



IB ~ Extended Essays

The Year 13 IB extended essays have been completed and are ready to be sent to academics around the world for marking. This year students have completed an even wider selection of subjects than ever before; in particular we have seen far more students choosing to write their 4000 words in a foreign language. Students have researched and completed their extended essays in Russian, Italian, German and Spanish and have in the process deepened their knowledge of another culture.

As ever Psychology proved to be a very popular choice and a special thanks to Mr Asker who supervised ten essays.

The range of essay titles also reflects the diverse interest of the students and includes titles from every department in the school: "To what extent has tourism impacted the social and economic geography of Marrakech?"; "To what extent did the structural properties of the World Trade Centre contribute to its collapse?"; "A mathematical analysis into determining the probability of winning all 13 tricks in the game of Bridge without the need of a partner"; "To what extent is the media responsible for Anorexia Nervosa in teenage girls?" and "A study of the effect of different alcopops on the heart rate of *Daphnia pulex*".

I know that the students are grateful to all the supervisors and other members of staff who willingly gave their time and expertise to students in order to ensure the successful completion of the research.

The current Year 12 IB students are starting on their extended essays and are in the process of finding an interesting question to investigate. Should any parent, either through their work or wider interest, feel that they have a suitable topic for an investigation in an extended essay or would simply like to know more about the process I would be very interested in hearing from you.

Mr Brown

Year 7

Year 7 Spelling Bee Heats

We had a fantastic turnout to the spelling bee heats in preparation for this year's Times Spelling Bee in April. Well done to the final students who made it through the first heats: Sophie Tyler, Amarpreet Dawgotra, Ola Fariyike, Matthew Robertson, Sophie Chu and Farhan Tariq.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 15th February ~ Year 10 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 16th February ~ PA Meeting, 7.30pm SFC

Monday 21st – Friday 25th February ~ Half Term

An extra special well done to the Spelling Bee team for 2011: Ella Tournes 7KLB, Zoe Greenwood 7CMS, Sarah Beaman 7FOM and Oyin Osoba 7FOM. These students will be representing Year 7 at the local heats in Cineworld, North Greenwich in April.

The English Department

Year 8

Last week Year 8 took part in an ECM day based on Languages and Arts. We all took part in an ICT lesson in which we filled in a questionnaire and looked at the culture of either France or Germany. Also we had a cultural lesson in which we learnt new vocabulary and experienced in more depth the culture of the language.

Pupils also took part in an Art lesson in which we either made a Rangoli pattern, wax printing or clay mask. We participated in a preparation lesson in which we made our own passports and revised vocabulary which we needed in Europa Town and challenged sixth-formers in order to work on our speed.

In Europa Town we had to interview two people, write postcards and visit every stall in order to collect stamps. The stalls included a bakery, clothes shop and a grocery store. We were given a credit card to buy fake things but there was an opportunity to buy real food such as croissants, drinks and ice-cream.

Overall it was an enjoyable day and it really did improve our art and language skills.

Amy Dykes, 8MGL

Year 12

UKCAT practice ~Year 12 students who would like to start working towards the UK Clinical Aptitude Test should meet Ms Stoddard in SFC2 on Thursday lunchtimes. We will be practising verbal reasoning skills. Textbooks are not needed yet, but bring a folder and pen!

Ms Stoddard

Reminder: Monday 14th February is Pink Valentine's Day. Pay a pound and you can wear non school uniform. Please wear at least 1 item of pink. All money raised goes to Breast Cancer Research.

PEER MENTOR RECRUITMENT ~ Year 12

For many years Bexley Grammar School has run a successful peer mentoring service which is highly valued and has received positive feedback by OFSTED. The service is currently working towards an accreditation with The Mentoring and Befriending Foundation.

The current Peer Mentors will be visiting your form next week to talk about the Peer Mentor role and to provide an opportunity for you to answer any questions you may have about the Peer Mentor service.

If you would like to apply for the role of a Peer Mentor then please write a letter to Mrs Haslam our Additional Needs Co-ordinator, telling her a little about yourself and giving reasons why you think that you would make a good Peer Mentor. There are 20 places available and applications should be handed in no later than Friday 4th March. Applicants will be interviewed by the current Peer Mentors on the next ECM day, Monday 14th March.

Successful applicants will attend an intensive day's training course at The Barnehurst Golf Club on Wednesday 27th April facilitated by Mr Lines, Mrs Haslam and me. Please make sure you are available on this day BEFORE applying.

This comment came from a previous Peer Mentor which I think sums up just what you can get out of this opportunity:

'Out of all the roles I've had in the school, I feel that this has been the most fulfilling and I have gained skills that I am sure I will use and develop through life.'

All the best!

Mrs Prescott, School Counsellor

Notices

Bridge Evening

The first BGS student/parent bridge evening took place on 13th January and was an enormous success despite a maths exam scheduled for the next day which deterred some students from entering. Players of a wide range of abilities played together in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoyed the fierce contest of playing-card on green baize. The Parents' Association is therefore delighted to announce that there will be another opportunity to play on 1st March. 6.45pm for a prompt 7.00pm start (we'll be finished by about 9.00pm). Come with or without a partner, all standards are welcome (£3 for adults, £1 for students).

Mr Handscombe

Year 7 Parent Classes in Chemistry, Biology and Physics ~ Monday 21st March

If the answer is yes to any of the following questions then don't miss out, there are limited places available. Would you like to:

- Experience 'hands on' Science, experiments.
- Use a Bunsen burner AND safety glasses!
- Explore the role of practical science in your child's education.
- Have fun!!

If you are interested in attending any one of these practical classes to be held on the 21st March then please make your interest known in the first instance by contacting Mrs Triggs in the school office by email: triggs_l@bexleygs.co.uk or by letter via Reception by Friday 18th February. *Mrs Vials*

London Marathon update

First of all, many thanks for the sponsorship money received during various parents' evenings; I have managed to raise just over £150.00 through those. I still have another £950 to raise but I'm glad to be down to three digit numbers!

If you wish to help me raise the funds to help out children across the country, nothing could be easier. Log on to www.virginmoneygiving.com/nutty.didz and just click the "Donate now" button. All donations, however small, will be greatly received. All money raised is for the Barnardos' Charity. Thank you for taking the time to read this. *Didier Nuttall 13RPP*

Merits

Congratulations go to Abdulbasit Alaka, Georgia Ebdon, Joe O'Dwyer, Gemma Laws, Philip Hagelberg, Jennifer Hill, Hope Hui, Megan Lewis, Sofia Lee, Connie Barton (7KLB), Colin Archie-Pearce, Lucy Ballard, Precious Ogundiran, Jamie Irving (7EP), Michael Knight (7SMB), Megan Doughty, Holly Morris, Amarpreet Dawgotra, (7CMS) on reaching 50 merits.

Also a special mention to Aaron Harris (7EP), Matthew Harris (7KLB), Matthew Talbot (7SMB) and Joe Cast 7MTR achieving an amazing 100 merits.

Well done everyone and keep up the good work.

Mr Crawford

ECM Day Report ~ 1st February

Last Tuesday saw this year's third Every Child Matters day, with pupils off timetable and working on a variety of tasks that enhance their personal skills and encourages them to work as a team and become safe, active and healthy members of society. Pupils did some outstanding work and there are some excellent photos available on the website: www.bexleygs.co.uk click on Gallery, ECM Day and then ECM Day 3 Feb 2011, they are definitely worth a look!

Year 7 Theme ~ Reincarnation Faiths



All Year 7 pupils spent the day working in form groups with guest speakers from the 3 faiths of Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism together with FBCS staff. Pupils were able to gain first hand information about the faiths and enjoyed the opportunity these speakers gave for discussion and extended understanding.

Pupils also worked in Music looking at the different sounds associated with the religions and in a discussion workshop.



Year 8 Theme ~ Europa Town



All Year 8 pupils spent the day working across the Languages department, both in Europa Town and associated lessons.

Pupils also enjoyed Art lessons which raised awareness of different cultures and their time in the ICT lab.

Several Year 8 pupils have commented on the value the Sixth Form student input added to the day, which was really appreciated, so thank you to all who took part.



Year 9 Theme ~ 'Green' School

Students spent the day working on a variety of 'Green' themes and carrying out an audit of school power use. Students worked with two external presenters to examine how solar cells and wind power work and consider their use in society.



A school audit was carried out in most of the school areas with students asking questions about energy usage and producing detailed calculations to help the 'Green team' plan a reduction in usage.

Students also considered the use of nuclear fuel, particularly concentrating on the dangers of accidents through a study of Chernobyl.



Year 10 Theme – Preparation for work and life

Students spent the day considering how CVs are best presented and had time in an ICT room to work on their own, in preparation for work experience and later life.

The school nurse visited school and spent time with small groups of students discussing sexual health – feedback suggests that students found this session to be very useful and is something they would value in more detail.

Students also spent some time examining ideas of risk and then linking that to issues of gambling, both personally and in the community.

Year 11 Theme ~ Safe relationships

Students spent part of the day in a workshop examining their relationships with peers, partners, parents and society; focusing on how they interpret and are viewed by others, and how to achieve the most positive interactions. Staff feedback from these sessions, which were delivered by an external provider, was very positive particularly about the responses of students and their mature approach. Several students, when asked, said that they found the sessions very thought provoking. Students also used ICT to work on safe dating tips and produced presentations using the internet.

There was also a presentation from a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers advisor, Brendan Sweeney, who discussed the type of careers within STEM and students used a building 'game' to examine his career within the building firm Skanska.



Duke of Edinburgh candidates spent the day with Ms Shaughnessy practising the skills they need for their expeditions, including team building, putting up tents and outdoor cooking.



Sixth Form

A number of Year 12 and 13 students were in either Science or Geography exams for the day. Other students were also working within departments such as Languages, Drama and Art or within their interest, such as with the 'Green Team'. Much of this meant that students were working closely with lower school classes, passing on their own knowledge and expertise.

Year 12 students who were not part of any of the above activities spent time working on the research and essay writing skills in preparation for the Fitzwilliam College (Cambridge) essay writing competition, and we wish all entrants the best of luck.



This newsletter entry is long because it reflects the quantity packed into ECM day 3. The variety within the day was pleasing and I would like to thank all staff involved for their hard work and goodwill.

Ms Rock