BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday 13 November 2026
From Mark Brunker, Headteacher

Message from Headteacher

After last Friday's unexpected early closure because of the burst water main, I approached Friday the 13th with a certain amount of caution. It seems that caution was justified, with the widespread Outlook problems this morning providing today's disruption. Hopefully Friday the 13th has now made its point.

Following Viganth RG's excellent Year 7 assemblies last week, Diwali celebrations continued at lunchtime today. It was lovely to see so many students getting involved and sharing in the occasion, and another reminder of the range of cultures and traditions represented within our School community.

On Wednesday, lessons paused across the School as we marked Armistice Day with two minutes' silence. It was observed impeccably in classrooms and around the site, with a number of students also choosing to wear their cadet, Scout or Guide uniforms for the day.



There has also been excellent news from the Senior Maths Challenge. Arjun Raghavan in Year 13 has qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad, involving a formidable three-and-a-half-hour paper. Alex O'Rawe and Daniel Partridge in Year 13, together with Niketh Nambala and Oscar Overall in Year 12, have qualified for the Senior Kangaroo Challenge. Both take place on Wednesday 18 November, and we wish all five the very best of luck.

Our new outdoor table tennis tables have been a real hit. Staff-student matches have already begun, and I suspect there may be a few reputations at stake before long. My thanks again to our PTFA and to everyone supporting the School through the 1636 Foundation, whose generosity has helped make additions like these possible.

Mr Tighe's Silly Essay Competition also features later in this Bulletin. The competition encourages students to explore both sides of an argument before reaching a reasoned conclusion. Having tackled whether pineapple belongs on pizza, he has now turned his attention to Christmas, a subject on which my enthusiasm has occasionally been questioned.



Y13 Visit to Busy Bees Nursery

- **Ms K Jones, English**

On Monday afternoon, some of our Year 13 English Language A Level students visited Busy Bees Nursery in Bourne to see in practice what we have been learning about Child Language Acquisition this year.

In small groups we observed non-verbal communication in the Baby Room and marvelled at how the babies managed to articulate their needs and wants without words. We chatted away to the toddlers, translating and enjoying their simple grammatical structures and emerging vocabularies, before finally playing with the pre-schoolers as they explored their expanding worlds and interacted with their friends. We observed them making virtuous errors and crafting new and exciting utterances using their ever-developing language skills. We were also able to see the impact of Child-Directed Speech from the adults as they guided the children's speech.

It was wonderful to see our oldest students interacting and learning alongside our future students as they contextualised and consolidated their learning in such a fantastic real-world setting.

A huge thank you to the staff and children at Busy Bees for making us feel so welcome and allowing us to take part in this valuable learning opportunity.

European Day of Languages

- **Mrs M Hernandez**

Last term, students at Bourne Grammar School celebrated the European Day of Languages with a treasure hunt, a poster competition and a lunchtime celebration.

It was lovely to see students bring different strengths to the day, from working together to solve clues in the treasure hunt to sharing their ideas through creative poster designs. The lunchtime celebration gave students another chance to come together and share their enthusiasm for languages.

Well done to everyone who took part, and congratulations to our competition winners! Thank you for bringing such energy and creativity to the day.









Term 1 EPR Silly Essay Competition

- **Mr S Tighe, Subject Leader: EPR**

It is a rare occurrence when a teacher describes marking scores of essays on the same subject matter as a joyful experience. However, marking the 25 responses to the EPR Department's first ever "Silly Essay Competition" has been exactly that: joyful. The entrants really engaged with the process: every essay was impressive. I learned a great deal and was made to think about a range of implications I had never considered. I did not expect the statement to lead to discussions of the biology of taste buds, economics, environmental ethics, or the importance of respecting culture, heritage, and tradition to name just a few of the far-ranging topics that featured. I was blown away by the complexity and academic nature of so many essays. The descriptive language some used was so evocative. Emily Greenfield in 8D nearly had me drooling on her essay: her vision of the perfect pizza was that appealing (and I hate pizza). There were also several laugh-out-loud moments. A special mention must go to Gabriella Mezzatesta in 7E for the funniest line in her forthright and proud defence of Italian custom: "If you heard the things Italian chefs say about Hawaiian Pizza, you might even feel bad for the pineapple."

Students were asked to submit a handwritten, referenced essay in response to the following statement:

"Pineapple clearly belongs on a pizza." Evaluate this statement.

In their response, entrants had to:

- Give two reasoned and proven arguments in support of this statement.
- Give two reasoned and proven arguments against the statement.
- Make a judgement about the quality of each of the reasoned arguments presented.
- Reach a justified conclusion.

My thanks go to all the entrants above and below who put in such a superb effort who will receive 10 Achievement Points each: Mahdi Abdallah (8E); Adeloja Akinsulire (8G); Sofia Badorrey Jimenez (7A); Florence Goodwin-Duff (7A); Alice Grassby (7B); Grace Gray (7D); Thea Gunner (7H); George Hildebrandt (8A); Flavia Hoxha (10E); Amelie Hunt (8B); Rosalie King (8F); Desi Koya (7A); Sienna Lovell (7E); Vivechan Matta (7E); Ella McQueen (7D); Verity-Belle Purdy (7G); Artie Saunders (7H); Ishan Singh (8G); Elsie Smith (7D); Alex Watson (7H).

It was an incredibly close contest with Elwood Williams in 8G and Ruwanthi Hasan in 10D just pipped at the post. Sadly, there can only be one victor. The winner and recipient of 25 Achievements Points is BETH GLEDHILL in 10H. Her essay follows.

The Term 2 Silly Essay Competition relates to Mr Brunker's favourite time of year: Christmas! Instructions to follow soon.

The Winning Entry by Beth Gledhill (10H)

Some people may agree with this statement due to the food science and research behind this combination. They may argue that the combination of sweet, salty and acidic flavours is a classic flavour balance that humans are naturally wired to enjoy. To support this, according to FlyPost, "not only does this tasty fruit add a burst of sweetness that complements the savoury flavours of pizza, but it's also packed with vitamins and minerals, including vitamin C and antioxidants which can help to support general wellbeing". This website also explains that food science is to do with flavour balancing, chemical contrast, and texture interaction between sweet, salty, and acidic components. This works with pineapple on pizza as the natural sugars in pineapple add a new element to an otherwise heavy, oily dish. This is a partially strong argument as it uses food science and the reasons behind the combination to support and explain, not just opinions.

Another argument in agreement with this statement is that pineapple on pizza is a huge contributor to the economy, and this proves its popularity, as if it didn't sell then it wouldn't be sold. According to the Zipdo business data website, Hawaiian pizza accounted for 15% of Domino's pizza sales in the US in 2023. In that year, Dominoes US overall sales added to $4.48 billion, 15% of that is approximately $672 million. This was only in one year, from one pizza chain, in one country. If you apply this to the world, then you would have an estimate of about $16 billion a year towards the global economy, which is roughly £14 billion, which to put to scale, is more than double of Trump's entire net worth. This money goes a long way, and just with America's $672 million, once all payments had been made to all responsible for the making of the pizza and its ingredients, this money goes to sustain thousands of local service jobs and gives an estimated $40+ million to communities throughout America. This popularity is backed by famous celebrities supporting the pizza choice, with Dwayne Johnson once saying, "pineapple pizza is my jam, with ham". This goes to show the vast popularity, proving that pineapple pizza is a well-liked and overall beneficial dish. This is a strong argument as it uses figures from past sales to show popularity, however this is still only 15% of Domino's US pizza sales, so this is still not a very widespread opinion as the average person buys about 2 pizzas per year, so even the 15% cannot be taken into scale with the amount of people, as the number of people who are actually buying these pizzas will be about half of this figure.

On the other hand, some people may disagree with this statement, regarding the traditional Italian pizza that rarely uses fruit (except from tomatoes), and adding pineapple is seen as a break from authenticity and Italian culture. To support this, in the European Union, certain traditional foods are given legal protection to prevent them from being altered. Pineapple is specifically not allowed on traditional Italian pizza, and many view it as a break from tradition and a different version of pizza. Also, the AVPN is the international legal body based in Naples that acts as the official global watchdog for pizza tradition. They published a strict 14-page rulebook on how to traditionally make Italian pizza, and on here, pineapple is also not approved. This is extremely strong evidence as it is not just an opinion, but a legal rulebook that controls thousands of certified pizzerias worldwide, and this shows that pineapple on pizza is not how pizza was created to be. However, pizza has evolved globally, and toppings such as barbecue chicken or sweetcorn are also non-traditional but widely accepted.

Another reason that some people may disagree with this statement is that flying pineapples and transporting them into and around countries that do not grow them, which is the majority of countries, is very expensive and has a substantial carbon footprint. For example, from the website – Gebana – the flying pineapple and its carbon footprint, we can see that "when shipping 1 kilo of fresh pineapples from Lomé in Togo to Zurich by plane, between 3 and 10.5 kilos of CO_2 are emitted into the environment". It is difficult to know the exact carbon footprint behind the pineapples that we may eat here on pizza, but even this limited data shows us what kind of an impact pineapple pizza is having on the environment. To support this argument, around 3.8 billion fresh pineapples are transported across international borders globally each year. We can now see the extent of change on the environment which it has, and how other toppings, such as mushrooms, are more local and have less of a carbon impact, not only that but they are more popular, and overall local ingredients make more sense. This is a fairly strong argument as it explains the carbon imprint that pineapples have on the world, but it does not give specific data, or at least not enough to give us a specific view of the extent of this carbon footprint.

Overall, I disagree with the statement as I think that it goes against the traditional Italian rules about pizza toppings and the flavours are not what pizza was designed to be like. Also, my personal opinion regarding the taste is that it is not very nice, and I am sure that I share this opinion with the majority worldwide.

Social Hockey Tournament, 9 November

- **Mrs K McAuley, Physical Education**

It was great to see, for the second week running, over 20 students from Y8 to Y13, boys and girls playing hockey in our Social Hockey Tournament.

Older students once again did a great job of encouraging and playing younger students into the game. There were some great goals scored as well as a few dramatic open goal misses and one or two spectacular falls.

A particular well done to Honor who has led her side to two weeks of consecutive victories! The after school ended with a short 11 a side match with Y12 team captains Kiki and Honor combining their teams to play against the two other teams led by James and Alice in Y13. It was a close match that ended 1-0 in favour of Honor and Kiki.

Well done to all involved!





Senior Girls v Kings Peterborough, 11 November

- **Mrs K McAuley, Physical Education**

The senior girls travelled to Kings Peterborough on Wednesday, with Y11 mocks ongoing and some Y10 students on a Geography trip the match provided an excellent opportunity for Y9 students Tilly Garland and Lily Mann to gain some more experience with the senior girls. Both played brilliantly and grew into the match with some great involvements, biggest of which was both being involved in the goal of the day.

The girls started the game slightly congested in the middle with a few girls playing out of position and it took us some time to find our usual shape. Just before half time we managed to keep to much better width and height in attack, this created some much better space for us to play into and we once again begun to play some really mature hockey. We were pulling the ball out, playing round the back and identifying some great opportunities. This led to 3 quick, successive goals before half time despite the game being at 0-0 for the majority of the first half.

We continued to build into the second half despite lending Harriet and Honor to Kings to bolster their numbers and were playing some great hockey. The highlight of which was an attacking play that saw Eloise play the ball forward down the line to Hettie who showed awesome work rate to chase the ball down and, whilst running at full pelt play the ball back inside to Romilly who took the ball at pace and drove into the D before passing across the goal to Lilly and Tilly, positioned on the P spot and back post respectively. It was Tilly who got a great touch on the ball to score an outstanding team goal.

Thank you to Tilly, Hetty, Harriet and Honor who all played across for Kings at points in the match.

A massive thank you must go to Miss Shelbourn for taking the students across to the fixture to ensure it could go ahead.

And a last mention to Y13 student Emily Seaton, she was our only Y13 representing the school in this fixture with fellow Y13 Alice Barratt unfortunately unavailable. Both have represented the school on the hockey pitch from Y7 and added great value to our senior team this year. It was lovely to see Emily play her last school game in front of Miss Bowtell who came to watch and has taught both Emily and Alice from Year 7.

House Totals

5587	4393	5127	5220

These totals show all House Points earned minus Behaviour Points.
It includes points from all students in each house for Term 2 up to 12/11/2026.

Values Awards

- **Mr T Brooker, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)**

Our Behaviour Policy makes clear that, "as learners, we aspire to be ambitious, determined and inquisitive", whilst "as people, we aspire to be honest, resilient and kind."

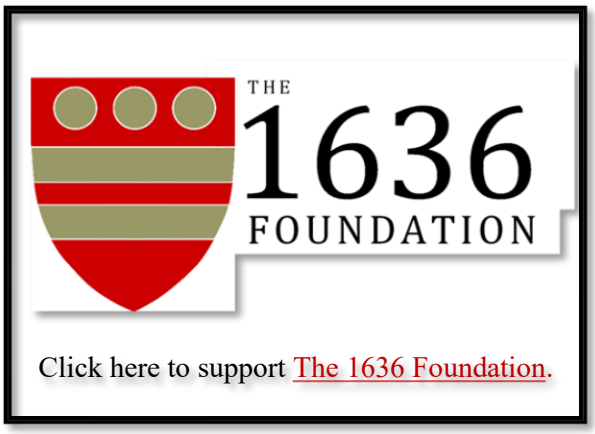
The Learner of the Week Award recognises those students who have exemplified one or more of our learning values through their approach to their studies.

The Person of the Week Award recognises those students who have exemplified one or more of our character values in their daily interactions.

All those named should be very proud of themselves, as we are proud of them.

Name	Year	Type	Staff	Subject
Connie Drake	7	Learner of the Week	Mr Bainbridge	History
Quinn Henderson	7	Learner of the Week	Miss Davis-Williams	EPR
Sofia Badorrey Jimenez	7	Learner of the Week	Dr Barmby	History
Felicia Kovalskaia	7	Person of the Week	Mr Dougall	Pastoral
Alison Kyriacou	7	Learner of the Week	Miss Davis-Williams	EPR
William Lyles	7	Person of the Week	Mrs Holbrook	Pastoral
Joel Mitchell	7	Person of the Week	Mrs Ford	Pastoral
Joel Mitchell	7	Person of the Week	Mrs Holbrook	Pastoral
Sophie Novoslavskaya	7	Learner of the Week	Mrs Rocha	English
Charlie Phillips	7	Learner of the Week	Mrs Baverstock	Spanish
Millie Ramhit	7	Learner of the Week	Mrs Allen	English
Joshua Burton	8	Learner of the Week	Mrs Allen	English
Isaac Fay	8	Learner of the Week	Mr Osborne	Computer Science
Kian Ghaffari	8	Learner of the Week	Mr Moore	Art
Kitty Hall	8	Learner of the Week	Mr Moore	Art
Orlaith Heames	8	Person of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	Pastoral
Frances Hennessy	8	Learner of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Alexia Hoad	8	Learner of the Week	Mr Moore	Art
Henry Lakin	8	Learner of the Week	Mr Osborne	Computer Science
Leo Marseglia	8	Person of the Week	Ms Stevens	Pastoral
Weyinmi Edema	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Elliar Fisher	9	Person of the Week	Mrs Wood	Pastoral
Elliar Fisher	9	Person of the Week	Mrs Evans	Pastoral
Harri Gregory	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Baverstock	Spanish

Name	Year	Type	Staff	Subject
Harriett Hayward	9	Person of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	Pastoral
Emma Kemp	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Bainbridge	History
Ollie Kettley	9	Person of the Week	Mrs McAuley	Pastoral
Elizabeth Lawrence	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Bainbridge	History
Elizabeth Lawrence	9	Person of the Week	Mrs Evans	Pastoral
Ruben Pattinson	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Martha Saralis	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Fleckney	Physics
Jonathan Ulyatt	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Fleckney	Physics
Emily Wright	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Hernandez	Spanish
Emily Wright	9	Person of the Week	Mrs Wood	Pastoral
Rebecca Zheng	9	Learner of the Week	Dr Barmby	History
Joey Dickins	10	Learner of the Week	Ms Bowtell	PE
Liam Forman	10	Learner of the Week	Mrs Wood	English
Lauren Hammond	10	Learner of the Week	Ms Bennett	English
Pippa Harrison	10	Learner of the Week	Ms Bennett	English
Archie Howard	10	Learner of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Sasha Mackintosh	10	Person of the Week	Ms Bennett	Pastoral
Leo Massey	10	Learner of the Week	Miss Wilson	Mathematics
Viganth RG	10	Person of the Week	Mr Chamberlain	Pastoral
Anna Da Silva	10	Learner of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Darcie Trawford	11	Person of the Week	Miss Bradley	Pastoral
Will Wrigley	11	Learner of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Tobi Aigbe	12	Learner of the Week	Dr Hobbiss	Psychology
Grace Allen	12	Learner of the Week	Mrs Clark	Spanish
Tom Blanthorne	12	Person of the Week	Mr Jones	Pastoral
Iris Brewin	12	Learner of the Week	Mr Stainton	Biology
Alfie Carroll	12	Learner of the Week	Mr Jones	Business Studies
Erin Johnson	12	Learner of the Week	Dr Hobbiss	Psychology
Katy Pearman	12	Learner of the Week	Miss Bradley	PE
Mae Risk	12	Learner of the Week	Mrs Bolitho	English
Phoebe Walker	12	Learner of the Week	Miss Bradley	PE
Macey Hemmings	13	Learner of the Week	Dr Hobbiss	Psychology
Karina Ying Yu Lok	13	Learner of the Week	Mr Roche	Mathematics



Celebrating Excellence in Spanish Spelling – Los Reyes y Reinas de la Ortografía

- **Mrs M Baverstock, Spanish**

Each term, the Spanish Department proudly celebrates the achievements of our most accomplished spellers. We are delighted to recognise the students who were awarded the distinction of *Reyes y Reinas de la Ortografía* in Term 1, in recognition of their outstanding accuracy, commitment, and dedication to the Spanish language.

¡Estamos muy orgullosos de vosotros!

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Emmie Parker	Sophia Calvert	Annanya Sahoo	Aarikha Arunkumar	Ellie Moore
Theo Chalkley	Tobie Hopper	Kriti Subudhi	Samaira Bajaj	Dylan Moverley
Alex Huang	Jude Jackson	Iris Thomas	Evelyn Bostock	Imogen Southwood
Evalyn Machin	Kian Ghaffari	Sophie Howard	Sofia Christoudias	Isla Cummins
Emma Pascan	Alexia Hoad	Emily Robinson	Eloise Clarke	Thomas Hurley
Ayushi Bathia	Aggie Scrivens	Basem Awadallah	Robin Daniels	Caspar Baldock
Jago Brunker	Fliss Marshall	Bethan Drewett	William Didsbury	Rebecca Board
Charlene Bull	Emmett Saker	Lilian Osoba	Sylvie Gregory-Smith	Charlie Hempstead
Lucy Hudson	Daisy Shackell	Martha Saralis	Madeleine Hobson	Maisie Moulds
Sienna Lovell	Ellison Trawford	Maryam Seit	Eva Neal	Kasia Sulwinska
Immanuel Nwamarah	Evelyn Garton	Hayden Thomas	Zina Nwamarah	Edith Kaberry
Sreenidhi Sabani	Emily Greenfield	Anna Hartley	Maya Pascan	
Jasper Haines	Izzy Jones	Sammy Hullock	Freya Ridgewell	**YEAR 12**
Millie Ramhit	Beau Matthew	Lily Mann	Kumayl Meghji	Grace Allen
Miya Ye	Penny Norton	Vaishwi Sreekanth	Noah Mason	Honor Moore
Alex Heard	Mahdi Abdallah	Shreya Yadravi	Sophie Alliston	Hannah Fernandez
Henry Roberts	Matthew Bullen	Ava Stewart	Fred Candy	
George Skinner	Hettie Cheng	Edith Thompson	Lillyana Darcy	**YEAR 13**
Scarlett Streather	Eadie Challinor	Finn Timmins	Emma Homza	Merryn Baldock
Zofia Sulwinska	Ava-Mae Freeman		Amberley Keith	William Brown
	Isla Getty		Juliette King	Jakub Bryja
	Gracie Gray		Matilda Knowles	Chloe Burgin
	Ahaana Kharpate		Amelia Lidgley	Katie Evans
	Rohan Sekhar		Zakariya Qureshi	Calem Healy
	Connie Sutton		Ivy Roberts	Hannah Lessiter
	Ella Wells		Demi Sanwo	Adelina Zagorodniuc
	Ishan Singh		Lennon Smith	
	Usaym Moin		Lavinia Bomford	
			Olivia Laud	
			Poppy Perrin	