



### Student Q&A with playwright, Dougie Blaxland

Mr Clarke, Teacher of English, organised a video call last week with playwright, Dougie Blaxland. Blaxland has written a musical drama called "Our Little Hour" which has been on at the Everyman Theatre this week.

The play concerns the real-life story of Walter Tull, who was both the first black player to play professional football in Britain, but also the first black officer to be appointed in the British Army. Tragically, Walter was killed in action in WW1.

"Dougie was so impressed with our Year 9s and the questions that they asked, that he gifted Year 9 students ten free tickets for each of the performances this week. A wonderful opportunity."

"There are clear links to the Year 9 English curriculum because two of the class readers this year are based on black culture, and it also fits with War Poetry later in Term 5. The title of the play comes from a poem called "But A Short Time to Live", by Leslie Coulsen, who was also killed in the trenches. We are grateful to Dougie for both his time with the students and the generous donation of tickets." - Mr Clarke, Teacher of English

### Reminder: How to report absence from school

Please use MCAS (MyChildatSchool) to report all absences and appointments

- Select + in the top right hand corner and tap Cheltenham Bournside School to start your message
- To send the message, select the blue icon >
- Your message will now be displayed in the message thread.

If reporting an absence or an appointment by phone, please call **01242 235555** and select **Option 1**. This will enable you to leave a voicemail for attendance which will be picked up promptly. - **Attendance Team**

## Diary dates

### Tuesday 15th October

- Year 12 Music Recital - Pittville Pump Rooms

### 22nd/23rd/24th October

- Year 7 Walks - Cheltenham

### Friday 25th October

- Inset Day. Students do not attend.

### w/c 28th October

- October half term

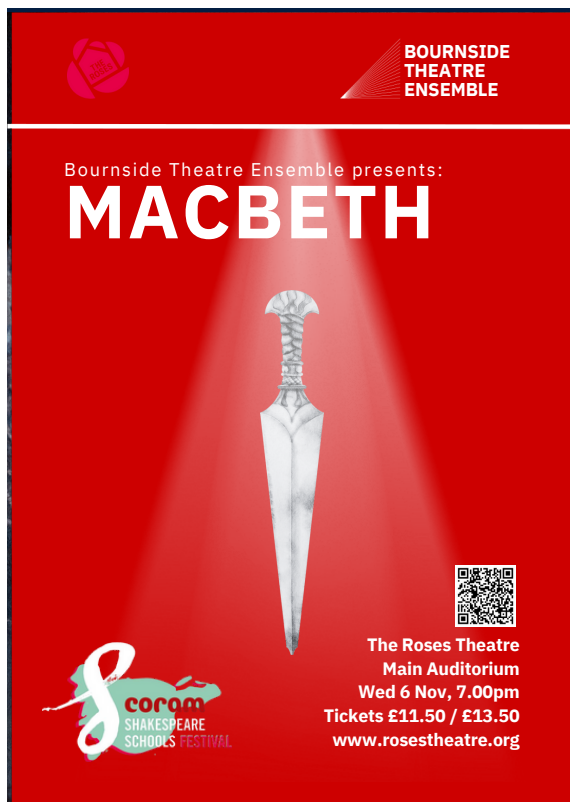
### Wednesday 6th November

- Macbeth, Roses Theatre

### House points



## Year 9 prepare to take to the Roses Theatre stage with Macbeth



22 students in Year 9 are preparing to take part in the world's largest youth drama festival, the Coram Shakespeare School's Festival at the beginning of November with their performance of Macbeth.

Miss Austin, Head of Dance and Teacher of Drama said, "Following months of rehearsals, our incredible cast are ready to perform an abridged version Macbeth on stage at the Roses Theatre on the 6th November. The Shakespeare School's Festival provides an amazing opportunity for our students to perform on a professional stage and to experience everything that brings."

"It has been fantastic to see the cast grow in confidence and we know that they will deliver a brilliant performance. We hope to see lots of people from the Bournside community there."

**Our performance of Macbeth takes place at the Roses Theatre on Wednesday 6th November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £13.50 (£11.50 for concessions)**

## Chelsea's story



On Thursday Year 8 and Year 9 had the privilege of watching a play about a girl called Chelsea who was groomed and is then involved in sexual exploitation. We learnt the dangers of online grooming and how we can keep ourselves safe and spot the signs if we thought one of our friends could be being subjected to grooming and sexploitation. Year 8 and 9 also learnt that if this is happening or you think it is happening, tell a trusted adult and not to keep it to themselves. Thank you to Narrative Alchemy for delivering an important message about healthy relationships to our pupils.

- Mrs Rudge-Wills, Head of Education for Life

## National poetry day - Thursday 3rd October



Last week the English department marked National Poetry Day by sharing some of our English department's favourite poems, including poems by Emily Dickinson, Chaucer, William Henley, Benjamin Zephaniah, Leslie Coulson, John Cooper Clarke and more.

National Poetry Day is an annual celebration that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. Poems were displayed on classroom doors and shared with classes as starter activities. 'Unseen' poetry featured too, with students given poems they hadn't seen before and challenged to unpick the poet's possible intentions.

- Mr Burnford, Head of English

# School news and updates

## KS3 have read more than 8,000,000 words this year!



In September, we launched a new way to work together to make sure we read as much as we can. In our second month of tracking, students across KS3 have read an incredible 8,761,544 words.

Year 7 have also been invited to enter a competition alongside BookBuzz. As well as choosing a book of their choice from the Bookbuzz catalogue, we are running a competition where one student can win the whole set (or as much of it as they want!), by writing a 50-word story or poem inspired by the picture.

They will be choosing their free books by Thursday, 17th October, but they have until half term to enter the competition. So, why not have a go!

- Ms Owen, Literacy Coordinator

**BookTrust Bookbuzz**

*Want more books?  
Enter the competition to win ALL the books.  
(or at least the ones you want).*

Rules - open to Year 7 only:  
Complete **either**  
a) A 50-word story  
b) A poem  
inspired by the picture.

Submit it to your English teacher by the Thursday before half term  
or email it to [pjo@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:pjo@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk)

## Charlotte takes 2nd place in regional bouldering competition



Last weekend Charlotte Talbot in Year 7, competed in a regional national bouldering competition called BOFF, the Big Open Flashpoint Festival and was proud to place 2nd!

Charlotte said, "There were 25 qualifying blocs and I managed to top 20 of them (climb to the top without ropes). I qualified in 1st position in my age category. There were then three final blocs where the top five competed. I topped two of the final blocs which meant I came 2nd. It was a really fun competition!"

"We loved hearing about Charlotte's climbing success this week. Congratulations on your achievement!"

- Mr Freeman, Head of Hawking House

## Bournside hosts the first Great Debate in the CEP Series



This week saw Bournside host the first event in the Cheltenham Education Partnership (CEP) Great Debate Series, where students debated on the topics of winter fuel payments, nationalisation and green energy.



"Well done to Dougie E, Francis L and Darcey G-T. Laura C, Sam B and Julia G who took part at the Great Debate. They did a fantastic job of preparing, researching and writing their speeches. The whole team worked brilliantly, and the core team of Darcey, Dougie and Francis had never done anything like this before making their success even more impressive. Well done!" - Miss Griffiths, Teacher of History and Politics

Thank you to the students who joined us from Balcarras, Cheltenham Ladies College, Cheltenham College, Pittville School and Dean Close.

# Careers and work-related learning



## Mock interviews

Mock interviews provide students with an opportunity to practice, receive feedback and improve their interview skills. They also help students to develop interview strategies, enhance their communication skills, answer challenging questions, and ease the nerves that many experiences before an actual job interview.

At Bournside, students are offered two mock interviews, the first in Year 11 and a second in Year 13.



Year 13 mock interviews: **18th October, 2024**

Year 11 mock interviews: **13th and 14th March, 2025**

Main School Hall

25 minutes per interview

Dress code: Smart clothes or school uniform



We encourage students to use the **STAR method** to plan their answers to interview questions:



### Situation

The situation you had to deal with



### Task

The task you were given to do



### Action

The action you took



### Result

What happened as a result of your action and what you learned from the experience

Could you help us as a mock interviewer? Email Ginny Martin [gcm@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:gcm@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk)



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Inspiring lives through learning