



Bourne Grammar School

Weekly Bulletin



9 – 13 December

Reflection of the Week

Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

A busy penultimate week of term, the highlight of which was the fantastic Christmas Concert held in Bourne Abbey Church. The Church is a fabulous setting, allowing a larger audience and better acoustics than we can cater for in our own School hall, and the innate beauty of the building added to the atmosphere and quality of the event. A huge well done to all who performed, and to Mr Tomlinson and Mr Jones for their hard work in bringing the evening together. We have an ongoing desire to build on our links with the local community, and we are delighted that the relationship between School and Bourne Abbey is so strong.

And while writing about community, the annual delivery of gifts from our Shoe Box appeal was a huge success, with deliveries to Evergreen Home in Stamford, Jefferson House, Clare Lodge and Peterborough Hospital. This was further enhanced today with our donation to the local Food Bank in Bourne. These two donation events are well established within our School culture, and it was wonderful to see so many of our students and families so willing to contribute. As we enter the run up to Christmas, and the fun and frolic that ensues for so many, it is important to remember that not everyone is able to enjoy the festive season as they would wish, and community efforts to provide support and a little joy through the gift of giving are hugely important. Thank you to all involved.

House Totals

13356	14699	13852	14360

House Points earned minus Behaviour Points, from all students in each house for term 2

Year 11 PRMs – Thursday 16 January

Year 11 Progress Review Meetings (PRM) will take place on 16 January 2025 (17:00-20:30).

Parents will be given the opportunity to have a virtual PRM with subject teachers to discuss student progress. You will be able to book up to 10 appointments, each of 6 minutes in duration, and bookings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

An information letter, guidance and links on how to book and carry out a video call to follow.

Any queries about online booking should be directed to Mrs Hall at prm@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk

Individual Achievement - Ava Stewart

Mr Chamberlain, Head of Year 7

We are incredibly proud to announce that Ava, a talented Year 7 student, has been selected to represent England at the Dance World Cup (DWC) in July 2025, taking place in Burgos, Spain.



Ava is a passionate and dedicated dancer who trains and competes regularly with Inspire Dance. Her hard work and talent have earned her a place in the Elite Acro Associates Programme, which she joined in September. Now, Ava will take the stage with the Elite Acro Team, representing her country in what is considered the world's largest dance competition.

Adding to the excitement, Ava's younger sister, Darcie, has also been selected for the team! This incredible opportunity allows them to perform side by side, showcasing their skills and national pride in front of a global audience—a truly unforgettable experience.

The Dance World Cup is the pinnacle of competitive dance, and Ava's selection is a testament to her commitment and exceptional ability. As part of Team England, Ava will strive to bring home a medal and valuable points for her country.

We wish Ava, Darcie, and the entire Elite Acro Team the very best as they prepare for this prestigious event. Congratulations, Ava—you continue to inspire us all, and we'll be cheering you on every step of the way!



Student Oracy Champion Training

Mrs Allen, Assistant Headteacher, Academic

A group of Year 8 and Year 9 students, each nominated by multiple members of staff, have undergone specialised training to become Student Oracy Champions (SOCs) at our school. The initiative aims to empower them to play a key role in supporting their peers' development of oracy skills—those essential communication abilities that help students express themselves clearly, engage in discussions and listen actively.

The training has equipped them with practical oracy tools and encouraged them to be ambassadors of effective communication throughout the school community. It centred around 3 key roles that the SOCs will undertake:

1. Supporting Peers to Develop Oracy Skills in Lessons

A primary responsibility of a SOC is to help their classmates build confidence in speaking and listening during lessons. They will do this by offering encouragement, giving constructive feedback and helping to create a classroom environment where everyone feels comfortable speaking up. These champions can now recognise different levels of oracy skills, allowing them to offer targeted support. This peer-to-peer learning allows our SOCs to foster a culture of collaboration where every student's voice can be heard and valued.

2. Promoting Oracy Resources in Lessons and in the wider school community

SOCs will promote resources to help students improve their communication skills. This includes signposting to helpful resources, such as: our 'Talk like an expert' documents, debate structures, our Oracy poster and our Talking Point posters in corridors. Through their efforts, our Champions are helping to raise awareness of the importance of oracy and making these valuable resources more visible and accessible to students.

3. Celebrating Success in Oracy

Student Oracy Champions have been encouraged to generate ideas for how the school can recognise and celebrate oracy achievements. Student Oracy Champions will be 'Oracy detectives' and have been encouraged to identify moments where students excel in communication within pair and small group work—whether it's a brilliant contribution to a paired discussion, an insightful debate point or the improvement in someone's confidence over time.

Positive Praise in Lessons - The impact of the SOCs has already been evident in the classroom. This week, Ms Carrier commented on the impressive contributions of the Year 9 SOCs, saying:

"Students had to practise giving opinions and contradicting opinions about school uniform and building and developing opinions. There was a Student Oracy Champion in each group and it was clear how well the students, without prompting, organised the other members of their group, made sure everyone had a turn doing the different roles to practice the different types of opinions. They were great at giving feedback too."

Ms Carrier has nominated the following Y9 SOCs as fantastic ambassadors for Oracy in their role so far: Ben Fletcher (9D), Tyler Bates (9D), Johnny Hullock (9B), Hattie Symondson (9B) & Otto Wild (9H). Well done!

Bourne Grammar Triumphs Again at Elite Eleven!

Mr Chamberlain

Bourne Grammar School proudly secured the top prize for the sixth consecutive year at Boston College's annual Elite Eleven competition.

Held at the Peter Paine Performance Centre, the event brought together 11 schools from across the county to compete in a series of indoor sports and problem-solving challenges. The competition celebrated teamwork, resilience, and outstanding effort, with Bourne Grammar emerging victorious, ahead of Spalding Academy in second place and Bourne Academy in third.

Special prizes were also awarded for Work Ethic, Sportsmanship, and Most Improved. Notable guest and 4x World Champion Body Builder, Josh-Blue Majury, inspired participants with a presentation on his journey and cheered on students throughout the day.



Congratulations to all who took part, and a huge well done to our talented Bourne Grammar team for continuing their winning streak!

Year 12 Lecture Program

Mr Lawrence

Every Tuesday morning, Year 12 students have a lecture, providing them with exposure to a variety of topics. So far this year, they have had advice and guidance on both the University pathway and Apprenticeships, as well as the soft skills needed to be successful in the workplace. Dr Hobbiss, our Subject Leader of Psychology, provided two insightful talks on the art of knowledge retrieval and the purpose of education whilst our Subject Leader of EPR and Politics, Mr Tighe, prompted some serious thinking on what is meant by a World View.



In the coming weeks, topics such as cybersecurity, the LGBTQ+ community and stem cell research will be covered.

Last week, we had the pleasure of Emma Cole's company. Emma runs Positive Voice, providing HIV education. She told her story of being diagnosed with HIV in 1991, the challenges this presented in relationships, family and work, as well as discussing the medical progress made. Emma is blessed with the skill of how to effectively grab young people's attention and maintain it. Her story is an emotional rollercoaster that makes you equally laugh and cry. Her story showcased not just education on sexual health, but on resilience and determination. Many of the students spoke with Emma afterwards and commented on how brilliant the lecture was. Further information on her work can be found at www.positivevoice-emmacole.co.uk.

BBL Champion

Mr Hewitt, Deputy Head Academic



It is very pleasing to see a Sixth Form student win the accolade of being this week's BBL Champion. One reason for the emphasis on independent learning starting in Year 7 is to embed habits and good practice for when students reach Key Stage 5 and have study periods to use wisely.

Cameron Adam, Year 13, is recognised for his efforts in Economics and his teacher Mr Hartley, Head of Social Sciences, says the following:

"An essential part of studying Economics at A level is applying the theories students learn in the classroom to the lived experience of the students outside it. Students are strongly encouraged to see the world through the prism of economics at a range of scales; from their personal experiences; to the impacts on their communities; the country; and the wider world. Cameron has fully embraced this challenge as he has eagerly sort to interpret developing news stories with the skills he has learnt in the classroom. He has developed over the last two years from being merely an eager consumer of current affairs to an increasingly sophisticated analytical commentator on the economic impact of world events. In doing so he is able to enrich the learning experience of his peers in the classroom, and keep his Economics teacher on his toes regarding current events!"

Well done to Cameron, and good luck to him and the rest of Year 13 in the forthcoming mock exams after Christmas.

Students of the Week

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Adam Al-Helli	7	Miss Patman	Spanish
Leon Fuller	7	Mr Andy	Mathematics
Kornelia Korbylo	7	Mr Smith	Mathematics
Maddie Surtees	7	Mr Osborne	Computer Science
Eloise Thomson	7	Mrs Pryor	Mathematics
Evelyn Bostock	8	Mr Dougall	Design Engineering
Jasper Hudson	8	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Jasper Hudson	8	Miss Davis-Williams	EPR
Elle-ena Kennard	8	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Ethan Renehan	8	Miss Roberts	English
Bella Trumble	8	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Alex Watkins	8	Mrs Allen	English
Will Sloss	8	Mrs Allen	English
William Duffy	8	Miss Davis-Williams	EPR
Patrick Adejuwon	9	Mr Osborne	Computer Science
Corey Bosworth	9	Miss Hodge	History
Ejiro Eta	9	Dr Hanson	Biology
Thomas Hurley	9	Mr Bainbridge	Registration
Alfie Lovell	9	Mr Smith	Mathematics
Daniel Mulgrew	9	Mr Delport	Design Engineering
Vladimir Grigorov	9	Ms Bennett	English
Oliver Nicol	9	Miss Patman	Spanish
Chidera Anike	10	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Ellen Richardson	10	Miss Hodge	History
Maddie Taylor	10	Miss Patman	Spanish
Oliwia Zajac	10	Dr Barmby	History
Sasha Johnson	10	Ms Bowtell	PE
Grace Cullen	10	Mrs Allen	English
Maddie Knott	10	Mrs Allen	English
Zade Tizi	10	Mrs Allen	English
Lucas Chisholm	11	Mr Edwards	Spanish
Dylan Culhane	11	Mrs Williamson	English
Georgia Herrick	11	Miss Hodge	History
Charles Kavati	11	Ms Kemp	English
Sebastien Louzolo	11	Mrs Cowell	French
Tanish Patel	11	Mrs Cowell	French
Talha Sohail	12	Miss Sanders	Sociology
Olivia Ward	13	Ms Kemp	English Language

SPORT

Badminton U14 Bourne Grammar Tournament

Miss Bowtell

On Monday 9 December we held our annual Glory Event; the U14 boys and U14 girls Badminton singles events. I was thrilled to see that we had so many competitors enter; there were 24 entries across both events, which made for a very competitive evening.

Girls

The girls outnumbered the boys, a rare occurrence, but was great to see and meant we had to go into three league tables with everyone playing each other for a period of 5 minutes. The top of each league and the player scoring the most points went through to the semifinals.

The game of the round was Rishita Dutta vs Proud Vichathum, two very talented players meeting in a game of smashes and drop shots. Geerthana Elango vs Aarikha Arunkumar's match was also a crowd pleaser and was the only game which Geerthana lost.

In the final group there was stiff competition from Rackets queens Emily Wright lakin and Nicole Mancheva, and all-rounder Maddy Hobson with their result all hinging on the result of the matches between these girls. The future is bright in badminton here with this level of talent on display.

The semifinal:

Aarikha vs Proud and Maddy vs Rishita (the highest point scorer across all 3 leagues)

Both matches were intense and full of superb rallies of deft touches and high clears and were decided by the power of the smashes.

The final:

Proud vs Rishita and despite being a year 7 Proud played her way to glory and the title of best female player in years 7-9.



Boys

The Boys U14 tournament was always going to be dominated by a few of the more professional and elite Badminton players. Saihaan Damani was defending his title and aiming to reach a final he has been in for the last three years. The challenge was, could someone come and cause a surprise for him and wrangle the crown away?

The boys were in two leagues, and all played each other with points being awarded for winning or drawing matches. There was a surprise but not Saihaan, instead the second

favourite, Ali Ravji, was defeated in the early rounds by Anish Katha who had an exceptional evening winning all of his matches in his league and playing superbly throughout. Unfortunately, he met Krithik Mohan, undoubtedly the most improved year 8 player this year, in the semifinals and despite a valiant fight Krithik's superb power and speed across the court overcame Anish's guile and deftness of touch. Saihaan, as predicted, cruised into the semifinals and surprisingly easily overran Ali Ravji, an unusual occurrence given Ali's ability. There is always next year Ali!



The final was a superb one with Saihaan having to dig deep at times to overcome the improved drop shots of Krithik, but his extra experience shone through as the game progressed and he regained his title.

It was a superb evening and one I look forward to every year.