

The Rutherford   
**review**



WINTER ISSUE - DECEMBER 2025

MOTIVATED  
SUCCESSFUL  
RESPECTFUL

# | Welcome

I can't quite believe we are at the end of the first term of the academic year; it has been both busy and rewarding with much achieved academically and through the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer.

There have been many achievements and successes to celebrate, majority of which are included in our winter newsletter. A particular highlight was our recent school production of *Sister Act*; with three sell out evening shows and some outstanding feedback from NODA, the cast and crew should be very proud of what they achieved. The array of talent on display along with the teamwork demonstrated perfectly our core values of being motivated, respectful and successful.

There have been many more things to celebrate including our GCSE and A Level outcomes in the summer. What makes our school so unique is that there is literally something for everyone to engage in and enjoy and we pride ourselves on this. I do say this every time, but I have the best job in the world being the Headteacher of our school.

We are still awaiting the final version of our Ofsted report following our recent inspection under the new toolkit.

Having being part of the trial back in February, and then stepping forward to be one of the first schools in the country to be inspected with the new report cards, I was delighted that we were chosen to showcase the embedded impact of the changes made since I took the role of Headteacher. The two days particularly recognised the hard work and dedication of everyone in our school. Some of the verbal feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we can't wait to share with you what the team of inspectors observed over an intense two day period.

Given that there is a new report to write, we were advised that the process of having a report that we can share would take longer to receive. We will share this with you as soon we have it in the New Year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a lovely Christmas break and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming our school community back on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for another productive and exciting term.



Mrs K Foster  
Headteacher



## Explore Work Programme

We are excited to launch our Explore Work Programme across the school this year as part of our careers initiative to enable students to experience the workplace.

Year 9s will be the first group taking part, spending two days with a parent/carer, relative, or family friend on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

For more details, please visit the school website.

Mrs Unwin



welcoming space for parents and carers to learn, share, and connect. Attendees enjoyed refreshments while engaging in meaningful discussions with workshop leaders and fellow parents and carers. These conversations allowed everyone to explore practical strategies for improving communication and fostering positive relationships at home.

We are thrilled with the turnout and the enthusiasm shown by our parent/carer community. Your participation helps strengthen the partnership between home and school, ensuring the best outcomes for our young people.



Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to these valuable sessions. We look forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future!

Mrs Waywell

## Grim Tales



Keep an eye out for these students on the shelves at

bookshops in the future; they have had their short stories published in a book. The assignment was part of the Young Writers Competition where they reimagined and rewrote a traditional Grimms' Fairy Story, and were chosen to be published in the book: 'Grim Tales: heed the warnings'. Could this be the start of their writing career?

Well done to all the students who took part.

Mrs Unwin

## Parenting Workshops: Building Stronger Connections at Home

Over the past few weeks, our school has hosted a series of parenting workshops in conjunction with Early Help designed to support families in navigating the challenges of raising teenagers. These sessions focused on two key topics: Understanding the Teen Brain and Reducing Family Conflict.

The workshops ran for two hours and provided a

## Music Department - DJ lessons now available!

We are proud to introduce Mark Louisy, our newest member of the Mark Rutherford School instrumental teaching team. Highly experienced as a radio and nightclub DJ, we are extremely excited to welcome Mr Louisy to our team. Students are now able to sign up for DJ lessons, which take place on Tuesdays.

DJ-ing is also now included as an option on the GCSE

music course, so students will be able to complete their performance coursework as a DJ.

Students who are interested in taking up DJ lessons, or who have any questions about this, should speak to Mr Phelps or Mr Sobiechowski, or email [music@mrus.co.uk](mailto:music@mrus.co.uk).

**Mr Phelps**



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## First Coffee Morning for Carers - A Great Start!

We are delighted to share that we recently held our first coffee morning for carers of our looked-after children and those with special guardianship arrangements. It was a wonderful opportunity for carers to come together, connect, and share experiences in a relaxed and supportive environment.

We had a fantastic turnout, and the conversations were both meaningful and encouraging. These sessions are an important way for us to strengthen partnerships and ensure every child feels supported both at home and in school.

We're already looking forward to our next coffee morning in December, and we hope to see even more of you there. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this first event such a success!

**Mrs Waywell**

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## Tubs to Pub Collection - Supporting Macmillan Cancer Support

We are excited to take part in the Tubs to Pub initiative to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we donated over 100 tubs!

From now until February, we will be collecting empty sweet, chocolate, and biscuit tubs.

Why get involved?

- Helps raise vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support
- Keeps hard-to-recycle plastics out of landfill
- Supports the creation of useful items like garden furniture and dog agility equipment
- All profits go directly to Macmillan

Please drop off your empty tubs at main reception and help us make a difference! Thank you for your support.



### WHY DONATE?

- Helps raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support
- Keeps hard-to-recycle plastics out of landfill
- Supports the creation of items like garden furniture & dog agility equipment
- All profits donated to Macmillan!

**Mr Snowdon**

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## Business Studies News

The Autumn Budget sparked a lot of debate, whether this be about the 40% tax bracket, the state pension or inflation.

We like our Business Studies students being part of this conversation. We therefore invited Mr Haroon Ahmed, Senior Lecturer, Accounting and Finance, Bedford University, to come in at the end of November to help our students understand how the budget will affect them now and in the future. A number of Year 10 Business Studies students were also invited to take part in this presentation. The conversation touched on key areas of their curriculum including how the budget will directly impact rate of inflation, economic growth and change rates.

**Mr Mataire**

## Sister Act

This year's musical, 'Sister Act', took place on the evenings

of 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> December, with an additional matinee performance to local primary schools. Some of the Sixth Form students also took numbers from the show and performed them at a local residential home, continuing our links with the local community.

The fabulous evening events showcased the high level of talent we have within the school. Students auditioned for the musical at the start of September, and we had a record turn-out, with more performers than ever wanting to be part of the show. The exciting unveiling of the cast list then began the intense rehearsal process. Performers have attended rehearsals in all disciplines every week, and worked tirelessly to provide such a high-quality and professional production.

Additional students also signed up to be part of the stage crew, an integral part of the production, working hard to ensure all props, set and performers themselves were in place, and the performance ran smoothly.

We are proud of all the students and staff involved, and thank all family and friends who attended the show to support the school and its students.

Mrs Taylor



## Apprenticeship Evening

As part of our careers programme and our commitment to making students aware of post-16 opportunities, we hosted an Apprenticeship Evening for Year 11, Sixth Form students, and their parents and carers.

The event was supported by local employers, businesses, and the college. We were delighted to have a very insightful presentation from Julie-Ann Hammond from Defue, who shared an employer's perspective on apprenticeships and the skills needed for success.

Mrs Unwin



## Computer Science Coding Clubs

Our Junior and Senior Coding clubs are up and running with more students taking up the clubs than in previous years. The students hone their coding skills and get to participate in various competitions, which we regularly win!

The Year 10 group is particularly good at this with key students such as Oliver, Steven and Harry going out of their way helping the younger students develop their coding skills.

Mr Mataire

## Business and Entrepreneurship Club

We are starting a Business and Entrepreneurship club focusing on our GCSE Business students; this will offer a variety of activities designed to foster creativity, problem-solving skills, and entrepreneurial spirit among students. Activities will include students doing virtual invention of products and pitching their ideas combining creativity and public speaking, as well as mock job interviews: These will help students develop their communication skills and confidence for real-world job scenarios.

We hope to bring in people of our local business communities to discuss with students' challenges faced by running a business in the real world.

Mr Mataire

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## Young Carers

We are collating information for our Young Carers in school. If your child is already listed as a Young Carer then there is no need to contact us. Equally, if your child is listed with us as a Young Carer and circumstances have now changed, please get in touch.

A Young Carer is a person under 18 who looks after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled, has a mental health problem or an addiction.

As many as one in five pupils in the UK could be a Young Carer. Often these children are caring for relatives without the knowledge of the school, slipping through the net, undetected by support services. The caring role they carry out means they have unique experiences and demands that impact on their capacity to enjoy and achieve their full potential at school.

If you believe that your child is, or could be a Young Carer, then please contact Mr Snowdon at [j.snowdon@mrus.co.uk](mailto:j.snowdon@mrus.co.uk).

Mr Snowdon



## Pupil Voice Conference - Student Representation

Six students attended the Borough's Pupil Voice Conference, joining peers from other local schools to discuss key issues affecting young people in Bedford. The event provided an opportunity for students to share ideas and collaborate on topics such as education, the environment, crime, mental health support, local transport, and even the exciting arrival of Universal Studios.

Students represented themselves and the school exceptionally well. They worked in mixed groups, respectfully listening to and sharing different perspectives. Each student had the chance to present their group's findings to the wider audience of students and professionals, and they demonstrated confidence and maturity throughout the day.

A special mention goes to Scarlett, who impressed her group's facilitator and was singled out for praise for her contributions.

We are proud of all the students who took part: Imogen, Scarlett, Zainab, Oscar, Charlie and Tinotenda.

Thank you to these students for being such fantastic ambassadors for our school!

Mr Snowdon

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## FUN 4 YOUNG PEOPLE

There are a range of activities for students in Years 7 to 11 via this local charity; we also host one on a Monday!



Take a look at what's on offer locally.

Mr Snowdon

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## Year 7 and 8 Explore Football Trophy at Barclays Bank

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an exciting extra-curricular football experience right in the heart of Bedford Town. The group had the unique opportunity to visit Barclays Bank, where they were able to see both the Women's and Men's Football Trophies up close.



Students learned fascinating background information about these prestigious trophies, gaining insight into their history and significance in the world of football. It was a fantastic chance for our young football enthusiasts to connect with the sport beyond the pitch.

The visit was not only educational but also inspiring, and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Opportunities like this help broaden horizons and deepen appreciation for the game.



A big thank you to everyone who helped make this memorable trip possible!

**Mr Paolini**

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## An Unforgettable Evening at Stamford Bridge!

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 42 students had the incredible opportunity to visit Stamford Bridge and watch the thrilling Chelsea vs Barcelona Champions League match. The atmosphere was electric, and both staff and students were fully immersed in the excitement of world-class football.

The evening was filled with unforgettable moments, but one stood out above the rest, one of our students received a signed football boot from a Chelsea player! This special gesture made the experience even more memorable and will surely be cherished for years to come.

Trips like these are more than just fun, they inspire our students, create lasting memories, and strengthen the sense of community within our school. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible. We look forward to many more enriching experiences like this in the future!

**Mr Paolini**

## National Poetry Day - Poetry Slam

Students in all year groups took part in a poetry slam to celebrate National Poetry Day. Students were encouraged to either bring across poems that they had written themselves or share the work of their favourite writers.

A packed-out Space for Learning heard from students in Year 7 through to Year 13 who represented their houses with a variety of performances. It was such a huge success that it will now be a half-termly event!

**Mr Johnson**



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## Shuttleworth Trip

Mark Rutherford Shuttleworth Year 7 Trip!

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 30 Year 7 students went to Shuttleworth for the first 'takeover day'. There were many activities throughout the day, and the first one was to figure out what parts of vehicles were in various images we were presented with.

It was exciting to be able to see some of the planes in the famous Shuttleworth Collection, as well as some of the buses on display. We were able to test our aim in an old tank, aiming at a red laser dot! Towards the end of the event, we built a mini Spitfire.



This was a great event and we learned so much from the experience!

**Jason Year 7**

## SkillBuild Competition - Inspiring Future Tradespeople

Our Year 11 students with an interest in the trades had the fantastic opportunity to attend the SkillBuild Competition in Milton Keynes. This prestigious national event showcases the very best apprentices from across the country, competing in practical challenges that demonstrate exceptional craftsmanship and skill.

During the visit, our students observed high standards in a range of trades, including carpentry, stonemasonry, roofing, and painting, among others. They also took part in hands-on workshops, creating items such as spice racks and slate Christmas trees, and explored a variety of other trade activities.

The experience was both educational and enjoyable, giving students a real insight into the opportunities available in vocational careers. We are proud of their enthusiasm and engagement throughout the day.

**Mrs Unwin**



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## Maths Workshop

Our Maths department has been working with local primary schools with a series of Maths workshops designed to challenge the Year 6 students. They also gave the students a fantastic opportunity to work with new people and put their Maths skills to the test in ways they might not have realised before.

All students have done a great job and engaged really well with the workshops. They also had a chance to look at their next steps and transition to secondary school, addressing any concerns and helping to make the process as smooth as possible while realising that Maths can be fun!

**Mr Doughty**

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## Airships XR Project

Bedford Creative Arts and Hyperactive

Developments visited to deliver a project that brings STEAM learning to life through the story of Bedford's airship heritage.

A group of Year 9s and a group of Year 10s were asked to trial a range of different digital immersive experiences aimed to support a range of learning outcomes across subjects including history, art, animation, game design, science (physics), Maths and engineering.

The ninety-minute workshops were packed with activities and the students explored the story of Britain's Imperial Airships, the R.100 and R.101, which operated from Cardington, Bedford, between 1929 and 1930. Using advanced XR (extended reality) production techniques like motion capture and virtual staging, live-action sequences were integrated into detailed 3D environments, accessible via various formats including VR (virtual reality) and AR (augmented reality).



The groups really engaged well with the workshops and were able to give some constructive feedback to the providers. We thank Bedford Creative Arts for the opportunity and hope that they continue deliver projects that make learning "memorable and aspirational".

**Ms Saunders**

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## Meet an Employer - Inspiring Future Careers



As part of our Exploring Careers programme, students have the chance to connect with local employers and learn about the wide range of careers and opportunities available in our local community. One of the highlights is our Speed Networking Event, where students rotate around the room and meet 4-5 employers in quick, engaging sessions.

We are incredibly grateful to local businesses, former students, and community members who volunteer their time to make this event possible.

If you have an interesting job and would like to share your experience to inspire the next generation, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact our Careers Lead, Mrs Unwin.

**Mrs Unwin**

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## Art Clubs

The Art Clubs have proved extremely popular this year, with around sixty students from Key Stage 3 regularly attending. Currently the Art Department is offering two after school clubs; one for Year 7s only, which is growing in popularity week on week, run by former student, Gaby Ryan.

She is currently using her illustration expertise to support the designing and creation of personalised tote bags.

The Thursday club for Years 7, 8 and 9 offers a range of different techniques and processes, changing every couple of weeks. Thus far students have tried out paper mâché, origami, gem art and portrait drawing. As well as enhancing fine motor skills, hand eye co-ordination and problem-solving skills these clubs offer a real opportunity for students to boost their self-esteem by making work that provides a sense of accomplishment.

According to Kings College London, even viewing art can have a positive effect on the body; participants in a study were monitored and it was found that Cortisol levels – the key stress hormone – fell by an average of 22% whilst they viewed art in a gallery.

**Ms Saunders**



## ADA Lovelace Day

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, nine girls from Year 10 were given a unique insight into the different roles involved in the food industry.

As part of the ADA Lovelace day, Colworth Science Park put together an interactive morning to show students how marketing, flavours, packaging and health considerations are balanced to deliver the products we all know and love.

The students started by looking at the quantity of sugar

in some well-known products and they tested this on lab equipment. Some of the results surprised students and made them think about what they eat and drink. They then looked at the research carried out regarding how these quantities of sugar affected teeth.

Our next stop was regarding taste testing and packaging. We were fortunate enough to test a range of ice teas from those with zero flavourings to those with flavour. The students started to understand how the layers of flavour were built. They also saw the range of packaging used and started to appreciate why certain packaging was favoured over others.

The students then became advertising executives, coming up with concept adverts for some ice tea products. They were allowed to consider the theme, colours and arrangement of the adverts, before they were professionally photographed.

The final session was all about flavour. They even got to build their own strawberry flavourings after smelling a range of options. The company explained how and why artificial flavourings are sometimes used in certain products.

The students, some of whom are studying GCSE Food Technology, came away with a much better understanding of our food industry. On top of that they also heard about the huge range of careers available and the different pathways open to them.

**Dr Pateman**



## Numeracy November Across the Curriculum

Throughout November, the Maths Department continued with the whole-school initiative called Numeracy November. The purpose was to show students that numeracy is used across different subjects, not only in Maths lessons.

Teachers from the Art, Geography, History and PE departments took part by delivering cross-curricular numeracy activities. Each Tuesday, students could attend sessions demonstrating how mathematical skills and reasoning are applied within these subjects.

In Art, pupils looked at the Maths involved in perspective drawing by creating "House City" illustrations. This included using vanishing points and angles to understand how geometry supports the structure of perspective. In Geography, students worked with map coordinates and time zones. They completed tasks that required calculating distances and time differences using geographical data. During History, students used wartime data to examine how numerical information was applied to the development of aircraft design. This activity focused on interpreting statistics and understanding their practical use in historical contexts. In PE, students calculated averages from long-jump results. They used these figures to compare performance and see how basic data analysis is used in sports.

Across all departments involved, students were able to observe how numeracy features in a range of subjects and activities. The initiative aimed to highlight the relevance of mathematical skills in different contexts throughout the school.

**Mrs Montgomery**



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## Year 11 Boys Football - District Cup Winners

We'd like to give a huge congratulations to the Year 11B Team, who were crowned District

Football Cup champions after an outstanding run of performances.



The boys went the entire competition unbeaten, finishing with a perfect 100% record, a brilliant achievement and a real testament to their teamwork and determination.

Under the guidance of Mr Paolini, the team grew stronger with every game. Their organisation, work rate and willingness to play for each other made them incredibly tough to beat. It was a well-deserved win and a great way for the boys to finish their school football journey.

**Mr Gale**

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## Year 7 Boys Football - A Fantastic First Season

Our Year 7 boys have made an impressive start to their time representing the school, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the district league in their debut season. Many of them have only recently started playing competitive football together, but you wouldn't know it from the way they've clicked as a team.

The team now turns their attention to the County Cup, and they're aiming high, they've got their eyes firmly on going all the way. The boys have shown brilliant chemistry, plenty of enthusiasm, and moments of real individual skill that suggest they have a bright future ahead.



**Mr Marin**

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## Year 9 Basketball - Resilient and Determined

The Year 9 basketball team have shown great resilience this half term, especially in some demanding fixtures against strong opposition. No matter the challenge, the boys continued to compete with determination and a positive attitude.

A particular highlight has been the leadership shown by Elnathan, who has consistently given everything on the court. His drive and competitiveness have helped lift the whole team, and he's played a key role in keeping spirits high during tough matches.



Mr Marin

## U14 Girls Football - Strong Wins and Standout Performances

Our U14 girls football team have also enjoyed a successful half term, putting in some excellent displays and securing several impressive victories. Their standout moment came in the County Cup, where they recorded a strong win over Lealands. The game was lit up by Shay, who delivered a superb performance and scored a hat-trick to seal the result. The whole team combined well, balancing a confident attacking approach with solid defending throughout the match.



Miss Young

## Sixth Form Team on tour!

The Sixth Form team visited Daubeney School and Goldington Academy, to talk to Year 11 students about the Sixth Form offer at Mark Rutherford School. Students who had been to those schools supported the presentation and spoke enthusiastically about their experiences of transition.

It is always great to get out into the community and meet students from different providers - the number of external students attending our recent Sixth Form Open Evening showed what an impact we are having when we go 'on tour'! Thanks to Warren, Oscar and Lewis for helping with these events.

Ms Vallance

## Sixth Form: Amazing Attendance

At the last count, our Year 12 attendance was 94% and Year 13's was 94.5%. This is truly impressive for any year group, and especially so for Sixth Form students when the average attendance for 16-18-year-olds in the UK is typically around 85%, according to the Association of Colleges' latest survey data for 2023/24.

That our students' attendance is so high is testament to both their determination to succeed and, hopefully, a reflection of their enjoyment of their time in the Sixth Form.

Ms Vallance

## Academic Mentoring Day - Sixth Form Style!

Year 12 students and parents/carers took up the opportunity to meet with tutors in October. This was great timing for Year 12, as they have been working hard on transitioning from Year 11; additionally, we have a number of tutors new to the Sixth Form and they were pleased to have the opportunity to develop positive relationships with students and parents/carers. Year 12 attendance to Academic Mentoring appointments was very high; at the end of the school year, we have a second Academic Mentoring Day which will look very different as we will be focusing on post-18 options and UCAS applications.

Year 13 attendance was also superb, and we welcomed Steph from the University of Bedfordshire as she worked with Year 13 to inform them about life as a university student - from finance and food to accommodation and academic endeavor's, Steph's advice was useful and engaging and inspired our Year 13 students to aim high!

## University of Northampton Event

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November, all Year 12 students attended a higher education discovery event at the University of Northampton. 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 information on the day, and attended various talks on options post-18. The day was a huge success and has inspired students to focus on the applications they will need to make as they progress through the Sixth Form.

**Ms Vallance**

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## Ready2Lead

Ready2Lead (R2L) is now into its seventh year with Mark Rutherford School being involved from the start. The project is designed to help our young people to become leaders. There are three sessions, where students hear from inspirational speakers, learn practical skills and meet others. Currently students are preparing their pitches for the final session where their ideas will be judged by the Mayor and other local dignitaries. Both teams have created innovative ideas.

Our thanks go to our colleagues at Bedford School for their hospitality.

**Mr Nicolls**

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## Super Statistics

The Sixth Form team has some great data to share - firstly that the increase to the size of the Year 12 cohort has been impressive, with 111 students starting the Sixth Form in September 2025. We have approximately 25% of students in Year 12 having come from different schools, and we are keen to welcome more external students to our provision as we have seen how seamlessly they are able to transition because of the warm welcome from students, and the

support of tutors and teachers.

While we are unable as yet to share 2025 results data as this is yet to be 'validated' (this will happen around the end of November), we are delighted to report that the results of students leaving Year 13 this year were excellent, with great 'added value' and with 47% of students achieving AAB grades.

The Destinations 2025 shows where our Year 13 students have headed to this year, and we wish them the best of luck and we look forward to welcoming them back to share their experiences of life post-18 with our students.



**Ms Vallance**

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## The Return of PDA

All students in the Sixth Form are invited to complete a Personal Development Activity (PDA), which might be coaching sports teams, working in lessons with younger students, paired reading with Year 7 and Year 8 students, leading extra-curricular clubs for younger students (e.g., Debate Society, Smarties), supporting other students with STEM activities or even mentoring younger students.

Year 12 and 13 students have PDA sessions timetabled, and it has been great to hear such positive feedback from other staff in the school, who have had nothing but praise to offer those who have supported or led any activities. PDA is an important part of our Sixth Form offer and gives students the opportunity to develop confidence, maturity and leadership abilities.

This will be developed further for September 2026, as we will be offering a range of 'Electives' for Year 12 students in addition to PDA, so they might explore a new topic, find new ways of studying, grow as leaders or public speakers.

**Ms Vallance**

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## Open Evening

Our annual Sixth Form Open Evening took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November, and we were delighted to have to provide additional seating, with each of the three talks on the evening being fully booked! Staff and students went over-and-above to ensure that the welcome to prospective Sixth Form students was a warm one, and to ensure that Year 11 students were met with enthusiasm as staff and students talked about their subjects. Year 11 students were able to browse a huge range of subjects to inspire their choices post-16, and we look forward to receiving students' applications via the Applicaa platform, accessible via this link:

<https://markrutherford.applicaa.com>

We were so pleased to see so many of our Year 11 students attending the event and aspiring to study in the Sixth Form, and we were equally thrilled to be able to welcome so many students from other schools to the event. We look forward to working with students through the application process and into Year 12!

**Ms Vallance**

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## Remembrance Day

Sixth Form students helped to mark the annual Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, firstly by selling poppies around the school (to support the RBL charities) and then by leading the school's Remembrance ceremony that took place in the Science quad during breaktime. Students were invited to listen to the presentation and the poem 'In Flanders Fields', and observe a period of silence that was heralded by Mr Sobiechowski playing The Last Post and the Reveille.



This was an incredibly poignant moment and students across the school conducted themselves with dignity and respect during the sombre moment of reflection.

**Ms Vallance**

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## Speakers

Year 12 were pleased to welcome the MP for Bedford, Mohammed Yasin to the school. There was an interesting discussion about political issues and current events. Through Futures for All, David Hoare spoke about success, outlined his long career in business and public work with Children's' Cancer Trust. Another key speaker was Morgan Tucker, an ex-student who described the transition to university life. This was supported by Steph Strange from the University of Bedfordshire who highlighted the process of applying to university.

**Mr Nicholls**

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## Supervised Study

We are fortunate to be able to offer a number of students some periods of Supervised Study, where they have been recommended by subject staff for some support. Staff have put forward names of students who may have had recent absences, who might be a late-starter to a course, or who have an assessment or exam coming up.

Equally, students might have been assigned Supervised Study lessons following an assessment which has identified that they need to do some more work on a particular topic. Students will be supported to prepare for the sessions by their tutors, and subject staff will ensure that students have plenty of work to complete in this intervention, where students will be able to work quietly in small numbers.

**Ms Vallance**

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## Positively You

Year 12 students enjoyed a workshop delivered by Positively You - an inspirational and engaging approach to independent learning. The transition between Year 11 and Year 12 is a challenging time, as students are increasingly responsible for organising their own time.

The workshops gave students a head-start in September, and it is fantastic to see students working around the Sixth Form areas as they progress through this first term of Key Stage 5 study.

Year 13 students are proving to be great role models for this mature approach to learning in the Sixth Form.

**Mr Nicholls**

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## Year 12 Teaching Conference

Year 12 students interested in teaching attended a Teaching Conference at the local University of Bedfordshire. The event gave students an insight into what courses entail for Primary Teaching and Physical Education (PE).

This was a fantastic opportunity for students to explore career pathways in education and gain valuable information about university-level teaching courses.

Mrs Unwin

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## Ivy House

The Ivy House Award is based upon professional training for executives and provides this for young people aged 15 to 18. We currently have a group from Year 12 who are exploring their self-motivation and styles of team working. This year we are working with Bedford School (leading the project), Biddenham International and Bedford Girls School.

Mr Nicholls

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## Year 12 Legal Eagles

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, five Year 12 Law students, Aoife, Noah, Olek, Eloise and Katrina, took part a mock court competition. The Sir Gavyn Arthur Mock Family Court Experience is a long-running event that tests students' advocacy and communication skills.

Our students competed at the University of Bedfordshire in Luton, in a mock court room setting overseen by Law professionals. The students were given three family law case scenarios and took on the role of solicitors. They prepared their cases, produced the relevant court documentation, and worked with a practising solicitor before drafting their statements for court. This experience offered them a valuable insight into what a career in the legal profession is really like.



The students demonstrated excellent advocacy skills and legal knowledge, and their thorough preparation was evident on the day. They presented their cases in front of magistrates, judges, and the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, all of whom were highly complimentary of their performance.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop their legal skills, gain practical experience, and engage with professionals at the highest level. They represented the Sixth Form exceptionally well and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

Miss Chamberlain

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## Spring Term Key Dates

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Staff Training Dates

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Term starts (all students)

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Parents Evening - Year 9 (Virtual)

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Year 9 Options Evening

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
Parents Evening - Year 11 (In-person)

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
(Half Term week)

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**  
Term starts (all students)

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
Parents Evening - Year 13 (Virtual)

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**  
Parents Evening Year 8 (Virtual)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
End of Term (early closure)

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# 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.

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