



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 27 September 2019

From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher

A NEW CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

At its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday the Full Governing Body received the resignation of Mr Steve Dharamraj as Chair of Governors. Mr Dharamraj served, initially as a Parent Governor, for nearly five years as a Governor of the School and was elected to be Chair at the AGM in September 2017. Earlier this year, on leaving the RAF, he took up the post of Bursar at an independent school within the geographical area served by our own School; aware of possible conflicts of interest, or at least perceptions of them, Mr Dharamraj felt that he should resign the Chair and also from his position as a Governor here. Throughout his tenure, though it was short, Mr Dharamraj was a committed, supportive and effective Chair, serving with his trademark wisdom and good humour. We wish him well and thank him for his service to the School.

I am delighted to report that Mr Ian Mears was elected to serve as our new Chair of Governors. Mr Mears is one of only two or three governors who were in post when I joined the School as Headteacher in 2005. Indeed then, as until Wednesday, Mr Mears held the post of Vice-Chair so he was involved in my own appointment back in 2004. Mr Mears and his family have a long personal association with the School, stretching back to the 1960s. Mr Mears was himself a student here and his three daughters include a current student and two *alumnæ*. Imogen is in the Sixth Form, Edwina left a few years ago and the eldest, Ms Harriet Mears - a former Head Girl - is our present Subject Leader for English. Mr Mears has been a Governor for nineteen years, initially as a Parent Governor. He has served as Vice-Chair for an astonishing eighteen years so is elevated to the Chair with a matchless provenance. I have been fortunate to serve under four distinguished, talented and highly-committed Chairs and the School community can be absolutely certain that Mr Mears will serve with at least equal distinction. I know that he will not mind me recording that he is proud and delighted to have been elected to serve as Chair, and will give his all to his work in the role in order to ensure that our students - present and future - get the very best possible deal. I very much look forward to working for him.

Coincidentally our new Vice-Chair of Governors is also an *alumnus*. Mr Robert Parker was elected to be a Parent Governor in 2012 and, drawing on his background as an accountant and managing director has given outstanding service on our Finance & Premises Committee. A worthy candidate for the post of Vice-Chair, Mr Parker was, as was Mr Mears, elected to his new post *nem con*.

The Governing Body is in excellent shape and will doubtless continue to be so under its new and committed leadership. Opportunities for current Bourne Grammar parents to join the Governing Body as Parent Governors will arise later in the term when the Clerk will invite nominations for two Parent Governor posts. I would encourage any parent who wishes to contribute to the governance of a large and successful School with a budget of the order of £7m per year to consider an application. I should be very pleased to speak informally with any parent who might wish to consider an application.

YEAR 12 VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - *Report by Tom Cameron (Year 12)*

On Friday 20 September, a group of 55 Year 12 students set off to explore the colleges of the magnificent Cambridge University.

We started off the day clustered at the entrance to Stamford train station, forming penguin-like huddles in the chilly morning air. Our train departed and we thundered on to Peterborough to pick up the remainder of the group boarding there - a few of us tried to catch a wink or two whilst others excitedly discussed which colleges they wanted to see.



The bustle of Cambridge's station welcomed us when we alighted there, a great contrast to the relative drowsiness of our home towns. Once we were all accounted for, we marched on to Christ's College, where we would receive a talk about the university as well as having a tour. The streets we walked down boasted a myriad of different shops and restaurants from many different cultures,

thus giving us a taste of the cosmopolitan nature of the city and the university. Soon we arrived, in bright sunshine, at the ornate gates of Christ's College. I think it's safe to assume that our attention was grabbed by the setting we found ourselves in. The stunning yet welcoming nature of Christ's College impressed us and heightened our curiosity towards the rest of the prestigious colleges.

Soon after arriving we were met by Dr Mark King, an admissions and outreach officer for Christ's College, who delivered a very informative speech covering several topics including: the university and what it is like, the application process for Cambridge, the collegiate system at Oxbridge, how to prepare a competitive application and common misconceptions about the university. It was very encouraging and enlightening to hear Dr King speak and explain that the 'Cambridge aura' should not deter students from applying to the university. We then divided into smaller groups and had tours of Christ's College's beautiful grounds, led by volunteers who were current undergraduates at the college. The tour further added to our impressions of the college, with its vibrant gardens, its charming architecture and the statue of its most famous alumnus, Charles Darwin.

For many, the afternoon was the most exciting part of the day as we tried to cram in visits to as many colleges as possible. The record for the most colleges seen in the day by one group stands at eight! As at Christ's, many of us had tours around the colleges by current undergraduate students of the respective colleges. Their insight and advice were very helpful and encouraged us to try to understand the varying atmosphere and size of the colleges. Actually being able to look around the colleges allowed us to assess whether we could picture ourselves possibly being there in the future and also allowed us to have a range of different environments to compare and contrast - as each college offers something slightly different from the next one. The only downside to having a plethora of colleges to look around was that by 16:00, when we reconvened at Christ's, our legs were sore from all the walking! This was soon forgotten as we talked with each other about what we had found out during the day. The mood of the group at this point was of pleasant surprise and invigorated optimism, after having realised that in fact the university was not a place shrouded in folklore and myth, but actually a real place full of talented yet approachable and hard-working students. So, as we set off back to the station to squeeze onto a packed, rush-hour train, we excitedly discussed our experiences, all of us thankful to the tutors and students at the university who gave up their time to talk to us.

The train journey passed quickly with many funny, theoretical stories blossoming about Cambridge life - wearing formal gowns at dinner, and punting down the Cam. We pulled back into Stamford, all with broad smiles at what we had found. Thank you to Mrs Hawkins and Miss Atkinson for organising a superb trip - we each began our weekend inspired by a wonderful day at Cambridge.

CLIMATE STRIKE

We must all be concerned about climate change, so I am pleased to include in this issue an excellent report by Lauren Human (Year 13) who, along with some other students, went on strike from School last Friday and led an event in Peterborough. I am sure that there is more that we can all do to stem climate change and it is good to see young people - who will obviously be those most affected by the long-term effects of environmental damage being caused by us all - doing their best to raise awareness of the need to act now.

Report by Lauren Human (Year 13)

On Friday 20 September, 11 Bourne Grammar students attended a climate strike held in Peterborough city centre, one of hundreds around the world. They were joined by other local adults, students and various press and politicians. I had begun to organise the event entirely on my own, thinking it would be simple and straightforward, however word of the strike then started to pick up and over 300 people checked the event as 'interested' on Facebook. I called upon other interested Sixth Form students for help and together we ran a successful and exciting day.



Although the ambitious target of 300 protesters did not accumulate, a healthy 240 did, completely exceeding our expectations. There were a number of talks, such as changing to a plant-based diet and reducing your personal waste consumption. One particularly impressive moment was when Year 7 student Ben Bennett read aloud the Extinction Rebellion 'declaration of rebellion', completely astounding the listening protesters by reading a very challenging text with huge passion and emotion. The event ran without a hitch, remaining peaceful and joyous from 09:00 to 14:00. Not only was it highly covered by press but I was also offered many opportunities, including a trip to London to speak to members of parliament, along with other students, about what the country can do to change the current state

of the UK's carbon emissions. It was so exciting to see so many passionate students from Bourne Grammar and gave me a real sense of excitement and pride for our School.



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Holly Potts	7	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Nathan Sylvester	7	Dr Barmby	History
Kris Rushworth	7	Mr Delpont	Design Engineering
Atiksh Agnihotri	8	Miss Atkinson	EPR
Courtney Pudney	8	Mrs McVicker	English
Harrison Smith	8	Mr Green	History
Connie Bayliss	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Ellen Nixon	8	Miss Lindley	Geography
George Bell	8	Miss Kirby	Mathematics
Phoebe Bryant	9	Miss Bradley	PE
Grace Munton-Hague	9	Miss Hurrell	Spanish
Eloise Murrey-Drew	9	Ms Bowtell	PE
Aadhi Visvanathan	9	Miss Kirby	Mathematics
Ed Trofimovas	9	Miss Capper	History
Charlotte Alder	9	Miss Watson	English
Sam Harris	9	Mr Hartley	Business Studies
Ollie Roberts	10	Miss Watson	English
Harry Hewitt	10	Mr Ray	PE
Elyza Howard-Chalmers	10	Mrs Clark	Spanish
Alexander McFarland	10	Mr Brown	Computing
Daniel Greenfield	10	Mr Tighe	EPR
Jamie Grice	10	Miss Bennett	English
Paige Briggs	10	Mr Edwards	Spanish
James Eames	11	Miss Smallshaw	Chemistry
Keiran Spencer-Wing	11	Mrs Williamson	English
Abigail Hennis	11	Mr Stainton	Biology
Charlie Moat	11	Miss Segarra Ginés	Spanish
Ella McLay	12	Miss Thurlow	Sociology
Luke Toomey	13	Mrs Shales	Mathematics

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Liberty Bessent (Year 11) recently passed the following Music and Dance exams:

- ABRSM Music Exams - Grade 1 Piano (Distinction) and Grade 6 Violin (Pass)
- ISTD Dance Exams - Grade 4 Ballet (Merit) and Modern Theatre Intermediate (Pass)

WEEKLY HOUSE POINT TOTALS

			
3425	2922	2644	3266

These totals show all Achievement Points earned minus Behaviour Points

It includes points from all students in each house up to 22/09/2019