



# BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

*Week ending Friday 14 July 2017*

*From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher*

## END-OF-YEAR ISSUE

### *Academic Year 2016/17*

In a year that has seen political turmoil and well-publicised reports of crises in school funding and teacher recruitment, it is good to be able to report on another year of strong progress for our School. Following on from the phenomenally successful and well-attended Open Evening in June, we have a new record (by far) number of children registered for the September 11+ tests. The proportion of our own Year 11 that applied to join our Sixth Form close to 100% and the number of external applications is also a new record. Places at the School are in demand and the demand is growing, yet we are not complacent and never will be. We are popular because we provide what parents and carers want and we offer an environment in which our students are happy, want to work hard and go on to achieve impressive success.

With the summer's public examinations behind us, our thoughts turn to the students who await the results days in August. This year, as I have explained in previous issues of the *Bulletin*, the first results under the new grading system for GCSE will be received. For many years students' GCSE grades have been on a scale from A\* (best) to G, with the vast majority of students at BGS scoring above grade C in every subject. Starting with the GCSE grades to be awarded this summer in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics, and with the students having followed more demanding syllabi, the grading system changes to a numerical one. Under the new system, the top grade will be grade 9 and the lowest will be grade 1. Grade 9 has been set at an even higher level than the old A\* grade and there is not a direct correlation between the old A\*-G system and the new, 9-1 numerical system. A grade C was hitherto officially regarded to be a 'good' pass but under the new system a 'standard pass' will be deemed as a Grade 4, with a Grade 5 as a 'strong pass'.

The new system is to be phased in over the next few years, with the three subjects above receiving 9-1 grades this year whilst the remainder of students' GCSE grades continue to be graded A\*-G. In 2018 all subjects will be 9-1 save for GCSE Statistics and Systems & Control, and from 2019 all subjects will be graded 9-1 and all awards will relate, in every subject, to the new, more demanding specifications.

It is expected that the new grade 9 will not be common, even at higher-performing schools such as our own, so we await this summer's results with some anticipation. What is certain, though, is that this year's GCSE results will not be comparable on a like-for-like basis with those from last year

and earlier years. All students take Mathematics and the two English subjects, so a significant proportion of their grades will be on the new scale. Doubtless all Headteachers, including this one, will do their best to present the results as clearly and informatively as possible when the time for press releases comes, but it does need to be remembered that year-on-year comparisons are no longer possible and will not be until 2020, which will be the second year in which all grades at GCSE are on the new 9-1 scale.

As is my habit in the end-of-year issue, I set out a summary of the highlights of the year as reported to Governors in my report for 2016/17:

- 🏰 I have been able to reassure parents, via the Bulletin, that the School's finances are sound. In an era of declining funding per student, a much-reported 'crisis' nationally and with the School in a low-funded area. I am grateful for the outstanding financial control that is exercised by the Finance & Premises Committee.
- 🏰 We expect to be full in all year-groups 7-11 in September 2017.
- 🏰 Our Sixth Form is in excellent health and is set to expand further in September. The number of external applicants has risen yet again.
- 🏰 A significantly expanding Sixth Form and a growing offer of Sixth Form subjects is a combination that must be exceptionally uncommon at the moment. A-Level Politics, to be introduced in September 2017, will be our 25th A-Level subject. Governors have approved our 26th - Environmental Science - to be offered from September 2018.
- 🏰 We are able to offer each of A-Level subjects every year. We do not need to impose a minimum set-size.
- 🏰 Our decision, which was informed by student consultation and has been confirmed by further recent student consultation, to continue to use the AS examination, allows us to offer students more flexibility, more grades for their UCAS applications and additional, valuable UCAS points.
- 🏰 The School is fully staffed for September 2017, with subject specialists throughout. It must be the case that few schools can claim to be in this position.
- 🏰 MILK - A move to an online homework planner, MILK, has been trialled throughout the year. Feedback from students, staff and parents has been overwhelmingly positive and the product is being adopted across the whole School from September 2017.
- 🏰 An excellent appointment of a new Deputy Head (Pastoral) was made, following a rigorous selection process in which Governors played a key part. Mr Mark Brunner will take on pastoral care only, and in the elevated role of Deputy Head. The SENDCO role which currently also falls to Mrs Liz Faux has passed to Assistant Headteacher Mr Stephen Brown, who has obtained the national qualification he needs for this role.
- 🏰 The School site has been dominated in recent months by the construction site for the new Science Block. The building has risen steadily, with minimal impact on the School's routine. Its scale is hugely impressive and its impact on the School's work from September - when it will open for teaching - will be immense. We are, at present, considering the best way to recognise and celebrate the opening of the new building and how we can enable as many parents as possible to look round it next term.
- 🏰 Our playing field has grown in size by some 40% by the addition of a substantial package of additional land.
- 🏰 A substantial sum has been made available which we will use to enhance our PE department's facilities, as these are under pressure now that our numbers have grown. Plans are being finalised and work should commence at some point in the new School year.
- 🏰 Our new Director of Music, Mr Mark Tomlinson has, through his energy and ability to motivate our students, sharply increased the number of students that is involved in musical performances here, whilst inspiring obviously higher standards than we have been accustomed to. Our concerts now sell out, involve many more students and are given to a much higher standard.
- 🏰 A new model for Speech/Prize Nights has been introduced, reflecting our growing numbers.
- 🏰 Two outstandingly memorable School productions were given: *The Crucible* and the the musical *Fame*. These proved to be excellent choices and both sold out every night and at the

Saturday matinée. It should be noted that it is far from common for a secondary school to give a major, large -scale musical production every year. Those that attempt such productions often manage them only every two years.

- 🏰 Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme continued to flourish, including at Gold level. I am grateful to former parent Mr Anton Gaches for his leadership of our scheme.
- 🏰 Our best ever performance at the ESAA Cross Country Cup saw the U13 Boys team finish 6th nationally at the finals in Formby, Lancashire. The team were exceptionally close to winning the competition. The Under 15 Girls also made the Finals, finishing 21st .
- 🏰 The Under 13 Girls Athletic Team reached the ESAA Track and Field National Final in Bedford at the conclusion of the last academic year. This was the tenth consecutive year that the School has reached the National Final in this competition and is unsurpassed by any school in the region.
- 🏰 More than 40 students were selected for the South Lincolnshire Cross Country team. Of these 20 progressed to represent Lincolnshire at the Anglian Championships in Northampton – our greatest number ever.
- 🏰 11 students attained the highest level in Schools Cross Country, representing Lincolnshire at the ESAA National Cross Country Championships in Norwich during March, our greatest ever number of students at these Championships and making up almost 25% of the Lincolnshire team – another record.
- 🏰 At the South Lincolnshire Cross Country Championships in November, the School claimed 7 of the 8 trophies available. This was followed with 4 of the 8 Fenland League trophies.
- 🏰 In athletics, again more than 40 were selected to represent the South Lincolnshire Athletics team. 14 of these progressed to represent the County and the Anglian Championships at Cambridge University Track in June. 10 County titles were shared between these athletes including two for Bethany Denial (Triple Jump and Long Jump).
- 🏰 Five students qualified to represent Lincolnshire in athletics, attending the ESAA National Track & Field Championships at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, again the highest level attainable for individuals.
- 🏰 Four students qualified to represent Lincolnshire in athletics at the Anglian Combined Events Championships
- 🏰 More than 50 students represented their respective County in Sport (mainly for Lincolnshire, but also Cambs, Hunts & Leics). One student has represented Lincolnshire for 3 different sports, an exceptional achievement.
- 🏰 Molly Bull (Year 8) signed for Leicester City FC and this year gained her Full ESFA England Schools Cap – playing against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin.
- 🏰 Adam Castle represented the Midlands for Rugby and has been selected for Nottingham Academy
- 🏰 Julia Eglin (Year 11) was selected for Loughborough Lightning U16 Netball. Their senior team are national champions.
- 🏰 Several students have been selected to represent the country in other sports including: William Ferguson (Fencing), Isabel Spinley (Swimming), Molly Bull (Football).

### **OUR BEST EVER MADD EVENING - Wednesday 12 July**

This year's programme included no fewer than 43 acts. With a 7pm start I did wonder how long this year's MADD Evening would last and, in the end, we left well past 10 pm, but the time flew as act after act demonstrated a standard of performance, energy and joy that transcended even the very high standards seen in recent years.

Students who wish to perform submit themselves for audition but other than the need to attain a standard worthy of the event, any form of performance - and not just from music, dance and drama - can be offered. So we enjoyed bands, ensembles, solo instrumental numbers, solo and duo vocal acts, solo dance numbers, dance groups, solo instrumental items, soliloquies, various drama pieces, stand-up comedy and several items involving staff, including the rapturously-received finale.

At the interval, for which we gathered outside in the quadrangle to enjoy drinks and to inspect an impressive display of student artwork, it was clear that the audience knew that this was a truly vintage MADD Evening.

I could write fulsomely about every act but here are some of my favourites: Sam Hornsby was hilarious in his performance of *Rising Sun*, for which he was assisted from the rear of the Hall by a scripted heckler. Hannah Scott's flute-playing was simply exquisite in her performance of *Hypnosis*. Rohan Hornsby and Dan Westwood were impressive on, respectively, piano and saxophone in a piece of their own creation. For the first time we enjoyed not one, but three performances of Indian dance, from the student *Bollywood Group*, the *Staff Group* and also from the *Classical Indian Dance* group. The two Bollywood groups have been established, trained and led by Mrs Chopra, whose own dancing sets a high standard for her two groups to learn from.

Will Green, who sang for the first time last year, has developed as a performer most impressively over the year; his rendition of *7 Years* was given with great sensitivity and musicality. Felix Wright was powerful as ever in Shakespeare's *Lancelot Gobbo*. Powerful too was Jess Gowers' voice, again performing solo for the second year in succession. Her performance of *Hopelessly Devoted to You* was beautiful and of outstanding musical distinction. It was astonishing to hear such maturity in a female voice of one so young. Beth Jackson, another Year 8 student, also sang beautifully in *One Night Only*.

Josh Dilley, already a MADD Evening fixture, opened Act II with his outstanding Stand Up comedy, which was loved by everyone except, one suspects, his mother who was the punch-line of one of his jokes. We look forward to hearing more from Josh in future. Jonathan Gutteridge continued the comedy theme with a really skilful performance of the hilarious *Caterpillar Sick*. There was beautiful dancing from MADD evening regulars Izzy Kauffman, Lucy McCrudden and Eleanor Leadbeater and really exquisite and delicate piano-playing from Phoebe Mason.

Amelia Gardner, whose sublime performance of *With You* mesmerised the audience at the recent *Stage and Screen* concert delivered again in the penultimate slot, before the Teachers - many of them - brought the evening to a raucous end with *Revolting Children*, with Mr Turnham playing the Headteacher in a manner in no way influenced by any of my own idiosyncrasies.

At the end of a busy, busy year, to spend an evening the company of so many, performing so much, with such variety, to such a standard and in such an absolutely lovely atmosphere really was a treat for us all.

### **SPORTS DAY - Thursday 13 July Report by Ffion Simpson (Year 12)**

*I am very grateful to Ffion who, for a second year running, covered Sports Day for the Bulletin. She was out on the field with her camera throughout the event and I received her report, with photographs, late last night, thus enabling me to work the report into this edition. Given that Sports Day took place yesterday afternoon, Ffion must have worked very hard to get the report done and to me in time.*



Another outstanding Bourne Grammar Sports Day saw students once again participating and supporting their fellow students in a range of athletic events with the encouragement from their House Leaders. The teachers and a variety of Sixth Form students also got involved with the officiating and some even took part in the mixed teams relay at the end of the day. It was a successful day with lots of talent on show and multiple School records broken.

For Year 7, students that stood out included Joe Manning, who set a school record in the 70m Hurdles. Freya

Pembury in the 200m and Tilly Manning in the 1500m both broke the Sports Day records for their events. In Year 8, Francesca Fenwick stood out, impressively breaking two School records in the High Jump and 100m in addition to a Sports Day record in the photo-finish final between her and Katie Callcut in the 75m Hurdles. Will Kong, who joined Francesca at the English Schools Athletics, broke Sports Day records in the 100m and 200m along with Flo Brill and Sam Oakley who both won their 1500m races, breaking Sports Day records. Year 9 saw some fantastic



performances by Abby Garthwaite in the High Jump, Emily Davis in both the 100m and 200m and Akinola Ojelade in the 80m Hurdles, closely followed by Will Hawkins in second place. George Warrington took first place in the Year 10 Discus and Sam Hallam was first in the High Jump. Hana Ray came first in the 800m and Shannon Woodfine won in the 1500m, impressively ahead by two minutes. As always, there was also a Tug of War and multiple other activities going on in place of Long and Triple Jumps, this year sadly missed whilst we await new facilities next year.



The relays brought the day to an end with students working together in front of the whole School to gain points for their Houses. The day was a tremendous success with students enjoying themselves whilst also raising money through the proceeds for *Root for Ryley* from the refreshments available. Congratulations go to Tinbergen who will be taking the trophy home this year, a result that Mr Graves will be very happy about.

## **STAFF RETIREMENTS**

Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) **Mrs Liz Faux** retires from the School at the end of this term, after nearly 18 years here. When I arrived as Headteacher in 2005, Mrs Faux was, as now, teaching Biology and she was also a Head of Year. She impressed me in both capacities and was instrumental in helping me to understand how pastoral care operated here in those early days. In 2006 I brought Mrs Faux onto the Leadership Team to take overall responsibility for pastoral care. Immediately she set about developing the roles of the Heads of Year and elevating the significance and impact of the teams of form tutors. By the time we were inspected in 2008, pastoral care here was without doubt outstanding, but Mrs Faux did not rest on her laurels. The new House System was introduced with its annual programme of events and then five Assistant Heads of Year were added to the pastoral structure. Mrs Faux has always been anxious to ensure that students' achievements are fully and publicly recognised and celebrated, so the twice-yearly awards assemblies were brought in, and then the Student of the Week award.

Few colleagues have done more for the School, or have devoted themselves more selflessly to it. Mrs Faux' support of the students is borne of an absolutely genuine sense of care. Throughout my Headship Mrs Faux has, through her tireless work in driving up the standard of pastoral care here and she has helped me to truly understand the absolutely crucial role that pastoral care has in a great school. It is because of her example and her lead that our Purpose Statement - Best Atmosphere, Best Support, Best Results - stands as it does, with ATMOSPHERE and SUPPORT prominent. As she hangs up her board-duster at the the end of the week she leaves us with our best wishes, of course, but also in the knowledge that her work has ensured that the School has been, and will continue to be, a happy, secure and caring environment in which students know that they will looked after and be able to flourish.

Our School Business Manager **Mrs Diana Weston** retires after over 23 years at the School, in various capacities leading up to her present role, which she has held for most of my time here. Mostly working quietly behind the scenes, Mrs Weston has kept her hands very firmly on the School's purse-strings, ensuring that every penny is carefully accounted for and that expenditure is controlled very tightly. No stone is left unturned as Mrs Weston seeks out the best possible suppliers and the most advantageous contracts. She ensures that I know exactly the School's financial position at all times.

A particular burden fell on Mrs Weston when we moved from Voluntary Controlled status to Academy Status and, overnight, she had to move from LCC's accounting system to a new system, under which she was responsible for managing the financial affairs of what was, by then, a £6m-per-year company. This was achieved and if she experienced challenges or difficulties then those around her barely knew of them. I was incredibly impressed by the efficiency and care by which Mrs Weston brought the School's financial operation from the old model to the new.

Not all colleagues who contribute enormously to the School and its smooth running are in the public eye, so few parents and students will know Mrs Weston well. Nevertheless, it is due to her diligence, accuracy and unfailing calm manner that the School's finances are in good order and the Leadership Team, Governors and Accountants can be confident of that.

## **ENGLISH SCHOOLS TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017**

The 87th Championships took place at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 July. Six Bourne Grammar athletes had been selected for the Lincolnshire team after achieving the high entry standard in their very successful athletics season. This competition is the

pinnacle of school athletics and is often described as the 'Kid's Olympics'; the action is non-stop over the two days. Mrs Mohan is the overall team manager and was accompanied by Mr Binns, both having competed themselves at the Championships in the past.



Three students in Year 8 competed against athletes a year older - Will Kong (100m), Fran Fenwick (100m) and Flo Brill (1500m). They found the competition very tough but have gained valuable experience for future years. As the youngest members in the team, Fran and Flo had the honour of holding the Lincolnshire flags' tassels in the parade of the teams on Saturday afternoon; many of the athletes who have done this have gone on to achieve great things for the county.

In his first English Schools Track and Field Championships, Aaron Hunt (Year 11) took part in the Inter Boys 1500m. In a fast paced heat, Aaron did not qualify for the final but thoroughly enjoyed his English Schools experience. Bethany Denial (Year 12) competed in the Senior Girls triple jump in her second English Schools Championships (she had previously competed in the long jump). Beth did not jump as far as she had hoped in a high standard competition. Thank you to Mrs Denial who generously provided the team with delicious Lemon drizzle and banana cake.



Jasmine Allen (Year 11), who was competing in her third English Schools Championships in the long jump, had to take part in a qualifying competition where the top twelve athletes in two pools go through to the final. Mr and Mrs Allen were keeping track of the performances in the two pools that were taking place simultaneously in adjacent pits. Jasmine had a good series of jumps and it was a very tight competition. Jasmine entered the competition with a personal best of 5.35 m. Her second round jump was 5.34 m which placed her sixth in her pool but an agonising thirteenth overall in the competition with 5.36 m taking the twelfth place! Jasmine will receive the Tessa Sanderson Cup for the most Outstanding Athletics performance of 2017.

All of the athletes' performances contribute to the age group team competition and Lincolnshire won both the Inter Boys and Inter Girls trophy and were third overall. The Championships were streamed live and are available to watch on <http://www.runjumpthrow.com/fixtures/12020-esaa-2017-track--field-championship>. Photos can also be found on the PE Department's Instagram and Twitter accounts, @BourneGS\_PE



### **WIMBLEDON TRIP 2017** Report by Gemma Hutchins (Year 8)

On Monday 10 July ten pupils from the School Tennis Team were given the opportunity to go to Wimbledon for the day. The journey definitely took too long but it was worth it. We had two seats for Centre Court and eight seats for No 1 Court so we rotated with the Centre Court tickets, giving us all the amazing experience. I was lucky enough to see Roger Federer and Grigor Dimitrov play in the men's singles. Federer is a personal favourite of mine so I was thrilled to see him play. On No 1 Court I saw Konya play Garcia in the women's singles where she went on to win and get



through to the quarter-final. Later on, all of us experienced the amazing match between Rafa Nadal and Gilles Muller. It was definitely the most intense game I have seen from the men's singles as it ended up being about four-and-a-half hours long. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and not only has the School given me something to remember for the rest of my life, Miss Bowtell and Miss Cousins have made it a wonderful experience as well.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Jack Bannister	7	Mr Topham	History
William Craft	7	Miss Cousins	History
Amelia Griffiths	7	Mr Sheppard	Mathematics
Oliver Henson	7	Mrs Ellis	Computing
Tilly Manning	7	Miss Hempstead	PE
Lenny Lock	8	Miss Allcock	Spanish
Ryan Collin	9	Mr Ray	PE
Ellie Harrison	9	Mr Brooker	English
Chantelle Kelly	9	Miss Doerpinghaus	German
Dylan Snoek	9	Mr Dougall	Computing
Grace Burrows	10	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Zoe Cawood	10	Mrs Shales	Mathematics
Hollie Gillis	10	Mrs Woolf	Chemistry
William Green	10	Mr Stainton	Biology
Isobel Kaufman	10	Mr Perez	Biology
Sophie Marshall	10	Miss Bennett	English
Izzy Pearson	10	Mr Drinkell	Mathematics

## Important Dates

**Term 1 starts at 08:45 on 6 September 2017 (Staff training is conducted on 4 and 5 September - the School is closed to all students on these days).**  
(PLEASE NOTE - these dates may be different at other local schools)

### **AS results, A2 results**

*Thursday 18 August*

Detailed guidance is given on the School's website

### **GCSE results for Year 11 students and enrolment for the Sixth Form**

*Thursday 25 August*

Detailed guidance is given on the School's website

## ARTWORK

Featured this week are two pieces from the MADD Evening exhibition; the oil painting is by a Year 8 student, and the collage is the winning piece from the House Art Competition by a Year 7 student.



*Adam Thompson*



*Emma Cowell*

## INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

**Swimming** Isabel Spinley (Year 11) visited Netanya in Israel with the Junior GB Swimming team to compete at the Junior European Championships, only a week after completing her GCSEs. After a shaky start in her 200m Fly, where her goggle strap slipped and was off her normal pace, she put in a fantastic performance in the 100m Fly, with a personal best in the semi-finals to gain a place in the final. This is a huge achievement at this level.

Isabel also achieved a personal best in the 50m Fly, her weaker event, and gained a bronze medal with her team-mates in the Mixed Medley Relay. She gained invaluable experience in competing at this level and working with the Team GB coaches - it has fired her enthusiasm to push her swimming to a higher level.

**Music** Samuel Staines (Year 9) recently passed his Grade 7 Piano exam with a Distinction.

**Tennis** Zachary Cox (Year 9) has made it through to the qualifying stages of *Tennis Europe* - he will be competing in Birmingham at the weekend and if he wins, he will make it through to the main draw which starts next Monday.

**Running** Rosie Tomey (Year 12) took part in the British 10K, which took place in London on Sunday 9 July. She completed the race in 47 minutes and 9 seconds, which puts her in seventh place for her age and gender category (under 20). There were over 10,000 entries - an incredible achievement.

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*I wish everyone in our School community a pleasant and relaxing summer holiday, and very best wishes to students who will receive important examination results.*

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