



Meridian  
Trust

# PROSPECTUS 2024-2025



Stratton  
School

The best outcomes  
for all students

# Welcome to Stratton Upper School

Stratton School is proud to be at the heart of our community with excellent facilities. We are committed to nurturing the abilities of every student in order to equip them with the qualifications and life skills they need to become confident and independent adults. As a school we are immensely proud of our students' achievements and being part of their journey.



The school is underpinned and supported by the ethos and values of The Meridian Trust. The core philosophy is:

- Achievement for all
- Valuing people
- A high-quality learning environment
- The pursuit of excellence
- Extending the boundaries of learning

I am both proud and privileged to be leading the school, as we embark on our journey to become a full secondary school and look forward to welcoming you all to Stratton.

Mr Sam Farmer  
Principal

## Facilities

Stratton School opened in 1950 as Bedfordshire's showpiece Grammar School, drawing students from all over the area. In their design, the architects recognised that the physical environment could promote achievement and aspiration; and to this day few fail to be inspired by the entrance and exhibition halls, which in turn lead to light and airy classrooms. As a result of the national reorganisation in 1974, Stratton became a 13-19 Upper School, providing comprehensive education for Biggleswade and the surrounding villages. The educational values of the school are drawn from its history, but the theme of constant improvement ensures each generation of students is fully prepared for their future.

In October 2020 we were delighted to join the Meridian Trust and are benefiting greatly from collaboration with colleagues in our Trust's 11 other secondary schools. Since joining Meridian Trust, we have gained from significant investment in IT infrastructure and resources as well as our buildings. Ten new classrooms, refurbished from the old science laboratories in 2022, which have expanded our state-of-the-art teaching facilities further. We are incredibly lucky to have a state of the art, flood lit 3G pitch opening in 2023. This is an amazing resource for the school as well as the wider community.

## Admissions

All Year 7 – 11 admissions are made via Central Bedfordshire Admissions Team.

Sixth Form applications are made directly to the school.

You can email the Admissions Team directly using:

[admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 300 8037

Website: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions)

## Open Evenings

Our open evenings for the 2024-25 academic year, for students starting Stratton Upper School in September 2024 are as follows:-

Open Evening - Thursday 28th September 2023

Sixth Form Options Evening - Thursday 2nd November 2023



## Meridian Trust

Stratton Upper School joined the Meridian Trust family in 2020. The Trust was formed with a simple and clear vision: 'to ensure high quality education at the heart of the community.'

The Trust truly values the success of every child and places the sharing of excellent education practice at its core. It is committed to improving the quality of education and life in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and their immediate surroundings. The Trust is dedicated to maintaining its core principles and focus as it grows.



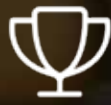
Achievement  
for all



Valuing People



High Quality  
Learning  
Environment



Pursuit of  
Excellence



Extending the  
Boundaries of  
Learning

## House System

The Houses provide crucial support and guidance, and the needs of every student are acknowledged and understood by their tutor and senior tutor. The system enables individual progress to be monitored much more closely and the House is the key focus of the relationships between the School and families, with siblings joining the same House.

The school have 5 houses. Adlam (Purple), Chuandler (Green), Franklin (Blue), Turing (Red) and King (Yellow). (*King House is Sixth Form only*)

## Vertical Tutoring

The mixed aged tutor group system is known as Vertical Tutoring. Each tutor group will have a mixture of students from Years 7-11. The Sixth Form has a specialist team, known as the Matt King House.

The Vertical Tutoring system has many benefits, fostering a family spirit where older students offer guidance and provide support to younger students. It also ensures students have a sense of the whole school picture as the younger students see the older ones preparing for work experience, subject choices and important examinations.

The tutors will follow the students from their first few days to their last at the Academy. This allows them to easily build great relationships with students and their families and ensure they receive the support they need. Each tutor will make regular contact with a child's family in the year to discuss progress and address any concerns.



## Expectations

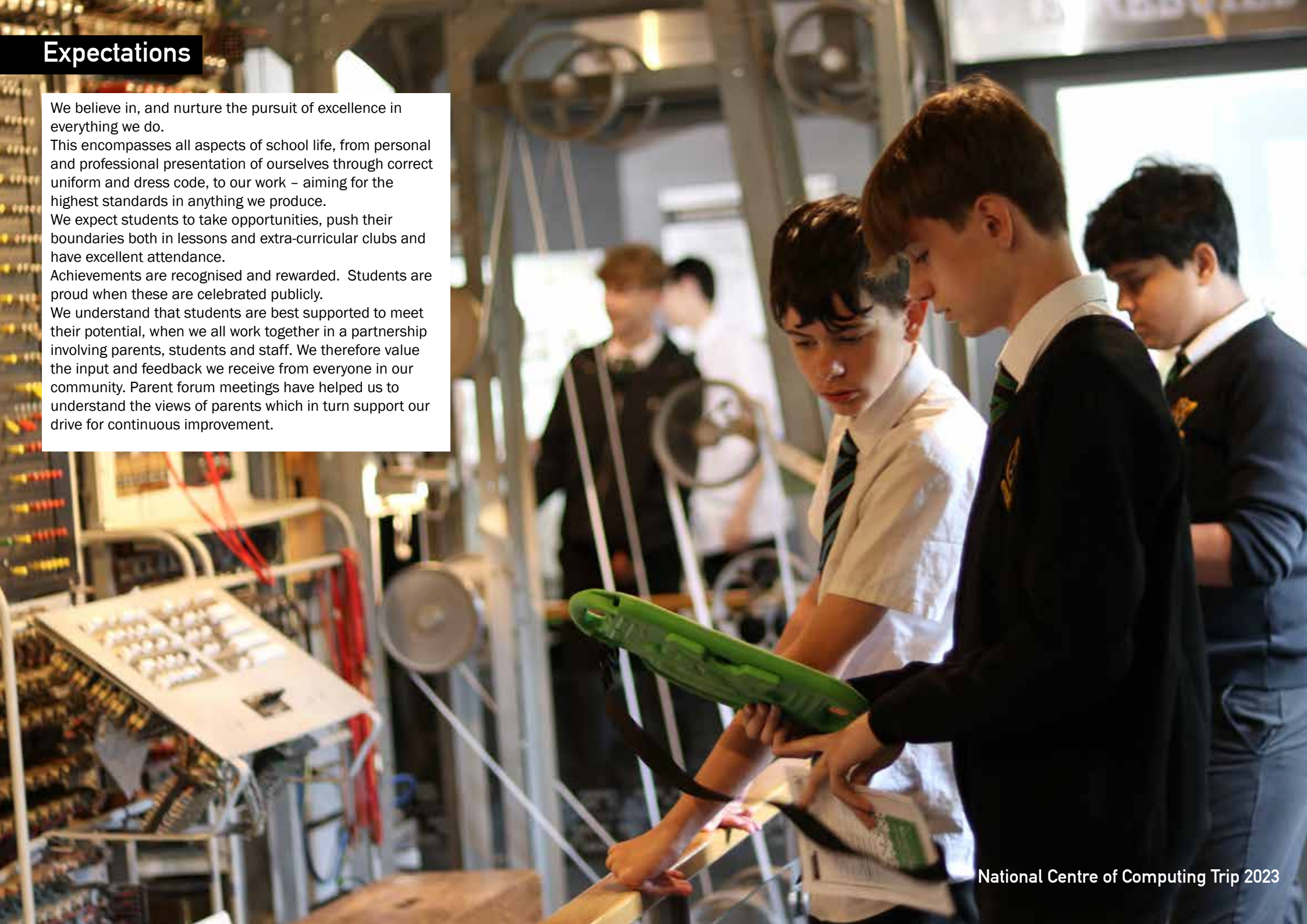
We believe in, and nurture the pursuit of excellence in everything we do.

This encompasses all aspects of school life, from personal and professional presentation of ourselves through correct uniform and dress code, to our work – aiming for the highest standards in anything we produce.

We expect students to take opportunities, push their boundaries both in lessons and extra-curricular clubs and have excellent attendance.

Achievements are recognised and rewarded. Students are proud when these are celebrated publicly.

We understand that students are best supported to meet their potential, when we all work together in a partnership involving parents, students and staff. We therefore value the input and feedback we receive from everyone in our community. Parent forum meetings have helped us to understand the views of parents which in turn support our drive for continuous improvement.







**Respect**

Show **Respect** for yourself and to peers, staff, visitors and our guests

**Responsibility**

Take **Responsibility** for your learning, progress, words and actions

**Pride**

Take **Pride** in your work, effort and appearance



## Curriculum

The core aim is helping students to gain skills for lifelong learning and to achieve their highest potential. Our students leave us prepared for success not just in qualifications but also in meeting the next challenge in their passage to adulthood.

Students begin Year 7 with a broad and balanced curriculum which offers progression and opportunity into GCSEs.

Parents are heavily involved in the options process and care is taken to ensure all students are aware of, and can experience, subjects not studied in Key Stage 3.

Most of our students stay on to sixth form at Stratton and continue an academic pathway leading to university or careers which require a Level 3 entrance qualification. All students receive high level careers guidance during Key Stage 4 and are supported in their choice and expectations for their chosen destination.

**“My lessons were really informative and I loved the teachers”**

**Emma Hobbs**  
(Former student, now a Senior Commercial Sales Executive for ITV)

The background image shows three male students in school uniforms (white shirts, dark sweaters, and striped ties) sitting at a wooden desk in a classroom. They are looking at a project on the table, which appears to be a collage or a drawing. The student on the left is pointing at something on the project. The student in the middle is holding a pencil. The student on the right is looking at the project. The background is slightly blurred, showing classroom posters and a door.

## Teaching and Learning

With our expectations of Respect, Responsibility and Pride as a foundation, our staff provide lessons that cultivate a personalised supportive environment that allows students to fulfil their potential. We report home on the progress of our students in real-time, with the ability of parents/carers to follow attendance, grades and homework via a dedicated secure website. We provide regular opportunities throughout the year for parents/carers and students to meet with subject staff and tutors to review and support students' learning. Students' independence and development is encouraged with the use of regular home learning activities. These provide the opportunity to investigate new topics as well as reinforce what has been taught in lessons.

## Pastoral Care

Every one of our students is supported and cared for by a form tutor, who is the main link between home and school. Our students are guided through their school journey by a dedicated Senior Tutor and house pastoral team. Through daily form time with their form tutor and assemblies together, we support students with a comprehensive pastoral programme. Our dedicated Learning Support department works with staff and students to ensure that our students with additional needs can thrive and reach their potential. Our bespoke awards system allows for students to be recognised for the effort and achievement that they have demonstrated towards their studies and the school community.



Stratton Upper School has always provided an extensive range of extra-curricular activities that allow students to extend their learning in many ways. Each week we have a range of clubs on offer at lunch times and outside of the timetabled school day. Our PE department offer clubs in a range of sports and students proudly represent the school in various tournaments and leagues during the year. Our Creative Arts faculty also contributes to the programme of clubs and opportunities available to our students and we are proud of the whole school productions, drama performances, music concerts and dance shows which are a regular feature of school life.

There are also a number of STEM and other clubs so students can pursue a particular area of interest or support their studies. This is also supported by the wide range of trips and visits offered to assist students in their school work and widen their cultural knowledge.

Whilst at Stratton, students have the opportunities to broaden their experiences in ventures such as Young Enterprise and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. CAMPS International is also an opportunity of a lifetime and our students have travelled far afield on expeditions to places such as Peru, Borneo, Costa Rica and Cambodia. Here students are encouraged to push the limits of their personal boundaries, participating in local community projects before challenging themselves in activities such as mountain treks and scuba diving.

Our PLEDGES award scheme aims to encourage and support many important qualities in students such as leadership, citizenship, moral purpose, sense of community and collective responsibility.

PLEDGES recognises students commitments and contributions under the headings of Participation, Leadership, Excellence, Diversity, Giving, Environment and Service.







Extending the Boundaries of Learning

	Gold: TO LEAD	Silver: HELP ORGANISE	Bronze: TAKE PART IN	
	PARTICIPATION	LEADERSHIP	EXCELLENCE	
BRONZE	Regularly attend an extra-curricular activity or out of school club for a sustained period and no less than six weeks	Take a lead role in and be a significant part of a lesson's structure. This should be recorded by a member of staff	Receive an academic sporting or cultural award	
	Read in class so that the teacher is able to identify you as a regular reader	Make a positive contribution as a student recipient and have a reference written up to make clear the positive contribution	Take part in an out of school activity which called for determination, grit and resilience	
	Write an article that can be published in a newsletter, online, or recorded as part of a news broadcast	Take part in a form activity which is seen by a wider audience	Represent the school in a team or individual sport, cultural or academic competition	
	Participate in a school or outside concert, show or sporting event	Write a poem, story, song or play which is read out or performed to an audience of your peers	Receive regular and substantial praise in your work in a number of different subjects over a term	
	Participation in 5 or more house challenges or activities	Take an ambassadorial role either in or outside school	Take part in a holiday/weekend activity where your skill and/or knowledge has deepened in a particular subject	
SILVER	Help to organise a sporting, cultural or academic activity for 12 weeks	Help to organise a House assembly	Help to organise an activity where significant endeavour has to be demonstrated	
	Be part of the organisation of a reading group or organise a group reading project in class	Take a key role in a sporting, cultural or academic future/concerns challenge which benefits a community	Organise an activity which called for determination, grit and resilience on behalf of the competitors	
	Be part of the organisation of a report that can be published in a newsletter, online, or recorded as part of a news broadcast	Organise a school activity such as a charity stall for the benefit of a community	Represent the county in a team or individual sport, cultural or academic competition	
	Participate in a school or outside concert, show or sporting event	Write a poem, story or play which is read out or performed to an audience of your year group or whole school	Evidence where you have made substantial effort in and out of class in a number of subjects	
	Take a friend to an out of school club for a sustained period of 6 sessions	Take an ambassadorial role either in or outside school	Be an active organiser in a holiday/weekend activity where your skill and/or knowledge has deepened in a particular subject	
GOLD	Lead a sporting, cultural or academic activity for 12 weeks	Be a member of the School/Student Council or an ambassador for the school in a particular area	Lead an activity where significant endeavour has to be demonstrated	
	Lead a reading group	Be a leader of a sporting, cultural or academic team event	Lead an activity which called for determination, grit and resilience to be shown by the competitors	
	Lead a group in producing a report that can be published in a newsletter, online, or recorded as part of a news broadcast	Lead a significant project which is seen by your House/school	Represent the region or county in a team or individual sport, cultural or academic competition	
	Take a lead role in a concert, show or sporting event	Write a poem, story or play which is read out or performed to an audience involving the wider community	Be someone whose behaviour and record of progress is something to be admired	
	Take some form of leadership in an out of school club, substantiated by club leader	Organise or develop an ambassadorial role either in or outside school	Lead a holiday/weekend activity where your skill and/or knowledge has deepened in a particular subject	
	DIVERSITY	GIVING	ENVIRONMENT	SERVICE
BRONZE	Actively participate in activities which explore and challenge bullying/ racism/ homophobic views and stereotypes	Complete a school sponsored walk/run and raise money for charity or a community project	Actively participate in a whole school Earth Day activity or project	Be a tour guide for parents or visitors to the school both during school times and/or after school events
	Visit another country and show awareness of their cultural identity	Take part in an event which raises awareness of a charity or community project	Complete a series of litter picks at school, a community event or an activity out of school time	Play a role in supporting an after-school activity through providing a service to staff/parents/community
	Learn to speak or make significant progress in a language not taught in the school's curriculum	Donate old school uniforms/PE kit/books, toys, games to school, club or charity to be reused	Actively participate in improving the school environment in a way which could be recorded and is substantial and sustained	Take part in a service activity outside school such as scouts, police cadets, army cadets for at least 6 sessions
	Produce a project about a culture new to you or country that you have not lived in	Donate regularly to a food bank or local community project	Help with a recycling scheme	Get involved with the Service section of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award
	Visit a place with a cultural difference within the UK	Be a recognised buddy to someone	Help with a gardening/ environmental project at school or around your local community for a sustained period of time	Be part of a design or service which either helps make life easier or helps make people make progress in their daily lives
SILVER	Actively promote anti-racism and/or anti homophobic activities and view point	Run a fund raising activity in school which benefits a charity or community project	Be part of the organisation of a whole school Earth Day activity or project	Organise tour guides for parents or visitors to the school both during school times and/or after school events
	When visiting another country use their language to order food and/or negotiate	Organise awareness of a charity or community project within the school through assemblies, events and charity mornings	Organise 5 litter picks during your free time on consecutive days	Help to organise supporting an after-school activity through providing a service to staff/parents/community
	Make significant progress in a language not taught in the school curriculum	Organise the collection of old school uniforms/PE kit/books, toys, games to school, club or charity to be reused	Help organise activities which would actively improve the school environment	Take part in a service activity outside school such as scouts, police cadets, army cadets for at least 10 sessions
	Help organise a project about a culture new to you or country that you have not lived in	Organise donations to a food bank or local community project	Help organise a recycling scheme	Complete the Service section of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award
	Help organise a trip to a place of significant cultural difference within the UK	Organise someone as a recognised buddy	Help organise a gardening/ environmental project around the school or your local community for a sustained period of time	Help to organise a design or service which either helps make life easier or helps make people make progress in their daily lives
GOLD	Lead on promoting mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs	Lead on organising a collection in aid of a charity and/or community project	Lead a whole school Earth Day activity or project	Be a leader of tour guides showing them how to conduct themselves whilst touring visitors to the school
	Be a leader in promoting another country's cultural capital	Volunteer in a local charity shop or for an out of school charity event or community project	Lead independently 5 litter picks during your free time on consecutive days	Lead the support of an after school activity through providing a service to staff/parents/community
	Be recognised for significant progress in a language not taught in the school curriculum	Lead on creating a shop/ stall/event which helps sell old uniforms, books, toys, games in or outside the school	Lead on creating a better school environment	Take part in a service activity outside school such as scouts, police cadets, army cadets for at least 1 term
	Lead on a project about a culture new to you or country that you have not lived in	Lead on establishing a food bank donation or local community scheme at Christmas or other times of the year	Lead a recycling scheme	Complete the Service section of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award
	Lead a trip to a place of significant cultural difference within the UK	Be a leader of those who buddy	Lead a gardening/ environmental project around the school or your local community for a sustained period of time	Lead on a design or service which either helps make life easier or helps make people make progress in their daily lives

Stratton Upper School presents

# Legally blonde

## the musical

Music and Lyrics by  
Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin

Book by  
Heather Hach

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown  
and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

Thursday 14th December, 7pm

Friday 15th December, 7pm

Saturday 16th December, 7pm

at Stratton Upper School

Adult: £8  
Child/Concession: £6  
Family: £25 2 Adults and 2 Children

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stratton-upper-school>

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe, www.mti-show.co.uk



## Sixth Form

We are immensely proud of our Sixth Form, where students work hard and achieve their best in an ethos where commitment, caring and contribution to the community are key to all we do. Our students enjoy their learning, and their results at all levels have consistently demonstrated this with above national average outcomes in Academic, Applied General, A Level and Foundation programmes. Fundamental to this are the positive working relationships between staff, students and parents.

In addition to our core expectations of students being responsible, respectful and proud, we highlight the importance of commitment and perseverance in our pursuit of excellence. Our biggest challenges will be our greatest achievements.

It is both a privilege and a responsibility to guide our young people through these incredibly important years. We have the highest expectations of them at all times and ask them to focus on personal as well as academic excellence, that truly shapes them into the successful, happy and confident young adults they are when they leave us.

Our sixth form students make excellent progress during their time with us. In line with schools nationally, 80% of our students went on to study at their destination of choice.

**“Stratton always provided me with the advice and support necessary”**


**Beth Jones**  
(Former student, now a Junior Doctor)



# Where are we?

Stratton School is situated in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. The town has good transport links along the A1, main bus routes and via the Biggleswade railway station on the East Coast Main Line.

 Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 8JB

 01767 220000

 office@stratton.school

 www.stratton.school

