

Head of School

Friday 6th December 2024

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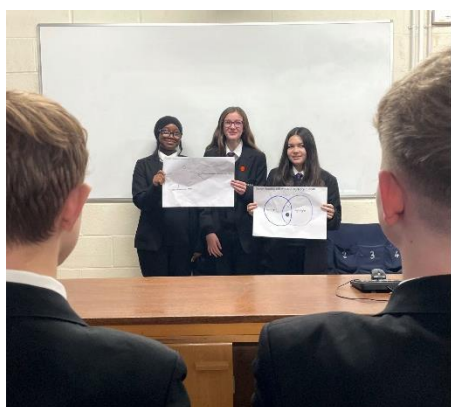
Dear parents/carers and students,

We are fast approaching the end of this term and there is an air of excitement as both staff and students are looking forward to the Christmas festivities! We have had an exceptionally busy week, with sporting events to supporting our local primary schools.

As part of the Sports Leaders qualification, our amazing leaders are required to complete five hours of volunteering to complete the course. On Tuesday, we held a fantastic Primary School Panathlon event for a number of local Primary and Special Schools. At the event students were involved in a number of different tasks designed to help them develop the key skills that the course is designed to develop communication, self-belief, teamwork, self-management and problem solving. The visiting primary school students had a fantastic experience and our sports leaders were phenomenal in their approach.

On Wednesday, we held our first Christmas Dinner session in the canteen! It was brilliant to see so many students enjoying their Christmas Dinner. I am pleased to inform you that we will be repeating this meal next Wednesday lunchtime in the canteen. For any student not wishing to partake in the Christmas dinner, other healthy options will be available such as sandwiches and salads.

On Thursday, our students in Years 7 to 10 and in Year 12 took part in a 'Speaking And Listening Activity Day', also known as SALAD Day. Mrs Daisy Bland, Trust Executive Education Director oversees the Communications Strategy across all four schools in our Trust and has embedded SALAD as part of our curriculum offer. Regardless of the subjects which students are studying, the aim of the day is not to use any writing instruments, but to encourage students to communicate verbally within the lesson.



On Friday, we hosted two further primary school events. Our Modern Foreign Languages team hold an annual primary school language day to support our local primary schools to access expert language specialist, with support from our exceptional language students. This is our third year supporting Bourne Abbey Primary School, to introduce French to students before they start at Bourne Academy in September 2025. During the language sessions, the students learnt how to greet each other, say how they are feeling, and the numbers 1 to 20 using a variety of interactive and fun teaching techniques. This partnership activity between the two schools helps the Year 6 students in their transition to a new school and introduces the foundation of a new language for those students, who currently study Spanish. The sessions were led by our amazing Year 9 Language Ambassadors with the event organised by Ms Nieuwenhuizen, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages.

And finally, we also had over 30 primary school students in our Music department this week. Bourne Academy are performing again at the Bourne Christmas light switch on this Saturday, from 12.00pm. We perform in collaboration with a number of local primary schools. This is a wonderful event and I would like to invite as many parents/ carers to support our local community with this event over the weekend.

Last week, our Post 16 students sat their Pre-Public Examinations (PPE Mocks) and this week was the turn for our Year 11 students. This series will provide our Year 11 students a good opportunity to sit a full suite of examinations over a two-week period. Students have been working very hard and we continue to encourage all students to be revising as we approach the final week of examinations.

This year's UCAS process is well underway with students applying for a variety of courses from Medicine to International Tourism! Interviews and offers are coming in from a range of universities, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. Mrs Barber would like to remind students that the deadline for UCAS application is Monday 13th January 2025. If students need further support, our Sixth Form team are on hand to guide students, during this milestone.

For Year 11 students who are wanting to apply for the SLAT Sixth Form at Bourne Academy, the first deadline for them to make their application is Monday 16th Decemeber 2024. Students are recommended to apply by by this date so they will be able to choose their preferred subject options for Sixth Form. Students who apply after this date may have limited subject options if subject places are full, but they can still apply. Visit www.bourneacademy.org/sixthform/apply to make an application.

This week we have also been presenting many Aspire badges for those students who have achieved their Bronze and Silver badges. Congratulations to all of these students who have gone above and beyond to complete wider curricular tasks in order to gain their certification and badge. This also allows students access to the Aspire Reward Film Festival taking place at the end of term. For students who are very near to completion there is the need for one final push before next Wednesday which is the cut off point for this term to gain access to the Reward event.

In the New Year, our Year 9 students will be considering their GCSE options which is another important milestone in their education. There will be plenty of guidance for you and your child and further information will be communicated to you nearer the time. We also held our Year 9 Parents' Evening online on Thursday evening. Our attendance to this session was incredible. It was lovely to hear so many positive progress conversations happening with our teachers, students and parents/carers. I hope the evening was very informative and gave you an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have in order to support your child further on their educational journey.

A reminder that next week on Thursday 12th December 2024 is 'Wear a Christmas Item Day' in aid of Save the Children. We are asking students to support the fundraising for Save the Children by wearing one Christmas item alongside their normal school uniform and make a small donation of £1. **Please note this not a non-uniform day**, and some examples of how the students can get involved:

- Wear a **Christmas Festive Jumper** on top of their usual school shirts and tie
- Wear **Christmas Socks, Christmas Tie** or **Christmas Headband** with their normal school uniform
- Wear a **Santa / Elf Hat** with their normal school uniform

Finally, we are also looking forward to the upcoming Winter Concert which will take place in the School Hall on Wednesday 18th December 2024. Rehearsals are sounding excellent and I am excited to hear our talented students perform throughout the course of the evening. Over 75% of the tickets for this event have already been sold, so please do purchase your tickets as soon as you can to avoid missing out. Tickets are £5 each and can be purchased online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/bourneacademy and there are no ticket booking fees.



I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Jemma Curson

Head of School, Bourne Academy

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- www.instagram.com/BourneAcademy
- www.facebook.com/BourneAcademyLincs
- www.twitter.com/BourneSLAT