



The Strattonian – July 2026 Edition



The entire school – September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to a close on the final week of term and look forward to the summer break, I would like to thank all our students, families and staff for their support throughout what has been a successful and rewarding year at Stratton School.

This year marked a truly special milestone as Stratton School celebrated its 75th anniversary. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and of all that has been accomplished over the past seven and a half decades! As we reflect on our rich history, we also look forward with excitement to the next milestone and the opportunities that lie ahead. We are fortunate to be part of an amazing community, and we would like to thank our students, families, staff, FOSS, Academy Council, alumni, and wider supporters for their continued encouragement, commitment, and support throughout the years.

Arrangements for the Start of Term

Year 7 Students

New Year 7 students should arrive and line up as they did during last week's transition events. Staff will be on hand to welcome and support them on their first day at Stratton. We also encourage families to review the updated Parent Handbook on our website. The FAQs have been expanded following the transition events and include helpful information on routines, equipment, uniform, communication, transport, attendance and school life.

🔗 <https://stratton.school/student-handbook->

Years 8–11

All other students should proceed directly to their form rooms on arrival. For all students, Thursday morning Period 1 will be an extended tutor session. During this time:

- Timetables and Phone Pouches will be issued to all students.
- Tutors will provide a full walkthrough of the pouch system, including how to lock and unlock pouches correctly.
- There will be some very minor room changes to Tutor groups as a result of the summer renovation programme. This will be made clear on arrival.

Years 12 + 13

Year 12 will be supporting Year 7s on their first day and completing their induction to the Matt King 6th Form on the Thursday. Year 12+13 will begin lessons on Friday 4th September.

All students will return to Stratton School in the normal, full uniform – details can be found here:

<https://stratton.school/school-uniform>

Parents' Evenings and Key Events 2026–2027

Please make a note of the dates for our Parents' Evenings and key consultation events for next academic year: 🔗 <https://stratton.school/parent-evenings-key-events-2026-2027>

These events are an important part of our home-school partnership and provide valuable opportunities to discuss your child's progress, celebrate successes, and work together to support their development.

We have introduced an iCAL download this year to save all key dates into your digital calendar:

🔗 <https://stratton.school/calendar-download---save-the-dates-2026-2027>

Keeping Informed

🔗 <https://stratton.school/>

Please make regular use of our school website, which contains the latest information on key dates, the curriculum, enrichment opportunities and school announcements. Checking it regularly will help you stay informed about life at Stratton School.

Our Facebook page is regularly updated with news, events, celebrations and glimpses of daily life across the school. We'd love you to follow us and see what's happening in our community:

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

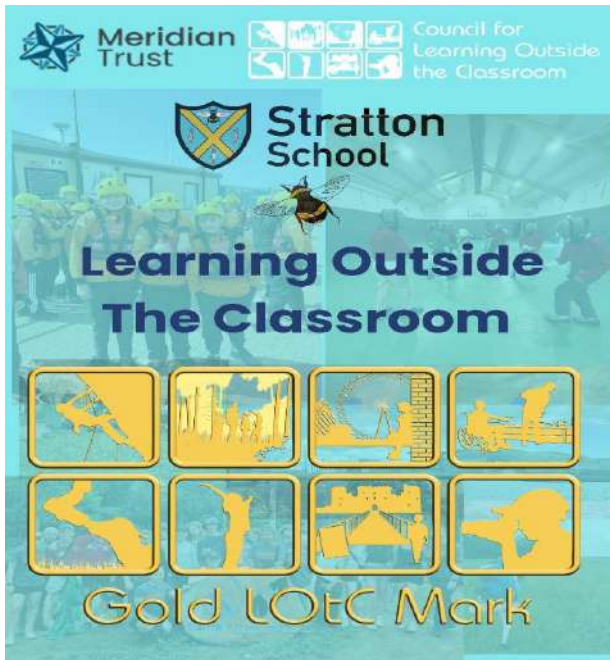
You may have noticed that our Facebook page is still listed as "Stratton Upper School." We're currently working to update the name to "Stratton School," but a Facebook restriction is preventing us from making the change at the moment. Facebook is aware of the issue and is working with us to resolve it, so we hope to have this updated very soon!

What a Year!



Gold Bee Trip 2026 Wyboston Lakes

This year has been filled with achievement, opportunity, and community spirit. Our students have excelled both inside and outside the classroom, celebrating success through events such as the Ambition and Honour Roll Breakfasts, embracing a love of reading during World Book Day, and engaging in important initiatives including the World Environment Day Conference and the Giving Pledge Tutor 'Tenner Challenge'. Student voice has continued to thrive with the introduction of our new Student Leadership Team, who will play a key role in shaping the future of the school community.



We have also celebrated major milestones as a school, including being awarded the prestigious Gold Learning Outside the Classroom Award, recognising our commitment to providing inspiring experiences beyond the classroom that help our students grow in confidence, curiosity, and resilience.

Throughout the year, students have demonstrated our values of being kind, engaged, and ambitious while taking part in a wide range of academic, sporting, creative, and enrichment opportunities. We are proud of everything they have achieved and look forward to even greater successes in the year ahead.

Sports Day this year was a triumph of inclusivity sports. Well done to all competitors, but this year, **Franklin** won the title as best overall House.

This will help their journey to the House Cup – but that remains a closely guarded secret with the results being revealed to the students on Friday morning.



Sports Day Opening Ceremony 2026

🔗 **Recap an amazing year:** <https://youtu.be/jK3A7NBXINE>

Staffing Updates

- Mr Forster leaves us to join a neighbouring Local Authority SEND team, where we know he will continue to make a significant impact. We wish him every success in his new role.
- Miss Tomlinson is relocating north, and we wish her all the very best for this exciting new chapter. Thank you for the many memorable Aberdovey trips!

- Mr Bresler will be returning to university to continue his studies in September. We wish him every success and thank him for his valued contribution to Science.
- We congratulate Miss Danson on her well-deserved promotion to Head of Business at another Meridian Trust school. While we will miss her, we are delighted that she will continue to support our A Level Economics students, a wonderful benefit of being part of the Meridian Trust family.
- We wish Miss Smith (IT) every success as she embarks on an exciting new career beyond education.
- Mrs Peachey begins her maternity leave this summer, and we send our warmest wishes to her and her growing family.
- Mr Witty leaves our SEND Teaching Assistant team to take up a place at university this September. We thank him for his contribution and wish him every success in his studies.
- Mrs King leaves Stratton this summer to take up a new post at a school in Bedford. We thank her for her dedication and wish her all the best in her new role.
- Finally, we say a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Langdon, who has secured a well-earned promotion to Vice Principal at a school much closer to home. We thank her for her outstanding contribution to Stratton as our DSL, and wish her every success in this exciting next step.

Each of these colleagues has made a lasting impact on our school, and while they will be greatly missed, we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

We welcome a number of new colleagues who will be joining the Stratton team in September:

- Mr Pearce joins us as our new Computing and IT Teacher.
- Ms Bektas and Ms Disci join our Science Department, specialising in Physics and Biology respectively.
- Miss Shotter joins the Geography Department.
- Mrs Buckingham joins our Business Department and will also lead our vocational qualifications provision.
- Mrs Garden joins the Sixth Form team as maternity cover for Mrs Peachey.
- Ms El-Khuja and Ms Bennett join our SEND Teaching Assistant team.

We are also pleased to welcome several Meridian Trust colleagues, who will be based for part of the week at Stratton during the coming year as part of our strong inter-trust collaboration:

- Mrs McMahon, Meridian Trust Curriculum Director for MFL, will work with our Languages team.
- Mr Steels, Curriculum Director for Post-16, will support our Sixth Form and Business teams.
- Ms Zafi, Curriculum Director for English, returns to work closely with Year 11 and Year 13 students as they prepare for their GCSE and A Level examinations.

We are fully staffed for September within our teaching teams and have a few new and exciting opportunities for support roles which will be advertised on My New Term shortly.

<https://mynewterm.com/school/Stratton-School/137886>

Internal Staffing Updates

I am pleased to share a number of well-deserved internal appointments and promotions for the coming year:

- Mrs Jennings has been promoted to Assistant Principal and joins the Senior Team permanently in September
- Miss Bramley joins the Senior Leadership Team as a permanent Associate Assistant Principal and SENCO after an amazing year as *Interim* SENCo.
- Mr Keating and Miss Allen join the Senior Leadership Team as Associate Assistant Principals.
- Mrs Chessum has been appointed Head of Humanities Faculty.
- Mr Skipper has been appointed to the permanent role of Student Voice and Academic Mentoring Lead.
- Mrs Prabhu-Naik has been appointed our Raising Aspirations Leader.
- Miss Bell has achieved promotion to be our next Level 3 Teaching Assistant.
- Mrs Pitalis-Nguyen and Mrs Bilcock will job-share the role of ACE SEND Administrator, working together to support both whole school SEND and ACE specific administration.
- Mr Grant will lead our Safeguarding Team as Designated Safeguarding Lead, supported by Miss Campbell and Mrs Schurek.

Over the summer, our website will be refreshed to provide greater clarity regarding staff roles, responsibilities, and key points of contact, including any Tutor updates.

Any changes resulting from these internal developments will be clearly reflected, helping families to access the support and information they need as efficiently as possible.

Changes to Lunch and Break times

🔗 <https://stratton.school/school-day>

The school will continue to operate within the same start and finish times. However, we have made a small adjustment to the structure of the day by slightly reducing break time and extending lunchtime. This change has been informed by student voice, with many students telling us that a slightly longer lunch period would be more beneficial.

Summer Building Works

Over the summer break, a number of significant site and IT improvement projects will be taking place to enhance our facilities for staff and students.

PE Department

- Refurbished changing rooms and toilets
- Redecoration of corridors

ACE Garden & Access

- Improved outdoor facilities and entrance access
- New planters, raised beds and outdoor seating
- New fencing and gates to extend outdoor learning areas

Temporary Classroom Removal

- Removal of the *temporary* classroom adjacent to English

Matt King Top Corridor

- Full refurbishment of the corridor and MK6 teaching spaces upstairs

Matt King Café

- Expanded outdoor seating area with new canopy and improvements to the surrounding outdoor space

Outdoor Environment

- Artwork commissioned for the café exterior as part of our wider outdoor space improvement plan

DT Cooking Rooms

- Replacement of original single-pane windows with energy-efficient glazing, continuing our school-wide window replacement programme, supported by Meridian Trust Estates

IT Refresh

- Our IT Team will continue to upgrade school-wide systems, student IT facilities and our CCTV network over the summer.
- We are particularly pleased that all of our IT suites now feature brand-new computers, providing students with improved access to modern technology and enhanced learning experiences.

Holiday Communication Arrangements

As we begin the summer break, please note that teaching staff will not routinely monitor or respond to emails. However, worried@stratton.school will continue to be monitored for safeguarding and welfare concerns. Out-of-office messages will also provide details of services and organisations that can offer additional safeguarding and wellbeing support during the holiday period.

Any correspondence received after 12:40pm on Friday will be reviewed from 1st September, with responses provided within 48 hours where required. Our Admissions Team will continue to monitor admissions@stratton.school throughout the summer to support incoming Year 7 families.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We wish all our students and families a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Sam Farmer

Principal