



BGS Summer Fayre & Sports Day Saturday 8th June

We're all set for the Summer Fayre and we're looking forward to seeing you there!

Students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 will attend school from 9.30am until approximately 2.45pm. Parents, friends and Years 11 and 13 are welcome to join us from 10.30am to approximately 2.15pm but please note that there will be no parking available on site. Please remember to plan for the day off in lieu on Monday 10th June when the school is closed (apart from public examinations).

It's not too late to donate or to help the Parents' Association. Bottles and/or unwanted gifts can be left at the School Reception this week.

Fingers crossed for sunshine!

Mrs Mallin



The weather forecast for Saturday is good, with sunny intervals and an average temperature of 18°.



Please remember to bring sun cream and a bottle of water to drink!



KS3 Music Showcase 2019

On Wednesday 22nd May a troupe of musicians from our KS3 classes put on a special performance covering music from a wide range of styles. All of our students had successfully auditioned for a performance slot and worked hard to present their pieces to friends and family on the evening.

We had representation from our Brass Group and Junior Chamber Choir, who performed 'The Throne Room' from Star Wars and 'Sing' by Pentatonix respectively. It was wonderful to see a variety of performers, including Hannah Kitching on the saxophone, Nathan Singleton performing Chopin on the piano and Mehida Oforji singing and performing piano simultaneously. I am looking forward to our next KS3 showcase!

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music



My Trip to see Tosca at the Royal Opera House

On Friday 24th May, a group of Year 7s travelled up to London on the train to go to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Although I love visiting the theatre, I'd never seen an Opera before, so was very excited on seeing Tosca.

Once we had arrived at the Royal Opera House, we settled into the huge auditorium ready for the performance. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to watch the Opera from one of the boxes in the theatre which was an amazing privilege. The theatre was especially designed so any noise could be heard from either side of the auditorium. Then the lights dimmed, the orchestra started, and the performance began. Like most of the audience, I didn't understand Italian, so it helped when English subtitles were projected at the top of the stage.

There were three acts which all had different settings. After a spectacular finish to the first act, we headed into a majestic dining room to eat lunch. At the start of Act Two, the orchestra played an instrumental piece before the curtain rose. The second act was more intense and exciting than the first. The story of the



painter just kept building up which continued into act three. At the end of the show, we were all amazed at what we had just seen. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the opera and we were very grateful to Mrs Goddard for organising this wonderful trip.

Robert Humphreys, Year 7

BGS Songwriting Competition 2019 - WINNER ANNOUNCED

On 3rd June, we hosted our first open mic night for singer-songwriters from BGS. We had a number of entries submitted from students, who were selected to perform for the Academy of Contemporary Music in conjunction with Metropolis Studios who sent a band to also perform for us.

The evening was entertaining, with all songwriters displaying unique and individual styles. We had Indie Rock to K-Pop influences as well as more intimate performances of songs that had personal meaning for many of our students. Each act was given thorough and detailed feedback on their pieces by ACM and their band, with a chance to hold a Q and A with the musicians about the music industry and higher education.

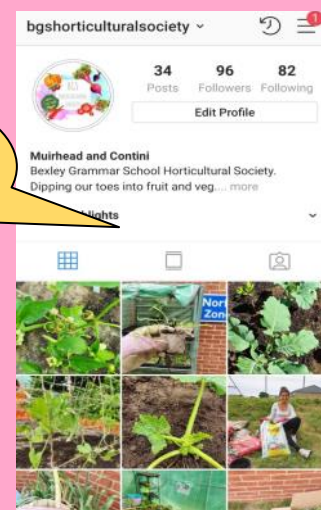
The judges were unanimous in their decisions, with Plummet AKA George Greenland, Lucas Zurdo and James Warren being awarded a place in the final at the Electric Theatre in Guildford on Wednesday 3rd July. All the judges were impressed with all BGS participants and have extended an invitation to the final for all. Well done to all of our musicians!

Mrs Goddard





Follow us on Instagram
to see what we've been
up to!



UPDATE!



THE BIG DIG!

On Saturday 18th May, a group of Sixth Form students and teachers spent the day building the start of the school allotment. In just over 4 hours we built and filled 4 raised beds and a polytunnel, planting a variety of different fruit, vegetables and herbs in them. We even put a couple of picnic benches there, so it's the perfect place to spend time outside. The day went mostly without a hitch, with several comical moments thrown in - like someone reversing the golf buggy into a full raised bed and it falling apart...

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

We currently have 4 beds (with 3 more about to be filled - Hello cucumbers!) Bed 1 is in the polytunnel and is full of tomatoes, peppers, chillies, and melons. Bed 2 is where all brassicas live, they love our soil and are doing really well. We have swiss chard, savoy cabbage and purple sprouting broccoli in this bed. Bed 3 has a huge variety of fruit and vegetables growing in it, with a strawberry section, rainbow beetroot, summer ball courgettes, yellow courgettes, lemon ball cucumbers, aubergines and butternut squash. Bed 4 has been split into two sections, one side is all herbs and edible flowers and the other is home to the climbers, runner beans and sugar snap peas, with some spring onions thrown in the mix.

A huge thank you to all the staff and students who are helping to make this project a success, you are all fantastic and we couldn't have done this without you! The allotment looks brilliant and we are really proud of it, make sure you pop along to see what's growing when you come to the Summer Fayre on Saturday 8th June.

Miss Muirhead and Miss Contini



The Dream Team (Minus
Mr Kinsella and Mrs Goddard!)

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

The IB aims to create ‘the all-round’ student and one that can reflect fully. Recently, we have been featuring some examples of the amazing experiences and projects the Year 13 have been involved in and their reflections on their involvement:

Volunteering at the Charity Café

The C2K Café is a café that donates its profits to different causes in the community, for example towards clubs to help elderly people with technology. The person who runs the café was very happy when I asked if they needed volunteers to help during half terms and weekends. During my time volunteering at the café I undertook different tasks. I took orders, served food, cleaned tables and washed up. The different social skills that I learnt from this experience will be very helpful as I progress through my education and through life. A goal I wanted to achieve from this experience was to improve my communication skills across all different ages of people.



Reflection

After completing my time volunteering at the café I felt truly overwhelmed by the vast amount of skills that I have been able to gain and also by the relationships that I have formed with not only the staff at the café but also the customers. This experience has been very rewarding for me as I have been able to learn and develop skills that I will be able to use throughout the rest of my academic and personal life.



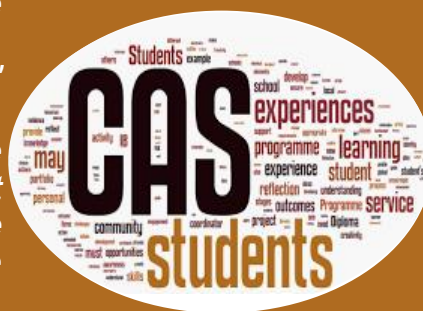
One of the most rewarding parts of my time volunteering at the cafe was when I first began helping. The people who not only worked at the café, but who also attended the café made me feel so welcome and like I was part of their café community. It was very rewarding to get to know all of the individuals on a personal level whilst also being able to give back to the wider community that I myself grew up in.

Although there were many great parts about my time helping there were also some hard times. Some of the hardest times were when I was trying to learn how to use the till as I was very nervous about getting it wrong which in turn demotivated me. After finally getting the hang of using the till, I became much less nervous and I was motivated once again to carry on contributing to that great work that the café does. The importance of working as part of a team was really highlighted to me throughout my time at the café. I enjoy working as part of a team as I believe that tasks are often carried out more successfully when people effectively work together and I feel that working as part of a team makes a task more enjoyable. I was very lucky that at the café all of the volunteers and members of staff were team players which made my time at the café much easier and made the working atmosphere very enjoyable.

Overall, I feel as though I achieved all of the goals that I set for myself before beginning my time at the café and I can truly say that the experience I have gained from the café and the skills that I have learned and developed will aid me throughout the rest of my life and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to help the community.

Mindfulness

The Mindfulness Course was run in school by Miss Brand. There were nine lessons which occurred every week on a Wednesday, period 7. The course is called .b which represents 'stop and be' and in each lesson we learnt something new about mindfulness. At the end of the course, I hoped to be less stressed, more relaxed and to also be able to focus, especially in lessons at school. I'm was really looking forward to starting the course because I felt like I would learn a lot about myself and so be able to improve myself.



Reflection

The reason that I participated in the mindfulness course was that I wanted to learn to live in the moment a little more, be more mindful in general and also to learn how to deal more easily with stress and anxiety in and out of school. For these aims the course has been more than successful, and has changed my perspective as to how you should go into situations and also how to deal with situations once they confront you. With strategies such as watching ideas go by and not letting them bother you, I feel I have dramatically decreased my stress levels and learnt to not be bothered by unnecessary worries so much. The sessions also helped with my planning because every week new challenges had to be undertaken as a sort of 'homework' in advance of the next session. In the mindfulness lessons, I also got to know that working together with people could also dramatically improve mental health, because while mindfulness is inherently personal, having a network of support is essential to mental well-being. The sessions also helped me to think about the ethics about my choices and actions, as it allowed me to properly assess whether the way I was acting towards someone or indeed myself was the correct way of acting.

Understanding The Dark Web

Many of us have heard of 'The Dark Web' and the harmful behaviours that people exhibit when accessing it. However, there is more to it than we may initially have heard in the mainstream media and CEOP have put together a very helpful Factsheet - link below:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-the-dark-web/>



Mr Gilmore, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Phone Safety

It has been brought to our attention that there are numerous apps available to download on mobile phones that can distort and alter voices. These can, and have, been used in prank and nuisance phone calls of a malicious nature and so we would advise parents to be aware of these apps, check to see if they have been downloaded and monitor their use.

Mrs Boulden, Director of Studies, Year 8

PE News

Our Danson Park sponsored 5k run was a tremendous success, raising over half the money we need to resurface our tennis and netball courts, which are badly in need of repair. We have finally tallied up the totals and can celebrate our champion fundraisers!

Our top fundraiser overall was Remy Preston (Year 8) who managed to raise an incredible £260. He was closely followed by our highest Year 7 fundraiser, Jamie Wardle and Elsbeth Bradley, who was the top collector in Year 9.



In terms of forms, 7MPL were the biggest fundraisers (probably due to endless nagging from Mr Lines), while 8LJB and 9NET collected the most in their respective year groups. Treats are en route to those forms rooms!

While we celebrate those who raised the most, we truly are thankful for every contribution, however small. In these straightened times, this is the kind of job that the school cannot afford without the help of parents, alumni and friends. If you have not yet donated, and would like to please visit our fundraising page at

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/supportourcourts>.

Thank you

Mr Lines, Head of PE

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 8th

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



Monday 10th

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

Monday 17th

Year 11 Book Return between 11am and 12.30pm

Tuesday 18th

Year 8 Diploma Celebration Evening (see notice)

Wednesday 26th ~ Awarding bodies designated GCSE 'contingency day' for examinations