

Bexley Grammar School



Welcome to our Sixth Form

Intellect, empathy, courage

developing compassionate leaders

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Welcome - From the Headteacher, Mr S Elphick



Welcome to our Sixth Form!

How can I introduce in a few words what really makes Bexley Grammar School what it is? How can I define what makes this Sixth Form unique compared to any other?

I think in the end it is very simple: we are most proud of the quality of the relationships that we develop between students and staff here at BGS; it is in the Sixth Form that these interactions really mature as you begin to learn and discuss at higher levels than ever before through the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Your teachers, each one a subject specialist, become the key to your future and you become the highlights of their daily teaching; even more, you become colleagues as you take on responsibilities and lead the rest of the school. We see you develop from highly successful GCSE students to become increasingly self-assured, compassionate, highly skilled young men and women, equipped through the IB to flourish in higher education or employment as you prepare for our fast-changing world. It goes without saying that the quality of the relationships, of which we are so proud at BGS, is what enables you to achieve the individually outstanding academic results that you will secure when you work with us and follow our advice.

My promise to you is that we will challenge you, push you out of your comfort zone occasionally, give you some, literally, life-changing opportunities, and if you choose to continue on at university, we will support you to secure the best possible match for your needs, including, for many of you, the very top university places in the UK. Similarly, we have an enviable record in securing apprenticeships at some of the most prestigious institutions. Whatever next step you choose, we have experts to guide you and support you. We will immerse you in our extra-curricular activities along the way, many centred on the House system. We will provide leadership opportunities for you, from Peer Mentors to Senior Prefects.

Use this induction to find out what you need to know about us so that you can begin Year 12 seamlessly. For those of you coming from other schools, I promise that you will feel at home within days. Talk to our current sixth form students, ask questions and engage in the activities; you will find that you are already on the way to being the Sixth Form student that we look forward to welcoming in September.

Mr Elphick

From the Head Prefect, Christabel Masaba



Welcome to the Sixth Form at BGS! And a huge congratulations to you for all the work you've done to get here. I know the transition from GCSE to sixth form can feel quite daunting, but you've no reason to worry - you have all the skills you need to thrive here from your GCSEs.

Sixth Form at BGS really is one of a kind. You can now choose to study the subjects you enjoy, and as an IB student the wider range of subjects makes you an admirable candidate for universities. Through ToK, CAS, the EE and coursework in your subjects you learn to be a well-rounded individual, and how to link your subjects to the real world.

Outside of your subjects there are so many opportunities available to you; from joining a club to performing in a play, becoming a subject prefect to a member of the school council. Become a House Captain, Peer Mentor or Senior Prefect: you can be a part of this school community in any way you'd like, doing something you enjoy and being a role model to the younger students.

While these are big roles to balance with your subjects and coursework - which are still your main focus - using your time productively (including free periods), staying organised and working hard makes all of this achievable. And remember you aren't alone in this: your teachers are here to support you all the way. Feel free to go to them as much as you need!

I hope you enjoy your time here - every part of your sixth form journey is an opportunity to have fun and grow. The BGS community is one you want to be a part of, you'll enjoy getting to know your fellow students, teachers and all of the staff.

I look forward to meeting you and I wish you all the best as you enter this new chapter in your lives!

Christabel Masaba

Induction Days

Your Induction Day will help you to get to know Sixth Form life at Bexley Grammar School and to give you a taster of what's on offer both academically and socially. As well as this, there is a plethora of fantastic resources on our Open Experience on the school website.

You can:

- watch what current Year 12 students say about each subject - it will help you confirm your subject choices. If you do decide that you want to change your subject choices, there is an opportunity on the enrollment form for a member of staff to contact you to discuss these options. It is not always possible to change your subject choices, but we will support you as best as we can.
- look through the pre-course material and attempt an activity or two. You should spend longer on your Higher subject choices than your Standard subjects.
- watch what former students have to say about Sixth Form life; they've gone through it and are the best people to find out what it's really about!



Pre-course material



Activities and reading suggestions for each subject can be found on the Open Experience page. Please click on the IB Subjects menu, choose the group, and follow the links to the pre-course material detailed per subject.

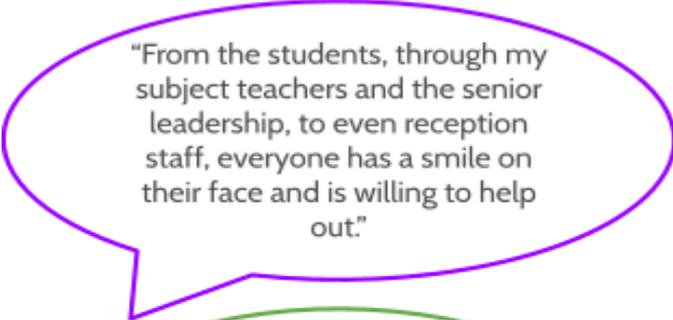
This material is not compulsory, but will help to bridge the gap between GCSE and IB, and will support you with your subject choices.

BGS Sixth Form

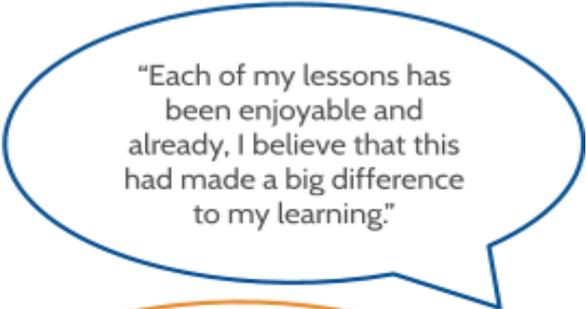
Bexley Grammar School has a high achieving, over-subscribed Sixth Form with highly committed, well qualified staff, excellent resources, a wealth of extra-curricular activities, all of which go toward creating a dynamic learning environment and providing an enriching educational experience for our students.

Our aims and expectations for Sixth Formers:

- to promote academic excellence
- to develop the personal and academic abilities of all our students
- to ensure that every student successfully participates in all aspects of the school life (sporting, music, drama, art, languages and the environment)
- to develop the leadership potential of all students through the setting of high standards of behaviour, appearance, achievement and endeavour
- to take an active role in leadership of the school
- to take responsibility for own learning
- to promote the school ethos to younger students



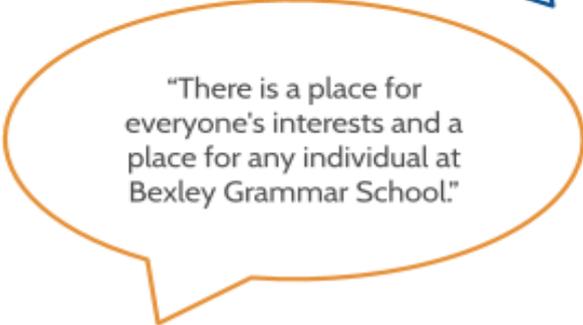
"From the students, through my subject teachers and the senior leadership, to even reception staff, everyone has a smile on their face and is willing to help out."



"Each of my lessons has been enjoyable and already, I believe that this had made a big difference to my learning."



"From the first day, I felt welcomed and involved, speaking to people as if I had been a student here for the past 5 years."



"There is a place for everyone's interests and a place for any individual at Bexley Grammar School."

The International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate is a unified programme leading to a Diploma. Students follow a programme of six subjects with three studied at Higher and three at Standard Level. They follow a Theory of Knowledge course, undertake experiences & projects for Creativity, Activity, Service and complete an Extended Essay. At the core of the IB programme is an endeavour to nurture independent, creative learners with a lively curiosity about the world in which they live.

The status of an IB Diploma is recognised internationally and is perceived by universities as a very strong and stable currency.

Students following the IB also have a **tutorial programme** covering Life Skills, current affairs and topical discussion and Careers (including application to higher education).

IB Core Subjects

Extended Essay

The extended essay is a compulsory component of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper. Students are supported throughout the process of researching and writing the extended essay, with advice and guidance from a supervisor, a teacher at the school.

Theory of Knowledge

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is a compulsory and assessed component for all students. It provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge, and on how we know what we claim to know. TOK aims to make students aware of the interpretative nature of knowledge, including personal ideological biases – whether these biases are retained, revised or rejected.

Creativity, Activity and Service

CAS stands for Creativity, for Activity, and for Service. Think of CAS as the “active” component of your education, outside of the classroom, which will combine aesthetic, athletic, creative and service-minded activities. CAS is a compulsory component of the diploma for all students and time is given in school for you to plan, review and reflect on your projects.



IB Options at BGS

Group	Subject	Options
1	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Literature Literature & Performance*
2	Languages ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese* French German Italian Japanese Latin Spanish
3	Individuals and Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Management Classics* Economics** Geography Global Politics History Philosophy Psychology Social & Cultural Anthropology
4	Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry** Computer Science** Design Technology Environmental Systems & Societies*³ Physics** Sports, Exercise & Health Science
5	Mathematics ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches Mathematics: Applications & Interpretations*
6	Arts and Electives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film** Music Theatre Visual Arts or another choice from groups 2, 3 or 4 above.

* Indicates a subject that is only available at Standard Level.

** Indicates a subject that is only available at Higher Level.

¹ The majority of students continue studying one of their languages to Standard or Higher level. However students looking for a fresh start in a new language or those who did not achieve a grade 5 or above might wish to study at beginners ('Ab Initio') level. The points earned are exactly the same as those for Standard or Higher subjects.

² Both Mathematics courses will be offered at both SL & HL. **Analysis and Approaches course** is designed for students who enjoy developing their mathematics to become fluent in the construction of mathematical arguments and develop strong skills in mathematical thinking. They will explore real and abstract applications, sometimes with technology, and will enjoy the thrill of mathematical problem solving and generalisation. **Applications and Interpretation course** is for those interested in developing their maths for describing our world, modelling and solving practical problems using the power of technology (best when seen in a practical context).

³ Environmental Systems & Societies can count as a group 3 or group 4 subject allowing students to take 2 subjects from group 6, Music and Theatre for example.

Students have to complete all areas, including TOK, CAS and EE to successfully be awarded the IB Diploma.



Admissions to BGS Sixth Form

Our admission requirements are set to enable all students to progress naturally into the Sixth Form while ensuring that students are able to access post-16 courses successfully. Minimum entry qualifications are at least grade 5 in English, English Literature and Mathematics together with minimum GCSE point score of 44 in their best 8 full GCSEs which must include English and Mathematics . (Point score is based on the new GCSEs graded 9 to 1). In addition there are minimum grade requirements in the subjects applied for (or in subjects relevant to those applied for) at Higher Level. Please see the Admissions Policy [here](#) for full details.

Daily Life

Day-to-day

The school day runs 8.30 am - 3.10 pm, during which you have 6 lessons for 50 minutes, a 20 minute morning break, a 50 minute lunch break, and 2 sessions with your form group. Each week you'll have an assembly with the year group. Every student will belong to a House and there will be a weekly session to run through House information.

Private Study Periods

BGS has plenty of Sixth Form only study areas that cater for all needs. During study periods students are expected to work in a designated room to complete any outstanding work or carry out extended research around your studies. Facilities available cover silent study, computer work and small group work areas. All Sixth Form areas are listed on the following page.

Mobile Phone Policy

Here at BGS we are committed to providing the best possible atmosphere for learning. Students may bring their phones to school but they must be out of sight between 8.30 am and 3.10 pm except for Private Study, break and lunchtime in designated Sixth Form areas. It is important that Sixth Form students set an example to lower school students by not using their phones anywhere else in the school, including corridors, in the canteen and outside.

The Dress Code

Sixth Form students are expected to dress appropriately for a working environment. All students are expected to wear a blazer/suiting jacket at all times. Skirt and trouser suits are appropriate, however dresses are not to be worn. As role models to our younger students and ambassadors for BGS, we would like our students to look smart and professional.



Sixth Form Provision

Independent study is a crucial part of the IB course and here at BGS there are plenty of spaces that you can use during your private study periods, before school, at break and lunch, and after school. There are Sixth Form exclusive rooms with access to computers (K1 and L12), Sixth Form exclusive spaces for spending break and lunch (Sixth Form Centre and Upper Hall), a Sixth Form exclusive room (L6) and the Library, which has computer access and of course a huge array of books to support your IB courses.



Extra-Curricular Opportunities

There are a variety of opportunities available to the Sixth Form at Bexley Grammar School. All students are welcomed and encouraged to be part of the school community. Many departments run clubs where students can participate and perform; some departments ask Sixth Form students to take a leading role in helping younger students. If there isn't anything you fancy, we are always happy to try to accommodate, or, we encourage Sixth Form students to take lead roles in creating new and exciting opportunities for students within BGS. All of the below (and any new clubs) are a great way to earn add to your CAS portfolio.

Here are a few of the exciting clubs and societies currently on offer:

Basketball / Football / Feminist Society / Redefy / Stem Club / LGBT+ Alliance / Medicine Society / Afro-Caribbean / Chamber Choir / Big Band / Law Group

We also have various student led clubs/groups. If you are interested in creating one, talk to your Form Tutor in September.

Leadership opportunities at BGS

At BGS, there are loads of opportunities for leadership, all of which will help you with your applications after Sixth Form. Taking on one of these opportunities is a good idea, but remember that you have lots of Sixth Form commitments!

Here are just a few of the leadership opportunities we have on offer at BGS:

Subject Prefects / Student Ambassadors / House Captains / Peer Mentors / Senior Prefects

Subject Prefects: The responsibilities of a Subject Prefect differ between subjects. Most subjects will ask for applications at some point during Year 12, and the jobs are largely focused on helping younger students or organising events within the department.

House Captains: The House system is particularly important at BGS and this is yet another great opportunity to get to know students throughout the school. Their general responsibilities are to help with the running of the House events, and to advertise these events to members of their House to encourage participation. They will supervise House events during and after school, particularly sport, and are expected to run rehearsals for House Music, House Drama and House Dance. If you're particularly passionate about sport, music, drama, dance or even looking after younger students, this is a great one for you. Applications open in the Spring term of Year 12.

Peer Mentors: Peer Mentors are a pastoral backbone for many students. They learn how to listen to problems effectively and also how to deal with their peers disclosing details for which they may need professional help, and how to pass this information on. Each new Year 7 form is assigned a pair of Peer Mentors who work closely with their form, and offer one-to-one mentoring when necessary. If caring for others is something you're particularly interested in, then being a Peer Mentor could be a perfect leadership opportunity for you! Applications open in the Spring term of Year 12.

Senior Prefects: There are normally only eight Senior Prefects, which are the result of a long competitive application system, but don't let it put you off. They have weekly meetings with the Headteacher and are the student voice for Sixth Form in the school. They help at induction days and open evenings, as well as plan assemblies and speeches. The Senior Prefect Team is always incredibly diverse, so if this opportunity is something you're passionate about, go for it!

Take the opportunities available to you!



Ambitions after Sixth Form

While it might seem a long time away there is more to life after Sixth Form and at BGS we will equip you with everything you will need to succeed in whatever you choose to do.

The majority of Sixth Form students go on to higher education (approximately 90% on average over the past three years) and all students are supported throughout the process of choosing and applying to university courses by Tutors, Sixth Form staff and the school's Careers and Higher Education Adviser.

For those students who are looking at alternative options to university, trips are arranged to Apprenticeship and Insight events. Information sessions are also available for parents of Year 11 and 12 students, so they can be made aware of the other routes their child may take.

Those aiming at the most selective university courses, including Oxford, Cambridge and medical schools, are supported through weekly meetings and discussion groups, guest lectures by academics, admissions test and interview preparation, and dedicated all-day sessions each term. The school also hosts the Borough's annual Top Universities conference.

Over the past five years we have been the most successful school in the local area for securing places on the most competitive courses, including Oxbridge & Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary courses. We have also supported students in achieving some of the most competitive apprenticeships in London.

To find out what our past students are now doing head to our [Destinations page](#) on our website.

What to do next.....

You will receive an email from the school regarding your application, please follow the link on that letter to enrol.

- Enjoy your summer!
- Read a few books (from the recommended reading list) to keep your brain engaged
- Collect your results!
- **CURRENT BGS STUDENTS:** If your application to the Sixth Form has been successful a confirmation letter will be included in your results pack. You will receive a link via email from Mrs Aspill before results day, please submit the Google form to confirm your place in Sixth Form
- **NEW BGS STUDENTS:** On results day, we will be operating an online enrolment process, further details will follow via email later this term including how to confirm your place and upload your results.
- For all students, there will be the opportunity to come in to school if you have any issues you need to discuss regarding your results/subject choices but students are encouraged to make any course amendments they already have planned before the end of the academic year by emailing Mrs Aspill (aspill_c@bexleygs.co.uk)
- Prepare to start your chosen courses with us on Friday 2nd September by sorting your Sixth Form wardrobe, reading some recommended texts, sorting your route to school and reading through your induction booklet! **Bring this booklet in**, as well as a notepad or some paper.
- Look forward to joining a friendly and academic Sixth Form, because we are excited to have you joining us!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you the best of luck with your GCSE results!

We look forward to seeing you in September!



School Map



Notes