

# NEWSLETTER



5<sup>th</sup> November  
2020

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

## Lest We Forget

Remember ~ on 11<sup>th</sup> November ~ at 11 am ~ for 2 Minutes .





## Hearts of Midlothian

WWI started on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1914 after failed diplomatic efforts to halt unrest in the Balkans, Eastern Europe. The widely held belief was that the "war would be over by Christmas". However, the nations' leaders felt otherwise. Conscription (forcing people to join the army) was unacceptable, so Secretary for War Lord Kitchener needed to encourage people to volunteer to join the British Expeditionary Force. Lord Derby was the first to implement the idea of a "Pals" Battalion in Liverpool. Inside a week, there were enough volunteers to fill four battalions. The idea was that men would be more likely to join up if their pals also joined the war effort.

One of the most famous pals' battalions was the Accrington Pals, near Manchester. 1000 men joined inside the first few days of September 1914. In 1916, the British Expeditionary Force led an attack by the River Somme. On the first day of the battle, July 1<sup>st</sup>, over 50,000 men were killed or wounded; the largest single loss in British Army history. Of the Accrington Pals, 235 were killed and over 350 wounded in the first 20 minutes of action. There was not a street in Accrington that didn't have a casualty. In Welling and Bexley, men joined the Royal West Kent Regiment, which saw action in India and Gallipoli, as well as in France.

Ordinary people joined the fight against the Germans and her allies, and this included sports stars too. Clapton Orient's (later Leyton Orient) players and staff joined the army, inspiring thousands of their fans to do the same. This is the story of Hearts of Midlothian. The 1914/15 season had started well for Hearts with 8 consecutive victories. However, with the war continuing, Hearts' players and staff decided they should join the war effort on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1914. The players combined military and football training to go 20 games unbeaten and be top of the league by February. However, the double life began to take its toll on the players, often engaging on night marches the night before crucial fixtures. Most of the team were sent to France before the end of the season. This is the story of some of their players...



### Lance Corporal James Boyd

I was a goalkeeper. I was killed on a 'quiet day' on 3rd of August 1916 at the Somme. I was 21 years old.



### Sergeant John Allan

I played centre back. I was caught in deadly crossfire and was the last Hearts player to be killed on 22<sup>n</sup> April 1917. I was 30 years old.



### Private Ernest Edgar Ellis

I played in defence. I also fought at the Somme in 1916. I was killed in action aged 30.



### Private Patrick James 'Paddy' Crossan

I played right back. I was twice wounded and gassed at least once. I returned to play football after the war.



### Sergeant Duncan Currie

I played at full back. I fought at the Somme in 1916 and was shot in the shoulder. I died from my wounds, aged 23.



**Private Willie R. Wilson**

I played in midfield. I was wounded in the shoulder. I scored a hat-trick at Ibrox, the home of Rangers.

**Lieutenant A. B. Ness**

I played on the wing. Twice wounded in the shoulder. I continued to play after the war.

**Private Henry Wattie**

I played in attacking midfield. At the Somme in 1916, I fell and my body was never recovered. I was 23 years old.

**Private James Hodge Speedie**

I played left wing. I fought in Belgium on the 25th of September 1915 and was killed during the battle. My body was never found. I was 21.

**Corporal Tom Gracie**

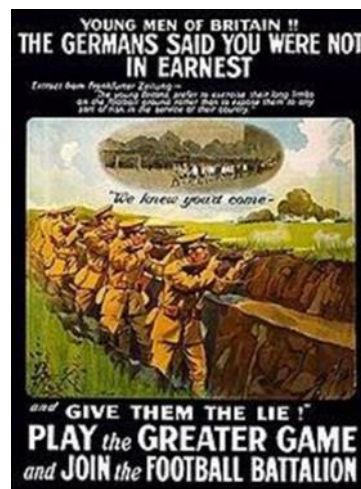
I played as a striker. I fought at the Somme in July 1916 and was killed in action, aged 26. I am the only Hearts player who died during the war to have a known grave.

**Corporal Alfie E. Briggs**

Severely wounded in the back at the Somme in 1916 and I left the army, never to play football again.

WWI affected everyone, from the rich to poor, famous to ordinary. Life was changed beyond recognition. Things we take for granted today, and even then, were removed from everyday life, some never to return. This was the Hearts team in 1914, a number of these never returned and never played again. Hearts finished 2<sup>nd</sup> that year.

There are two war memorials to mark this period. The McCrae's Battalion Great War Memorial in Contalmaison and the Heart of Midlothian War Memorial in Haymarket, Edinburgh donated to the city by the club in 1922. The latter is currently in storage due to the Edinburgh Trams work. A further memorial commemorating the 1914 Hearts team has been proposed by the club. An annual pilgrimage is held by football supporters to Contalmaison every year, whilst Hearts hold their memorial services at Haymarket or, whilst it is in storage, at Tynecastle Stadium.

**Mr Martin, History Department**

P	Team	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Celtic	38	30	5	3	91	25	76	65
2	Heart of Midlothian	38	27	7	4	83	32	51	61
3	Rangers	38	23	4	11	74	47	27	50
4	Morton	38	18	12	8	74	48	26	48
5	Ayr United	38	20	8	10	55	40	15	48
6	Falkirk	38	16	7	15	48	48	0	39
7	Partick Thistle	38	15	8	15	56	58	-2	38
8	Hamilton Academical	38	16	6	16	60	55	5	38
9	St. Mirren	38	14	8	16	56	65	-9	36
10	Hibernian	38	12	11	15	59	66	-7	35
11	Airdrieonians	38	14	7	17	54	60	-6	35
12	Dumbarton	38	13	8	17	51	66	-15	34
13	Kilmarnock	38	15	4	19	55	59	-4	34
14	Dundee	38	12	9	17	43	61	-18	33
15	Aberdeen	38	11	11	16	39	52	-13	33
16	Third Lanark	38	10	12	16	51	57	-6	32
17	Clyde	38	12	6	20	44	59	-15	30
18	Motherwell	38	10	10	18	49	66	-17	30
19	Raith Rovers	38	9	10	19	53	68	-15	28
20	Queen's Park	38	4	5	29	27	90	-63	13



# Year 8 Diploma

We are pleased with the progress that Year 8 students have made to date with the Diploma activities that they have been assigned so far. Their efforts on subjects set during lockdown does them credit. These subject specific projects will continue through until Easter when all the grades will be collated and an overall grade will be generated in conjunction with the CAS element of the Diploma.

The students are being introduced this week to the CAS element of the Diploma - Creativity, Action & Service. CAS is one of the fundamental elements of the IB Diploma programme followed by our students in the Sixth Form. Year 8 students are required to record their activities for each aspect, to achieve a total of 15 hours across the three aspects by the end of the spring term (a minimum of 2 hours of each).

They have been given some suggestions on possible activities: e.g.

**Creativity** - an art or photography project

**Action** - practice sessions for a sports team (lockdown permitting!); a walk or cycle in the park

**Service** - baby-sitting for a younger sibling, helping a neighbour with their shopping.

This is not intended to be arduous for the students, but a variety of enjoyable activities to introduce them to the concept of CAS in readiness for their future IB studies.

Thank you for your continued support of the Year 8 Diploma.

***Mr Skinner & Mrs Spencer***







# **Live chat with Space Engineers**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, M16 start of lunch**

**Quiz real engineers about their exciting jobs and how they became engineers in space exploration and astronomy.**

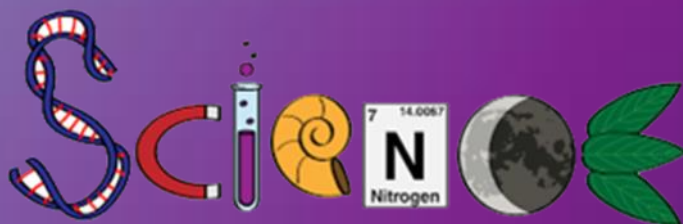
**A live text-based chat for 30 minutes with real engineers.**

## **What will you ask them?**

- **Have you been to space?**
- **What subjects did you like at school?**
- **What do you like about your job?**
- **What is your day to day work like?**
- **How do I become a space engineer?!**



**Students see  
Ms Lusted's  
email to  
take part**



# Club

## Live chat with space engineers

Week 1- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov M16 start of lunch

Quiz real engineers about their exciting jobs and how they became space engineers.

A live text based chat for 30 minutes with real engineers.

What will you ask them?

- Have you been to space?
- What subjects did you like at school?
- Have you designed or built a rocket?
- How do I become a space engineer?!

Students see  
Ms Lusted's  
email to  
take part

Meets: Week B ~ Wednesday lunch in M16  
(come at the start of lunch)

A science club with a difference!

Session 1 - Live online chat with real SPACE ENGINEERS

Session 2 - Come along to find out the fortnightly challenge. Watch a cool science demo then try it at home!

Session 3 - Share your experiences of the last challenge and find out the next one!









# NORDMANN FIR CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE



- \* The BGS Parent's Association is pleased to offer discounted Nordmann Fir Christmas trees to all BGS families, staff, friends and neighbours.
- \* The trees come in a wide range of sizes available from £20 – £55. They have excellent needle retention and soft, deep green foliage.
- \* All proceeds will go toward school resources and initiatives

To order your tree, visit: [www.bgschristmastrees.co.uk](http://www.bgschristmastrees.co.uk)

**Orders are due by Thursday 26 November**





Blood and Transplant

# We are holding a blood donation session

at **St Michael's Community Centre**, Wrotham Road,  
Welling DA16 1LS on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
and have appointments available between **13:45 – 20:00**

To book an appointment

visit us at **blood.co.uk**

download our app **NHSGIVE BLOOD**

call us on **0300 123 23 23**

We have social distancing measures in place for the safety of our donors and staff so ask that you come alone to session and, where possible, do not bring children at this time.





## News Items you may have missed

### Year 11

The Revision Booklet has been distributed electronically this week to parents/carers and students in Year 11. The booklet is also on the school website and can be viewed by clicking on the link [here](#).

# Bexley Grammar School



**Year 11**  
**Preparing for Revision**  
**2020 – 2021**





Paper poppies, enamel badges, snap rulers, zip pulls and wristbands will be available to buy in the foyer outside Reception during break time from, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Please support the Royal British Legion.

Thank you



## Report Lost Property

Please help us to help you by putting your child's name in all their belongings so that we can return them to their owners. Please report lost property by clicking on the link [here](#). Thank you for your cooperation.

***Reception Team***

## Forthcoming events/ Important dates for your diary

### November

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Week B

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - GCSE Mock Examinations begin**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - GCSE Mock Examinations end**