



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 16 July 2021

From Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

Congratulations to every member of the Bourne Grammar School community: we have made it through to the end of a very complex and difficult School year. Looking back over the last few months we had moments of significant stress, but it is a testament to all elements of the School community that we successfully managed whatever Covid threw at us and we are hopeful that much better times lie ahead. We know that Covid impacts will not disappear entirely and we are going to have to learn to live with the virus, but I am becoming ever more confident that school closures as a response to waves of Covid infection may be a thing of the past. I certainly hope so.

A couple of positive developments have emerged from the last 16 months. One has been the emergence of online conferencing technology and looking ahead to next year we may decide to use online communications again when appropriate. I plan to put together a parent survey at the start of the new school year and your views regarding online progress review meetings in addition to open evenings will be valuable. In addition, schools across the country have learned quickly to adapt to online learning and communications platforms when working with students, and I am certain that Microsoft Teams is a tool that is here to stay.

For the most part though, Covid has had a significantly negative impact on children and schools and as a result it is time to take stock and decide on the things that are really important in education. How do we strike the right balance between academic focus and social time? How do we better preserve and support the mental health of young people? How do we better deliver the memory making experiences that Covid has helped highlight as vital to a young person's development? Where should wellbeing fit into our curriculum? And how do we better develop the soft skills that are vital to the 21st Century economy? These questions were there before Covid, but Covid has brought them into sharper focus. The Government is talking quietly but consistently about the length of the school day and opening up opportunities for enrichment and extra-curricular activity time (we await a report on this in November) and everywhere there is agreement that pastoral support of our children needs to be enhanced. These conversations I suspect will strategically realign aspects of our education system and change will happen. We have already responded to these challenges at Bourne Grammar with a development plan for 2021/22 that places a great deal of emphasis on pastoral support, wellbeing and the personal development of our students and the School community should be able to identify the tangible benefits of this approach before too long. For now though it is time for us to get some rest, punctuated by the excitement of the Summer School and the anticipation around GCSE and A-Level results. I hope everyone enjoys high quality family time and recuperation over the summer: you deserve it.

Finally, I would like publicly to say farewell to our two staff leavers this term: after one year with us Alexandria Waldron leaves the English Department to become an Assistant Headteacher at Abbey College in Cambridgeshire. We wish her well in her future endeavours as a school leader. Manuella Armstrong is retiring after a very impressive 28 years of service to the School. Manuella has been a much loved tutor, a cover supervisor, a textiles assistant, has worked in reprographics and also supported the Home Economics department in years gone by. She has impacted positively on every department in the School and she will be missed by us all. Her husband Tim, her two children and four grandchildren will be able to spend much more time with her now and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Congratulations to the following students, who have recently received their Bronze DofE Certificates.

Year 10 - Amber Jones and Bella Skelton.

Year 11 - Noah Akamessan, Beth Ashley, Daniel Greenfield, Thomas Payne and Liam Bedford.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW OF THE YEAR - *House Leaders*

We are delighted to be able to relay to you what a fantastic year we have had despite the ongoing pandemic, and to showcase our students' efforts and their contributions to their Houses, the School, and the wider community. In the face of everything, our amazing students were still able to participate in a range of activities - sporting, creative and academic - from a Year 7 poster challenge, designing the BGS Christmas Card, a lockdown PE Challenge, a Maths Challenge and, most recently, the Linguistic Olympiad.



In addition, students were able to raise money for our student-nominated charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), through several non-uniform days. In keeping with their generous spirits, the students also donated an impressive number of Christmas shoeboxes to the Evergreen Care Home, and an equally inspiring array of donations to support Bourne Food Bank.



With all House Points for the year totalled, and all bonus points from competitions added, the final standings for this year's House Championship can be found below.

1st	Tinbergen	64,844 points
2nd	Rorschach	64,115 points
3rd	Meitner	61,741 points
4th	Behn	59,398 points

Many congratulations to all the students in Tinbergen House, and to Mr Graves, for their victory in the House Competition this year.

We would like to thank all students for their hard work, participation, enthusiasm and team spirit throughout what has been a very difficult year. Equally, a massive thank you to all parents, carers and BGS staff for their ongoing support of the students and the wider community this year.

Next year, we are excited to hopefully see the return of more sports challenges, the House Music Competition, and other creative challenges for our students to get stuck into, such as the Photography Competition. Bring your competitive spirit!

BGS PENTATHLON - *Miss Smith, PE*

Over the past three weeks, students in Years 7-10 have been competing in the BGS Pentathlon. Students were able to compete in a total of five events across these three weeks, where points were available for each event. A huge well done is deserved for all students in each year group who took their time to compete in the event. The best five results have been taken to find the top male and female across each year group. These can be seen below. Well done to all - enjoy your summer break!

Year 7 - Hannah Simpson and Ned Dangerfield

Year 8 - Gailie Tsang and Yianni Halford

Year 9 - Pearl Ford and Alfie Lee

Year 10 - Genevieve Taaffe and Max Roe

SPANISH CHALLENGE 2021 - *Parie Desai and Sophie Bannister (Year 13 Spanish Prefects)*

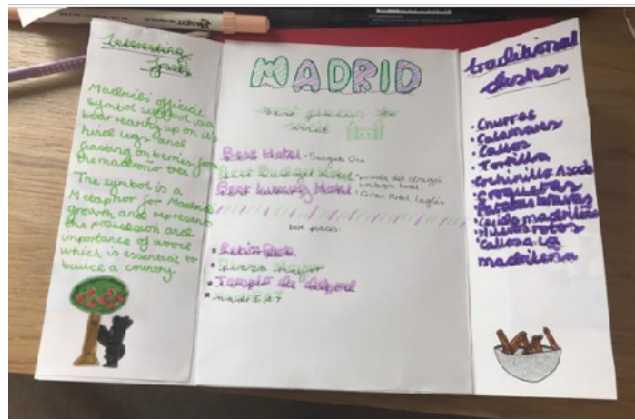
After the success of last year's Year 7 Spanish Challenge, we wanted to re-launch it for the new cohort of Year 7s. We've been running the Spanish Challenge over the last month on Microsoft Teams and it featured 30 fun tasks - with each task completed, students earned points which led to some exciting prizes, which we presented to them in person this week. Our aim was to promote Spanish, as a subject, with activities that not only improve the language ability of students, but also help them to discover more about Spanish culture.

We can proudly say that the Year 7 Spanish Challenge has been successful again, with several enthusiastic and talented linguists having taken part. Whether it be cooking up a delicious Spanish dish or making an informative video clip on a Latin American country - we've been super impressed with all of the submissions that we have received this year and so we would like to say a huge well done to everyone who has taken part! *Buen trabajo a todos!*

Special shout-outs go to Jelita Thomas, Aryan Nahata and Petra Szoboszlai-Kendrick - these three students worked exceptionally hard to complete all 30 tasks of the Spanish Challenge. This is a phenomenal achievement which they should be very proud of! Jelita's tortillas, Aryan's banana chips (a dish from the Dominican Republic) and Petra's tourist leaflet were particularly impressive so we thought we'd share the photos with you. *Enhorabuena a estos estudiantes!*

Finally, a huge thank you goes to Mrs Worrall and the rest of the BGS Spanish Department for their continued support, not only with the Year 7 Spanish Challenge but with our Spanish studies over the last 7 years at BGS. We have thoroughly enjoyed our studies and all of the fantastic opportunities which the department have provided us.

We wish everyone in the School community a lovely summer break and best wishes to all students for the next academic year. *Adios!*



YEAR 12 & 13 LANGUAGES COMPETITION - Miss Patman, Spanish

Back in December last year, several students in Years 12 and 13 entered the University of Lancaster's annual Modern Languages in Schools Competition, a very successful Schools Essay Prize Competition which celebrates young people's ability and enthusiasm for languages across the country. The purpose of the competition was to offer students an opportunity to engage with wider research at a university level, develop their research skills and practice their essay writing.

This week the results of the competition were announced - Jessica Gowers (Year 12) won a certificate of participation and received glowing feedback from the academic staff at the University. Jessica's essay, which provided a balanced judgement of the economic benefits of internationalism as well as the social risks of global supply chains in Spanish, was shortlisted and the judges described her essay as 'mature and insightful'.

The Spanish Department would like to congratulate Jessica on her insightful and linguistically complex essay which has given her the opportunity to develop herself academically.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM PERFORMANCE - Ollie Budden (Year 7)

Last Friday afternoon, all of Year 7 watched a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* out on the field. This links to our learning as we have been studying *A Midsummer Night's Dream* recently. The performance was a very interesting adaption of the play and it was very good. The costumes for the fairies were great and unique, matching how these characters are presented in the original text. As well, all other aspects of the play were accurate to the play too. I thought the acting was good and my favourite part was the Mechanicals' miniature play towards the end. Overall, I really enjoyed watching the play!

INTRA-SCHOOL TENNIS TOURNAMENTS - Miss Bowtell, PE

Year 10 Mixed Doubles - This event is new to the calendar and was very well received by club players. Unfortunately the entrants were decimated by Covid isolation on the day of the event, however the quality was still present - Sophia Bull and Oliver Grice marched through to the final to play against Vir Makwana and Isabelle Mason. There was a fantastic spirit to the evening led by Jacob Poxon and Nandhitha Guhan, and it was wonderful to see the players embrace the real feeling behind these tournaments.



Year 9 Doubles Tournament - The Year 9 event went ahead last week, and there was certainly some excellent Tennis played in both the boys and girls events. The boys tournament revealed some real talent from players new to School tournaments and made the event even more unpredictable - the early favourites were Will Cole and Will Hughes, who were beaten by Johan Coughlan and Harry Brear, but then they were beaten by Henry Wickham and Sam Gupta. This meant the whole semi-finals stage was hinging on the results from the last league games. The other half of the draw was very close, with an exceptionally close game between Archie Bointon and Archie Crane, and Jack Carson and Liam Burrows. The first semi-final took place between Ollie Bardwell and Eddie Riddell, and Will Cole and Will Hughes. The match went down to the wire but the sheer experience gained from hours of practice together meant that Ed and Ollie bore fruit with a narrow victory over their rival pair. The second semi-final was between Johan and Harry, and Jack and Liam. Despite some superb form from Liam and Jack, Johan and Harry eventually wore them down with sheer consistency and power. The final was more straight forward, with Ollie and Ed over-powering Harry and Johan to cruise to victory.



The girls event was fiercely fought throughout the evening between four pairings. It was lovely to see the skills of Lucy Stanier pairing with a new adoptee of the game, Sasha Milne - Lucy helped Sasha with the battle tactics and finer points of the game, while Sasha used her infamous full attacking technique against all opponents. Imogen Leaton and Madison Mylchreest experienced the ferocity of Sasha and Lucy's strokes and still survived to win that game. They even pushed the early favourites, Rachel Dudley and Ada Henson, to one final decided game in their head-to-head match, although the previous expertise and extra coaching of Rachel and Ada resulted in them hanging onto a victory. Libby Moore, the Singles Champion from a few weeks earlier, and her partner Freya McLean, a highly determined and much improved player, were the only pair for Rachel and Ada to play. The ball was thump down from the court from service by both Libby and Rachel, leading to a lot of early defensive play by both pairs. As the game went on, so did the length of the rallies - I witnessed one which was over 15 strokes in total. It became a battle of nerves as one game was won by one pair, and then swiftly won back by the other after a barrage of deuce points. There had to be one winner - this was Libby and Freya. There was some outstanding Tennis on display - the future looks bright for girls Tennis next year.



Year 8 Tournament - Unfortunately, due to the vast number of Covid isolation cases in the year group, the Year 8 event could not be well attended despite a huge amount of interest - all of the key Tennis players were at home playing Wii Tennis! However, the four players who did enter worked very hard within some very long and demanding rallies, finished off by some ferocious smashes. The overall winners were Jonathan Blair and Thomas Beales - all players seemed to really enjoy the evening.

Year 7 Doubles Tournament - We breed students to be tough in the PE Department - following a severe downpour at 15:40 on the day we emerged from the canopy to play the tournament on soggy courts, with soggy balls, in soggy kit. What a start, but the Tennis wasn't dismal or grey in colour - I witnessed some players new to the game who were being brave and taking on players with vastly more experience than themselves, coming out of the match elated with what they had learnt from the experience. The girls event was close between Poppy McLearnon and Mia Spriggs, and April Thorley and Shiksha Kaur - the tournament was lost on one point as the girls were so good, we could barely separate them! With some more specific work on strokes next year, we will see a really special team develop here. The boys were equally as competitive and the tournament went down to the last game between Noah Henderson and Joe Chubb, and Finlay Smith and Edward Amos. We were fighting the weather by this point as well as each other in Tennis combat but, the experience of Finlay and Edward shone through on the decisive points to be crowned winners.

PE SUCCESS FOR MAX AND LAWSON - *Mr Ray, Director of PE & Sport*

Two athletes to keep an eye on over the summer are Max Roe (Year 10) and Lawson Capes (Year 7).

Max recently attended the ESAA Track & Field Championships in Manchester and competed in the 100m hurdles. The criteria this year was tighter than ever, with just 16 athletes in the event from across the country being allowed to compete due to Covid restrictions. As a result of stepping up to the Intermediate age group, not only did he compete against Year 11 students, but he also had to adjust to the new 100m distance and height of hurdles.

Lawson, number 1 in the country by more than 3 metres, has continued to improve in the shot put. Last week he set a new Sports Day record, smashing the previous record of 9.67m in 2003 by Robert Mohan - the new record of 14.31m was Lawson's final throw. A recent article on one of his performances is available [here](#).

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Sport

Annabel Hayes (Year 8) has been successfully selected for the Under 15s Lincolnshire County Netball Academy.

Music

Samuel Petz (Year 7) has passed his Grade 3 Rock School Drum exam with Merit.

Flo Dexter (Year 8) has recently passed two music exams - Grade 4 Cello and Grade 4 Singing - with Merit.

Fundraising

Congratulations to Freya Dimeloe, Alice Dovey and Remi Karim (10F) who have worked hard to raise a total of £205 for Cancer Research UK by running a 'guess the number of sweets in the jar' competition. The winner is Miss Baverstock, with a precisely correct guess of 650 sweets.



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Ollie Budden	7	Mr Brown	Computing
Calem Healy	7	Mr Bainbridge	History
Keira Rayner	7	Miss Mafusire-Strawford	Art
Shamas Ali	8	Ms Kemp	English
Yvette Annis	8	Mr Murray	Geography
Logan Coltman-Bell	8	Mr Ray	PE
Millie Doud	8	Mr Murray	Geography
Kasim Kasim	8	Ms Bennett	English
Summer Starbuck	8	Mrs Clark	Spanish
Jacob Townsend	8	Mr Dougall	Design Engineering
Hasini Vijayasankar	8	Dr Hanson	Science
Holly Griffin	9	Miss Atkinson	EPR
Ada Henson	9	Mr Edwards	Spanish
Chloe Kirman	9	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Harrie Metcalfe	9	Miss Doerpinghaus	German
Qais Raja	9	Miss Doerpinghaus	German
Rupert Clark	10	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Sarah Hickman	10	Mrs Williamson	English
Elise March	10	Dr Barmby	History
Froher Nabizadah	10	Mr Graves	PE
Megan Smith	10	Mr Andy	Mathematics
Genevieve Taaffe	10	Miss Bradley	PEGCSE
Jane Tam	10	Mrs Williamson	English
Dominic Whitaker	12	Miss Watson	English Language