



Dancing girls from 'Crazy for You' ~ review overleaf

IB results

I am delighted to be able to report that Sunday's IB results were even better than last year's excellent grades. The average IB score was almost 34 points; this equates to 512 points in the UCAS tariff i.e. more than four grade As at A level. 96% of all the IB students gained their diploma. This year all Bexley Grammar's Oxbridge students were IB students. Most of our students will now be moving on to take up places at some of the country's most prestigious universities.

The students excelled in all aspects of the IB but did particularly well in the IB "core". It is the core which many people feel distinguishes the IB from other post 16 qualifications. In the "core" students study "the theory of knowledge" an area of the curriculum which encourages students to think for themselves.

Students are also required to write a 4000 word "extended essay". This helps prepare students for the rigors of university and has also proved useful in university interviews. This year among the many interesting titles students chose to write about were; "To what extent was Stalin responsible for the purges 1934-38", "Do organic foods have higher vitamin C content than mass produced foods?"

CAS (Community, Action, Service) is also part of the core. Students have been broadening their horizons this year by undertaking such diverse activities as volunteering at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and teaching foreign languages at local primary schools. Such experiences can only help our students develop into caring, well rounded individuals.

While I will miss seeing the students around school I know that they are well prepared for the next step of their careers and wish them well.

K J Brown

Forthcoming Events

Friday 10th July ~ Summer Concert

Monday 13th July ~ Speech Day **early closure 2.20pm**

Thursday 16th July ~ Last day of Term

Race for Life

Congratulations to all students and staff who took part in the Race for Life on Sunday. Well done Ellie Aspill, Olufunmilayo Adekojo and Joy Onah who all ran the race and crossed the finish line in under 35 minutes. Your training paid off!

Mrs Leffen CAS Co-ordinator

Last Sunday, Miss Ramsden and a group of girls from 12NJR managed (just about) to drag themselves out of bed at an hour which seemed wholly wrong on the supposed 'day of rest' to complete the Race for Life at Blackheath. They gathered not so bright and early on the heath, and were greeted with the sight of Miss Ramsden accompanied by a dragon, a crocodile, and Mr Baker. Once they had recovered from the shock, they made their way over to complete a warm up which would be more appropriately referred to as a make-yourself-as-exhausted-as-possible-before-it's-even-started-up. After Miss Ramsden had charged her way to the front of the runners section - almost causing a punch up or two, we were off...and we couldn't see her for dust. Whilst she finished in the Top 20 with all the other madwomen, the rest of us finished in respectable time - even Maisy Tuong who had opted for denim hot pants over more practical attire. Despite our collective bad backs and aching legs, we are proud to have raised over £1000 for Cancer Research.

Now all of you pay up!

Sian Gardiner Year 12



Notice

All school Library books need to be returned to the Library by Monday 13th July. If any long overdue books are found in class rooms or lockers during the end of year tidy up or under beds, behind radiators etc at home please return them to the Library. No questions asked! Many happy hours of summer reading to all, staff and students alike.

Mrs McAllister (Librarian)

Culture club – coming soon!

Students in Years 11-13: look out for our exciting cultural opportunities early in the autumn! We will be offering Brecht's 'Mother Courage', a must-see for all drama students; film star Kevin Spacey in 'Inherit the Wind' (a gripping courtroom drama which tackles controversy about the conflict between science and religion in education) and Shakespeare's rarely performed 'Cymbeline'. Theatre not your thing? Then how about art at The National Gallery or The Courtauld? And for something different try opera – as soon as booking opens we will be ordering tickets for 'Turandot' (football-lovers will recognise the famous aria Nessum Dorma) and 'Rigoletto' a powerful story of love and jealousy set in Mafia-ridden New York.

Passionate to see something? If you see a production that catches your eye, art, dance, opera, theatre...tell us about it and we'll book it for our all new 'By Popular Demand' event.

Come along, try something new, surprise yourself!

Ms Hanington & Ms Stoddard

English Department

On Wednesday 8th July, 49 Year 9 students went to see a performance of 'The Woman in Black' in Covent Garden. The students have studied the text as part of their Year 9 English course and were very keen to have a chance to see this terrifying gothic tale performed on stage. The production is now in its 21st year in the West End and I am sure the Year 9 students would agree that it is a theatre experience that should not be missed.

M Baker

Year 10

The Year 10s have enjoyed a fun Science and Maths week where we have been involved in such activities as Investigating our senses, Titrations, Crater investigations, Circus of chemistry challenges, Happy Puzzle company workshops. We have thoroughly enjoyed the week so far.

Crazy for You ~ Review

Rather than have a single perspective on last week's school musical production, 'Crazy for You', we have taken the liberty of including a few excerpts from various guests, parents and staff who put pen to paper (invariably electronically) to pay tribute to Dr Medlicott, the cast and the crew of last week's extravaganza. Since we have not had time to ask each individual for permission, the comments remain anonymous.

"I think this one surpassed others we have seen: just when you think you have seen the best that can be put on you are surprised by an even better production. It was wonderful – so much fun!"

"Just a quick word to thank you for the invite to 'Crazy for you'. I have to say it was brilliant from start to finish!! The standard of playing from the "band" was extremely high and singing, acting, dancing all superb."

From a long-serving teacher:

"They have all been good, most very good and a few just stunningly good. I have NEVER seen a better display of the talents of our pupils than I saw last evening at the gala performance of 'Crazy for You'. I have also never before seen the acting, dancing, singing and music all combined simultaneously to the highest of standards by so many pupils across the complete age range of our school."

A rather heavily edited response from one of the deputies:

"Wow!

The production last night was absolutely stunning. The music, the dancing were amazing, Sam Haughton and Becky McKillop are great as the leads... the script is funny and the music and the dancing (but I think I may already have mentioned that).

Wow!

Definitely worth going to see, invite your friends, bring the mayor, shout it from the hillsides and the treetops, this is a great production...

Plus it is all done by our students from Y13s just gone and come back to perform down to Y7s in the chorus line (and what a chorus line! The music, the dancing. Wow)

Wow!"

From the head teacher of a local school:

"Although I passed my thanks to you last night, I felt I had to write a note, that I hope you will pass on to everyone involved, because I have never seen a production that exudes so much professionalism and is an equal to any 'West End' show.

Your actors, actresses, band members and all supporting staff, can be justifiably proud of this showcase event and I do believe that you already have a centre of excellence for performing arts; it certainly merits a bespoke building."

This last comment, in response to the leaflet made available each evening, refers to the Performing Arts Centre that we would so like to build.

Finally, extracts from another guest's letter:

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the invitation to your Art Exhibition and production of 'Crazy for You'. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and was astounded by the level of talent and dedication shown by your students and staff..."

I can fully comprehend your desire to build the new Performing Arts Centre which I am certain would enhance the opportunities already offered to your students, as well as developing a much needed resource for the local community."

If anyone has a few hundred thousand pounds to get us going, please contact the school!

Mr Elphick

This is the last Newsletter for this academic year. Next week the School Magazine will be issued to students.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

School starts again on Monday 7th September