

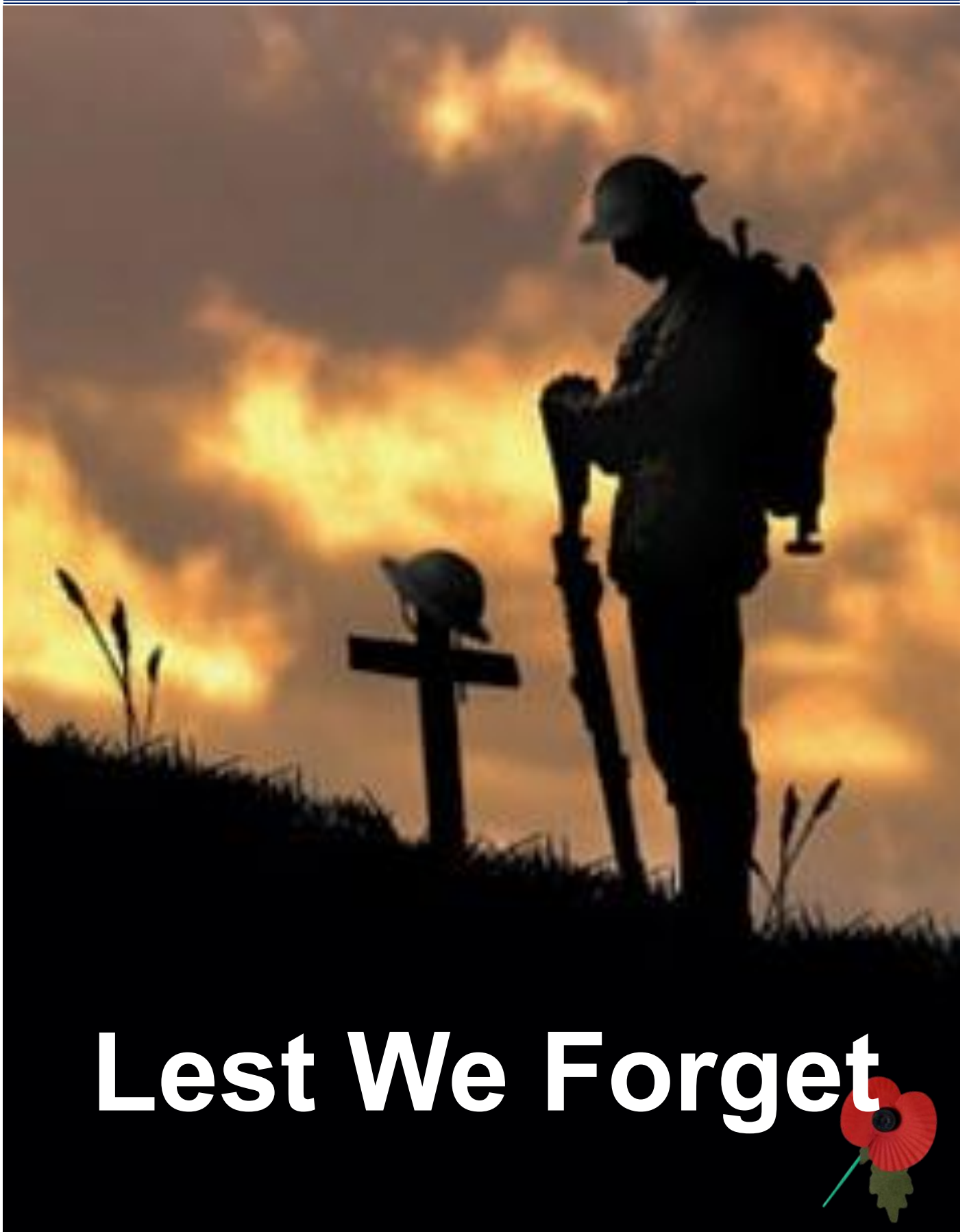


**BEXLEY
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER

www.bexleygs.co.uk

10th November 2017



Ypres Battlefields Trip

On Friday 3rd November, I joined a group of Year 9 students on the Battlefields trip to Ypres. After an early start we arrived at the Folkestone Eurostar terminal to take the train to Calais and then travelled on to Belgium.

Our first stop was the Menin Gate. I was totally overwhelmed at the sheer size of the monument to just under 55,000 soldiers who were never found and whose names are etched on to the panels. We spent a while searching for the names of soldiers who had our own family names. It didn't take long for me to find my family name (Smith) as almost every tablet had at least one. After a while we walked into Ypres town and went to the famous chocolate shop where we were able to spend our euros. I was very impressed by the imposing Cloth Hall, which looked very much like a cathedral. It had been totally razed to the ground during WWI and rebuilt in its original medieval style in the 1920s.

From Ypres we travelled to Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world. Nothing can prepare you for the rows and rows of graves. Tyne Cot is built on the top of a hill. During the war, the Germans built 3 pillboxes (machine gun towers) which gave them an advantage over the advancing Commonwealth soldiers who were trying to take the hill. During the ongoing Battle of Passchendaele thousands of men died. Eventually, the Germans were defeated and the two remaining soldiers in the pillbox fled and were gunned down. The two soldiers were buried where they fell and are the only two Germans in Tyne Cot. Their graves stand out, not only because they have a square top (Commonwealth graves have a rounded top), but because they are not buried amongst the rows of other soldiers.

After Tyne Cot, we went on to Langemark, the German Cemetery. Adolf Hitler fought at Langemark and some of his comrades were gassed and died there. During WWII he visited the site to pay his respects and the students were able to see a picture of him standing in the same spot as them. It has a very different feel: it is very dark and subdued. The graves are marked by stones which are not traditional headstones as they lie flat. Langemark is also the site of a German mass grave which contains the bodies of 32,000 soldiers. The mass grave seemed very small when we realised that so many men were buried there.

We travelled on from Langemark to Bleuet Farm to find the grave of Alfred Robert Seath, a relative of Emily and George Ross. Alfred was born in Bow, East London, in 1893 and lived in Hither Green, South East London. He died on 21st August 1917 at Ypres when serving as a sergeant (8611) with 2nd battalion, Hampshire Regiment. This was during the 3rd Battle of Ypres, often known as Passchendaele. The 2nd battalion fought at Langemark, the battle for the Menin Road and Polygon Wood. Seath died during the 2nd phase of Passchendaele, somewhere near Langemark and was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Our final stop of the day was at Hill 60. Hill 60 was so called on British military maps because the contoured height of the ground was marked at 60 metres above sea level. It was the scene of desperate fighting in April and May 1915 between the British and German armies. An indication of how fierce the fighting was is the fact that four Victoria Crosses (VC) were won on this site in April 1915 alone.

After Hill 60 we boarded the coaches and made our way back to Calais. It was a really good experience for all of us to visit Ypres, the scene of such important historical events, particularly given it is 100 years since the Battle of Passchendaele and so close to Remembrance Sunday.

Mrs Arundel



SA. A.	SIBSON G.	WEBSTER H.
EG. E.	SILCOX W.	WELCH R.
ON P. E.	SILLITO M.	WELLER C.
IN R. E.	SIMMONDS E.	WELLICOME L. W.
NT J.	SIMMONDS J. A. H.	WELLS E. A. A.
NR. W.	SIMMONDS W.	WELSH W.
LS A. D.	SIMMONS H. W.	WENHAM C. W.
LS R.	SIMPSON A. O.	WESSON T. W.
LS S. T.	SKITTRAIL G. W.	WEST
SA J. J.	SLATER A.	WHEATLEY S.
SON T.	SMITH A.	WHISTLER A.
W.	SMITH A. E.	WHITE G. 1062
RY G.	SMITH F. S.	WHITE G. 1234
NA. E.	SMITH G. C.	WHITE H.
NE.	SMITH G. E.	WHITE H. J.
NC. J.	SMITH G. H.	WHITE R. C.
NC. C.	SMITH H. S.	WHITEHEAD
	SMITH J. 2454	WHITESIDE N.
P. J.	SMITH J. 3103	WHITFORD C.
EM. A.	SMITH J. 4259	WHYATT S.
OR J.	SMITH R.	WHYBROW F.
B. J.	SMITH S.	WICKS C. J.
ELL O.	SMITH W. 8689	WICKS G. L.
LD H.	SMITH W. 18591	WILCOX W.
A. P.	SMITHERS A. E.	WILKINSON
W. J.	SMYRK H. W.	WILLIAMS
D.	SOLE A. J.	WILLIAMS
J. F.	SOLE H.	WILLIAMS
C.	SERVED AS PAGE H.	WILLIAMS
W. F.	SOUTHGATE R. G.	WILLS H.
F.	SPANIER A.	WILMSHUT
E. C.	SPENCER A. E.	WILSDON
M. C. G.	SPENCER R. H.	WILSON
ER E.	SPENCER W. A.	WILSON
P. W.	SPICER S.	WILSON



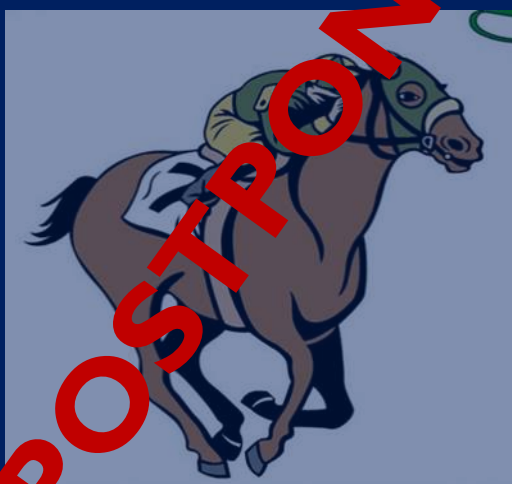
Здравствует революцию!

Students studying Russian from Year 8 to Year 13 have spent the last week commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the October Revolution. All students engaged in various activities, from following Lenin on Twitter to acting out the various roles played by members of the society in the build up to the Revolution and from discussing the causes of the revolution to discussing if we should even be commemorating the Revolution. Thank you to all students for getting so involved in such a vital part of Russian history.

Miss Roberts & Mr Gallimore, Modern Foreign Languages



PA Race Night
Friday 10th November



BGS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING



We are hosting a
Christmas Shopping Evening on
Thursday 23rd November 2017 from 7.00pm

If you are a local craft company, small business etc. looking to raise your profile and sell merchandise before Christmas then please do contact the Parents' Association via email at parentpabgs@gmail.com. For those who fancy doing some shopping that night please watch this space for further updates, we promise an array of stalls and an opportunity to purchase unique, affordable gifts before Christmas



ECM Day Trip to Bodiam Castle

On the 19th October we went on a trip to Bodiam Castle.

As soon as we got into Bodiam we were immediately taken to a room on the second floor, if you could call it a second floor - it was so worn down there were barely any walls or floors left! On the way there, we had to climb what looked like newish stairs and an extremely steep set of older stairs (probably a few inches tall each) and as we went up, there was an arrow-slit, which was somehow still in great condition!

In the room on the second floor, we learned all about the armour and shields that the guards wore and even got to try some on, they were so heavy we could barely keep them on for a minute we have no idea how they kept them on for ages! We also learned about the crossbows and bow and arrows! We were also told that the archers using crossbows had less training and needed less physical ability!

Next, we had a tour of the first floor where we were told that in the castle all of the owners of the house, and the guests, would sleep on the left hand side of the castle and from the second floor upwards, meanwhile the servants and guards slept on the right. We know this because on the left there are more luxurious rooms which have window seating and heating and on the right, there were just stone boxes, as only the guards got windows so they could then attack intruders if needed.

Finally, we got to see about their cooking and were told that when they used a bread oven the bottom of the bread would go rock solid so they would cut it off and use it as plates! Yes, they actually ate off of burnt bread! We also got to see their wells and we were told that they would send young boys down to the well to fetch water! Now the water is green and murky. Gross!

We all had a lovely day so thank you to the teachers for bringing us and making it so interesting!!

Zara Pipe, Year 7



Music News

KS5 Showcase - DATE CHANGE!

We have had to change the date of the KS5 Showcase due to a clash in Hall bookings; it will now take place on **Tuesday 28th November at 6pm.**

Tickets will be on sale just on the day, please come along and support our Sixth Form musicians!



On Sale Now

Tickets for the Christmas Concert (Tuesday 5th December) and the Music Department Quiz Night (Saturday 3rd February) are on sale now. Please click on the link to purchase your tickets.

<https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events?search=bexley>.

PE News

An England International in our midst

It's not every day we get to celebrate an England international! What a brilliant way to fill the final place on our individual honours board: Kyle Alexander (year 12) represented England during the summer in the 2017 Powerchair Football World Cup in Florida, reaching the semi-finals. Well done Kyle, top man.

Mr Lines, Head of PE



Karate Superstars

2 more sporting superstars are within our midst! Eddie (Year 10) and Mia (Year 9) Lind have been making incredible strides in Karate, particularly in the kata discipline. Both are members of the UK National Squad and are currently training with former world champions. Their success has taken them training and competing around the world: in the recent GKR Karate World Championships, in Australia, Eddie's team won bronze in the kata, whilst Mia's team were crowned World Champions in their division, while Eddie won silver in the individual competition. Well done both of you.



Basketball Win - A Brilliant Start!

The Basketball team's first game of the season was a resounding success. Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy were the visiting team and were soon on the back-foot, trailing 18-2 at the end of the first quarter. With a number of new faces in the team, the margin was always going to seesaw, but we finished the half with the lead. In fact, the lead was never relinquished and, despite a strong finish from the opposition, BGS managed to close out a 39-38 victory.

We have had an exciting influx of new players, which bodes well for this season and future seasons, and it was great to see so many students turn up and cheer for us - thanks! Our next fixture is November 23rd against St Olave's; it would be fantastic to get a similar turnout.

Mr Brook, Basketball Coach



Team Players

Ife Adeoti
Alessandro Basile
Nathan Blake
Osaru Ediae
Nathan Fisher
Joseph Gbadamosi
Nkem Ogoji
Seyi Ogunnaiké
David Oputa
Keiran Stewart
Mylan Roberts

Christmas Drama Production of *Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist*

Ladies and Gentlemen! Step right up, for the wondrous K10 Theatre is being opened for public performances by presenting Neil Bartlett's adaptation of the classic: *Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist*. It is filled with all the Street Urchins, Musical Hall performance, Victoriana and pickpocketing you'd expect! But there is more: Marvel at the incredible lighting effects afforded to us in the new space; enjoy the amazing tiered seating; sample the delightful themed treats in the interval (Artful Jammy Dodger, anyone?) all presented with the physical theatre and ensemble movement you've come to expect from a BGS school play!

All the Light Design, Sound Design, Costume Design, Musical Composition and a great deal of the direction and choreography has come from pupils at the school. This is a wonderful chance to celebrate the amazing talents of the pupils at the school.

Thursday 30th November, 7.30pm

Friday 1st December will be a special gala performance to open the K10 Theatre officially (arrive early for a short reception) 7.00pm

Monday 4th December will include a celebration of the pupils' work after the show, including some awards and brief speeches. 7.30pm

Act fast as we expect this fundraising event to sell out quickly (especially the Friday night)!

Tickets for this Bexley Grammar School Drama Department Fundraising Event cost £8.50 (adults) and £6 (concessions), and are available in advance only. Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets.

Please note - the play is in the K10 Theatre and not the Hall, as in previous years. Please enter the school through the top gate/top car park nearest the roundabout, and walk down to the K block entrance at the end of the car park.

Drama Department and the Production Team



Rehearsal photos courtesy of Katherine Beeching, Year 13

Harry Potter Library Art Competition



**Are you a wonderful mixture of book worm and artist?
If so, we need you!**

**We would love to have a sign above the Library door
with the following Harry Potter quote:**

"Because that's what Hermione does," said Ron, shrugging.
"When in doubt, go to the Library".

- J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets



**Please submit any ideas for a
beautiful sign on A4 paper to
Mrs Carey by 30th November.**

**The chosen winner will then
make the sign on a much
larger scale, and this will be
hung in the Library. They will
also receive a signed copy of
Monster by Michael Grant.**

Vacancy



School Office Administrator Vacancy

3 or 4 days per week (7.2 hours per day), 40 weeks per year
Bexley Scale 7 (£22,506 - £24,510 incl OLW, pro rata)

We are seeking to appoint a motivated and enthusiastic individual, with a strong administrative background, to join our friendly School Office team. The successful candidate will have experience of working in a busy office environment, combined with meticulous organisation and excellent IT skills, including SIMS. Knowledge of Year 7 admission procedures would be advantageous, though not essential.

Further details about the school, the job description and an application form are available on the school website or by clicking on the link [here](#).

Closing date for applications is noon on Wednesday 22nd November 2017.

Forthcoming Events

November

Tuesday 21st ~ Sixth Form Open Evening (Internals)

Monday 27th ~ ECM Day 2

Tuesday 28th ~ KS5 Showcase 6.00pm (see Music notice – **Please note this is the new date for performance**)

Thursday 30th ~ Oliver Production 7.00pm (see notice)

December

Friday 1st ~ Oliver Production 7.00pm (see notice)

Monday 4th ~ Oliver Production 7.00pm (see notice)

Tuesday 5th ~ Christmas Concert 6.00pm (see Music notice)

Friday 8th ~ Closing date for Sixth Form applications

Thursday 14th ~ Christmas Dinner in the canteen

Wednesday 20th ~ Last Day of the Autumn Term

January 2018

Wednesday 3rd ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

Thursday 4th ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

Friday 5th ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

Monday 8th ~ First School day after the Christmas holiday