



Bourne Grammar School Weekly Bulletin



16 - 20 December

Reflection of the Week

Alastair Anderson, Headteacher

Here we are, at the end of a very intense eight-week term and long fifteen-week autumn. It has been fabulous in so many ways, and one to remember for all the right reasons. The wonderful *Comedy Shorts* sketch show, courtesy of the Sixth Form under the wise guidance of Mr Moxley, Mrs Tomlinson and Ms Bennett, was an excellent finale to the final week.

Two highlights for this final bulletin; the first must be the release of national Progress8 figures for all schools across England, the clearest indicator of the strength of a school at GCSE. Our score for 2023/24 is +0.68, one that places us in the top echelon of schools performing “well above average” and is aligned with an EBacc measure of over 90% (the national average is 40%). This means that over 90% of our students follow the recommended list of core GCSE subjects defined by the government as those most likely to provide the qualification base for success in the future, and even as a selective school we are adding well over half a grade of value per GCSE per student above and beyond what is expected by the government. Further detail can be found here [Bourne Grammar School - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/bourne-grammar-school-compare-school-and-college-performance-data-in-england) and everyone should be justly proud of these figures. My thanks to all staff in all roles across the school for their efforts, because numbers like these are not produced by accident and are the product of a real team effort.

The second highlight must be the arrival of an award for “Excellence in Educational Visits Management” issued by Evolve Advice. They are the market leader in providing support and advice to schools, trusts and local authorities both nationally and internationally when organising educational visits for young people. It will not have escaped the notice of everyone across the BGS community that we are incredibly proud of the breadth of our education programme and the high quality of our trips offering. This award is the result of the hard work of Miss Creedon and Miss Etherington and evidences the excellence of all aspects of trip planning and organisation, and the positive feedback of staff and students that has been gathered. Well done to both!

A lovely way to end the term, to combine academic excellence with recognition of high-quality breadth. On that happy note, I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned rest over the next two weeks and that everyone finds time to reconnect with friends and family over the holiday period. Merry Christmas!

House Totals

15627	16131	15758	16345

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

Christmas Letters

Hermione King, Y13

On Tuesday 17 December, head students and senior prefects visited 2 local care residences in Bourne, The Cedars Care Home & The Butterfield Centre, to deliver Christmas letters handwritten by year 7, 8 and 9 students. Students were given some guidance on what they could include in their letter, such as their favourite hobbies, subjects and activities to do during the festive period, and could draw Christmas images for the residents to enjoy.



This was run last year and we decided to run the initiative again this Christmas to try and spread some festive cheer in our local community. These letters may provide comfort and joy to those who may be lonely or in difficult times this festive season and having so many students enthusiastically write messages to help cheer up others was very pleasing to see.

As well as showing off their linguistic and artistic capabilities, the students displayed genuine kindness and empathy to the residents in their messages and drawings. We hope that this has also allowed students to appreciate wider social issues outside of school.

Thank you to all students who took part, and Merry Christmas!



Food Bank and Shoebox Appeal

Mr Graves, Mr Bowers, Ms Currier, and Miss Patman, House Leaders

The generosity of the BGS community never ceases to amaze!

When the House Leaders started the charity shoebox appeal a number of years ago, there is always the worry that these types of initiatives can lose impetus, but we are so proud that this is certainly not the case! 3 years ago we had enough donations to extend our giving to [Jefferson House](#) Children's Home (left photo), along with [Evergreen](#) Care Home, and this year we went two better and we were able to support [Clare Lodge](#) (right photo) and [The Giving Tree](#) appeal at Peterborough Hospital (centre photo), along with the 50+ shoe boxes that were given to Evergreen.



For our outreach to the [Bourne Food Bank](#), the school minibus was once again packed to the rafters with food and gifts after students and staff loaded their donations when they came into School last Friday. Once again hundreds of kilos of food were delivered to the Food Bank in Bourne last Friday.



The House Leaders (joined by Mr Anderson and some Senior House Captains at the food bank) are privileged to donate the kind and thoughtful gifts on behalf of the School and we can assure you that every single donation (no matter how big or small) makes such a difference to the communities that we all live in. Messages like the one received from a recipient of a shoebox via Evergreen really do make it so worthwhile...

“On Thursday my carer from Evergreen Care Trust, arrived at my house with a decorated shoe box, for me. I was so surprised, overwhelmed, grateful, and realised that it was donated by the young people at your school. A big thank you to all who donated, packed and delivered, writing two Christmas cards each with a message. I am so pleased to be a recipient of such an unexpected and delightful gift. Thank you all very much.”



Again, a huge thank you to everyone that donated to these appeals; running them is the highlight of our year and something that goes a long way in making our School such a special place to be a part of.

Individual Achievement – Oliver Parrott Y9

Oliver joined the Bourne Judo Club just over a year ago and last week he took part in his Judo grading where he was awarded an orange tab for his yellow belt. This comes after his first competition, on 30 November, in which he won the bronze medal in his weight class. A tremendous result, congratulations Oliver!



DofE Success – Gold Award Achieved – Harry Brear, Y13

Mrs Brett, DofE Manager

Huge Congratulations to Harry Brear who has recently achieved his Gold DofE Award. This is an amazing achievement. Harry has been working towards his Gold Award for over 12 months and completes the full set of Awards over the past 3 years. Throughout this time Harry has volunteered for local sports clubs, helping to develop his coaching and leadership skills whilst helping young football and tennis players develop their own playing skills.

To fulfil his Physical section, Harry took up cycling and over the past 12 months has developed his abilities and fitness to enjoy cycling across various terrain. For his Skills section Harry further developed his cooking ability to prepare him for leaving home to attend University.

The Gold Expeditions took place in the Yorkshire Dales (April) and the Lake District (July) where Harry excelled at being the calming influence in the team, assessing situations with a steady composure that maintained team cohesion and morale. The team negotiated challenging terrain whilst enduring uncomfortable weather, from the rain and cold of Easter to the scorching heat of summer, Harry's team successfully completed 2 enjoyable 4 day self-sufficient expeditions and also celebrated Harry's birthday with cake in the Dales too!



For Harry's Residential Camp, he visited a faith camp in Leicestershire, meeting new people and coming together through sport and craft activities. His Assessor commented on his approachable nature and ability to guide and support the younger members of the group.

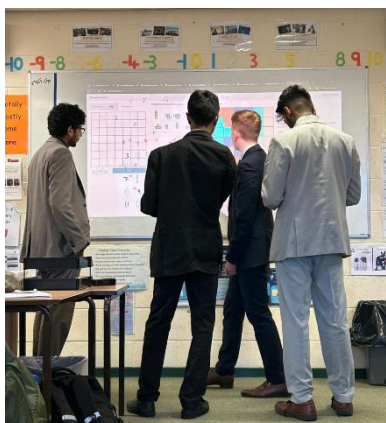
It has been a pleasure to support Harry his DofE journey and read the wonderful comments from his Assessors over the years as he has challenged himself and reached his goals.

Well done Harry, you should be very proud of your achievement. Have a wonderful day at the Palace when it comes. Best wishes from the DofE team!

Ritangle 2024

Atiksh Agnihotri, Y13

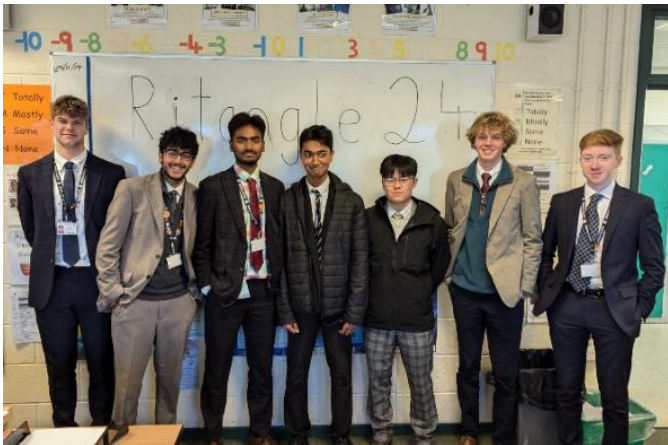
The UKMT Ritangle is a national competition for A-level mathematics students which the Year 12 and 13 Further Maths classes participated in this year. The challenge is broken down into three stages, the first being a series of weekly mathematics problems starting from the 26th of September, often requiring a combination of advanced techniques and creative thinking to crack. Once the correct answer is submitted, each puzzle reveals a clue, which helps us to find the password to the locked final stage.



Stages 2 and 3 were released simultaneously on 20 November, and thus the countdown began. Stage 2 comprised 8 questions of the same level as Stage 1, and these clues led us to solve 4 cross-number puzzles. Each puzzle was revealed to correspond to the coordinates of cities in the United States, something we all definitely weren't expecting! Entering the first letter of each city in the right order granted us access to the infamous Stage 3.

To our surprise, 3 more cross-numbers awaited us. While the earlier stages were much more straightforward, these puzzles would require us to dedicate hours to methodical working and required us to learn about new concepts, such as polyominoes and Cullen numbers. We turned to programming to help us cut down possible solutions, even running programs overnight. It was a fun

collaborative experience, as we had students from across 3 different year groups (a special thanks to Arjun Raghavan) working on the problems, often having long discussions over phone calls and verifying each other's work.



In the end, we solved all 3 problems, putting us in the top 150 teams out of the 1700 schools which participated this year, earning us a spot as a commendable team on the UKMT Ritangle website. While we are proud of this result, I and the rest of the Year 13s are sure that next year's team will achieve even greater success. Competitions like Ritangle make studying mathematics worth it, and I hope every participant has

got something out of the experience.

Carol Concert at Bourne Abbey

Vivienne Chen, Y13 and Tristan Ng, Y13

Last Thursday, 12 December, was a momentous occasion with our first Christmas Concert in Bourne Abbey for many years. We are truly grateful to Father Stephen for letting us use this amazing building.



A new feature to the event this year was a range of festive readings, delivered from the pulpit by students, which beautifully supported the broad selection of music. The choirs sang very well, supported by the gorgeously resonant church acoustics. The Junior Ensemble performed 'Rondeau' by Purcell, and the Christmas song from which there is no escape: 'Jingle Bells'. As their conductor, I am proud of them for their

excellent playing. Leaving next year, I have no doubt that they will grow to become the next great generation of orchestra at this school.

Despite the nerves, I am grateful to have been the violin soloist in Bach's concerto for violin, oboe, and string orchestra. Thank you to our strings tutor Mr Weston for showing me that relentless semiquavers can be fun!

In true Bourne Grammar tradition, the orchestra ended the night with 'Sleigh Ri de', which never gets old. As always, so many thanks to our hard-working music teachers

Mr Jones and MR Tomlinson; you do a wonderful job of giving opportunities to everyone, both to perform and to enjoy the community spirit of the music department.



Community Carol Concert at Bourne Abbey

Francesca Jones, Y9

Last Saturday, 14 December, the Chamber Choir were delighted to be invited to participate in Bourne Abbey's Community Carol Service, singing alongside Bourne Choral Society and Bourne Abbey Choir. We sang the classic 'Carol of the Bells' and 'Away in a Manger' as well as 'Holy One' and 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'. On behalf of the entire Chamber Choir, we are very thankful to Mr Jones and Mr Tomlinson for helping us throughout the weeks leading up to this event and all the support they provided; thank you so much for everything you've done. We hope anyone who attended enjoyed it and that you have a wonderful Christmas. Thank you again to Father Stephen, Vicar of Bourne Abbey, for inviting us to sing alongside such amazing choirs.

Salvation Army Carol Concert at Bourne Corn Exchange

Theo Bryson, Y13

On Sunday, 15 December, three sixth form students (Jack Knowles, Isobel Mason and myself) performed at the Bourne Salvation Army Community Carol concert at Bourne Corn Exchange. We performed two songs, 'Someday at Christmas', our arrangement of the Stevie Wonder song, and 'From This Christmas On', again our arrangement of a song by the Seasonals. Finally, Jack gave a solo jazz piano performance of 'Christmas Is Coming' by Vince Guaraldi. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, which also featured entertainment from a magician! We would like to thank the Salvation Army for their kind invitation to perform at their event and the Music department for giving us the opportunity to perform outside of school.

Y9 Bowling

Mr Bowers

On Monday we took 160 Year 9 students to Hollywood Bowl for an end of calendar Year celebration trip. Students ate and had an hour of bowling, along with 45 minutes winning massive amount of tickets on the arcades. Students were an absolute credit to themselves and the School and I hope the trip is one that they enjoyed and will remember as they move up the School.



Thanks must go to the 10 staff that gave up their evening to support the trip, without them, the trip would not have been possible.

Motte and Bailey Castle Building – House Competition

Tegan Haw, Lucie Lund, and Ella Dunnett, Y12 History Prefects

On Friday 13 December, the History Department was buzzing with excitement as many eager students awaited the results of the motte and bailey castle competition. Participants had been asked to create a model of this castle type that held both historical accuracy and creative flair. Some even went above and beyond and engineered working components to their castles, such as drawbridges and wells! As history prefects, we worked alongside house leaders and Dr Barmby to judge their constructions and the top 3 were as follows:
1st place - Toby Scholes (7F)



2nd place - Filip Paluk (7A)



3rd place - Jorgie Binns (8E)



Also, highly commended were Steven Murimi (7C) and John Marvin (7H). A big congratulations and thank you to all our entrants. We were impressed with the variety of designs and the thought and care which had gone into every entry!

Students of the Week

Name	Year	Staff	Subject
Vincent Bradley	7	Mr Farrow	Mathematics
Fraser Williamson	7	Mr Bainbridge	History
Natalia Borowiak	8	Miss Hodge	History
Evelyn Bostock	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Eloise Clarke	8	Dr Pritchard-Murphy	Mathematics
Jessie Desborough	8	Mr Williamson	Art
Madeleine Hobson	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Millie Jackson	8	Miss Smith	PE
Advith Kallepally	8	Mrs Tomlinson	English
Anish Katha	8	Miss Hodge	History
Ethan Lam	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Noah Mason	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Eva Neal	8	Mr Williamson-Ward	English
Divyana Patel	8	Ms Bowtell	PE
Tillie Phillips	8	Mrs Allen	English
Rowan Rai	8	Mrs Allen	English
Nancy Willoughby	8	Mr Bainbridge	History
Hermione Lumb	8	Mr Perez	Science
Aarya Raghavan	8	Mr Hewitt	Geography
Natalia Borowiak	8	Miss Summerfield	Drama
Alexander Allen	9	Miss Summerfield	Drama
Aran Camfield	9	Miss Hodge	History

Archie Gilbert	9	Mr Khumalo	Chemistry
Charlie Hempstead	9	Mr Smith	Mathematics
Isaac Quince	9	Miss Lindley	Geography
Grace Rayner	9	Mrs Woolf	Chemistry
Mikayla Delpont	9	Ms Bennett	English
Neve Brackenbury	10	Mr Andy	Mathematics
Harry Cameron	10	Mr Brooker	English
Matthew Cox	10	Mr Perez	Biology
Tia Ely	10	Mr Perez	Biology
Joseph Knowles	10	Mrs Bolitho	English
Mary Pepper	10	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Aarya Vijayasankar	10	Mrs Worrall	Spanish
Dexter Vipond	10	Mr Edwards	Spanish
Bradley Connolly	10	Mr Willis	Physics
Jay Bembridge	11	Mr Sutherland	Physics
Sophie Gombault	11	Mr Harris	Chemistry
Calem Healy	11	Dr Barmby	History
Karthik Kalaraj	11	Mr Osborne	Computer Science
Hannah Lawson	11	Mr Howard	EPR
April Thorley	11	Miss Patman	Spanish
Noah Humphries	11	Ms Kemp	English
Oliver Jordan	12	Miss Summerfield	Psychology
Izzy Rock-Jerram	12	Miss Summerfield	Psychology
Yi Chen	13	Mrs Shales	Mathematics
Sai Kandikattu	13	Dr Hanson	Biology
Sam Lawrence	13	Mr Williamson	Media Studies
Clara Lytle	13	Dr Hanson	Biology

SPORT

Under 15 Girls National Cup Football Update

Mr Graves

Summary: Played 3. Won 3. Scored 24.

I do not think there are many Schools in the entire country that can boast a National Cup record as remarkable as this. I was always quietly confident that with favourable fixtures this term, and very talented footballers, we could have a decent run in the ESFA National Cup. Early signs were good as we were given a 'bye' in the first round!

It's fair to say that it was where the luck finished, as potentially difficult games were lined up in the next few rounds. To say the girls have put in some impressive performances is an understatement! A comfortable 13-1 home win Vs Kesteven & Sleaford High School in round 2 was followed up by an imposing 7-1 win away at Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School in round 3. This meant we set up a tasty home tie Vs the traditionally very strong Priory Ruskin.

In a one-sided contest our girls were stronger all over the pitch. Izzy Hughes (Year 10) marshalled the defence superbly, Harper Graham (Year 10) once again ran the midfield (scoring a goal of the season contender in the process) and Flossie Swift (Year 9) always looked dangerous when played in behind taking her goal extremely well. Isla Cummins (Year 9) linked up well with Flossie, bagging a deserved brace – demonstrating hard work gets results.

In fairness, the 4-3 victory flattered our opposition and we were much more comfortable than the scoreline suggested. Saying that, Isobel Dougall (Year 10) made a couple of important saves the few times she was called upon.

We look forward to hosting The Market Bosworth School form Nuneaton in the last 32 of the country shortly after Christmas, with a chance to be the only team in recent BGS history to make the last 16.

