



The Bake- Off

Last term Years 7 and 8 took part in a competition to raise as much money as possible in aid of Children In Need by baking and selling cakes to the rest of the school. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience as it was a fun and delicious way to raise money for such a good cause.

All Forms worked hard to get as many cakes as they could into school and there was a hectic rush to get all the cakes down to the canteen. During the first two periods there was a definite buzz of excitement in the air, as all students could not wait to try the various cakes. At break the selling began. It was like a market, selected students from each Form were trying to sell as much as possible. And it worked. There were SO many people in the canteen it was hard to move, let alone buy cakes. But somehow the wonderful Year 7s and 8s sold so many cakes, cookies and other homemade treats they managed to raise a whopping £666!

And as for who won the competition...Year 7. All the Year 8s were disappointed, especially as there was only a £6 difference! Overall it was an enjoyable and sugary day that helped raise money for those who needed it. *Jusleen Gill, 8EP*

Christmas Concert

As promised last term below is a report of the Christmas Concert.

The December Christmas Concert was the culmination of three and a half months' worth of intense rehearsing, and it couldn't have gone better. The students had had a long, hard term. They were tired, and of course busy with their studies and other extra-curricular commitments. But not only were they rehearsing at lunchtimes and after school up to four times a week, they also endured an all-day rehearsal at the church, before delivering a spectacular set of performances at the concert itself.

There was a wonderful array of music ranging from Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story to McFly plus the usual jazz, classical and barbershop performances. There was also a delightful performance from the Marlborough School Choir of 'Santa Claus is coming to Town' and 'Three Little Birds'.

Thank you to all the students who were involved with the concert, you are a credit to the school. Thank you also to the Music department, who have yet again shown a tireless determination to nurture the students' talents.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 12th January ~ PA Meeting
Thursday 12th January ~ Performance of 'The Woman in Black'
Friday 13th January ~ Performance of 'The Woman in Black'
Thursday 26th January ~ Inset Day
Monday 6th February ~ Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening
Thursday 9th February ~ PA Wine Tasting Evening

Plastic recycling initiative Bin-it-to-win-it

Last ECM day the school launched the new plastic recycling initiative in school, through the use of the grey bins in classrooms and offices and the bin-it-to-win-it competition. Congratulations to the lucky winners, Alfie Cromarty and Robert Grogan both from 8MTR, who each won a £10 Amazon voucher in the competition last term which was organised by Bexley Council/ Bexley Grammar School Green Team to encourage students to use the new plastic recycling bins.

Winning students wrote their name and Form on empty drink bottles and put them in a Plastic Recycling Bin. The winning entries were randomly picked by a member of staff. The competition will be running again this term so to make sure that Alfie and Robert don't walk away with another £10 prize, make sure you deposit your plastic bottles in a recycling bin with your name and Form.

There are posters advertising the competition in all classrooms.

Ms Rock

The Woman in Black

The show plays for two nights only – Thursday 12th and Friday 13th January 2012 – starting at 7:30 in the evening. Tickets will cost £4 for adults and £2 for students. There will also be refreshments on offer in the Foyer before the show and during the interval, with profits going to World Challenge.

We would be delighted if you could join us on either night. If you wish to buy tickets, fill out the form sent by ParentMail in December and return it to the Finance Office as soon as possible.

Notices

Music Notices ~ Instrumental lessons will start next week (w/c 9th Jan). Please ensure you check the noticeboard in MUI for lesson times if you have not received a timetable via your Form teacher or an email by your usual start day.

All extra-curricular music groups also start next week (w/c 9th Jan).

Students interested in performing solos or in ensembles / bands should look out for more information shortly about our **Year 7 & 8 Showcase** (date tbc), **Year 9 & 10 Showcase** (27th Feb) and **KS5 chamber concert** which will be taking place in next term.

ABRSM exams will take place in school this term: classical instruments practical exams in school in last week of February, and Music Theory exams on Thursday 1st March, 5pm.

If your child does not have instrumental lessons in school but would like to take the opportunity of taking their exams in school, please email me (swadkin_l@bexleygs.co.uk) with the following information: Name and Form of student, instrument and grade they'd like to take, and the name of their instrumental teacher.

Thank you.

Miss Swadkin

British Sign Language ~ Sign Language classes for Years 7-9 on Mondays at 3:15pm - 4:15pm in the MFL centre taught by Year 13 Students.

Sign Language classes for parents and students on Mondays and Tuesdays at 3:30pm - 5:30pm in M3 with Ms Bobin.

Merits

Well done to the following students on reaching 50 merits just before the end of last term:

Samantha King, Niamh Murphy, Oliver Patterson, Molly Johnson, Sarah Henderson, Joseph Hearn, Dylan D'Cunha (7RAH), Yashaswi Karmacharya, Dheen Zia, Liliana Wyllie (7EFM), Jathusan Sivanesan and Ethan Balderson (7LJP).

A fantastic effort which shows a lot of hard work.

Mr Pullen

All names will be added to the draw for an iPod

Year 9 First World War Battlefields Trip

A large number of students have not sent in copies of their passports and/or EHIC for their day trips in February or March. Please be advised that there will be no reminders sent out to parents regarding these copies and I regret to inform you that if your child is unable to travel on the day as they do not have a valid passport & EHIC, a refund will not be possible as this is not covered by our insurance.

If you are unsure whether you have sent in copies or not, please feel free to email me on robertson_t@bexleygs.co.uk and I will be more than happy to check for you. Thank you for your assistance.

Mrs Robertson, Finance Office

Information regarding Day Trips and School Journeys

Day trip letters will no longer contain a permission slip. If you have not completed a 'Day trips permission form' for your son/daughter, please contact me at dell_l@bexleygs.co.uk and I will e-mail a form to you.

Payments for new day trips can now be made on ParentPay, along with school journeys. If you would like to pay by cash or cheque, please ensure that cash is placed in an envelope with your child's and the trip's name on it; for cheques, please ensure that your child's and the trip's names are also written on the back of the cheque.

If your son/daughter is on one of the journeys listed below, you should have received a payment plan by e-mail, if you have registered with ParentPay, and by letter, if not. Please contact me on the above e-mail address if you have not or ask your child to come to the Finance Office to see me.

Trips: Drama Trip to New York, French Work Experience 2012, Spanish Work Experience 2012, Watersports 2012, Y10 MFL Trip to Italy 2012, Y9 MFL Trip to Rhineland 2012, Y9 MFL Trip to St Malo 2012

NB. When paying an instalment, the amount showing on ParentPay is the total amount owing for your child. Please overwrite with the instalment amount. You do not have to pay the full amount.

Please be aware that the e-mail system on ParentPay is not the same as ParentMail. If you move, or change address, you will need to update ParentPay yourself as the school cannot access your accounts in order to change them.

I would be very grateful if parents could keep their ParentPay details up to date.

Thank you.

Mrs Dell, Finance Office