



Bourne Grammar School Weekly Bulletin



3 – 7 February 2025

Reflection of the Week

Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

Three wonderful highlights for this week's bulletin.

The first is the conclusion of our mentoring programme with Bourne Westfield, a mutually beneficial project where Sixth Form mentors worked with Year 5 pupils to help their Maths and English improve. We piloted this last year, ran it to great effect again this year, and the relationships that were built were strong. It was clear to all who attended the farewell event on Wednesday that the Westfield children enjoyed the experience and had their confidence boosted. And confidence is such a precious commodity – to be able to help young people feel better about their core learning is such a privilege! My thanks to Mrs Shales and her team for organising the logistics of this scheme, and we hope to see it go from strength to strength in the future.

Second, I must pick out our Sixth Form Debating Team who won through the second round of the national ESU schools' Mace debating competition last week, held at Stamford School. The team comprised speakers Mayra Narang, Y12, Akshaya Tirchunapalli, Y12, and Cameron Adam, Y13, and coaches Connie Bayliss, Y13, and Rhys Evans, Y13. They were a credit to themselves and the School, receiving significant plaudits from the judges and putting themselves into the regional final. A fantastic achievement – well done and many thanks to Mr (Physics) Mitchell for his leadership of the team and the society.

And finally, congratulations to our cross-country runners who competed at the weekend and also at the King Henry VIII relays recently. Both competitions went well, but special mention must go to Tom Preston who logged a time that placed him quicker than illustrious international competitors such as Sebastian Coe and the Brownlee brothers when they competed in the same event during their school careers, and to Sophie Alliston who managed to be our fastest junior female runner, despite losing a shoe near to the start! Well done to all who ran, and to Mr Ray, Mr Sheppard and Miss Smith for their support of these events.

Year 9 GCSE Options Evening – Thursday 27 February

We will shortly be asking Year 9 Students, in discussion with their parents, to choose the GCSE subjects they would like to study in Years 10 and 11.

You will have an opportunity to find out more about the Key Stage 4 (KS4) curriculum at the **GCSE Options Evening in School on Thursday 27 February from 6-8pm**, doors open 5:30pm.

The main presentation, explaining how options are selected using the Online Booking System, will be in the Main Hall at 6pm and will be repeated at 7pm. During the evening you will also have the chance to talk with each relevant Subject Leader along with Year 10 students currently following courses that may be of interest to your child.

During next week, Year 9 students and parents will be issued with an electronic copy of the Options Booklet, which gives an overview of the KS4 curriculum, details about the options process (including key dates), and specific details about each subject. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the Options process and subjects on offer to make the best possible use of the limited time available on Options Evening.

We hope you are able to attend this important evening and look forward to meeting you.

Oracy in P.E.

Peyton Teague, 8C



In Physical Education, the significance of oracy cannot be overstated. It is a vital element that is not only advocated by educators but is also actively integrated into the learning experience by students through a diverse array of engaging, student-led activities. A key aspect of this approach is the provision for students to lead warm-up exercises at the commencement of each lesson. In every session, two or more students are meticulously selected to step forward and guide their peers through these essential routines. This method serves to enhance effective communication skills, as students must articulate their instructions clearly and assertively, while simultaneously nurturing leadership, confidence and collaboration among their classmates.

Moreover, within the framework of core sports such as football, netball and hockey, numerous students are afforded the opportunity to take on the role of umpires. Positioned at the sidelines, they are responsible for observing the game closely. When they identify a foul or a situation warranting a free throw or kick, they are empowered to signal their observations through a whistle or verbal cue, subsequently entering the playing area to clarify the infraction and facilitate the ensuing free pass. This practice occurs with minimal intervention from teachers, thereby fostering a sense of agency and confidence in the students' oracy skills as they lead their peers and enhance their performance on the field.

In specifically tailored units such as fitness and dance, students are presented with abundant opportunities to cultivate their leadership capabilities by guiding groups through various activities. This engenders not only a boost in self-assurance but also accelerates their

understanding of the relevant terminology, enabling them to assist others in excelling in the subject matter. For instance, in Fitness Group 1, students have been actively leading their peers in exercises focused on specific muscle groups and areas of the body they wish to strengthen. This experience compels them to engage with their prior knowledge, think dynamically on their feet, and employ their oracy skills to articulate the importance of these exercises and their benefits effectively.

This multifaceted approach to oracy within Physical Education not only enhances students' communicative competencies but also empowers them to embrace leadership roles, reinforcing a collaborative and confident learning environment.

The English-Speaking Union Schools' Mace Debating Competition

Connie Bayliss, Y13

On Friday our Sixth Form Debating Team attended the second round of the ESU Schools' Mace, a national debating competition, having been placed in the top 3 in the previous round in late November. The second round was hosted at Stamford School with a total of six schools attending. There were three different debates during the course of the evening on the varied topics of globalisation, copyright, and a tax on fatty foods. Our team was part of the debate about a fat tax and we had been allocated the task of arguing against the motion.

Our three speakers, Mayra, Akshaya and Cameron, argued their case spectacularly, each of them turning in a performance that was a level above the already high standards that they had set during rehearsals for the competition.



We knew that they had acquitted themselves brilliantly and were quietly confident, although there was an anxious wait to find out whether the judges agreed with us. Fortunately, they did, and our team secured a thoroughly deserved spot in the East Midlands Regional Final in March.

If you wish to get involved with debating opportunities in school, or would simply like to find out more, please come to Debating Society at lunchtime on Thursdays in Lab 3.

Cambridge Trip – Christ's College

Marco Perna, 11G

Year 11 visited Christ's College, part of Cambridge University, last Friday. We were greeted by the amazing architecture within the walls of the college along with the well-maintained gardens. We were guided to the Yusuf Hamied Theatre where we started the talks of the day. An outreach officer for Cambridge gave us the main talk about how to choose subjects. The talk was very insightful, informing us about the requirements for each course and routes to future jobs at other universities.

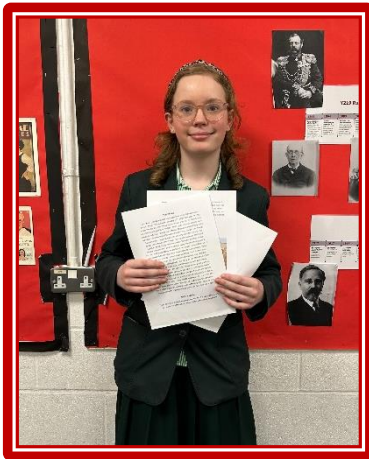
Afterwards, current students at the university answered questions about university life, such as societies, clubs, and accommodation. They then gave us a tour of the college, showing us the inside the chapel, the library, and the dining hall. They explained the history shown



through paintings of former students and founders to the college, including Charles Darwin and John Maynard Keynes. They explained that the colleges are where students' accommodation is, and that lectures take place in department buildings around Cambridge. After lunch, we listened to a talk about A Level subjects and suggestions on what you might pick.

BBL Champion

Mr Hewitt, Deputy Head Academic







Eloise Clarke (8F) is this week's deserved BBL Champion and receives 10 Achievement Points for her excellent independent work in History.

Her teacher, Miss Hodge, explains; 'We have been studying the British Empire, and in the lesson about the British invasion of Australia Eloise made the connection between our study of the Stolen Generation and a book she had read in her own time. The next day she brought me a typed summary of the book, "Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence", a personal account of an Indigenous family's experience of a 9-week journey of escape as individuals in that 'Stolen Generation' where indigenous children were forcibly removed from their homes, and their parents forced to work for white families. It was lovely to see Eloise's instant connection to that book, and to see that this new topic we are studying clearly struck a chord with her, as she has engaged with a recognition of Britain's controversial, and often harrowing history.'

I teach Eloise and I have got to know her well this year and this report from her History teacher does not surprise me at all. She is such an inquisitive learner, whose curiosity leads her to ask questions and think deeply about her learning in a very mature way for her age. Eloise is another example of our amazing student body and she displays all the attributes to suggest she will go very far.

House Totals

			
10481	10835	10234	9049

Totals shown are House Points minus Behaviour Points awarded so far this term

Year 11 Revision Sessions

Mr Hewitt, Deputy Head Academic

All students are encouraged to fully take advantage of the extra help available, aimed at helping you recap prior learning, address gaps in knowledge or catch-up with coursework. While some will be required to attend, the sessions are voluntary and there is no need to book -just turn up. As always, a huge word of gratitude to the teaching staff who give up their free time, from January until May, to offer this extra support.

	Monday 10.02.25	Tuesday 11.02.25	Wednesday 12.02.25	Thursday 13.02.25	Friday 14.02.25
Subject	History	Design Engineering	Spanish	English	Computer Science
Room	H1 - Dr Barmby	DE2 – Mr Delpont	Students to attend their usual classroom	E1- Ms Bennett E2- Mrs Tomlinson	CS2 – Mr Osborne
Revision Topic	America – The Economy and Consumerism	Coursework/NEA catch-up session	Higher: 150-word essay Foundation: Listening skills – Town and local area	Unseen Poetry	Theory Revision / Practice Exam Questions
Subject	Geography	Art	EPR		
Room	G4 Mrs Evans/Miss Pollard	Art 2 - Mrs Welling/Miss Wright	EPR3 – Mr Tighe		
Revision Topic	The River Tees	Externally Set Assignment – exam preparation	Paper 2: Weapons of Mass Destruction		
Subject		French	Maths Set 4 / 5 (lunchtime)	Drama (lunchtime)	Music (lunchtime)
Room		MFL3 - Mrs Cowell	Maths 7 - Mr Andy	Studio – Mr Moxley	Music 1 – Mr Tomlinson
Revision Topic		Listening skills: Key grammar revision & complex structures	Revision Booklets	Comp 3: Scripted Practical	Coursework Catch-up
Subject		German (lunchtime)	Maths Set 1 – 3 (lunchtime)		
Room		MFL7 - Ms Currier	Maths 9 - Mr Gillespie		
Revision Topic		150 Word Essays	Circle Theorems – session 2		

Students of the Week

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Mia Allen	7	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Vincent Bradley	7	Ms Bennett	English
Elliar Fisher	7	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Carys Knight	7	Miss Davis-Williams	History
Elizabeth Lawrence	7	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Niki Mishra	7	Miss Davis-Williams	History
Eve Morgan	7	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Olivia Woollard	7	Mrs Greenfield	Geography
Mabel Swift	7	Miss Hodge	History
Eloise Thomson	7	Miss Patman	Registration
Robin Daniels	8	Mr Dougall	Design Engineering
Anya Harley	8	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Dylan Kennard	8	Mrs Lattimer	Mathematics
George Payton	8	Mr Green	History
Freya Ridgewell	8	Mrs Allen	English
Layton Sandall	8	Mrs Lattimer	Mathematics
Lily-Anna Teillant	8	Mr Khumalo	Science
Samaira Bajaj	8	Mrs Evans	Geography
Ruby Hefferon	8	Mrs Evans	Geography
Jules Kelsey	8	Mrs Evans	Geography
Dennis Brierley	9	Mr Walklin	Mathematics
Lamar Farahat	9	Miss Smallshaw	Chemistry
Johnny Hullock	9	Miss Smallshaw	Chemistry
Finn Murphy	9	Miss Mizen	Registration
Eleanor Twinley	9	Dr Barmby	History
Emily Wright-Lakin	9	Mr Ray	PE
Lucas Nemeth	10	Ms Bowtell	Registration
Munachukwuso Anike	11	Miss Patman	Spanish
Livvy Bodmer	11	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Connor Brenchley	11	Mr Bainbridge	History
Jack Cotuk	11	Mr Harris	Chemistry
Chloe Cox	11	Mrs Cowell	French
Max Harris	11	Miss Patman	Spanish
Euan Hirst	11	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Jesse Kimani	11	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Hannah Lessiter	11	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Emily Seaton	11	Mr Harris	Chemistry
Petra Szoboszlai-Kendrick	11	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Lois Watson	11	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Euan Hirst	11	Mr Roche	Mathematics
Freya Andrew	12	Mr Brown	Design Engineering
Martha Caney	12	Mrs Cowell	French
Sophie Taylor	12	Mrs Bolitho	English Literature
Sai Kandikattu	13	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry

SPORT

Anglian Cross-Country Championships

Mr Ray

A fantastic morning greeted our cross-country runners as they arrived at Woodbridge School in Suffolk for the Anglian Championships on Saturday morning, 1 February. This was an opportunity for 12 of our best athletes to represent Lincolnshire and compete against the best athletes in their age category from across Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk. It also provided a final opportunity for some to secure the chance to represent the county at the National English Schools' Cross-Country Championships to be held in West Sussex on 15 March.

The first race of the day, the Senior Girls, saw an experienced Yvette Anniss finish in a very



credible 18th position, setting the standard for others to follow. The Year 7 Girls' race provided Avocet Williams her first chance to compete in such a large event. Her 40th position finish on a challenging, twisting and turning course was very well deserved against others significantly taller than her. Soon after, Sam Griffin, also Year 7, competed extremely well in his race, finishing in 55th position.



At 1pm, the Junior Girls' (Yr 8/9) race offered Edith Kaberry her opportunity to reach the national final. She duly took this, finishing in 21st place and securing her second consecutive appearance at the championships in March. She will be joined by Sophie Alliston from Year 8 who had already qualified from the county round.

Cayden Mackay from Year 9 had also qualified from the county round and, despite struggling through illness, managed to finish in a well-deserved 60th position.



The Intermediate Girls' race saw Bourne Grammar's largest contingent of runners with Leah Graham, Lucy Preston, Charlotte Smith and Cecilia Watson all competing. It was evident that the steep descents and inclines on the course were considerably greater than those experienced in the Fens, and their competition in Coventry earlier in the week seemed to have taken its toll. Nevertheless, all 4 competed admirably, with Leah Graham placed highly and the other three towards the middle of the pack.

For the Intermediate Boys' race, Toby Staines and Miles Garrido were equally challenged by the course but nevertheless again represented the county well in this prestigious event.



The final race of the day offered Thomas Preston the opportunity to gain the Anglian title to add to his achievements on Wednesday in The King Henry VIII relays in Coventry (pictured left). The combination of the two races in close succession proved one step too far for Thomas though, despite finishing as our highest placed athlete of the day, with him claiming the bronze medal to conclude the events of the day.

Well done to all 12 who competed and a huge thank you to all the parents who came to support the event.

A reminder that Mr Shepherd continues to offer his running club on Monday and Wednesday after school (open to all students), and the Fenland league cross-country restarts in early March to bring to a conclusion another hugely successful season of the sport.

Badminton and Hockey

Miss Bowtell

Last week was a very busy week full of fixtures and fun for lots of Miss Bowtell's teams. Firstly, we set off to Grantham with the girls Badminton team. The first excitement was 'would Miss Bowtell get the minibus stuck in the opponents school gates again like last time and hold up all their school traffic or would she learn from her mistakes?'



Yes, I have indeed learnt to use my initiative and common sense about slim gates and wide buses. Having overcome that hurdle the girls did their job and set about playing some superb Badminton against some excellent opposition in both U14 and U16 age groups. This match was a warmup for the county tournament and all girls really benefitted from the excellent challenge from the opposition.

Hockey

The U13 teams were in action on a very cold and rainy night at Kings Peterborough. The A and B team performed extremely well in challenging weather and displayed real improvement since our last visit in their power of distribution and tactical awareness.

Our two star keepers were called upon in goal to make several impressive saves but Caiomh Healey and Jasmine Wilkinson were up to the challenge. The B team was so much stronger

than Kings that we lent them our Goalkeeper to even things up and it presented a real challenge to our goals which we had been scoring freely. The A team found more challenge from their game, narrowly lost 2-1, and left frustrated due to dominating the game but being unable to convert opportunities. These frustrations were cast aside by yet another match very soon afterwards. They joined the Year 9 team in a match against Welland Academy from Market Harborough.

These matches vary in their strength but the last time we met in October the game was quite close in the Year 9's but the Year 8's won theirs quite easily. This proved to be the same again with some excellent play from the Year 8 team putting to bed any worries about finishing with an 8-0 win.

The Year 9 team, playing short due to dropouts and illness, were superb. Harriet Templeman, one of the Year 8 rising stars in Hockey was needed to play as a central midfielder, a very demanding job for one so young, and was helped along by the superb enthusiasm of Carlota Verdu and the inspirational midfield play of Ella Staff. In defence the calming influence of Orla Bayley settled any nerves when the opponents managed to break through. The game was still on a knife edge until the last few minutes and hung at 1-1 but then the girls maintained their pressure and managed to find an extra 2 goals with power hits and some slick passing moves. A superb performance under difficult circumstances.

This week is the Regional trials across Years 7-9. Girls can trial to see if they can get into the 10-person squad to compete in the Regional and National tournaments in March. Those who become part of the elite squad will require real commitment and motivation to want to excel and it will be selected by myself with the help of a selection squad of three Year 10 girls who are all excellent players. They will help me select and then coach the younger players and will be my assistants on the day, warming up the team in my absence, and giving wisdom between matches.

The Hockey legacy at Bourne has produced some exceptional performances at in tournaments using this system and I am very excited to see how the current crop will compare once selected.

Badminton

County Badminton Tournament - U14 Girls

Wednesday 5 February, priory Ruskin School

Wow- what a start to the little ones' Badminton County careers. Firstly, they took on the mighty KGGS, favourites for this event, and came back from 2-0 down to win 3-2. Then they destroyed Holbeach Academy 5-0, and Priory Ruskin, leading to a showdown with LSST Lincoln. This was a team of year 9 girls, and we were four Year 8s plus a Year 7 student playing as our no 1. It was David vs Goliath in the No 1 singles but Proud held her own and narrowly lost and this was followed by another fantastic but close match with Maddy Hobson and Rishita Dutta where we sparkled at times but couldn't put the game to bed. At 2-0 down, up came the Batwoman call and our very own superhero with a racket came- Aarikha Arunkumar who stepped in to the singles arena with supreme confidence and calmness and showed the team how to finish a game off. The score was now 2-1 and Proud and Maddy stepped up to try to even up the match. Despite a valiant effort the girls lost out leaving the last game to be

nothing but a badge of honour. However, Rishita and Aarikha came through to win leading to a very honourable loss of 3-2 to the eventual winners. We left with lessons learnt, targets to work on next time, and an amazing 2nd place in Lincolnshire. I left as a very proud Teacher and I hope the girls feel that way about their play too. Next year I have my eyes on that trophy!!

County Badminton - U16 Girls

The U16 girls would have been ranked fourth at the start of the event but surprised everyone as they grew in confidence, consistency, and team spirit. Zahra Ravji, Mary Pepper, and Poppy McLearnon used their devastating power to out manoeuvre their opponents, and the calm maturity of Honor Moore settled everyone's nerves during some tricky moments. The team lost to clear favourites KGGs but then had wonderful games with LSST and Holbeach where there were some superb wins. Overall position was 2nd in Lincolnshire on points.



County U14 Boys

Monday 3 February, LSST Lincoln

The U14 boys had high hopes at the county tournament having narrowly missed out last year in the semifinals. The competition started well with a 4-1 victory over the host school followed by another victory, this time 5-0 against Pembroke Priory Academy. The old rivals, Priory academy, were next and the boys were excited to see their improvement across the year. This was to be a supremely close but very exciting encounter with Bourne narrowly winning 3-2. The next game didn't get any easier against Kings who defeated us in the play offs last year and the game was again very close with the scores tied at 2-2 and all result hinging on the last doubles game. The rallies were superb, but we were defeated by the smallest of margins. This left the last game against Holbeach Academy who was easily defeated with a real show of supreme skill and ruthlessness, 5-0. This meant that Kings, Priory, and ourselves were now all tied on matches won and so the Tournament organiser couldn't separate us. Deadly silence



fell as he added up the individual points each team had won across the day and, sadly, we were not victorious but the boys performed brilliantly.

The team: Saihaan Damani / Aakash Ranjith / Krithik Mohan / Ali Ravji

As you can see from the photo the team is full of friendships and tom-foolery which gave them the comradeship to pull together to do as well as they did.

County Badminton U16 Boys

The U16 boys were ranked fourth on entry to the tournament and again faced some superb opposition, the hardest they have faced all year. Locally the boys excel but it was time for a higher challenge and to learn from some more experienced county players. The boys were a little shocked by the immediate revelation of the potential which the other schools showed in their play but soon rallied and learned from the other schools. Despite losing all of their first few matches the boys maintained positivity and started to really develop their touches at the net, the depth and height in their clearances, and created more competitive situations in matches. Monty Bage was even winning when one of our own players inadvertently impeded his opponent's shot which was going in. This meant the point had to be replayed and, as the score had been 14-13, if it hadn't been impeded, he would have won that match. I am glad they saw the funny side of that situation! Ironically Charles Bomford who accidentally got caught in the way of the shot, went on to win his next game thus being the first person to win a game. I wonder if it really was a coincidence after all.



Following on from there the U16 boys had several more victories and left the tournament with far more wisdom and experience, and a hope to develop their game ready for a rematch next year. Huge thanks to Ella Barratt who came to help as team manager, without whom the team would have been far less efficiently run. She was a bundle of positivity throughout and helped maintain the team's spirits.