



## International Week



One of the things that we are most proud of at Bexley Grammar School, is our ethos of promoting and celebrating cultural diversity, empathy and international mindedness, be it through the study of two languages to GCSE or through our trips and events throughout the year. One such event is one of the highlights of the school year in the MFL department: International Week. Held annually to coincide with the European *Day of Languages* on 26<sup>th</sup> September, we offer various activities to get involved with and share our love of cultural heritage. This year these included: registration for every form group in different languages each day; competitions for academic monitoring such as 'Guess the teacher and the language' (which had teachers from outside the department speaking any language they knew); international cuisine in the canteen; the Great International Bake Off (more on that below!) and International Day itself.

The main event held on this day is the opportunity to dress in either the national or traditional dress of your family's cultural heritage, or to dress in the dress of a culture that you admire or have visited. We hope that this enables students and staff to feel proud of their origins and to embrace the differences between cultures. Students also had lessons which had an international flavour to them, be it

French authors' poetry (in the original and its translation) in their English class, wildlife from around the world in Geography lessons or international songs in Music and MFL. What a great day and week it was!

***Mrs Meyer, Head of MFL***



*Some of the students who dressed in international dress*



*Some of our MFL teachers in their internationally-inspired costumes*

International Week is a special time that Bexley Grammar School does. There are lots of things that happen during International Week, like registration in different languages, international food in the canteen and International Day itself, when everybody gathers together to show their national culture. It's a privilege to write this. Not many people get to do this kind of writing. I feel that everyone who dressed in their national costumes should be proud of themselves. Some people, however, did not dress up, but it made the people who did even more visible and I was proud.



I have Polish blood in my veins. My Grandma, 2 Granddads and my Parents are Polish. I managed to dress up in the Krakow dress which I had stored behind a pile of clothes. It had been made by my Grandma around 5 or 6 years ago and even though I thought it would've shrunk I managed to fit it in without it squeezing me, apart from the trousers which I'd left at home because it was TOO small (it was even a tiny bit bigger than me). I came into my form room in a hat with a peacock feather and an overcoat with bells. Literally nobody recognised me!

International day in the canteen was as busy as usual, BUT... the food in the canteen had turned into international food of which I'd only heard once or twice in my life. It was all so... different. The first day, the food was enough to make my mouth water for the rest of the day.

In short International Day was a great time and I have many cherished memories which I can share with my family and friends.

*Jan Sawczuk, Year 7*



## The Great International Bake Off

Congratulations to all the entrants in this year's Great International Bake Off - we had many and diverse entrants ranging from Finnish brownies to Romanian apple cake. All showed real talent and were enjoyed by the judges. Mr Elphick had the deciding vote as it was such a difficult decision, but we eventually managed to



choose our Star Baker, and the winners of the Best Taste and Best Look categories. Read on to hear from the bakers themselves!

***Mrs Meyer, Head of MFL***

For the International week, one of the exciting competitions that were held was 'The Great International Bake off' which I decided to enter. I got my inspiration for my cake because, this year, I'm learning German and I wanted to learn more about their food and culture. So, I did some research and found this cake, the 'Bienenstich', meaning, 'Bee Sting cake'. This was the first time I made this cake and was nervous to see how it would turn out. However, there was no need to worry - the caramel on top was the hardest to make but the result was worth it. My whole family loved this cake and winning star baker was just the cherry on top of an amazing experience. The prize was, 'Lola's, a cake journey around the world' which is very fitting. Maybe, next year, I will use one of those recipes in the competition and would definitely recommend to others as well.

***Grace Taylor, Year 7 Star Baker***





For the International Bake Off at Bexley Grammar I made a *Schwartzwälder Kirschtorte* or Black Forest Gateau. I hadn't really made these much in the past, but I heard about the bake off and that just came to my mind. It was a three tiered cake and each layer was a chocolate Genoese sponge sandwiched together with cherry jam and sweetened whipped cream. It was decorated with swirls of whipped cream and chocolate shavings. I would definitely recommend the International Bake Off for people next year.



**Zoe Handscombe, Year 8 Best Taste**



In the international Bake off, I made Portuguese Custard Tarts, or *pasteis de nata* in Portuguese. I really enjoy baking and wanted to try something new, as normally I just make layered or sponge cakes. It had an almost filo type pastry and a solidified custard filling. It took me about 2 hours

to make as I'd never made them before. They were really fun to make and overall, really tasty. It really is worth having a go at new bakes as you never know what will come out of it and most of the time you will have a new interesting flavour.

**Holly Kinsella 8JR, Best Look**



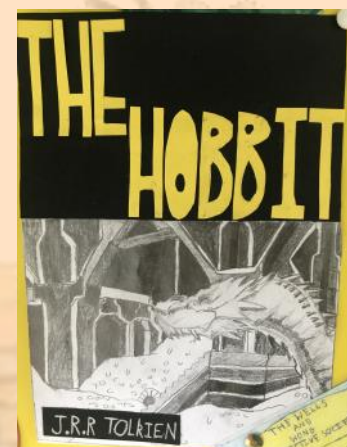
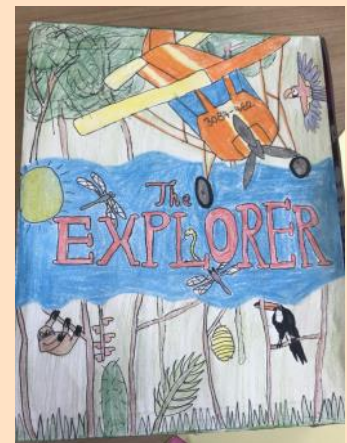
## Book Cover Designs

This summer the Year 7 students took part in a challenge to design their own book covers for their favourite books. It was a happy hour that I spent looking through all of the beautiful, clever and funny covers that were given to me, we clearly have a group of artists and graphic designers in our midst.

I have displayed a selection in the Library, and they will now be given to the English Department to decorate their walls (although I will be keeping a few to frame and put up in the Library!). The older students have also really enjoyed looking at all of these covers and discussing the books.

Thank you so much to all of the students who took part and spent so long creating these wonderful book covers.

***Mrs Carey, School Librarian***





## Year 12 Anthropology Trip - 27th September 2019

*Cash flow runs deep  
But spirit deeper.  
You ask am I my  
Brother's keeper?*

As much as idealists and populists yearn to frame it as such, London has never been a homogeneous place; through the various ethnic groups seeking refuge from an importunate world of hatred, or the slave trade commonly paralleled with the USA's as being less worthy of consideration, the capital's roots were not just flavoured by immigration, but essentially founded upon it.

Our anthropology trip consisted of a tour from the Migration Museum around London, and a subsequent ethnographic study within and regarding an area of our choosing. We met outside of the Royal Exchange at 9:30 sharp(ish). The sun was bright and surprisingly warm for an autumn morning, but we were soon disappointed by the rain's sudden entrance, unfortunately continuing sporadically throughout the day. Luckily, this did not in any way hinder the enrichment which was provided to us through the tour around the East of London.

The main focus was of course migration, thus the different areas we explored throughout the first half of the day helped to illustrate the constant oppression and prejudice faced by immigrants, from the Jews and the Huguenots for centuries, to the rise of fascism from the likes of Oswald Mosley and the National Front. An important factor in our analysis of history should also be its effects on the present - fascism is still very present in today's society, and radicalisation is growing constantly due to alienation and racial division. What was most interesting was the extreme locality of fascism, as members of groups such as the National Front or the EDL would even be recruiting outside the gates of Danson Park; one should not make the mis-



mistake of disregarding far right ideologies as mere histories, but rather realise that our current time is essentially part of history and is definitely not void of extremist rhetoric leading to extreme actions.

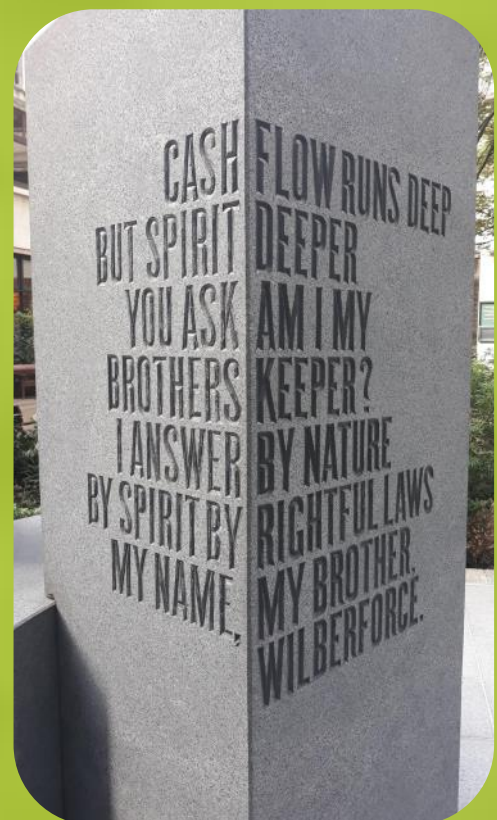
After the tour, which discussed a variety of different significant people and locations (synagogues, poorhouses, and so on), we arrived at Brick Lane: a powerful microcosm of rampant gentrification and recuperation. At one end, exists the plethora of independent shops, street art, and diversity among its residents. The other end's antithesis to this is perhaps best explained by the mere existence of a Pret and a Premier Inn. When walking in the extremely commodified portion of the road, there is a palpable atmosphere of the uncanny; it was as if the feeling of a former run-down part of London was currently merely simulated as to give the white middle-class residents the illusion of struggle in their day-to-day life, when in actuality, everybody around them earns six figure salaries and are there for the same reason.

We then had to perform the first part of our Internal Assessment, which was an ethnographic study; I chose to do mine in the heart of the gentrification of Brick Lane: Pret A Manger. I wrote notes on who I saw, what they presented themselves as, and how they acted in relation to other people of the same or different identities. It was insightful to see how all the different individuals contributed to the overall character of the location.

The trip was definitely an enriching experience. I believe that the study of anthropology is a very important one in the pursuit of making the world a more free and accepting place.

*I answer by nature  
By spirit by rightful laws  
My name, my brother,  
Wilberforce.*

**Alex Offen, Year 12**





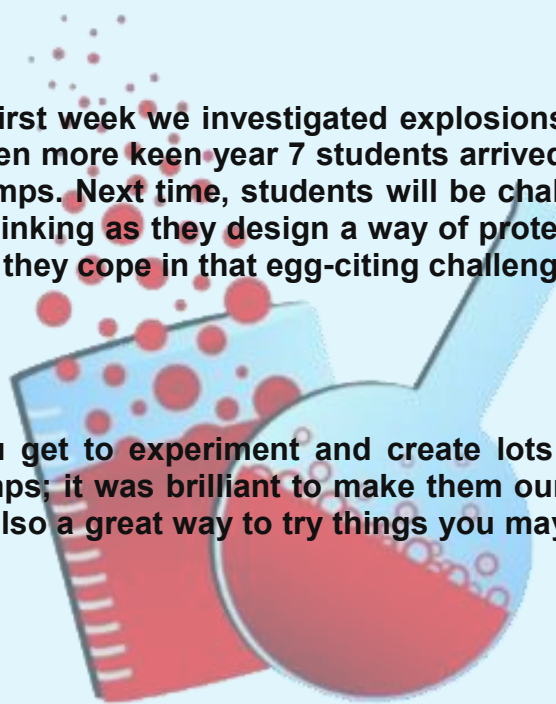
## Science Club

Science Club has started with a bang!! The first week we investigated explosions using hydrogen balloons. In the second session even more keen year 7 students arrived (word must have got round) and they made lava lamps. Next time, students will be challenged in their problem solving skills and creative thinking as they design a way of protecting a precious egg from a high drop. Let's see how they cope in that egg-citing challenge!

*Ms Lusted, Science Club*

I really enjoy attending science club as you get to experiment and create lots of fun things! In the last session, we made lava lamps; it was brilliant to make them ourselves and see them fizzing inside. Science club is also a great way to try things you may never usually do in lessons.

*Zoe Allen, Year 7*

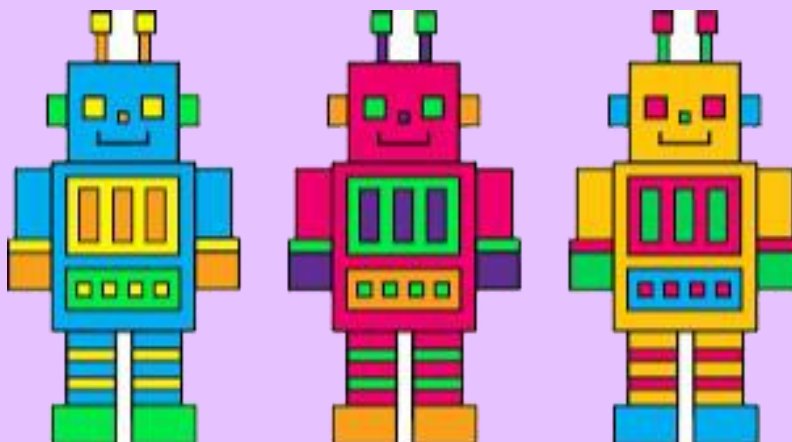


## Robot Club

As technology marches inexorably on, the robot apocalypse predicted in the Terminator movies is surely just around the corner. But at Bexley Grammar School, preparations to deal with this threat are well in hand. Year 7 and 8 students at Robot Club have been building and programming their own machines to either beat the robots or, failing that, join them. Pictured here is one such device built by team 'Infinity Gauntlet' recently. It uses a wrist mounted micro-computer to send instructions to a display screen mounted inside a 'Virtual Reality Heads-Up Display' helmet, constructed from high-tech cardboard and Sellotape!

To the casual observer, Robot Club might seem like it is just a brilliant way to learn about building fun robots using the BBC Micro: bit controller and some simple electronic components. But of course, this is just a ruse to throw any nosey Artificial Intelligences off the scent. We are really humanity's best hope of survival. Find us in H14, every Thursday after school.

*Mr Villazon, Robot Club*



## BGS Horticultural Society

After an extremely successful summer, the BGS Horticultural Society has resumed its activity at the start of September. Thanks to a wonderful team of student helpers, from Year 7 through to Year 13, lots of new baby plants have been planted, including broccoli, artichokes, kale, cabbage, all sorts of lettuce, turnips, carrots, potatoes and more! I am very proud of the work our students are putting in; the skills and knowledge they are developing are essential in life: dedication, patience, perseverance in the face of difficulties (e.g. foxes and slugs!), but also awareness of healthy eating. Here's a selection of pictures, including last summer's harvest and the newcomers in the allotment (aka The Lottie). This is a fantastic activity for anyone to enjoy, and the health benefits of gardening are absolutely amazing. So come and get involved!

*Miss Contini*







# Gaming: What parents and carers need to know

## Advice for parents – Gaming

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Allan Mackenzie from the e-safety adviser website has distributed this useful link to information about managing some of the risks associated with online gaming. I hope you find it useful.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming>

*Mr Gilmore, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead*

## Passwords and Cybersecurity

Andrew Hall of the Safeguarding in Schools company has circulated this very informative advice on password protection and a website that can help you to check if your details have been comprised - please see below for website details and further information:

Have I Been Pwnd - <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

How secure is my password - <https://howsecureismypassword.net/>

'How secure is my password' is website where you can check how quickly 'hackers' would take to guess your password. The top ten passwords people use are:

|          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 123456   | password | 123456789 |
| 12345678 | 12345    | 111111    |
| 1234567  | sunshine | qwerty    |
| iloveyou |          |           |

Source: Digital Trends <https://www.digitaltrends.com/computing/top-100-worst-passwords-2018/>)

According to 'How secure is my password' all these passwords can be guessed 'instantly'. One easy way to strengthen a password is to make it longer, and add at least one special character like ! or ?. Simply adding an ! to sunshine in the above list would now take 2 hours to crack, two exclamation marks would take 4 days. By adding the name of the site you're on, you could strengthen your password so it would need 143 trillion years to crack.

sunshine - instantly  
 sunshine! - 2 hours  
 sunshine!! - 4 days  
 sunshine!!sainsburys - 143 TRILLION YEARS!!

## A whole new word ~ Year 10

### Term 1 - Week 4



**Art**  
**Biology**  
**Business Studies & Economics**  
**Chemistry**  
**Classics**  
**Computer Science**  
**DT**  
**Drama**  
**English**  
**Geography**  
**History**  
**Maths**  
**MFL**  
**Music**  
**Physics**  
**P.E.**

**Genre**  
**Phloem**  
**Stakeholder**  
**Covalent Bonding**  
**Chiasmus**  
**Iteration**  
**Coagulation**  
**Foreshadowing**  
**Perspective**  
**Enclave**  
**Alchemy**  
**Quotient**  
**Comparative**  
**Melody**  
**Nuclear Reactor**  
**Biomechanics**

## Thank you

### Macmillan Coffee Morning

£182+ the highest BGS have made for several years.

So many thanks to everyone (staff, students and parents) who made, supplied or bought cakes. The money goes to a great charity.

Thank you

*Mrs Gradley, School Council*



### Year 7 Fund Raising

Well done to the Year 12 helpers who raised £70 for Demelza through a bake sale at the Year 7 Parents' Evening: Cameron Barrett, Sophie Irving, Yingfei Chen and Grace Gbadamosi

Thank you

*Mr Gilmore, Deputy Head*







BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# YEAR 7 CONCERT

**£3 ADULTS, £2 CONCESSIONS**

**OCTOBER 3 | 4.30 - 5.30 PM | MAIN HALL**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR  
OR BY CLICKING ON THE LINK [HERE](#)



# QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

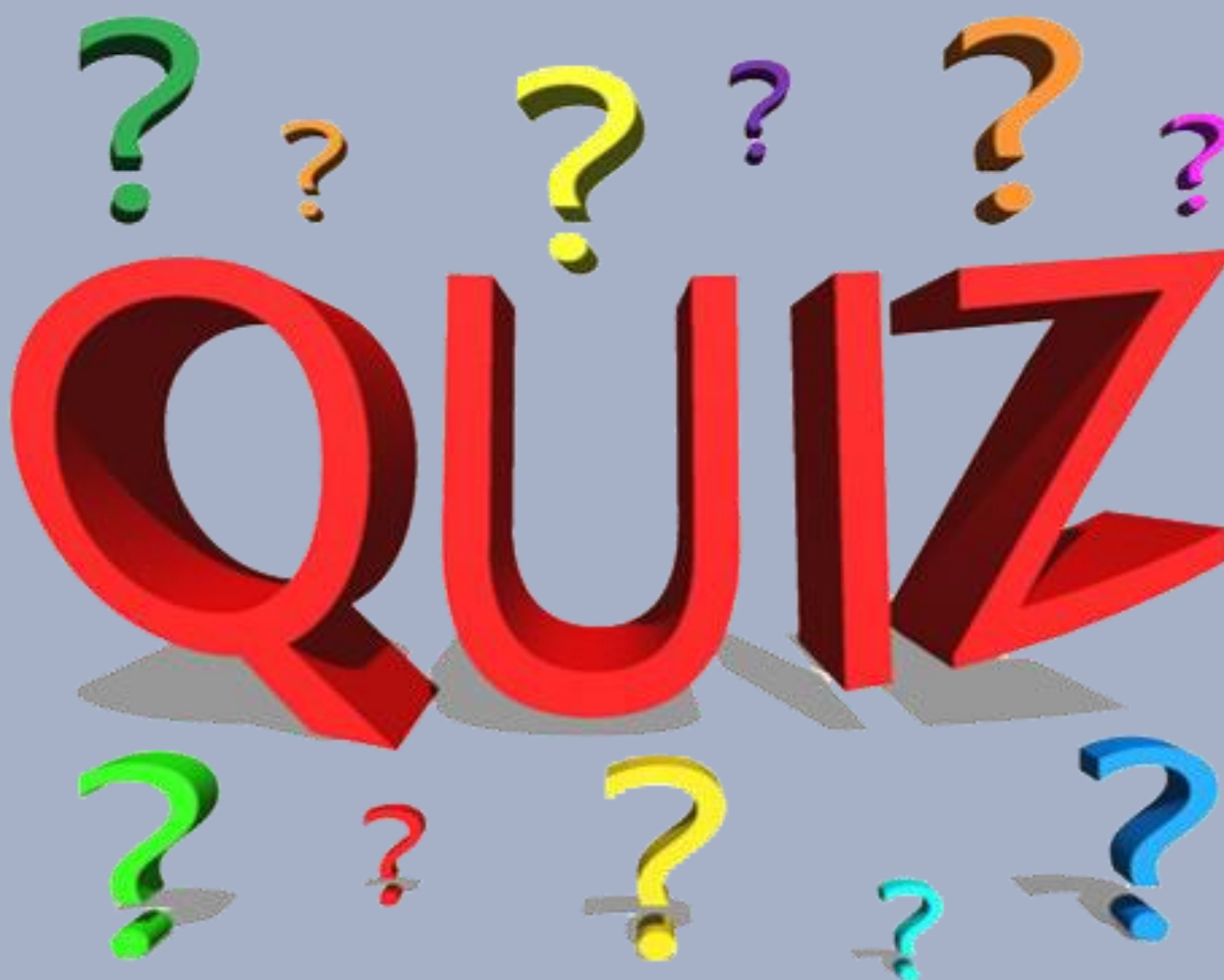
**Doors open 7 pm for 7:30 start**

**Tickets £5 per person.**

**Max. 8 per team**

**Bring your own food and drink**

**To register your team and complete the  
Quiz Night booking form  
please click on the link [here](#)**





## Forthcoming Events

### October

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Year 7 Concert ~ 4.30pm-5.30pm (see notice)**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Open Morning for entry into Year 7 Sept 2020 ~ see website for details**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Year 11 Parents' Evening ~ 4pm-6.30pm**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>**

**PA Quiz Night (see notice)**



**Monday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Year 11 Work Experience Commences**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Power day 1**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Open Morning and Evening for entry into Year 7 Sept 2020 ~ see website for details**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Last school day before half term**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Half Term ~ School closed to students**

### November

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Sixth Form Open Evening for entry into Year 12 Sept 2020 ~ see website for details**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Power day 2**