

The Rutherford review

What's new?

- Rutherford Rocks Bedford Esquires
- Mastering Student Motivation
- Sixth Form Work Experience
- Key Dates

[Motivated
Respectful
Successful]

SPRING ISSUE 2025

Welcome to our new and improved newsletter for the spring term. There is much to share with you about what we have been doing since returning from the Christmas break.

Much has been achieved with students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 all having mock exams. Given where the Easter break falls, when we return for the start of the summer term, we will quickly be in to the external examination season for Years 11 and 13. We are very proud of the hard work, dedication and resilience the students have shown and are confident they will do well when results are published in August.

Alongside the academic elements of school, the students have had many personal development activities to engage in. There have been a number of trips, locally and internationally, to support the students with their learning. The annual trips to Berlin and CERN are always a hit with the students! National Careers week saw the students engage with a range of employers with each year group having a visitor in their weekly assembly. It is always a privilege to welcome back ex-students and hear about all they have achieved since leaving school. We have also had a number of arts performances with

our termly music concert and A Level drama examination pieces. There has also been some sporting success in cross country and football. I am always so proud of our staff and students for their commitment to the wider elements of school life and to see them achieving in the areas that are important to them.

As we prepare for the summer term, please be reminded that in line with our uniform policy school jumpers are not mandatory after Easter and students can also wear tailored shorts.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our school community for their continued support. I hope you have a lovely Easter break and look forward to welcoming the students back on Wednesday 23rd April 2025.



Mrs K Foster
Headteacher



Tree Planting

In early February a number of our students, including those in Year 7, the Nightingale Unit, our Year 8 Enterprise students, Wellbeing and Environmental Ambassadors all assisted with a tree planting project. They planted over 2,000 trees around our school field which is an incredible achievement over just three days. This project was funded and supported with volunteers from the Forest of Marston Vale. We are looking forward to seeing how the hedgerow planting grows and to see what extra colour and wildlife this brings to our school site. We are hoping this is the first of many environmental projects at the school.

Mrs Simmonds



STEM Visit

On Thursday 27th February three students attended a Women in STEM careers afternoon at TARMAC CRH in Elstow. The afternoon consisted of a Health and Safety Briefing, a comprehensive site tour and talks about the career pathways of various female employees. TARMAC CRH is a company that are activity promoting and encouraging women in the construction industry. We learned how they have a group of women called the Female Voice who work together to make the workplace a more attractive option of women. They have changed the PPE to include female PPE and they offer free period products to all their female employees.

The students had an opportunity to get up close to one of the large diggers they use to move material around the site, which led one student to say they wanted to drive one. The students were a credit to the school and asked questions to the huge range of employees from TARMAC CRH that accompanied us around on the tour. The students and staff left the event with a better understanding of Concrete and Asphalt, a bigger appreciation of all that is involved in making these products and the commitment Tarmac makes towards sustainability.

The students received gifts for attending including their high vis jackets and a portable mobile phone charger.

Dr Pateman



Art Department

This term a former student, Rebecca, spent the week in the Art department. Currently she is in her second year of her Fine Art degree and is very keen to pursue a career in teaching.

She gave a talk in our current Year 13s about what to look for in potential art courses, the interview process, and what to expect from university life. Her passion and energy is infectious and we look forward to her next visit in the summer where she will lead on some art workshops with Key Stage 3 students.

Rebecca also supported the remodelling of the reception area and the area now has some beautiful copies of students' artwork on display giving visitors a calm, reflective space to wait in.

Meanwhile the Art department is abuzz with GCSE and A Level students' working on their exam preparation. We have some fantastic works that we look forward to displaying in the summer show.

Ms Saunders



Drama Department

Recently the Drama Department have organised and attended more fantastic trips and opportunities with our amazing students. Seeing live theatre gives students the opportunity to experience new styles, techniques and even learn how things work behind the scenes. Some of these trips have included shows such as; Peter Pan Pantomime, Starlight Express, Dear Evan Hansen and Stranger Things. We have so many more exciting trips coming up too. Make Your Mark Theatre Company's version of Annie Jr was a huge success and we are so proud of our Key Stage 3 students. We are also working hard during rehearsals for an exciting performance opportunity in Disneyland Paris in July and the Birmingham MTI Junior Theatre Festival.

Miss Ellison



Rutherford Rocks Bedford Esquires

On Wednesday 5th of February, a number of Mark Rutherford students performed at the Bedford Breakthrough event at Bedford Esquires. These events feature bands, solo artists and DJs from a number of schools and from the Bedford Music Hub, spread across three stages, and are a great showcase for new talent. Mark Rutherford band "The Prophecy" opened the show on the main stage. The quintet of Kenton, Grace, Michael, Jasmine and Leo gave a varied performance of songs from different eras and styles, finishing with the Cranberries' "Zombie". Also performing with their bands later in the evening were Daniel and Olivia and James with "Black Ridge". All in all this was an outstanding evening of the best young musicians in the Borough, with Mark Rutherford School students heavily involved.

The next Bedford Breakthrough is on Wednesday 9th July – more information can be found at:

[*Bedford Breakthrough - Summer Term - Bedford Music Service*](#)

The Prophecy will be performing in the Easter Concert on Wednesday 26th March. Tickets are available at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/mark-rutherford-school

Mr Phelps



Year 10 Workshops on 'Mastering Student Motivation'

Following the Year 10 core mock exam results afternoon on 14th March, we coordinated an external company to come in to deliver workshops to all Year 10 students on 'Mastering Motivation'. This was timed to support students in reflecting on their current study skills post mock results. Students engaged positively with the workshops and came away having been able to reflect on their current levels of motivation and strategies to ensure they continue to work hard towards their goals.

Mrs Brown



Culture Day

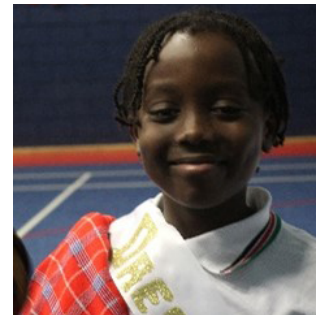
In December we hosted our second, and bigger, whole school Culture Day organised and led by our Sixth Form Cultural Student Ambassadors: Josh, Hardeep, Kyla, Aisha, Mica and Fadun.

We were delighted to invite all students to come into school wearing their cultural dress or sports shirt representing their ethnic or national heritage and our Ambassadors awarded many with the "best dressed" in each year group.

The day provided each year group with opportunities to celebrate their ethnic food, music, languages and stories with each other, allowing greater recognition and appreciation of each other's culture and heritage.

The Cultural Market style environment created showcased artwork, food, bracelet making and diversity in our languages across the school, something we hope to grow next year. The day was filled with curiosity, fun and a positive appreciation for each other's place in our school and local community. The highlight of the day was Hardeep sharing his musical talent playing the Dhol and the whole year group dance led by Kyla and Mica! We look forward to see what our Cultural Student Ambassadors have in store for us next year and if there are any students wishing to join the team they are more than welcome; please see Mrs Bubbra in B11.

Mrs Bubbra



Annie Jr Musical

The Music Department held their annual Christmas Concert in December and it was loved by all. We are working hard to produce a number of events such as the Spring Concert and the Performing Arts trip to Disneyland Paris.

Our Key Stage 3 musical Annie Jr was also a huge success and everyone involved was thrilled to showcase their wonderful talents.

We have new extra-curricular clubs running now. These include groups like, Music Technology Club and Karaoke Club - great fun for all year groups.

Miss Ellson



Climate Change Summit

In January, Geography department representatives attended the 'Climate Change Summit' at the University of Bedfordshire. This was a large scale event that involved 17 other schools from the local area, Hertfordshire, Milton Keynes and Essex and numerous stakeholders in the climate change industry. Alongside the in-depth and informative workshops, students were also treated to a 'marketplace' style exhibition, allowing them to meet and greet sustainability representatives from a number of exciting businesses, including Microsoft, Airlander Airships and Unilever. Our students did us proud and got thoroughly involved in the activities and asked lots of thought-provoking questions. The whole day was a resounding success and it really had our students thinking about the challenges and potential opportunities that climate change poses. We will be looking to implement some changes ourselves in the coming months to make positive steps to reducing carbon footprints in school.

Mr Morgan



GCSE Poetry Live

Early in the Spring term we were fortunate to be able to support our Year 11s with their GCSE English Literature journey through two external trips to GCSE Poetry Live. The year group was split in two with half being taken to the New Theatre in Peterborough and the other to the Royal and Derngate in Northampton. Here, our students were able to experience performances from Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, Imtiaz Dharker and John Agard. Students were also able to listen to insights from GCSE examiners to support revision for their upcoming Literature exams. I'd like to thank all staff involved for enabling this wonderful opportunity for our Year 11 cohort.

Mr Johnson



Talking About Communication at Mark Rutherford School

Expert trainers from Talk the Talk will be coming into school on Friday 21st March 2025 to work with students in Year 7.

Talk About Communication Express is an exciting and engaging half-day workshop developing speaking and listening skills within a creative learning environment. The workshop provides numerous speaking opportunities and students will explore visual, vocal and verbal communication skills, key presentation methods and how to structure a short talk - all in a fun and supportive atmosphere.

'We demonstrate that speaking out should be an experience that we CAN do – and one that is nowhere near as daunting as we might think. One of the keys to the success of the Talk the Talk programme is creating an environment of mutual respect with a supportive ethos so that when students stand up and voice their opinions, share their thoughts and present their ideas – their skills and confidence grow.'

Talk the Talk

Talk the Talk's mission is to develop students' oracy skills and communication confidence to support positive interaction in all life situations and improved social outcomes. Talk the Talk has trained over 115,000 students to be confident communicators across England and Wales since they began in 2013.

To learn more about Talk the Talk's work visit them at www.talkthetalkuk.org.

Prom Shop

The Year 11 team have opened their very own prom shop, offering a wide range of beautiful dresses and suits for students to enjoy. The shop, which is located on the school grounds, has already received a number of generous donations. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far.

The shop aims to make prom season more accessible for all students. With the help of the community, they've gathered a stunning selection of gently used dresses, suits and shoes. If you'd like to make further donations, please bring them to reception. If students are interested in looking at what we already have available, please speak to Mrs Dougan.

Mrs Elvin

Pi Day Challenge

On Friday, March 14, students took part in the Pi Day Challenge. Pi (π), the famous irrational number beginning with 3.14159..., goes on infinitely without repeating.

Memorising its digits is no easy feat, but our competitors were up for the challenge. Students took turns stepping up, confidently reciting digit after digit, pushing their memories to the limit.

Some managed a few, while others stunned the audience with their incredible recall. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and support as everyone cheered for their peers.

A huge congratulations to our top performers: Asiya manages to recite 102 digits, Suki - 67 and Mimi - 30. And well done to everyone who participated—you all showed great enthusiasm and determination.

Thank you to all who joined in the fun and made this Pi Day one to remember. We look forward to seeing even more impressive recitations next year—so start practicing those digits now!

Mrs Montgomery

Year 9 Football

This season has seen over 40 boys represent the school across the Year 9 A Team and Year 9 B Team.

The B Team have now completed their season which saw them compete against Etonbury, Pix Brook, Edward Peake, Goldington and Sandy. The boys did exceptionally well considering that four of those fixtures were against the opposition's A Team. Throughout the fixtures there have been multiple students represent the school for the first time as well as several who have played in a competitive football fixture for the first time.

The A Team's season is ongoing as they hope to qualify past the league stage of the District Cup – their final league game is against Castle Newnham before the final standings will be decided. The A Team also had a great run to the quarter-finals of the County Cup where they were beaten by Samuel Whitbread in what was a competitive game.

Mr Taylor



Mark Rutherford 2 – 0 Lincroft

Both teams went in goalless at the half time interval with the new centre back pairing of, captain, Harry and, debutant, Dylan playing superbly well and keeping things tight at the back. Lincroft posed a threat going forward and were winning the physical duels, to begin with. The midfield pairing of Shay and Noah started to come into the game, with Noah winning the ball and Shay making some nice passes. This improvement gave the team something to build on and chances began to be created. Michael showed his pace to go through on goal, twice before half time, but was outdone by the bobbly pitch (or so he will tell anyone that will listen).

The second half was more one sided and a tactical switch moved Michael to Right back. An excellent run by winger Tom then released Michael on the overlap. He burst into the box and pot a deadly ball across the face of the goal, resulting in the desperate defender tapping into his own net. 1-0.

Jayden, also on debut, came on at half time to replace the solid Dylan at left back. Jayden was excellent and his composure on the ball resulted in a nice pass inside to Shay. She set herself and let fly from 25 yards. The ball sailed over the keeper and into the net! 2-0.

Dylan took a nasty tumble and needed a rest. Striker Lucas 'took one for the team' and filled in at centre back. The defence held firm and when Dylan replaced the excellent Milosz at right back, the opposition never had a sniff of the Mark Rutherford goal.

A well fought and well deserved 2-0 win, following their 7-2 win over Bedford Academy, places us in 1st position in the league with 4 games to play.

Player of the match was captain fantastic, Harry.

Team: Dylan, Lucas, Harry, Jayden, Michael, Liam, Noah, Kieran, Kai, Shay, Max, Tom, Milosz and Dylan.

Mr Snowdon

Year 8 and 9 Rugby

The Year 8 and 9 Rugby teams met in a heavily anticipated clash of year groups.

Year 8s burst into a 3 try lead before the Year 9s had even had the ball in their possession. Year 9 settled into the game and it became a bit more of a contest. Year 8s were always comfortable, especially when George or Reon were running with the ball. Harvey and Jacob were awesome in defence and kept the scoreline more respectable. We lost count of the score but it was around 10 tries to 5 in favour of the Year 8s.

It was an excellent game with some very good skills on show, particularly from some of those newer to the game. A big thank you to those staff that came out to show their support. The boys definitely appreciated it!

Mr Snowdon



Athletics

This term has been nothing short of outstanding for our athletes, with incredible achievements across a variety of sports. Their hard work, passion, and teamwork have been truly commendable.

Our Year 7 & 8 and Year 9 & 10 girls' futsal teams put in stellar performances, securing third place in the county—a fantastic accomplishment that highlights their skill and determination.

On the rugby field, the Year 8 boys' team played with heart and intensity, with Harry producing a moment of brilliance by scoring four exceptional solo tries against Bedford Junior Blues. Despite an excellent showing in the 7's tournament, the team narrowly missed out on progression. The Year 9 boys also impressed, demonstrating resilience and teamwork against tough opposition, with standout performances from Harvey and Jacob. Meanwhile, the Year 7 rugby team put in a fantastic effort, finishing fourth out of eight teams, losing just two matches and displaying some truly exciting rugby.

The County Cross Country Championships saw remarkable success, with Archie dominating the Inter Boys race to take first place. Aidan and Scott also performed strongly, finishing in 10th and 11th place respectively. In the Junior Boys race, Fraser narrowly missed out on victory, securing an impressive second place, followed closely by Harry in third and Oliver in sixth, all delivering brilliant runs.

In swimming, Veljko made the school proud by capturing gold in the 200m Mixed IM, a tremendous achievement showcasing his talent and dedication.

Across our team sports, both the Year 8 football team and the Year 7 & 8 netball teams are enjoying remarkable winning streaks, demonstrating their strength and consistency throughout the season.

A huge congratulations to all our athletes for their hard work and success this term. We can't wait to see what the next term brings!

Mr Marin



Year 8 Football Team

The Year 8 football team began their District League campaign with a 7-2 thumping over Bedford Academy.

The power and pace of Reon up front proved too much for the visiting defenders as he scored 3, forced an own goal and should have had about 8 more!

Kai came off the bench at half time and took two very good goals, arriving late at the back stick to slot home past the BA goalkeeper, who was comfortably their man of the match.

Liam, who started at the school on Monday following a move in the January transfer window, made his debut in goal. Only to go off injured after just 15 minutes. Up stepped Oscar to replace him. Unfortunately, Oscar's first touch of the ball was when he picked it up out of the back of his own net as BA levelled the score at 1-1.

The visitors had a powerful central midfielder who initially caused problems for the diminutive duo of Tom and Max. However, Noah was sent on to 'do a job' on the opponents' main man and what a job he did. Comparisons were made to a prime Yaya Toure as he repeatedly demolished his opponent and with that the aspirations of Bedford Academy. Noah was awesome. He played to his strengths and was a complete nuisance. Something that comes naturally to him.

The whole team was excellent. A solid performance from the back four of Milosz, Darcy, Harry and Bradley limited attacks on our goal. Tom and Noah battled hard in the middle of the pitch. Dylan, Kai, Michael and Ben were superb on the wings, causing all sorts of problems for the fullbacks and providing countless opportunities for Reon. Lucas showed some nice touches and got himself on the scoresheet late on.

Player of the match – Noah for an awesome performance in the heart of the midfield.

Mr Snowdon



Careers in Health Day

We had a fantastic Careers in Health Day with 19 representatives for the Health and Care sector coming into school to talk about their roles and the opportunities available in their industry. Over 60 students took part in this day which had lots of hands-on activities as well as the chance to find out about jobs in the NHS and allied professions. We are really grateful for the amazing support we had from the NHS, the University of Bedfordshire and local businesses to run this event.

Mrs Unwin



Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 Rugby team played in the Northampton Saints 7s Series.

9 schools competed, travelling from all over the area, some as far as Watford Boys Grammar School, Basildon and Barnet! The standard was very impressive and was going to be a real challenge for our boys.

There were 3 groups of 3 teams. We started with a victory over Sharnbrook 5 tries to 3 and then drew with Bedford Modern School 3-3. This meant we topped our group and went into the best group of 3 to decide on the winners.

We were then up against the best two schools there and lost two excellent games by just one try each time. 4-3 to Shenley Brook End and 5-4 to Woodlands, from Basildon. The top two teams go through to the regional finals which are played at Franklin Gardens, home of Northampton Saints. We finished in a very respectable 3rd place.

The whole squad was awesome! We were so proud of their efforts, as were the numerous parents that came along to support. We received multiple positive comments from opposing coaches and the Saints coaches and referees. I was also approached by a coach from The National 7's Academy, who had identified some talent in our team. Watch this space for this one...

Mr Snowdon



B Team

The Year 8s recently hosted Goldington B team yesterday afternoon.

In what can only be described as 'a complete shambles' of a first half, Goldington led 2-1 at the interval. A hotly contested (by Oscar and his mum) penalty was awarded to Goldington, by Mr Snowdon, which was subsequently dispatched into the back of the net. 1-0.

Our boys were not playing as a team and struggled to create any openings. Solid defensive work from Elnathan and Oscar, and some excellent goalkeeping from Joe, kept Goldington out. The introduction of Kai, fresh from an hour's detention, gave the team some impetus. His positive running created an opening for Lucas S to slot home from just inside the box. The boys grew in confidence and fancied their chances to grab a second. Right up until a defensive mix up between Thomas 'Screech Powers' Jackson and Joe 'The cat' Belsham allowed the Goldington striker to walk the ball into an empty net. 2-1 to Goldington at half time.

Some words from the coach, basically reminding them they are playing a team sport, improved things in the second half and the boys actually started passing the ball to each other! This created numerous openings and eventually led to the equaliser. Jayden chipped a delightful free kick over the defensive line and Noah raced in behind to beat the keeper to the ball and draw the scores level. This buoyed the team. They smelt blood and pushed on for the winner.

Tino actually stood in his correct position for the first time in the game. He then managed to control the ball. Even more shocking was that he passed it to a team mate!!! An excellent ball down the wing to the excellent Kai, resulted in another pass (3 in a row now!!) inside to Lucas S. Some fancy footwork created an opening just inside the box and he lit rip with a beauty of a finish to put his team in front, with 2 minutes to play. Some solid running and pressing from Lucas V and Milosz, in the middle of the park, ensured any threat of an equaliser was snuffed out. Final score 3-2 to Mark Rutherford!

Man of the match – Kai.

Mr Snowdon



Careers in the Navy

Year 7 students had an exciting time building and testing distress flares with the Navy this term. They developed their teambuilding skills and put together a distress flare which was tested outside with great cheers (apologies for all the lessons we disturbed!). The Navy personnel also led a question and answer session so the students were able to find out about careers in the Navy.

Mrs Unwin



Army

As part of National Careers Week, we had visitors in speaking at our assemblies that week about their jobs and opportunities. The Army came in to speak to Year 10 students, then stayed to do a drop-in question and answer session with the students.

Mrs Unwin



Careers Talks and Visits

Look out next term for the visits that we are running to Shuttleworth College, Brooks Hair Salon, and taster days at the University of Bedfordshire in midwifery, social work, paramedics and much more. Your Careers Lead is Mrs Unwin, so if you want to book on any of these you need to see her in the library.

If you want to talk to a careers expert about your options, you can book an appointment with our qualified Careers Advisors, Lee and Sharma. Again, see Mrs Unwin for further information.

Mrs Unwin



Unifrog

The school subscribes to this platform; take a look. Parents can now sign up for their own account, head to: www.unifrog.org/code

Enter the code **MRUSparents** when prompted, and create an account!

Mrs Unwin

Careers in the Games Industry

Martyn Simmons, a senior lecturer in computer games, came to give an inspiring talk to our students about all the opportunities available in the games industry.

Mrs Unwin

Working Dog Visit

Year 7 pupils were surprised to find three gorgeous dogs waiting for them in their assembly. These were working dogs with the Prison Service. It was lovely to welcome back Kane, a former student from Mark Rutherford School, and his colleague Paul to come as part of National Careers Week, and explain their work to us. We persuaded some of the staff to act as guinea pigs on a drugs hunt.

Mrs Unwin



Year 10 and Year 11 Wadham Project

The project this year has seen our Year 10 group receive a variety of talks about subjects not normally available at GCSE. These have included Art History given by our own Ms Saunders; Psychology, and Politics. The group will shortly be participating in a STEM Day and in the summer will have a visit to Oxford. The Year 11 group successfully completed their meta-cognition course and will receive badges to reflect this.

Mr Nicholls

Meet the Employer

Three former students, Daisy, Henzio and Jack were joined by a group of local employers to talk to our Year 9 students about their jobs and careers with another successful "Meet and Employer" event.

The Year 9s were positive about the event, very engaged and keen to find out more about careers.

Mrs Unwin



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 07.07.25). 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.

Ms Vallance

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 will be taking their mock exams at the end of this term, and 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.

Ms Vallance

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, but the Sixth Form at Mark Rutherford School was the only Sixth Form present! We had some great conversations with students, and after the event we interviewed a number of students who have applied to join our Sixth Form in September 2025. Students were well-prepared for their interviews, and were excited about what we have to offer them in Year 12!

The Sixth Form team also visited Goldington Academy 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.

Ms Vallance

Exam Anxiety Workshops

Year 13 students are reaching a pivotal point in their lives, with Summer exams which will secure their places at university, on degree apprenticeship courses or in employment. Whatever students' next steps may be, there is undoubtedly a lot of pressure on them to succeed. This can lead to anxiety around the exams, and to help students to develop and use strategies to manage their thoughts and feelings in the run up to their final exams, workshops were delivered by The Pathway Still. The sessions were excellent, with a 'totally relaxing vibe', and students discovered the power of positive thinking and self-talk. Students who took part in the sessions have found them useful and are working to adopt the 'useful habits' they learned about in the workshops.

Ms Vallance

Sixth Form Interviews and Applications Update

We have had 200 completed applications for the Sixth Form this year, with 130 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 on 6th and 13th 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 20 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. Students who currently go to Castle Newnham School visited Mark Rutherford School last week for their Sixth Form interviews, and we look forward to welcoming them (and students from other providers!) to Year 12 in September.

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!

Ms Vallance



Year 12 Speakers'

Recent speakers to visit Mark Rutherford School have included Zara Matthews of the Panacea Society. This unique piece of Bedford's heritage proved useful for one of our students who included this at a university interview. The interviewer was pleased to learn something new. We also welcomed Dr Nicola Darwood from the University of Bedfordshire who discussed extended writing. The impact of AI was also considered. Simon Boyden of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spoke about his diplomatic career which has seen him as Ambassador to Mauritania and High Commissioner to Eswatini. He promoted the benefits of a diplomatic career including being provided with the opportunity to learn a language.

Mr Nicholls

Year 12 Ready 2 Lead

Following the preparation sessions given to upskill contestants our team went to the final at Kimberley College in November. The team was praised for its idea to connect young and old, being invited to take this further with partners. Congratulations to Jasmine, Rebecca and Julia.

Mr Nicholls

Year 12 Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme

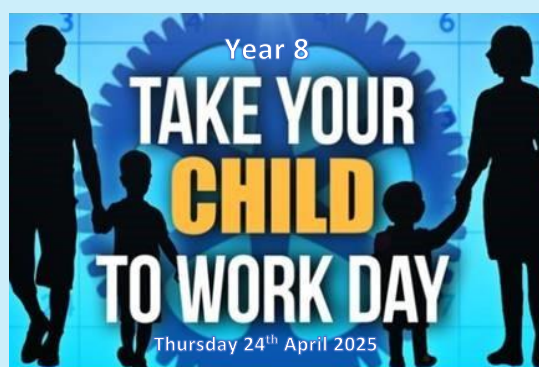
Supported by Raising Aspirations and funded by the Connolly Foundation, fourteen students are studying with Megan Bedford from Coventry University. Megan has conducted research on natural flood management but is exploring the impact of urban trees on biodiversity. She has adapted this research for the Brilliant Club and our students are currently completing their dissertations. Graduation this year will be at Wadham College.

Mr Nicholls

KEY DATES

Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	Staff Training Day
Wednesday 23rd April	Term Starts (for all students)
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 6th May	Parents' Evening: Year 10
Tuesday 13th May	Parents' Evening: Year 12
Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May	(Half Term Week)
Tuesday 1st July	Year 6 into 7 Transfer Day and Parents' Meeting
Friday 4th July	Academic Mentoring Day (for all students)
Tuesday 22nd July	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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