

Spring 2- 2026

Message from the Principal

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Spring 2 edition of *In the Know*. As we move further into 2026, I continue to be inspired by the energy, creativity, and determination shown by our students and staff across every phase of the school. This half term has been a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when a community works together with purpose and pride.

From exceptional artistic achievements and thought-provoking performances to outstanding behaviour on trips, impressive extracurricular commitment, and inspiring whole-Trust events, our students have shown what it means to embrace opportunity and strive for excellence. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and willingness to challenge themselves reflect the very best of Bournville School.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, whose passion and unwavering commitment continue to transform lives and open doors for young people each and every day. I am equally grateful to our families for their ongoing support—it is through our strong partnership that students flourish academically, socially, and personally.

As we look ahead to the busy and exciting term to come, including significant milestones with KS2 SATs and GCSE exams for many of our learners, I encourage all students to maintain high aspirations, stay curious, and continue making the most of the rich experiences on offer. Together, we will keep building a school environment where every child feels valued, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you enjoy celebrating the accomplishments of our wonderful school community as much as we do.

Warm regards,

Marie Rooney

Principal



Our new Alternative Provision is opened by local MP

Alternative Provision at Bournville

A 15-year-old boy in Birmingham says a new education facility for pupils unable to attend mainstream school has “changed his life” after years of struggling with undiagnosed autism and repeated school moves.

The student, now in Year 10, attends the Alternative Provision at Bournville School, which supports 11–16-year-olds with exclusions or complex social, emotional and mental health needs. The recently refurbished centre offers small-group teaching, strong pastoral support, flexible learning and vocational options such as hairdressing, barbering and beauty.

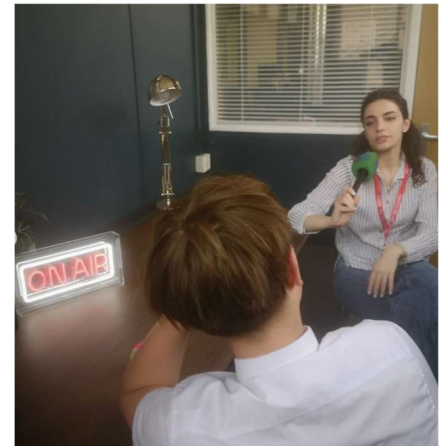
He said the environment helped rebuild his confidence and behaviour. After years of detentions and disengagement, he now feels like “a completely different person,” crediting staff for recognising his needs and encouraging a more hands-on approach to learning. A key moment came after a conversation with Principal Marie Rooney, who he said helped him “rebuild” his mindset.

His mother said his autism diagnosis, received last year, highlighted the need for a different type of education. Initially concerned about stigma around alternative provision, she now believes the move transformed both his life and their family dynamic. “I feel like we’ve got our child back,” she said.

The provision has also supported other students, including one who said the smaller, quieter setting reduced her anxiety and improved attendance and focus.

During a recent visit, Al Carns encouraged students to stay determined despite setbacks, sharing his own unconventional journey into politics.

The centre delivers core GCSE subjects alongside personal development and career-focused learning. Staff say it has helped many previously absent students return to full-time education, with further expansion plans including a construction course launching in 2026. Principal Marie Rooney said the school demonstrates that while mainstream education suits most, “there is a place for every child.”



“Teachers Change Lives”: Musharaf Asghar inspires at FMAT Conference 2026

Hundreds of colleagues from across Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust's four schools came together at Villa Park for an inspirational day of learning, collaboration and celebration.

“It’s so important to have events like this, where teachers can hear directly about the impact that their dedication can have on students,” said keynote speaker Musharaf Asghar – known to millions as *Mushy* from *Educating Yorkshire*. For Mushy, the encouragement of one teacher changed his life, giving him the confidence to overcome a prominent stammer. His powerful reflections on the life-changing influence of educators set the tone for a day centred on enriching lives and transforming futures.

The FMAT Conference 2026 brought together staff from Bournville All-Through School, Erdington Academy, Fairfax Academy and Smith's Wood Academy at the historic home of Aston Villa Football Club on Friday 13 March.

The packed programme included engaging talks and workshops designed to support staff wellbeing, strengthen practice and ultimately improve outcomes for FMAT's 4,000 plus students. Staff took part in energising workshops on courageous conversations and wellbeing, alongside practical guidance on using AI to save time and enhance the quality of their work. There was also strong engagement with sessions focused on neurodiversity and inclusive practice, giving colleagues deeper insight into how to better support a wide range of student needs.

Laura Walton, a colleague at Bournville School, stated, “It was fantastic to come together with colleagues from across the Trust, share ideas and learn from each other. Days like this give you fresh energy and practical strategies you can take straight back into the classroom.”

The day ended in spectacular style when Villa fan and Erdington Academy

thrill-seeker Julie Colvin abseiled from the Holte End, raising £350 for the Aston Villa Foundation – a charity whose mission to support young people resonates strongly with the Trust's values.



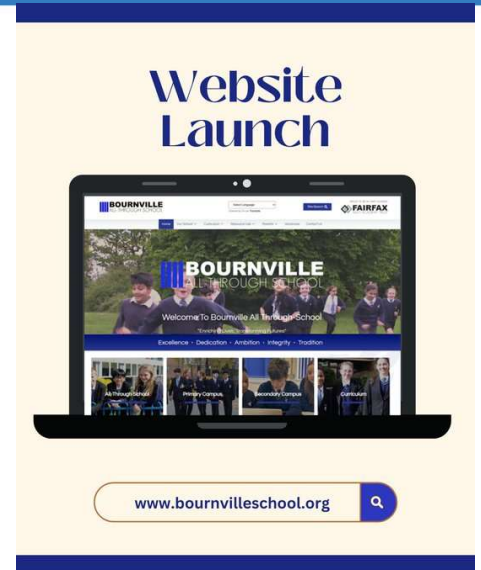
Welcome to Our Brand-New School Website!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our newly redesigned school website. Built with our students and families in mind, the site now serves as your central hub for school life and essential resources.

Finding important information is easier than ever. The new platform provides quick access to daily homework links, comprehensive safeguarding information, and a directory of useful contact details. With exam season approaching, you will also find the latest exam timetables clearly laid out to help students stay organised and fully prepared.

We are particularly excited to share our fully mapped curriculums, giving you a clear overview of what your children are learning in every subject. Alongside this, we have launched a super curriculum section. This area is packed with engaging at-home activities designed to inspire curiosity, encourage independent exploration, and stretch learning far beyond the classroom walls.

We invite you to log on and explore the new website today to take full advantage of these fantastic tools to support your child's educational journey.



Pop and Rock Gala

On the evening of Wednesday 11th March, I had the pleasure of attending the Services for Education Pop and Rock Gala, where the Bournville School ensemble delivered a truly memorable performance. The event brought together talented young musicians from across Birmingham, and our students rose to the occasion with confidence, energy, and professionalism.

It was particularly wonderful to see students from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 collaborating so effectively, showcasing not only their musical ability but also their teamwork and commitment. Their performances of 'Iris' by the Goo Goo Dolls and 'Teenage Kicks' by The Undertones were both powerful and engaging.

The dedication and hard work the students have shown over weeks of rehearsals were evident throughout their set. They performed with confidence on a large stage, in front of a substantial audience, which is no small achievement. Their enthusiasm and courage were inspiring, and they represented the school with pride and professionalism.

We are incredibly proud of all the students involved. Opportunities like this not only highlight their musical talents but also help to build resilience, confidence, and a lifelong love of performance. A special thank you must go to Miss Charterton, Mr Palmer, and Mr Tolley for their continued support and guidance. Their commitment to nurturing our students' talents, both during rehearsals and on the night itself, played a vital role in the success of the performance.

I very much look forward to seeing what this talented group will achieve next.

Miss Walton

Subject lead of Creative Arts, Design and Technology



The 'Smashed' Project

On 4th March, Year 7 and Year 8 pupils had a performance from the Smashed Project performance theatre group as part of their learning within their PSHE curriculum. The performance was about the dangers of drinking alcohol and about peer pressure leading young people to drinking even when they knew that they should not. The story followed a teenager and his two older friends. Despite his academic success and talents outside of school as a footballer and athlete, he succumbed to peer pressure and drank more than he should have done. Aside from the immediate after-effects, he knew it was not in his character and felt ashamed of his behaviour.



Pupils engaged well with the content and in the forum theatre afterwards had the chance to provide some really excellent answers, showing how well informed they are about the dangers of alcohol. They also knew what to do if someone they knew was in a similar situation, offering a wealth of answers about what they could do to support a friend or peer. It was a really memorable way to share some important safety and wellbeing messages.

World Book Day



Students and staff at Bournville School celebrated World Book Day with a day full of imagination, storytelling, and fun activities across both the primary and secondary phases.

In the secondary phase, the day began with a series of assemblies to launch a new reading initiative designed to encourage students to develop a stronger reading habit. As part of the new policy, students are now encouraged to bring a book to school every day as part of their essential equipment, ensuring they always have something to read and helping to build a culture of reading throughout the

school.

Teachers also embraced the spirit of the day by dressing up as well-known literary characters, much to the delight of students. The costumes sparked conversations about favourite books and authors and helped bring stories to life in the classroom.

Students were also invited to take part in a creative writing competition, where they must write their own original story that includes a character from an existing book. The competition aims to inspire creativity while encouraging students to engage more deeply with the books they love.

Macbeth performance in school

KS4 students had the opportunity to watch a production of *Macbeth* performed for them in the school hall. It was a wonderful experience, which allowed them to consolidate their study of the play, as well as enjoying the text as Shakespeare intended – aloud!

The production was a small team of three actors who used costumes, voice and gestures to play a variety of characters, all while still staying faithful to the text.

Many Year 11 students commented that hearing the key quotations in the context of each scene really helped them to understand the impact and meanings intended by the author.

After the performance, the actors were kind enough to run a Q&A session where they shared more fascinating insights into the psychology of the characters, contextual links and their own personal interpretations of key scenes. Altogether, it was a great afternoon!

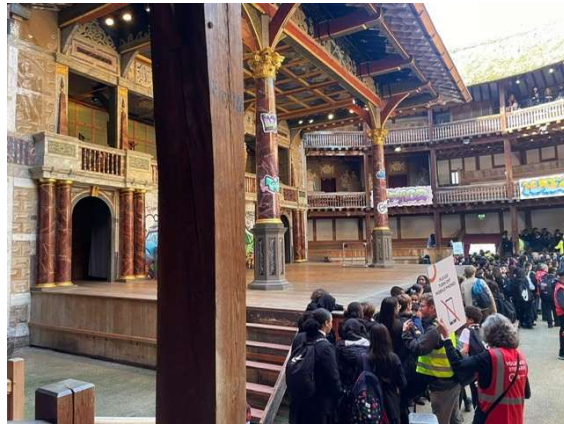


Globe Theatre Visit

On Monday 2nd March, Year 9 pupils enjoyed a trip to the Globe Theatre in London to watch a performance of *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. The performance was a modern adaptation of the play, featuring drums, bikes and dancing, which brought a fresh and energetic feel to the classic story.

Pupils behaved excellently throughout the day and had a fantastic time. Thank you to all staff and parents who supported the trip and helped make it such a success.

We look forward to our next trip on 24th March, when we will be taking Year 8 to see a performance of *Noughts & Crosses* at the Birmingham Rep Theatre.



Art- Spring 2

In Art, during this half term students have been working hard on several different projects and assignments. Year 7 have been learning about Islamic art and have created prints inspired by arabesque patterns. Year 8 have been creating sustainable sculptures inspired by the work of Patianne Stevenson. Year 9 have been learning about the fashion illustrations of Hayden Williams and portraits of Delita Martin. Year 10 have been working on their independent project (Fantastic and Strange) and Year 11 have been working on their ESA (examination) projects.

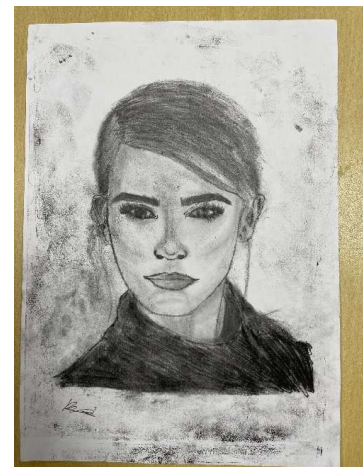
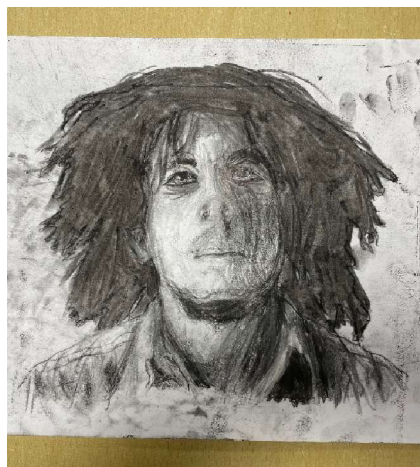
Year 7- Islamic Art inspired prints by Negassi, Jiayu and Tijorde.



Year 8- Sustainable sculptures inspired by Patianne Stevenson by Maja, Celeste and Safi.



Year 9- Delita Martin inspired monoprints (work in progress) by Amara, Alice and Bonnie.



Art- Extra-Curricular Clubs

Wednesday- KS3 Art Club

Friday- KS4 Art Club



Follow us on Instagram

@bournville_school_art

Winter Walks Photography Competition

We are pleased to announce the winners of our Winter Walks photography competition.

1st place- Ruby Year 9 (Left)

2nd place- Ella Year 8 (Middle)

Runner-up- Max- Year 8 (Right)



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 Or directly to The Barber Institute Art Gallery- info@barber.org.uk

Current and future themes-

April- Shapes

May- Food and Drink



Internet Safety & Cyber Opportunities at Bournville

This term, students at Bournville took part in a range of activities to mark Safer Internet Day, with a strong focus on the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence. Assemblies were delivered across the school, highlighting both the opportunities and risks associated with AI, while all KS3 students engaged in dedicated lessons exploring how to use AI tools safely, ethically, and effectively.

In addition, we were proud to take a group of Year 8 girls to Aston University for the Cyber Girls First workshop - the first time Bournville students have attended this event. The day provided an exciting introduction to the world of cyber security, where students learned about the growing threat of cyber-attacks and the vital role that coding and cyber professionals play in protecting organisations.

The workshop also highlighted an important issue: although women make up around 50% of the UK population, they represent only about 12% of the cyber and IT workforce. Through inspiring talks from successful women in the industry, girls were encouraged to consider future pathways in technology and to challenge stereotypes around careers in computing.

This experience was both informative and empowering, and we look forward to building on these opportunities in the future.

Have a lovely easter break and keep safe online!

Mrs Mirza

Subject Lead - Computing



Bournville School Celebrates Education Business Awards Nomination



Bournville School was proud to be nominated for the **Community Award** at this year's Education Business Awards, an accolade that recognises outstanding engagement with local schools, partnerships with businesses, and the wide-ranging services offered to parents.

The nomination reflects Bournville School's commitment not only to its students but to the wider community it serves. From fostering strong local partnerships to supporting families beyond the classroom, the school demonstrates a deep understanding of its responsibility to make a positive impact both inside and outside its walls.

Although Bournville School did not take home the award this year, staff and students alike are proud to have been acknowledged alongside such prestigious nominees. The recognition reinforces the school's dedication to community engagement. Bournville School looks forward to continuing its partnerships and initiatives, ensuring that its role as a community hub remains at the heart of its mission.

Why Attendance and Punctuality Matter

Being in school every day is one of the most important steps students can take towards success. Regular attendance not only supports strong academic achievement but also ensures that students can fully benefit from everything Bournville School has to offer.

Each lesson builds on the last and missing even one day can make it harder to keep up. When students attend consistently, they develop confidence in their learning, strengthen key skills, and give themselves the best chance of achieving their full potential.

But school is about much more than lessons. Our wider school offer includes a range of activities, enrichment opportunities, and experiences designed to help students grow, discover new interests, and build friendships. From clubs and events to hands-on learning opportunities, being present every day means not missing out on these valuable experiences.

Punctuality is just as important. Students are expected to be in school by 8:20am for an 8:30am start. Arriving on time helps students begin the day calmly, prepared, and ready to learn. It also ensures they don't miss important instructions or key learning at the start of lessons.

We are proud to recognise and reward excellent attendance. Students who attend regularly can earn certificates, prizes, and special rewards throughout the year. One popular incentive is the lunch pass ticket, which allows students to go straight to the front of the queue – a small perk that makes a big difference!

By attending every day and arriving on time, students set themselves up for success, both academically and personally. Let's work together to make every school day count.



Upcoming Key Dates:

	Secondary	Primary
Thursday 16 th April	Twilight CPD session	
Friday 17 th April	Donnington Park Trip (10 students, Y10)	
Thursday 23 rd April	Y8 Progress Evening	
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday – School closed	
W/C 11 th May	Y11 GCSE Exams start	Y6 SATs week
13 th May	Y9 National Space Centre	
W/C 18 th May		Assessment Week
Thursday 21 st May		Reception Assembly
Friday 22 nd May	Culture Day	
Friday 22 nd May	Break up for half term	

SEND Update

As always, we want to help families learn about the support available for children and young people with SEND. This month, we share helpful events from Autism West Midlands and support from BREWS Education. We also remind you how to contact the SEND team if you need help.

BREWS Education – Support for Families of Neurodivergent Children

BREWS Education helps families of neurodivergent children.

- They offer free courses to help parents understand ADHD and other needs.
- They run six-week programmes online and in person around Birmingham.
- They share simple ideas that can help children at home and in school.
- Sessions are led by trained staff, including adults who are also neurodivergent.
- Families can ask questions and share their experiences.
- They give guidance about assessments and what to expect next.
- They help families understand support in school, including reasonable adjustments.
- Further information is available at <https://brewseducation.org/>

Autism West Midlands – Upcoming Events & Support

- Rising to the Challenge (Birmingham & Solihull): A six-week programme supporting parents and carers in developing a deeper understanding of autism and practical strategies for home and school.
- Adult Autism Confident Programme: A supportive group programme for autistic adults in Birmingham and Solihull, offered both online and in person at Sense TouchBase Pears, Selly Oak.
- Dad's Group (Selly Oak): A relaxed support group for dads of autistic young people, offering a chance to meet others, share experiences and access practical advice.
- For full event details and updates, visit: <https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/events/>

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

We have been asked by Birmingham City Council to inform parents about the Birmingham Local Offer Website. The Birmingham Local Offer website gives clear information about SEND support for children and young people aged 0–25. It includes information about education, health, social care, travel, activities and wellbeing support.

You can also find guidance about Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). There are contact details, FAQs and ways to give feedback.

Explore the Birmingham Local Offer: <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk>

The Local Offer is designed to make it easier for families to access the right support at the right time.

Contacting the SEND Department

For SEND enquiries, please contact the team via: bv-sendco@bournville.fmat.co.uk