

February 2025

Welcome to this issue of "In the Know".

There is much to celebrate this half term! I am particularly pleased with how hard all your children have been working. We are very proud of the dedication they are showing to excellence. This half term there has been a series of trips and events that have given your children opportunities to enrich their school life. These have included a history trip for our year 11 students, a drama performance on "An Inspector Calls" and our school choir will be joining their counterparts across FMAT Trust on Friday 14th to sing as part of the FMAT Trust choir.

One highlight of this half term must be the "Hansel and Gretel- A Grimmer than Grimm Tale". Over the two shows we were treated to excellent performances from a combination of KS3 and KS4 students with our primary students contributing with voiceovers. We were all treated to a thrilling ensemble peppered with humour that showcased the talents of all our students across all phases. A huge congratulations goes out to all the performers, backstage support, set designers and in particular to Miss Brown whose hard work has supported all the students as they prepared for this event.

We have also had speakers in school to address some serious issues such as vaping and the dangers surrounding this. Your child may have already spoken to you about what they learned in these sessions.

The one thing that every visitor that has come into the school has noted has been how amazing the children behaved and engaged in the sessions. They were blown away by what they saw!

I hope you enjoy reading about the above and more as you read this edition of "In the Know"

Please do enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming your children back on 24th February as we begin the second half of this Spring term.

Best wishes

M Rooney



Hansel and Gretel

An ambitious Bournville School production, crafted over months by students and staff, put two of literature's best-known brothers on trial – with 'Grimm' results. 'Hansel and Gretel, A Grimmer than Grimm Tale' was staged on January 21st and 22nd, taking the famously dark European fairy tale as its inspiration to weave an atmospheric production that was funny, thought-provoking and moving.

Student input was essential to the narrative of the play and the ambitious show, which came together after more than 670 hours of work, put Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm themselves centre stage, as it questioned how they gathered often frightening traditional fairy tales from across Europe.

Karen Brown, Subject Specialist and Curriculum Leader for Drama and Media Studies, said: "We put the Grimm brothers into a court room that may have been 'all in their mind' – Wilhelm Grimm was charged with a lack of originality and cultural appropriation of folklore, while Jacob Grimm was charged with 'child harm through literary terror'. "It was a great way to have students engage with different forms of acting and performance, while also learning about the cultural heritage of iconic fairy tales – with plenty of comedy woven throughout!"

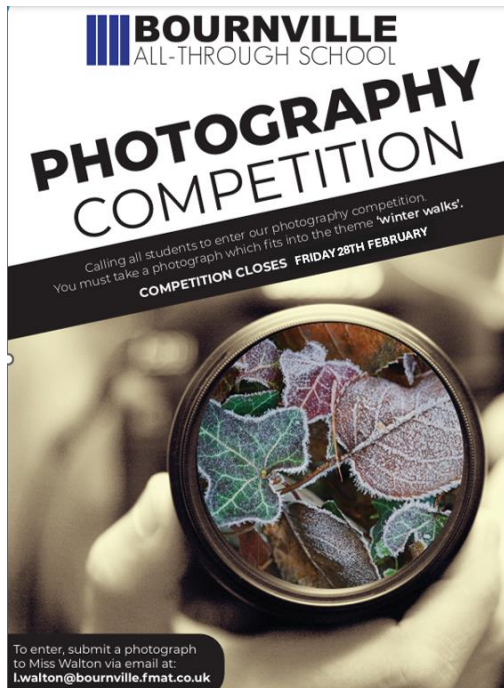
The school had been preparing the show for almost an entire year before the final performance. Students from Year 3 to Year 10 were involved in the first sessions in the spring of 2024 testing out choreography, comedy, and props. The second stage of preparations, involving the full performance cast, was in the winter term of 2024. The final cast was a brilliant assemblage of talent from across the school.

Miss Brown said: "We are so proud of this show – because it's our own hand-made work, with inter-weaved narratives, characters and worlds with both light comedy and some real darkness. "The students put so much effort into realising our vision, and it was a great success.

Principal Marie Rooney said: "Hansel and Gretel was a great success and really encouraged the students to stretch themselves creatively as well as requiring them to make a real commitment. "They've not only learned valuable drama and art skills, but also essential life skills that are part of Bournville's Personal Development Curriculum. The self-discipline, resilience and initiative they have all shown impressed us all."



The Art Department



In the Art department we have two fantastic competitions running this term. Our annual 'Winter Walks' photography competition runs until Friday 28th February and requires students to submit one or more photographs that fit the theme. Also, the Young Artists' Summer Show 2025 by The Royal Academy of Arts is running until Wednesday 5th March. To take part, students need to submit a photograph of an original piece of art that they have created. This could be a drawing, photograph, sculpture or painting. Please see Satchel One for more information on each of these exciting opportunities. Here are some of the beautiful entries that we have received so far.



Oliver Smalley, Reception

Ollie Haines, Year 11



Fadzi Musabayana, Year 7

Netball Club



Our netball club started in September and numbers are increasing all the time with 33 current members! We welcome new members and hold practice sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays after school where we work on understanding netball rules, passing, catching and teamwork. We are very excited that we have upcoming fixtures and will keep you updated on results. Message from Miss McShane "The girls have been working very hard to practise for their arranged fixtures. Well, done to the netball team for their hard work and dedication."

Spanish Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 21st January a group of year 10 students went to King Edward VI Lordswood School for Girls to watch a theatre performance. This was organised by the Oaks Collegiate. The reason for the trip was because they are studying Spanish and, by watching the play, the students were exposed to listening to two native speakers talk in Spanish. During the performance, they were also able to put their Spanish skills in practice by asking and answering questions in the target language. The students were an absolute credit to the school!



Careers Education

We have continued to support Y11 students to be aspirational in applying to post-16 courses and assemblies from local colleges and sixth forms have provided valuable guidance. Y10 students should be well on the way to arranging their work experience and it has been great to see so many applying to 'Unifest' to get a taste of university life. Lastly, we are also supporting Y9 to make sensible Option choices.



Year 9 Options

In preparation for the upcoming Options process, Year 9 were given an extra special assembly to discuss why choosing option subjects are so important, advice on how to select the right subject as well as some myth busting: That old tale of an 'easy' subject. Option evening will take place shortly, allowing further discussion and advice from our Subject Leaders. Guidance on how to complete the selection process will be available on the evening with additional support from our Careers Advisor- Mrs Matto. The selection process will open from Monday 24th February, giving plenty of time for discussions with families and staff members.

Students have been encouraged to visit our careers advisor (Mrs Matto) in school to offer further help and guidance. Mrs Matto is available every Tuesday in the school library at break and lunchtimes.



Staff Wellbeing Week

It is important to us to look after our staff, the teaching profession can be tough. It was an absolute pleasure then, to hold staff wellbeing week this half term to give recognition and thanks to colleagues for their hard work. There were treats in the staffroom each day to encourage staff to take a few moments of relaxation and time to connect with colleagues. There were daily advice e-mails to educate staff on a range of wellbeing topics from financial to mental health. It was good to get staff together after school for coffee, cake and a bit of fun too. Staff raced round in a treasure hunt, looking to identify a key wellbeing message. Lastly, it was great to see the return of Colleague of the Week or COW cards; a popular tradition that recognises colleagues in weekly briefing sessions.

English – An Inspector Calls

On Monday 10th of February, we welcomed Katch 22 Productions to Elgar Hall for a performance of *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley. Year 10 and Year 11 thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were really impressed with the skill of the performers. There were some excellent questions from pupils and staff during the Q&A session following the performance, and pupils were able to gain lots of insight and tips for their upcoming GCSE Literature exams.



Y7 NHS Research Project

Y7 students continue to work hard with staff from the NHS conducting research on diet and nutrition. Selected students are now working on a presentation that they will deliver to NHS staff on a visit to a local hospital. Students are learning new knowledge about healthy eating, developing a range of employability skills and showing fantastic enthusiasm throughout!

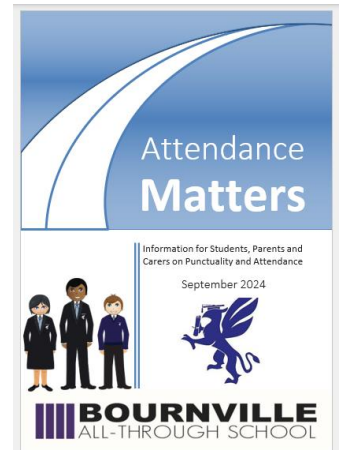


Attendance

At Bournville, excellent attendance is one of our top priorities. We are keen to encourage all pupils to take full advantage of every teaching and learning opportunity available to them, and for that to happen it is important they are attending school daily and that they are punctual.

To find out more about our attendance and punctuality work, please read our 'Attendance Matters' booklet which can be found on our school website OR click the link below:

[Attendance-Matters-Booklet-24-25-PDF-003.pdf](#)



We are pleased to offer a variety of incentives and rewards to those with excellent attendance:

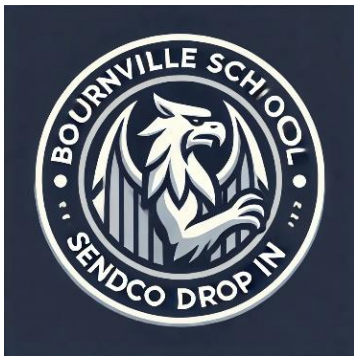
- * Freddo chocolates for those students who have 100% attendance each week
- * 100% and 95% attendance certificates presented in the end of term celebration assembly
- * Meals for champions – for most improved attendance
- * **An iPad to be won each term.** Congratulations Lilly Harrison, our Y7 winner from last term
- * Celebrating success through school displays and events

R. Mullings



SEND

Need to speak to the SEND Team?



We just want to remind you about the 'new' SENDCO Drop-in sessions. The next drop-in session will be **Wednesday 19th March between 8:30 and 11am**. During these times The SENDCO – Mr Archbold will be available to discuss any concerns you have regarding your child and SEND during these times. If you would like to see Mr Archbold, please arrange a time with Miss Kesziova our SEND Administrator (d.kesziova@bournville.fmat.co.uk).

The rest of the drop-in sessions are below for your reference:

Wednesday 9th April between 1:30 and 3pm

Wednesday 21st May between 8:30 and 11am

Wednesday 18th June between 1:30 and 3pm

We appreciate that sometimes things happen, and you need to contact the SEND Department outside of these times. If you need to contact the SEND department, please use the following means:

bv-sendco@bournville.fmat.co.uk



School Reception - 0121 475 3881



The SEND department will aim to return on enquiries in 48 hours.

SEND Parents Forum

Are you a parent or carer of a child with special educational needs or disabilities at Bournville School? We want YOU to be part of shaping how SEND support is delivered!

Our **SEND Parents' Forum** is a space for you to share your experiences, contribute ideas, and work in partnership with the school to **co-produce policies and improve provision**. Your voice matters, and together, we can create the best possible support for our children.

Join us and help make a difference!

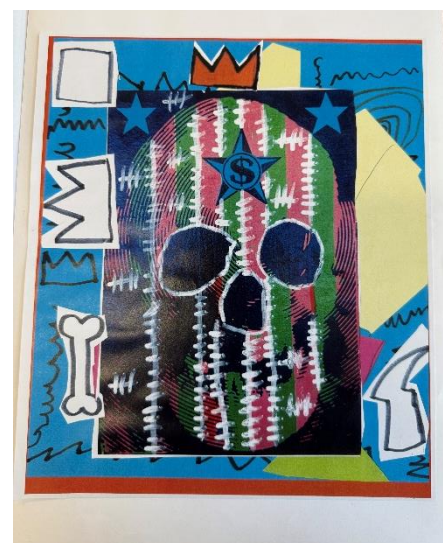
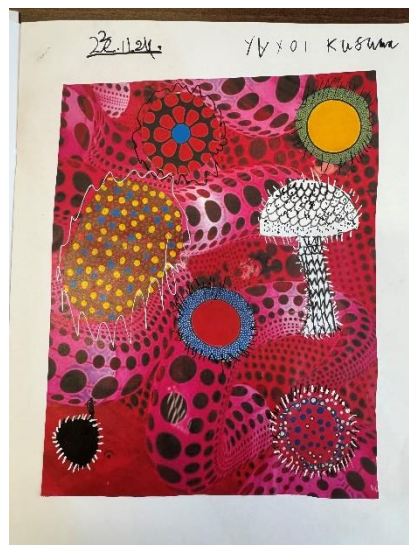
If you are interested in joining our SEND Parents Forum please contact Miss Kesziova our SEND Administrator (d.kesziova@bournville.fmat.co.uk).



Pathways Artwork

I wanted to share some of the amazing Artwork the Pathways group have been working on with Miss Walton and Miss Allen.

Students have been taking their inspiration from artists to recreate pieces in the same style.



Key Dates:

We have a number of key dates already in the diary for next half term, please see below:

Monday 24 th February	Return to school
Monday 24 th February	Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training
Thursday 27 th February	Y7 Progress Evening
W/C 3 rd March	Y11 Mocks begin
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Friday 7 th March	Y10 Mondelez trip
Thursday 20 th March	Y10 Progress Evening
Thursday 10 th April	Y8 Progress Evening
Friday 11 th April	Break up for Easter



We are starting a Parent, Teacher and Friends Association and invite all parents to join us in arranging events and fundraising initiatives for the benefit of the school. If you are interested in finding out more or joining this group, please e-mail h.poole@bournville.fmat.co.uk All welcome!

Communication

We are regularly posting on social media, celebrating school achievements and keeping you aware of what is happening in school. Please follow us on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram @BournvilleSch. Our website is also a useful source of information: [Bournville School – Part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust.](#)