



## Academic Conference

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November Bexley Grammar School played host to the Bexley Academic Conference. Ten students from Oxford University and two of their lecturers came down to Southeast London and led sixth formers from five Bexley schools through some of the topics studied by Oxford undergraduates. In the afternoon school students had an opportunity to present some of their work to the audience and the BGS students performed particularly well with topics such as “The impact of the My Lai massacre” and “Gödel’s incompleteness theorems”. Students particularly welcomed the opportunity to discuss their subjects with the undergraduates and the feedback from a visiting teacher was “Every aspect was wonderful but student presentations were amazing.” Well done to all those involved. J Handscombe

## ECM Day ~ 22nd October

The 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 themed 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 and having a healthy lifestyle; and many of these were investigated very successfully and with great enthusiasm by pupils on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many photographs were taken during the day by Su Morris (for which many thanks) and some of these are on display on the website and the screens in the school 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*

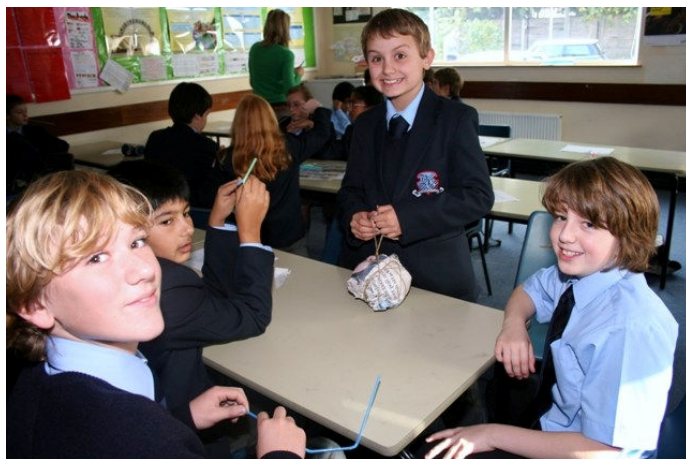
Year 7 pupils spent part of the day working on personal study skills, understanding how they learn and the most effective way to study, as well as learning how to use the library effectively and find information and data they require.

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. They then evaluated and tested 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 many ideas on anti-bullying; coming up with new year group ideas, bullybox designs, poems, ‘raps’ and short improvisations. Group work

was peer judged on the day and the overall winning team will be representing the school at the Article 12 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 several 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 part of the day working on the ‘Real Game’, an ICT interactive programme that introduces pupils to some aspects of careers choices and the skills requirements of different jobs in a fun and interesting way.

Each tutor group spent some time working on the ‘Trading Game’. This has groups of pupils working as countries that are at different levels of development, to produce and trade goods using different amounts of raw materials, resources and finance. The trading process leads pupils to reflect on the differences and inequalities of international trade. The game illustrates, in a fun way, how trade affects the prosperity of a country, both positively and negatively.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the ‘Trading Game’, getting very engrossed in the process and became very competitive indeed, with many asking when they can play again!

### *Year 9 Themes ~ Enterprise and personal relationships*

Year 9 pupils enjoyed a presentation by ‘Cragrats’ Theatre Company followed by enterprise workshops in smaller groups, led by ‘Cragrats’ 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, which will then be produced and marketed by Richard Edward Ltd. A team from BGS won this challenge last year and their winning designs will be on sale in shops and in school soon.

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 working with other people. It 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 'Dragon's Den' enterprise team. They worked in groups to come up with a unique idea for a product to market. The team then had to develop marketing strategies, unique selling points, costings, a TV advert and a presentation of their work.

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 'dragons'. Congratulations to James Thomas, Sam Shrimpton, Elly Nash, Liam Kelly, James Kelly, Hannah Dineen, Grace Candlin & Henry Wong who were the winning team.

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 week (see Harriet Dawkins report below)*

#### *Year 12 Theme ~ learning skills*

Year 12 pupils had a mixed day working on personal relationship themes but also having sessions delivered by 'drugline' and V-involved. The V-involved sessions were really enjoyed by pupils and it was interesting as students from BGS featured within the PowerPoint so making the process and opportunities real for the Year 12s. The visiting staff from V-involved reported a very high interest rate from current pupils and we hope to work together to host a presentation session for the current students when they have completed their volunteer work.

#### *Year 13 Themes ~ higher education and first aid*

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

Pupils also enjoyed an enterprise activity based round the financing of university life delivered by Bexley EBP, and the feedback from this was that pupils found the session very useful.

Year 13 pupils who are applying to Oxford or Cambridge universities were also in school working together and with Miss Medicott on their applications and impending interviews.

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

Ms Rock

## **Year News**

Congratulations go to Lucy Dunk 7LRB who is the first person to reach 50 merits in Year 7. Well done and keep up the good work!

Mrs Kemp

A big thank you to all the Year 7 Food Technology students who made delicious fruit buns to share with our visitors and their families during Open Evening in H5.

There were lots of smiling faces and compliments to be heard and we are appreciative of the effort given by our students in their own time to support BGS.

Ms Peach, Mrs Coldicott, Mrs Young & Mrs Sargeant

Work Experience ~ During the week before half term, Year 11 completed their work experience. The placements varied from office work to outdoor activities. We all gained a lot of experience. Although some found it difficult to find placements, we were encouraged by Mrs Longman (work experience co-ordinator) to find places well in advance to avoid disappointment. We would all like to thank Mrs Longman for her support and guidance throughout the process.

Harriet Dawkins IIRHS

## Clubs

Sophists Society ~ Every three weeks, the Sophists Society provides an opportunity for Year 12 and 13 students to meet up and discuss contemporary issues.

On our first meeting, we had an in-depth and fascinating debate regarding whether or not “Elitism is wrong”. We explored issues surrounding “elite” institutions, whether or not our society could function without an “elite” class, the reasons why “elitism” exists within our society, and its implications and influences. Drawing our debate to a close, we were asked to think about whether or not there is a need for equal status and opportunities for everyone in society.

During our most recent meeting, we were joined by Ms Tracy Elliot, a barrister who lectures at the University of Surrey. During this meeting, we explored some issues surrounding medicine and law, and were given various scenarios, where we had to go through logical steps to approach and dissect the posed problem in order to reach a suitable conclusion. In the process, we learnt to consider a range of aspects and to never take a scenario on face value; on discussing the issue of autonomy when making medical decisions, we had to consider a range of questions. For example, in what situations does a person have complete autonomy? Can the person themselves make decisions which need to be respected? Is this person regarded as having a condition which may affect their autonomy? From this discussion, the issue of what makes us classify a person as disabled arose. For example, do we mean disabled in terms of a “medical” condition which results in that person being especially vulnerable, or do we classify people according to stereotypes? Do society’s views towards the disabled cause problems?

These discussions provide an excellent opportunity for you to exercise your thinking skills, and to consider and appreciate topics from different perspectives. Moreover, it is something different to put in your personal statement and will also help with interviews – so if you have the time, why not come along? Peggy Luong and Funmi Adekojo

## Notices

The School Council would like as many students as possible to take part in events and get sponsored to raise money for this year’s Children In Need on Friday 20th November. It will also be a non-uniform day. If any parent has items which we could raffle, donations will be gratefully received.

Sponsor forms are available from Summer Reynolds IIRHS. Mrs Wieck

Congratulations to Saffron Heurman-Williamson in 7LRB who has won the £10 Bluewater Gift voucher for her recycled plastic bottle in our ‘Bin It to Win It’ competition. Another draw will take place at the end of this term, in time for Christmas. Remember to deposit your plastic

drinks bottles in the recycling bin outside the canteen.

Mrs Wieck

To all World Challengers, could you bring in your cheque for £22.50 to pay for the coach to the training weekend by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November. If the cheque is not brought in you may be asked to find your own transport to and from Crowborough.

I will send out times/further information for the weekend next week.

Don’t forget about organising and collecting your kit ready for the weekend - a kit list was attached to the original letter. Miss Fairbairn

1p Meal Deal Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November ~ Chilli and Rice / Vegetable chilli and rice.

## Sports News

The October half term saw 50 students travel to Villarreal in Spain to take part in a Football tour. The students experienced an intensive training programme led by the coaches at Villarreal and played some very competitive matches. The Year 8A team and Girls’ team both got to play against the Academy sides, an experience that I am sure will stay with them for a long time.

The tour gave us the opportunity to use fantastic facilities, meet professional players and watch a La Liga game. Thank you to all of the staff and students who accompanied me on a thoroughly enjoyable tour. A Pullen

The Year 7 netball teams continue to go from strength to strength with another great victory over Cleeve Park on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The A team, captained by Natasha Polston, were very strong making interceptions throughout play alongside some great shooting by Natasha and Sophie. The team played extremely well together, winning 13-3. The girl of the match was Elizabeth Azubuike for her awareness on court and fantastic interceptions.

For the B team this was their first fixture. The team went out with a positive and fighting attitude that led them to a 4-2 victory, with great play throughout the game. The girl of the match was Bethany Webster for her shooting and movement in the area. What a great start girls, well done!

Years 9 and 10 also took a mixed team to this fixture. The team, captained by Lizzie Howard, had a strong game, with plenty of interceptions and skill shown throughout the game. The final score was an impressive 20-3 win to BGS. Well done to all girls involved - keep up the good work!!

Miss Leffen

## Reminders

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November ~ Year 8 Parents’ Evening  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November ~ Inset day