



Welcome to Bexley Grammar School

During my first week of school, I was incredibly excited to learn at a prestigious grammar school, but at the same time I was nervous as well. On the day before school started, I had been worrying about whether I had all the right equipment and correct uniform and so on. But when I arrived on the first day, I instantly felt calmer and felt thrilled to be part of a large community of students who were helpful and made my first day one of the most memorable experiences of my life.



I was also excited to receive my timetable and meet my new teachers for the first time in my life; it felt nerve-wrecking but at the same time I was eager to learn new things from them. All of them were amazing and helped make the transition from primary school to secondary school a lot easier. They made me feel welcome and proud of myself to achieve such an important role in my life to go to a grammar school.

Before I started, I was so surprised by how many extra curricular clubs there were as my primary school didn't have as many exciting new clubs to go to. I knew that when I went there, one of my main goals was to try as many of them as possible. So far, I have started Coding club and DT club but I look forward to trying other clubs such as Lego club and maybe History club.

BGS is such an amazing school and I really enjoy coming here everyday, and being able to meet new friends. Being able to find out something new everyday with all these incredible people I am surrounded by makes me feel cheerful each and everyday.

Celine Pan



My first couple of weeks at Bexley Grammar School were incredibly fascinating. After receiving my timetable, I was so eager to start as many subjects as possible. The lessons are intriguing but the school is a maze of classes and corridors. Nevertheless, the older students are always happy to help you find the classrooms you need and will escort you there if you are in need of it. As well as the classes in school times, there are also a variety of clubs after school such as football, basketball and even robotics! I have really enjoyed my time in this school so far and hope others did too.

Behzod Marufov

Joining BGS was at first a bit nerve-racking since no one from my primary school was going to go there with me, so I thought that it'd be weird and awkward as I thought I'd know no one at all.

But when I actually went there, I realised that I actually recognised a few of the people. Then, I realised that everyone in my form was actually really friendly and I made new friends quicker than I thought I would.

When going to school at first, I always got scared that I'd get lost whilst trying to find my way through the school since it is really big and you have to move around a lot, but my friends would always help me and make sure that I didn't get lost there.

Subha Bura

When I started at Bexley Grammar school, I felt extremely excited because I was going to a great secondary school where there are lots of opportunities to try new things. Unlike most people, I don't have just one sibling at the school but two, and I knew that they would help me and my new friends to get around the large buildings! Despite that, I still felt rather nervous because it was a different environment and no-one from my old school came here to settle in with me.

I had no need to worry. I have been at BGS for three weeks now and I am much more familiar with the school so there is not much chance of me getting lost! I have already joined several extra-curricular music activities including; junior choir, junior orchestra, string group and senior orchestra, which have been great fun. I have met and become friends with lots of people from different year groups. I have successfully been rewarded 12 merits so far and I am always on the hunt for more! I have really settled in well here at BGS and I know that I definitely chose the right school for me, as it is a very friendly place and everyone is so welcoming.

Zara Warren



In my first few weeks at secondary school my parents kept telling me to join as many clubs to make as many friends as possible. I was a bit nervous on the first day because I didn't know anybody but after an hour or two of getting to know each other, I felt more comfortable communicating to people and everyone in the older years were just as helpful. The staff are very welcoming and are there to support you throughout your seven years at the school. Also the school food is really nice, offering a range of food from fruits and veg to pizza and chips with many more options. Even the salad is good!

Currently I take part in: football, rugby, karate, basketball and table tennis, and going to all these clubs has helped me get better at those sports but also helped me introduce myself to new people that I didn't actually know before. I have learnt things in P.E. such as ABC, which stands for Agility, Balance and Coordination, and is very important in your P.E. lessons.

My friends were the ones that convinced me to go to karate; a friend in my form said it will improve my self defence and that was all it took too convinced me to come. It was fun and we



learnt how to defend so much. There are many other clubs such as: Netball, Science Club, Geography club, Coding, Drama, History Club and many more. House events play a big part in Year 7 to Year 13. There are six houses: Prothero, Mabbs, Collins, Johnson, Kirkman and, finally, Wellman, which is my house and is currently leading the system. The six houses all participate in games and events all throughout the year.

In my eyes BGS is a great school and it has been great so far for me. It was the best choice I could have made!

Elijah Akintola



Here are a few recent items and stories that have featured in our weekly Newsletter

International Week



One of the things that we are most proud of at Bexley Grammar School, is our ethos of promoting and celebrating cultural diversity, empathy and international mindedness, be it through the study of two languages to GCSE or through our trips and events throughout the year. One such event is one of the highlights of the school year in the MFL department: International Week. Held annually to coincide with the *European Day of Languages* on 26th September, we offer various activities to get involved with and share our love of cultural heritage. This year these included: registration for every form group in different languages each day; competitions for academic monitoring such as 'Guess the teacher and the language' (which had teachers from outside the department speaking any language they knew); international cuisine in the canteen; the Great International Bake Off (more on that below!) and International Day itself.

The main event held on this day is the opportunity to dress in either the national or traditional dress of your family's cultural heritage, or to dress in the dress of a culture that you admire or have visited. We hope that this enables students and staff to feel proud of their origins and to embrace the differences between cultures. Students also had lessons which had an international flavour to them, be it French authors' poetry (in the original and its translation) in their English class, wildlife from around the world in Geography lessons or international songs in Music and MFL. What a great day and week it was!

Mrs Meyer, Head of MFL

Dressing up for International Day

International Week is a special time that Bexley Grammar School does. There are lots of things that happen during International Week, like registration in different languages, international food in the canteen and International Day itself, when everybody gathers together to show their national culture. It's a privilege to write this. Not many people get to do this kind of writing. I feel that everyone who dressed in their national costumes should be proud of themselves. Some people, however, did not dress up, but it made the people who did even more visible and I was proud.

I have Polish blood in my veins. My Grandma, 2 Granddads and my Parents are Polish. I managed to dress up in the Krakow dress which I had stored behind a pile of clothes. It had been made by my Grandma around 5 or 6 years ago and even though I thought it would've shrunk I managed to fit it in without it squeezing me, apart from the trousers which I'd left at home because it was TOO small (it was even a tiny bit bigger than me). I came into my form room in a hat with a peacock feather and an overcoat with bells. Literally nobody recognised me!

International day in the canteen was as busy as usual, BUT... the food in the canteen had turned into international food of which I'd only heard once or twice in my life. It was all so... different. The first day, the food was enough to make my mouth water for the rest of the day.

In short International Day was a great time and I have many cherished memories which I can share with my family and friends.

Jan Sawczuk, Year 7



The Great International Bake Off

Congratulations to all the entrants in this year's Great International Bake Off - we had many and diverse entrants ranging from Finnish brownies to Romanian apple cake. All showed real talent and were enjoyed by the judges. Mr Elphick had the deciding vote as it was such a difficult decision, but we eventually managed to choose our Star Baker, and the winners of the Best Taste and Best Look categories. Read on to hear from ours Star Baker!

Mrs Meyer, Head of MFL

For the International week, one of the exciting competitions that were held was 'The Great International Bake off' which I decided to enter. I got my inspiration for my cake because, this year, I'm learning German and I wanted to learn more about their food and culture. So, I did some research and found this cake, the 'Bienenstich', meaning, 'Bee Sting cake'. This was the first time I made this cake and was nervous to see how it would turn out. However, there was no need to worry - the caramel on top was the hardest to make but the result was worth it. My whole family loved this cake and winning star baker was just the cherry on top of an amazing experience. The prize was, 'Lola's, a cake journey around the world' which is very fitting. Maybe, next year, I will use one of those recipes in the competition and would definitely recommend to others as well.

Grace Taylor, Year 7 Star Baker



Book Cover Designs

This summer the Year 7 students took part in a challenge to design their own book covers for their favourite books. It was a happy hour that I spent looking through all of the beautiful, clever and funny covers that were given to me, we clearly have a group of artists and graphic designers in our midst.

I have displayed a selection in the Library, and they will now be given to the English Department to decorate their walls (although I will be keeping a few to frame and put up in the Library!). The older students have also really enjoyed looking at all of these covers and discussing the books.

Thank you so much to all of the students who took part and spent so long creating these wonderful book covers.

Mrs Carey, School Librarian



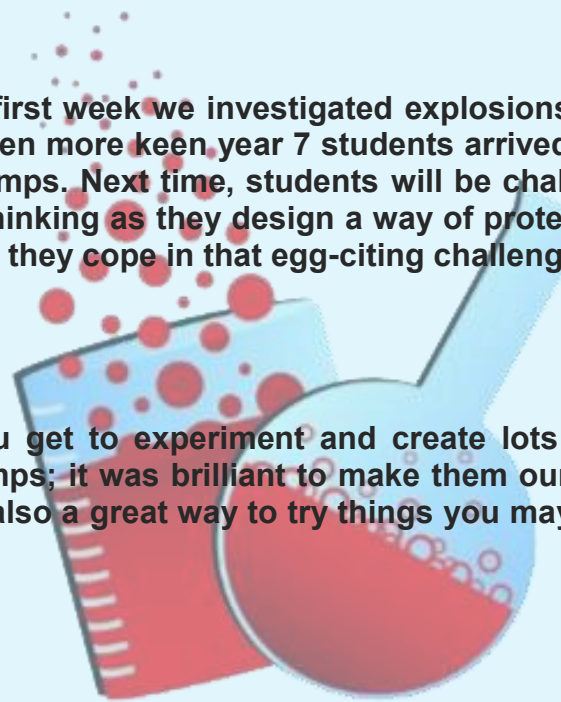
Science Club

Science Club has started with a bang!! The first week we investigated explosions using hydrogen balloons. In the second session even more keen year 7 students arrived (word must have got round) and they made lava lamps. Next time, students will be challenged in their problem solving skills and creative thinking as they design a way of protecting a precious egg from a high drop. Let's see how they cope in that egg-citing challenge!

Ms Lusted, Science Club

I really enjoy attending science club as you get to experiment and create lots of fun things! In the last session, we made lava lamps; it was brilliant to make them ourselves and see them fizzing inside. Science club is also a great way to try things you may never usually do in lessons.

Zoe Allen, Year 7

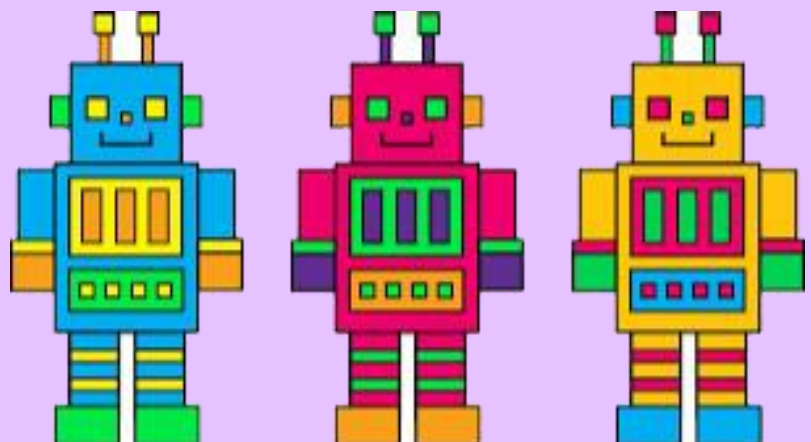


Robot Club

As technology marches inexorably on, the robot apocalypse predicted in the Terminator movies is surely just around the corner. But at Bexley Grammar School, preparations to deal with this threat are well in hand. Year 7 and 8 students at Robot Club have been building and programming their own machines to either beat the robots or, failing that, join them. Pictured here is one such device built by team 'Infinity Gauntlet' recently. It uses a wrist mounted micro-computer to send instructions to a display screen mounted inside a 'Virtual Reality Heads-Up Display' helmet, constructed from high-tech cardboard and Sellotape!

To the casual observer, Robot Club might seem like it is just a brilliant way to learn about building fun robots using the BBC Micro: bit controller and some simple electronic components. But of course, this is just a ruse to throw any nosey Artificial Intelligences off the scent. We are really humanity's best hope of survival. Find us in H14, every Thursday after school.

Mr Villazon, Robot Club



A Message from Mr Elphick, Headteacher to Year 6 Pupils

Celine, Behzod, Subha, Zara, and Elijah welcomed you to this Open Day Special edition of our weekly newsletter because it is students you want to hear from. At Bexley Grammar School, we understand that moving from primary to secondary school can be a daunting experience, but our dedicated, committed staff are here to give you constant support and advice to ensure a smooth transition. The most important things you can do are make new friends, get involved and enjoy yourself!

We offer so many fantastic opportunities from the very beginning of Year 7 to ensure that you become part of our vibrant and exciting community. Our students make this the outstanding school that it is. Together, with energy, imagination and commitment, with determination, creativity and a willingness to participate, Bexley Grammar School will help you to develop the knowledge and confidence to reach your full potential and succeed in future endeavours.

The link [here](#) will take you to our weekly newsletters which will add flavour to the richness of the experience that we offer.

