

Welcome Back to School

August Strattonian – Year 7 Edition



Dear New Year 7 Students and Families,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are enjoying the final few days before the start of a new school year. We are delighted that you are joining our school community and cannot wait to welcome you properly in September.

Starting secondary school is a significant milestone and it is completely normal to feel a mixture of excitement and nervousness. Please be reassured that our staff, student leaders and wider school community will be there to support every child as they begin this exciting new chapter.

During our transition events, we were incredibly impressed by the enthusiasm, confidence and kindness shown by our incoming Year 7 students, and we are looking forward to seeing them flourish at Stratton.

Your First Day – Thursday 3rd September

Year 7 students will arrive and line up in the same location as they did during the transition events from 8:30am. Staff will be on hand to welcome students, answer any questions and help everyone settle into their new routines. **Please remember to bring your phone pouch, as your phone will need to be secured before you enter the building.**

Families will be able to load money onto the student MCAS accounts for break and lunch. Details can be found here <https://stratton.school/my-child-at-school-app>

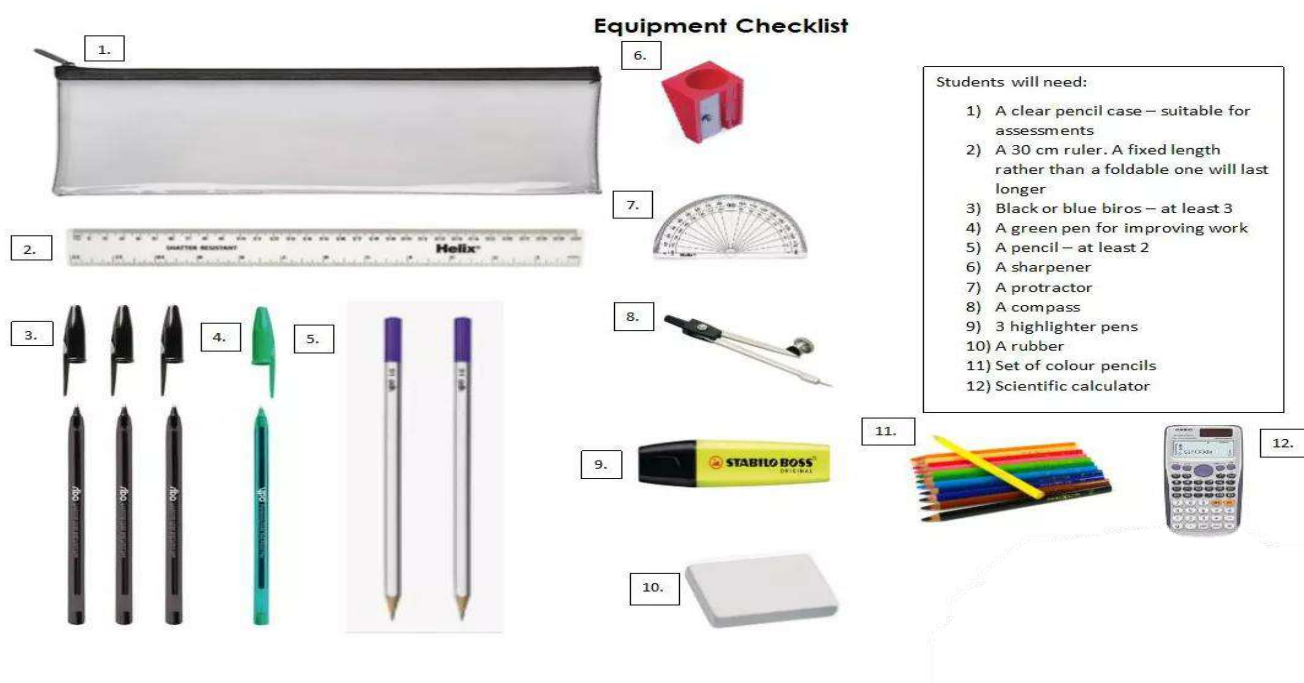
We would also encourage families to review our updated Handbook, which includes useful information about school routines, equipment, attendance, communication, transport, uniform and many other aspects of school life.

 **Handbook:** <https://stratton.school/student-handbook->

Uniform and Equipment

All students should attend school in full Stratton School uniform from the first day of term. A School bag with the following equipment is required daily.

 **Uniform Information:** <https://stratton.school/school-uniform>



Attendance Matters

At Stratton School, we know that excellent attendance is one of the strongest indicators of future success. Simply put, students who attend school regularly achieve better outcomes, build stronger friendships, develop greater confidence and gain far more from the opportunities available to them.

Whilst we fully understand that children will sometimes be unwell and should not attend school when they are genuinely ill, our expectation is that, aside from illness or exceptional circumstances, students attend school every day, arrive on time and are ready to learn.

Nationally, research from the Department for Education consistently shows that students with higher attendance achieve significantly stronger GCSE outcomes than their peers with lower attendance. Persistent absence remains one of the biggest barriers to academic success.

A figure that often surprises families is that:

- **96% attendance** means missing approximately **8 school days** across the year.
- **90% attendance** means missing approximately **19 school days** across the year, the equivalent of almost **four weeks of learning**.
- A student with 90% attendance misses more than **half a term of education** over the course of their secondary school journey.

For this reason, we regard anything below **96% attendance as a concern**, as even small amounts of absence can begin to impact learning, progress and achievement. Students with attendance below **90%** are classified nationally as **persistently absent**, and experience tells us that these students often find it much harder to keep pace with their peers academically and socially.

Attendance is a shared responsibility and one of the most important partnerships between home and school. We are committed to working closely with families to provide support whenever needed, whilst maintaining high expectations for attendance and punctuality.

Families may find the following guidance helpful:

 **Department for Education Attendance Guidance:** [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK](#)

 **Meridian Trust Attendance Information and Policies:** [Attendance - Meridian Trust](#)

Our ambition is simple: **every student in school, every lesson, every day whenever possible**. Together, we can ensure that every child benefits fully from the outstanding opportunities available at Stratton School and gives themselves the very best chance of success.

In line with Department for Education (DfE) attendance guidance, school registers must close 30 minutes after they open. For us, that is **9:10am**. Any student arriving after the register has closed has to be recorded as **absent for the morning session**. This will impact their attendance.

Medical Appointments

Wherever possible, please do try to book appointments outside the school day. We appreciate this can be difficult, and if this is not possible, we encourage appointments to be scheduled **after 9:50am and before 1:30pm**. This allows your child to attend registration at the start of the day or return in time for PM registration. Please then ensure your child returns to school immediately after their appointment. Every lesson matters, and missed learning cannot easily be replicated.

Our website has more information about illness and medications in school [Medical Information | Stratton School](#)

Summer Reading

We hope that students have enjoyed the book they received as part of the transition programme and have had the opportunity to begin exploring its story over the summer with families. Our English Department is looking forward to building upon this reading during the opening weeks of

Year 7, with lessons and activities linked to the text. To help students make the very best start, we would encourage them to finish reading the book before the beginning of term if they have not already done so.

Reading sits at the heart of learning at Stratton School, and we are committed to helping every student develop a lifelong love of books. Families can also explore our suggested reading lists, which contain a wide range of recommendations for different interests and reading levels and books can be ordered from our school library or the local town library in Biggleswade.

 **Recommended Reading Lists:** <https://stratton.school/school-reading-list>

A School Going from Strength to Strength

You are joining Stratton School at a particularly exciting time. Over the past year, our students have achieved amazing success both inside and outside the classroom. They have celebrated academic achievements, excelled in sports and the arts, contributed to their local community and embraced numerous enrichment opportunities. We were proud to receive the prestigious **Gold Learning Outside the Classroom Award** earlier this year, recognising our commitment to providing memorable experiences that help young people develop confidence, curiosity and resilience.

Most recently, we celebrated an exceptional set of GCSE, A Level and vocational examination results, reflecting the dedication of our students and staff and the rapid improvements taking place across the school.

 **See what makes Stratton special:** Recap 2025-2026 and think about making your mark on 2026-2027! [Celebration of 2025.2026](#)

Improvements Across the School

Students returning in September will benefit from a range of improvements completed over the summer, including:

- Refurbished PE changing rooms and facilities
- Improvements to our ACE outdoor learning spaces (Due to start in September)
- Refurbished Matt King Sixth Form teaching areas
- New artwork and environmental improvements across the site
- Continued investment in school-wide technology
- Brand-new computers in all IT suites
- New environmentally efficient windows in the Cooking Lab

These developments reflect our continued commitment to providing excellent, state of the art facilities and learning environments for our students.

Keeping Informed

A strong partnership between home and school is vital to every child's success. Please make regular use of our website, where you will find key dates, curriculum information, enrichment opportunities and the latest school news.

 **School Website:** [Visit Stratton School](#)

 **Parents' Evenings and Key Events:** [View Key Dates 2026-2027](#)

 **Add Key Dates to Your Calendar:** [Calendar Download](#)

You can also follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with celebrations, achievements, events and day-to-day life within our school community.

 **Follow Stratton School on Facebook:** [Stratton School Facebook Page](#)

We Cannot Wait to Start!

The next seven years will be filled with new friendships, exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and personal achievements. There will be challenges along the way, but there will also be countless moments of success, growth and pride.

We feel privileged that you have chosen Stratton School for this important stage of your child's education. Every member of staff is committed to ensuring that our students are happy, successful and supported, and we look forward to working closely with you over the years ahead.

In the meantime, enjoy the remainder of the summer holiday, keep reading, and make the most of these final days with friends and family. We are incredibly excited to welcome you to Stratton School and begin this journey together.

With my very best wishes,

Sam Farmer
Principal
Stratton School



Stratton School

STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL FAMILY FUN CHECKLIST



YOUR
ADVENTURE
STARTS
NOW!

Fun things families can do together before September
to build confidence, reduce nerves and get excited
about the **next chapter!**

1 TAKE A JOURNEY TO SCHOOL



- ☐ Walk, cycle or drive the route to school together
- ☐ Time how long the journey takes
- ☐ Identify safe crossing points and landmarks
- ☐ Find out where the school gates are

2 BECOME A SCHOOL ORGANISATION PRO



- ☐ Practise packing and unpacking the school bag
- ☐ Create a homework and study space at home
- ☐ Learn how to read a timetable together
- ☐ Set an alarm and practise a school morning routine

3 UNIFORM CHALLENGE



- ☐ Try on the full uniform and check everything fits
- ☐ Practise tying a tie (if needed)
- ☐ Label all clothing and equipment
- ☐ Take a "first day" photo ready for September



4 SCHOOL EQUIPMENT HUNT



- ☐ Collect all essential stationery
- ☐ Create a pencil case checklist
- ☐ Personalise notebooks or folders
- ☐ Make sure the school bag is packed and ready



5 READING CHALLENGE



- ☐ Read the summer reading book
- ☐ Visit the local library
- ☐ Recommend a favourite book to each other
- ☐ Spend 20 minutes reading together



6 CONFIDENCE BUILDERS



- ☐ Share three things you are excited about
- ☐ Share one thing you are nervous about
- ☐ Talk about how to make new friends
- ☐ Practise introducing yourself

7 INDEPENDENCE CHALLENGE



- ☐ Make your own breakfast
- ☐ Organise your bedroom and school belongings
- ☐ Help prepare an evening meal
- ☐ Manage a small budget when shopping

8 FAMILY CELEBRATION

- ☐ Enjoy a special family meal before school starts
- ☐ Write a note of encouragement for the first day
- ☐ Create a "Goals for Year 7" list together
- ☐ Celebrate completing the checklist!



★ **BONUS FAMILY CHALLENGE** ★
**CAN YOU COMPLETE
20 OUT OF 20
BEFORE YOUR FIRST DAY
AT SECONDARY SCHOOL?**



BE KIND



BE ENGAGED



BE AMBITIOUS

**YOU'VE
GOT
THIS!**

NEW FRIENDS ★ NEW EXPERIENCES ★ ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

STRATTON SCHOOL

BE KIND • BE ENGAGED • BE AMBITIOUS

Celebrating **AMAZING 2026 RESULTS!**



BEST RESULTS IN 4 YEARS



1 IN 3 YEAR 13 STUDENTS
SECURED A **RUSSELL GROUP**
UNIVERSITY PLACE



RECORD A*-B A LEVEL OUTCOMES



ONE OF THE FASTEST IMPROVING
SCHOOLS IN CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE



RATED GOOD IN ALL AREAS
BY OFSTED

Start Your Journey With Us
— THIS SEPTEMBER —

WHY CHOOSE STRATTON?



AMAZING FACILITIES

State-of-the-art learning
environments and
specialist facilities
to inspire success.



PHENOMENAL PASTORAL SUPPORT

A caring school where
every child is known,
valued and supported
to thrive.



EXCEPTIONAL STAFF

Dedicated teachers
with high expectations
who inspire students
to achieve their best.



A WONDERFUL COMMUNITY

A welcoming, inclusive
school with strong
relationships between
students, families
and staff.



PART OF THE MERIDIAN TRUST FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Providing exceptional
opportunities, collaboration
and excellence across a
family of high-performing
schools.



YEAR 7



YEAR 8



YEAR 12

PLACES AVAILABLE – JOIN US IN



Be Kind • Be Engaged • Be Ambitious

| #WeAreStratton

