



**CHEL TENHAM  
BOURN SIDE  
SCHOOL**

Autumn term 2023

# Sixth Form News

A round up of Sixth Form good news at Cheltenham Bournside School



## Senior House Captains 2023/24

We are delighted to introduce our 13 Senior House Captains for the 2023/24 Academic Year. Taking on the key student leadership role during their important A-Level year, the Senior House Captains are appointed following an interview process. They are prominent role models for students across the school and an accessible and supportive team.

Mr Warren, Head of Sixth Form, said "The Senior House Captains are excellent ambassadors and role models for students in school. They should be extremely proud of being appointed to these positions of responsibility. I am sure they will represent the study body admirably."

**Attenborough House - Lisa and Jake**  
**Frank House - Victor and Olivia**  
**Hawking House - Liam and Eloise**

**Owens House - Joseph and Emma**  
**Parks House - Lauren, James and Grace**  
**Rowling House - Sam and Naomi**

## General Election predictions at the Literature Festival



Year 12 and 13 politics students went to see Matt Chorley interview a panel of election experts on what they think will happen at the next General Election in the 'The Times Radio Debate: What Election Year Is It?' live broadcast at this year's Cheltenham Literature. An interesting and lively debate!

- Miss Brown

## House points - Term 1 & 2

Attenborough Frank

Hawking

20665

20648

20888

Owens

Parks

Rowling

21214

20387

21603





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## Inspire Lecture: Professional Michael Wooldridge

Thank you to Professional Michael Wooldridge from the University of Oxford who joined us as part of our Inspire Lecture Series. Professor Wooldridge joined Year 13 maths students for lunch before delivering a fascinating lecture on AI.

There were some fantastic questions from the students after learning about three different types of AI and current areas of AI research focus. A brilliant afternoon!

- Mrs Hemsley

## Upcoming Inspire Lectures

**06.03.24** - 'The Journey Towards the Within', Martin Wood, Senior Lecturer in Religion, Philosophy & Ethics, Uni of Glos

**23.04.24** - 'Studying Fine Art', Susie Olczak, Lecturer in Fine Art, Uni of Glos

**15.05.24** - 'Journey into Television', Juliet Russell, Lecturer BA Television, Uni of Glos

**11.06.24** - 'Why Journalism can be the Best Job Ever', Paul Wiltshire, BA Journalism course leader, Uni of Glos

## Whole School Remembrance Service



Students and staff came together to commemorate Remembrance Day in a special student-led service, honouring the Armed Forces and all those whose lives have been affected by war and conflict.

Students and staff wore their poppies, the symbol for veteran's organisations, with pride. The Last Post was played by Toby Perona-Wright in Year 7, supported by graduate student, Thomas Agombar following speeches and readings from Mr Jefferies, Head of History, Mr Lockyer and Senior House Captains Sam and Emma. Thank you also to Finn and Harry in Year 13 for their support of the event.



**We were pleased to donate  
£130 to the Royal British  
Legion from the sale of poppies  
at school.**

**Thank you for your support.**



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## Student Awards 2023



Over 70 students and their families came together at the Parabola Arts Centre in Cheltenham to celebrate the **Cheltenham Bournside School Awards**. Senior and graduate students were recognised across all subject areas for outstanding academic achievement and progress, as well as their contribution to the life of the school.

Individual student citations celebrated many things, including; inspirational ideas, sensitive and thoughtful responses to sources, passion and work ethic, enthusiasm, courage, attitude to learning, mastery, focus and tenacity.

Guest speaker, **Lucy Beresford**, Joint Managing Director of **SLG Brands**, the Cheltenham-based design-led international beauty brand company, delivered an inspiring and motivational address, recounting her career journey and offering valuable advice and encouragement to the students.

Guests were entertained during the evening by graduate student, **Cal Herron** playing the piano, and a stunning performance by graduate student, **Daisy Williams**.

Well done to all of our Award winners!

## Celebrating the hard-earned Duke of Edinburgh Award achievement of over 130 students



In early December we held a Duke of Edinburgh Awards celebration evening for more than 130 students who have achieved the award at Bronze, Silver and Gold over the past 12 months.

Joined by guest speakers Rachel Smith, Bournside of DofE Alumni, and Paul Webb from H5 Adventure, the ceremony recognised student achievement at all levels of the award and the efforts that staff and volunteers have made to ensure the scheme is so successful. Congratulations to everyone involved!

"Success in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme is hard-earned. It's not easy! It is, therefore, a real pleasure to spend some time this evening celebrating those of our students who have risen to the challenge." - **Mr Jefferies, Headteacher**





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## Young Musician Concert - Pittville Pump Rooms

"A huge congratulations to students who took part in the Cheltenham Music Festival Society lunchtime concert series. The students performed to a full Pump Rooms audience performing a range of solos and choral items brilliantly. It was a great first performance of the year."

- Mr Cutress, Head of Music

## Sixth Form student, Sasha, featured in The Times

### Families foster lasting bonds with Ukraine refugees 18 months on

Moving to England from war-torn Ukraine has given sixth-form student Sasha the drive to study so he can one day rebuild his country's economy. That, and a love of Coventry City FC and gravy (Katie Gibbons writes). Sasha left his family in Kyiv aged 17 and is one of more than 150,000 people welcomed by British families under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. A year-and-a-half after the first refugees arrived, figures show many hosts would like their guests to stay. Sasha arrived in Cheltenham in June last year after an anonymous British supermodel offered to pay for his flight. Laura Davis, a retired teacher, and her husband Eric, a clinical psychologist, felt compelled to open their home to people fleeing the Russian attacks. "To be honest it reminded us of the evacuees in World War Two," she said. "Sasha has been an absolute joy in our lives." The couple, who have adult children, became Sasha's foster parents last year. He has introduced them to Ukrainian dancing and they have opened his palate to new flavours. "He has gone pudding mad. Can you imagine introducing gravy and custard to someone who has never had it before? Well, we now have them on everything," said Mrs Davis, 58. Sasha started school ten days after arriving in Cheltenham and is now in the last year of sixth form studying maths, economics and business. He hopes to

attend university in the UK and for a career in finance. "I get upset when I hear news from Ukraine, but I know I can't change it," he said. "The only thing I can do is become successful and then go back ... and help build up the economy." Thanks to his foster father he supports Coventry City and regularly attends games — and is a fan of British pubs. "Laura and Eric are such great people, they have helped me with everything," said Sasha. "It was risky for them to host me I guess, but we got along so well. I would like to do the same for someone else," he said. Figures from the Office of National Statistics show 51 per cent of hosts involved in the Homes for Ukraine scheme plan to provide accommodation for 18 months or longer, and most of these (67 per cent) said this was because they had built a strong relationship with their guests. A further 60 per cent said they would consider hosting people from other countries if there was a future refugee crisis. In the rural Sussex village of East Heathly, Ros and Alan Wilkinson opened their home to Alina Shostop, her infant son Denys and her mother Natalia in June 2022. The family, who fled their village outside Kyiv, were later joined by Alina's father Yuri, 56, who was exempt from fighting due to an injury. "When the war broke out it destroyed our plans for life. No-one knew where the next missile would hit," said Alina. "But when we arrived in England, we were met by the beautiful family ... they



Eric and Laura Davis became Sasha's foster parents following his move to Cheltenham. He has introduced them to Ukrainian dancing, while they have shown him the joys of custard and gravy surrounded us with care and daily help. So we easily adapted in a new country." With the help of her host family, Alina got a job in the kitchen of a local nursing home and was then promoted to cook — despite speaking no English. This has enabled her to now rent a three-bedroom house for the whole family in the village. Every week her English improves with the help of a volunteer teacher. "We are infinitely grateful to the Home for Ukraine scheme, which gave us a new home, wonderful friends, peace and a peaceful sky above our heads," she said. The community sponsorship charity Resettlement helps to match Ukrainian families with British hosts. Emma Harrison, director of strategy for the group, said: "Our matching programme team have worked tirelessly to ensure that people have been placed with suitable hosts, and communities up and down the country have come together to help their new guests and neighbours integrate. The feedback we get most often from hosts is that it has been a life-changing experience, and one which many would repeat again."

We were proud to see Sixth Form student, Sasha, featured in The Times newspaper, in print and online. Sasha was sharing his story of moving from war-torn Ukraine to live with a foster family in Cheltenham, 18 months on.

Sasha joined Bournside 10 days after arriving in Cheltenham and is now in Year 13 studying maths, economics and business. After A Levels, he hopes to attend university in the UK and for a career in finance.

Mrs Haines, EAL Coordinator, said; "Sasha is one of 11 Ukrainian refugee students at Bournside and we are proud of what he is achieving with us. Sasha is a committed student and acts as a mentor, friend and role model to our younger Ukrainian students."





## School news and updates

### Bournside borrows the moon

In Term 2 the Science department literally 'borrowed the moon' to showcase real lunar rocks, meteorites and investigation equipment. Between 1969 and 1972, six manned Apollo missions successfully landed on the Moon, allowing the astronauts to collect samples and bring them back to Earth for study.

The rocks and samples on display included:

- Orange soil collected by Apollo 17 (you can find the exact site on Google Moon)
- A large iron meteorite from Argentina with a recorded history dating back to 1576
- An ammonite fossil 65 million years old and a 14.7 million year old 'Moldavite impactite', glass formed when a meteorite landed in Germany.

Mr James, Teacher of Physics (pictured centre) said, "It has been fantastic to see students, parents and staff all getting to explore the cosmos in the most direct way we can, actually getting to touch a piece of space. The event left visitors inspired and interested to learn more about astronomy, and we will look to borrow the moon again in future to bring that inspiration to our next generation of students."

Thank you to Dan N, Ruby E, Millie H, Chloe W, William G, Connor B, Evie H, Ella J, Evie P and Emma M in Years 10, 12 and 13 who helped at the event and to UK Research and Innovation for lending us the samples.

### Launch of Activities Week 2024!



Details of our fantastic Activities Week programme which takes place during the week commencing Monday 8th July, 2024 have been launched.

This year's programme offers four days of exciting enrichment trips and opportunities for all students in Year 12 (if they have completed work experience), plus a Sports and House Day on Friday 12th July.

Activity Choice selections are now LIVE and all information, specific to each year group, can be found in the letter you have been emailed.

**Mr Kelly, Assistant Headteacher**