



The Rutherford   
**review**

## What's new?

- DanceLive! 2026
- World Book Day
- Sixth Form Highlights
- Key Dates

[ Motivated  
Respectful  
Successful ]

# SPRING ISSUE 2026

Welcome to our spring term's newsletter which is full of all of the positive things we have achieved in what feels like a short term.

Back in January, we received our Ofsted report and we were very happy with the observations and comments made by the inspection team to include *"pupils behave very well"* and that *"they are polite and respectful"*. This reflects how much the students care about their school and are keen to uphold our core values of being Motivated, Respectful and Successful. We are also proud that inspectors recognised the change of culture and ethos of our school and that our *"strong community feel pervades every aspect of school life"*. Since then, as a Leadership Team, we have been driving the next stage of our journey at a strategic level.

The term started with mock exams for our students in Years 11 and 13. Their attendance, behaviour and attitudes were exemplary, which sets the scene for a positive summer season of exams starting in early May. Since then, our Year 10s have had their mock exams in the core subjects of English and Maths, and Year 12 do theirs soon into the start of the summer term.

As always, in addition to the day-to-day life of school and delivering the curriculum, there has been an extensive range of personal development activities on offer. From sporting fixtures and success at a dance competition, as well as the wide range of trips and visits, locally, nationally and internationally; it is clear we offer something for everyone in our school community.

Please take the time to read this edition; we hope you enjoy all that it has to offer. Thank you for your ongoing support as together, we can continue to ensure our school is a place where every child feels supported, challenged and valued.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable Easter break before we welcome the students back for all that the summer term has to offer from Monday 13th April 2026.



Mrs K Foster  
Headteacher



## Year 10 Coding Team Challenge

Our Year 10 Coding Team recently took part in a coding challenge run by Perse Coding Team. They have progressed from Round 1 and have just completed the second round. The 'Perse Coding Team Challenge' (PCTC) is an annual coding competition for students in Years 7–11 (England and Wales) or equivalent in Scotland and Northern Ireland, with international schools eligible for certificates only. Teams compete online at their own schools under teacher supervision, solving a series of text-based coding challenges across two rounds. The students who took place in this challenge are: Oliver, Lukas, Steven and Harry. Good luck boys.

More coding teams will be put together for the annual BCS competition which we have won for the past four years.

**Mr Mataire**

## Cyber Explorer Cup

'Cyber Explorers', an initiative led by the UK Government, is a free learning programme that teaches cyber security skills to 11-14 year olds, and introduces them to careers in the field. Complementary to the learning programme, the 'Cyber Explorers Cup', launched in 2024, returns for its third year, offering a fun, interactive competition for students across the nation.

This year we had a number of Year 7 and 8 students taking part on the 16th March 2026. Students taking part are: Jess, Peyton, Jake, Magnus, Jason, Henry and Dawid. Oliver and Harry will help the young students in this competition.



**Mr Mataire**

## History Department: Berlin Trip

This February half-term the History department had the pleasure of taking twenty one Year 10 students to Berlin to further enhance their knowledge of the GCSE Weimar and Nazi Germany course and give them an insight to our Year 11 unit on the 'Cold War'. We had a walking tour, which included visiting Brandenburg Gate, the Holocaust Memorial, the site of Hitler's bunker and an evening visit to the TV tower to see the view of the Berlin skyline at night.

This was followed by a jam-packed itinerary which included a tour of the Reichstag and an opportunity to see the skyline of Berlin through the Reichstag dome during the daytime with the glorious sunshine, which was very welcomed given the cold weather! The flurry of snow also didn't stop us from seeing Check Point Charlie, the Palace of Tears, Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the Berlin Wall, the German Resistance Museum, Typography of Terror to learn about the Nazi police state in more depth and the DDR Museum to learn more about life during the 'Cold War'.

We are delighted to run this trip annually and further enhance the historical experience of our GCSE students.

**Mrs Bubbra**

## Performing Arts Trips

Students studying BTEC Performing Arts have had an exciting term, gaining valuable inspiration from a range of live theatre experiences. During this time, students attended performances of 'Lost Atoms', 'The Red Shoes', 'MJ The Musical', and 'Operation Mincemeat'. Experiencing such a variety of professional productions has allowed students to explore different performance styles, staging approaches, and creative storytelling, all of which support their practical and coursework development.

Alongside these visits, our BTEC students have also been contributing to the school's entry for the 'Junior Theatre Festival'. They have been involved in creating and developing material for the 'High School Musical' piece that will represent the school at the festival in May. Their work behind the scenes and during the creative process has been a fantastic demonstration of collaboration and commitment.

These opportunities continue to play an important role in broadening students' understanding of the performing arts industry and developing their confidence as young performers and creators.

**Performing Arts**



## Drama Trips

It has been a busy and exciting time for the Drama Department, with students enjoying a range of enriching theatrical experiences.

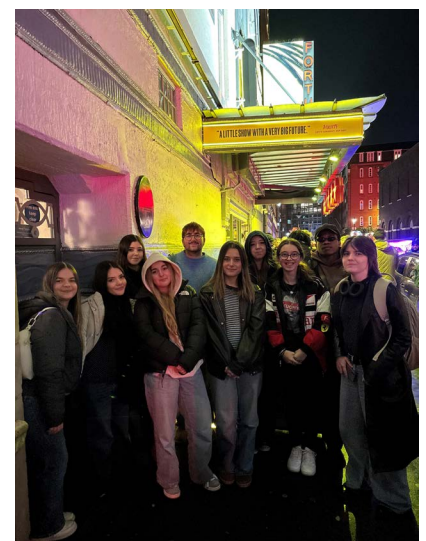
Our GCSE and A Level Drama students had the opportunity to attend theatre trips to see 'Lost Atoms' and 'Operation Mincemeat'. Both productions offered inspiring examples of professional theatre and gave students valuable insight into performance and staging beyond the classroom.

Students across all year groups have also been working hard towards 'Bedfordshire Festival of Music', 'Speech & Drama', which provided a fantastic opportunity to showcase their creativity, collaboration, and performance skills. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and dedication shown throughout the process.

In addition, our Key Stage 3 students enjoyed a trip to see 'Oliver! The Musical', giving them a brilliant introduction to live musical theatre.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and commitment our students continue to show both in lessons and through these wider opportunities.

**Drama Department**



## Dance Students Represent Mark Rutherford At DanceLive! Competition

Students from Mark Rutherford School travelled to High Wycombe on Monday 16th March to take part in the 'DanceLive!' competition. The piece was performed by dancers in Years 7-13 representing our 'Make your Mark Theatre Company'. We also took students who performed many other roles including lighting design, filming, costume/make-up and stage crew.

The students worked very hard for six months to create a seven minute theatre dance piece entitled '33'. The piece takes place in a dystopian, surreal world and begins in the city of Lumiere. In this world, floating rock and debris are commonplace. Once a year, a mysterious Paintress awakens and paints a single number on a distant monolith. Every person whose age matches that number is immediately erased from existence, turning into rose petals, leaving nothing but memories. Year by year, that number ticks down and more people are erased, until the civilians, led by a fierce warrior, decide to rise up and challenge the her. Will they succeed in defeating the 'Paintress' and saving future generations? The performance also incorporates an interactive video into the performance, adding geographical backdrops and an additional aesthetic layer to the piece. This was also created by talented students from our Sixth Form Media Studies course.

'Dance Live!' is an exciting event for schools and colleges brought to you by The Guildhall Trust. It sees young people in KS2-4 and Further Education compete with choreographed routines against the backdrop of a giant digital screen, with pupils showcasing a range of skills from dance and performance to off-stage technical skills. The day is exciting and so beneficial for all students involved. This was the first year that Mark Rutherford has attended and competed in the event, and we hope to continue this in future years. We received some excellent feedback from the judges including that they loved the choreography, the inclusion of the LED screen, the twist at the end of the performance, and the storytelling and contrast between the mood in different sections. Overall we were placed 3rd, and were also awarded the 'concept' award. The piece will be showcased in this year's annual Dance Display at school, along with a variety of other high quality dance pieces. The dance display will be held at the school at the end of June 2026.

### Dance Department

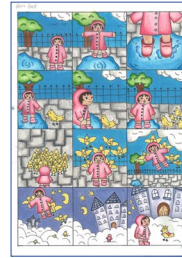


## Art Workshop

In November 2025 the Art Department had a workshop delivered by Abigail Rai, a cartoonist and illustrator. She worked with Year 9 students, exploring how to create a narrative in their art work responding to the theme of 'Aspire: Nurture Your Potential'. The workshop was funded by the Harpur Trust as part of the biannual schools' Art competition.

The students continued to work on their pieces in their own time and we have submitted the very best ones into the competition. The judging takes place in March and the results will be revealed in May. At least two pieces from Mark Rutherford School students will be framed and put on display at the Higgins Museum and Art Gallery and be available for the public to view throughout the summer.

### Ms Saunders



## UK MATH Challenge Competition Year 9 and 10

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding efforts of our Year 9 and 10 students who recently took part in the 'UK Math Challenge' competition. Their achievements are a credit to themselves, their families and the school community.

We would like to recognise: Daniel, Fraser and Oliver who were awarded gold certificates. Achieving a gold certificate is a significant accomplishment and reflects a high level of maths skill and logical thinking.

In addition, we are delighted to announce that two students have been invited to progress to the next level of the competition. This is a remarkable achievement and an exciting opportunity for them to develop their talents while representing our school at a higher stage. We wish Daniel and Fraser best of luck. We look forward to celebrating their continued success.

We congratulate all students who took part for their hard work and positive attitude. Participation in competitions such as this encourages confidence, problem-solving skills, and a love of learning, and we are incredibly proud of everyone involved.

### Mrs Montgomery

## FACES

Year 11 Health and Social Care students, Rhianna, Kianna and Tilly have helped organise donations to local charity 'FACES' (Family and Children's Early-help Services). We were able to deliver over ten large bags full of clothes, toys, books and toiletries. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection.



### Mr Snowdon

## Dear England

On Thursday 22nd January, five staff and twenty nine students travelled to Milton Keynes Theatre to watch a production of 'Dear England'.

The show followed the career of Sir Gareth Southgate, from his appointment as the England caretaker manager, in 2016, to his eventual resignation following The European Championships in 2024.

The show was superb and a real insight into the psychology behind Southgate's success. The students and staff had a fantastic afternoon being entertained by an amazing cast and incredibly well put together production. It was also an opportunity to reminisce over some of the biggest moments in recent English football. We are very grateful for the recommendation from the Drama department, that had taken a group to see this previously.

Mr Snowdon



## Poetry Live

In February, our Year 11 students attended the nationally renowned 'Poetry Live' events in Northampton and Peterborough, designed to deepen pupils' understanding of the GCSE English Literature anthology. Across both venues, students had the privilege of hearing live readings from some of the UK's most influential contemporary poets, including Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, John Agard, Imtiaz Dharker, Daljit Nagra, and Owen Sheers. These poets shared not only their work but also insights into the creative and cultural contexts behind their writing.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity for students to engage directly with the poets through question and answer sessions – an invaluable chance to explore themes, interpretations, and stylistic choices from the writers themselves. Students also took part in two highly informative sessions led by experienced GCSE examiners, focusing on how to approach unseen poetry and how to compare poems effectively – core skills essential for success in their upcoming examinations.

Our students represented the school with exemplary conduct throughout, demonstrating maturity, curiosity, and a genuine enthusiasm for expanding their understanding of poetry. They returned not only inspired by the performances they witnessed but also better equipped with the analytical tools needed for the demands of GCSE study.

This enriching experience supported both academic progress and cultural appreciation, and we are proud of the way our students embraced the opportunity.

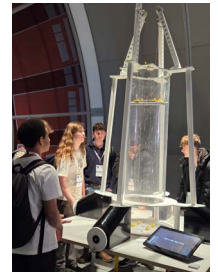
Mr Johnson



## CERN Trip

On Friday 6th March, Year 13 Science students assembled at Bedford train station at 4am to embark on an exciting journey to Geneva, Switzerland to visit the home of Particle Physics – CERN. The students visited the interactive museum, where they explored the fundamental physics the Large Hadron Collider is based on. This was later followed by a guided tour to two experiments on the cutting edge of research; the 'Neutrino Platform' and the 'Antimatter Factory', both of which could help to explain the nature of dark matter and the matter/ antimatter imbalance in the universe. A really inspiring and enjoyable day for students and staff.

Mr Stokes, Ms Pinsent and Mr Betts



## Revision Day

Year 13 Media Studies students recently travelled to the British Film Institute (BFI) in London to take part in a specialist A Level revision day designed to deepen their understanding of the subject ahead of the summer exams. This is the second consecutive year we have taken students to this event, and once again it proved to be a valuable experience.

Throughout the day, students revisited the core Media Studies frameworks and theorists, consolidating their knowledge of key concepts that underpin both components of the A Level course. They also had the opportunity to apply this learning to a range of unseen media texts, helping to strengthen their analytical skills and prepare them for the demands of the exam.

A particularly beneficial part of the programme focused on Component 2, where students explored insights into the set television texts, gaining a deeper understanding of how industry, audience, and context shape media products. Hearing these perspectives directly from experts at the BFI added an important layer to their revision.

Students found the event highly rewarding, especially as they were able to hear questions, ideas, and interpretations from other A Level Media students from across the country. This collaborative atmosphere helped them broaden their thinking and refine their own responses.

We are delighted with how engaged our students were throughout the day and look forward to offering the trip again for next year's A Level cohort. In time, we hope to expand opportunities like this to include our GCSE Media Studies students, ensuring they too can benefit from the rich resources and expertise available at the BFI.

Mrs Curtis

## Field Trip

It has been a busy time in the Geography department with field trips and a climate change conference having been attended this term. Year 11 students had two successful field study days, one at home in Bedford and one in Felixstowe, to collect data for their Paper 3 examination.

The days were intense but really rewarding and enjoyable visits and the weather was very favourable compared to what we were expecting! Coming up we have Year 10 field study visits and A Level visits to look at urbanisation and changing places in London, as well as a three day residential visit to Southwold for Year 12 students. We are also looking to relaunch a geography/environmental club, so watch this space!

Mr Morgan



## Donations Of Tubs

Thanks to donations from parents, students and staff, we were able to donate 231 used tubs to the Greene King Brewery. The plastic will be recycled and all proceeds then go to Macmillan Cancer Support. Our Environment Ambassadors spent some time organising and counting the tubs, before they went off to a local pub. Thank you to all of you that have contributed to this initiative.

Mr Snowdon



## World Book Day at Mark Rutherford School

'World Book Day' began with an exciting break from routine as all students were taken off-timetable for Period 1 to participate in our whole-school '1% Club' challenge. Representing their tutor groups – and proudly flying the flag for their houses – students tackled a series of increasingly demanding reading and writing questions. The event promoted teamwork, healthy competition, and academic resilience, giving students the chance to demonstrate not only their literacy skills but also their problem-solving and critical thinking under pressure. The atmosphere was one of friendly rivalry and intellectual curiosity, with students pushing themselves to secure those crucial points for their houses.

Throughout the day, the entire school community also engaged in a shared reading experience centred on Isaac Asimov's short story 'The Fun They Had'. Students read short sections with their form tutors in the morning, while teachers across the school took turns reading additional excerpts at intervals throughout the day. This collective experience created a sense of anticipation and unity, sparking discussions about the story's themes and inviting students to consider how reading can both entertain and challenge us. The staggered reveal of each section kept students engaged, curious, and talking about reading well beyond their English classrooms.

Together, these activities celebrated the joy of reading, strengthened our culture of literacy, and reminded students those stories have the power to connect us, inspire us, and expand our understanding of the world. Our students' enthusiasm, teamwork, and thoughtful engagement made this World Book Day a truly memorable occasion.

Mr Johnson



## Music Department News

The Music Department has enjoyed a very productive period, with students involved in a range of performances and creative projects.

Many of our Orchestra students contributed to the 'Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech & Drama', where their hard work and dedication played an important role in supporting their performance at the festival. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to share their musical talents and collaborate with others involved in the event.

Students have also been busy learning vocals for the 'MTI Junior Theatre Festival', which will take place in May. Their efforts have helped bring the production to life, and it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and commitment shown throughout rehearsals.

In addition, the department recently hosted a very successful 'Spring Music Concert'. Students performed to a fantastic standard after many weeks of preparation, and the evening was a wonderful celebration of the musical talent within our school community.

Mr Phelps

## Planetarium on Tour

During the Spring term the Planetarium has been on its travels appearing at Bedford Central Library during half term for two days and then being used by Wilden Primary School for an evening community event.

The Central Library started to promote the visit Monday 9th February with four sessions each day. All sessions were 'sold out' by Tuesday morning!

Each session was for thirty people (adults and children) and lasted for fifty minutes.

All sessions were live shows featuring a tour of the solar system, a short show about galaxies, another short show about constellations and if time allowed a show about satellites.

It seemed as if the area where the Planetarium is setup in the library was made for the Planetarium!

We look forward to providing similar sessions in the future.



The Planetarium was also able to support Wilden Primary School with their evening community event on Wednesday 4th March.

This was for two sessions with thirty tickets available for each session. Like the Central Library event, the tickets went fast.

All attendees said they enjoyed the tour of the solar system with some saying they'd learnt something new.

Mr Betts

## Cavendish Physics Festival: Planetarium, Cambridge

The Planetarium appeared at the Cambridge Festival based in the Cavendish Science Laboratories.

Five sessions were presented throughout the day. Look out for any future events.

Mr Betts




## House Captains


We have now completed our elections for the House Captains and Vice-Captains. Following a formal election 'campaign' and student vote, two captains, from the Sixth Form and two Vice-Captains, from each year group, have been elected for each House. I am pleased to announce the successful students are as follows. We will be working together to improve the experiences of all students across the school, as this will be our foundation for our Student Voice group. Each student deserves huge congratulations for being successfully appointed. There was a lot of competition for the places and each candidate had to convince their peers to vote for them.



- CAPTAINS:  
Maisy C and Louis C-R
- VICE-CAPTAINS:  
Year 7 – Darcie S and Lily E  
Year 8 – Lydia T and Khalil U  
Year 9 – Nika P and Sahaea Q  
Year 10 – Harry J and Kacper T  
Year 11 – Ferdows A and Jake T
- HEADS OF HOUSE:  
Mr Stokes and Mr Paolini



- CAPTAINS:  
Nate J and Sanskriti P
- VICE-CAPTAINS:  
Year 7 – Corey D and Mariam D  
Year 8 – Isher S and Thea A  
Year 9 – Kenton B and Noah N  
Year 10 – Unathi M and Kuba K  
Year 11 – Adrian J and Sophia W-K
- HEADS OF HOUSE:  
Mr Bevan, Miss Chamberlain and Mr Hopla



- CAPTAINS:  
Emerson T and Harry L
- VICE-CAPTAINS:  
Year 7 – Ollie A and Barbara W  
Year 8 – Amar J and Mimi A  
Year 9 – Ezarah H and Tino T  
Year 10 – Nouff A and Tafara M  
Year 11 – Amiyah J and Ethan G
- HEADS OF HOUSE:  
Miss Wallis and Miss Hunt



- CAPTAINS:  
Niamh B and Archie H
- VICE-CAPTAINS:  
Year 7 – Imogen W and Aavanyan K  
Year 8 – Zainab J and Mia H  
Year 9 – Adam O and Fatima J  
Year 10 – Jamie W and Connor B  
Year 11 – Michael I and Mason Marriott
- HEADS OF HOUSE:  
Mr Marin and Mr McKenzie

## House Cup- Latest Scores!!

Our most recent events have been an Art competition and our second 'Poetry Slam', with Attenborough House taking 1st place in the Art and Farah House (thanks to Fatima) taking top spot in the Poetry. This means that our current scores are:





1st = CURIE – 151

2nd = ATTENBOROUGH – 106

3rd = BLACKMAN – 99

4th FARAH - 98

Curie House is still comfortably out in front. Can they be caught up following our next round of events; 'Marky's Got Talent!' 'Marky Comes Dancing', 'The Staff Darts tournament' and 'The Great Rutherford Bake Off'. Students are encouraged to participate and support. Points will be awarded, as normal, for final places as well as attendance to spectate.

HOUSE CUP TOTALS		
1 <sup>st</sup>		151
2 <sup>nd</sup>		106
3 <sup>rd</sup>		99
4 <sup>th</sup>		98

Mr Snowdon

## Macbeth Production Brings Shakespeare To Life For Year 10

On 28th January, our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to watch a live performance of 'Macbeth' delivered by the talented team at Quantum Theatre. The visiting production brought Shakespeare's tragic tale to life in an accessible and engaging way, offering students a valuable experience of the play they are studying for GCSE.

Despite the play's complexity and large cast, just four skilled actors performed the entire production. Their impressive ability to shift seamlessly between characters not only showcased their versatility but also helped students clearly follow key plot moments and thematic developments.

The performance was met with enthusiasm from our students, who particularly enjoyed the energy and intensity of the staging. A standout moment for many was the dramatic fight scene at the end of Act 5, which captured the tension and high stakes of Macbeth's final downfall.

Bringing live theatre into school enriches our curriculum and helps students deepen their understanding of the texts they study. We are delighted that Year 10 responded so positively and look forward to offering similar opportunities in the future.

Mrs Curtis

## House Competition - Poetry Slam

This half term, our students took centre stage in our vibrant 'Poetry Slam', an event that invited them to craft their own original poetry and perform it in front of their peers. The atmosphere was one of creativity, courage, and genuine mutual support, as students explored language, expressed personal experiences, and experimented with poetic form.

Opportunities like this help students develop confidence, refine their spoken language skills, and deepen their understanding of how poetic techniques shape meaning.

Most importantly, it allows them to take ownership of their literacy – moving from analysing poets' work to becoming poets themselves.

We are immensely proud of the ambition and maturity shown by all who took part. Their growing confidence in writing and performing is a testament to their hard work and a clear sign of their developing literacy. This event not only showcased their talent but also reinforced our commitment to nurturing articulate, thoughtful, and creative young people.

Mr Johnson



## Options and Careers Evening

In January, we hosted our 'Options and Careers' evening, with a return to a previous format with school subjects and external visitors alongside each other. This enabled students and their parents to see job and career prospects, and talk to the visitors about routes and opportunities. We also had two talks about the options process in the Drama hall. We were pleased to welcome along local colleges and universities, local businesses and training providers. We also had an ex-student returning who is now a qualified vet!

Mrs Unwin



## Young Writers - Published Authors!

This half term, our Key Stage 3 students proudly took part in the national 'Young Writers' competition, 'I Have A Dream', a celebrated creative writing challenge that invites young people to express their hopes, ambitions, and visions for the future. The competition encourages students to write imaginatively and reflect on meaningful ideas, offering them the exciting opportunity to have their work published in professionally produced anthologies.

We are delighted to share that twenty of our students achieved publication, having their writing selected by the 'Young Writers' editorial panel for inclusion in a printed anthology – a significant accomplishment that recognises both their talent and dedication. For students to see their work in print is a transformative experience, reinforcing their confidence and validating the power of their own voice.

Taking part in 'I Have A Dream' has not only celebrated our students' creativity but also strengthened their literacy skills, encouraging them to write with clarity, intention, and individuality. We are immensely proud of all participants, whose thoughtful and imaginative submissions reflect the growing confidence and capability of our young writers.

We look forward to celebrating these newly published authors and continuing to nurture a love of writing across Key Stage 3.

Mr Johnson



## Mark Rutherford Ski Trip To Italy

Our latest ski trip took place in Prato Nevoso, Italy, over February half-term. Thirty nine students and five staff endured a 30-hour coach journey to the Italian Alps but the conditions that greeted us were well worth it! We were greeted by a fresh dump of two feet of snow, which made life difficult getting up to our resort but meant the conditions were amazing during the day time. With blue skies most days and another foot of snow mid-week, we couldn't have wished for much better. Our instructors were brilliant and the best group I have ever worked with. The students made fantastic progress and every single one of them got the hang of the chair lifts (some more than others!) and managed to complete some runs on a red slope, by the end of the week! We all returned home in one piece, which is no mean feat for a school ski trip. Plenty of the students are keen to go again and, once I've recovered from this one, we will be starting the ball rolling for another so watch this space.



Mr Snowdon



## Work Experience

We have had a busy term with work experience being embedded into the school curriculum. Expectations from the government are that each child in Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) will should have a week of work experience, plus an additional full week in Year 10 and in Year 12. This has proved quite a challenge for the Careers Lead and for parents too. Parents have been amazing in sourcing opportunities at local primary schools (a huge thank you to our local schools for accommodating students), and with friends and family in and around Bedford. It has been super reading about all their experiences.

*"The day went really well. I was proud of how Owen was confident enough to ask lots of questions and wanted to get involved. He enjoyed meeting the team and took a real interest".* Year 9 parent

*"Daniel engaged well with everyone, took on tasks with enthusiasm. He represented himself very well and made a good impression with managers and directors".*

These opportunities are often the first chance students have to experience a work place, and it gives them such a confidence and a different view of their parents and their responsibilities. It also opens their eyes up to a wider range of businesses, and companies and roles that are available.

We desperately need help with our Year 10 and Year 12 placements – so if this was a good experience for you, and you have the capacity to open the door to other students please do get in touch with us to discuss it further. These students are your future work force; you have the opportunity to influence them now. Please contact our careers lead, Kath Unwin, at school to discuss further.

### Facts and figures:

Year 9 went out in January for two days and we had sixty five students going to placements. The Year 8s have just been out in March for two days and ninety eight of them have taken part which is brilliant. Year 7s are going out after Easter and we currently have fifty five allocated a placement, but that number will rise!

Mrs Unwin



## A Level PE Students Supported By The University Of Bedfordshire

As part of the A Level Physical Education course, Year 12 students are required to complete a significant piece of coursework that focuses on the key components of fitness most relevant to their chosen sport and playing position. This involves selecting and carrying out appropriate fitness tests, then analysing their results by comparing them with normative data, as well as peer and elite performer benchmarks.

Thanks to our strong links with the local University, students were given the exciting opportunity to use professional-standard equipment, including speed gates and power plates. This allowed them to collect highly valid and reliable data to support their coursework. Access to such advanced facilities is rare at school level, and we are extremely grateful to the University for their continued support in enhancing our students' learning experience.

Mrs Brown



# SIXTH FORM

## Sixth Form Work Experience

Students in Year 12 will have the opportunity to experience life in the workplace for a week in July (w/c 06.07.26). So far, students have secured places in a range of exciting environments, such as a veterinary practice, a media production company and in a local primary school. This valuable experience will help to prepare students for life after studying, and can support students in making informed choices about their next steps, post-18. Students are using the 'Unifrog' platform to register their placement, and any students who need further help or advice to organise their work experience should talk to their tutor, Mrs Unwin (Careers lead) or a member of the Sixth Form team.

## Out And About With The Sixth Form Team!

Members of the Sixth Form team visited Daubeney School in Kempston, to take part in their 'next steps' day where students from Year 7 to Year 11 were able to visit stalls and access information to support their future choices. Representatives from the Police, the University of Bedfordshire and Tui (among others!) attended the event, along with 'other post-16 providers located in the town centre!' We had some great conversations with students, and they were excited about what we have to offer them in Year 12!

The Sixth Form team also visited Goldington Academy and Castle Newnham School to conduct the interviews for students there who have applied to join the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School in September. Again, it was great to meet the students and we are sure they will be a great addition to our student body

## Young Enterprise Launched

The school has now subscribed to the 'Young Enterprise' scheme to help our students get hands-on experience on how businesses are run in the real world. 'Young Enterprise' is a charity that helps young people build the skills to thrive through hands-on financial and enterprise education. This includes managing money, starting a business, developing leadership skills and confidence building. Young people gain practical knowledge, find out what they're capable of and discover the self-belief to take the next step – into further study, employment or launching something of their own.

In line with how businesses are run, students have filled in key roles such as Managing Director, Finance Director and other key management roles. They have now setup a bank account and are currently working on the modalities of getting their business off the ground. Key Year 12 students running this are Maisie, Jake, Olivia, Harun and others. We are excited to see the students get their business operational and hopefully run a thriving business and make a profit.

## Mock Exams

Year 13 students sat their mock exams earlier this term, and experienced a 'results day' as they gathered to open the envelope containing their mock exam results. Some students were delighted with their outcomes, while others took the opportunity to refocus on their revision plans and work with their subject teachers to ensure that they understand how to improve and how to prepare for the real exams in the Summer term. We know students are working hard to secure grades of which they will be proud, and of course all staff working with Year 13 students are supporting them in lesson time and beyond, to ensure they are prepared for the challenges of the Summer exam season.

Year 12 students have taken Vocational mocks exams in Applied Science, Criminology and Health & Social Care (Performing Arts assessment currently being scheduled), and the A Level subjects' mock exams will take place w/c 27.04.26; please see the school website for details. The results of these assessments will inform teachers' planning for the Summer term, to ensure that students are well-prepared for beginning their Year 13 studies in September.

## Sixth Form Interviews And Applications Update

We have had two hundred and sixty nine completed applications for the Sixth Form this year (+sixty nine on last year), with one hundred and forty three of these coming from our current Year 11 cohort. It has been fantastic to have had so many conversations with students about their future pathways, and in the first week of March we held interviews after school, for students to talk to a key member of staff about their applications. It was great to have had more than twenty members of staff working on the interview process, and even better to have had such positive feedback from the staff following the interviews, stating what a pleasure it was to engage with students and support their aspirations post-16. We invited students who currently go to Castle Newnham School and Goldington Academy who have applied to the Sixth Form to visit for an interview and we look forward to welcoming them (and students from other providers!) to Year 12 in September. We will be going to Goldington and Castle to complete the outstanding interviews, and at that point we will have 40 more students to see, from various secondary providers from across the Borough and beyond.

The next step for students in Year 11 who have applied to the Sixth Form is to attend our taster day(s) in early July – the date is yet to be confirmed but this will be communicated to all applicants before they begin their external examinations. The option blocks for Year 12 courses are also being finalised and this will be made available to support students in making their subject choices, as we know these may change between application and starting Year 12. On results day in August, students will be able to enrol for their courses and begin their Sixth Form induction week in September. We wish all Year 11 students the very best of luck with their exams next term!

## Brilliant Club

Year 12 students continue to work with Kelly Hatley on the topic of the 'Comic Horror Genre'. The graduation ceremony will be held at Lincoln College in Oxford later in the year. Meanwhile Year 10 students have begun their course about the development of Shakespeare's works.

## Year 12 Speakers Assembly

Since the New Year we have been delighted to welcome a variety of speakers who have shared their stories, ideologies and careers journeys with Year 12 students. These have included ex-student Dr Pippa Calver of Anglia Ruskin University who spoke about her career path and current academic work; another former student was Ben Rowan who spoke about his work in Youth Ministry at St Andrew's in Bedford. We were also fortunate to have the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Tizard, speak about his role and the priorities he has set for the local force. Questions included the impact of Universal Studios on policing, the impression of the force that is given by '24 Hours in Police Custody', the impact of policing on women and the funding of the force. Other discussions explored the proposed amalgamation of forces.



# KEY DATES

## Summer Term 2026

<b>Monday 13th April</b>	Term Starts (for all students)
<b>Tuesday 21st April</b>	Parents' Evening: Year 7 (in-person)
<b>Monday 4th May</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Tuesday 12th May</b>	Parents' Evening: Year 10 (virtual)
<b>Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May</b>	(Half Term Week)
<b>Thursday 9th June</b>	Parents' Evening: Year 12 (in-person)
<b>Tuesday 30th June</b>	Year 6 into 7 Transfer Day and Parents' Meeting
<b>Friday 3rd July</b>	Academic Mentoring Day (for all students)
<b>Friday 17th July</b>	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.

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