

NEWS LETTER



5th March 2020

www.bexleygs.co.uk

BGS Senior Choir perform at Jack Petchey Perfect Pitch Finals at Cadogan Hall



Following on from our successful run at the regionals in January 2020, the BGS Senior Choir were back again to perform against all finalists in the Jack Petchey Perfect Pitch Finals at Cadogan Hall, West London. We were one of twelve groups to make the finals, and we were excited to perform and compete against the other groups!



We took our performances of 'Bad Guy' and 'It's My Life' up to the stage, and performed them with choreography and sang to our very best. Ray Morgan once again beatboxed for the Choir, and we worked hard to add in additional dynamics to both songs. The judging panel came from around the music industry, and were able to scrutinise every performance. The Senior Choir has worked incredibly hard in recent months to really gel together in our singing, and I am so proud of each and every one of them. To perform on stage at a world-class venue was a real privilege, and the other vocal groups were of an extremely high standard. Despite not winning, we had a fantastic evening and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, with Jack Petchey himself emailing us to congratulate our performance. We finished 9th overall, which we are very pleased about! Let's see if we can improve it again next year!

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music





Geography News

Have you heard of toilet twinning? Our Y8s certainly have. Read on to find out more!

Year 8 have taken part in the **first** ever BGS sponsored silence in their Geography lessons this week. The aim of this project was to raise enough money to twin with the BGS toilets with toilets in Africa. This initiative hopes to give access to a safe toilet in many rural villages in African countries.



8MML excited with their sponsorship form for their toilet twinning event

Why do toilets matter?

Water and sanitation projects enable families to build a toilet, have access to clean water, and to learn about hand washing and other hygiene principles. Dignity is restored when the whole family can use a private, hygienic toilet in their home and no longer have to squat in the bush. Furthermore, toilet blocks at school to help keep girls in education as they have access to adequate and private facilities.



8RPP completing their silence on Tuesday 21st January

Why this project was important to Year 8?

Year 8 is finishing their topic on the 'blessings and curses of Africa'. They have learnt that diarrhoea kills over 2,000 children a day and one of the solutions to improve health and quality of life is to improve hygiene and sanitation. They felt so strongly about the issues that they wanted to be part of the solution and this was a way that they could do it!

The final totals raised by each tutor group are as below:

8EAG: £90.08
8JR: £148.15
8LC: £200.85
8ML: £84.04
8MML: £557.29
8RPP: £122.75



As you can see these are phenomenal amounts of money raised! This brings the total raised by the whole year group as **£1203. 16!** Many congratulations. **Watch this space** to see news of our top fundraisers and where the toilets are located.

To find out more about this project go to <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>.

Miss Ashman, Geography Department



toilet twinning

Culture Club Review

The Incident Room

"The feminine body is expected to be flesh, but discreetly so;" Simone De Beauvoir

On the 27th February, a small group of Sixth Formers took a trip to the New Diorama Theatre organised by Culture Club. Tucked away in central London, the intimate eighty-seat theatre became the Millgarth incident room: the epicentre of 'Britain's biggest manhunt'. Set between 1975 and 1980, the play follows Sargent Megan Winterburn and the police as they work to catch the Yorkshire Ripper.

The Ripper is never seen. His features reflected only by photo fits. Neither is he heard, except through reported speech. Yet his presence is felt and is as tangible as any actor mere metres away. Peter Sutcliffe's name bears a chilling gravitas, when it is spoken it falls upon a silent audience. The characters, unaware of his true identity, file his record away. His name is lost in obscurity amongst thousands. The cruel dramatic irony of it all is excruciating.

Though about the ripper, the real focus of the play is the women: their pain, their suffering, but ultimately their lives. Megan Winterburn's pain is palpable. Though set in the incident room, the play takes place within Megan's mind many years later. She bears the brunt of the case and is still crippled with guilt for filing Sutcliffe away. She never leaves the incident room and is almost always on set, seemingly unable to move on. The way she is treated is upsetting. She is completely invisible; especially to the dogmatic George Oldfield, who is in charge of the investigation. She is overlooked by her superiors, her skills underappreciated, and is belittled by her co-workers. The irreverent Maureen Long becomes the mouthpiece for the plays silenced women. In a poignant moment of desperation, Maureen begs Megan to take her off the list of victims. Hundreds of women have come forward, desperate for notoriety, but Maureen wants to fade into obscurity. She is a victim now, she has become wholly defined by one man's actions and is unable to form an identity outside of this.

The idea of feminine respectability is a central theme within the play. A question of innocence is raised by the victims. Those attacked by the ripper were dominantly sex workers and have their morality examined by the police. Their prominent sexual agency diminishes their victimhood. One of the first lines spoken by Oldfield haunted me for the duration of the play. Upon the death of Jane Macdonald, a young shop assistant, he says 'He's killing innocent women now'. The 'less respectable' women are found guilty, much like their brutal and violent murderer. Their actions, deemed immoral, make them seem more deserving of death. As a result of the ripper's actions, restrictions were placed on women. Their bodies were an object of power and subjected to institutional regulation. These regulations play into a long-standing tradition of victim-blaming, in which the victim is partially at fault for the harm that befell them.

The story of the Yorkshire Ripper is not a new one. But The Incident Room provides a fresh retelling of the infamous events, giving voice to those overlooked. It is deeply harrowing but absolutely unmissable.

Jennifer Lake, Year 12



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Next week is British Science Week and we will be marking it with a number of activities across next week and the following week.

Years 7-10 will be taking part in activities during lessons which will allow them to explore a sample of the huge variety of science based careers out there. They will be able to get creative and work together just like real scientists and engineers and I look forward to seeing the outcomes!



BRITISH
ANTARCTIC
TERRITORY
Government



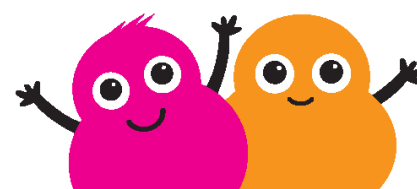
Even the Art department is getting involved with Year 8 students taking part in a national competition to design a stamp for the British Antarctic Territory. This is to mark the 200th year since the discovery of Antarctica and the best designs will be turned into real stamps! Good luck Year 8!



We are very excited to announce that we are being visited by High Commissioner, Dr Farah Faizal, from the Embassy for the Republic of the Maldives. On Thursday 12th March, she will be delivering a presentation on the effects of climate change on the Maldives. The lecture will be attended by our own Sixth Form students from a selection of subjects and also some students from other local Sixth Forms. The event will be covered by the Bexley Newshopper and the South London Press. So keep an eye out for that!

Ms Lusted, Science Department

In the week following British Science Week Year 8s will also be taking part in a Marine Engineering Workshop, supported by Sea Cadets and Seafarers UK. This is a fun, interactive workshop that has been very popular in the past here





PE News ~ Year 7 Netball Tournament

A Team

On the 3rd March, the Year 7 Netball teams went to a netball tournament at Haberdashers' Crayford Academy, this was against some Bexley schools for both A and B teams.

The first game the A team played was against Wilmington Grammar School and it was freezing, so we took a while to warm up. We drew 0-0, but even though we were off to a slow start, we didn't let that throw us off track. For the first game, Alice was voted as the player of the match for her excellent movement. Our second match was against Townley and now that we had warmed up and were used to the games we beat them 3-1. Everyone played amazingly throughout the court, but Lottie was voted out player of the match for her incredible defensive skill. The next game we played was against Trinity and we won 4-0, a great score. Precious played particularly well and was the player of the match for her interceptions. Our final game in the tournament was against Chis and Sid, but we lost due to unforced errors. They beat us 1-0 and so we came 3rd out of 10 teams. We then nominated our player of the tournament and Lottie won due to her overall skill and interceptions on the court. We all had a great time and this was an amazing experience for us. Last but not least, Special thanks to Katie in Year 12 for helping us in our training and coming with us to this tournament.

Emily Hoang, Year 7

B Team

On March 3rd, Bexley Grammar participated in a netball tournament with some stiff competition at Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy.

The first game was against Bexleyheath Academy's B team. The players were as follows: GK Yaenee, GD Siena, WD Hattie, C Rachel, GA Alexis and GS Alexandra. The player of the match was Yaenee for her incredible interceptions. Unfortunately, we lost 1-0 due to fumbles with the ball. The second game was against Haberdashers' A team. The players were GK: Demi, GD: Siena, WD: Poppy, C: Rachel, WA: Tilly, GA: Alexis and GS: Alex. The player of the match was Poppy because of her passion and drive. Unfortunately, we lost 1-0 due to a lack of running to create space. The third game was against Trinity's A team. The players were as follows: GK Demi, GD Poppy, WD Hattie, C Rachel, WA Tilly, GA Jana and GS Alex. The player of the match was Alex because of her movement to create space. Unfortunately, we lost 1-0 because of unforced errors. The fourth and final game was against Haberdashers' B team. The players were GK: Yaenee, GD: Poppy, WD: Siena, C: Rachel, WA: Tilly, GA: Alexis and GS: Jana. The player of the match was Rachel due to her constant availability. Luckily, we won 2-0.

Well done to Rachel for being an excellent and motivating team captain for the B team and well done to Tilly, who was voted Player of the Tournament for her constant availability, use of pace and hard work throughout the tournament right to the end. In Tilly's style, she always wants to improve. Special thanks go to Grace, Year 12, who helped and supported us during the tournament.

Demilade Samuel-Onette, Year 7



Library News

Anthony McGowan trip

I had the pleasure of taking a group of students to see the author Anthony McGowan at Central Library in Bexleyheath. His talk was captivating, funny and moving, as he described his life growing up in Leeds with little money and attending a school known for the brutality of both its students and staff. Our students, particularly enjoyed his tales of school bullies getting their comeuppance in gruesome (and graphic) ways. They asked some excellent questions and discovered that Anthony got his inspiration from a variety of books, from Dante's *Inferno* to *Mr Gum*.



We have Anthony McGowan's Barrington Stoke book series in the Library if any students would like to borrow it - it is aimed at teenagers who want to read something short, with simple language, but that has a plot that is both gritty and funny.



Anthony's new book, *Lark*, has been long listed for the Carnegie Medal this year, so I am hoping that it gets shortlisted and our new Carnegie reading group will get to experience this wonderful writer too.



Mrs Carey, School Librarian

Read for Good - Sponsored Read

For World Book Day we are launching a sponsored read for the charity Read for Good. You can sign up to read as many books (or chapters of books) in 3 weeks as you can, and raise money for new books for terminally ill children in hospital. Last year we raised **£282.12** for this excellent charity, and this year we are hoping to beat it!

Any student wishing to take part can sign up in the Library and collect a sponsorship pack. The student who raises the most money will be given a £5 book voucher.

For more information about what the charity does, please visit their website :

www.readforgood.org

Mrs Carey





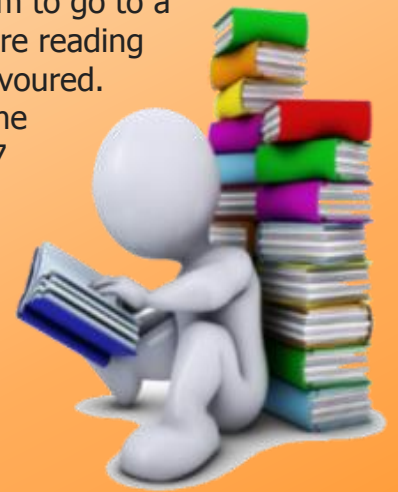
Book Donations

If you have any books that you no longer want, and would like them to go to a good home, please donate them to the school library. Our students are reading more and more books each year, so any donations will be eagerly devoured. If you have any books that you are worried might be too young for the Library, please include these as they are still very popular with Year 7 students.

If you would like to donate books, you can drop them at Reception or send them in with your child if they can possibly carry any more in their giant bags!

Thank you

Mrs Carey



News items you may have missed

Recycle with Michael

In the run up to Easter, Reception is running another Recycle with Michael competition for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to help raise funds for the school. We have an on-site Salvation Army Recycle Clothing Bin and students should have each received a bag in which to place any unwanted items of clothing or shoes. Each class will have the weight of bags recorded and the week before Easter the highest weight will win chocolates to share. The Salvation Army does a lot of great work with the homeless, elderly and others in need. The money raised from the sale of the clothing we recycle helps with this and we also get a share for the school. If students from the upper school would like to participate they can collect a bag from Reception. Filled bags should be returned to Reception.

Many thanks for your support,

Mrs Beasley, Reception

RECYCLE WITH MICHAEL
AND RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR SCHOOL!
BY DONATING THEIR CLOTHING AND SHOES





BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL MUSIC
DEPARTMENT

MUSIC QUIZ NIGHT 2020

**Come and test your knowledge at our
annual Quiz Night!**

**Bring nibbles and drinks for a fun evening
of quizzing and music from our very own
Big Band.**



SAT 14 MARCH 2020 | 7.00PM
MAIN HALL, BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
TICKETS: £5 PER PERSON

Tickets available in advance at
yourboxoffice.co.uk or on the door





Bexley Grammar School
Music Department
presents

SPRING CONCERT: 'HEROES AND VILLAINS'



TICKET: £6.50 / £4 CONCESSIONS

MONDAY 23 MARCH 2020, 6PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON YOURBOXOFFICE.CO.UK

(SEARCH BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL)



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CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION



**BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Wine Tasting EVENING!

FRIDAY 15 MAY | 7.30PM



£20

Per ticket

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ORDER TICKETS:
www.bgspa.co.uk/winetasting



Lost Property ~ To report a lost item please click on the link [here](#).

Forthcoming Events

March

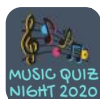
Monday 9th ~ Week B

Tuesday 10th

Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4pm to 6.30pm

Saturday 14th

Music Quiz Night 2020, 7pm (see notice)



Tuesday 17th

Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4pm to 6.30pm

Monday 23rd

Spring Concert 'Heros & Villains' 6pm (see notice)



April

Friday 3rd

Last full school day before Easter Holiday

Sunday 5th

Closing Date for Channel 4 'Junior Bake Off' Competition (see notice)



Monday 20th

First day of the summer term ~ all students return to school

May

Friday 8th

Early Spring Bank Holiday ~ school closed to students except for IB exam students

Friday 15th

PA ~ Wine Tasting Event 7.30pm (see notice)



June

Wednesday 24th

Contingency day for GCSE examinations