

BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Friday 17 July 2026

From Mark Brunker, Headteacher

Message from Headteacher

Sports Presentation Evening on Monday began an astonishingly full week. Led by Mr Ray, our Director of Sport, it was a superb evening and a chance to celebrate a remarkable year of sporting achievement. We have some outstanding athletes at BGS, and the evening was also a reminder of the strength of our sporting provision. The range, standard and ambition of sport here say a great deal about the expertise and commitment of the PE team, supported by several dedicated colleagues from beyond the department, and I am hugely grateful for the opportunities they create for students throughout the year.

We were delighted to welcome Old Brunnian Pat Brown, who has represented England in cricket, as our guest speaker. Pat shared stories of how he started his journey into cricket and it was a lovely reminder that sometimes putting yourself forward, even for something small, can open a door you did not know was there. In Pat's case, that door led all the way to representing England.

Sports Day was another fantastic part of the week. There were records broken, House points pursued with impressive competitiveness, and plenty of noise from the sidelines. I always enjoy the combination of performance, effort and House spirit that Sports Day brings. There were students chasing records, students stepping well outside their comfort zones, and students in the 1500m discovering that the finish line does, eventually, arrive. All of it matters.

Prize Night was another highlight. It gave us the opportunity to recognise academic achievement, pastoral contribution and those students who have set such a strong example through our School values. We also recognised colleagues who have given many years of service to the School. Sally Jeffery, our Attendance Officer, has now served BGS for over 15 years; James Mitchell, Teacher of Chemistry, for 15 years; Liz Arch, in Reprographics, for 20 years; Stephen Chamberlain, Head of Year 7 and PE Teacher, for 20 years; and Matthew Hartley, Head of Faculty for Social Sciences and Subject Leader for Economics, for 15 years. Long service matters. It reflects loyalty, commitment and the quiet accumulation of contribution over many years, much of which is not always visible in the moment but makes a real difference to the life of a school.

It has not only been sport and awards. Our History trip to Normandy, reward trips to Alton Towers and Rutland Water Aqua Park, and all the normal day-to-day teaching and learning have been taking place as well.

We have also said farewell to a number of colleagues. Ms Mears and Mr Westland both trained to be teachers with us and, rather than leaving when their placements finished, stayed on and have contributed so much to the School. We also say thank you and best wishes to Becca Jackson, Teaching Assistant; Kerry McCarthy, who joined us as maternity cover in Spanish; Jess Pratt, Science Technician; and Meg Bainbridge, Sixth Form Pastoral Manager. Each has contributed to the School in their own way, and we wish them every success for what comes next.

We also say farewell to Mr Perez, Biology Teacher. Across his time at BGS, he has had a real impact on many students, both through his teaching and through his work as a form tutor. I have seen some of those tutor sessions myself, and the care, humour and connection he brought to that role were very clear. We thank him for all he has given to the School and wish him well for the future.

A particularly significant farewell is to Ms Bowtell, who retires after 29 years at BGS. Across that time, she has been a PE teacher, Head of Year, Assistant Head and much else besides. She is, quite simply, part of the fabric of the School.

Ms Bowtell's impact is difficult to sum up briefly. She has cared deeply, expected high standards, brought enormous passion to her work and given extraordinary energy to the students she has taught and supported. Anyone who has seen her greeting students before a lesson will know how quickly she creates the right atmosphere: purposeful, enthusiastic and with very little chance of anyone drifting in unnoticed.

There has always been fun too. She brings humour and warmth alongside the firmness students sometimes need from adults who care enough to challenge them. That combination has mattered to generations of students. She has helped them feel known, pushed them to expect more of themselves and, in many cases, changed the way they see what they are capable of.

I would like to wish all members of the School community a very enjoyable summer. Thank you for your support throughout the year. I hope everyone is able to enjoy a slightly different pace over the coming weeks, with time to rest, recharge and spend time doing the things that can so easily get squeezed out during term time.

Spanish Trip 2026

- Written by Lillian Osoba (8H)

A few weeks ago in June, I was lucky enough to go on the Spanish trip to Benalmádena, a town 12km west of Málaga. Despite the early start, everyone was excited to travel to Spain and experience new things! Once we arrived, I was hit with a wave of heat and sunshine outside the airport, which was very different to the weather we had in the UK! Then, we went to our language school, the Colegio Maravillas, where we were greeted with kind and friendly staff, given lunch, and given time to relax before we met our tour guides. They were both enthusiastic and thoughtful, letting us ask questions and explaining to us the history and culture of where we were staying. Despite high temperatures of 34°, I enjoyed exploring the town and seeing how different it is to where I live. There were palm trees everywhere, and I took so many photos wishing they grew in the UK! After the tour, we were all exhausted after a long day and were glad to escape the heat in our hotel, which was very comfortable.

On the second day, we had our first language lessons at the school. We were in groups of about 12, and our teachers were very approachable and friendly. If we didn't understand what they were saying, they would help us to figure it out and the lessons were engaging and fun. I feel my Spanish has improved a lot with their guidance and support. After lunch, we then went to the beach, which was definitely one of my highlights! The water was warm from the sun and we spent hours on the beach, enjoying ourselves, playing volleyball and spending time in the water. After dinner, we went to the local park to do a photo race, and we were given places to photograph in teams. It was really exciting to find our way around the huge park and take fun photos with our friends.

On the third day, we had the usual lessons with our teachers, and then we got to take part in a paella cooking lesson on the school terrace. It was really interesting to see how it was made, listen to the chef explaining why each ingredient is used and getting to taste it at the end! After that, we had flamenco dance lessons where we learned choreography to different songs. Then after that we headed to the beach again to spend more time swimming and shopping for souvenirs.

On the last full day, we had slightly shorter spanish lessons, then lunch at the school, then we went on a coach trip to Málaga to visit the Alcazaba, the huge fortress sat atop the city. It was amazing to see the lush gardens, architecture and culture that had built the fortress, and to see the entire city from above. Afterwards, we got to explore the busy shopping areas in Málaga and have free time to buy what we liked!

On Friday, the last day of our trip, we walked to the Marina to go on a boat ride for about an hour and a half to see dolphins. The sun was shining and the water was smooth, and we saw loads of dolphins! It was truly magical to see them out in the ocean, in their own homes. Then, we had time to do some shopping by the Marina and by the beach before returning to the Airport and arriving back in the UK at 2am! Overall, the trip was amazing and I'll never forget the things I experienced in Spain. If I could go back, I definitely would!



House System End of Year Report

- House Leaders

It has been another busy, competitive and successful year in our House System, with students once again throwing themselves into a wide range of House events and activities.

The enthusiasm for House competitions has remained high throughout the year, with students eager to earn valuable points for their Houses both in and out of the classroom. Alongside our established favourites like University Challenge and Chess, we were excited to introduce two brand-new competitions this year: the fast-paced House Tetris Challenge and the hugely popular AstrOlympics, which saw students putting their sporting skills to the test. These new additions were a great success and added even more variety to an already packed House calendar.

As always, students were able to contribute to their House totals not only through competitions, but also by earning House Points for excellent conduct, positive attitudes, participation in lessons and contributions to the wider school community. In assemblies throughout the year, House Leaders celebrated these achievements by recognising students with the highest numbers of House Points in each year group. Congratulations to all those students whose consistent effort and commitment earned them well-deserved rewards.

When it came to the competition for the overall House Championship, the year was closely contested, with all four Houses enjoying moments of success. However, as the months progressed, Tinbergen, led by Mr Graves, began to pull clear of the chasing pack. Outstanding performances across a range of competitions, combined with a dominant display at Sports Day, helped establish an advantage that proved impossible to overturn. Their consistency throughout the year ensured they remained at the top of the leaderboard when it mattered most.

Individual Music Success

Congratulations to **Romilly Sondh (9E)** and **Patricija Krulko (9C)** on their recent music examination achievements.

Romilly achieved a Merit in Grade 4 Violin, demonstrating excellent musical skill and dedication to her studies.

Patricija was awarded a Distinction in Grade 6 Violin, an outstanding accomplishment reflecting a very high standard of performance and musicianship.

Well done to both students on their hard work and success. We wish them every continued success in their musical journeys.



Congratulations to Tinbergen, who have been crowned House Champions of 2025-2026. Capping off an excellent year by claiming both the major Sports Day honours and the overall House title is a fantastic achievement and one that reflects the dedication, enthusiasm and teamwork shown by Tinbergen students throughout the year. Meitner were in the runners-up spot, closely followed by Behn, with Rorschach coming in 4th.

Congratulations to all Houses for their efforts and sportsmanship, and we look forward to another exciting year of House competitions next year.

DofE Year 10 Bronze Award

- Mrs R Brett

Congratulations to the following Year 10 students who have been presented with their DofE Bronze Award this week.

This follows a year of volunteering, improving fitness and learning new skills as well as preparing for and taking part in a walking expedition in June. Well done everyone, you should be very proud of your achievements.

**BRONZE 25/26 CONGRATULATIONS**

A Lola Anderson-Smith Macy Bundock Isla Cummins Tom Godber Charlotte-May Houghton Ellie Moore Aakhash Ranjith Keiran Selby Alix Smith Radha Thotakura	C Aanjishnu Bhattacharyya Anya Copestake Edith Kaberry Louis McGruer Benjamin Sayer Henry Unwin Florence Wrigley	E Toby Bell Zach Browne Isla Cranston Toby Garrido Ukresh Koirala Alfie Lovell Nandini Mamillapalle Nylah Moore Edward Mylchreest Jessica Nicholson Josephine Thurston	G Emilia Barrick Hazel Delport Mikayla Delport Otto Forkin James Pitchford Kasper Pryke Doogie Shorrock Noah Skinner Freya Stewart Dylan Ware
B Elliot Edwards William Finch Ben Fletcher Melosa Gigi Zac Holmes Grace Rayner Jude Roberts Sneha Soju Thomas Ethan Stubbs	D Harry Armstrong Corey Bosworth Eloise Boyce Amelia Giblin Natalie James George Knight Freddie Neal Molly Smith Oliver Sweeney	F Annabelle Bull Isaac Bullen Travis Bullen Elodie Collins Jessica Cummins Lewis Fryer Ria Gupta Riley Kurys-Brown Bri O'Boyle Aarav Poshala Riya Ramprasad Aleksander Wiza	H Isabella Atkinson Tamsin Bates Rebecca Board Tyler Gibson Marcus Spencer-Kidd Cassidy Thornton Arthur Turner Eleanor Twinley





English School Athletics Association – National Championships – Birmingham

Congratulations to Lawson Capes (Year 12) who claimed his 5th consecutive National Schools title last weekend in the Shot Put with a throw of 17.74m with the 6kg shot.

This not only set a new Personal Best but also now puts him amongst a very few athletes in the country to have attained this feat.

Next year, Lawson will look to claim his 6th and complete a full set of titles. In the history of the competition – more than 90 years – only a handful have ever achieved this.

Well done Lawson and good luck for the rest of the season.

ESAA Track and Field Cup National Final - Miss C Bradley, Physical Education

On Saturday 4th July, our Inter Girls team travelled down to Chelmsford, Essex for the ESAA Track & Field Cup National Final. Making this final is an amazing achievement and, despite the early start, spirits were high as the girls prepared themselves for one final competition – and for our Year 10s, their last ever Track & Field Cup appearance.

As the sun shone down, it felt a privilege to witness our talented team compete against some of the best young athletes in the country. In fresh kit thanks to our sponsors, The Occlust and LB&W, and with glitter in their hair, the Inter Girls team truly embraced the occasion.

The day began with the field events, where the girls immediately showed they belonged on the national stage. Zina Nwamarah produced a great leap of 5.12m in the long jump to score 25 points with Romily Sondh also performing well with a jump of 4.46m to earn 18 points. Isla Cummins battled hard in the triple jump, recording 9.26m for 17 points.

There were also some strong performances in the throws, with Carmen van der Westhuizen throwing 24.56m in the discus to earn 22 points and Jessie Desborough throwing 18.54m in the javelin for 12 points. Every athlete fought for every centimetre and every point, knowing how important each performance would prove to be.

The standard on the track was even more impressive, with the girls producing a series of determined and courageous performances.

The sprint events saw Zina Nwamarah run 13.2 seconds and Peyton Teague running 13.3 seconds in the 100m for 24 points and 23 points respectively. Romily also impressed in the 80m hurdles, finishing in 12.9 seconds to score 22 points against an exceptionally strong field. In the middle-distance events, Sophie Alliston delivered one of the performances of the day, running a superb 4:55.9 in the 1500m to earn a massive 29 points. Flossie Swift continued her excellent competition with 2:38.3 in the 800m for 21 points, whilst Alix Smith battled through the 300m in 44.1 seconds, adding another 23 points to the team's tally. Edith Karberry earned 23 points for her battling 1500m in the sweltering heat. The competition concluded with the 4 x 100m relay, where Darcie Trawford, Jessie Desborough, Sophie Alliston and Alix Smith combined brilliantly to produce a slick baton-changing performance and finish in 56.3 seconds, collecting a further 22 points.

After an incredible day of competition, Bourne Grammar School finished 8th in the country with 429 points—an outstanding achievement and testament to the commitment, resilience and talent shown by every member of the team throughout the season.

Every athlete contributed valuable points, supported one another throughout the day and represented the school with tremendous pride, sportsmanship and determination. To reach a national final is an achievement in itself, but to finish amongst the top eight schools in England is something every member of the squad should be immensely proud of.

This competition provided the perfect way to bring the athletics season to a close and, for our Year 10 athletes, a fitting end to their Track & Field Cup journey.

Our thanks to all the parents who drove the girls down to Chelmsford and for their support throughout the season.

Team: Isla Cummins (c), Zina Nwamarah, Amberley Keith, Immy Joyner, Romily Sondh, Peyton Teague, Carmen van der Westhuizen, Alix Smith, Flossie Swift, Maddy Hobson, Sophie Alliston, Edith Karberry, Darcie Trawford and Jessie Desborough



South Lincs Pickleball

- Mrs K McAuley, Physical Education

On Monday 6th July we attended Boston Tennis Club for an afternoon of doubles pickleball games. For our students this was the first time most of them had played pickleball whilst a large number of the students they were playing against had had some experience of the game before. The boys worked hard to pick up the rules and key tactics very quickly and were part of some very entertaining matches. The u13 team finished respectably in the middle of their group.

Well done to u13 Steven Mirimi, Gus Duscanio, Jack Brock and Fraser Daniels. As did the u15 B team, well done to Casper Yu, Saihaan Damani, Henry Hayes and Vladi Grigorov.

The y15 A team, managed, despite playing against pickleball club players to end the competition joint overall winners, well done to Eli Saralis, Rohan Lesiw, Ted Mylchreest and Johnny Hullock.

Super Zone Tennis

On Wednesday 8th July 32 students attended the South Lincolnshire Superzone tennis competition at Boston Tennis Club.

The event is a doubles competition split into an U13 age group and an u15 age group for both the boys and girls and we had four teams entered in each of the four competition.

All the students had a brilliant day, played some great tennis with several very close games both against their Bourne Grammar classmates and the other schools. They were outstanding representatives of Bourne Grammar School.

Well done to all our students:

U13 Girls : Elliar Fisher and Lilian Osoba, Emi Wood and Charlotte Dimes, Ellie Fryer and Beau Mathews

U13 Boys: Theon Collins and Kian Bosworth, Arlo Barrasso and Basem Awadallah, Steven Mirmi and Jack Brock

U15 Girls: Harriet Templemen and Abi Lakin, Darcie Trawford and Nicole Mancheva, Emily Lakin and Jess Daniels.

U15 Boys: Ted Mylchreest and Rohan Lesiw, Johnny Hullock and Eli Saralis, Henry Hayes and Valdi Grigorov, Noah Patten and Saihaan Damani.

Finally a huge congratulations to the following who won overall:

U13 Girls: Maddie Keith and Jemima Garland

U13 Boys: Greg Blanthorne and Ellison Trawford



- Mrs S Cowell, Head of Faculty: MFL & Subject Leader: French

The Year 12 students loved hosting this club and seeing the amazing improvement the Year 7 students have made. (By Balinda Iyegbu)

A huge thank you to Balinda Iyegbu, Seb Louzolo and Tanish Patel for running this club and well done to the following students who have regularly attended and enjoyed the activities:

Thomas Smith, Henry Steele, Laura Kay, Nancy Jones, Chloe Berners, Amelie Hunt, Mary-Jealah Ellecom, Esme Scholes, Aggie Scrivens and Isaiah Horo



BBL Champions of the Week

- Mrs A Allen, Assistant Headteacher (Academic)

BBL Champions nominated by Mr Osborne & the Computer Science department: Andrejs Zinkevics (9F), George Payton (9B) & Ted Moocarme (9D)

Year 9 Computer Science students have been studying the Game Development topic, during which they were challenged to work collaboratively to design and develop their own computer game. The project was intended to help them gain a deeper understanding of how games are programmed and the complexity involved in creating the games they enjoy playing.

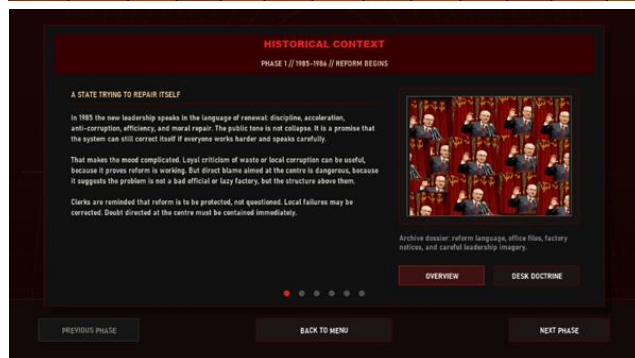
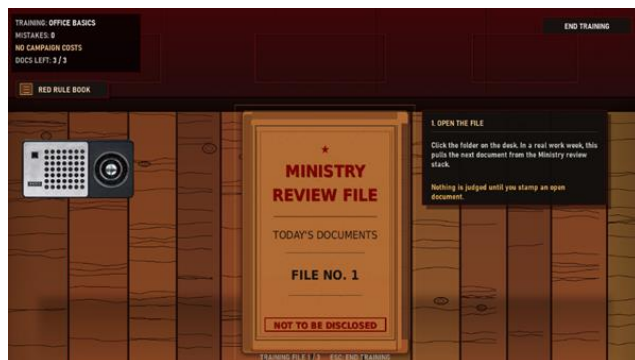
Andrejs, George and Ted demonstrated exceptional commitment throughout the project, investing significant time and effort into researching, designing, coding and documenting their game during lessons, while also dedicating many additional hours to its development outside of school.

The game they created, Directive 13, is set during the late Soviet era. Players take on the role of a government official responsible for reviewing state documents and deciding whether they should be approved or censored according to the strict censorship policies of the time.

The objective is not simply to achieve a high score, but to survive within the Ministry's increasingly demanding system. Correct decisions earn the player money, while mistakes reduce their salary, increase workplace pressure and may ultimately result in disciplinary action. The game presents players with increasingly difficult moral and strategic decisions as they attempt to balance accuracy with survival.

What impressed us most was the level of ambition shown by the team. They went well beyond the original project brief, independently researching advanced techniques and teaching themselves how to use GameMaker and its scripting language, GameMaker Language, to bring their ideas to life. Their creativity, perseverance, teamwork and willingness to learn independently have resulted in a project of an exceptionally high standard.

For these reasons, we felt Andrejs, George and Ted were thoroughly deserving of recognition as BBL Champions, having gone far beyond the expectations of the original task.



This week Mrs Allen could not pick just one BBL Champion as there were so many impressive examples of great BBL sent her way in the final week of term!

A further winner this week is **Brandon Bull (8C)**, who **was nominated by Miss Roberts** for his outstanding dedication and creativity in English.

As part of their Travel Writing project this term, students were challenged to bring their chosen countries to life at a Travel Fayre, where they proudly displayed the work they had completed. Alongside all of the set tasks, Brandon went above and beyond by creating an impressive model of one of Egypt's most famous and recognisable landmarks: a pyramid.

From the initial design and sculpting to the final painting, Brandon estimates that his magnificent creation took approximately 50 hours to complete in stages. His patience, perseverance and attention to detail are truly remarkable. Well done, Brandon!

AstrOlympics Debuts on Sports Day

- House Leaders

This year's Sports Day saw the exciting introduction of a brand new House competition: the **AstrOlympics**. Held on the Astroturf during lunchtime, the event gave Year 7 and Year 8 students the opportunity to take part in a range of fun and engaging sporting challenges while earning valuable points for their House.

The AstrOlympics was designed as a participation competition, ensuring that every student had the chance to get involved in additional sporting activities regardless of their sporting experience. The aim was to encourage teamwork, enthusiasm and House spirit, and it certainly achieved that goal!

Students rotated through six different challenges, testing a variety of skills including coordination, speed, accuracy and concentration. Among the most popular activities were the Batak Board challenge, where competitors tested their reactions against the flashing lights, and Splat the Rat, which brought plenty of excitement and laughter as students attempted to accurately strike the 'rat'! (no real rats were harmed in the making of this event!). Participants also enjoyed taking on a challenging crazy golf course, navigating their ball through tires, over ramps and around cones.

The atmosphere on the astroturf was fantastic, with students enthusiastically supporting their friends and representing their Houses with pride. The event attracted a large number of participants, creating a vibrant and enjoyable addition to an already action-packed Sports Day.

The inaugural AstrOlympics was a huge success and provided another opportunity for students to contribute to their House's overall Sports Day performance. Most importantly, it allowed everyone to take part, have fun and enjoy being active in a supportive and competitive environment.

The eagerly awaited results were announced during the final House Assembly, where students celebrated the achievements of all those who took part. Congratulations to everyone involved in making the first AstrOlympics such a memorable event. We look forward to seeing the competition return even bigger and better next year!



Sports Day 2026: Records Tumble in a Day to Remember!

- Ms K Jones, Head of House

What an incredible day of sporting excellence, determination and house pride! This year's Sports Day had everything: thrilling finishes, outstanding performances, broken records and an atmosphere that buzzed from the first race to the final relay.

Students across every year group gave their all, demonstrating resilience, teamwork and fantastic sportsmanship throughout the day. Whether competing on the track, in the field events or cheering on their teammates, everyone played their part in making the event such a memorable success.

The headlines belonged to some truly remarkable performances. Congratulations to our Year 7 and Year 10 relay teams, who both stormed to victory in record-breaking style, producing breathtaking baton changes and outstanding teamwork to write their names into the school record books. An equally phenomenal achievement came from Freddie Neal, whose sensational run in the 800 metres saw him smash the existing school record with an exceptional display of pace, determination and endurance.

Away from the competition, the atmosphere was nothing short of electric. Our new house gazebos quickly became colourful hubs of support, with students proudly dressed in house colours, creating waves of chants, cheers and encouragement that echoed around the field all day. The sense of community and friendly rivalry was fantastic to see and reminded everyone that Sports Day is about much more than winning medals—it's about belonging, supporting one another and celebrating every achievement.

Adding to the excitement was the unforgettable live commentary from the commentary box, which kept spectators entertained from start to finish. The enthusiastic updates, dramatic race calls and good-humoured observations brought every event to life, ensuring that every athlete's moment in the spotlight was celebrated and helping to create a truly festival-like atmosphere.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff, student helpers, officials and volunteers whose hard work made the day run so smoothly, and to every student who competed, supported and represented their house with such enthusiasm.

Sports Day 2026 will certainly be remembered as one of the very best—filled with record-breaking performances, incredible effort and school spirit at its finest. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Lunchtime Concert Series Ends a Remarkable First Year

- Mr M Tomlinson

At the start of this academic year, we launched our new Lunchtime Concert Series, unsure of how it would be received. It is fair to say that it has exceeded every expectation.

Across six concerts, we have welcomed outstanding audiences who have embraced the opportunity to enjoy high-quality live music on a Friday lunchtime. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with many audience members commenting on how much the concerts have meant to them. One particularly memorable comment described the series as *"a little ray of sunshine every six weeks."* There have been moments of tears and genuine emotion, demonstrating the powerful impact that live music can have within our community.

Over the course of the series, more than 50 students have performed, either as soloists or as members of the Junior Chamber Choir and Junior Ensemble. This reflects our vision of providing as many students as possible with the opportunity to experience the excitement and fulfilment of live performance. Set within the beautiful surroundings and wonderful acoustics of Bourne Abbey, each concert has been an inspiring occasion for performers and audiences alike.

The popularity of the series has continued to grow throughout the year, and we are delighted to announce that the 2026–27 Lunchtime Concert Series, beginning this autumn, will be proudly sponsored by The Len Pick Trust. This generous support will enable us to promote the concerts more widely across Bourne and the surrounding area, ensuring that even more people can enjoy these wonderful performances. Many audience members have told us they wished they had known about the concerts sooner so they could have attended more of them, and we hope this increased publicity will help us reach an even wider audience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Kate Bidwell for her outstanding accompanying throughout the series and for her invaluable support in helping to establish this exciting initiative. Finally, thank you to every student who performed with such commitment and musicianship. Their talent and enthusiasm have made the series such a success, and we look forward to providing even more performance opportunities in the coming year.

Disney Magic: The Dream Awakens

- Mr M Jones, Music

"Whatever you do, do it well. Do it so well that when people see you do it, they will want to come back and see you do it again, and they will want to bring others and show them how well you do what you do" – Walt Disney.

This summer's production of Disney Magic presented a magical tale told through Disney songs from throughout the ages. The show demonstrated, without compromise, the formidable talent in our younger years, and the cast of 90 students, accompanied by a live orchestra, performed twice to local primary schools, in addition to the two evening performances for friends and family.

Following on from the legacy of West End Wonders JR in July 2025, this year's core purpose was again to providing meaningful performance opportunities for our students on a grand scale. There are no auditions to be in the Junior Choir; everybody who wanted to be in the show was able to perform. Once again, smaller ensembles were created to develop the individual skills of every singer who signed up to be part of one. Finally, 50 students auditioned for solo roles; they were subjected to a gruelling term-long process to really nurture and discover their voices, and 25 soloists were ultimately selected to perform. That being said, the ethos was always that this was an ensemble show; the soloists step in and out of the limelight but know that they are all part of something much bigger.

Following closely from the success of March's Musical Expressions concert, the Senior Orchestra once again excelled in learning the vast number of bespoke orchestrations for this concert. We are, as ever, grateful for the support of our visiting music teachers, particularly Paul Weston under whose guidance the string sound has truly blossomed, and Kate Bidwell, who has given so freely of her time and piano playing skills to support the orchestra this term. It is also a privilege to welcome back professional players and former students who are an invaluable part of the BGS Music family.

One of the highlights of West End Wonders JR was the exceptional choreography created by Livvy Bodmer. Now studying Musical Theatre at the Emil Dale Academy in Letchworth, I was thrilled that the opportunity arose to invite Livvy back to work with our talented dancers again this year. Once again, Livvy's talent, professionalism and eye for detail have shone through and it is genuinely inspiring to see her at work. We were also supported by a student-led Tech Team, under the leadership of Eleanor Winn with stunning lighting designed by Isabella Mahoney.

This was a truly memorable production for all of those involved, whether on stage or in the audience. The quality of performance achieved by our youngers students is exceptional and they should be so proud of what they have achieved this year. Thoughts are already turning to next year; the vision and ambition continue to grow. In the words of Walt Disney: "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them"



- **Mr D Williamson-Ward (Literacy Coordinator)**

In December we set year 7 off on their independent reading challenge. The aim of the challenge being to read for pleasure and to develop and foster a love of reading.

The challenge tasked students with not only reading but also completing a set task to demonstrate their engagement with their respective book. These challenges gradually became more complex the deeper into the challenge students progressed. Tasks included writing the moral of the story, describing the main character in five words, explaining their favourite part of the book and choosing a key quote from the book and zooming into a key word.

More complex tasks included writing a timeline from the book in chronological order, rewriting a scene from the story and switching the gender of the character, finding a piece of art related to a key theme from the story and writing a letter to the antagonist of the story.

With that in mind, all students who took part in the challenge should feel proud and we hope that, although the challenge is over for this year, they continue to find time over the summer to read for pleasure.

Well done to each and every one of our students who has taken part in any of these initiatives. A gold reading badge will be awarded to those students who read 30 books or more, a silver certificate for 25 and a bronze certificate for 20. These will be handed out during the final week of term.

The following students each read more than 30 books as part of the challenge:

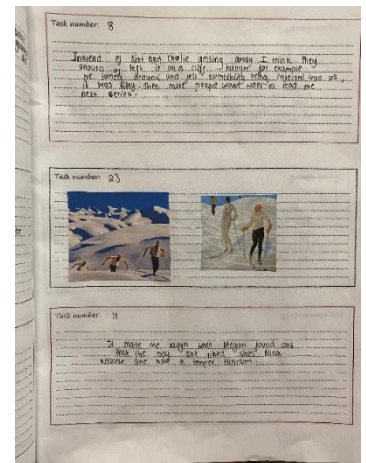
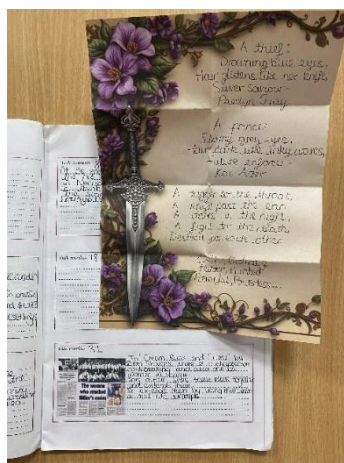
Emily Greenfield 7D
Rosalie King 7F
Connie Sutton 7F
Lydia Wilmot 7B
Joanne Akinsulire 7Gv
Alexia Hoad 7B
Jude Pearl 7B



The following achieved either silver or bronze certificates:

Titi Akinola 7G
Charlotte Evans 7G
Kiki Blakey 7H

Here are some examples of the fantastic work students completed as part of their reading challenge:



Alton Towers Trip

- Mr J Bowers, Deputy Head of Year 10

On Tuesday, 180 excited Year 10 students made the trip to Alton Towers with 12 even more excited staff for a day of fun at the end of their first year of GCSE studies. From the get go, students were exemplary in their time keeping and conduct and this continued throughout the day. On arrival, we joined a whole host of other schools who had the same idea for an end of year trip, which resulted in potentially the only downside of the day, the queue times! On our wander around the site and the rides, any time we saw the students they had a smile on their face and couldn't wait to tell us what thrills they had experienced.

The most relieving moment came at the end of the day, when 180 students were back on the buses by 4:55, not having to wait for a single student, something that I am very grateful for.

This really did sum up the students conduct and attitude towards the trip and it was a day full of joy from start to finish. A massive thank you to all students that attended and made it a really special day to be a part of. And an even bigger thank you for the staff that gave up their time to attend and make it possible.



Alton Towers Year 10 Reward Trip Report by Riley Kurys-Brown (10F)

We started the day as most school trips do, with a safety briefing and a reminder from the teachers to enjoy the day before boarding the coaches and setting off.

We arrived shortly after the park opened at around 10:00 am, which I'm sure many students appreciated as it gave us almost six full hours to enjoy the park. This was especially welcome given the long queue times throughout the day. With several other schools visiting at the same time, the busy queues were to be expected. Despite this, my friends and I still managed to experience Nemesis Reborn, The Smiler, Oblivion, Spinball Whizzer, and Wicker Man. While we would have liked to ride them all by simply waiting in the queues, we decided to purchase Fast Passes, which we all agreed were excellent value considering how busy the park was.

Overall, we had a fantastic day and are very grateful to the staff for all the time, effort, and hard work that went into planning and organising the trip.



House Totals

			
12555	12397	11488	12916

***These totals show all House Points earned minus Behaviour Points.
It includes points from all students in each house for Term 6 up to 16/07/2026.***

Values Awards

- **Mr T Brooker, Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)**

Our Behaviour Policy makes clear that, “as learners, we aspire to be ambitious, determined and inquisitive”, whilst “as people, we aspire to be honest, resilient and kind.”

The Learner of the Week Award recognises those students who have exemplified one or more of our learning values through their approach to their studies.

The Person of the Week Award recognises those students who have exemplified one or more of our character values in their daily interactions.

All those named should be very proud of themselves, as we are proud of them.

Name	Year	Type	Staff	Subject
Maximilian Odogun	7	Person of the Week	Mrs Holbrook	Pastoral
Ben Cham	8	Learner of the Week	Mrs Pignatiello	Drama
Ethan Hudson	8	Learner of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Edith Larder	8	Learner of the Week	Mrs Pignatiello	Drama
Ananya Sahoo	8	Learner of the Week	Ms Bennett	English
Aahan Upreti	8	Learner of the Week	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Kamsi Anike	9	Person of the Week	Mrs Smith	Pastoral
Edie Austin	9	Person of the Week	Mr Sutherland	Pastoral
Erika Bryson	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Cowell	French
Jojo Gregory	9	Learner of the Week	Mr Moore	Art
Roksana Lulczynska	9	Person of the Week	Miss Wilson	Pastoral
Noah Mason	9	Learner of the Week	Ms Bowtell	PE
Ryan Ogbonna	9	Person of the Week	Mrs Charters	Pastoral
Oakley Saville	9	Person of the Week	Mr Edwards	Pastoral
Lennon Smith	9	Learner of the Week	Mrs Cowell	French
Jessica Daniels	10	Person of the Week	Mrs McAuley	Pastoral
Amelia Giblin	10	Person of the Week	Mrs Holbrook	Pastoral
Bella Hill	10	Person of the Week	Mrs Holbrook	Pastoral
Francesca Jones	10	Person of the Week	Mrs Holbrook	Pastoral

Year 12 Work Experience Week

- Mrs H Elliot, Head of Careers & Higher Education

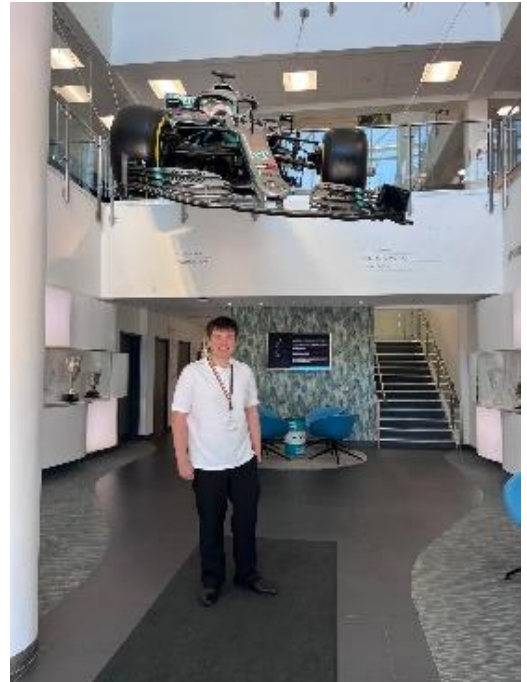
Our Year 12 students were recently given the opportunity to undertake a week's work experience. They travelled far and wide to take up opportunities as varied as chemical engineering, food science, motorsports and local government.

Feedback from the employers was fantastic with our students acting as the school's best ambassadors. Students felt that they had developed in confidence, learnt about new industry sectors and worked with some amazing employers.

We are extremely grateful to both local and national employers who hosted our students for the week and gave them such a meaningful experience.

Securing work experience placements can sometimes be challenging and a small number of students attended the in school employability programme which included team building challenges run by the Royal Navy, sessions on LinkedIn and a talk on personal finance by James from Sherrenhams.

A member of the winning team wrote: *It was an interesting and engaging experience, where we first learned about the Navy seals then competed in teams to build the best transportation device out of rope and blocks. This tested our problem solving and adaptability - It was overall a great experience and we all learnt a lot.*



Year 10 Summer League Results

– Miss C Bradley, Head of Year 10

Congratulations to all our winners for the Summer League – it has been a fantastic end of the year for Year 10!

Some notable achievements from the competition:

Millie (10C), Georgia (10B), Will (10B), Oli P (10C), Hamish (10B) and Edward (10A) took the most Weekly Wins (4)

Georgia (10B) earned the most HPs in 1 week (56!) and she also had the highest overall total for the league which was 211.

Overall, we had 92 different Weekly Winners!

Final results are below – these individuals were recognised with certificates and prizes in the Year 10 Celebration Assembly.

League	1st	2nd	3rd
League 1	Stephens Amelia	Thongphay Hayden	Damani Saihaan
League 2	Summerfield Georgia	Wrigley Florence	Godber Tom
League 3	Webb Olivia	Delpport Mikayla	Pitchford James
League 4	Parrott Oli	Gilbert Archie	Hullock Johnny
League 5	Mamillapalle Nandini	Gove Robin	Wiza Aleksander
League 6	Ciopec Edward	Collingridge Carys	Weeks Megan
League 7	Delpport Hazel	Thurston Josephine	Connell Rory
League 8	Brown Evalyn	Murphy Finn	Atkinson Isabella
League 9	Bates Tyler	Townsend Jack	Rayner Grace
League 10	Wood Hamish	Daniels Jessica	Nicol-Mace Kaleb
League 11	Ranjith Aakhash	Ali Zinedine	Steel Millie
League 12	Towers-Fitzpatrick William	Fletcher Ben	Kaberry Edith

