



Bourne Grammar School Weekly Bulletin



30 June – 4 July 2025

Reflections of the Week

Mark Brunker

From large-scale year group trips to celebratory events, sporting achievements and national recognition, this week has once again demonstrated that the pace and variety of school life at BGS is as impressive as ever.

Among the many activities, Year 10 enjoyed a well-earned day at Drayton Manor Theme Park in recognition of their efforts this year, while Year 8 took part in a memorable visit to the Forest Facility. This was a stand-out experience — a challenging and rewarding day of outdoor adventure in which students were encouraged to push beyond their comfort zones, conquer fears and work as a team.

It was a pleasure to host our new Year 7 parents at our information evenings earlier this week. These occasions offer a lovely opportunity to meet our new families and provide the reassurance that being part of the BGS community brings. This all built towards today's Induction Day for our soon-to-be Year 7s: a day full of energy and enthusiasm, from icebreaker activities to getting to know new form tutors, teachers and classmates.

Tuesday evening was a rich celebration of sport at our annual Sports Presentation Evening. The occasion recognised not only the success of our teams and individual athletes, but also the spirit, effort and determination that underpin every achievement. We were thrilled to welcome England rugby international Amy Turner as our guest speaker. Amy shared powerful reflections on performing at the very highest level, including reaching two World Cup finals with England, and spoke about the resilience it took to come so close to the ultimate prize without securing the win. My sincere thanks to the PE Department, along with all colleagues who contribute to the sporting life of the School, for their unwavering commitment to providing outstanding opportunities for our young athletes. The values our students develop through sport will serve them well beyond their time at school.

Finally, huge congratulations to the students behind Bourne Identity, our school magazine, on their remarkable success at the Shine School Media Awards in London this week. Their creativity, dedication, and professionalism truly set them apart, earning well-deserved national recognition. Special thanks to Ms Kemp for her exceptional guidance throughout the project. Be sure to read more about their impressive achievement — and the glowing praise from the judging panel — later on in the Bulletin.

Shine School Media Awards Trip – Stationers’ Hall, London

Ms Kemp

School Magazine wins yet more awards in 2025



I am delighted to congratulate the entire student team of ‘Bourne Identity’, the school magazine, on their success this week at the Shine School Media Awards in London. The judging panel comprises a range of key figures in the journalism and publishing world, including those working for national newspapers, and saw us up against competition from other extremely impressive entries from schools across the UK and beyond.

We were awarded the prize for ‘Best Magazine’ and ‘Best Magazine Cover’, as well as being highly commended for Ewan Dragota’s interview article with Sir Lindsay Hoyle. Judges said of the magazine: ‘the pace never lets up’ and ‘this is a superb school magazine that fizzes with energy throughout’ and, of the cover (designed by Isabella Perna), ‘[it] is a thrilling burst of angsty, punky energy, packed with personality and impossible to ignore... [it] delivers a stop-you-in-your-tracks cover that exudes attitude and originality’.

Atiksh Agnihotri (chief editor), Vivienne Chen and Tegan Haw represented the team admirably at the awards ceremony itself, participating in journalism workshops, enjoying a two-course sit-down lunch, and soaking up the atmosphere of Stationers’ Hall, the history of which dates back to the 15th century and today’s building to the 17th century. The hard work of these three students, along with the rest of the team, involved late nights and scrambling to meet deadlines, but all are agreed it was worth it!



It is, of course, hard for me as a member of staff to be entirely objective (!), but I think it is fair to say that the standard of the competition was very high, making the achievements of the team all the more notable. The journalists, editors and other industry representatives judging also



declared that this year had seen the highest standard of entries the event had ever seen, and there were plenty of schools not lucky enough to be nominated for awards. I would like to thank the team for the privilege it has been to work with them.

As we bid farewell to the fantastic Year 13 members of the team, who will be missed but leave a strong legacy, Tegan Haw, year 12, looks ahead as our new editor to make plans for the magazine content. Any interested editors, writers, illustrators and cartoonists should sign up to be involved as soon as possible.

You can read more about the Awards and team’s achievements here:

<https://www.shine-schoolawards.org/about/past-winners/>

Year 8 Spanish Trip

Eloise Clarke and Riya Trevedi

This year, Year 8 students were given the opportunity to go on a spectacular Spanish trip. After an early wake up on Monday morning and a short bus ride, we all arrived at East Midlands airport filled with excitement, evidenced by the spontaneous applause as the bus pulled into the airport.

After a fabulous plane ride, we arrived in Málaga airport. Despite the early rise, everyone was full of glee with a spark of adventure in their eyes. We made our way to Benalmádena by bus and then walked up to the Spanish Language School where we ate typical Spanish food for lunch – ¡qué rico! The favourite item on the buffet was the watermelon which turned out to be a running theme throughout the week.



That evening we headed back to the hotel and after some amazing dinner, we all went to the park for some fresh air and the opportunity to explore the local culture.

After a very tiring first day, we headed to bed early and woke up the next morning feeling mostly fresh and energised. Our first full day started with lessons in the language school to expand our knowledge of both Spanish language and culture. We had an entertaining and informative lesson on how to cook paella in which many students helped out with stirring the enormous dishes.



After we'd tasted our cooking efforts, we then had a brilliant active learning experience with a flamenco workshop and even some of the teachers tried out their best dance moves!



On Wednesday, the midway point of the trip, another morning of lessons greeted us at the language school. It was an incredibly hot day and in the afternoon we had an amazing time at the beach, playing volleyball and going in the sea which was very refreshing. The day was finished off with a bit of souvenir shopping and a tasty ice cream.

The next day we had our last morning of lessons at the Spanish school and all received certificates, thanking us for our engagement and noting the level of Spanish we had achieved.

After lunch we walked down to the port and had a short window of more souvenir shopping at a small centro commercial. We then boarded a boat, off in pursuit of dolphins! We were incredibly lucky to see a phenomenal sight of a pod of dolphins (even baby ones) and had the opportunity to take beautiful photos. We were also allowed to take photos in the Captain's cabin where he was kind enough to take pictures of us sitting in his seat, pretending to steer the boat.



On Thursday evening, the teachers were very kind and handed out awards and gifts to many students for their efforts and contributions during the week. There was even a prize for the student who ate the most watermelon!

Finally on the last day, we had a lie-in and calmly checked out of our hotel. We then went to visit the Alcazaba where we learnt about Spanish history and the invasion of Spain by different people throughout the ages such as the Romans and the Arabs. In the last moments of our trip, we were allowed a full shopping experience in Málaga town square. We then waved goodbye to our Spanish experience and flew back to England with lots of great memories and stories to tell.



DofE Silver Expedition

Mrs Brett

Year 11 – Peak District: Saturday 28th – Monday 30th June



Following their exams and recent Prom, the Year 11 Silver DofE students embarked upon their Qualifying Expedition in the Peak District last weekend.

They began in Winster, exploring the countryside surrounding Lathkill Dale, Youlgreave, Bakewell and Matlock covering around 18km each day to finish at Cromford on Monday afternoon.



Starting their walk very early each morning (to avoid much of the hot weather), the teams worked well to navigate challenging terrain, hidden footpaths and curious wildlife to arrive at each camp ready to cook their evening meal and enjoy a bit of rest and recuperation.



I was very impressed with everyone who rose to the challenge, dug deep and succeeded to pass their expedition section. Well done!

Year 8 Rewards Trip

Edie Austin, Peggy Larter, Ffion Jones, and Tillie Phillips

We were really excited to go on the Forest Facility trip, and had been looking forward to it for ages! The first thing that we did was get on the bus, the bus was very fun. We all sat with our friends and had a fun time singing! (I'm not sure our teachers had as much fun!)



When we started to get closer to the facility everyone started to get really excited because we could see how good it looked from the window. When we get there each form group got a safety briefing and a plan for the day so everyone understood what they had to do. We all got given different colour wristbands so we knew which group we were as there were over 200 students.

The first activity our form did was the assault course. Although it was hot we were raring to go so we ran at the start to our first obstacle which was climbing over walls. Then there were hills that you ran up and down. This was followed by going through a little forest pathway which got two more obstacles then we climbed through old cars and



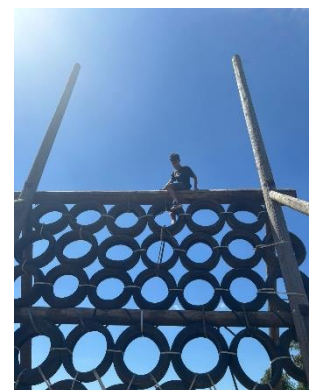
caravans there was a massive climbing tower obstacle which we had to go up and down. We worked really well as a team and helped each other (consistently with giggles along the way) which we quickly had to go through before running through the finish line celebrating. Then there was a pool of water that you could slide or run into (which our friends fell into). Because it was a hot day this cooled us down so did the delicious cold ice cream that we had at lunch (some of us had an ice lolly and some had an ice cream – the sprinkles were really tasty!)



After lunch we were back on different activities. It was so funny to see all the teachers going over obstacles and some went down the zip line.

The next thing we did was axe throwing which was harder than it looked, but there

was a couple who managed to hit the bulls eye. If we struggled the leader from Forest Facility gave us some tips. It was really funny because one of our classmates threw it completely over the target. Luckily there was a massive net behind so no one got hurt. We then did archery where we used a bow and arrows, where we had more success hitting the targets.



The last activity was our favourite (although it was hard to choose). We did laser tag where we got split into two teams and we had face paint that we could put on according to our team colour. We had guns which shot lasers at the other team and we had to capture the other team's flag without getting shot. When we were shot, we would have to go back to our base and 'respawn.' This was really fun because it meant that we could work together and improve our teamwork skills!



Overall, this experience was really fun. It was a hot day and we could enjoy the sun with our friends whilst doing activities that we've never experienced before!

Thankyou you to Mr Graves and Mrs Evans for organising the trip and all our form tutors and other teachers that came on the trip and helped us... we really appreciate it! Thank you also to everyone at Forest Facility for looking after us, and Jimmy Ices for the yummy ice creams.

Summer League

Mr Bowers

Congratulations to the weekly winners of the Year 9 Summer League who can be seen below.



Bella Hill	Rory Connell	Saihaan Damani	George Taylor
Corey Bosworth	Marcus Spencer-Kidd	Riteesh Sabeshan	Hamish Wood
Brogan Dragota	Millie Steel	Sneha Soju Thomas	
Isabella Atkinson	Tom Godber	Arthur Turner	





The current overall standings for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each league are below.

	1st		2nd		3rd	
League	Name	Points	Name	Points	Name	Points
League 20	Hill Bella	131	Giblin Amelia	104	Holmes Zac	89
League 19	Moverley Dylan	67	Bosworth Corey	62	Mavani Jabir	61
League 18	Trawford Darcie	52	Townsend Jack	46	Smith Molly	45
League 17	Hayes Henry	67	Farahat Lamar	55	Wu Angelia	49
League 16	Mulgrew Daniel	58	Bailey Orla	54	Bell Toby	45
League 15	Gibson Tyler	50	Roberts Charlie	38	Spencer-Kidd Marcu	36
League 14	Hempstead Charlie	49	Sweeney Oliver	48	Steel Millie	42
League 13	Unwin Henry	40	Sabeshan Ritheesh	38	Morgan Darcie	35
League 12	Allen Alexander	57	Wrigley Will	50	Ranjith Aakash	44
League 11	Turner Arthur	54	Finch William	46	Amos Beatrice	45
League 10	Weeks Megan	32	Roberts Jude	32	Garrido Toby	28
League 9	Brierley Dennis	48	Gregory Bea	48	Collingridge Carys	34

Students of the Week

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Harriet Booth	7	Mrs Evans	Geography
Eloisa Brown	7	Miss Speakman	English
Brandon Bull	7	Mr Dougall	Design Engineering
Sophia Campbell	7	Mr Harris	Science
Fatima Abbas	8	Miss Claridge	History
Sophie Alliston	8	Mrs Charters	Spanish
Berri Bairsto	8	Mr Hewitt	Geography
Erika Bryson	8	Miss Claridge	History
Danny Davison	8	Mr Delport	Design Engineering
Kaleb Ellis	8	Miss Patman	Spanish
Bethany Gledhill	8	Miss Claridge	History
Harrison Grief	8	Ms Bennett	Registration
Isaac Hall	8	Mr Walklin	Mathematics
Ali Mahdi Jaffer	8	Mr Hewitt	Geography
Max Jones	8	Mr Walklin	Mathematics
Julianne Kettle	8	Mrs Charters	Spanish
Juliette King	8	Ms Bennett	English
Zinachidi Nwamarah	8	Miss Claridge	History
Alessia Pacitti	8	Mrs Charters	Spanish
Willow Story-Hall	8	Mrs Evans	Geography
Natalia Swatowska	8	Mr Osborne	Computer Science
Peyton Teague	8	Miss Roberts	English
Peyton Teague	8	Mrs Charters	Spanish
Samarth Aladakatti	8	Miss Claridge	History
Idara Samson	8	Mr Hewitt	Geography
Lillyana Darcy	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Amberley Keith	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Nevaeh Agyemang	9	Ms Creedon	EPR
Yojit Bodduluri	9	Mr Bainbridge	History
Dennis Brierley	9	Ms Bennett	English
Brogan Dragota	9	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Bea Gregory	9	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Ria Gupta	9	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Charlie Hempstead	9	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Johnny Hullock	9	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Jessica Nicholson	9	Mr Delport	Design Engineering
Isaac Quince	9	Ms Bowtell	PE
Jude Roberts	9	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Arthur Turner	9	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Hamish Wood	9	Mrs Edwards	English
Alfie Bird	10	Mr Willis	Physics
Ellen Richardson	10	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Ollie Wainwright	10	Mrs Charters	Spanish

House Totals

			
7438	8037	6713	8909

Totals shown are House Points minus Behaviour Points awarded so far this term.

SPORT

BGS Singles Tennis Tournaments

Miss Bowtell

The glory event has arrived at Bourne Grammar once more: who is the very best Tennis player in Year 7,8 9 and 10? The event was as popular as ever with the tournament going on after school for several hours and into lunchtimes, such was the closeness of the event.

The Year 7/8 boys were very close with several matches going to the full 3 games and in some cases to 40-40 and sudden death deuces to decide results. Theon Collins and Fraser Daniels survived the stresses of the earlier rounds to make the final which again went down to the last game with Fraser's extra experience eventually paying off.



The Year 7 girls' event was very well supported and all girls played each other, and the joint winners of this evening were Proud Vichathum and Charlotte Dimes.

The girls U13 event was once more dominated by our best in-school player Samaira Bajaj proving why she is so highly rated in the local area. We wish her well in her next round of the Road to Wimbledon singles.

The U15 girls was another thriller with Honor Moore beating the favourite Mary Pepper in the early rounds sending shock waves through the event. Aleena Malik was powering her way past opponents as well and Nicole Mancheva proved what commitment to training across the year can do to one's performance. Mary recovered from her defeat and channeled her energy into



defeating Aleena to once again meet Honor who calmly overcame Nicole with her tremendously deep serves and superb placement of shots. Despite each game being very close the will to win showed in Mary's play, and she defeated Honor to win the title for the first time.



The U15 boys was an entertaining affair with all boys showing the social and fun nature of Tennis. Thank you to everyone who entered, and the final was a showdown once more between Johnny Hullock and Ted Mylchreest. Ted was being superpowered on this evening and claimed the title once more.

Athletics Update

Mr Ray

It has been an incredibly busy time with Athletics in recent weeks and a number of students have represented the school and county in the track and field cup regional final, or the Anglian championships, or indeed the more demanding combined events championships.

Some significant success in these competitions has seen our Junior and Intermediate girls' athletics teams reach the national final of the track and field cup this coming weekend in Chelmsford. This is an outstanding achievement as it has been seven years since the last girls' team reached this stage of the competition.



At the county championships, 13 students became county champion including Arlo Barrasso who became double County champion in the 100 m and shotput in the Year 7 age group, whilst Jack Carruthers became inter boys long jump and high jump champion. He also went on to claim the Anglian title on 21 June at Peterborough.

At those Anglian championships, Alex Allen became junior discus Anglian champion, Monty Wild, the intermediate boys 100 meter hurdles champion, and Yvette Annis the 3000 meter senior girls champion. Lawson Capes managed a double in the shot and discus at the same competition and has since gone on just last weekend to win the World Youth Games in shotput that was held in Gothenburg, Sweden.

A special mention must also go to Zina Nwamarah, Romilly Sondh, Ella Barratt, Leah Graham, and Jack Carruthers, who all participated at the regional combined events championships in Corby on the 28th and 29th of June in the exceptionally hot conditions the weekend brought.



The girls' teams will attend the track and field cup final in Chelford this weekend whilst 5 individuals will travel to the highest level of schools Athletics in the country, the national track and field championships at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham on the 11th and 12th of July. Alex Allen, relatively new to the discus will compete in the junior boys discus, Lawson Capes the intermediate boys shotput (as he goes for his fourth consecutive title). Jack Carruthers will also compete in the high jump. At senior level (year 12 and 13), Sean O'Donnell competes in the 100 m and Thomas Preston a recent England representative, will compete in the 3000m. This, combined with sports day on Thursday 10th of July has provided a wealth of opportunity for students to be become involved with Athletics during the course of this year.

Well done to all those involved and best of luck to those competing at the two finals in the coming weekends.

Individual Success at the Thorpe Wood Football Tournament



Milan impressed spectators yet again, scoring the winning penalty in the semifinals of the Thorpe Wood football tournament. In the finals, Milan scored a penalty in the penalty shootout.

Congratulations Milan, well done to you and the Daniel's U12 team.

ICO World Championships Selection- Astrid Fairhead-Abrahams

Astrid and her older sister Freya (Year 12) are rising stars in the martial arts world.



For the third year in a row, both girls have been selected to be part of the ICO (International Combat Organisation) England Team and will be attending the World Championships in October. This year Astrid will be representing her country in points fighting, kumite (traditional karate fighting), traditional weapons, traditional katas (Korean style and Japanese), as well as competing with Freya in team weapons and katas.



In her first ICO World Championships, Astrid earned two silver medals (weapons and team katas) and gold in traditional katas, making her the ICO World Champion in that category. Last year in Frankfurt, she earned silver medals in traditional forms and team weapons, and bronze medals in traditional weapons and points fighting.



Last December, they attended the annual WKO (World Kickboxing Organisation) Awards Ceremony to see Astrid receive two Grand Champion medals and a Grand Champion belt, awarded for her being top fighter overall in her weight category for light continuous and points fighting across all five tatami events run by the WKO in 2024. These were the English Open, British Open, European Open and World Open Championships, plus a special tournament run as part of the Arnold Sports Festival, held at the NEC and founded by the man himself, Arnold Schwarzenegger, who Astrid saw at the show.

Across these five events, Astrid was entered into 18 separate categories and won 17 medals, ten of which were gold, six silver and one bronze (she placed 4th in the remaining category). An amazing success that reflects the training and hard work Astrid puts in.

WKO English Open - two silver medals, one bronze medal

The Arnold - three gold medals, two silver medals

WKO European Open - three gold medals (triple European champion)
WKO World Open - three gold medals, one silver medal (triple World champion)
WKO British Open - one gold medal, one silver medal and a fourth place (British champion)



The girls recently participated in the ICO Fit Xpo Ladies Day Tournament at Bolton Arena. Run by Boudica Promotions, the aim was to put the spotlight on female competitors, coaches and officials, and their hard work, skills and achievements. They were pleased to bring home two gold medals and six silver medals between them.



Astrid and Freya have trained with people who are top of their field in martial arts and/or films and stunt work, such as Cynthia Rothrock, Mark Stas, Bill "Superfoot" Wallace, Lee Charles and Tetsuro Shimaguchi (choreographer for the sword work in Kill Bill).

Well done Astrid (and Freya) for all you have achieved, you have shown true Bourne Grammar attitude, sportsmanship and kindness towards your teammates, fellow competitors and other martial artists.