



BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL

Headteacher's Half-termly Newsletter

As ever, the main focus of the half term has been to ensure that we continue to prepare students in Years 11 and 13 for their public examinations. Students in Year 13 have been sitting practice examinations, whilst those in Year 11 have been assimilating the feedback from examinations before Christmas and developing plans of action to address any identified weaknesses. There have also been a number of parents' evenings for other year groups, including for Year 8 students who are finalising their GCSE options choices.

We were delighted to open our doors on the afternoon of Saturday, 24 January to welcome over 1,000 visitors - former students and staff members, along with their families and members of the local community - to celebrate 125 years of Bournemouth School's history.

A varied musical programme featured in *Le Bistro*, perfectly accompanying shared memories and anecdotes as those present swapped stories and reminisced together. A thoroughly hard-working and professional team of current students, led by prefects, provided guided tours of the school's facilities and kept everyone well supplied with refreshments. There has been a great deal of positive feedback received, with many former students wishing to contribute to the continued success of their old school in some way (including financially!). Please visit our website to learn more about the event: <https://www.bournemouth-school.org/2026/01/26/125th-anniversary-celebration/>

As part of our Year 9 personal development programme, the timetable on **Friday 6 February** was collapsed to allow students to take part in a special enrichment day delivered in partnership with **Who Dares Gives**, a veteran-led community organisation (<https://whodaresgives.co.uk/schools/>).

The day was designed to help students develop practical life skills, including how to:

- recognise and avoid risky situations;
- make sound decisions under pressure;
- communicate confidently and manage conflict;
- build self-awareness, confidence, and personal responsibility.

Sessions were engaging and delivered in a positive, supportive environment. Students took part in short talks, interactive workshops, and hands-on activities. This pilot was supported by J.P. Morgan Bournemouth as part of their community youth engagement work. The feedback from all involved was very positive.

Other notable events this term

- Poetry Live event (Y9)
- Science Live event (Y10)
- Assemblies to mark Holocaust Memorial Day
- Dangers of Vaping talks (Talkabout Trust; Y7, 8, 10-13)
- A number of students contributed to BSG's production of *"Legally Blonde"*
- House competitions (rugby, table tennis, cross-country and basketball)
- Guest speakers throughout the term (from, for example, Reading University, Sunseeker, Jaguar Land Rover, Health Sciences University, Lester Aldridge, Markel etc)

Senior Prefects 2026-27

After a rigorous selection process, the following students have been appointed to the new Senior Prefect Team:

School Captain

Benjy W

Deputy School Captains

James P

Sophie N

Ruoyi H

Oskar D

Jonathan B

House Captain – Darwin

Oli T

House Captain – Elgar

James P

House Captain – Moore

Sam W

House Captain – Newton

Ben K

House Captain – Scott

Hector G

House Captain – Turner

Charlotte C

The standard of applications was incredibly high, with almost 90 applications received. Students who were not appointed to senior roles will still be considered for prefect roles within their houses. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Luca and the out-going Senior Prefect Team for their outstanding contribution to the school over the last year.

Student Behaviour

Regrettably, over recent weeks there have been a number of behavioural incidents that we have been trying to address. Some of these incidents have occurred when students are on their way to or from school. I feel it timely to remind parents of the content of our Behaviour Policy (available through our website) and our expectations of students and parents:

Students should:

- Attend school every day unless they are ill
- Be punctual to lessons and tutor time
- Contribute positively to the classroom learning environment, ensuring both themselves and others can make progress
- Have a positive attitude to learning and work hard on all tasks set
- Only talk in lessons when it is at the discretion of the teacher
- Ensure adequate time is spent out of lessons preparing for lessons and assessments

- Be respectful of others and their property
- Wear full school uniform
- Bring the necessary equipment to lessons
- Accept responsibility for their actions
- Uphold the ICT usage agreement and not use a mobile phone in school (unless in Years 12 and 13 when it can be used in designated areas)
- Behave well during their journey to and from school, including on school and public transport
- Uphold the values of the school at all times when they are identifiable as a member of our community, whether before, during or after school, and whether on or off our site

Parents should:

- Support the school in ensuring students uphold the values of the school at all times when they are identifiable as a member of our community, whether before, during or after school, and whether on or off our site
- Ensure the regular attendance and punctuality of their child
- Encourage their child to bring the correct equipment and to wear full school uniform
- Support and encourage their child to complete the necessary work outside of lessons
- Attend relevant parent and information evenings
- Communicate with the school regarding any circumstances that might affect their child's learning and behaviour

These expectations of students and parents have been in place for a number of years (since before 2019), and by accepting a place at the school, in Year 7 or in Year 12, both student and parent are committing to fulfil these expectations. Parents who are unhappy with the way in which we manage behaviour, do not accept our high expectations of behaviour and/or are unwilling to accept the school's authority to address poor behaviour as we see fit, should reflect upon whether this is the correct setting for their son or daughter.

The DfE guidance is quite clear that schools have authority to punish pupils for behaviour that occurs outside school, as we have a hard-earned reputation to maintain within the wider community. Our Behaviour Policy clearly states that we expect students to uphold the values of the school at all times when they are identifiable as a member of our community, whether before, during or after school, and whether on or off our site. The policy goes on to state that the nature and severity of the punishment will be in accordance to the impact of the student's behaviour on other individuals, property and reputation of the school.

We are blessed by having a majority of students that are well-behaved and keen to learn, and a vast majority of parents who are very supportive of our approach to behaviour management. I believe that the impressive outcomes that our students achieve are a direct result of our high expectations. Thank you for your continued support.

The Headteacher Appointment Process

As you will be aware, I have given formal notice of my resignation as Headteacher, with effect from 31 December 2026, to the Board of Trustees. I have given the Trustees a longer period of notice than contractually required to ensure that the process of appointing my successor is careful and thorough, while keeping any period of uncertainty to a minimum. The position has now been advertised (the application pack is available through our website), with a closing date for applications of 11 March. It is intended that interviews will be held on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March. I hope that the Chair of Trustees will be able to advise parents of my successor before the end of term.

Have a lovely half-term!

Dr Dorian P Lewis

Headteacher
13/02/26