan Bedford from Coventry University. The tutorials explored the use of trees in the urban environment with our students choosing a topic for their 'dissertation'. To finalise the project there was a graduation event in Oxford. During this we visited St Anne's College for a tour and advice about university. We then had lunch in the old refectory. Following this graduation was held at the wonderful town hall with Sophia speaking on behalf of our group to the audience of three hundred.

Mr Nicholls

## Sixth Form team on tour!

The Sixth Form team visited Castle Newnham School, to take part in their 'Next Steps' Day for Year 10 students. A number of post-16 providers were present at the event, and there was a great deal of interest from students, in the range of subjects offered in the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School. Year 12 students Jasmine, Adam and Ned did a fantastic job in representing our school, and spoke confidently to prospective Sixth Form students about their experience of changing schools after Year 11. We all encouraged Castle Newnham students to attend our Year 11 in Year 12 open evening, which will take place on 14th November!

Mrs Vallance

## Year 13 Leavers' Day

After all their hard work in the Sixth Form, Year 13 students 'let loose' at the end of May, and celebrated their last day at the school – some having been at Mark Rutherford since Year 7! Students had a fun day, there were some good-natured jokes played on teachers before everyone came together for a farewell assembly. It was great to see so many staff from across the school at the assembly and this is testament to the popularity of the fantastic year group. Mr Nicholls and Mrs Henderson led the assembly and presented awards, students cringed through Ms Vallance's good bye poem, written in Gen Z slang! After this everyone headed to the field to play rounders, enjoy some music, eat pizza and ice cream and, because it was a very hot day, squirt each other with water pistols. While this is usually discouraged, it was actually quite refreshing and handled by students very sensibly!

## Year 13 Celebration

Year 13 leavers, teachers and tutors came together on 3rd of July for the Sixth Form Valedictory Ball, a final celebration of students' time at Mark Rutherford School. The event was held at Woodland Manor Hotel and our regular DJ student Josh from JF Discos helped everyone to dance the night away! The colour theme of navy and gold, chosen by students, looked extremely sophisticated – as did the students in their outfits and suits! A massive well done to the Prom Committee for all of their ideas which helped to raise over £750 towards the event, through Bake Sales, Dress Up Days, Spirit Week and the annual Year 13 Students vs Teachers Football Match. Awards were presented on the night and it was a tough call, deciding on the winners of the Best Dressed award!

The Sixth Form team, teachers and tutors wish all the best to the Class of 2025.



# KEY DATES

## Autumn Term 2025

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Monday 1st September                         | Staff Training Day                                 |
| Tuesday 2nd September                        | Staff Training Day                                 |
| Wednesday 3rd September                      | Term Begins (for students in Years 7 & 12)         |
| Thursday 4th September                       | Term Begins (for students in Years 8,9,10,11 & 13) |
| Friday 3rd October                           | Academic Mentoring Day (for all students)          |
| Thursday 16th October                        | Open Evening                                       |
| Monday 27th October –<br>Friday 31st October | (Half Term Week)                                   |
| Thursday 13th November                       | Sixth Form Open Evening                            |
| Friday 28th November                         | Staff Training Day                                 |
| Friday 19th December                         | End of Term (early closure)                        |



The Rutherford   
**review**

All of our staff are dedicated and committed to raising standards and developing each child to reach their potential. We have a strong emphasis on academic achievement, backed up by the real knowledge of each student's individual needs. Students learn in a positive, healthy and challenging environment.

We are proud of our vibrant and active school community.

Tel: 01234 290200

Email: [mark.rutherford@mrus.co.uk](mailto:mark.rutherford@mrus.co.uk)

Wentworth Drive, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK41 8PX

