BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

www.bexleygs.co.uk 4th April 2019

#SuPportOurcouRTS Thank you

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Danson Park Sponsored 5k on Tuesday. If you wish to pay in your sponsorship money, please bring cash to the Finance Office in an envelope with your name on it and the amount you are paying in. Alternatively, you can give it to a parent who can then make payment via ParentPay - choosing the "5K sponsorship" option. Thank you.

Mr Lines, Head of PE

BGS success at the 2019 Bexley 'Speak Out' Challenge

On Thursday the 28th March the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Bexley Regional Final was held at St. Catherine's School for Girls.

The Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Challenge is run by the Speakers Trust who provide workshops to ***19,000*** pupils every year across London. Of those pupils who take part in the workshops, a handful of those competes in a school final, the winner of which progresses to the Bexley Regional Final. I was lucky enough to be that finalist.

Upon arriving at St. Catherine's I met my fellow competitors from 15 other schools in Bexley. We had all made it this far and I could see they were all capable speakers, so it was interesting to sit with the other finalists while we introduced ourselves. After formalities we took part in a pre-competition workshop led by a member of the 'Speaker's Trust' where we discussed what made a really good speech. The workshop leader advised each of us as to where we could make small improvements to our speeches, such as using open body language, before we were led into the hall where the final would take place.

Walking into the hall I was surprisingly calm, but as time passed, that false sense of security soon left me as I found myself in a room full of eager guests, friends and family, all ready and

waiting to listen to the speeches my fellow contestants and I had worked so hard to prepare.

Lights out. Hall quiet. Spotlight on.

One after the other, my equally anxious competitors delivered fantastic speeches on topics as varied as xenophobia, vaccinations and even superheroes. It was amazing to witness their different speaking styles, nuances and the passion they displayed. I had tough competition.

With each passing speech my turn drew closer and closer until I found myself mic'd up and walking what felt like a mile up onto stage. I was beyond nervous at this point, but breathed slowly and performed my speech "Resolutions" to the best of my ability and returned to my seat until the end of the speeches and for the judging to begin.

All of us waited restlessly for the judges to return and when they did, the room fell silent as the host announced the top 3 speeches…

"In third place, please give it up for... Kate Dairymple from Townley Grammar School".

"Please give a huge round of applause to our runner up... Samantha Kingdom. Harris Academy Falconwood".

"And finally, the winner of the 2019 Bexley Speak Out regional finals. Everyone give it up for..." "God's Favour Oluwanusin from Bexley Grammar School!"

The crowd roared and for the first time all night I was speechless as I ran up on stage to collect my certificate and plaque from Rt Hon Sir David Evennett MP.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the 'Speak Out' Challenge so far and I hope to continue on and win the Grand Finals held at the Cambridge theatre on 1st July: fingers crossed I make it to the final 16.

I'd like to thank Mr Husbands, the Speaker's Trust and the Jack Petchey organisation for giving young people, like me, the opportunity to speak out and be heard.

God'sFavour Oluwanusin, Year 10

Japanese exchange at BGS

On Monday evening of the 25th February ten exchange students arrived at BGS after a twelve hour flight all the way from Japan. My father and I picked up my exchange student, Mei Ito (いとうめい) at school. That evening, after introducing her to my family, we talked to each other in both English and Japanese about ourselves and things we would like to do during the exchange week. From Tuesday to Thursday we went to school together and spent some time with my friends and discussed the differences between school in England and in Japan. On Wednesday evening, I had the chance to practice my Japanese with Mei's friends when we went to London to see Don Quixote at the Royal Opera House. The whole experience really brought us together and we created new friendships and met amazing people I'll never forget. We also all went out together on Friday to Greenwich and Central London. On Saturday, Mei and I went to the O2. During the whole exchange, I got close to many students from our linked school, Keio High School and found it very hard on Sunday to see them leave, I hope they come to visit London again soon and that the students hosting next year will have a similar educational yet unforgettable experience.

Maya Parmar, Year 10

For three days 10 Japanese exchange students came to our school to experience English lessons. They enjoyed every lesson and were hardworking despite not understanding everything. The first difference which they noticed was the fact that our students change classes and move rooms for their lessons, whereas in Japan, they stay in one room with the same class, whilst the teachers move to them. Another thing they pointed out to me was how noisy our classes were, as many students sleep during lessons in Japan. Other differences include having interactive whiteboards instead of chalk boards, sitting next to people instead of alone and eating in a canteen rather than a classroom. They felt very welcome in our school and enjoyed the English experience with their host families.

Kacey- May Smith, Year 10

The Carnegie reading group is back again!

Once again, I have been amazed by the number of eager students that have signed up to take part in the Carnegie this year, with some students returning for their second or third year, and other Year 7s joining us for their first time. Thank you to the English Department for kindly buying the books for us and make this reading group possible!

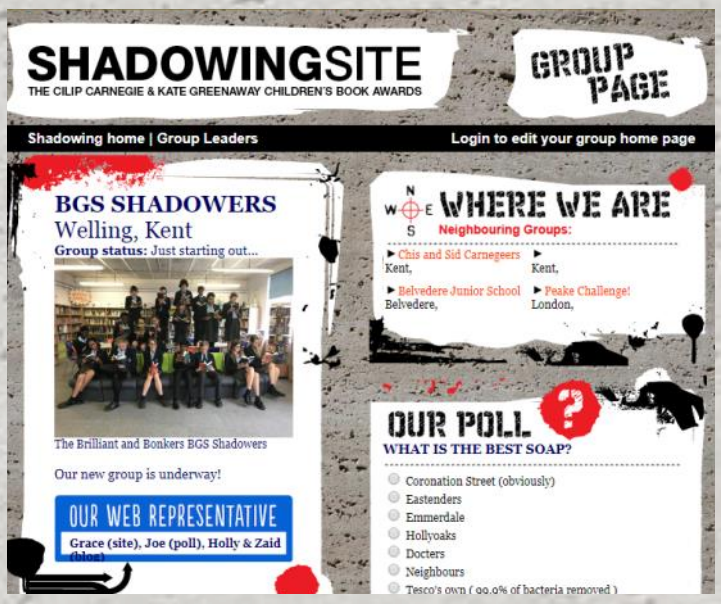
We have eight exciting books to read over the next few months, and based on their first impressions the group are very keen to read *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds, a book written in poetry about a 15 year old boy who is seeking revenge after his brother is shot, but is challenged on his views as he meets some interesting (and not always living) people in the lift as he takes the long way down.

Grace Soper will be running our webpage, Holly Kinsella and Zaid Malik (all from 7JR) will be writing our weekly blog, and Joseph Turner (7EAG) will be in charge of our online polls. Check our page over the next few weeks to see our progress and the reviews that the students write:

https://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/grouphomepages/index.php?GroupID=10615

Blog week 1 - the 3 second judgment

In the Carnegie book award, the BGS shadowers meet every Monday after school. On our first meet-up, we got to know everyone, then looked at the blurbs of the books, these were printed off so we could not see what book it was or the cover. We then put them in order of our favourites. These definitely varied among all groups as some groups had one as their favourite and others had different opinions. After this we got to see the covers and found out that it only takes 3 seconds to pick a book, from looking at the cover! Finally, we talked about our first impressions and picked our book for the Easter holidays.



-By Holly and Zaid

PE News

Sporting success

A huge congratulations to Florence Black in Year 8 who is quickly becoming our very own Netball superstar. Florence has been selected for Kent Academy and Mavericks Netball this year, both hugely impressive achievements. Florence and her teams recently won the London and South East Regional Championships and the Mavericks tournament day. Keep up the good work- we are all very proud of you!

Miss Leffen, PE Department

On Sunday 31st March, Sam Phillips (Year 7), came second in the Under 14s Kent County Amateur Fencing Championships 2019. Well done Sam!

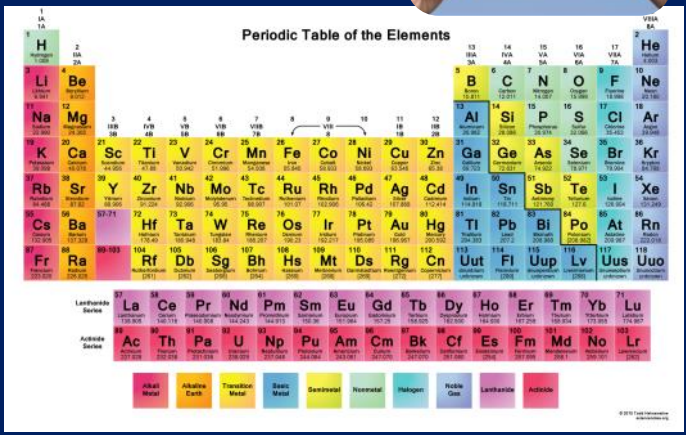
Mr Lines, Head of PE

Can You Help?

You may be aware that Year 9 and 10 students are designing a mural to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table. We are busy collating and judging their designs at the moment. Next they will be transferring these onto white tiles ready to take pride of place and here is where you may be able to get involved.

We are desperately seeking a qualified Tiler who could donate some time and expertise to help us turn this plan into a reality. Do you know or are you a Tiler, Painter or Decorator who would be able to undertake such work and might be willing to help? Are you a Nick Knowles lookalike who could reply to our DIY SOS?

If you think you could help please contact Ms Lusted on **lusted_r@bexleygs.co.uk**



Spring Cleaning?

It's that time of year again when we clear out cupboards, throw out the old and bring in the new! Can your trash be our treasure? The Music department recently received funding from the PA to buy 6 reconditioned iPads to save money on copying music for concerts. They have been an invaluable resource at our concerts but with the growing numbers of participants we need more. Since then they received a generous donation of an old iPad which was gathering dust in a draw from one of our PA members. If you have an old iPad which you no longer use and you are willing to extend its life and use by donating to our cause, we'd happily make use of it. Please remove any personal information and drop off at Reception after the holidays, we'd be most grateful!

Also, don't forget the BGS Book Exchange which welcomes donations of unwanted books in good condition!

Thanks and happy Easter!

Ms Hanington, Assistant Head

A whole new word ~ Year 10

Term 2 - Week 12

Art	**Contour**
Biology	**Oxyhaemoglobin**
Business Studies	**Induction**
Chemistry	**Anhydrous**
Classics	**Scaena**
Computer Science	**Simulation**
Drama	**Diegetic**
DT	**Manufacture**
English	**Sublime**
Geography	**Arid**
History	**Putsch**
Maths	**Reciprocal**
MFL	**Intensifier**
Music	**Suspension**
Physics	**Dynamo**
P.E.	**Extrinsic**

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

News items you may have missed

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)

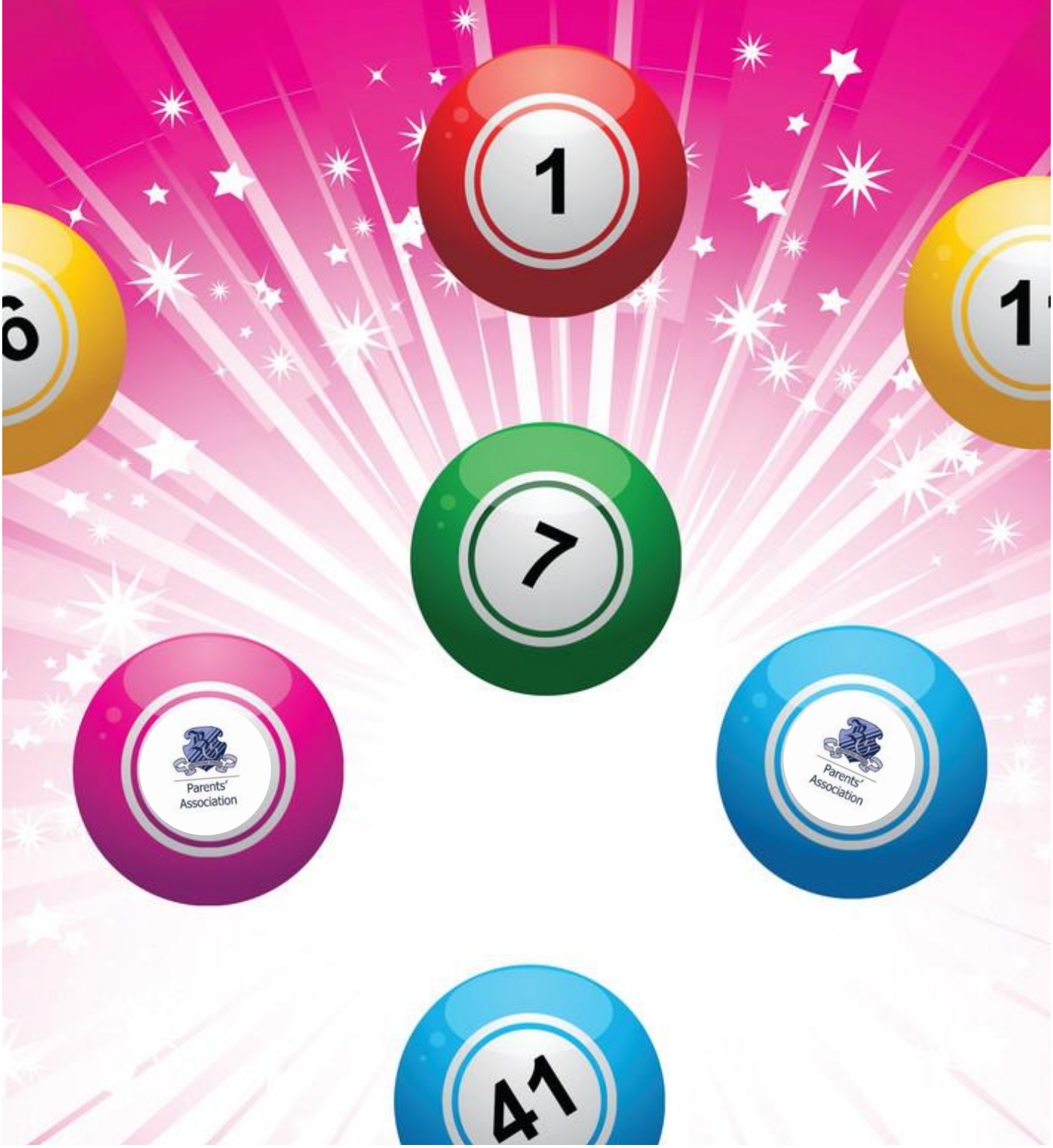
PA Millennium Club

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

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Try New Activities
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Ofsted Outstanding Provider
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EASY PAYMENT OPTIONS
Tax Free Childcare and all Childcare Vouchers accepted! We also offer an interest free monthly payment plan.
Trustpilot
"Fantastic environment for children"
HIGH STAFF: CHILD RATIO
Follow on ...
For dates, locations & prices please
Visit barracudas.co.uk or call 01480 467567
Ofsted
Trustpilot
Barracudas, Airfield Industrial Estate, Unit 9, Warboys, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 2SH

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

Forthcoming Events

April

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)

Students return to school on Tuesday 23rd April
Enjoy the Easter break