BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Newsletter

October 2026



#weareBSG

Work Hard | Be Kind | Be Ambitious

CASTLE GATE CLOSE. CASTLE LANE WEST. BOURNEMOUTH. BH8 9UJ.
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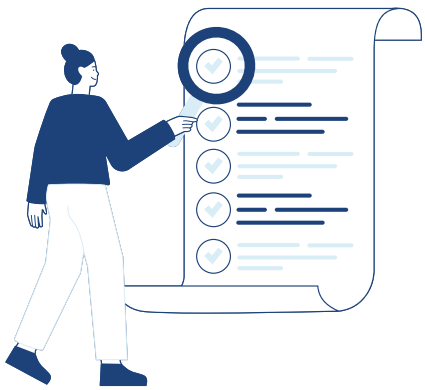
A message from the Headteacher

I write at the end of a half term that has been unusual both for its length and for the exceptionally dry and warm weather that characterised much of the first few weeks. It has, as ever, been a busy and productive start to the academic year, marked by the arrival of our new Year 7 and Year 12 students, a fresh start for everyone and, particularly as we have moved into October, the resumption of a full programme of trips, visits and extracurricular activities.

We have also welcomed a number of new colleagues to the school, including Miss Westlake, who joins us as Careers Administrator, covering for Miss Lee, who has recently begun her maternity leave. We also send our very best wishes to Mrs Hyde-Tetley, who has also recently started her maternity. During her absence, Mrs Darling has taken over as Head of Rossetti House, and I am most grateful to her for stepping into this important role. We wish both colleagues and their families all the very best and look forward to welcoming them back in due course.

At the start of a new academic year, it is also important to celebrate the achievements of those who completed their studies with us in the summer. We were delighted to see so many of our Year 11 and Year 13 students progress successfully to their chosen next steps, whether continuing into our Sixth Form or moving on to university, apprenticeships and other opportunities. Their achievements are a reminder of what sustained effort, ambition and excellent teaching can make possible. Meanwhile, our current Year 13 students are already preparing their university applications and making important decisions about their futures. This is always an exciting time in the Sixth Form, and I am grateful to the many colleagues who support students through this process.

As pupils have settled into their academic studies, teachers have also been working together on a number of whole-school teaching and learning priorities. This term, we have focused particularly on the starts of lessons, with the great majority now beginning with a short 'do now' task designed to engage pupils immediately in their learning. We have also been working to ensure that learning outcomes are shared explicitly with pupils and that teachers provide regular opportunities to assess understanding as lessons progress.



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For this 'assessment for learning', as we call it, many teachers make extensive use of mini whiteboards, which provide an excellent means of checking the understanding of an entire class at once. One consequence is that we are now getting through a remarkable number of whiteboard pens! It would help enormously if every pupil had their own whiteboard pen, so may I ask that all students are equipped with one (or preferably two) for the start of the spring term in January. They are readily available and inexpensive, and by making this a standard item of school stationery, we will save both time and money.



Teaching staff have also been focusing on refining assessment practices across the school, with the aim of ensuring that the 'working at' grades we report to parents are as accurate and meaningful as possible and provide a reliable basis for projecting likely grades at the end of courses. Whilst this may sound straightforward, it is actually a surprisingly complex task. Teachers must make judgements about both the quality and quantity of assessment evidence, balancing the need for reliable information with the equally important need to protect teaching time. End-of-topic tests, formal examinations and day-to-day classroom assessment all have a part to play. There is still work to do, but I believe we have made significant progress in this area.



Nowhere is the importance of accurate assessment more apparent than in the predicted grades we provide for university applications. These must be both fair and realistic. Underestimating a student's likely achievement risks limiting the range of university courses available to them, whilst overestimating can create unrealistic expectations and lead to offers that students are subsequently unable to meet. It is a difficult balance to strike, particularly when predictions are made many months before the final examinations.

Nevertheless, it is an area in which we are determined to improve. To illustrate the challenge, in 2026 only around one in five A-level grades awarded matched the grades we had predicted for UCAS purposes. Whilst there are several factors behind this, it is clear that we need to develop greater consistency and realism in our predictions, without losing sight of our ambition for every student to fulfil her potential. Our aim is certainly not to lower aspirations, but to ensure that the advice and predictions we provide give students the best possible foundation for making informed decisions about their futures.

It is now eight weeks since our new smart device policy was introduced. I recognise that the changes have caused some inconvenience for families, particularly in relation to travel arrangements and communication before and after school. Nevertheless, I have been extremely pleased with the way the policy has been implemented and, above all, with the response of the girls themselves.



There has been a very marked reduction in the use and visibility of smartphones around the school, and I hope this reflects something more significant: that pupils are genuinely benefiting from a break from social media and the constant demands of the online world, at least during the school day. I remain convinced that this is an important step in protecting their wellbeing and helping them to focus on their learning and the friendships and experiences that make school life so valuable. I am grateful to parents for their support and for accommodating the practical difficulties that have arisen, and I would particularly like to thank the girls for their cooperation and maturity.

Our Year 11 girls have arguably felt the change more keenly than most, and I have been especially impressed by their response. In recognition of this, I am happy to agree to their request to allow the use of tablets and laptops during the mock examination period after half term to support their revision, subject to the usual expectations regarding their appropriate use. This is a limited concession for a specific academic purpose, rather than a relaxation of our smartphone rules. If the arrangement works well, I shall also consider allowing access to these devices during Learning Curve lessons in the spring term, once taught course content has been completed and these lessons become dedicated periods of independent study.

As is customary, I would like to thank all parents who have supported school activities this term, whether by enabling their daughters to participate in trips and visits, joining us for the Family Quiz or attending last night's excellent Autumn Concert. These occasions are such an important part of school life and contribute enormously to the sense of community that makes BSG special. It has also been an exceptionally busy term for everyone involved with the PSA, whose hard work and enthusiasm do so much to support the school.

Before long, we shall be looking forward to the events that make the second half of the autumn term so rewarding: the Christmas Fayre, Founders' Day and, of course, the Christmas Concert. I hope to see many of you at these and other occasions in the weeks ahead.

For now, however, after a particularly long and busy half term, I suspect that pupils and teachers alike are feeling ready for a break. I hope that the coming week will provide everyone with an opportunity to recharge their batteries, perhaps quite literally by putting their devices to one side for a while! There is much to be gained from slowing down, reading a good book, getting outdoors, enjoying the company of friends and family and simply having time to think. In our increasingly busy and connected world, these are pleasures we should never underestimate.

May I wish all our pupils, families and staff a very happy and restful half term.

David Sims

Headteacher



Inset day
- Monday | 2 November

All Students return to school
- Tuesday | 3 November

Sixth Form Open Events
- Open Evening | Thursday 5 November | 1800 – 2000
- Taster day | Tuesday 1 December

Non-School Uniform Day
- Friday | 13 November

PSA Craft Fayre
- Saturday 14 November | 1000 – 1600

Year 12 Parents' Evening - Virtual
- Thursday | 3 December | 1600 – 2000

Christmas lunch
- Year 7 – 8 | Wednesday | 9 December
- Year 9 – 10 | Thursday | 10 December
- Year 11 – 13 | Friday | 11 December

Christmas Jumper day - All Years
- Thursday | 10 December

Founders' Day - Richmond Hill St Andrew's URC
- Tuesday | 15 December | 1000 – 1245 | See Page 14 for further details

Christmas Carol Concert - Richmond Hill St Andrew's URC
- Wednesday | 16 December | 1900 – 2100

Term ends
- All year groups | Friday 18 December | 1245

Governor Update

View from the Chair

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our students and families, particularly those joining our school community for the first time.

Grammar schools have a long tradition of academic excellence, and we are rightly proud of the achievements of our students. Their examination results, university destinations, sporting successes, musical performances and wider contributions to school life reflect not only their hard work and determination but also the dedication of our staff and the invaluable support of parents and carers.

During the past year, governors have continued to strengthen their understanding of the school's work through regular meetings, link governor visits and the annual departmental review process. The summaries presented to the governing body showcased the exceptional quality of teaching and learning across the curriculum, highlighted innovative practice and celebrated the commitment of staff to continually improving outcomes for students. It was particularly encouraging to see evidence of departments not only maintaining high standards but also reflecting critically on their performance and identifying opportunities for further development.

One of the most striking themes emerging from the departmental reviews was the breadth and quality of curriculum enrichment available to students. Governors were impressed by the extensive programme of educational visits, residential and international trips, academic competitions, subject societies and clubs, intervention programmes, leadership opportunities and the strong partnerships departments have developed with universities, employers and professional organisations.









Governor Update

These experiences enrich classroom learning, broaden horizons and help students develop the confidence, skills and aspirations needed for future success. The strength of this provision is a genuine asset of the school and reflects the commitment of staff to providing an education that extends well beyond the classroom.

Looking ahead, the most significant common development theme emerging from the departmental reviews is the continued refinement of assessment practices. Across a wide range of subject areas, departments are working to further strengthen how understanding is checked, how progress is monitored over time and how assessment information is used to adapt teaching and respond to students' needs. Governors welcome this coherent whole-school focus, recognising that effective assessment is fundamental to securing excellent outcomes and ensuring that all students make sustained progress. The emphasis on using assessment to inform teaching and learning reflects the school's commitment to evidence-informed practice and continuous improvement.

While academic excellence remains central to the school's mission, we recognise that success in education extends far beyond examination results alone. Today's young people face a variety of pressures, and it is therefore essential that high expectations are matched by strong pastoral care and a genuine commitment to student wellbeing.



As governors, we are committed to supporting a balanced educational experience that enables students to flourish both academically and personally. Through the school's pastoral systems, enrichment programme, leadership opportunities, sport, performing arts and wider co-curricular activities, students are encouraged to develop confidence, resilience, character and the skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Governor Update

The governing body's role is to provide strategic oversight, support and appropriate challenge to school leaders, ensuring that the school remains ambitious for every student while staying true to its values. We are fortunate to be part of a school community where students, staff, parents and governors work together with a shared commitment to excellence.

As we look ahead to the year before us, the governing body remains focused on maintaining the highest academic standards while ensuring that student wellbeing remains at the heart of school life. We are confident that the school's strong culture of achievement, care and opportunity will continue to enable every student to fulfil their potential and thrive.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank our students, staff, parents and carers for their continued support and wish everyone a successful and rewarding year ahead.

As always, I endeavour to keep you informed about the work of the Board of Trustees. Should you wish to discuss any matters further, please feel free to contact me directly at pfitzpatrick@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk.

Paul Fitzpatrick

Chair of Governors



MEET OUR NEW
Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Taylor



Having grown up locally and attended school in the area, our new Deputy Headteacher brings a wealth of experience, a passion for education and a strong commitment to helping every student thrive.

ABOUT MRS TAYLOR

After studying Pharmacology at Cardiff University, Mrs Taylor spent six years working in the pharmaceutical industry before deciding to pursue a career in teaching. "I've never looked back. Education has given me the opportunity to make a real difference to young people's lives." Having lived locally all her life, she has long admired BSG's reputation.

> *"As a mum of girls myself, I feel passionately about ensuring young women have the confidence, opportunities and ambition to achieve whatever they set their minds to."*

A PASSION FOR EDUCATION

Mrs Taylor loved school and credits some incredibly passionate teachers for believing in her and encouraging her. "I can still remember the impact individual teachers had on me, and I wanted to be able to make that same difference to other young people."

WHAT MAKES A GREAT SCHOOL?

For her, schools are all about people. A great school is one where staff and students share a common purpose, where everyone feels valued and in support, and where there is a genuine belief in what we are trying to achieve. High expectations are important, but so are kindness, relationships and a sense of belonging.

MRS TAYLOR'S LEADERSHIP VALUES

- INTEGRITY
- LEADING BY EXAMPLE
- KINDNESS

LOOKING AHEAD

She is excited to get to know the students, staff and wider school community and to play a part in BSG's continuing journey. Her priority is to contribute to a school where students feel they belong, are encouraged to be ambitious and are confident about their futures.

GETTING TO KNOW MRS TAYLOR

HOBBIES OR INTERESTS?

"I absolutely love reading! I'm a great bookworm and can easily lose myself in a good book for hours. It's my favourite way to switch off and relax."

DINNER WITH ANYONE?

"I'd love to have dinner with Michelle Obama.
I admire her intelligence, authenticity and the way she advocates for education and opportunities for girls and women. I think she'd be fascinating to talk to, particularly about balancing family, career and leadership. I loved her books."

FAVOURITE BOOK?

"One of my favourite books is 'The Women' by Kristin Hannah. I love books that stay with you long after you've finished reading them, and this was definitely one of those. I wish I could read it again for the first time."

A MESSAGE FOR OUR STUDENTS

"Believe in yourselves, be ambitious and don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. Make the most of the opportunities available to you, work hard, be kind to one another and remember that success looks different for everyone."

HOPING TO BE DESCRIBED AS...

"Approachable, fair, supportive and someone who genuinely cares. Someone who listens, follows through on what they say and has high expectations because they want the very best for everyone. I'd also hope they would say someone who has made a positive contribution to the school and become a valued part of the BSG community."

Founders' Day

SAVE THE DATE

Richmond Hill St Andrew's United Reformed Church

TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2026

10.30AM

Year 7 – 8 : INSET day with first three lessons' work set on teams.

Year 9 – 13 : Mandatory attendance at the Founders' day ceremony.

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FREE SCHOOL MEAL HOLIDAY VOUCHER CHANGES

If you're worried about the cost of food or other household essentials, support is available.



Following changes to government funding, supermarket vouchers for school holidays will no longer be issued from October half term 2026 onwards.

Families can continue to access a range of food and financial support, including Let's Talk Money programme, crisis payments, community food support, Free School Meals, Holiday Activities and Food (HAF), Healthy Start Scheme, Crisis Payments, energy support and money advice.

BCP Council have created a new Food Support for Families page bringing together information about food, money and practical support available to families across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

The page also links to the Access to Food Map, where families can find local food banks, community fridges, food pantries, social supermarkets and community meals close to where they live.

Whether you're facing financial difficulties or need a little extra help, there are organisations across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole ready to support you.

Food Support for Families



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 05 NOVEMBER



6-8PM

TALKS FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM & STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM AT 6.10PM & 7PM

BOOKING NOT REQUIRED

SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

TUESDAY 01 DECEMBER



REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON WWW.WEAREBSG.UK/SIXTH-FORM AFTER THE OPEN EVENING ON 05 NOVEMBER 2026

click here

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BSG SIXTH FORM
BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

NEVER RUN OUT OF LUNCH MONEY!
SET UP PARENTPAY AUTO TOP-UP TODAY
Quick • Secure • Hassle-Free

With ParentPay Auto Top-Up, your child's account is automatically topped up whenever the balance falls below an amount you choose.

No low balances. No last-minute payments. No worries.

WHY USE AUTO TOP-UP?

✅ Ensures funds are always available for school meals
✅ Saves time and removes the need for manual top-ups
✅ Secure online payments through ParentPay
✅ You choose when the top-up happens
✅ You decide how much is added



SETTING UP IS EASY

1️⃣ Log in to your ParentPay account
2️⃣ Select Auto Top-Up
3️⃣ Choose:
- 💷 The balance that triggers a top-up
- 💷 The amount to be added

4️⃣ Click Save

That's it!

ParentPay will automatically top up your account whenever it reaches your chosen balance threshold so that your child's account never goes into deficit.

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Social media highlights

Our Social Media platforms are full of content from this term. Below are a few highlights. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or visit our website to stay up-to-date with school events as they happen.



National poetry day



School refurbishments

@BSGupdate

@weareBSG

www.wearebsg.uk



Clubs & Activities



School Events



Achievements

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FACE

November Timetable

PROMO CODE

Parents please see school emails for discount code

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Introduction to OCD	2 Nov 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	2 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	9 Nov 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 Nov 7pm
What is ACT?	10 Nov 10am
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	16 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 Nov 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	17 Nov 10am
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 7pm
FREE - Responding to Stress & Anxiety	19 Nov 7-8pm
Anxiety Explained	23 Nov 10am
Facing Defiance	23 Nov 7pm
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
School Anxiety	24 Nov 7pm



SCHOOL FUND

Support Our School, Shape Our Future!

Your donations help improve resources and facilities for everyone in our school. This funding supports additional items beyond the school's core budget, making a real difference to all students, both collectively and individually.

Scan one of the QR codes to set up a monthly card payment to the school.

Thank you

CLICK HERE

£10
per month

CLICK HERE

£20
per month

CLICK HERE

£50
per month

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BSG Alumni Network

Fancy reminiscing about the good old days?

Ex-students and staff are invited to join our next Alumni meet up and tour to reconnect with old friends, see how the school has changed and make new connections with fellow BSG Alumni.

REGISTER HERE



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BSG Alumni Network

Last term BSG launched a brand new Alumni network platform.

Bournemouth School for Girls (BSG) was founded in January 1918 and then moved to our current location in 1961. Over these many years the school has educated young ladies, likely to be perhaps around 20,000, now living and working locally and across the globe. The new alumni platform will provide a space for ex-pupils to reconnect with old friends, find out about what the school is doing and perhaps embrace opportunities to support current students. There will also be opportunities to attend events and tours. We intend that the platform becomes a community that interacts with each other and recognises this unique bond.

Alumni involved with local business may wish to consider special offers or discounts or take the opportunity to recruit previous BSG students via this portal. Previous staff are also invited to join this platform and reconnect. They may also perhaps attend a staff specific event in future.

The alumni community portal is provided by VeryConnect. Access to the community portal is free and links with the majority of major social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Linkedin.

Alumni are able to access the application forms via the following links.

Ex-Pupil: https://alumni.wearebsg.uk/user-application?role=Pupil
Ex-Staff: https://alumni.wearebsg.uk/user-application?role=Staff

If you attended BSG as either a student or staff member please feel free to join our network and share with friends and family who may also be interested in joining.



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BSG PSA

CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFT FAYRE

FREE ADMISSION

BIDDING WALL ★ LICENSED CAFE ★ TOMBOLA ★ ARTISAN GIFTS

Local Crafts | Jewellery | Soft Toys | Art | Glass | Ceramics | Christmas Decorations
Beauty Products | Bags | Clothes | Driftwood Gifts | Books | Sweets

SATURDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER
10AM-4PM

BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
CASTLE LANE WEST, BH8 9UJ

SPONSORED BY
Bournemouth University

BSG PSA

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

Give your uniform another life.

Don't bin it. Bring it back.

REUSE • SAVE • GIVE BACK

Good-quality school uniform can be resold affordably to another BSG family, helping families save money, reducing waste and raising funds to support students at BSG.

UNIFORM AMNESTY

BE PART OF THE CHANGE

Our BSG Sustainability Champions will be helping us give BSG uniform another life!



REUSE –
Keep good uniform in use for longer.

SUPPORT –
Affordable uniform for families, with every sale helping the PSA support the girls at BSG.

GIVE BACK –
Surplus funds support opportunities for BSG students through the PSA.

EVERY ITEM HAS A PURPOSE.

OUTGROWN YOUR BSG UNIFORM?

Donate – Good quality, clean items can be donated to BSG Pre-Loved and kept in use within our school community.

Please bring your BSG Uniform donations to school
or email us: uniform@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk for any questions.

Bournemouth Bay teacher training partnership

Teacher Training Courses



Scan to book onto an open event

KEY CONTACTS

Headteacher: Mr D Sims

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Taylor

Assistant Headteacher: Mr T Osborne

Assistant Headteacher: Mr N Weaver

Assistant Headteacher: Mr M Whiteside

Head of Sixth Form: Mrs L Swan

Head of Austen House: Miss H Wedge: hwedge@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk

Head of Curie House: Miss L Cooper: lcooper@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk

Head of Franklin House: Mrs S Mantle: smantle@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk

Head of Parks House: Mrs M Vincent: mvincent@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk

Head of Rossetti House: Mrs T Darling: tdarling@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk

Head of Shelley House: Mrs J Horton-Hill: jhorton-hill@bsg.bournemouth.sch.uk

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