



**School news and updates**

**Christmas design competition winner**

Thank you to everyone who entered our House Christmas design competition. Congratulations to **Achazia in Year 7 (Owens House)** for her festive and cheerful winning entry! We particularly liked the thought of six house reindeer singing Christmas carols outside of school!

Achazia's design features as the header above and will be used across our social media channels during the holidays, so please take a look and give it a thumbs up!

- 🏆 1st place: Achazia Wong, Year 7, Owens
- 🥈 Runner up: Kennedy Cumiskey, Year 10, Owens
- 🥉 Runner up: Louie Thomas, Year 7, Attenborough

- Mr Waters

**Year 7 Christmas disco**



Year 7 students had a super evening at the Christmas disco at the end of last week. What a fantastic year group they are and a real credit to our school in completing their first big term at Cheltenham Bournside. Thank you to Miss Wolsey for arranging the evening alongside the Sixth Form Young Enterprise team who led refreshments. Special thanks to Lily Green in Year 13 who DJ'ed on the night. A great way to celebrate the end of a busy term!

- Mr Waters

**Diary dates**

**Friday 22nd December**

- Last day of Term 2. Early finish 12.45pm.

**Monday 8th January**

- First day of Term 3

**Tuesday 9th - Friday 19th January**

- Year 13 Mock Exams

**Wednesday 10th January**

- GCSE Options information evening for parents and carers

**Tuesday 16th January**

- DoFE information evening

**Thursday 25th January**

- Sixth Form Open Evening, 5.30 - 8.00pm
- Early closure. Time TBC.

**House points**

Congratulations to Rowling!

Attenborough	Frank	Hawking
19772	20009	20288
Owens	Parks	Rowling
20613	19749	20971



## Headteacher's end of year message

As 2023 draws to a close, it's time to reflect on one of the busiest and most successful years in our history. We've had record numbers of families applying to send their children to our school. No doubt that's because, we've also had record exam results with Bournside's GCSE progress figure being amongst the very best schools in the country. We've also had a record number of students joining our sixth form, drawn to the newly renovated sixth form centre, one of the broadest curriculum offers in the area and, of course, expert, specialist teaching.

As ever, there's been a huge range of extra-curricular activities for students to choose from: sports, drama, dance, music, Duke of Edinburgh's award, debating. There is a growing range of rather esoteric clubs too: Latin, astronomy, knitting to name just a few of the activities catering for all tastes. This is a good opportunity to thank my colleagues who give up their own time to make all these things happen.

Another thing which draws families to our school is the quality of our pastoral care. Here, thanks are also due. My colleagues who offer support and guidance to those of our community who are struggling provide an irreplaceable service to students and their families.

Of course, the lifeblood of the school is what happens in the classroom. Our growing success has led to very many visitors from other schools coming into Bournside to see how it's done. Without fail they comment on the calm, purposeful environment in our classrooms where learners are ardently going about the business of learning. Again, this is an opportunity to thank teachers, teaching assistants and support staff who make this possible.

Sustaining the energy to keep all this going is no small thing and what very few see is that the same level of energy needed to teach a class is in evidence amongst our support teams: the cleaners, caretakers, site managers, administrative staff, finance and HR team, exams office, admissions, attendance, communications, technicians, caterers. Without these, the whole edifice which is a school would topple. Thank you.

The students, too, deserve thanks. Bournsiders are a great bunch: energetic, enthusiastic, respectful of one another and with a level of curiosity which inspires all of us.

Finally, I'd like to thank the parents and carers of our students. We value your feedback, your support, and the almost daily emails encouraging us and thanking us for what we've done. You may have noticed a theme in this: thankfulness. As I said at the lovely Christmas Carol service last week, thankfulness is the key. Yes, as we look back over the last year we're bound to find things we're not happy about but remaining thankful for what we've enjoyed and celebrating our (considerable) success seems to me to be the best way of starting a joyful Christmas holiday.

It's been a busy year – and a busy term. We're all ready for a rest and so, with thankfulness for all that we've been able to achieve and for the fortnight that lies ahead: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- Mr Jefferies





## School Awards 2023

On Tuesday evening over 70 students and their families came together at the Parabola Arts Centre in Cheltenham to celebrate the annual Cheltenham Bournside School Awards.

Senior and graduate students were recognised across all subject areas for outstanding academic achievement and progress, as well as their wider contribution to the life of school, and nine new Headteacher Awards were awarded to students in Years 9-11.

Guest speaker, Lucy Beresford, Joint Managing Director of [SLG Brands](#), the Cheltenham-based design-led international beauty brand company, joined the event to deliver an inspiring and motivational address, recounting her career journey and offering valuable advice and encouragement to the students.

The School Awards 2023 programme and a selection of photographs from the event can be found on our website. The full set of photographs will be available in the new school year.

Congratulations once again to all of our award winners, and many thanks to our fantastic guest speakers and musicians. Merry Christmas! <https://www.bournside.gloucs.sch.uk/.../student-awards-2023/>







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### Christmas Carols on Tour!

Thank you to the 13 Sixth Form students, accompanied by Mr Cutress, Mr Clift and Miss Shermon-Tame, who took Bournside Christmas Carols on a tour of Cheltenham this morning.

Wrapped in tinsel, lights and christmas jumpers the group set out to sing carols and to wish everyone a happy festive season, visiting Whittington House Nursing Home, The Secret Garden, Faithful House and Ambleside Care Home.

Mr Warren, Head of Sixth Form, said, "Thank you to the staff and students for their fantastic efforts today. Our travelling carol service is a popular feel-good annual event for everyone involved. The students enjoy spending time with residents from the local community and we hope they enjoyed themselves too!"

### Open Door food collection



Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our collection for Open Door. We were able to collect a fantastic amount via tutor groups before Open Door volunteer, Dennis, collected everything on Thursday. Thank you also to Mr Clarke for organising.

Your support is appreciated!

**- Mr Waters**

### House point celebration event



80 pupils across years 7-10 celebrated their term 1 house point success with a reward trip to Funky Laser Tag in Cheltenham this week.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to celebrate their hard-earned points, to socialise and mix with other pupils from their year group and across all houses.

A huge thank you to Tyran Handley (AKA Frezy) and the team at Funky Laser Tag for a brilliant day of fun and excitement.

**- Mr Taylor**



## School news and updates

### Bournside team named University of Gloucestershire Business Champions 2023!



Earlier this month, Bournside business students emerged as the undisputed champions in the University of Gloucestershire Business Challenge 2023. Samuel Lacy, Shafwan Choudhury, and Daniel Norris showcased their innovative ideas in front of eight other schools and a panel of four business experts.

Presenting their 'Student Hub' idea, which links students to live work experience opportunities, the panel unanimously voted Bournside as the winning team.

Mrs Dennis, Head of Business said, "This outstanding achievement not only reflects the hard work and dedication of Samuel, Shafwan, and Daniel but also highlights the excellence of Bournside in the realm of business education. We have much to celebrate, and this accomplishment is a testament to the quality of education and the spirit of innovation that defines our school. Congratulations to the team on this remarkable achievement!"

**You're not alone this CHRISTMAS**

 AnxietyUK 03444 775 774 <a href="http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk">www.anxietyuk.org.uk</a>	 SAMARITANS 16 123 <a href="http://www.samaritans.org">www.samaritans.org</a>	 mind 0300 123 3393 <a href="http://www.mind.org.uk">www.mind.org.uk</a>
 PYPYRUS 0800 068 41 41 <a href="http://www.papyrus-uk.org">www.papyrus-uk.org</a>	 ChildLine 0800 1111 <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a>	 Refuge 0808 2000 247 <a href="http://www.refuge.org.uk">www.refuge.org.uk</a>
 YOUNG MINDS TEXT YM to 85258 <a href="http://www.youngminds.org.uk">www.youngminds.org.uk</a>	 Switchboard LGBT+ helpline 0300 330 0630 <a href="http://www.switchboardlgbt">www.switchboardlgbt</a>	 shout 85258 here for you 24/7 TEXT SHOUT to 85258 <a href="http://www.giveusashout.org">www.giveusashout.org</a>
 CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY CALM 0800 58 58 58 <a href="http://www.thecalmzone.net">www.thecalmzone.net</a>	 Beat Eating disorders 0808 801 0677 <a href="http://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk">www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk</a>	 AA RECOVERY 0800 9177 650 <a href="http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk">www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk</a>

Other support organisations are available  
Please don't suffer in silence

**Cruse** Bereavement Support *You're not alone*  
0808 808 1677 [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk)

**CHELTENHAM BOURNSIDE SCHOOL**

**Cheltenham Bournside School**  
**Sixth Form Open Evening**  
Thursday 25th January 2024, 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Year 11 students and their families are warmly invited to our upcoming open evening:

- Hear from our Headteacher, Mr Jefferies, Head of Sixth Form, Mr Warren and our Senior House Captains
- Meet our outstanding teaching team
- Understand our extensive A level and BTEC offer, our three pathways and their entry requirements
- Explore our excellent resources, facilities and enrichment options
- Enjoy a coffee in our Sixth Form café
- Find out what it is like to be a part of our school community.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bournside.

Pre-register your interest in joining our Sixth Form:

**Ofsted** Good Provider

**Inspiring lives through learning**  
Warden Hill Road, Cheltenham, GL51 3EF

[Click here to read this week's student careers newsletter](#)

