



**BEXLEY  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL**

# **NEWSLETTER**

[www.bexleygs.co.uk](http://www.bexleygs.co.uk)

29th November 2018

## **Bexley Grammar School PA invite you to their Christmas Market Saturday 1st December 2018 11am to 3pm Adults £1 (kids free)**

**Gifts, Decorations, Clothes, Homemade Fudge, Jewellery,  
Skin Care, Cards, Refreshments, Candles.**



**Collect your pre-ordered  
Christmas Trees**



**Parents'  
Association**

Bexley Grammar School Music  
Department Presents

# BGS Christmas Concert

4TH DECEMBER 2018

6PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE ONLY AT  
[HTTPS://YOURBOXOFFICE.CO.UK](https://yourboxoffice.co.uk)

OR BY CLICKING ON THE LINK [HERE](#)

£6.50/£4 CONCESSIONS



## Japan Trip 2018 - Part 1

### Tokyo: 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> October

After a gruelling flight we landed in Japan and for the first time for many, we had a first glimpse of the stunning city of Tokyo. Just standing in the city was incredible as you are instantly overwhelmed with the atmosphere within Tokyo. We went through the first day with highlights such as going to Harajuku, which is one of the world's biggest fashion districts, as well as going to Akihabara which is an electric town filled with lights and technology.



The following day we went to Disneyland, Tokyo and immersed ourselves in the magic of Disney. My personal highlight was the electric parade, which featured over one million lights.

The third day in Tokyo featured a Soroban workshop which is a Japanese abacus and is incredibly useful in arithmetic. As well as that, we went to the Miraikan Science Museum which featured the famous robot, Asimo; we also went to the team Lab exhibition which was a digital art gallery and a truly mind-blowing experience. I have to say that the convenience store was a massive hit as I'm pretty sure most of our money went into food.

Our final day in Tokyo, featured a trip to the Tokyo Sky Tree which allowed us to go 1,480ft into the sky. The view from the top was remarkable as you could see the whole of Tokyo laid out in front of you, the main star of the show being Mount Fuji peeking above the landscape. The accommodation in Tokyo was great. The trip gave us an insight into the culture of Japan and it also allowed students within our group to bond with each other and make new friendships. This led to a truly incredible experience for us all and we are grateful to Mrs Everett for planning this trip.

**Joshua Ly, Year 11**



## Hiroshima: 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October

On the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 16 jet-lagged students left for Hiroshima Peace Park, unsure of what exactly to expect and uncertain of how we would cope with the undoubted intensity and rawness of such a historically important and moving place. After the most overwhelming museum experience of my life, we were honoured to receive a lecture from a survivor of the 1945 Hiroshima bomb. She was kind enough to share her personal traumatic story of the bombing. I'm sure I speak for all students who attended that lecture when I say that we left with a newly found respect for those who so devotedly strive and fight for peace in such a violent world, and we left feeling motivated to make a change. Once leaving the museum, our consciences were put to rest a little when we got the chance to donate one thousand origami cranes (all made by Bexley Grammar Students) to the children's peace memorial, which honours and remembers the children who died after the bombing due to radiation complications. In Japanese culture, if you make one thousand origami cranes, it is said that a wish will be granted. The beautiful incentive behind this memorial is to keep that wish going; and to support such a worthy cause in an authentic and beautiful way.



Our stay in Hiroshima took a particularly nice turn, when we went to the ethereal island of Miyajima for an afternoon. And if the clear skies, the golden sunset, the deer roaming around the already magical island, and the magnificent, the notorious shrine wasn't enough; I was lucky enough to finally meet my aunt, uncle and baby cousin who live in Japan. Spending time with such lovely people in such an astonishingly beautiful place after a sombre morning really put everything in perspective for me, and I couldn't be more grateful for Mrs Everett planning this unforgettable trip, and for continuing to share her passions with us in such a vital way, to help us grow and learn as people, not just students.



*Niamh O'Toole-MacKridge, Year 11*

## A whole new word ~ Year 10

### Week 11



**Biology**  
**Chemistry**  
**Classics**  
**Computer Science**  
**Drama**  
**English**

**Saprotrophism**  
**Salination**  
**Pantomime**  
**Encapsulation**  
**Stimulus**  
**Garrulous**

**History**  
**Maths**  
**MFL**  
**Music**  
**Physics**  
**P.E.**

**Infer**  
**Evaluate**  
**Lingua Franca**  
**Leitmotif**  
**Geostationary**  
**Vector**



## D.T. Department Trip to Facebook's London Headquarters

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November, the Bexley Grammar School D.T. Department gifted myself and my fellow Design Technology students of Year 12 and Year 10 the opportunity to pay a visit to the newly fashioned British Facebook Headquarters, an event unmissable to those of our digitally-possessed generation. These Headquarters were situated in Fitzrovia, deep in the maze that is Central London, resulting in a lengthy yet entertaining voyage into the heart of our capital, during which the trains ran perfectly... We arrived around 10:30 AM, a tad too late to grab the free breakfast yet just early enough to see how luscious it looked! We were ushered into the conference room of the Facebook headquarters, immediately taken aback by the giant blue Facebook logo bearing down upon us, somewhat reflective of the influence that social media corporations now have on our lives.

The conference was led by senior Facebook technicians. We heard speeches from two high-profile Facebook engineers and MP for South Basildon and East Thurrock Stephen Metcalfe, who was part of the government envoy for encouragement of engineering. The aims of the conference set out were clearly to change the stereotypical image of engineering, a feat I believe was actually achieved when we walked through the door and were not presented with hard hats and high-visibility jackets.

Organised into groups, initially based upon our ideas that originated within school such as the famous car project, yet the topics of the groups quickly diverted due to our abundance of creativity. Before embarking on our engineering bonanza each group had a quick Q&A session with a Facebook software engineer on their roles at Facebook and so that they could offer us some technological inspiration, something us sixth formers probably needed slightly more than the Year 10s... Our assigned engineer was particularly informative and enlightened us on her educational and career background and how she built on working at a start-up tech firm to being employed by goliaths of our digital age such as Uber and Facebook, a fascinating



# facebook

discussion in conclusion. We were then allowed almost an hour in their contemporary conference room to come up with our own design solutions and problems, a task to which BGS students rose extremely well, with one idea of a Smart Toothbrush, complete with smart sensors and an app for identifying areas of plaque and other potential issues, being my personal highlight of all those I heard due to its obvious usefulness yet its apparent ambiguity to modern designers. Instances such as these clearly epitomize the exciting nature of the subject of D.T and demonstrates why students enjoy it to such a degree.

# facebook

After presenting our absorbing ideas to some Facebook staff under the scrutiny of a camera-man, the social media firm's publicity stunt came to an end with another thought-provoking speech from the chief engineer. We were then granted access to a table of free gifts as well as our own Facebook goodie bag, which many, particularly the Year 12 girls, were delighted with! Another free event of lunch followed in their casual yet stylish office lounge and the food provided was indeed as well engineered as their digital products, apart from the beetroot sandwiches.

Another long journey home followed, yet everyone was bettered overall by the occasion and following a few group photos, we were dismissed with a valuable experience and a few Facebook T-Shirts to hand. Unfortunately I misplaced my own T-Shirt yet of course, that is not the point. Overall I believe that we had a fruitful adventure to the Social Media Leviathan's offices and would recommend a visit to any person to which this chance presents itself! Thank you to Miss Francis and the staff who accompanied us for arranging this opportunity for and to Facebook for all of the gifts provided.

**Oliver Culbert,**  
**Year 12**



## House STEM competition

Teams of year 8 and 9 students battled it out in a Robot Wars with a difference. The challenge to adapt a robot so that it can knock down 6 skittles in the shortest time possible, with bonus points available for style and using house colours. It was a close battle for the middle rankings, but there was a clear winner with Wellman's creation. In the style of an orange ninja, but with huge chop stick weapons, it ploughed through the skittles in an impressive 34 seconds.

Mr Elphick and Miss Francis were both impressed with the efforts put in by the students and their excellent attention to detail; one robot even sporting a handlebar moustache!

The final results were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place- Wellman
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Kirkman
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Johnson
- 4<sup>th</sup>- Prothero
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Collins
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Mabbs

**Ms Lusted, Stem Coordinator**





## PE News

With 5 debuts, the Year 7 team showed Great Spirit to fight back from 3- 0 down, only to lose 4 - 2 on Wednesday. Well done boys!

*Mr Lines, Head of PE*



## PE Lost Property

After the Christmas holidays, spare PE kit will no longer be available in the PE department. We are becoming concerned that a number of students rely on being able to borrow items of equipment rather than having their own kit for PE lessons. Similarly, students are not looking after their own kit - the photo shows just a small selection of unnamed kit in the PE department at the moment.

Please note the following:

- Please ensure your child has a full PE kit, details are available in planners.
- Please also ensure your child's PE kit is named. Any unnamed PE kit found in the changing rooms will be sent to the lost property collection. If it goes unclaimed, it will be donated to our recycling charity.
- Students who are missing a piece of PE kit (socks, for example) but can still participate fully in lessons will receive a kit mark. 3 kit marks result in a PE detention.
- Students without their PE kit for a lesson will receive a PE detention.
- We operate an "all change" policy. If students are unwell, or injured, please ensure they bring their PE kit to lessons, as there may be ways we can adapt the lesson to ensure they participate as fully as possible.



*Mr Lines, Head of PE*

## News items you may have missed

### Metropolitan Police Safer Schools Team

We have received this information from the Safer Schools Team. If you have any concerns regarding your child please contact Mr Gilmore, Deputy Head.

Metropolitan Police

SC&07 FALCON 'Protect' Team MONEY MULES



Currently, in the UK there is an increase in young people allowing their bank accounts to be used to receive and move money on behalf of third parties. This money often originates from crime and the account becomes a 'Mule Account' used in order to launder criminal funds, making the account holder a 'Money Mule.'

Young people are increasingly being asked by criminals to provide access to their bank accounts. They are being approached in a number of ways, for example via the internet, social media, at school, university or sports clubs. In some cases they are approached by people they know and believe they trust. They are often lured into allowing their account to be used by the offer of money for doing so, or believing they are doing so as a favour.

First, ask yourself, what do you know about the history of the money? Where has it come from? *Fraud, drugs importation, child exploitation, people trafficking, terrorism...* and where is it being sent, what is it funding?

Secondly, why are they not paying the money into their own bank accounts?

You may see this as "only transferring money", or "letting someone use your account", but it's not as innocent as that. You are helping criminals commit crime, often against vulnerable people.



Question your morals, would you help someone steal an 83 year old's life savings? or would you help criminals smuggle children into the UK?

Think about the consequences, Bank Accounts are private, anyone allowing their bank account to be used by an unauthorised person would breach the terms and conditions of their Bank account. If you allow your bank account to be misused in any way, the bank will close your account and report you to credit agencies.

Your credit rating will be affected. So you may find it difficult to open another bank account or get credit for a mobile phone, car loan or even a mortgage later on as your financial credit rating will be tarnished.

You are also committing a crime yourself. Anyone allowing criminal funds to go through their bank account is committing an offence of Money Laundering under the Proceeds of Crime Act. You could be subject to an arrest, have your Fingerprints, DNA and Photograph taken, and depending on your age, have your parents/guardians informed. You could face up to 14 years imprisonment and/or be given a fine/community service. Whatever the sentence, you have a Criminal Conviction.

Then consider the social effects, how would you be perceived by your family or friends? What message does this send to a future employer? Think about travel. Want to see the world one day? Many countries will refuse entry based on a criminal conviction, particularly Canada and the US, where even a minor criminal conviction 50 years old could refuse you entry.

### It is not 'easy money' it is criminal money

- Never give anyone your Bank card, PIN, passcode or password – Bank accounts are private
- Don't be lured or persuaded to receive money into your account even as a one off
- If you have been approached, break off all contact and don't receive or move any money and contact your Bank
- Report the matter to Action Fraud or the Police

**"If the deal sounds too good to be true, it most probably is!"**

For more information on Fraud prevention go to 'Resources for fighting fraud and cybercrime' at [www.met.police.uk/fraud](http://www.met.police.uk/fraud)



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**



**FALCON**  
FRAUD AND LINKED CRIME ONLINE

## 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!





## Exam News

### Important information for all GCSE students

The awarding bodies have designated Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.**

*Mrs Bono, Examinations Officer*

## Forthcoming Events

### December

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>** ~ Christmas Market 11am - 3pm  
Collection date for your PA pre-ordered Christmas Tree - see notice

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Year 11 Art Exams

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Collection date for your PA pre-ordered Christmas Tree - see notice  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Collection date for your PA pre-ordered Christmas Tree - see notice  
**BGS Christmas Concert 6pm - 8pm**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ Year 11 Food Preparation & Nutrition Exam

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ Non-uniform day (students please bring in £1 please)

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** ~ Year 11 & Year 13 study leave commences for 2 weeks

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Christmas Dinner In the canteen (information to follow)

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Last school day before the Christmas Holiday  
Year 12 students will be dismissed from school at approximately 11.40am  
**Year 13 students are not required to attend school unless they are sitting an exam**

### January 2019

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ First day of the spring term - all students return to school

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** ~ Year 12 Parents' Evening



Parents'  
Association