

# BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

*Week ending Friday 4 September 2020*

*From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS

Our School is now one of the largest selective schools in the country and ours is one of the larger school Sixth Forms. Yet for months the corridors have been silent save for the brief period of partial reopening and the labouring of contractors working hard to improve our School.

I write having just enjoyed one of the most precious experiences that the role of Headteacher has to offer which is the welcoming of a new cohort of Year 7 students arriving to start their seven-year career with us. The first day of secondary school is a prominent milestone in the life of a young person and this year, in addition to the challenges faced by the new students every year, our intake is additionally burdened by the COVID-19 situation. The new students have not had the usual opportunities to see the School, their fellow new students and their tutors because we have been unable to run the various events that make up the induction process. Yet they arrived as bright-eyed and as eager as always. They arrived in droves, beautifully presented in their new uniforms, some eager and confident, some understandably apprehensive. It was an absolute joy to see them at last. I look forward as I always do to meeting each of the eight forms in the classroom over the next couple of weeks.



After such a long time and so much anxiety, endless guidance from the Government, planning, preparation and reassurance, it was an overwhelming experience to see students from across the School arrive and the form-rooms beginning to fill. We are open again, our students will soon be well into their learning and a sense of a bustling school routine is beginning to return.

I am deeply grateful to Deputy Headteacher Mark Bruncker who has led the School's preparation for reopening under the prescribed 'bubble' system. His many hours of careful consideration and refinement have yielded a plan which is working and which allows the School to operate in as safe a manner as can be achieved and in a calm atmosphere. It is impossible to know for how long we must operate in this manner but at my start-of-year briefing to staff I felt that the best advice was to expect that it will be for months, not weeks. It is regrettable that students will not always learn in the environment best-suited to the subject they are studying, but at least they are here, together, in School and my colleagues are well-prepared to do their best for them all.

The news reports tend to exaggerate such things but a few minutes with a calendar shows that the students - not including those who were able to return for a time in the summer term - have not been in School for some fourteen weeks. It is a long time but it is not 'almost six months' as the media might have it. During the closure they have, of course, been studying under remotely-provided guidance from their expert teachers. Any absence from School is a serious matter but I do believe that the situation faced by our students is recoverable now that they are back in regular daily contact with their teachers.

### YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 AND THE SUMMER 2021 GCSE & A-LEVEL EXAMS

As I write we await a clear steer from the Government regarding how our Year 11 and Year 13 students will be assessed and their GCSE and A-Level grades awarded next year. It is not surprising that this guidance is outstanding given the uniqueness of the circumstances, no obvious solution which might be expected to be well received by all parties and, of course, awareness on the part of the Government of the difficulties faced this summer. Students and teachers want to know the position but their main concern is to get back to work and to continue working through the courses. I have advised my colleagues to teach 'as normal', preparing their students for traditional examinations next summer. As and when advice is received, it will be communicated to those who are affected.

### REMODELLED AND REFURBISHED ACCOMMODATION NOW IN USE

By happy coincidence an unusually extensive programme of work on the site was planned for the period through which the School was closed and from then into the Summer holiday. Able to take full advantage of there being no School routine to work around the contractors completed their work in good time and a good deal of up-to-the-minute accommodation has been returned to us and is now in use. A suite of eleven English classrooms has been fashioned from the former Science accommodation of eight classrooms and former laboratories which was vacated when the new Science Block opened a few years ago. Walls have been moved, prep-rooms have gone, doorways have been bricked up, new ones have been cut into the block-work, ceilings have been replaced and lighting brought up to the latest modern standard. Though now used as part of a 'bubble' rather than as a base for the English department, in good time the department will settle there and it will then work in a suite of which it can be proud and in which the students will learn in



ideal conditions. The old English rooms have been refurbished to bring together the EPR, Geography and History departments to create a Humanities hub. A spacious new Careers Room has been established in the Science Block. The Counselling Room has been soundproofed and redecorated. A spacious and much-needed store has been erected within the Drama Studio. And, at last, students can use the new Astroturf pitch which was completed many weeks ago.

## SCHOOL BLOUSE SALE

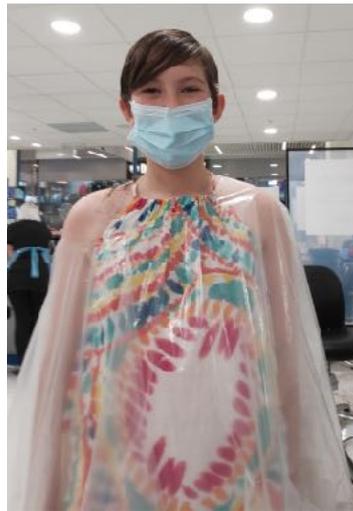
A number of School blouses from old stock are available to buy. If you wish to purchase a blouse or blouses, please email Mrs Ford via [pastoral@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:pastoral@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk). The following sizes are available: 28", 38", 40", 42". The cost of each blouse is £7 and can be collected at a pre-arranged time with Mrs Ford, with payment made via a sealed envelope left in Reception when you collect your order.

## INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

### Fundraising

Freya Dahlgaard-Sigsworth, one of our new Year 7 students, recently decided to cut her hair and donate it to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that helps children and young people losing their hair because of cancer, with money also being raised for Cancer Research. Once her hair had been cut, Freya said that 'it was quite a big change to go from long to short hair, but I really like my new style' - her mother also donated her long hair to the Trust at the same time. If you would like to donate to her fundraising page, you can do so [here](#).

Vikita Shah (Year 8) will also be donating her hair to the same charity - her fundraising page can be found [here](#).



### Athletics

Samuel Staines (Year 13) won his first competition of the year at Loughborough University last weekend - he competed in the 800m and finished in a time of 2 minutes 0.0625 seconds.