

# **BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN**

*Week ending Friday 30 June 2017*

*From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher*

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## **OPEN EVENING**

Yesterday's Open Evening was, as is usual, jam-packed with visitors young and old. Around 2,000 came to us and very many stayed all evening. Our students gave a fabulous impression of their school and it was a great pleasure to receive so much very positive feedback about them. I am very grateful to the hundreds of students who came in to help - some travelling quite a way to get back here after a day at School - and to the parents/carers who ferried their sons and daughters.

## ***A NIGHT OF MUSIC FROM THE STAGE AND SCREEN* - Friday 23 June**



Mr Tomlinson took over as Director of Music in September. If the number of students involved in this memorable concert is anything to go by, then it is obvious that he has had an enormous impact on student involvement in music at the School. The numbers opting to study the subject at GCSE and A-Level are up substantially too, reflecting the students' enjoyment of their musical studies here.

The packed audience was treated to music-making of truly impressive quality in a wide range of genres from our Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band, the Advanced Vocal Ensemble and the Junior Choir, as well as the String Group, Clarinet Choir, Saxophone Group and Flute Choir. There were also several items involving soloists.

From the items involving two or three students to the finale, when the members of the orchestras and choirs massed before us on the stage, the students' performances demonstrated an



astounding range of musical talent and evidence of many, many hours of serious practice. Amongst the items involving soloists, Ciara Glasswell's violin-playing, sensitively accompanied by Rachel Tsang, was exquisite - both Ciara and Rachel are in Year 8. Tom Hutchins sang two songs from *Shrek* with great character, supported by Matt Holmes on guitar and Richard Earley on drums (all Year 11). The penultimate item was a most beautiful rendition of *With You*, sung with tenderness by Amelia Gardner (Year 11).

Now that many more students are seriously involved in extracurricular music, the larger-scale items had great impact; the standard of ensemble - surely the result of many hours of hard work - was incredibly impressive.

After the concert there was a reception in the *Chill* to celebrate the students' achievement in presenting such an uplifting and polished programme. The audience left, eventually, having enjoyed one of the most impressive evenings of music that I can recall here. Many parents told me how much they had enjoyed the concert.

The concert sold out completely several weeks in advance and demand for tickets was such that a number of parents had to be disappointed, or turned away at the door. I am sorry about this but we must adhere to the capacity regulations that apply to the Main Hall. I would encourage everyone to remember to book early when events of this nature are advertised.

#### **ART EXHIBITION - Friday 23 June**

Taking the opportunity offered to increase the number of parents and students able to see the Exhibition by scheduling it on the same day as the Concert, this year's display of GCSE and A-Level artwork was set up in the Sixth Form Centre on Friday. There were some extremely impressive pieces, across a wide range of media. I have noticed the standard of students' artwork rising in recent years, so the students should be feeling confident that the examiners will feel the same. I am very grateful to colleagues in the Art Department and those who assisted them for the considerable amount of work that is needed to set up such a large-scale exhibition for us all to enjoy.



Mrs Somerville, Subject Leader: Art, wrote the following about the Exhibition:

The Art Department held its fourth Annual Summer Exhibition of GCSE and A-Level artwork on Friday 23 June to celebrate the excellent achievements of our artists in Years 11, 12 and 13.

Students, staff, parents and guests who visited throughout the day made lots of lovely comments about the work and the new venue.

The Exhibition was a great opportunity for younger students to view work by older students, giving them the chance to see the individuality and dedication required of those studying Art at a higher level. It was good for our Art students to reflect and share their work in a different context and we are very proud of them all - one of the exhibiting artists has already been approached to discuss the purchase of two pieces!

**POETRY** - A poem by Maria Wright (7E)

I wrote a week or two ago about the impressive stories that Maria had sent to me. This week she kindly sent me two poems, both of which were lovely, but this one - *The Sycamore Tree* - struck me as especially sensitive. It demonstrates Maria's command of language, her impressive vocabulary and her extraordinary ability to convey her thoughts and feelings vividly.

My breath trembled as much as my shaking hands,  
I brushed my hair out of my face,  
I ran my fingers through the strands.

My eyes were sore from lack of sleep,  
From nights I'd wasted,  
I'd really gotten myself in skin-deep.

The leaves of the tree fell with such precision,  
Goosebumps arose on the surface of my skin,  
But I knew, in the end, it was all my decision.

I saw Heather and I up in the trees,  
My mother protesting,  
For, us she could not see.

The metronome of my racing heart,  
Slowed behind the throbs of my head,  
I was left feeling so torn apart.

I saw Jane and I hidden in the bushes,  
Heather searching and failing,  
Pink with blushes.

The sycamore tree was all I had left,  
I had easily come to terms with that,  
But this time, it completely caught my breath.

I saw Heather in the lake,  
Her body white and limp,  
But all I could do was stand and shake.

The heather dotted near the roots,  
Brought tears to my eyes as I remembered,  
The day of black dresses and the day of black suits.

I saw Jane jumping in,  
But I knew we were too late,  
And I felt my heart being pierced with a pin.

Images of scenes came flooding to my mind,  
Days I have loved, forgotten and love,  
Days I wish I could leave behind.

I saw the doctors trying to care,  
But I knew there was no point,  
Because there was nothing there.

The whisper of wind broke me from my trance,  
Its tendrils pushed and pulled,  
But I never altered my stance.

I saw the damp, dark day,  
When we buried her under the ground,  
When we buried her body away.

I always wished time would slow,  
Stop moving forward without me,  
Just stop instead of go.

I saw the sapling of a sycamore,  
Buried right next to her coffin,  
And felt overwhelming sadness to my core.

No-one is capable of loving me,  
The way my sister did... so for her,  
I always stop right under the sycamore tree.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Alexandra Weston	7	Mr Innocent	Science
Jonny Le Voi	8	Miss Hempstead	PE
Lauren Saunderson	8	Mrs Rawnsley	Mathematics
Tom Ford	10	Mrs Faux	Pastoral
Thomas Morris	10	Mr Perez	Biology
Izzy Pearson	10	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Ewan Thomas	10	Miss Walters	English

## INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

**Music** Oscar Potts (Year 7) recently passed his Grade 5 Clarinet exam with merit - a fantastic achievement.

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