



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 10 September 2021

From Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

A warm welcome to everyone in our community as we begin a new school year, and a particular welcome to all new students joining us from a wide range of feeder, local, national and international contexts. Being a new student can be daunting, but I am delighted at the positive atmosphere that pervades all corners of the School helping all newcomers to adjust quickly. As I greeted Year 7 on Monday morning, it was wonderful to see so many nervous and furrowed faces dissolve into smiles of excitement as each student entered through reception. In their first assembly I asked Year 7 to seek to adopt 3 behaviours: to be kind, to ask questions and to get involved. This is good advice, perfectly in tune with the ethos and values of the School, and I encourage all existing students to pause for a few seconds and absorb the importance of the positive, supportive and proactive mindset that this advice represents.

I would also like to welcome 12 new staff members who join our community this term. As Early Career Teachers we welcome Mrs Edwards, Miss Pritchard and Miss Roberts to the English Department, Mr Walklin to the Maths Department and Miss Wright to the Art Department. We also welcome Miss Heighway as our new Head of Business, and Mr Dyson as a new member of the Computer Science team. Mrs Anderson and Ms Marlow join us as Cover Supervisors, and we also welcome three new teacher trainees for the year: Mr Tomlinson teaching Chemistry, Miss Rounds teaching PE and Mr Van Uden teaching History. I wish all new staff well in their roles, and I am sure they will soon feel an integral part of our vibrant School community.

Public examinations did not take place this year; instead GCSE and A-Level grades were awarded by teachers and our students were extremely successful. Internal and external moderation was carried out to ensure the efficacy of these grades, and all Year 11 and 13 students can feel justly proud of their achievements. At GCSE 69% of all entries were awarded at grade 7 and above, and 24% were given the top grade 9. Congratulations to Evie Bage, Alex Galpin, Tilly Manning and Oscar Potts who achieved a grade 9 in every subject and to Charlotte Fosbeary, Max Garthwaite, Freya Pembery, Kareish Rajkanna, Katie Ward, Fern Williams, Darren Wong and Connor Young who achieved 10 grade 9s and 1 grade 8. The year group worked incredibly hard, and deserved all the success that came their way. At A-Level a very impressive 94% of all results were graded C or better, and 52% were graded A* or A. 19 students secured all A* grades and Charlotte Broxup, Ellen Fordham, Fabio Valerio, Martha Watts and Alex Williams deserve huge congratulations for achieving A* grades in 4 subjects. The year group should be incredibly proud of their achievements and we wish them well as they take on new challenges in employment, as an apprentice or at university.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to continue to move the School forward over the summer holiday. A huge amount of site work was completed: new classrooms were created, a new fire alarm system installed, new study spaces were created, new offices were designated and our computer network upgraded. Such things do not happen without planning and significant application and we are very grateful to see the benefits of this hard work in operation this week. The Sixth Form Admissions Team also processed a significant number of applications over the holiday, and we now have a Sixth Form of over 500 and full year groups throughout Years 7 – 11. Long waiting lists show our continued popularity, the product of the first class education offered at Bourne Grammar, and I am therefore grateful to each and every member of staff who works so hard and with such commitment to the School.

Finally, what of the year ahead? Some punchy advice has already been written above, but let me conclude with a phrase I read to staff on their first training day. "Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start." These are the words of Nido Qubein, President of High Point University, and advertise the wide horizons that every new beginning provides. Whether last year was successful or not for you, whether you achieved everything you desired or fell far short, now is a fresh beginning and all things are possible. What has come before has made us what we are now, but we should never feel shackled by the past. Instead, embrace the future without fear and move forward with positivity and confidence.

SUMMER SCHOOL - Mr Hewitt, Deputy Headteacher (Academic)

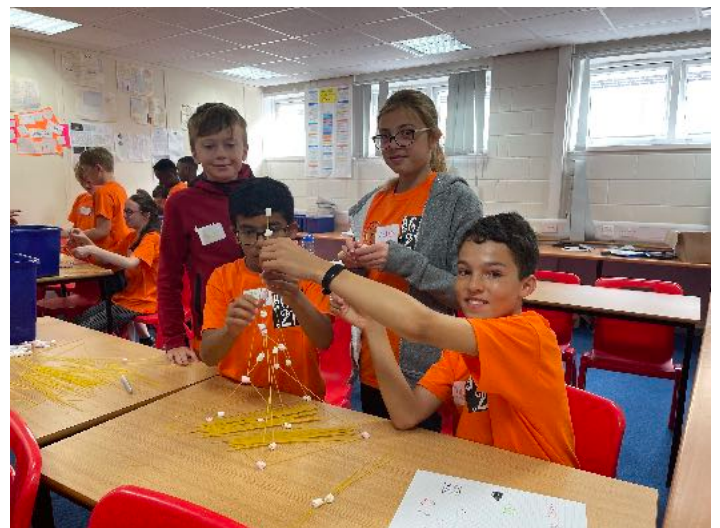
In August we welcomed over 200 of our new Year 7 students for an exciting week of activities; students mixed with each other fantastically, met some of their new teachers and had the chance to become familiar with their new - 'massive', as one boy told me - School environment.

Having just said goodbye to their primary schools only days before, many students were naturally nervous on the first day but, once they settled into their tutor groups and started to make new friends, you could physically see the anxiety lift from their shoulders. The awkward silence on the Monday morning was replaced by telephone numbers swapping amid laughter and chatting on the Friday afternoon. After a wretched 18-month period, this was a truly wonderful week.

The Summer School mostly consisted of a programme of academic sessions, punctuated by House events to promote competition between the four BGS Houses. Academic sessions included Ethics and Philosophy, Spanish, Music and Drama, Science, Art, Design Engineering and PE. Despite there being an evident academic focus to the week, activities were designed to be purposefully fun and engaging and to incorporate teamwork and collaborative learning so that students could form early relationships with their peers. There was also an exciting orienteering challenge, which allowed all students to roam freely across the site to look for clues in a BGS-style Treasure Hunt, and we were lucky to avoid showers and enjoy some competitive sports activities on the field, led by some of the PE staff.

Many thanks need to go to the 20 colleagues who agreed to give up some of their summer holiday to help make the week such a success - particular thanks go to Mr Ray (Director of PE), Mr Chamberlain (Head of Year 7) and Miss Pollard (Deputy Head of Year 7) who were instrumental in its organisation and smooth-running.

In summary, the week was a triumph; the students were an absolute credit to themselves, their facilities and their primary schools. I am sure that they gained enormous value from the experience.



WIR GRATULIEREN! WINNERS OF THE GERMAN COMPETITION

Miss Doeringhaus, Subject Leader: German

The German Department has a long standing tradition of entering the annual BGA Deakin Youthbridge Award for Excellence in German. The Youthbridge Award takes place every year and is organised by the British-German Association to raise the profile of German in schools across the UK. The award scheme gives prizes and certificates for the best projects submitted by students in each participating school. Its aim is to encourage students to continue with German at GCSE and beyond. This year, the competition was entered by our Year 9 students and I am pleased to say that our German students have once again risen to the challenge. As always, the standard of entries was very high and our students have delivered high quality projects.



Congratulations to Nabeeha Saeed who won the first prize in the Youthbridge Awards for Excellence in German (2020/21). Amy Fletcher received a second prize, and third place winner was Harrie Metcalfe.

This year's winner Nabeeha put her German language skills to good use by creating a video talking about her family and where she lives. Amy, a proud member of Meitner House, chose to produce a poster on Lise Meitner, an Austrian-Swedish physicist who was responsible for the discovery of the element protactinium and nuclear fission. Amy wrote about the highlights of Meitner's life, demonstrating her great German skills. Harrie decided to create a video informing us about Niedersachsen, her birth place.

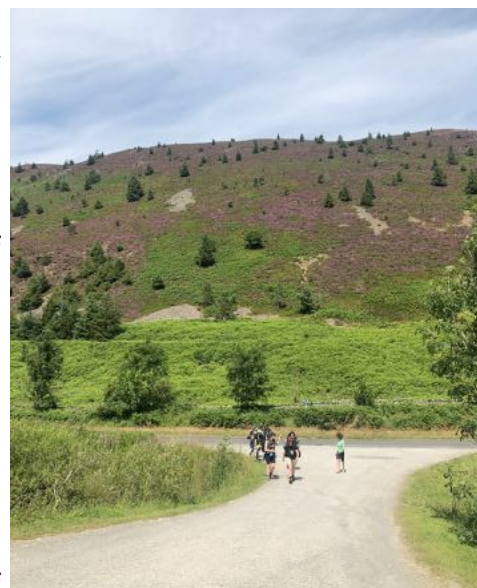
In addition to a certificate, our winners were handed Amazon gift cards by Headteacher Mr Anderson at a special assembly this week.

DofE QUALIFYING EXPEDITION - Mr Brett, DofE Co-ordinator

After a 12 month delay due to the COVID pandemic and a rapid rearrangement to deconflict with their revised prom date, sixteen Year 13 students departed School on the last day of the summer term to undertake their DofE Gold Expedition in the Lake District.

The first day was always going to be tough, a 5 hour drive before a lunchtime start saw the students take their first of many thousands of steps under clear blue skies and searing heat, carrying everything they needed to be self-sufficient for the next 4 days. Arriving at the first campsite tired and sore after between 8-11 hours walking, it was evident just how challenging the remaining 3 days were going to be.

The Lake District was basking in unusually prolonged sunshine and high temperatures that necessitated a rethink of campsite departure times each morning, with most groups deciding to be out and walking around 6.30am to avoid the intensity of the sun during the middle of the day. Streams were found to soothe weary feet, rivers were found to bathe in, it's just a shame they weren't able to purchase ice creams!



The campsites, in the villages of Stonethwaite, Buttermere, Thornthwaite and Braithwaite, were all selected and booked by the students, and provided a welcome oasis of hot (or cold) showers and a chance to ditch the heavy rucksacks for a few hours.

A key element of their expedition is the aim, which the students collect evidence for along the way and present to their Assessor at the end. The 3 groups had independently opted to write a Bronze DofE Expedition Survival Guide, collect and study leaves from their journey, and produce a Vlog of their experience.

Day 4 arrived and every group displayed a steely resolve to finish the expedition on a high, so pushed through the hot weather to get to their final destination. Their final task, before boarding the minibus for the long (and smelly!) journey back to Bourne, was to present their aim to their Assessors, which they did with typical enthusiasm and humour.

4 days, 80km walked, hundreds of metres of ascent and descent, seemingly endless bottles of suncream applied, gallons of water consumed, multiple kilograms of pasta cooked and eaten, tears, laughter and some real grit and determination - a true Gold DofE expedition.



A smooth return journey gave them just less than 24 hours to unpack, shower (probably several times), grab a few hours sleep in a decent bed before turning attention to the serious business of getting ready for prom - it is hoped that Ben Dudley came good on his promise to take his DofE rucksack to prom, citing 'separation anxiety' if he was without it!

Taking a moment to reflect, this group's DofE journey with the School has come to an end, a 4 year journey that has seen blood, blisters, sweat and tears along the way, but has also seen them develop, mature, give back, get fitter and learn new skills; a journey they can be exceptionally proud to have undertaken.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Dance

Naomi Daniels (Year 9) has passed her Grade 4 RAD Ballet Exam with Distinction.

Theatre

Courtney Pudney (Year 10) has been successful in getting a role in the Cresset Theatre's 2021 pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*. Courtney was offered a part after a lengthy audition with a very high number of talented performers.

Music

The following students have recently passed exams for Piano:

- Isobel McLay (Year 11) - Grade 3 with Merit
- Courtney Pudney (Year 10) - Grade 3 with Distinction
- Alice Jones (Year 8) - Grade 5

Mr Black, who teaches Piano at the School, said "I am very impressed: these students have had all, or nearly all, their lessons online for the last year, so their results are even more to be applauded than usual. Piano lessons have resumed in the Music Department at the School, face-to-face, so we expect there to be even more results to report in future."

HOUSE POINT TOTALS

851	550	530	609

*These totals show all House Points earned minus Behaviour Points.
It includes points from all students in each House between 06/09/2021 and 10/09/2021.*