



Bexley
Grammar
School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th September 2010

www.bexleygs.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

Friday 10th September ~ Year 7 BBQ

Tuesday 21st September ~ Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday 24th September ~ INSET Day

Monday 27th September ~ School Photographs for Years 7, 9 & 12

Wednesday 29th September ~ Year 13 Parents' Evening

Welcome to Academic Year 2010-11

I am very pleased to welcome everyone back to school after a somewhat damp summer holiday for those of us who stayed in this country. I have enjoyed welcoming students and staff back to school in the past few days for everyone seems pleased to see each other and to be positive about the year ahead. Our new Year 7 students are settling in very quickly and have made a good start. The metamorphosis of Year 11 students with worn uniforms into smart Year 12 students has happened and it is delightful to see them eager to lead our community. Some external students have joined us and they seem to have fitted in quickly and I encourage them to waste no time in getting involved in everything we have to offer for time in the Sixth Form passes very quickly.



are well suited to university life and ultimately the world of work.

Our results in August were extremely good once again setting a new standard for the school. The Year 11 students' hard work and commitment paid off when they collected more A* grades than we have ever gained before! The 222 students gained 427 A* grades between them with 109 students gaining at least one A* and 10 students gaining more than 10 A* each. In English Language (23.4%), English Literature (28.4%) and Mathematics (25.7%) a quarter of the grades were awarded at A*. In English Language 68.2% of grades were at A*/A; in English Literature 83.8% of grades were at A*/A and in Mathematics 66.2% of grades were at A*/A. These good quality basics are essential to underpin study at a higher level and they will ensure that our students

Judged against the other National standard measures of success 100% of students gained 5 A*-C including English and Mathematics. 94.8% gained 5 A*-C including two good science subjects and 98.2% gained 5A*-C including one foreign language and an almost similar figure gained two languages. These results compare very favourably with previous years and against other schools even though we seek out the most challenging courses for our students. Most students took three separate sciences and two foreign languages as part of their 11 or 12 courses and all took English Literature.

The results do not include some work Year 11 students have already done on working towards their Sixth Form studies. These include a large number of A/S foreign language modules and a Free Standing Maths Qualification which was taken by 47 students.

Year 13 students achieved 57% of all their grades at A* to B level with the average grade for every entry being just below a B grade. One student, Samantha Johnson, achieved 4 A* grades and secured her place at Cambridge. Daisy Taylor secured her place at Oxford and many other students gained places at the best universities in this country.

The IB results this year were especially good. Two students gained 45 points, the maximum possible. David MacDougal secured his place at Oxford with this grade and Peggy Luong has gone to Imperial to study medicine with this wonderful

result. In the previous year only 94 students in the world managed to achieve full marks so these are truly remarkable performances from these two students. The average point score for the IB cohort of 42 students was 35 points which is the equivalent to more than 4 As at A Level. The lowest grade achieved, 27 points, is equivalent to 326 UCAS points (1A and 2Bs).

When the A Level grades are added to our IB results they are outstanding! Approaching 70% of grades are then at A* to B with at least 12.3% of grades at A*. The UCAS point score per candidate this year is 375.8 which is remarkable.

The media reports of a university scramble this year were a reality but the situation did not affect us greatly. After giving students realistic grade predictions and advising them to have realistic insurance places secured through the UCAS process we had relatively few students seeking university places through clearing. Staff are delighted that our students will be studying at Warwick, York, Imperial, King's, UCL and many other significant institutions in addition to our 3 Oxbridge places. Nottingham has been extremely popular this year with 17 Bexley Grammar School students attempting to take over the place! Having 6 students gaining places at Loughborough to study sport or engineering related courses is another significant achievement.

Last year's Year 13 students led the school wonderfully while they were here and these results will give them the opportunity to make a significant mark upon the world. They have left Bexley Grammar School with qualifications and experiences of leadership which will stand them in very good stead. I wish them well in all they do.

If you come to the school you will notice that we are using a new pedestrian gate at the top of the school. This is intended to give students a pathway which is not shared by vehicles. Another piece of building work completed over the summer is a small extension to our Music Rooms giving us a little extra space for the department. Another larger extension near to the Gym is being funded by the Local Authority to provide some purpose built additional needs facilities; this should be near to completion but there have been considerable delays during the summer meaning that this is unlikely to be completed before December. The consequence of this will be that we will be short of playground space for most of this term. We have also gained planning permission for a Sixth Form study facility which we desperately need.



I am very pleased that we are planning to gain Academy status under the government's new regime for academies. This will mean that we will have more independence and will be in control of our curriculum delivery, our property and the services we purchase. It seems entirely fitting that Bexley Grammar School should be in the forefront of these significant changes. We have an excellent governing body that will ensure the character and ethos of the school are protected. Openness to change has been a fundamental part of our drive toward success in the past and this proposed change is not to be feared.

Finally I wish all students an enjoyable and fulfilling new year.

J Welsh
Headmaster

Mr Crawford and Miss Among would like to congratulate all of last year's Year 11 on their excellent exam results. 54% of grades at A*/A and 10 of you achieving 10 or more A* is phenomenal. The results are a credit to you and reflect the hard work put in by you and your teachers over the last two years. It's with sadness that we send you off to the 6th Form and other destinations and we wish you the best of luck in all your future plans.

Notices

Music Department Notices ~ Instrumental lessons start again in the week beginning 20th September. Even if you had lessons last year, you must return the form to confirm that you are still interested; if you do this, you are guaranteed a place with the same teacher as last year. If you do not return the form, you will not be allocated lessons this term. The deadline for returning lesson application forms is Friday 10th September. Please contact Miss Swadkin if you have any queries: Swadkin_I@bexleygs.co.uk

Extra-curricular Music Clubs will start on **Monday 13th September**. The music timetables have gone out to all forms, and will be up on every form's notice board, as well as in the music department (Mu1 and Mu2). For junior ensembles, just turn up on the day with your instrument and have a go! All ensembles are open to all, unless otherwise indicated.

Greece Water Sports Tour ~ 28th May 2011 (1 week)
A reminder that any Year 7 or 8s interested in the above tour should please come to the staffroom to get a letter from Mrs. Haslam.

Physical Education Notice ~ The PE department will operate an 'All Change Policy' this academic year. Staff teach inclusive lessons and will adapt activities for all physical abilities. Parents/guardians should send notes to teachers to explain any issues their children may have, but students should still bring full kit and discuss any problems with their teacher. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

British Sign Language Classes recommence on Mondays and Tuesdays 15:30-17:30.
Monday is a mix of students and adults who wish to take BSL Award Level One and Basic Deaf Blind Awareness.
Tuesday is for adults who wish to take BSL Award Level Two and intermediary Deaf Blind Awareness.

Cooking Club ~ Are you in Year 7? Would you like to join our cooking club?
If you would like to apply for a place please collect an application pack from Mrs Coldicott or Mrs Young in H4.
There will be 10 application packs available which will be allocated on a strictly first come first served basis. When the course is full any other names will be placed on a reserve list for the next course.
Mrs Young ~ Cookery Club Teacher
Mrs Coldicott—Cookery Club Administrator

Lower School Games Club ~ This year Games Club is running in G16 on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at lunchtime. Games include chess, draughts, backgammon, monopoly, cards etc.

Culture Club ~ dates for your diary:

Ballet Trockadero (14 Sept): an all-male troupe combine classical ballet and comedy – it's both brilliant and brilliantly funny.

The Rivals (21 Sept): Sheridan's great comedy – full of love affairs going wrong, deceptions and disguises. An IB set text.

The 7 Fingers (5 Oct): circus for the 21st century – an amazing troupe from Quebec, Montreal.

The Glass Menagerie (16 Nov): Tennessee Williams' powerful and highly autobiographical play – perfect for anyone who is studying Streetcar.

Fela! (23 Nov): a unique mixture of African music, theatre and dance.

Ms Hanington and Ms Stoddard have ordered limited quantities of tickets at bargain prices for all these performances. Experience something new by getting letters from the English Department (J13). Tickets are first come, first served, so hurry!

Sophists' Society ~ Advance Notice

Mr Allison and Ms Stoddard are currently working on a series of lectures and activities on Tuesday afternoons immediately after school for sixth-formers who like to think.

Our first booking is a lecture on Tuesday 21 September delivered by John Levy from the Friends of Israel Educational Foundation on conflict and politics in the Middle East – essential for IB history, useful background for IB English coursework – extremely interesting for everyone. We also have a lecture booked called 20th Century Perceptions of Insanity, delivered by Dr D Lloyd at 3.05pm in SFCl on Tuesday 5th October.

Sophists' Society talks are about an hour long and designed for students who want to expand their cultural horizons and prepare for university interviews.

A request from the Finance Office

If you are sending payments into school by cheque, could you please put your child's name and form on the back and if possible what the payment is for ie: what school journey or visit, school fund, revision books etc.
Many thanks.