

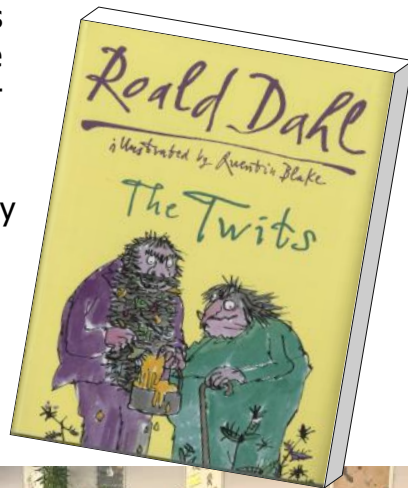
# World Book Day 2020!

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, the most important date in the English department came again: World Book Day! Students, both young and old, took part in a large array of literary-themed activities, such as: guess the prop; quizzes, and 'drop everything and read'.

There were so many amazing costumes! The Year 7s get more creative each World Book Day. At break, everyone who dressed up (including teachers and the English prefects) gathered in the Library to take a group photo. There was a diverse range of characters, stretching the entirety of the literary canon. My favourite costume had to be Mr Griffin and Mrs Carey, who made a great Mr and Mrs Twit.

At 2.50pm, everyone in their lessons put down their pens and swapped it for a book. 'Drop Everything and Read' showcased just how important reading is, even if it is a mere 15 minutes a day. Plus the school was the quietest it has ever been!

The Year 8s were very lucky and were visited by Sufiya Ahmed, the author of *'Secrets of the Henna Girl'*. Budding creative writers received a great



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

5 MARCH 2020

## NEWS LETTER



12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

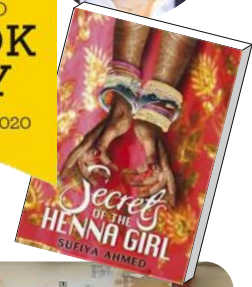
[www.bexleygs.co.uk](http://www.bexleygs.co.uk)



workshop delivered by Ahmed herself and got to talk with the author.

World Book Day is also the chance for some (friendly) competition. Each form worked to find out what the English teachers were dressed as. There was also 'guess the prop', where students had to identify iconic book items. How could I forget to mention the quiz, made by the English prefects and Mr Morris? Each key stage had its own quiz designed to test the extent of their literary knowledge.

World Book Day is always a jam-packed fun-filled day as well as an amazing chance to celebrate the importance of literature. Massive thanks are owed to Mr Griffin, Mrs Carey, and the entirety of the English department and English Prefects, who helped to organise the day.



**Jenni Lake, Year 12**

## Success at the Bexley Young Musician of the Year Awards 2020

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March, two of our students, Charlie Keeling and Mia Chan, competed against eight other students from across the borough for the Bexley Young Musician of the Year. We are delighted to report that Charlie Keeling was crowned Bexley Young Musician for his brilliant performances.



Mia Chan opened the competition, with two pieces: 'Intermezzo' by Brahms and John McCabe's Capriccio and Toccata from 'Five Bagatelles'. She performed both of her pieces with conviction and really sought to tell the story of the music in the Brahms. This was Mia's second outing at the Bexley Young Musician.

Charlie Keeling performed three pieces to show off his skills on the trumpet: Goedicke's Concert Etude Op. 49, Leonard Bernstein's 'Red, White and Blues' and a final flourish was had with Vizzutti's 'Flamenco'. Charlie showcased the full range of tonal colour on the trumpet and wowed the audience with the attention to detail and clarity of his sound. Even the judges sat up and listened in awe as Charlie showcased his abilities that are mature for his years.

Congratulations to both Charlie and Mia, you both thoroughly entertained in the final and we look forward to many more concerts in the future!

You can catch Charlie and Mia performing at our annual Spring Concert on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, which this year is based on 'Heroes and Villains'. Tickets available on [yourboxoffice.co.uk](http://yourboxoffice.co.uk) (search 'Bexley Grammar School').

**Mrs Goddard, Head of Music**



## ABRSM Music Exam Results - Spring 2020

I am delighted to announce that several of our students at Bexley Grammar School have passed their recent music exams that they took in March 2020. It is wonderful to hear of successes in students' instrumental and singing lessons; not only do music exams prepare students for further graded exams, it also marks an achievement for every student that they can perform to a certain level.

I would like to congratulate the following students - you've worked so hard!

### ***Mrs Goddard, Head of Music***

James Orchard	Piano	Grade 1 Distinction
William Andrew	Piano	Grade 1 Merit
Joshua Morris	Piano	Grade 1 Merit
George Cook	Piano	Grade 1 Pass
Alex Anastasov	Piano	Grade 3 Merit
Esose Obhio	Flute	Grade 1 Pass
Gemma Sharkey	Flute	Grade 5 Merit
Madeleine Hosier	Flute	Grade 5 Merit
Parris Brockwell-Low	Clarinet	Grade 2 Distinction
Leila Chan	Clarinet	Grade 3 Merit
Abbie Hewitt	Clarinet	Grade 6 Merit
Fola Akinsuyi	Clarinet	Grade 6 Pass
Ethan Abbate	Alto Saxophone	Grade 5 Distinction
Simon Le	Alto Saxophone	Grade 5 Pass
Emilia Morgan	Singing	Grade 3 Distinction
Will Henderson	Euphonium	Grade 5 Merit
Anna Hardie	Trumpet	Grade 4 Pass
Sophia Marian	Recorder	Grade 1 Merit
Oliver Knight	Cello	Grade 5 Pass







## BGS Information Evening for Year 11 and Year 12 Students & Parents/ Carers Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Getting onto the right course at the right university is more important now than ever. While achieving good academic results is always important, the most popular and competitive courses and universities are looking for more than that – students need also to show evidence of personal qualities, extra activities and knowledge of their subject beyond what has been learned through an exam syllabus. Universities are particularly impressed by long-term commitment, which is why it is important for students to think about this now.

We are therefore holding an information evening on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, to discuss how students can strengthen their applications, and how parents can support them. Further details will be shared with all Year 12 and all Year 11 students, parents and carers, via email, during the week beginning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

***Ms Stoddard, Director of Learning, Key Stage 5***  
***Mrs Ellis, Assistant Headteacher***



in partnership with



## Wellbeing Award for Schools

### 2020–2023

### Wellbeing Stakeholder Questionnaires

Just a reminder that our wellbeing stakeholder questionnaires, shared with all students, parents and staff, via email, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, remain open for the week ahead. Please take the opportunity to record your views and experience of the school to date, to help us to evaluate this aspect of our work and to set priorities for the coming year.

***Miss Brand, Mrs Ellis and Ms Hanington***



## Exams News ~ Important message for all Year 11 students

The awarding bodies have designated **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020** as "contingency day" for examinations. This is in the event of national or local disruption to examinations. It means that students need to be available up to and including the contingency day.



***Mrs Bono, Examinations Officer***

## Year 11 ~ Revision advice for parents/ carers and students

Please see some useful links that are being shared with students within school to support them with their revision for their GCSEs this summer. I hope that these links are useful for all students and provide guidance for you to support your son/ daughter through their revision at home.

Revising effectively

[https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/Education/images/Resources/how\\_can\\_students\\_revise\\_effectively-600px.jpg](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/Education/images/Resources/how_can_students_revise_effectively-600px.jpg)

Good revisers vs Poor revisers

<https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/Education/images/Resources/good-vs-bad-revisers-600px.jpg>

Flashcards

[https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/Education/images/Resources/using\\_flash\\_cards\\_to\\_revise\\_600px.jpg](https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/Education/images/Resources/using_flash_cards_to_revise_600px.jpg)

Retrieval Practice

<https://www.innerdrive.co.uk/Education/images/Resources/9-ways-to-use-retrieval-practice.jpg>

Revision help for students and parents

<https://blog.innerdrive.co.uk/intended-vs-actual-revision-behaviour>

A resend of the subject specific revision compiled by staff

<https://www.bexleygs.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1545&type=pdf>

A template for a Revision timetable - please click the link and make a copy or download for editing.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KWEqhTyihTeL3hLW2GQR2VuZ9MKtHVXJ3UqIGT5azr8/edit>

Subject Clinic Timetable:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BQCrMkmYE4LO5NNHwbaj6xnLSRfDRCFKzSVN36ZkgZQ/edit#gid=0>

If you have any questions, please let me know.

***Mr Martin, Director of Studies, Year 11***

# Better Revision

For more advice, check out:

[blog.innerdrive.co.uk/10-ways-to-revise-better](http://blog.innerdrive.co.uk/10-ways-to-revise-better)

## STOP PROCRASTINATING

According to InnerDrive, 75% of students consider themselves procrastinators, with 50% doing so regularly and to a level that is considered problematic.

Often the most difficult part is the start! If you can do just a few minutes of revision, you are more likely to continue it – something called the *Zierganick effect*.

## AVOID DISTRACTIONS

Create a space for yourself which allows you to get on with revision to the best of your ability. Avoid places where you might get distracted.

## MAKE IT COUNT

No matter how much time you dedicate to revision, it will be worthless if your revision isn't up to scratch. Use "active" revision techniques such as flashcards, testing yourself, teaching others, or mindmaps.

In a study by Stanford University, researchers found that students who strategised their revision scored, on average, a third of a grade higher than their classmates.<sup>1</sup>

In most circumstances it's not about how many hours you spend, but about how much you get done in that time. Try to keep these goals in mind:

- Understand the topic (spend as long as you need)
- Review the topic (on a different day, 30-50 mins)
- Second review (on another day for 15-30 minutes)
- Short refreshers until you've committed the topic to memory (5-15 minutes)

## THE POMODORO TECHNIQUE



<sup>1</sup> Strategic Resource Use for Learning: A Self-Administered Intervention That Guides Self-Reflection on Effective Resource Use Enhances Academic Performance—P. Chen, O. Chavez et al. 2017

## Before you start...

### EAT BREAKFAST

Research has found that skipping breakfast significantly reduces your attention span and your ability to recall information.



### NO PHONES



Phones are not just a distraction from revision. Studies have shown that just seeing a phone reduces your ability to focus, and undergraduate students who spend more time texting or using social media get lower grades.

## During...

### SPACE YOUR REVISION

Footballers don't only train right before a match. Singers don't only practise just before a show. Ten 30 minute sessions over 10 days will be much more effective than doing 5 consecutive hours the day before the exam.

### FRESH AIR AND EXERCISE



Staying inside and revising all day is a recipe for disaster. Take breaks and get outside. It will help you to focus better when you return to your studies, and exercise helps reduce any stress you might be feeling.

### TEST YOURSELF

Testing yourself is one of the best ways to improve your ability and confidence in the long run.. Ineffective cramming might help you scrape a pass now, but you will have to do it all over again next year... invest in good revision practice now and save yourself hours in Year 11.



### SLEEP

Good sleep is essential for our memory. Regular bedtimes, not using your phone before bed, and regular "wind-down" routines will all contribute to better mood and better memory.





Public Health  
England



# Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

## How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

## How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

## How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

### If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it  
with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it  
by washing  
your hands with  
soap & water or  
hand sanitiser

### You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks  
& sport  
activities



Before  
cooking  
& eating



SCHOOL  
ETC.  
On arrival at  
any childcare  
or educational  
setting



After using  
the toilet



Before  
leaving  
home



Try not to touch your  
eyes, nose, and mouth  
with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come  
into contact with your mouth  
such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items  
such as bedding, dishes,  
pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: [campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools)

## What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings [gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19](https://gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19). Parents can visit [NHS.UK](https://NHS.UK) to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China (returned in the past 14 days) should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days.

See [NHS.UK](https://NHS.UK) for advice on coronavirus.

**If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately**





Parents'  
Association

# QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR 7:30 START

TICKETS £5 PER PERSON.

MAX. 8 PER TEAM

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINK.

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#)

TO COMPLETE A REGISTRATION  
FORM AND ENTER YOUR TEAM.



PLEASE BOOK EARLY WHERE  
POSSIBLE TO ALLOW FOR  
PLANNING THIS EVENT  
THANK YOU!





News items you may have missed



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.**



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

Tickets available in advance at  
[yourboxoffice.co.uk](http://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](http://YOURBOXOFFICE.CO.UK)**

**(SEARCH BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL)**





# JUNIOR BAKE OFF



...IS LOOKING FOR THE UK'S  
BEST YOUNG BAKERS  
AGED 9 - 15



[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2020**

Enquiries:

[applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk](mailto:applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk)



**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](http://www.bgspa.co.uk/winetasting)



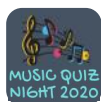
Lost Property ~ To report a lost item please click on the link [here](#).

## Forthcoming Events

### March

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Music Quiz Night 2020, 7pm (see notice)



**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> ~ Week A**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4pm to 6.30pm

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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



**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

PA ~ Quiz Night 7pm (see notice)



### April

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Last full school day before Easter Holiday**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**

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



**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

### May

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Early Spring Bank Holiday ~ school closed except for students taking IB exams**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**

PA ~ Wine Tasting Event 7.30pm (see notice)



### June

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

Contingency day for GCSE examinations (see notice)