



American IB Students spend the day studying at BGS

Last Wednesday the 20th March we had a visit from 40 students from Bergen Country Academies, one of the top IB schools in the USA.

<https://bcts.bergen.org/index.php/2016-05-10-17-30-50/bcts-campuses>.



Their students were paired with some of our Year 12 and 13 students and they shadowed their buddy throughout the day. They attended lessons and delivered an assembly to our Year 12 students.

At the end of the day students participated in an international football friendly which ended in an honourable 3-3 draw.

While we are used to visitors from overseas in school this is the first time we have hosted a group who are following exactly the same curriculum. It was fascinating to talk about our shared experiences of the Extended Essay, ToK and CAS. All the American students studied Economics so the students who came to my classes were able to join in and contribute to discussions. (Unfortunately, they weren't able to shed any more light on the logic of Donald Trump's economic policies).

I know that everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience of meeting new people. Our schools were well matched and students had a lot in common with each other. I am sure that many of the students will keep in touch with their new found international friends.

Mr Brown
IB Coordinator

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See page 8



Last week some of us in the Sixth Form had the opportunity to meet a group of American students from an IB school in New Jersey. The goal of the visit was to learn more about how we study the IB differently and I learnt a lot over the course of the day.

In my English lesson my partner and I had a really interesting discussion about Literature. It was strange to think that for Mei, studying Shakespeare was international reading and it was fascinating to compare the ways in which we study Literature. We were able to debate some American books that I had read (for example *The Catcher in the Rye*) and it was great to hear her perspective on them as she was able to provide me with more social and historical context. Our conversation then progressed onto the Extended Essay - both of us are intending on basing our essays on Literature so I was eager to hear her approach to the topic. Mei had chosen to base her EE on the very current issue of gun laws, linking this to modern poetry, which was an idea I would never have thought about.

All in all, the day made for some really interesting conversations. Furthermore, the fact that we are all studying for the same qualification made it surprisingly easy to connect with someone I perhaps wouldn't have had anything in common with otherwise. It can be easy to forget the international scale of the IB and I had never considered the connection, it would give me with other students around the world. Our day together was very enjoyable and proved interesting for both of us.

Isabel Hosier, Year 12

Having the American students visit was really eye-opening. Though they came from an IB school, there were many differences in their education system. The fact that a lot of them took IB courses, but not the diploma was interesting to me, considering their academic knowledge was surprisingly similar to ours.

The students themselves were very outgoing (in typical American fashion) and were great to engage with socially. Their street lingo confused me at times, but we gave each other lessons in London and New Jersey slang which was of course educational. After having gone out for lunch with them and being told that American KFC is superior, it felt like we had known them for weeks. It was definitely a great experience and I hope to take part in something like this again!

Brandon Lynn, Year 12



From my experience the American school visit was not only exciting on their behalf, but full of enlightenment and unexpected surprise for me. Wednesday is one of my longer days and it was great to share my classes with someone who not only shares them on another continent, but was also interesting.

Granted, some, such as my English class were slightly hard for them to contribute to (because we are working on essays for coursework) but classes such as ToK, Politics and Economics were easy to integrate into.

My American partner (Emily) was able to join in the discussion on humanitarian aid where the American influence, with all the logistics, in Libya and Afghanistan was discussed. In addition to this, we were able to understand how they are taught the syllabus, i.e. the order of topics as we (at Bexley Grammar) have a unique way of splitting classes between higher and standard level.

The mix of subjects between the American system with AP classes and IB was particularly interesting, for example, Maths - Emily shared standard Maths with me, although she is currently doing AP classes in Maths and plans to take IB classes next year in the Senior Year (Year 13). What is also shocking is the similarities between both schools, as in the clubs available and the stresses on the same things, like the presentation and drama skills in English... :)

On a whole it was an amazing experience for me to have a real insight into the differences in the Global IB Course and how it is taught. What makes it even better is that I now have a friend in New Jersey that I'm sure to keep in touch with.

Joanna Marchong, Year 12

It was really fun to spend the day with my American partner, we got along really well and it was extremely interesting to learn about what life living in NYC is like (as well as learning about their IB experiences of course).



Shivani Hindocha, Year 13



8-17 March British Science Week 2019

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths

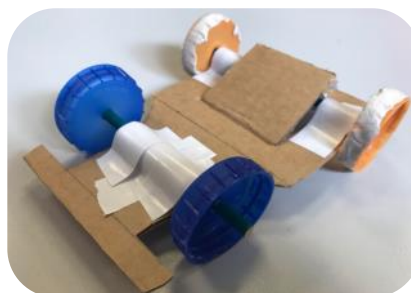
The KS3 students at BGS have had an exciting National British Science Week.

This Year the British Science Association has teamed up with Eurotunnel to explore the theme of "Journeys". This is to commemorate the 25th year of the opening of the Channel tunnel that runs from Folkestone in Kent to Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais in France. The Eurotunnel 37.9km (23.5 miles) still holds the record for the world's longest under-sea tunnel.

As a homework piece the KS3 students have been given the chance to research and create a poster of a Journey of their choosing. The best 5 posters will be entered into the National Poster Competition with a chance to win: a day in the life of the Guinness World Records team at their global Headquarters, and see with their own eyes how the team review evidence and verify evidence for extraordinary journeys.

Within the classroom, Science teachers have had a chance to divert from the curriculum and facilitate class projects. Year 7 students created a person face whose physical features (phenotype) were based on a DNA profile card which they had created using the DNA coding system provided.





Year 8 students had the pleasure of being Engineers, creating a wind up car, using just cardboard, paper, bottles tops and garden canes.

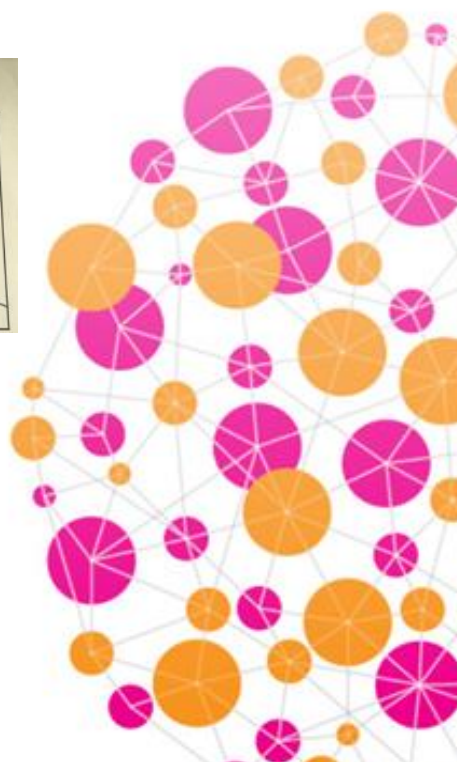
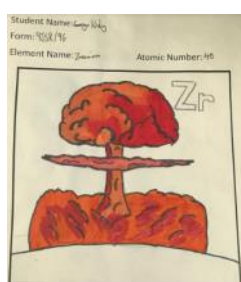
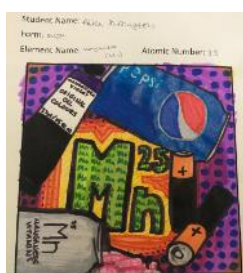
Science Week was great fun because we got to spend time in our lessons, creating cool machines such as a wind-up car. The wind-up car was fun to make as it was interactive for the whole group and left nobody out. There were plenty of jobs to do to assemble the car, meaning everyone could join in. I worked with Joe and Jay to create our wind-up car. We were lucky to finish quickly, which meant we could test it. It was a big success when it actually worked. I would totally do another Science Week so I could create another cool project.

Max Jansen

Students in Years 9 and 10 have been getting very creative making designs for a periodic table mural. Each student was allocated a different element to research and they came up with a design to represent it. The chosen designs will be transferred onto white tiles and used to create a mural to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the periodic table.

Elsewhere around the school students took part in form time quizzes, listened to science podcasts and planned entries to national events and competitions around Science Week. Did you manage to get involved?

Ms Lusted, STEM Coordinator



BGS Success at the Chemistry Olympiad

Congratulations to Dliveen Dler and Jaskiran Matharu who both took The Chemistry Olympiad in January. They both performed fantastically and received Silver Awards, adding to their great performances in the Lower Sixth Competition last year.

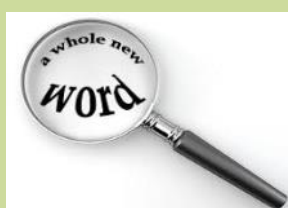
Mr Sethi, Science Department



A whole new word ~ Year 10

Term 2 - Week 11

Art	Cultural
Biology	Isomerase
Business Studies	Productivity
Chemistry	Condensation
Classics	Cavea
Computer Science	Modelling
Drama	Intonation
DT	Aesthetic
English	Compelling
Geography	Informal
History	Bauhaus Movement
Maths	Irrational Number
MFL	Hypothesise
Music	Word Painting
Physics	Protostar
P.E.	Reciprocal



*Prom
Tickets*



On sale now

The Year 11 Prom will take place this year on Monday 8th July and tickets are now available to purchase on ParentPay.

Miss Aspill
Senior Academic Mentor
Year 11





BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

KS3 SHOWCASE CONCERT

Love to perform? In Years 7-9?

We are looking for performers for our KS3
Showcase Concert on
Wednesday 22 May, 6 - 8pm.

You are invited to attend auditions on
Wednesday 1 May after school in MU1.

Callbacks will be held on
Wednesday 8 May after School in MU1.

Please sign up for an audition on the BGS
Performing Arts Website
(KS3 Showcase 2019)

Advice for parents and pupils from Mr Gilmore & Mrs Ellis

Support during Exams

The Young Minds website has lots of general information on supporting young people, but this link will take parents and carers to some specific advice on supporting young people during the exam period.

https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-exam-time/?mc_cid=9a9a546e44&mc_eid=bd788bfa7b

E-Safety Update

Please find attached below a link to some information about a popular App call Discord, used by many gamers to communicate. It can have unsafe consequences if not monitored.

The website itself, Common Sense Media, has a lot of other information for parents on e-safety related matters.

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-discord>

Mr Gilmore

Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

PA News

Contacting Us

The PA is currently setting up a new email address. In the interim until the new one is confirmed parents are advised to contact them via enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk. Please include 'FAO BGS PA' in the subject line.

Thank you

BGS Parents' Association



ParentPay

Please could parents ensure that pupils have adequate funds in their ParentPay accounts to pay for their Canteen purchases.

Thank you

Finance Office



PE News

#SuPportOurcouRTS

During next Tuesday's Power Day, all students in Years 7-9 will be taking part in our fundraising run in Danson Park. The students can choose whether to take on the 5k or 2.5k challenge, and we'd love you, your family and friends to sponsor them for their efforts! All the money raised will be used to resurface and refurbish our Netball and Tennis Courts, which are really starting to show their age.

Prizes will be given to the students and forms in each year group who raise the most money.

Students have been given a sponsor form, and can either bring their sponsorship money into the Finance Office or give it to a parent, who can then make the equivalent payment onto



their ParentPay account, using the "5k sponsorship" option. Included (at the back of this Newsletter after Forthcoming Events) is a spare sponsorship form, should the original have been mislaid.

Top tips for the day:

Come to school in PE kit
Bring a bottle of water
Get lots of sponsorship

Thank you

Mr Lines, Head of PE



#SUPPORTOURCOURTS

SPONSORED 5K DANSON PARK RUN

Years 7-9 will complete a sponsored 2.5k/5k
Park Run during the Power Day on April 2nd
Please collect a sponsor form from your tutor or
PE teacher

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE STUDENT AND FORM WHO
RAISE THE MOST MONEY



News items you may have missed

HOUSE SHOWCASE

**Wednesday 3rd April 2019
7pm - 8.30pm**

House Showcase is an opportunity for you to see some of our entries from House Music, Dance and Drama and marks the end of the Annual House Competition

Tickets for this Bexley Grammar School Fundraising House event are available in advance via <https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events> (search for Bexley Grammar House Showcase) or by clicking on the link [here](#)

**Tickets are priced
£4 adults/ £2 concessions**

All money raised will go towards supporting our Houses

PA Millennium Club

Dear Parent/ Carer,

The Parents' Association runs a monthly Millennium Club draw to raise funds for the school. Each month we give out a first prize of £15.00 and a second prize of £10.00 plus a bonus £50.00 draw at Christmas. For just £5.00 your number will be entered into 12 draws. To be in with a chance of winning, please click on the link [here](#), complete form and return it, with your payment, by the end of this month.

Good Luck!

BGS Parents' Association





Parents'
Association

BGS Parents' Association (BGSPA) has yet again been able to secure reduced price ride wristbands for Adventure Island, Southend. Adventure Island is a great day out for all the family, with a wide choice of rides for all ages. Check it out at: www.adventureisland.co.uk.

Although entry is free, purchase of a wristband is required for unlimited use of all suitable rides. Once purchased, a wristband can be used on any one day in 2019 that Adventure Island is open.

For anyone who is over 1.2 metres tall, a wristband would cost £22.50 if purchased online (£32 if purchased at the ticket office on the day). The PA can provide these for **only £18.00**.

If you would like to purchase reduced price wristbands (**these are valid for 2019**) please click on the link [here](#) complete the form and follow the instructions.

BGS PA



Parents' Association



*See the Millennium
Club notice to sign up and
enter the next draw!*

Millennium Club Winners

January Winners

1st Prize - Number 64 - Bev Bailey
2nd Prize - Number 67 - Pamela Campbell

February Winners

1st Prize - Number 9 - Graham Threader
2nd Prize - Number 21 - Gary Russell

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 29th March

Doors open 7 pm for 7:30 start

Tickets £5 per person.

Max. 8 per team

Bring your own food and drink

**Please click [HERE](#) to
register your team**



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Barracudas, Airfield Industrial Estate, Unit 9, Warboys, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 2SH

Forthcoming Events

March

Friday 29th

PA Quiz Night (see notice)



April

Tuesday 2nd

Power day 4 ~ inc. the 2.5k or 5k Sponsored Park Run Challenge (see notice)

Wednesday 3rd

House Showcase, 7pm (see notice)

Friday 5th

Last school day of the Spring Term

Early finish for Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 at 1.25pm

Early finish for Years 7, 8 & 9 at 2.20pm

Tuesday 23rd

First day of the Summer Term

Tuesday 23rd

Year 10 & Year 12 (Part i) Exam period and study leave begins

Friday 26th

Final Day Year 13

May

Friday 3rd

Year 10 & Year 12 (Part i) Exam period and study leave ends

Monday 6th

Public Holiday ~ School closed to students (except for Exam students)

Tuesday 7th

Year 7 Parents' Evening ~4pm ~ 6.30pm

June

Wednesday 26th

Awarding bodies designated GCSE 'contingency day' for examinations (see notice)



#SuPportOurcouRTS sponsor form follows this page

We're raising money to resurface our outdoor courts, which we use for Netball, Tennis and loads of other sports during PE lessons and for playing on at lunch and break times. During our next Power Day on Tuesday 2nd April, students will be running 2.5k or 5k (it's up to them) in Danson Park and we'd love you to sponsor them to complete this challenge. All the money raised will go towards the facilities in the courts and our target is £15,000.

[illegible]

