



Bexley
Grammar
School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th February 2010

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The sell-out last night of **Guys and Dolls** was a fitting finale to the four night run. Rather than review the performance in the traditional way, let some of the comments that we have received from the audiences by letter and email speak for themselves:

"I was yet again amazed by just how professional the whole performance was... the lead actors were outstanding, as was the band. The confidence and ability that every member of the cast shows is a credit... to the school."

"I thoroughly enjoyed the show and was extremely impressed with the quality and professionalism of the performance. Well done to all involved and thank you again."

"Please pass on my congratulations to Dr Medicott and all the singers, dancers, performers, stage hands, scenery and sound technicians, musicians and their conductor, artists, programme sellers and all those involved in a very professional show. The singing and dancing were a very high standard... I really enjoyed the acting, stage effects, costumes and music and left feeling I had an evening of stunning entertainment."

"Tonight was fantastic! My family think it is the best singing they have heard to date and were thoroughly impressed with the wonderfully colourful set, the music, the sound quality and the confidence of the actors. It was a memorable night out for us all. Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved."

"I had a really good time and can't remember the last time I laughed so much. The set and costumes were fabulous, and the actors amazing. The orchestra was terrific too. Well done to everyone involved."

"It certainly could be described as 'the perfect Broadway musical from Bexley Grammar School'."

Parents' Association Quiz Night

Friday 5th March

Only a few tables remaining

Tickets cost £5 per head or £35 for a table of 8

Tickets from the Finance Office

7pm for a 7.30pm start

BYO supper and drink

Please come along and join in the fun

Pink Valentine's Day

Many thanks to everyone who supported Pink Valentine's Day for Breast Cancer Research on Friday 12th February, especially the students who sold badges, milk shakes, cakes and roses all day, (special mention to Harry Whitby Yr 8 and Farhang Fazeli Yr 12 who each sold a whole box of badges). We are still receiving money donations and should have the final total raised in the next newsletter. School Council

School Council

There will be an important meeting for ALL School Council Form Reps in CE1 next Tuesday 2nd March at 10.15am. We need your views on how we might improve the school canteen environment, as well as other areas of the school such as the boys' toilets. Please bring along to the meeting some points for discussion. Make sure your form is represented. Please be prompt. Mrs Wieck and School Council

New York Trip

This half term 34 students and 5 teachers went on the trip of a lifetime, crossing three time zones and travelling over thousands of miles, our destination: New York City!

Before reaching 'The Big Apple', however, there was a slight detour to Dallas that proved to be a great adventure, with a foot of snow to liven things up (so much for cowboy boots in the sunshine – we must have taken the weather with us!).

Hitting 'The City That Never Sleeps' quite late upon our arrival, we were greeted with the dazzling lights of Times Square, proving its namesake! As any good tourist would, we set off to see the sights, riding the world famous subway on our way down to Liberty Island. After a chilly ferry ride, we stood beneath America's crowning glory – The Statue of Liberty – and then travelled to Ellis Island, experiencing a true arrival to America. We also saw impressive architecture such as the Brooklyn Bridge and were left awe-struck by the magnitude of the city's skyline from the renowned Empire State Building. Some of us, with our impeccable timing, managed to catch Chinese New Year in full swing, with dragons dancing and streamers swooping, in Chinatown. Against all odds and popular opinion the group, headed by Mr Joe, walked right through Manhattan, getting a true taste of New York in Little Italy, Soho, Noho and Greenwich Village. To top off this fantastic day we managed to get a snap of us displayed upon a billboard in Times Square, no less (see photo below); what an amazing souvenir. No amount of pretzels could top that!

We could go on (honestly!), listing our adventures at NBC Studios in Radio City, how we managed to end the recession with our spending in 5th Avenue and Macy's, and horse and carriage rides through the picturesque, snow-dusted Central Park, but what we really need to do is thank our wonderful teachers, without whom this unforgettable trip would not have been possible: Miss Taylor, Miss Ramsden, Miss Ampong, Mr Baker, and a special mention to Mr Joe for his enthusiasm and giving us this opportunity.

We love NY!

Sam Johnson and Becky McCormick



Peer Mentor Application

Written applications for the role of Year 12 Peer Mentors should be addressed and delivered to Mrs Haslam in the staff room. Application closing date is Friday 12th March.

Year 7

Welcome back after the half term break. I would like to remind all Year 7 students to update their diploma record sheets for the subjects that have already been completed. Keep up the hard work!

Congratulations go to Jennifer Milliams 7APB and Mahdi Ahmed 7MGL who have both reached 100 merits and have now achieved a distinction for this element of the diploma. Additionally, George Collins 7MGL has also achieved 50 merits. Well done to all! Mrs Kemp

Forthcoming Events

Monday 1st March ~ Year 9 Options deadline

Friday 5th March ~ Parents' Association Quiz Night

Public Speaking Competition

February 9th saw Bexley Grammar launch a team into the Public Speaking Competition held at Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School. The lucky team members were Thomas Gardner, Hannah Brennan, Comfort Ahanmisi and Chris Orchard who were all regular members of the Public Speaking and Debating Club. Being a member enabled them to take part in this prestigious event attended by the Mayor of Bexley who helped to judge the teams. The competitors were expected to develop and deliver a fifteen minute speech on an interesting and divisive topic which they hoped would captivate the minds of the audience. Examples of topics were Facebook dependencies, Comprehensive schooling and Femininity of men. Our topic was Society's Addictions. With much help from Mr Morris we were able to deliver a well received speech to a large audience. Mr Morris' jokes meant our speech was entertaining and at the same time interesting. Of course none of this could have been possible without the continuous assistance of Miss Fairbairn who devoted much of her time to enable us to achieve what we did. For this we thank her sincerely and hope that she enjoyed the experience as much as we did. To lead a successful speech we incorporated what we have learnt from the enjoyable experiences at Public Speaking and Debating Club.

This group meets (for older years) on Tuesdays after school in J7 and for younger years on Thursdays after school in the same room. We would encourage students to come along to this club as it sets you up for such events in later life. Public speaking dictates your success in the business world and enables you to present yourself confidently which is an important aspect in all fields.

Chris Orchard and Thomas Gardner

World Challenge

Meet the Leader evening for challengers and their parents.

Meet the Leader evenings are an opportunity to meet the team leader, discuss the itinerary and kit list, and ask any questions regarding the trip.

Team meetings 1-3 will begin at 6.30pm and run until 8pm (at the latest). Team 4 meeting will begin at 9.30am to 11am.

Below are the dates for each individual team. Attendance is compulsory, especially for the challengers!

Team 1 (Mr Rosenthal and Miss Taylor) **Wednesday 10th March in HALL** with Richard Austin

Team 2 (Miss Swadkin) **Wednesday 24th March in HALL** with Tony Powell

Team 3 (Miss Pearson) **Wednesday 10th March in SFC1** with Tony Webber

Team 4 (Miss Fairbairn and Mr Pullen) **Saturday 13th March in HALL** with Richard Smith

If you cannot attend this meeting, for whatever reason please contact me at school.

Miss Fairbairn

GCSE Spanish Revision Classes

All sessions will be held on **Wednesdays** in **L3** from **3.15-4.15**

All Year 11 Spanish students are welcome to attend sessions - please choose the areas you feel you need most practice on and come along.

Date	Topic
3 rd March	Topics A and B
10 th March	Topics C and D
17 th March	Topics E and F
24 th March	Coursework
31 st March	Coursework

Sophists' Society

We are delighted to welcome an external lecturer for Sophists' Society after school on Thursday 4th March in the 6th Form Centre. He is Professor Jeremy Goodenough from the University of East Anglia, and will be lecturing on "the immorality of vegetarianism." He is also University Admissions Officer, so will be delighted to give students advice on applications and choices. We hope that many meat-eaters and vegetarians will turn up for what should be a fascinating debate on ethics – our current topic in Theory of Knowledge.

Ms Stoddard

Academic Council

Recently, some members of the Academic Council have met with the school librarian, Mrs McAllister, to discuss what is available for students in the Library and raise awareness of under-used sections. It has come to our attention that not many people know about the importance of the Careers section. The Careers section is mainly for GCSE students and above but can be used by anyone who is having trouble choosing which career path to follow or which options to choose. It is located at the far end of the Library where you can also find our careers advisor, Mrs Longman.

It's coming up to exam season for lots of students, so this week the Academic Council have devised some top tips to help you with revision:

Year 7 Diploma - ensure that you meet those key deadlines for your work to be handed in. Speak to your teacher well in advance if you are having any problems with the task set.

Year 10 mock exams may seem like a long time away but it's best to start revising early!

Year 11 and Sixth Form – the pressure is really on now to do well at the end of this year so it's a good idea to make yourself a revision timetable (if you haven't done so already) and do regular amounts of revision for each subjects, even if you know you aren't taking them next year!

Come and visit the council during academic monitoring time on a Friday in M4 if you would like any revision advice.

Quote of the week:

In working on a poem, I love to revise. Lots of younger poets don't enjoy this, but in the process of revision I discover things.

Rita Dove