



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 19 May 2023

From Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

Despite the postponement of a Sixth Form Psychology Trip on Tuesday it has been another very good week. The main body of examinations has begun and so far, these have been smooth and our students have responded in a first class manner. Well supported by our Exams, Year 11 and Sixth Form Teams, GCSE and A Level candidates will spend the next five weeks tackling their individual examination schedules and I would like to thank the staff who are providing the necessary logistical, academic and pastoral support for their commitment over the same period. With nearly 500 public examination candidates at BGS each year it is a considerable challenge to ensure a smooth and efficient process, and we are lucky to have such a fantastic group of staff who have the skills and experience to make it work.

I am also pleased to report that our Year 8 Oracy Day on Monday was a great success. As young people increasingly commit to electronic devices, communicating and engaging with online social media platforms, the challenges around face to face communication are increasing. Talking with a group of Primary School Heads recently I was struck by the concerns that were raised around children as young as 5 who are unable to express themselves as we might expect and who, by secondary school age, are being held back in their progress by the tendency for children and their parents to live more solitary social media impacted lives. We need to resist this trend if we are to preserve good oral skills and encourage emotional wellbeing enhanced by face to face relationships, so we have made a commitment in our Development Plan to target oracy as a priority for our School. My thanks to Mrs Allen for organising what happened on Monday and we look forward to further oracy initiatives in the future.

Finally, my thanks to the staff and students who took part in the Year 7 PSHE day, the Year 12 History Trip to Hampton Court Palace and the first round of the ESAA Track and Field Cup, a key focus for our athletes as they seek to progress to national level once again. And we wish the best of luck to Joe Amos, Jack Ray, Charlie Staff, Will Walker and Harvey Parker-Brown who together are attempting the Three Peaks Challenge over the holiday week in aid of testicular cancer through the Oddballs Foundation. Anyone wishing to support them with this can access their Just Giving page [here](#). Well done to them for their efforts and to everyone who commits so effectively to the wider life of the School. As ever, there is always plenty going on even during exam season.

YEAR 8 'TALK TO TALK' ORACY WORKSHOP – Report by Mrs Allen, Assistant Headteacher

On Monday 15 May, 4 trainers from *Talk the Talk* delivered a half day workshop to each of our Year 8 form groups. The aim of the workshop was to develop students' oracy skills in pair and small group work and build their communication confidence to support positive life interactions and improve social outcomes.

We hope this session builds on the oracy skills that our Year 8 students have been developing across the curriculum this year. Feedback received from students was that they had an enjoyable day and went away with some useful skills that they can utilise in the classroom and beyond!

The trainers nominated the following students that impressed them the most as their 'Oracy Champions' from the session.

Students listed have received 10 house points:

8A	8B	8C	8D
Chidera Anike	Hannah Burke	Monty Bage	Sophie Jibb
Danasha Kumari	Edward Duffy	Zade Tizi	Jordan Jafri
Olin Steen		Sonia Oleksiewicz	
Luca Wright		Jeeva Jaimon	
8E	8F	8G	8H
Ali Abdallah	Ellen Richardson	Charles Bomford	Joshi Harriss
Sara Haque	Abolaji Oluwasanmi	Leo Zeng	Ellis Lester
Grace Cullen		Noah Gledhill	
Adam Jaffer		Jessica Griffiths	



YEAR 12 – PROGRESS REVIEW MEETING: BOOKING SYSTEM

A reminder that the SchoolCloud booking system is open for bookings.

You will be able to book up to 10 appointments, each of 6 minutes in duration, and bookings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The system will ensure that each video appointment will commence and end at the scheduled time so please ensure you have logged into the system in good time to commence your appointment.

The online booking system can be accessed [here](#).

A login code is not required; the system has been set up using the details of the Priority 1 parent and your child's preferred forename (as used in School), surname and date of birth as recorded on our database. Guidance on how to carry out a video call can be found [here](#)

All queries about online booking should be directed by e-mail to Mrs Hall via prm@bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk

The booking system will close on **Sunday 21 May at 23:55.**

WHOLE SCHOOL OFF-TIMETABLE DAY: 16 JUNE 2023 (The School will be closed for this day except for Year 11 and Year 13 students sitting public exams) – ***From Mr Hewitt, Deputy Headteacher***

Progress Review Meetings – Years 7, 8, 9 & 10

I am now able to advise parents/carers that we have arranged a series of Progress Review Meetings for students in years 7, 8, 9 & 10. This includes an off-timetable day and two evenings, each of which will provide parents with an opportunity to meet virtually with Subject Teachers, to discuss their child's progress.

The schedule of these Progress Review Meetings is as follows:

PRM Whole Day (**Off-timetable**): Friday 16 June 2023
Work will be set to complete at home (Years 7,8,9,10 & 12)

PRM Evening 1: Thursday 8 June 2023
PRM Evening 2: Tuesday 27 June 2023

For practical reasons there will be a limit on the number of appointments that can be made in respect of each student. Further details on how to book your appointments, etc. will follow in due course.

YEAR 12 STUDENT FUNDRAISING

Will Walker, Jack Ray, Charlie Starr, Harvey Parker-Brown, Joe Amos and Joe's dad (driver) are attempting the 3 Peaks Challenge on the Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June. This consists of climbing Ben Nevis (Scotland), Skarfell Pike (England) and Snowdon (Wales) in less than 24hrs. We have decided to do this challenge to raise money and awareness for testicular cancer. The charity we specifically chose was the Oddballs foundation and we aim to raise £1000.

This challenge will stretch us physically and mentally but is not comparable to the emotions and lives of those affected by this illness.

We have set up a Just Giving page if you wish to donate, [click here](#). Every little helps!

FORMER STUDENT SUCCESS – Report by Mr Ray, PE

One of Bourne Grammar School's previous students, Josh Smith, has this weekend finally made the big league and will be refereeing his first game in the premiership in the Fulham versus Crystal Palace game. Josh passed the basic referees' course as a 14-year-old in 2007, officiating first in the Peterborough and District Youth League. Well done Josh from everyone at BGS.

DOFE - BRONZE QUALIFYING EXPEDITION – GRIMSTHORPE CASTLE AREA SATURDAY 13 MAY - SUNDAY 14 MAY - Report by Florence Dexter, Year 10

On Saturday 13 May to Sunday 14 May, nearly one hundred Year 10 students set out on their Bronze Qualifying Expeditions for DofE.

All 14 of the groups arrived at Yew Tree Avenue near Clipsham feeling both nervous and excited. We met with our assessors and teachers (where we got our group map and compasses) to ensure we were ready for the 16km walk to Grimsthorpe Castle. Most groups consisted of approximately 7 people, and each had a designated route that they would follow for both of the days (route A, B or C). Each group also had an 'aim' that they had to complete over the course of the 2 days, which we then had to show our assessor at the end of the second day. For example, our group's aim was to identify wildflowers using a flower guide.



Despite having large rucksacks on our backs (filled with snacks and equipment – or, in my case, giant marshmallows), the adventure was really enjoyable.

We travelled through dense woodlands, large fields and pretty villages. There were regular checkpoints along the way so that we could refill our water supplies and take a quick 10-minute break to reenergise. The expectation is that the groups are out walking for at least 6 hours (which is the minimum requirement for each day at this level). Although this was fairly exhausting, once Grimsthorpe Castle was in sight, we had a surge of energy and managed to enjoy the final few steps to the campsite. On arrival, we quickly put up our tents in a lovely location near the other groups next to a field with deer in it; it was only a stone's throw away from the castle itself.

The next challenge was to cook our evening meal. Our group got out their Trangias and began to boil some water so that we could cook our mounds of pasta. We had it with some red pesto, and it was a great way to fill us up after a busy day of walking. Once we had washed up and tidied things away, we had some free time to socialise with the other groups to see how their days had been; everyone had had a really positive and fun experience, despite a few blisters and aching shoulders. Later in the evening, we roasted our giant marshmallows, which I had brought for a special treat, on the Trangia – they turned the perfect golden-brown colour. It was the best way to end our first day on the expedition, and there were plenty to share with others.



After waking up particularly early in the tent (everyone was prepared for the 5am wake up after our training weekend), we emerged from our tents and were confronted with an amazing view of our campsite covered by a layer of fog. We ate our breakfast and packed up our kit and our tents ready to embark on our next 16km journey. Most groups left between 7-8am, and after leaving the Grimsthorpe Estate, the fog soon lifted, and the weather was great for the rest of day two. All of the groups went venturing through more woods, fields and villages with the sun

shining down on us for the whole morning. It was really good to enjoy quality time with friends where we could chat and have a laugh together without any distractions. Having arrived at the entrance to the familiar Bourne Woods, we all knew it was the last stretch to the finish. Once we had reached the end of our adventure, we met with our assessors for one last time so that they could ensure we had enjoyed ourselves over the two days, and that we had completed our group aims.

In total, everyone had walked around 30km and we all showed great resilience and teamwork throughout the expedition.



We really appreciate the time given by the assessors and volunteers to support us through the challenges over the weekend: thank you. We had such a brilliant time!

DofE Poem by Antonio Cupicciotti, Tom Drew, Yianni Halford, Eliasz Polak, Dan Rogers, Theo Saralis, Nathan Sylvester

Out in the wilderness,
Filled with joy and cheerfulness,
We set out on a hike,
And saw a motorbike,
Walking through fields,
With pain in our heels,
Now sat on our bums,
Chatting with our chums,
Crawling up a hill,
And losing the will,
Sat down to eat,
Finally, off our feet,
Getting closer to the lake to end our hassle,
Preparing to camp over at the castle.

Waking up early in the morning,
The hike for today is already dawning,
Last glimpse of the castle,
Ready for more hassle,
Surrounded by fog,
We found ourselves in a bog,
After meeting with Flight,
We continued the fight,
On and on we go,
Some of us rather slow,
Marching for hours,
Through fields of flowers,
Now nearing Bourne Woods,
We've consumed all our goods,
With victory in our reach,
We end with this speech.





DEBATE COMPETITION – Report by Andrew Lucas, Year 12

If I were to sum up the House Debate competition in one word, it would have to be - Wow. Every debate from the semi-final to the final were some of the best we've had yet; as seen by the narrowly close victory margins in judges votes.

Unlike our usual voting system at Debate Society, we enlisted the help of members of staff to provide an unbiased vote based on a set of criteria: 1) Reasoning and evidence, 2) Listening and response, 3) Organisation and prioritization, 4) Expression and delivery and 5) Teamwork and roles. Teams were scored out of five in each category, to give an overall score out of 25.

These criteria would ultimately decide the winner of each debate with our audience providing a 'popular vote'; a somewhat accurate gauge of how persuaded they were - with a hint of house pride and bias! Nevertheless, the teachers were the ones the debaters really had to impress.

To make the debates more interesting, we opted to draw lots to decide which House would be speaking for and against motions, and also the motion to be discussed. This meant that students were not necessarily debating their own viewpoint, so provided another challenge to participants.

The first debate was on the motion '*Performance enhancing drugs should be allowed in sports*'. Speaking in favour of the motion were Charlie Knight and Elijah Ford for Tinbergen, and speaking against the motion for Meitner were Connie Bayliss and myself. Both sides provided well-spoken and powerful speeches accompanied by lots of studies and evidence to support their arguments.

The proposition's arguments included that it would make sports more exciting and that we should see what the human body is capable of. The opposition said that this is wrong and that people don't want to watch enhanced athletes but instead see what the human body is capable of, without any drugs.

After audience questions, it was Tinbergen who were declared victorious by one of the slimmest majorities in Debate Society history. However, history would repeat itself the very next day.



The second semi-final debated in the motion: *'The voting age should be lowered to 16'* with James Pembery and Brandon Coia of Behn house speaking for the proposition. On the other side of the chamber, Zoe Husbands and Keira Maxey for Rorschach speaking against the motion. Again, some great arguments were given by both sides on a topic so relevant to all speakers, but only one house can win. Following staff deliberation, we had another slim majority! With a four-point majority, Rorschach clinched the victory.

Rorschach picking the motion: *'This house prefers strong dictatorships to weak democracies'*. Fighting for third place were Meitner and Behn on the motion *'This house believes that all forms of gambling should be illegal'*.

The fight for third place was enthralling. Speaking in favour of the motion 'Gambling in all forms should be illegal' was Connie Bayliss and myself, and in opposition were Harrison Smith and Sam Edwards for Behn. The proposition focused on the dangers of gambling and how it can lead to health problems and in some cases death, whilst the opposition argued the liberal view that people should be able to choose what they want to do, and that gambling is a positive for the economy. In the end, it was another closely scored debate with Behn narrowly securing third place.

And it all came down to this, the final. Tinbergen versus Rorschach. Charlie Knight and Elijah Ford versus Zoe Husbands and Keira Maxey.

Rorschach were arguing in favour of strong dictatorships over weak democracies, which was no easy task, but both speakers managed to conjure up strong arguments and powerful punch lines. In opposition, Tinbergen, arguing for weak democracies over dictatorships, focused on the benefits that all democracies bring and that dictatorships are overall worse in numerous categories. Following an intense line of audience questioning and careful discussion between the judges, Tinbergen were declared the winner of the House Debating Competition!

After three weeks of preparation and debate, it surely has been a landmark event at Bourne Grammar School, and I just want to congratulate everyone that was involved in the House Debating Competition - speaking in front of people, especially your peers, is no easy task, and they all did incredibly well. Additionally, I want to thank everyone that attended and all the members of staff that helped judge in each debate.







But now that we have completed our first house debate competition, we will continue with our regular series of debating and look forward to hosting more interesting events like this one through the Debate Society.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Kris Rushworth, Year 10 passed his ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory with Distinction.
 Congratulations to Alex Allen, Toby Bell, Zac Farrington and Dylan Moverley all from Year 7 for being crowned Under 12 Division 4 champions as part of the Thurlby Tigers U12 Orange football team.

House Totals

			
39828	37667	38386	34566

These totals show all House Points earned minus Behaviour Points.
 It includes points from all students in each house up to 18/5/2023.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Melosa Gigi	7	Mr Moxley	Drama
Ria Gupta	7	Dr Barmby	History
Charlotte-May Houghton	7	Mr Farrow	Computer Science
Ellie Moore	7	Mr Khumalo	Science
Arthur Turner	7	Mrs Allen	English
Hazel Delport	7	Miss Mafusire-Strawford	Art
Joseph Knowles	8	Mr Khumalo	Science
Oliver Smith	8	Ms Jasinska	Spanish
Zaid Thalangara	8	Mr Hewitt	German
Munachukwuso Anike	9	Mrs Allen	English
Ned Gervis	9	Mr Brown	Computer Science
Henry Hill	9	Mr Delport	Design Engineering
Flynn Knight	9	Miss Patman	Spanish
Hannah Lessiter	9	Mr Lennox	Physics
Kai Morris-Nevins	9	Mr Delport	Design Engineering
Samyutha Puppala	9	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Leo Abis	10	Miss Patman	Spanish
Thomas Beales	10	Ms Bowtell	PE
Millie Herrick	10	Miss Segarra Ginés	Spanish
Olly Lockton	10	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Tobias Merricks	10	Miss Smallshaw	Chemistry
Dhanya Ravi	10	Dr Hanson	Biology
Mae Cole	10	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Tegan Haw	10	Mr Clark	Computer Science
Ayaz Thathia	10	Mr Clark	Computer Science
Alyssa Mascot	11	Mr Sutherland	Physics
Libby Moore	11	Mrs Bolitho	English
Emily Clipson-Cox	12	Mrs Pignatiello	Theatre Studies
Rosa Glover	13	Miss McAleese	Psychology