



Bexley
Grammar
School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th September 2011

www.bexleygs.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 14th September ~ PA Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 20th September ~ Year 7 Parents' Evening with Tutors

Friday 23rd September ~ Year 7 PA BBQ

Monday 26th September ~ Year 7, 9, 12 School photos

Thursday 29th September ~ Year 13 Parents' Evening

Friday 30th September ~ Inset Day

Welcome to Academic Year 2011-12

Dear Parents and Students,

Every year I enjoy welcoming students and staff back to school for everyone is pleased to see each other again and this year, despite the weather, on our first day everyone seemed to be very positive about the year ahead. Our new Year 7 students are settling in very quickly and I was extremely impressed by their impeccable behaviour in their first assembly. Some even laughed at my jokes! The regular metamorphosis of Year 11 students with worn uniforms into smart Year 12 students has happened and it is delightful to see them eager to lead our community. Some very bright, ambitious external students have joined us and I encourage them to waste no time in getting involved in everything we have to offer for time in the Sixth Form passes very quickly.

Details of our examination results in August will appear on our website in the next few days but these were once again



very good. Our 224 Year 11 students gained the highest average point score ever while taking the most challenging set of GCSEs. Nearly all students took the combination of 2 language subjects, the 3 separate sciences, English Language and Literature, Mathematics, a full RS course (on 1 period per week), a Humanity subject and 2 other optional subjects. Despite this demanding set of subjects our students averaged a grade half way between an A and a B for the 2670 entries. 49% of all the grades achieved were at A* or A grade. Some of these students took Mathematics and some languages early in Year 10 and went on to take a Free Standing Maths Qualification (equal to an A/S) or some A/S

language preparation and these results are not included. All in all these students are well prepared to begin their demanding Key Stage 5 courses at A level or the IB course and I wish them success.

Our Year 13s who took A Level or IB examinations set new standards of excellence and secured places for themselves in the country's best universities at a time when there was huge demand. The average point score per student was 392 UCAS points which is equivalent to one A* and two As or, more realistically because our students take 4 subjects, four B grades at A level. This is a tremendous benchmark to have set. These students have gained more A*-B grades than any previous cohort with 67% of all grades being at this standard.



We secured four Oxbridge places this year with Dean Williams going to Jesus College, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences after securing 4 A* grades; Calum Bradley-Sparvell going to Merton College, Oxford to read History after gaining 3 A* grades and one A; Jay Bassan is going to study Chemistry at Wadham College, Oxford after gaining 41 points on the IB course and Emily Austin is going to St John's College, Oxford to study Geography after gaining 42 points on the IB course. Four students, Georgina Clark, Diana Matthews, Farhang Fazeli and Adelina D'Sa, gained places to study medicine while two others gained places to study dentistry. 219 students applied to university and 215 have been successful to this point. 66% of them gained places at their first choice of university and course with 80 gaining places in the traditional top tier of universities. Both A Level and IB students have been equally successful. I wish them good luck with their studies and thank them for their leadership of the school in their time as Sixth Form students here. I hope that they keep in touch.

Over the summer we saw events in London which shocked and appalled many of us. The rioting and anarchy that occurred stained the reputation of young people and came very soon after the murder of a schoolboy in Welling at the end of last term. These events make society and community seem fragile and I am keen that as a school we respond pro-actively to this by strengthening our community and demanding that our school retains a feeling of being miles away from these events. In assemblies I will be asking our students, who are as surprised by these events as me, to reject from our school even small echoes of the kind of behaviour that led to them. I will ask them to shun any posturing which might, even in a tame way, resemble gang culture, reject the street language associated with it and squash the first signs of bullying or anti-social behaviour in our school. The first thing we need for students to excel is for them to all feel safe and that is the responsibility of all of us: teachers, parents and especially the students themselves working together and talking about problems openly when they do occur. I am proud of our students and know that they will understand my message and will counter the negativity generated by these events with openness, decency and old fashioned courtesy so that we can protect and enhance what we hold dear at this school.

On a more mundane note I need to mention that for the next two terms we will be operating while building works are proceeding and tolerance and common sense will be needed during this time. The extension to the Le Feuvre building to provide Sixth Form study facilities is well under way and we expect this to be available to use after half term in October. Currently in the old Main building we have plumbing work going on which will give us the flexibility of a two pipe heating system after 55 years of enduring hot and cold spots! Many of our flat roofs are due to be insulated and recovered in the next two months and before March we hope to refurbish our kitchen and redesign our canteen area following capital grants available since conversion to academy status. These works will be disruptive but we must take them while they are on offer since the grants will be withdrawn if not spent by the end of March.

Finally I wish all students an enjoyable and fulfilling new year.

J Welsh
Headmaster

Year 7

I would like to welcome all the Year 7 pupils and parents to Bexley Grammar School. It will be a very busy week with lots of new things going on. After meeting the year group during the taster day in July I was very impressed by the way the students settled and very much look forward to working with them in their first term.

Please note that in addition to the weekly school newsletter, the Year 7 team will be providing you with termly newsletters describing the activities and achievements involving your children.

We are looking forward to meeting many of you at the Year 7 BBQ on Friday 23rd September.

Mr Pullen, Mr Ward and all Year 7 tutors.

Notices

Instrumental Lessons

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 15th September**. Letters have been sent out by ParentMail and through form trays in school; they are also available from the Music department if you have not yet received one. Please be aware that even if you have previously had instrumental lessons in school, you **MUST** re-apply for lessons this year, as you will not automatically be allocated a place. *Miss Swadkin, Instrumental lesson co-ordinator*

British Sign Language

Sign Language classes will start again next week (see below). They will follow the school academic year. The classes are for students and the parents of students at Bexley Grammar School unless prior arrangements have been made.

Mondays: British Sign Language Level I from 15.30pm -17.30pm.

Tuesdays: British Sign Language Pre Stage Two from 15.30pm - 17:30pm.

There will also be a class for any student from Year 7, 8 and 9 who wishes to learn the basics; this will be from 15.15pm - 16.15pm and will be run by Year 13 Sign Language students.

EXCITING NEWS from the Parents' Association for Autumn Term 2011

Last Chance for Millennium Club ~ Monday 12th September
Monday 12th September 2011 is your last opportunity to join/renew subscriptions starting this September. It's just £5 for 14 chances to win a cash prize up to £50.

Congratulations to end of summer term and summer draw winners:

July

1st Prize £20 Kevin Orford Year 11

2nd Prize £15 Margaret Meehan Year 10

August

1st prize £20 Paul Harris Year 9

2nd Prize £15 Mrs Yeap Year 10

Summer Draw

1st Prize £50 Helen Thorpe Year 7

2nd Prize £35 Mrs Yeap Year 10

3rd Prize £25 M.Thomas Year 13

If you still want to join, don't have access to Parentmail and need a form, please contact Catherine Stock via email:
catherinejstock@hotmail.co.uk

Next PA Meeting ~ Wednesday 14th September

Please Come Along!

Our next meeting is Wednesday 14th September, 7.30 pm in the Sixth Form Common Room. All parents are welcome and we're particularly keen to meet any new Year 7 parents who might be interested in getting involved or helping out at an event. If you

can't make this meeting and would still like to volunteer to help out some time, please contact our Secretary, Ann McGauran on ann.mcgau@gmail.com

Year 7 Barbecue ~ Friday 23rd September

A reminder to all Year 7 families to please send in your BBQ ticket requests by Friday 16th September 2011. £5 ticket includes your meal. Licensed pay bar will be open for drinks. Please note tickets are needed for every adult and child attending (including BGS students). Forms were issued at the intake evening in June and will be reissued via Parentmail shortly. Tickets will be issued a few days prior to the event.

Quiz Night – Booking NOW! ~ Friday 7th October 2011

Come along to the Main School Hall on 7th October 2011 and pit your wits against school staff and other parents/students and their friends/families. As before, House Points will be awarded to the winning team in addition to the usual 1st and last place prizes. A popular event - booking form coming your way via Parentmail soon - please return form asap to avoid disappointment.

Queries to Ann: ann.mcgau@gmail.com

Sainsbury's Bexleyheath "Buy a Brick"

Saturday 17th September 2011 (9 am to 2 pm)

We have arranged our very first bag-packing session at Sainsbury's Bexleyheath. This is the final stage of the "Buy a Brick" campaign. Do come along and support the students who are going to be hard at work packing bags and collecting donations for Bexley Grammar School's new Sixth Form centre. If you can't come along on the day and would still like to "Buy a Brick", forms are available in School Reception. Students who would like to volunteer should please see Mr Harris.

NEW EVENT Bollywood Dinner & Dance ~ Fri 25th November 2011

This really is an event not to be missed. The caterers, the DJ, the photographer and a henna tattooist have been booked for what we anticipate will be a lovely and very enjoyable evening. More details and booking form via Parentmail next week!

BGSPA Golf Day ~ 1st August 2011

Finally, a huge thank you to everybody involved in arranging and/or taking part in the 2nd BGSPA golf day held at Birchwood Park on Monday 1st August 2011 where a very respectable £285 was raised. Congratulations to John Sparrow who was the declared winner on the day. Full details of the day and other prizewinners will be issued in our next edition of "The PAper".

