



IB Extended Essay

Every year I am impressed with the standard of work that our students display in their extended essay, but this year the quality has been exceptional. It may sound strange but when I am talking to year eleven students about the IB I am sometimes reluctant to show examples of completed extended essays. While I want to celebrate the achievements of the Year 12 and 13 students I am worried that younger students reading a completed extended essay might conclude that they would not be able to achieve the same level. I am therefore always at pains to stress that the essays are completed by students just like them, that they will be supported and of course they also have the potential to succeed.

The research titles developed by the Year 13 students give a flavour of the range and quality of the students work Examples include:

- How can a genetic algorithm be created and modified to more effectively identify a face in an image?
- Why are girls less likely than boys to have autism?
- Should athletes with biological differences be allowed to compete against normal athletes?
- How has Quentin Tarantino's portrayal of violence evolved throughout his career?
- To What Extent Was The First Opium War And The Corresponding Treaty Of Nanking Positive For China?
- To what extent does pre performance routines have an effect on basketball free throws?
- Why does a hollow sphere roll down a slope slower than a solid one?
- To what extent does education contribute as the biggest barrier to economic growth in Dhaka?

After completing their essays all students are asked to reflect and evaluate their experience. As a teacher it is rewarding to read how they have developed and to see the pride they feel in having successfully met the challenge. You may be interested in a small sample of student reflections:

Economics student

"Writing the essay was thoroughly interesting as I got the opportunity to read lots of fascinating research in a different field of economics. During this process I learnt a lot about writing long and detailed essays, something I had never done before. Since I have completed it my

confidence as an academic has also improved due to initially being daunted by the task facing me".

Business and Management student

"On reflection, this process has definitely taught me the importance of time management and productivity for extensive pieces of academic work, which I am unlikely to have obtained elsewhere. I have learnt how to carefully access a variety of sources and evaluate their credibility, as well as the importance of referencing and citation. Furthermore, I found the whole process of investigating motivation, an area of business I am passionate about, extremely interesting and engaging, and therefore particularly enjoyed conducting primary research".

World Studies student

"After finishing my Extended Essay, I have never felt such a satisfaction. I'm so proud of my accomplishment and remain with lots of positive memories; this has been a great experience".

English student

"Choosing a topic that I enjoy and had previously read around saved much time. My difficulty was I was interested in all my overly-extensive research, wanting to reference too much for 4000 words. I also struggled to analyse around so many quotations while maintaining clarity. My supervisor commented that my research was entirely non-internet-based. While book research takes longer, I found it was time well-spent as the material is more extensive and clearly reliable. I had never cited research before; doing so has greatly helped in other coursework".

Mathematics student

"I am very glad that I managed to complete this essay to a standard that I am proud of and is an academic piece of writing: I have had lots of opportunities to learn as this is the first time I have completed an extended piece of writing, and especially one on a Maths topic. The task made me explain the intentions and processes behind my working which was occasionally difficult to do concisely, but gave me a better understanding of the topic overall. The best part of the process for me was the research and development of my idea, as that was the point where I was learning lots of new maths such as polar coordinates and parametric equations (researching these has also helped me link to topics that we are studying in class such as vectors)".

Well done Year 13. You can be proud of what you have achieved (and I promise I won't mention the extended essay ever again in assembly).

Mr Brown, IB Coordinator

IB Group 4 Project

During October, the whole Year 12 cohort was involved in the Group 4 Project. The project involves students collaborating with those from other group 4 subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems and Societies, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Sports, Exercise and Health Science) on a scientific or technological project.

The Group 4 Project is a compulsory part of your internal assessment – constituting 10 hours and the theme for 2018 was "Climate Change". Students had the opportunity to work in small groups on this project with students who do not necessarily study the same subjects as themselves. This gave the opportunity for students to get to know the year group better on a task that emphasises the need to be able to collaborate with your peers effectively.

The students worked enthusiastically on researching climate change affecting their assigned areas of the world, which led to ideas on developing ecotourism in areas such as the Arctic to “save the polar bears” and developing an implant to deliver medicine to protect against malaria. Staff, has said “It was brilliant to see such a variety of well-researched, coordinated and delivered materials” and the Year 12 cohort should be proud of all their hard work throughout this process.

Miss Ampong, KS5 Sciences Leader

UK Senior Maths Challenge

Some of our top Mathematicians in Years 12 and 13 recently competed in the Senior Mathematics Challenge, which is a national competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Gold certificates:** Helen Norman, James Wald
- **Silver certificates:** Brandon Lynn, Saki Okada, James Du
- **Bronze certificates:** Mas’ud Hassan, Ben Chan, Ernest Gashi, Naomi Abodunrin, Omar Akhtar-Gordon

Gold certificates are awarded to the top 10% of students nationally. Special congratulations to James Wald and Helen Norman, who have successfully got through to the next round of the competition. Good luck to them on 30th November.

Mr Shackleton, Head of Mathematics

School Governing Body Election of Parent Governor

By now you should have received Mr Elphick's letter including the supporting statements from the nominees and the ballot paper for the election to the post of Parent Governor.

Please note that the voting process closes at 12 noon, on Thursday 22nd November and all ballot papers must be received in the School Office before that deadline.

The School Office

A whole new word ~ Year 10

Week 10

Biology
Chemistry
Classics
Computer Science
Drama
English
History
Maths
MFL
Music
Physics
P.E.

Ligase
Precipitate
Asyndeton
Embed
Naturalism
Aloof
Epidemic
Factorise
Converse
Triplet
Rectification
Epidemiology



PE News



Well done to the Year 7 football team for a great 6-2 win over Haberdasher's Crayford. Special mention to Sujal, who scored 4!



Well done to the Year 7 football team who narrowly lost 3-2 on Wednesday, with many of the players making their first appearance for the school. The boys produced an excellent performance against a talented Leigh UTC side.



I'm running out of superlatives for the Year 8 rugby team. A 45-10 win over Hurstmere on Wednesday night, with a hat-trick of tries for Arinze, as they continue their unbeaten year. These guys can really play.

Mr Lines, Head of PE



Girls' Football under 13s Kent Cup 2nd round

In monsoon conditions, it wasn't only the rain that poured down, goals poured in too with goals from Freya, Summer, Gracie, and Neve to complete a 4-0 victory over Mascalls School in Tonbridge. The girls played so well with the opposing team manager complimenting their play. This was a great Kent Cup second round win, which now sees the girls through to the third round where they have to play Hayes, always a difficult time to beat so fingers crossed for our entry into the fourth round.

Mrs Haslam, Football Coach

News items you may have missed

Exam News

Important information for all GCSE students

The awarding bodies have designated Wednesday 26th June 2019 as a 'contingency day' for examinations.

The designation of a 'contingency day' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or local disruption to examinations. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations. **Therefore all GCSE candidates must remain available until Wednesday 26th June 2019 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.**

Mrs Bono, Examinations Officer

Any students interested in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences. Suitable for all students from secondary age and above. It is a free evening event on Wednesday 28th November. Click on the link [here](#) for further information.

Ms Lusted, Science Department



RVC Royal
Veterinary
College
University of London



Upcoming Event
Christmas Market
Saturday 1st December
11am - 3pm

Bexley Grammar School PA invite you to their Christmas Market

Danson Lane, Welling

Collect your pre-ordered Christmas Trees

Gifts
Decorations
Clothes
Homemade Fudge
Jewellery
Skin Care
Cards
Refreshments
Candles

Saturday 1st December - 11am-3pm - Adults £1 (kids free)



BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL PA
NORDMANN FIR
CHRISTMAS TREES
FOR SALE



- * a range of sizes available from £32 - £54
- * soft, deep green foliage and a good triangular shape
- * excellent needle retention, often referred to as 'non-drop'
- * funds raised will support the BGS Horticultural Society
- * all profits go toward benefitting the school

Please support BGS and order your Christmas Tree now by clicking on the link [HERE](#). Orders due by Friday 23rd November.

BGS LEGO CLUB

Do you have any unwanted Lego? If the answer is yes, please consider donating it to the BGS Lego Club. Year 7 students are setting up a brand new club. Any contributions will be gratefully received and can be left at Reception for the attention of Miss Scott.

Thank you in anticipation.

The Lego Club

I must clear out
my old toys before
Christmas!



Forthcoming Events

November

Tuesday 20th ~ Sixth Form Open Evening for internal students only 5.30pm - 8pm

Monday 26th ~ Power Day 2

December

Saturday 1st ~ Christmas Market 11am - 3pm

Collection date for your PA pre-ordered Christmas Tree - see notice

Monday 3rd ~ Collection date for your PA pre-ordered Christmas Tree - see notice

Tuesday 4th ~ Collection date for your PA pre-ordered Christmas Tree - see notice

BGS Christmas Concert 6pm - 8pm

Thursday 20th ~ Christmas Dinner In the canteen (information to follow)

Friday 21st ~ Last school day before the Christmas Holiday

