



BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL

Letter to Parents

From the Headmaster

Every year, the Spring term presents a number of challenges. The weather is rarely kind (preventing access to outdoor spaces at lunchtime), and the focus for students in Years 11 and 13 is on the forthcoming public examinations. In this term, the most significant event was the School being inspected by Ofsted. Increased workload in the last half of term and staff absences mean that we are unable to produce our usual newsletter; I hope that this brief summary of the term's activities from myself and the Heads of Year will suffice for now. Normal service will be resumed next term!

As you may be aware, the School was last inspected by Ofsted in September 2011. Between 15th May 2012 and 13th November 2020, schools like ours that were judged to be outstanding in their overall effectiveness were exempt from routine inspections. Since November 2020, we have been awaiting a further two-day inspection. At the end of last month, the wait was finally over; Ofsted inspected the school on the 27th and 28th February.

We hosted five inspectors on the first day and four on the second. "Deep dives" were undertaken in English, mathematics, science, religious studies, languages and product design. The inspectors also considered the overall quality of education, students' behaviour, attitudes and personal development, the sixth form provision, and how well the school was led and managed. As you would expect, they also considered how well we safeguard our students. Although the outcome cannot be shared with parents until the official publication of the report, verbal feedback was given to senior staff and governors.

We were very grateful and touched by the support of parents during the inspection process; the messages of goodwill and the gifts of cakes and chocolates were very well received! Needless to say, our students rose to the occasion magnificently! They were a credit to themselves and their families. The inspectors were very impressed with how friendly and respectful they were, commenting upon the highly positive interactions between all members of the school community. Although pleased with the inspection outcomes, the school's leaders are keen to continue our journey of improvement, to ensure that we always offer the best possible provision for our students.

Parents' views about the school expressed through the Ofsted questionnaire may be found at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/24432/14>

The term was also brightened by a number of other events, in particular:

- The Newton and Turner charity week was particularly well-supported; the traditional cake sale and tuck shop were complemented by a number of other events including a sponsored swim of the distance equivalent to crossing the channel and a sponge the teacher event. Thanks to the efforts of the prefects, the highest amount in recent times was raised for Julia's House.
- The "Safe Drive, Stay Alive" presentation was given to students in Years 12 and 13, highlighting the importance of taking care when driving.
- All students in Years 9 and 10 have completed a course on basic life support (delivered by a lecturer from Bournemouth University and intensive care nurses).
- There were a number of career talks throughout the term, including from a number of former students and we hosted a breakfast for the local business community.

- The CCF inspection on 22 March was again passed with flying colours. The programme of events was the most ambitious yet, showcasing the breadth of activities in which our cadets are involved. The inspecting officer, Captain Lynn from the Royal Navy, was particularly impressed with the parade and the enthusiasm of all involved.
- The Spring Concert in the last week of term was enjoyed by all who attended.

Leadership activities

- A new website has been launched.
- The change to a new student information management system is well underway. From September we hope that this will improve efficiency in school, and enable parents to be better informed about their child's progress.
- Through the Schools Forum and many other meetings, we have been challenging the local authority on their decision to "top slice" our budget to mitigate their continued mismanagement of the budget for children with high needs. For the first time since the introduction of the national funding formula in 2018-19, we will be funded below the government's minimum per pupil funding level.
- Senior staff have undertaken training on exclusions, and I have refreshed my training as a member of an Independent Review Panel (which considers permanent exclusions from other schools).
- We have continued to take an active role in the South West Academic Trust, the Coastal Association of Secondary Headteachers, the local School Improvement Network (led by Twynham Learning), and in the local initial teacher training provision.
- I have met with members of the new Parents, Staff and Friends Association (PSFA) and with the Old Bournemouthians' Association.
- We have made a number of new appointments, most notably a network manager, a Head of Science, two science teachers, two mathematics teachers, two computer science teachers and a teacher of English for September 2024.
- I have visited South Wilts Grammar School and am due to visit Ferndown Upper School to contribute to school improvement work.
- We are continuing our preparations for the annual Enrichment Week (Tue 21 to Fri 24 May).

An update on school funding

In recent days it has been announced that Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) council will not, for the moment at least, be entering into the Department for Education's "Safety Valve" programme. What has not been reported is that BCP is one of more than 20 councils that have been given ministerial approval to quietly reduce schools' budgets to prop up the seemingly ever-increasing high needs funding black hole.

BCP has top-sliced local schools' budgets for 2024-25 by £1.3m in total. As a result, some large secondary schools will lose over £30,000, and some schools, including the four local grammar schools, will be funded below the minimum level deemed necessary to sustain an effective provision for their students.

The headteachers of the four grammar schools have written to the Secretary of State to ask why BCP have been allowed to reduce their schools' funding below this minimum level. They have expressed the view that BCP have mismanaged their funding since its inception in April 2019, and that the council's officers wish to mitigate their incompetence by raiding schools' budgets without any consideration of the implications for the quality of education for our young people.

Under the National Funding Formula, we should be receiving as a minimum £5,995 per pupil for 2024-25. As a result of BCP's "top slice" we will be funded at a rate of £5,968 per pupil. This means that we will be receiving around £25k less than we were expecting. It appears that ministers, in allowing the transfer of funds from schools' budgets, are complicit with the local authority in

damaging our students' life chances. Surely a minimum funding level should be just that? It is ironic that BCP is asking schools to do more for children with high needs whilst at the same time reducing our funding below this minimum level.

The four headteachers have already presented our case to local MPs and have been promised an audience with the Secretary of State.

Senior prefect appointments

Earlier in the academic year, Year 12 students were asked to apply to become our senior prefects for 2024-25. The senior prefect team comprises the School Captain, the deputy school captain and the house captains. From a large number of applications, each House Leader nominated up to 9 students to become school prefects (the team of senior prefects to contribute to the smooth running of the house). From these students, the senior prefect team are then chosen.

The selection process comprises a student vote, a staff vote and a "Dragons' Den" exercise, in which six teams "pitch" their response to a set task to a number of "dragons". This year's task was to review our charity weeks.

The groups presented the results of their research and discussions on Monday 25 March. The "dragons" included a number of staff, and the current School Captain, Arief McKenna. Every student performed well throughout the process; we certainly have an embarrassment of riches! After much deliberation, we have determined that that the composition of the new senior prefect team is:

School Captain		Shayan Bidad
Deputy School Captains		Ellie Beckett Oscar Davis Cemre Kurt Meshva Patel
House Captains	D	Isaac Manning
	E	Rezqy Iswanto
	M	Connor Hunter Radermacher
	N	Isabella Render
	S	Ali Adnan
	T	Veeresh Ramireddy

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to all of the out-going senior prefect team for their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months.

And finally...

As this report demonstrates, the last term has been a hectic one. The long-awaited Ofsted inspection seems a long time ago now; we are eagerly awaiting the report's publication so that we can share the outcomes. As ever, I am very grateful for the support of my colleagues, particularly those in the senior leadership team. My senior colleagues and governors were incredible assets during the inspection process – showing Bournemouth School at its very best.

Happy Easter!

Dr Lewis

Year 7

Incredibly we are now two terms into Year 7. Language choices have just been made for Year 8, and, as I have recently told the boys, this time next year, GCSE options will have been decided. It all seems to be moving very quickly!

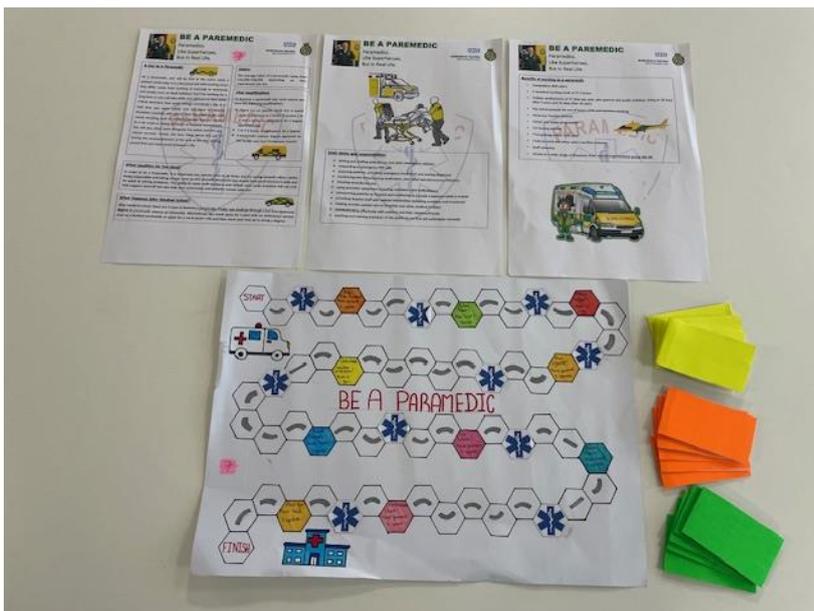
As I have come to expect, the boys have risen to every challenge. This term saw the House cross country event, in which every student competes. The weather is never particularly hospitable, but enthusiasm levels were high and knowing that house points could be achieved, whatever the outcome, led to everyone taking part in good spirits.

Also, this term we welcomed Matt Bagley from the RAF's Youth and STEM team. He visits many schools around the country but was exceedingly impressed by the standard of our young men. The 90-minute session involved problem-solving skills and teamwork, and the fun emanating from the assembly room was palpable! You can read some student testimonials on our newly-designed website. Many thanks to Mrs Sedgley, Head of Science, for organising this opportunity for the boys.

This term we held the "Step into the NHS" competition for the second year running. A national event, it encourages young people to consider the varied roles available in the NHS and to research the qualifications and skills needed to succeed in these roles. We had an impressive number of entries – some students worked with a partner or in small groups – and all were incredibly creative. The winning entry was designed and made by Harish Babu Kandasamy of 7M, which comprised a board game around the role of a paramedic (pictured here). The level of detail was fantastic and Harish displayed phenomenal levels of design expertise. Harish's game, along with 16 other entries, will now go forward to the national competition.

I love going into lessons to see the focus, hard work and commitment displayed by the Year 7s. They continue to impress me and I know they will go from strength to strength as we move into the summer term. They really are a credit to their families.

I wish you a restful Easter holiday – remember to encourage the boys to give their brains a break! – and I look forward to seeing you in the final term of Year 7.



Ms Thorne, Head of Year

Year 8

We are learning!

Although warnings are still being given out in class, the number of removals is incredibly small, which tells me that the boys are listening to their teachers and making the mature decision to correct whatever they were doing wrong. This may seem like a small win but it is a sign that the year group is taking responsibility for their actions. I see this as a huge positive as we move towards the start of their GCSEs.

It has been a busy term, with many of the boys playing for the school football team that has qualified, at the time of writing, for the semi-finals of the Town Cup. Congratulations must go to them.

Meanwhile, House Sport has been in full flow, with table tennis, cross country and 5-a-side football all being hugely competitive events.

The School disco was a fantastic event, organised by Newton and Turner Houses. An incredible amount of money was raised, which I believe was a record. A former pupil came back and talked to us about working at Dyson (the Hoover people, amongst other things).

At the beginning of March, we had an assembly presented by Oddballs, a charity that educates young people about testicular cancer and the signs to look out for, something that is so important. A big thank you to Mr Thomas for organising this.

Everyone is now looking forward to the break and a thoroughly-deserved rest. There is much to look forward to next term and we are anticipating some exciting activities, hopefully in glorious sunshine.

Mr Robjohns, Head of Year

Year 9

We are now well over half way through the academic year and it is an excellent time to reflect on the events and achievements of the year group.

Throughout the term there have been a number of House competitions, including cross country, table tennis, and 5-a-side football. The House cross country competition, in particular, showcased outstanding talent and teamwork, with Newton House emerging as the comprehensive winners. Congratulations to Finn O'Mahoney, Ben Shawyer, Jamie Moore, and Oliver Newton, all in Newton House, for securing the top four positions. I also want to mention those students who demonstrated a significant improvement in their Year 8 cross country performance. I'm always most pleased when I see students genuinely trying their best, and there were 12 students who moved up the rankings by more than 30 places. These students are listed below with their jump up the leader board in brackets: Dawid Niechajewicz (31), Oskar Skeels (32), Dylan Ramanayake (32), Henry Hay (35), Adam Zhang (36), Jake Thomas (36), Lucas Percival (36), Finley Hayward (37), Cameron Fudge (40), Sebastian Cui (40), James Whittaker (43), Ethan Jones (87!).

There have been many other events taking place off the sports field. At the end of February, Year 9 students had the invaluable opportunity to participate in a lifesaving skills session led by the nursing staff from Bournemouth Hospital and tutors from Bournemouth University. These sessions equipped the boys with essential knowledge and skills to respond effectively in emergency situations.

We were also pleased to welcome Emily from Bournemouth and Poole College, who led an informative assembly about the diverse range of courses at the College and the fantastic facilities available. The provision available at Bournemouth and Poole College is excellent and it can be eye-opening for our students to see what else is out there. Hopefully most of the year group will want to continue on at Bournemouth School beyond Year 11, but showing students the other post-16 options is a vital part of our remit. Brockenhurst College will be visiting the school to give an assembly to Year 9 shortly after we come back from the Easter holiday.

Furthermore, our Year 9 Parents' Evening, held at the beginning of March, was a successful and valuable opportunity for parents to receive feedback on the start that their son has made to their GCSE courses. Most students are working hard and achieving well, so it is always nice to meet parents to tell them this! We are aware that some parents were not able to meet every one of their sons' teachers. Some members of staff teach multiple Year 9 classes, which means they were not able to meet all of their students. Please get in touch with your son's tutor if you have any concerns about your son's progress or attainment.

As we approach the end of term, I am delighted to see the dedication and commitment demonstrated by our Year 9 students. They continue to work diligently, both academically and through a range of extracurricular activities. There are a number of Year 9 students who are doing great things outside of school. Jason Button (9S) competed at an international clarinet festival in Tenerife for the second year running, finishing second in the 13 and under category. Yu-Le Chai (9D) achieved a grade 8 distinction in the violin and has performed in House, Year and whole school assemblies. Daniel Cullen (9E) qualified for the national sailing squad, Ollie Jenkins (9D) qualified for the Regional Swimming Finals across 13 different events, and Zayn Bellazrak (9D) attended the Nadal Tennis Tournament in Majorca, winning 70% of his matches and finishing in 6th place in the older age group.

Finally, I want to say thank you to parents for their on-going support and encouragement. Year 9 can be a tricky year to navigate, but the boys are doing an excellent job and they are a credit to their families.

We look forward to welcoming students back after the Easter holiday on Monday 15th April.

Mr Hedges, Head of Year

Year 10

First and foremost, I must commend each and every one of our students for exemplifying our core values of Hard Work, Discipline, Smart Appearance, and Respect throughout the term. These values are not merely words on paper; they are the guiding principles that shape the character of our students and set them on the path to success.

In the upcoming summer term, our students will face their mock examinations, a significant milestone in their academic journey. These assessments serve as a testament to their hard work and discipline in mastering their subjects. Let us approach these examinations with confidence, knowing that our dedication will yield fruitful results.

Prior to the May half term, our Year 10 students will embark on a week of work experience. I am thrilled to report that our students have displayed exemplary attitude and commitment in securing positions, showcasing their readiness to transition into the professional world. This experience will undoubtedly enrich their learning and broaden their horizons.

I am also proud to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of several of our students who have surpassed 200 achievement points to date. Harry Bakewell, Adam Swallow, James Ahmed,

and Alejo Wylam, your dedication and perseverance are truly commendable, and you serve as shining examples to your peers.

Furthermore, our recent annual Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Inspection saw nearly 30 cadets from Year 10 represent the school with distinction. The Inspecting Officer was full of praise for their professionalism and commitment, a testament to their hard work and dedication to the CCF programme.

In conclusion, I extend my congratulations to all our Year 10 students for a successful spring term. Your achievements, both academic and extracurricular, are a source of great pride for us all. As we look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the summer term, let us continue to uphold the values of hard work, discipline, smart appearance, and respect that define our school community.

Wishing you all a restful break.

Mr Watson, Head of Year

Year 11

It is hard to believe that our Year 11 cohort is reaching the end of the long and winding GCSE road. Behind them is five years of incredibly hard work, and ahead of them, I hope, is the academic success they deserve. While it is understandable that all thoughts are on the upcoming exams, we should not neglect the achievements so far this year. Successfully navigating two rounds of mock exams is no mean feat, and to do so while balancing countless sporting and extra-curricular commitments is a testament to the outstandingly positive attitude demonstrated by our students. Nevertheless, it is important for every student to make the most of the upcoming Easter holiday to reach their potential in the GCSEs. I am sure that during this time away from school, houses will fill up with essay plans, flash cards, mind maps and past papers. Undoubtedly, no fridge will be without a prominently-displayed revision timetable, helping to organise students as they galvanise their efforts around the challenges arriving in May. I am also certain that every parent or guardian will be put into service by their son as a sounding board for GCSE revision, testing languages vocab or acting as a critical friend for essay plans. Our final day of teaching is Wednesday 8th May, a mere three and a half weeks after the end of the Easter holiday, and it is important for students to maintain 100% attendance in the crucial run-up to these exams.

As we approach the end of teaching, please remember that our teachers are keen to support students as much as they can in the run up to the GCSE exams. It is important to make the most of study materials provided, attend any extra study sessions, consider attending Success Club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays and listen carefully to sources of information that will give us the edge in the GCSE exams.

As we approach the end of taught lessons, and as the pressure of exams builds up, it is crucial for every student essential to prioritise their wellbeing. Working towards our academic goals is a rewarding challenge, but every student must remember to take breaks, get enough rest, and engage in activities that help them relax. If your son is feeling overwhelmed, please do not hesitate to contact me for support.

Being Head of Year 11 is a tremendous source of pride for me, and this unique cohort continues to set the standard for others to follow in the school. Every individual is an aspirational role model and I have been taken aback by the proactive approach of so many this year. The following students have shown an exceptional application to their studies and gained an over 100 achievement points so far this year: Frederick Stow 11N (157), Sami Babiker-Moore 11D (143), William Dennis 11N (138), Harry Yu 11N (134), Risinu Samaraweera 11T (126), Elliot Prentice 11E (122), Finn Schell 11E (112), Daniel Buzatu 11T (110), Hayden Robbins 11N (109), Thomas Green 11M (108), Samuel Norry 11M (108), Gabriel Grimshaw 11N (104), Hector Ponniah 11E (103), Rafferty Tibbert

11M (103), Henry Taylor 11E (102), Chris Jennings 11T (102) and Kimonas Mitsios 11D (101). However, every student deserves their own acknowledgement for having reached this stage in Year 11.

As this term reaches its conclusion, I am sure we are all looking towards the GCSEs with real nervous excitement. It has not always been the easiest academic year, and every member of Year 11 will have overcome their own hurdles to reach this stage. The resilience, resolve and determination to succeed shown by all is exceptional and commendable. Although students will need to take a well-deserved rest over the holiday, I am sure they will return fully prepared to tackle the upcoming GCSEs, knowing that their best effort will always be enough.

Mr Jones, Head of Year

Sixth Form

The spring term may be the shortest in length but in many respects, it is the most intense and it has absolutely flown by. Year 13 have completed two sets of mock exams in preparation for their final examinations. Many students have seen excellent results whilst others must take on board what they have learnt from these mocks and get their heads down for the last push towards the summer. University offers have been flooding in and this year we have increased the number of Early Entry students receiving offers. Students in Year 13 deciding to undertake an apprenticeship have also increased and, this year, we have a number of students holding degree apprenticeship offers, in particular with JP Morgan. Much credit for this must go to Mrs Barnard-Dyson who has worked tirelessly to support students through arranging talks from former students who are currently undertaking apprenticeships, arranging for interview support, and practice and workplace visits.



Year 12, too, have had a busy term arranging their own work experience placements for after Easter. They also have been preparing for school exams, which they will sit during the first week back after the break. Year 12 parents and students alike have received a talk on Post-18 options and have been given an overview of the UCAS process in preparation of the official launch next term. In the last week of term, students in Year 12 who were appointed school prefects undertook the 'Dragons Den' activity to help decide on the senior prefect team. In house groups students were asked to plan next year's charity weeks. This included identifying an



Darwin House Dragons' Den Team.

appropriate charity, deciding upon the events that they would like to arrange and, of equal importance, considering how they could raise awareness and educate students of the relevant issues. Their findings were then presented to a small panel headed by the Headmaster. As always, these presentations were of the highest quality, showcasing the students' ability to work as part of a team and develop effective ideas.

Please do enjoy the Easter break and come back refreshed next term. As this is the last newsletter prior to the summer examinations, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Year 13 students every success in their upcoming examinations. If students feel that they need any additional support and guidance they need only ask.

The Term Ahead:**Year 12:**

Examinations: Week beginning 15th April
 Work Experience: Week beginning 22nd April
 Enrichment Week: 21st -24th May

Year 13:

Last day of teaching: Friday 10th May

Mr Cook, Head of Sixth Form

Chess Championships 2023

In the slightly delayed 2023 Bournemouth & District Chess League (B&DCL) and Dorset Chess secondary school inter-schools' chess final, Bournemouth School (BS) met Poole Grammar School (PGS) on Tuesday 16th January at PGS for a very closely contested chess match. This was played across 8 boards with each board playing two matches.

Bournemouth School came out on top as the overall 6 – 2 winners, but the matches were far more closely contested than the score line suggests.

Bournemouth School's team certainly had depth, with its top 4 boards all playing for chess teams in the local B&DCL, but the Poole team had the reigning Dorset Junior Chess Champion, Jamie Doyle, on board 1 and a B&DCL player on board 3.

Despite the time control being 30 minutes per player, such was the concentration and competitiveness that at least 4 matches were won or lost on time, notably games on boards 2 and 3.

Congratulations to Bournemouth School as winners and well done to Poole Grammar School for an excellent battle and hospitality.

Board	BS		PGS
1	Finn Schell	0 – 1	Jamie Doyle
2	Jason Wang	1 – 0	Josh Leggatt
3	Leo Camopy	1 – 0	Harry Mercer
4	Ben Willis-Owen	1 – 0	Archie Isaac
5	Tolly Rosenorn-Lanng	1 – 0	Jack Bozic
6	Oliver Hill	½ – ½	Sam Tomkinson
7	Hakan Cetinkaya	1 – 0	Ben Layland
8	Noah Bongard	½ – ½	Romeo Giovannini
		6 – 2	



Bournemouth School Chess Club Members with the Inter Schools' Trophy

Mr Graham

Closing Thought



No matter how good you get you
can always get better, and that's the
exciting part.

— *Tiger Woods* —

AZ QUOTES



Bournemouth School Safeguarding Team



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Mrs Clare Wood
Assistant Headteacher

Deputy Safeguarding Leads



Miss Suzanne Picot
Attendance &
Safeguarding Officer



Mr Luke Hedges
Acting DSL in event of
DSL absence



Mrs Rebecca Issott
Assistant Headteacher



Mr David Robjohns
Head of Year 8



Mrs Katie Ateaque
Deputy Headteacher



Dr Dorian Lewis
Headteacher

DSL Contact Email: dsl@bournemouth-school.org

Telephone number: 01202 512609



Mr William Pyke
School Governor (responsibility for Safeguarding)
wpyke@bournemouth-school.org

*Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility*