



## Bournemouth School

### Newsletter – April 2009



#### From the Headmaster

This has been yet another outstanding term for the school. The real strength of the school was clearly highlighted at the recent Biennial Inspection of the CCF, when around 300 cadets were inspected by Major General G S Robison, the highest-ranking serving military officer to visit us for many years. The event ran as smoothly as ever and was a great tribute to the two grammar schools. What made the day particularly special, however, was that whilst the inspection caused significant upheaval we still managed to welcome primary school children to the school to learn about Chinese culture and language, whilst another group came for lessons on the gamelan. The scouts, meanwhile, were out on their Field Day and junior members of the school were involved in an inter-house competition. There cannot be many schools that would have so many high-profile activities taking place on what was, otherwise, a 'normal' school day!

Our international links continue to grow; this term we have celebrated the Chinese New Year and we have welcomed visitors from a number of countries, including Spain, Japan and Bahrain. We have also just learned that our partner school in Jinhua, China, plans to visit us in July, following the visit that Ms Gillen and I made to them in October. Thirty six pupils and three staff – including Mrs Yulian Liu (last year's Chinese assistant) will be in Bournemouth for three days. We are hoping to offer them accommodation in our homes, so if any parents are able to assist in this way then please contact Ms Gillen as soon as possible. First refusal will be given to those boys who are currently studying Mandarin, but we do need as many offers of help as possible.

In the middle of the term we learned that we have been granted Training School status, in recognition of our status as a High Performing Specialist School. This new status sits well with our Language specialism and will underpin much of what we do. It brings with it a small amount of additional funding and will help us to continue to provide high-quality training to staff in this and in other local schools. One change that has already resulted from the news is the appointment of Ms Gillen as Assistant Headteacher (Language Specialism).

We have had many sporting successes during the term, but none can compare with the achievement of our senior tennis squad who have just returned from the National Championships in Bolton with the national title. Our congratulations go to the squad, who played well above their rankings to beat some very strong competition.

Many of you will know that we have, for some time, been trying to improve communication between school and home. Schoolcomms is being used increasingly and I would urge all parents to sign up to use it (please also ensure that you keep your contact details updated – we have found that a number of e-mail addresses 'bounce'). We have also been developing the use of our Virtual Learning Environment so that the boys can work more closely with their teachers; we are currently trialling a 'Parent Gateway' which should, in due course, give

parents on-line access to at least some of the data that we hold on their sons, including attendance information. We are planning to roll this system out to staff first so that we can iron out any technical issues.

Finally, you may have read in the local press that the governors are giving active consideration to a request for the school to take on the role of co-sponsor (alongside the Diocese of Winchester, other schools and Winchester University) of a proposed new Academy, based on the Bishop of Winchester School. The governors have agreed to look closely at the proposals and to support an 'expression of interest' which has to be approved by the Government before anything else can happen. Given the school's new Training School status and the fact that we already have a number of links with BoW School, the governors believe that there may well be benefits to Bournemouth School if we take on this additional role. The governing body will, of course, insist that any involvement will be done at no risk to the education of our own pupils.

I hope that you all manage to take some time off over the Easter period. I look forward to writing my final Newsletter to you in July.

John Granger

#### Study Leave

Study leave for Y11 pupils will begin at the end of school on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May and for Upper Sixth at the end of school on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Lower Sixth Leave of Absence is **only** for the period shown on the calendar – that is from the end of school on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May until the start of school on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June.

From 17<sup>th</sup> June students will be starting the A2 part of their A Level courses and attendance is essential right through to the end of term. Permission for holidays will therefore not normally be given as it would clash with this crucial phase of their A Level work.



#### Sportsmark Award

We have recently been granted the Sportsmark award, reflecting the school's 'exceptional delivery within the PE and Sport Strategy'. The quantity and range of sport available to our pupils is now exceptional. The award was made in light of a survey which was conducted by the local sports partnership and which showed that Bournemouth School is well ahead of expectations in almost every indicator.

## ACTIVITIES/ACHIEVEMENTS

### House Speech Competition

Thanks to Mr Ruffer and Mr Bonds for valued support with the judging.

The judges enjoyed many speeches of quality, the best of which were full of rehearsed detail and pitched suitably at the audience, delivered with confidence from a flexible framework. The best concluding speakers managed to gather a variety of arguments from the floor and knit them into a convincing case.

The closeness of the contribution is a credit to the quality of the contributions over all. House results are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Scott
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Turner
3 <sup>rd</sup>	BSG
4 <sup>th</sup>	Elgar
5 <sup>th</sup>	Newton
6 <sup>th</sup>	Darwin

The points from these positions go towards the overall competition with the Intermediate and Junior Sections, and the Harold G Walker Cup will be awarded in the Summer Term.

Individual speakers of note included Ben Clayton, Ben Hudson, Sam Brown and Kian Gheissari but this year's winner is Lewis Wedgwood of Turner House.

**J Hubbard**

### Intermediate Speech Results 2009

Many thanks to all of the houses for providing four well-prepared speakers with convincing arguments, and real knowledge of what they wished to communicate; it was very obvious this year that prefects had been involved to very good effect, and the structure of work was very clear this year. Thanks go to members of the English Department for participating in the judging.

The results were as follows:

#### Top five Individual Performances

1 <sup>st</sup>	Robie Choudhury	Turner	212
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sebastian Zaidman	Elgar	211
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Harry Coath	Turner	207
4 <sup>th</sup>	Harry Klein	Scott	202
5 <sup>th</sup>	Hamish Wilson	Scott	197

House Team Performances arrived at by combining the scores of the four continuity judges:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Turner	813
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Elgar	784
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Scott	782
4 <sup>th</sup>	Darwin	739
5 <sup>th</sup>	Newton	731

**J Hubbard**

### English Department

Students in Year 7 particularly enjoyed talking to a range of visitors during their 'Lives on Paper' biographical writing unit. The visitors included a former Deputy Head and Head of Department, David Hilliam, our friend and 'next door neighbour' Fr. Paul Berrett, and members of the Strouden Park community policing team.

As part of the Library induction this year, all Year 7 students visited Charminster Library to ensure that they know about the local public library system.

On the last day of the Winter Term, to celebrate the end of the National Year of Reading, members of the department and our librarian (permanent honorary member of the department) entertained Year 7 with readings from Children's classics.

GCSE students have enjoyed a number of visits to the theatre in the local area to support their studies, thanks to many members of the department; opportunities were offered to see *Macbeth*, *Lord of the Flies*, *A Taste of Honey* and *The Winslow Boy*.

Our **Debating Society** continues to meet regularly with BSG, and seems popular with potential lawyers and others keen to add lustre to university applications. Under its aegis the Senior House Speech competition saw the most eloquent of the sixth form debate boom and bust, a permanent site for the Olympics and the success of prisons. Individual speakers of note included Ben Clayton, Ben Hudson, Sam Brown, and Kian Gheissari, and this year's winner, Lewis Wedgwood of Turner House. Ben Clayton and Lewis Wedgwood then went on to the second round as runners-up of the English Speaking Union Schools' Mace Competition held at Poole.

The **Theatre Club**, which is open to students in Years 11 to U6 has continued its monthly programme of visits to the Salisbury Playhouse, which take place from September to May.

**J Hubbard**

### Music Department

Robert and Edward Hardyman have both been accepted to sing in the National Youth Boys Choir.

The Parents Choir raised £79.06 for Julia's House by Carol singing before Christmas.

**D Ruffer**

### Charity

Turner House has managed to raise £1180 for its Charity "Water Aid". This has been through a combination of events ranging from their take on 'X factor' to a number of very successful cake sales.

### Design and Technology Toyota Challenge

A group of boys in years 10 and 11 have reached the regional finals of the Toyota Challenge. The boys have designed and built a robotic buggy that will have to negotiate a random course. The regional final is on the 28th April in Exeter. The boys, Chris Frampton, Josh Cox, Shamil Nunhuck and Robie Choudhury are hoping to improve on last years team who achieved third place.

**A Heyes**

### UKMT Team Competition

This Mathematics team competition was held at Corfe Hills School. The competition lasted all day and two boys from each of years 8 and 9 took part. Congratulations go to Joshua de Gromoboy (8N), Oliver Morgan (8S), Daniel Chatfield (9E) and Damian Aries (9S), who gained top score in every round thereby winning the competition. They scored 192/240 beating South Wilts Girls Grammar into 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Poole Grammar who came 3<sup>rd</sup>. The competition organisers said it was the best result they had seen for a long time. The team moves on to the finals, to be held in London in June.

### **Enterprise Awards 2009**

This year has been another successful one for Bournemouth School students in the Enterprise Challenge (run by The Enterprise and Skills Company). Students from L6 joined up with students from other local schools to create small businesses, with the help of local business professionals from Siemens, Sunseeker and Handelsbanken. The students created three businesses named Elipsis, Veritas and Quantum, all of which successfully achieved a profit at the end of the challenge.

A wide variety of products was created and sold by the three companies, including DIY Christmas crackers, pashminas, children's cups and Christmas decorations. However the most successful product was created by Veritas. They recognised the increasing trend towards healthy eating, particularly in primary schools, creating a healthy eating cook book. In order to entice potential customers they came up with the idea of a competition for primary school pupils to design the front cover. In order to do this they went into local primary schools encouraging pupils to design a cover, with the best design printed on the front cover of the book. This idea and business strategy was hugely successful with Veritas not only winning the award for best group but also helping Jonathan Baker, the Managing Director, to win the overall award for the most enterprising student.

There were other successes at the awards ceremony with the highly creative Elipsis team winning the award for the best trade stand and the best presentation and Craig Hancock winning the award for the best financial presentation. Once again at the end of the challenge the organisers of the event noted Bournemouth School's students' attitude and commitment throughout the challenge, with numerous students highlighted as showing a real ability to lead and manage a team and to come up with highly innovative and creative ideas.

**S Beal**

### **Chinese for Primary Schools**

The beginning of the Chinese New Year celebrations marked the commencement of Bournemouth School's Chinese tasters for primary pupils. Every second Friday, until the beginning of July, classes of year 4 pupils attend for half-day sessions with our two Chinese teachers. By the end of the year over 450 pupils will have visited the school. Each session includes opportunities to try paper cutting, origami, writing your name in Chinese characters, morning exercises as well as learning greetings and how to count.

### **Bahrain Project**

Over the past four months a group of students from BS and BSG have been working on a project with two similar schools in Bahrain, as part of a British Council initiative called 'Connecting Classrooms'. Every week pupils from the two schools meet up to discuss ongoing projects, as well as ideas for new ones. As part of the scheme they have put together a DVD about the Bournemouth area and our lives to send to Bahrain. They are currently putting together a package of items representing life in Britain to send to Bahrain. We were delighted recently to be able to welcome teachers from the two schools in Bahrain to Bournemouth; they went back with very positive memories and we hope that the project will continue and expand.

### **Chinese New Year Celebrations**

Our Year 8 Chinese students were joined by a group of gifted and talented pupils in year 8 at the Bishop of Winchester School to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The pupils worked collaboratively, researching aspects of Chinese history, culture and society via the Internet. They also engaged in a range of workshops including Chinese cookery, Chinese language, calligraphy, origami and paper cutting. Highlights of the day for the pupils were kung fu and tai chi lessons as well as their participation in a Chinese dragon dance. They were also treated to a Chinese snack provided by a local restaurant.

This is the first time pupils from both schools have worked collaboratively in this way and feedback from pupils and staff is that the day was a great success. As well as having fun and experimenting in new activities, pupils learnt a significant amount about China.

### **Y9 Language Day**

All Year 9 boys spent the day using their existing language skills in a business context. In small groups they chose a local business to advertise to foreign companies. Pupils had to prepare a Powerpoint presentation and speech in the target language and present their company to staff and visitors in the afternoon. We were fortunate to have undergraduate student ambassadors from Southampton University who worked alongside the pupils. We were also assisted by Paloma from Bristol University who works with the Routes into Languages programme and spoke to the boys about the importance of languages for their future.

### **Year 10 French day**

Some year 10 boys who are taking their GCSE one year early were able to spend an intensive day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February in preparation for their early entry examination. Feedback from staff and pupils was extremely positive.

**K Gillen**

## **SPORT**

### **Tennis**

Following an unbeaten run of matches, the Senior Students Tennis Team of Jack Joyce, Jonathan Guberman, David Hill, Eamon Boyce and Ahria Roushanbaktiti won the National Schools Final, held in Bolton recently. This is an outstanding achievement by the squad and marks our first national tennis title since 1985.

### **Badminton**

In the Dorset Schools round of the Centre Parcs National Badminton Tournament, our team overcame some serious opposition from a number of schools including Blandford, Corfe Hills, Poole Grammar, Lytchett Minster and Woodroffe School from Lyme Regis. Both our senior and junior boys came top in their respective tournaments and are, therefore, Dorset Champions. The junior team managed to win every game in the matches they played and the seniors dropped only three games out of twenty five played.

In the next round the teams played in the Regional Finals against the top schools from Avon, Devon, Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. The juniors came third overall, but the seniors won their competition and go through to the National Finals at Nottingham on 25<sup>th</sup> April, for the second year running.

## **Football**

This term has seen the Town League football competition being run and at the time of writing, Years 7, 8, 9, 11 are all looking hopeful of qualifying for the semi finals in April. Despite the snow, the fixtures have not piled up as we feared and next week will see the last of the qualifying rounds.

## **Rugby**

In rugby, although this is not the traditional term for it, we entered the town "Sevens" tournaments run by the Grange School. Although we did not take our strongest teams, we did very well, winning the Year 7 tournament and coming third in the Year 8 and 9 tournaments. Well done to all the boys who participated in these events.

The Year 7 rugby team also played in the Dorset and Wilts County Tournament in March and we were delighted that they became champions. In the tournament, the boys played three matches and were top of their group. In the afternoon, the team went on to beat all the opposition in the top group, including local schools Highcliffe and St Michaels, scoring 12 tries in the process and conceding just 2. Congratulations must go to Matthew Thompson and his team for the tremendous efforts. As a footnote, it is now the third time in a row that Bournemouth School have won this tournament, although it is getting harder and harder.

After the Easter holidays, the cricket, athletics and tennis term begins and we are all looking forward to more success in the long hot summer term!

## **Dorset Schools Mini-Volleyball Championships**

In the mini volleyball tournament the school team of Adam Lyons (7E), Ben Torrins (8D) and Sam Walrond (8T) won all their matches convincingly and became Dorset champions.

In the catch and volley tournament Francis Gurr (8T) and Rob Loader (8S) were also unbeaten and became Dorset champions.

## **D Robjohns**

## **Bowling**

Congratulations to David Passmore (10S) who recently gained third place in the South England Bowling Competition.

## **HMS Raleigh Swimming Gala**

Congratulations to all those Scouts who took part in this historic event. Why historic? Well, it is the first time that we have won any trophies at this annual gala. Even better than this, we can now claim to have a national champion amongst us; Francis Gurr won his Under 14 Breaststroke event; Yefren Nye and James Taylor both came second in their events. Well done to all members of the team - next year....Otter Trophy!

## **School Travel Plan**

A new document is available for perusal on our website.

The document is a draft school travel plan which has been produced by the School Travel Plan steering group in response to the survey and consultation earlier this year. If you would like to comment on the travel plan please email: [office@bournemouth-school.org](mailto:office@bournemouth-school.org).

## **Royal Navy Section Field Day (11.03.09)**

Bright and early on a Wednesday morning the Royal Navy Section and a few stragglers desperate to join the senior service met outside Bournemouth School in anticipation of a day with the Royal Marines at RM Poole.

On arrival, the cadets disembarked to enter the changing rooms of the swimming pool on the base; after a short talk they were thrown in at the deep end (excuse the pun) and practised the capsized drill of the raiding craft used by the Royal Marines in operations. This was fairly eventful as several of the groups seemed incapable of simultaneously standing on the side of the boat whilst pulling on the capsized rope in favour of just falling in the water; meanwhile OS Beek led his group off the 10 metre high board instead of following the trend and entering the pool via the 5 metre medium board. Once the cadets had been given the chance to try out the drill they were taken to the other end of the pool where they completed a watered down version of the BST (battle swimming test) which involves two widths of the pool in webbing, before handing over the gear to a waiting partner of the side. This resulted in some interesting attempts to sink to the bottom as quick as possible.

After this very active morning the cadets were marched down to "the hard", where the marines store their craft and the Corps have access to Poole Harbour to train, launch vehicles, etc. A 45 minute brief was given on the history, role and structure of the marines, followed swiftly by a short tour of "the hard". The group was then split into two squads and whilst one squad ate lunch, the other had time to handle a range of weapons used by the Royal Marines; some familiar i.e SA80 but some foreign, including the GPMG (general purpose machine gun). There was also a small walk through a darkened corridor so an experience of night vision goggles was available, however some cadets still kicked the obstacles despite being able to see in the dark.

Then the cadets were equipped with a lifejacket and an afternoon of ORCs and landing craft was enjoyed by all. The landing craft experience was at first used so that cadets could see how the Royal Marines landed on a beach and create a defensive arc; after several practice runs our group performed a final attempt led by the battle cries of Cpl Emberson. Luckily all went well. After this the squads switched and our squad had the chance to ride on the ORCs (Offshore Raiding Craft), in groups of seven or eight. The three ORCs powered out of "the hard" and soon began an exhilarating trip around Poole Harbour demonstrating how the Marines perform in combat situations onboard the boats. Then, to many people's relief, it was our turn! Onboard our boat Cpl Hastrop took to the wheel first and proceeded to make the other occupants slightly moist; he was followed by OS Lawrence who appeared at first to be possessed at the helm. I was third and succeeded in almost forcing the instructor to perform a 'man overboard' while practically submerging another passenger under a wave. SSI Jon Brown was alright though; he didn't need waterproofs - they are for wimps!

To end the day, the two types of craft were combined in a moving switch between boats, necessary for the Royal Marines to land safely and with effective covering fire on a beach or other hostile environment. This was also eventful with Flt Sgt Nicholls and Cpl Emberson getting wet legs. After this the cadets were transported back to the Base and herded onto the coach to arrive back at the school for just past 4 o'clock. Overall it was an excellent day enjoyed by all, and I for one would certainly be willing to take part in more days like that.

**AB Brown**

## BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL SCOUT GROUP

Scout numbers increased greatly last term with an influx of about 20 new members from the Junior School.

The ladies of the Group Committee organised a Wine and Cheese Party intended to explain to parents how they could help in the smooth running of an ever expanding Scout Troop. Mrs Bell has now joined us as an Assistant Scout Leader to help with the Explorer Scout Unit – as well as keeping the other Scoutleaders in order! Mrs Wentworth is an efficient treasurer and managing to sort out the Subs chaos which she inherited from her predecessor.

We were able to enter both Scout and Explorer Teams in this year's Royal Navy Swimming Gala at HMS Raleigh. Our teams did very well and were represented in many of the finals, two gaining individual trophies. It is becoming obvious that this event is dominated by a few groups who must devote months to 'olympic' preparations which makes our efforts even more praiseworthy. Once again we must say thank you to Mr Cudmore for organising some Saturday morning training sessions at Littledown. Disappointingly we were again let down by Scouts who failed to turn up on the day.

Our February Jumble Sale made nearly £400 which was close to our 'record'. Many thanks to all who turned out on the day to help man the barricades, sorry stalls! We must have had a record attendance from our 'customers'.

Last terms course for the Fire Safety Award ended with a visit to Redhill Fire Station where the Scouts happily sprayed everything and everyone with high pressure hoses before our hosts suddenly vanished on another 'shout'. 20 Scouts completed the Badge.

The highlight of the Spring Term is always the 'Junior Scouts' Camp' based in Burley Scout Hut.

We have also had a wide-game at Ramsdown and will be undertaking 'Operation Weight and Sea' on Field day. Our latest film-epic 'The Robot's Revenge' was completed recently and had a preview for members of the cast. It will be released as soon as we can persuade the editing computer to let go of it and burn the DVDs!

Older Scouts and Explorer Scouts will be taking part in a Dartmoor Expedition at Easter and our usual contingent will be involved with the RN Sea Scout Camp on HMS Bristol at half term.

James Preston

### Star Awards

150 Stars	150 Stars	200 Stars
<b>7D</b>	<b>7S</b>	<b>7S</b>
Kamran Akrami	James Durrant	William Miller
Jay Bean	Otto Gray	
Anthony Church	William Miller	
James Fitzpatrick	Ryan Shelley	
Joseph Halliwell	Robert Torquati	
Billy Rigler		
<b>7E</b>	<b>8D</b>	
Benjamin Arnold	Ben Baker	
	Peter Vincent	
<b>7N</b>		
Mark Smith		

## Lost Property

It would help enormously if parents could label **all** items of clothing – particularly PE kit, including football/rugby boots and trainers. The amount of lost property is considerable. All labelled items are returned to their owners as soon as they are received.

### Parents Association

#### Lottery

<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Drawn by</u>
December 2008 - £93.00		
532	Mrs D Poote	Ashley Bradshaw (11S)
156	Mrs D Godsell	Mr Granger
14	Mr J Clements	Owen Burgen (10D)
January 2009 - £92.00		
502	B Cowles	Alex Anderson (L6D)
205	P Hancock	James Lunn (7S)
20	Mr Evans	Alex Gristwood (7S)
February 2009 - £91.00		
290	S Whitney	Adam Brett (7N)
16	D Sadd	Christian Goodall (8S)
5	D Vincent	Jamie Wong (L6N)
March 2009 - £91.00		
184	L Wijesinghe	Benjy Waxman (10N)
305	Mrs A Turner	Jonathan Miller (10N)
49	Mr Leonard	Elliott Mason (10N)

### End of Term Arrangements

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009**

School finishes at 12.10 pm

Canteen will only be open until mid-morning break.

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

Shamrock 36 and 89, Shoreline 54 and Roadliner East Dorset 87 will all run am and pm

### Start of Term Arrangements

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

Timetable is Week 2

Start of School 8.20 am

School buses will run as normal in the morning and afternoon

### Year 10 Examinations

Parents of Y10 pupils are asked to encourage their sons to prepare adequately for the forthcoming examinations, which are scheduled to take place **22 April – 5 May**.