



Bourne Grammar School Weekly Bulletin



2 - 6 December

Reflection of the Week

Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

Christmas is in the air! –we had a lovely Fair in the Great Hall on Tuesday organised by our superb Sixth Form student team to raise money for the children’s brain charity “Anna’s Hope.” The warm atmosphere smiles on faces and excitement at the various stalls was great to see and I am grateful to all who helped organise it and for giving us such a timely boost into the Christmas period.

And that boost is certainly much appreciated at the moment, as staff work their way through significant piles of Year 11 mock examination marking. I thanked the teaching staff openly this week for their efforts and would like to do so again here. We could not secure the excellent public examination results that are a consistent feature year on year without the commitment and dedication of academic departments and those that lead them. Thank you to all our hard-working teachers, good luck as the marking comes to an end and I know our Year 11 students are looking forward to formal notification of how they have performed.

Finally, I must thank the whole school community for the wonderful atmosphere that was present at Speech Night last Friday. The Abbey Church is a first-class venue, the music and drama that we were treated to was superb, and the students receiving their prizes were clearly delighted to receive such public recognition for their achievements. It was noticeable how many ex-students and current students stayed behind, talking about recent events, next steps and their memories of school. It is memory that binds community together, and events like this that promote individual and collective memory is hugely significant. There are many people to thank for the success of the evening, but special thanks must go to Miss Grenfell for her organisation, Mr Tomlinson and Mr Jones for the musical interludes of Rutter’s *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* performed by the Chamber Choir alongside Coldplay’s *Fix You* performed by the Sixth Form Choir, and also to Mr Moxley for the drama interlude from *The Importance of Being Earnest* performed by Emilia Beacham and Jack Knowles. A thoroughly enjoyable evening for all who were able to attend.

House Totals

10520	12333	11524	11802

House Points earned minus Behaviour Points, from all students in each house for term 2

Bourne Abbey Community Carol Service – 14 December

Mr Jones

Having heard their performance for the Len Pick Trust at the end of October, we are delighted that Revd. Fr. Stephen has invited our Chamber Choir to take part in the Community Carol Service in Bourne Abbey on Saturday 14 December. The service, which starts at 3pm, is a traditional service of lessons and carols with musical items from the choir of Bourne Abbey, the Bourne Choral Society, and four items from our Chamber Choir.

The service is open to all, and it would be lovely to see some familiar faces supporting our students at this prestigious event.

BGS Christmas Fair

Sasha Milne, 13I, and Ben Aldred, 13C

On Tuesday 4 December the Year 13 Outreach and Activities Committee hosted a lunchtime Christmas Fair in the Main Hall to raise money for Anna's Hope.

We had a range of stalls; lucky dip, hamper raffle, bake sale, Christmas crackers, guess the teacher baby photo, cup pong, guess the teddy, guess the sweets in the jar, photo booth, and how different countries celebrate the festive season around the world.



It was great to see so many students and teachers in attendance, creating a wonderful atmosphere whilst having fun with friends and earning prizes!

A big well done to all the prize winners, and a huge thank you for all those who took part, brought in bakes, or donated items to support us.

We raised £434.90 for our School's chosen charity this year, Anna's Hope.



Chemistry Trip to Emmanuel Centre

Olivia Dunicz, 12C, Emily Nurse, 12A, and Aditi Kumar, 12G

On Wednesday 20 November, we went to the Emmanuel Centre in London and listened to a variety of interesting lectures by experienced scientists, such as Professor Lucy Carpenter, who, as well as being a fellow of The Royal Society has received a Rosalind Franklin award for her research. The day was spent learning about intriguing topics such as nanotechnology and chiral materials.

We had two lectures on arrival. The first was about chemical weapons, a taboo subject among chemists, and their use in various wars and their evolution throughout history. The second lecture, given by a PhD graduate from Imperial College London, was about the link between chemistry and electronics through chiral materials. Both were very interesting and different from anything that we have learned in chemistry so far.

Following these sessions, we were given specific advice from an examiner about the types of questions we could be asked and how to answer them. This was very helpful and well-tailored advice for us as A-Level chemistry students.

Our third lecture was by Professor Lucy Carpenter from the University of York who talked about the how important chemistry is to the atmosphere and environment, specifically regarding air quality. She talked about the various pollutants present in the air, their increase and decrease in our atmosphere over time, and how we can minimise their effect in the future.

After a brief lunch, Professor Tony Ryan from Sheffield university spoke to us about how you can recycle non fire-retardant mattresses to be used as a substitute for soil in desert countries, and to preserve water. This scheme has been very successful in Syria helping refugees grow their own food through the Desert Garden project.

The final lecture was by Dr Tim Gabriel, who taught us how nanoparticles are used in things such as lotuses to cars, preventing them from getting dirty. He also spoke about the 10 different chemistry jobs he has had showing us the broad range of possibilities chemistry can lead to.

To conclude, the presentations shared by leading experts in each of their fields provided valuable insights to different areas of chemistry. This trip was an enriching experience which inspired and amplified the students' interest in chemistry.

Christmas Card Competition

Ms Currier

Thank you to all students who entered the House Christmas card competition on the theme, harmony.

Congratulations to Viganth RG in 8H (Tinbergen) who has won the competition for a second year in a row to design Mr Anderson's Christmas card. Well done.



DofE Success – Gold Award

Mrs Brett, DofE Manager

Congratulations to Ben Pennycook who has successfully completed his Gold DofE Award. Throughout Ben's progression through his Silver and then Gold Award volunteering activities, Ben has set up and run the BYC – Build Your Confidence club at school to help younger students build their self-esteem and make new friends. This club has been a huge help to a number of students who have welcomed the safe space to develop these skills. Well done Ben!



For Ben's Gold Physical section, he participated in various running, walking and cycling activities to generally keep fit and prepare himself for his Gold Expeditions. For his Skills section, Ben improved his computer programming knowledge and undertook a variety of IBM courses to help develop this skill.

The team Gold Expedition took place in the Yorkshire Dales (Easter 2024 - where the main challenges were the weather) and a hot and sunny (at times!) Lake District (July 2024). Ben proved to be a confident navigator and adept map reader, actively contributing to the team's navigational decisions that ensured the group remained on course.



For his Residential camp, Ben took part in various outdoor activities at the Lake District's Howtown Outward Bound Centre. Here he spent 5 days and 4 nights making new friends and taking part in orienteering, cliff jumping and gorge walking alongside Ullswater.

It has been a pleasure to support Ben through his DofE journey and I hope he has a wonderful day at the Palace when it comes. Well done and best wishes from the DofE team!

BGS Christmas Tree

Five of our Y11 students took time out of their day to decorate our Christmas tree in the entrance to the School. I am sure you will agree they have done a splendid job. Well done.

Miles Garrido
Jack Cotuk
Merryn Baldock
Hannah Lessiter
Freya Dahlgaard-Sigsworth



House Chess

Mr Farrow



Last week saw the annual House Chess competition between players of all years and Houses. With over 60 students signed up the competition was the largest and most competitive it has ever been.

Throughout the week players competed to try and place as highly as they could for their House with the average position of the top 5 players in each House being the final decider as to winner.

Whilst Aanjishnu Bhattacharya managed to secure first place as a member of Rorschach, his teammates were unable to match his performance leading to Tinbergen players; Freddie Neal, Edward Lavender Oliver Petz, and Eleanor Twinley, taking 2nd to 5th position, resulting in an impressive Tinbergen win.



Final standings:

1st - Tinbergen

2nd - Rorschach

3rd - Behn

4th - Meitner



A huge thank you to everyone who took part and especially Mr Farrow for running the competition.

Seneca Premium

Mr Hewitt, Deputy Head Academic

All students have access to a SENECA PREMIUM account, which is one of the best resources for independent learning on the market.

Well done to the students named here, whose efforts have seen them rank in the school's Top 10 for SENECA usage in November. A fabulous effort has been made by each one of these students.

Top students by study time		
1	Alex Watson	Year 11
2	Nathan Bisalla	Year 11
3	Kieran Ng	Year 10
4	Annabel Sutton	Year 11
5	Will Davies	Year 7
6	Alesha Garratt	Year 12
7	Anna Calvert	Year 11
8	Samhita Thiagar...	Year 10
9	Izzy Dunn	Year 11
10	Ivana Fuller	Year 10

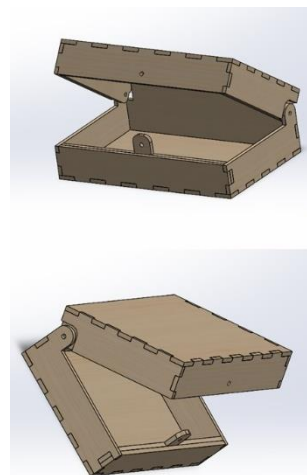
BBL Champion

Mr Hewitt, Deputy Head Academic



Astrid Fairhead-Abrahams (7E) is an excellent choice for BBL Champion this week for her high-quality independent learning. Astrid's Design Engineering teacher, Mr Delpont says, 'I was very impressed with the time and dedication that Astrid put into designing her storage box using Computer Aided Design (CAD).

Astrid used industry standard software (SolidWorks) to design all the storage box parts, then mated all the parts together in an assembly to simulate the operation. This ensured all the parts were able to fit together correctly and the box functioned correctly before manufacture.' Well done to Astrid for her hard work and commitment; she receives 10 Achievement Points in recognition of her efforts.



Students of the Week

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Harriet Booth	7	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Bethan Drewett	7	Miss Davis-Williams	EPR
Amelia Cody	7	Mr Jones	Music
Odeta Cukanova	7	Mr Jones	Music
Berri Bairsto	8	Mr Khumalo	Science
Natalia Borowiak	8	Mr Hewitt	Geography
Elliott Eveleigh	8	Mr Hewitt	Geography
Alicja Odrobinska	8	Mr Williamson	Art
Estella Ray	8	Miss Davis-Williams	History
Wilbur Crawford	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Elliott Eveleigh	8	Mr Fleckney	Registration
Jasper Hudson	8	Mr Edwards	Spanish
Caspar Baldock	9	Mr Bainbridge	History
Anya Copestake	9	Dr Barmby	History
Isla Cummins	9	Mrs Woolf	Chemistry
Ben Fletcher	9	Mr Bainbridge	History
Archie Gilbert	9	Mr Bainbridge	History
Vladimir Grigorov	9	Mr Perez	Biology
Johnny Hullock	9	Mr Delpont	Design Engineering
Savannah Luciano	9	Miss Patman	Spanish
Jessica Nicholson	9	Mr Bainbridge	History
Parinith Rangaswamy	9	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Sophie Robinson	9	Mr Bainbridge	History

Oliver Sweeney	9	Mr Bainbridge	History
Josephine Thurston	9	Dr Barmby	History
Vladimir Grigorov	9	Ms Bennett	English
Aaminah Ali	10	Dr Barmby	History
Emily Lawson	10	Mrs Williamson	English
Aleena Malik	10	Mr Brooker	English
Maryam Muhammad	10	Ms Bennett	English
Zahra Ravji	10	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Zahra Ravji	10	Dr Pritchard-Murphy	Statistics & Further Mathematics
Toby Udeaja	10	Dr Pritchard-Murphy	Statistics & Further Mathematics
Miguel Valdez	10	Dr Pritchard-Murphy	Statistics & Further Mathematics
William Burton	11	Mrs Evans	Geography
Freya Dahlgaard-Sigsworth	11	Ms Kemp	English
Bhargav Elakoochy	11	Ms Kemp	English
Miles Garrido	11	Mrs Evans	Geography
Archie Gaunt	11	Mr Smith	Mathematics
Koki Leshtarov	11	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Hannah Lessiter	11	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Karina Ying Yu Lok	11	Dr Pritchard-Murphy	Statistics & Further Mathematics
Sebastien Louzolo	11	Dr Pritchard-Murphy	Statistics & Further Mathematics
Sophie Quilter	11	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Hannah Simpson	11	Dr Pritchard-Murphy	Statistics & Further Mathematics
Maisie Booth	12	Dr Hobbiss	Psychology
Freya Watkins	12	Miss Summerfield	Psychology
Millie Doud	12	Miss McAleese	Psychology
Atte Maaranen	12	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Imogen Altham	13	Mr Mitchell	Law
Lily Cole	13	Mr Mitchell	Law
Erin Geddes	13	Miss Sanders	Sociology
Bella Livingston	13	Mr Williamson-Ward	English Language
Emilee Mimms	13	Mr Williamson	Media Studies
Kate Rees	13	Mr Mitchell	Law
Isobel Rodway	13	Miss Patman	Spanish
Olivia Ward	13	Mr Williamson-Ward	English Language
Anya Mason	13	Mrs Bolitho	English Literature

Donate to 

Specific items requested:

- Christmas Treats
- UHT Milk
- Jam, Marmalade and spreads for sandwiches
- Tinned Meat
- Fruit squash and UHT Fruit juice
- Coffee, tea bags
- Biscuits, snack bars
- Washing powder
- Deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste
- Toilet paper

Collection: Friday 13th December
Drop off point: Main student entrance gate



*At this time, please **no** beans, pulses, cereals, pasta, tinned fish, nappies, and pet food.*



SPORT

Year 7 Rugby vs Oundle School

Mr Brunner, Deputy Head Pastoral



There was a lot of excitement upon arrival at Oundle and the talk amongst the team on the long walk through the seemingly endless grounds to the pavilion included comments about the chances of playing against Prince George and the possible consequences of accidentally injuring him in the game. There was also a good debate about whether Bourne Grammar could start using golf buggies to get from one building to the next, just like Oundle. Thoughts soon turned to the challenge that lay ahead, however, and after a short warm-up the boys were ready.

In what can only be described as a nail-biting encounter, our Year 7s faced off against a well-organised side in an electrifying match that ended in a thrilling 40-40 draw.

The game was a showcase of determination and grit from our players, who fought tooth and nail right up until the final whistle. Special mention must go to Sammy Hullock for his heroic last-ditch tackle to prevent Oundle's top try scorer - who had proven unstoppable for most of the game – from crossing our line in the dying seconds of the match.

Oundle School came in as formidable opponents, as always, but our players rose to the challenge, demonstrating remarkable teamwork and tenacity throughout the game. So many of our players showcased an array of tackle-breaking runs and at times it was a true masterclass in strength and agility, with players such as Charly Berry, Vincent Bradley, Joshua Postlethwaite, Jasper Purdy and Harvey Weston weaving through Oundle's defence in spectacular fashion.

The likes of Ewan Campbell, Eason Capper, Matthew Pitchford and Jack Watson showed our capacity to push past tackles and brought a real energy to the field, keeping the spectators on their toes. One of the standout aspects of our performance was our improved rucking which enabled us to recycle the ball quickly and even counter ruck on several occasions. Brandon Bull and Oscar Newman quickly adapted to the speed of the breakdown and by the end of the game were more than a handful for the opposition who were on the back foot.

Harry Cosford showed his typical composure under the high ball and made some dangerous runs to create try-scoring opportunities, and it was impressive to see the fancy footwork of Theon Collins, on his debut match, and Steven Murimi, who never failed to wrong foot his opposing number.

Barney Rogers' ability to transition from defence to attack and his quick decision making kept Oundle on

guard, but it truly was an excellent all round team performance. The team will continue to work on positioning as we found ourselves far too bunched up near the breakdown in defence and very flat in attack, but we have a great foundation to work on.

While we may not have claimed victory in the traditional sense, the spirit and camaraderie shown on and off the field signified a memorable achievement for our recently formed Year 7 squad. Congratulations to all, including those who have played such a crucial role in training who didn't make the team on this occasion.

The post-match hospitality was a great opportunity for our boys to eat and talk with the Oundle team to learn all about the similarities and differences between our two schools. The concept of a boarding school seemed completely alien to some of our players which was evident when overhearing comments such as "What? You mean you actually get to stay the night here? You seriously sleep at your school?" followed by discussions about where the best place to sleep at BGS would be!

A great afternoon of rugby and we extend our thanks to Oundle School for being such fantastic hosts.

Y11 Rugby v Spalding Grammar

Mr Bowers

Last week, the Year 11 rugby team travelled to Spalding Grammar School for a game under lights. Following a defeat earlier in the season, Bourne had chance to make amends and they certainly delivered. A fast paced game with superb handling saw end to end rugby. Noah Humphries, returning to the side from injury ran away scoring 4 tries and was the stand out performance of a 36-19 victory.

1st XV Rugby v Carres Grammar

Mr Bowers



This week, the 1st XV travelled to Carres Grammar School for the first fixture between the two schools for a number of years in rugby. A game with possibly more scrums ever seen before created a stop start affair, but when in play, Bourne dominated for the majority of the game, keeping the ball in the Carres half and carrying strongly through the forwards, of whom all the tries come from. When hands were kept on the ball, 3 or 4 quick passes managed to open up the Carres defence and line breaks were coming thick and fast.

Two tries and successful conversions in both halves saw a 28-10 win for the 1st XV, taking their win tally to 3 out of 4 for the season, with games against Stamford and Spalding Grammar remaining before the Christmas break. Tries were shared between Luis Nelson, Sam Easton, Oli Jordan and Elliot Cross; all converted by Zakkai Piggot. A mention must go to Elliot, who after 3 disallowed tries for the School team over the last two years, this one stood, and the celebrations were joyous for all to see and witness.



Y9 Football National Cup v King Edward VII

Mr Bowers

The Year 9 football team took the journey east to Kings Lynn on Monday for their 4th Round National Cup game against King Edward VII. Arriving in wet and cold conditions, a tough match it tough conditions kicked off. Taking the lead after 10 minutes, Bourne appeared to be dominating and cruising soundly into half time. But a last minute of madness of the half saw two goals conceded and King Edward VII going into the break with the momentum. An equal second half saw King Edward start to move the ball around nicely, but opened up attacking opportunities for Bourne, but every ricochet, bounce, bobble and save seemed to go in the favour of King Edward. A 3rd King Edward goal 5 minutes from time looked to clinch it, but a penalty for Bourne 30 seconds from time gave hope. A big goal kick into the middle of the pitch from Bourne was the last ditch attempt with 10 players all bombing forward, but a foul in the desperation of searching for the all important levelling goal called an end to the game, finishing in an unfortunate 3-2 loss.

A tough result to take, particularly after the first half performance. But hopefully the boys can take some pride from being so close to making it to the last 64 in the country. Hopefully they can go a step further next year.

The County Cup and League now become the focus for the remainder of the season after the Christmas break.