

INTHEKNOW

15th July 2021



Enrichment opportunities – studying DNA with the University of Birmingham

Message from Miss Green:



Firstly, I would like to say 'Goodbye' to our Y11 students who have moved on to a range of new opportunities – we are so proud of how you have conducted yourselves this year, and you should be proud of the results you have worked so hard to achieve! We are also incredibly proud of the hard work and diligence shown by Y10 in their recent mock examinations.

We have a range of exciting enrichment opportunities going on for students at the moment. Our hope is that these will help them to aspire and achieve providing a broad and deep experience of school which will nourish their talents and abilities beyond the traditional curriculum. It's the perfect time to do this as it enables our students to engage with some of the activities they've missed out on during the last few years' lockdowns. We

are delighted that two of our students in Y10, Connie and Levelle represented our school at the Speaker's Trust final and immensely proud that Levelle went on to win the event with his speech! We are genuinely excited to watch our students rediscovering their talents and interests through Bournville Buzz, which takes place in the final period of the school day on Fridays. I have had the joy of working with the whole of Y7 to form a choir working on 'Hall of Fame' by The Script, and exploring my passion for live music with them. There's more opportunity to hear about what students have been up to for Bournville Buzz in the articles below.

I'm also very excited by the wide range of opportunities that have been offered to students this term. There have been sports clubs, opportunities to do tennis, basketball, netball, badminton and football in PE. We have had drumming and singing sessions in school for our Key Stage Choirs, we have had the Speaker's Trust in school working with Y9 on their public speaking, and we have had opportunities in Science for students to engage with practical experiments on DNA linked to the University of Birmingham. The careers team have provided a new UniFrog app which parents, carers and students can use for careers support. On a similar note, we couldn't be prouder of the students in KS4 who are undertaking Childcare and Sports Leadership additional qualifications in the last few weeks – we hope these will allow you to follow your passions in your future careers!

We are also very grateful to our dedicated and aspirational team of teachers who have arranged these exciting activities to enrich our students' experiences. On Thursday we will be celebrating

those students who follow the Bournville motto of 'Every one. Every lesson. Every day.', during periods 4 and 5 we are doing rewards concerts for students who do the right thing every day, these will have a focus on equality and mental health awareness – students selected will have attendance above 97% and excellent reports in Class Charts and will also have the opportunity to engage with some live music performances.

I've also been proud to see our students celebrating the great achievements of the England Team this week, by writing letters in their English lessons offering praise and support to young role models Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho, which we will be sending to Wembley, offering words of support in the face of the racism these resilient, heroic young men have endured in recent days. They embody the values of our school, which is to understand that missing one shot is not a failure, but a step on the journey to becoming better, and that resilience is key to achievement. These young men are a source of national pride and role models for our young people.

We have also had the opportunity to connect with our incoming Y7 students, and couldn't be more excited to welcome them into Bournville school, and induct them into our school ethos and culture in September!

Mr Else – Deputy Head

"ipsa scientia potestas est" – knowledge itself is power.

When reflecting on how much Bournville School has continued to develop over this last year, Sir Francis Bacon is not necessarily the first person to spring to mind. The concept that 'knowledge itself is power' suggested by Bacon in *Meditationes Sacrae* in 1597, can be thought to mean that one's potential or ability to succeed in the pursuit of one's objectives will certainly increase with knowledge. As teachers, we have always known that the more students read, the more they know, and the more they can understand and do, the greater success those students will have in later life; from attending college and university to entering the world of work. Reading plays a huge but hidden part in this success.

As teachers, we also know that standards in everything we do must remain high at all times and I am pleased to see that teachers are teaching high quality lessons to students who still expect the best in their learning. Our support staff are relentless in making sure students are in school, ready to learn and able to focus throughout the day. It is pleasing to see, that at the end of a very trying year, students are still striving for success, whether that was in the most recent mock examinations sat by year 10 students or a select group of students currently completing qualifications in sport or childcare. We are not complacent at Bournville School, leaders are planning quietly in the background for a return in September with a renewed focus on the quality of teaching and learning, a developing key stage 3 assessment programme and a myriad of support, development and challenge for staff and students. Literacy will be high on the agenda next year and I would like to leave you with another quote which sums up the importance of reading, something which we will all be doing a lot more of next year.

"The whole world opened up to me when I learned to read" - Mary McCleod Bethune

Careers Support and Information – Miss Poole

Students in Y9 and Y10 who have an aspiration for childcare have had the fabulous opportunity of spending an intensive two weeks studying Child Development so they are qualified and experienced to work in Childcare in the future. During the two weeks they will complete two pieces of coursework. The first, investigates the different types of Early Years provision and how it supports children 0-5 years old. The second looks more intensely at how children develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially during these early years. Later in the year, students will also sit an exam. All students will enjoy some time supporting young children in our primary school, giving them valuable work experience. Students so far have excelled themselves, learning how to behave professionally as well as engaging with the necessary written work. Some feedback from students:

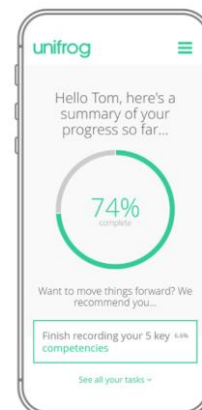
'The best thing about child development is that you get to learn new things everyday about children'.

'I like child development because you learn things you wouldn't in normal lessons'.

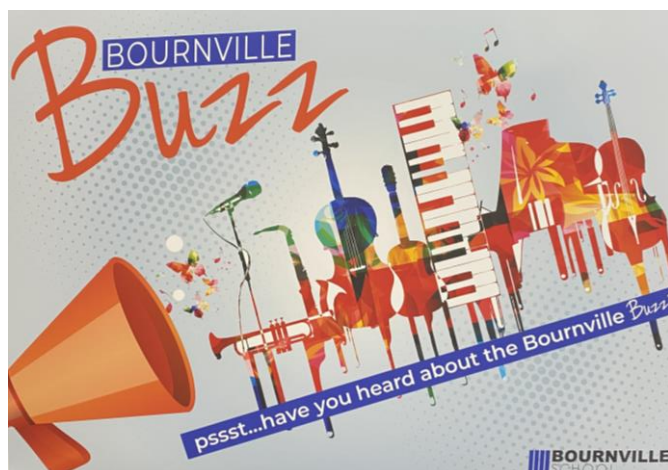
'I find childcare good because it's fun and I'm getting ready to work with children'

Uni frog – Miss Field

Please encourage your child to engage with the **Unifrog** careers platform which we will be using in school from September. This is a fantastic resource that will support the careers development of our students as well as aid us to increase awareness of career pathways across the curriculum. There is also a link below to the student training video which all students went through during their PSHE lessons, this is for interest only. [KS4 Student Launch \(loom.com\)](https://www.loom.com/share/ks4-student-launch) Your child can also download the Unifrog app and use their school login.



Bournville Buzz – Mr Thomas Assistant Head

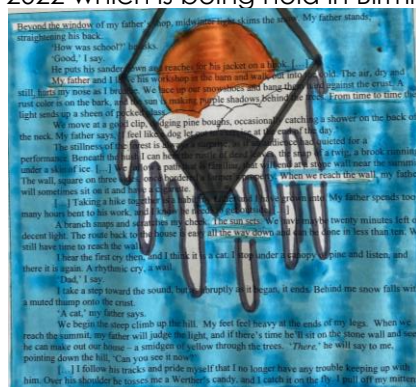


The sound of children singing, excitement building in anticipation of performing on stage, your heart pounding before drilling-home that last minute winner. These are all of the feelings or experiences that we want our students to feel at Bournville. After a tough 15 months, it has been an absolute priority for us to give our students something exciting to look forward to, whilst also giving them the opportunity to showcase their talent. This informed the idea of 'Bournville Buzz', where we have collapsed the timetable on a Friday afternoon for all students to take part in a structured activity. These activities include a Year 7 choir, competitive sporting fixtures, science experiments, slam

poetry, art and drama. The work that students produce in these activities will be captured and shared with parents and the local community. Projects like this are so important for us as a school, where we are striving to become the school of choice in the local area. In order to raise the profile of our school, we will continue running projects like the Bournville Buzz to share our students' talent with the local community.

Bournville Buzz – Slam Poetry – Dr Burrells

In Poetry Slam students have engaged with the art form of spoken word poetry writing and speaking about their identities. We have heard a range of Slam, composed our own verses and stanzas, created blackout and splice poetry, and last week had Young Poet Laureate Matt Windle come to school do a workshop on his Home Town Heroes Poem for the Commonwealth Games 2022 which is being held in Birmingham [Hometown Heroes: A Poem by Matt Windle | Birmingham 2022](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/home). Students composed their own Birmingham poetry in response to 'This is the Place' by Tony Walsh.



Bournville Buzz – Art Mythical Creatures – Miss Walton

Students have been creating a variety of mythical creatures combining different animals to inspire a hybrid mythical beast. They have used a range of media to demonstrate their final ideas and we've been inspired to see their creativity and ingenuity.



Bournville Buzz – Drama Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet – Miss Brown

In drama, we have been working on the epic and tragic love story of *Romeo and Juliet*. Students are performing the Prologue and Act 1 Scene 1, and have been working on choreographed movement to dramatise the Montague versus Capulet conflict in that scene, as well as performance using the original text – very exciting stuff!

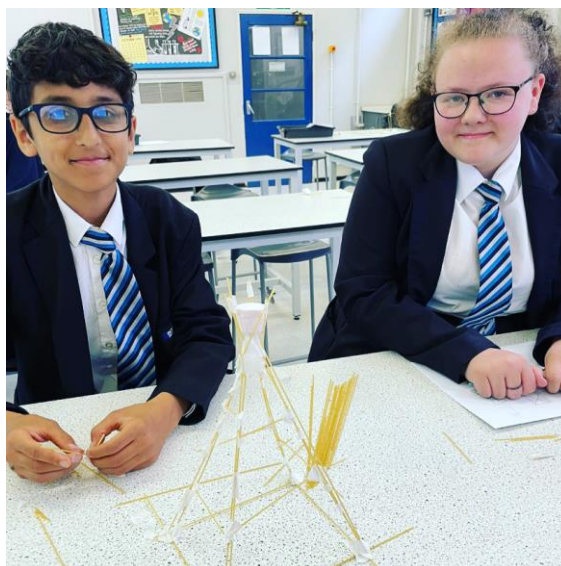
After the very insulting biting of the thumbs, and the arrival of Tybalt, live drumming punctuates pairs or threes of Montagues versus Capulets fighting. This is represented in a montage of still images (freeze frames) with blackouts in between. The action on stage then moves into the fury of the Prince and Lady Capulet. Students have also produced work on the deaths of Mercutio and Tybalt.



Bournville Buzz – Science Engineering STEM challenges – Mr Burgess

In the science department Bournville Buzz took a series of engineering STEM challenges. By giving our students engineering challenges, we were able to put their scientific knowledge into practical application. Using unconventional materials we built towers from spaghetti, catapults from lollypop sticks, and rollercoasters from paper.

Students were able to investigate the strength of different materials, structures and even shapes. The unusual materials presented for each challenge gave students the opportunity to demonstrate creative problem-solving and teamwork skills. Through these challenges in STEM education, we were able to connect classroom activities and experiences to real-life opportunities that was all about solving problems. Whilst being a seemingly fun experience that offered students a distraction from their normal timetabled lesson, we were preparing them for future careers by making real-world links. Students were encouraged and supported to be as creative as possible during the challenges so that they were able to lead their own investigations to develop their solution to the problem presented.



Aim Higher – Izzy Finn – Speakers Trust

Pupils at Bournville have been working hard to engage with the Aimhigher programme. The whole of Y10 and Y9 took part in the Speak Out Challenge run by Speakers Trust, which equipped students with confidence and public speaking skills for them to carry forward in the future. At the end of the workshop, all pupils had prepared and delivered a speech in front of an audience, discussing something they were passionate about. Two pupils, Connie and Levelle, were chosen to represent Bournville at the Speakers Trust final competition, which took place in July. Congratulations to



Levelle, whose speech on 'The Effects of Electricity and Agriculture on Climate Change' won first place! Levelle won a certificate and a £50 voucher for coming first place. Aimhigher has also delivered one-to-one mentoring sessions with Y10 pupils across the year, helping them understand and make decisions related to their future, careers, University and education. Students who have engaged with the mentoring sessions say that they feel they know more about University and their options than they did before. We also ran the MyTutor Science programme with Y10 and Y11, offering pupils online tutoring with current or recent University students. Y9 and Y10 took part in the 'Positively Mad' Super Study Skills workshop, which taught students how to revise effectively using a particular mind map method. Y11 took part in the 'Loud Mouth' workshop, which focused on relationship and consent. The pupils at Bournville always engage enthusiastically with the activities Aimhigher offer, showing great potential for the future and clear interest in learning about their options and making good decisions."

Messages from Mr Chilton and Miss Boyle, Heads of Year 10

We are proud of how students in Y10 worked to complete their Speaking and Listening assessments for GCSE a few weeks ago, showing real passion in talking about their personal interests and topics they had chosen to research. Year 10 have recently completed their first set of mock examinations and deserve to be publicly praised for their maturity and how they conducted themselves during a very busy and arduous week. I look forward to seeing how they have performed.

Lots of them are currently very busy completing two different intense courses (Sports and Childcare), these will enable the students to complete a qualification before they begin their all important year 11.

Finally, I would like to publicly thank year 10 for how they have changed as a whole year group, their maturity, work-ethic and positivity have improved massively during this year. I look forward to working with them in year 11.

