



Europa Town 2017

From 22nd - 24th November, BGS invited eight nearby primary schools to “Europa Town”, an entirely French or Spanish-speaking town, created in the school hall. During their time in Europa Town, the primary school students bought various items from the stalls, which were run by sixth formers learning either French or Spanish, as well as language prefects. The visiting children were able to buy things in French or Spanish using their “credit cards”, gaining stamps on their “passports” for good use of the respective language, and also using real money for the real food on offer. Over the course of the week, all the sessions were coordinated efficiently by Mr Gallimore. **Continued on page 2.**



Congratulations to our BGS Christmas Card Designer

On Monday 13th November over 500 Bexley Grammar school students submitted designs for the annual design a Christmas card competition. There were so many genuinely excellent entries that choosing the winner was extremely difficult. In the end, the design created by **Rosie Barnwell of 7MPJ** was chosen to be the official card of Bexley Grammar School - a very impressive achievement for a Year 7 - especially as her design saw off a great many incredibly clever and beautifully executed designs by rivals all the way up to Year 12.

Don't miss out!

There is great news for the other entries too. We have teamed up with a local Kent printer, who has offered to print all the designs that met the competition brief as Christmas cards, wrapping paper, and gift tags should anyone wish to purchase them. **Continued on page 3.**



The UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge

A number of Sixth Form Mathematics students sat the UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge on Tuesday 7th November 2017. The students sat a 90 minute multiple choice question paper consisting of 25 complex mathematical problems. Nationally, 60% of students who sit the challenge are awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates, in the ratio of 1:2:3 respectively. **Continued on page 3.**

Europa Town cont...

As both a student studying higher French and a French language prefect, naturally I participated in the French Europa Town sessions. On my first day, I took the position of narrator in the French puppet show, alongside three others doing the actual actions of the puppets with the necessary, comedic sound effects! The 10-minute-long play proved to be extremely popular with the children and once I was back in the town after the show, some repeatedly asked me if they could watch it for a second time! During the show, I had to emphasise certain words, like cognates or those correlating to a part of the show that would help the children understand the story, which was revealed at the end as the French version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

On my second day in Europa Town, I started at Passport Control, where children would hand-in their passports to enter Europa Town. We asked them a simple question each, like their name or age, so they would be able to come into the town and visit the stalls, receiving a shopping bag upon entry. I also had the opportunity of running one of the stalls, rather than participating in the show. In fact, I took the role of the doctor at the medical stall, which was ironic as I had a heavy cold at the time and many of the children found it very funny indeed! During the session, I created a small surgery and I tried to engage in a French conversation with the children coming to the surgery as patients, to which they managed to speak for a decent amount of time, with some prompts from some other sixth formers and myself to help the conversation flow. Several complaints from my "patients" were as a result of them eating their ice creams too quickly and subsequently getting a case of brain freeze!

All in all, I really enjoyed the experience, as I felt that it was a fantastic opportunity to help spread my love of French to other students, in turn (hopefully) helping them to feel more confident when speaking the language. Over the course of the two days that I took part in Europa Town, it was evident that the majority of the visiting children, if not all of them, had a lot of fun in every aspect of the town. It was without doubt a resounding success and we would all like to thank Mr Gallimore for the opportunity to participate in the event.

Jake Rodrigues, Year 12



Congratulations to our BGS Christmas Card Designer cont...

This is an excellent opportunity for our young artists to showcase their talent, by sending a festive greeting to their admirers and potential collectors.

Anyone wishing to order products by your favourite artist should: Visit: www.apfsorders.co.uk between **Tuesday 28th November** and **Monday 4th December**. (Just one week!)

1. Enter your artist's unique code. This will be found on the reverse of their original design underneath the QR code. Designs (and serial numbers) should be returned to artists by Tuesday 28th November.
2. Check the orientation of the design is correct (portrait or landscape).
3. Fill in the artist's name as you wish it to appear on the reverse of the card using capitals where required.
4. Select the cards, wrapping paper and gift tags you would like.
5. Select a greeting, or compose your own unique message.
6. Preview the card.
7. Proceed to checkout.

All orders should be delivered to Bexley Grammar School and given to the artists to distribute by Monday 11th December.

There is no obligation to purchase anything, however, as well as increasing the fame of your artist, and giving them experience of using their creative skills to create real world products, each item sold will raise between 50p and £1.50 for the school Art department. Any funds raised will be used to provide more exciting materials and opportunities for our artists.

Mr Gilmore, Art Dept.

Mrs Arundel (your newsletter editor and producer each week) and I judged a short-list of card designs with the Art Department. The quality was remarkable. There were so many contrasting styles, genres and media represented that our task was made all the more challenging. We had to turn down so many designs that would clearly make excellent Christmas cards. However, after much debate, we unanimously agreed on the striking winner in Rosie's submission.



Congratulations, Rosie! And wouldn't it be lovely to have a white Christmas? (Between 21st December and 7th January, of course!)

Mr Elphick

The UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge cont...

The highest performing students can qualify to sit the Kangaroo Challenge and British Mathematics Olympiad Challenge (BMO1) follow on rounds. We have recently received the results and congratulate the following students on their tremendous achievements:

Year 13 Students

Duncan Geddis

Gold, British Mathematics Olympiad Challenge

Lyndon Huynh

Gold, Senior Kangaroo Challenge

Tyreece Jacobs

Gold, Senior Kangaroo Challenge

Luke Montgomery

Gold, Senior Kangaroo Challenge

Swechha Kansakar

Silver

Andres Ramirez

Silver

Joseph Wakeman

Bronze

Kiefer Buckle

Bronze

Year 12 Students

Helen Norman

Gold, Senior Kangaroo Challenge

James Wald

Silver

Corinna Dunzendorfer

Silver

Drishti Alam

Silver

Shreya Prasai

Silver

Sonny Pring

Silver

Timi Akinsola

Bronze

The students who have qualified for the follow on rounds will be sitting the challenges on Friday, 1st December 2017. Good Luck!

Miss Salp, Mathematics Dept.

The Ruthless Readers Club

The new reading group, 'The Ruthless Readers', have already reviewed their first books for the Trinity Schools Book Award.

Some students read the dystopian novel *The Declaration* by Gemma Malley and discussed the idea of 'Longevity', and what they would hope to achieve if they lived forever. Sophie said that she would like to learn all musical instruments, all languages and write at least 10 books and Daniel said that he would like to rule an army, go on 'I'm a Celebrity' and get a PhD.

Another group read the beautiful, wordless book *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. They discussed the idea of travelling to a new world and everything feeling alien to them. They then captured their experiences of journeying into a new world by drawing three images. Some of the group illustrated their journey into Bexley Grammar School, whilst others chose the new worlds of France and Disneyland!

The final group read *The Weight of Water* by Sarah Crossan. It's a wonderful book, written in blank verse, about a girl and her mother leaving Poland and starting a new life in England. The group discussed their experiences of emigrating, many sharing stories of their parents and grandparents. They then had to write a poem about themselves, which will be displayed in the Library.

Please check the Library twitter page @BexleyGSLibrary for more updates!

Mrs Carey, Librarian



Top in Bebras Challenge run by Oxford University

At Bexley Grammar School we strongly believe Education is an all-round development of an individual, "by developing inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who are motivated to succeed" (IB).

I am pleased to share that our Year 10 student, Thomas Stewart, scored the highest score (191/200) in Bebras Computing Challenge across Kent out of 491 students and is in the top 10% out of 14,402 students nationally.

I am elated to inform you that our 1st Year IB students have scored a better average than students across Kent and across the country. Three of our Year 12 students Timi Akinso-la, Jake O'Brien and James Wald have scored the top 10% score out of a total 5174 students. Fourteen students in total achieved distinctions and the four students with top 10% scores also earned a place in the competition's Hall of Fame.

The Bebras Computing Challenge organised by University of Oxford introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 40 countries and is designed to get students all over the world excited about Computing.

Mr Proddaturi, Head of Key Stage 5 Computer Science



Year 7 ECM Day

Year 7 ECM day was held on 27th November. After registration we went straight to our first lesson, which was about age restrictions for drugs. I learnt a lot of things I didn't know before.

Then, we had our assembly with Mrs Everett. She taught us about Sadako Sasaki, who had survived the Hiroshima atomic bomb, but unfortunately 10 years later she had been diagnosed with leukaemia. She believed that if she made 1,000 origami cranes, her wish would be granted. Her wish was of course to survive and become healthy again. In the end, she made more than 1,000 cranes and continued making them until she was too weak. Sadako died on the morning of October 25, 1955 at the age of 12. The 1000 cranes became a symbol of peace and they are sent to Hiroshima from all over the world to wish for world peace.



After break we had a speed-friendships lesson which taught us how to deal with online friends. In the next lesson we learnt how to set secure, safe passwords. After lunch we had our origami session: we were making origami cranes, which will be combined with the cranes of other groups and classes and taken to the Sadako memorial in the Hiroshima peace park next year. Lastly, we had another Japanese related lesson in which we learnt how to use a Japanese abacus called Soroban. We did 3 step calculations on them. It was an enjoyable day for us all.

Alex Miao, Year 7

Year 12 IB Physics Students visit the Emmanuel Centre, Westminster

On the 9th November, Year 12 IB Physics students travelled to the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster for a day of Physics based lectures from 5 different professors from around the country. It was an insightful day with many of the lecturers explaining their studies and work and the theory behind it. From particle accelerators to quantum physics, we were informed of various different topics in which all BGS students were indulged. Hosted by Greg Foot from BBC Earth Lab, the day was enlightening and inspiring for all students involved.



David Jones, Year 12

Welcome Back!

It was a real pleasure to welcome Roberto Faratro back to BGS, seven years after he left us to read Architecture at University of Kent. Having graduated with a 1st Class degree, Roberto did an MA, and now works for a practice in Central London. The reason for his visit was to provide a mock interview for Nana Kwarteng, who has an interview at Cambridge University in early December - to read Architecture.

A lovely example, I think, of the way in which our high-achieving alumni are prepared to give back to the school and help the next generation to follow in their footsteps. Roberto was highly impressed with Nana's determination and the depth and detail of her thinking; he was particularly pleased that she was doing the IB, as he had: "There is no doubt that the IB is a superb preparation for so any aspects of university life," he said.

Mr Morris, Assistant Head



Lost Property

As the weather is turning colder lots of **winter coats** are being handed in to lost property. **If your child has lost a coat this term, please e-mail reception@bexleygs.co.uk with a description by the 20th December at the latest.** We will then try to reunite them with their owners. Please also make sure students' names are clearly marked on all items, this will help us get items back to students quicker.



We also have more school jumpers to give away, if you would like one please e-mail us with size and student name. We also have the usual lost items, keys, watches, pencil cases, glasses, etc. Please encourage your son/daughter to ask at reception.

The lost property cupboard will be cleared at the end of this term as regrettably, we are unable to keep unclaimed articles indefinitely. Please note that we donate all lost clothing to the Salvation Army for recycling.

Mrs Beasley and Mrs Denyer, Reception

Thank you



A big thank you to Mrs Beasley and four of our Year 8 students (Jemma Chalmers, Benicia Alapatt, George Kirby and Max Ashton) for helping to sell Poppies this year. Together as a school we raised an amazing £407.39. Well done!



BGSPA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are priced at 50p each (£2.50 a book) giving you the chance to win one of the following fabulous prizes:

Family Christmas Hamper

Three course meal for two with wine at Pizza Place Bexley

Family Photo Shoot

£69 Specsavers Voucher

Two Adult tickets to the Transport Museum

His & Hers Babyli's & Harding Gift Sets

Chocolate Hamper

Salt Cave voucher

Chocolate & Fizz

£10 John Lewis Gift Card

Click [here](#) for tickets – Good Luck

News Items You May Have Missed

Tickets still available

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.

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.

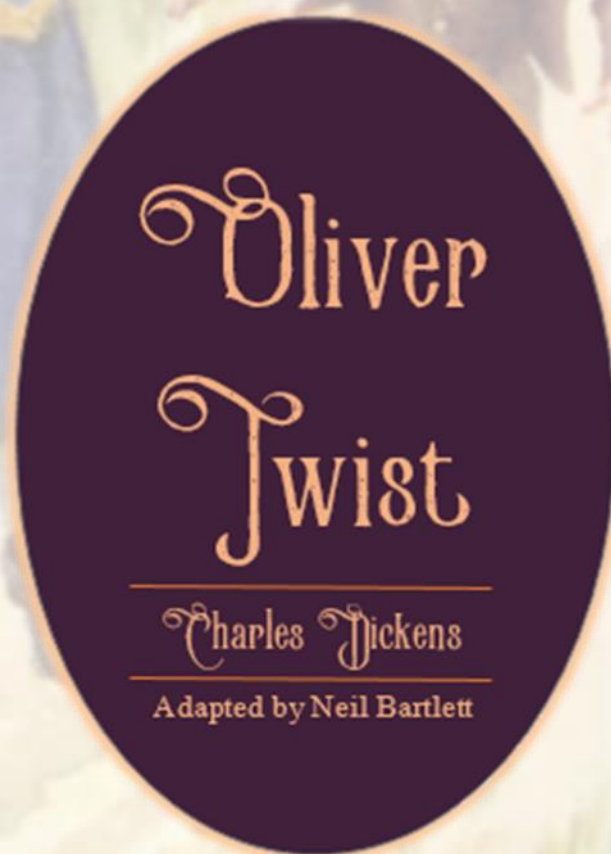
Not fast as we expect this fundraising event to sell out quickly (especially the Friday night)!

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

Click [here](#) to view the Oliver Twist trailer created by Katherine Beeching, Chloe Dominy, Chelsey Goodrich and Ijaz Fayaz.



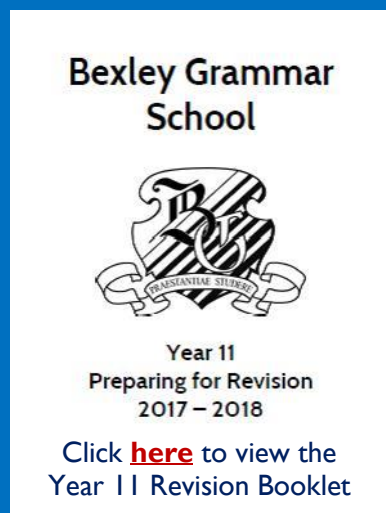
Exams

Year 11 & Year 13 Students

Please click on the links below to view the Year 11 and Year 13 (IB) Mock Exam Timetables, December 2017.

[Year 11 Mock Exams Timetable - Dec 2017](#)

[Year 13 Mock IB Exams Timetable - Dec 2017](#)



Music News

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>



Forthcoming Events

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 (£3.00)

Wednesday 20th ~ Last Day of the Autumn Term (click [here](#) to view end of term/start of term arrangements letter)

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