



BGS winners of Bexley Schools' Public Speaking Competition

On Wednesday 9th February a group of Year 12 students ran out victorious in Bexley Borough's public speaking competition. The group included Dylan Shaw, Naomi Wass and Joseph Thompson-Oubari, with James Fernandes standing by as reserve speaker.

It was an extremely tense evening against five other local schools; each presentation lasted 15 minutes and was followed by questions from the Mayor of Bexley and the other judges.

Our topic of discussion was the controversial issue of the elderly, and their role in society: our valiant representatives chose to argue that the aged are an essential part of our population. We'd like to thank Mr Morris for helping to prepare the team.

Dylan Shaw I2WRD

Report from India

For the last two years, cryptic parcels have travelled to and from the school bearing essays, pictures and projects across the many miles that separate us from our partner school TIPGS Hooghly in India.

In 2009 this partnership was kicked off with a visit to BGS from the Headteacher of TIPGS and last month it was the turn of two of our teachers to visit India. Mr Handscombe and Mrs Whitehorn spent five delightful days by the shores of the Ganges, not far north of Calcutta (and a further two days of varying comfort courtesy of the charming folks at Air Emirates). The students and staff of TIPGS were wonderful hosts and we got to see several highlights of the area as well as getting to know the school. We spoke at assembly, judged a painting competition (Mrs Whitehorn), played basketball with

Forthcoming Events

Monday 21st – Friday 25th February ~ Half Term



the students (Mr Handscombe) and taught lessons (fortunately the students are used to learning in the medium of English and we were not required to exercise our rudimentary Bengali). We've come back full of ideas for projects to put our students in contact with the young people we met in Hooghly and have been reaffirmed in our conviction that although there are many differences between Welling and West Bengal (the weather, the food, the state of the roads,...) human nature remains the same and that young people in both places want to learn about their subjects, about the world and about each other. This partnership should be a lot of fun – watch this space.

Mr Handscombe

North London Collegiate School: Physics Day

Twelve pupils from Year 9 were fortunate enough to go on a physics trip to an all girls' school in North London. The overall experience of the trip was really enjoyable as well as interesting. The journey there was surprisingly fine, and we were there well before we had first expected. From our arrival, we headed straight to a physics lab and watched a short video about food and diets etc. We were then partnered with a North London Collegiate pupil who would show us around and make sure we didn't get lost (it was a very large school!).

My partner was really friendly and was great at showing me

around and making sure I was OK. This was also the case for the other students. We had a great lunch and then headed back to another lab. The lab was filled with various Physics experiments that we could try and could learn a great deal from. The experiments included: Submarines filled with baking powder, lighting up eye balls, fruit density, jumping beans and many more exciting investigations. We then picked one that we thought we could do an interesting experiment on and presented them back to the group. Everyone's was great however some were extremely scientific.

The North London School provided prizes for the experiments, 1st place each student was awarded a £10 WH Smith voucher, 2nd place each student was rewarded with huge toblerones and 3rd prize was Creme Eggs. The journey back was long but did not overshadow a great day! With thanks to Mr Dennis and Miss Skinner for taking us and organising a great and successful trip.

Marco Faratro, 9JMP/9E

Schools' Biathlon Championships ~ semi-final

Last Sunday 13th February Alex Bird and I went to Crystal Palace Sports Centre to compete in the schools' biathlon semi-final. The event consists of a 100m swim and later a 1000m run. We were both very nervous about what would happen as we realised this was a big step up from the regional qualifier we did in November. However we both tried hard and after the swim – in which we both achieved personal bests – we were in good places for the run; I was in 3rd and Alex was placed 18th. Then we did our run, in which we both faced very hard competition. The final results placed me as 3rd and Alex a respectable 32nd out of 44. I will be going on to the final on 27th March at Crystal Palace.

Jamie Grain 9SAS

Year 10 Public Speaking

The Year 10, earlier this month, had an impressive and engaging Public Speaking final, where all 9 finalists spoke to the whole year group on named topics such as 'All you need is love' and 'Being a teenager feels like no man's land'. After an impressive final, the winning places were: 3rd – Kelli-Mae Crossman, 2nd – Charlie Stenning and 1st Matthew Roy-Thomas, who won over the judges with his confidence, belief and thoughtful content. Well done to everyone involved.

Ms Golding

Non-fiction book club

We will be discussing *Medical Ethics: A Very Short Introduction* on Thursday 3 March at lunchtime in SFC2 instead of verbal reasoning practice. Year 12s considering medicine: make sure you attend!

Ms Stoddard



Classics Club

Over the last few weeks students have been making models of Mt Vesuvius, the volcano that erupted in August 79AD and destroyed the Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Students used bottles, newspaper, glue and other materials to make their models and then when they were dry they painted them. This week we took the models outside and using a mixture of baking products we got the volcanoes to erupt. If you are in Year 7 and 8 and would like to come to Classics Club, it runs every Week B Wednesday after school in M1. The next topic will be about Roman and Greek Drama, so if you like acting come along!

Miss Pearson

House Music 2011

On Monday 14th February, BGS had a House competition where many groups in each House sang and played instruments to compete for points. It lasted for most of the day, and lots of talent was shown.

Prothero were up first, and had several group songs such as *Gotta have you* by the Weepies, *Air Hostess* and *Love the way you lie*. They also had a choir song which was called the Summer Pop Medley (songs such as *Alejandro*, *California Girls*, *OMG*, *Your love is my drug*). Next up was Mabbs, who had many solos and group songs, a flute solo, and their big group song: *Take a chance on me* by Abba. Then Johnson gave a performance of *Somebody to love* (their choir number) and a Johnson rap along with many others. Collins gave a great performance with solos including *Defying Gravity*, and *The only exception*, and a very funny performance from Year 12 singing *The 4 chord song*. Their choir songs *Seasons of Love* (from 'Rent') and *To make you feel my love* were excellent.

Wellman had a film theme for their performances: they showed us a Shrek mash-up, a violin solo from Schindler's List, *Your Song* (the Moulin Rouge version), and *When somebody loved me* from Toy Story. Lastly, Kirkman

performed with *Turn my swag on*, *Stand by me*, a song from *the Lion King*, a Sixth Form performance of a song from *Moulin Rouge* and a key stage 3 group performed a medley of Beatles songs.

Finally the big results came in: 1st Prothero; 2nd Collins; 3rd Wellman; 4th Kirkman; joint 5th Johnson & Mabbs. The results were very close – only ½ a mark in between 1st and 2nd place. It was a great performance from all!

Thank you to Mr Knowles, Miss Storer and Mrs Gianakakis for their hard work in judging the competition.

Rebecca Notcutt 7MTR (Prothero)



Merits

Well done to Sophie Richardson (7CMS), Olivia Clark, Josh Dixon, Jai Jheeta, Tilly Evans, Molly Pearson, Roshni Patel (7SMB), Ethan Akanni, Daniya Baiguzhaye, Jasmine Birdee, Sheryce Brown, Lisa Clinch and Freya Crouch (7MTR) for achieving 50 merits.

Congratulations to Robert Grogan (7MTR), Isobelle Smith (7CMS), Joshua Masters (7SMB), Eloise Mankerty (7FOM) on successfully reaching 100 Merits.
Mr Crawford

A big well done goes to Amy Dykes (8MGL) for reaching an impressive 100 merits. Congratulations also go to Anna Miu (8LRB), Matthew Ward (8PEB) and Charlie Britton (8TM) for successfully reaching 50 merits. Well done to all!
Mrs Kemp

UPCOMING PA EVENTS

Bridge Evening – Tuesday 1st March 2011

Come along to the Sixth Form Common Room for some friendly and fun contract bridge. Each table plays with the same hands of cards in turn – how well can you do?

6.45pm for a prompt 7.00 pm start with finish time of 9.00 pm.

All standards are welcome (£3 for adults, £1 for students).

No pre-booking required, just turn up on the night.

Any queries regarding this event please email martha.oakes@btconnect.com.

Golf Day - Friday 4th March 2011 (SOLD OUT)

Thank you to everybody who has booked in for the first PA Golf Day at Shooters Hill Golf Club taking place on Friday 4th March.

If you would like to go on the list for the next PA Golf Day which we hope to schedule in the autumn, please email Andy at andybfcf1970@hotmail.com.

Quiz Night - Friday 11th March 2011

With brain-teasing quiz rounds to accommodate all ages with difficulty ranging from really easy to mind-bogglingly testing, fun spot prize games, an excellent raffle full of amazing prizes (Adventure Island Tickets, Cineworld Tickets and much more). Come along to the Main School Hall on 11th March and pit your wits against school staff and other parents/students and their friends/families. New for Quiz Night is the Student Competition which will be drawn on the night and the winning question used for a spot prize game. As before, House Points will be awarded to the winning team in addition to the usual winner prizes.

Booking is now open! (see Parentmail message recently distributed)

Deadline to purchase tickets to attend is Friday 4th March 2011.

First come, first served – we usually sell out on this event, so pre-booking is highly recommended! If you want to come to our Quiz Night and need a form, please call Ann on 07710 099635.

Mother's Day Shop – 17th/18th and 24th/25th March 2011

The PA is opening up shop for students to purchase Mother's Day gifts for their Mums, Grandmothers, Aunties and more. Lunchtimes in the School Canteen area on the dates listed above. Gifts range from £1 to £6.

SAVE THE DATE: Pamper Evening - Thursday 7th April 2011

Ladies, make sure you save the date. A wide range of wonderful pampering options is being lined up for you and your daughters, nieces, aunties, mums, grandmothers and/or friends to treat yourselves to. More details to follow via Parentmail after Half Term.