



IB Class of 2019 and their amazing Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)!

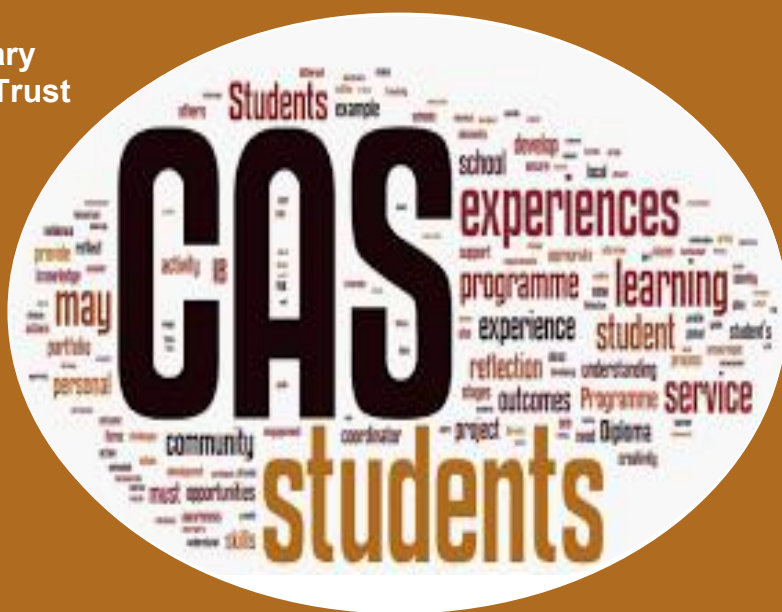
With their exams fast approaching, the Year 13 IB students recently finalised their CAS portfolios for moderation. The outstanding activities and projects carried out are reflected in their ManageBac accounts, which we have had the pleasure of reading.

Year 13 have been involved in a total of **1783** various projects and experiences!

Once again, our students have supported local hospitals, youth groups such as Beavers, Brownies, Scouts and Rainbows. They have fund-raised for various causes: Bexley Rotary Club, King's College Hospital, Demelza House and Cancer Research are just a few of the charities which have benefitted from our students' volunteering. The Mark Evison Foundation is a project a handful of our students were involved with this year and saw them conquering fantastic challenges; one group walked Hadrian's Wall, and another group cycled to Paris raising money for the foundation as they went. Bexley's Library Summer Reading Challenge again saw our students dedicate a part of their holiday to encourage younger children in the borough to read throughout the summer holiday.

Below are just some of the other fabulous projects our students have been involved with over the past 18 months:

- 1970s re-enactment at Kentwell Hall**
- Volunteering at a Charity Café**
- Volunteering in an Elephant Sanctuary**
- Donating Hair to the Little Princess Trust**
- Fire Cadets**
- Care Home Volunteering**
- Police Cadets**
- Learning Korean**
- Urban Planning Workshop**
- 10k Fundraising Run**
- NCS – The Challenge**
- Student Ambassador**
- Greenwich Youth Band**
- Redefy Club**
- Mindfulness**
- World Challenge**
- Young Enterprise**
- Army Cadets**



The IB aims to create 'the all-round' student and one that can reflect fully. Over the coming weeks we will be featuring some examples of the amazing experiences and projects the Year 13 have been involved in and their reflections on their involvement:

Water Project in The Gambia

My family and I wanted to fund a bespoke charitable project which we could be solely responsible for, so we researched a project we could get involved in. We wanted to help people in need in the best way possible, ensuring that any money that we raised went directly to the people, and not to the salaries of the charity workers in London offices. We intended to find a charity which would allow us to fund a bespoke project that made a real difference, and maybe in the end travel out to the country to see in action who we had helped and in what way.

Reflection:

The first thing that we had to organise was which charity we would work with to create and fund our bespoke project. We decided that it would be amazing if we could fund a project which provided a specific village with water, and if we could be responsible for it. After contacting multiple charities such as Save the Children, we were given incredibly high numbers, upwards of £200,000 to fund the project, which was far too high for us to be able to manage. However, finally my father found a charity called Water for Africa. Water for Africa was a charity set up by businessmen in England to fund water projects in The Gambia. They do not receive any money and are not paid salaries by the charity, and therefore all the money donated to the charity goes straight to the people who need it. This charity gave a more realistic number, just over £10,000. This was solely funding the equipment and installation of a solar powered water pump which provides clean water on tap sustainably for the people of the village. The monies we raised would be paying for a borehole to be drilled in the village down to water sources under the ground, and solar powered generators would then draw up the water into tanks held above ground. Then the water can be accessible to all the people of the village on demand.

After successfully raising the required sum, we made the payment to the charity, who then began the process of sorting out the payments for the project. We had wanted to visit the people we were helping from the outset, and after contacting and discussing this as a possibility with the members of the charity it was planned. At my father's expense, we (my two brothers, my father and I) flew to Banjul the capital of The Gambia, for three days. One full day was spent in The Gambia, where we met with a Gambian associate, who we later found out was actively involved in the drilling of the borehole. He was to be our guide for the time we were there. Before we went, we packed bags full of things to donate to the people we would meet: clothing, school supplies and footballs. Some were donated by others, and we even received football kits from Welling United. Our guide took us to the hotel we would be staying in on the coast, as there is a small tourist industry in the country. The drive there was an experience in itself, and we saw instantly a different world from that in Europe. The poverty was immediate, with people in the streets and vendors in dirty conditions selling all kinds of produce. When we arrived at the resort, we were staying in, it was a different world. An oasis of tranquillity and luxury surrounded by a different way of living. At first I felt guilty for being there, but my father reminded me that this tourist industry has provided incomes for many of the native people, as well as contributing to the economy. Gambia is a relatively safe country, and violence towards tourists



is not a problem, so after we settled in we went out of the resort to find somewhere to buy bottled water. We walked down the street behind the resort, which was bustling with activity from a multitude of bars and restaurants. The street was filled with people advertising their bars, trying to get people to come in, especially tourists. We were targeted quickly, and at first it was intimidating, however, after actually speaking to the people who spoke to us everybody was friendly and welcoming to their country. Straightaway the kindness of the strangers was apparent, ironically, something which contrasted from the people of the western world.

On the second day, we drove away from the coastal areas into the rural regions, where we visited the villages. The first village, Dobong, we visited was the village we were funding a pump to be installed into, so we were anxious to meet the people. When we arrived, we saw a different way of living; simplistic and purely agricultural, the people living there led a completely different lifestyle. We visited the hand pump and well that were the sources of water for the village. They were in horrible condition, and it was good to see that the pump would make a real difference to the people there. At this village, we were invited into a meeting of the village elders, where through our guide and translator we spoke about the needs of the village and how we could help. We then distributed what we had brought to help the villagers, which they happily received with great gratitude. We then visited a village which had had the pump and system installed already, and the difference in atmosphere and the health of the villagers was immediately apparent. It was heart-warming to see what a difference our funding would make. Finally, we visited a third village which also needed a pump. Despite all the residents living in impoverished conditions, they were incredibly happy and friendly. This third village was one that we were hoping to be able to fund in the future, and with our extravagant Christmas Lights we have managed to raise almost £11,000 to fund this second village to have water. We gave the majority of our items to the people of this village, who were more in need.

The whole experience has been incredible. Seeing what is genuinely another world was shocking and incredibly educational, and has genuinely made me far more aware of the issues within the world today. I want to go back, and we intend to once the project is over and the water is installed, which will be later in 2019. I cannot wait to see what a difference that what we did can make to people's lives.



Year 11 - Study Leave, revision sessions & important updates

This week we have been inviting Year 11 students to specific Revision Sessions. If you have received an invitation(s) for your son/ daughter to attend and haven't already responded, please could confirm their attendance by next Friday, 10th May.

Please note the Year 11 Book Return date has been brought forward to Monday 17th June, between 11am and 12.30pm.

Thank you

Year 7 Art and Science trip to 'Lunatick' VR Experience

Last month eighteen of Year 7s top scientists were lucky enough to visit the 'Lunatick' art installation where virtual reality took them on an exciting journey through our Solar System. The creative work behind the experience was a joint effort between an artist and scientist. This collaborative project allowed fascinating discoveries of science to be experienced visually through an artistically rendered concept of travel from Earth to the Moon. The artist behind the work is Anthony Gormley, known by many for the creation of the 'Angel of the North' sculpture in the North of England. He worked with the scientist Dr Priyamvada Natarajan. She is known for her work on dark matter and dark energy, and she wanted to help create a project which showed the 'magic and majesty' of the Universe through an intimate experience.

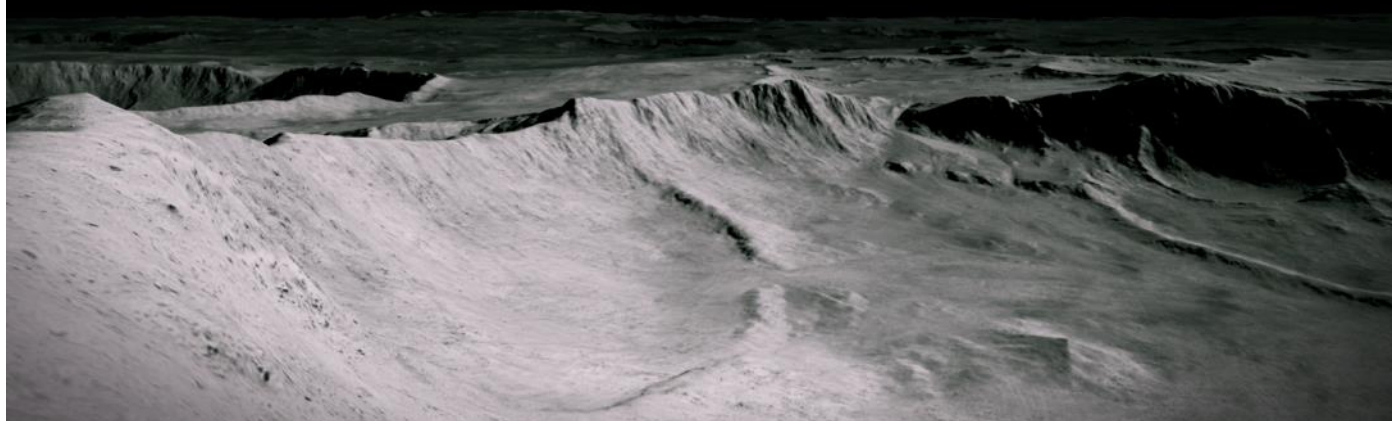


The Year 7 students started their journey exploring an island in the Pacific Ocean, encountering the abundance of life characteristic to our planet. They then hurtled up through our atmosphere into space, stopping to find satellites on their way. Next they stopped to explore the Moon, experiencing its low gravity as they bounced over its surface. Finally, they journeyed towards the Sun, getting an up close view of giant solar flares.



After their experience the Year 7s found their feet back on Earth in the 'decompression chamber' where they had the chance to record their thoughts about the experience in the visitor's book.

Megan Butler from Year 7 wrote: 'That was amazing! It felt so real and I saw so much in space!'. **Amelie Leachman** also recorded her thoughts: 'I loved it sooo much! The view of the milky way was amazing!'. **Ursule Goraviciute** stated simply: 'I have no words! SO COOL!'.





Is your child interested in being a pilot?

Do they hold a valid passport?

Are they aged between 14 -18 years and meet the height and weight requirements outlined in the job description?

Are they able to travel to High Wycombe on one date between 5th-9th or 12th-16th August 2019?

If the answer is **YES** to all of these, this might be good!

British Airways is delighted to launch Flying Experience Days as part of Your Flying Future. 200 students will have the opportunity to test the skies with a trial flight in either a glider or light aircraft, as well as complete other activities focusing on becoming a pilot.

Apply now: <http://ba.uk/AtV8vl>.

Miss Francis, Design Technology

Jumbo Privacy App

Through my subscription to the e-Safety Adviser newsletter, DITTO, I found this information on how social media users can manage their privacy settings through an app called Jumbo. I can't vouch for its effectiveness, personally, but am inserting the article to raise awareness for parents and students.

Mr Gilmore, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

The advertisement for the Jumbo Privacy App is presented in three panels, each with a blue elephant character (Jumbo) and a white background. The first panel on the left shows Jumbo cleaning up a pile of social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) with a broom. The middle panel shows Jumbo holding a box labeled with a Twitter icon, with a smartphone in the background. The third panel on the right shows Jumbo holding a box labeled with a Twitter icon, with a smartphone in the background. Each panel has a downward arrow at the bottom.

**One app,
all your privacy needs.**

Your personal information is all over the internet and it's hard to manage. Meet Jumbo, we'll clean up all of your data on social media – in one beautiful app.

**Clean old stuff,
save hours and feel better.**

It takes a few seconds to say: "Jumbo, remove all my old tweets from Twitter and save them to my iPhone."

We support cleaning Twitter, Google Search and Alexa (and many more apps, like Facebook, Instagram, Tinder, coming soon).

**Secure, because Jumbo will
never see your data.**

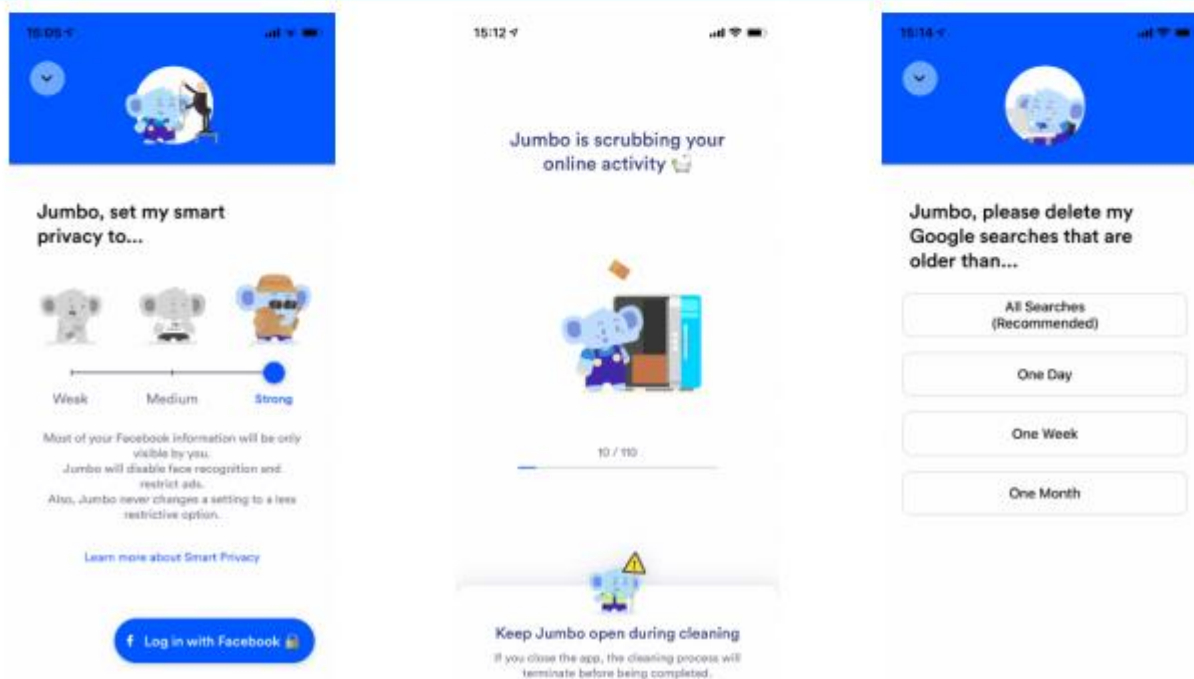
We've engineered a new way to manage your personal information without Jumbo ever seeing it.

Jumbo does not have any servers that process your data. Everything happens from your iPhone, securely.

If you use a lot of apps on your phone, setting up and checking all those privacy settings can be a chore, particularly Facebook which has about 40 different settings! Also, that opinion you had 2 years ago, or that post you didn't really mean, can come back to haunt you.

A couple of weeks ago I came across a new app called Jumbo. Essentially it's an app to set your privacy settings to what you want them to be and clean all the old stuff out. It's for Apple devices at the moment but an Android version is apparently coming soon. Currently it only works with Facebook, Twitter, Google Search and Amazon's Alexa, although there are plans to integrate more such as Instagram and Tinder.

I tried it out and it seems okay. Personally I'm happy to set my own privacy settings, and I make a concerted effort to be careful with what I post, but for some it may be useful.



Book amnesty and book appeal

The Library is more popular than ever, and so far this year students have borrowed a record 6890 books! A big thanks goes to the parents that help in the Library - Sandrine Fabris-Abbate, Sarah Wilson, Irene Ranoë and Lisa Hanley - who are fantastic at working with the students on creating displays, labelling books and helping students find their next tale to read.

Unfortunately the downside of having such avid book reading students is that I have found that a large number of books have gone missing, and have been borrowed without being issued to student Library accounts. If you could check your houses for any books that belong to the Library and ensure these are returned (either by your child or dropped at Reception) I would be hugely grateful.

Also, if you have any teenage fiction books, biographies or cookbooks that you no longer want, please can you donate these to the Library? They will certainly find a good home here!

Thank you

Mrs Carey, School Librarian



ABRSM Music Exam Results - Spring 2019 Update 2

Following on from my newsletter article last week, I would like to further congratulate the following students for passing their graded music exams in jazz on their chosen instruments - well done to all of you!

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music



<i>Hugo Denage</i>	<i>Piano</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>Timothy Masters</i>	<i>Piano</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>Tom Montgomery</i>	<i>Piano</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>
<i>Luke Warren</i>	<i>Alto Saxophone</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>
<i>Eve Goodchild</i>	<i>Alto Saxophone</i>	<i>Grade 6</i>
<i>Ennis Lee</i>	<i>Alto Saxophone</i>	<i>Grade 6</i>
<i>Max Ashton</i>	<i>Alto Saxophone</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
<i>Joshua Morris</i>	<i>Alto Saxophone</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>





Do you own or work for a local business? Looking for an Opportunity to Advertise?

On the 8th June the school will be holding its annual Summer Fayre and in past years this has been extremely well attended. To complement this, we produce a printed programme for visitors that sets out the events taking place during the day. The programme will also have space for advertising and with the expected numbers of people attending this offers a great opportunity for local businesses to promote themselves in the community at a fraction of the cost of a local newspaper advertisement.

This year we are offering a full page (A5) advert
for only **£30** or half page for **£20**.

If you would like to advertise in our Summer Fayre programme and require further information please contact:

Michelle via email at bgspa.summerfayre@gmail.com by 17th May*.
All funds raised will be helping towards BGSPA's target this year of £10,000 to benefit various projects across the school.

*Payment must be received no later than 1st June to ensure inclusion on the programme



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



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



#SuPportOurcouRTS Thank you

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Danson Park Sponsored 5k on 2/4/19. 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

Forthcoming Events

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

Wednesday 8th

CALL BACK - Auditions KS3 Showcase Concert ~ After School (See notice)

Friday 10th

Final Day Year 11

Wednesday 22nd

KS3 Showcase Concert ~ 6pm-8pm (See notice)

Monday 27th to Friday 31st Half Term - School closed to students

June

Monday 3rd

First school following Half Term

Saturday 8th

Summer Fayre & Sports Day (SF&SD) - Normal school day

Monday 10th

Day off in lieu of (SF&SD) ~ School closed to students (except for Exam students)

Wednesday 26th ~ Awarding bodies designated GCSE

'contingency day' for examinations