

October Strattonian

19th October 2026



Stratton School News | [What a cracking half term...](#)

Dear Families,

As our first half term draws to a close, I would like to thank our students, families and staff for such a positive and purposeful start to the academic year. Since September, our students have embraced a huge range of opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom. From open evenings, trips and visits, to enrichment activities, sport, performances and outstanding work in lessons, it has been a busy and successful start to the year. Our values of Be Kind, Be Engaged, Be Ambitious have been evident throughout the term, and I hope this edition of *The Strattonian* gives you a flavour of just some of the experiences, achievements and successes that have taken place across our school community.

One of my personal highlights this term was receiving news that Stratton School has been awarded the FFT National School Attendance Award 2025/26, recognising us as one of the Top 25% Most Improved Secondary Schools in England for attendance. This recognition reflects the collective efforts of our students, families and staff in promoting the importance of regular attendance and ensuring that every young person has the best possible opportunity to succeed. We know that excellent attendance is closely linked to stronger academic outcomes, greater participation in enrichment opportunities and the development of lifelong habits that support future success. Whilst we are proud of this achievement, we remain ambitious and committed to supporting every student to attend well and thrive.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support.

Sam Farmer

Principal

End-of-term dates and arrangements

Please note the following dates from the published Meridian Trust secondary school calendar:

- **Thursday 22 October 2026:** Final day of teaching for students before half term
- **Friday 23 October 2026:** Staff training day, school closed to students
- **Monday 26 to Friday 30 October 2026:** Half-term holiday
- **Monday 2 November 2026:** Staff training day, school closed to students
- **Tuesday 3 November 2026:** Students return for Autumn Term 2

Families can view the complete calendar online [Term Dates | Stratton School](#)

Catering

The Autumn/ Winter menu will launch after half term. The Menu can be found here:

➔ <https://stratton.school/catering>

We are running a **feedback** survey at the moment. This will help us ensure Caterlink are providing Stratton the very best offer. [Catering Feedback – Fill out form](#)

Academic Mentoring Window Reminders

What is this? [Academic Mentoring at Stratton School | Stratton School](#)

- Week Beginning 19th October: Year 9
- Week Beginning 9th November: Year 8

Welcoming our future Stratton families



October's Year 6 Open Evening was a wonderful opportunity to welcome prospective students and their families into Stratton. Visitors explored the school, met students and staff and discovered more about our curriculum, enrichment opportunities and supportive transition programme.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening such a success and to the families who shared such generous and positive feedback. We were especially proud of the Stratton students who supported the event and represented the school so confidently.

Applications for Year 7 places in September 2027 must be made through Central Bedfordshire Council by 31st October 2026.



STRATTON SCHOOL

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING 2026

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

BE KIND • BE ENGAGED • BE AMBITIOUS

WHAT FAMILIES SAID

“ The whole experience was fantastic. ”

“ The pupils were polite and the staff were enthusiastic and welcoming. ”

“ Each department had engaging activities and staff encouraged children to get involved. ”

“ An amazing evening and the best open evening we have attended. ”

“ We were extremely impressed with the facilities, organisation and effort put into the evening. ”

“ The teachers were really helpful and answered all our questions. ”

“ My child came away absolutely buzzing to start their secondary school journey. ”

“ We are highly considering Stratton for Year 7. ”

HIGHLIGHTS FAMILIES VALUED MOST



Meeting teachers and staff



Exploring the school



Learning about the Year 7 curriculum



Information about transition and support



Opportunities to ask questions

THANK YOU

We are incredibly proud of our students, staff and wider community for making the evening such a success.

STRATTON SCHOOL

BE KIND • BE ENGAGED • BE AMBITIOUS



Year 11 into 12 Open Evening

Have you booked your place yet (Year 11 Families)? **Link** → [Wednesday 11th November 6pm - 8pm – Fill out form](#)



MATT KING SIXTH FORM

2027 ENTRY | OPEN EVENING

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

Wednesday 11 November 2026

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Stratton School



WHY MATT KING SIXTH FORM?

- ✓ A Level & Vocational Study Pathways
- ✓ Expert Teaching & Outstanding Support
- ✓ Exceptional University & Apprenticeship Progression
- ✓ Leadership & Enrichment Opportunities
- ✓ Dedicated Sixth Form Facilities
- ✓ Extensive Careers Guidance

SIGN UP HERE



Internal and External Applicants Welcome

BE KIND • BE ENGAGED • BE AMBITIOUS

Matt King Sixth Form
Stratton School



Geography fieldwork at Hunstanton

On 22 September, Year 11 Geography students visited Hunstanton to complete important fieldwork for their GCSE examinations. The students worked purposefully throughout the day and received particularly positive feedback from a local Biggleswade resident also on a day out, who described them as “exceptionally well behaved and a credit to themselves and their school”.

Politics at Parliament

Our A Level Politics students visited Parliament for a tour and an elections workshop, during which they developed their own manifestos. Students also met local MP Richard Fuller, who answered their questions and explained his role and priorities as the local parliamentary representative.



History comes to life

Year 7 students who had made an exceptional start to their secondary History studies were selected to participate in a live broadcast linked to the Bayeux Tapestry. The session gave students access to historical expertise and extraordinary objects without having to leave school.

Creativity across Stratton

It has been an exciting half term in Art and Photography. Year 9 Photography students have been learning to use SLR cameras and control different camera settings. Their experiments with shutter speed produced a striking collection of creative light-painting photographs. Meanwhile, Year 10 GCSE Art students have made an excellent start to their portfolio projects. Students have selected themes including *Growth and Decay*, *Culture* and *Marine Life*, producing detailed observational and tonal drawings as the foundation for their developing portfolios. We were also treated to the amazing work from last year at the Visual Arts Exhibition.



Mathematical Ambition

Selected students from Years 9 to 13 took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge on 7 October, providing an excellent opportunity to engage with demanding mathematical problems and enrichment beyond the curriculum. The KS3 Maths Club is also now running every Wednesday in T9 and has already attracted an encouraging turnout. KS5 students can access Wednesday drop-in support, while Year 11 Maths intervention will return after the October half-term break.

<https://www.facebook.com/StrattonSchoolBeds>

English and Reading Creativity

It has been a busy and exciting start to the term in English, with students across all year groups engaging in a range of reading and enrichment opportunities. Students in year 7 have recently begun studying *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. This inspiring novel explores themes of kindness, empathy and acceptance, and we are looking forward to seeing students develop their reading, analytical and discussion skills through the text. We are also delighted to confirm that this year's **Book Buzz** books have now been ordered for all Year 7 students. Through this fantastic scheme, each student will receive their own carefully selected book to keep, helping us to foster a love of reading and encourage independent reading habits both in and out of school. Later this term, some of our Year 10 students will take part in **the *Aspire to Be* programme**. The experience will help students explore future education and career pathways, raise aspirations and develop their understanding of the opportunities available to them beyond school. Our Year 12 English students will also have the opportunity to attend a theatre performance of *The Lives of Others*. This trip will help to deepen students' contextual understanding of surveillance, power and control, supporting their study of *The Handmaid's Tale* and enriching their appreciation of the political and social contexts that underpin the novel.

Halloween Creative Writing Competition

To celebrate the spooky season, we will soon be launching our Halloween-themed Creative Writing Competition. Students will be invited to submit their own original stories, descriptions or poems, with prizes available for the most imaginative and engaging entries. We look forward to reading some wonderfully creepy creations!

Reading, home learning and intervention

Reading unlocks every area of the curriculum. It helps students understand mathematical problems, scientific terminology, historical sources and complex instructions across different subjects. Weekly Sparx Reader tasks are compulsory for Years 7 and 8. Sparx Reader is also strongly encouraged as a revision resource for Years 10 and 11.

All home learning is carefully designed to consolidate classroom teaching. Families can support students by helping them establish regular routines, meet deadlines and complete work to a high standard. Where students are allocated targeted academic intervention, these sessions form part of the student's official timetable. Families can view allocated sessions through MCAS, while students can see them through Bromcom. More information on home learning can be found here

[Home Learning | Stratton School](#)

Safety is Key!



This term, our Year 7 and Year 12 students took part in dedicated Safety Days, designed to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to make safe and informed choices.

Throughout the programme, students explored a range of important topics including road safety, online safety, first aid, personal safety, exploitation awareness and the role of the emergency services.

Year 12 students also benefited from a visit by the Biggleswade Fire Brigade, gaining valuable insight into fire safety, risk management and the work of local emergency responders.



These engaging and informative sessions helped students develop essential life skills and reinforced the importance of staying safe both in school and within the wider community.



Year 7 focused on essential lifesaving skills, including how to make 999 calls and triage first aid scenarios in an emergency. Year 12 also had a virtual reality driving experience.



Clubs, sport and enrichment – Schedule included in the back pages of this update

Our Session 6 programme has enjoyed an excellent start, with students engaging enthusiastically in sport, performing arts, STEM, technology, reading, leadership and creative activities.

More than 100 students initially signed up to be involved in our next school musical, Into the Woods, with students contributing as performers and through backstage, technical and front-of-house roles. Our sports teams have also enjoyed a strong beginning to the year, representing Stratton in a variety of home and away fixtures

We strongly encourage every student to participate in at least one wider opportunity during the year. These experiences help students develop confidence, friendships, character and a genuine sense of belonging.

Careers and future pathways



We have launched the first edition of the Stratton School Careers Bulletin. Designed for students and families, it brings together open days, apprenticeship vacancies, careers events, webinars, employer insights and useful online resources. [The Stratton School Careers Bulletin | Stratton School](#)

Families can also explore the refreshed Meridian Career Pathways website, which has been designed to help young people discover different careers, start conversations at home and consider the steps towards their future. [Home | Meridian Career Pathways](#)

Teaching and Learning at Stratton

Our teaching and learning priority this term is regularly checking for understanding. Teachers assess learning throughout lessons so that misconceptions can be identified quickly and explanations, support or tasks can be adapted.

Two of the strategies students may have spoken about at home are:

- *No Hands Up or Cold Calling:* Everyone is given time to think before a student is selected to respond. This keeps the whole class engaged and helps teachers understand how securely learning has been grasped.
- *No Opt-Out:* When a student is unsure of an answer, the teacher provides support, breaks the question into smaller stages or asks another student to help before returning to the original student. The aim is to help every student experience success.

These approaches support inclusive, high-expectation classrooms in which every student is known, valued and helped to make progress.

Attendance matters

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance helps students keep pace with learning, maintain friendships, access intervention and enrichment, and develop the routines needed for future success.

Please continue to ensure that students attend every day unless they are genuinely unwell and arrive punctually, fully equipped and ready to learn. If your child is experiencing a barrier to attendance, please contact the school at the earliest opportunity so that appropriate help can be considered.

Keep up to date

More photographs, celebrations and day-to-day stories from across the school can be found on:

- [Stratton School Facebook page](#)
- [Latest news and articles from Stratton School](#)

We wish all students and families a safe, restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming students back on **Tuesday 3 November**, ready for another ambitious half term.

Key Dates & Events Next Half Term...

Please remember that all key events and Parents' Evenings for 2026-2027 can be found on our website: [Parent Evenings & Key Events 2026-2027](#)

3 rd November	9am	SEND Coffee Morning for Y8 families
10 th November	9am	SEND Coffee Morning for Matt King Sixth Form families
11 th November	8am	Roll of Honour Breakfast (Invites only) Y8
	5:50pm	Y 11 into Y 12 Open Evening
19 th November	7pm	Music Leaders' Talent Show
25 th November	8am	Roll of Honour Breakfast (Invites only) Y10
26 th November	3:45pm	Y11 Parents' Subject Consultation Evening
27 th November	All Day	School Closed to students – Training Day for Staff
9 th December	All Day	Aspire to be – A level English Conference
10 th December	7pm	Cabaret Night (Talent Show)
18 th December	1:30pm	School closes for end of full term

[Year 8 Guided Choices for GCSE | Stratton School](#) This is an exciting time for our Year 8 students as they start the next steps towards their qualifications at KS4, and towards their futures. It is a straightforward process of choices but can be overwhelming; we aim to provide support and discussion along the way to ensure the best possible provision for their future studies. Here is an 'at a glance' overview:



Stratton School

Be kind, be engaged, be ambitious

Specialise Your Learning

Shape Your Future

Why we choose guided option choices in Year 8 to begin GCSE study in Year 9



In the **DRIVING SEAT** of your education and your future.

The really good reasons...

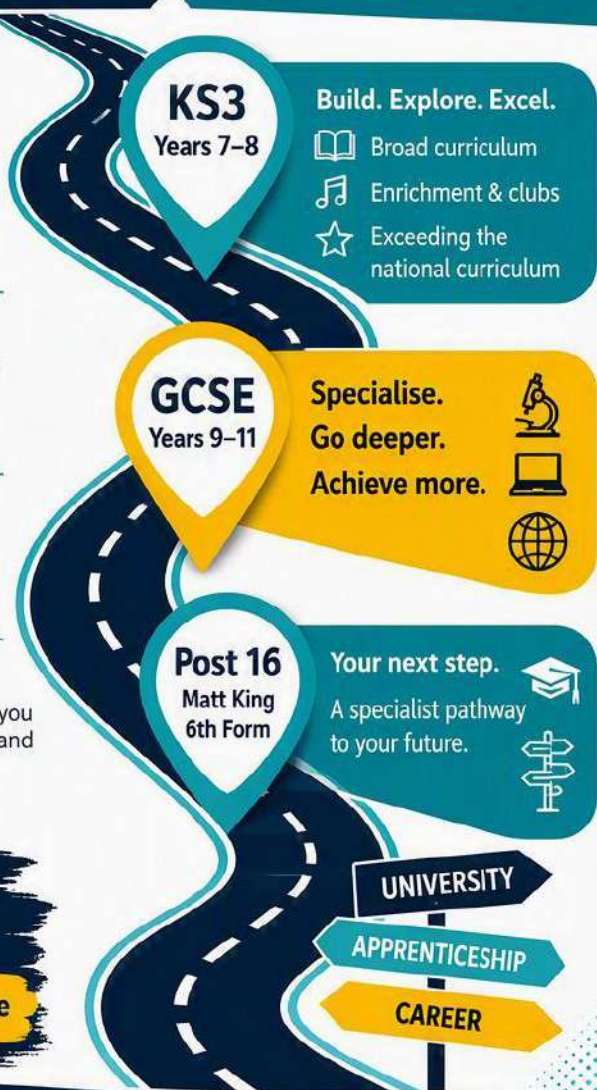
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1 You're in the driving seat!
Choose subjects that excite you, match your interests and future ambitions.
- 

2 More time to go deeper
A 3-year GCSE journey means more time to read around your subjects, learn wider, deepen knowledge and master key skills.
- 

3 Guided by experts
High quality careers advice, guidance and support – with input from teachers, parents and families.
- 

4 Built on strong foundations
A broad Key Stage 3 programme gives you a wide range of subjects, experiences and skills before you specialise.



KS3
Years 7–8

Build. Explore. Excel.

-  Broad curriculum
-  Enrichment & clubs
-  Exceeding the national curriculum

GCSE
Years 9–11

Specialise. Go deeper. Achieve more.

- 
- 
- 

Post 16
Matt King 6th Form

Your next step. A specialist pathway to your future.

- 
- 

UNIVERSITY

APPRENTICESHIP

CAREER



Find out more about our **Year 8 Guided Choices for GCSE** on our website.

 stratton.school/year-8-guided-choices-for-gcse



Broad Key Stage 3 programmes



Enrichment, clubs and trips



Exceeding the national curriculum



High expectations, high achievement



Preparing you for life, learning and work



Stratton School



We would like to invite you to a

SEND COFFEE MORNING



A chance for parents/carers to come together,
meet our SENDCO and learn more about
SEND support at Stratton.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Sixth Form
22/9/26: 9-10am	3/11/26: 9-10am	06/10/26: 9-10am	13/10/26: 9-10am	29/09/26: 9-10am	10/11/26: 9-10am

Aim of the Coffee morning:



Meet the SENDCO.



Presentation on
SEND at Stratton



Q&A



You will be required
to inform us of your
attendance prior to the
date. Please email to
let us know if you are
attending:

sendenquiries@stratton.school



We belong at Stratton where every individual is known,
valued, and supported.

Be **Kind**

Be **Engaged**

Be **Ambitious**



Autumn Clubs 2026



MONDAY

● BADMINTON

KS4/5 - 8:00am - PE

● STEM CLUB

KS3 - 3:10-4:10 - Lab 3

● WARHAMMER & TABLETOP

All - 3:15-4:45 - Lab 12

● ART & PHOTOGRAPHY SUPPORT

KS4 - 3:10-4:10 - AR1

● DRAMA CLUB

KS3 - 3:10-4:10 - Drama Studio

● DANCE CLUB

All - 3:10-4:00 - Dance Studio



TUESDAY

● MUSIC LEADERS' GUITAR

KS3 - Early Lunch - Practice Room 4

● CHRISTIAN UNION

All - Lunch - MU2

● HISTORY CLUB

Y7 & 9 - Early Lunch - Week A - TBC

● HISTORY CLUB

Y8 & 10 - Late Lunch - Week B - TBC

● D&D CLUB

Y8, 10 & 11 - 3:10-4:10 - Library



WEDNESDAY

● HOMEWORK SUPPORT

Y7-11 - Late Lunch - TBC

● HACK CLUB

KS3 - 3:10-4:30 - IT2

● MATHS CLUB

KS3 - 3:10-4:00 - T9

● ANIME & MANGA

Y7 & 8 - Week A - 3:10-4:10 - Library

● ANIME & MANGA

Y9-11 - Week B - 3:10-4:10 - Library

● SCHOOL PRODUCTION

All - 3:10-5:30 - Hall

● ORCHESTRA

All - 3:10-4:10 - MU1

● BOYS' FOOTBALL

All - 3:10-4:00 - PE

● NETBALL

All - 3:10-4:00 - PE



THURSDAY

● MUSIC LEADERS' KEYBOARD

KS3 - Early Lunch - MU2

● MUSIC LEADERS' GUITAR

KS3 - Early Lunch - Practice Room 4

● ENTERPRISE / EVENTS TEAM

KS5 - 3:15-4:15 - TBC

● DOFE

Y9 & 10 - 3:10-4:10 - TBC

● ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

KS3 - 3:10-4:10 - AR2

● D&D

All - 3:10-4:15 - Drama Studio

● CHOIR

All - 3:10-4:10 - Hall

● GIRLS' FOOTBALL

All - 3:10-4:00 - PE

● D&D CLUB - Invited Group

Y8, 10 & 11 - 3:10-4:10 - Library



FRIDAY

● ECO CLUB

All - Early Lunch Week A / Late Lunch Week B - TBC

● BOOK CLUB

Y7, 9 & 11 - Early Lunch - TBC

● FITNESS CLUB

All - Late Lunch - PE

● BATTLE OF THE BANDS

All - 3:10-4:10 - Music Centre

● BASKETBALL

All - 3:10-4:00 - PE



**Stratton
School**

AUTUMN TERM PE FIXTURES

PLAY HARD • PLAY FAIR • PLAY TOGETHER

STRATTON SCHOOL SPORT 2026

FB FOOTBALL • BOYS Y11

- 5 OCT** Stratton v Goldington A
Venue: Goldington
- 12 OCT** Mark Rutherford A v Stratton
Venue: Stratton

FB FOOTBALL • BOYS Y8

- 9 OCT** Stratton v Bedford Academy B
Venue: Bedford Academy
- 6 OCT** Kempston v Goldington B
Venue: Kempston
- 6 OCT** Lincroft B v Wixams
Venue: Wixams
- 13 OCT** Kempston v Stratton
Venue: Stratton

FB FOOTBALL • BOYS Y9

- 19 OCT** Stratton v Wixams
Venue: Stratton
- 2 NOV** Daubeney v Stratton
Venue: Daubeney
- 9 NOV** Stratton v Lincroft B
Venue: Lincroft
- 16 NOV** Stratton v BFS
Venue: Stratton
- 23 NOV** Goldington B v Stratton
Venue: Stratton

FB FOOTBALL • GIRLS Y7/8

- 5 OCT** Stratton v Goldington
Venue: Goldington
- 19 OCT** Mark Rutherford v Stratton
Venue: Mark Rutherford
- TBA BY 23 OCT** Stratton v Edward Peake
Venue: Stratton

FB FOOTBALL • GIRLS U15/16

- 21 OCT** Stratton v CNS
Venue: CNS
- TBA 23 OCT** Stratton v Goldington
Venue: Stratton

NB NETBALL • U16

- 6 OCT** Stratton v Goldington
Venue: Goldington
- 13 OCT** REST WEEK v Stratton
Venue: -

BB BASKETBALL • Y9

- 5 OCT** Stratton v Goldington
Venue: Stratton
- 19 OCT** Edward Peake v Stratton
Venue: Stratton
- TBA BY 23 OCT** Stratton v CNS
Venue: CNS

BB BASKETBALL • Y11

- 9 NOV** Kempston v Stratton
Venue: Kempston
- 16 NOV** Stratton v Bedford School
Venue: Stratton
- 23 NOV** Biddenham v Stratton
Venue: Stratton
- 30 NOV** Edward Peake v Stratton
Venue: Stratton
- 7 DEC** Stratton v BFS
Venue: Stratton
- 14 DEC** Stratton v Daubeney
Venue: Daubeney