



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College and IB World School
Tel: 020 8304 8538
email: enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the CAS Coordinators at Bexley Grammar School we are writing to provide some information regarding the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) component of your son/daughter's Diploma.

The CAS programme aims to develop students who:

- Enjoy and find significance in a range of CAS experiences
- Explore new possibilities, embrace new challenges and adapt to new roles
- Actively participate in planned, sustained, and collaborative CAS projects
- Understand they are members of local and global communities with responsibilities towards each other and the environment
- Become reflective thinkers – learn to understand their own strengths and limitation, identify goals and devise strategies for personal growth

Student completion of CAS is based on their achievement of seven CAS learning outcomes realised through the student's commitment to his or her CAS programme over a period of 18 months. A CAS experience can be a single event or may be an extended series of events ideally on a weekly basis. A CAS experience can involve one or more of the three strands of CAS. Students are required to undertake a CAS project of at least one month's duration that challenges students. Failing to fulfil the CAS requirements is a failing condition of the Diploma.

All students recently attended sessions where they were introduced to CAS and have been given access via the Year 12 CAS Classroom, to a booklet providing guidance on getting their programme underway, and you may wish to view this information with them. Over the course of the next 18 months, there will be many opportunities in the school community for students to become engaged with CAS activities. However, students should look beyond the school community and engage in outside volunteering. Students will also be introduced and given guidance on the use of ManageBac which is the platform the students will be using to create their portfolios and log their events, this will showcase their CAS projects and experiences as well as their evidence and reflections.

Parents can also be a very useful resource for CAS activities, thanks to a wide range of occupations and interests. Please contact us should you have a CAS venture where you feel our students could assist.

We are in the process of meeting students to discuss their CAS, and make them aware of the requirements. Students have been timetabled a core lesson whereby they will be given a lesson every fortnight to work on their portfolio, also in the CAS Classroom is lots of advice and guidance for students to refer to. Students are aware that we will provide any help or information that they may require.

In the meantime should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on 020 8298 8538.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Aspill & Miss Thomas
CAS Coordinators

Learning Outcomes

To complete the CAS requirement students must provide evidence that all seven learning outcomes described below have been met. Some may be demonstrated many times in a variety of projects, but completion requires only that there is evidence for every outcome.

As a result of CAS experiences as a whole, including your reflections, there should be evidence that students:

LO 1 Identify own strengths and develop areas for growth

Descriptor: Students are able to see themselves as individuals with various abilities and skills, of which some are more developed than others.

LO 2 Demonstrate that challenges have been undertaken, developing new skills in the process

Descriptor: A new challenge may be an unfamiliar experience or an extension of an existing one. The newly acquired or developed skills may be shown through experiences that the student has not previously undertaken or through increased expertise in an established area.

LO 3 Demonstrate how to initiate and plan a CAS experience

Descriptor: Students can articulate the stages from conceiving an idea to executing a plan for a CAS experience or series of CAS experiences. This may be accomplished in collaboration with other participants. Students may show their knowledge and awareness by building on a previous experience or by launching a new idea or process.

LO 4 Show commitment to and perseverance in CAS experiences

Descriptor: Students demonstrate regular involvement and active engagement in CAS.

LO 5 Demonstrate the skills and recognize the benefits of working collaboratively

Descriptor: Students are able to identify, demonstrate and critically discuss the benefits and challenges of collaboration gained through CAS experiences.

LO 6 Demonstrate engagement with issues of global significance

Descriptor: Students are able to identify and demonstrate their understanding of global issues, make responsible decisions and take appropriate action in response to the issue either locally, nationally or internationally.

LO 7 Recognise and consider the ethics of choices and actions

Descriptor: Students show awareness of the consequences of choices and actions in planning and carrying out CAS experiences.