



Remote Productions in Drama

Exciting News!

Despite lockdowns and social distancing, The Drama department has managed to create 2 opportunities to undertake productions for students in Years 7-9. The rehearsals are now well underway, please see the photos for a flavour of the shows.

These will be streamed via YouTube in June (exact dates tbc).

NEWS LETTER



22nd April 2021

www.bexleygs.co.uk



Featuring Year 7 and Year 8 students

4 Stories from "Collected Grimm Tales" by Carol Ann Duffy and Tim Supple:

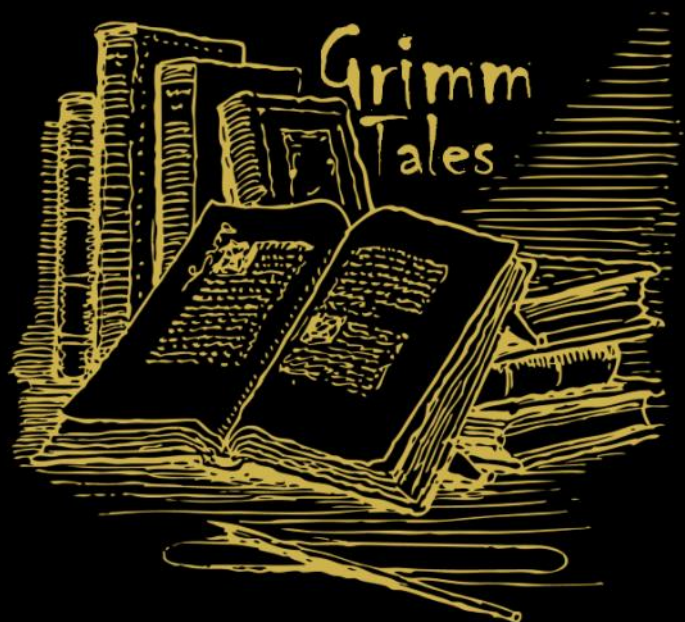
- Snow White
- Hansel and Gretel
- Little Red Cap (Red Riding Hood)
- Ashputtel (Cinderella)



The shows will be entirely free to view and the date and hyperlink will be released in a future newsletter. "Grimm Tales" will only be online for 24 hours as per the license.

It has been such a shame that it has been over a year since students have been able to take part in a school production, so we are so excited for them and the shows.

Mr Otley, Head of Drama



Safeguarding Notice

Dear Parents / Carers,

Child on Child Abuse

As I'm sure you'll have seen from Mr Elphick's letter before Easter we were saddened to learn that an anonymous account naming the school had been posted on the website, Everyone's Invited. Whilst it is difficult to review the situation given the author's anonymity, it is imperative for us as a school to review our practice in this area and ensure that all students who have experienced sexual violence or harassment in school feel that they have been listened to and supported following a disclosure. One negative experience is one too many - child on child abuse is not acceptable in our school.



We have recently updated our school policies (on the Safeguarding page of the school website) and our staff training to ensure that students know that they can report incidents to a trusted member of staff or via a new secure email box that will be monitored by our Safeguarding Team (myself, Mrs Ellis and Mr Elphick).

We'd appreciate your support in discussing this issue with your child and encouraging them (or yourselves) to speak to a staff member if they have a concern or use our dedicated email address, support@bexleygs.co.uk

e-Safety

Bexley Local Authority have alerted us to some worrying developments in the local area. When using the popular game Roblox some children have been exposed to images and videos including suicide and of sexual assaults on children. When a user completes an in-game task a link to the video appears. It has also been reported that there have been instances where children have been groomed while using the Roblox platform. It's advised that parents/ carers monitor gameplay and apply any age appropriate features.

Secondly, we have also been made aware of the sales of drugs through Snapchat, namely the antidepressant Xanax. This is used 'recreationally' to invoke a sense of calmness/ relaxation but the drug can cause side effects, especially if people combine it with other drugs and/ or alcohol, and has led to young people being hospitalised in the local area.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact the school and ask.

Mr H.J. Gilmore
Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

BGS Environmental Action Group

Hi Bexley,

We are BGS's very own Environmental Action Group. We just wanted to say "Hello!" on Earth Day and spread the word that, hopefully, over the next few months we will start some fun and obviously environmentally friendly projects! :)

Lauren Dempsey,
BGS Environmental Action Group





EARTH DAY 2021

THURSDAY 22ND APRIL is **EARTH DAY**,

and shows that real, meaningful change is possible:

The historic **PARIS AGREEMENT** was signed on **EARTH DAY** in 2016, and this Thursday, US President Joe Biden holds the virtual **LEADERS SUMMIT ON CLIMATE** to *galvanise efforts* in the fight against climate change.

Closer to home, in November, the UK will host the **UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP26)**.

EARTH DAY should give us hope in an uncertain world: we all have the power to make a difference.

OTHER LINKS

[EARTH DAY 2021](#)

[NASA: VITAL SIGNS OF THE PLANET](#)

[ECOSIA: TACKLE CLIMATE ANXIETY AND HELP THE PLANET](#)

BGS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP



PE News

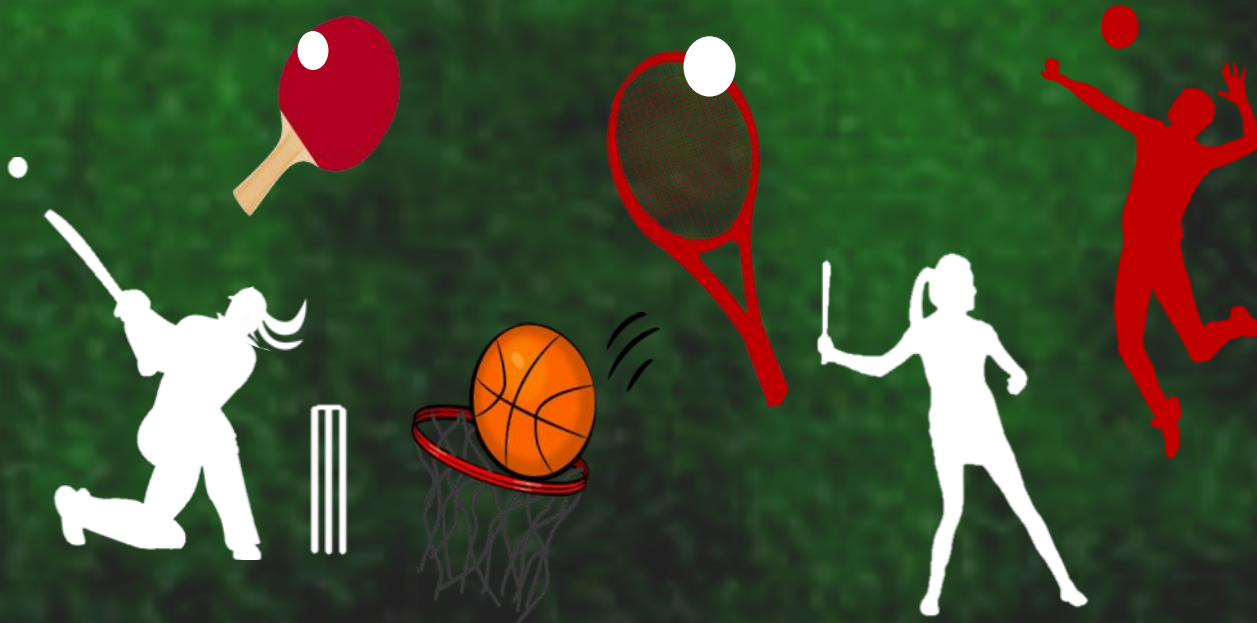
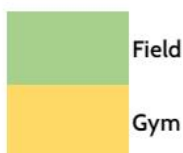
Here's the plan for extra-curricular clubs for this half term. We can provide necessary equipment, but students are welcome to bring in their own if they prefer. No experience necessary. Keep your fingers crossed for the good weather to continue.

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 Senior Girls' Football	Year 8 Cricket Year 7 Cricket	Year 10 & 11 Rounders Year 11 Basketball





English News

500 Word Short Story of the Week

Life Changing

'Life changing.'

The first words I thought of when stepping onto my life's dream. Fighter Jets, all the same shade of grey but still unique in their own way, were taking off and landing right before my eyes. It was breath taking, and I couldn't wait. I've never felt so miniscule compared to the buildings that surround me and the sky seems so vast, endless. I would have never imagined it to feel so... beautiful.

Standing on a runway, my dream since I was a child, and now it felt so close, almost in my reach! The runway stretched on for miles, hardly being able to see the end from where the dark tarmac begins. Control towers loomed over everything casting a shadow over the flat terrain where the unused jets sit waiting. One deep breath told me that jet fuel was everywhere, and made its way into my nostrils as well.

The last few years have been spent preparing, although being a pilot was something I have wanted long before I started my training. Years ago, thinking about flying and exploring in space was all I did. I wondered how it felt to fly upside down, (however how they never fell out was always a mystery) and the elegance of the pilots' flying was always so captivating.

Grandma used to tell me to envision myself in the air. To 'hear the stars' and 'listen to the plane'. It was part of her own, unique training, as she told me to close my eyes, and imagine that I was sitting in a pilot's seat. The rare occasions I felt like I saw something felt electrifying. It was as though I was floating in the air, leaving all people and worries back on Earth. 'Hearing the stars' felt so laughable back on Earth, but out here, I feel like anything could happen.

My father became a pilot himself when I was six, however it wasn't his decision. It was instead, the never ending news about 'the shortage of pilots' and how 'we were all in danger' from the radio that convinced him. The lack of planes in the air was a major disadvantage for us and would jeopardise the safety of the nation. We were at war after all. My father did it for us, his family. To make sure we could go to sleep each night assured that we would be safe or alerted if not.

However, during an attack that could have changed the war, he deserted. Flew away from the battle, only thinking of himself. And from that day on I was branded as the daughter of a coward.

Those days were behind me now, as one step into a plane could change my life forever. No longer would I be the daughter of a deserter, but instead a competent pilot willing to risk their life for others. However, walking closer to a group of other pilots, they gave me icy stares that cut through me. Perhaps the days of forgiveness I hoped for, were all a wild fantasy.

Rebecca Kidby, Year 7



Geography News

Quick brain teaser

How much do you know about Japan?



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.

The questions start off easy and get increasingly difficult!

- 1) What is the capital of Japan?
- 2) True/False: Mount Fuji is over 4000m tall.
- 3) True/False: Japan has over 6900 islands of which 421 are inhabited.
- 4) How many people in Japan are over 100 years old? What % of them are women?
- 5) What is the main biome in Japan?

Challenge: How many endemic species are there in Japan?



The Big Ask: Parent Information Sheet



This week your children will be given the opportunity to complete The Big Ask questionnaire. This is a national survey for young people that has been created by The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza.

She's keen to hear from young people about the things that make them happy, that worry them and that they would like to see in the future.

All of your child's answers will be confidential, and they don't have to answer any question if they do not want to. They will be used to inform the Government of the changes that children would like to see.



Your child will be asked to complete the questionnaire at school this week.

Find out more information





Music Extra-Curricular Programme returns to BGS!

We are delighted to announce that our music extra-curricular programme is returning this term, **starting from Monday 26th April**. If you are interested in joining any of our groups, please sign up to the Google form [HERE](#). We are running rehearsals in groups of 15 with social distancing and following all government guidance regarding music making in schools. This will mean there will be a rota in place for some groups - the lead music teacher will invite you to the group if you are not already a member!

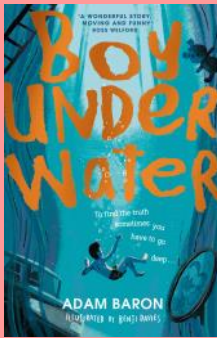
Monday	Orchestra (strings and percussion, including keyboards). Grade 1 +. After school.	Main Hall	Miss Todd
Tuesday	Big Band. Saxes, brass and rhythm section. Grade 4+. After school.	Main Hall	Mr Laing
	String Group. For all violin, viola, cello and double bass players. After school.	MU1/MU2	Mrs Eacott/ Miss Todd
Wednesday	Junior Choir (Y7-8). Open to ALL singers, sing songs in 2 and 3 parts. After school.	Main Hall/Gym	Mrs Eacott/ Mrs Casling
	Flute Group (Grade 3+). Open to all. AM/ Break	MU1	Mrs Casling
Thursday	Senior Choir (Y9-13). ALL in Year 9 welcome! After school.	Main Hall	Mrs Eacott
Friday	Orchestra (woodwind and brass). Grade 1+. After school.	Main Hall	Mrs Casling





Book Review

Boy Under Water written by Adam Baron



It is a story about Cymbeline Igloo who is in Year 5, but has never been swimming. His mother avoids answering why or taking him. He lies about his ability to swim to his school friends and has to face embarrassment. His mother has a mental health breakdown and he ends up living between his uncle and then aunt and cousins. His relationship with his best friends breaks down. He becomes friends with a girl called Veronique. She lives in his aunt's neighbourhood and they have some good adventures and moments of supporting each other, including trying to investigate why his mother does not allow him to swim. They help his aunt and uncle

through their relationship and challenges at work. He also repairs his friendship with his school friend. This book explores parental mental health, loss, relationships and friendships.

The book had some funny moments and some touching events that are quite relatable. However, at times, I struggled with getting hooked to the story as I felt that there were too many different things going on which made it difficult for me to follow the storyline.

Crongton Knights written by Alex Wheatle

I decided to read it on Mrs Carey's recommendation and because I had already read Little Bit by the same author and enjoyed it. This is a story about McKay, his family and his friends. McKay has lost his mother and his father works long hours to try and keep bailiffs away from their home. His 17 year old brother Nesta has become involved in gang activities.

When Nesta goes missing, although worried about him, McKay covers up by saying he's gone to see a girl, this ends up being the truth. When his brother's bike gets stolen McKay helps report it to the police. Nesta's girlfriend's brother Collie gets arrested for stealing from Mr Dagthorn's shop, Nesta gets arrested for fighting with the police as he didn't want Collie arrested. A young boy, known as *boy from the Hills*, sees this unfold with McKay and they talk about their hatred for Mr Dagthorn. On the way home McKay accidentally tells the boy about a mission that he has to go on to help his friend Venetia King get back her phone from an older gangster (her ex-boyfriend) because he had kept some life damaging photos of her on there and was threatening to circulate these.

A few days later the *boy from the Hills* shows up and helps McKay and his friends. They walk through Notre Dame Estate and find Sergio, the gangster. Venetia pretends that she likes him again and they all work together to get the phone and delete everything, but when they get outside The Hunchbackers, a small street gang robs them and beats them. Now, without their phones they have no chance of getting taxis unless

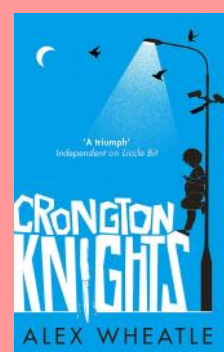


he is not a registered driver so they discuss and wait for a man with a licence. When the taxi driver comes the driver acts inappropriately towards the girls.

They all manage to escape and then hang out at a party not knowing that McKay's brother's attacker was also there. They end up being tied to chairs when they are exposed and the enemy calls Nesta so that he is able to get revenge. When Nesta arrives at the scene they all fight back and get far enough from each other. They are all safe in the end and McKay finds out who his true friends are and the value of family. His brother decides to get counselling and wants to figure out what he wants to do in life as his girlfriend does not want to be with a waste man, he also gets his bike back!

The book made a great read and was thrilling, as the protagonist faces one challenge after another. I like the fact that it has a happy ending despite the difficult circumstances faced by McKay, his family and his friends. I would certainly recommend the book and am looking forward to reading Straight Outta Crongton which is next in the series, although each book has been a complete story on its own.

Karan Abrol, Year 7



Exams News

Please click on the links below to view the mock exam timetables for Year 10 and 12 students.

Mrs Bono, Examinations Officer

[Year 10 Mock Exam Timetable](#)

[Year 12 Mock Exam Timetable](#)



Year 9 Options Confirmation of subjects for September 2021

Please note that the emails have been sent out this week.

Hotmail and BT Internet Accounts Only: Please could parents/carers with Hotmail or BT Internet accounts please check in their Spam/Junk folder for the confirmation email.

Thank you



BGS PA

THE GREAT BGS BAKE OFF

Overall Winner!

Ocean Cake by
Kate Rooney-Douillet, 7PDH





★ Year 7 Star Bakers! ★



1st place:
Kate Rooney-Douillet,
7PDH
Ocean Cake



2nd place:
Elin Mecaj, 7LPV
Island Cake



3rd place:
Aaron Sharma, 7LPV
Summer Fruit Cake



★ Year 8 Star Bakers! ★



1st place:
Elijah Crawford, 8VJA
Gold Birthday Cake



2nd place:
Adam McCarthy, 8MEM
Imaginary Cake



3rd place:
Dhiren Sangha, 8MCA
Easter Cake



★ Year 11 Star Baker! ★



Megan Lisle, 11STA
Bunny Birthday Cake





Adult Star Baker!



1st place:
BGS DT Team
BGS Floral Cake



2nd place:
Tripti Gupta
Finding Dory
Birthday Cake



*Congratulations to all the following bakers
for such wonderful entries!*



George Dare-Williams, 7KJP
David Prince Emmanuel, 7ACR
Elin Mecaj, 7LPV
Aaron Sharma, 7LPV
Amelia Aloomian, 7AJW
Kate Rooney-Douillet, 7PDH
Udbhav Gupta, 7KJP
Elijah Crawford, 8VJA
Adam McCarthy, 8MEM
Dhiren Sangha, 8MCA
Matilda Jackson &
Deya Dimitrova, 8JEA
Jean-Pierre Duah, 8VJA
Elizabeth Conquest, 8NSS
Meghan Lisle, 11STA
Tripti Gupta
BGS DT Staff









News items you may have missed

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



Forthcoming Events

April

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)