

# BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

*Week ending Friday 8 September 2017*

*From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher*

## THIS WEEK

It is good to be back and to welcome our new students. Once again we have a full Year 7, a large number of students from other local schools new to our Sixth Form and one or two students have joined the intervening year-groups. All are welcome. After the long summer holiday the students - especially the new Year 7 students - really are ready for the new term.

We are still recruiting more staff than the number that moves on each year so quite a few new teachers and non-teaching colleagues have joined us. They too are welcome. Most senior amongst the new teaching colleagues is Mr Mark Bruncker who joins us as Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral). Mr Bruncker, also a member of our very strong PE Department, was Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form at a large school in Hertfordshire.



So, once again, our school is full of bright, energetic, well-motivated students. It is busy too with a full complement of builders, electricians, plumbers and all the other trades which a major new build requires. Most unfortunately the opening of Science Block is slightly delayed, but the finishing-off work is progressing very rapidly and I can reassure everyone that it really is almost ready, and it is truly magnificent. I briefed students on the situation at start-of-term assemblies.

It was anticipated by the contractors that the delays occasioned in obtaining planning permission, and whilst the archaeological work was done could be made up, and all seemed to be on track when we broke up for the summer. Unfortunately further delays then became inevitable once difficulties connecting the services were encountered and new electrical mains had to be installed.

So there will be a delay, but it will not be a long one. We are able to take over parts of the new building in stages and lessons - in Chemistry, initially - should take place in the new Science Block within a very few weeks. The entire project, including the adjoining car-park, should be complete by half-term.

The Sixth Form Centre has been substantially remodelled and refurbished, better enabling us to accommodate the growing number of Sixth Form students. The Sixth Form café will open in the Sixth Form Centre by the end of the month. There has been a major programme of redecoration and refurbishment as well. We have done our best to ensure that our students and staff return to a school which is in good condition and ready for them.

Since sending out my Special Issue *Bulletins* on the two sets of public examination results, it has become clear that our outstanding GCSE results place us second in Lincolnshire, some way ahead of the third school. We are ahead by far of all the schools in our immediate area. I was able to share this news with students in assemblies yesterday. We have a well-motivated Year 11 cohort, so this news should further encourage them to high academic aspiration and achievement over the coming, very important, GCSE year.

I look forward to meeting parents of students in Year 11, along with the students themselves, at our *Year 11 Support Evenings* next week.

### MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

During the summer holidays, Stanley Godfrey (Year 12) undertook his Grade 6 Organ Exam and received a Distinction. In addition, he spent a week at Queen's College, Oxford attending the Royal College of Organists' *Organ Scholars' Experience* course, where he played a number of Oxford College organs and was involved in choral work and conducting.



Molly Welling (Year 12) has been successful in gaining membership to the *Britten Sinfonia Academy* for the next academic year. As part of the rigorous selection process, Molly successfully passed two audition stages with a performance of a Saint-Saëns *Cello Concerto* and a variety of orchestral repertoire. She will now have the opportunity to perform in some of the UK's most exciting concert halls alongside *Britten Sinfonia* professionals.



Three students also passed ABRSM Music exams over the summer:

- Kaitlyn Hallas (Year 7) - Grade 2 Piano
- Holly Wilcockson (Year 8) - Grade 3 Piano
- Louise Curran (Year 9) - Grade 3 Music Theory

### INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

**Tennis** Zach Cox (Year 10) recently played in the *County Closed Tennis Tournament* in Cambridge, playing a total of 11 matches across five days in both singles and doubles tournaments. Zach earned the titles in the Under 14s Doubles, the Under 18s Doubles and the Under 18s Singles tournaments, before finishing runner-up in the Under 16s event. He also competed in the *Tennis Europe* event last term in Bournemouth and progressed as far as the semi-final, beating the number one seed *en route*. Zach was also accepted into the *Nike National Grade 1* event, which included the top 32 Under 14s players in the UK; he managed to progress to the last 16.

