



Bournemouth School

Newsletter – December 2005



From the Headmaster

As another very busy term comes to an end we can look back on the successes, near misses, hopes and regrets that mark out our lives. We have had more than the usual number of highs and lows; we started the term in buoyant mood, having just gained our best-ever examination results. We also had excellent Speech Days and a very busy and successful Open Evening. However, the upbeat mood was soon shattered by news of the deaths of three past members of the School. In early October we heard that Chris Rice, who left in the summer of 2004 at the end of his L6 year, had collapsed and died whilst running at Hengistbury Head. Chris had made a great impact whilst at the school, notably through the discos which he ran for the younger pupils and by his willingness to help anyone at any time.

Later in the term we heard of the death of Mr Eric Bennett, the third Headmaster of the school (from 1957 – 1970). Finally, I was contacted at 7.50 one morning by last year's School Captain Craig Mathie, who gave me the terrible news of the death of Stephen (Stevie) Bernard, a highly accomplished sportsman who left us last summer to study to become a P.E. teacher at Chichester University. Stevie had been at the wheel of car in which he and two fellow students died. The school was well-represented at the funerals and we were happy to provide facilities after each funeral so that mourners had a suitable space in which to meet and swap memories. Our thoughts go out to the families of all three; the Christmas period will not be an easy one for them.

On a more positive note, it looks as though we are finally making real progress on the new maths teaching block. The governors have appointed the main consultants, who are currently drawing up the detailed design specifications so that we can put the construction phase out to tender early next term. We are targeting Easter 2006 as the date for the start of the building, with a planned completion date around Christmas – what a wonderful Christmas present that will be for us all next year! The one significant obstacle which remains is that of finance; once our Quantity Surveyor has updated all of the costings we will have a good indication of the gap (if any) between what we have and what we need. Please do not be surprised if you receive begging letters from me next term – it really is essential that we complete this building so that your sons can benefit from modern, purpose-built classrooms instead of the appalling 'temporary' huts that we are currently forced to use for mathematics lessons. We need all the help that we can muster.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter; as always, it contains just a flavour of the enormous range of activities which our pupils take part in, and it also highlights the quite exceptional standards that many of them attain. To close, may I wish you and your families every possible happiness over the Christmas period.

John Granger

PSHCE

I was delighted that so many parents were able to attend the recent meeting which Mr Coppage organised, with superb support from our Peer Educators and from representatives of various outside agencies. The purpose of these meetings is twofold; partly we aim to inform you of the sort of education which your sons receive in the areas of sex and relationships education and drugs education, and partly we hope that by raising what can be very difficult issues you will find it easier to help you sons through the difficult period of adolescence. The feedback from those attending the meeting was exceptionally positive and more such meetings are planned for the future.

Achievements

Drama

Our thanks go to the staff of BSG for the hard work that went into the joint production of *The Sound of Music*. The standard of the joint orchestra and of the performers on stage was quite stunning and the production thoroughly deserved its four sell-out houses.

Rehearsals for next terms production of *'Dracula Spectacula'* are under way – please make a note in your diaries (N.B. the date has changed!)

Debating

The Senior Debating Society has managed to maintain a fortnightly schedule of debates with BSG, on the subjects of terrorism, feminism, the easy life of today's youth and the misguided minority. Speakers have proved lively and increasingly well-informed. An average of around 70 pupils and staff has been maintained.

Coaching of the two speakers for Round 1 of the English Speaking Union Schools' Mace competition on November 22nd has begun, with a team of eight Debating Society members contributing to the process.

Mathematics

101 pupils entered this term's Senior Maths Challenge, with 7 gaining automatic entry to the first round of the British Maths Olympiad.

Sport Tennis

The U-13 team continued their way in the regional knock-out stage of the Nestle national competition by beating Torquay Boys' Grammar (5-1) and Truro School (4-2), reaching the last 32 in this major schools' event. In the SW regional final they lost by 4 matches to 2 against Millfield Prep School. However, owing to the withdrawal of the Channel Island's representative, and based on the team's performance, an invitation was extended for us to play in the National quarter-finals where, against some very strong opponents from Dr Challoner's Grammar School, the team lost 5-1. Congratulations are due to Jack Joyce (8E), Tom Gill (9E), Ahria Roushanbakhti (9N) and Sam Leonard (9N).

Rugby

Congratulations to the U-13 12-a-side squad, who won the recent local tournament. In the preliminary rounds they beat Ringwood 24-0, lost 7-15 to Highcliffe and won 29-0 against The Grange. In the semi-final we beat Poole High 21-0 and went on to beat St Peters 19-0 in the final. This is an excellent set of results from a very promising squad: Robbie Boyd (Capt.), John Muncer, Sam Veneroso, Charles Spencer, Sam Gibbs, John Ryall, Deepak Mallya, Jo Kane, Sam Davies, Ashley Bradshaw, Theo Gray, Adam Carter and Nick Arnold.

Congratulations also to the U14 rugby team who won the recent District tournament in convincing fashion. They went through the tournament undefeated, conceding only one try and beating Poole High School 19-5 in the final. This is the first time that the school has won this tournament since its inception in 2000.

Sailing

James Rusden has had a superb year, in which he became - at 15 - the youngest-ever Cadet World Champion, has been named as RYA Southern Region Sailor of the Year and has been shortlisted as one of 3 (with Ellen MacArthur & Ben Ainsley) for the Young Sailor of the Year, to be awarded at the London Boat Show.

Also on sailing, congratulations go to Robbie Urwin, who was selected to represent Great Britain in the Optimist European International Team Racing Championships, held in Berlin over the half term period.

House Music

The 3rd annual House Music Competition proved to be the best yet. Pupils from each House were responsible for organising their own performances. In the finals, which were held before an audience of parents and staff, the standards of organisation and musicianship were exceptional, with a wide range of instruments and musical styles being employed. We are grateful to the Adjudicator, Mr David Woodgates, Head of Music at Leaden Hall School for Girls, for his expert analysis and judgements. The winning House was Darwin, the team being led by Josh Todd. Congratulations go to all those who took part.

Biology

The Biology Department has hosted a series of external speakers this term in the Lecture Theatre on Thursday lunchtimes. Attendance has been good, particularly from Y12, though some keen pupils from Years 10 and 11 have also attended. The speakers have included people from Bournemouth Council (speaking about Heathland Management) the Dorset Wildlife Trust, the Chiropractic College, Durlston Marine Project and Southampton University. Dr Durant also revisited her role as a researcher to carry out a rat dissection, with a high degree of skill and knowledge. These talks have undoubtedly extended the students and allowed them to see how Biology fits into the 'Real World'.

Languages

Our extended-day languages programme continues to grow. This term 125 students have enrolled, of whom 37 are either B.S. or B.S.G. students. A total of 8 languages are available – please contact Mrs Franklin if you are interested in enrolling. Come along – prove to your sons that you're never too old to learn!

CCF

Cpl Tim Peters (U6) has been selected to represent the UK Cadet organisations as a Staff Cadet at next summer's Whitehorse Course in Canada, as a result of his performance as a cadet at this year's course. The comment from the officer responsible for his appointment reads 'I am sure that (your selection) reflects all the efforts you made that were of the highest order, and as always expected from The Bournemouth School Contingent'.

Scouts

The Beckwith Banner competition is run each year for the Bournemouth Explorer Scouts. The competition takes place over a Friday evening and the following day. The Friday event involves an overnight hike, in which competitors demonstrate their expertise in route planning, navigation and their ability to work as part of a team. On the Saturday a range of activities are including, amongst them the preparation of a meal.

The school team of Matthew White (U6D), Michael Pollett (L6N), George Randell (L6N) and Michael Smith (11D) won the Saturday competition and were overall runners-up in the whole event, coming just one point behind the eventual winners.

Christmas Card Competition

Each year I am pleased to be able to send Christmas cards to other schools and to people outside the school who have helped us through the previous year. This year the Art department organised a competition to design the school's cards. There was a good entry, with a very high overall standard. It was impossible to choose one winner and so five winners were selected. Congratulations (and a large box of sweets!) go to Robert Hopps (7E), Lewis Watton (7T), Sam Fry (8N), Ben Lodge (9E) and Adam Purnell & Nichole White (both 6th Form).

STAFFING

We were pleased to welcome the following new members of the teaching staff at the start of the term:

Mr S Beal	Business Studies/Economics
Mr N Crawford	Head of Geography
Mr R Cudmore	ICT
Ms M Jadav	Chemistry
Miss F Meegan	Biology
Mrs H Speller	History
Mr J Tyler	Mathematics

The following new support staff have joined us:

Mr M Fuller	Caretaker
Mr R Allen	Caretaker

Three language assistants have recently joined us for the year:

Ms Susan Schob	(German)
Ms Delphine Hervieu	(French)
Ms Maribel Garcia	(Spanish)

Dorset Police

Dorset Police have asked us to contact all parents and carers and make them aware that excessive alcohol drinking by some young people of secondary school age is becoming a serious concern.

This problem of excessive drinking by these young people affects everybody, not just the young people themselves. It is fair to say the behaviour of these groups of young teenagers is affecting the community in general. The police have also seen an increased risk of young people being the victims of gang fights and intimidation alongside the health risks of being drunk and out of control. Recently drunken young victims in Bournemouth have been robbed and suffered serious physical and sexual assault. We want to reduce the risks of this happening.

We all want young people and others to be able to enjoy themselves in safe, non-threatening environments.

To support each other with this aim the School, Police and the Council's Children's Services are providing the following suggestions:

- Don't supply your children with alcoholic drink, not even alcopops.
- Reinforce the fact they must not drink alcohol in public.
- Do check up on your children if they are going to Bournemouth town centre - for their safety – explain to them why you are concerned.
- Do make sure you know where they are and what they are doing.
- Do ask for full explanations, not just 'I'm going to a sleepover' or 'I'm just going to a party'.
- Do make sure they have a means of contacting you or a nominated adult, and they have a way of getting home.

If you have any concerns about alcohol and related issues advice can be sought from the following services:

Young Adults Drug and Alcohol Service (YADAS)
Bournemouth: 01202 319191 Poole: 01202 741414

East Dorset Drug & Alcohol Advisory Service (EDDAAS)
Bournemouth: 01202 311606

Personal Belongings

The school cannot assume any responsibility for boys' personal possessions. Boys are reminded regularly not to bring valuable items to school and to use their lockers to protect their possessions. All personal possessions should be marked with the owner's name.

If boys have to take valuable items to the sports hall it is recommended that they take with them a combination padlock to secure their possessions in the lockers provided. Suitable locks can be purchased from the sports hall reception desk.

53 Bus

Yellow Buses have informed us that due to heavy traffic congestion they will be diverting the route to Richmond Park Fire Station via Castle Lane and Wessex Way from the start of the New Year.

Parents' Association

May I first thank all the parents who have supported us over the last year at our various fundraising events and to those of you who support our monthly lottery with congratulations to this month's winners listed below.

Events planned for next year include a Quiz Night in the Spring and of course our annual Summer BBQ.

Before closing I would like to ask if anybody can help at our various events, either by selling tickets on the door, helping behind the bar or as a much needed extra pair of hands through the evening. I think you would be able to offer some time please contact me, either by e-mail pa@bournemouth-school.org or through the school.

Finally I should like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Jonathan Bedford
Chairman BSPA

Lottery Results

Each winner receives, currently, around £109.00.

June 2005

Name	Drawn By
A Dean	Tom Andrews 9D
C Purkis	Devon Davies 9E
BJ Sanders	Jake Keeley 9E

July 2005

Mr & Mrs K Ardley	Theo Gray 7S
A Barraclough	Sam Davies 7S
J Bedford	Robbie Boyd 7S

August 2005

Drawn at the New Parents Cheese & Wine

Mr & Mrs White	Dr Hill
Mrs Short	Year 7 Parent
Ms Watton	Year 7 Parent

September 2005

D Oaten	J Gibson
M Skipsey	S Sinkinson
A Dean	J Bedford

October 2005

Mr & Mrs Lines	A Chadha 7D
Mrs & Mrs Bacon	N Mahony 9D
Mr & Mrs Whiteside	H Wilson 7S

November 2005

Mr Falvey	J Blandford 7N
Mrs & Mrs Smolaga	J Cadman 7N
Mrs J Davies	B Magookin 9D

Scouts

Summer Camp saw us back at Church Farm, Barnsley – which is a very up-market village in the Cotswolds with not a coal mine or steel works in sight! It has the advantage however of not being far from the Fairford Lakes where we able to go sailing and canoeing thanks to the 1st Fairford Scouts. Our pulling gig ‘Sea Scout’ and our ‘best’ canoes survived the road journey from Bournemouth and added to the fleet on the lake. Ironically the most popular water activity was building rafts out of gigantic orange survival bags.

Other activities included Patrol Hikes with an overnight camp away from the main base and pony trekking. ASL Jeremy Sullivan encouraged several Scouts to try sleeping in a bivouac even though one boy came close to finding himself sharing his sleeping bag with a hedgehog.

For next summer’s expedition we hope to be back on the canals of the South Midlands – but using something much more substantial than survival bags!

‘Normal’ Troop Meetings restarted in September when we were pleased to welcome a significant number of new members. For a whole three weeks we were, as advertised, actually a mixture of Scouts and Sea Scouts. Then the inevitable happened and green uniforms were swapped for blue and we became all Sea Scouts again.

Sea Otters spent a most interesting evening with the crew of Poole Lifeboat during which they toured the two Poole boats, tried on all the gear and lashed one of the crew to a rescue stretcher. Lifeboat men and Scouts seem to have a lot in common especially when it comes to a zany sense of humour! Possibly the only awkward moment was when the lady doing an introductory talk realised that one very new Sea Scout seemed to know more about the finer details of the RNLI fleet than she did! Our thanks are due to Mrs Coleman for arranging this visit.

Congratulations to Jordan Faith and Michael Pollett who shared the Howard Reeves Memorial Prize at their respective Speech Days.

Backwoods cooking at Perch Pool again produced sausages burning brightly from end to end - whilst remaining raw in the centre. This term salmon made its way onto the menu. These evenings are always popular but still do nothing to dispel the problem of Scouts who can quickly light a fire in the pitch dark in pouring rain and a howling gale but seem unable to do the same on a warm sunny morning in camp.

Our Explorer Scout team did very well in this Year’s Beckwith Banner Competition gaining second place and only one mark behind the winners. Given the usual standard of marking on this competition one wonders what might have been the result of a re-count! Once again they won the ‘Scouting Skills’ trophy which is even more pleasing. The District Scout Night Activity was postponed but the Explorer Scouts ran a ‘Smuggler Hunting’ session at Ramsdown as one Friday Troop meeting.

We were on duty at the Town Remembrance Sunday Memorial Service at the War Memorial in November and afterwards were invited back to the Town Hall for coffee. The Scouts behaviour and manners on these occasions are much appreciated and it was a highlight when two wheelchair-bound veterans took the trouble to seek us out and say how smart the boys were. Later Cllr S. Macloughlin showed us round the Council Chamber and explained how meetings are run.

The on/off saga of the Bournemouth Scout Gang Show rumbles on; postponed from November it is rumoured to be likely to happen in March somewhere in British West Southbourne. Details will be circulated when known!

David Young is about to receive his warrant as an Assistant Scout Leader. David has also sailed through the basic and advanced leader training programmes to gain the top ranking Wood Badge award – and all whilst commuting to and from Gosport!

We are a very elastic-sided Troop and can always find room for new members. Obviously most boys join from Years 7 and 8 but we do seem to pick up others at all ages. A particular target group are boys who gave up Scouting elsewhere because it was boring. Nobody has ever dared accuse Bournemouth School Scouts of being boring!

The simplest ways of getting in touch are either to turn up in the Old Gym at 7.00pm on a Friday night or to drop a note to me via Reception.

Finally our thanks are due to all the school’s ‘night shift’ who have to run to the rescue whenever the So-and-So Scouts have set off the intruder alarms again! We must be getting better because it hasn’t happened for nearly half a term.

J. Preston.
Scoutleader

Arrangements for the End of Term

Tuesday 20th December 2005 - School finishes 12.10

No buses will run in the afternoon
except the East Dorset (Verwood) Bus at 12.10 p.m.
and the Shamrock Buses at 12.10 p.m.

Canteen will only be open until mid-morning break.

Packed lunches
will be available for boys entitled to free school meals.

End of Term Detention - 12.20 – 15.20

Start of Term Arrangements

Thursday 5th January 2006
Timetable is Week 1

Start of School 8.20 a.m.

School buses
will run as normal in the morning and afternoon