



BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL

Newsletter for Parents

The Autumn Term

We were delighted to register more than 200 students into Year 12, including a significant number who had completed their GCSEs elsewhere. The new sixth form leadership team has worked incredibly hard to establish new working practices to ensure that students' time in school is well spent. The range of extra- and super-curricular activities continues to expand, enriching the sixth form provision. There have been a number of talks and lectures, and we have welcomed into school representatives from JP Morgan, Deloitte, Mazars and McLaren and also a consultant surgeon and practising dentist. We have continued to support students with their applications for Higher Education and degree apprenticeships (including offering practice interviews). There has also been a trip for Year 12 students to Merton College, Oxford. Careers advice for students in lower years was enhanced by the visit of the BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow at the end of September.

We have held a number of parent information evenings in this first term, making clear our expectations and any changes to our provision. For the moment, parent-teacher consultation evenings are continuing online.

There have been two Charity Weeks so far this academic year. The Elgar and Moore event combined penalty shoot outs and a sponge the teacher event with the almost obligatory cake sale and tuck shop. A highlight of the Newton and Scott Charity Week was the talent show.

On the Friday before half-term we hosted a visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. The visit was arranged through Reverend Renate Tulloh who serves at the neighbouring St Francis of Assisi Church. The purpose of the archbishop's visit was to meet some young people from the local area to establish how the church may better meet their needs. We were joined by students and colleagues from Bournemouth School for Girls. The archbishop and his entourage greatly enjoyed their visit (including lunch!), commenting particularly upon how well our students engaged with them. We were also pleased that Renate was able to join us for our annual Remembrance Service, which was exceptionally well observed by all members of our school community.



As is often the case as we draw towards the end of a term, we are bidding farewell to some colleagues who are leaving Bournemouth School. Mr Short, who joined the school as a teacher of Science in September 2021, and more recently has been a part of the sixth form leadership team, is leaving us to lecture at Brockenhurst College. Joining the school in 2019, Miss Clark has been an outstanding pastoral support assistant, both in terms of nurturing students, but also in cajoling them to meet university application deadlines. She is leaving us to join the staff at Dumpton School. After joining us in 2015 as a Science teacher, we were quick to recognise the experience of Mr McLennan, and subsequently he has been a Head of Year and the architect of our personal development curriculum. It is thanks to him that the School became involved in the "Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride" (hosting the end of the event) and men's health has attained a higher profile in the School. Mr McLennan has decided that it is now time for him to retire – but we hope to entice him back to Bournemouth School from time to time in the future. We thank all three colleagues for their contributions to the continued success of the School and wish them well for the future.

The autumn term always appears to be at least a week too long – perhaps due to the shortening of the daylight hours, colder weather and a proliferation of viruses resulting in lower rates of attendance of students and staff. I am immensely grateful to my colleagues in the senior team for their incredibly hard work and continued commitment to ensure that our students are served exceptionally well. As we approach the last week, we are looking forward to the senior prefect team selection process, our annual prize-giving evening, the Christmas concert and (most of all) our Christmas lunch. I am sure that when the end of term arrives, every member of our school community will be grateful for a well-deserved rest and the opportunity to spend more time enjoying the company of friends and family. We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year!

Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas

Peg Bracken

Review of the 2023-24 Academic Year

Introduction

When we returned from the summer holidays in September, we were encouraged by the results at GCSE, recognised that the proportion of A*/A grades at A level needed to improve, and were acutely aware of the likelihood of a long-awaited Ofsted inspection in the near future. We already had plans in place to improve the quality of teaching and learning across the school, with colleagues having undertaken a significant amount of preparatory work in the preceding term. As the academic year began, we were very pleased to have so many students wishing to join our Year 12; for the first time the total number of students on roll at Bournemouth School exceeded 1200!

As you can imagine, serving such a large number of students results in Bournemouth School being a very busy place. It is almost impossible to describe all that happens, and all of the opportunities that are offered to our students. This report aims to give just a flavour of life at the School over the 2023-24 academic year.

A new year, with new expectations

We held a number of parent information evenings in the first weeks of term to further explain the rationale for the well-publicised changes to our provision. We explained that the changes were being made to secure the highest levels of progress and outcomes for all students. The strategies that we adopted are based upon educational research and the best practice observed in our school and in other schools.

The main changes were:

- students would not talk in lessons other than at the direction of the teacher
- knowledge organisers would be introduced and will be the mainstay of students' homework
- the introduction of "Do Now" tasks and activities
- mobile devices ('phones and smart watches) would become prohibited items for Years 7-11

Very quickly, students and staff adapted to these new expectations. By the end of the first term, the school environment already seemed more orderly and purposeful. Senior staff responded to comments made by the School Council and adjusted the systems accordingly. Alongside improving students' behaviour, we were also keen to enhance the quality of classroom practice; staff training sessions, with an initial focus upon effective questioning, were well received.

Ofsted

Every year, the Spring term presents a number of challenges. As usual, the weather was rarely kind (preventing access to outdoor spaces at lunchtime), and the focus for students in Years 11 and 13 was on their forthcoming public examinations. In this academic year, the Spring term also heralded the much-anticipated Ofsted inspection.

The School had last been inspected by Ofsted in September 2011. Between May 2012 and November 2020, schools like ours that were judged to be outstanding in their overall effectiveness were exempt from routine inspections. Since November 2020, we had been awaiting a two-day inspection. At the end of February, the wait was finally over!

We hosted five inspectors on the first day and four on the second day of the inspection. “Deep dives” were undertaken in English, mathematics, science, religious studies, languages and product design. The inspectors also considered the overall quality of education, students’ behaviour, attitudes and personal development, the sixth form provision, and how well the school was led and managed. They also considered how well we safeguard our students.

We were very grateful and touched by the support of parents during the inspection process; the messages of goodwill and the gifts of cakes and chocolates were very well received. Needless to say, our students rose to the occasion magnificently; they were a credit to themselves and their families. The inspectors were very impressed with how friendly and respectful they were, commenting upon the highly positive interactions between all members of the school community. Given the quality of our students, it came as little surprise that the School was found to be “Outstanding” in all aspects of its provision. Although pleased with the inspection outcomes, the school’s leaders remained keen to continue our journey of improvement, and to ensure that we always offer the best possible provision for our students.

10 Key Extracts from our Ofsted Report

- Pupils flourish at this exceptional school
- Pupils conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. They are polite and considerate of others. They behave with integrity and cooperate consistently well
- Pupils benefit from a rich offer for their wider development
- Pupils learn an ambitious curriculum
- The school consistently upholds its high expectations of pupils’ behaviour, both in and outside of the classroom. Therefore, pupils’ learning proceeds undisturbed
- Pupils readily follow well-established routines around the school site. As a result, the school is calm, orderly and purposeful
- Pupils debate and discuss issues respectfully...they value and celebrate commonalities and differences in each other
- Pupils receive timely and useful careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) and benefit from an effective personal, social and health education curriculum
- Leaders and governors share a clear and ambitious vision for all pupils
- Pupils receive an excellent quality of education and, as a result, achieve highly

Much of the work of senior leaders in the summer term was then devoted to ensuring that the School was in a position to further improve. This included significantly restructuring the pastoral support teams, recruiting new and replacement staff, introducing a new student information management system and planning for capital projects to be undertaken over the summer holidays and beyond.

Highlights of the academic year

There were many highlights in the 2023-24 academic year. It was particularly pleasing to welcome an increasing number of former students into school to help better inform our current students about the career pathways and opportunities that are available to them. This theme was further enhanced by employer visits (such as JP Morgan, Jaguar Land Rover, Dyson, Lester Aldridge, Deloitte). These added to a diverse range of presentations and assemblies throughout the year. As ever, the Remembrance services on Friday 10 November were well observed. The main address was delivered by Mrs Ateaque and focussed upon the ultimate sacrifice of two former students in World War I. The participation of representatives from our cadet force was greatly valued, and the musical elements were performed faultlessly.

As ever, the charity weeks throughout the year were well-supported, with the cake sale, tuck shop and raffles particularly popular. The Newton and Turner charity week in the Spring term was particularly well-supported; the traditional activities were complemented by a number of other events including a sponsored swim of the distance equivalent to crossing the channel and a sponge the teacher event. Thanks to the efforts of the prefects, the highest amount in recent times was raised for Julia's House. As the term continued, the "*Safe Drive, Stay Alive*" presentation was given to students in Years 12 and 13, highlighting the importance of taking care when driving, and all students in Years 9 and 10 have completed a course on basic life support (delivered by a lecturer from Bournemouth University and intensive care nurses).

In the summer term, Geography fieldwork for Years 10 and 12 began. Students in Year 7-9 benefitted from a number of trips and visits during our Enrichment Week just before half term. The week included trips to Marwell Zoo, Monkey World, Thorpe Park and the Globe Theatre and also walking a section of the coastal path near Lulworth Cove (despite torrential rain on one of the days!). Organising the programme is a logistical challenge – and would be impossible without the dedication of a number of our support staff.

Our students' and staff's continued enthusiasm and support for the library resulted in the issuing of a staggering 16,659 books during the academic year. Students continue to demonstrate their zest for reading, entering the numerous House reading competitions with gusto. All Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Million Minutes Reading Challenge, logging an astounding total of 214,108 reading minutes during March. Year 9 students read 97 novels and 205 short stories as part of the Dystopian Literature house competition. The library continues to host a number of lunchtime and after school clubs for all year groups, including Warhammer, Dungeons & Dragons, a Year 7 and 8 lunchtime Book Club and a Carnegie Shadowing Group.

Thanks to the efforts of Mr Riddles and Mrs Barnard-Dyson, virtually all Year 12 and Year 10 students experienced a work placement for one or two weeks, respectively, during the term. This is an invaluable opportunity for our students to experience the world of work. Subsequently, we invited employers to a "Business Breakfast". The event proved successful, with a particular highlight being the student presentations, recounting and reflecting upon their experiences.

The focus of the second half of the summer term was upon ensuring that our Year 11 and 13 students were supported in sitting their GCSE and A level examinations, respectively. Mrs Knowles and her team of invigilators ensured the smooth running of the public examinations, which appears to be more complex year on year. Year 11 students celebrated the end of their examinations with a Prom held at the Vitality Stadium. We were pleased to be able to work with BSG and their PSA to ensure that the event was without incident and enjoyed by all.

Towards the end of the academic year, Year 8 students participated in team-building activities and a workshop on addressing sexual harassment. The team-building activities were organised and run by the senior cadets of the Combined Cadet Force, with the workshop delivered by a team from STARS (Sexual Trauma and Recovery Services) and the police.

Our Open Evening in July again proved popular with prospective Year 7 students and their parents. We welcomed over 470 families through our doors. As ever our students were excellent ambassadors, exemplifying all of the qualities that we hold dear, and, no doubt, securing a high number of applications for September 2025.

The Open Evening was followed by a very successful House Events and Sports Day, facilitated by the PE staff and the CCF, which was again held at the King's Park athletics' stadium. A number of long-standing records were broken. Scott House won Sports Day by half a point from Darwin House, and secured the overall House Championship for 2023-24. Throughout the academic year there were successes in football, rugby, and cricket as well as in cross-country, tennis, and track and field. The levels of participation in these extra-curricular activities is often staggering – a testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of our PE staff.

The final week of the academic year began with a celebration of the achievements of students in Years 7-10, combined with showcasing music, poetry, art and technology. We were delighted to welcome back to school Harry Beckett to present the prizes. Harry joined Bournemouth School in September 2016 from Brockenhurst Primary and was one of our highest achieving students at GCSE. By Year 12, he was appointed as a Deputy School Captain. Throughout his time with us, Harry dreamed of becoming a doctor. His journey was not without challenges, particularly in the sixth form, but his exceptional hard work secured him the A-level grades needed to study medicine at St Andrew's University last September. Harry's work ethic, resilience, and compassion for his fellow students always impressed us. He continues to serve as an excellent role model for our students, delivering an inspirational speech about the lessons learnt in the first year of university, and warmly congratulating each of the 100 or so prize-winners.

CCF and Scouts

A record 160 new recruits joined the CCF this year. Cadets from all three sections participated in an extensive training and activities programme in addition to the weekly parades, including a military skills camp, flying, fieldcraft exercises, adventurous training, a parachuting course, and RAF and army camps. The annual inspection in March was again passed with flying colours. The programme of events was the most ambitious yet, showcasing the breadth of activities in which our cadets are involved. The inspecting officer, Captain Lynn from the Royal Navy, was particularly impressed with the parade and the enthusiasm of all involved.

Bournemouth School's 35th Bournemouth Sea Scouts and Explorers also recruited well, with students offered a packed calendar of events. Highlights of the academic year included participating in the Bournemouth District Incident Hike (a friendly contest of land navigation, orienteering and problem-solving), providing a Guard of Honour for the attending dignitaries at the annual Bournemouth Remembrance Sunday Service, fundraising for Children in Need, visiting the Normandy landing beaches, participating in the camp at HMS Sultan in Gosport during May half term, and participating in the National Sea Scout Rowing and Kayaking Regatta weekend in London.

Collaborative working

We are continuing to work with local primary schools by offering to talk to parents of Year 5 students, providing Year 12 student volunteers to assist in developing their students' numeracy and literacy, and extending an "open door" policy to their staff and students. It was pleasing to host sports days for local schools, and to facilitate a "Science Experience Morning" for St Walburga's. We were also pleased to be able to again accommodate a BCP transition event at which primary school teachers and their secondary colleagues met to refine the transition process. Towards the end of the summer term, we also hosted a Science Teachers' Conference.

We are continuing to work with the other members of the South West Academic Trust, to determine how we can work together more effectively, especially on improving the access of disadvantaged children to a selective education and how we may respond to any new challenges that a new government may bring. We continue to work particularly closely with the other BCP selective schools and South Wilts Grammar School.

As part of our desire to become a more integrated part of the local educational provision, we joined a local School Improvement Network in September 2022. The network is operated by the Two Rivers Institute/Twynham Learning. Secondary partners include Twynham, The Grange, Poole High, Ferndown Upper, and Bourne Academy (all non-selective). There are a range of activities undertaken in partnership, all of which ensure that we are more outward looking and offer professional development opportunities for colleagues. We have found the programme of Peer Review Days to be of great benefit. On such days, 4-6 colleagues from partner schools visit us to evaluate the effectiveness of an aspect of school improvement (of our choosing). The team's findings help us determine the appropriate "next steps" on our improvement journey. Being a part of this network has been a positive experience for all colleagues involved, and has also resulted in forging constructive relationships between the partner schools. I am sure that we would not have received such a glowing Ofsted report had we not been a part of this network, and had not had the courage to adopt some of the successful practices that we had observed in our partner schools.

We are continuing to work with local teacher training providers in the hope that we may be able to secure the services of entrants to the profession more readily. From September 2024, the BPD SCITT at Twynham Learning will be partnering with Wessex Schools Training Partnership at Poole High School to form the 'Bournemouth Bay Teacher Training Partnership' with the 'Christchurch Hub' based at The Grange School and the 'Wessex Hub' based at Poole High School. The new partnership is committed to both excellence in ITT and to serving the needs of all schools in the locality, and ensure a strong talent pipeline of local teachers for local schools.

Examination outcomes

Whilst students enter the school with attainment levels above national averages, by the end of Year 11, the attainment **and progress** of all students is very high in comparison with national averages. GCSE outcomes are continuing to improve.

In 2024, there were 180 students (152 in 2023) at the end of key stage 4 with students being entered for 11 GCSEs on average which places them in the top 3% nationally. EBacc subjects form a strong academic foundation for the KS4 curriculum and the EBacc entry rate in 2024 was 83% (80% in 2023). The average attainment of students in their best 8 subjects was 73.3 (P8 0.71), with 74% of the cohort achieving a strong pass in the English Baccalaureate (65% in 2023) and 96% (94% in 2023) achieving a strong pass in both English and mathematics.

Our data shows that progress and attainment for SEN students are significantly above the national averages for non-SEN students. Disadvantaged students performed well at GCSE in 2019, but less well in 2022 and 2023. In 2024, there were 16 disadvantaged students – the P8 for disadvantaged students in 2024 was 0 (-0.32 in 2023) with an average EBacc points score 5.97.

Over the last five years the proportion gaining A* to B grades at A level has been well above the national average. Our students' outstanding achievements can be linked to the high quality of advice they are given about their sixth form options and the quality of the monitoring procedures that are in place to secure such excellent outcomes.

In 2024, almost 42% of all entries were graded A* or A (82% were graded A*-C), with the average point score per A level entry increasing to 39.6 (the equivalent of a B grade) from 36.8 last year. The proportion of the cohort attaining AAB or higher in two or more facilitating subjects also increased from 23% in 2023 to 35% this year.

Remarkably, in Further Mathematics, 61% of all entries were graded as A*/A, with more than 40% of entries in Biology, Chemistry, Economics, French, Mathematics, Physics, Religious Studies and Spanish also being awarded the highest grades. Compared to their GCSE outcomes, students made particularly good progress in English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Physics and Spanish. Remarkably, seventeen students achieved at least 2A* and 1A grades.

On 5 December the DfE published the latest GCSE outcomes (see <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>). A summary of the outcomes, ranked in order of GCSE progress, for all BCP secondary schools is shown in the table below.

School	Academy Trust	Contextual Data						Key GCSE Outcomes					
		Year 11 (Total)	Avg KS2 Score	% High Prior Attainers	% Disadv	% SEND-EHCP	% SEND-not EHCP	P8	P8 (Disadv)	% 9-5 E & M	EBACC Entries	EBACC APS	KS4 Entries
Glenmoor Academy	United Learning	166	105.7	26%	18%	3%	13%	1.14	0.55	82%	52%	5.45	8.4
Winton Academy	United Learning	182	105.1	26%	20%	2%	16%	0.81	0.38	74%	53%	5.08	8.6
Bournemouth School	SAT	180	113	84%	9%	2%	6%	0.71	-0.01	96%	83%	6.99	10.8
Poole High School	Twynham Learning	320	103.9	16%	18%	1%	21%	0.54	0.17	56%	56%	4.67	8.7
Bournemouth School for Girls	SAT	178	113.3	87%	6%	1%	7%	0.54	-0.16	95%	48%	6.38	9.9
Poole Grammar School	SAT	181	113	83%	2%	0%	16%	0.52	-	96%	69%	6.55	9.6
Parkstone Grammar School	SAT	176	112	74%	6%	2%	24%	0.43	0.27	93%	47%	5.96	9.9
Avonbourne Girls Academy	United Learning	186	102.9	20%	24%	1%	25%	0.4	-0.52	60%	47%	4.43	7.8
Avonbourne Boys' Academy	United Learning	135	103.1	14%	30%	1%	29%	0.28	-0.01	53%	36%	4.16	7.9
The Grange School	Twynham Learning	76	101.3	8%	34%	7%	13%	0.27	0.12	53%	13%	3.98	6.9
Twynham School	Twynham Learning	256	105.2	29%	18%	2%	13%	0.16	-0.35	58%	62%	4.55	8.1
St Peter's Catholic	SAT	239	105.3	19%	13%	3%	13%	0.15	-0.42	54%	26%	4.2	8.3
The Bishop of Winchester	SAT	211	104.1	23%	26%	1%	18%	0.12	0.07	49%	54%	4.18	8.7
St Edward's Roman Catholic	Local Authority	177	102.9	16%	19%	5%	15%	0.09	-0.37	46%	45%	3.99	7.5
Corfe Hills School	INITIO Learning Trust	250	103	16%	13%	4%	16%	0.02	-0.43	41%	17%	3.71	7.7
The Cornerstone Academy	United Learning	116	101.5	9%	40%	6%	20%	-0.03	-0.54	31%	32%	3.76	7.1
Highcliffe School	HISP	235	106.5	36%	14%	3%	12%	-0.05	-0.73	55%	49%	4.64	7.9
Magna Academy	Aspirations	175	104.3	19%	17%	4%	18%	-0.09	-0.95	38%	53%	4.12	7.4
LeAF Studio	Authentic	81	103.3	15%	16%	0%	19%	-0.18	-0.38	32%	6%	3.41	7.6
The Bourne Academy	SAT	136	102.8	14%	33%	6%	23%	-0.22	-0.72	37%	38%	3.47	8
St Aldhelm's Academy	Authentic	164	101.1	9%	41%	4%	35%	-0.57	-0.81	23%	10%	2.9	7.2
Oak Academy	Authentic	92	101.6	8%	39%	3%	13%	-0.63	-0.92	30%	21%	3.01	7.2

Whilst our results are impressive on a P8 basis, it should also be noted that this has been achieved with a considerably higher than average number of GCSE entries than local schools, alongside a high EBACC entry which demonstrates the breadth of our curriculum. We believe that the 83% EBACC entry is within the top 5% nationally (the P8 is within the top 5% nationally, too).

Finances

The financial pressures, exacerbated by increased energy and staffing costs, have resulted in the School having to manage its finances very carefully. Unfortunately, despite the introduction of a national funding formula (NFF), the local authority still exerts a degree of influence over school funding. Last year, BCP applied to the DfE to top-slice local schools' budgets for 2024-25 by £1.3m in total, to mitigate an overspend of the high needs budget. Under the NFF, we should be receiving as a minimum £5,995 per pupil for 2024-25. As a result of BCP's "top slice" we will be funded at a rate of £5,968 per pupil. This means that we will be receiving around £25k less than we were expecting. I find it ironic that BCP is asking schools to do more for children with high needs whilst at the same time reducing our funding below this minimum level.

BCP have already applied to the DfE to transfer a higher percentage of funds from schools' budgets for 2025-26. Some at the authority believe that since we return a balanced budget each year and have a significant reserve, we can afford to subsidise BCP's high needs provision. There appears to be little realisation that as a single academy trust we are expected by the DfE to have a certain level of reserves, and that any additional monies are ear-marked for capital projects that cannot be financed in any other way.

Improvements

Despite a number of staffing issues, we forged ahead with a number of significant projects. Firstly, the heating project was completed on time and under budget in March, with final snagging completed over the Easter holidays. A number of cost savings were identified during the final months of the project's implementation, such as using a single water heater for adjoining rooms rather than separate units; this enabled further improvements to be made elsewhere, such as the replacement of a number of suspended ceilings and upgrades to classroom lighting, which in turn has led to lower running costs. We were also able to replace a significant number of classroom projectors.

During the past summer holiday, the main hall projectors were replaced with new ultra-short throw laser projectors which are far brighter, making presentations visible even in full daylight. Early in the academic year, we also replaced the fire alarm panel and improved fire coverage throughout the main building; as a result, every classroom, office and corridor now has a smoke detector. To improve security and safeguarding, the east and west entrance doors were fitted with electronic locks, reducing the burden on the site staff to unlock and lock the doors at appropriate times throughout the day as this is now fully automated. Staff have the ability to access the school through these doors using their ID cards.

A number of IT improvements have been made during this past year. Thirty-two additional computers were provided for the Sixth Form in the study centre, and these have been very well received and are used almost constantly throughout the day. At February half term we launched a new school website, which gives us more control and flexibility over the content we can provide, and has already streamlined a number of processes such as new student registration and staff recruitment and reduced our costs as this is now internally managed. During the Easter holidays, the computer suite in room 36 (effectively the basement) was relocated to the library block, where an air-conditioned classroom was refurbished with computer benches and additional power and network connectivity. Throughout the year, CCTV improvements have been made across the site, including to IT suites, corridors and external areas.

A major milestone was achieved after the May half term break with the successful move from SIMS to Arbor for our school information management system. This was a huge undertaking with an enormous amount of preparatory work to ensure not only that all the relevant information was migrated to the new system, but also to ensure that staff were sufficiently trained in the use of the new system by the start of its implementation.

An ambitious range of projects was planned for the summer holidays, including:

- preparatory work to completely refurbish the lecture theatre;
- modification of the serpentine walkway to the library block;
- renovating the former caretaker's house, so the building may be used for individual pupil mentoring, small groups, training sessions, counselling, interviews and examinations;
- servicing and repairing the external fire escapes at the rear of the main building and library block;
- completely refurbishing the toilets and washing facilities within the school's changing rooms at the Sir David English Sports Centre;
- replacing the computers in room 34 with brand new units.

Conclusion

In summary, the 2023-24 academic year saw the School being graded as "Outstanding" by Ofsted for all aspects of its provision, improved student outcomes at GCSE and A-level, significant improvements to the accommodation and infrastructure, and plans being put in place to secure our continued success.

The role of a headteacher is impossible without the support of governors, staff and parents. So many staff "went that extra mile" last year – especially during our Ofsted inspection. My senior leadership team colleagues and governors have again continued to work tirelessly to ensure that our provision for students is as effective as it can be. The breadth of activities and improvements described in this report, would simply not have been possible without the continued dedication and commitment of all our staff.

It continues to be a privilege to serve the Bournemouth School community and I believe that, with the Ofsted inspection behind us and despite continuing political uncertainties, we can all look to the future with optimism. We will never rest on our laurels, but always seek to continually improve.

Facilities Update

The summer holidays saw an ambitious set of projects carried out successfully. Firstly, and possibly currently most visibly, the dilapidated canopy over the serpentine walkway to the library block was removed, and the walkway itself received new railings. The school's external fire escape staircases were cleaned and serviced, improving their condition where they had fallen into some disrepair and the tired and frankly unpleasant toilets in the Sir David English Sports Centre changing rooms were stripped out and completely replaced with modern, high-quality and easy-to-clean brand-new facilities.

Also, during the summer, to facilitate further improvements within the library block, we engaged contractors to carry out some demolition internally – the lecture theatre was returned to its original, as-built, state and capacity, and it was completely redecorated: more on this later. The lower ground floor was stripped of any remnants of asbestos and some plasterboard walls removed, in preparation for further renovations.

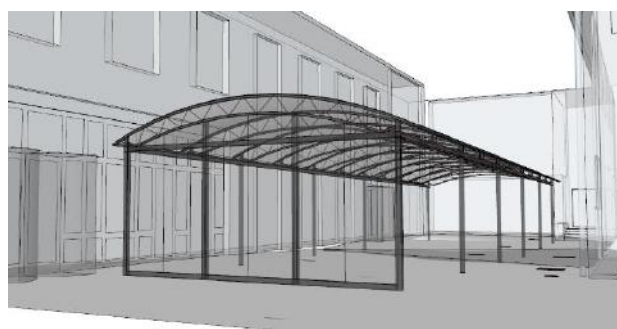
Despite all of the above going on, we also completely renovated the former caretaker's house internally, including the installation of a new heating system, new carpets throughout, a new kitchen and bathroom, and complete redecoration. This is now a secure, welcoming and useful venue for small meetings, one-to-one support sessions and individual examinations.

Since September, much of our attention has been focussed on further improving the facilities in the library block. Over October half term, the library itself received a new carpet, which not only made a huge visual improvement but has also given it a more comfortable, welcoming feel. The lecture theatre, which has been long overdue for some attention, is well on its way to becoming a desirable, fully-featured venue: three new projectors, a new sound system, upgraded lighting, new presentation furniture and state-of-the-art tiered seating with fold-out writing surfaces will give our students a stunning facility for larger group presentations, as well as a taste of the university-style education that many of them are preparing for. We have recently received confirmation that the new theatre-style seating will be delivered and installed at the end of January, so we hope that this entire facility will be ready for use after February half term.

Whilst works in the lecture theatre progress, yet more ambitious plans are unfolding in the rest of the lower floor of the library block. With the removal of two internal walls, the four smaller classrooms have become two large, light and airy spaces which will eventually host two brand new IT suites for our computer studies department, as well as an office and meeting space for the teaching staff. The toilets in this block are simultaneously being completely refurbished to the same high standards as those installed in the Sir David English Sports Centre. Additionally, another large room in this building, currently under used, will be refurbished to provide another IT suite housing around 50 new computers.

With some other cosmetic improvements to the entrance area, by around April time we envisage that the library block will once more be a key and vibrant part of the school – although of course the library itself has always been lively, engaging and well-used.

Before that, however, we expect to have completed a smaller-scale project on the upper terrace – albeit one with just as much impact: the provision of a canopy outside Le Bistro to provide students with a sheltered outdoor space to spend their break and lunchtimes regardless of the typically unpredictable British weather! With our existing buildings sheltering the canopy on three sides, the more exposed end will be glazed to provide a degree of protection from prevailing winds. This exciting new addition will give us much more seating capacity during busy lunchtimes, just a step or two outside Le Bistro itself (the images to the right give some idea of the intended results).



Finally, we are currently in the process of submitting a bid to central government improvement funds for replacement of as many of our fire doors as possible. Many, if not most, of our existing doors are original to the building – making them around 90 years old at this point. Modern fire safety standards require doors to be able to withstand fire for at least 30 minutes to allow safe evacuation; having commissioned a survey of our doors, we have been advised that many of them would not achieve this requirement. The anticipated cost of replacing all the necessary doors is in the region of £500,000 – hence our CIF (Condition Improvement Fund) bid. If successful (and we are cautiously optimistic about this), then we are prepared to embark on a complete replacement project over the summer of 2025, to include classroom and corridor doors, complete with magnetic hold-open devices and fire alarm activated door release mechanisms. We will keep you updated with the progress of this ambitious project!

None of the above would have been possible without the incredible hard work and support of a number of key staff members – the premises and IT support teams in particular have worked tirelessly to ensure facilities are maintained throughout all the works going on around the school site, and to minimise the disruption to students' learning.

Parent governor election outcomes

An election was held in November for a new parent governor. Six candidates had been nominated earlier in the month. The outcome is shown below:

Candidate	Votes	%	
Andrew HOWLETT	47	16.9	
Dan THOMAS	30	10.8	
Deepika PERI	66	23.7	Elected
James PALFREMAN-KAY	34	12.2	
Lucia Rivera DEL CARPIO	38	13.7	
Simon BENNETT	63	22.7	Elected

Total votes: 278

Deepika Peri

Born and raised in India, Deepika holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and has 16 years of experience in the software industry. Currently, she works as a Software Engineering Manager at Vitality in Bournemouth. Her elder son started attending Bournemouth School in September 2024.

Deepika's passion for working with children is evidenced through her involvement in guiding kids for 11+ exams. Over the past two years, she has conducted mock exams as part of a charitable organisation, helping over 100 children achieve their desired scores. Additionally, at Vitality, she has been instrumental in working with students, hiring interns, and running career days to attract young talent to the company.

As a Parent Governor, Deepika plans to leverage her professional experience and passion for education to support the school's mission. She aims to foster a collaborative environment where students can thrive academically and personally. By working closely with the school administration and parents, she hopes to contribute to the continuous improvement of our school's educational standards and ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Simon Bennett

Simon believes that Bournemouth School has been terrific for his son, who is now in Year 10, delivering on its promise to challenge and encourage him, and rewarding enthusiasm, with opportunities to stretch and do more.

Simon believes that it is that ambition and optimism you should feel when you are young, and why it feels so vital to keep it going with encouragement and positive experiences. Fairness, equality and simply doing the right thing – keeps cynicism at bay, which is no mean feat with teenagers glued to Snapchat!

Simon believes that the Parent Governor role should be there to help ensure we don't accidentally dent our young people's enthusiasm and ambition, by reversing a clumsy decision into it!

Simon was an independent Change and Transformation Manager for years, working with organisations all across the UK and Europe. Success relied on listening carefully to often the quietest voices. He has a real-world experience of functional governance and working calmly through complexity or conflicting interests.

Simon lives in Queen's Park and is active in the school community. He looks forward to sharing any useful experience, helping the school to be forward-thinking, and just supporting the school that is giving so much to the students.

We look forward to working with Deepika and Simon in the years to come.

Emergency Planning

As you might expect, we have in place an emergency plan (also called a critical incident plan) to help us plan for and respond effectively to an emergency on site or during an educational visit. Needless to say, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils is paramount. The plan includes our initial response to an incident – depending on the circumstances, this might involve:

- Evacuation – getting everyone out of the building safely
- Shelter (invacuation) – getting everyone inside the building
- Lockdown – getting everyone inside and locking them in to protect against potentially dangerous intruders

In the coming term, we will be sharing with students and parents the details of the plan, and how we intend to practise the procedures (in addition to the routine fire evacuation drills). The practising of these procedures will be undertaken in such a manner as to minimise disruption to learning and students' levels of anxiety; we believe that incidents requiring an emergency response remain very unlikely.

Term Information

End of term:

Friday 20th December 2024

School finishes at 3.20 pm

School buses will run at normal times in the morning and afternoon.

Start of term:

Monday 6th January 2025

Timetable is Week 2

Start of School 8.30 am

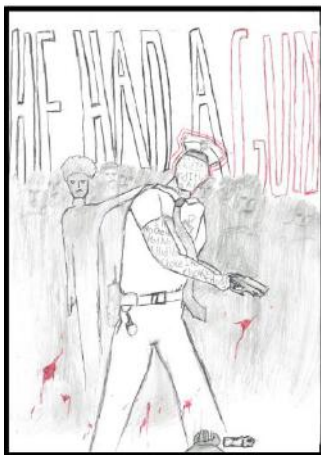
School buses will run at normal times in the morning and afternoon.

Year 7

The transfer from primary school settings to secondary is a huge undertaking, not just for students but for their families too. I am always so impressed by the resilience and determination shown by the new Year 7 students in making this transition, and this cohort have been no different.

They have made every effort to adhere to our school values of hard work, determination, smart appearance and respect, and have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the next stage of their educational journey.

Their Form Tutors and subject teachers have enjoyed getting to know our new students and their families over the course of this term, and hopefully they now all feel well and truly part of the Bournemouth School community.



During the year, our brilliant library team of Mrs Morgan and Mrs Brown organise a number of events and competitions. The most recent was run in conjunction with the English department and required the boys to read *Ghost Boys*, a YA novel set in America, and design a front cover. There were a number of wonderful entries, but the winner (design shown below) was Lucho L, 7S, who won a book gift card, as well as doughnuts for his Form group. Well done Lucho!

Each week I ask Year 7 Form Tutors to nominate Star Students – two per form – who have demonstrated the Bournemouth School values. Mrs Fengler and I look forward to visiting these students and awarding them with a sticker, as well as sharing with the class why they have been put forward. The focus isn't necessarily academic or sporty (a popular misconception amongst some of the students!), rather the aim is to recognise effort, kindness, or determination in any area of school life. At the time of writing, the following students have received the recognition this term:

7D – Noah S, Finlay M, William A, Monish C, Oscar C, Joe E, Aditya A, Adam M.

7E – Brodie N, Leo C, Archie T, Dylan R, Thomas D, Joseph W, Joshua T, Reuben G, Bobby S, Charlie G, Parth K, Eduardo B.

7M - Adam L, Reuben B, Lukas E, Ishan M, Nadeem A, Corey B, Arnav M, Jashith K, Max T, Jake R, Riley C, Omar S, Andrei G, William H.

7N - Aahil Q, Charlie C, Vansh M, Pranav K, Nathan R, Ben E, Jacob D, Gabriel R, Austin E, Evan C.

7S - Elliot W, Ruzgar Y, Amaru O, Oscar H, Samay S, Aadhiran S, Jan T, Shray V, Michael D.

7T - Yuuki A, Aadam K, Yogya B, Daniel M, Adi M, Zephyr C, Riyash R, Oliver BR, Joseph G, William M.

Outside of lessons, we see fantastic team work going on, especially in the Football and Rugby teams, which have seen great success already and I know the PE department have high hopes for more success in the future. In addition, we also have many talented students in a variety of areas including drama, dance, badminton, and creative writing to name a few. They have been quietly excelling in their respective activities, and we look forward to hearing of their achievements as the year goes on. Please do keep us posted in terms of success outside of school.

The whole Year 7 team, academic and pastoral, wish you and your families a happy and peaceful time over the Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Miss Thorne, Head of Year 7

Year 8

As I would have expected from this talented cohort, the year has started exceptionally well. No longer the newcomers to the school, Year 8 students have completed the term confidently and efficiently. Having recently been introduced to the GCSE option process, the students are now considering which subjects they would like to study further. Of course, the problem for many will be limiting themselves to only 11 GCSEs; I am sure that many would opt to take more if they could!

Aside from academic progress, I was delighted to see Year 8 represented so well in the recent Talent Show for Newton and Scott Houses' Charity Week. Eli T and Finn T, both of Newton House, played a wonderful duet on the piano, and were awarded second place. The winner was Alex S, of Darwin House, who amazed the judges and audience with some extraordinary close-up magic. Out of 20 entries, these students did superbly and were brilliant ambassadors for our year group.

At the time of writing, we have the Christmas Concert to look forward to, and I know the year group will be well represented. Music, dance and drama, are certainly areas where our boys are particularly talented – many are working hard towards examinations, competitions and performances outside of school, and they are flourishing. Well done to everyone for their achievements inside and outside of school – I am really proud of all of you.

On behalf of the Year 8 team, I would like to wish you a happy, and restful, break over Christmas and we look forward to welcoming the boys back for the new term in January.

Miss Thorne, Head of Year 8

Year 9

It has been a busy and successful first term for our Year 9 students. It has been pleasing to see how well they have all adapted to their first year of GCSEs, applying themselves with the consistently high standards we have come to expect of this fantastic cohort. Teachers continue to be impressed by their efforts and the high levels of respect they exhibit at all times.

Within school, a large number of Year 9 students have been involved in the various house events that have taken place this term. Congratulations to 9 Darwin for winning House Rugby and House Football 'A' competitions. 9 Scott were the worthy winners of House Football 'B' competition. In House Badminton, 9 Newton were triumphant once more.

Extra-curricular activities have been represented well by Year 9 students this Autumn term, taking part in sports including cross country, football and rugby. Riley Austin came 2nd in South West Schools Intermediate Cross Country, alongside Barney Smith with a top 10 finish, resulting in both qualifying for the National Final of the Cross Country Cup. The football team continue to progress through the stages of the County Cup, turning out solid performances. The rugby team have recently beaten both Poole Grammar School and Bournemouth Collegiate in their fixtures.



Year 9 and 10 students making the most of the provision after school.

An impressive number of Year 9 students have signed up to CCF as well as Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. Next term, those DofE students will embark on their first expedition and we look forward to hearing about their endeavours. It really is pleasing to see so many students taking full advantage of the opportunities on offer to them.

Next term, there will be even more house events (sporting and non-sporting) for students to participate in, as well as the final Charity Week of the year from Darwin/Turner Houses.

We would like to congratulate Year 9 students on an excellent first term of this academic year. Thank you for all you do to support this year group in maintaining their high standards. We hope you all take the opportunity to fully rest and recuperate over the break, coming back fully energised for the new term.

Mrs Roche, Mr McCalister and Mr Robjohns

Year 10

As we reach the end of the autumn term, we want to share some highlights of what has been a busy and exciting Autumn term for our Year 10 students. Having made a great start to their GCSE courses in Year 9, it has been great to see the students setting themselves high expectations in both effort and progress at the start of this year. Teachers have been impressed by their focus and enthusiasm. Whether it's non-fiction writing in English, tackling probability in maths, or exploring cell structure and electricity in science, students have been showing great determination to do their best.

This term has been packed with opportunities outside the classroom too. Year 10 students have taken part sports including football, rugby and cross country. The football team have made it through to the second round of the County Cup and four boys have qualified for the National Final of the Cross-Country Cup. The Year 10 House rugby tournament was a great competition, with some great rugby on display. Well done to the 80 boys who represented their house, and Scott who were victorious.

Additionally, a number of boys took part in the school's Remembrance service for the music department and have been working hard to ensure they are ready for the Christmas concert. It was amazing to hand out so many Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards in September, a culmination of their achievements in Year 9. We have held two Charity Weeks so far this year, so thank you for contributing to such worthwhile causes.

The BBC also came in with a panel to discuss different career opportunities and to get pupils thinking about possible options, this was great for Year 10 as they are in the process of sorting their work experience placements. We also had a very informative visit from Dorset Police who are visiting all the local secondary schools to increase awareness of the dangers and laws surrounding firearms and knives. There are a number of horrible statistics related to teenage injuries/fatalities due to these and it is imperative that our students are fully aware of the dangers of them.



Next term, students will continue to prepare for their first mock exams. These are a great way to see how they are doing and what they might need to work on, from the content they have learnt so far. There will also be more house events and the newly selected prefects will begin their duties. Finally, we hope students take the holiday as a chance to rest, recharge, and spend time with family and friends. Thank you for all your support this term – it really makes a difference!

Wishing you a happy and peaceful holiday season.

Mr McCalister, Mrs Roche and Mr Robjohns

Year 11

Bournemouth School students often hear how lucky they are to be a part of this school. That's right! But it's also right that it's our students who make Bournemouth School such a special place to be. Our Year 11 students personify this in all that they are growing into as individuals, and as a community.

We talk often as a Year 11 community about 'the little things being the big things', and it's our wonderful team of Form Tutors: Mrs Catford, Mr Coward, Mrs Finch, Miss Hamalienko, Miss Hunt, Mr Sekhar and Mr Rixon, with crucial support from our brilliant PSA Mrs Cornish, who provide the daily care to make this a reality.

Miss Gosling and I continue to be astounded by the brilliance of our boys when they are at their best, both in and out of the classroom. Here are just some of the highlights from this term:

Congratulations to both Ollie Bujak and Pawal Newby who have both already achieved a GCSE Grade 9 in Polish.

48 students have been awarded their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze level and 52 have begun their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Alex Flint has been selected to represent Great Britain in a sailing regatta in Palamós, Spain, alongside The British Youth Sailing Team.

So far this year, Year 11 have been active and instrumental in our CCF programme. Leon Hausdoerfer reports that "it's been an exciting time in CCF as most cadets have completed the relevant training needed to teach other cadets, meaning that many Year 11s lead lessons and activities that interest them, as well as participating in camps and courses which enhance the cadet experience".

During the October half term break, Miron Wozniak in Year 11 and Miss Gosling led a group of Navy Cadets to sail from Portsmouth around the Solent. Miron said "with a love for power boating and sailing, it has always been a dream of mine to sail a large yacht, so this was a real privilege."

Our Year 11 football team enjoyed a brilliant victory in the first round of the County Cup against Ringwood School winning on 2-1 with a last-minute wonder strike from Jonny Baptist. To complement this, for the first time ever, we entered into a Futsal tournament where we enjoyed three group stage wins against Winton, LEAF and Highcliffe. At the semi-final stage a last minute equaliser from Luca Tamagna meant we took the game to a penalty shootout with Benjy Walshe scoring the winning spot kick. Sadly, we lost in the final against a very good Winton side. Leo Twitchen (GK) was awarded man of the tournament.

The Year 11 rugby team have shown tremendous spirit and determination throughout their matches this season. Fixtures against Winton, BCS and Poole Grammar have provided some thrilling moments with a win against Winton and defeats against BCS and Poole. This team show great promise, and their outstanding attitude has been a highlight of the season so far. Well done to the entire squad!

Congratulations to David Irvine for an incredible performance in the recent House Geography quiz where David blew his classmates and teachers away with his superb knowledge and recall to 'Name the Nations'.

And finally, I'm really proud to report that Year 11 have already collected over 7,000 achievement points this year.

Here's to a successful Spring and Summer term for Year 11!

Mr Lewis, Head of Year 11

Sixth Form

It has been a fantastic yet busy autumn term, and the Parent Information Evenings in September already seem like a long time ago. Thank you to all parents who were able to attend. I would like to take this opportunity to share a few reminders about **The Bournemouth School Mindset**, which we have implemented this academic year in the Sixth Form:

- **Working Day Ethos:** To support students in completing sufficient independent study, we encourage a working day ethos. Students should aim for five hours of proactive study per subject, per week, in addition to any homework tasks.
- **School Hours:** Students are expected to be in school from 8:30 AM to 3:20 PM. The Sixth Form Study Centre provides an excellent working environment, similar to a university library. Students are permitted to leave the site at break and lunchtimes.
- **Workflow Planner:** Each student has been given a Workflow Planner to help manage their time and engage in proactive study. Departments have provided guidance on proactive activities, which can be found at the back of the planner.

Mrs Brown and Mrs Holcroft have been thrilled with how well students are embracing this new culture and pursuing the best possible outcomes for themselves.

Year 13: Post-16 Pathways and Applications

Year 13 students have been working incredibly hard, with many completing applications to secure places for their Post-18 pathways. This year, we had forty early-entry applications, with popular courses including Medicine, Engineering, and Computer Science at prestigious institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, and Imperial College London. Early-entry applicants are already showing strong signs of success, with many receiving offers and interview invitations. We wish them all the very best of luck with their forthcoming interviews.

For our standard university applications, students have been collaborating with their reference writers to complete their UCAS applications. We look forward to celebrating offers for a wide range of fantastic undergraduate degree courses. Please remind your children to inform their tutors when they receive offers, as we would love to celebrate their successes with them.

Similarly, our students applying for degree apprenticeships are also seeing great success. Several students have completed telephone interviews and are now being shortlisted for the next stages. More and more students are choosing degree apprenticeships, and we are fortunate that Mrs Barnard-Dyson stays in touch with our generous alumni, who are always eager to return to Bournemouth School to share their experiences and support our current students.

Sixth Form: Societies and Visiting Speakers

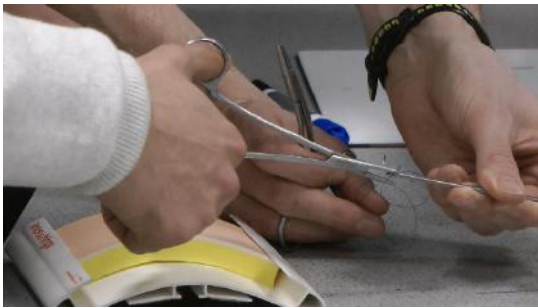
Our Sixth Form students have fully embraced the enrichment and co-curricular opportunities available at Bournemouth School. This term, we launched several student-led societies, including Philosophy, Debating, Film, and an active Computing Society. We encourage all students **to balance their academic work with recreational and enrichment activities.**

This term, our calendar has been packed with talks and lectures designed to broaden students' experiences outside the curriculum. We launched the **Gresham's Academic Lecture Series**, giving students the chance to hear from a variety of eminent speakers who are experts in their fields. We have been fortunate to host talks from Old Bournemouthians working in Finance and Technology at **KPMG**, **JPMorgan**, **Deloitte**, **Mazaars**, **Jaguar Land Rover**, and **Barclays**.

Year 12 students also participated in an interactive event hosted by **Mitch Kay**, co-founder of award-winning PR firm **The Academy**, which focused on the power of asking insightful questions. We are also looking forward to hosting alumni from **Lester Aldridge** who will hold a workshop on "Being an Excellent Law Applicant." Additionally, we are excited to welcome back former student **Oliver Richardson**, now working at **McLaren**.



MEDSOC: Medical Society



MEDSOC is for all Year 12 and 13 students aspiring to study Medicine, Veterinary Science, or Dentistry. This term, students in MEDSOC have been supported with their medical applications through a variety of activities. Members welcomed Mr Godfrey, Deputy Director of Medical Education and Cardiovascular Medicine, who presented to our students and ran a fantastic workshop on basic surgical skills. Additionally, Dr Short, a GP, visited the school and shared her experience of entering the medical profession via a Biomedical Science degree.

Most recently, Year 13 students participated in mock interviews with teachers, governors, and medics from our wider community in preparation for upcoming university interviews. A huge thank you to Mrs Crow and our guest interviewers for giving their time to support our students.

Year 13: Enrichment Trips

On Wednesday 23rd October, a group of Year 13 students attended the 'Humanities and Law Insight Day' at Bournemouth University. This entailed a tour of the campus, hints and tips with university applications, and a lecture and information about relevant courses. Students were able to get a hands-on experience of university life which gave them food for thought about Humanities courses at Bournemouth and other universities. Thanks to Mrs Barnard-Dyson for organising and Miss Clark along with Mr Bonds for attending with our students.

Year 12: Sixth Form Conference and the first term of A-Levels

In September, we welcomed the largest cohort of Year 12 students ever. To kick off their A-Level journey, students attended the **Bournemouth School Sixth Form Mindset Conference**, which helped to embed the habits and behaviours necessary for success. To close the event, we had a team of guest speakers from the legal firm **Lester Aldridge**, who shared their advice on seizing every opportunity and using the next two years to develop the habits and behaviours that will set students up for a successful future.

As the term has progressed, it has been wonderful to see students settle into their new forms and embrace the demands of A-Levels. Students have also thrown themselves into all of the enrichment opportunities we have to offer. On top of the regular enrichment programme we offer, many students have engaged in competitive sports teams, while others have organised volunteering placements at local primary schools, care homes, and hospitals. These enrichment activities take place on Wednesday afternoons.

Year 12: Elite University Preparation

In September, over 80 of our Year 12 students attended a talk by **Cambridge University**, hosted at Bournemouth School. The session highlighted the enrichment and super-curricular activities that can support applications to Oxford and Cambridge in particular.

On 12th November, Mr Riddles and Miss Clark took 30 Year 12 students to **Merton College, Oxford**. Students enjoyed a mock lecture, explored the stunning college grounds, and even dined in the prestigious college dining hall. We hope this experience will help students further develop their vision and purpose for studying A-Levels.

Year 12: Student Leadership and Prefect Selection

It has been fantastic to see Year 12 students engage in leadership opportunities. Many volunteered as **student ambassadors** during our entrance test day and at the recent Sixth Form Open Evening. In October, we opened the application process for Year 12 students to apply for a prefect role. This role has evolved in recent years and is fundamental to the day-to-day operations of the school. It involves duties, assistance at school events, and provides a pathway to senior leadership roles.

We were humbled by the over 70 applications from Year 12 students, many of whom have only been part of the Bournemouth School community for a short time. All applicants participated in the first round of the selection process, which included team-building and problem-solving activities. Shortlisted students were then invited to take part in a group "Dragon's Den" activity and an individual interview. We look forward to announcing the final Senior Prefect Team soon.

We must also thank our outgoing Year 13 prefects for their tireless work and dedication during their time in post. They have set a great example to all students, especially the current Year 12s.

Sixth Form Success: Congratulations!

It is always a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of our students. We would like to congratulate two exemplary Year 13 students, **Oscar Davis** and **Adam Vasilko**, who performed with the **English Schools Orchestra** at Cadogan Hall during half-term. Both students have made significant contributions to promoting musical endeavours at Bournemouth School.

We are also immensely proud of two Year 12 students: **Aaryan Bidad**, who won a **Bronze Medal** in the under-17 class at the **Karate World Championships**, and **Pranav Bibin**, who won 1st place in his **cinematic dance solo**, qualifying for the national competition. Additionally, the dance group that Pranav coached placed 3rd in the group category, also qualifying for Nationals.

Mrs Brown, Director of Sixth Form

Safeguarding at Bournemouth School

Mrs C Wood, Assistant Headteacher/DSL

Safeguarding the young people in our care is absolutely our number one priority in school. All staff in school continue to receive regular training on the statutory guidance called 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and this is updated annually in preparation for the new academic year.

The team has grown as we see the importance of more members of staff undergoing more comprehensive training. Please do contact us if you have any questions or queries:



BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL

Safeguarding Team



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Clare Wood
Assistant Head



Deputy Safeguarding Lead (Primary DDSL)

Suzanne Picot
Attendance & Safeguarding Officer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads



Dorian Lewis
Headteacher



Katie Ateaque
Deputy Head



Nick Stroud
Deputy Head



Rebecca Issott
Assistant Head & SENDCO



Clare Brown
Assistant Head & Director of Sixth Form



Tammy Holcroft
Deputy Director of Sixth Form



Kelly Thorne
Head of Years 7 and 8



Dave Robjohns
Head of Years 9 and 10



Richard Lewis
Head of Year 11



Luke Hedges
Head of PE



Will Pyke
Governor responsible for safeguarding

School holidays can be an anxious time for some families so please do use our website to navigate your way around some support agencies that you can turn to. If you need to report something during school holidays you can find contact details [on these pages](#). Click on the QR code to take you straight to it or you can use www.bournemouth-school.org and follow the links through the main menu.



Contacting the school's safeguarding team

Email: dsl@bournemouth-school.org
Telephone: 01202 512609
www.bournemouth-school.org/safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

On Tuesday 12th November, Dorset Police visited to speak to our Year 10 students as part of Operation Scepter, a national initiative to tackle knife crime. The presentation given by Firearms Officer Martin Garnish focused on preventative education around themes such as the consequences and dangers of carrying weapons; common misconceptions around knife crime; and locations of knife surrender bins in Dorset where knives could be deposited anonymously. Martin was clear to stress that Dorset is one of the safest places in the country to live, but the Police service remains proactive in preventing and detecting knife crime. He said that an important part of their work, in addition to the enforcement work they do, is prevention. He said that young people carry a knife because they think it will make them safer, but carrying a knife can actually make them



✓Hard Work

✓Discipline

✓Smart Appearance

✓Respect

more vulnerable. As you would expect, our students were superb and behaved impeccably. They asked very pertinent questions and engaged wholly with the visitor.



BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership has launched their new website. This is a very useful resource for you if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Safeguarding of young people within our area. It can be reached here: [BCP - BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

Shore was launched in 2023 to provide a **safe and anonymous place for young people** to get help and support. The aim of this website is to **prevent harmful sexual behaviours** among young people. It is for anyone who:

- has questions about healthy sexual relationships
- wants to change their own behaviour
- is looking for reliable information to help them respond to someone else's behaviour



It can be accessed here: [Home - Shore](#)

On-line Misinformation is an area in which many of us as Parents are concerned about. The resources below provide guidance on how to identify 'fake news', misinformation and disinformation online. BCP have asked for us to share these with you.

[Full Fact](#)



[Full Fact](#) – this fact checking website has compiled a range of articles highlighting the role of misinformation in the summer riots.

[Snopes](#) – this fact-checking tool verifies news and social media rumours. Please note that some articles may contain mature themes.



<https://www.snopes.com/>

sharechecklist.gov.uk



[SHARE Checklist](#) – this checklist is a reminder of the key points to consider when reading and resharing information online.

[Navigating Digital Information](#) – this 10-episode series by Crash Course explains fact checking, sources, social media algorithms and bad internet habits.



[Crash Course Navigating Digital Information Preview](#)

We have again been asked to share a website called Immobilise which is a FREE register of possession ownership details. It has been helping to reduce crime and reunite recovered property with its rightful owners for over two decades. It can be used by members of the public and businesses to register their valued possessions or company assets. All registered items and ownership details are then viewable by



THE UK NATIONAL PROPERTY REGISTER

police on the national property database the NMPR; this is a benefit unique to Immobilise users. It is used by UK police forces to trace owners of lost and stolen property. It also assists the police in investigating criminal activity involving stolen goods. Immobilise is the only ownership registration service supported by all UK police forces, the Greater London Authority, and the mobile phone industry.

<https://www.immobilise.com/>

E-Safety Update – Mrs N Fengler, E-Safety Champion

The festive period ahead is a wonderful time for all of us – it's the time to relax and recharge, to spend unforgettable moments with your loved-ones, to make those all-important memories and to see the joy in our young people's eyes when they receive the presents they wanted. Nowadays, the wish lists often include new devices, like gaming consoles, phones, tablets or smart watches and as parents, we are often happy to oblige.

Digital devices have a lot of practical uses and can have a positive influence on all our lives. However, as we all know, they also have disadvantages and can put our young people at risk. In the hustle and bustle of Christmas and due to children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately after they received them, it can be easy to forget to agree usage limits and to set up the parental controls that help to keep them safe online. However, if you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be a battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose limits and controls later. You can find an interesting and very helpful article by the UK Safer Internet Centre [here](#) as well as several guides by the National College on how to set up new devices [here](#). I hope you will find them as useful as I do and we can continue to work together to help our young people use the internet and digital devices safely.

I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas Break and a Happy New Year.

Wellbeing – Mr M Knight, Wellbeing Champion

We understand that school life can sometimes be challenging for students, whether it's managing exams and schoolwork, navigating friendships, building self-esteem, or dealing with more personal issues. That's why we prioritise student wellbeing and have a strong support system in place to help our students thrive.

We encourage students to seek support from any staff member they feel comfortable speaking with, whether it's their subject teacher, Head of Year team or Tutor. Our pastoral system is designed to ensuring each student feels heard and supported.

Throughout the year there will be assemblies dedicated to wellbeing issues – identifying problems linked to physical and mental wellness, as well as highlighting advice and support services. Students will tackle topics linked to physical and mental health in their Personal Development lessons, and will have the opportunity to discuss these issues in the safe environment of the classroom should they wish to do so.

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or feel they may need additional support, please reach out to their Form Tutor as your first point of contact. They will be able to guide you towards any resources or additional help that your child may benefit from.

To further support both students and parents, we have a range of helpful links available on our website under the "Useful Links" section. Please visit <https://www.bournemouth-school.org/safeguarding/other-useful-links/> for information on wellbeing, mental health, and external support options.

Art Design and Technology Department

Julia's House Tail Trail

We are very pleased to be taking part in the Julia's House 'the great tail trail' to raise money for this worthy cause. The competition was launched as part of the Newton and Scott Charity Week and we had some great entries. Our 3 chosen winners were announced and have started the exciting task of working together to create the overall design. We can only share glimpses of this as the exciting reveal will be



in April when Julia's House launch 'The Great Tail Trail'. We will update you in the next newsletter and hope you will be on the lookout for our tail when it launches.



The Art and Design teachers, with support from our students, have also been busy creating the charity Christmas cards that have been sold as part of the fundraising for Newton and Scott Charity Week. It has been great fun designing and making them and seeing so many of you buying them to support us. It is feeling very festive in our department.



Product Design London Trip

On Thursday 7th November 14 Year 12 and 5 Year 13 students took part in a Design and Technology visit to the Design Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The focus of the visit was to allow students to conduct first-hand research into Design History in preparation for upcoming projects and also to experience some of the temporary exhibits such as the Barbie Exhibition at the Design Museum!

Chris Jennings (Year 12 Product Design student) gave the following account of the day:

We left school at 6.45/7.00 on a coach for the 3-hour drive to London. Once there, we first entered the London Design Museum and had a walk through the Barbie exhibit, featuring the first Barbie Doll and the entire process by which the brand came into being. The exhibition focused on the cultural changes that have taken place since Barbie's launch and the way the brand has changed as a result. After this exhibit, we separated into smaller groups to independently walk around the museum to see all the different designers and their innovative works which made them famous. There was also a café there which had delightful pancakes with bacon and syrup!

We then walked to the Victoria and Albert Museum at around 1.00pm and had lunch. Following this, we explored the museums many sectors including Japanese, Roman and Architecture and Paintings. The Design section was the most useful though as we were able to gather primary resources of many seating designs for our next project.

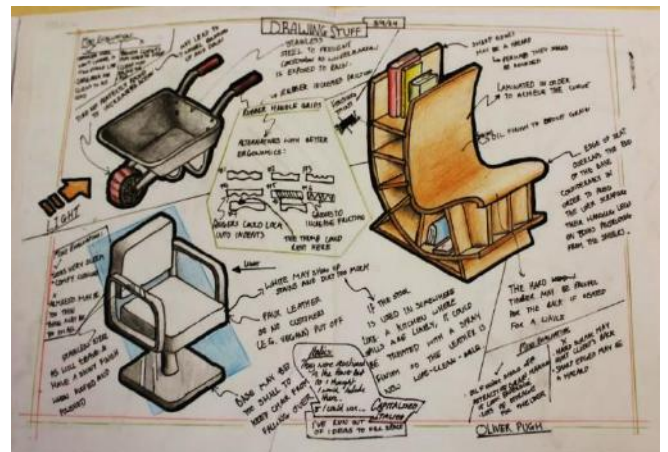
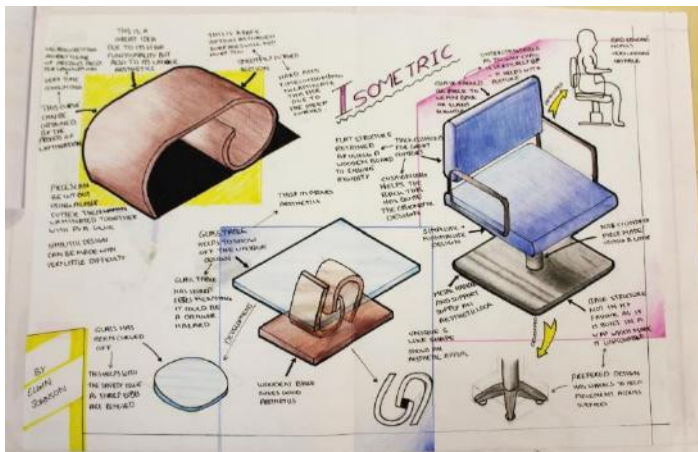
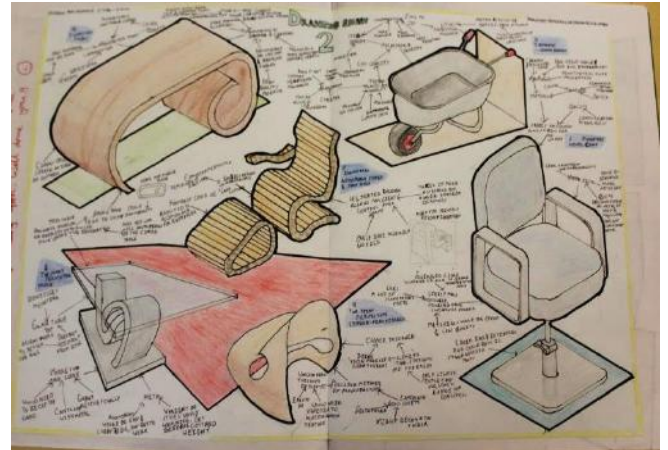
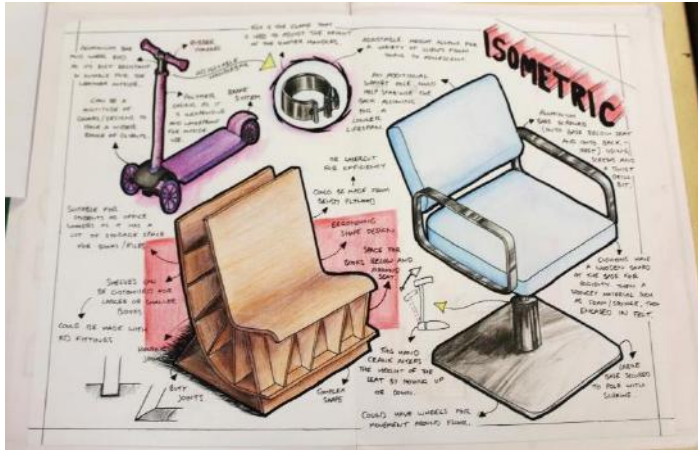
Overall it was a great trip with Mr Davidson commenting:

“It was a thoroughly enjoyable day with lots of opportunities for Product Design-based learning”

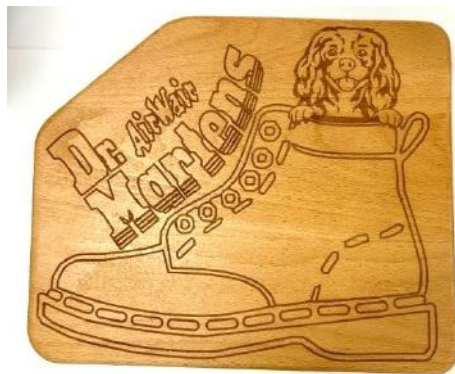


Year 12 Product Design

Mrs Catford and Mr Davidson are very proud teachers. All of the boys in our Year 12 Product Design class have made a fantastic start to the year. We started with a 'design skills' project in September, based on isometric and perspective drawing, rendering and detailed annotation. As you can see from the images below, the students excelled and produced work to an incredibly high standard:



After the 'design skills', we have worked on our timber project – a beech chopping board. At first glance, this looks like a very simple project but it involved biscuit jointing, 2D Design work, engraving using the laser cutter, cutting with a jigsaw, routing, hand filing, sanding and oiling. If you have ever worked with beech, you will understand how hard it is and therefore difficult to shape and sand. Again, the quality of these projects has been extremely high, as seen in the pictures below:

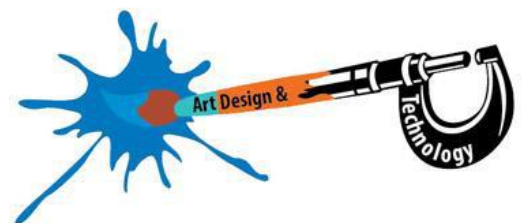


✓Hard Work

✓Discipline

✓Smart Appearance

✓Respect



School Captains and Deputy School Captains

This term has been an incredibly busy and exciting time for the school community. From welcoming our new Year 7 and Year 12 students with engaging form group activities and staff introductions, to hosting a successful Sixth Form Open Evening, it has been a brilliant start to the year! Highlights included impressive experiments showcased by the science department and outstanding work displayed by students across various subjects, reflecting the enthusiasm and talent of our school.

Many students have had fantastic opportunities to participate in enriching experiences outside the classroom. Trips such as the visit to JP Morgan's 'Generation Tech' program and an art and history excursion to London have broadened students' horizons. Year 12 students are actively pursuing work experience placements, supported by inspiring talks from firms like KPMG, Jaguar Land Rover, and Dyson, which have provided valuable insights into post-18 options. Additionally, talks from primary and secondary care doctors on topics like cell biology and homeostasis have enhanced students' understanding of their studies.

The School Student Council has also been working hard to ensure that pupil voices positively influence school life. Congratulations to all the students elected as form representatives, as well as everyone who put themselves forward. The council has already made significant contributions, including creating a student-led anti-bullying policy and exploring ways to address crime and safety awareness through the BCP "Make Your Mark" initiative. Their dedication to mental health projects and charity drives is inspiring. Thank you also to the hard work of the 'Sports Form Captains' There have been many House events including rugby, football and badminton. These students have worked tirelessly to put teams together and ensure they can participate in everything on offer.

Finally, the term has been full of memorable events and activities. Inter-house and inter-school competitions have added excitement and fostered community spirit, while the whole school came together to honour important occasions like Remembrance Day. Year 11 and 13 students have worked hard amid exam pressures, with Year 13s achieving early offers from their UCAS applications. Overall, it has been a term full of achievement and promise for the year ahead.

From Shayan Bidad, Ellie Beckett, Oscar Davis, Cemre Kurt and Meshva Patel, School Captain and Deputy School Captains

Darwin House

This term has been a busy one for Darwin house! I think we are all looking forward to a hard-earned break at Christmas.

The achievement of students in Darwin is always exciting to see and celebrate. It seems like Darwin's strength since we got back from the summer holidays has been 7-a-side football, boasting first place in the Year 9 competition, and second in both Year 10 and 11. Well done to everyone who helped to achieve Second place in in Year 10 Badminton too!

Perhaps the most exciting second-place finish has been the Year 7 summer reading challenge- what a fantastic result for 7D's first ever house competition! It has been a pleasure to welcome the youngest members of Darwin this year, and they have done a fantastic job adjusting to the huge change of secondary school, as well as throwing themselves headlong into the house system and into their learning. A retrospective big welcome to all our new Darwin sixth formers too, it's been great to see how well you have adjusted to such a big change as well. I'm sure it'll be very exciting to see you all evolve along your journey through Bournemouth School!

Another highlight of this term has been thinking quite a bit about finding some new prefects! It's been great to see the capability of so many students highlighted in their prefect applications. Year 10 applications have been underway with some unbelievably impressive letters and the process of sixth form prefect appointments has been exciting too. It's been wonderful reading about so many people's excitement to take up more responsibility to make Darwin house – and Bournemouth School – an even better place to be.

As UCAS applications draw to a close too, huge congratulations are also in order for 13 Darwin for surviving the colossal task of applying for university and beyond.

As we finish this first term, it's exciting to look back at all of our achievements so far and look forward to the opportunities that the New Year will have to offer. Preparations for more sport, more competition and exams are all well underway already, as well as getting ready for Darwin/Turner Charity Week in February.

From me and everyone in Darwin House, have a very happy Christmas!

From Isaac Manning, Darwin House Captain

Elgar House

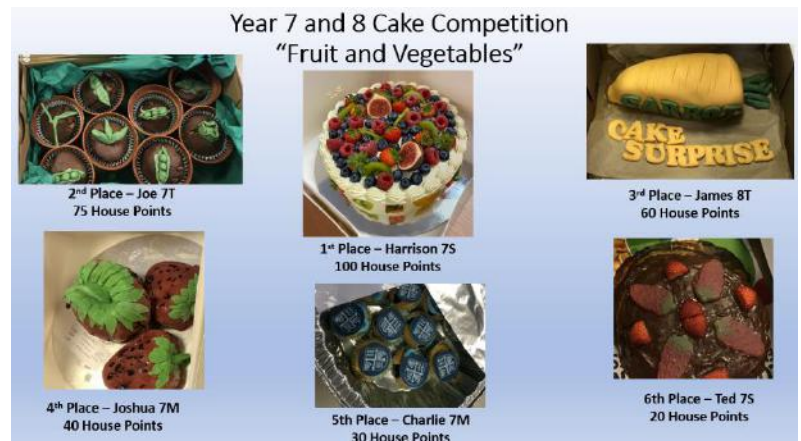
Elgar, the House of pride and determination! We honour our achievements and, as a collective, we are all very successful. Elgar is a supportive community that values hard work and tenacity to strive forwards, '*Labor omnia vincit*' – work conquers all. We are proud to announce the recent successful Elgar and Moore Charity Week which managed to raise over £1200 for Cancer Research UK. We had many participants from the 'All Years' penalty shootout to the copious amounts of volunteers who brought in their homemade cakes, giving more life and interconnection throughout the school. This is all thanks to the meticulous planning made by many members of Elgar House team. Students volunteered to help raise money for charity, from Year 10-13. The students in 8 Elgar also made their mark during the 7-a-side Football (A team) House tournament with a 1st place finish to give Elgar 50 points, which is a significant result! In addition to this the B team was not too far off with a 2nd place finish. Overall the entirety of the Year 8 squad all contributed to make a pivotal impact on the House Championship. The newly joined Year 7s also made a monumental impact with their 7-a-side Football Tournament with a staggering 2nd place finish in their first year.

Elgar is proud to showcase our academic capabilities, with many being the head of societies, such as Chris (Year 13) who is Head of Physics Society and Matthew (Year 13) who is the Head of Maths Society and Elgar mentoring captain. In addition, every Tuesday we meet with the Year 7 students to carry out our mentoring, where we talk to them about their learning and school experiences. By doing so we are creating a more connected community and helping the new Year 7s to feel comfortable with joining the school. We cherish those who are a part of Elgar House, every one of us contributes to the success of Elgar.

From Rezqy Iswanto, Elgar House Captain

Moore House

It has been a whirlwind start to the year for Moore House - one that has been chaotic at times but also incredibly successful and rewarding. One of the standout moments has been our House Charity Week, which we ran in partnership with Elgar House in support of Cancer Research UK. The turnout for our events was fantastic, and the creativity on display in the fruit and vegetable-themed cake designs was exceptional. While the weeks leading up to the event were stressful, the outcome made it all worthwhile. Together, we managed to raise an impressive £1,200 for this important cause, and the sense of achievement was felt by everyone involved.



Our Year 7s have settled in remarkably well and are already making a big impact on our House Championship efforts. They have shown exceptional commitment and performance, especially in sports—securing victories in both football and rugby. We are currently in a strong position to claim the House Championship, and with a bit more effort and dedication, I truly believe the trophy will be ours this year! Every contribution counts, whether it is getting achievement points, joining in sports events, or taking part in reading challenges. Each point adds up, and collectively they make a massive difference to our chances of success.

At the moment, we are also in the exciting process of prefect applications for Year 12 and Year 10. The current prefect team is looking forward to collaborating with them and embracing the new ideas they will bring. While this is an exciting development, it also marks a bittersweet moment for the current senior team as we approach the end of our time at Bournemouth School. Over the coming term we will be gradually passing the baton to the Year 12s. While it feels a little daunting, it's reassuring to know we are leaving things in capable hands.

Being House Captain of Moore has been an absolute privilege, and the start of this academic year has been full of rewarding moments. I couldn't be prouder of how far the House has come, and I look forward to all the exciting things still to come as we work together to finish the year strong!

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From Connor Hunter Radermacher, Moore House Captain

Newton House

It has been a brilliant start to the year for Newton House, particularly for the new arrivals in Years 7 and 12 who have adapted flawlessly to Bournemouth School life. Mentoring is now in place so Year 7 students can be supported with their learning by sixth formers and feel connected in the house system. Prefect selection is underway for Year 10 and Year 12 students to develop the next leaders of Newton House.

So far, Newton has performed well in a variety of different areas within the House Championship with the highlights being:

- 1st in Year 10 Badminton, Year 10 (A) and Year 7 (B) 7 aside football and Whole school Mathematics.
- 2nd in Year 7 Geography, Year 11 Badminton, Year 10 (B) 7 aside football.

Currently (at time of writing) we are in 6th place in the achievement point standings. However, there is still plenty of time for us to climb the leader board towards Sports Day in July 2025. We are aiming for strong performances in upcoming house events and gaining even more achievement points as these are converted into house points.

Newton-Scott House Charity Week happened on the last week of November. At the start of the week, there was a bake sale including some very impressive cakes made by some Newtonians. There was a tuck shop running throughout the week and a raffle. On Wednesday, there were milkshakes available which went down very well with all of those who tried one. Thursday saw the Year 7 and 8 dodgeball competition which was great fun. The week culminated in a FANTASTIC talent show. We had 20 entries and all were superb, creating a very difficult task for the judges. Ten entrants went through to a final which was won by Alex from 8D. Head of Maths, Mr Nichols attempted 'The Welsh 3000s' which is a climbing challenge that involves climbing the 15 peaks in Wales and exceeds 3,000 feet in elevation. The weather conditions were not ideal making it even more challenging so we were pleased to see him hobbling back into the classroom! The ADT faculty designed and produced some Christmas cards that were embellished by Year 7 students. These events showcased some of the fantastic skills in the school. Thank you to all those who participated and helped raise funds for Julia's House and Young Minds.

from Robin Phipps, Newton Deputy House Captain

Scott House

Scott House has made me very proud.

I remember when I joined the school, we would struggle to attain top 3, and now back-to-back Scott House students finish first in many competitions! Well done to our Year 7 7-a-side football (b) team for achieving first place, as well as to the Year 10 12-a-side rugby team who also achieved first place. As well as to having the most points awarded for winning the 'baking' competition in the Elgar and Newton Charity Week, Scott House students attained more achievement points, in their lessons, than all other Houses during the first half term. A truly commendable achievement showing such dedication and commitment to their studies.

This year has been incredible so far, with Scott House leading the championship possessing a remarkable 904 points gained through everyone's efforts. I am truly confident Scott House can lead further, setting an example in classrooms and competitions of how a Bournemouth School student should behave.

Every competition, every tournament, every event is an opportunity. All of the senior prefects advise you to take advantage of these opportunities presented to grow, learn and attain achievements that make all of us even prouder.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who helped out at our Charity Week this year. Our Charity Week was a highlight, with all of our prefects taking on the strenuous task of putting on multiple activities that allowed us to raise a great deal of money as well as to awareness for young people's mental health, a cause very close to me. A highlight for us were the excellent contributions made to the cake sale from lots of students.

The theme for this was around 'international cakes'. There were many excellent entries but the stand-outs were Polish Karpatka cake (Ted 7S), Australian lamingtons (Dylan 8N) and organic cinnamon swirls with origins in Nordic countries (Sophia Year 13). Peter (8N) made some fabulous fairy cakes. The recipe for these was used by his great great grandfather when he was a baker in Edinburgh Prison (now known as the Royal Palace). All of these entries have achieved House points.



I was incredibly grateful to see everyone from Scott that contributed through donations and helping out. Let's keep winning!

From Ali Adnan, Scott House Captain

Turner House

As House Captain of Turner, I am incredibly proud of everything our House has achieved so far this year. Turner is a House that is powered by determination, teamwork and positivity, all of which inspire me and, hopefully, all of you.

We have recently had some fantastic successes! We currently (at time of writing) sit proudly in second place overall with 607 points, behind Scott, but with a united mindset I'm confident we can push ourselves even further.

One of the areas where we can catch up is in achievement points, at which we currently sit in fifth position. I encourage every Turner to take advantage of every good opportunity to earn points during lessons. Remember, every point gained contributes to our collective success, bringing us closer to the top!

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming Turner and Darwin Charity Week. Plans are already in motion for activities that will raise both funds and awareness for great causes. Let us make it a week to remember by getting involved and showing everyone what Turner can do!

Lastly, I want to take some time to appreciate every member of Turner for their hard work and dedication that has taken us this far. Let us keep striving, supporting each other, and making this house one we can all be proud of.

From Veeresh Ramireddy, Turner House Captain

Bournemouth School Library News

Students and staff have continued to borrow an impressive number of resources, with 5689 items issued since the start of the academic year.

The new library management system, Accessit, has seen a fantastic rise in reservations and resources being returned promptly, allowing them to be enjoyed more frequently. Your child can find the link to their account from the school website under Useful Links. Here they can see the resources currently on loan, write reviews, make reservations and access booklists to support their reading journey.

The library is open throughout the day for use by classes and private study for sixth form students. This term Year 7 and 8 students were found reading or discussing in their mini book groups, working through different challenge genres, and Year 9 have ardently sold their must reads 'speed dating' style and created some outstanding blackout poetry.

Lunchtimes bring chess, board and card games; quiet reading and study, and the ever-popular Warhammer Club. Book Club meets every Tuesday, and are currently reading *I Am Wolf* by Alastair Chisholm, a bold and thought-provoking story set in a futuristic world where the ideas of identity, belonging and survival are challenged.

Following our Highly Commended feedback last year the library has signed up once again to enter Poetry by Heart, a national poetry speaking competition for schools in England. Meeting weekly on a Thursday lunchtime the Poetry by Heart group is open to all.

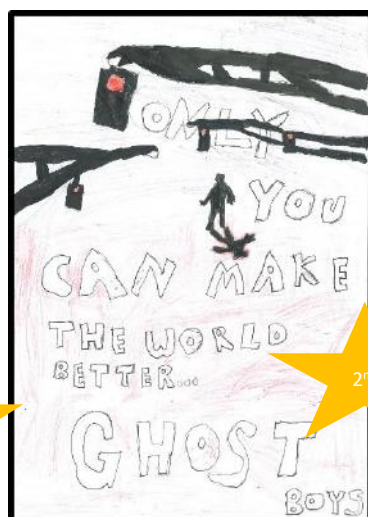
Reading for pleasure is one of the single most important things you can model and encourage your child to do to ensure they reach their full potential. Your child is likely to feel happier and more relaxed, learn new things, understand the views of others, learn about other cultures, be more confident and achieve higher exam results simply from taking the time to read for pleasure.

With this in mind the end of term has seen all Year 7 students gifted the BookTrust Bookbuzz title they chose in October; take the time to talk to them about their choice and the story itself. Bookbuzz is run by BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity, to find out more about BookTrust visit www.booktrust.org.uk.

Just before the end of term the Year 7 'Ghost Boys' illustration competition winners were announced. First place was awarded to Lucho; the judges were impressed with the drama of the piece through the use of text art, accent colour and the compositional stance of the characters; second place was awarded to Arnav, and third place to Anshumann.



1st

2nd

3rd

During October staff and students took the time to help the Library, Art Department and Eco Club create a field of remembrance for Bournemouth School students and staff who lost their lives during World War I and World War II, using recycled plastic drinks bottles. Members of the Sixth Form Prefect team planted these poppies outside the school on 11th November, before being moved to the Quad outside the Hall and staff room.



Library staff have also had the pleasure of judging the Year 7 Summer Reading Reviews House Competition, hosting the Harry Potter Quiz – congratulations go to The Deathly Hallows aka Reuben, Iwan and Josh - and launching the Dungeons and Dragons Creative Competition, we wonder if we will beat the staggering 125 entries submitted last year.

It has been fantastic to see the excitement and passion that students have shown when taking part in the myriad of library activities.

Wishing everybody a happy holiday.

The Library team

HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 8.30-5pm

Friday 8.30-4.30pm

For more information:



@BSLibrary2



Accessit

Sport

Year 7 Rugby

A record number of Year 7 boys attend the rugby club on Thursday evenings and it is fantastic to see so many of them taking part in physical exercise, working as a team and learning the game. Most of the boys had never played rugby before but their enthusiasm was wonderful.

Our first game was against our old rivals Poole Grammar who came across with a strong team.

Charlie Green 7E wrote:

“The game was played in 4 quarters and after the first quarter we were 20-0 up having scored 4 scintillating tries. The second quarter was more intense, with the highlight being a superb try saving tackle by Jacob Doran. In the third and fourth quarter, we scored another 3 tries and Poole managed to get a consolation try on the final whistle. So, the game ended with a win for Bournemouth School by 35 points to 5. A fantastic start and a sign that the future was bright.”

By the start of November, we were looking forward to everyone who comes to rugby club representing the school against 2 teams from BCS. On the day, 43 Bournemouth School boys played, 27 of them playing their first game of rugby ever! In the end, we had enough boys to have 4 teams who subbed on and off.

Ted Fewings from 7S wrote about one of the matches:



Ted Reid, one of Bournemouth's forwards, led the team as captain to a stunning victory – he was brilliant in the ruck and over the ball, getting countless turnovers from the fight to win the jackal. This was a high scoring game for both teams as the final score was BS 11 – BCS 4. The game was played over 10-minute quarters and at half time, BS had a lead of 7-1. BCS put up a good fight in the last 10 minutes scoring 3 tries yet eventually, BS came out on top.

Reuben Gates from 7E played in the other match:

“We played really well scoring six tries and conceding none. We had really good depth when attacking and a good solid, straight line when defending. I think we could probably do with looking out on the wing a bit more to pass because we had players with acres of space, but people weren't passing to them. We did really well at running forwards and making ground when attacking. Overall, a really good performance from our team, well done.”

A great start by everyone and thoroughly enjoyable. Superb!

Mr Robjohns

Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 rugby team has participated in two fixtures so far this year, achieving a mixed record with one victory and one defeat. The first fixture, played early in the term, was against Glenmoor and Winton. At that point in the season, the team had only completed a couple of training sessions together, making their win in this match a particularly impressive achievement. Despite their limited preparation, the boys demonstrated resilience and determination, which ultimately secured them the victory.

Following this success, the team's enthusiasm to improve was palpable. Attendance at the training sessions was consistent, and the atmosphere within the squad was one of camaraderie and commitment. The players showed a strong desire to build on their initial success and continue developing their skills.



Their second fixture was a highly anticipated match against Poole Grammar School, a longstanding and intense rivalry between the two schools. Unfortunately, the rivalry did not appear to ignite the boys' performance as expected. Poole Grammar dominated the match from the outset, and despite a much-improved performance in the second half following a constructive halftime team talk, the momentum of Poole Grammar proved too much to overcome. As a result, Poole Grammar emerged victorious in this encounter.

Though the loss was disappointing, the team's response has been exemplary. The players have remained focused and determined, with a strong commitment to learning from the experience and improving for future fixtures. Their attitude has been outstanding, and they have continued to work hard in training, ensuring they are fully prepared for their next challenge. The team is now looking ahead to their upcoming fixture against Poole High School, and the boys are determined to bring their best performance to the field. With the dedication and hard work, they have shown so far, there is every confidence that they will continue to develop as a cohesive and competitive unit.

Mr Perch

Year 9 Rugby

This very talented group of boys have had a really productive term and grown together as a group. They are always willing to learn and this has made a huge difference in their ability to improve both individually and collectively.

The first match against Winton was frustrating as the opposition only turned up with 10 players and so it was more of a training match with the Bournemouth substitutes playing a half each for Winton. The boys performed admirably throughout, and it gave Mr McCalister some areas to focus on in training.

The next match was against Priestlands and the boys played really well as a team. The ability of the forwards to hit the breakdown and set the ball up for the backs to show off their speed and agility was excellent. Again, there were 20 boys were involved and our dominance meant that the boys could get experience playing a different position. The final score line was 41 – 24.

The next match was against BCS. Missing some key players meant that it was going to be a tough assignment. The opposition must have thought that Christmas came early when they were gifted three tries in the opening 10 minutes. From this point on we woke up and it was a much more even contest. Some strong individual performances tried to make up for the team's shortcomings. Unfortunately, there was a lack of cohesion which we just could not improve enough to turn around the game around. The impressive aspect from the match was that we didn't give up and fought right up to the final whistle. The final score was 57 – 24.

After a couple of weeks training, we travelled to Poole Grammar. Normally a very strong rugby school, there was no doubt that it would be a very good test. Back to full strength, with renewed confidence, we started very strongly which continued throughout. We scored two tries in the first half but it was the defensive effort that proved the difference. Twice holding the ball up over the try line gave us huge belief to finish the match strongly. Despite being ahead on the scoreboard, it was a fairly even match and Poole came back with two tries of their own. Fortunately, they were late on and we also scored another try with the final play of the match, the final score was 31 – 17.

Mr McCalister

Year 10 Rugby

The Year 10 rugby team has had a season of ups and downs, but one that has been filled with growth, dedication, and strong performances. Although the results have been varied, the players' commitment to improving their skills and working as a team has been evident throughout.

The team enjoyed some excellent victories, with standout wins against Glenmoor and Winton and BCS. These matches highlighted the players' ability to come together, execute their game plan, and display both individual and team skills under pressure. The wins were particularly significant, showcasing the hard work put into training and the team's progress over the season. Against Glenmoor and Winton, the team's tactical play and strong defensive structure were key to securing the victory, while the win against BCS demonstrated the team's growing confidence and ability to perform when it mattered most.

However, the team also faced some challenges in the U15 Continental Cup. In their opening match, they suffered a heavy defeat against a well-drilled Lytchett Minster side. Despite the loss, the players showed resilience, learning valuable lessons about teamwork, discipline, and adapting to higher levels of competition. In the subsequent round, the team faced Poole Grammar. Although they fought hard, they were unable to secure the win. Despite the result, the players maintained their positive attitude, viewing each match as an opportunity for growth and development.

Throughout the season, the Year 10 players have consistently shown dedication to their training, focusing on improving their technical skills, fitness levels, and understanding of game tactics. They've been working hard to develop effective patterns of play, which were particularly evident in their strong performances against Glenmoor and Winton and BCS. Their commitment to improvement has been clear, and it is this attitude that will serve them well in the remainder of the season.

Looking ahead, the team has an exciting 7's fixture coming up. This fast-paced, dynamic format will give the players an opportunity to demonstrate their adaptability and teamwork in a new and challenging setting. With their continued hard work and the lessons they have learned so far, the Year 10 rugby team is well-placed to make a strong showing in this upcoming match.

As the season continues, the Year 10 rugby team has a lot to look forward to. Their progress has been commendable, and with ongoing commitment to their development, they are sure to achieve even greater success in the future.

Mr McGregor

Year 11 Rugby

The Year 11 rugby team has shown tremendous spirit and determination throughout their matches this season. At the time of writing, they have played three games, each of which has tested their skills and resilience in different ways.

The first game of the season against Winton was an unforgettable thriller. It was a close contest from the very beginning, with both teams proving far more effective in attack than in defence! We held the lead for much of the match, but Winton struck back to tie the game at 22-22 with only a few minutes remaining. With the last play of the game, Anton Shmetkov broke through the Winton defence, scoring a decisive try that secured a narrow but thrilling victory for our team.

The second game proved to be a much tougher challenge, facing off against a formidable BCS side. Despite the boys putting in a solid effort, BCS displayed great strength and outmatched our team. It was a challenging game, but the players' commitment and work ethic were evident throughout, even as they faced a tough defeat.

The third match was against Poole Grammar, who took an early lead, putting our team on the back foot. However, the boys demonstrated exceptional grit and resilience, staging a spirited comeback in the second half. Although it was difficult to overturn the early deficit, their performance in the latter stages of the game was commendable, showcasing their never-give-up attitude.

Overall, the Year 11 rugby team has shown great promise, and their positive attitude has been a highlight of the season so far. With continued hard work and the same level of determination, there is no doubt they will build on these experiences and finish the season strong. Well done to the entire squad!

Mr Hedges

1st XV Rugby

The 1st XV rugby team had a challenging start to their season with a heavy loss to Brockenhurst College in the first round of the U18 Continental Cup. The result was a tough one to take, but it served as an early reminder of the hard work required to compete at the highest level. Despite the defeat, the squad remained positive, focusing on the upcoming fixtures in the Hampshire Schools and Colleges League.

In league action, the team has been in impressive form, remaining unbeaten with two solid wins over Peter Symonds College and Queen Mary's College. Both victories demonstrated the strength of the team's attacking play, with fast, fluid rugby and some excellent individual performances across the field. These results have put the team in a strong position as they look ahead to the rest of the season.

However, the team did face a setback against Poole Grammar School, where they suffered a heavy defeat. The match was a difficult one, with Poole proving too strong in key areas. Despite the loss, the players showed character and resilience, and are already focusing on lessons to be learned from the game. The coaching staff are confident that this experience will strengthen the team as they continue their league campaign.

Looking ahead, there are still plenty of games to come in the league, and the team remains focused on maintaining their unbeaten record. With several key fixtures on the horizon, the 1st XV is determined to bounce back from their loss to Poole and build on their solid start. In a fortnight's time, the squad will also compete in a 10s tournament at Thomas Hardye, which promises to be an exciting challenge and a great opportunity for the players to develop their skills in a fast-paced format.

The players are hungry for success and committed to giving their best in the upcoming matches. With a strong squad, and a positive attitude, the 1st XV are confident that they can finish the season on a high. The next few weeks will be crucial as the team looks to build momentum and push for top spot in the league.

Stay tuned for more updates as the season progresses!

Mr McGregor

1st XI Football



Bournemouth School first XI kicked off their Hampshire Colleges Championship campaign vs a visiting Peter Symonds College. Despite not much preparation in the short warm up due to the unexpected arrival of Peter Symonds, it still left us with a positive approach to give good first impressions in the new season. After an expected slow start to the game, we eventually broke the deadlock after Tanaka Mapendani threaded a ball in behind the Peter Symonds defence to Lionel Demira to blast his shot into the roof of the net to make it 1-0. After some resilient and strong defending from Will O and Fin Hooper to keep the attackers quiet we went into half time with the 1-0 lead. Some words and advice at half time allowed us to tweak some tactics, so the switch to the 4-3-3 from 4-4-2 was done in attempt to gain a greater lead. As the second half began, our continued pressure on the opposition defence meant a two-goal lead was secured through a Charlie Roffey power strike beating the keeper's hands. Two goals quickly became three through quick thinking from Sam to pounce on a shot spilled by the keeper. More continued defences duties from the back 5 allowed the clean sheet to be near. However, before the game could be over, following a corner, Will Jones' cross into the box was met by a flick shot by Sam again to make it 4-0 despite the calls from offside. Full time whistle was later followed, a positive start for the lads, who were in good spirits, encouraging football on display meaning a first win of hopefully many was secured ready for our game next month.

Bournemouth School first XI started their cup journey with a home fixture against St Peter's. With a larger squad than normal, it gave players the opportunity to impress and cement their position. First 20min of the game, BS we're getting into good scoring positions in and around the 18 yard box, due to brilliant chances being created and good passages of play, however the lack of shots being taken and not being clinical led BS searching for the opener. After it seemed like many missed opportunities to go ahead it ultimately led to St Peter's having their good spell of play where they created a handful of good opportunities that finally led to them going 1-0 up after a dispossession from the BS centre half meant the St Peter's forward could calmly finish into the bottom corner. After 35 minutes BS went into half time 1-0 down with a lot to discuss and therefore changes were made along the front line in hope to alter our fortunes in front on goal. Start of the second half commenced and straight away the attacking changes were seen beneficial as Lionel Demira forced a double save from the St Peter's goalkeeper, who had been protecting their lead for a while with some top quality saves. However the equaliser soon followed where Rudy pounced on a rebound from the goalkeeper to tap it into the open net. This led to BS gaining rhythm to the extent where the attacking threat was too much to handle for the St Peter's defence which caused a penalty to be conceded by them, which was nicely slotted into the bottom corner by Lionel Demira. 2 goals quickly became 3 where Seb Roffey's intense press from the goal kick led to him winning the ball and finishing superbly beyond the St Peter's goalkeeper. After more constant domination from BS substitutions were made which included Ethan Watkin, whose first touch since coming back on was a lovely run in behind from a long ball and a chipped finish over the oncoming goalkeeper. Final whistle was blown and a good result for BS to hopefully begin a long cup run. 2 wins from 2 and 2 great performances gives motivation for the upcoming league game next week.

Mr Lewis (coach) / Joshua Boyd Wallis (captain)

Cross Country

Following last year's success, we had high hopes that the students could continue the success of previous years. Once again, it has been great to see so many boys turning up to train each week, putting in the hard work to get faster.

The first race we attended was at Canford School. The Year 7 and 8 team of Reuben (4th), Benji (6th), Leo (9th), Seb (11th), Jake (15th) and Iwan (26th) had a great start to the season. As a team they finished 1st with 30 points – 2nd place had 49 points. It was great for the year 7s to represent the school for the first time. The Year 9 and 10 team have great strength in depth, with great competition for places throughout. Once again, they performed excellently, with all 8 boys finishing in the top 11. Riley (2nd), Finn (4th), Henry (5th), Ben (7th), Ollie (8th), Josh (9th), Jacob (10th) and Felix (11th). As a team the 'A' team were first with 18 points and the 'B' team were third with 38 points.

The next race was the first round of the Cross Country Cup at Bryanston. As always, the tea and doughnuts were devoured after the racing! It was the first race for the seniors, and they did very well indeed. As a team the boys finished 1st with 34 points, finishing ahead of Bishop Wordsworth and Queen Elizabeth's. New recruit Alex (6th) was followed by Sam (7th), Oliver (9th), Ollie (12th) and Ewan (18th). The Inters were just as successful, also finishing in first with 16 points! Barney (2nd), Riley (3rd), Finn (5th), Henry (6th), Oliver (7th), Ben (9th) all having a great run. Lastly, the juniors also did brilliantly – finishing in second position as a team with 44 points, just behind Bishop Wordsworth (41 points). Reuben (2nd) once again led the team home with a great run. Leo (5th), Benji (18th), Jake (19th) and Seb (25th) quickly followed. These results meant that all 3 teams qualified for the regional final, at Taunton Racecourse on Saturday 9th November.

The Regional Final hosts the top three finishers from seven counties in the South West. The top three teams for each age group qualify for the national final. The racecourse is relatively flat without severe hills, however, the ground is uneven with long grass. The standard is extremely high with a number of private schools taking part including Millfield, Taunton, Reading Blue Coat and Clifton College. The junior team performed admirably and had to work really hard. Reuben was 6th, within 10 seconds of first. He had another really strong showing. Max, making his debut for the school, ran excellently to finish in 24th. Benji and Leo were 27th and 28th, Jake in 40th and Seb who suffered a bad fall doing well to finish in 53rd. Unfortunately, the team finished in 5th place with 85 points. Their next race will be on the 5th December at Chapel Gate. The Inters had high hopes given their start to the season. Once again, the boys had a great race – finishing in first place by a long way and all 6 runners in the top 13 – Riley (2nd), Finn (3rd), Ollie (8th), Ben (10th), Barney (11th) and Henry (13th). Their total of 23 points was ahead of Penryn College (49 points) and Mount Kelly (86 points). Lastly the seniors had a tough assignment up against some quality athletes. It worked out very well for us as Millfield and Richard Huish College occupied 8 of the top 10 places and Ollie in 10th was followed by Alex in 11th. This set the team up really well with Sam and Ewan coming through the line in 22nd and 25th place. Harvey (33rd) and Oliver (35th) continued to work hard throughout and ensure that no other schools could gain extra points against us. Below are the three teams who took part at Taunton.

Congratulations to the intermediate and senior teams for qualifying once again to the National Final. We head up to Leeds on 6th December to battle against the best teams in the country. Amazingly, we have had seven teams qualify for the national final in the last 4 years. You cannot take qualification for granted but it certainly is becoming an expectation for our students! I will give detailed results from the finals in the spring newsletter.

Mr McCalister



Bournemouth School's 35th Bournemouth Sea Scouts RN Unit 47

The School's Sea Scouts and Explorers did not waste any time getting a jump on the new school year, holding a water skills camp with experienced Scouts and new Year 7s the last week in August. Our new Scouts had the chance to meet new classmates and make friends.



Padding various crafts, raft building, canoe capsizing drills and self-rescue techniques were practiced.



In September, the 35th Scouts won the Royal Navy Recognised Sea Scout Multi-Sport Camp on base in Gosport, then celebrated Harvest Festival with Reverend Tulloch at St Francis of Assisi.



October saw our Pioneer Explorer Section Unit win the Bournemouth District Challenge Weekend, navigating the course and completing the tasks in the fastest time. Then embarking on a Royal Navy Explorer weeklong, half-term camp on base in Gosport gave them the chance to paddle maxi-boards, sail, skipper power boats and welcome home HMS Prince of Wales back to port.



November the Troop assisted the Mayor of Bournemouth distributing Orders of Service, collecting donations for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal during the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial and providing a guard of honour for the attending dignitaries at BCP Civic Centre.



Our boats all packed up for winter, the 35th Bournemouth Sea Scouts and Pioneer Explorer Scout Unit will continue learning nautical skills and theory, engage in land activities and look forward to next year's boating season. We wish all a restful and festive term break and holiday season.

Jim Alexander, Group Scout Leader RN47

School Lottery Draw Autumn Term 2024

Do you know that we have our very own Bournemouth School Lottery? ...No?

Well, the School Lottery raises money for projects that benefit pupils and pays THREE CASH PRIZES every month. This year's money raised will go towards our Lecture Theatre revamp, providing up-to-the-minute technology that will benefit every Bournemouth School student. In previous years, the lottery has funded the Main Hall seating, staging equipment and a minibus.

Lottery numbers are drawn at the end of each term. Three winners for each month in the term are picked, at random by school pupils. See the list of winners for September – December below.

Congratulations to this term's lucky winners – your cheque for £104 is in the post!

Month	Winning Ticket	Ticket Holder Surname	Drawn by:
August 2024	72 151 432	Fernandez Johnson Wallis	J Stark C Matthews A Littlestone
September 2024	721 377 52	Scott Yusuf Green	D Antwi O Merton S Kennard
October 2024	214 451 289	Edwards Keevan Bartlett	M Gardener S Mandavilli R Mustapha
November 2024	37 46 296	Nwanko Leonard Clarke	J Harrod B dix P Betlej

About the Lottery

The lottery is open to parents, carers, grandparents, staff and ex-pupils. Tickets are £1 each, paid by monthly standing order and a participant can hold up to 15 tickets. Each month's total income is split; 50% goes to the School Lottery Fund and the other 50% is split equally between 3 winning tickets, each drawn by a school pupil.

For example, if £600 of tickets are sold in a month, the School Lottery Fund will receive £300 and three ticket holders will get a cheque for £100 each. The monthly amount varies according to the number of people contributing. If you are not already taking part in the lottery, use the email below to sign up.

A huge thanks to the parents and friends who play the lottery and contribute to this fund. If you don't currently participate but would like to, please email us at lottery@bournemouth-school.org.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

Closing a school of this size is never an easy or straightforward decision and given the difficulty we know this causes you, the parents, I thought you would welcome some background to the decision making process. The decision to close a school is taken by the Headteacher; following a risk assessment that is based on a number of factors. This decision has to be taken without knowing how the weather will progress during the day. Issues considered include site safety, the likely level of staffing, the availability of catering and also if bus services are running. Before any decision is taken, the Headteacher of Bournemouth School for Girls, Mr Sims, and I liaise and seek advice from senior colleagues, the site staff and the bus companies.

Although some staff, students and parents are able to move safely to and from school no matter how severe the conditions, we listen carefully to the police and the bus service providers. We do not wish to pressurise any student, parent or member of staff into making a journey that they believe to be unsafe. We also consider the level of adult supervision that is likely to be available at school. Should there be a predicted high level of staff absence, it would be very hard to guarantee a worthwhile day for those students who do manage to struggle in. If at all possible the school will remain open when there is snow. If there is a snowfall overnight we always endeavour to have made a decision by 7 am. If the weather deteriorates during the school day, we make the decision as soon as possible.

If it is necessary, in the interests of pupil welfare, to close a school because of extreme weather conditions, you would be notified as follows:

- an e-mail will be sent to those parents who have given us their e-mail address
- a message will be posted on the school's website www.bournemouth-school.org **[Remember that you might need to refresh the page with the F5 key.]**
- radio messages will be broadcast on Heart FM, Radio Solent, Fire FM and Wave 105 (the websites will also list the school as being closed);
- a message will be posted on the local authority's website www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Should we need to close the school during normal school hours, boys who already have parental permission to leave the school site in such circumstances will do so after having registered with their tutor. The remaining students will stay with their tutor until contact with home has been made, and appropriate arrangements for the student are in place.

