



# Welcome to Bexley Grammar School

I have only just started in Year 7 and I'm settling in fine! A great way to start the year was by having a subject fayre (different stalls in the hall tell us about different clubs that go on throughout the week). I now go to five different clubs! These include: Jazz Band, Junior Orchestra, Football Training, House Drama and Reading Club.

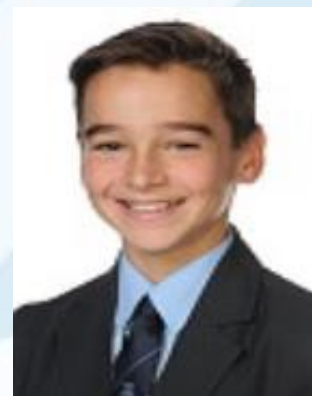
My favourite day so far has definitely been International Day; there were so many interesting things to do. I especially enjoyed the food that week! Everyone, including the pupils from other years, have been so welcoming and have made me feel right at home at this school.

Another amazing day was No Pens Day. I feel like this was a great way of improving our communication skills: listening and speaking. Not only did it give us the opportunity to improve our communication skills, it was a great way to get slightly more shy people to speak out in class.

On Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> October, we had the Year 7 Concert. This was really fun and gave people the chance to show off their musical talents. I also met some people that I hadn't met before.

Overall, I've settled in amazingly and I'm thoroughly enjoying my time at Bexley Grammar School.

**James Orchard, Year 7**



Personally, I found International Week an enjoyable and exciting time at Bexley Grammar. We had many different lessons which were led by Teachers and Sixth Formers. It was a great way to learn more about the world and all take part, and everybody did with so much enthusiasm.

In one of our lessons, which was run by the Sixth Formers, we were told all about their World Challenge in Thailand. They had to go and experience a less developed country than ours and help out where they could in places like schools. They had to look after themselves in extremely different surroundings and adapt to their way of life. It was so interesting to listen to their encounter and we completed an activity to do with this.

We also did some drawing in one of our lessons and Gospel Singing in another, which we then performed in our Year 7 Concert.

It is such a privilege to be part of a school home to so many different cultures. This was evident in the costumes worn by so many of the students and teachers on this day. We had people wearing outfits from India, Africa, China, Japan, France, Australia and America. This was a beneficial way to find out more about everybody's nationalities and it was nice to talk to people that I hadn't before. It was nice to see everyone dressed up, teachers and students alike. I found this a great way to get the whole school together and talking about a fun, educational topic. We were also lucky enough to be able to try a variety of foods from different countries including France, Spain and Germany. Everybody was so eager to try new things and find out more about where the foods are from.

We found different ways of learning, including activities. In a couple of our lessons, we had to act out a story or scenario from a foreign country. This was a more exciting way to find out more and challenge us to work in groups with people we wouldn't usually work with. We also did some drawing in one of our lessons and Gospel Singing in another, which we then performed in our Year 7 Concert.

Overall, I think that International Day was a great way to learn more about the world and have so much fun. It was a great opportunity to meet some of the teachers you don't have on an average school day and get to know some of the children throughout the school. I would love to take part on another day like this in my time at Bexley Grammar.

***Megan Butler, Year 7***

Being a Year 7, I had been newly introduced to "International Week," a week full of fun events and activities each being related to different cultures and customs from around the world. Once hearing that there was to be a new dinner menu, food tasting and dressing up I was very excited.

I thought that International Week brought on many different challenges for pupils to overcome and it was a great way for people like me, in Year 7, to meet older students. Personally, moving away from British culture and exploring how other people living their lives was quite fascinating. World Challenge and playing Chinese checkers were a good way to learn what certain places did to live their way of life and entertain themselves.

As there are people from all sorts of backgrounds and religions at Bexley Grammar, it also gave students the chance to be free and express what they do at home outside of secondary school life; if they wear certain clothes or do certain things. It had a purpose for people rather than just dressing up for this fun event.

Overall, I thought it was a great event and I hope International Week will entertain just as much in the many years to come.

***Henry Bush, Year 7***





In my first year of Secondary school, I have made sure that I get involved in as many clubs as I could, not only to participate in a joyful activity, but to make new friendships with others and discover new interests.

Currently, I'm taking part in: Football, Netball and Debate Club. Going to Debate Club has given me a new passion for discussing and putting forward my thoughts and views on different topics. So far we have discussed, should smoking be legal? Should churches pay tax?

Every time I attend Football and Netball clubs, I have an amazing time and have learnt many skills. Therefore, I would love to join more after school clubs as the year goes on. The clubs that people have recommended to me are: Basketball, Japanese, Fitness, 5k Running, Drama, Craft, Dance, Coding, Geography, Board Games, Science Club and many more. Most of these clubs lead to House events or outside school competitions. Students can also create their own clubs if they have big enough ambitions to carry it forward. The school takes the students' clubs very seriously. The clubs are either: after school, before school or at lunch time.

Being at Bexley Grammar, has encouraged me to extend my interest and hobbies. At my previous school, the choices for extra-curricular activities were very limited. Thankfully, BGS has provided a wide selection of clubs. Thus leading me to gain more skills in the future. Joining a club helps with socialising and learning new things. At a club, you can meet with new people that share the same interests as you.



***Jasreen Ghag, Year 7***



## International Day

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September Bexley Grammar School celebrated its annual International Day. Everyone dressed up in clothes inspired by a wide variety of countries to raise money for charity, and years 7-10 had special lessons.

Our first lesson was foreign board games. The game my group played was Chinese Checkers. In this game each player placed their pieces in one of the five corners on the star board. The object of the game was to get all of your pieces into a different corner of the star. I came second in that game.

Our second lesson was foreign fairy tales. In this lesson we were split up into six groups. Each group was given a different fairy tale to research and had to give a presentation at the end. The fairy tale my group did was the American tale 'How Coyote Stole Fire' by Bo Grayson.

Our third lesson was Mexican Mask making. In this lesson we had to decorate and complete a design of a traditional Mexican 'Day of the Dead' mask. I quite enjoyed this lesson as I liked to experiment with the different shapes and colours.

Our fourth lesson was Gospel singing. In this lesson we learnt and sang three Gospel songs. These songs were: 'When the Saints Go Marching In' 'Swing Low' and 'I Wanna Sing'. We also added actions to go with the words of the songs.

Our final lesson was spread across two periods. This lesson was called World Challenge. In the first part of the lesson some Sixth Formers spoke to us about their experiences of World Challenge and also showed us a video. They then split us into groups and assigned a country to each one. These countries were all places that you can go to with World Challenge. My group got given Tanzania to research. We had to research where the country is, what you need to know before travelling there, what sort of medicine and vaccinations are required and overall how safe the country is for tourists.

In the second part of this lesson, we had to create a poster that answered all these questions. We drew pictures of things that can be found in Tanzania and wrote down all the information needed underneath a bold title of the country's name.

Overall, I enjoyed international day and look forward to the fun activities next year.

**Lewis Abba, Year 7**





## No Pens Day

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October was No Pens Day. No Pens Day is for helping the students to communicate more with each other and with the teachers, not so we have to do less work. Each teacher was very creative with the way they made the lessons educational, interactive and fun.

In my History lesson we teamed up in groups of three or four and used discussion sheets to look at things like bias, chronology, interpretation, anachronisms and primary and secondary sources.

In Geography we talked about Donald Trump's impact on the world. In teams we researched on the internet a choice of one of: the Mexican wall; his thoughts on climate change; or the trade deals with China and the U.S.A. At the end of the research, we had two minutes to share with our team and then the teacher chose one of us to present what we had found out to the whole class.

In FBCS previously we had been learning about humanist ceremonies. We again teamed up and came up with our own ceremonies. Our group came up with a ceremony to mark moving house.

After FBCS we had German. We started off with a German tongue twister about fish and then started learning the countries in German and I think we all had a lot of fun learning them all.

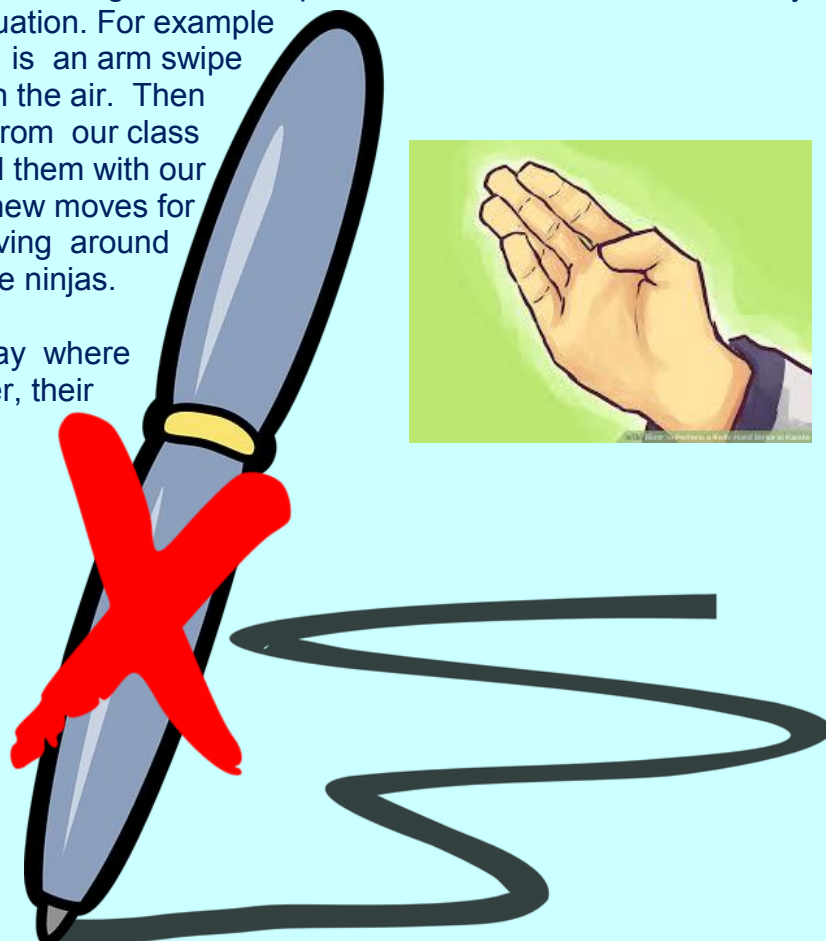
In the last lesson of the day, which was English, we did punctuation *karate*. This is where you do karate moves for items of punctuation. For example a full stop would be a punch, a dash is an arm swipe and speech marks are hand chops in the air. Then in groups we found sentences from our class Reading book and then performed them with our karate moves. I enjoyed thinking of new moves for different punctuation marks, and moving around in the lesson helped us stay alert like ninjas.

Overall, No Pens Day is a fun day where students can interact with each other, their teachers and their surroundings and learn new ways of learning.

**Zoe Handscombe**  
Year 7



**No Pens Day  
Wednesday**



## My Interview with Gareth Southgate

Sky Sports asked me to do an interview with Gareth Southgate for a program called Game Changers.

I drove to St Georges Park. When I got there I saw the trophies England's youth teams won last year. I didn't know this, but the England senior team got a trophy because all England's youth teams won a trophy. The man who showed us around told us to have a drink at Starbucks and we would see some of the England players. Soon after arriving there we saw Harry Kane, the England Captain. My dad saw Kieran Trippier and he signed a shirt he had given to me from the World Cup Semi Final in Russia. I was also lucky enough to meet Dele Alli, John Stones, Harry Maguire and Ruben Loftus-cheek.

It was then time to get changed and head to the set for filming, I read over the script and had a practice run with the producer before it was time to interview Gareth Southgate. After we had finished filming I spent about 20 minutes talking to Gareth who gave me some advice for both my school team and my Sunday league team. He also told me some funny jokes!

My interview with Gareth Southgate airs tomorrow (Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October) and will then be shown all over the weekend across most of the Sky Sports channels. The first showing will be at 5pm tomorrow on Sky Sports Mix.



### Alfie Wall, Year 7



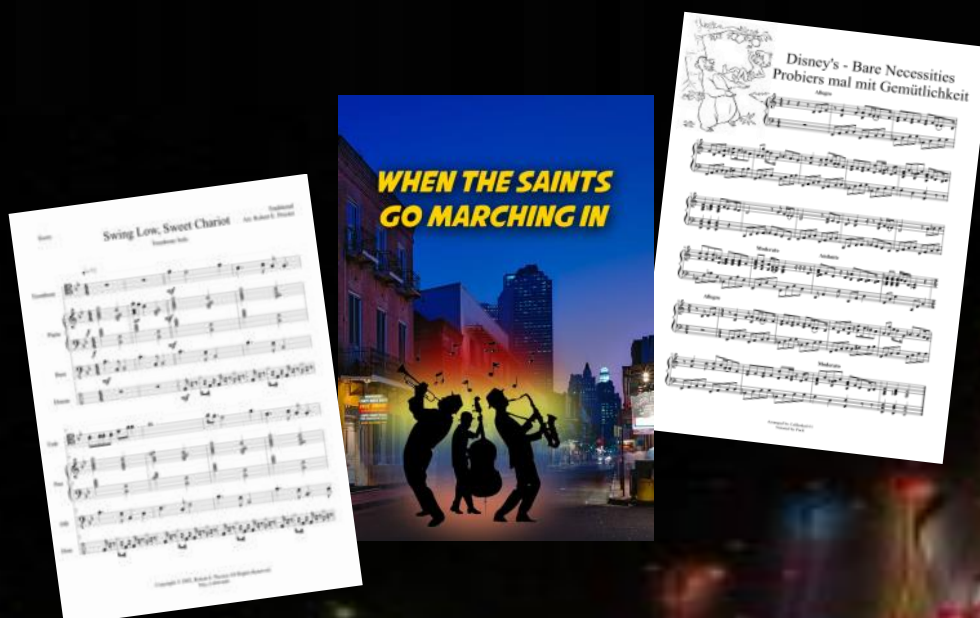
## Year 7 Concert gets Year 7 off to a flying start

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October, Year 7 students all came together to entertain friends and family in our annual Year 7 concert. Over the first four weeks of the school year, Year 7 has been taking part in singing lessons and learned a variety of songs, from pop to musicals and gospel. We were also treated to some solo performances from some of our Year 7 soloists, who had passed an audition for the concert in early September.

We started off with 'Billy the Kid', where all of Year 7 sang as a massed choir, complete with actions. What a sound! Year 7s also presented 'Bare Necessities', 'A Million Dreams', 'Ain't no mountain high enough', 'Rhythm of Life' and 'Rolling in the Deep' as choirs, with all putting on great performances. Jonah Kanalas tickled the ivories with 'Somebody to Love' by Queen, and Emilia Morgan gave a polished performance on the violin of Pachelbel's 'Canon in D'. Lawrence Yuen offered a Chinese traditional piece, 'Si Gi Je' on the violin and Vivian Kellman showed off her vocals with a strong number by the group 'Panic! at the Disco'. Ursule Goraviciute sang a soulful rendition of 'Royals' by Lorde, and Ravi Bhat got his cornet at the ready to perform 'Teddy Bear's Picnic'. Stephan Hristov flew over the keys for 'Bow Chicka Wow Wow' and Zoe Handscombe was ready for jazz with her performance of 'Gospel Flair'. Adrienne Yu-Mason took to the stage and performed 'The Retro Waltz' on her flute. Sam Parsons performed with great aplomb on his violin with 'Air Varie' by Rieding, and Gunit Kaur showed she was capable of the stage by performing guitar and singing 'Moonlight' by Grace Vanderwall.

The concert finished with a gospel medley, combining 'Oh When The Saints', 'I wanna sing sing sing' and 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' with all our Year 7s again. We packed a lot into that hour, but what an entertaining hour it was! Well done Year 7 - you've set the bar high!

**Mrs Goddard, Head of Music**



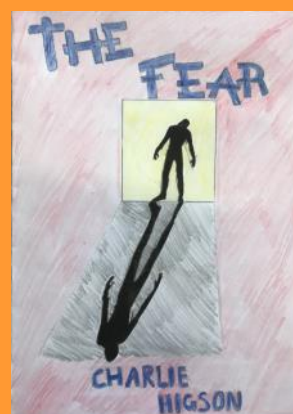
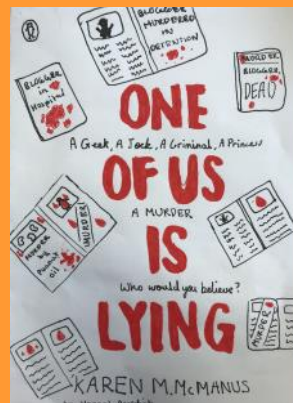
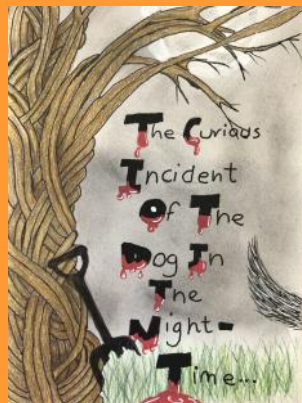
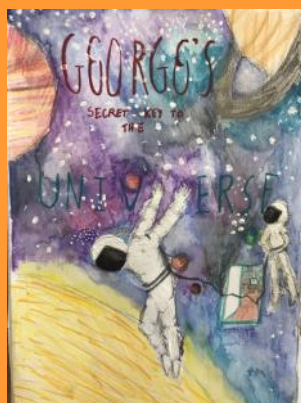
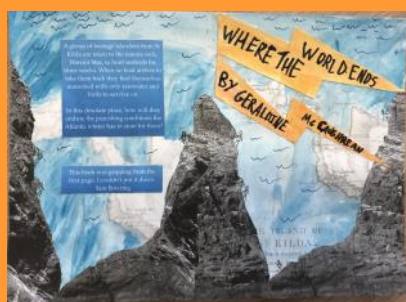


# Summer Reading Challenge

Year 7 did a Summer Reading Challenge, which involved designing their own book covers and blurbs for their favourite books. These beautiful book covers are on display in the Library, and some spectacular designs will be framed and permanently displayed on the wall. Thank you to all Year 7 students that took part in the challenge!



**Mrs Carey, Librarian**





# KS3 Diploma

## WHEN?

Spring Year 7 to Summer Year 8

## WHAT IS IT?

Pupils take ownership of learning

- Assessed in a variety of areas:
  - Academic
  - Pastoral
  - CAS (Community Action Service)
- Graded: Pass / Merit / Distinction
- Great preparation for the Sixth Form IB!

*Celebration Evening - End of Year 8*

*Diploma Booklet soon to be available on the  
BGS Website!*

INTELLECT  
EMPATHY  
COURAGE



## A Message from Mr Elphick, Headteacher to Year 6 Pupils

James, Megan, Henry and Jasreen 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.

