



## Jack Petchey Award

Congratulations to Chris Piper (10CJW) and Courtney Stone (13CG), who have been chosen as our Jack Petchey Foundation award winners for the first two months of this term. Chris was nominated by other pupils in Year 10 for his outstanding commitment to his studies and his willingness to help others. Courtney was nominated for her efforts and progress in her British Sign Language class and her contribution to the peer mentoring programme. Each wins £200 to spend for the benefit of a group of students in the school. Well done to both.

Mr Lines

## World Challenge

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November 60 students went on a training weekend to prepare them to spend 4 weeks in Ecuador or Peru with World Challenge. The teams were sent off on mini expeditions and given several tasks to perform including setting up their own tents and making all meals for the whole group! It was a great opportunity for teams to bond and to get used to the very heavy rucksacks and equipment needed. Despite the torrential rain most people thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We all learnt a lot, especially how to keep dry in the rain, and are now looking forward to the real thing.

Rebecca McKillop and Jessica Lawrence

Can I just add that the students were excellent, taking all mishaps in their stride and coping admirably in very poor conditions - if their fighting spirit and enthusiasm are anything to go by on this weekend, the students will survive and may actually enjoy their expeditions!

Miss Fairbairn

## Article 12 Conference

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November Sarah Fathers, Rosie Thackeray, Stephanie Rooney and I (Sajana Karunagaran) went to represent Bexley Grammar School in this year's Article 12 / Every Child Matters Conference at the Civic Offices in Bexleyheath. Going there was a great opportunity to learn about how to avoid being bullied as the theme for this year was Anti-bullying and Healthy Eating. We learnt lots of things about types of bullying such as verbal, physical and cyber bullying and there were several workshops on what not to do when you are getting bullied and who to speak to when we have a problem. This was run by the 'Beatbullying' training team who created music and lyrics for a song about bullying. Other activities included basic first aid and making nutritious snacks. We were invited to do a short presentation to the audience, based on the anti-bullying theme and were pleased that ours was the most popular compared with all the other schools. The organisers of the conference have asked for this

## Forthcoming Events

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December ~ Year 11 Mock Exams begin  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December ~ Year 13 IB Mocks begin  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December ~ Reports issued to Years 7, 10 & 12  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December ~ Christmas Concert  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December ~ School Christmas Lunch  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December ~ Last day of Term  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January ~ First day of Spring Term

to be included in a CD which will be sent out to all schools in the Borough. We would like to thank Mrs Wieck for giving us this great opportunity and inviting us to perform on behalf of Year 7.

Sajana

Karunagaran

## International Baccalaureate Evening

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November we held a Governors' briefing on the ethos of the International Baccalaureate. In spite of the howling gales and the road works at Blackfen we were delighted by the large turnout from parents and pupils from Years 10 and 11. Our current IB students gave presentations which we hope will have informed the audience and will help aid the Year 11 students in making choices about their studies in the Sixth Form. We are indebted to two of our former pupils: Nancy Aspill (University of Kent) and John Remigus (Cambridge University) who returned to school in order to share some of their experiences in making the transition between school and further education.

Mr Brown

## Royal Institute of Great Britain

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, our IB Economics class attended a lecture at the Royal Institution of Great Britain given by Sir Partha Dasgupta and Frank Ramsey, Professor of Economics at the University of Cambridge, who spoke about the highly topical subject of "Law and Morality in Economic Life". Although some of the subject matter was highly advanced we found the talk informative and had a great day out. We even managed to cram in some window shopping in Bond Street.

Amina Mekharef

## Book Club Design Competition

Fancy yourself as a designer or artist? The English Department is running a competition to find a fantastic poster to promote **Book Club**. The details you have to include are: we meet every Thursday of week A in M20 at lunch; all Year 7 and 8 welcome; feel free to bring your lunch as we have a chat about our next book.

All entries should come to Ms Casey in the English office before **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**.

### KS3 Book Club

Next book is 'The Host' by Stephanie Meyer, next meeting in M20 at lunch on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Ms Casey

### Dragon's Apprentice

Congratulations to Kirkman who came first in round 1 of The Dragon's Apprentice after designing their team's logo, business card and T shirt design. The score order was as follows;

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Kirkman	12
2nd Place	Mabbs	10
3rd Place	Johnson	8
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Collins	6
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Prothero	4
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	Wellman	2

Miss Squires

### Culture Club

Our trip to see the highly acclaimed "Messiah" was a fabulous experience. The staging was original and unique, and accompanied by music of a high calibre. The strength of the voices was unlike anything I had ever heard before, and I would strongly recommend the experience. Tom Gardner, 12MWB

Ms Hanington and Ms Stoddard hope to see many more students attending Culture Club events next term; we are already starting to make bookings, so keep watching the newsletter!

### Year News

Year 7 ~ Congratulations go to Emily Ghatauray 7SRA on successfully reaching 50 merits. Well done and keep up the good work! Mrs Kemp

Year 9 observations ~Thank you to all Year 9 prefects and form representatives who observed Year 10 lessons over the past two weeks. The feedback so far has been excellent and I look forward to the write ups. Thank you to all staff who accommodated those students as well.

Star Reward system, Year 9 ~ Do not forget that prizes are up for grabs for the three highest star achievers in each form. All 21 names will be placed into a prize draw for three prizes consisting of various sums of Bluewater vouchers. See your tutor, myself or Miss Skinner to ask what you can do to earn some more stars. Good Luck! Miss Squires

Year 10 ~ Congratulations to Alex Davies (10FF) who won the iPod for being awarded over 50 merits last year. There were eight students entered into the draw, many of whom had their

names entered into the hat several times increasing their chances of winning. Let's hope that other students from the year group will be inspired to work hard too! Mr Pullen

On ECM day, Year 10s participated in a wide variety of activities intended to enhance their social awareness. The main themes were anti-bullying and anti-gambling supplemented by a session of judo led by Sensei Tim. Students demonstrated maturity in the face of these sensitive issues showing alacrity and perspicacity. We would like to thank all the teachers who contributed to the day's success, particularly Mr Pullen who gave a thought provoking assembly.

Matthew Davies and Sukvinder Sodhi 10SCB

### Sports News

Congratulations to the Year 9 boys' basketball team for an excellent 51-46 victory over St Columba's School. The performance was full of skill, hard work and determination. Daniel Ejimbe was player of the match with 16 points. Other notable performances came from Tunde Adebayo (18 points), Lauxshuman Balaratnam and captain Dominic Thomas. Well done to all players! Mr Rosenthal

### Villarreal CF Football Tour

Year 8 (A and B teams, boys), Year 9 (A team boys) and a mixture of Years 8-10 girls took part in an annual football tour to Spain although this year the trip was to Villarreal (Valencia). I play for the Year 8 football team so this piece will be a little more descriptive about our experience however the activities and accommodation were the same for all teams. We stayed at a luxurious 4 star hotel that consisted of two swimming pools to provide relaxation after heavy training or a strenuous match, great rooms with balconies and the food was set to match. Now on the real reason of the tour, the football, we (the Year 8 As) were unfortunately outclassed by the brilliance of the Villarreal CF academy team and lost the game by some margin (however we played them on the day we arrived and all of us had no sleep as we were all up at 2:00am!). The other game we played was against a local side that put up a strong fight. We were 2-0 up at half time however they brought it back to 2-2 and the match finished as a draw. We were also lucky enough to watch an actual Villarreal CF match which they won 2-1 and we had a fantastic stadium tour of the El Madrigal. The experience was most memorable and everyone (teachers included) had a great time! It was a trip all of us will never forget and we all enjoyed the whole tour (even the bit where we had to wake up at 7:00am).

On behalf of all the pupils that took part on the tour, we would like to say thank you very much to all the teaching staff that made the whole thing happen. Also a big thank you to Mr Pullen for organising and preparing the trip, (even though he did lose in the Sixth Formers race!!! but I suppose they did have a 20m head start!). Marco Faratro, 8JMP

CHRISTMAS SHOP ~ (A Parents' Association Student Activity)  
 DATES: Thurs 3rd to Fri 11th December ~ VENUE: School Canteen  
 TIMES: Lunch and After School ~ Prices: from £1 to £6