

The Strattonian – *Mid Term Update from Mr Farmer*

Welcome back to what promises to be another fantastic half term at Stratton! We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting weeks ahead. We are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved so far this year, and we look forward to continuing that momentum together.

Good Luck to Year 11 – Mock Exams & Prom Fayre

A massive good luck to our Year 11 students who are sitting their final set of mock exams this week. We are cheering you on! To get everyone into the *Prom mood*, Year 11 students and parents are warmly invited to Stratton's first ever Prom Fayre on Wednesday 11th March. Join us for a DJ showcase, fashion show, hair and make-up demonstrations, transport booking stalls, and much more.

Tickets available here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stratton-school/t-ejayazg> Special promotion: The **first 50 tickets** will be entered into a “well-worth-your-while” prize draw!

Stratton Ambition Awards

We are excited to share that we have officially launched the **Stratton Ambition Award**, a weekly celebration of exceptional student achievement across our school community. Each week, subject teachers nominate students whose work demonstrates remarkable effort, dedication, and ambition. These nominations are then reviewed by Mr Farmer, who selects an overall weekly winner.

All nominated students, along with the weekly winner, are celebrated across the school as part of our tutor programme, ensuring their hard work is recognised by peers and staff alike. At the end of each term, parents and carers of all nominated students will be invited to our special Ambition Breakfast. During this event:

- Students receive certificates and achievement badges
- Families get the opportunity to see the outstanding work produced by their children and fellow students
- We celebrate the ambition and engagement that define our Stratton community

Pledges Update – Giving Pledges Day

Before the break, our students took part in a wonderful **Giving Pledges Day**. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment to personal development were truly inspiring.

 Watch the highlights here: <https://youtu.be/topdnj4gjVI>

KS4 Careers Fair

On **11th February**, we hosted our annual **KS4 Careers Fair**, welcoming more than 30 businesses, employers, and Post-16/18 providers. It was fantastic to see so many students engaging confidently, asking thoughtful questions, and exploring their future pathways.

<https://stratton.school/careers-fair-> (Keep an eye out for details about our February 2027 Careers Fair!)

Walking to and from School

A gentle reminder to families: please encourage students to uphold our Stratton values while travelling to and from school. As ambassadors for our community, we appreciate your support in reinforcing respectful and considerate behaviour beyond the school gates.

Year 8 Options

Our Year 8 students have now begun the process of selecting their KS4 options. We wish them the very best as they reflect on their choices and consider their next steps.

 **Options launch video:** <https://youtu.be/iQLMCwTHael>

 **Year 8 Options Evening:** Thursday 26th March, 5:30–7:30pm Please sign up here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/uXLLwQwbMU>

Vape Use – Important Information for Parents & Carers

Given the rising national concern around youth vaping, we want to reassure families that we view this as an important safeguarding issue and are taking it very seriously as a school. This is a challenge affecting young people across the country, and the most effective way to protect and support our students is by working together. We ask all families to continue having open conversations with their children about both the legal restrictions and the significant health risks associated with vaping. These discussions at home play a vital role and complement our PSHE and Healthy Lifestyles curriculum, where we help students develop the knowledge and confidence to make informed, responsible choices. While we will always follow our Behaviour Policy if a student is found with a vape in school, our priority is to support young people in making safe, healthy, and well-informed decisions

Trusted NHS Resources for families to use at home

- NHS: Young People and Vaping
<https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/help-others-quit/young-people-and-vaping/>
- Talk to Frank – Vapes
<https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes>

Reporting Under-18 Vape Sales - If you are aware of retailers selling vapes illegally to under 18s, concerns can be reported confidentially: **Trading Standards:** via the Citizens Advice reporting portal

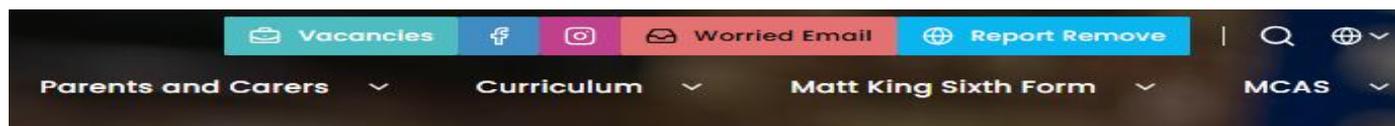
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/> or **Bedfordshire Police:** <https://www.beds.police.uk/ro/report/>

If you need to talk to us about a concern over vape use, please email our safeguarding team via worried@stratton.school

School Production – The Addams Family

A huge congratulations to everyone involved in our spectacular production of *The Addams Family*. The talent, creativity, and dedication shown by our performers, backstage crew, and staff were outstanding, and we are immensely proud of their hard work.

Useful Quick Links on our Website



- **Worried Email** - link sends email directly to our Safeguarding Team
- **Report Remove:** Direct access to <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>
- **MCAS Portal Links:** Found in the MCAS dropdown for Parent and Student login (for those not using the app)

Quick Reference – Some of the Key Dates coming up this half term

- Year 8 Online Parents' Consultation Evening – March 5th, 4:15–6:30pm - *Details to Follow in a separate letter to Y8 Families*
- Battle of the Bands – Beds Band Blast-off, Esquires – Wednesday 4th March, 7pm
- World Book Day – Thursday 5th March, including the Y7 “*Who Dunnit?*” event and themed costume dress / or normal uniform
- 6th Form A Level English/Art Residential – Paris, 5th–6th March
- Y11 Prom Fayre – Wednesday 11th March, 6:30–9pm (Main Hall)
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stratton-school/t-ejayazg>
- Y8 & Y9 Maths Trip – Leys School, 11th March
- Y8 HPV Immunisations – 11th March
- Y11 Theatre Appreciation Trip – BIGG Theatre, 11th March
- Mystery Theatre Trip – Thursday 12th March (Music and Drama Department)
- Y7 Science Escape Room – Sharnbrook Academy, Friday 13th March
- Y9 Art Workshop – Shuttleworth, Wednesday 18th March
- Whole School Cabaret Night – Wednesday 18th March, 7pm–9pm
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/strattonschool/stratton-cabaret-night/e-rbqaob>
- Battle of the Bands Competition – The Stables, Thursday 19th March
- Y12 UCAS Discover Trip – Monday 23rd March
- Y13 Tutor2U Geography Conference – Tuesday 24th March
- FOSS Easter Disco Year 7+8 Provisionally booked for Wednesday 25th March – will be confirmed in due course. A Y9 Event is also being planned – more details to follow
- Year 8 Options Evening – Thursday 26th March, 5:30–7:30pm
- Environment Pledge Week (Whole School) will take place between Monday 23rd March until Friday 27th March. Details to follow
- Comic Relief Day – Friday 27th March
(*Themed fancy dress / non-uniform*)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are proud of our community and grateful for the partnership we share in supporting our students.

Warm regards,
Sam Farmer
Principal, Stratton School