



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 28 May 2021

From Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

Today marks a turning point in the provision of specialist teaching at Bourne Grammar as the Science, Music and Art departments are brought back into normal use. I must thank all those in School who have worked so hard to make this a reality; at a time when Teacher Assessed Grades are still being calculated, Covid-19 continues to impact on our community and teachers are required to move from room to room carrying all their resources with them, this is a considerable achievement. When I suggested tackling our bubbles and bringing as much of the site back into widespread use as possible I was uncertain if I was asking too much, and to what extent I risked placing excessive strain on the internal workings of the School. The pressure on front line teachers is as high as I have seen it in my 27 years in the profession: marking loads have been well above average as evidence for the awarding of GCSE and A-Level grades is gathered, mixed online and live teaching continues to be a difficult reality, and departments have been extremely stretched when adapting to teaching in multiple unfamiliar classrooms. Temporary work spaces and the growing national crescendo of calls to engineer Covid catch-up has merely added to the pressure.

Despite the ongoing strain for the good of the whole community, and especially our students, we had to make the change happen. Specialist teaching requires specialist facilities, and learning is held back when these facilities are not available. Staff wellbeing also takes a considerable hit when subject specialists are unable to deliver their lessons as they wish. On Monday 7 June, when students return to a more mobile School context, I am certain the positive impact will be instant and happiness levels will rise sharply.

However, it is important to acknowledge that several departments are still unable to return to their normal classrooms and therefore the challenge to learning remains an ongoing one. I am already scanning the horizon and wondering what September will bring. When we are back to a full school population of around 1,700 students will we be forced to return to the same pattern of zonal bubbling? Asking all teachers to go back to a nomadic existence and withdrawing student access to specialist classrooms once again would be a bitter pill to swallow, but if Covid-19 infection numbers are still high enough to prevent Department for Education guidance from changing do we have an alternative option? I have no definitive answer to this at the moment, though I can promise all readers today that my thoughts are increasingly turning to addressing this problem. My fingers are very firmly crossed hoping for fresh Government guidance for schools, but Covid-19 may be with us for the long term and future periods of restrictions must be planned for. In this context we may need to try and redesign our Covid risk assessment in an effort to find an alternative future bubble setup. The impact of Coronavirus is therefore far from over, and the need to adapt our School routines may be a necessary ongoing consideration. One thing, however, will not change: everything we plan for, and everything we do, will place our students at the heart of the decision making process.

I wish everyone a happy holiday and hope students and staff are able to enjoy a well-earned rest.



INTERVIEW PREPARATION GROUP - Mr Gatland, English

Students who are intending to apply to any institution which conducts interviews as part of its admissions process are being offered an additional programme of sessions this year to help them prepare for the experience.

The sessions, which begin in the third week of Term 6 and run through to the first week of December, will enable students to engage with a range of challenging topics and ideas from across the whole spectrum of academic disciplines represented at Bourne Grammar. Each session will involve a short presentation from a member of the teaching staff, followed by a free-flowing discussion about the key questions and ideas arising from the presentation.

The programme is designed to benefit any student who is applying to a university or other institution (for instance, the armed forces) which interviews candidates for selection. It will help students to build their confidence in speaking in front of others, in debating with each other, and in tackling unseen material. Students who would like to attend are encouraged to notify Mr Gatland of this via email. The first session will be taking place on Wednesday 16 June.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS - Mr Ray, Director of PE and Sport

For many parents reading this, the name of Geoff Capes will be synonymous with either the World's Strongest Man or double Commonwealth Gold Medallist in the Shot Put for Great Britain. Others may be aware of his grandson Donovan who is currently studying at Bourne Academy and achieving great things at Intermediate level, also in the Shot Put. In September, Lawson, another grandson, joined Year 7 here at Bourne Grammar and has continued the family tradition not just in the Shot but also 100m and, more recently, the discus.



At the start of the season, a return to competition in the Shot saw Lawson immediately increase his personal best to 12.66 metres, a massive 1.34 metres further than last season. Just last weekend, this was extended to 12.99 metres, with a number of no-throws progressing beyond the 13 metre mark. Additionally, earlier this week, Lawson smashed the 13-metre barrier in an event at Loughborough University organised by Charnwood Athletics Club, breezing past a previously elusive mark to register 13.55 metres. Dad and coach Lewis Capes enthused, "It was a new experience for Donovan and Lewis to throw at 8pm in the evening as they had never done it before." Lawson is ranked number 1 in the UK by more than 3 metres in his age group. To add to his reputation, his first discus competition also went extremely well with more than 30 metres in the Peterborough competition; his first ever throw in competition of 30.51 metres also ranks him as number 1 in the country for discus.

At this point assumptions could be made that Lawson is therefore a big strong 12-year-old - and that may be the case! However, taking to the track in the 100m, Lawson chipped in with a time of 13.3 seconds, ranking him as number 3 in the UK for his age group. I am sure we shall hear more of his progress in the coming weeks and months as the athletics season progresses. Whilst we are unable to undertake athletics fixtures at present, I nevertheless look forward to seeing him represent the School next year and hopefully add to the School's record in the ESAA Track and Field Cup and make it 14 successive National Finals.

Other students also attained success in recent competitions and are looking to compete again in the English Schools' Championships in July. Fran Fenwick (Year 12) won the ladies High Jump with a jump of 1.58 metres as she looks to return to her best, having finished 7th in the country at the English Schools' at Birmingham 2 years ago. Max Roe, sprint hurdler and another English Schools' competitor, added the High Jump to his repertoire with 1.68 metres in only his second ever High Jump competition. He also won the Hurdles in 15.0 seconds as he starts to adjust to a new distance and height in the sprint hurdles.

Athletics Club at Bourne Grammar continues after half-term with training on Mondays for Year 7 and 9, and on Wednesdays for Years 8 and 10. Year 7 also have the opportunity for Long Jump and Hurdles on a Thursday lunchtime. Well done and good luck for the season.

TENNIS DURING TERM 5 - Miss Bowtell, PE

This term the PE Department have offered Tennis to each year group either during lunch or after school, or both for Year 10. I am thrilled to say that this offer has been taken up by a significant number of students and it has been absolutely lovely to see the large swathes of red PE kit running around both the Astroturf courts and the hard courts. In total each week, we have seen over 120 students laughing and enjoying each other's company whilst challenging themselves to either formal matches or more informal social play.



We have run several tennis events over the course of the last two weeks. For Year 8, the winner of the boys event was James Hayes, and the winner of a very fiercely competed girls event was Millie Herrick. In Year 9 we have an access tournament called *The Road to Wimbledon*, where students can qualify for a National competition - area winners eventually get the chance to play at Wimbledon against the best players in the country. We had some wonderful tennis played in both the Year 9 girls and boys qualifying events - the match between Libby Moore and Bella Atkin could not have been closer. However, the eventual winners, Libby Moore and Ollie Bardwell, will represent the School in the County round on 11 July - we wish them luck!



HOUSE POINT TOTALS - House Leaders

			
8,228	8,577	8,307	8,961

*These totals show all House Points earned minus Behaviour Points.
It includes points from all students in each house between 19/04/2021 and 28/05/2021.*

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Music Kaitlyn Hallas (Year 10) has passed her Grade 5 Music Theory with Distinction.
Amelie Murphy (Year 10) has passed her Grade 7 Trinity College London Singing Exam with Distinction.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Luigi Bonvini	7	Miss Turton	Drama
Thomas Duff	7	Mr Ray	PE
Georgia Herrick	7	Miss Bradley	PE
Efe Eta	8	Mr Bowers	PE
Arun Singh	8	Miss Segarra Ginés	Registration
Gabriella Udeaja	8	Ms Kemp	English
Huw Ballard	9	Ms McVicker	English
Thomas Grimshaw	9	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Imogen Leaton	9	Mr Sheppard	Mathematics
Alfie Scotney	9	Miss Patman	Spanish
Harrison Smith	9	Miss Smithson	English
Caleb Yates	9	Mrs Pignatiello	Drama
Harry Child	10	Miss Smithson	English
Lexi Clarke-McLeish	10	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Sam Hartley	10	Mr Gillespie	Mathematics
Neha Joseph	10	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Ben Lamb	10	Miss Doerpinghaus	German
Sophia Leaton	10	Miss Hurrell	Spanish
Evie Alexander	12	Miss Watson	English Language