

# Bexley Grammar School



## Welcome to our Sixth Form



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# Welcome

As we are unable to meet you in person and welcome you to Bexley Grammar School for our Sixth Form Induction, we have put together a variety of material to help you when you start in September. A lot of the information is found in this booklet, alongside the [Virtual Induction website](#) with contributions from current year 12 students, former students and the Sixth Form team.

Please feel free to save this booklet to your own device for you to refer back to at any time.

Before you start reading this booklet and completing the activities. Please watch the welcome videos from the Headteacher and the Head Prefect, Katie Henderson.

## Virtual Induction Days

Below are different activities for you to try in order to 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.

- Spend time looking through the various sections of the Virtual Induction website. Can you answer all the questions in the webquest below?
- 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.
- Based on your subject choices, 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 Virtual Induction 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.

## Webquest - use the website and this booklet

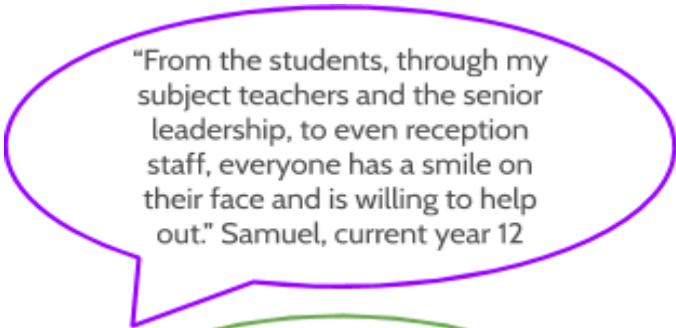
1. Who is the Senior Prefect?
2. What are the 6 groups of the IB subjects called?
3. What are the compulsory elements of the IB?
4. How many different languages are on offer at BGS in the IB?
5. Name one society that our Sixth Form offers that is Sixth Form exclusive
6. What is the role of a peer mentor?
7. What two rooms are Sixth Form exclusive rooms **and** have access to computers?
8. What support is on offer to students who wish to do a degree apprenticeship post 6th Form?
9. Can you find two former students who are now studying at university? What are they studying and where?
10. What is our school's mobile phone policy?
11. How long are lessons?
12. Is there a club or society that we offer at BGS that you currently don't have in your school?
13. In which two subject groups can you find Environmental Systems?
14. Which group do you not have to do a subject from? What can you do instead?

## BGS Sixth Form


Bexley Grammar School has a high- achieving, over-subscribed Sixth Form with highly committed, well qualified staff, excellent resources, High- Performing Specialist Status (Languages, Science with Mathematics and Leading Edge) and 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." Samuel, current year 12



"Each of my lessons has been enjoyable and already, I believe that this had made a big difference to my learning." Sophie, current year 12



"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." Alexia, current year 12



"There is a place for everyone's interests and a place for any individual at Bexley Grammar School." Tosin, current year 12

# 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 voluntary hours of 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 Personal, Social and Health Education, 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, Action 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"> <li>● English Literature ● Literature &amp; Performance*</li> </ul>
2	Languages <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chinese ● French ● German</li> <li>● Italian ● Japanese ● Latin</li> <li>● Russian ● Spanish</li> </ul>
3	Individuals and Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ancient History &amp; Classical Civilisation*</li> <li>● Business &amp; Management ● Economics</li> <li>● Geography ● Philosophy: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics</li> <li>● History ● Politics ● Psychology</li> <li>● Social and Cultural Anthropology</li> </ul>
4	Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Biology ● Chemistry ** ● Computer Science</li> <li>● Design &amp; Technology ● Environmental Systems *<sup>3</sup> ● Physics ● Sports, Exercise &amp; Health Science</li> </ul>
5	Mathematics <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mathematics: Analysis &amp; Approaches</li> <li>● Mathematics: Applications &amp; Interpretations</li> </ul>
6	Arts and Electives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Film ● Music ● Theatre ● Visual Arts</li> </ul> <p>or another choice from groups 2, 3 or 4 above.</p>

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

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 generalization. **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.)

<sup>3</sup> Environmental Systems can count as a group 3 and 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 & Mathematics together with minimum GCSE point score of 44 in their best 8 full GCSEs which must include English & Maths. (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 8.30-3.05, 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 8:30am and 3:05pm 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 to 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 CAS hours.

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, drama and 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 8 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 have received an email from the school regarding your application please follow the link on that letter to enrol.

# We look forward to seeing you in September!



# School Map

