



**BEXLEY
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER

Bumper Christmas Edition

www.bexleygs.co.uk

12th December 2019



Last week 85 pupils, across 2 casts, performed the annual school play, which this year was 'The Ash Girl' by Timberlake Wertenbaker. Performed to about 800 audience members spanning 4 shows (including the entire Year 5 cohort of 6 different Primary schools in matinee!). It is a huge undertaking for the students involved and it is in these moments we see the best of them- talented, creative, hardworking, co-operative and entertaining! It's a pleasure to direct the Students every year and even after directing 12 school shows, it is still exciting and fulfilling. This is a testament to the continued brilliance of the students in the school; having to pretty much live in the theatre for a week and continually be full of energy; What a week it was! So much hard work and commitment from the cast, technicians and makeup team.



Ash Girl (Hannah Monksfield/ Maia Bourrelly) lives with her overbearing Step Mother (Ugne Stanzyte/ Kim Pajaziti) and her bullying Step Sisters, Ruth and Judith (Maisy Spencer and Maddy Hosier/ Nuala Cudmore and Eleanor Creevy). So far so Cinderella, but this version of the play has more emotional depth- the mother is obsessed with social standing (she has been abandoned by her husband after all). She constantly browbeats Ruth and Judith to be pretty and feminine so they can marry a man of high status, oppressing their natural interests in art and science. Ash Girl is suffering from depression, her sadness is manifested (Daniel 'Diego' Hughes and Devon Fell-Smith/ Eve Voice and Amy Brown) which the audience can hear and see on stage, telling her she ugly and worthless. She finds comfort hiding in 'The Ashes' and not going to the ball.



The audience arrived to an immersive scene, improvised by students from Drama club, where they were arriving at the party thrown by Princess Zehra (Zara Karim/ Miriam Basheer) to find a bride for her son Amir (Zak Bushaway/ Dan Faulkner). Each audience member was announced to Zehra as they arrived (Sir Andrew of Welling, Princess Margret of Sidcup) and treated as if they were a party guest, a lucky few being added to Paul (Tommy Brimble/ Max Dawkins) book about the most marriageable women. In the forest outside the castle The Seven Deadly Sins have taken on animal form and lie in wait to bring down mankind.



The rest of the plot is pretty much Cinderella, featuring lost slippers and amputated toes/ heels. Fortunately, the Good Fairy (Anya Scothern/ Anna Murati) was there to make sure Ash Girl found her happiness within herself, allowing her to find happiness with Amir.

It's not fair to mention too many students individually, because this really is a group effort- but I must say the Year 12s in the cast and those who aided with direction, those who painted the set and those who did the makeup on the night were so organised, self-motivated and reliable- a brilliant example of IB learners taking full advantage of a CAS opportunity and hopefully gained a sense of fulfilment from it.



Finally, I would like to quote what a student wrote to me in a thank you card "These are the memories I will take away with me for the rest of my life" creating plays is hard work, but it is very worth it.

Here is another student's account, Joe Turner from Year 8

I have loved my experience in Ash Girl. I was in the last school play "Charlie And



The Chocolate Factory” and I played the part of an Oompa Loompa. This year I played the part of “Glutton Toad” a greedy fat toad obsessed with food.

Some of the performances were to Primary Schools. The room was full of children from year five all excited to watch the show. It was quite scary performing in front of all the pupils, but once I got onto the stage the children found me very funny! The children loved the show and were all talking about it when leaving.

I have loved working on this giant play for the past few months and have loved being a part of it. I can’t wait for the next play!

If you missed The Ash Girl, The Next production will be by the Junior Shakespeare play- auditions 8th January and performed on the 29th and 30th April (with a Primary school tour).

Mr Otley, Head of Drama



Election Day Special ~ BGS Votes

On Thursday 12th December, BGS joined the rest of the UK in heading to the polls! Year 12 students organised a mock election to mirror the national one, hoping to educate students about our political system and get everyone thinking about the issues that affect us and the planet.

It was a lively campaign, with candidates standing for the Brexit Party, the Conservatives, the Communists, the Greens, Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

From posters to party rosettes, to the flagship debate on Tuesday 10th December, this saw the parties go head to head in the battle for the soul of Britain. From the climate emergency to healthcare, and from education to Brexit, students debated and discussed the most critical issues of our time.

On to the 12th itself, and students from Years 7 to 10 were all able to vote while many Year 11 and 13s joined in on their study leave.

As like any great election, there were highs, there were lows, there was suspected fraud and many promises made. However there could only be one winner...

Nuala Cudmore, Year 12

Turnout

Whole School - 70.3%

Number and Proportion of votes cast for each party is as follows...

Green Party - 325 (30.2%)
Labour Party - 285 (26.5%)
Communist Party - 147 (13.7%)
Conservative Party - 141 (13.1%)
Liberal Democrats 118 (10.9%)
Brexit Party - 55 (5.1%)



Spoiled ballots - 5 (0.5%)

I hereby declare that the **Green Party** have been elected and are the winners of the Bexley Grammar 'Mock' Election.

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

Key Stage 3 Creative Writing Competition

Thank you for all the fantastic entries we received for the MFL KS3 Creative Writing Competition. We received marvellous stories, poems and cartoon boards about bizarre animal creations and Christmas stories. The best entry prize went to Sai Varshita Vajrapu in Year 9 for her beautiful cartoon story of a goldfish who wanted to join in with the Christmas spirit and picked out a Christmas hat to wear! The best German entry went to Matilda Jackson in Year 7, the best French entry went to Elizabeth Conquest in Year 7. Well done!

Earl Asare in Year 9 received a special commendation for his Christmas poem encouraging us to think about the homeless at this time of year. What wonderful linguistic and creative talent we have in Years 7-9!

Mrs Rubbera, MFL Department



STEM News



The final of the annual House STEM competition took place this week. Teams of Years 8, 9 and 12 showcased their finished race cars and then we all enjoyed watching them in action with a nail biting photo finish race. To be honest, the photographic evidence was sometimes needed to establish which cars went more in the right direction than the others rather than actually crossed the finish line! Regardless, it was an amazing effort from all teams and the fact that they could build a working car from scratch in that short period of time is astounding.

Parent-governor Mr Woodhall kindly joined us to judge the teams' efforts, alongside head of DT Mr Reynolds. Teams were awarded points for the quality of finish, the design, teamwork and of course, the race. Mr Woodhall commented:

"It was a pleasure to spend time with such an enthusiastic and engaged group of people. I was impressed by the thought that had gone into all the designs and how articulately the students presented their work."

I have oversight of recruitment processes at Ford in Europe and the skills that the teams demonstrated in terms of developing prototypes and working together in small teams are exactly the sort of thing we are looking for in the industry."

Although, Kirkman were the clear winners, Wellman also had an excellent race with both these cars literally streaks ahead of the rest. All the teams did well and I was impressed with their resilience and team spirit throughout the competition. Final results were:

Kirkman ~ 1st
Wellman ~ 2nd
Collins ~ 3rd
Johnson ~ 4th
Mabbs ~ 5th
Prothero ~ 6th

What a fun end to the year!

Ms Lusted, Stem Coordinator



Annual BGS Christmas Card Competition Winner 2019

Back in October, students from all year groups were invited to submit their designs for the annual design a Christmas card competition. Mr Elphick and I judged a short-list of card designs with Mr Gilmore and Miss Harrison from the Art Department. There were so many genuinely excellent entries it made our task all the more challenging and choosing the winner was extremely difficult. We had to turn down so many designs that would clearly make excellent Christmas cards. However, after much debate, we unanimously agreed on the striking winning design created by **Emily Hoang** in Year 7, a very impressive achievement.

Emily's design has since been transformed into the official BGS Christmas card for 2019 and sent out to governors, friends of the school and ex-staff.

Congratulations Emily!

Mrs Arundel, School Office



PE News

Year 7 Netball club has been tremendously popular this year with over 30 girls attending on a weekly basis. The girls have shown consistent improvement over the autumn term showing vast progress in their defence and attacking skills. At training they have worked on their ball handling skills, interception and timing skills as well as perfecting their own positional skills. We have been very lucky to have some excellent coaching support from Miss Aspill, Katie (Year 12), Grace (Year 12) and Rebecca (Year 12) who have worked individually with students and teams to support their growth. Thank you to all involved and a huge thank you to all parents who have come along to support us!



Autumn Term Netball Awards

Congratulations to all members of Year 7 Netball but a loud shout out to the students below who have excelled at Netball this year:



Most Improved players (awarded to students who have shown improvement in game play)	Lola Bibby Precious Nwaekpe Alexsandra Valchanova
Top trainers (awarded to students who have worked hard in training to develop their own skills)	Rachel Wright Emily Hoang Poppy White
Future leaders (awarded to students who have worked with others to develop their skills)	Mia Millin Lottie Hooton
Players of the term (awarded to students who have shown great skill)	Alice Black Eloise Knowles Alexis Otse

The commitment to training has shown during our competitive matches where we have secured some excellent wins this term.



A Squad

Results

Harris Academy Falconwood 0
Bexley Grammar School 6

Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School 4
Bexley Grammar School 7

Bexleyheath Academy 1
Bexley Grammar School 14

Townley Grammar School 6
Bexley Grammar School 8



B Squad

Results

Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School 2
Bexley Grammar School 1

Bexleyheath Academy 0
Bexley Grammar School 11



Fixtures coming up:

Harris Garrard Academy (17th December 2019)
Trinity School (28th January 2020)
Haberdasher Askes Crayford (3rd March 2020)
Bexleyheath Academy (16th March 2020)
Townley Grammar (17th March 2020)



With our Bexley Tournament being played on 27th February 2020, we are excited to continue to train hard and keep the winning streak going.



Well done to every girl who has attended Netball club this year- we look forward to seeing you every Tuesday next term!

Miss Leffen, PE Department

Well done to our Year 9 and 10 footballers, who both secured very good wins to reach the quarter finals of the Kent Cup this week. The Year 9s were playing the defending champions and muscled their way to a 5-3 win, while the Year 10s enjoyed an easier time - strolling to a 5-0 win. The quarter finals will be after the Christmas holidays - so sweets and cakes should be kept to a minimum! Well done to managers Mr Gilmore (Year 10) and Mr Martin (Year 9) too for their hard work on a chilly afternoon.

Mr Lines, Head of PE



Congratulations!

A delayed, but well deserved congratulations to Joshua Azubuike, Esther Adeniran, George Cook, Daniella Ngenegbo, Eleanor Creevy and Shennell Issah for creating and delivering assemblies across the school, in celebration of Black History Month. The assemblies, taking place over two months, were interactive, well researched and engaging. Well done and thank you for all your hard work!

Ms Fuwa, Ms Macdougall and Ms Adeaga.



Homelessness

WE NEED YOUR HELP



In our local area alone there are over 3,000 people homeless.

8RPP are raising awareness for their chosen charity Bexley Winter Shelter. It is our most local homelessness charity which is trying to make a difference in our community. 8RPP have been speaking to Collins House students, running Kahoot quizzes, holding bake sales and carrying out mini demonstrations including sitting out during break in the cold weather with only a cardboard box for shelter. Please help 8RPP to by taking part in their challenge.

Please support 8RPP to make a difference in our local community this Christmas.



Banksy highlighting the issue through art

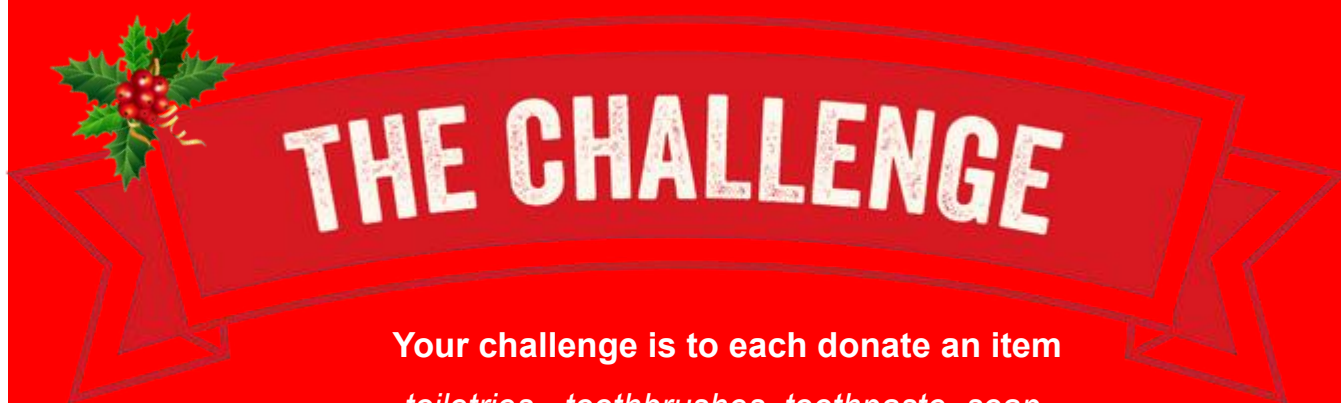




Take a look at Bexley Winter Shelter:

<https://www.bexleywintershelter.org.uk/>

Please support 8RPP to make a difference in our local community this Christmas.



Your challenge is to each donate an item
toiletries - toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap,
- gloves, hats, scarves or socks.

Ask your parents to put one more item into the weekly shop or think of it as an extra gift you can give this year for someone local who really needs your help and kindness.

Fill the Box in reception or hand to 8RPP



**Please support 8RPP to
make a difference in
our local community
this Christmas.**



2019

A Year to Remember

January

We participated in the Trinity Schools Book Award and voted 'Ink' by Alice Broadway as our favourite book.



January

BGS hosted 'Operating Live 2019'.

February

Our production of 'Charlie' was a huge SUCCESS!



February

We took part in the Great Rainbow Bake-Off Final.



March

World Book Day 2019 was a highlight!



March

40 IB students from Bergen County Academy, USA, spent the day studying with us.



April

Year 9s presented their Independent Learning Projects.

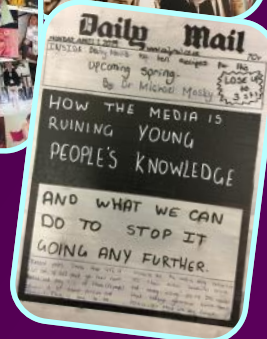
May

We started reporting on our amazing IB Students 2019 CAS Projects.



May

Work started on the BGS allotment.





June

Fun was had by all at our
Summer Fayre
& Sports Day!



July

'Sister Act' took centre stage as our
summer production and received
excellent reviews!



June

We visited
Saint-Malo
during Enrichment Week.



July

We celebrated tremendous
results from our first
fully IB cohort!



Diploma
Programme

July



By the end of the summer term,
the school community had
raised more than £25,000 to
support BGS students and for
worthwhile causes.

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY!**





September

On Friday 13th, we marked the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋节) by learning the song 'The Moon Represents my Heart' 月亮代表我的心 and then by making Moon Cakes.



September

International Week ~ We wore our traditional costumes in celebration international our heritage.



October

As a result of the **SuPportOurcouRTS** fund raising campaign, you helped to raise over £20,000. The tennis courts were resurfaced in the half term.

Thank you!

#SuPportOurcouRTS



August

We celebrated excellent GCSE results with our Year 11s. Two were officially recognised by Ofqual as being in the top 10 by scoring the top mark of 9 in all 12 of their GCSEs!

September

We also kick started our Fundraising efforts for the new academic year by hosting the Macmillan Coffee Morning and raising over £200.



October

Year 7 & 8 Robot Club was well established and work was underway to build and programme their own machines!

October

Year 7s performed in the annual Music Concert.





November

Year 9 visited Belgian battle fields and the whole school community observed 2 minutes silence, on 11th November, to remember.



November

No Pens Day challenged us!



November

The Geography departments report in November inspired us to travel to the Azores.



November

Year 7s took part in the 'Fully Booked Quiz' and won!



November

We announced and congratulated Kyle Alexander on his 1st International Cap for England in the Powerchair Football World Cup!



November

Our fabulous and hard working PA invited us to the annual BGS Christmas Fair where they raised over £1500 for BGS students.



November

Inspiring STEM Careers were highlighted at the Power Day.



December

Our annual Christmas Concert was spectacular!



December

We congratulated KS3 students took part in the 1st leg of the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. Many made it through to the invitation only, 2nd leg.



December

'The Ash Girl' was brilliant and our final production of the year!



Reporting your child absent

Dear Parents/Carers

Please remember to call the school on the first day of your child's absence and to keep in touch if they are absent for a few days.

All calls should be made to the student absences line **not reception or via the Director of Studies or Form Tutor**. This will ensure that we have the information as soon as possible.

Absence notes/emails must be sent directly to the attendance office in order for it to be authorised. **Please do not send to any other department.** No students will be allowed to leave school without a note/email/call from a parent, please ensure you provide one.

Mrs Jeffery: 7-11 years only - jeffery_j@bexleygs.co.uk

Mrs Thomas: Sixth Form only – thomas_t@bexleygs.co.uk

Thank you for supporting BGS in raising attendance.

Mrs Jeffery, Attendance Office



Thank you to our 315 Easyfundraising supporters!

At the time of writing, £806.56 was raised in the last 30 days (along with 27 new supporters). If we kept this up for a year, we would raise nearly £10,000! (If we doubled the number of supporters so far, we could be looking at £20,000 of free donations per year!)

Thank you for taking 3 minutes to join us and then remembering to do that extra click before you shop online.

If you haven't yet joined, simply click here and follow the simple instructions, making sure you add the donation reminder after you have signed up:
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bexleygrammar/>

Happy Christmas and enjoy your online shopping!

Thank you,

Mr Elphick and the Parents' Association

Christmas Fair

Also, a huge thank you to everyone who came to support the Christmas fair at the end of November. You raised over £1500 profit for the PA!

Thank you,

Parents' Association



ABRSM Instrumental and Voice Exams Spring 2020

Every year, we offer students at Bexley Grammar School the opportunity to take a music exam on their instrument or voice. If your child would like to take an ABRSM music exam at Bexley Grammar School in March 2020 and has been advised by their teacher, please complete the survey below to complete exam registration. **The deadline for entries is 26th January 2020.**



Exam Entry for ABRSM Spring 2020

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music

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



Thank you!

We would like to send a big thank you to everyone for coming out to support our Christmas Fair. We raised over £1500 on the day that will help fund school resources or initiatives! Thank you to the many students and parents who volunteered on the day. Best wishes for a lovely holiday,

BGS PA



Bexley Grammar School PA

Christmas Trees Update

Thank you to all those that bought a tree from us. This has made **£273** and will be spent on the school in the new year!



THE GREAT BGS BAKE OFF

Congratulations to our Star Bakers!

Many thanks to all the students who entered the Bake Off. Thank you to Alex Bailey & Sophie Neicho, Year 12 students for being our judges. It was very close, but the students below won Star Baker prizes at the Christmas Fair. The cupcakes were enjoyed by visitors to the Fair and made £99 for the BGS PA. Well done to all bakers!



Overall Star Baker — Omar Rabbette Year 7



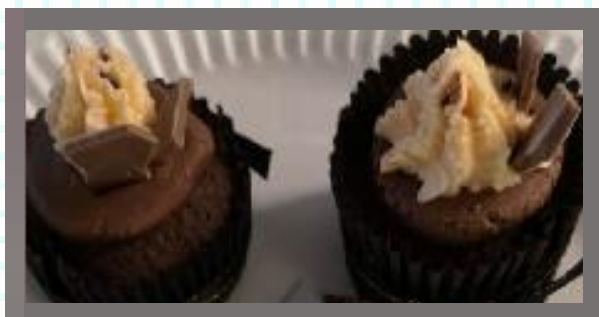
Year 7 Star Baker — Lucy Gowing



Year 8 Star Baker — Gracie Downes



Year 9 Star Baker — Billy McCann



Year 10 Star Baker — Hannah Donovan



Year 11 Star Baker — Sarah Sanz

News items you may have missed

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

**Still time to order!
Please order your
tickets by
Friday 13th
December**

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.

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



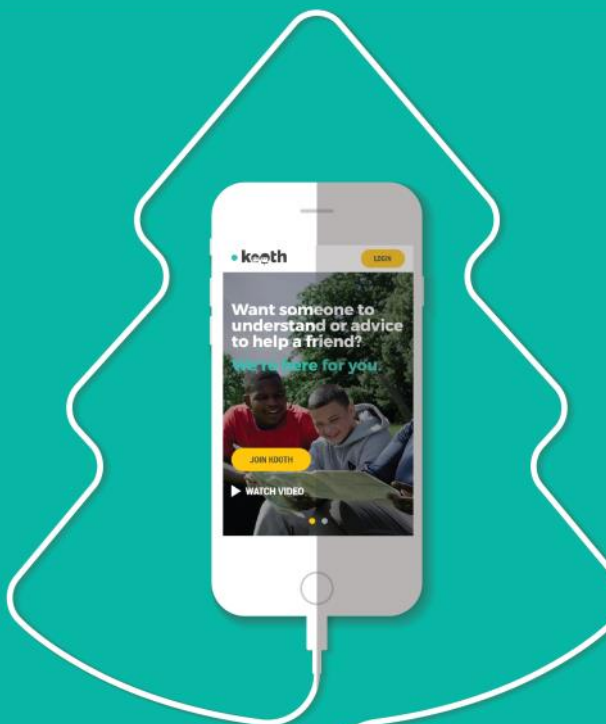
Chat to friendly counsellors online, 365 days a year



Read self-help articles written by other young people



Join peer-to-peer support forums



Visit kooth.com to sign up for free today

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





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

Saturday 14th

PA Raffle Drawn (see notice please order your tickets by Friday 13th)



Monday 16th ~ Week A

Monday 16th

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

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 ~ early finish

11.40am ~ Year 12

12.10pm ~ Year 7, 8 9, 10

January 2020

Monday 6th ~ Week B

First day of spring term ~ all students return to school

Tuesday 14th

Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4pm to 6.30pm

**Students return to school on Monday 6th January 2020
when it will be Week B on the Timetable**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

