



War Child “Learn to Live” Campaign Success!

In November, during an FBCS lesson, the whole Year 8 cohort learnt about the work of the charity War Child in supporting children affected by war. They learnt that 357 million children are currently living in a war zone, which is 1 in 6 children worldwide! They also learnt about the devastating effects of wars on these children's physical and mental health, and how difficult it is to provide adequate support to these children, due to lack of funding. Indeed, only 0.7% of the UK's national income is given to international aid.

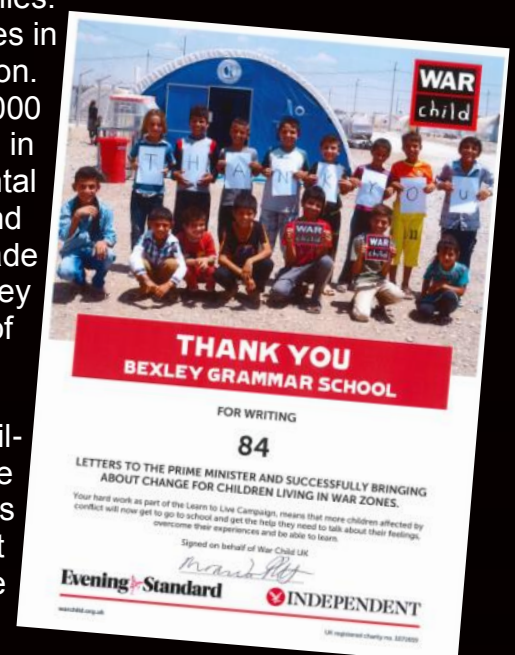


In order to address this, War Child set up a campaign and asked children to write to our Prime Minister to urge her to increase the amount of money given to international aid and to charities such as War Child.

We sent a total of 84 letters, all written independently by our Year 8 students. They were added to a total of 700 letters which were delivered directly to Downing Street on the Universal Children's Day. As a result of this campaign, the UK Government has promised to provide over 11 million pounds for 12,000 refugee children and their families. There is also going to be 6.1 million pounds for refugees in Jordan and 5 million pounds for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. What is more, War Child is also going to receive up to 500,000 pounds aid match funding specifically for children residing in the Central African Republic, to support them with their mental health, in order for them to overcome their experiences and to be able to learn. This is an amazing achievement that made the Year 8s really proud, and has made them realise that they can have a real impact in the world. This is what some of them had to say about this experience:

“I believe that War Child is doing great things as saving children and helping them create a stable foundation for the rest of their life. This was very interesting and relieving for us in the classroom. We were happy to know that people out there were helping people in need and giving them the support they need. Thank you for reading this.”

Tashi Tenzin



"I am so grateful that we have made a difference for children's education in war zones. The Government had kindly listened to our letters and promised to provide them with the support they need. We are very appreciative for this. We have worked together to make the world a better place :)"

Shinjitha Maganti

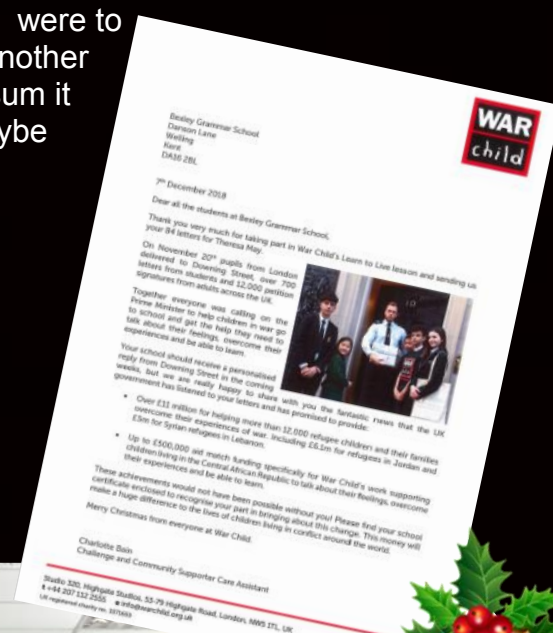
"I think that as a class, we should be really proud of what we did that day and we really made a difference on this issue, we doubled the amount earned by War Child and probably saved thousands of children."

Alex Miao

"I feel relieved that what we did in our FBCS lesson may help children the same age as myself. I cannot believe that the letters we sent to Theresa May were actually read and taken into account- and that they actually took action by **doubling** the amount of money War Child Receives. For example if they were to receive £500,000 the Government would add on another £500,000, making a total sum of a million pounds. To sum it up, I am happy that children who are as old as me, maybe younger are given a chance of education."

David Mei

**Article co-written by
Nathan Singleton and Miss Contini**



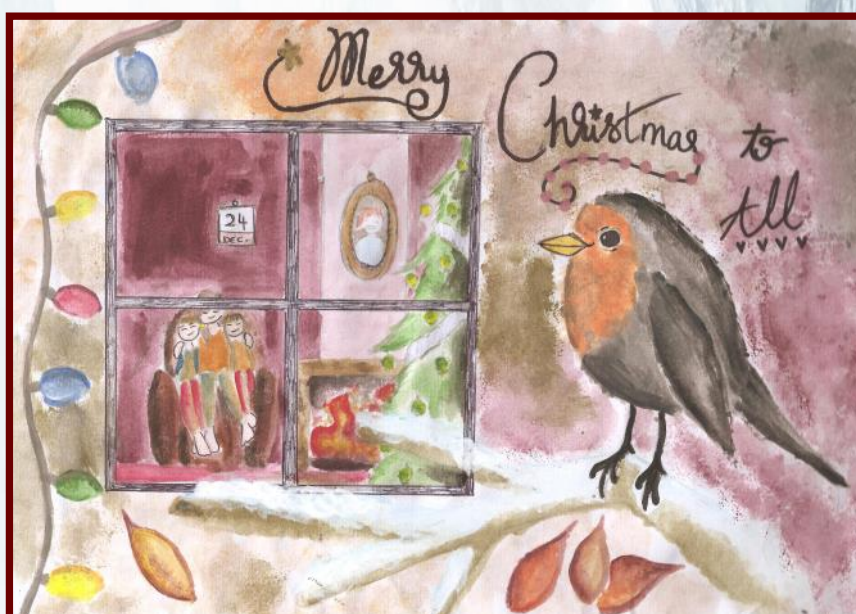
Annual BGS Christmas Card Competition Winner 2018

Back in November, KS3 students submitted designs for the annual design a Christmas card competition. Mr Elphick and I judged a short-list of card designs with Mr Gilmore and Miss Harrison from the Art Department. There were so many genuinely excellent entries using contrasting styles, genres and media that our task was made all the more challenging and choosing the winner was extremely difficult. We had to turn down so many designs that would clearly make excellent Christmas cards. However, after much debate, we unanimously agreed on the striking winning design created by **Mehida Oforji** in Year 8. A very impressive achievement for a Year 8 - especially as her design saw off a great many incredibly clever and beautifully executed designs.

Mehida's design has since been transformed into the official BGS Christmas card for 2018 and sent out to governors, friends of the school and ex-staff.

Congratulations Mehida!

Mrs Arundel, School Office



"I want a mobile phone and Fortnite for Christmas!"

Dear Parents,

"I want a mobile phone and Fortnite for Christmas!"

If these are words that you have been faced with this December, please read on and take note of the following in order to keep your child safe!



Firstly, getting a new phone is fantastic for pupils and a real sign that you trust your child to use it appropriately. They will undoubtedly be downloading various Apps within minutes and be far more technologically minded than I am. Nevertheless, I ask that you refer to the diagram below which shows age restrictions for a number of Social Media Platforms. I also encourage you to monitor your child's Social Media use. Pupils make silly mistakes or poor errors of judgement resulting in them posting either too much personal information or something they regret as soon as it has been shared. With open conversation at home and transparency on Social Media use it should go some way to preventing future issues.

Fortnite! In November 2018, the popular online game had over 200 million players worldwide! This is just one of many games where pupils are able to play against and meet strangers online. The game is said to be incredibly addictive and results in pupils missing meals and staying awake until the early hours of the morning. They then attempt to go to sleep in an agitated state. We are concerned about the impact this is having on their concentration levels at school. As with Social Media, please monitor your child's usage of computer consoles.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr Mackle, Director of Studies, Year 7



PA Christmas Raffle

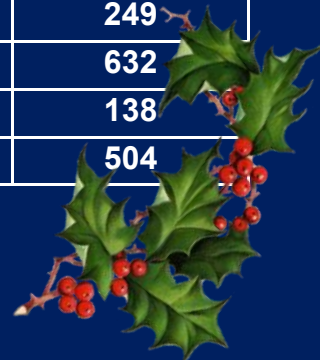


Thank you to everyone who entered the PA Christmas Raffle which was drawn on Friday 14th December. Here are the winning numbers.

Draw No	Prize	Winning Number
1	Family Christmas Hamper	768
2	'Beer for a Year' Voucher	309
3	Family Photo Shoot	73
4	Dinner for 2 at Greek Taverna, Bexley	922
5	£50 Bluewater Voucher	1101
6	Chocolate Hamper	521
7	'Fizzy Cocktails'	1110
8	Baylis and Harding Weekend Bag Gift	1246
9	£15 Amazon Voucher	532
10	Joules Gift Basket	249
11	Bottle of Whiskey	632
12	Salt Cave Therapy Gift Voucher	138
13	Giant Cuddly Toy	504

All winners have been contacted and prizes delivered.

The Parents' Association



ParentPay

Please ensure your child/children have money on their Canteen accounts ready for next term.

Thank you

Mrs Gibbs, Finance Office



DTP

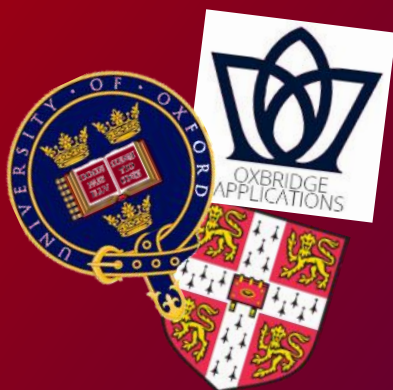
Immunisations

DTP Immunisations will take place on Tuesday 15th January. The consent forms will be given to students this week and must be returned a.s.a.p. after the Christmas break.

*Mrs Beasley
Reception*



A New Year and new challenges awaited another group of our successful Oxbridge Students



We welcomed our Japanese exchange partners to a cold and snowy London



Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, replied to Year 9s after they wrote to him questioning the justification of the Statue of Earl Haig remaining in London



'Romeo & Juliet'
The Junior Production
marked 10 years of performing
Shakespeare at school

&
We became the U19 2nd XI
Kent Champions





May
ECM Day - We participated in
the first Industry Day
&
Year 8s collected for the
Bexley Food Bank



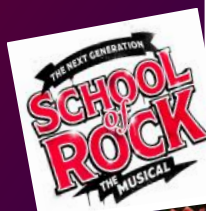
June
Our Summer Fayre &
Sports Day was a success



July
We celebrated brilliant
results with our
successful IB students
&

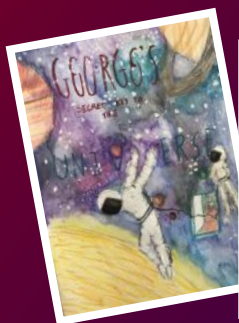


We rocked with the cast of
the 'School of Rock' at our
end of year production



August
We celebrated excellent
results at GCSE and A
level (for the last time)
&

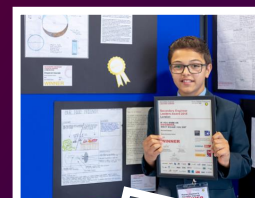
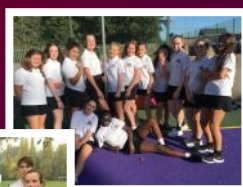
Year 7 students took part
in the summer
reading challenge



September
BGS featured in
'The Parliamentary Review'



October
BGS students were highly
commended in the Secondary Leaders
Engineering Awards
&
We excelled in sport



November
Students from all Year groups
took part in the
Bebras Computational
Thinking Challenge



December
We ended the year with the
Annual Christmas Concert



Forthcoming Events

December

Friday 21st

Last school day before the Christmas Holiday
**Year 13 students are not required to attend school
unless they are sitting an exam**

January 2019

Monday 7th

First day of the spring term all students return to school

Tuesday 15th

Year 12 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 23rd

Power Day 3

Thursday 31st

Inset Day - school closed to students

**Students return to school on Monday 7th January 2019
when it will be Week B on the timetable**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

