



Mark Rutherford School

The Rutherford Review

Headlines

Welcome to this term's newsletter which includes a summary of all that has been achieved since we returned in September. This term has passed by so quickly and I continue to be proud of our school community and how hard they work every day to support our core values of being Motivated, Respectful and Successful.

The behaviour and attitudes of students has been very positive this term. The school has a very calm and purposeful working atmosphere with students engaging well in their learning. Students have been very keen to earn respect vouchers and there has been much anticipation in the end of term awards assemblies as to whose name will be pulled out of the hat. In September we launched our new Rewards Policy to recognise all the amazing things our students do every day; this has been very well received and has created a positively competitive culture across the school.

In lessons, we continue to start with our 'Do Now Activity'. We have also introduced multiple choice questionnaires (MCQs) and mid-term assessments to rigorously monitor the academic progress of our students. The re-launch of student planners alongside Class Charts has increased the accountability of homework completion too. Students have also risen to the challenge of using their knowledge organisers to support them in being able to retrieve more information from their lessons.

Our personal development provision continues to be a real strength of the school. There have been a large number of trips, we have had two music concerts and our Key Stage 3 production of Annie Jr. The students involved in our performances always blow me away with their talents and it is always a pleasure to see them doing what they love! Our student leadership programme has further developed with the launch of subject ambassadors. We also held our first Culture Day with students showcasing their heritage; much fun was had by all.

The Sixth Form continue to be involved in a number of leadership opportunities, to include Ready2Lead. Many of our Year 13s have submitted their UCAS applications and are receiving offers. It is lovely to hear of their plans for life after school and the wide variety of courses they are applying for.

At the end of term, we are sad to be saying goodbye to three members of staff. Mrs Mayeur (SEND Teacher) is relocating to France and Mrs Starz (2nd in Maths) has a promotion to Head of Maths in another school. In addition, Mrs Spencer (Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum and Standards) is moving to take on her first Headship. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all well with their new ventures as well as thank them for all their hard work and support in their time at our school.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support; I hope you have a lovely Christmas break and a wish you a Happy New Year for 2025. We look forward to welcoming students back for the start of Spring term on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Mrs K Foster,
Headteacher

Physics at Work Trip

In September, some of our high achieving Year 10 and 11 Science students spent an afternoon at the Cavendish Laboratories at the University of Cambridge. While there, we were treated to six exhibits from PhD students, lecturers and employers who discussed their current research projects or the application of Physics in industry. The exhibits included talks from the Nuclear Defence company AWE, Isaac Physics, and Cambridge PhD students in Astrophysics. A fantastic afternoon was had by all!

Mr Stokes



Geographers on the Road!

It has been a busy time in the geography department with three field trips in as many weeks across October/November! The Year 11s had two really successful field study days, one at home in Bedford and one in Felixstowe, to collect data for their Paper 3 examination. The Year 13s had a fantastic three day residential in Southwold and are now well on their way to completing their NEA. It was an intense but really rewarding and enjoyable field study visit and the weather was very favourable. Coming up we have the climate change conference and a relaunch of the Geography Club, which we hope many will attend!

Mr Morgan

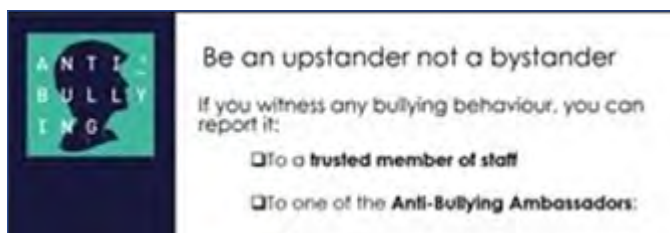


Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Last year, nine students completed The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme. They delivered assemblies to all year groups about their key aim, to maintain the school as a very safe and welcoming place for all, and provided advice and strategies for all students.

This term, the team were joined by eight new members from Years 7 to 10 and they are keen for the school to achieve the Diana Award Community Badge. They produced a new assembly to ensure students make a stand against bullying all year round and further developed the reporting process.



Finally, the ambassadors promoted the support of those in need and are overseeing the charity 'Christmas in a Box Appeal' run by All Saints Church. As a school we hope to be sending over 70 Christmas hampers to families in Bedford.

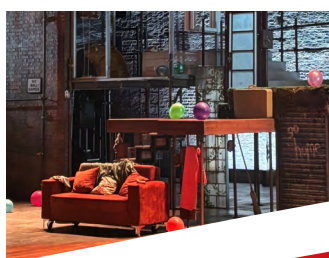


Miss Bradley

Drama Trips

Since the beginning of this academic year, the Drama Department has organised and attended a number of fantastic trips. Seeing live theatre is such an important experience when learning this subject. It gives students the opportunity to learn about new theatre styles, techniques and even learn how things work behind the scenes. Some of these trips have included shows such as; Chicago, Peaky Blinders, Elf, The Man Who Thought He Knew Too Much, Buddha of Suburbia and Come from Away. We have so many more exciting trips coming up too. Make Your Mark Theatre Company are also working hard during rehearsals for the school musical, music concert and an exciting performance opportunity in Disneyland Paris next year.

Mrs Farnsworth



Autumn Showcase

In November, the Music Department presented an Autumn Showcase that brought students of all ages together to display their musical talents. We enjoyed performances from singers, pianists, violinists, school bands and many more. The event was a huge success and we are all extremely proud of everyone who performed. Here at Mark Rutherford School, we offer a vast amount of extra-curricular music activities to help students gain confidence, learn a new skill and encourage them to step out of their comfort zone. The Christmas Concert on Wednesday 11th December displayed, yet again, the work of some incredibly talented students.

Miss Ellson

Maths Workshops at Local Primary Schools

The maths staff have been out and about visiting some of our local primary schools, running maths workshops for Year 6 students in preparation for their transition to secondary school. Students had the opportunity to work with Mark Rutherford School teachers on various mathematical puzzles and challenges while getting used to working with new adults and methods of learning.

Mr Doughty

Year 11 Prom Committee

This term, the Year 11 Prom Committee has been hard at work organising and hosting a variety of fun events to raise funds for the Year 11 prom which will take place on the 4th July 2025. So far, we've had great success and lots of fun along the way! Here's a roundup of what we've been up to:

- **Year 7 Disco:** Our first event of the term was a fantastic Year 7 Disco, where we helped to create a memorable night for the younger students. With music, dancing, and plenty of energy, it was a great way to bring the school community together while raising money for the prom.
- **Coffee at Parents' Evening:** At Parents' Evening, we provided a much-needed caffeine boost to parents and teachers by selling coffee and snacks. It was a great way to get involved with the school and raise funds in a relaxed setting.
- **Candy Cane Sales:** Just before the Christmas holidays, we have been selling candy canes that were hand-delivered to students, spreading some festive cheer while also raising money for the prom. It was a sweet success, with lots of candy canes sold in time for the holidays!

Thanks to all for the fundraising efforts.

Next term we are going to start collecting outfit donations for our second-hand prom shop. If you have any old prom dresses or suits you would like to donate, please bring into Mrs Dougan in the Year 11 office.

Year 11 Office

Year 11 Revision Day with Martijn Van der Spoel

This term, Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend a special revision day with **Martijn Van der Spoel** from **Glia Learning**. Glia Learning worked with students to help them unlock their full potential, build confidence, and work towards achieving their academic goals.

His guidance has given students valuable tools to excel in their upcoming exams and to manage the pressures of Year 11 with greater confidence.

A big thank you to Martijn for his inspiring support, and to all Year 11 students who participated!

Year 11 Office

PE News

After a dynamic and eventful term, the Mark Rutherford School PE Department, along with the broader school community, wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to its students and supporters for embodying our core values: Motivation, Respect, and Success.

Among the many highlights, the Year 11 Boys Football team deserves special recognition for their unwavering commitment, consistently attending two training sessions each week. Special commendations go to Dan and Will for their exemplary leadership and fostering a strong sense of camaraderie within the team.

Another standout is Shay from the U14 Girls Football team, who has achieved remarkable success by scoring numerous goals and significantly contributing to her team's victories.

Additionally, we proudly acknowledge our cross-country runners – Nathaniel, Aidan, Fraser, Harry, Oliver, and Scott – who secured an impressive second place overall in the County Competition.

We also extend our gratitude to all participants in our boys' and girls' football, basketball, rugby, dodgeball, and cross-country teams this term.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are determined to continue our tradition of enthusiasm and excellence in Mark Rutherford School PE.

PE Department

Year 9 Football – County Cup

The Year 9 Football team beat KCA 8-1 in the first round of the U14 County Cup. The game saw goals from Henry, Kacper, Essa, Jacob (x2) and Olivier (x3) as well as four students make their football debuts for the school. The boys will take on Manshead in the next round.

Mr Taylor



Winter Newsletter Art

This term the Art department took Year 12 and 13 A Level students to Tate Britain, which houses five hundred years of British art. The students were thrilled to discover artworks that they knew from the Pre-Raphaelites, David Hockney, Bridget Riley to more contemporary work. Seeing work up close and in detail is a vital part of the study of art, especially at A Level. Students were impressed by the scale and range of pieces on display.

The Art department always encourages people to explore art and given that entry to the gallery is free and there is no need to book, it makes for an inspiring day out.

We now look forward to seeing how the Year 12 and 13 coursework pieces develop as a response to this trip and some will feature in the Summer Show.

Ms Saunders

Cross Country

Year 9 and Year 10 boys took part in the Intermediate Boys race in the first round of the ESAA Cross Country Cup at The Perse School in Cambridgeshire. This event is open to all schools in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Mark Rutherford Team:

Year	Name	Position
9	Fraser	5
9	Harry	6
9	Oliver	9
10	Aiden	12
10	Nathaniel	13
10	Scott	16

They were competing against:

- Henlow Academy
- Heritage School
- Kimbolton School
- King's Ely
- The King's (The Cathedral) School
- The Perse School
- The Stephen Perse Foundation

The boys ran incredibly well on a surprisingly warm and dry day, which is uncommon for most cross-country events that we experience. They produced an excellent team result, coming 2nd overall! They qualified for the next round, representing Beds/Cambs, at the East Central Regional Finals on Friday 8th November at Stowe School. They narrowly missed out on the national finals, finishing just 11 points away from qualification.

A great result for our first entry into this event.

Miss Bradley & Mr Gale



Year 9 Basketball v BFS

The Year 9 basketball team kicked off their season with a 20-14 victory against Bedford Free School and the fixture saw three students make their debut for the school basketball team. The team was led excellently by Imarni who dictated play throughout the first three quarters before moving to a coaching role for the fourth quarter. Special mentions to Zain who grabbed two assists on his debut and Marcus, who dominated the pitch through the second half.

The squad included Imarni, Ameer, Kal-El, Marcus, Joshua, Essa, Shaan, Zain & Kacper.

Mr Taylor

Art Clubs

The Art and Photography ambassadors have been running a Year 7 and 8 art club after school on Wednesdays. This has been very popular, with attendance at capacity. The ambassadors have organised the sessions planning different activities each week and responded to the requests of the attendees. There is also a Thursday KS3 art club, which is also very popular. Students have been working on entries for the Canteen Art Competition and helping to make props for the school production of *Annie*.

Ms Saunders



Canteen Art Competition

Following the recent redecoration of the canteen, the Canteen Manager asked if some students' work could be displayed. A competition was launched across the year groups and the winners will be judged by the Environment Ambassadors... winners will be announced shortly.

Ms Saunders

Sixth Form Sport CTEC Courses

The Year 12 and 13 Sport students have attended two trips this term, both focusing on career development. These provided fantastic opportunities for our students to experience lectures, practical sessions and guidance from current practitioners in a variety of sectors within the sports industry.

University of Bedfordshire - School of Sport Science and Physical Activity:

- Careers in Sport and SSPA Courses talk
- Player monitoring and analysis using Catapult GPS System
- Sports Rehabilitation and Clinical Exercise Therapy

NCS Sports Industry Career Learning (4-day) Residential Course at Oundle School:

- Sports Marketing
- Red Bull Racing workshop
- Football Journalism – The Guardian
- Sports Coaching
- Athlete Management
- Strength and Conditioning

Miss Bradley



Year 12 Speakers' Sessions

This term we have had a range of visiting speakers. Our first session was by Camps International promoting its successful scheme which has benefitted many students over the years. Keiran Pedley, an ex-student and is currently Research Director, Public Affairs, at IPSOS UK also visited to lead a session. Keiran regularly contributes to the media through outlets such as Sky News, BBC News, Times Radio, and LBC. He also writes for the Evening Standard. Steph Strange from our partners at the University of Bedfordshire presented on why go to university and combined this with personal statement advice for Year 13. Other sessions have included using Unifrog, which is designed to help students to make their next steps after school. Notably one returnee was Professor David Sharp, Professor of Musical Acoustics in the STEM Faculty at the Open University. Whilst his main research is in the Acoustics Research Group, he also co-supervises PhD research in the Music Computing Lab. His research interests are in musical acoustics, in particular the playing characteristics of wind instruments. He was an academic consultant for four series of BBC Coast and has appeared on the programme several times. We look forward to hosting Mohammed, Yasin MP for Bedford and Kempston, when he visits the school this month.

Mr Nicholls

Year 12 Ready 2 Lead

Year 12 are again participating in R2L. The sessions held at Bedford School have explored social enterprise and how to be effective. Speakers have included Luke Brown, Spiral Freerun; Sophie Stock, Fun for Young People; Chris Prior, Bedford School; Paul Hutchinson., Bedford Independent and Krish Gupta, Ikreative. Deeya Makadia from our successful team last year also spoke at the end.

Mr Nicholls

Oxbridge and Medical Students

Through Raising Aspirations Bedfordshire activities including mock interviews have been provided for many of our applicants. In addition, our former student Orla, visited to explain her journey from Mark Rutherford to Newnham College in Cambridge. Sixth Form students also enjoyed a session by Professor Hubbard who explained what was required to be successful. Earlier in the term Year 11 as well as Sixth Form students had a presentation by a current student at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Mr Nicholls

Year 10 / Year 11 Wadham Project

This term selected Year 10 students will start the Wadham Project and will have their first sessions looking at subjects not usually taught at GCSE. Meanwhile Year 11 students have a series of Metacognition seminars delivered by the Elephant Group. These cover the method of organising learning, self-assessment strategies, approaching tasks and how to revise. They will also present their book reviews. A larger group were fortunate to have an English-Speaking Union input, 'Discover Your Voice'. This explored how to physically project the voice and how to gain the confidence to speak in front of groups.

Mr Nicholls

NCCC U13 Best Bowler

Karanbir was successfully selected for Northamptonshire County Cricket Club (NCCC) U13s main squad on his first attempt following the 2023 winter trials. This was his first cricket season with NCCC (previously he has represented Bedfordshire County Cricket as a captain for four years). Karanbir has shown an outstanding performance this cricket season with NCCC and received two awards on 2nd October 2024, including the best bowler of the year award!

Ms Mussington



Author Workshop

We were delighted to host Ross Welford when he visited the school to talk to our Year 7s. He did a terrific magic show for the Year 7s, and we are still trying to work out how he did some of the tricks! Students were also lucky to take part in creative writing workshops.

Mr Johnson



RAF Day at Shuttleworth Trust

We took thirty Year 7s to Shuttleworth where they had the opportunity to talk to retired RAF personnel and RAF Cadets about the war, the planes and the collection. There were also a lot of practical activities – code breaking, building a model aircraft and a glider, plus trying on survival gear.

Mrs Unwin



Apprenticeships

A well-attended Apprenticeship evening was held for parents and students, supported by 16 companies with 125 people attending. The talk from ASK apprenticeships, plus the Q & A session with two apprentices was also well received. In addition, Year 12 and Year 13 students attended a seminar organised by Raising Aspirations Bedfordshire and will be given more support during the next months.

Mrs Unwin



Scholastic Book Fair

The school had a visit from the Scholastic Book Fair for a week in November and we sold £260 worth of books. The fair will be visiting the school again in June next year. Mrs Unwin would like to thank parents for their support at this event.

Mrs Unwin

Careers in Aviation

Students found out about careers in Aviation with a fascinating interactive webinar run by Inspiring the Future. We had talks from a female pilot and an RAF pilot, among others.

Mrs Unwin



Year 9 Careers Talk

A group of local employers who gave up their morning to talk to Year 9 students about their jobs, their careers and their businesses.

Mrs Unwin



Skill Build

This was an extremely good event with lots of practical activities for students to have a go at. The event showcased jobs within the Construction industry. Students (and staff) were able to have a go at brick building, carpentry, plastering and painting. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience; students who went were specifically interested in the construction trade as a career.

Mrs Unwin



Sixth Form Information Evening

On 14th November, we held our information evening for prospective Year 12 students. We held three separate talks on the evening and students and parents/carers had the opportunity to talk to subject teachers and current Sixth Form students about making their A Level and Vocational options for next year. The event was absolutely buzzing, and it was great to see staff and students engaging so enthusiastically about their subject specialisms! Students have been applying to join the Sixth Form using the Applicaa platform; applications are still open so there is still time for Year 11 students to make their choices! This is the link to the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School application website:

[Mark Rutherford School.](#)

Ms Vallance

Year 11 – Next Steps!

The Year 11 team and the Sixth Form team have been working closely to support the transition of students into post-16 education. This is a very exciting time, but it can also be a bit daunting as students prepare to move on from their compulsory education phase and begin to make their choices to support future plans. If any students have any questions, concerns or ideas about their next steps, there is plenty of support in school, from the year team, from tutors, teachers, careers leaders and the Sixth Form team (among others!). We are keen to ensure that students make the right choices, and we are excited to begin planning to work with our new Year 12 cohort in September 2025. Link to the Sixth Form application website: [Mark Rutherford School.](#)

Ms Vallance

Spring Term Key Dates

- **Monday 6th January 2025**
Staff Training Day
- **Tuesday 7th January 2025**
Term Starts (for all students)
- **Tuesday 11th February 2025**
Parents and Options Evening: Year 9
- **Monday 17th February 2025**
– **Friday 21st February 2025**
(Half Term Week)
- **Monday 24th February 2025**
Term Starts (for all students)
- **Tuesday 25th February 2025**
Parents Evening: Year 13
- **Tuesday 18th March 2025**
Parents Evening: Year 8
- **Friday 4th April 2025**
End of Term (early closure)