

Principal's Message

As you will see from this issue of "In the Know" it's been another eventful half term. What has been most notable has been how positive the culture across the school has been with students demonstrating the high standards expected of them at Bournville. All students have come back showing their dedication to their studies and they have been working extremely hard.

The term started off with our new year 7's joining us and launching the NHS researcher's project. This has involved the year 7's working with NHS professionals learning how to do market research for the NHS. To date they have had two sessions and are now working on a key question to help doctors, surgeons and clinicians with their work. This will lead to them presenting their findings to clinicians and paediatricians in the next half term at the Children's Hospital in Birmingham. This may be the start of the careers of future doctors, dentists and surgeons!

Our open evenings welcomed the prospective students of the future, and these events were so well received we have had to put on additional open mornings due to popular demand. I look forward to these future students joining us and following in the footsteps of our current year 7's NHS researchers.

Once again, our year 8 students have had a fantastic day at the Black Country Living Museum where they have got to experience the Black Country of yesteryear and explored history, from the Industrial Revolution to post-war as well as going underground in a drift mine.

Unpredictably the British weather decided to send a flood to the school as well, interrupting the year 11 parents evening and the MacMillan Coffee morning planned in secondary. However, the weather was not going to stop us, and I want to thank all those parents who supported our Macmillan coffee morning in primary raising £150 for the charity. Likewise, thank you to all those year 11 parents who came to the rescheduled parents evening on 17th October. This was a very fruitful evening, and I wanted to thank you all for your positive feedback.

Our year 11 students have been working extremely hard as they prepare for their next set of Mock exams in November. To help them with their applications to colleges and sixth forms they have already had a series of careers events with Cadbury College and UCB visiting promoting their A-level and technical courses. This week there will be almost 40 different employers coming in supporting our Careers Fayre where students meet and see what the future could hold and what they would need to achieve in their studies to get there. Year 10 Art students have visited the Barber Institute Art. Our enrichment programme has extended further this year with morning session in PE running between 8.00am and 8:30 am. Almost 27 children are now arriving early to take part in the morning activities before they start their school day.

Our parents' forum continues go from strength to strength and be a positive collaboration supporting the school as we continue to drive for excellence.

I hope you enjoy this issue of "In the know" and you and your child have a restful half term.



Key Dates:

04.11.24	Back to School
11.11.24	Remembrance
12.11.24	Odd Socks Day
14.11.24	Y10 Progress evening
15.11.24	Children in Need
18.11.24	NHS Research Day 3
03.12.24	Christmas Fayre
05.12.24	Y9 Progress Evening
10.12.24	Newman college trip
10.12.24	Hansel & Gretel
11.12.24	Hansel & Gretel
12.12.24	Y8 Progress Evening
17.12.24	Y11 Mock Interviews
20.12.24	Break up for Christmas

Keep up to date and informed about school events through our social media pages on Twitter and Instagram. Please do follow us to keep informed about latest school news:



@BournvilleSch

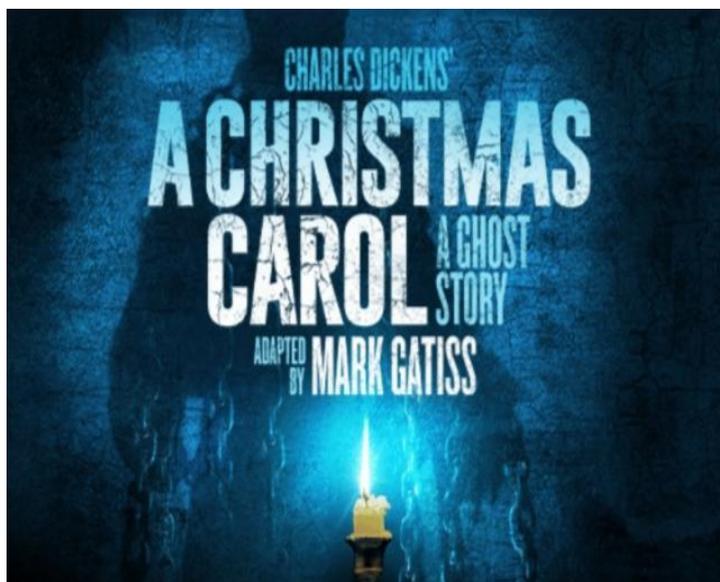
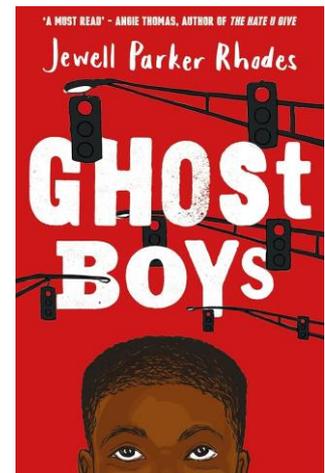


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Marie Rooney
Principal

English

Pupils have started the year in English very well, with pupils in key stage three excelling in creative writing and fiction analysis, whilst key stage four pupils have continued their GCSE literature studies through their study of *A Christmas Carol* (Year 10) and *Macbeth* (Year 11). Year 7 have made the transition into secondary school with their study of *Ghost Boys*. We have been very impressed with how articulate and passionate Year 7 have been with their engagement around issues of protest and injustice in the novel. We look forward to channelling these passions further as we study topical issues in Birmingham, Britain, and Beyond next half term. Year 8 have enjoyed their work on the gothic genre. We have seen some outstanding gothic stories and descriptions from our writers, who now go on to study the play version of *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman. Year 9 have deeply considered the ways in which language and ideology can be expressed through their study of dystopian fiction. Pupils have studied a range of dystopian texts and have created their own dystopian stories. We have been very impressed with their understanding of how language can carry power – an idea pupils will continue to understand as they study *Animal Farm* by George Orwell next half term.



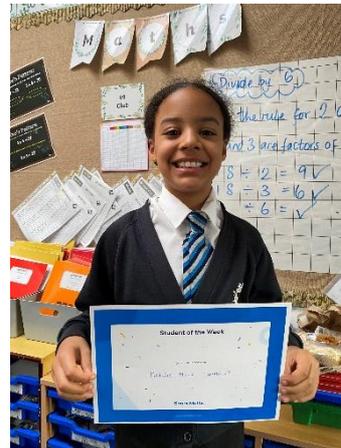
Year 10 and 11 pupils have completed their first milestone assessments of the year. They have reflected well on the feedback given, and we have seen an impressive determination from many pupils to improve their work, extend their understanding, and gain more marks in the subsequent essay responses they have produced. We know this resilience and determination is what will push them to excellent results. We are also very much looking forward to our trip with Year 10 to see *A Christmas Carol* performed at the Birmingham Rep theatre at the start of December and have booked a performance of *An Inspector Calls* to be performed in school after Christmas.

Finally, all English staff have been immensely impressed with the efforts pupils have made with homework this year. We have found that our homework booklets have made communication very clear, and pupils are working really well at home. Thank you for continuing to support your child's education at home. We are continuing to reward pupils with postcards, certificates, and golden tickets, and have been very pleased to reward so much fantastic work.

K. Walpole

Mathematics

Yearly Leaderboard This academic year		
1	Libby Moss (Libby the Paragon)	8,817 XP
2	Melodie Molak (Melodie the Foodie)	8,567 XP
3	Shanice Mahichani (Shanice the Entrepreneur)	8,124 XP
4	Brendell Donkor (Brendell the Expert)	7,432 XP
5	Janelle Donkor (Janelle the Star)	6,879 XP



Melodie Molak (year 6) proudly showing off her student of the week certificate.

Students have enjoyed getting back to their Sparx maths homework so far this term! The platform creates homework bespoke to each child based on their previous performances ensuring that the work is the right level of challenge for each student. Over 90 students will receive their new Sparx level certificates in rewards assemblies during the final week of half term. They have also been particularly enjoying the queue jump pass rewards for being in the top 3 in their maths classes. This term has also seen our new year 6's logging on for the first time and it's already proving popular. The competition is on to see who can finish the term top of the XP points leaderboard!

C. Roberts

Geography

Our GCSE Geographers went to Carding Mill Valley in October. It was a great chance to use their practical Geography skills in a natural valley, and learn more about the features of the physical landscape. It was great to see students enthusiastic, happy to get their wellies on and get into the river to gather valuable data on the river's width, depth and velocity. All the data collected has been used since to prepare for their GCSE qualification. It was an incredible day for students which brought classroom theory to life. Even the weather held! To finish off a great day we were proud to get such positive feedback from the public on their excellent attitude and politeness.

R. Field



Business and Computer Science

As we approach the half-term break, I'd like to update you on some exciting progress within our Business and Computer Science groups. Year 11 pupils have been working diligently in preparation for their upcoming mock exams in November. There is a wealth of material available for revision on Microsoft Teams. I encourage you to motivate your children to take full advantage of these resources by reviewing the PowerPoint slides and practicing exam-style questions to reinforce their understanding.

Year 10 – Understanding Data Representation	Our Year 10 Computer Science group has been focused on the fascinating topic of data representation. They have been learning how information is presented, particularly in images and sound, which will build a solid foundation for their ongoing studies.
Year 9 – Exploring Computer Devices and Binary	Year 9 pupils have been studying input, output, and storage devices, enhancing their understanding of how computers interact with the physical world. They've also begun tackling binary conversion and adding numbers in binary, a fundamental concept in Computer Science.
Year 8 – Parts of a Computer	Year 8 students have impressed us with their hard work in exploring the functions of different parts of a computer. They've drawn some excellent comparisons, linking computer components to parts of the human body, making their learning both engaging and memorable.
Year 7 – Healthy Eating Presentations	Our Year 7 pupils have truly outshone themselves this term. Their PowerPoint presentations on healthy eating and lifestyles have been outstanding, filled with creativity and detailed information. It's fantastic to see such commitment from our youngest learners!

N. Mirza

History

This half term, 82 students in Year 8 visited the Black Country Living Museum. They had a great day out, seeing our local area as it looked during the Industrial Revolution. They explored the museum with a guided tour and travelled deep into the mines where they learnt how our ancestors lived and worked in the 19th century!

Year 7 have been learning about William the Conqueror and the Battle of Hastings.

Year 9 have been studying the Holocaust and the causes of World War Two.

Year 10 have been learning about People's Health in the Medieval Period.

Year 11 have been studying Nazi Germany. They have been hard at work preparing for their milestone assessments and mock exams.



J. Reynier

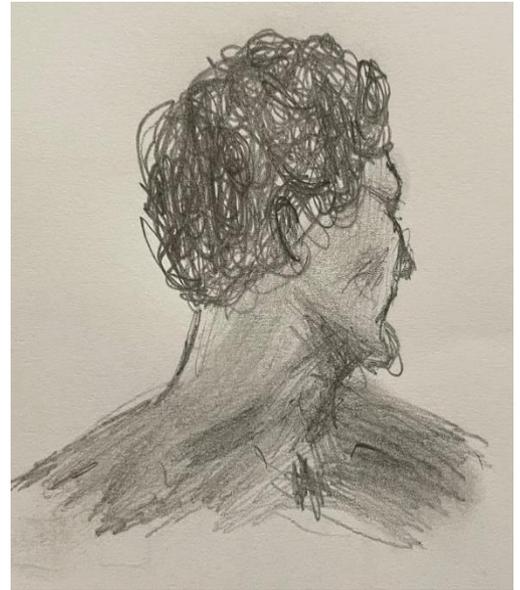
Year 10 gallery visit- The Barber Institute of Fine Art

On Thursday 17th October our Year 10 GCSE Art students had the opportunity to visit The Barber Institute of Fine Arts on the University of Birmingham campus.

We were privileged to have an informative guided tour around the galleries. Our guide firstly taught us how to read an artwork and how we should give artworks time to fully understand them. We were told some facts about the history of oil painting such as how natural ultramarine pigment was made from ground lapis lazuli. During the Middle Ages and Renaissance, it was the most expensive pigment available (gold being second) and was often reserved for depicting the robes of Angels and there are many examples of this at the gallery.

We were also lucky enough to see the new exhibition 'Scent and the Art of the Pre Raphaelites' which combined famous artworks with fragrances. All students enjoyed the sensory interactive experience.

Students enjoyed some independent study time so they could look in more depth at artwork of their choice. We take our photographs, sketches and ideas back to the classroom, they will help the students to develop their own ideas. All students behaved impeccably, contributed to discussions and asked lots of questions and we hope to have more art trips in 2025.



L. Walton



Spanish

Last September we welcomed a new member of staff to the Spanish department. Señor Narvaez is from South America and he's full of great ideas and works hard to ensure students develop cultural understanding. His contributions have included activities for both European Day of Languages and resources to teach students all about the Day of the Dead; a celebration of friends and family members who have died. In lessons, we continue to follow the Conti method to develop language skills through repetition and continual practice. We are also supporting Y11 students to complete Home Language exams. Lastly, Year 8 students can expect to hear about an exciting opportunity coming soon to participate in an immersive Spanish restaurant experience.



Señora Flórez and Señor Narvaez

FMAT Showcase

This half term students have the opportunity to perform at the FMAT showcase. A night where all four Trust schools come together to demonstrate their talents within the creative arts. This year will be the third showcase and the first time Bournville school will be taking their school band. The students have worked incredibly hard this half term to be ready for this special event. In our Bournville band we have Mille Evans, Aryanna Dima and Erin O'Malley (year 7) and Rose Cassidy (year 10) on vocals, Sharntay Francis-King (year 7) on keyboard, Angelica Nembhard (year 9) on electric guitar and Jacob Patterson (year 10) on drums. This will be their first big show playing together and will be channelling all the musical spirit of Taylor Swift to perform 'You Belong With Me'.



We also have a variety of individual acts performing. Honey Walsh (year 9) will be dancing a solo, and Carlos Lau (year 9) will be playing Can You Feel The Love Tonight on the piano. Parmis Hajihassani (year 11) will be playing her own arrangement of 2nd waltz by Shostakovich and Melisa Kogut (year 10) will be playing "Primavera" by Einaudi on the piano.

A. Charterton



SEND

This year the SEND Department is looking to organise and run a series of events for parents. The idea of these events is to invite parents in to meet with the SEND team and where possible to have guest speakers to share information.

The next SEND event will be hosted by Mr Archbold – SENDCo and Denise Horton from the Community Autism Team. The event will be on 12th November at 2:15pm and will look at how the CAT team work with school and scope of their work. If you would like to attend, please complete this Microsoft Form. <https://forms.office.com/e/u1pyG5jrhe>



As part of the SEND department's drive to reach out to parents this year through a series of SEND events, we are also partnering with the NHS family hubs to share local information as well as being part of gathering the community and family voices that help inform the 'local offer' throughout the year.

School will be hosting a parent's event soon with the Family Hub representatives in order to share further information. The local Family Hubs based in Selly Oak and Northfield have created a 'one way' WhatsApp group to share information with

the local community. You can join this WhatsApp group by using the appropriate QR Code below. (This WhatsApp group is run by the NHS Family Hubs and not by Bournville School.)

Northfield Family Hub



Join our Family Voices WhatsApp Information Communication Channel

Information Sharing will also enable you to receive city-wide updates and information.

Administrators can grant access for key stakeholders to post updates.



Selly Oak Family Hub



Join our Family Voices WhatsApp Information Communication Channel

Information Sharing will also enable you to receive city-wide updates and information.

Administrators can grant access for key stakeholders to post updates.



R. Archbold

Careers Fair

On October 22nd we held our annual careers fair. This year was our biggest event to date with thirty different providers attending. It was great to have a mix of colleges, sixth forms, universities, apprenticeship providers and local employers sharing their knowledge and inspiring our students. All year groups attended across the morning with students asking some fantastic questions and gaining useful information and guidance about their future careers. Having discussions with professionals about career aspirations and educational choices allows our students to make informed decisions about their futures and helps them follow successful careers pathways after their time at Bournville School. Thank you to all the providers for attending we are really looking forward to seeing where our students' pathways lead.

R. Field



Some excellent feedback from visitors to the careers fair!

Further Comment:

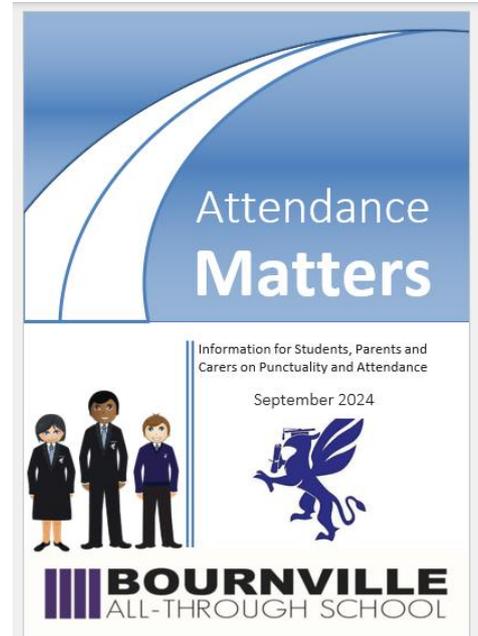
great event, great students, great school. ☺

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](#)



This half term we have been very pleased to offer a variety of incentives and rewards to those with excellent attendance. We have:

- *Sweet Rewards for those students who are in school every Friday and Monday
- *Freddo chocolates for those students who have 100% attendance each week
- *An iPad to be won each half term. Congratulations to Noah (Y9), our first winner!
- *100% and 95% attendance certificates presented in the end of term celebration assembly

R. Mullings



Student Leadership

Our students volunteer their time for a number of student leadership responsibilities. We have over seventy students appointed in a range of roles from prefects to form captains as well as those students elected to the School Council. Students offer so much to the school, just this past half term they have delivered assemblies, supported at school events such as Open Evening, contributed to interview panels, shown visitors around the school site and participated in meetings to contribute to school improvement. I am particularly proud of our diversity group who have created resources for tutors as part of Black History Month, educating all students on black role models that are not generally well-known. Another group of students is working with other schools nationally to reduce sexual harassment in schools. They have surveyed all Bournville students to gather their views on the topic and now they are preparing to deliver an assembly to remind students what sexual harassment might look like and who they should go to for support if it does happen. There is so much more coming next half term too!



H. Poole

