

Spring 1 - 2026

## Welcome to this issue of "In the Know".

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another vibrant and successful half term at Bournville School, and I am proud to share just some of the highlights from across our community. Our most eclectic Talent Showcase yet saw pupils perform poetry, pop and plays to packed audiences after months of rehearsal. The confidence, teamwork and pride shown on stage were exceptional. As part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust, we are committed to providing enriching extracurricular experiences, and this event truly embodied that vision.



Sixty Year 10 pupils also took part in a public speaking workshop with Speaker's Trust, developing their confidence and communication skills. Six students have now reached our school final, with one progressing to the West Midlands Regional Final at George Cadbury School. We are incredibly proud of them. Our new Perfect Page initiative is already improving presentation and consistency across all subjects, helping students to take pride in their work and strengthen key learning habits. The School Council has been very supportive of this important step forward.

Beyond the classroom, ten of our STEM Ambassadors welcomed over 400 primary pupils for engaging STEM days, earning exceptional feedback from visiting schools. Students have also benefited from the Young Entrepreneur Project, designing and manufacturing their own clothing while developing business and creative skills, and our Year 10 Spanish students enjoyed an immersive theatre experience to bring their language learning to life.

In Art, students have explored the work of Henry Moore, Georgina Luck, Frida Kahlo and Jim Dine, while our KS4 pupils continue to work diligently towards their coursework and mock examinations. Despite challenging weather, participation in PE and extracurricular sport has remained strong. Our indoor courts and fitness suite have been full of energy, and highlights include a memorable Year 11 basketball fixture against Kings Norton Boys' School and a fantastic second-place finish for our Year 8 and 9 Girls' Netball Team at the Bartley Green competition.

Careers education continues to be a strength of the school. Year 11 students have received impartial guidance interviews, Year 10 are securing work experience placements (remember to log these on Unifrog), and Year 9 have begun their Options process. We also marked National Apprenticeship Week and congratulate Mrs Matto on achieving her Matrix accreditation.

Wellbeing remains central to our work. Students can access wellbeing drop-in sessions and enjoy our prefect-led wellbeing club, while staff were recognised during our annual wellbeing week and continue to benefit from the Trust's support offer and access to Perkbox rewards. Finally, we continue to prioritise SEND support. Families are invited to attend our SENDCO Drop-In Session on Tuesday 10th March 2026, and we encourage parents and carers to access guidance through the Birmingham Local Offer. We also welcome feedback through our SEND Parent Voice questionnaire.

Thank you for your continued support. It is a privilege to lead such a committed and talented school community, and I look forward to the term ahead.

**M Rooney (Principal)**

## Bournville Talent Show

**Bournville School Talent Showcase:** Talented young performers, from Bournville School, put on an unforgettable night of poetry, pop and plays in Bournville school's most eclectic Talent Showcase yet.

After months of rehearsals, parents finally got to see their children take centre stage, in front of a packed hall on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 January. Bournville All-Through School, which is part of the ambitious Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust, saw pupils attend extracurricular clubs

and rehearsals after school, to ensure the show was a success. Karen Brown, who has been the Curriculum Leader for Drama for the last 20 years, said: "Extra-curricular experiences, both in rehearsal and when recognised and rewarded by such enthusiastic audiences, certainly make memories for life. "Through working on their performances and entertaining the audience, pupils developed self-esteem, confidence and pride, while also learning how to work together as a team. "Our students performed amazingly, and we're all so proud of each and every one of them."



ALL-THROUGH DRAMA CLUB: BEOWULF, A PLAY WITHIN A RADIO PL

## Speak Out Challenge Workshop

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 60 Year 10 pupils completed the speak out workshop with the Speaker's Trust. Throughout the day, pupils completed a range of speaking and listening activities which were designed to help them find their voice, and to express themselves confidently and articulately. Pupils learned about what makes an effective speech, including the communication triangle of content, delivery, and structure. We were very impressed by the progress shown by all pupils throughout the day, and we know that the skills they have developed will be hugely important to their future careers.

We have six pupils who have reached our school final as a result of the workshop. These pupils will be performing their speeches to an audience of pupils from a younger year group. Our judges panel will then select a finalist to be entered into the West Midlands Regional Final at George Cadbury School – an event which we have had the privilege of attending for the past three years.

Well done Year 10!



## Setting the Standard: The Power of the 'Perfect Page'

At Bournville School, we are proud to introduce the "Perfect Page"—a new initiative designed to ensure every student starts their lesson with success. By creating a consistent, neat structure for written work across every book, we aren't just improving presentation; we are mastering the foundational skills crucial for every subject. This uniformity allows students to take pride in their work and focus on what matters most: their learning.

## Our STEM Ambassadors Shine

A dedicated team of ten Bournville students recently showcased the very best of our school community. These students welcomed six local primary schools, helping to run engaging STEM days for over 400 Year 5 pupils. Their efforts went far beyond science and maths; they played a vital role in building confidence in our visitors and ensuring every child felt welcome in the Bournville family.

The feedback has been exceptional, with every single visiting teacher praising our students for their conduct and helpfulness. This initiative has not only bolstered our school's reputation for excellence but has also allowed our student leaders to develop invaluable communication and leadership skills of their own.



## F2D-ITC – The Young Entrepreneur Project

F2D-ITC was established to help support children and young people in the community through workshops based on entrepreneurship, creativity and mentoring. The company consists of qualified mentors and business owners, who pass on their knowledge, experience and expertise to the next generation, with a view to assisting them to succeed and navigate life with a positive mindset.

The Young Entrepreneur Project is a workshop run over six weeks. The programme gives selected students the opportunity to design an item of clothing to their liking, and then have the item manufactured. In between that time, the students then learn the process behind manufacturing and all other aspects of fashion and the business elements behind it. The aim is to empower the students and give them a platform to express themselves and grow in confidence, all in a creative environment. The programme concludes with the students receiving their fully custom-made item of clothing, a certificate and showcasing their finished designs to their peers and/or parents. The program covers various areas of the curriculum including English, Art, DT, business, reading, maths and PSHE.



## School Council



Our school council met with Miss Rooney at the beginning of the half term to represent all student views. It was a very positive meeting with many of the school initiatives supported by students. They were particularly positive about the implementation of a 'perfect page' in all exercise books which is improving standards across the school. They also continue to appreciate the school routines and rules that create consistency and safety across the school. Suggestions for improvement were also taken seriously. For example, we will continue to improve the school environment to make it an engaging and positive place to learn.

## Spanish Onatti Theatre Trip

On Monday 1 February, a group of Year 10 students attended a theatre performance at King Edward VI Lordswood School for Girls, organised by the Oaks Collegiate. The purpose of the visit was to support their Spanish studies, as the performance provided valuable exposure to native Spanish speakers. During the performance, students also had the opportunity to practise their language skills by asking and answering questions in Spanish.

Ms Flórez (Subject Leader – MFL)



## Wellbeing

Wellbeing has been at the forefront of our minds during the past half term as this time of the year can be tough for many. 'January Blues' is a social term used to denote the period after the festive seasons and the decline in mood that some people can experience around this time. January Blues can manifest with symptoms of low mood, sadness, lack of energy, motivation, and anxiety. To combat this, we have implemented initiatives to improve the wellbeing of staff and students.

For our students, following a request from School Council, we now have **wellbeing drop-in sessions** available outside of lessons. These provide a safe, welcoming place for students to go to if they need to talk or need emotional support.

## Wellbeing Drop-In Sessions



**Emotional Support**

**Why?**

- Worried about something at home, at school, in the community?
- Need to talk?
- Concerned about your mental health or emotional wellbeing?
- Feeling stressed or anxious?

**Let us know!**  
All sessions confidential and open to ALL



**Talk & Listen**



**Calm Space**



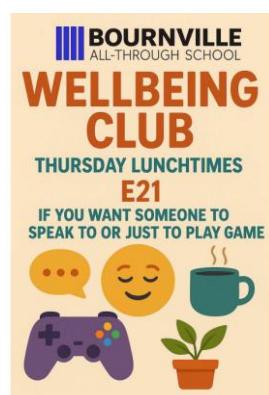
**Suggestion box**

**Time & Date:**  
Drop-in to see Miss Boyle or Mrs Russell in their office (by PE)  
Open to all students daily:

- Before school - 8am to 8.30am
- Break time-11am to 11.20am
- Lunchtime-1.20pm to 2pm

**OR drop a note in the suggestion box outside the office. We will get back to you!**





Additionally, on our extra-curricular programme, prefects run a **wellbeing club**. This is a special time of the week where the older students bring in board games to play with our younger students. As they play, they talk and enjoy time together. It is a calm, enjoyable session which puts students at ease and gives them like-minded peers to socialise with. For some we know how important it is to have a safe space to go to as well as friendship and fun.

Just as important to us has been the wellbeing of staff. Our annual **staff wellbeing** week at the end of January gave us a fantastic opportunity to remind staff how much they are appreciated and valued. All members of staff were gifted a pin badge with the message 'You make a difference', a visual reminder that they are appreciated for what they do every day for the school community.

During the week we were sure to remind staff of how their wellbeing is considered all of the time by sharing the Trust wellbeing offer which includes strategies linked to mental, financial and physical wellbeing. Regular guidance is sent to colleagues to educate them and to encourage them to take time for themselves. We are lucky to have access to Perkbox, a rewards platform designed to motivate staff through perks, rewards and recognition. We also believe it is important to give time to staff and hear their views either through line management or staff forum sessions. Moving forward, we will continue to prioritise wellbeing, listen to our stakeholders and look for further ways to implement policies that encourage positive wellbeing.



# INTHEKNOW

BOURNVILLE SCHOOL PARENT/CARER NEWSLETTER

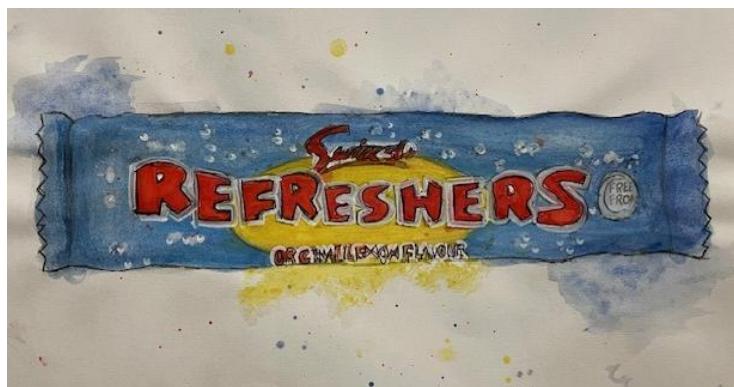
## The Art department

In Art, during this half term students have been working hard on several different projects and assignments. Year 7 have been learning about mark making through the work of Henry Moore and Abby Diamond. Year 8 have been learning about the expressive food paintings of Georgina Luck and Year 9 have been learning about the work of Frida Kahlo and Jim Dine. KS4 students have been working on their milestones and mock examinations.

**Year 7-** Abby Diamond style paintings by Georgia R and Andiia B



**Year 8-** Georgina Luck style painting by Alfie T and Lilly L



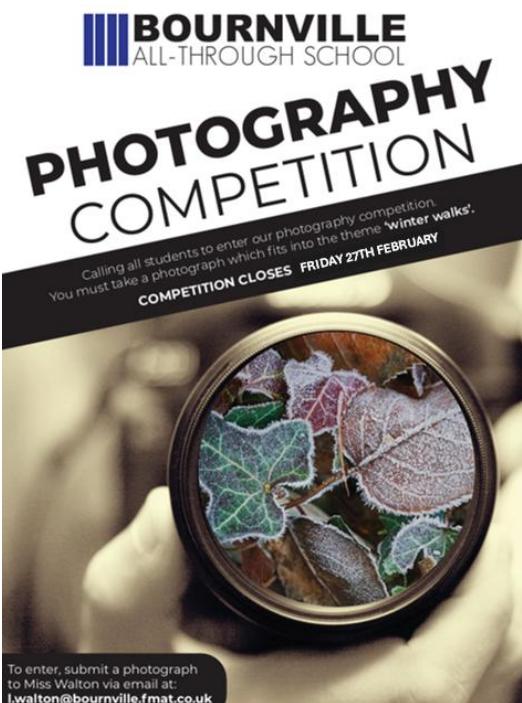
**Year 9-** Oil pastel birds inspired by Frida Kahlo by Alice C and Jack T





## Art- Extra-Curricular Clubs

Wednesday- KS3 Art Club  
Friday- KS4 Art Club



Follow us on Instagram  
**@bournville\_school\_art**

## Winter Walks Photography Competition

We have just launched our Winter Walks photography competition.

1<sup>st</sup> place- £20 voucher

2<sup>nd</sup> place- £15 voucher

Please email all entries to Miss Walton by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

[L.Walton@bournville.fmat.co.uk](mailto:L.Walton@bournville.fmat.co.uk)



## The Barber Institute Art Challenge

Every month The Barber Institute of Fine Arts is encouraging creative submissions around a specific theme, inspired by the Barber's world-class art collection. From paintings and drawings to collage and clay, all visual art mediums are welcome. Just submit your work to be featured online, and to be in with a chance of winning some quality art materials! Submit photographs of the work to Miss Walton by the deadline (the last day of each month)-

[L.Walton@bournville.fmat.co.uk](mailto:L.Walton@bournville.fmat.co.uk)

Or directly to The Barber Institute Art Gallery-  
[info@barber.org.uk](mailto:info@barber.org.uk)

### Current and future themes-

February: Weather

March: Light and Dark

THE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**BARBER**  
INSTITUTE OF  
FINE ARTS

## Rain Can't Stop Play: PE Highlights of the Term

It's no secret that the British weather has been doing its absolute best to turn our outdoor pitches into swimming pools lately. However, if the clouds thought they could dampen the spirits of our athletes, they clearly haven't met this year's cohort. From the gym floor to the netball courts, here is a look at how our students have been braving the elements and bringing home the silver.

### Dedication Beyond the Downpours

A massive congratulations to everyone who has continued to show up for extracurricular clubs. It's easy to stay motivated when the sun is out, but seeing the consistent turnout during these grey weeks has been incredibly impressive.

\* The Fitness Suite: It has been fantastic to see so many pupils taking charge of their personal health and hitting the weights and cardio machines.

\* Netball & Basketball: Our indoor courts have been buzzing with energy. The skill levels are rising week by week, and the commitment to training is clearly paying off.



### Match Results & Fixtures

While the rain has forced a few cancellations (nature 1, football 0), we've still managed to squeeze in some high-octane fixtures across netball, basketball, and football, including a memorable Y11 basketball fixture vs Kings Norton Boys School, in which we narrowly lost, despite putting 70 points on the board - a memorable highlight of the term for Mr Linfield.

The standout performance of the half term belongs to our Year 8 and 9 Girls' Netball Team. They headed over to the Bartley Green Netball Competition and played out of their skins. After a series of intense matches against some tough opposition, they secured a fantastic 2nd place finish! "The teamwork and resilience shown at Bartley Green was next level. To walk away with silver in such a competitive field is a testament to all those hours spent at after-school practice." — Miss McShane

### More Than Just a Game: Why We Show Up



It's easy to look at a rainy afternoon and think about heading home to the sofa, but the students showing up to clubs are gaining something far more valuable than just a scoreline. Joining a club is one of the best ways to build social skills and forge new friendships outside of your usual form groups.

Sports teach us how to communicate under pressure, lead others, and work as a unit—skills that stay with you long after you've left the pitch. Whether you're aiming for a trophy or just want to meet new people in a relaxed, active environment, these clubs are your space to connect. Remember: success isn't just about talent; it's about showing up when it's easiest to stay home. So, grab your kit, bring a friend, and let's keep this momentum building!

Mr R. Linfield (Subject Leader – PE)



## Careers Education

Careers guidance is a real strength of the school, and we continue to provide regular events and initiatives to ensure our students are ambitious and prepared for their next steps. This half term we have:

- Supported Y11 with impartial careers guidance interviews to ensure they have post 16 destinations organised
- Delivered assemblies from UCB as part of our post-16 awareness programme
- Y10 have been supported to find work experience placements. Remember to log these on Unifrog!
- A key focus for this half term was Year 9 who started the Options process, this has meant they have enjoyed assemblies, taster lessons, an options evening and over half term they will have their option booklets to start to make their option choices.
- Marked National Apprenticeship Week by using tutor time to educate students on what apprenticeships are and why they might choose them
- Lastly, we must congratulate Mrs Matto on her Matrix accreditation for her career guidance work.



## Spanish Immersive Experience

On Thursday 12th February, 32 Year 8 students took part in an immersive Spanish restaurant experience. This gave them a real taste of dining abroad, as they ordered drinks and food entirely in Spanish. For a couple of hours, they forgot they were in Cannock and felt as though they were enjoying tapas in Spain. All the students were a credit to the school.

Ms Flórez-Abad (MFL Subject Leader)



## Why Attendance Is So Important:

Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's wellbeing, achievement, and wider development. Being in school every day helps them stay on track academically and keeps them engaged with their teachers and friends. It also helps build good habits like punctuality and responsibility that will serve them throughout life. In short, everyday counts. Even a few days of absence can quickly add up and significantly impact learning and exam results. Thank you again to all parents/carers who send their children to school consistently – your support makes a huge difference, and we celebrate those students who achieve high attendance in our end of term assemblies.



## SENDCO Drop-In Session – March 2026

Families are also invited to attend our next **SENDCO Drop-In:**

 **Tuesday 10th March 2026**

⌚ 1:30pm – 3:30pm

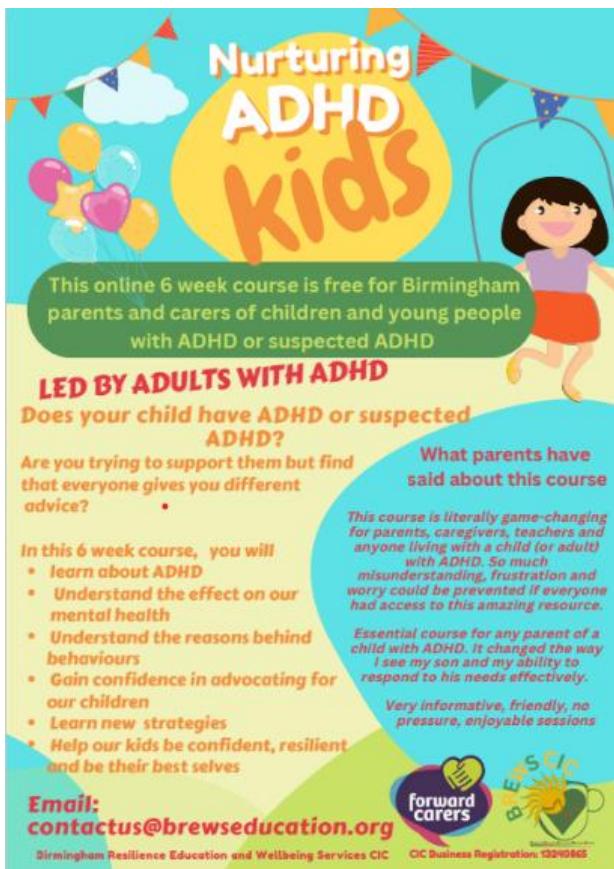
This is an opportunity for parents and carers to discuss:

- SEND concerns
- Support plans
- Strategies for home and school
- Any questions about learning needs or pathways

Bookings:

Please email Ms Kesziova at [d.kesziova@bournville.fmat.co.uk](mailto:d.kesziova@bournville.fmat.co.uk) to reserve a slot.

## BREWS ADHD Courses for Parent



**Nurturing ADHD Kids**

This online 6 week course is free for Birmingham parents and carers of children and young people with ADHD or suspected ADHD

**LED BY ADULTS WITH ADHD**

Does your child have ADHD or suspected ADHD?

Are you trying to support them but find that everyone gives you different advice?

In this 6 week course, you will

- Learn about ADHD
- Understand the effect on our mental health
- Understand the reasons behind behaviours
- Gain confidence in advocating for our children
- Learn new strategies
- Help our kids be confident, resilient and be their best selves

Email: [contactus@brewseducation.org](mailto:contactus@brewseducation.org)

Birmingham Resilience Education and Wellbeing Services CIC CIC Business Registration: 13240965



**Nurturing ADHD Kids**

**NEW GROUPS STARTING SOON!**

Free online 6 week courses for parents and carers

Each session is 90 minutes

**February 2026 courses**

**Tuesday mornings 10 - 11.30 am**  
starting Tuesday 24th February  
Register [HERE](#) or use QR code

**Wednesday evenings 7-8.30 pm**  
starting Wednesday 25th February  
Register [HERE](#) or use QR code

**Registration closes at 5 pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

If you miss the deadline, email us at [contactus@brewseducation.org](mailto:contactus@brewseducation.org) and you can join the next one starting in March



## Birmingham Local Offer – Your One-Stop Guide to SEND Support

If you are looking for clear, reliable information about SEND services, support and guidance in Birmingham, the Birmingham Local Offer is the best place to start.

The Local Offer brings together key information for children and young people aged 0–25 with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), as well as their families and professionals. It includes guidance on education, health, social care, travel assistance, activities, wellbeing support and more.

Visit the Birmingham Local Offer:

👉 <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk>

On the site, you will find:

- Advice and information on services available across Birmingham for children and young people with SEND.
- Support with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- Health and wellbeing information, leisure activities and practical guidance for families.
- Contact details, FAQs and ways to give feedback to help shape and improve local SEND provision.

The Local Offer is designed to make it easier for families to find the information they need, understand the support available, and access services at the right time.

## Share Your Views on SEND at Bournville School

As part of our ongoing commitment to working together with families and ensuring that our SEND provision meets the needs of all our pupils, we are inviting parents and carers to share their views through a short Microsoft Form.

Your feedback is essential in helping us:

- Understand what is working well
- Identify areas we can improve
- Shape how SEND support is planned and delivered
- Strengthen communication and partnership between home and school

We value every parent and carer's perspective, and your insight directly informs the way we continue to develop inclusive practice and provision across Bournville School.



Please take a few minutes to complete the form and share your experiences, suggestions and priorities using the link below. (This form will close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm)

[SEND Parent Voice Questionnaire Spring 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Thank you for helping us ensure the very best for our children and young people.