



ECM Day ~ 21st October

Thursday 21st October saw the first ECM (Every Child Matters) day of this academic year. All pupils were off timetable for the day, working on a variety of themes; through many different activities. The strands of the ECM strategy require pupils to spend time over the year working on topics such as enterprise, a positive contribution to society, how to achieve, staying safe, having a healthy lifestyle; and many of these were investigated very successfully and with great enthusiasm by pupils on the 21st. Many photographs were taken during the day by Sue Morris (for which many thanks) and some of these will be on display on the website and the school screens in the canteen and foyer. Please take a look at them, as they clearly show the high level of concentration and commitment of the pupils as well as the fun involved.

Year 7 Themes ~ Study skills & the rights of the child

Year 7 pupils spent part of the day working on personal study skills, understanding how they learn and the most effective way to study, as well as learning how to use the library effectively and find information and data they require.

Each tutor group spent some time working on the 'rights of children to play'. This involved an understanding of the differences between wants and needs. Pupils worked in groups to make a football from unwanted items and evaluate and test their work (lots of kicking and bouncing tests, both in class and at break times!). Groups spent some time considering the availability and importance of play for children in poor countries, a theme on which pupils had very definite and well-expressed views.

Pupils also worked in groups to consider ideas on anti-bullying, coming up with new year group ideas, bullybox designs, poems, 'raps' and short improvisations. Group work



Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 10th November ~ Year 8 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 16th November ~ PA Meeting 7.30pm

Friday 26th November ~ PA Race Night

Monday 29th November ~ Inset Day

was peer judged on the day and the overall winning team will be representing the school at a Bexley Borough conference soon.

Pupils really enjoyed the work and found the rights of the child and the development goals work very thought provoking as well as fun. From conversations with pupils it is clear that there will be many aspects of the work carried into curriculum lessons, and many would like to continue with the theme of poverty and children, and anti-bullying in later ECM days.

Year 8 Themes ~ Careers, international trade and development

Year 8 pupils spent the day looking at the issues facing them as they go through puberty towards adulthood.

The school nurse delivered an informative session on the physical changes to the human body during puberty, and dispelled many myths!

Students spent a lesson examining communication via body language, working in groups and pairs to understand how messages are passed without words and how their body language is perceived by others. They also spent time looking at bullying and relationships, in terms of peers, family and the community as a whole, and working on team and group skills and games in PE.





Year 9 Themes ~ Enterprise and personal relationships

Year 9 pupils enjoyed a presentation by 'Riotact' Theatre Company followed by enterprise workshops in smaller groups, led by 'Riotact' presenters. Continuing with the enterprise theme, pupils worked in small groups on a challenge set by a local business – Richard Edward Ltd, a playing card manufacturer. The challenge is for pupils to produce a new unique design for a pack of playing cards and the box. A team from BGS won this challenge two years ago and their winning cards are on sale via the School Finance office; the artwork is displayed outside the main office.

Pupils had a short workshop with Bexley Women's Aid, who discussed the importance of being an individual and maintaining self worth and image whilst in a relationship. They also introduced the concept of violence in relationships as being physical, verbal, sexual, financial and emotional, with pupils discussing many aspects of relationships and understanding where help is available.

Many pupils have said how much they enjoyed the group enterprise work, as it contained aspects of written work, art work, use of pupils' own ideas and individuality, working with other people, and was a task that had a clear and real purpose in the business world. The idea that their work may end up on sale to the public and available in shops appealed to pupils and made the task 'real'.

Year 10 Theme ~ Enterprise

Year 10 pupils spent the day with the 'Bexley EBP' enterprise team on a project designed by 'Coca Cola'. They worked in groups to come up with a unique idea for a drink product to market. The team then had to develop marketing strategies, unique selling points and costings, presenting their work to judges (one of whom was a representative from 'Coca Cola'). The winning teams have been entered into a national competition and we wish them well.

Teams had some excellent and unique ideas, working hard to develop high quality business plans. The final presentations were of an excellent standard, and teams responded well to questions from the judges. Congratulations go to Lucy Dickson, Drew Bristow, Ricky North, Charis Muir, Dana Antao, Reece Robinson and Joe Arnold.

Discussions with pupils have shown that they really enjoyed

the day, whilst working towards a group goal in a competitive environment. Many now feel that they understand the concept of enterprise and recognise the skills required to be successful in business.

Year 11 ~ Work experience

All Year 11 pupils were on work experience this week, and a number of school staff spent ECM day visiting pupils to discuss how the week was going. A report will follow next week.

Year 12 Theme ~ Learning skills

Year 12 pupils had a mixed day working on personal relationship themes and teambuilding skills. They enjoyed a packed day of activities designed to encourage them to reflect on the importance of Social Skills and build on their own. They were also involved in a range of Team Building tasks, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the Egg Box Challenge, which culminated in a series of tests involving throwing their contraptions out of the first floor windows of the Maths block and even the (third floor) library! An 'eggcellent' time was had by all.

Year 13 Themes ~ Higher education and first aid

Most Year 13 pupils spent part of the day working on their UCAS applications. The time has given pupils an opportunity to focus on their university courses and personal statements.

Students also attended workshops on 'Motivation' (delivered by an outside agency), student life, work/ life balance, what to expect at uni (delivered by a representative of UEA) and the importance of the personal statement (delivered by a university admissions tutor).

Year 13 pupils who are applying to Oxford or Cambridge universities were offsite undertaking practice interviews.

Finally, I want to say 'thank you' to all staff who worked really hard to make the day a great success. Ms Rock

Morrisons Gardening Vouchers

The last day for issuing the Let's Grow vouchers has now passed.

If you still have some to donate could we please have them as soon as possible as we need to redeem them before the end of November. Thank you

Pat Hamilton
Science Technician

Notice

School nurse drop-in sessions ~ Starting week beginning Monday 8th November, Rose Wade the school nurse will be changing the times for her 'drop-in' sessions from Friday 1pm to 2pm to Mondays 12.35pm to 2.15pm in the office adjacent to the FBGS rooms on the second floor – using the middle staircase.

This change will allow Rose to cover both lunchtimes fully and will make her more available to students.

The drop-in session is completely confidential and allows pupils a space to discuss personal issues freely.

If parents wish to contact Mrs Wade, they can do so via the school office. Ms Rock

Sports News

Year 12 Match vs. Sittingbourne Community College ~ The first cup game of the season saw us away to Sittingbourne, a team that we didn't know much about. It became clear after the first few minutes that we were by far the better team. Within the first few minutes we went 2-0 up with a bundled in goal from George Hutton and a long range effort from Ryan Flack, however, we suffered a brief scare when Sittingbourne scored when a flick on from a throw-in fell to an unmarked player who volleyed in off the post. This resistance was quickly crushed with 2 more goals before half time, with the game more or less out of sight at 4-1 at half-time.

In the second half, we began where we left off, with a further 10 goals coming before the end, to give a full-time result of 14-1 in our favour. In total, there were hat-tricks from Olufisayo Akinwummi-Ladega, Steadman Callender and George Hutton, with Danny Harris and Stuart scoring 2 each. Ryan Flack also contributed with one goal. Highlights of the second half included Josh Adetona gaining a booking on his debut and Adam Smith being a contender for arguably miss of the century when he somehow managed to hit the post from half a yard, with the goal wide open, with the last kick of the game (apart from this it was an accomplished performance from Adam).

A great start to the season and we hope to build on this win.

Alex Jones (c) 12J

Merits

Congratulations go to Lynda Walker 8TM and Christopher Mills 8LRB for successfully reaching 50 merits. Well done and keep up the good work. Mrs Kemp

Running the 2011 London Marathon!

For the past few years I have been desperate to run the Virgin London Marathon, but I had to wait until I turned 18. I applied as soon as the 2010 marathon was over and recently received the brilliant news I had been waiting for! I had secured a place for the 2011 marathon.

Beyond the endless hours of training and school work, I have to raise £1,600. Many people might consider this as a burden, but I look at it more as a challenge as well as a gift, as I am running for Barnardo's Charity. This is a children's charity who deal with any child issue from drug misuse to disability, youth crime to mental health, sexual abuse to domestic violence, poverty to homelessness.

I will hopefully be attending every Parents' Evening and will man a stall to collect any donations parents or students wish to give. If you do not have any cash on the day but wish to help, please feel free to leave an envelope addressed to me at the Finance Office. If you wish to write a cheque, please make it payable to Didier Nuttall. Thank you.

I will also receive an online donation system from the charity enabling people to donate via the internet, should you prefer that. I will add further details about this as soon as I hear from Barnardo's. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

ALL donations will be greatly received.

Didier Nuttall, 13RPP

Children In Need takes place on Friday 19th November

It will be a non-uniform day ~ pay £1. The School Council would like as many students as possible to take part in events and get sponsored. Sponsor forms available this week from Mrs Wieck in H8.

Events include: Pudsey cakes on sale, see if we can cover Pudsey with loose change, karaoke performed by teachers and students (taking place during both lunch hours) and a Pudsey raffle (if you have any items you are able to donate for the raffle we would be very grateful. Please leave them at Reception).

Do you want to plan an event to take place during the day? If you have any other suggestions or if students want to help raise money in any way, please come and talk to Summer Reynolds, Katrina Collison or Mrs Wieck. Thank you for your support.

