



## The Second Half of the Autumn Term

Alongside the constant endeavour to improve the quality of lessons, the range of extra- and super-curricular activities continues to expand. There have been a number of talks and lectures, and we have welcomed into school Healthwatch Dorset, a representative of the Bank of England and Jessica Toale, MP. Yet again, we have been grateful for the continued support of our students from Old Bournemouthian, Mitch Kaye. We have also continued to support students with their applications for Higher Education and degree apprenticeships (including offering practice interviews). Other activities this half term have included:

- A visit to the Jurassic Coast STEM conference at Bournemouth University
- PE students visiting the Health Sciences University
- Music students attending a BSO concert at the Lighthouse
- A Year 13 trip to the V&A and Design Museums
- A trip for Year 12 students to Merton College, Oxford
- Students competing in the Physics Olympiad
- Year 8 and 9 students attending talks on the dangers of vaping (from the Talkabout Trust)

We have also held a number of parent evenings in this half term. These have focused upon preparing Year 11 for their practice examinations, advising Year 8 parents about the GCSE options process, informing parents about the Extended Project Qualification and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Year 12 students beginning their preparation for an application to medical school.

Our annual Remembrance Service was exceptionally well observed by all members of our school community, and we were pleased that Rev Renate Tulloh from St Francis' Church was able to join us. The main address delivered by Mrs Ateaque about the Second World War in the Far East was particularly moving.

Bournemouth School will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in January 2026. By clicking on the [125th anniversary icon](#) on our website's home page, visitors to the site are now able to access a wealth of archive material and personal recollections of former students and staff. On Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, we will be opening our doors to all friends of the school and the local community in celebration of our anniversary. The event will run from 12.00 noon until 4.30pm, and will comprise tours of the facilities, musical interludes, and an opportunity to partake of some light refreshments. We are also planning to have a number of permanent displays in *Le Bistro* documenting the school's first 125 years.

At the end of this term, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Wood, one of our Assistant Headteachers. Mrs Wood joined us in September 2010 as a teacher of ICT. She quickly impressed and was subsequently promoted to become the School's SENDCo in the following academic year (completing her National SENCo accreditation in November 2012). Mrs Wood's leadership of our provision for students with additional needs was exemplary. Over time, she began to take on additional responsibilities, such as for the primary to secondary transition process. Mrs Wood was promoted to the role of acting Assistant Headteacher in September 2017, which was made permanent in the following year. In September 2021, Mrs Wood's role changed to focus upon the admissions process, developing partnership working with local primary schools to encourage more children from disadvantaged backgrounds to apply for a place at our school, and continuing as the deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. When one of our Deputy Headteachers gained a headship, leaving the school in December 2022, Mrs Wood became the Designated Safeguarding Lead. She has continued to have line-management responsibility for subject areas, year groups and members of support staff throughout her time as an Assistant Headteacher, always most valuing working with our students. We are grateful for Mrs Wood's contribution to the school and wish her well for the future.

As the end of the long autumn term nears, I continue to be immensely grateful to my colleagues in the senior team for their incredibly hard work and continued commitment to ensure that our students are served exceptionally well. As we approach the last weeks, we are looking forward to our annual prize-giving evening, the Christmas concert and (most of all) our Christmas lunch. I am sure that when the end of term arrives, every member of our school community will be grateful for a well-deserved rest and the opportunity to spend more time enjoying the company of friends and family. We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year!

**"If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold,  
it would be a merrier world."**

*J.R.R. Tolkien, The Hobbit*

## *Term Information*

**End of term:** **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

School finishes at 3.20 pm

School buses will run at normal times in the morning and afternoon.

**Start of term:** **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Timetable is Week 2

Start of School 8.30 am

School buses will run at normal times in the morning and afternoon.

## Year 7

The transfer from primary school settings to secondary is a huge undertaking, and one that has a big impact on everyone involved. It has been a real pleasure getting to know our new families and helping them to navigate their new learning environment.

I am absolutely delighted with the efforts I have seen from Year 7 so far. On a daily basis, the boys make every effort to adhere to our school values of hard work, determination, smart appearance and respect, and have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the next stage of their educational journey.

I regularly receive positive reports from our team of Form Tutors and subject teachers, and I hope everyone now feels very much a part of the Bournemouth School community.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed students and families to the Year 7 Information Evening. This was a new format and one which included our 6th form students who offered an insight into how to use the Knowledge Organiser to good effect and become a successful home learner. In addition, there were stalls in Le Bistro manned by members of staff from different subject areas, representatives from the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), music provided by our talented 6th form students which helped to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere, as well as fabulous work on display from the Art and Design Technology departments. It was a very informative and well-attended evening, which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

During the year, Mrs Morgan, our wonderful librarian organises a number of events and competitions. The most recent was run in conjunction with the English department and required the boys to read *Ghost Boys*, a YA novel set in America, and design a front cover. There were many fantastic entries, but the winner (design shown below) was Solomon of Darwin House, who won a book gift card. Darwin also won overall and were rewarded with doughnuts from Ms Gibson, Head of English. Well done Solomon and everyone involved!



Winning entry of the Ghost Boys competition

Now that the boys have settled and we are getting to know them, our Year 7 Form Tutors have started to nominate Star Students on a weekly basis. This is something we will continue throughout the year and involves two students per form being recognised by their Form Tutor for the Star Student award. It goes to students who have demonstrated the Bournemouth School values. Mrs Chmielewski, our Year Coordinator, looks forward to visiting these students and awarding them with a sticker, as well as sharing with the class why they have been nominated. The focus isn't necessarily academic or sporty (a popular misconception amongst some of the students!), rather the aim is to recognise effort, kindness, or determination in any area of school life. At the time of writing, the following students have received the recognition this term:

7D – Harris, Seb, Quinn, Abdulah, Bertie, Mohamed, Ted, Jack.

7E – Dara, Dominic, Leo, Mason, Oak, Alexander, Thomas, Isaac.

7M – Jasper, Oliver, Bradley, William, Fabio, Dominic, Jack, Jordan, Archie, Kushagra, Max, Samuel, Elias, Ben.

7N – William, Pierre, Benjamin, Reuben, William, Patryk, Kautam, Luke.

7S – Zayaan, Edward, Benji, Edward, George, Giulio, Nirvan, Jacob, Ved, Jude.

7T – Mustapha, Ignacy, James, Adam, Lewis, Oliver, Ethan, James, Thomas, Henry.

Outside of lessons, we see fantastic team work going on, especially in the Football and Rugby teams, which have seen great success already and I know the PE department have high hopes for more success in the future. We also know that many students excel in lots of different activities outside of school and we look forward to hearing of their achievements as the year goes on. Please do keep us posted.



Year 7 Rugby Team

The whole Year 7 team, myself, Mrs Chmielewski, Mrs Fernandez, as well as all the Year 7 teachers wish you and your families a happy and peaceful time over the Christmas break and we look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

Ms Thorne, Director of Learning for Year 7



## Year 8 and 9

Years 8 and 9 have continued to throw themselves wholeheartedly into every aspect of school life, and even the dark winter mornings haven't sapped their energy. We remain consistently impressed by their ability to make the most of every minute in school, whether spent on academic work, co-curricular involvement, or social pursuits.

Year 9 have fully embraced their GCSE subjects and are enjoying the opportunity to study their chosen options in greater depth. The step up to GCSEs has prompted many to adopt an even more focused and purposeful approach to their studies. Meanwhile, Year 8 have begun the process of selecting their own option subjects. If you are a Year 8 parent, we encourage you to spend some time over the coming weeks discussing their thoughts and choices with them.

Alongside their personal development lessons, all Year 8 and Year 9 students attended a presentation in November on the dangers of vaping. This was delivered by Sarah Boyle from The Talkabout Trust (see picture), a local youth charity that supports young people in making safe choices and educates them on the risks associated with substances such as alcohol and drugs. The assembly was extremely well received by both year groups.



Year 9 have also benefited from a range of co-curricular opportunities beyond their regular clubs and societies. Many have begun the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which has motivated them to contribute to the Bournemouth community through volunteering while developing key skills. A large number have also joined the CCF, proudly wearing their uniforms on Thursdays. Alongside the formal training it provides, the CCF gives students the chance to work alongside older peers and students from BSG. From the excellent reports received, we are confident that many will go on to become leaders within the CCF and beyond.

You will be able to read more about inter-house and inter-school sport elsewhere in the newsletter, but it is always wonderful to hear from students and parents about achievements outside of school. These successes span an impressive range of interests. This term, students have passed Grade 7 and 8 music exams (alongside many other grades) and competed internationally in dance. They have played football for major clubs and represented their country in rugby. Others have competed at international badminton tournaments, earned advanced karate belts, and won gold medals at national swimming competitions. Students have been cast in next term's BSG musical and taken part in national sailing championships. In short, they have committed themselves to challenging endeavours, worked hard, and achieved excellent success.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope your sons enjoy a well-deserved break.

Dr Carter (Director of Learning for Years 8 & 9),  
Mr Knight (Year Coordinator for Years 8 & 9) and  
Mrs Knowles (LSA for Years 8 & 9)

## Year 10

As we reach the end of the autumn term, we want to share some highlights of what has been a busy and productive term for our Year 10 students.

Having made a great start to their GCSE courses in Year 9, it has been pleasing to see the students setting themselves high expectations in both effort and progress at the start of this year. Teachers continue to be impressed by their focus and enthusiasm.

This term has been packed with opportunities outside the classroom too. A number of Year 10 students have taken part in representative sports for the school including football, rugby and cross-country, of which 5 Year 10 students have qualified for the National Final of the Cross-Country Cup.

House events continue to bring out the competitive streak amongst the students, with good displays of teamwork and camaraderie on display. Congratulations to all students who represented their house in house football (90 students total). Winners of the 'A' competition were Moore, with the 'B' competition dominated by Darwin.

Congratulations to Newton who came out on top in house badminton.

The recent house rugby tournament was a great competition, with some fantastic rugby on display. Well done to the 80 boys who represented their House, and Turner who were victorious.

Additionally, a number of boys took part in the school's remembrance service for the music department and have been working hard to ensure they are ready for the Christmas concert.

In September, we were proud to award so many Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards, a culmination of their achievements in Year 9.

Year 10 students have been working hard to organise their work experience, with an impressive 40% of students already securing their placement.

We hope students take the holiday as a chance to rest, recharge, and spend time with family and friends. Thank you for all your support this term – it really makes a difference! Wishing you a happy and peaceful holiday season.

Mrs Roche, Year Co-ordinator

## Year 11

This term has been a focused and productive one for Year 11, with much of our time in lessons dedicated to preparing for the upcoming mock examinations. Students have shown a commendable level of commitment to their studies, demonstrating both maturity and determination as they approach this important stage of their school journey.

It has been wonderful to see the Year 11 cohort return with such a positive and focused attitude. Their maturity, resilience, and readiness for the challenges ahead have been evident throughout the term, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue to progress.

We have also welcomed visits from a range of post-16 education providers, including Rockley and Brockenhurst College. These sessions have provided valuable insight into the opportunities available beyond Year 11 and have helped pupils begin to consider their next steps with confidence.

Beyond the classroom, Year 11 pupils have been actively involved in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. A number of boys have proudly represented the school in football – competing in both the Town and County Cup – as well as in rugby. Participation has also been strong in cross-country, with pupils taking part in the Poole and East Dorset League and the Cross-Country Cup. Our badminton players performed admirably in the School Sport Magazine competition, showcasing both skill and sportsmanship. In addition, we are delighted to celebrate the success of four pupils who were selected to join the prestigious English Schools' Orchestra.

Mr McCalister, Year Co-ordinator

## *Sixth Form*

### **Year 12 transition**

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting term, it is important to reflect on the impressive start our Year 12 students have made to life in the Sixth Form. The transition from GCSEs to A-levels can be a challenging one, yet this cohort has embraced the step up with maturity, enthusiasm, and determination.

A significant number of students have already secured work experience or volunteering commitments during Wednesday afternoons, demonstrating real initiative and a proactive approach to their personal and professional development. Please encourage your child to check Teams where opportunities are posted on a daily basis. Additionally, several students have secured excellent placements for the Year 12 Work Experience Week, taking place from 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Academically, students have been working hard to establish effective systems to support the demands of A-level study. During form time, they have been practising a range of revision strategies, reflecting on their learning habits, and developing a clear vision for what they want to achieve over the next two years. Their commitment to refining these skills so early in the year is highly encouraging and will undoubtedly serve them well as the course progresses.

### **Year 13 – Post-18 Pathways**

Year 13 students have been working incredibly hard this term, with many completing applications for their Post-18 pathways. We had almost forty Early Entry applications this year, with popular courses including Medicine, the Sciences, and Law at institutions such as Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter, and Imperial College London.

Early Entry applicants are already showing signs of success, with many receiving offers and being invited to interviews over the coming weeks. Most of our standard university applications have also been submitted, and we look forward to celebrating offers for a wide range of fantastic undergraduate degree courses. Please encourage your son or daughter to inform their tutors when they receive offers, as we would love to celebrate their successes.

The same success can be said for students applying for Degree Apprenticeships. A number have completed telephone and face-to-face interviews and are now being shortlisted for the next stages. Increasingly, students are choosing this route, and we are fortunate that Mrs Barnard-Dyson continues to keep in touch with our generous alumni, who are always keen to return to Bournemouth School to share their experiences and support our current students such as, JPMorgan, Network Rail, Forvis Mazars, the Merchant Navy, Deloitte, Dyson, Jaguar Land Rover, and HSU.

## Enrichment Highlights

This term has seen our student-led societies go from strength to strength, with vibrant new groups emerging such as the Russian Speaking Society, Advanced Arithmetic Society, and The Finance Society. These additions complement the wide array of societies we already have in place, offering students even more opportunities to connect, learn, and share their passions.

We have also launched our new *Pathways in Progress*, Year 13 student-led presentations designed to support Year 12 students who are considering specific career pathways. These sessions provide valuable insights from a student perspective on work experience, wider reading, and subject test preparation, while highlighting the enrichment opportunities that make applications stand out. So far, we have hosted pathway talks on law and medicine, and we hope to add engineering early next year.

As a final highlight, for the first time we made enrichment and societies a key focus of our Sixth Form Open Evening, with a dedicated Student Zone showcasing all the extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities available to prospective students. These were entirely student-led stalls, passionately advocating why going above and beyond the curriculum is a vital part of our Sixth Form experience. It not only demonstrates academic curiosity to employers and universities but also helps students become actively involved in the wider school community. It was a delight to see how enthusiastic and committed our students were in sharing their experiences. We also received incredible support from our alumni, with many returning to host stands and share their journeys. They demonstrated how Bournemouth School served as a springboard for their careers and achievements. Their stories provided inspiration and valuable insight for current students exploring future pathways.

For more details and photo highlights, please visit the school website - [News - Bournemouth School](#)

## Student Success

### Sixth Form Success – Student Spotlight:

We are delighted to celebrate some of our students' achievements:

**J Bentley (Year 13)** has received an unconditional offer to study at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

**A Bidad (Year 13)** won a bronze medal competing for England in the Under-17 category at the Karate World Championship in Poland – a fantastic achievement!

**E Lawrence (Year 13)** competed in the Junior European Open Golf Tournament in Spain where he was placed within the top 5!

**C Rowe (Year 12)** competes in sport at a high level, playing in the U17 Netball Performance League for the London Mavericks.

**E Lock (Year 12)** competes, playing U17 netball in Bath at the Athletic Development Centre.

**M Dilworth (Year 12)** has successfully progressed to the next stage of the English Schools' Football Association trials. He has been shortlisted for the next round of the South West Under-18 trials. We wish him the very best of luck as he continues his journey!

## Looking Ahead

As we wrap up the term, we encourage students to use the break to consolidate their learning while also prioritising rest and recovery.

- **Year 13 mocks** begin 6<sup>th</sup> January, with a second set taking place between the 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March
- **Year 12 exams** take place between 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April, followed by work experience beginning week 20<sup>th</sup> April

**Wishing you a restful and enjoyable break!**

Mrs Brown, Director of Sixth Form



## *School Student Council Trip to BCP Civic Centre*

On 18<sup>th</sup> November, a group selected from the School Student Council visited BCP Civic Centre to take part in a schools' debate with a variety of other schools from the local area. In the morning students worked on a speech writing workshop with the Speakers Trust and then in the afternoon they were able to put these skills into action in the main council chamber: proposing ideas based around the key question 'Is the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' relevant to young people today?' As well as the thrill of speaking in the council chamber and operating the new microphones, students raised a number of interesting and valid points: thanks due to them for their participation, Mrs Carroll for driving the minibus and Becky McDade from BCP Council for her organisation and co-ordination.



## *Visit from Jessica Toale, MP for Bournemouth West*

On 27<sup>th</sup> November, Jessica Toale came into school to speak to students in the Year 12 and 13 Politics classes and answering a series of questions on issues ranging from local retail and improvements to the town centre through to more national issues of funding and policy. A big thank you to Jess and Jane for coming in, for the students' attention and questions and to our Politics Society, most notably Joseph Baker, for contacting the MP's office and organising the visit.



## Computer Science Year 10 and 11 Coding Competition

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, one of our highly talented Year 13s, Luca Frey, put a group of thirty Year 10 and Year 11 students through a demanding series of programming challenges under timed conditions. The standard of work was uniformly high, but after strict judging the following were selected as the best programmers of the cohort:

Winner – Charles Ng

Runner-up – Jakub Bylina

Runner-up – Sekav Gwakyaa

Mr Perry, Subject Lead Computing

## Music Department

### Visit from Uzambezi Arts

On 7<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed three musicians from the group Uzambezi Arts, a group of Zimbabwean musicians living and working in the UK. They gave workshops to all our Year 8 students as well as the Year 9 GCSE group. Students had the opportunity to participate in djembe drumming, learning a gum boot dance and singing activities over the course of the day, as well as learning more about Zimbabwean life and culture.

### BSO Set Works Concert

Our Year 10 and 11 GCSE musicians attended a concert given by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra on 13<sup>th</sup> October, in which they heard some of their set works and other related works performed and analysed. In addition, the presenter, Patrick Bailey took them through some compositional techniques which will support their own work in this area.

### Trip to Lighthouse Poole

The Year 12 and 13 A level groups attended the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Concert at the Lighthouse in Poole on 5<sup>th</sup> November to hear a performance of Symphonie Fantastique by Berlioz, which is one of their set works. In addition, they had the opportunity to hear the UK premiere of a saxophone concerto by Dani Howard, performed by Jess Gillan.

### English Schools Orchestra

During half term, 4 of our Year 11 students attended the English Schools Orchestra annual residential course, culminating in a performance of Mahler's 1st Symphony at the Cadogan Hall in London. Congratulations to Yu Le, Will, Seb and Adam for representing the school at this national level.

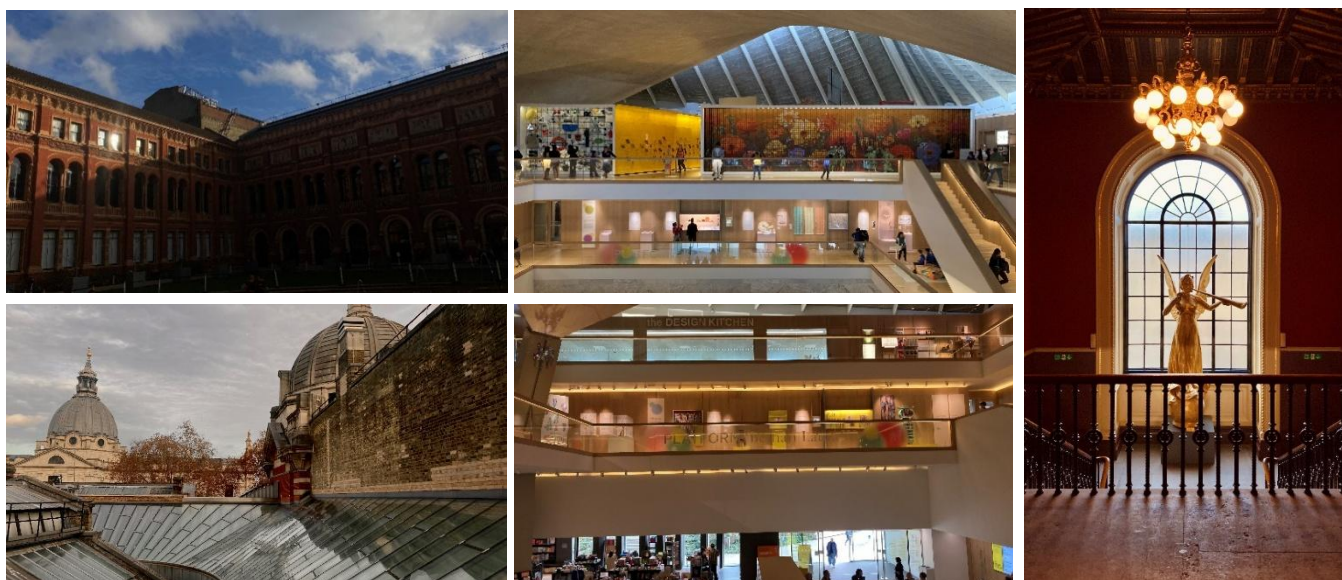


Mrs Whitehead, Director of Music

## *Year 12 Graphics Trip to London to Visit the Design Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum*

As an introduction to our upcoming project on museum wayfinding graphics, our Year 12 graphic communication class visited the Design Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London to draw inspiration and inform our projects. We all loved the open plan layout of the Design Museum, being light and cleverly displaying its exhibitions in unconventional yet intriguing ways, sparking a couple group sketch sessions. As for the V&A, its expansive site was too large to be seen in a couple of hours, so we focussed on a few displays which most interested us, particularly the Asian history and costume and movie design. This was a great opportunity to experience the existing wayfinding to inspire our wayfinding projects and enrich our minds. Overall, we all really enjoyed the chance to see both museums.

by Toby Crowe Year 12



## *Lessons from Auschwitz Year 13 RS A Level*

Two students in Year 13 were given the opportunity this term to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project <https://www.het.org.uk/lessons-from-auschwitz-online>. Both students went to a conference in Exeter and heard from a Holocaust survivor and took part in a Q and A. On November 12<sup>th</sup> they then flew from Exeter Airport to do a one- day visit to Auschwitz. Weeks later they also took part in an online seminar. The project asks for students to then create something to reflect their experience which they will share with peers and staff next term. Both James Bentley and Sam Morgan in 13T2 were extremely brave and impeccably behaved during the whole process. We are so proud of how well they represented the school.

Miss Hamalienko, Head of PRE



## Bournemouth School Library News

**Over 6000 books** have been **issued** to staff and students during the autumn term, and our new Year 7 students have been our star library users; borrowing nearly 2000 books collectively.

The new library management system, Accessit, has continued to help increase reservations, promote new resources and enable students to make reading recommendations to one another. Your child can find the link to their account from the school website under Useful Links. Here they can see their current loans, write reviews, make reservations and access booklists to support their reading journey.

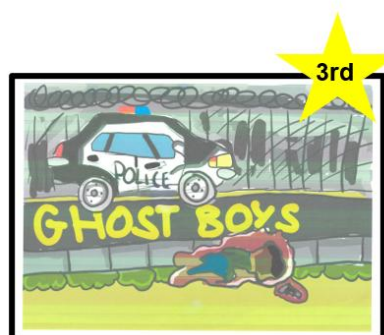
The library is open throughout the day for use by classes and sixth form supervised study. This term Year 7 and 8 students were found reading or discussing in their mini book groups, working through different challenge genres, and Year 9 have ardently sold their must reads 'speed dating' style and created some outstanding blackout poetry.

**Lunchtimes** bring chess, board and card games; quiet reading and study.

Reading for pleasure is one of the single most important things you can model and encourage your child to do to ensure they reach their full potential. Your child is likely to feel happier and more relaxed, learn new things, understand the views of others, learn about other cultures, be more confident and achieve higher exam results simply from taking the time to read for pleasure.

With this in mind the end of term has seen all Year 7 students gifted the BookTrust Bookbuzz title they chose in October – take the time to talk to them about their choice and the story itself. **Bookbuzz** is run by BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity. To find out more about BookTrust visit [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

During this term the Year 7 '**Ghost Boys**' illustration competition winners were announced. 1<sup>st</sup> place was awarded to Solomon from Darwin; the judges were impressed with the eye-catching bold but simple design, and its creative interpretation of the ghost theme. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was awarded to Piers in Scott House, 3<sup>rd</sup> to Leo in Darwin, and 4<sup>th</sup> to Cohen in Elgar.





The library has also had the pleasure of judging the Year 7 Summer Reading Reviews House Competition, hosting the Harry Potter Quiz – congratulations go to The Sherbet Lemons - and launching the Dungeons and Dragons Creative Competition.



It has been fantastic to see the excitement and passion that students have shown when taking part in the myriads of library activities.

**Wishing everybody a happy holiday.**

Mrs Morgan

Bournemouth School Librarian

**HOURS:**

Monday	8.30-4.30pm
Tuesday	8.30-4.30pm
Wednesday	8.30-3.20pm
Thursday	8.30-4.30pm
Friday	8.30-4.00pm

**For more information:**

library@bournemouth-school.org

**Accessit**

**Bournemouth School Library WebApp**

<http://uk.accessit.online/brn22/#LandingPage>



## *School Lottery Draw – Autumn Term 2025*

The Autumn term's Lottery draw will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> January. Winners will be notified by post and results posted on our website.

✓Hard Work

✓Discipline

✓Smart Appearance

✓Respect

# Physical Education

## Year 7 Rugby

The first practice of the new academic year saw 43 boys turn up and it was wonderful to see as so many of the boys had never tried rugby before. As usual, we worked on passing and running with the ball in the first couple of sessions but the first match soon came around where we were due to play Poole Grammar School. We started the game brilliantly and went into half time 1 try up. The second half saw end to end play but with 10 minutes to play, Poole scored. To add insult to injury, they scored again with the last play of the game which meant we had lost 2 tries to 1. Despite everyone being disappointed at the end, it was one of the best Year 7 rugby games I have ever seen and I was really proud of how the boys fought proudly for their school colours.

Next up was a match against a Ringwood side who had a very strong runner in their line up and we came away from the match with a five tries to five draw. This was a little disappointing as we had tackled so well against Poole but we needed to learn from this and move on.

The Dorset and Wilts 10 a-side tournament was our next venture and we had a great afternoon, winning all our matches, scoring 16 tries and conceding none. No-one could say that our tackling wasn't near perfect during the tournament and it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



The final game before this article needed to be written saw us play Glenmoor and Winton. Cold, windy and dark was how you would describe the conditions but we played some wonderful rugby to brighten up the evening for the parents who were able to watch. The final score was 9 tries to nil and when we passed the ball, we looked like a very good team.

More of the same in the coming months please.

Mr Robjohns

## Year 8 Rugby

It has been a slightly frustrating start to the season for our Year 8 rugby squad as, at the time of writing, we have managed to play only two fixtures. Despite our best efforts, securing opposition has proved challenging, and we are continuing to work hard to arrange additional matches. We remain hopeful that the upcoming Rugby 10s tournament will go ahead, providing the boys with the valuable game time they deserve.

That said, the fixtures we have played have showcased everything that is exciting about this group. Our first match saw the team deliver a dominant 50–0 victory over Poole Grammar, producing an excellent all-round performance. From the opening whistle, the boys showed real intent, playing some superb attacking rugby with sharp handling, intelligent running lines, and outstanding support play.

Defensively, they were just as impressive, displaying determination, discipline, and some superb tackling to keep the opposition scoreless. Special mentions go to Tobe N, Charlie G, Timo G, Iwan T and Barnaby C, all of whom were exceptional on the day and set the standard with their effort and skill.

Our second fixture came against Winton School, which we won comfortably. We used this match as an opportunity to give as many boys as possible valuable time on the pitch, and it was fantastic to see 30 students involved. The boys took their chance well, showing strong teamwork, excellent work-rate, and impressive attacking play throughout. Well done to Morgan E for his Man of the Match performance.

To ensure the squad continued to gain additional experience, we also recently held an intra-school fixture — and it proved to be a fantastic contest. Two evenly matched teams, the Yellows, captained by Charlie G, and the Colours, led by Ted F, played out a thrilling 15–15 draw. The match was full of intensity, featuring excellent tackling, strong rucking, and impressive passing from both sides. It was a great demonstration of the depth and quality within the squad. A special mention goes to Jake R, who was named Man of the Match.

We look forward to building on this strong start as soon as more external fixtures become available. The attitude and commitment shown by the squad have been first-class — now we just need more opportunities to let them shine on the pitch!

Mr Hedges

### Year 9 Rugby

This season the team has shown great determination and progress across five well-contested matches. The opening fixture against Poole Grammar resulted in a loss, but the boys demonstrated impressive effort throughout, with Ollie and Josh combining effectively in the backs and setting the tone for the season.

The team bounced back brilliantly with a strong win over BCS, before facing a tough Forres Sandle Manor side. Despite a committed performance, the boys were unable to secure the victory. Further hard-fought matches against Canford and Twynham followed, but despite the boys' best efforts they were unable to pick up a final victory.

A special mention goes to all the boys who have trained consistently each week – their improving individual skills have been clear to see. Thanks also to those who have stepped in during matches to support the team; their involvement has made a real difference. With increased numbers at training, the standard of play will only continue to rise.

The team now looks forward to the Dorset 7s tournament in the spring term – an exciting opportunity to build on the progress made this season.

Mr McCalister

### Year 10 Rugby

The Year 10 rugby team has shown real promise and character throughout their season so far. They opened with a strong and convincing win over Lytchett Minster in the Vase competition, setting a positive tone for the weeks ahead. Although the next round against Clayesmore didn't quite match the same winning intensity and resulted in a disappointing loss, the boys responded superbly with a tremendous, nail-biting performance against Forres Sandle Manor. A hard-fought game against BCS followed, where despite the defeat, the team displayed great spirit and determination. Their resilience paid off with an excellent all round team performance to defeat Canford, highlighted by some outstanding team tries. With one final fixture against Poole Grammar still to come, the squad will be eager to finish the season on a high.

Mr McGregor

## Year 11 Rugby

The Year 11 rugby team began their season with an outstanding performance, securing a 24–20 victory over Canford in a thrilling contest. The match was a true test of character, and the boys rose to the occasion with strength, aggression, and determination. Tom D was a standout performer, scoring several excellent tries and earning the well-deserved title of Man of the Match. His attacking play and finishing ability were key to the team's success.

The team then turned their attention to the Rugby 7s tournament at Swanage and Wareham RFC. Although they narrowly missed out on victory, the boys displayed great skill and adaptability throughout. Their commitment and teamwork were evident in every game, and they proved they could compete at a high level in this demanding version of the sport. Over the course of the day there were a number of students who stood out and played well including Dan E, Archie M, James W and Stanley D.

Later in the season, our two Bournemouth School 7s teams faced Ringwood in challenging weather conditions. Despite Ringwood arriving with low numbers, our players maintained focus and delivered strong performances. There were many contenders for Man of the Match in these games, but Harsha G stood out as he was consistently making an impact and leading from the front. His physicality and presence were crucial in maintaining momentum.

Across the season, one student who deserves special recognition is Lucas S. Lucas has been a mature and ever-present figure within the team, consistently performing at a high level in every match and showing exceptional commitment at training. His reliability and leadership have been instrumental in the team's success and development.

Well done to all the boys who have turned out at training and represented the School across the term.

Mr Perch

## 1st XV Rugby

The 1st XV rugby team has enjoyed a promising and hard fought start to the season, completing six fixtures so far. In the opening three matches against Poole Grammar, Barton Peveril, and Queen Mary's College, the boys played with tremendous determination and spirit, producing competitive performances despite the narrow losses. Their efforts were rewarded with a well-deserved first victory over Ringwood, during which several outstanding tries showcased the team's attacking flair. Throughout the season, the squad has demonstrated an excellent attitude, working hard for one another and continually improving. At the Dorset and Wilts 10s tournament, they faced tough opposition but once again displayed resilience and commitment. The team now looks forward to building on these performances in the remaining fixtures of the season.



Mr McGregor



## 1st XI Football

At the halfway point of the season, our First XI have impressed with their commitment, development, and competitive spirit across a varied fixture list.

A narrow 2–1 defeat to Bayhouse School opened the season's competitive league fixtures. Despite dominating throughout the match and creating countless clear chances, the team were unable to overturn a late Bayhouse winner. Seb R scored our only goal after being instrumental in midfield along with Rudy R, who provided flair down the wing. The performance, however, demonstrated real promise, with strong defensive organisation from Captain Will O and general confident build-up play.



This was followed by a dramatic cup tie against Poole Grammar, which finished 1–1 after 90 minutes with Leo M providing a cool finish and goal. The boys showed outstanding creative play throughout but were unable to finish and kill the game off. Unfortunately, the contest was settled from the spot, with Poole Grammar edging the penalty shoot-out despite a valiant effort from Harrison W in goal.

The squad responded brilliantly in the league, securing a hard-fought 1–0 victory against, again, Poole Grammar. A disciplined defensive display and a well-taken late goal by Max D proved enough to earn all three points. Wholesale changes during the game, including Sam K coming on in attack, made all the difference.

Our next outing was against strong opposition in the shape of Queen Mary's College. Yet again, Bournemouth School dominated possession but could not convert chances into goals. The game ended in 2-1 defeat despite a goal from Ben F-M taking us in 1-0 up at the break.



Lytchett Minster were our opposition in the second round of the County Cup competition, after we received a bye in the first. We started the game with the best football we have played all season, including Benji W pulling the strings in midfield. Macadou S scored to send us into the lead before Lytchett equalised on the break before half time. A powerful free kick from Joel M went in off the post to make it 2-1 to Bournemouth School, before Lytchett again equalised. The game went to extra time, but thankfully Ollie T and Moawia S both scored headers from corners to send us through to the next round with a 4-2 victory!

Overall, the first half of the season has been marked by perseverance, teamwork, and growth. The squad look forward to carrying this momentum into the new year.

## Cross Country

The Cross Country squad has enjoyed another excellent and highly competitive autumn season. Weekly training sessions have been exceptionally well attended by boys from Years 7 to 11, and it has been fantastic to see the effort, enthusiasm and commitment shown throughout the term. The season began at Canford School for the first PEDSSA event of the year, where it was especially pleasing to see eight Year 7 runners making their competitive debuts. The junior boys, consisting of Years 7 and 8, performed brilliantly to finish second overall, led by strong runs from Eduardo in 5<sup>th</sup>, Edward in 7<sup>th</sup>, Benjy in 11<sup>th</sup> and Max in 12<sup>th</sup>. The B team also ran well, finishing fourth thanks to Barney in 13<sup>th</sup>, Finn in 15<sup>th</sup>, Edan in 22<sup>nd</sup> and Ben in 24<sup>th</sup>, with further determined efforts from George, Reuben and Mohamed. The inter boys, from Years 9 and 10, dominated their race and secured first place with just 31 points, following an outstanding win from Barney and strong finishes from Josh in 5<sup>th</sup>, Thomas in 12<sup>th</sup> and Reuben in 13<sup>th</sup>, with Edwin and Charlie completing a very competitive squad. The seniors, made up of Year 11 and Sixth Form runners, continued the winning trend with their A team finishing first after impressive runs from Ollie C, Sam, Finn and Ollie N, and the B team achieving second place with Ben, Henry, Jacob and Harvey all finishing tightly together, supported by strong performances from Will and Alec.

The first round of the Cross Country Cup brought more success. The junior team produced a superb effort to finish second, with Eduardo leading the way in 6<sup>th</sup> place, closely followed by Ed, Max and Benjy in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, while Jake and Barney completed the team. The inter boys, reigning national champions, met their high expectations with an excellent winning performance, as Barney and Riley took the top two positions, supported by Josh in 9<sup>th</sup> and Felix in 13<sup>th</sup>, with Reuben and Thomas also contributing strongly. The seniors again finished first, packing closely with Ollie C, Sam and Finn placing 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by Ollie N and Ben in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and Henry completing the team in 11<sup>th</sup> to secure a dominant victory.

The regional final at Leweston School proved more challenging for the junior team, who finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall in much tougher conditions. Their determination was commendable, and it was valuable experience, particularly for the three Year 7 athletes competing at this level, with final positions for the team including Max in 10<sup>th</sup>, Edward in 28<sup>th</sup>, Max in 38<sup>th</sup>, Benjy in 40<sup>th</sup>, Barney in 41<sup>st</sup> and Reuben in 57<sup>th</sup>. The inter boys rose to the occasion against high-quality opposition and finished second to qualify for the national final, thanks to strong performances from Riley in 4<sup>th</sup>, Barney in 7<sup>th</sup>, Josh in 20<sup>th</sup>, Felix in 26<sup>th</sup>, Reuben in 28<sup>th</sup> and Thomas in 43<sup>rd</sup>. The seniors produced one of the standout results of the term by winning their race with all six runners finishing inside the top 15. Alex returned strongly from injury to finish 5<sup>th</sup> after working through the field, followed by excellent runs from Ollie C in 8<sup>th</sup>, Finn in 10<sup>th</sup>, Ollie in 12<sup>th</sup>, Sam in 13<sup>th</sup> and Ben in 14<sup>th</sup>, beating strong teams from Eton College, Millfield and Colyton Grammar.

By the time this newsletter goes out the Inter and Senior Boys teams will have competed at the National Final at Princethorpe College in Rugby. We then look forward to the County Championships, which take place at Kings Park on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

Mr McCalister

## Badminton

Our badminton squads have enjoyed an impressive start to this year's School Sport Magazine National Schools U14 and U16 Badminton Cup, competing in fixtures across the South West Region. Each tie follows the competition's standard format: four singles rubbers in which players face their opposite seeds (1 v 1, 2 v 2, and so on), followed by two doubles matches featuring pairings of seeds 1 & 2 and 3 & 4.

The opening round saw both teams facing St Edward's School, Oxford. The U14 side—Hadyn L (Y9), Aarav G (Y9), Peter N (Y9) and William H (Y8) - were in dominant form, securing a flawless 6–0 victory.

Not to be outdone, our all-Year 11 U16 squad of Jason B, Thomas N, Yu-Le C and Oliver N also produced outstanding performances throughout, matching the U14s with a convincing 6–0 win of their own.

In the second round, our teams met strong opposition from Abingdon School. The U14 lineup of Hadyn L, Aditya A (Y8), William H and Peter N once again displayed consistency and composure, powering to another superb 6–0 result. The U16 team - Jason B, Thomas N, Arjun R (Y11) and Yu-Le C - fought hard in a series of closely contested matches. Despite a 5–1 loss, three of the rubbers were decided by the narrowest of margins (21–19, 22–20, 22–20), reflecting the team's determination and quality.

With two excellent performances, the U14 squad now progress to the Regional Final after Christmas. We wish them the very best as they continue their campaign.

Mr Hedges

### Swimming - Success at National County Team Championships

Congratulations to Gabriel N (Y9) and Adam D (Y11), who were selected to represent Dorset in the 2025 National County Team Championships, held in Sheffield on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Competing as part of a talented 24-person squad, both students contributed to a series of excellent performances throughout the event.

Dorset finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall, earning 408 points and securing their place in Division 2 for the 2026 Championships. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are extremely proud of Gabriel and Adam for their hard work, dedication, and success at such a high level of competition.

Mr Hedges



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## *Bournemouth School's 35<sup>th</sup> Bournemouth Sea Scouts RN Unit 47*

The School's Sea Scout and Explorer sections have seen their membership swell to over 90 youth in the last six months. We have also had our classification with the Royal Navy enhanced to an "Affiliated" Sea Scout Unit which provides more opportunities for the programme. Six Explorers have now gained Paddle UK Instructor qualifications in kayaks and canoes as well as Scout Association permits allowing them to teach across BCP and the UK.



In August we entered two Home Counties gigs in the Christchurch River Pageant (above) fundraising for Hengistbury Head Outdoors, Bourne Water Dragons and Pink Champagne Breast Cancer Charities.



In October we survived Storm Amy, camping in the New Forest where our Pioneer Explorer Section Unit won the Bournemouth District Challenge Weekend, navigating the course and completing tasks.



Also in October our Pioneer Explorer Scout Unit took advantage of the Hunter's Moon and canoed the Stour from Tuckton to Iford Bridges and back, illuminated mostly by the moon a bit of red head torch.



Concluding October, we helped ASDA Castlepoint with their Children in Need campaign raising £500.



In November the Troop assisted the Mayor of Bournemouth distributing Orders of Service, collecting donations for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal during the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial and providing a guard of honour for the attending dignitaries at BCP Civic Centre. Our Poppy Appeal efforts raised £1,749 on the day.



Additionally, we assisted Tesco Riverside on Saturday to collect over £1,500 for their Poppy Appeal.



Our boats put away for winter, the 35th Bournemouth Sea Scouts and Pioneer Explorer Scout Unit will continue learning nautical skills in preparation for our 2026 Royal Navy Inspection and look forward to next year's boating season. We wish all a restful and festive term break and holiday season.

Jim Alexander, Group Scout Leader RN47



## *Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...*

Closing a school of this size is never an easy or straightforward decision and given the difficulty we know this causes you, the parents, I thought you would welcome some background to the decision making process. The decision to close a school is taken by the Headteacher; following a risk assessment that is based on a number of factors. This decision has to be taken without knowing how the weather will progress during the day. Issues considered include site safety, the likely level of staffing, the availability of catering and also if bus services are running. Before any decision is taken, the Headteacher of Bournemouth School for Girls, Mr Sims, and I liaise and seek advice from senior colleagues, the site staff and the bus companies.

Although some staff, students and parents are able to move safely to and from school no matter how severe the conditions, we listen carefully to the police and the bus service providers. We do not wish to pressurise any student, parent or member of staff into making a journey that they believe to be unsafe. We also consider the level of adult supervision that is likely to be available at school. Should there be a predicted high level of staff absence, it would be very hard to guarantee a worthwhile day for those students who do manage to struggle in. If at all possible the school will remain open when there is snow. If there is a snowfall overnight we always endeavour to have made a decision by 7 am. If the weather deteriorates during the school day, we make the decision as soon as possible.

If it is necessary, in the interests of pupil welfare, to close a school because of extreme weather conditions, you would be notified as follows:

- an e-mail will be sent to those parents who have given us their e-mail address
- a message will be posted on the school's website [www.bournemouth-school.org](http://www.bournemouth-school.org)  
**[Remember that you might need to refresh the page with the F5 key.]**
- radio messages will be broadcast on Heart FM, Radio Solent, Fire FM and Wave 105 (the websites will also list the school as being closed);
- a message will be posted on the local authority's website [www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk)

Should we need to close the school during normal school hours, boys who already have parental permission to leave the school site in such circumstances will do so after having registered with their tutor. The remaining students will stay with their tutor until contact with home has been made, and appropriate arrangements for the student are in place.

