

The Rutherford review

What's new?

- Athletics Day
- Parent Workshops
- National Literary Award
- Key Dates

[Motivated
Respectful
Successful]

| SUMMER ISSUE 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year, and what a fantastic school year we have had! It has definitely been busy and rewarding in equal measure with many achievements, successes and memorable moments for our school community. I am very proud of how our students have continued to thrive academically and socially.

Our students consistently demonstrate our core values on a daily basis and it is a pleasure to see them having such positive relationships with their peers and staff. Students have been motivated in lessons and respectful around the school site; holding doors for each other, greeting staff and demonstrating good manners. There have been many successes to celebrate too and we are hopeful for a positive set of examination results for our Year 11 and Year 13 students in August.

As this newsletter captures, there have been some incredible personal development opportunities, sporting successes, competition achievements and displays of students work to include in Art, Dance and Music. There have also been a number of work-related and careers opportunities to enable students to see the importance of education in their future

career aspirations. None of this would be possible without the hard work, commitment and dedication of our staff who I would like to thank for all they have done again this academic year. Your support has also been important as positive partnerships ensure we continue to have a strong sense of community within our school. We are a school where students are happy and have the ability to thrive whilst being recognised for achieving to the best of their abilities.

As we prepare for a well-earned summer break, I hope everyone has an opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy the well-deserved rest. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students on Thursday 3rd September 2026 before all other year groups return on Friday 4th September 2026. A letter outlining these arrangements has already been sent.

Enjoy this term's newsletter which provides just a small snapshot of a term at our amazing school and I wish you a lovely summer holiday.



Mrs K Foster
Headteacher



Year 8 History Trip: Burghley House

This June the History department had the pleasure of taking a group of Year 8 students to Burghley House to learn more about Elizabeth I and her most trusted advisor William Cecil; we even had an actor in role as William Cecil give us a talk on all we needed to know about why the house was built. They learned about how the house has been used in filming for productions like Netflix's 'The Crown'.

The highlight of our day was of course the tour of the house; the students were blown away by the grandeur of each room we visited. The group did as they were instructed to take in the glorious art work, which included laying down in the 'Bow Room' – they only way to get the best photos and see the optical illusions painted into the ceiling corners!

The spectacular sights of the Heaven Room and Hell staircase also allowed them to learn more about the importance of preservation. They learned more about Queen Elizabeth herself when they visited the bedroom designed especially for her.

Our day also included a portrait session in which Zainab, Sebastian and Amar impressed the Burghley House team with their contributions and observations.

We made the most of the sunshine and finished the day by exploring some of the grounds. It was a pleasure seeing the group really enjoy themselves – they did the school proud!

We very much look forward to taking our Year 8 students next year, which will be our third year running!

The History Department



IWM Duxford Trip

On the 1st July the History Department took 47 Year 9 students to the Imperial War Museum's Duxford site. The trip supported the learning of the Year 9s throughout the year, who have been studying the First World War, the Second World War and the Cold War.

Duxford was first built during the First World War and became a training base for the RAF during the inter-war period. The first ever Spitfire to be piloted by an RAF pilot took off from Duxford in 1938. During the Second World War, Duxford was crucial in the defence of the country and, along with Biggin Hill in Surrey, helped manage and coordinate Britain's defence against Nazi invasion.

During the visit, students had the opportunity to explore several of the museum's hangars, each of which focuses on different aspects of modern conflict. In the AirSpace hangar, students were able to see a wide range of historic aircraft, including the Spitfire and Concorde, helping them to understand how aviation technology developed across the twentieth century. The American Air Museum offered a powerful insight into the role of the United States in both the Second World War and the Cold War, with aircraft such as the B-52 bomber demonstrating the scale and capability of modern warfare.

Students also engaged with exhibitions that examined the human experience of war. Through personal stories and interactive displays, they were able to reflect on the impact of conflict on soldiers and civilians alike. This helped to bring to life themes that they have studied in lessons, such as the experiences of those on the home front and the realities of total war.



Overall, the visit to IWM Duxford was a valuable and enjoyable experience that enriched students' understanding of key topics in the History curriculum and helped to make the past feel more tangible and real.



The History Department

Navy Visit

The library was taken over by the Navy, running team building tasks with Year 7 students.

The students had great fun working together to build mock radio towers that had to be 6 feet tall and free standing. Students could also ask the personnel questions about their roles in the Navy.

Mrs Unwin



Rockingham Castle: Year 7 History Trip

The History department had the great pleasure of taking a group of Year 7 students to Rockingham Castle this June.

The castle dates back to the Domesday Book in 1086 and it was a great opportunity to explore Norman history beyond the classroom.

Students enjoyed seeing inside the castle; including the kitchen, the great hall and even walking up the very narrow and steep turret to take in the views from above. They learned about the changes made to the castle over time, including the destruction caused by the English Civil War. One of the highlights was getting to try on the replica war helmets! Despite the colder and rainy weather we had a brilliant time.

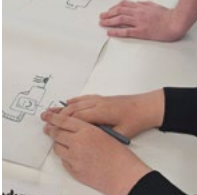
Mrs Bubbra



Powering Bedford Challenge

Sixty Year 7s visited the University of Bedfordshire to take part in a 'Powering Bedford' challenge. They also had the opportunity to have a tour round the university buildings, including a student flat, and a sensory room that they loved. At lunchtime they enjoyed playing table tennis, the piano and pool. Afterwards they took part in a 'Dragons' Den' to pitch their ideas. Their designs were presented confidently, and generated lots of questions and cross examining from their audience.

Mrs Unwin



Shuttleworth College

On 12th May, we took a group of 12 Year 10 students for an exciting and insightful visit to Shuttleworth College in Biggleswade. The trip provided students with a fantastic opportunity to explore a range of pathways within land-based and outdoor education industries.

During the visit, students experienced a variety of hands-on activities linked to the college's courses. They took part in 'bushcraft sessions' as part of the outdoor education programme, learning practical survival skills and gaining an appreciation for working in natural environments. In addition, they explored horticulture, where they discovered how plants are cultivated and maintained, and had the chance to understand the skills and knowledge required in this field.

A key part of the day involved learning about equine care and management. Students visited the stables and engaged with the college's equine facilities, gaining insight into the daily responsibilities involved in looking after horses. For many, this was the highlight of the trip, with the equine centre leaving a particularly strong impression.

The group also toured the wider site, including the farm and gardens, giving them a broader perspective on agricultural and environmental careers.

Along the way, students had the opportunity to meet and speak with a range of professionals and current college students, as well as interact with various animals. These conversations helped bring the different career pathways to life and gave valuable first-hand insight into further education opportunities.

Overall, the visit to Shuttleworth College was a highly rewarding experience. It allowed students to explore potential future careers, develop new interests, and gain a clearer understanding of the opportunities available to them beyond school.

Mr Snowden



Hairdressing at Bedford College

An amazing group of Year 10 students we had took part in a taster day at Bedford College's Brooks Hair salon. I was blown away (sorry!) by their creativity and resilience as they had a go at plaiting and temporary hair colouring, using such wonderful things as hair mascara (who knew there was such a thing!).

They also learned how to do hand and arm massages in the beauty salon, had a tour of the building, and found out all about courses offered there.

The group were a real credit to the school. Enjoy the pictures.

Mrs Unwin



PE Summer Newsletter 2026

This summer saw the launch of our highly anticipated Inter-House Key Stage 3 Athletics Day. With the sun shining and spirits high, it was the perfect setting for an action-packed day of track and field events at Bedford Athletic Stadium.

The camaraderie demonstrated by students within their respective houses was truly commendable, with plenty of cheering, colourful outfits and accessories, and tremendous positivity throughout the day. It was a wonderful example of how sport can bring people together and inspire everyone to be the best version of themselves. This fantastic atmosphere also gave our competing athletes an extra boost, motivating them to strive for success in their events and do their House proud.

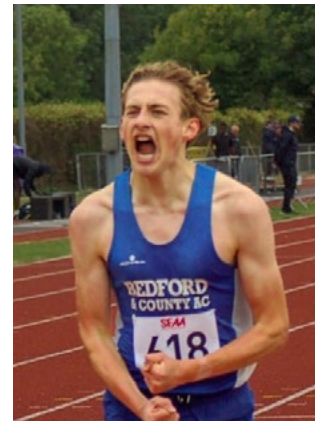
The day concluded with Farah House celebrating a historic victory in the inaugural KS3 Athletics Day, followed by Attenborough in second place, Curie in third, and Blackman in fourth.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff involved in the organisation and smooth running of the event, as well as our incredible students for so brilliantly demonstrating our school values of *Motivated*, *Respectful*, and *Successful* from start to finish.

Mark Rutherford School has also enjoyed an outstanding half term of extracurricular athletics. Our athletes have produced exceptional performances, bringing home an impressive collection of medals and titles. Pawel won County Bronze in the Junior Boys' Shot Put, Lena secured County Silver in the Junior Girls' 200m, Joe was crowned County Champion in the Junior Boys' Long Jump, and Orla M earned County Silver in the Intermediate Girls' 200m. Lena and Orla also claimed County Gold as part of their respective Junior and Intermediate relay teams.

Fraser and Oliver represented the school in the highly competitive South of England 3000m Championships, finishing sixth and seventh respectively. Their success continued at the County Championships, where Fraser became County Champion in the 3000m and Oliver was crowned County Champion in the 1500m.

To round off an exceptional season, Archie in Year 12 was crowned South of England Champion in the 2000m Steeplechase. His performance currently ranks him sixth in the UK and has secured the English Schools qualifying standard - an outstanding achievement and a fitting conclusion to a fantastic athletics season for Mark Rutherford School.



Mr Marin



Student Spotlight – House Athletics

The Mark Rutherford Athletics day for Years 7, 8 and 9 was an amazing event. We were grouped into our houses by the side of the track and were able to watch our friends competing. Events going on throughout the day included hurdles, high jump, long jump, 800 metres, 1500 metres and lots more! All in all, it was a very successful event, leaving Farah reigning victorious.

Jessica, Year 7

On the 22nd May 2026, years 7, 8 and 9 went to Bedford Athletics Stadium for the interhouse competition. Some students wore mascot costumes and it was encouraged to accessorise with your house colours. There were some great events like relays and tug of war and hopefully next year a teacher race. The competition between houses was intense, but in the end, Farah came out on top.

Ryany, Year 7

Athletics Day 2026 was an unforgettable event that brought the entire school together through sport, teamwork and house spirit. The warm sunshine created the perfect setting, while the field space was transformed with colourful face paint, glitter, banners, and creative accessories as every house proudly represented their colours. The atmosphere was filled with excitement as students cheered from the side lines, encouraged one another, and celebrated every achievement, creating a real sense of unity across the school. Miss Wigley kept everyone informed throughout the day with her enthusiastic announcements, ensuring every event ran smoothly while keeping the energy high. The school also made a real effort to remind everyone to stay hydrated, eat well, and take care of themselves, allowing every student to enjoy the day safely while giving their best in each event.

Fatima, Year 9

One of the best parts of Athletics Day 2026 was seeing every house work together with such determination and enthusiasm. Whether competing on the track, taking part in field events, or supporting from the side lines, everyone played an important role in making the day such a success. The constant cheering, encouragement, and teamwork created an electrifying atmosphere that made every race and competition exciting to watch. Although every house gave their all and showed outstanding sportsmanship, Farah proudly finished the day as overall winners, making the celebrations even more memorable. A special thank you goes to Mr Gale for organising such a fantastic event and to the entire PE department for all their hard work in creating an experience and memories that the whole school will never forget.

Prince, Year 9

House Cup - Update

There has been an exciting shift in the house point standings this term, with Curie currently leading on 218 points, closely followed by Attenborough on 210. Attenborough have made an incredible comeback and are now within touching distance of the top spot, setting up a thrilling race to the finish.

Farah (164) and Blackman (144) continue to show great effort and determination, and with several opportunities still to earn points, everything is still to play for.

Upcoming events such as 'Marky Come Dancing', 'The 1% Club', the 'Lit Fest' edition, reward points, attendance, and of course Sports Day on 16th July will all contribute to the final totals. With so many points still available, the competition remains wide open - every effort counts!

Mr Snowden

HOUSE CUP TOTALS

1 st		218
2 nd		210
3 rd		164
4 th		144

Girls' Football Team

The Year 7 and Year 8 girls' football team were entered into the 'ESFA Girls Under 13 Schools' Cup for New Teams (National Cup)', which saw an impressive 216 schools from across the country taking part. After receiving a bye in the first round, the team went on to secure some outstanding results. The girls made it all the way to the semi-final where they were unlucky with the result. Throughout the competition the girls supported one another brilliantly, shown excellent sportsmanship, even when winning by large margins, and worked together exceptionally well as a team. They have represented themselves and the school with pride, and reaching this stage of such a competitive national tournament is a fantastic achievement. I am proud of them all.

Miss Young



Year 8 County Cup Football

Our Year 8 boys have been working hard this season in the 'County Cup', with some great results along the way. In their semi-final, MRS took the lead twice only to be pegged back on both occasions against a dynamic Sharnbrook side. The game went to penalties and MRS students demonstrated great composure to win the game under pressure.

They were then pitted against a very technical and physical side from Queen Elizabeth School, Luton. We played some really resilient football working hard for each other. They were successful in their Final, winning 2-1.

They have represented themselves and their school with huge amounts of character and pride.

Mr Marin



BCS Cyber Challenge 2026

This year we successfully ran Coding clubs for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. The primary aim of the coding clubs is to provide students with an opportunity to learn coding skills, develop their skills, and have fun. These clubs are designed for young people, to support the next generation of digital creators. We aim to inspire young students and help them realise their full potential through the power of computing and digital technologies.

The presentation for this year's competition was held at Cranfield University on the 30th of June. The competition is a positive way to fulfil STEM benchmarks like linking curriculum learning to careers. This gives students exposure to what is available in terms of technology in schools and higher education post-16.

Oliver came first in the 10 competitions. To put this into context, there were dozens of entries from Bedford and Northampton schools. His AI project was simply amazing. Steven came 3rd with his 'Raspberry Pi' project. This was also a well thought out interactive coding project. Well done to both students.



The Junior Coders Jake and Kelvin came third.

They also had brilliant projects. Other participants included Aimee, Dawid, Erin, Henry and Harr, Jaso, Magbnus, Erik, Maxie and Jessica.



Mr Mataire

Year 11 Interventions for September

Intervention sessions for core subjects will begin from the week commencing the 7th September. There will be targeted, compulsory intervention sessions within morning tutor time which students will be invited to based on the results of the recent mock examinations – more information will follow if your son/daughter is selected for these. Students selected for these interventions will change after the Core Mock Examinations in November and the full Year 11 Mock Examinations in January.

Additionally, Maths, English and Science will be offering after school interventions for all students at the following times:

Maths:

Monday – Maths Revision (Foundation & Higher)

Wednesday – Strive for 9

English:

Wednesday – Paper Society

Thursday – Strive for 9

Science:

Monday – Strive for 9

Thursday – Strive for 5

I would strongly encourage students to access these interventions to support them to prepare appropriately for their GCSE examinations in the summer of 2027. Further information regarding interventions and/or revision for option subjects will be provided at a later date.

Mr Taylor

Successful Parent Workshops Strengthen Support for Families This Year

We were delighted to host highly successful parent workshops during the last academic year, each designed to offer practical guidance and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

We have welcomed parents to our workshops on 'Coping with Teenage Emotions', 'Teen Brain', 'Building Teenage Survival Skills', 'Getting Teenagers to Co-operate' and 'Reducing Family Conflict'. These sessions have explored the challenges young people face as they navigate adolescence and have provided parents with strategies to support emotional regulation, communication, and resilience at home and in the community. Parents have benefitted from strategies to help their teenagers manage everyday pressures, develop independence, and approach problem solving with confidence.

These sessions were very well attended, and we were pleased to see such meaningful engagement. Parents and facilitators shared valuable conversations, ideas, and experiences, creating a supportive space where families could learn from one another and feel confident in the challenges they face.

Looking ahead to next year, we are excited to offer more parent workshops, which we hope will be just as popular and impactful as those delivered this year.

In addition, on our academic mentoring day on 3rd July we hosted 2 'Teen Brain' seminars. These events were open to all parents across the school as well as our new Year 7 parents for next year. These seminars aimed to deepen understanding of how the teenage brain develops and how this shapes behaviour, learning, and emotional responses.

We look forward to continuing this important work and providing further opportunities for parents to connect, share, and feel supported in their role.

Mrs Waywell

Poetry Slam

Our half-termly 'PoetrySlam!' continues to be a tremendous success amongst our young writers; this celebrates creativity, confidence and student voice across the school. As a popular House event, students perform their own original poems in front of an audience of peers, showcasing an impressive range of talent and imagination. Whilst house points are awarded for the strongest entries, the event remains proudly inclusive and encourages all students to participate irrespective of students' levels of writing experience. 'The Slam!' has become an integral part of our school's writing culture, supporting students via a platform for expression, developing confidence along the way. Thank you to all who took part!



Mr Johnson

Spelling Bee

This term's 'Spelling Bee' was another excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate their love of language. Following spelling challenges within English lessons, our highest-performing students from each year group earned the opportunity to compete in a live final during each year group assembly.

The event combined our competitive house competition with explicit focus on an essential literary skill. Accurate spelling supports students' reading, writing and communication across all subjects, making events such as our 'Spelling Bee' and 'Poetry Slam!' an important part of the school's commitment to literacy development.

Congratulations to all finalists for their impressive performances and to every student who partook in the initial rounds.

Mr Johnson



White-Hot William Hales

As part of 'Wellbeing Week', the students were treated to a special live performance from the MRS Staff Band. The event provided another opportunity for our students to enjoy live music whilst highlighting the important role that lyrics and the arts can play in supporting wellbeing and mental health. The performance showcased the talents of staff beyond the classroom and allowed students to see teachers in a different light, strengthening our sense of community. The event also supports students' cultural capital by exposing them to live music; it was an enjoyable and uplifting experience for staff and students alike.

Mr Johnson



UoB Reader Leader Celebration Event

Our Year 12 Reader Leaders and a selection of Year 7 and 8 students attended an event at the University of Bedfordshire, marking the culmination of a year of dedicated reading support for our students through our 'Paired Reading' programme.

Throughout the year, our Reader Leaders have met regularly with younger students, helping them to develop their confidence, fluency and (most importantly) an enjoyment of reading. The celebration provided an excellent opportunity to recognise the commitment, enthusiasm and positive relationships that have been built through the partnership amongst Mark Rutherford School students. Students were able to celebrate the culmination of a year of hard work whilst experiencing our local university campus.

Our Reader Leaders are excellent in their ambassadorial role in supporting students, highlighting the power of reading, mentorship and student leadership. We cannot thank their dedication enough.

#MRSLitFest26

Our annual 'Literary Festival' once again took place and provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to celebrate a love for reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students in all year groups enjoyed a range of engaging activities designed to promote a lifelong love of communication.

We were delighted to welcome visiting authors Ricky Baxter, Mark Ballabon and Robin Price; all writers inspiring students through their workshops, talks and insights into the writing process. This gives our students an opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation of the creativity behind books that they read.

The festival also featured a variety of tutor-time activities including exploring the fascinating world of idioms, video clips of staff sharing their favourite books, and a short story being read collectively throughout the school day. Students and staff also took part in the ever-popular '1% Club', the Mark Rutherford School tutor-time activity that brings our school community together through the shared ethos of challenge and learning.

Mr Johnson



Staff vs Sixth Form: Victory for Experience!

A highlight of our summer term is always the annual Staff vs Sixth Form football match. A much-loved tradition that brings out school community together in support of our Year 13 Prom. The event raises valuable funds and ensures a memorable celebration for our graduating students.

As always, the match was played in great spirit, with plenty of enthusiasm (especially from Captain Harrison in Year 13!) and a solid display of experience (including from our ever-so-aging midfield pairing of Mr Marland and Mr Snowden). In typical fashion, the staff finished victorious.

The event is a wonderful example of strong relationships that exist across the school and provided plenty of memorable moments for players and spectators alike. Staff are looking forward to seeing whether the next Year 13s will be able to end our staff's five-year winning streak!

Attenborough House fundraising week

The beginning of May saw the Attenborough House fundraising week. There were lots of events taking place, from raffles to a 'FIFA' tournament, movie nights to cake sales. Mr Paolini even volunteered to get his legs waxed!

We culminated the week with a celebration of Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, where it was 'Wear it Green' day. In honour of Sir David Attenborough's birthday, Mr Snape handmade 100th birthday badges that were sold as part of the fundraising week and the Science environmental area has had plans put in to be redeveloped into the Attenborough wildlife zone, with the help of Mr Morgan and the environmental ambassadors.

Staff and students managed to raise an astounding £662.27 as part of the fundraising week, which will be donated to the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), as Sir David Attenborough has been an ambassador for them from the very start.

Mr Stokes and Mr Paolini



Year 12 Careers Day

As part of the Year 12 Careers Day, we were pleased to welcome back ex-students Amber and Lucy who are currently studying at Oxford and Cambridge. They described what it is like to study at these universities and why the experience is different to other institutions. They also explained the process of applying including the admissions tests many universities need. Our thanks go to them for their time.

Other sessions included student finance, university application process, apprenticeships, using LinkedIn for career development, interview techniques and CV writing. There were also presentations about accountancy and retail employment.

Mr Nicholls



Brilliant Club

This year we have had two cohorts participate in the 'Brilliant Club'. Year 12 students studied with Kelly Hatley (Falmouth University) exploring her specialism of the 'Comic Horror' genre before writing a mini-dissertation. Results were really pleasing with nine students grading at 1st, three getting a 2:1, one a 2:2 and a 3rd. Graduation was held at Lincoln College, Oxford and Oxford Town Hall.

Six Year 10 students studied with Michelle from the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham. This course explored the development of the written texts. Again, results were really strong with four students getting graded at 2:1 and two at 1st class. Graduation was held at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Both sets of students had a tour of the college, talks about higher education and Oxbridge in particular.

Our thanks go to the Connolly Foundation for funding the course.

Mr Nicholls



BTEC Assessment Evening

On the 16th June Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts students (Year 12 and 13) performed an interactive 'Horror Maze' style performance for their Final Live Performance unit. This was to an audience of invited peers, staff, friends and family, split into three time slots. The event included various elements of dance, drama and vocal work, focusing on people's fears, taking the audience around B block to various locations. The audience was treated to monologues from murder victims (based on true stories), a cult inspired experience, the classic 'Thriller' dance, a frightening ballet number, amongst other ghoulish elements. The performance allowed the audience to be fully immersed in the experience, even being led blindfolded between two of the locations. Audience members thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and it was an excellent opportunity for the students to showcase some of the high quality work they produce on the Performing Arts BTEC course.

Mrs Taylor



Art Exhibition

On Friday 26th June the end of year Art Exhibition opened. On display was the A-level Art work, which was of a very high calibre with a range of styles on view from large scale expressive portraits, Hockney-eque landscapes, still life and a contemporary take on the Dutch 17th Century vanitas.

The opening was well attended despite the heat, proving that the Garner Lecture Theatre Foyer makes the ideal gallery space. We are sad to see our Year 13s go and hope that they all continue to make art.

Ms Saunders



Culture week April 2026

This year we celebrated the cultural diversity of our school for the whole week and ended the week with a Culture non-uniform day. Students were invited to various workshops running throughout the week across the school which included historical games, minature art, henna and international cinema which proved to be very popular!

We ended the week by inviting students to dress in their ethnic clothing, or wear a sports top that represented their sports culture and many opted to wear clothing still representative of their culture but thought outside the box – we loved seeing this creativity and diversity!

We are looking forward to seeing what our Student Cultural Ambassadors to plan for next year's events. At present they are working on a cultural calendar so we can share more our wonderful diversity throughout the academic year.

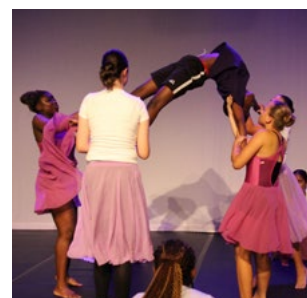
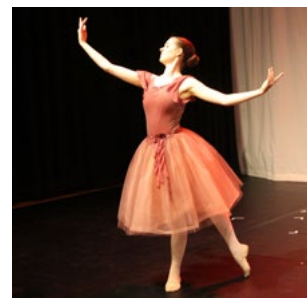
Mrs Bubbra



Dance Display 2026!

This year's Dance display took place on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th June. The show opened with our talented in house dance company performing their piece entitled '33', based on a surreal dystopian world where the mysterious 'Paintress' is an ever present threat. They had performed this earlier in the year at the Dancelive! Competition (where they were awarded 3rd place overall and the Concept award). Dance company also closed the show with our version of Alvin Ailey's 'The Hunt'. A dynamic and impactful piece with a tribal feel. Make Your Mark Theatre company also performed our Junior Theatre Festival piece, an extract from 'High School Musical Junior'. The piece was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Dance award at the competition, and we were invited to perform a section on stage to all of the other schools that had performed that day. The students showcased their work from GCSE Dance, A Level Dance, and BTEC Performing Arts, alongside works from extra-curricular clubs and workshops. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by both students and their friends and family who came to support, and demonstrated the hard work and dedication of our dance students, their creativity and talent. Well done and thank you to all involved.

Mrs K Taylor



The Nightingale Provision

During this academic year, The Nightingale Provision was lucky to receive some funding from The Sheila Coates Foundation to improve the garden area. Prior to the funding, the garden was a small area, that students didn't choose to access often.

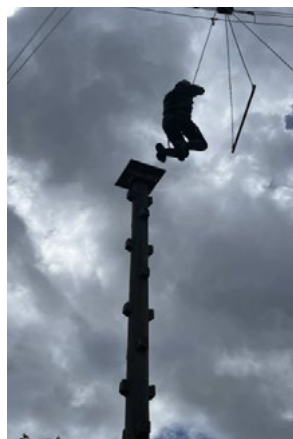
With this funding we have been able to make big changes. We have bought a set of swings, that were an instant hit, with both students and the staff! The students in the Nightingale have expressed how much these have not only made being outside fun, but have supported with their regulation and proprioception. Students have said *"my favourite part of the new garden is the swings; they help when I am feeling stressed"*. Another student said *"The swings are very fun to go on and they are just enjoyable, I go on them when I want to calm down"*.

With the remaining funding, a gate was put in to allow access to a larger playing area, where students have been able to play football, with a new large goal, badminton, swing ball and many new garden games. The students in the Nightingale have spent many hours planting fruit and vegetables with Miss Sparks; students have taken great care and are excited to eat some of these when they are ready.

Nightingale students have been on many trips this year too. Students visited Grange Academy's farm. Students were able to pet the animals and learn lots about them. A number of students made three visits to the Canoe Trail in Kempston where they were able to face their fears by rock climbing, bouldering and doing the leap of faith! Each time, students made their own fires and used these to cook S'mores, bread and pizza. This was a fantastic opportunity to develop both their social skills and life skills in a new environment. Ark Farm has also visited the Nightingale, bringing along lots of animals for students to pet and learn about.

Students in the Nightingale have also taken part in lots of sporting fixtures, including archery, goalball, athletics and will finish the year attending a Sportability festival at Biddenham.

Miss Clay



Geography Department

The Spring and Summer terms have seen a focus on A Level visits with 2 really successful field trips. Before Easter the Year 12 and 13s were treated to a 'Morgan Magical Mystery Tour' around London looking at some of the case study sites and key human processes shaping London and the East End in particular. This was followed by the Year 12 NEA residential in Southwold. The weather was superb and allowed us to collect data for their NEA without interruption (other than the DRC World Cup game!). The students will now be using all the data they have collected to create fantastic pieces of NEA work to contribute towards their qualification!

Mr Morgan



Modern Foreign Languages News

This term has been full of exciting cultural learning across the Modern Foreign Languages department!

With the excitement of the World Cup, students have been exploring football through the target languages. They have learnt key vocabulary linked to La Coupe du Monde (French) and La Copa del Mundo (Spanish), while discovering participating countries and broadening their geographical and cultural knowledge.

In KS3 French, students have been studying the renowned film *Les Choristes*, set in France shortly after the Second World War. Through the film, they have explored French culture, education and society while revising key GCSE grammar and language structures, including tenses, opinions and descriptive language, in an engaging and authentic context.

In KS3 Spanish, students have been enjoying the film *Coco*, using it as a starting point to explore Hispanic cultures, traditional food, festivals and celebrations, including 'El Día de los Muertos'. Students have then applied their learning through an IT-based cultural research project, developing both their cultural understanding and digital presentation skills.

Across all year groups, our aim has been to bring languages to life by celebrating the cultures, traditions and people behind the language.

We are also excited to be preparing for our Paris Trip in March 2027 for our current Year 7 and Year 8 students. The visit will provide a fantastic opportunity to experience French language and culture first-hand, and we look forward to sharing more details with families soon.

Mrs Soto

Music Department

It has been a brilliant term for the Music Department, filled with fantastic performances and some incredibly unique opportunities for our students.

A real highlight was when our BTEC Performing Arts students were lucky enough to take part in an exclusive workshop led by a West End industry professional. Getting a glimpse into the world of professional theatre and learning directly from someone working in the business was an amazing experience, and our students asked some fantastic questions.

Back in school, our music corridors have been as noisy and energetic as ever. We've been delighted to see so many students continuing to show great dedication by attending their extra instrumental lessons every single week. All that practice definitely paid off at our recent Summer Music Concert. The evening was a huge success, packed with incredible talent, and it was absolutely loved by everyone who came along to watch.

A massive thank you to all the students who performed, our instrumental teachers, and the parents and staff who supported us. Have a wonderful break, and we look forward to making more music next term!

The Music Department

Drama Department

It's been an absolutely great term in the Drama Department, with a lot going on both inside the classroom and out.

We've been lucky enough to take students on some fantastic theatre trips recently to see professional live performance at its best including 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'. Aside from being a great day out, these trips have given everyone plenty of inspiration to bring back to their own work.

Back at school, the drama classrooms have been a hub of non-stop energy and rehearsals. It's been a busy term as both our GCSE and A-Level students completed their practical performance exams. The sheer dedication, creativity, and teamwork they showed throughout the whole process was brilliant to watch. They put an immense amount of effort into bringing their pieces to life for the examiners, and they should all be incredibly proud of themselves.

Now that the hard work is officially done, we want to say a huge congratulations to all of our exam students. You've earned a breather, and we wish you all the absolute best of luck for Results Day this August!

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents, staff, and students who have supported our trips and exam rehearsals this term. Have a wonderful, well deserved break!

The Drama Department



Performance Arts

It has been an unforgettable term for the Performing Arts Faculty, packed with incredible achievements and some truly unforgettable moments.

The absolute highlight was our recent trip to Birmingham for MTI's Junior Theatre Festival, and what a day it was! Our students performed a section of 'High School Musical JR', and they absolutely blew the judges away. We were thrilled to be selected as 'Best in Pod', which earned our group the ultimate honour of performing on the main stage in front of over 2,000 people. The energy in the room was electric, and it was a once in a lifetime experience for everyone involved.

A special shoutout must go to Elnathan and Able, who were handpicked by the festival adjudicators as our group's All-Stars. Their talent and leadership really shone through, proving that hard work genuinely pays off.

Back at school, the momentum hasn't stopped. The cast has since showcased a section of the show in our recent Dance Display, and they have also been invited to perform for the entire school in the end of term assembly. It has been fantastic to see their success celebrated by the whole school community.

We are incredibly proud of every single student who took part. Thank you to everyone for your continued support, and we already can't wait to get stuck into our next big project!

Performing Arts



Journalism Club

This year has seen the exciting launch of our Journalism Club, bringing together students with a shared interest in writing and discovering what goes on in and around school. From reporting on events and interviewing members of our school community to writing articles and taking photographs, students have embraced the opportunity to develop creativity and communication skills.

The club has provided a platform for students to have their voices heard, celebrate the achievements of others and capture memorable moments from across the school. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and teamwork shown by our budding journalists and look forward to seeing the club continue to grow in the year ahead.

Mr Bevan

UK Mathematics Challenge Success

This year, our students achieved excellent results in the UK Mathematics Challenge. A total of 90 students took part in the competition, demonstrating their mathematical knowledge and problem-solving skills.

We are delighted to celebrate their success. Our students were awarded 8 Gold, 19 Silver, and 25 Bronze certificates, reflecting their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

A special congratulations goes to the students who achieved Gold certificates in the first round and were invited to the next stage of the competition. Their outstanding performances are a credit to themselves and to our school.

Further success was achieved in the follow-on Kangaroo competitions:

Year 13: Dev – Silver Medal in the Senior Kangaroo Competition

Year 12: Ashley – Bronze Medal in the Senior Kangaroo Competition

Year 10: Frazer – Gold Certificate in the Pink Kangaroo Competition

Year 9: Daniel – Certificate of Qualification in the Grey Kangaroo Competition

Year 8: Dayle – Silver Certificate in the Junior Kangaroo Competition

The UK Mathematics Challenge provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop their mathematical thinking, problem-solving skills, and confidence beyond the classroom. This year's results demonstrate the dedication and enthusiasm of our students, who performed exceptionally well in a nationally recognised competition.

Congratulations to everyone who participated. Every student who entered the competition should be proud of their effort and commitment.

We look forward to building on this success and celebrating even more achievements in next year's UK Mathematics Challenge.

Mrs Montgomery

A Year in Science

This year we have had a range of activities for students, some even run by students.

Year 7 are currently undertaking their 'Race to the Line' racing competition where they design, build, and race air powered cars.

Year 8 are busy working on their Science Fair projects, investigating questions they have devised themselves. 'Can you tell the value of a coin from the sound it makes when it drops?' is just one great example of the creativity and curiosity the year group have shown.

Year 7 and 8 have also been able to take part in our 'Smarties' STEM club run by the fantastic Year 12 STEM Scholars. The range of experiments included making slime, building catapults, making elephant's toothpaste, dropping eggs from a great height, and much more.

Our Year 9 EDT Industrial Cadets worked throughout the year on their Bronze Award, tackling the topic of 'Our School is an Island'. They had to present their working to a panel of engineering industry experts and judges and took their amazing 3D model to the finals at the University of Cambridge Engineering Department, where they scooped the Innovation Award. Congratulations to Rhniem, Zuzanna, Annabella, Isobel, and Ezarah.

Finally, our STEM Scholars were awarded the Future Leaders Award by Villiers Park for their contribution across the year. As well as running the Year 7 and 8 STEM club, they also organised, planned, lead, and presented a series of STEM themed days for local Primary Schools. The scholars should be very proud of the work they have put in this year. One of them actually attended the Year 7 Smarties club when they started at the school so it is nice to see the full circle completed.

Mr Edwards

Industrial Cadets Bronze Award celebration event 2026

We attended the celebration event on Wednesday 24th June at the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge.

The team - Ezarah, Isabella, Annabella, Zuzanna and Rhniem accompanied by Mrs Unwin and Mr Betts were driven in the minibus by Mr Paolini.

Arriving just after 9.30 the team set about putting up our stand, Mr Betts was keen to win the People's Choice award.

There was a welcome speech in the lecture theatre from Mr David Sobo, the Operations Director of Engineering Development Trust (EDT), who organised the event.

This was followed by a panel discussion about routes into STEM. The panel consisted of people from industry, from the University of Cambridge and two university students. This was very enlightening for the students.

Then there was time to look at all the other teams stands, vote for the People's Choice Award and do a networking quiz, before we had a tour of the Engineering department.

After lunch we went back into the lecture theatre for the presentation of the awards. Everyone was presented with their bronze award badge by Mr David Sobo.

Then it came to the presentation of the trophies the categories were:

the best teamwork

innovation

project of the year.

When they announced the nomination for the Innovation Award, there was Mark Rutherford School!

Sadly, we didn't win the People's Choice Award (this went to Wixams School Team 1, which we'd voted for anyway, so not too disappointing).

The standard has been set high for the team(s) next year.

I have really enjoyed 'supervising' the team this year, they worked so well together I didn't actually have much to do. The PowerPoint and model students produced were excellent.

You are a credit to yourselves and to the school. I am really, really proud of you. Wear your bronze badges with pride.

Mr Betts



Work Experience – Southby Roofing

After a short safety briefing and step by step guidance, students got hands on with the practical side of the roofing business to gain a better understanding of what the company does. We set up a mock roof for them to work on and it's safe to say they found this a lot more fun than the office-based work.

Fraizer & Harper both demonstrated excellent listening skills, picked things up quickly and worked brilliantly together as a team. *"A great effort from both of them, it was a pleasure to have them with us at Southby Roofing."*

This is just an example of the wonderful opportunities the students from Year 7 up to the Sixth Form are having by taking part in explore work days, work shadowing days and work experience weeks. This year we have had over 500 students go out to either their parent's work or on a whole week placement. This is an essential part of their careers and life experiences and will give them lots of benefits with their future employment.

Dates for next year:

Year 9	Year 8	Year 7	Year 10	Year 12
Thursday 11th and Friday 12th February 2027	Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March 2027	Thursday 29th April 2027	Mon 24th May-Friday 28th May 2027	5th-9th July 2027

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Work Experience Week: Learning Beyond the Classroom

During the week beginning 6th July 2026, our Year 12 students took part in a highly successful Work Experience Week, gaining invaluable insights into the world of work through a wide range of exciting placements.

Students embraced the opportunity to step beyond the classroom and develop their skills in real workplace environments. Placements included experiences with the Police, primary and secondary schools, charities, construction firms and science laboratories, among many others. These opportunities allowed students to explore potential career pathways, gain first-hand experience of professional settings and build important employability skills.

Throughout the week, students demonstrated maturity, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Whether supporting teachers in local schools, observing scientific research, contributing to charitable organisations, working alongside construction professionals or learning about careers in policing, students threw themselves into the experience and represented the Sixth Form exceptionally well.

Work experience is an important part of Sixth Form life, helping students to make informed decisions about their future education and career aspirations. Many students returned with increased confidence, a clearer understanding of workplace expectations and a greater appreciation of the skills and qualities employers value.

Staff were delighted to hear the positive feedback from placement providers, many of whom commented on the professionalism, commitment and positive attitude shown by our students throughout the week.

We would like to thank all of the organisations that generously hosted our students and provided such meaningful experiences. Their support plays a vital role in helping our young people prepare for their futures.

The week was a tremendous success, and we are incredibly proud of the way our Year 12 students embraced this opportunity. We look forward to seeing how the experiences and skills they have gained will support them as they continue their Sixth Form journey and begin planning their next steps beyond school.

Mock Exams – Year 12

Year 12 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 challenges of Year 13 study.

A number of Year 12 students were given the opportunity to re-take mocks in subjects where they did not perform as expected, and this intervention has had a positive impact on student outcomes. The mock exams for Year 13 will take place early in the Spring term in 2027, with a mock re-take window taking place shortly after to support student progress.

Out and about with the Sixth Form team!

Members of the Sixth Form team visited Castle Newnham School to take part in their 'next steps' day where students from Year 10 were able to visit stalls and access information to support their future choices. Representatives from the Police, the University of Bedfordshire and EasyJet (among others!) attended the event, along with some other Sixth Form providers from across the Borough.

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 Daubeney 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 .

SIXTH FORM

Year 12 Welcome Day: An Exciting Start to Sixth Form Life

On 9th July, we were delighted to welcome 180 prospective Year 12 students to our Sixth Form for our annual Welcome Day. The event provided students with an invaluable opportunity to experience life as a Sixth Former and to begin preparing for the exciting challenges and opportunities that await them in September.

Throughout the day, students attended lessons in the subjects they have chosen to study post-16, giving them a real insight into the academic expectations of Sixth Form study. For many, this included experiencing completely new subjects such as Law, Sociology and Psychology. These sessions encouraged students to think in new ways, engage with unfamiliar concepts and begin developing the independent learning skills that are so important for success at this level.

The atmosphere across the school was incredibly positive, with students embracing new challenges and enjoying the opportunity to meet future classmates and teachers. Staff were equally enthusiastic, welcoming students into their departments and sharing their passion for their subjects. It was fantastic to see such high levels of engagement, curiosity and ambition from this new cohort.

Welcome Day plays an important role in supporting students through the transition from Year 11 to Sixth Form, helping them feel confident and prepared for the next stage of their educational journey. The day was a great success and highlighted the exciting opportunities available within our Sixth Form community.

The next step for students will be enrolment on Results Day in August, when we look forward to welcoming them back and confirming their programmes of study.

We would like to thank all staff and students who helped make the day such a success. We are excited to begin working with this talented and enthusiastic new group of Year 12 students and look forward to supporting them as they embark on the next chapter of their education.

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 led the assembly and presented awards, students enjoyed Ms Vallance's good bye poem, naming each student this year! 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!

Ms Vallance

Sixth Form Enjoys Thrilling Day at Thorpe Park

Fifty-three Year 12 students enjoyed an exciting day out at Thorpe Park recently, on a trip organised by Mrs Purcell.

The visit provided a well-deserved opportunity for students to relax, socialise and celebrate a successful year in the Sixth Form. Throughout the day, students made the most of the park's wide range of attractions, with many taking on some of the UK's most thrilling rollercoasters and rides, including 'Stealth', 'Hyperia', 'Colossus' and 'The Swarm'.

The sunshine and positive atmosphere helped make the trip a memorable experience for everyone involved. Students enjoyed spending time with friends outside the classroom, while also building new connections across the year group. The day was filled with laughter, excitement and plenty of adrenaline-fuelled moments as students challenged themselves on some of the park's biggest attractions.

The trip was a great success, and staff were delighted with the excellent conduct and enthusiasm shown by all students throughout the day. Events such as these play an important role in Sixth Form life, helping to strengthen our community and create lasting memories alongside academic achievement.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Purcell for organising the visit, and also to Miss Chamberlain and Mr Wali for ensuring that students had such an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

We look forward to offering more exciting enrichment opportunities for our Sixth Form students in the future.

Ms Vallance

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 Bellini's in Clapham and it was a memorable and moving occasion as we bid Year 13 students a fond farewell. The colour theme of navy and silver, 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 funds for the event, along with the money raised by 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 2026.

Ms Vallance



| SUMMER ISSUE 2026



| KEY DATES

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1st Sept – Wednesday 2nd Sept	Staff Training Day's
Thursday 3rd Sept	Term Starts
Friday 2nd October	Academic Mentoring Day
Thursday 8th Oct	Year 6 into 7 Open Evening
Monday 26th Oct – Friday 30th Oct	(Half Term Week)
Thursday 13th Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 27th Nov	Training Day
Wednesday 16th Dec	Year 9 Subject Evening (Virtual)
Friday 18th Dec	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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