



Academy Status

Dear Parents

The new term is well under way now and I am pleased to announce that we successfully gained academy status from the 1st of January as planned. For us this has not involved a change of name or a change to my title. As I said during the consultation I am hoping that you will witness very few changes as a direct consequence of this move.

Our funding and accounting systems have changed significantly and our Governors will now have greater responsibility. We have the freedom to spend our money with fewer constraints. At the moment I am working out which services we need and am evaluating various options available to us. In some instances already we have decided not to buy in a service but to fill the need from our own capacity; while in other instances we will be spending more than we currently do to gain a better service. This flexibility will be helpful when money becomes tighter in the near future.

Certainly financial constraints will come our way irrespective of academy status. The government are redirecting funding towards schools with high levels of Free School Meals and we have relatively low numbers claiming these entitlements. If your family is eligible to make such a claim I would encourage you to do so for the benefit of your child and the school. The claim form is extremely simple and our biometric system guarantees a high degree of confidentiality. Details of how to claim are available from Mrs Triggs in our school office.

In time it is likely that more will be expected of us as an outstanding academy and we will be asked to influence other education providers. We have had numerous partnerships in the past through our work as a High Performing Specialist School and such a move seems both natural and appropriate to me as these links help us to develop and grow; through these our students come to understand a broader range of people and experiences. We are currently in the process of establishing a link with Woodside Special School and I feel that mutual benefits could come from our helping each other. I know that the music and drama departments are keen to explore the possibility of joint projects on a limited scale to start the ball rolling.

Mr Welsh

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 18th January ~ PA meeting 7.30pm Sixth Form Centre

Monday 7th February ~ Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening

Tuesday 15th February ~ Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 8

Hello and hope you have all had a good first week back! We would like to start off on a good note by telling you about all the positive comments that have been made in the past week about our year group. Keep up the good work! Also we would like to remind you about the art trip next week to the Horniman Museum:

- Monday 17th January - 8LRB & 8KAS
- Tuesday 18th January – 8PEB & 8TM
- Wednesday 19th January – 8HLE & 8MGL

Don't forget you will need a packed lunch and full school uniform must be worn.

Victoria Chivers, Christopher Mill & Syduja Jayathara (8LRB)

Year 9

Congratulations to Joshua Minchin, 9RL who was entered along with other students into the London heat of the HSBC/British Council Mandarin Chinese Speaking Competition. He was chosen by the judges to go through to the final of the Beginner's category on 10th March at the British Museum. Good luck Joshua!

Merits

Congratulations to Olivia Reynolds, Isobelle Smith (7CMS), Annoa Abekah-Mensah, Fabian Aguigwo, Ruby Osborne and Sarah Deadman (7EP) on achieving 50 merits.

Mr Crawford

Congratulations go to Syduja Jayatharan 8LRB for successfully reaching 50 merits. A great start to the term and well done!

Mrs Kemp

Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards

Congratulations are in order for our Jack Petchey Award winners from last term. Emily Millhouse (13CHV) received an award for her enormous contribution to school as a Science leader, English leader and reading mentor. Jemma Connor (11RSM) received her award for running a girls' cricket club after school that was very successful. Jason Ly (9RL) was recognised for his outstanding performance in the Maths challenge, earning BGS's first distinction. Each of these students has won £200 to spend for the benefit of a group of students in the school.

Well done to all of them.

Mr Lines

Notices

Year 10 Geography residential trip 16th – 20th March ~ Parents' meeting

There will be an information evening for all parents of students on this trip on Tuesday 8th February at 5.30pm in the School Hall.

It is important that parents attend as I will explain the work, social activities, packing list, behaviour expectations etc and it is important that both students and parents understand the importance of the fieldwork element of the trip in light of the coursework.

I look forward to seeing parents there. *Ms Rock, Trip organiser*

Classics trip to the Bay of Naples ~ Parents' Information evening

The Classics Department is holding a Parent Information evening on 9th February from 6pm until 7pm in the SFC to give final information to parents about the upcoming trip to the Bay of Naples.

If you are unable to attend and have any questions please get in contact with Miss Pearson in the Classics Department.

Miss

Pearson

Poetry Live ~ The deadline for Year 11 students returning permission slips and payment for **Poetry Live** is Monday 17th January. Letters are available in the English Office if required.

Mrs Macleod

Parent Courses ~ We are hoping to start new parent courses in February. Please look out for further details. *Miss Francis*

Meal Deal Tuesday 18th January ~ Spaghetti Bolognese 1p

Bexley Grammar School in the snow

