



# Thank you from Japan - A Successful Exchange



Before I tell you about how I spent a week at Bexley Grammar School (BGS), I want to tell you some reasons why I wanted to take part in this program. First, I wanted to improve my English skills and try to use my English with native English speakers. Second, I'm interested in the lifestyle of the English people. Finally, I wanted to make a lot of friends.

We took 12 hours for our flight and 1 hour 30 minutes from Heathrow airport to Welling, where BGS is located. I was so exhausted and worried about my English, but my host family was waiting for me and they received me very warmly. They took me to a restaurant where we can eat Fish & Chips, the traditional British cooking. It tasted very good!! While eating, my host family asked me about myself and about Japanese culture. I was very nervous and I couldn't speak English fluently, but they were very kind to me so I could relax.

My host was an IB (International Baccalaureate) student so her classes were very complicated for me. However, I had two classes that I could understand! French class and Biology class. When I could understand the classes I was so happy! We joined in some Japanese classes too. We taught BGS students about Japanese culture in English. It was a little difficult to work because some Japanese words don't exist in English, so BGS students couldn't imagine any of the Japanese culture. By the way, we played the Japanese traditional card game "karuta".

While I stayed there, I found some differences between Japan and Britain. First, almost all students went to school by car (each parent drops off and picks them up). My host family too. In Japan, almost all students use the train or bus for the way to go school. Second, this school was very large. There were many rooms for each subject and students had to move for each class. This is the big difference. In Japan we don't move for each class and we usually have classes at our homeroom, apart from lessons such as Music and Science. Also, the playground at BGS (grass ground!) was very large. I wanted to do a P.E. class here. Third, at BGS, I felt they gave high priority to the education of a second foreign language. They have many kinds of second foreign language classes, for instance, Japanese, French, Spanish, German, Italian and Chinese. These are common languages, but they have also Latin and Russian classes! In Keio Shonan Fujisawa High School we can learn French, Chinese, German, Spanish and Korean. By the way, they have Psychology classes. This is another difference. Psychology is not a common subject in high school in Japan. However, in England they study



it. Then, they have a canteen in the school and all students eat or buy lunch there. In Japan, we bring a lunch box. Finally, there are fixed days such as "Pancake day" (this is a Christian custom and this year was on 2/28), every Friday is "Fish & Chips Day" and "World Book Day". Actually, I ate a pancake in the morning on 2/28 and I ate Fish & Chips on Friday in the canteen. World Book Day is like Halloween. The BGS students disguised themselves as a character from a book. For example, a Disney character, Harry Potter, a bear etc...

One day we went on an excursion to London and we visited the Houses of Parliament and Greenwich. We took a boat on the Thames River and went to Greenwich from the Houses of Parliament. We saw London Bridge from the boat!! From Greenwich Observatory, we could get the whole view of the city. It was very beautiful!

On Saturday, my host family took me shopping and to a French restaurant. I could buy a lot of recommended British goods for my host family!

This exchange program gave me many precious experiences. I could feel many cultural differences through the British life with my host family and my school life at BGS. Also, I achieved my purpose of this program. And in the background there was a lot of help from my host family, the students and teachers of BGS, Mr Gdula and my parents. I want to say thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. And some day I want to see the BGS students again.

*Sae Ishida, Keio Shonan Fujisawa High School Student*



## Accounting's not boring!

Over the past few years we have noticed a significant increase in interest from our Sixth Formers in the accounting profession. Quite a number of our students go on to study this subject at university, sometimes assisted by one of the big four audit firms such as KPMG or PricewaterhouseCoopers. In addition, some of our students join these accounting firms as school leavers as they like the idea of being employed whilst studying for their professional qualifications.



With this in mind, we try to field teams in a national competition sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. Participation in this helps our students find out more about the profession and gives them something tangible on their CVs that might eventually help them in any future application for a finance/accounting career or course at university. At the end of last term, the school fielded two teams of six Year 12 Business Studies and Economics students to compete in a regional heat. Two students have written their impressions of the day.

*Mr Joe, Head of Business Studies and Economics Department*

## Examinations News



### Year 12 A Level Students

Please click on the link below to view the **updated Part i examination timetable**. (change of venue for French, Spanish and German Paper 1's. All now in L10).

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

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Mr Joe took 12 Business and Economics students to Fitzwilliam College in Cambridge to compete in one of the heats of the ICAEW Base Accounting Competition. Whilst our two teams worked on a case study, with the help of an accountant, to create a SWOT analysis, identify the main threats and opportunities of the business and then create a suggestion for the future direction of the business. After these stages, we had to present our ideas and findings to a board of judges. My group comprised of Leah Cann, Ijaz Fayaz, Teddy French, Katie McGinn and Noah Robinson, and we made posters and flash cards to help us in our presentation. After making our presentation, we were all given the opportunity to talk to members of different firms such as KPMG and PwC to learn more about all of the post-school opportunities that they offer. Once we had spoken to all of the firms, we went back to find out the results of the presentations, and although my group wasn't in the top 4, we were happy to support the other group from our school in the next stage. Overall, the day was a lot of fun and we all left having learnt many new skills to help us with a career in accounting or business.

Chelsey Goodrich



The competition was held in a hall with 12 teams from the region competing against each other for a place in the national final held in Birmingham, but more importantly, we were there for an enjoyable experience and an insight into the life of an accountant. The day consisted of a brief introduction, three tasks with a limited amount of time to complete each one, a break in which we could meet students from top accountancy firms and finally the presentations and results. The teams worked brilliantly well together alongside qualified accountants who were there to support each team for the duration of the day. These tasks were based on a case study of a business in which we had to produce a SWOT analysis to reveal the problems and challenges, leading to a final conclusion where we had to present our strategies to help the business improve in the future. Whilst our team (James Crumpton, Samantha King, Henry Murati, Siddharth Patel and Anna Zavolnyi) were finalists in the day's competition, we did not get first place and the chance to go through to the National Final.

Hannah Wray



**Next week is Mental Health Awareness week. Below are some links which you may find useful.**

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>



## Library News

### BGS Shadowers

**What we've accomplished so far!**



Thanks to everybody's hard work and enthusiasm towards the meetings, we are proud of how much we have accomplished, and demolished in terms of food... This week we began working on new videos which will be appearing on our page soon. These include some interesting acting, some funny interviews and some hilarious impressions. Not only this, but we have made a huge improvement in the food department thanks to the online poll (doughnuts, strawberries and bananas this week, yum!)

Brook Lord & Olivia Harry



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The trip itinerary includes:

### Beijing: Days 1 - 3

#### Depart UK on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

#### Day 1: 19<sup>th</sup> 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: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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

#### Day 3: 21<sup>st</sup> 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: 22<sup>nd</sup> 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: 23<sup>rd</sup> 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: 24<sup>th</sup> 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: 25<sup>th</sup> 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, 100<sup>th</sup> floor SWFC Observatory, Old French Concession & Old Street and Bund.

#### Day 8: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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

27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bgstrips@bexleygs.co.uk)

Mrs Lu, Modern Foreign Languages



## Spamalot News

The cast of 54 students has been working hard since January to learn the complex songs and routines for the show and are doing a fab job. We were very lucky last Friday to be visited by two actors who have just returned from the European professional tour of 'Spamalot', one of whom will be familiar to many of the BGS community as he is an ex-student Sam Haughton! Sam played the role of 'Patsy' in Spamalot, and he brought along fellow actor Matt Gent, who played one of the Knights of Camelot, Robin.

They worked with the whole cast to teach a routine for 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life', and then did some in-depth character work with our principals (King Arthur, Patsy, the Knights of the Round Table and the Lady of the Lake). They described how they had worked to develop the individual characters, and gave us some advice on making the challenging comedy work. The script is incredible, with some very famous jokes, and we all feel a big responsibility to Monty Python fans to do it justice!

The Knights, King Arthur and Patsy ended up performing a couple of scenes whilst Matt & Sam directed them; everyone understanding more fully their characters and dialogue by the end. It was really inspiring to hear them talk about their approaches to their own characters, and to the show as a whole.

We are all looking forward to the next few weeks as the show starts to come together over the next couple of months. Tickets will soon be on sale - look out for an announcement here in the Newsletter!

*Miss Swadkin, Director*



BGS 'Spamalot' cast plus actors Sam Haughton & Matt Gent, and Miss Roberts (choreographer) and Miss Swadkin (Director)



*Warming up in the hall!*



*Matt & Sam teach a complicated 'Stomp-style' routine to the cast*



## Forthcoming Events

### May

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ The Taming of the Shrew - KS3 Production

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ The Taming of the Shrew - KS3 Production

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Last Day for Year 13 A Level Students

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ Last Day for Year 11 Students

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ Key Stage 3 Showcase, 6.00 pm in the Hall (tickets available on the door)

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ Half Term

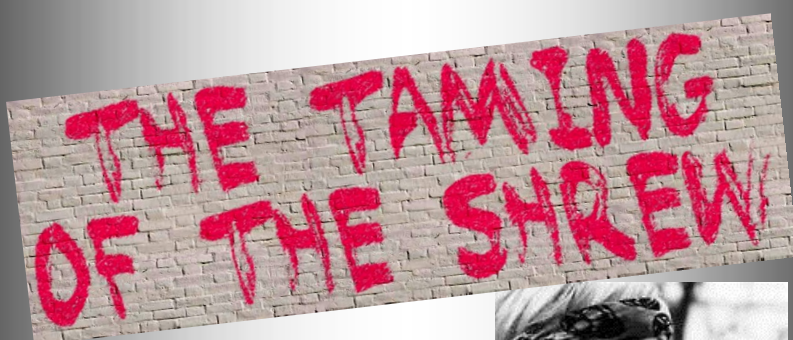
### June

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ First day after the Half Term

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Sports Day & Summer Fayre (normal school day for students)

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ Day off in lieu of Sports Day/Summer Fayre

## News Items You May Have Missed



Come and see  
The Junior Production  
in the new  
Performing Arts Centre  
on  
\* Tuesday 9th May  
&  
Wednesday 10th May  
at 7.00pm  
£5 Adults £3 Students

Click [here](#) to purchase  
your tickets

• Please note the change of  
dates for this production



IF I BE WASPISH,  
BEST BEWARE MY  
STING.

### Key Stage 3 Showcase! Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May

This concert will feature our lower school musicians from Years 7 - 9. Students are invited to audition for a slot as a soloist or as part of a small group. Auditions will be 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May, and they should apply via the BGS Performing Arts website:

### Performing Arts KS3 Showcase

Our Junior ensembles (Junior Jazz, Junior Choir and Junior Orchestra) will also be performing in this concert!

Miss Swadkin

