



BEXLEY  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

www.bexleygs.co.uk

4th July 2019



## Excellent Reviews

### ‘Great fun’

### ‘Very entertaining’

### Don't miss out tickets still available for Tonight

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This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe

www.mtishows.co.uk

# Generating the Genius of our students

Generating Genius is a charity with a mission to support under-represented social groups move into higher education in STEM related subjects. It works with Year 10 and 11 students across London and it is a highly sought after source of support, enrichment and inspiration. We are extremely proud of our current Year 10s who managed to secure a record seven places, which is huge considering there are only 55 places across the whole of Greater London. Well done to Simon Woods, Kweku Brobbey, Shannen Sarkodie, Nyahalo Tucker, Brook Lord, God'sFavour Oluwanusin and Dulcinea Harding. They are now two terms into the programme so I caught up with a couple of them to find out a bit more about what they have been up to.



## ***Ms R Lusted, Stem Leader***

Generating Genius is a STEM based course for young people that are underrepresented in higher education, to help them to succeed in the future. Year 10 to 13 students can participate in all sorts of events like outings, masterclasses and boot camps.

A great example of an outing would be our visit to St Anne's college at Oxford. Current Oxford students gave us an in depth tour of the college's extensive facilities and we also had an interesting presentation telling us about the logistics and requirements of such a prestigious university.



They also have a wide range of masterclasses ranging from more traditional subjects such as sciences, maths and coding to more exciting and unique classes such as robotics and space challenges. These classes aren't just a way to get better exam grades and get into the best schools/universities (although they do really help with that), but to broaden your knowledge, have fun in a relaxed environment, make new friends with the same interests as you and to start making those vital connections for your future education and jobs.

## ***Nyahalo Tucker, Year 10***

I would describe Generating Genius as a diverse community comprised of very intelligent individuals who are full of ambition and a passion for learning. Organised by a caring and dedicated leadership team, the programme is an incredible opportunity to explore the possibilities that STEM has to offer.

## ***God'sFavour Oluwanusin, Year 10***



## Chemistry Challenge Day

This year we again entered a team into the Salter's Festival of Chemistry. Four students - Ammar Gill, Tom Mortimer, Ben Huggett and Kosisochukwu Ibeme - had a brilliant day and really did the school proud.

### *Dr Numbere, Stem Leader*

The Salter's Chemistry Festival was an amazing experience. It was interesting, fun and it taught me a lot, including resilience and logical thinking. The first activity was a detective-like exercise. I found this really fun, as we started to experiment using different chemicals and responses. Although we didn't win the challenge, it was very interesting and I enjoyed taking part in it. The second activity was great, as we had to use trial and error to get a solution to 10.5 degrees. We managed to complete this task by working together as a group, and exactly reached the target temperature. Finally, we went to a breath taking science demonstration. The scientist showed us many experiments, including changing the colour of fire! Overall, I found this day was so much fun, especially because of the fact that it let me experience what it would be like to become a scientist, or a student at Imperial College.



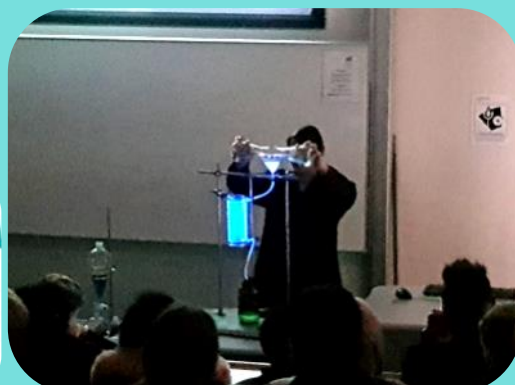
### *Ben Huggett, Year 8*

For the Salter's Challenge, we travelled to the Imperial College in South Kensington. As we began our expedition of knowledge in rush hour, we were attacked, crushed and squashed by the commuters.

In London, we walked, as you would suspect - the trip did **not** include a solution that grows wings on hairless apes (humans). As we entered, there was a periodic table, on display, with actual elements in the sections (except from the explosive types, for obvious reasons). Very fitting for the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the Periodic Table.

For the first challenge of the day, we had to solve a mystery using chromatography and reaction tests. In pairs we started off with the reaction tests. We were trying to identify the features of the substances, to find out which was used in the murder. For the chromatography test, we were looking at which ink was used by one of the murderers. With a limited time frame, a bit of swapping results between the pairs occurred and academic integrity was disregarded. We didn't win.

For the second challenge, we had to find out the combination for a solution that lowers a glass of water temperature to 10.5C, from 21C. We only had a limited amount of supplies before we had to do the test, whether we were ready or not. Since we weren't in pairs for this challenge and worked as one big group, academic integrity was regarded, thankfully. A few combinations later and a few repeats later, we won, as we were the first to "discover" the solution.





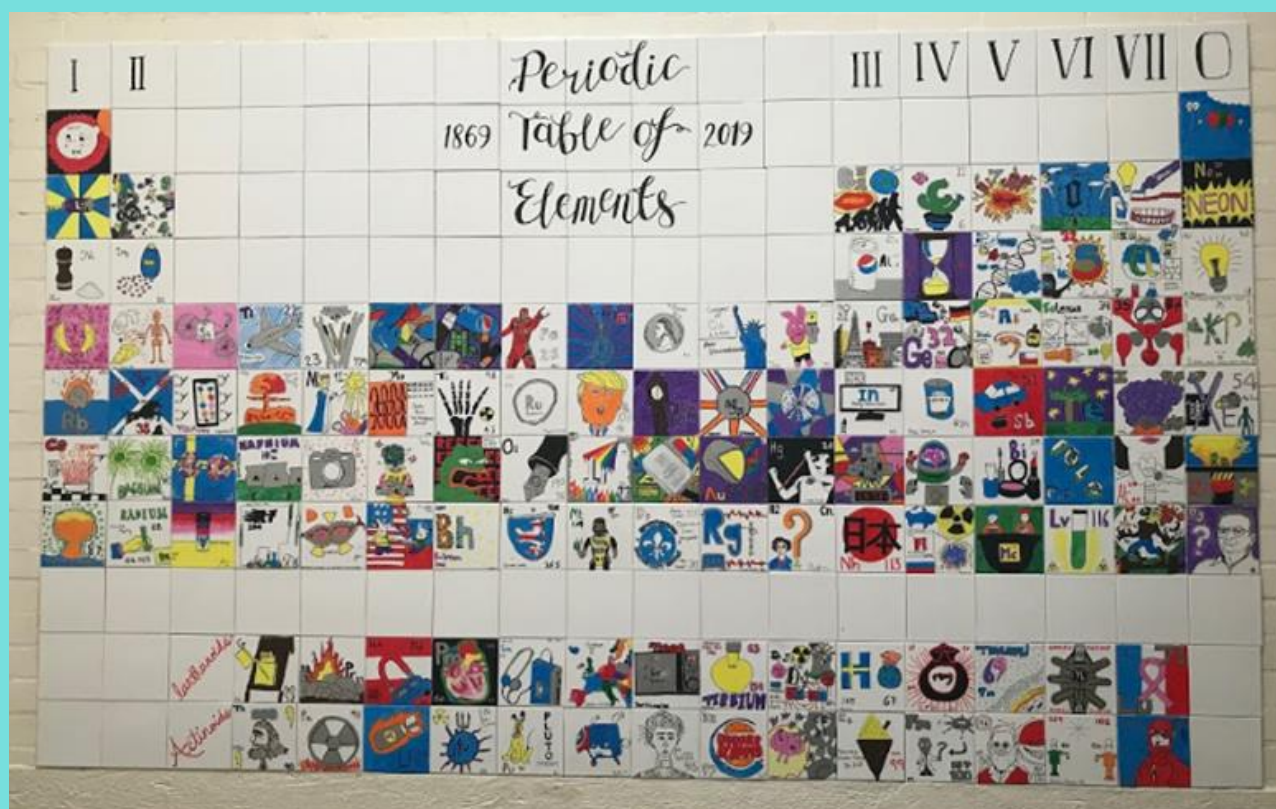
After the competitions, we had a lecture on the fascinating aspects of science, with solar cells, explosions and more glorious explosions. One of the more notable 'tricks' was when our lecturer changed water to various different liquid substances, using specific solutions. She saved the best for last; an overfilling solution with different times of progress and a deafening explosion.

We returned happy as it was an eye-opening, amazing day that will go down in history – in the long-term history of our brains.

**Kosi Ibeme, Year 8**

## A Fantastic Display of Teamwork

During British Science Week back in March 2019 activities were running throughout the school but for Years 9 and 10 this was the start of a much bigger project. To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mendeleev's Periodic Table students worked together to design a huge mural. It took over 100 students six weeks, a very skilled caretaker and a couple of stressed out teachers, but we are extremely proud of the result. Next time you are in school do come along and have a look at all their hard work. Can you work out why they have used that design for each element?



## IB Scientists

The Year 12 students are in the thick of their Extended Essays this term, and those who have chosen to complete their EE in a Science have had timetabled days to complete their experiments. Over those two days, students sweated over gas syringes, Vernier callipers and even the odd set square to collect accurate and precise data. An exciting opportunity to design and carry out a piece of research of their choosing which can then be a great talking point for those all-important UCAS applications or interviews.



## Enrichment in school and out

During enrichment week, Year 10 were visited by student ambassadors from King's College London. They talked to them a little about their courses, hopefully inspiring a few of them to go into Biochemistry or Genetics! The ambassadors then delivered a series of activities about Genetic Engineering. From identifying the guilty suspect from their DNA profile, to constructing a model of DNA out of sweets, everyone had fun and learnt a few things along the way.





## PE News

BGS hosted the Borough 'Primary Dance Festival' on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June for the local primary schools ranging from Year 1 to Year 5. Such fantastic performances from a range of dance styles; street, contemporary, ballet, 'The greatest showman' and we even had some drumming! Lots of energy, audience participation with the 'Just Dance' songs and plenty of applauding! The Year 10 leaders helped support the event alongside our 'Key Stage 5 Leaders of the Year', Evie and Morgan, who returned from their exams to help deliver the event. (Thank you ladies). These are the future dance stars... ones to watch! Lovely to see all these key stages working alongside each other. Special thanks to Evie and Morgan for their continued effort to help promote dance within the school this year. Best of luck when you head off to Uni.

*Mrs Kemp, PE Department*





## Rounders Report

We smashed the Rounders at a match on Tuesday 2nd July. Great result from the 7s and a depleted team for the 10s. Overall win of 13-10 to the Year 7 with Sophie getting player of the match for her fantastic backstop catch! I need to commend Violet on her bravery for getting back up and into the game after being swiped out accidentally by the opposition. Great courage and commitment to the team! The Year 10s won 9.5-5 with a small squad (but well done to the ladies that showed their commitment for the fixture). Gemma was voted player of the match for her consistent bowling and brilliant fielding skills! Well done girls.... a good end to the season!



*Mrs Kemp*



As the end of the year approaches, it's time to update our PE department honours boards. If you have been selected for Kent, London or GB this year - please make sure you see Mr Lines or your PE teacher so that we can recognise those achievements, and save them as inspiration for everyone else!

*Mr Lines, Head of PE*

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our generous donors - we're over 75% of the way towards our target to #SupportOurCourts - and we are very grateful for every penny that has been received. If you haven't donated yet, and would like to, please visit <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/supportourcourts> or scan the QR code for the link.



Thank you.

Total raised

**£11,465.00**

from a target of £15,000.00

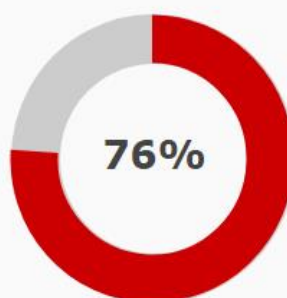
Total raised (+ Gift Aid)

£11,853.75

Offline total

£9,110.00

[Give now](#)



Get involved

## Year 9 Rhineland Trip

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, most pupils studying German were fortunate enough to get the opportunity to go to the Rhineland in Germany. Throughout the tiresome journey we were all quite nervous about meeting our host families, but the best part was the ferry - which was quite a fun experience. As we approached our destination my nerves reached their climax, but when we met them, they were truly wonderful people and helped us to settle in really well. They provided us with delicious food every morning, a sumptuous packed lunch and a delectable dinner every day.

Early on Wednesday morning we all awoke from a deep sleep and prepared for the day ahead, after checking our itinerary we knew what was in store for us: a trip to the chocolate museum, Drachenfels and Beethoven's house. Full of excitement we arrived in the centre of Cologne, the colossal, gothic cathedral marked the town centre. Our trip saw us walking along the River Rhine to the Chocolate museum (we got inside just before it began to rain) and our tour began. We learnt about how the cocoa bean goes from the tree to chocolate and got to taste it at different stages of the journey: cocoa mass, cocoa butter and the beans themselves. Then we toured the factory before arriving at the massive chocolate fountain (which was around 5m high) there we had wafers dipped in the scrumptious chocolate, delicious! Then we went to Bonn but Beethoven's house was under restoration, so we couldn't enter, but was still quite impressive on the outside. Then we went to the Drachenfels, the funicular went up the mountain at a tremendous speed until we reached the peak. Filled with fabulous panoramic views we trekked up the steep summit to the ancient ruins; legend has it that the last dragon in Germany, died and his bones now create the hills and mountains around the Drachenfels. Enchanted by the joy of our first day we were surprised to visit the Haribo's outlet. After filling our baskets with cheap sweets we returned home for a wonderful evening. It was at this point I realised how easy it was becoming to hold a conversation over dinner, our German really was improving.

The next day we returned to Cologne where we visited Cologne cathedral with its impressive gothic architecture and stunning stained glass windows. We learnt it also holds the bones of the three wise men. Then we had a guided tour of the city, learning about its Roman history and culture. Following on from this we went on a beautiful river trip on the Rhine which had the most breathtaking views of Cologne. To add to the magic of the day we went on a short train ride to the zoo where we had great fun trying to translate and finding out more about the animals of which all the signs were in German. From miniscule meerkats to fabulous flamingos the animals were in pristine condition in wonderful surroundings.

Our final day saw us going to Phantasialand - an amazing German theme park. At first I was afraid and apprehensive and started on the small drop rides in Mexico, but over time my confidence grew and I went on the water rides - "River Quest" and "Chiapas - die Wasserbahn". Soon, with some serious persuasion from friends I went on "Colorado Adventure" followed by a sickening dose of "Taron". Another thing that astounded me was the attention to detail in the design and surroundings of the park - even the carts were beautifully designed. Our last evening was soon upon us and it was a time for celebrating all we had experienced during our stay. We had our final meal and we presented our hosts with our "quintessentially English" gifts as a small token of our thanks.

The morning we left was quite emotional because the people we stayed with were so kind-hearted and friendly and it was really hard to say goodbye. Then, before we knew it, we were back home again and it was strange at first because we were so used to speaking German all the time!

A massive thanks to all our host families for their compassion and hospitality, to our coach drivers who put up with all our raucous noise whilst navigating their way from one place to another. But the biggest thanks must go to our teachers (in particular, Ms Ballantyne) for planning this amazing trip and ensuring that whatever we did was filled with fun. Thank you for creating such wonderful memories that we will treasure forever.

**Max Armstrong-Moulinie, Year 9**





BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# JAZZ EVENING

9.7.2019, 6PM START

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
[WWW.YOURBOXOFFICE.CO.UK](http://WWW.YOURBOXOFFICE.CO.UK)  
OR BY CLICKING ON THE LINK

[HERE](#)

£6/£4 CONCESSIONS





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](http://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

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**

PA can provide these for **only £18.00**.





## Forthcoming Events

### July

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Sister Act Performance, 7pm (see notice ~ tickets still available)**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Sister Act Performance, 7pm (see notice ~ tickets still available)**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>**

**IB results available to students online**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Week A**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Jazz Evening, 6pm (see notice)**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Speech Day ~ early finish**

**Year 7 - 12 students dismissed at 2.15pm**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Last School Day for all students ~ early finish dismissal at 12.15pm**

**All students must be off site by 12.45pm**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Inset Day School closed to students**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Inset Day School closed to students**

### August

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**GCSE Result day 2019 from 9.30am until 11am**