



## Diary dates

### Wednesday 14th September

Y12 school photo (*please see page 2 for more details*)

### Wednesday 14th September

School production auditions

### Wednesday 14th September

Whole school photo (*please see page 2 for more details*)

### Thursday 15th September

Main school open evening (*early closure: please see page 2 for more details*)

### Tuesday 20th September

Y12 information evening

### Thursday 22nd September

Awards evening (*invites sent by email*)

### Thursday 29th September

Y12 & 13 National apprenticeship show

### Thursday 20th October

Y12 & 13 careers fair

## Welcome back



The joy of welcoming students to school this week has, of course, been tempered with our sadness at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. She represented values of duty, dignity and personal integrity. Her Majesty was of a different era – one characterised by stoic determination and a sense of tradition, very different from the fickle, ever-changing world of today. It was a world in which service to a greater good was regarded as the highest ideal. With her death, one more link to that era has passed.

It is, however, important not to forget what we learn from the past and so, amongst many improvements to our site made over the summer, we've planted an anniversary garden celebrating 50 years of Bournside School. The quad, a formerly drab concrete square, is now full of beautiful shrubs, trees, grasses and flowers. As I've been saying in assemblies this week – before hearing of the death of Queen Elizabeth - gardens are a great metaphor for life in a school. Some of those new plants are looking a little small, a little thin. They will, however, grow and develop and thrive. In the same way our students will grow. They'll push down deep roots into the fertile soil of the curriculum – of what is taught both in and out of the classroom. And just as a tree grows tall and strong, so our students will develop their understanding, their knowledge and their skills. Of course, at the moment some of those new plants need stakes and posts to support them. At this time of national mourning and beyond, our students too will need support from time to time. When they do, we're here to help.

Of course, during the winter, the garden's colour and beauty will fade; but, imagine what the spring will bring! At times of sadness – be they national or individual – there is always hope. We should learn from bygone eras but we also look optimistically to what lies ahead.

I wish all of our students well in the year to come – a year which may have begun with sadness but which will be a year of growth and of learning and the irreplaceable joy of school life.

Mr Jefferies | Headteacher

## Message from Mr Warren



It has been fantastic to welcome all of our Sixth Form students to Bournside this week. Year 12 students started with us on Wednesday and with some of our students joining us for the very first time, it was lovely to see all of the Year 12 students chatting and catching up before the start of school and forging the friendships that will carry them through the Sixth Form. Year 13 students joined us yesterday, and it has been great to have all of Sixth Form community together. We have had an excellent start to the year and Year 12 are busy 'finding their way' in their A-level subjects and I fully appreciate that it will take them a little time to familiarise themselves with the Sixth Form and our routines. Year 13 students had an assembly with me yesterday and we outlined the priorities for what will be an incredibly important and final year for them at Bournside School.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students the very best of luck for the forthcoming academic year.

Mr Warren | Head of Sixth Form

## Student success

### Students celebrate A-level exam success



In the Summer break, students and staff celebrated the outstanding achievements and destinations of Sixth Form students

Steve Jefferies, Headteacher said, "Today we are delighted to celebrate the outstanding success of our Sixth Form students. Following the disruption of the pandemic, comparisons with previous years can be difficult. However, I'm very pleased that our results are not only an improvement on 2019 (the last time exams took place), but even an improvement on the 2021 and 2020 grades. These are record-breaking results.

"The average grade gained was a B. 17% of our students gained three or more A levels at grade A or A\*; 45% gained three or more A levels at grade B or better.

"Of all the A'levels awarded, 62% of grades gained were Bs or better, 32% were As or better and an amazing 11% of A'levels A\*s!"

Read more [here](#).

### Drama studio transformation



Andy 'Dice' Davies, organiser of the Cheltenham Paint Festival, has helped the Drama department at Cheltenham Bournside School to transform the Drama studio over the summer break.

With a team of Year 12 A-level Art students volunteers, Andy transformed the studio space with three large-scale monochrome portraits of famous theatre practitioners; Steve Berkoff, Konstantin Stanislavsky and Bertolt Brecht.

Thank you to our Sixth Form students; Emma, Heather, Olive, Oscar, and Thea.

## Sixth Form updates

### Early closure: Thursday 15th September

The whole school will close at 1:05pm on Thursday 15th September to accommodate for the main school open evening.

The dining centre will be open if students wish to stay for lunch until 1:40pm. Please be aware that provisions will also be made on this day for students who are entitled to free school meals.

We warmly invite all prospective students, parents and guardians to join us at our open evening between 5:30pm-8:00pm. Further details for this event can be found on the school website [here](#).

This is an excellent opportunity for our Sixth Form students to volunteer and act as guides for the evening. If students would like to sign up to help please visit the Sixth Form office.

Thank you in advance to those students involved in supporting this important event.

## Sixth Form updates continued ...

### Whole school photo

On Wednesday 14th September students in year 12 will have their individual school photographs taken. Students need to look smart and be ready for their individual photos. Parents will have an opportunity to purchase their child's photograph in the coming weeks.

We are also excited to inform you that to mark our 50th anniversary year we will be taking a whole school photograph for the first time in many years! If the weather allows us, our students will be coming together on the school field as one community to mark our anniversary year. Students need to look smart for this event.

### Term 1 extra-curricular timetable

An updated version of the current terms extra-curricular timetable can now be found [here](#).

### School production auditions



This year's school production is Sister Act!

We welcome Sixth Form students to audition on Wednesday 14th September. If you are interested please see the audition requirements [here](#) or in the Showbie group D4VBC. If you have any questions please speak with a Music or Drama teacher.

### Year 12 parent information evening

On Tuesday 20th September Sixth Form will be hosting an information evening for Year 12 parents/carers . This will involve a presentation by Sixth Form staff outlining the year ahead for your children.

## Community notices

### Useful links

[Sport fixtures](#)  
[What's for lunch?](#)  
[School calendar](#)  
[Extra-curricular timetable](#)

#### Tennis club

The Cheltenham Civil Service Tennis Club are hosting a tennis club open day on Sunday 25th September from 3-6pm.

To find out more information and to book your free place click the link [here](#).

## House points

Frank

225

Owens

194

Hawking

168

Parks

157

Rowling

145

Attenborough

141