



Bourne Grammar School Weekly Bulletin



16 - 20 June 2025

Open Evening Reflections from the Headteacher

Mark Brunker

Thursday's Open Evening was nothing short of spectacular — a vibrant, uplifting celebration of all that makes our school such a dynamic and welcoming community.

Everywhere I turned, students were confidently leading, supporting and representing the School with real pride and every department gave an immersive glimpse into the life of the School.

The level of energy and engagement was extraordinary — and I must admit, I couldn't resist getting involved myself.



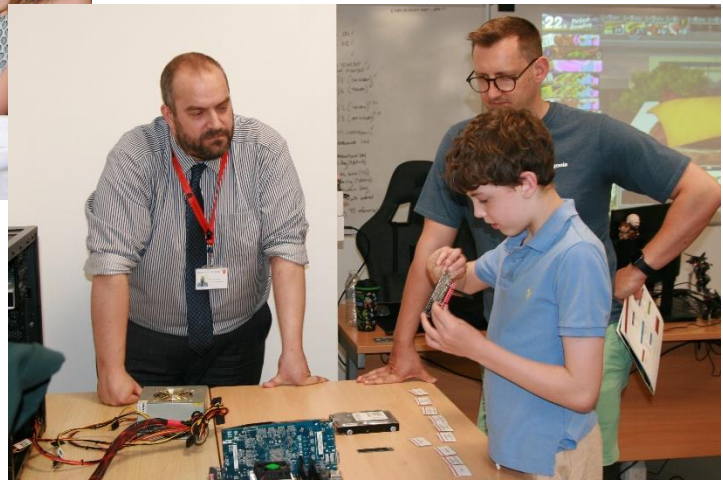
It didn't take much persuading from Aran in Year 9 before I found myself with hands covered in methane-filled bubbles... which were then promptly set alight to great effect!





Doogie even managed to convince me to hold an eyeball — not something I expected to be doing that evening, but a perfect example of the kind of unforgettable experiences on offer.

There were far too many brilliant activities to mention individually, but one highlight came from our Design Engineering department:



Visitors had the chance to build their own rack-and-pinion gears — a hands-on activity that not only fascinated students but gave them something impressive to take away at the end of the evening. It's no wonder so many found it difficult to move on from one department to the next — they were so engrossed.

The whole evening was a powerful reminder of what makes our school so special: a shared sense of purpose, an infectious enthusiasm for learning, and a community that truly cares.



Open Evening 2025 will be hard to beat.



Computer Science: BGS Students' code run on the International Space Station

Mr Osborne

This year, students from our school participated in the prestigious European Astro Pi Challenge 'Mission Space Lab'. This incredible competition tasks teams with writing computer programs to solve a scientific challenge in space: accurately calculating the speed of the International Space Station (ISS).

Under the guidance of their mentor, Atiksh Agnihotri (Year 13), our dedicated team rose to the occasion. The team consisted of Abigail Lakin and Harshil Varin Kadre (both Year 8). For several weeks, the team committed their Thursday lunchtimes to developing their Python program. Their code was designed to utilize the Astro Pi computers' sensors or camera to collect data on the ISS's orientation and motion as it orbits Earth. This data then allowed them to calculate the station's speed.

I'm thrilled to announce that their hard work paid off! Last week, the team received confirmation that their code was eligible and successfully run on the International Space Station. The images show the results of their program running as the ISS passed over the Atlantic Ocean, capturing stunning views of wispy clouds and deep blue water.

Your program ran at the following coordinates:

30.4838, -48.0034



The incredible journey for our team didn't end with their code running on the ISS! Following their success, the students were extended an invitation to participate in a livestream with an astronaut, Luca Parmitano.

During the session, a wide range of fascinating topics was discussed, from the astronaut's career trajectory and daily life aboard the ISS to the awe-inspiring experience of viewing Earth from orbit.



2. ForZor: What has your academic and professional career path been like to get where you are now?

For our students, this will undoubtedly be an experience they'll never forget. They can be immensely proud that their hard work and dedication culminated in their code being utilised by the International Space Station, gathering and using data based on their very own programs. This kind of hands-on, real-world application of their computer science skills is truly invaluable.

Barney Oram Creativity Award 2025

Mr Williamson

We are delighted to announce that **Scarlet Clifford**, a current Year 13 Media Studies student, has been shortlisted for the prestigious Barney Oram Creativity Award 2025, run by EMC Media Magazine in collaboration with the BFI.

Scarlet's outstanding A Level NEA music video production has earned her a place among just four finalists nationwide — a truly exceptional achievement.

The Media Studies department, her peers, and everyone at Bourne Grammar School are incredibly proud and wish her the very best of luck. We hope she returns from the awards ceremony with the trophy in hand!

The celebration will take place at the BFI Southbank on 11th July.

Summer League

Mr Bowers

Congratulations to the Week 3 Summer League winners who can be seen below!

Amelia Giblin	Chris Louzolo	Aakash Ranjith
Jabir Mavani	Harry Baker	Amelia Stephens
Jack Townsend	Oliver Sweeney	Toby Garrido
Henry Hayes	Louis McGruer	Bea Gregory



The current 1st, 2nd and 3rd place standings in each league are as follows:

Sort	1st		2nd		3rd	
League	Name	Points	Name	Points	Name	Points
League 20	Holmes Zac	52	Beeken Sian	49	Hill Bella	49
League 19	Mavani Jabir	52	Palmer Izzy	47	Jones Francesca	44
League 18	Trawford Darcie	38	Townsend Jack	36	Browne Zack	29
League 17	Hayes Henry	53	Farahat Lamar	46	James Natalie	33
League 16	Louzolo Christopher	36	Bell Toby	33	Tanna Aum	33
League 15	Gibson Tyler	38	Wiza Aleksander	28	Roberts Charlie	27
League 14	Sweeney Oliver	32	Steel Millie	29	Hempstead Charlie	28
League 13	Unwin Henry	27	Daniels Jessica	25	Wright-Lakin Emily	21
League 12	Allen Alexander	41	Wrigley Will	38	Baptista Reuben	35
League 11	Turner Arthur	32	Stephens Amelia	28	Addy Max	26
League 10	Korek Lena	20	Weeks Megan	19	Cranston Isla	19
League 9	Gregory Bea	27	Collingridge Carys	24	Strangward Alex	21

London Theatre Trip for Y10 and Y12

Mr Moxley

Last week, 11-13 June, the annual London Theatre trip saw 54 students and 5 staff spending three days in the capital, experiencing a wealth of theatre both as audience and participants. We stayed in Southwark, five minutes' walk from Bear Pit Lane, right in the heart of what was, in Shakespeare's day, the notoriously exciting but dangerous playground of London.

Students saw the immersive performance of Agatha Christie's 'Witness for the Prosecution', performed in the grandeur of the debating chamber in London's County Hall. This courtroom drama had the audience on the edge of their seats, trying to guess who had committed the murder!



On Friday morning, the students participated with great energy in an acting workshop on this play at Pineapple Studios. We also saw the award-winning musical Hadestown, a mash-up of Greek myth with a 1920s New Orleans setting. The show placed the band at the heart of the action and gave us superb music, singing and setting design. We also had a tour of the Globe Theatre and a workshop on Macbeth in their rehearsal rooms.

The students have gained valuable insight into live theatre to use in their GCSE and A level questions. I would like to personally thank all the staff members who participated; Mrs Allen, Mr Lawrence, Mrs Pickup and Mrs Pignatiello, and Mrs Etherington, for helping organise it. Special thanks are reserved for Mrs Pignatiello, who brilliantly organised this wonderful opportunity for our students.



Tula Harvey and Hattie Grant, Year 12. -On Thursday we made the journey over to County Hall to watch the thrilling production of Witness for the Prosecution, an Agatha Christie original. The play centres around a man accused of murder and portrays the trial as it takes place. The stage itself was previously a courthouse, which added to the intense atmosphere and realism of the production. Throughout the play the audience were immersed, especially when the final verdict was decided by select audience members acting as the jury. With its unexpected twists and turns, it was a gripping watch from beginning to end and a must-see for all!



On the final day we travelled across to Pineapple Dance Studios where we took part in a workshop led by a former member of the cast of Witness of the Prosecution. We began with a gentle warm up, followed by a creative activity where we tried to embody different characters from the play. Our guide expertly lead us to a richer understanding of

the complex characters as a whole. From our deeper understanding we moved into groups and were given different scenes of the play to create freeze-frames or act out. This was an exciting opportunity to develop our skills and have direct feedback from a professional. After some wonderful performances, we ended with an enlightening Q&A session where we could get an insight into the life of being an actor.

Hannah Burke, Year 10 - We watched Hadestown in the Lyric Theatre London, our Eurydice played by Desmonda Cathabel and our Orpheus played by Dylan Wood, the stage is proscenium arch and uses a revolving stage. The band is on stage throughout the musical so we can see them playing. The musical is about Orpheus and Eurydice, their love at first sight, and Hades and Persephone's love. Because of Hades' love for Persephone she is not allowed to visit the world, causing harsh winters and Orpheus and Eurydice struggle to make ends meet. While Eurydice tries to find food she comes across Hades who offers her a ticket to Hadestown, which she takes. To save her, Orpheus sets out from Hadestown. The standard of music and singing was exceptional!

Lucinda Waugh, Year 10 - On Thursday we started our day by going to Shakespeare's Globe theatre; we had a tour as well as a drama workshop. The tour covered details such as why the



Globe was designed in the way it was in Shakespeare's time, the original Shakespeare stage productions, specifically Macbeth, and how the witches in Macbeth are an example of the supernatural conscious beliefs of the time. King James 1 was known for his opinions and wrote a book about witches. This context was clear as the stage was designed to depict the differences between heaven and hell; the higher up you looked you would see paintings of heavens, as well as spaces for wealthy people to view. However, the lower down you looked you would see the trap door and the court for groundings.

The drama workshop focused on Macbeth; we worked together, individually, and in small groups, aiming to show clear intention for the lines in the play we were acting. Furthermore, focusing on iambic pentameter which was the poem meter Shakespeare used the most throughout his plays to create pace and tempo. Both of these were memorable experiences!

Year 9 First Aid Days

Miss E Mizen

As part of the statutory PSHE curriculum, I taught all forms in Year 9 a variety of life saving measures in a practical session, aided by 5 sixth formers. Each student had the opportunity to practice these life saving measures on other students and manikins and have all received a certificate accrediting them in CPR. Every Year 9 student should now be able to assess and respond to an emergency situation and teach someone how to perform CPR if for any reason they are unable to themselves.



Freya Fairhead-Abrahams, Year 12 – 10-11 June we helped Miss Mizen in the running of a first aid course for each tutor group in Year 9. As part of this we covered how to perform a primary survey to assess a situation, the recovery position for an unresponsive person with normal breathing, and CPR for an unresponsive person who isn't breathing normally, which also included how to use an AED. We taught them CPR, this with the help of the RevivR app from the British Heart Foundation, and CPR manikins which they could practice on. All the students practiced performing CPR on the inflatable dummies, which had a clicker to signal when the student was pressing hard enough. All the sixth formers fully enjoyed helping and providing demonstrations for the Year 9s and look forward to doing this again.

Riya Ramprasad, Year 9 - We learned how to do CPR. It was really interesting, educational and useful. CPR stands for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and it's a life-saving skill used when someone's heart has stopped beating and they're not breathing properly.

First, we were taught how to check if the person is responsive. You tap their shoulders and ask loudly "Are you okay?". If they don't respond and they're not breathing normally you need to call 999 straight away or get someone else to do it. You also need to try to find a defibrillator (AED) if there's one nearby.



Next, we learned how to do chest compressions. You put the heel of your hand in the middle of their chest, put your other hand on top, lock your elbows and push down hard and fast- about 100-120 times a minute. They taught us to do it to the beat of the song 'Stayin' Alive', which helped to keep the right rhythm.



We got to practice CPR on dummies, which helped a lot, and we watched videos that showed how its done in real life situations. We even got to see how to use a defibrillator in the video- it gives clear voice instructions and tells you exactly what to do.

It was a bit scary at first, but now we feel more confident about what to do in an emergency situation. We are really glad that we learned this because CPR is a skill that could save someone's life one day.

West End Wonders JR Tickets



Tickets for West End Wonders JR, a musical journey told through songs from the shows, can be purchased using the links below and via the school website:

[Wednesday 9 July](#)

[Thursday 10 July](#)

[Friday 11 July](#)

The performances will start at 7pm and feature a cast of over 100 students, mainly from Years 7-9, accompanied by a full orchestra.

Performers do not require a ticket.

BBL Champion

Mr Hewitt, Deputy Head Academic

A Year 12 student, Eden Nash-Kennell, is this week's deserved winner having been nominated by her English teachers. As Year 12s prepare to sit some important internal exams, Eden has impressed with the way she has prepared for them, as her teacher, Mrs Bolitho, explains:

'Eden has demonstrated an extraordinary level of independence in her preparation for the FUPG English Literature exams, consistently going above and beyond what is expected. She has taken it upon herself to complete extensive additional reading and research around *The Great Gatsby*, deepening her understanding of the novel's historical, social and literary context. In her work on the poetry anthology, Eden has independently explored a wide range of critical perspectives, producing detailed notes and comparative analyses that show a mature and nuanced grasp of the texts. Her approach to Unseen Poetry has been equally rigorous, with Eden regularly practising responses outside of lessons and seeking feedback to refine her analytical technique. Her commitment to independent study has been nothing short of exceptional, and her progress is a testament to her drive, discipline, and genuine passion for English Literature.'

Exam Breakfasts







A **free exam breakfast** is available from The Chill for Y11 and Y13 students before their morning exam.

Water Bottles



Please can all students have a named **water bottle** with them. These can be refilled in break times for free.

House Totals

			
5315	5879	4737	5872

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

Students of the Week

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Greg Blanthorne	7	Mrs Pryor	Mathematics
Brandon Bull	7	Mr Motley	Computer Science
Will Davies	7	Mrs Williamson	English
Astrid Fairhead-Abrahams	7	Mr Delpont	Design Engineering
Martha Saralis	7	Mr Farrow	Mathematics
Hamish Shorrocks	7	Mr Khumalo	Science
Andrés Valdez	7	Mrs Williamson	English
Olivia Woollard	7	Miss Claridge	History
Imaan Manji	8	Miss Ewing	Geography
Ivy Roberts	8	Mr Hewitt	Geography
Anoushka Bartram	9	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Ben Fletcher	9	Mr Farrow	Mathematics
Toby Garrido	9	Ms Bennett	English
Zahra Majeed	9	Mr Edwards	Spanish
Bri O'Boyle	9	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Josephine Thurston	9	Mr Harris	Chemistry
Lucy Ward	9	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Megan Weeks	9	Mrs Bolitho	English
Dennis Brierley	9	Ms Bennett	English
Nevaeh Agyemang	9	Mr Graves	PE
Amelia Giblin	9	Mr Graves	PE
Doogie Shorrocks	9	Mr Graves	PE
Aum Tanna	9	Mr Graves	PE
Charlie Bedford	10	Mrs Evans	Geography
Ted Bolitho	10	Miss Hodge	History
Tia Ely	10	Miss Glover	Spanish
Sara Haque	10	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Evie Ingham	10	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Aaron Sadler	10	Mr Roche	Mathematics
Adeena Sajid	10	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Jessie Jardine	10	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
George Abell	12	Mrs Evans	Geography
Frances Allen	12	Miss McAleese	Psychology
Harriet Dunn	12	Miss McAleese	Psychology
Pippa Holtzhausen	12	Ms Kemp	English Literature
Joshua Oladejo	12	Mr Osborne	Computer Science
Pauline Samusz	12	Mr Perez	Biology
George Abell	12	Mrs Bolitho	English Language

SPORT

Year 10 Leaders at Cophill Sports Day

Mr Ray

On 11 July a group of Year 10 Leaders visited Cophill Independent Day School to assist in the running of their Spots Day for students in Years 4, 5 and 6.



The morning saw them officiate and coach a number of field events with Monty Wild and Luca Christoudias based at the shot put. Ella Barratt worked with the Director of Sport, Mr Teesdale at the high jump, witnessing some remarkable clearances and a new Year 6 record of 1.42m. Josie Thrift and Izzy Hughes assisted with the Vortex throw (similar to the javelin), whilst Ben Alliston, Leah Graham and Lucy Preston took the lead with the Long Jump.

After a fantastic lunch and tour of the school, led by Ben and Monty (former students), timekeeping and place judging was the order of the day for the afternoon. A round of applause from the significant parent body watching, was greatly appreciated prior to a 'thank you' from Mrs Alcoran (Head of PE) and the minibus trip home.



Well done to all, a credit to themselves and the School.