



BGS Summer Fayre & Sports Day

2017 Saturday 10th June 2017 Saturday

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 performances 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



Donation Requests Donation Requests

Bottles, Baubles & Balls



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!



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

Key Stage 3 Drama Production



This was the first time I had ever read Shakespeare, let alone performed it yet I, along with all of the cast, really made a connection with the character I played. This was the third drama production I've been involved with since starting BGS in September and I would definitely recommend anyone else to get involved in the future.

After several long weeks of effort, hard work, learning lines, attending rehearsals and gathering props, the play was ready to perform. However, we moved from the Hall to the new Theatre with the date pushed back two weeks as building work was delayed. We only saw the new Performing Arts Centre one day before the play, which put us at a disadvantage when it came to spatial awareness. After a whole day rehearsal before the play though, everything was in order.

On the 9th and 10th May 2017, we performed the play. It went down a hit with the help of cues from the Sixth Form Prefects and Year 10 helpers alongside lighting, sound and special effects from Francesca Handscombe (Year 9), Alfie Coe (Year 8) and Theo Bourrelly (Year 7).

Although the performances were finished, we were not over yet. On Monday 15th May, "The Taming of the Shrew" went on tour taking to the stage three times more at local primary schools, in the hope of lighting a passion in their hearts.

First of all, we took the long walk to Sherwood Park Primary School for Cast 2 to perform. After the tedious journey back and a quick break, Cast 1 performed for Danson Primary school from the comfort of our own Theatre. When finished, we took the final journey to Hook Lane Primary for the last performance ever... It was a success! Everyone loved it. The questions from the primary schools after the performances demonstrated this.

With our heads held high, we went back to the school. A big shout out to our 3 Drama teachers for all their time, help and support offered to us throughout (Miss Gabriel, Mrs Brazier and Mr Otley). We could never have done it without you guys!

Max Dawkins (A.K.A Gremio), Year 7



As this was my first junior production I didn't know what to expect; but during rehearsals, I got to know more people and that made the rehearsals more fun.

The teachers did well in directing the play, even if they did shout at us sometimes (there were 55 excited students after school!). I always had so much fun performing on stage, especially when we performed to my primary school!

I may have not had a main role in the play, but being part of the ensemble was just as enjoyable. Everybody got to do something, which was one of my favourite things about the play. Usually the ensemble would just create physical theatre, but in this play everybody had a few lines each- my favourite was the comical servant scene!

Overall, the play was better than I expected, and I think that any Year 7, 8 or 9s should totally do it next year! I know I will!

Mia Chan, Year 8



THE TAMING
OF THE SHREW



IF I BE WASPISH,
BEST BEWARE MY
STING.

Library News

BGS Shadowers - We skyped Ruta this week!

As the title suggests, the meeting this week was very exciting, as we got to Skype with Ruta Sepetys, the brilliant mind behind one of the nominated books "Salt to the Sea". The members of the group are having trouble deciding what they like better, the author or the book! Ruta was very helpful and answered all of our questions, some related to the book, others not so much... ("If you could be any book, what book would you be?") Those who have read the book discovered how all the tiny details fitted into place, from digits marking Hitler's birthday to real life cases being documented into the book. Those who hadn't were prompted to read it even more. Now that we are quite far in, we have read quite a few of the books, and were able to warn Ruta that she has some tough competition! In terms of snacks, we had caramel and chocolate doughnuts with crisps. Guess Ruta isn't the only thing with competition! Next week could provide a new entry in the competition for our favourite snack choices, so we'll see you then!

Brook Lord and Olivia Harry
Year 7



Advice from the Attendance Office

What are the rules about term-time holidays?

According to guidelines, you can only allow your child to miss school if they are ill, or if you have received advance permission from the school.

Getting permission from the school requires making an application to the Attendance Officer in advance. This application will only be considered if you have supplied all the required evidence to support your application.

Where previously, head teachers could grant up to 10 days of authorised leave, now they are unable to grant any, except in exceptional circumstance.

Until the Supreme Court's ruling many parents presumed they could escape prosecution for truancy, providing they could demonstrate that their child had regularly attended school. But on the 6th April 2017 that question was unequivocally answered, with the judge's ruling that unless a child is sick, or meets the exceptional circumstance requirement, they must attend school.

At the Supreme Court hearing in January, the local authority, backed by the Education Secretary argued that a child's unauthorised absence from school "even for a single day, or even half a day can amount to a criminal offence."

Here at Bexley Grammar School we understand that life can throw up unexpected events and we work hard to ensure we support parents where ever we can. Please liaise with the Attendance Officer on all absences.

Please ensure all requests are in writing or email and delivered to Mrs Jeffery in the attendance office who will contact you to discuss your request.

Jeffery_j@bexleygs.co.uk

Direct line: 0208 298 2303

Mrs Jeffery, Attendance Officer

Summer Fayre and Sports Day

If your child is unable to attend the Summer Fayre please ensure you contact Mrs Jeffery with the information as to why they cannot attend.

The Summer Fayre is on Saturday 10th June and is a great day for students to have some fun with their peers and the school community.

Everyone who attends has a great day and it is a real shame when students miss out, please try and avoid booking family events for this date as it is considered to be a normal school day.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Mrs Jeffery, Attendance Officer





Boston Ski Trip 2019

Open for current Years 7 - 11
February Half Term Week
See Mrs Howard in the
PE Department for details



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](#)



Last Chance
- 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 and we would like to thank everyone who has already submitted a response.

This is your last opportunity to confirm a primary email address using this form as the link will close at 10.00 am on Monday 5th June.

please click below to confirm your email address, it will take no longer than 2 minutes.

[BGS - Email Address Update Form](#)

Thank you
School Office

Forthcoming Events

May

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

News Items You May Have Missed

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

Next week is half term
Students return to school on Monday 5th June 2017