



Christmas Concert Spectacular!



On Monday 2nd December, Music department students performed our annual Christmas offerings to parents, family and friends. Our concert kicked off with the Synfonia performing a selection of music from Frozen (very timely considering the new Frozen II movie!!) and an arrangement of Carol of the Bells featuring Lucas Zurdo as our piano soloist for the evening.

We had a number of festive tunes, including Chamber Chior who performed a stunning a capella version of Jingle Bells. Ella Warren led the BGS String Orchestra with 'White Christmas' and 'Pizzicato Polka' whilst Katie Henderson also took her turn to lead No Strings Attached, our brass group, with 'White Christmas' and 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year'. Our jazz ensembles all performed to their usual high standard, with a rendition of 'Baby It's Cold Outside', featuring Iarantsoa Ramanoelina and James Walker as our singers for the evening. There were so many wonderful musical items in our concert this year, and all students performed exceptionally. Mrs Casling finished the event with a moment to reflect, with a group of our musicians performing 'Christmas Lullaby' and accompanying Sophia Szczegolski-Jacobs as the singer-soloist.

If you missed our concert but wanted to catch a flavour of the performances, check out the BGS Instagram Page @bexleygsmusic.

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music



English Department Lecture Series

An interested crowd of Year 11s, 12s and 13s gathered to hear Ms Adeaga deliver a fascinating, interactive lecture on 'Literature and the Colonial Gaze', exploring how black and ethnic minority groups have been presented in literature over time. Stepping in entirely for our guest lecturer, who had to withdraw at the last minute, Ms Adeaga gave an enlightening, interesting talk that reflected on the role of colonialism and its legacy on the creation, study and teaching of literature. Thank you Ms Adeaga!

Look out for our next lecture, on the topic of science fiction, to be given by ex-BGS PhD student Harry Warwick in the New Year.

Mr Griffin, Head of English



The Computer Science department has once again run the Bebras Coding Challenge. This is an international competition that is open to pupils of all ages and consists of a 40 minute online logic and computational thinking challenge. All Key Stage 3 pupils and all those who are taking Computer Science in Year 10, 11 and 12 took part.

I am pleased to say that once again our pupils have done this school proud with a significant number being asked to participate in an invitation-only second challenge that will take place in March. Special congratulations must go out to Sami Ahmed who got the highest pass mark overall.

Mr Leaman, Head of Computer Science

Inspiring Careers in STEM

On Monday 25th November the whole school was off timetable for Power Day 2. The theme was Industry and Enterprise and Year 9 and 10 students completed a series of workshops delivered by a wide range of external providers.

The activities included cooking, architecture, engineering, outbreak simulations, police robotics, town planning and many more.

We were very grateful to have a huge number of ambassadors from various industries who visited the school and delivered these workshops. One was an ex- pupil Lydia Hyde, who now works with The Metropolitan Police.

Here is some of the students' feedback:

"As someone who's interested in the field, the session not only heightened my knowledge, but also gave me an opportunity as the session holders answered my question after the session and told me about something I can do in the future to help me if I want to get into the industry " - An anonymous comment about the Public Health England Outbreak Simulation.

"It was a really creative and hands on activity, and the engineering students came round and helped us, giving us advice, so our rollercoaster was really successful." - A comment on the engineering workshop run by UCL student ambassadors.

Year 13s also completed the practical element of their coursework in both Physics and Chemistry. With over 80 students in total there was a real buzz across the science laboratories. Concentrations were calculated, gases collected, magnets propelled and spheres were levitated in a dazzling array of scientific endeavour.

Finally, if you are looking for something different to do this winter break try looking here for family activity suggestions:

For a fun and interactive family activities, why not try the London Transport Museum?

<https://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/learning/families>

Ms Lusted, STEM Coordinator





Year 9 Trip to Ypres

Oh, who won't remember that name for that hazelnut, honey marinated crunch, streaked with luscious brunette Nutella, and could anything beat a garnishing of delectable, fine golden sugar?...Or just Belgian Waffles!

Fine...I won't deny that the above does evoke a rather mouth-watering extravaganza, but we should not forget that Ypres is also a town which was ravaged by war, and countless lives, irrespective of whether they were of Allied or Central soldiers, as at the end it was human life that fell.

So the next time you happen to feast on an authentic Belgian waffle, as I had the lovely pleasure of in the bustle and jostle of a vibrant, dainty Ypres, just think...

Moving on to the impressive arch that is the Menin Gate, with its Grecian, Art -Deco veranda, my first thought was of Audrey Hepburn's royal villa from Roman Holiday...I am quite certain that none of you reading this will have the foggiest idea of who or what I am talking about, but the fogs cast by this structure is one I am sure we can all relate to.

For this Gate is more than just an aesthetic landmark, it is an existing symbol that we as a human race, have the ability to break through barriers of Geography, Religion, Culture and Language to unite for a cause we believe in.

Why do I say this you may ask... As though WW1 had barbaric tolls in Belgium as in much of Europe, individuals from many different cultures and religions across the world suffered that same dreadful death and loss.

Yet we often forget that an entire sixth of those 54,000 were Indians, from a land without ties of Geography, Religion, Culture and Language to where their lives would be passed. Yes folks 9000, so it is a shame when we term WW1 as French, Belgian, British or German affair as it's clearly far more than that... And this gate is living proof.

The contrast between the memories that Ypres evokes of the brutality of WW1 and the delicious confections it produces, couldn't be starker! Similarly Agatha Christie's famous character Hercule Poirot, supposedly a refugee from Belgium, oozes elegance and refinement in contrast to the actual lives of the Belgian people following the German invasion.

But what happened to that caramel coating engraved in that succulent, orange praline or that cream coffee deluxe wafer embellished in a rich, burgundy cherry sauce which melts the moment it touches your tongue.

So before I head back off to Ypres, to marvel at these goodies, I think it's safe to say that these Belgian chocolates are "**très** délicieux"!

Krish Mukherjee
Year 9





Event Next Week!

Christmas Ceilidh Wonderland

To end our first full term of the year, Ceilidh Club is excited to welcome students and staff to our first event: "Ceilidh Wonderland". Come to K10 on Wednesday 11th December for music, food and dancing! No ticket required!

Ceilidh (kay-lee) club is a brand new club to BGS this year, which meets every Thursday after school to do large group dances. It is a sort of cross between barn dancing and reel-ing and involves lots of swinging your partner round and round and shouting "Heeee Yuuuch".

Contact Ms Anderson for more info.



PE News

Well done to the Year 7 and 8 Rugby Teams, who played brilliantly this week.

The 8s rolled to an impressive 40-25 win over Colfe's on Monday, including a 10 minute hat-trick from Michael and other tries from Henry, Jamie and Ebube.

The Year 7 team played some great rugby in losing narrowly 40-35 to Beths on Tuesday. Tries came from James, Zac, Euan and Tami. Both teams played in a great spirit, and were tremendous representatives of the school.

Well done boys!

Mr Lines, Head of PE



bridge™

Anyone in **lower school lunch**, please feel free to come along to 8MLs 'First Give Social Action' 'Bridge Mental Health and Wellbeing Festival'. Thursday 12th December 2019, SFC1, P5.

Mrs Haslam
Additional Needs

Non-uniform day! Friday 6th December!

Wear a Christmas jumper or some tinsel if you want!

You don't have to wear a christmas jumper but you can if you want!

**Bring a donation of £1 which will go towards
a small charity called WSUP!**

WSUP

About the charity:

**They are a charity based in woolwich who help
the homeless, financially struggling, mentally ill
and people recovering from illness/addiction.**

Signposting Mental Health Services

Please see below the links for the online counselling service, Kooth:

Mr Gilmore

Deputy Head, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Kooth Video Links

1. Kooth Overview for young people use this link:
<https://vimeo.com/318731977/a9f32c87de>
2. Kooth Magazine: <https://vimeo.com/318713156/5d247a02f9>
3. Kooth Discussion Boards: <https://vimeo.com/318713209/2e97e8b26f>
4. Kooth Goals: <https://vimeo.com/318713298/430fdcafcf>
5. Kooth Journal: <https://vimeo.com/318713381/d8ef865eea>
6. Kooth Messaging: <https://vimeo.com/318713436/7cd88e796e>
7. Kooth Chat: <https://vimeo.com/318713482/ffc121ba18>

kooth

We're still here to help over the festive season

24/7 access to self-help materials and daily online counselling available over the holiday period



Chat to friendly counsellors online, 365 days a year



Read self-help articles written by other young people



Join peer-to-peer support forums



Visit kooth.com to sign up for free today

PREVENTING PERSONAL THEFT

DON'T LET A PICKPOCKET SPOIL YOUR DAY

Keep your wits about you
and your valuables out of sight



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**



PREVENTING PERSONAL THEFT

Pickpockets work in busy or crowded locations where they can be in close proximity to people without being noticed. Pickpockets often operate in pairs and use distraction techniques to avert your attention while they steal from you. Following this simple advice will help you avoid becoming a victim of pickpockets:

- Be aware of what is happening around you, especially when you are in new locations or situations.
- Carry your bag close to you and so that it opens facing you, not away from you. If you carry your bag over your shoulder, or on your back, you could be more of a target.
- Make sure your wallet or purse is not visible.

- If you use a wheelchair, motorised scooter, or you are pushing a pram, keep bags containing valuables in front of you.
- Be discreet with your belongings; displaying expensive jewellery or electronic devices, like mobile phones or cameras, could attract unwanted attention.

If you have any information on any crime, and you would prefer not to speak to police you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**, or visit: **www.crimestoppers-uk.org**

Crimestoppers is an independent charity.

The Metropolitan Police Service is here for London, working with you to make London a safer city.

Call **101** to report a crime, get advice or raise local issues.
In an emergency always call 999.

Or visit our website **www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention**

A whole new word Year 10

Week 13

Art
Biology
Chemistry
Classics
Drama
DT
English
Geography
History
Maths
MFL
Music
Physics
P.E.

Detail
Electrocardiogram
Saturation
Patronage
Stimulus
Enzymic Browning
Parsimonious
Evolving
Convey
Coefficient
Categorise
Tremolo
Momentum
Hypothermia



News items you may have missed

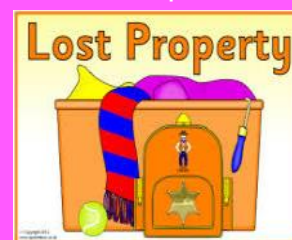
Lost Property Important Notice

Lost Property has become overwhelming again this term. Please may we remind parents to ensure that all clothing and equipment is clearly labelled with their child's name to enable us to return to owners.

If your child has lost clothing (uniform, coats, PE kits, trainers, football boots etc.) or equipment (glasses, pencil cases, water bottles etc.) this term please ask them to come to Reception. **All unclaimed lost property will be recycled after Christmas.**

If any parent would like a spare school jumper or rugby top please e-mail reception@bexleygs.co.uk.

Mrs Beasley, Reception



Message from the Finance Office

Important notice for all students

Please could we remind parents to ensure that students' ParentPay accounts are topped-up with enough funds for them to make purchases in the canteen.

Thank you

Mrs Gibbs, School Business Manager



ParentPay

School Play ~ The Ash Girl by Timberlake Wertenbaker

Wednesday 4th December, 7pm

Thursday 5th December, 5pm

Friday 6th December, 7pm

Adults £8.50

Children £5

Family (4 tickets, at least 2 children) £20

[Click here for tickets](#)



An adaptation of **CINDERELLA** with an inspiring message to us all about believing in ourselves and not giving in to negativity. The show has more substance and depth than the traditional fairy-tale, but still has all the main events and characters for it to appeal to younger children (and the children within us). Whatever it is you want from this show, *the shoe will definitely fit you!*



[View Rehearsal footage here \(edited by Samuel Parsons, Year 8\)](#)

A young girl's father has gone missing, and her mother and sisters mistreat her. A new foreign Prince has arrived and is throwing a Ball, but will Ash Girl go? Or will she stay at home feeling sorry for herself? Meanwhile, in the forest, evil spirits are planning to affect mankind with their negative virtues- can love conquer all?

Featuring students from Years 7-13, you can enjoy the breadth of talent as they share this heartening, positive story with you.

We would expect this event to sell out, so act fast, *because your Fairy Godmother can't magic you an extra ticket.*

We have introduced a 'family ticket' which allows you bring your loved ones at a reduced rate. We also encourage you to come to the Thursday show at 5pm, meaning younger children do not need to stay up too late and *risk their carriage turning back into a Pumpkin.*

If the link above does not work, go to yourboxoffice.co.uk and search 'Bexley'.

Mr Otley, Director, The Ash Girl



*Tickets still available for
tonight at 5pm
& tomorrow at 7pm.*

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday

18th December



Menu

Roast turkey
Roast potatoes
Peas & carrots
Brussels sprouts
Pigs in blankets
Stuffing
Yorkshire pudding



Vegetarian

Mediterranean Vegetable Tart
Roast potatoes
Peas & carrots
Brussels sprouts
Yorkshire pudding



Desserts

Chocolate fudge yule log



MAIN MEAL STUDENTS £2.60
DESSERT STUDENTS £1.00



Big Book Boost - raising money for the Library

With Christmas shopping around the corner, I am pleased to announce that Bexley Grammar will be taking part in the Big Book Boost! If you are buying books online, please consider buying them from The Book People, because for every £10 you spend with them they will donate £1 to the school. In order to do this you select our school at the checkout. For more information, please visit thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost.

Thank you

Mrs Carey, School Librarian



Parents, you can
earn REWARDS
for your school

- 1 Make an online purchase over £10
- 2 Select your chosen school at checkout
- 3 We'll donate £1 to your chosen school

Simply visit
thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost
for more information

#BigBookBoost



Bexley Grammar PA Christmas Raffle



List Of Prizes

1. Family Christmas Hamper
2. Family Photography Experience with Portrait
3. Fortnum & Mason Luxury Hamper
4. Leeds Castle Ticket for Family of Five
5. £50 Bluewater Voucher
6. Jack Daniels Hamper
7. £100 "Tickets Travel Bexley" Voucher
8. Three Course Meal for 2 at Pizza Place
9. Dungeness Print by Stephen Oliver (local artist)
10. Chislehurst Chiropractic Voucher
11. Fullers Brewery Tour for 2
12. Thomas and Friends Shark Escape Set
13. His & Hers Pamper Hampers
14. Chocolate Hamper

Tickets £1

To purchase your tickets for the Christmas Raffle and help raise funds for Bexley Grammar School click on the link [here](#).

The Raffle will be drawn on Saturday December 14th by the PA Trustees and winners notified.



Sankaku Shotokan KARATE

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Free trial
lesson

**Now held at Bexley Grammar School
for BGS students and staff only**

Tuesdays 15:30 - 16:30

Instructors are DBS checked and insured

For further information regarding classes please contact:

Andy Ebdon (Bexley Grammar parent) 07403 879456

www.sskkarate.co.uk

info@sskkarate.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

December

Thursday 5th ~ The Ash Girl Performance

Friday 6th ~ The Ash Girl Performance

(tickets still available for tonight and tomorrow ~ see notice)



Friday 6th

Non uniform day (see notice)

Monday 9th ~ Week B

Monday 9th

Year 11 Mock Exams & Year 13 Part 2 Exams Study Leave begins

Saturday 14th

PA Raffle Drawn (see notice)



Wednesday 18th

Christmas Dinner in the canteen student main meal & dessert £3.60 ~
please ensure students have enough funds on their accounts. (see notice)

Thursday 19th

Last day of autumn term

January 2020

Monday 6th

First day of spring term ~ all students return to school

Tuesday 14th

Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4pm to 6.30pm