



## IB News

Over the last few weeks the Year 13 students have completed their extended essays and these are in the process of being bound ready to be sent to the external examiners all over the world e.g. the Economics essays will be marked by a professor at a leading university in India and Biology essays are on the way to a High School teacher in Vancouver.

The titles the students have chosen to investigate cover a wide range of subjects e.g. in English one student studied "the voice of the self: although the persona will change, it is always Sylvia Plath who narrates her texts. With reference to her late works, to what extent do you agree?" A film student examined "To what extent do the neo realist French films: La Haine and Entre Murs break the conventions of mainstream French cinema to contest depictions of its society." In Biology: "To what extent are "decaffeinated" teas truly decaffeinated?" Students are very much given a free choice to study an area that interests them and the results have been very impressive. We have copied all the extended essays and students are welcome to read these in the library.

The Extended Essay cycle has already begun for the Year 12 IB students and it is encouraging to see the enthusiasm with which they are rising to the new challenge. I am confident that our Year 12 students will build upon the success of our current cohort. Should any parent, either through their work or wider interest, have ideas about a suitable area for investigation for a Year 12 extended essay, I would be happy to hear from them.

K Brown

## The Boy with the Suitcase

*(An Article by Tom Barton TAPB)*

Today I have decided to talk to you about my visual impairment.

I get bigger worksheets and books with large print and often use a laptop. In some classes I have support to help me with practical tasks.

My eye condition is called Nystagmus, different things can cause this, but I was born with it and mine is unexplained. A while back, I had some tests at Moorfields eye hospital, in London; these suggest that messages have problems getting along my optic nerve.

## Mother's Day Shop

*(A Parents' Association Student Activity)*

Dates: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March

Location: School Canteen

Time: Lunchtime    Prices from £1 to £6

Nystagmus means that my eyes constantly flicker; sometimes I tilt my head to help my eyes focus better. With Nystagmus I cannot see things close up or far away. I am also short sighted and my contact lenses or glasses help with this.

There is no cure or anything that can correct my Nystagmus. Some things make my vision worse, like when I watch 3-D films, especially Avatar! I felt very dizzy for about half an hour after watching it. Stairs that are dark are hard for me to see. If I am tired or ill my eyes flicker more so my vision gets worse.

There are some jobs that I won't be able to do like be a pilot or a policeman. I thought about being a surgeon, but I might kill my patients by cutting something vital! I still could be a different sort of doctor, perhaps an eye specialist.

I try not to let my Nystagmus stop me doing things, especially sport. I have joined the Kent Visually Impaired cricket squad and in half term I had my debut for Kent against five other counties at Lords indoor school and I even got a tour of the club and went in The Long Room and the players' dressing room. Perhaps one day my flickery eyes and I could play for England!

Oh, by the way the reason I have my suitcase is because all my books are bigger and heavier and I am only a little guy!

Thank you for listening.

Tom Barton

## Globe Players

On Thursday 25th February, a company called The Globe Players came to Bexley Grammar and performed to all Year 7s. This drama consisted of Shakespeare's most famous plays, including 'Macbeth' and 'Romeo and Juliet'. As we are starting to learn about Shakespeare in English, this show was a great head start to the term. This interactive performance taught us quite a lot about Shakespeare; we definitely agreed that The Globe Players should come again next year!

Syduja Jayatharan and Lucy Dunk 7LRB

### Parents dropping students by car in the mornings

Please do not drive onto the school premises to drop off your child – this is a health and safety matter. If possible, please make your drop before you reach the width restriction from the Danson Park end or before the roundabout from the Blackfen end. Thank you for your support in keeping all our students safe.  
Mr Elphick

### Sports News

Year 10 Volleyball London Championships~ On Thursday 25th February six Year 10 students, Tunde Adekojo, Aaron Thompson, Richard Jimoh, Noah Lasoye, Timi Olaoye and Matthew Davies, took part in the Under 15 Volleyball London Championships, at Ernest Bevin College, Tooting. After playing eight games the boys had won 5 games and narrowly lost three. This meant that they qualified for the semi-finals, where at the end of normal time the scores were level, forcing a tie break. Missing a couple of opportunities to close out the game the boys unfortunately got beaten, by a well drilled Ernest Bevin side, whose school is the centre of excellence for Volleyball in the local area. The boys were all very disappointed not to make the finals but they had performed well all day and it has sparked a new interest in yet another activity offered as part of their curriculum. All the boys played exceptionally well to end up third, but the most notable performers out of the six were, Matthew Davies and Aaron Thompson. The long day 11:30am until 6:15pm, was good fun and an excellent learning opportunity for the boys.  
Mr Boyle

### Classics Department

On Wednesday Week B after school, the Classics Department is running a Classics Club for Years 7 and 8. If students are interested in learning about Greek mythology, gods and goddesses and how to speak ancient Greek they should come to M1 from 3:05-4.00pm every Week B Wednesday.

The Classics Department is offering a Classics trip to Pompeii in 2011. This is being offered to the current Years 8, 9, 10 and senior Classics students on a first come first served basis. Please come to the Classics office for a letter. A deposit is required by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April to guarantee a place. Please note that deposits will not be banked until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.  
Miss Pearson

### Forthcoming Events

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March ~ Year 7 Reports Issued  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March ~ Year 7 Parents' Evening  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March ~ Spring Concert  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April ~ Year 8 and Year 12 Reports Issued  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April ~ Last day of Term

### Art, Design and Technology Department

Some of our upper school students have been selected to submit work into the 34<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Young Art in Bexley, organised by the Bexley Civic Society. Michael Hobbs, Sonia Mantilari, Hayley Lewis, Amy Fisher and Alexandra Button will be exhibiting their work at Hall Place gallery between 6<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April, open daily between 10 am and 4 pm.

I would encourage you to visit this exhibition to see their excellent work displayed alongside that of other school pupils in the borough. We all wish them well in this prestigious local event.  
Miss Peach

### English Department

Year 7 & 8 Comic Book Club is trying to build a collection of comics and comic books for its club 'mini-library'. Do you have any unwanted comics at home that you don't mind donating to the club? If so, please see Miss Edmundson in the English Office. Merits will be given to those who kindly contribute. Or, come along (every Monday week A in J18 from 3.05-4.00pm) and you can swap your old comics for new ones! Regulars, please note the change to the times!  
Miss Edmundson

### 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
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Topics C and D
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Topics E and F
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Coursework
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Coursework

## Merits

Congratulations go to Anna Jauch 7MGL and Romilly Bobby 7SRA who have both reached 50 merits. Well done and keep up the good work!

All students who achieve 50 merits or more this academic year will have their name entered in a draw to win an iPod.

Mrs Kemp

## Meal Deal

The next meal deal will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, **Fresh fruit pots for 1p.**

Please note that you need to ensure funds are available on your son/daughter's account to enable them to purchase these special deals.

If you have lost or forgotten your password please contact the Finance Office.

## Notices

Meridian Canoe Club in Danson Park is offering free kayaking classes for 11-19 year olds. No experience or specialist equipment is necessary, and this fits very nicely with the Outdoor and Adventurous Activities unit of work KS3 will be studying in PE lessons this term. Please come and see me in the PE office if you are interested.

Mr Lines

## Academic Council

As I hope you are aware, members of the Academic Council's library group have been distributing a range of posters on the walls around school. The posters are designed to provide information about the library and to encourage all students to make use of our brilliant school library. Please take a look, if you haven't already!

The Academic Council hopes to further awareness about the kinds of issues we discuss, who we are and how we are striving to enhance student learning. We need your input to be able to really improve student voice and learning within the school!

Quotes of the week:

There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning. Louis L'Amour

A book is a mirror: if an ape looks into it an apostle is hardly likely to look out. Georg C Lichtenberg

## Mock Exam Dates for English A-Level and IB

*Please read the dates below carefully.*

*Please re-arrange any prior commitments (driving lessons, shifts at work etc.) as these will not be accepted as viable excuses to miss the exam.*

*Please see Miss Fairbairn or Miss Ramsden if you cannot attend your exam date.*

**AS LITERATURE** (Year 12) Wednesday **17<sup>th</sup> MARCH** 3.10pm-5.25pm in J7, J8, J18 and J19

**A2 LITERATURE** (Year 13) Wednesday **28<sup>th</sup> APRIL** 2.20pm-5.05pm in J7, J8, J18 and J19

**AS LANGUAGE** (Year 12 curriculum enrichment) Monday **26<sup>th</sup> APRIL** 2.20pm-4.30pm

**A2 LANGUAGE** (Year 13) Wednesday **21<sup>st</sup> APRIL** 2.20pm-5.05pm in J7 and J8

**IB YEAR 12** ~ Oral commentary

STANDARD Monday **17<sup>th</sup> May** All day- your time will be allocated

HIGHER Wednesday **19<sup>th</sup> May** All day- your time will be allocated

**IB YEAR 13**

Genre paper exam (DRAMA texts) STANDARD and HIGHER

Wednesday **24<sup>th</sup> March** 2.20- 4.20pm