



## ♪ National Festival of Music for Youth ♪

As you may know, we recently took two BGS groups to participate in a Regional Festival – our Concert Band, who joined forces with the Marlborough School percussion players to play ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’, and a small ensemble of players who improvised some instrumental jazz and sang Barbershop. We are very proud of the fact that both groups have been selected to play in the National Festival to be held at Birmingham on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July. This is a considerable achievement – the standard of music at the regional festivals is very high, and to be selected from amongst these groups to participate in the National Festival is a tremendous accolade. Congratulations to all those students involved with both groups.

Dr Medicott

I would like to add my congratulations to Dr Medicott and his team for this stunning achievement. Having two groups reach the National Festival is an incredible tribute to the dedication and expertise of the Music Department. The National Festival falls between the four nights of the School Production (‘Crazy for You’ – don’t miss it!) the previous week and the Summer Concert on Friday of the same week (10<sup>th</sup> July). The following Wednesday the Music Department departs for Venice for the annual Music Tour. What a schedule!

Mr Elphick

## International Chemistry Olympiad

A group of Year 12 and 13 pupils participated in the Royal Society of Chemistry’s 41st International Chemistry Olympiad 2009. The exams are extremely challenging and required excellent subject knowledge. Congratulations to Luke Fox and Frank Young who both achieved Bronze certificates. Well done to the following pupils who also achieved Certificates of Commendation: Jamie MacLeod, Sagar Patel, Sarah Lovell, John Elcome, David MacDougal, Peggy Luong, Ben Simpson and Martin Hart. Well done to all who took part.

Miss Skinner

## Economics and Business Studies

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April a large cohort of Year 12 & 13 Economics and Business Studies students attended a revision workshop in London in preparation for their exams in June. Despite long delays on the District Line all students were punctual and were a credit to the school, answering questions posed and taking advantage of the information provided. Thank you to all staff who participated in the smooth running of the trip as well as to all the students who attended.

Miss Squires

## Goodbye to Year 13 IB Students

Last Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, was the last day in school for the Year 13 IB students before they left on study leave. To mark the occasion students organised a get together at the end of the day. Students and staff were treated to food from around the globe as well as more traditional British fare courtesy of “Walkers”. Those present were entertained by the students performing a version of a dance from “Slum Dog Millionaire” and a barber shop quartet. The students also took the opportunity to show a DVD they had produced for the occasion. John Remigus, an IB student, perhaps best reflected the feelings of the group in his very moving speech. It was, unsurprisingly, a very emotional farewell as it marked the end of seven years at BGS for most of the cohort. The IB examinations start very soon and I would like to wish everyone involved the very best of luck.

Mr Brown

## Merits

Congratulations to Jessica North (8SRN) who has achieved 50 merits. Her name will be added to the draw for an iPod.

## Peer Mentors

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009, the newly appointed Peer Mentors in Year 12 were taken to Barnehurst Golf Course, where they were taught the skills needed to be a Peer Mentor, including listening, response and body language. The day was a great success and all of us felt that we learnt a lot from the day. The newly appointed Peer Mentors for the upcoming year are: Funmi Adekojo, Tom Tanner, Sean Austin, David Walton, Joel Peirson-Hagger, Adam Ling, Kieran Conroy-McKeown, Tom Kenney, Daisy Taylor, Rosalind Salliss, Pruthvi Pandya, Obehi Orukpe, Georgina Bradley, Ellie Barton, Tracy Seng, and Courtney Stone.

Thank you to Mrs Prescott, Mrs Haslam and Mr Johnson for their help on the training day and the support they will be providing us with throughout the year!  
Courtney Stone

It was indeed a very successful day which also provided an opportunity for the new cohort to gel as a group and begin to plan ways of taking the Peer Mentor Service forward. It is always a very exciting time for me and I am confident that Mrs Haslam and Mr Johnson agree that we have an excellent group of students who will continue to provide a valuable service to the school community. I am looking forward to working with them during the year ahead. Mrs Prescott – School Counsellor

## Year News

With just over a week to go before the Year 11s leave for their final examinations, I just wanted to remind both pupils and parents that the final newsletter information can be found on the school website (see Letters Home). I would like to wish all students the best of luck in the final week of school and the final exam preparations!  
Mrs Kemp

Year 7 students will be visiting the Wildwood Trust Wildlife Park on a Science trip. This educational visit will enhance the KS3 curriculum. Pupils will be given a guided tour of the park, studying animals in their habitats, then take part in a forensic science workshop. Reply slips and monies should be handed in to the Finance Office by Wednesday, 6th

## Forthcoming Events

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May ~ Bank Holiday

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May ~ Year 9 and Year 10 Reports issued

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May ~ Half Term for 1 week

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June ~ Return to School

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June ~ Sports Day & Summer Fayre

May. The dates are as follows: Tuesday 2nd June – 7JR & 7JMP, Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 7PKS & 7SAS and Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June – 7MPL & 7AJS.

Summer Fayre ~ 7SAS will be running a 'Jumble Sale' and would be very grateful for any donations of good quality jumble (no food or electrical items, please!). Items can be handed in to L14 before/after school or at break time. Merits will be awarded to anyone who makes a donation.

The Year 12 IB students will be on study leave researching their extended essays during the week starting May 5<sup>th</sup>. As part of their studies all IB students must complete a 4000 word essay in an academic subject of their choice. The EE is intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity. It is excellent preparation for the challenges that they will meet at university next year and is often referred to during interviews for higher education. I am looking forward to hearing about some interesting research work. Good luck.

Mr Brown

Year 13 UCAS DEADLINE for a 'Firm' and 'Insurance' place at university **must** be made before 6th May.

Year 12 study leave begins Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May and Year 13 study leave begins Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Mrs Mallin

## Easter ski trip 2010

Booking letters are available from Mr Boyle. Spaces are limited so don't delay in getting your returns back to the finance office!

Any ski hire clothing that hasn't been returned yet needs to be brought to the PE Office as soon as possible please.

Mr Boyle