

BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 29 January 2021

From Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

The announcement by the Government this week that schools will remain closed until at least March 8th was confirmation of the long term nature of remote learning that many of us suspected would be the case. This represents a significant burden on all families, and is a particular blow to our children who are desperate I am sure to get back to school with their friends. The immediate impact of this announcement is to force the postponement of our Year 11 mock GCSE examinations scheduled to begin on March 1st, and as soon as possible we will publish new plans for Year 11 given this target return date. I have to emphasise, however, that there is no guarantee that all schools will fully reopen on March 8th and I would not be surprised to see staged reopening and local variations when the time comes. For this reason any plan for an opening on March 8th may be subject to alteration and in a message to Year 11 this week the best I could say to them was to be flexible, keep working and stay strong. At times of such uncertainty this is not the message they want to hear I am sure, but it is the best advice I can give at this stage. Should we not reopen on March 8th we will, of course, have contingency plans for both our Year 11 and Year 13 public examination students and we should also have the results of the government consultation on the awarding process. One way or another the mists will begin to clear once we get to March.

This negative news puts greater emphasis on the fact that next week is Children's Mental Health Week, and as we all wrestle with the realities of remote learning, home schooling and question marks over examinations, staff in school have been discussing the issue of screen time and mental health at length. Five hours per day of screen time for everyone in Years 7 – 11 is a significant amount and we are keen to try and find a balance in the daily routine for the benefit of all. We remain committed to 100% live lessons as the best way for our students to learn, but the breaks in between these lessons are short, and reports of tiredness and in some cases negative physical impacts have begun to be made. As a result students in Year 7 – 9 have been told that all live lessons will be reduced to 50 minutes in length from Monday, and the longer breaks in between lessons are to be used to stand up, get away from the screen and refresh the eyes. 50 minutes remains plenty of time to cover the material we need, and in addition we have asked students in Years 7 - 9 to spend 30 minutes each evening completing "Building Better Learner" tasks that they are familiar with – most definitely away from screens. I would be delighted if this developed purely into reading time; anything to add variety to learning. We have also temporarily discontinued catch up sessions at 5pm for students in Years 8 and 9, once again to reduce excessive screen exposure. We believe the mental health benefits of this approach are appropriate at this time.

For those students in the Sixth Form, given the flexibility provided by timetables that are not fixed at five hours contact per day, the same measures have not been deemed necessary at this time. For students studying GCSE programmes in Years 10 and 11 we are also holding to full 60 minute lessons for now. We will run shortened lessons plus the 30 minutes BBL time for two weeks with Years 7 – 9 and then review. If it is a success, and if feedback is positive from parents, teachers and students alike, then we do not rule out applying it to our GCSE cohorts also. Inevitably there is more pressure to ensure course content is covered at this level, but mental health is extremely important too, and should schools remain shut for the long term then we are open to a flexible approach. I would welcome any feedback from families of children in Years 7 – 9 at the end of this term as to the success (or otherwise) of this initiative.

Finally I would like to make reference to two significant landmark dates in the global calendar that have passed recently. Holocaust Memorial Day is a moment when all should pause for thought, and I spoke to Years 10 and 11 this week about the horror, misery and brutality of the mechanised murder of so many people by the Nazis during the Second World War. However I would also like to emphasise the work of Dr Martin Luther King at this difficult time, celebrated via a national holiday in the USA on the third Monday of January and a focus for the

same Year 10/11 assembly. Dr King was a beacon of hope, a light that shone amidst the darkness of racial segregation and a relentless campaigner for Civil Rights and a better world. Dr King never allowed violence to deflect him from his work, and despite a bomb attack on his home and attempts on his life he never lost his inner optimism born of an absolute faith in the power of love. Right now things are hard, life in a Covid context is tough, and Holocaust Memorial Day is a historical reminder of just how grim life can be. But we can use Dr King as an inspiration in times of trouble, and it seems very appropriate now to quote these words of Dr King to you all: "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS EVENING - Tuesday 9 February 2021

We will shortly be asking Year 9 Students, in discussion with their parents, to choose the GCSE subjects they would like to study in Years 10 and 11. This year the GCSE Options Evening will be held as a virtual online event on Tuesday 9 February, from 19:00 to 21:00.

The evening will offer an opportunity to hear how the KS4 curriculum is structured and to learn how to choose and submit option preferences using the online system. You will also be able to visit departments virtually to watch presentations given by the Subject Leaders and to have any questions you may have answered by subject teachers in live online Q&A sessions.

During the week commencing 1 February, Year 9 students and parents will be issued with an electronic copy of the Options Booklet, which gives an overview of the KS4 curriculum, details about the options process (including key dates) and specific details about each subject. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the options process and the subjects on offer so as to make the best possible use of the limited time available on Options Evening. Further details about how to access the virtual Options Evening will be provided in due course. We do hope that you are able to attend this important evening and look forward to meeting you.

EXERCISE BOOKS - Mr Hewitt, Deputy Headteacher (Academic)

If students run out of space in their exercise books, they have the option to collect a new one from the front entrance of the School. If this is not convenient, it is perfectly acceptable for students to continue to work on lined paper.

The exercise books are clearly labelled by subject - students are free to collect one should they need to. Please only take what is needed.



CATCH-UP SESSIONS - Mr Hewitt, Deputy Headteacher (Academic)

Academic catch-up sessions are continuing to take place remotely *via TEAMS*. Students may attend any session(s) of their choosing as published below by joining the relevant *TEAMS* meeting at 17:00 each day.

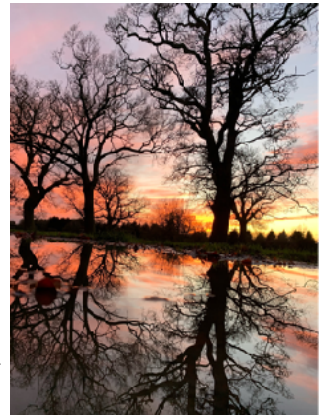
	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 13			
Monday 1 February	No Session Available	DRAMA Blood Brothers - Mrs Lyons, Linda Mr Moxley TEAMS	ENGLISH LITERATURE A Long Long Way Mr Brooker TEAMS	PHYSICS Gases Mr Lennox TEAMS		
Tuesday 2 February		No Session Available	COMPUTER SCIENCE NEA Coding Mr Brown TEAMS	GERMAN Essay writing Miss Doeringhaus TEAMS	MUSIC Section A Questions & Analysis Mr Tomlinson TEAMS	ENGLISH LANGUAGE Paper 2 Question 3 Ms Mears TEAMS
Wednesday 3 February	GLOBAL HAZARDS Miss Lindley TEAMS		BIOLOGY Cell Membranes 1 Mr Vaughan TEAMS			
Thursday 4 February	No Session Available	DESIGN ENGINEERING PCB circuit design Mr Delpont TEAMS	RELIGIOUS STUDIES Philosophy of Religion Mr Howard EPR 1			

BOURNE TO EXERCISE (AND TO CALAIS) - Report by Mr Ray, Director of PE & Sport

More than ever there is a need for students to use time during the week to get involved in some form of exercise and get away from their screens. In PE lessons, all students are being encouraged to get active, whether this be following a short online workout, such as Joe Wicks, following a circuit designed by themselves, or using apps that give you everything you need.

A number of other resources have also been put in place for students to readily access. For Key Stage 3, Mr Graves has spent some considerable time - whilst watching Tottenham Hotspur - setting a range of Medal Challenges that students can work on, some even suggesting to involve others in the family and getting a little competitive. For Key Stage 4, a broad range of circuit cards and other activities have been produced, again by Mr Graves, with photos, descriptions and progressions to assist students. For those a little less active, the *Couch to 5K* challenge has also been suggested to encourage more to get out and about in the fresh air.

At the start of recent lessons, the PE Department have started to discuss with students the benefits, both mental and physical, of engaging with 20 minutes or more of activities, even as simple as a brisk walk. The uptake has been particularly good in Years 7, 8 and 9, with the Bourne to Calais challenge. Students simply log, in *TEAMS*, the number of kilometres they walk (with or without their dog), run, cycle or even row to try and cover the distance to Calais. Any activity can count - even running around in the snow! Whilst cycling gives 1km credit per km cycled, walking or running gives 3km for each km completed. This has been combined with 'milestones' for reaching destinations on route and obtaining a virtual certificate. Miss Smith has been instrumental in dealing with the certificates for students as they reach each destination. The response of many has been excellent but we have underestimated the distances some are covering! A small number have crossed the Channel and on their way to various destinations across Europe. Of the 12 additional destinations, the further target at present is The Colosseum in Rome, some 1568km from Calais. For each destination, a hyperlink will take them to uncover more about their new location.



Name		Total	Cycle	Jog/run	Walk
Lauren	Stuart	360	75	15	80
Alice	Jones	317.7		31.4	74.5
Emily	Seaton	315.6		6	99.2
Charlotte	Smith	303		35	66
Elyza	Howard	267		37	52
Isabel	Turner	264.69		19.91	68.32
Evie	Lound	263.867	32.939		76.976
Millie	Doud	255	126	25	18
Harriet	Cork	250.05		7.3	76.05
Hannah	Simpson	248.7		11.6	71.3
Kris	Rushworth	245.81	26.15	7.35	65.87
Florence	Dexter	245.28		6	75.76
Sasha	Milne	212.463	3.54	5.61	64.031
Tilly	Manning	193.5		36.5	28
Isobel	Walker	187	7	13	47
Isla	Earth	186.5	137		16.5
Millie	Herrick	184.5		15.3	46.2
Sophie	Quilter	179.16		7.8	51.92
Chloe	Kirman	176.4		4.8	54
Bella	Burton	144		2	46

To share their involvement in some of these activities, students have also been asked, if they wish, to put on their *TEAMS* channel scenic photos whilst out and about. Included here are just a few of these, which could also enter the Photography Competition!

Well done to all who have taken part. Any activity from Monday 11 January onwards can be logged towards your total. Feel free to backdate yours if needed. The current top 20 distances across Years 7-11 can be seen in the table to the left.

A list of achievements to date for each year group can be accessed [here](#).

YEAR 9 PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION - Miss Bradley, Head of Year 9

The Year 9 Photography Competition explored Light and Dark this week, with some really powerful photographs produced.



1st Place - Atiksh Agnihotri



2nd Place - Anica Andali



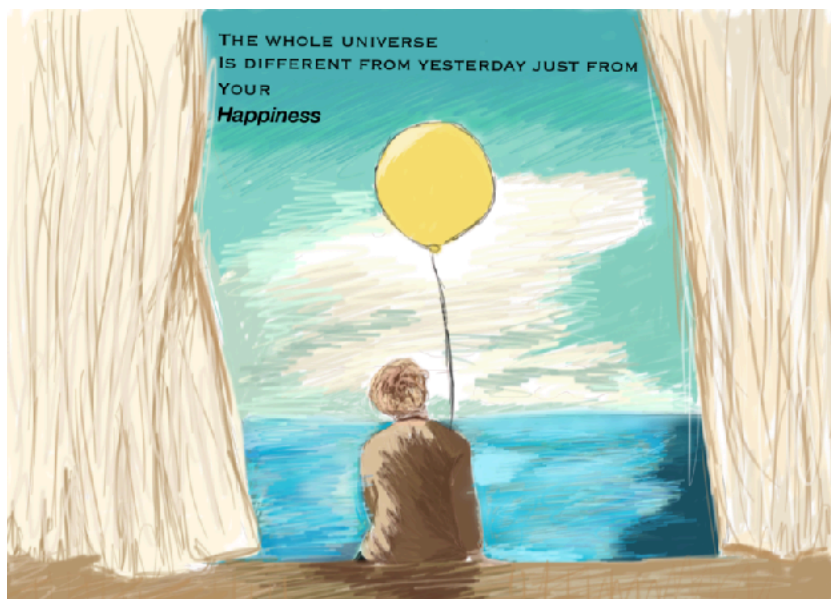
3rd Place - Megan Drake

YEAR 9 ART EXHIBITION - Miss Bradley, Head of Year 9

Year 9 are running regular Art Exhibitions whilst we are in lockdown. This gives the students a chance to express themselves creatively, away from the classroom. This first exhibition had a theme of Happiness.



Alex Sadler



Lucy Harrison



Sanjani Mamillapalle



Qais Raja

ARTWORK

Well done to all Year 13 Fine Art students who have been continuing to produce pieces for their coursework and prepare portfolios for University interviews despite the lockdown. They have been successful in achieving highly sought after offers at Loughborough University, University of St Andrews, Glasgow School of Art, and the University of East Anglia to name just a few! Below is a selection of just some of the outstanding work shown at interview.



Charlotte Payne



Ellie Harrison



Molly Rock



Phoebe Mason



Ella Burdock



Abby Garthwaite

HOUSE POINT TOTALS

2,109	2,411	2,582	2,579

*These totals show all House Points earned minus Behaviour Points.
It includes points from all students in each house up to 29/01/2021.*

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Evie Mabey	7	Dr Barnby	History
Martha O'Connor	7	Miss Pollard	Geography
Jessy Sayer	7	Miss Mafusire-Strawford	Art
Hannah Simpson	7	Miss Patman	Spanish
Ellie Bannister	8	Ms Bowtell	PE
Georbin Biloy	8	Mr Perez	Science
Bella Burton	8	Mr Adamson	Mathematics
Harriet Cork	8	Miss Lindley	Geography
Oliver Leeton	8	Ms McVicker	English
Grace Osborne	8	Mrs Pignatiello	Drama
Robyn Baldock	9	Miss Segarra Ginés	Spanish
Robyn Baldock	9	Miss Turton	Drama
George Bell	9	Mr Sheppard	Mathematics
Alexanne Bradley	9	Mrs Cowell	French
Sam Davies	9	Ms Currier	German
Frances Henson	9	Mr Mitchell	Business Studies
Evie Lound	9	Mrs Pignatiello	Drama
Sasha Milne	9	Mr Gillespie	Mathematics
Sasha Milne	9	Mrs Pignatiello	Drama
Harrison Smith	9	Mr Mitchell	Business Studies
David Hyam	10	Miss Doerpinghaus	German
Remi Karim	10	Mr Delport	Design Engineering
Nicholas Lees	10	Ms Bowtell	Registration
Abiel Simon	10	Miss Segarra Ginés	Spanish
Rory Spellar	10	Mr Harris	Chemistry
Tanith Storm	10	Mr Andy	Mathematics
Tanith Storm	10	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Noah Akamessan	11	Mrs Clark	Spanish
Reece Bairsto	11	Mr Gillespie	Mathematics
Jordan De Lima Araujo	11	Mr Brown	Computing
Alexander McFarland	11	Ms Creedon	Spanish
Joseph Woollard	11	Miss Atkinson	EPR
Eleanor Brown	12	Mr Williamson	Media Studies
Ben Dawson	12	Mrs Woolf	Chemistry
Zoe Devonport	12	Ms Kemp	English Language
Ella Henson	12	Miss Bradley	Sports Studies
Akinola Ojelade	12	Ms Kemp	English Language
Lola Gamble	13	Miss Sanders	Sociology

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Music

Holly Wilcockson (Year 11) has passed her Grade 6 Piano exam, learning only through online *Zoom* lessons.