



Year 10s participate in The Duke of Edinburgh Expedition!

Last weekend a group of brave Year 10s made their way to Downe to tackle the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The weekend proved to be more challenging than many of us expected, but all in all it was a very rewarding experience.

After an early start on Saturday morning we headed off into the woods, weighed down by our enormous backpacks, whilst consulting our rather inaccurately drawn OS maps! The aim was to walk 13km each day in small teams, carrying all of our own equipment and making our own food along the way (although I suspect my group walked more like 16, and others walked 22!).

Having spent the last six months taking part in physical and volunteering activities, working towards our Bronze Award, the last thing anyone wanted was to fail our expedition. So on we trudged checking in with our teachers at regular checkpoints as we went.

When we at last reached our campsite in the evening after a gruelling day, the last thing anyone wanted to do was to put up our tents and cook dinner. However, an hour or so later, tents up and stomachs full, we could finally relax around the campfire with some games and some (questionable) singing (from Mr Brook).

The next day we embarked on another walk which, with morale at an all-time low, was significantly harder than that of the previous day. When we eventually reached the final checkpoint to meet our assessor, Jean, she announced that we had passed! Both the feelings of relief and achievement were immense for everyone.

A big thank you from all of us to Miss Muirhead for organising D of E this year and also to Miss Bellingham and Mr Brook for putting up with a group of exhausted, sweaty teenagers for the weekend!

I imagine that in hindsight we'll all be able to look back on this experience as a positive one, but some of us may need a little more recovery time...

*Isabel Hosier,
Year 10*



Parent Power in Business - Calling Certified Plumbers & Electricians!

A few weeks ago, an uncle of one of our pupils came to see me about sponsoring an electric car that a group of Design and Technology students are building for a design competition. He explained about his local printing business and, to cut a longer story short, he is now producing our summer magazine for us, at nearly half of the cost of our previous supplier and of other companies we had approached. As a friend of the school, he is happy to reduce his profit to a relatively small margin in order to offer us a very competitive deal.

It struck me that there might be a range of parents and carers linked with businesses who might be able and willing to save the school thousands of pounds while still gaining profitable contracts for themselves in areas such as plumbing, electrics, flooring, lighting, heating, decorating, classroom furniture, and so on, to support the maintenance and improvement of our facilities over time.

We always have small-scale plumbing and electrical repairs needed on a site as large as ours. **So if there are any parents or carers who are certified electricians or plumbers who would like to give something back to the school 'in kind' by offering very competitive rates, we would be delighted to hear from you.**

Please contact our Business Manager, Mrs A Gibbs, on gibbs_a@bexleygs.co.uk with a few details about you and your business or trade.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Mr Elphick

Parenting the Demanding Generation: A Talk to Parents by Dr Aric Sigman

Tuesday 23rd May 2017, 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Tickets £5.00

Following on from a successful evening with Steven Biddulph on *Raising Girls* in our new theatre space this week, we just wanted to remind parents of another exciting opportunity for parents and carers on Tuesday 23rd May at 6.00pm to hear Dr Aric Sigman talk about ***Parenting the Demanding Generation***.

Testimonials from other schools are overwhelmingly positive calling him “brilliant”, “inspiring” and “thought-provoking”. We hope that you will join us in our new theatre to consider some of the important issues that impact upon the young people in our care. For more information you can visit his website: www.aricsigman.com.

Please book early to avoid disappointment as places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and are limited. Please visit <https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events> and search for Bexley Grammar School or the event name, *Parenting the Demanding Generation*, to book your tickets. Please note that this is a talk for parents and carers only.

Ms L. Hanington, Assistant Head



Spanish Exchange Trip Part One: London



Last week marked the start of new friendships, discoveries and experiences for the Year 10 students who study Spanish and are involved in the exchange trip. As the first leg of the exchange, we received Spanish students from Colegio Marista in Málaga. The exciting journey began at the airport with the most awkward pick up on Saturday morning. However, we all became really good friends by the end of the week and the awkwardness quickly passed. It was sweet to watch my exchange partner give gifts from Malaga to my parents; the thoughtful act gave my parents a really good first impression of him. Without wasting any time, we took it upon ourselves to go out with our Spanish exchange partners and show them what we do in London. The language barrier made communication quite slow but it definitely improved our Spanish and of course their English.



Sunday afternoon and my Spanish partner and I met with some others to do some shopping on Oxford Street and have lunch together. I certainly felt like I had become a tourist, taking a thousand and one selfies and spending 30 minutes in souvenir shops. They really enjoyed themselves and it allowed us to spend time with people of a different culture. One thing I noted was the Spanish students were a tightly knit group and as we met each day in school they greeted each other with hugs and kisses quite unlike how we English students greet each other.

The week was packed with enjoyable activities organised by our Spanish teachers, including watching *Les Misérables* in the Queen's Theatre, spending time in Covent Garden and a night out bowling. We were also very lucky to be able to miss a day of school on Thursday to join our Spanish friends on an outing to London. We travelled to the London Eye where again we took an incredible amount of photos together with them and I'm sure like myself they must have run out of storage on their phones. We did a lot of sight-seeing before returning to Greenwich on the Thames Clipper. They were so intrigued by the high rise buildings we saw, such as the Shard, while we barely looked twice as we are so used to seeing buildings of that sort. It was certainly a fun day out and though tired when we got back home, my partner and I stayed up till late watching movies and eating pizza. On Friday we returned to our normal school routine while the Spanish students bought many tourist gifts at affordable prices in Camden to take home with them. They were all very pleased with their purchases when we met them at the station holding several bags that were bulging with bought items.

The week zoomed past and Saturday morning came so soon with the realisation that we wouldn't be seeing our Spanish partners until a whole month later. There were many hugs and even tears as we said our goodbyes at the station. My mum was probably more upset than I was as she had grown really fond of my exchange partner and it was the last time she would see him in a very long time. Now I'm looking forward to going to Spain on June 11th as well as everyone else on the trip, it's bound to be just as fantastic as the first part of the trip and although the trip ends after we leave Spain, I'm certain our friendships will last for longer.

This amazing opportunity we've been given to improve our Spanish and make friends wouldn't have been made possible without the hard work and great co-ordination of our teachers, Mr Stewart and Miss Orchard.

Joy Akinleye, Year 10



National Citizen Challenge - Parents and Guardians of Year 11 & 12 students

As we are in the last term of the year it is worth considering what Year 11 and 12 students are doing with their summer holidays and considering the opportunities offered by 'The Challenge' (NCS)

In 2016, 48 students from Bexley Grammar School chose to spend 18 days of their summer participating in NCS, and they are offering the same chance to our students this year.

If students sign up for NCS they will grow in confidence, develop their leadership, communication, team building skills and, most importantly, have fun with friends from your local area, with long term benefits to their future employability, and greater 'stand-out' on UCAS statements and CV's...

NCS staff have been into school to present assemblies and work with year 11 on ECM day 3 and I am delighted that many of our students have already expressed an interest and signed up.

The programme has 3 parts:

1. Get Active - an outdoor residential with the opportunity to experience new activities in the best of the great outdoors in the UK.
2. Get Involved - learn new skills and live and work as a team gaining experience in one of the following areas; Drama, Enterprise, Art, Photography, Media, Sport, or Music.
3. Make your Mark – design a project, pitch to 'dragons' for funding and make a difference in your local area with a social action campaign.

NCS takes on average 3 weeks and there are start dates between **22nd June** and **17th August**.

As a school, we would encourage students to take up this opportunity.

The cost to you as a Parent or Guardian is £50 as the full funding of over £1000 per participant is provided by the Government. **Financial assistance** is available – simply apply online or contact NCS for more information.

If you have any questions, contact NCS 'The Challenge' at 020 3542 2400 or secure your place on NCS by visiting www.ncsthechallenge.org.

Places across Bexley are filling up quickly. I would encourage you to make the most of this opportunity by signing up as soon as possible.

Ms Rock, NCS Organiser



Parent email addresses update



We are currently updating our school records database to ensure we have a primary email address for the parent/guardian of every student on roll. **Thank you if you have already submitted your response, but if you haven't had an opportunity to complete the form yet, please click on the link below to confirm your email address, it will take no longer than 2 minutes.**

[BGS - Email Address Update Form](#)

Thank you
School Office

Hot Teenage Topics

From time to time, the Pastoral team at BGS come across websites or articles we think might be useful for parents to see. We deal with a wide variety of issues outside of academics and know that these can sometimes be tough to manage, not just in school but at home, too. We have no affiliation with the producers of such materials and they do not necessarily reflect our opinions. Our aim is to provide some helpful guidance on hot topics affecting our teenagers. Here are this week's links:

[BBC GCSEs: A revision guide for anxious parents](#)

internetmatters.org e-safety advice

internetmatters.org cyberbullying

The Pastoral Team

PE News

My name is Morant Reid and I recently represented Kent County School's Football Association in the English National Final against Berkshire County. This took place at St Andrews', the home of Birmingham City FC. I am very proud to return back to school with a winner's medal, having scored 2 goals in a 4-0 win. I would like to thank my school and in particular Mr Skinner for allowing me the opportunity to go and play in this match.



Morant Reid, Year 9

On Tuesday May 12th, the Year 13s played a football match against the Year 12s as a final send off before the Year 13s left school to take their exams. All the players paid to play and the money was donated to Mrs Gradley who ran the Marathon for Cancer Research. The students who have played for the Six Form first team throughout the year, both in Year 12 and 13, wanted to go up against each other to prove who the better players were. The Year 12s kicked off and were on top straight away. This went on throughout the game with the occasional break away by the Year 13s. The first goal was scored by Alex Omotosho after 25 minutes and the second goal was a free kick by Tommy Newman just before half time. The Year 13s came out in the second half on the attack, showing how much they wanted to win. However, it took just 5 minutes for Joe Shepherd to score the 3rd Year 12 goal. The final score was 3 - 0 to Year 12 and it was a fantastic game to participate in. Good luck to all Year 13s in their exams and in their future.

Adam Ritson, Year 12 Captain

We are updating our PE Honours Board

If you have been selected for a county, regional or national sports team, we would love to hear from you and add it to our display board. Please contact Miss Leffen by email at leffen_r@bexleygs.co.uk by Tuesday 23rd May with the details of which sport and the level you have played.



Miss Leffen, Physical Education

Young Enterprise at Learning Skills and Employment Board Meeting



On Tuesday 9th April 2017, five representatives from Chameleon Dental presented to the Learning Skills and Employment Board at Bexley Civic Offices. The board was interested to see the benefits that programmes such as Young Enterprise bring to schools and the skills students gain from taking part. They did an excellent job presenting their business and answered complicated questions with an insightful and professional approach. Well done to Tyreece Jacobs, Shyon Gredley, Sam Co, Swechha Kansakar and Irgena Dibra.

*Miss Wood
Young Enterprise Coordinator*

Examinations News



Year 11 Students

Please click on the link below to view Mrs Boulden's letter which contains details of arrangements for study leave and other important dates for your diary.

[Year 11 Study Leave arrangements & dates for the diary](#)

Year 12 A Level Students

Please click on the link below to view the **Part i examination timetable**.

[Year 12 Part i's Examination Timetable](#)

House Captains - Welcome to the new team for 2017- 2018

Collins

Senior House Captains:

Bethany Blackie
Joel Akande.

House Captains:

Nana Kwarteng
Jack Pleckinger
Jenna Rye
Matthew Bentley
Fjolla Bivolaku

JOHNSON

Senior House Captains:

Georgina Leeson
James Crumpton

House Captains:

Adam Ritson
Chloe Dominy
Heather Goodchild
Ollie McKeon

Mabbs

Senior House Captains:

Leah Cann
William Rodrigues

House Captains:

George Ross
Sarah Cotter
Christian Harmsworth
James Caddock
Rasheedat Bishi

KIRKMAN

Senior House Captains:

Ellie King
Jack Dalton

House Captains:

Joseph Hearn
Jessica Okyere
Oliver Patterson
Irgena Dibra

Prothero

Senior House Captains:

Sophie King
Shyon Gredley

Houes Captains:

Zoe Le Conte
Sascha Dodd
Evie Booker
James Brown
Matt Smith

Wellman

Senior House Captains:

Andrew Polston
Bradley Venables

House Captains:

Jack Wallbridge
Adele Ekamah
Ayo Olagbaiye
Dila Aslan
Chelsey Goodrich

Teriyaki Chicken Pizza session at Japanese Club

Pizza, a classic, World-famous Italian dish that satisfies hundreds-of-thousands of stomachs from all around the World. Who would have known that the Japanese had actually created their very own twist? Well, the Japanese Club knows first-hand the wonders of this delectable twist; including me. On 3rd May, greeted by Mrs Beney, another wonderful teacher alongside Mrs Everett, who is also of Japanese origins, thoroughly explained the process of making 'Japanese Pizza'. We were first given a ball of dough to roll out, but most of us settled on using our hands, as it made the process faster. A certain group of us decided that they were too cool for flour, and got themselves into a sticky situation- quite literally! After we were satisfied with the shape and thickness of our dough, we were then instructed to add another Japanese twist- being the sauce, which consisted of mayonnaise and soya sauce. Some of us were a little more adventurous, and added some delicious Korean pepper paste! It smelt mouth-watering, and that was just the sauce! After that was done, we sprinkled on some mozzarella cheese on top of the sauce. There were several other toppings, which included: assorted peppers, sweetcorn and teriyaki chicken. I decided to add everything in, because they all looked incredibly tasty, especially the homemade teriyaki chicken, drenched in a golden-brown glaze that made my stomach rumble in impatience. With the last finishing touches, we all placed our pizzas into the oven and excitedly awaited the final result. And I say this in all seriousness, but when I opened that oven door, and the room flooded with a savoury aroma, my taste buds tingled with absolute joy. As soon as I had made sure that the pizza was warm enough to eat, without hesitation, I attacked the golden-crust goodness. The subtle way the cheese melted in the cave of my mouth, the sweet added crunch of the peppers, the juiciness of the teriyaki chicken, all of which danced with my taste buds from the first bite. It really was pure bliss. And before I knew it, I had taken the very last bite of my creation. Overall, not only was the pizza delicious, but I had an amazingly enjoyable time with the Japanese club, and both Mrs Everett and Mrs Beney. I also attained a new skill, which I'm proud to flaunt: "I have and can make Japanese pizza." I'll definitely make sure to do it again in the future. What a way to end a Wednesday!

Jessica Nguyen, Year 8





BGS Summer Fayre and Sports Day Saturday 10th June 2017

Our annual joint Sports Day and Summer Fayre is nearly upon us! On Saturday 10th June, students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 will attend school from 9.30am until approximately 2.45pm. Parents, friends and Years 11 and 13 are welcome to join us from 10.30am until approximately 2.15pm but please note that there will be no parking available on site. Please remember to plan for the day off in lieu on Monday 12th June when the school is closed (apart from public examinations).

There are now over forty stalls, many of them traditional, some refreshingly new. Glancing down a list, I see everything from crockery smashing to bubble football! This year also promises live music and performance too – every year the standard is outstanding!

Please join us to support your son/daughter at the Fayre and at the Sports Day track events, finishing with the relays towards 2.00pm. There is stiff competition between the Houses, as ever; the day promises excitement for all!

Please be aware that your son/daughter should be prepared for spending most of the day outside. Students are welcome in their own clothes (at no charge) but are being encouraged to support their House colours. Students should have a hat, suncream and a bottle of water for the day. The canteen will be serving lunch as usual (cashless and cash transactions welcome) and there will also be a range of world foods available, from fabulous Japanese food to mouth-watering pulled pork!

We do not anticipate poor weather, but in the event of sustained torrential rain the school will decide on the appropriate course of action after morning registration.

Mrs Sword, Assistant Head

Bottles, Baubles & Balls



Donations Request

Any gifts you received that are 'surplus' to your requirements? Too many socks, perfume that's not quite you or your bathroom cupboard is overflowing with bath bombs?



If you have unopened bottles of alcohol or unwanted gifts that you'd like to donate, we'll be happy to take them off you to be used as prizes for fund raising events and the summer fair.

Finally, if you have leftover balls of wool that are not quite enough for another bobble hat or you are just all knitted out, please send them in to us as the pupils have both a knitting and crocheting club that are always looking for supplies.

Please send any of your donations to the BGS PA through the School Reception. If you prefer to hand them directly to the PA, please contact parentpabgs@gmail.com to arrange delivery or possible collection.

Wanted!

Old, broken or simply unwanted crockery (china) to be used in Year 12's "smash the crockery" stall at this year's Summer Fayre on 10th June. Please bring any crockery to the main Reception.

Thank you!



Forthcoming Events

May

Tuesday 23rd ~ Parenting the Demanding Generation: A Talk by Dr Aric Sigman, 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm

Monday 29th ~ Half Term

June

Monday 5th ~ First day after the Half Term

Thursday 8th ~ UCAS Information Evening, 6.30 pm in the Hall

Saturday 10th ~ Sports Day & Summer Fayre (normal school day for students)

Monday 12th ~ Day off in lieu of Sports Day/Summer Fayre

Friday 16th ~ ECM Day

China Trip

For current students in Years 9 - 12

The Modern Languages Department would like to open up the invitation to all current Year 9 - 12 students who would like to join the trip to China from 18th to 27th July 2018. The trip itinerary includes:

Beijing: Days 1 - 3

Depart UK on 18th July 2018

Day 1: 19th July 2018

Beijing Arrival (L/D) B: Breakfast
L: Lunch D: Dinner
Pick up at airport and transfer to Hotel. Afternoon, we will visit Prince Gong mansion. Have Beijing Roast duck as welcome dinner. Evening activity: Acrobatic show.

Day 2: 20th July 2018

Beijing (B/L/D)
Full day trip to the Great Wall Mutianyu Section (Cable car included) and Olympic Stadium (outside)

Day 3: 21st July 2018

Beijing (B/L/D)
Full day trip to the Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City, Jingshan Park and Summer Palace. Evening activity: Kungfu show.

Xi'an: Days 4 - 6

Day 4: 22nd July 2018

Beijing - Xi'an (B/L/D) Morning, Visit Temple of Heaven in Beijing. After lunch, take high speed train to Xi'an. Arrive Xi'an, be transferred to the hotel.

Day 5: 23rd July 2018

Xi'an (B/L/D)
Xi'an city tour: Bell Tower and Drum Tower Plaza, The Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Ancient City Wall, Shaanxi History Museum and Muslim Quarter.

Day 6: 24th July 2018

Xi'an - Shanghai (B/L/D)
We will visit the Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses and Emperor Qinshihuang Mausoleum. After tour, be transferred to the train station for overnight train to Shanghai. (Soft sleepers, 4 per cabin)

Shanghai: Days 7 - 8

Day 7: 25th July 2018

Shanghai Arrival (B/L/D)
Arrive Shanghai, be met and transferred to hotel to have a rest. Then we start today's city tour. We will visit Yu Garden, Tianzifang, 100th floor SWFC Observatory, Old French Concession & Old Street and Bund.

Day 8: 26th July 2018

Shanghai - Suzhou (B/L/D)
Full day trip to Suzhou: Lingering Garden, Tiger Hill and Grand Canal.

27th July 2018 Shanghai Exit (B)
Be transferred to the airport for the flight back home.

This promises to be an incredible opportunity for anyone interested in Chinese culture, or simply travelling - students do not need to be studying Chinese in order to partake. The trip will cost in the region of £1909.22 for everything. **A deposit of £300.00** must be paid online via ParentPay immediately. Please contact the Finance Office to add your child's name to this trip or email at bgstrips@bexleygs.co.uk

Mrs Lu, Modern Foreign Languages

