



THE BOURNE ACADEMY

2025/2026 NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



HRH The Prince of Wales Visits The Bourne Academy

The Bourne Academy was honoured to welcome HRH The Prince of Wales and international delegates as part of the Homewards programme, showcasing the Academy's work with The Royal Foundation, Shelter and local partners to help prevent youth homelessness through education and early intervention. The partnership continued to grow throughout the year, culminating in three Sixth Form students representing the Academy at the Homewards Global Networking Reception at Lambeth Palace and the Homewards Three-Year Anniversary Event at Tate Modern. Alongside Principal Mark Avoth and Assistant Vice Principal Kelly Franklin, the students presented the Academy's innovative @Home Project to an audience of more than 200 guests, including HRH The Prince of Wales. They shared how education can equip young people with the knowledge, confidence and practical skills needed for independent living, while identifying those who may need additional support. From welcoming The Prince of Wales to the Academy to taking our students onto a national stage, it has been an exceptional year for our Homewards partnership and our commitment to helping make homelessness rare, brief and unrepeatable.





Shortlisted for South West Business Award

Incredibly proud to be shortlisted for Community Organisation of the Year at the South West Business of the Year Awards. The recognition celebrates the positive impact our staff, students and partners make through collaboration, innovation and a shared commitment to our community. Being shortlisted alongside organisations from across the South West is a fantastic achievement and recognition of the work taking place across the Academy and beyond.

Youth Sports Trust National Conference - GALS centre stage

Our Girls Active Leadership Squad (GALS) proudly represented The Bourne Academy and the voice of teenage girls at the Youth Sport Trust National Conference. Following a year exploring barriers to sport and confidence through puberty, the students shared their work with more than 100 delegates during the From Childhood to Womanhood workshop. Each student led discussions with professionals on topics including puberty, periods, social media and confidence in sport. The girls received fantastic feedback for their confidence, maturity and honesty, making this a significant achievement for GALS and a proud moment for the Academy.

Parent Voice Team

Our fantastic Parent Voice Team (PVT) has had another busy year supporting the Academy. Alongside our annual Chocolate Family Bingo, fundraising highlights included the popular Krispy Kreme Friday, Summer Disco ice cream stalls and support at Academy events. Funds raised have helped provide new wardrobes for our Prom Shop and new equipment for our Music Department, directly benefiting our students. A huge thank you to our PVT and everyone who supported their fundraising throughout the year!

Exam Success

The Bourne Academy has a strong record of academic and vocational success. In 2026, our GCSE results were the second highest in the Academy's history for key performance measures in English and Mathematics, alongside a record number of Grade 9s. Our Sixth Form students also progress to exciting destinations, with recent successes including the Academy's first students to secure places to study Medicine and Architecture, as well as outstanding results across academic and vocational subjects.

Funding & Support

We are incredibly grateful for the continued generosity of our supporters this year. Highlights include £9,000 from Talbot Village Trust towards a new Music Pod, £5,000 from an anonymous donor to support MiSST and Music, and £500 from Kingren Groundworks towards our Sixth Form Leavers' Honours Boards. Canford School also donated a further 30 books to our Reading Programme, bringing their total to 275 books, while parent and carer contributions raised £1,142 through our Annual Fund and £450 through our Summer Mufti Day. Thank you to everyone who continues to invest in opportunities for our students.



GALS Help Shape the Future of Women's Sportswear

Our Girls Active Leadership Squad (GALS) welcomed women's sportswear brand Flyhawk for a special focus group exploring the barriers teenage girls face when it comes to sports clothing. The students shared their views and experiences, discussing how sportswear can be developed to improve confidence, comfort and enjoyment in sport for teenage girls. It was a fantastic opportunity for our GALS to have their voices heard and contribute directly to conversations around the future of women's sportswear.



Sleep Easy

In March, our Year 11 and Sixth Form students bravely took on the Sleep Easy challenge, spending the night outdoors to raise awareness of homelessness and raise vital funds for YMCA Bournemouth. Their incredible efforts totalled nearly £3,000, which will help the charity continue its essential work. The event also reflected our wider commitment to tackling homelessness, linking closely with our partnerships with Homewards, Shelter, and the BCP coalition.



Jessica Toale MP Visits The Bourne Academy

We were delighted to welcome Jessica Toale MP to discuss the future of our local community and the opportunities presented by the Pride in Place Programme. West Howe is set to benefit from £20 million of long-term investment over the next ten years, with the potential to improve local facilities, create opportunities for young people and enhance the local environment. As a school at the heart of West Howe, the visit provided an important opportunity to discuss what this significant investment could mean for our students, families and wider community.



MiSST Programme

Our MiSST programme provided another fantastic year of musical opportunities. Highlights included performing at Central Hall Westminster alongside 31 schools, workshops with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and residential courses at Gresham's School, where Ethan received the Spirit of MiSST Award. In June, all Year 7 and Year 8 students took to the stage for our annual MiSST Proms, celebrating the musical opportunities available to every student during their first two years with us.



Boys Impact Group

Launched in 2024, our Boys Impact programme continues to support small groups of boys build self-esteem, engage in education and embrace positive role models through a range of activities and opportunities. Among this year's highlights was the SUN Empower Conference at Bournemouth Uni, where they met World Champion boxer Chris Billam-Smith who spoke about challenging stereotypes and the importance of expressing emotions. They also took part in communication workshops led by the Speakers Trust. The programme provide valuable experiences that build confidence, raise aspirations and encourage our boys to fulfil their potential.



Performing Arts Donation from Marshall

Our Performing Arts Department received a fantastic boost this year with a £2,500 donation of amplifiers from Marshall. Kevin Penney visited the Academy to present the new equipment, which will support our students' learning, rehearsals and performances. We are incredibly grateful to Kevin and Marshall for their generous support of Performing Arts at our Academy.



Bourne Scholars

This year marked a significant milestone for our Bourne Scholars Programme, as our very first cohort progressed from Year 7 through to Year 11 and completed their journey at the Academy. The programme continues to provide Scholars across Years 7–11 with enriching opportunities that broaden horizons, raise aspirations and build confidence and resilience. We are incredibly proud to see our first cohort complete the programme and look forward to its continued success.



Mary Poppins

Our Performing Arts students took to the stage for a spellbinding production of Mary Poppins, performing four shows to around 600 members of the public, as well as for all our Year 7 and Year 8 students. The production brought together students from across the Academy, showcasing their talent, confidence and commitment both on stage and behind the scenes. A fantastic achievement for everyone involved!



House Competitions

Last year saw another fantastic programme of House competitions, bringing students together through sporting events, creative challenges, fundraising and whole-Academy activities. Led by our House Culture & Competition Lead, Mrs Plunkett, students embraced opportunities to represent their House, work together and enjoy some friendly competition. Each House also supported a nominated charity, with an impressive £1,042 raised for six local and national causes. It was a brilliant year of teamwork, participation and House spirit across the Academy.



Young Writers

Our talented young writers enjoyed fantastic success last year, with students having their work selected for publication in two national writing competitions. Poems were published in the Young Writers anthology, Winter Wonderland, while students from our KS3 Creative Writing ACE Club also had their ghost stories selected for publication. A fantastic achievement and a wonderful recognition of our students' creativity and talent.



ASPIRE and Ambition

Each year, students take part in two ASPIRE Days and our careers-focused Ambitions Week, offering experiences beyond the classroom that build skills, confidence and aspirations. Last year included trips to Winchester Science Centre and Butcher's Coppice, enterprise challenges, a charity beach walk, work experience and our largest ever Business Breakfast, welcoming more than 20 businesses. These experiences bring our ASPIRE values to life while helping students explore their interests and future opportunities.



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