



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 17 November 2023

From Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

Last weekend two of our Cross Country teams qualified for the National Finals to be held in two weeks' time in Suffolk. Our national reputation in Athletics and Cross Country is therefore being maintained, and it was great this week to add to our portfolio of success by congratulating our Debating Team for reaching the second round of the National Debating Competition organised by the English-Speaking Union. Our Year 8 boys rugby squad also went unbeaten at the B Team festival at Oundle on Wednesday. Success builds confidence and pride, so a celebratory well done to our athletes, debaters and rugby players.

I would also like to congratulate all of those who are now busying preparing for a Music and Drama extravaganza in March. Auditions for this year's performance run of *High School Musical* are complete and rehearsals with the Drama Department are well underway. And in the same month we will be hosting a series of *West End Wonders* concerts organised by the Music Department. Putting together two significant performance projects represents a new approach for 2024, and the core benefit will be that more students than ever before are going to be able to access an opportunity to perform in public. The school community will be the happy beneficiaries of both major production runs and it promises to be a special time of the year. On the horizon we also have the Winter Concert, the Dance Show and the Sixth Form production of *Our Country's Good*. Students with a love of the Performing Arts have lots to look forward to.

Finally, I would like to thank Head Students Charlie Knight and Catie Dawson for attending the Bourne Remembrance Parade with me on Sunday and laying a wreath at the Cenotaph in Memorial Park. It is becoming more difficult to help young people understand the nature of sacrifice as a result of war, and it was touching to see the town turn out in such large numbers to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in conflicts since 1914. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them".

DEBATING COMPETITION – Report by Harrison Smith, Year 12

On Tuesday evening (14 November) the Bourne Grammar School's Debating team competed in the first round of the English-Speaking Union's (ESU) School Mace Debating competition. The Schools' Mace, founded in 1957, is the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales.

Speaking for Bourne Grammar School were Josh Barrett, Connie Bayliss and Harrison Smith, supported by Rhys Evans and Anugrah Thomas, who helped with research and planning. In heat one the team drew formidable competition, Stamford School, seasoned debaters and former competition finalists. The motion was 'This house would not treat esports/gaming like real sports' and Bourne Grammar were tasked with opposing the motion.

ESU appointed judges scored the teams on four key verbal communication skill sets: reasoning and evidence; organisation and



prioritisation; listening and response; and expression and delivery. Despite losing their debate, the team were pleased to be judged one of the three highest scoring teams of the evening and are looking forward to progressing to round two in late January.

If you're interested in debating in school, Junior Debating Society (Years 7-9) takes place on Monday lunchtime in History 2 and the main Debating Society (Years 10 – 13) is on Thursday lunchtimes in Lab 3.

ESAA REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY FINAL – Report by Miss Smith and Mr Sheppard

On Saturday 11 November we saw five teams compete in the ESAA Regional Cross Country Final at The Grammar School at Leeds.

The Intermediate Girls were the first race of the day, with some difficult competition up ahead the girls were determined and showed great resilience throughout their race. Leah Graham finished the race in 11th place, Charlotte Smith in 12th, Lois Watson in 22nd, Cecilia Watson in 23rd, April Thorley finished at 33rd and Ella Barratt in 35th. Overall, the girls finished in 4th with a combined score of 70 points meaning that they unfortunately missed out on qualifying for the National Final by just 4 points on this occasion. The team's motivation to succeed will undoubtedly see them edge closer and closer towards qualification in the coming years as their individual strengths continue to grow. They are likely to reach the final in the very near future.



We then saw the Junior Boys start the second race of the day. With a small team they nonetheless did well. Cayden Mackay (12th) was the first back and felt he could have done a little better with wiser preparation; always pleasing to see students look to the future. In second for the team was Harry Carruthers (28th) who ran a fantastic race to be the first Year 7 home, showing good technique throughout. The other two runners Caleb Omitiran (37th) and Kieran Selby (33rd) finished off the scoring for the team in similar positions.



The Intermediate Boys came next, running in a race with some very talented athletes, they did an excellent job. Noah Henderson continues to lead his team home finishing in 10th position, closely followed by Toby Staines who had an excellent race looking strong throughout to finish 13th. Monty Bage (22nd) set off competitively and held his great start throughout the race. The scoring was then rounded off by Oliver Walker (29th) with Miles Garrido (34th) not too far behind. The team unfortunately missed out on a finals spot by 8 points with a team score of 74 coming in 4th place. There is clear promise here too for the future.

The final two teams of the day held our remaining hopes for final spots and met the races with a mixture of determination and positivity. The Junior Girls featured only one Year 8 and four Year 7s so were trying to compete whilst being young in their age group. First home was Sophie Alliston (6th) who ran an intelligently paced race start to finish, swiftly followed by Edith Kaberry (17th) who looked powerful throughout. Martha

Shackell (20th) came through next and showed excellent talent for the future as did Samaira Bajaj and Madeleine Hobson who finished 26th and 36th, respectively. The group thoroughly earned our first National Finals spot of the day and perhaps offer promise for the future and to continue the cross country tradition of making it to national finals for years to come. The Junior Girls earned a fantastic second place with 69 points.

The Senior Boys team held the most experience of our teams and made it count. Seb Beedell and Thomas Preston were our strongest two and got in the fight at the front of the race after many years of consistent high-quality training. In the second lap the lead group of four began to break up and Seb Beedell brought home our best position of the day in 2nd place, with Thomas also running well to come in 4th. In third place for the team was Theo Saralis (16th) who ran fantastically given he had not trained as much this year as he would have liked to. Final scorer for the team was Ben Simpson (19th) who has been upping his mileage recently and was a little disappointed with how he felt in the race but nonetheless did a good job. Jack Knowles then came in 36th place and tasted his first experience of regional competition. He wanted to 'be part of the vibe' and will be rewarded with a national final experience with even bigger vibes to come!



Well done to all and many thanks to the parents who attended in good numbers. A trek to Woodbridge School, Woodbridge, Suffolk (IP12 4JH) will rapidly approach in a few weeks' time, on Saturday 2nd December. The hard work has been done for our two qualifying teams and all that remains is to see what we can do at a national level.



YEAR 8 RUGBY – Report by Mr Bowers, PE

The Year 8 boys rugby team continued their strong start to the year, going undefeated in the 'B Team/ Smaller School' round robin competition at the U13 Oundle Festival on Wednesday. Winning four games fairly comfortably the boys combined strong hard running lines, with improved handling during each game, to find gaps in the defence of each opposition School.

Having spoken about being quicker into the ruck to secure the ball over the first two games of the season it was fantastic to see in the first few minutes of the first game a number of rucks turned over, when not in possession and the strength and support provided when in possession of the ball, to allow the quick flowing play that was being aimed for.

An excellent set of results for the boys who are starting to develop into a strong and capable team.

Well done boys.



U16 COUNTY NETBALL TOURNAMENT – Report by Ms Bradley, PE

On Saturday 11 November, the U16 Netball team headed to Stamford School to compete in the County Netball tournament where the top two schools go on to the Regionals.

Due to a team dropping out, the competition structure changed so we played all six teams in a round-robin. We had a tough first match against Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School; we started brilliantly turning over their first centre to go 2-0 ahead, but unfortunately we had first match nerves/rustiness and made too many errors meaning we eventually lost 7-4.

The girls did brilliantly to bounce back from this, winning their next three matches in a row including a very tense game against Boston High School where Evie Griffin and Erin Larter did particularly well to keep their cool to score high pressure shots to eventually win 9-8. Our fifth match was against Stamford School; always a tough encounter. Again, we started really well holding them to 0-0 for a long period in the first half and generally matching them across the court. The game ended 10-3, but this was more down to Stamford's impressive ability to quickly score on the bounce and doesn't reflect the even nature of the game.

Our final match saw another tense game against Queen Elizabeth Grammar School where we came away with a 10-8 win.

We knew we had done well, although were disappointed with our first match loss against Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School. After a short break, we found out the results. We had just missed out on the Regionals by 1 point – a fantastic effort, particularly as the Year 11s are currently in the middle of their mock examinations, it shows great dedication and commitment for the whole team to compete, as well as they did (we all remember how tiring exams are!).

Strangely, we then had to compete in a 3rd/4th place play-off. We started very well and were winning 7-4 but a resurgent William Farr School fought back to tie at full-time, taking us into extra time. A controversially disallowed goal from Erin Larter meant that we lost 11-10.

It was a privilege to take the girls to this tournament and I think they should feel really proud of how they represented Bourne Grammar. Next up is our second round in the national Sisters 'n' Sport competition against Nottingham High School – good luck girls!



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students who have recently achieved their DofE Bronze award:

Year 11 – Bronze Success:

Rebekah Arnold	Toby Merricks
Oscar Ashley	Eloise Morgan
Eva Blackmore	Emily Nurse
Harriet Cork	Joshua Oladejo
Alex Dougall	Isabelle Palmer
Oscar Ashley	Nathan Sylvester
Matilda Isitt	Lucy Taylor
Olivia Mahoney	Gailie Tsang
Isaac Malcolm	

HOUSE TOTALS

			
17113	16483	18586	17292

***These totals show all House Points earned minus Behaviour Points.
It includes points from all students in each house between 4/9/2023 - 16/11/2023.***

Bourne Grammar School Sixth Form Play 2023

Thursday 7th & Friday 8th December at 7pm

The historical drama

Our Country's Good

By Timberlake Wertenbaker

A performance in two acts, with interval, staged in the Drama Studio

Performed by: Jenny Baker, Emilia Beacham, Kacey Chen, Catie Dawson, Liz Edwards, Elijah Ford, Ella Gynn, Maria Klatkiewicz, Jack Knowles, Grace Lavender, Mikey Mimms, Jack Morrison, Daisy Nickerson, Cloda O'Boyle, Oliver Speakman, Lauren Spellar, Samantha Thomas, Adam Wheel

13th May, 1787. The First Fleet sailed for Botany Bay. They sailed over fifteen thousand miles, arriving two hundred and fifty days later, on the other side of the world. On the fleet of eleven ships were seven hundred and fifty-four convicts. Eager for promotion, Second Lieutenant Ralph Clark decided to stage a play, to please his superior, Captain Arthur Phillip, the Governor of New South Wales. The convicts would act in the play. Despite early misgivings, the brutal punishment of his convict cast members and the opposition of most of the other officers, the play was finally performed; the first recorded piece of theatre in what would become Australia.

Tickets £5 – [Click here](#) to book or scan the QR code



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Jace Gwiti	7	Mr Khumalo	Science
Danny Harvey	7	Mr Bainbridge	History
Ruwanthi Hasan	7	Mrs Allen	English
Lucas Huang	7	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Lucas Huang	7	Mr Moxley	Drama
William Mitchell	7	Mr Khumalo	Science
Ethan Renehan	7	Mr Bainbridge	History
Peyton Teague	7	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Aarya Tirchunapalli	7	Mr Farrow	Mathematics
Max Yu	7	Mr Delpont	Design Engineering
Charlie Biggs	8	Mr Khumalo	Science
Vlad Harlap-Valters	8	Miss Patman	Spanish
Chanelle Kye-Nyarko	8	Miss Mafusire-Strawford	Art
Jessica Nicholson	8	Mr Khumalo	Science
Andreas Halford	9	Mr Stainton	Biology
Eloise Hull	9	Mrs Clark	Spanish
Ellen Richardson	9	Mr Stainton	Biology
Katie Pawluk	9	Miss Mizen	Biology
Zahra Ravji	9	Miss Mizen	Biology
Isla Crowther	10	Mr Walklin	Mathematics
Miles Garrido	10	Mrs Evans	Geography
Oscar Huang	10	Mr Roche	Mathematics
Sebastien Louzolo	10	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Liam Main	10	Mr Walklin	Mathematics
James Risebrow	10	Mr Clark	Computer Science
Annabel Sutton	10	Mrs Pickup	Drama
Euan Hirst	10	Ms Jones	English
Grace Gutsell	11	Miss Pritchard	English
Lucie Lund	11	Mr Moxley	Drama
Akshaya Tirchunapalli	11	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Harry Allen	12	Mr Jones	Business Studies
Moss Butler	12	Mrs Shales	Mathematics
Eleanor Hilliard	12	Miss McAleese	Psychology
Anya Mason	12	Mrs Bolitho	English Literature
Lottie Crane	12	Miss Bradley	PE
Joseph Amos	13	Mrs Evans	Geography
Rosie Baker	13	Ms Jones	English Language
Bibin Joshua	13	Mr Sheppard	Mathematics
Charlie Knight	13	Mr Sutherland	Physics
Jack Ray	13	Mr Jones	Business Studies
Alita Thomas	13	Miss McAleese	Psychology

BBL CHAMPION AWARD – Mr Hewitt, Deputy Headteacher – Academic

The BBL Champion this week is – unlike the previous winners who have come from Year 7 – one of our Year 13 students. Harry Child was told by his teacher that there would be a timed essay taking place in one of his A Level History lessons. The title of the task was *'The most important developments in common law were before the reign of Henry II.' How far do you agree with this view of period, 1066-1189?* and Harry, having reflected upon what he knew and didn't know about the topic, decided to attend one of the Sixth Form Drop-In Sessions to seek further support from a teacher. Harry spent an hour with Dr Barmby in a 1:1 session and truly benefited from the extra guidance; the written essay that he went on to produce was awarded full marks and demonstrated quite outstanding analysis and evaluation.

Independent Learning is one of the three core pillars of our School's Curriculum and by taking responsibility for his own learning and seeking support, Harry has shown maturity and independence that sets the standard for others. A wonderful effort by a superb student. Well done.

