



YEAR 8 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK!
September 2010

Welcome Back to a new academic year after what has hopefully been a relaxing and refreshing break! Year 8 is a challenging and exciting time for our students, as they will be completing Key Stage 3 in only two years and being awarded their National Curriculum levels in each subject area. As you would expect for such a busy time of year, the first term will be crucial to your child's success. Miss Lynch, the Senior Academic Mentor (SAM) for Year 8, and I will be seeking to promote and generate a positive learning environment within the year group in order to build upon the excellent foundations that were laid last year.

First of all, I would like to thank all students and parents for attending the Year 7 Diploma Celebration Evening on Friday 9th July. It was a lovely evening with so many of you supporting your son and daughter's success. I have been impressed with the positive start that all Year 8 students have made to this year. It is very important that all students make a smooth transition into Year 8 as quickly as possible and I am delighted with the mature attitude shown by all.

Year 7 was a successful year for all ranging from academic achievement with the Diploma; theatrical performances in the Key Stage 3 production of 'Guys and Dolls'; trips to London Art Galleries, Wildwood centre for Science; summer fayre and sports day; ECM days varying from cultural experiences, study skills day and first aid courses. Congratulations go to Tony Chambers who won the year group vote for 'DoS for a day' along with his Senior Academic Mentor, Vicky Chivers. They did a fantastic job outlining their rules to staff, organising a non-school uniform day and an array of activities for the year group on Monday 5th July. They have certainly kept me on my toes! It is encouraging to see pupils participating in a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and house activities and I hope they continue with these in preparation for the Certificate of Achievement in Year 8.

As with the Year 7 diploma, success can only be achieved by the support of others. Parental support has been greatly appreciated by both students and teachers. To highlight the success of the Year 7 diploma, we have introduced the 'Year 8 Certificate of Achievement'. This is to help pupils with their organisation and time management. There are several essential things that you can do to support us throughout the year: signing and monitoring your child's student planner each week; ensuring that homework tasks are completed to meet deadlines; and helping your son/daughter to focus upon revision before examinations and assessments. Additionally, with the 'Certificate of Achievement' you can monitor their achievement and successes in their planner.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Year 8 students on successfully passing the 'Year 7 Diploma' with an excellent number achieving the highest grade 'Distinction'. This would be an excellent time to start collating a record of achievement file to further support the 'Year 8 Certificate of Achievement'. As explained on the diploma evening, this year continues to build upon time management skills, organisation and academic progress. Further to this, we wish to strengthen the Bexley Grammar School ethos of 'Intellect, Empathy and Courage'. Year 8 students will have the opportunity to contribute to the wider community involving activities both inside and outside of the school.

Unfortunately we have made some changes to the year team this year. Congratulations go to Miss Swadkin who has relinquished her role as form tutor and been promoted as the Head of House co-ordinator. 7LKS now have Miss Storer as their new form tutor and will become 8KAS. Mr Murray will be taking over Mr Allison who has been promoted to the Oxbridge co-ordinator. 7SRA will now be known as 8TM. Sadly, Mr Bishop left us so 7APB will now become 8PEB, with Ms Bartlett becoming their new tutor. Fortunately we still have our tutors, Miss Burden, Mr Lawrence and Miss Edmundson remaining with the year group. I would like to thank all tutors for their hard work in Year 7 and I am confident that this will continue in Year 8 along with our new team. If you have queries, please direct these to the relevant tutor for further clarification.

The Autumn term will be extremely busy, and in order for you to keep track of events, I have listed the important dates. Furthermore, I am sure you will support our high expectations of attendance, punctuality and smart appearance.

Year 8 Important Dates

24 th September 2010	INSET Day
11 th - 14 th October 2010	Year 8 Classics Visits to Lullingstone Villa
18 th October 2010	Year 8 Reports issued to students
21 st October 2010	ECM Day 1
25 th October – 29 th October 2010	Half Term
10 th November 2010	Year 8 Parents' Evening
24 th November 2010	ECM Day 2
29 th November 2010	INSET Day
17 th December 2010	Last day of term

I fully appreciate your continued support, and the Year 8 team and I eagerly look forward to a most challenging, stimulating and fulfilling academic year. There are so many exciting opportunities to look forward to this year, House events, ECM days and new extra-curricular clubs. I wish all Year 8 students the best of luck in their final year at Key Stage 3. Enjoy and work hard!

K S Kemp
Year 8 Director of Studies

L J Lynch
Year 8 Senior Academic Mentor