

Welcome Back to School

August Strattonian



Welcome back to Stratton School

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are enjoying the final few days before the start of a new school year. A very warm welcome back to the new academic year at Stratton School.

As we begin another exciting year together, there is much to look forward to. From educational visits, sporting fixtures, performances and enrichment activities to leadership opportunities, careers events, charity projects and community celebrations all tied into our PLEDGES - the year ahead promises to be full of memorable experiences.

This year also marks the next stage in our continued school improvement journey. Over the summer, significant investment has been made in our facilities, and we look forward to students benefiting from enhanced learning environments across the school. We will also be embedding our Phone Free Commitment, helping to create calm, focused and positive learning spaces that allow every student to thrive and in line with the national expectation of all schools

Thank you for being part of our wonderful school community. I am excited about what lies ahead and look forward to celebrating the achievements and successes of our students in the months to come.

Here's to a fantastic year at Stratton School!

We Return: Thursday 3rd September

Students in Years 7-12 return on Thursday 3rd, with Year 13 returning on Friday 4th. Families are reminded to load money onto the student MCAS accounts for break and lunch by Wednesday evening. 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->

During Lesson 1, students will take part in an extended tutor session where they will receive their timetables and Phone Free pouches. This will provide an opportunity for all students to securely store their phones for the day and begin establishing the positive routines that will underpin our Phone Free Commitment. Starting from their very first morning back, students will be supported to develop habits that promote focus, wellbeing, engagement and positive relationships throughout the school day

The School Day

Year 7 + 9 + 11			
Start	Ends	Designation	Title/ Activity
8:40 AM	8:50 AM	Reg	AM Registration
8:50 AM	9:50 AM	P1	Period 1
9:50 AM	10:10 AM	Break	Break
10:10 AM	11:10 AM	P2	Period 2
11:10 AM	11:30 AM	Tutor	Tutor / PSHC
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	P3	Period 3
12:30 PM	1:10 PM	Lunch	Lunch
1:10 PM	2:10 PM	P4	Period 4
2:10 PM	3:10 PM	P5	Period 5
			End of School Day
3:10 PM	4:10 PM	P6	Period 6 Enrichment
Years 8 +10 + 6 th Form			
Start	Ends	Designation	Title/ Activity
8:40 AM	8:50 AM	Reg	AM Registration
8:50 AM	9:50 AM	P1	Period 1
9:50 AM	10:50 AM	P2	Period 2
10:50 AM	11:10 AM	Break	Break
11:10 AM	11:30 AM	Tutor	Tutor / PSHC
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	P3	Period 3
12:30 PM	1:30 PM	P4	Period 4
1:30 PM	2:10 PM	Lunch	Lunch
2:10 PM	3:10 PM	P5	Period 5
			End of School Day
3:10 PM	4:10 PM	P6	Period 6 Enrichment

Whilst the start and end of the school day remain unchanged, please remember that we have made a small adjustment to break and lunch times for the coming year. Following feedback gathered through staff and student voice, morning break has been reduced by 10 minutes, with those 10 minutes added to lunchtime.

This change provides students with a longer lunch period, creating more time to eat, socialise, access clubs and activities, and enjoy our outdoor spaces, while maintaining the overall structure of the school day. We are grateful to the students and staff who contributed their views and helped shape this decision.

Reading

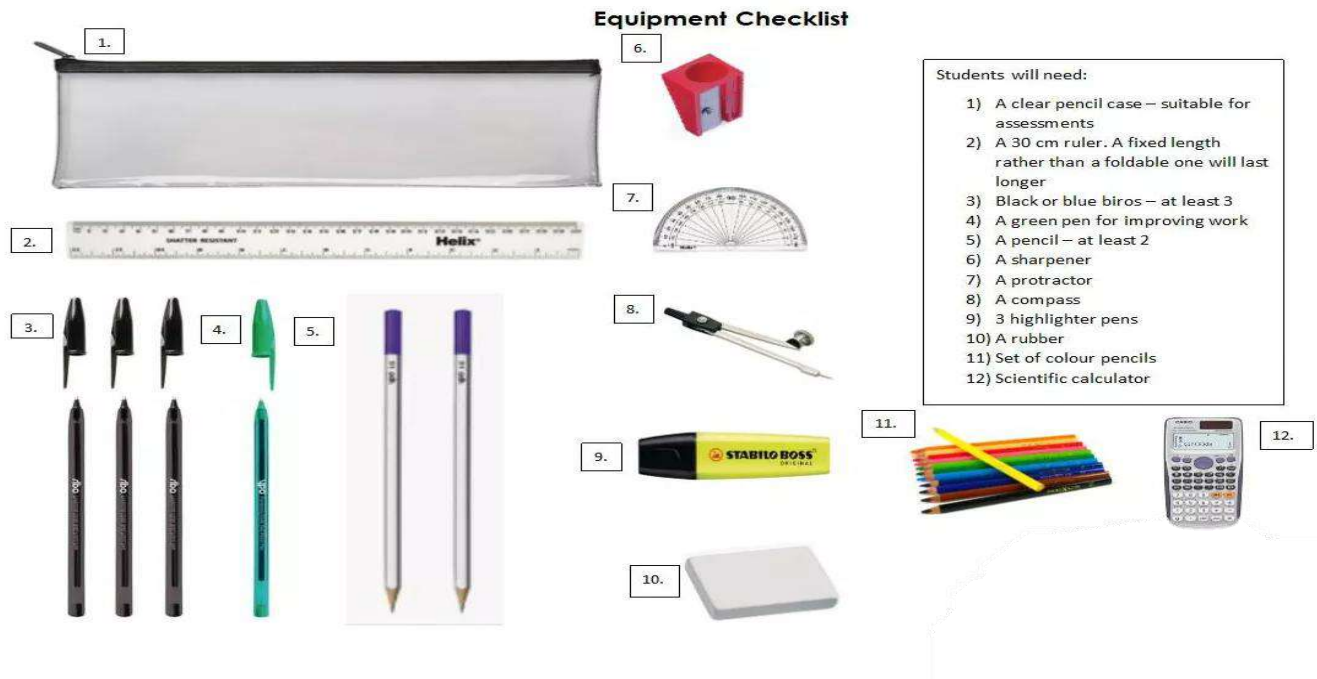
Reading sits at the heart of learning at Stratton School, and we are committed to helping every student develop a lifelong love of books. Families can also explore our suggested reading lists, which contain a wide range of recommendations for different interests and reading levels and books can be ordered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

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

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 **9:10 am**. 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](#)

A School Going from Strength to Strength

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... but, please do enjoy the remainder of the summer holidays, keep reading, and make the most of these final days with friends and family. We are incredibly excited to welcome you back to Stratton School for another year.

With my very best wishes,

Sam Farmer

Principal

Stratton School

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



CONSISTENTLY IMPROVING
OUTCOMES YEAR ON YEAR



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

