



Forthcoming Events

Friday 25th September ~ INSET Day

Wednesday 30th September ~ Year 13 Reports issued

Wednesday 30th September ~ Year 13 Parents' Evening

Friday 2nd October ~ Harvest Festival / Jeans for Genes

Tuesday 6th October ~ Parents' Association AGM

Monday 12th October ~ Year 11 Reports issued

Wednesday 14th October ~ Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 16th October ~ Parents' Association Line Dancing Evening

Music Tour to Venice 2009

At the end of the Summer Term, 56 students and 7 staff set off for Venice in Italy, a city famous for the fact that instead of roads it has canals, and instead of cars it has boats. Some of the buildings in the city are nearly a thousand years old, and it has some of the most beautiful churches in the world. We were very excited at the prospect of performing music in such unusual surroundings.

It took nearly 24 hours of driving to reach the city, and we had little time in which to settle into our hotel before setting off for the first concert. We were giving a jazz concert at a big campsite outside the city on a large open-air stage. Unfortunately, the opening of the concert was delayed because of rain, which had us all frantically running round trying to get instruments and equipment safely under cover, but eventually the rain eased off and we began performing. Due to the weather, the audience was not particularly big. Nevertheless, they were very enthusiastic, and particularly enjoyed the improvisations of our smaller group, and the big spectacular sound of Big Band with which we finished off the concert.

The next day we were due to be singing Mass at Venice's second most important church – the Basilica Dei Frari – in the early evening. This gave us several hours to look around Venice itself. We hired nine gondolas, the small, narrow boats paddled by expert gondoliers for which Venice is famous, and set off to explore the mysterious smaller canals which criss-cross Venice like an intricate spider's web. We sailed under the beautiful Rialto Bridge and out into the largest canal in Venice, the Grand Canal, passing some of the palaces which line the sides of this busy waterway. Venice must surely have more palaces than any other city – there are over 400 lining the Grand Canal alone! After our gondola ride, we made our way to the Frari, and sang several movements of the Byrd Mass for 4 Voices, along with a few other pieces of music. A large crowd made up of locals and tourists was at the church for the mass, and it was exciting (and nerve-wracking) to perform for such a large crowd. The students performed magnificently, their voices magnified by the stunning acoustic

of the church so that the echo at the end of each piece lasted for more than five seconds. It was a unique atmosphere in which to perform, and I am sure all of us will remember it for a long time.

Our final concert was in the most spectacular setting of all. We were to give a full concert in the church of San Giorgio di Maggiore, which is one of Venice's most memorable landmarks. The church has a beautiful pure-white marble façade, and lies on a small island across the water from Venice's most famous landmark of all, St Mark's Square. The church itself is spectacular – huge, ornately decorated and with an echo even longer than that of the Frari.



The church of San Giorgio di Maggiore

We began the concert in spectacular style with a section of John Williams' 'Summon the Heroes'. The loud brass fanfare filled the church magnificently, complemented by the lyrical playing of the strings and woodwind, and the audience sat as if in shock that a group of young musicians could make such an impressive noise. David Foot then gave a near-flawless performance of the Rondo from Mozart's Horn Concerto, before the Choir held the audience spellbound with their account of the Byrd Mass, and a stunning, tear-jerking rendition of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow'. The concert was rounded off in impressive style with music from the film 'Pirates of the Caribbean', performed by the Concert Band.

The audience were exceptionally appreciative, and with good reason. I have never heard musicians from BGS play and sing as well as everyone did in the concert at San Giorgio di Maggiore. It was a spectacular ending to a wonderful tour, and, for some of our students, a fitting end to their time at BGS.

O Medicott

Year 7

We would like to congratulate all Year 7 pupils on producing such fantastic presentations of their summer holiday task entitled 'This is me'. They have all worked extremely hard demonstrating that they spent time and effort on this assignment. It is such a shame that we have not managed to see them all but we will be picking a winner from each form to present an award in assembly. This is a great step forward to your new Year 7 diploma. Well done to you all! Mrs Kemp and Miss Lynch

Year 10 Football

Last week saw the Year 10 Football team captained by Michael Yeouart, travel to Harlow to play in their first round of the English Schools Cup. After finishing the first half 2-0 up the game could have been anyone's. However Bexley Grammar raised their game and played some clever football allowing Richard Jimoh to complete his hat-trick and Charlie Waddell to obtain one too. The final score was 8-0 to BGS, a fantastic result that reflected a great performance against a side that showed some promise. Other goal scorers included Michael Yeouart and Sam Taylor. A Pullen

Year 13 Football

The Year 13 Football team started their campaign in the Kent Cup by beating Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School 3-2. The result should have been even more in favour of Bexley Grammar with a couple of missed chances, including a penalty scuffed by one of the earlier goal scorers Tayler Mott. I'm sure he wasn't too disappointed though, as his goal in the first half was an incredible strike (or cross according to his team mates). Well done to all those boys involved. A Pullen

Coming soon.....The Academic Council on Fronter!

Have a direct link and give your views to the Academic Council. The Academic Council introduced:

Year 11 ~ Webster Bryans, Erin Bullions, Cicely Blain, Alex Catterall, Katherine Miller, Jo Thompson-Oubari, Chris Parkinson & Adebayo Bishi

Year 10 ~ Matthew Davies, Henry Wong, Jamie Smith, Hannah Deakins, Jack Flanagan, Chris Piper, Matt Snow, Samuel Imarhiagbe, Juliette Long & Charlotte Kaul

Year 9 ~ Jessie Dickinson

Mrs Howard

Notices

Instrumental lessons will start next week. Timetables are currently being created, and will be available by Monday. They will be displayed in Mu1, and copies placed in your form trays. You will also be able to download your timetable from the 'Instrumental lessons' room on Fronter.

Instrumental lessons will happen on:

Tuesday: Mrs Knight (flute), Mr Pringle (piano), Ms Jones (oboe/theory)

Wednesday: Mrs Lloyd (singing/theory), Ms Hartley (piano/bassoon)

Friday: Mrs Lloyd (singing/theory), Mr Cooper (clarinet), Mr Simmons (brass), Mr Laing (saxophone)

Please see Mu1 noticeboard for information regarding strings, guitar and drum lessons days. Miss Swadkin

We're pleased to announce the reappearance of our Bridge Club. We gathered a small but dedicated group of participants last year who enjoyed learning and playing what is probably the best card game in the world. This winter we hope to involve many more. All upper school students are welcome, no prior experience necessary. Thursdays, upper school lunchtime in G15 (bring your sandwiches). J Handscombe

The BGS Christian Union will be meeting on Tuesday in M20 at 10:40am for our weekly 10 minute prayer slot – if you'd like to come and pray, or be prayed for, then please feel free to pop along! We shall also be meeting on Thursday at 3:15pm in the Canteen Extension to embark on our first "BGS Mission". As always, any questions or suggestions to Mr Harris or Miss Austin.

Books for schools

The school is still collecting the tokens printed in The Times and The Sunday Times to enable the Library to claim **FREE BOOKS**. Please can you save the tokens and bring them into school. The tokens can be left in the box at the bottom of the stairs by Reception or brought to the Library. Mrs McAllister

Friday 2nd October is 'Jeans for Genes Day' and Harvest Festival.

£1 per student for non-uniform day and they must wear something denim.

We would also like donations of non-perishable items for our Harvest Festival boxes. Mrs Wieck