

BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday 12 December 2025

From Mark Brunner, Headteacher

Message from Headteacher

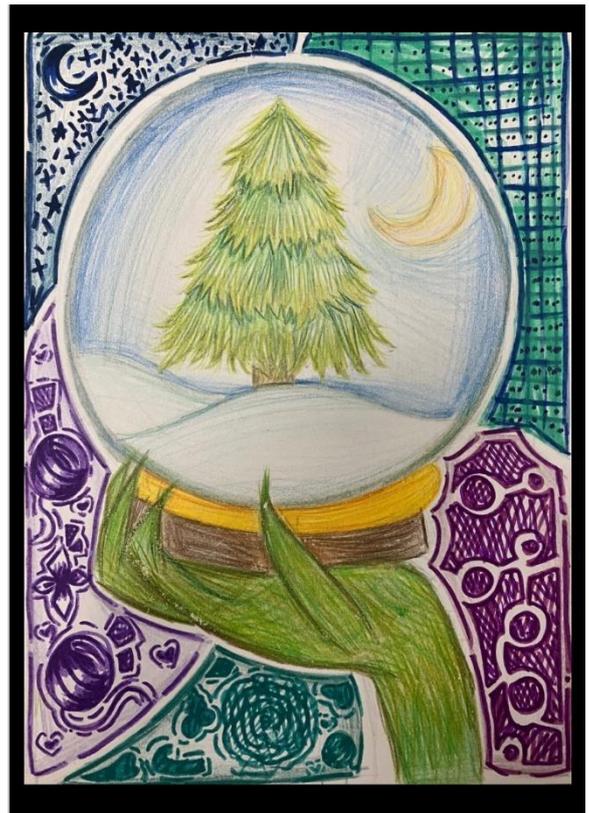
Last night's Christmas Concert was nothing short of extraordinary. More than 150 students across the age range came together with our wider community to create a most special and memorable evening. The confidence and energy shown by all our performers was remarkable, particularly when you consider that a significant number were in Year 7, only having joined the school a few months ago. It was a thoroughly uplifting evening and a joy to witness.

My sincere thanks go to Mr Tomlinson and Mr Jones, whose passion for music and unwavering commitment to our students underpin everything they do. Their desire to offer the very best opportunities to as many students as possible is clear in the ambition of evenings like this, and in the way they enable students to perform with such pride and poise. The scale and quality of last night's concert reflect not only their expertise but also the inclusive, aspirational culture they create.

We are also incredibly grateful to Paul Weston, one of our peripatetic music teachers, who so often gives up his evenings to support our events, including last night's concert; to Miss Edmondson for her contribution to the music performed; to Ms Kemp for working so closely with our fantastic readers, who read with such clarity and composure; and to Theo Bryson, who returned in his own time to support the concert by creating an exceptionally impressive programme and capturing photographs on the night, having completed his A-Levels at BGS last year. The evening was made possible by the contribution of many, and every person involved played a part in creating a wonderful occasion.



I am also delighted to announce that the winner of this year's Winter Card Competition is Maija Ozola (Year 8). The artwork is superb: a beautifully drawn snow globe held (somewhat ominously) by the unmistakable green hand of the Grinch. It immediately caught my eye, which won't surprise anyone who recalls Christmas 2017, when my decision to introduce lessons on the last day of term earned me the noble title "The Deputy that Stole Christmas." Now, as Headteacher, it seems my festive legacy endures. I remain entirely unrepentant. Congratulations to Maija for an outstanding and beautifully crafted design. Runners up were Annie Hampton (Year 7) and Rishita Dutta (Year 9).



Finally, my thanks to all parents who put their names forward for the role of Parent Trustee. We had an exceptionally strong field, and I am pleased to confirm that the following candidates were successfully nominated by the parent body: Becky Wood, Dr Ruth Dimes, Rachel Aiken, and Mike Hoad. I look forward to working closely with them as the Trust Board continue to further strengthen the School's strategic direction.

Law Department News: Visit by a Barrister; and Mock Trials begin... - Mr A Mitchell, Subject Leader for Law

The BGS Law department was delighted to welcome back Qamar Iqbal, a barrister with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), to talk to all Year 12 Law students across a morning of lessons. Qamar has been a great friend to BGS for a number of years and in recent times he has supported students with their preparations for Mock Trials, which the department tends to run as popular end-of-term activities (see account of the first of these also in this Bulletin).

Qamar gave the students a valuable account of the work of the CPS, with a focus on charging decisions, and he outlined the career opportunities available within the organisation. He discussed routes into the legal profession, giving advice to students about the solicitor and barrister routes. He also gave some valuable tips to the students about securing voluntary experiences that offer insights to the workings of the legal system.

Students particularly enjoyed hearing, in addition, about Qamar's own career and experiences in the Magistrates' Court and the Crown Court, and worked through some case studies that illustrated some of the difficult charging decisions that might be required. A case study about joint enterprise on the school bus proved particularly interesting to student audiences. The annual highlight – which has become something of a tradition – is the trying on of Qamar's wig, which had more takers than ever before and was an indication of the extent to which students felt inspired by the visit. We had rooms full of budding barristers by the end of the morning!

Thank you very much to Qamar for returning to BGS to deliver this excellent learning opportunity for the students and for giving so generously of his time. Thanks also to Helen Elliot, Head of Careers and Higher Education, for supporting the event behind the scenes and providing the accompanying photographs.

The photos show (L-R): Alfie Martin; Gracie Tidbury; Railah Rezai



The first BGS Mock Trial of the festive period – Written by Hannah Lessiter

On the 10 December our year 12 Law class, with only 9 of us, played out a mock trial about an incident occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH) at a school disco. We split into groups, two defence barristers and two prosecution barristers, then three witnesses and finally the victim (Terry) and the defendant (Sam). We spent time preparing in and out of lessons, reading the witness statements and deciding what questions to ask to discover the truth. I was a defence barrister aiming to prove the defendant not guilty (though owing to the presumption of innocence, we only had to show that the prosecution could not prove its case beyond reasonable doubt). As the day approached, we prepared ourselves with the famous wigs and capes to make a stand and fight for justice! The victim was up first still shaken from the events. We questioned her, determined to see her break and allowing us to put the case for the defendant. Then came the other witnesses who cleverly fought for their side not allowing themselves to crumble under the pressure. And finally, the defendant, stood strong under the brutal questioning of the prosecution. At last, within our closing speeches, it was determined that the victim was heavily under the influence of alcohol, "Aftershock", to have a clear recollection of the events making her decisions unjustified.

To conclude... The Defence Won (of course)

The defendant was determined to be NOT GUILTY.

A Level Media Visit to Warners – Mr M Williamson

A-Level Media students recently visited Warners PLC in Bourne, a major-local print publishing and marketing company, to gain insight into real-world media production.

Students were given a guided tour of the site and introduced to the company’s various divisions, including editorial, design, marketing and digital services. They observed creative teams at work and learned how different departments collaborate to produce print and promotional materials.



The group then attended a sit-down presentation where staff outlined the company’s workflow, current industry trends, and the importance of audience data.

This was followed by a careers talk that highlighted roles in publishing, marketing, and print.

The visit concluded with a (loud) tour of the print factory, allowing students to see the full production process from concept to finished product.

Overall, the trip provided valuable industry insight, strengthened students’ understanding of media production and even some potential employment opportunities.



Bebras Challenge - Mr P Osborne

The Computer Science department is excited to announce that our students have achieved outstanding success in this year’s Bebras Challenge (10th - 21st November 2025), an international competition introducing computational thinking to students aged 6 to 19.

Organised in the UK by the Raspberry Pi Foundation in partnership with the University of Oxford, the Bebras Challenge encourages students to solve interactive, logic-based tasks that develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Last year, over 3 million students from more than 80 countries participated in this exciting competition.

We had 826 students take part, which included all students in KS3 and all Computer Science students in KS4 and KS5. The results for Bourne Grammar School were excellent – feedback from the organisers indicates that our students consistently achieved above average scores in every age range that we entered.

Our best performer was Phoenix Angel, a Computer Science student in Year 11. He achieved a perfect 165 out of 165 points.

Phoenix’s performance ensured that he secured challenge rank ‘1’ meaning that he achieved first place of all participants in the challenge nationally. A great achievement and one we are extremely proud of. Well done Phoenix!



Bourne Grammar School Literacy update: Year 7 Reading Challenge launch

- Mr Williamson-Ward (Literacy Coordinator)

Our year 7 Reading Challenge has officially launched. The challenge runs right through to Friday 3 July and the aim is to encourage students to continue reading for pleasure.

Whilst there will be rewards and recognition along the way for participation and engagement the overall prizes are as follows:

- Every student who reads 30 books or more by Friday 3 July will receive a gold certificate and reading badge.
- Those who read 25 or more books will receive a silver certificate.
- Those who hit the 20-book hurdle will receive a bronze certificate.
- Further details of other rewards and recognition will be shared in subsequent bulletin updates.

Students have received a challenge booklet, and it is here that they will record what they've read and complete a series of creative tasks encouraging them to think about the book in greater depth. During term time, students will show the booklet to their English teacher to get each record signed off. Each signature signoff counts as confirmation of a completed read. It is here that one of the creative tasks may be set too!



During school holidays, parents are encouraged to complete the signoff and set a task for their children to complete should they wish. There is plenty of space in each booklet for students to complete their tasks, but they are also free to be even more creative for some of the more detailed challenges. We encourage parent to keep the conversation going about what they're reading and share books you've read and enjoyed too.

Please keep the booklets safe as these are their record of what they've read, and students should bring these back in when we return to school.

They are free to read physical books or digital e-books.

With that in mind and the holidays soon upon us, we thought we'd take this opportunity to remind our students of our E-library. With almost 2000 titles available, readily accessible at the click of a button, we'd like students to take time over the holiday to browse the e-shelves for their next reading adventure.

Below is a quick guide to help students access the E-library using their usual school login details. Access can also be found through the student portal on our website:

How to access Bourne Grammar School eLibrary (Years 7-11)

1. Type in the following web address:
<https://bourne-grammar.eplatform.co/>
OR use the QR code.

2. Use your TEAMS login details.
@bourne-grammar.lines.sch.uk



For the first month you will be able to borrow one book, from then you will be able to take out a book every two weeks.

There is an excellent range of books available on the ePlatform. Spend some time exploring the titles available and reading the synopsis before borrowing a book. If the book is already on loan, you will be able to place a reserve.

Even if you're offline, the ePlatform app is the quickest and easiest way to borrow and read eBooks.

1. Visit your usual app store and install the ePlatform app.
2. Search for Bourne Grammar School.
3. Browse the range of titles.

The ePlatform library is compatible with the following devices:

- iPhone, iPad and iPad touch
- Android devices
- Windows tablets
- Desktop or Laptop
- Kobo
- Sony eReader





Finally, our Reading Room is available to all students every lunchtime in E6. Students can eat their lunch and quietly enjoy their latest book in a calm, dedicated reading space. This is open to all year groups.



Reading Room (E6)

Open every lunchtime
12.45-13.15

Browse and borrow from a collection of over 200 books, or bring your device and enjoy a quiet space to access the e-Library.

House Totals

			
17515	19173	17588	18147

***These totals show all House Points earned minus Behaviour Points.
It includes points from all students in each house for Term 2 up to 11/12/2025.***

Name	Year	Type	Staff	Subject
Joshua Burton	7	Person of the Week	Miss Mears	Pastoral
Lily Church	7	Person of the Week	Mr Dougall	Pastoral
Miles Cranston	7	Learner of the Week	Miss Kendrew	Science
Felix Edgar	7	Learner of the Week	Mr Motley	Computer Science
Austin Hickey	7	Learner of the Week	Mr Westland	PE
Maddie Keith	7	Learner of the Week	Mrs Allen	English
Thomas Smith	7	Person of the Week	Mrs Cowell	Pastoral
Krishna Koirala	8	Learner of the Week	Miss Davis-Williams	EPR
Joel Ndlovu	8	Person of the Week	Miss Roberts	Pastoral
Amelia Nicholson	8	Person of the Week	Mr Bainbridge	Pastoral
Ava Stewart	8	Person of the Week	Mr Edwards	Pastoral
Maddie Surtees	8	Person of the Week	Miss Lindley	Pastoral
Eloise Clarke	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Robin Daniels	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Dougall	Design Engineering
Elliott Eveleigh	9	Person of the Week	Mrs McAuley	Pastoral
Jack Gois	9	Learner of the Week	Ms Bennett	English
Pippa Harrison	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Flavia Hoxha	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Jasper Hudson	9	Learner of the Week	Miss Smallshaw	Chemistry
Juliette King	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Ryan Ogonna	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Lennox	Physics
Viganth RG	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Viganth RG	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Jasmine Sutton	9	Learner of the Week	Miss Smallshaw	Chemistry
Riya Trivedi	9	Person of the Week	Mrs Pryor	Pastoral
Fatimah Walji	9	Learner of the Week	Miss Smallshaw	Chemistry
Suraj Yadravi	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Baverstock	Spanish
Beatrice Amos	10	Learner of the Week	Mrs Evans	Geography
Jessica Daniels	10	Learner of the Week	Mr Bainbridge	History
Elliott Edwards	10	Learner of the Week	Miss Ewing	Geography
Archie Gilbert	10	Learner of the Week	Miss Hodge	History
Thomas Hurley	10	Learner of the Week	Miss Ewing	Geography
Freddie Neal	10	Learner of the Week	Miss Mears	English
Jeremy Okagbare	10	Person of the Week	Miss Smallshaw	Pastoral
Isaac Quince	10	Person of the Week	Mrs Holbrook	Pastoral
Otto Wild	10	Learner of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Florence Wrigley	10	Learner of the Week	Ms Kemp	English

Name	Year	Type	Staff	Subject
Phoenix Angel	11	Learner of the Week	Mr Osborne	Computer Science
Phoenix Angel	11	Person of the Week	Mr Osborne	Pastoral
Jack Caffrey	11	Person of the Week	Miss Ewing	Pastoral
Catalina Diaz-Munoz	11	Person of the Week	Dr Pritchard-Murphy	Pastoral
Daniel Komives	11	Learner of the Week	Dr Hanson	Biology
Zahra Ravji	11	Learner of the Week	Miss Hodge	History
Jiya Sivakumar	11	Learner of the Week	Mrs Clark	Spanish
Connor Wilson	11	Learner of the Week	Dr Hanson	Biology
Edith Bateman	12	Learner of the Week	Dr Hobbiss	Psychology
Isla Blowers	12	Learner of the Week	Dr Hobbiss	Psychology
Faith Perkins	12	Learner of the Week	Miss McAleese	Psychology
Lloyd Barker	13	Person of the Week	Mrs Holbrook	Pastoral
Tilda Christie	13	Learner of the Week	Ms Bennett	English
Jessie Dolby	13	Learner of the Week	Miss McAleese	Psychology
Tula Harvey	13	Learner of the Week	Mrs Pignatiello	Theatre Studies
Thomas White	13	Learner of the Week	Miss Pollard	Geography
Kashvi Woosa	13	Learner of the Week	Dr Hobbiss	Psychology

Year 9 Term 2 Week 4 Weekly Winners – Ms S Atkinson

The Weekly Winners competition continues in Year 9, giving me another opportunity to share with our school community a number of Year 9 students who have impressed with their effort and commitment over Week 5 of term. There are some truly outstanding performances this week, notably Amberley Keith who was awarded an incredible 42 House Points in a single week!

Well done to all the Week 5 winners – keep up the good work Year 9 as we approach the final few weeks of term.

Group	Week	Top Student	Points Gained
1	5	Amberley Keith	42
2	5	Samarth Aladakatti	33
3	5	Natalia Swatowska	35
4	5	Idara Samson	32
5	5	Divyana Patel	27
6	5	Evelyn Bostock	32
7	5	Maia Paige, Yeshara Moodley	27
8	5	Robin Daniels	26
9	5	Krithik Mohan	33
10	5	Julianne Kettle	31
11	5	Srikar Puppala	23
12	5	Adam Hickey, Zac Moore	15

Individual Achievement – Tilda-Rose Houghton (Year 8)

Archery GB hosted their Junior National Indoor Championships last weekend and Tilda-Rose competed in the event for the first time. The event brings together the finest junior archers from across Great Britain to compete in a 60-arrow event over 20 yards. Tilda-Rose fought out a very tight and exciting contest with some excellent archers, with the lead changing hands several times through the course of the 20 ends. Tilda-Rose successfully retook the lead coming into the final end and then one final strong score secured her place as the Archery GB U14 Barebow Indoor National Champion!

Well done Tilda-Rose, an amazing achievement!



Cross Country National Finals - Mr C Ray and Mrs K McAuley

On Saturday, 6th December the Inter Girls team competed in the ESAA Cross country cup National Final at Princethorpe College. The team was made up of Sophie Alliston, Amberley Keith, Sofia Christoudias, Madeleine Hobson, Samaira Bajaj and Edith Kaberry who was unfortunately unable to run due to illness.

The girls performed brilliantly in very muddy conditions on a tough course that totalled a distance of just under 3km. The course had a long uphill section early on before a very muddy stretch of steep up and short downhills over the back field before the last 800m of flat and downhill to finish the course.

The race started fast and saw the field of runners spread out quite quickly. The girls fought hard to finish 13th overall. A brilliant team result and great individual performances too from all the girls. Sophie Alliston achieving a 10th place finish before Amberley, Sofia and Madeleine came back in quick succession in 64th, 69th and 78th respectively. Samaira ran strongly to get back shortly after in 120th place.

A special thanks must go to Bourne Lions club and Melbourne Building Services for sponsoring the girls to take part. Well done to Samaira and Amberley for your efforts in securing our sponsors.

Running club continues to run and is open to all students on a Monday and Wednesday after school thanks to CJ Latimer.

A last thank you to the parents for providing support and transporting all the girls running. It was a brilliant day and great to see our all Year 9 team perform so well in this Year 9/10 age category. We look forward to seeing them compete in this next year as Year 10s.



National Languages Competition - Ms M Hernandez

A huge congratulations to Abigail Lakin and Madeleine Hobson who took part in the National Languages Competition, earning an impressive **1,325 points**.

They threw themselves into every challenge showing real talent and teamwork.

Participants reflected on the competition, sharing: “I think GCHQ was good because there was a variety of difficulties so if medium was too hard there was still something I could do. It was easy to participate in because the information was clear, it was also interesting to learn about different origins from different languages.

If people take an interest in a language or coding, then it is a good challenge to challenge your language abilities. As there was a time limit that we all had, it encouraged us to do more of it at the same time.”

We’re incredibly proud of their achievement and the positivity they brought to the competition!



Design Engineering Project Boxes – Mr P Dougall

Last term in Design Engineering, Year 7 students completed their project boxes. They made them both virtually on Solidworks, an industry standard CAD package, and in real-life by gluing together the cut parts. They were then able to customise their boxes by either painting them or using the lasercutter to etch their own bespoke designs.

The photos below show some of their excellent work!

Well done Year 7!

