

NEWSLETTER



1st April 2021
www.bexleygs.co.uk

Final Results

House Year 2020-21

1st ~ 84 points
Johnson

2nd ~ 70 points
Kirkman

3rd ~ 69 points
Mabbs

Joint 4th ~ 66 points
Prothero
Collins

6th ~ 38 points
Wellman





English News

Year 7 Creative Writing Club

Our very first Creative Writing Club of the year was great! Our English Prefects, Maya Bhogal and Connor Elliot, led a session virtually. Students were able to practice writing using prompts and share their ideas with each other. Thanks again to Maya and Connor for their engaging first session - it was very well received!

Please remember: if you are in Year 7 and would like to join the waiting list for this club, please email Ms Adeaga (adeaga_s@bexleygs.co.uk).

Ms Adeaga

A Vienna Night

A crow glided over the red rooftops of Vienna. Under its streamlined body, far below, a tram rattled along between stone facades. If the crow had been any lower, its beady eyes would have spotted a young face in one of the windows, blinking as the tram rushed by in a blur. Behind him, his grandmother smiled fondly, gazing at his silhouette. She pushed a mug of cocoa to him along the windowsill. David turned around and smiled. He tried to thank her but she interrupted him, "drink up or it'll get cold!" He took a sip and relished as the warmth spread through him. "Would you like to hear a story?" she asked as she placed her mug on the windowsill with a clink. David replied that he did.

"In this story, there's a little girl. She lives in Vienna in a small flat above Herr Gelber's bakery. She loves watching the city from her windowsill." David's grandmother sighed wistfully. "One night, after the anniversary of Mozart's concert at the Schonbrunn Palace, she looks out of her window. A bright light moves quickly down the street. The little girl races out of her flat and down the stairs. She pushes open the door and..."

The anniversary of Mozart's concert at the Schonbrunn Palace was over. The full moon hung over Vienna. *It was only a story*, David thought. He heaved open the oak door, twice his size. The streetlights illuminated every shiny cobble of the street. The building across the road loomed over him. And then he heard it. A roaring, rattling, clanging, rhythmic beating... and the gentle tinkling of a piano. The noise slowly subsided. The tram stopped.

David felt giddy as he boarded it. It was an old one that rocked when you stepped on. Just like his grandmother said. Inside, a small flickering light hung from the low ceiling. He was the only passenger. The driver's seat was empty. Without warning, the tram jolted and started moving. The noise began again in a clamorous crescendo, beating in time with his heart. The city melted into a blur.

Suddenly, warm light erupted around him. Men and women in flamboyant





dress sat in a semicircle. All the eyes in the hall were set upon a young boy on a stool at a piano. He took a deep breath, and the room filled with harmonious melodies, fluttering around each other like invisible butterflies. The whispering in the room has ceased, and no-one dared even to take another candied orange rind, for fear of disturbing the perfect pitch. Mellow notes ricocheted around the gilded ranks of velvet seats. David understood how the little girl in the story felt. He wondered if she was real too.

When the lights eventually dimmed, he was looking out of the window of an old tram, rocking gently as it sped along the tracks. It came to a halt in front of his flat. He alighted and listened as the roaring, rattling, clanging and rhythmic beating faded away. He was left with the gentle tinkling of a piano.

And then... silence.

Lev Griffin, Year 7

The *Qingming* Festival 清明节 also called Tomb Sweeping Day 扫墓, also referred to as the Pure Brightness Festival, pays respect to ancestors and celebrates the warming weather of spring. It is a time to honour the past in a celebratory manner that allows for both reflection and renewal on the 105th day after the Winter Solstice 冬至, which is around the 4th/5th of April. This tradition started in the Zhou Dynasty (1046–221 BC), and has a history of over 2,500 years.



Chinese
QingMing
Festival
April 4.
2021

In Chinese, Qingming (清明) means 'clearness' and 'brightness'. The origin of the name is related to the weather in this season. At the beginning of April, it becomes noticeably warmer and brighter in northern/central China (this happens earlier in south China). People start to wear light clothes and walk outside to feel the spring atmosphere.

All of the BGS Chinese learners from KS3 to KS5 had a great time celebrating the Qingming Festival in the classroom with their friends with cultural activities, including Spring outing 踏春, parachute throwing and making spring rolls 春卷.

"I learnt that the Chinese family hold the afterlife in high regards, and respect their ancestors and passed loved ones a lot". **Ruth Yehualashet**

"I found the lesson learning about the Qingming festival very enjoyable. I liked the fact that we got to try and make food that is a traditional part of the festival as well as learning a lot about it. I would definitely recommend learning about this festival to others as well as learning about other traditional Chinese festivals. My favourite part of the lesson was getting to go outside and throw the parachutes up in the air as it was fun and it was fun to do with my friends. I also enjoyed watching the videos and learning about the because I didn't know what it was before the lesson. I learnt that people give gifts to those they have lost. I found that very interesting. Overall, I really enjoyed learning about the festival". **Rebecca Elkins (百加)**





"Today we experienced some of the Chinese traditions in the QingMing Festival. We had wraps with rice paper which was to be put in hot water in order to eat. Inside we put pasta with cheese or tomatoes. I picked cheese. We also played with kites outside which i enjoyed the most and we played a game to see whose kite would go higher. Traditionally, in China they would sweep the graves of their ancestors who passed away to show appreciation and love. Next time I would like to know what other activities they did to show their appreciation to the dead. Overall, I really enjoyed this Festival because I experienced lots of new activities and played games". **Elizaveta Newton**

"This lesson helped to teach me about how important these festivals are. We took part in various activities, including making spring rolls (with cold fillings because fire isn't allowed on this day), throwing parachutes and trying traditional Chinese rice sweets - which I was to try but I would recommend. I really enjoyed the parachute throwing because we got to go outside and it was funny when it flew away and we had to run to catch it. I would recommend learning about this festival because it broadens your knowledge about Chinese culture and the importance behind it". **Scarlett Barber**

"I think it is good to learn a bit about the culture of the language you are learning. It is respectful and can help you understand more. The Chinese festival, QingMing, was very interesting. They eat special food, go to the graves of ancestors, tidy it up by sweeping and then burn paper gifts they think their ancestors would like, such as paper money. It informs us that they believe that everyone should be loving and grateful towards their family. In the Western World, people such as myself, will say "I love you" to my family. Whereas in China, they show it through their actions, such as taking care of them when they are old. The QingMing festival is very fun, but teaches us good morals". **Samuel Ojeabulu**

"Celebrating the QingMing or Pure Brightness festival helped shed light on the care Chinese people give to their deceased family members. On this festival, Chinese people commemorate their deceased ancestors by sweeping the grave and burning pieces of paper in order to fulfil their needs in heaven. During our Chinese class, we learnt about the origins of this major festival and made some traditional food indicative of what Chinese households would eat on this day. As always, we learnt some relevant vocabulary and how they interlinked with the words we already knew. Nonetheless, the festival was fun and interesting". **Majeed Shakeel**
(基尔)

"Today, we learnt about the 清明节 (Festival of Pure Brightness). It was extremely interesting and eye-opening. The entire class we're excited when we saw that we were doing a cultural lesson as they are always fun. The Qingming festival is a 3 day holiday when loving children pay respects to their dead ancestors. They sweep the graves, burn incense and paper items then go on an outing where they fly their kites and spend time with their family. They traditionally eat cold food on the day. We made a spring roll each and ate glutinous rice rolls. These festivals are very interesting and always one of the more enjoyable lessons". **Rifad Shahul Hameed**

"This lesson was a lot of fun as we were able to experience Chinese culture whilst learning about the Chinese vocabulary that was related to the Qingming Festival. It was also very fun to make the spring rolls and play with the parachutes outside; of course eating the sweets were nice as well. To be able to have the opportunity to learn about this in our Chinese lesson is great and I would recommend it to those who would be interested in experiencing other cultures". **Darcey Willis**

"I was most curious about the foods and flowers and incense that are brought to the graves, and I liked how it is key in honouring your parents, and that it is a perfect way to continue honouring your parents/ elders even after they have died to show your love and gratitude for their sacrifices for you, by taking your time to think about your most valuable work to give to them." **Christabel Masaba**





"I was best at the parachute throwing as I worked out the perfect angle to throw." **Max Waghorn**

"The throwing of the parachutes as it was fun and enjoyable to do." **Behzod Marufov**

"I was best at making the spring rolls and it was surprising to me to experience it in the classroom in a manageable way." **Maximilian Bartkevych**

Mrs Lu, Chinese Teacher



Year 8



Year 12



Year 9





Year 10



Year 11





PE News

Being outdoors through the rain hasn't always been fun, but well done to the Blues who romped to victory in our class cup final on Monday in the sunshine. We're looking forward to more sun after the holiday.



Here is the timetable for extra-curricular sport for the summer term. Everyone is welcome, regardless of experience, as always. Please note that after school clubs start at 3:30 - students must wait for the changing rooms to clear of other age groups before coming in to change. Fixtures are being planned for cricket and rounders, as government guidance now allows, and students will be notified of those when they are confirmed.

Mr Lines, Head of PE



Bexley Grammar School Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable - Summer Term

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Before School: 7:45 - 8:15 | | Year 9 Tennis | Wk A: Yr 9 Basketball Wk B: Yr 10 Basketball | Year 8 Tennis Year 9 Rounders | Wk A: Yr 8 Volleyball Wk B: Yr 10 Volleyball |
| After School: 15:30 - 16:30 | Year 7 Tennis Year 9 Cricket | Year 12 Basketball Year 7 & 8 Rounders | Year 12 Table Tennis Year 8 Cricket | Year 10 & 11 Rounders Year 7 Cricket | |





Geography News

How drones are opening up the geographical world

Iceland's **Fagradalsfjall volcano** is currently erupting. Have you seen the amazing pictures in the newspapers and on the news? Hundreds of people are now visiting the volcano and some are even cooking on magma!! Imagine that! Watch this video for drone footage of the eruption, it is amazing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9Hq6bTBF2A>

In the department this week we have also loved this drone footage as it flies down and through a waterfall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SABaMN08NmY>



Where else are drones being used to show us **the awe and wonder of the natural world.**

Geographical Easter activities

Can you design a geographically themed Easter egg? Boil an egg and get creative, you could paint it to make a globe, show where tropical storms form or cover it in juicy facts.



Use an atlas to find as many capital cities of the world that have the letters **H-E-N** in them.

Plan an Easter egg hunt for your family and create a map of your house and garden to help them locate the chocolate treasures.

Find out 5 juicy facts about Easter Island.

Take a photo of your Easter make and **email to your Geography teacher or Mrs Belton Owen.**

Quick brain teaser

Can you work out the answers from these clues?

Email Mrs Belton-Owen with your answers, merits on offer or if you get them all right : **A SEAL OF APPROVAL !**

Well done to those students that took part last week.

- 1) In which months is "spring" in Australia?
- 2) What is the capital of Australia and which state is in ?
- 3) How many stars are there on the Australian flag?
- 4) What is the national animal of Australia?
- 5) What is the population of Australia?



Bonus question: How many states are there in Australia and what are they called?



Year 12s

Want to give **something** back?

Are you **caring? responsible?**
a good listener?

Want to work with **young people?**

Aims of the Scheme



The main aim of the Peer Mentor Service is to provide support for all students in the school



Specific focus is on the transition period from Year 6 through to Year 7



Involves group and one to one work



Ensure our school is a happy and secure community for all students



Applications

Please send an e-mail to Mrs Jones (jones_j@bexleygs.co.uk) by Monday 26th April explaining: Why you wish to be a peer mentor & what you could bring to the role?

Mrs Jones, School Counsellor





Calling all Year 12s!

CARE ABOUT PEOPLE AND OUR PLANET?

You could help lead the BGS
Environmental Action Group!

**INTERESTED OR WANT TO FIND OUT
MORE? COME TO AN INITIAL
MEETING IN H18 ON TUESDAY 20TH
APRIL AT 10:20AM**

Any questions? Email or talk
to Sam Wilson (Year 12),
Sam Gee (Year 13) or
Mrs Gradley





Book Review

Time Travelling with a Hamster, by Ross Welford

Time Travelling with A Hamster, by Ross Welford, is a strange and wonderful book that showed us how young Al Chaudhury was dedicated to saving his (dead) father's life and how he finally managed to save his father from dying in his youth.

The story begins in a time when Al is the loneliest and has no friends. His mother has recently remarried and he hates his new step-sibling, Carly, who is a year ahead in his new school. On Al's 12th birthday, Carly does not join to celebrate, but he receives a hamster. His step-father names the hamster Alan Shearer. He also gets a letter from his late father. This tells him about a time-machine and how Al could save his father by taking away obstacles from a road in 1984, as this is what had slowly killed him.

He doesn't believe this at first but tries to attempt the mission as per his dad's instructions. He keeps figuring out ways he could cover up his secret activities. As he no longer lives in the house where the time-machine is located, he steals his Grandpa Byron's moped to get there and breaks into the old garage. His first attempt at time travel fails.

After a few attempts he meets a neighbour and hesitantly asks the suspicious man what year it is. Coming and going through the time machine, he meets a group of delinquents who burn a cat. He befriends one of them and time travels to save the cat with help from the younger neighbour he'd met earlier. He soon finds out Chow, his friend, is actually Pythagoras Chaudhury, his father! By mistake, he ends up getting one of the delinquents to kill (again!) his father by damaging the road on that day.

He ends up in a time dimension where his father was dead and his mother married a police officer. He peeks out of the time machine to see his step-sister but she does not recognise him. He is forced to run away and reaches his old home to see his Grandfather only unfortunately he is not the same person and they do not get along well. He goes back in time for the last time and gives his father a letter while no one notices and travels back to the future.

He does eventually get to fulfil what he dreamed of, and meets his father along with a hamster. His father sees him and calls Al's by his fake name from 1984, they hug and his father tells him about how the hamster is a descendant of Alan Shearer, who Al left as a gift for his father in a different dimension, all those years ago.

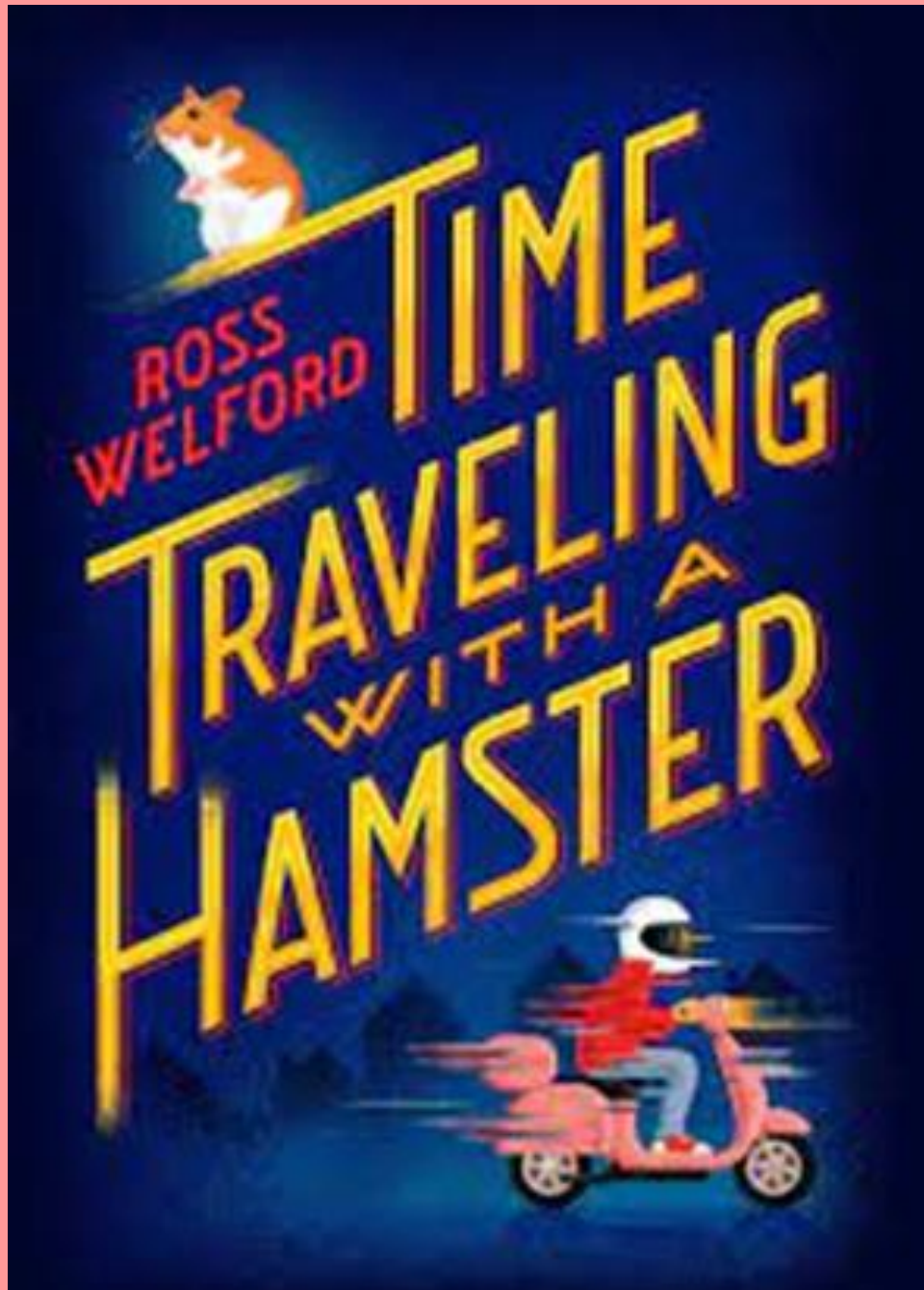
love the fact that the book has a time machine, a hamster and lots of thrilling challenges and time travel for the protagonist. At the same time it is also funny in places and warm with beautiful relationships like between Al and his grandpa and with his mother and father.





I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and definitely recommend it to peers. I'm now on to reading Little Bit by Alex Wheatle, another recommendation by Mrs Carey and have a couple more lined up for my Easter Break.

Karan Abrol, Year 7





BGS Parents' Association

THE GREAT BGS BAKE OFF



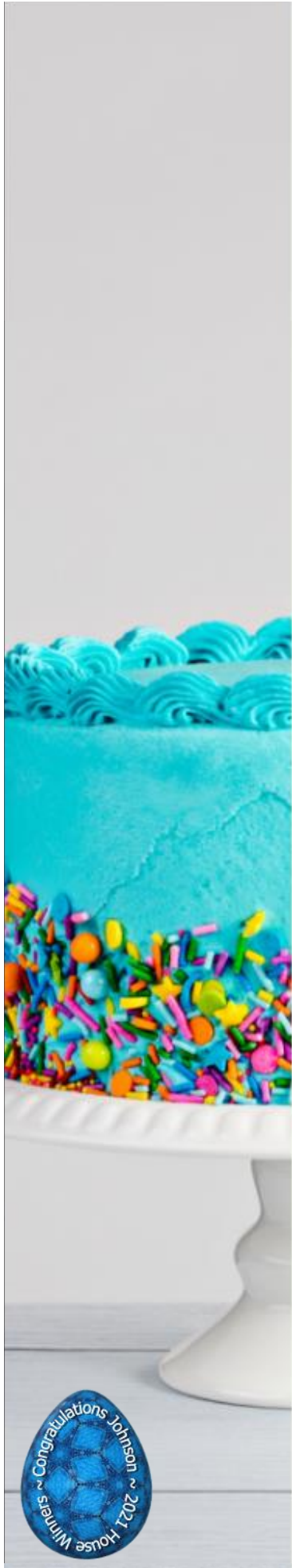
Open to all students, BGS staff, parents & carers

Email your cake photos by 15 April to

cakes@bgspa.co.uk

See contest info for details





BGS Parents' Association

BAKE OFF

Contest Info

1. This is a fun, virtual competition open to all students, BGS staff, parents & carers.
2. Bakers are to bake and decorate a cake at home. It can be any shape and as many layers as you like. Choose a theme to decorate your cake. For example, spring, earth day, animals, sea life, board game, colour, music, rainbow or space...endless options!
3. Students can have help following the recipe and using the oven but need to do the mixing and decorating on their own. No bought cakes are allowed.
4. Prizes for Star Bakers in each year group and one for Adult Star Baker will be awarded.
5. Cakes will be judged on creativity, theme and overall design. We wish we could taste them!
6. Judging will be done by 21 April. Winners will be announced on 23 April in the BGS newsletter.



Email 3 cake photos
(top and side view, then a slice),
your name and form to:

cakes@bgspa.co.uk

by 15 April



Forthcoming Events

April

Thursday 15th ~ Entries to be submitted for the PA Bake Off competition (see notice)

Monday 19th ~ First Day of the summer term (all students return to school)

Tuesday 20th ~ Year 12 Environmental Action Group first meeting at 10.20am (see notice)

Friday 23rd ~ Final day for Year 13 students

Monday 26th ~ Midday, appointment booking system opens for virtual Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 26th ~ Closing date for Year 12 Peer Mentor applications (see notice)

Friday 30th ~ Midday, appointment booking system closes for virtual Year 10 Parents' Evening

May

Monday 3rd ~ Bank Holiday (school closed to students)

Tuesday 4th ~ Virtual Year 10 Parents' Evening from 4pm to 6.30pm

Friday 14th ~ INSET Day (school closed to students)

Monday 17th ~ Year 12 exams begin

Friday 21st ~ Final day for Year 11 students

Monday 24th ~ Year 10 exams begin

Friday 28th ~ Last full school day before the Half Term holiday

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June Half Term (school closed to students)

Wishing everyone a
happy and relaxing
Easter break!

