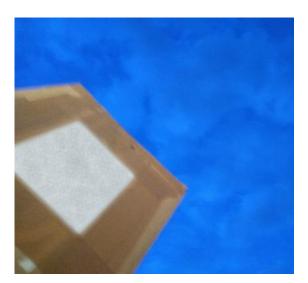
MARSBalloon

What is MARSBalloon?

MARSBalloon is a project where schools can build small, lightweight experiments to be sent on a weather balloon up to 30km up (just under a third of the way to space, and roughly three times the cruising altitude of commercial airliners!)

During the flight, which will last almost four hours as the weather balloon ascends, bursts, and falls back to the ground, the experiments will be subjected to conditions not entirely dissimilar to those on the surface of Mars: lower pressure, lower temperature, and less shielding from cosmic rays and radiation thanks to the thinner atmosphere.

We built two experiments which, if everything goes to plan, will launch some time this month, and be returned to us so we can analyse the results (stay tuned for more!)



'Take-off' artsy-atmospheric shot



NEWS LETTER



10th June 2021

www.bexleygs.co.uk



What are our experiments?

We've built two experiments:

- A small computer chip that will be used to analyse the effect of lower temperatures and increased cosmic rays on active (i.e. powered) electronics.
- Four SD cards to measure the effect of cosmic rays on passive electronics (i.e. they're unpowered, and just sit there), plus a Lego minifig, to see the effects on plastics

Why does any of this matter? Humans are natural explorers, and as such, many of us are captivated by the idea of reaching Mars.

Currently, humanity has managed to land several robotic rovers on the surface of the red planet (most recently the rover Perseverance and small helicopter Ingenuity, which made the news recently for performing the first powered flights on another planet!), and plans to send more.

It has, and continues to be, crucial to have a good understanding of the performance of electronics in a harsh Mars-like environment, so the rovers can survive.

When humanity takes its next great leap and lands people on Mars, they'll have to be able to rely on electronics in the equipment they use for their lives.

In short, before we can explore, we must first understand how to survive. MARSBalloon and our experiments serve to further our own understanding in the way that engineers would have when first designing and building rovers.

Closer to home, there are lots of hostile environments here on Earth too, whether that be cold places like the Arctic, or places with high levels of radiation such as Fukushima and Chernobyl - being able to build reliable electronics that can survive in these environments is also very important.

What do we hope to accomplish?

Hopefully, we'll get some good data that teaches us important lessons. And who knows, perhaps other even more ambitious projects will follow in the future...!

Where can we go to find out more?

thalesgroup.com/en/futuremartians - the main page for the MARSBalloon project, as well as some data about the flight, plus information about careers in the space sector.

https://twitter.com/futuremartianuk - see here for updates about the flight, and more.

https://www.instagram.com/mars.balloon/

Sam Wilson, Year 12



STAR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



English Star Student

Messina Messenger

GOVERNOR'S DAUGHTER HUMILIATED DURING WEDDING

GOVERNOR'S DAUGHTER, HERO ACCUSED OF CHEATING AT WEDDING

The daughter of Leonato (the current Governor of Messina), Hero, has been accused of cheating on Claudio, her former fiancé.

It seemed like it would be the perfect day, the perfect wedding. Most citizens of our town attended Hero and Claudio's wedding.

However, the day didn't go to plan. When the priest asked Claudio to marry Hero, he simply denied it with a resounding "No." At first, everyone thought this was a joke, but Claudio didn't think so and soon after, chaos arose.

Claudio then asked Leonato for his acceptance to marry Hero and obviously Leonato said "Yes" in a confused voice. Claudio called Hero a "rich and precious gift" before pushing her over onto the floor.

Claudio was told that apparently, a man was seen entering Hero's bedroom window in the lead up to the wedding, the big day. This was witnessed by Don Pedro and his brother Don John who claim to have seen the unidentified man in Hero's bedroom late one evening. Hero then denied this accusation, but Leonato didn't believe her and said "Let her diel" This was when loving Leonato turned to livid Leonato. By this point, the Humiliated Hero is accused and offended.

An enraged Claudio was destroying the wedding decorations. Leonato gained this anger and fell to his knees, distressed with Hero's dishonesty. "Would the two princes lie, and Claudio lie, who loved her so, that, speaking of her foulness, wash'd it with tears? Hence from her! Let her die!" According to Leonato, Claudio, Don Pedro and Don John are all truthful people. Beatrice tried to defend Hero from her own father, Leonato trying to hurt her!



Benedick believes that Don John is responsible for this plot as he said "If their wisdoms be misled in this, the practise of it lives in John the Bostord"

GET YOUR FREE TICKET TO SEE THE ROYAL FAMILY PERFORM SILLY DANCES ON THE STREETS OF



Avaani Dutta, Year 7





The Dragon Boat Festival 端午节

The Dragon Boat Festival 端午节 (Duanwu Festival, Duānwǔ Jié, Double Fifth, May Festival) occurs on the fifth day of the fifth month on the Chinese lunisolar calendar which is on 14th June 2021 next Monday. This festival is the last Chinese cultural celebration lesson of this academic year. Within this year we celebrated various Chinese festivals with all the Chinese students in the lesson. Reflecting on these cultural lessons, it brought to my attention the importance of the relationship between learning a language and cultural festival celebrations and it is a challenge for me to make the celebration activities fun and fit well into lessons. For example, with making Zhongzi 粽子 (bamboo



steamed rice), I could not use real food in the lessons as there are many dietary requirements as well as not having the facilities in my classroom. Instead, the students filled the real bamboo leaves with tissue paper instead of sticky rice and meat fillings. This allowed them to experience wrapping the Zhongzi as well as creating non-perishable authentic replications of this food. Secondly, nowadays bubble tea 珍珠奶茶 is a growing trend throughout the world, and especially having originated from Taiwan, I made homemade bubble tea for the students for them to enjoy and experience modern Asian cuisine. I also brought costumes for the traditional lion dance 舞狮 to let the students experience one of the most common dances within Chinese culture. The lion dance is used in almost all festivals and celebrations and the lions head is highly incorporated within architecture in China. Finally, we made incense sachets 香包 using arts and crafts packs. In Chinese culture, these sachets are thought to have insect repelling properties as well as warding away evil spirits. Making these allowed the students to have something unique to keep as well as increasing their creativity in the lesson. I have tried my best to give my students the opportunity to experience and learn about Chinese culture alongside the language. As a study said: *Culture refers to dynamic social systems and shared patterns of behaviour, beliefs, knowledge, attitudes and values. Culture provides the environm*ent in which languages develop, even as it influences how they are used and interpreted.

Mrs Lu, Chinese Teacher

Please enjoy below all the sharing and thoughts from our Chinese students' cultural experiences:

I believe that this lesson has truly changed and revolutionised the way I think and go about my life. Qu Yuan 屈原 has taught me that I should leave behind negative thoughts, but be loyal to them. I shall tell my mother during the GCSEs next year to wrap some Zongzi to give me good luck throughout my exams. I have now set my next goal to become a dragon boat riding champion and become the best freestyle dragon after that.

Tashi Tenzin (扎西), Year 10



The Dragon Boat Festival is an annual Chinese festival that celebrates a famous poet, Qu Yuan. We reflected on why this festival came about and it taught me why it's important. I found the activities the most interesting. During this festival, people celebrate by eating dumplings, hanging plants which they believe to send away evil and disease, race dragon boats and wear dragon costumes - they also drink bubble tea. Some similarities between this festival and other Chinese festivals is the food and the unity of the people. I enjoyed learning about the dragon boat festival because it's an interesting story and helps to open your mind as to why people celebrate the festival. I like learning about Chinese culture because it teaches us more about different people and their cultures.

Scarlett Barber (思佳), Year 10

This lesson we learnt about 端午节快乐, The Dragon Boat Festival. This festival is celebrated in remembrance of Qu Yuan, and people often race dragon boats, drink wine and eat things like $*R$ 7, a type of wrapped dumpling. I thought the lesson was very interesting and I got to learn more about how important the lunar is to Chinese culture. We also got to wear cool dragon heads. I think I looked really odd because I had to pretend to be a lion, but it was fun. In the future, I would like to have an actual dragon boat race with my class as it looks great fun.

Davina Ngenegbo (达芬), Year 10

I would recommend learning about cultural activities and festivals when you are learning a language. It will help you to appreciate the language more and understand the people of that culture better. For example, we learnt that the Dragon Boat festival is in honour of Qu Yuan, whereas before I thought it was to honour Dragons. I found it meaningful that the community came together to find Qu Yuan, and many Chinese people still try to replicate it.

Samuel Ojeabulu (山姆), Year 10

I enjoyed this lesson as it gave me a perspective on the dragon boat festival that I didn't have before. I enjoyed learning about the origins of the festival and how it has developed over time. I enjoyed wearing the lion hats as it was a lot of fun. The story of Qu Yuan was very intriguing for me and I learnt a lot about old Chinese traditions and how they are celebrated. I would definitely recommend this to my friends as it was lots of fun and informative.

Aaron Shukla (亚伦), Year 10





Today we celebrated the Dragon Boat Festival. The Dragon Boat Festival is a festival to honour the poet Qu Yuan who committed suicide. China has many traditions because of this such as wrapping Zongzi, boat racing and carrying of incense pouches. During our lesson we wrapped Zongzi using tissue as the



rice, we also tried on dragon costumes. Today was really enjoyable and interesting. I learned a lot and got to experience a new culture. In the future, I hope to see Dragon Boat racing in real life and celebrate the festival in China.

Darcey Willis (美玲),Year 10

The lesson evolved my mind-set towards Chinese cultural activities due to its interesting nature. I would definitely recommend this lesson and I wasn't reluctant to attend it as it usually lives up to my expectations. We wrapped up Zongzi and wore Lion outfits which was great fun. The story of Qu Yuan was an intriguing one.

Henry Selami (康辉), Year 10

Throughout this lesson I have had an eye opening experience and a new look into the interesting nature of the Dragon Boat Festival. It commemorates Qu Yuan, the Best known legend Qu Yuan (340–278 BC) was a patriotic poet and a loyal official of the state of Chu during the Warring States Period.

Qu Yuan was born in a ruling family and served in high offices. He was the number one advisor of the Kingdom of Chu, and dedicated his whole life to assisting the King to build the State of Chu stronger.

He advised the King to ally with the State of Qi to fight against the most powerful State of Qin, however, he was slandered by jealous officials and accused of treason, and the King dismissed and exiled him.

During his exile, Qu Yuan wrote a great deal of enduring poems showing his love and passion for his country, some of which are still very famous in China.

In the lessons, we made Zongzi and are going to drink bubble tea. I find this very interesting and I personally love the delicious foods.

Shahul Hameed Rifad (利飞), Year 10

This lesson has greatly changed my perspectives about this festival, as I now know how it is celebrated. I would recommend this festival to my friends as it has many fun aspects, like racing boats. I was not reluctant to attend the lesson as I knew it was going to be interesting. I learnt about Qu Yuan and the story behind his suicide. I was the best at pretending to be a lion.

Jay Chin (曾杰), Year 10

The Dragon Boat festival is widely celebrated in many Southeast Asian countries. In today's lesson we learned about many of the customs associated with the festival, for example making our own incense bags which were believed to drive away evil spirits during the festival period. We also explored the legend of Qu Yuan and discovered the origins of the Duan Wu festival. It is important to learn about culture when learning a language so we can understand the development of the language and the true meaning behind it.

Michael Ato (麦克), Year 9

I really enjoyed learning about the Dragon Boat festival today. I found it to learn about the customs and traditions that people do to celebrate this festival. My favourite part was making an ox out of felt.

Rebecca Elkins (百加), Year 9

We learned about the Dragon Boat Festival in our Chinese class. It was a cultural lesson and we made bags that contained incense which was believed to ward away evil and to keep families safe from harm.

Kirti Halkhoree (可蒂), Year 9

Today we were celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival. We had bubble tea and we also made an ox out of felt and stickers. It is said to bring good luck to any family and especially children and make all the evil go away. Inside there are usually herbs or plants so it would smell nice, but we put fluff inside instead.

Elizaveta Newton (丽莎), Year 9

Today I found learning about the Dragon Boat Festival which was very enjoyable because we learnt about how the lunar calendar works and how to make a stuffed bag out of the materials given to us. We sewed a bag and stuffed it with cotton and tied red strings at the top and bottom. The Drag-on Boat Festival is also known as the May festival. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would love to do it again.

Evie Nguyen (伊菲), Year 9



In this lesson, we learned about the Dragon Boat Festival (also known as the Duanwu Festival), its origin and the activities that Chinese people do during the festival. We also made our own incense bags out of cotton and thread which were believed to drive away evil spirits during the Dragon Boat Festival. I think the most surprising thing about this lesson was that the 24 solar cycles in Chinese culture can predict the weather very accurately.

Anqui Yu (安麒), Year 9

I thought most cultural activities would be boring and quite long, but the activities in the Dragon Boat Festival are fun. Younger children would love these activities. I would definitely recommend this festival due to the fact it encourages you to be involved in other people's cultures. The most surprising thing that I learnt today was that the civilians actually killed the dragon and got it drunk! I was best at sewing the lion incense bag.

Basika Rai (芭丝), Year 8

Today we learnt about the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival. I had already known about the lunar calendar, but I didn't know how it worked and seeing the backstory to the festival was very interesting. We made cotton incense packets which you can hang anywhere for good health. We also drank bubble tea which is an important drink throughout the festival. I've never celebrated this festival before, but the next time I get the chance I definitely will.

Red Skorjanec (瑞得),Year 8

I was really excited for this event to happen and when I did, it was lots of fun. We learnt how this festival originated which was a very surprising and interesting story. We also heard how people celebrate it. We sowed our own little bag which could be tied onto our backpack and it was my favourite activity that we did during the lesson. The little bag I made was a lion and although I did make a few mistakes whilst doing it, I still enjoyed it very much. We also drank bubble tea at the end which my friends and I really enjoyed drinking. This event was fun because it was very different from the culture here in England and it was a new experience for me.

Leila Chan (若希), Year 8



The Dragon Boat **Festival** commemorates the death of Qu Yuan, a Chinese poet known for his patriotism and contributions classical to poetry and who eventually became а national hero. Doing activities for the Dragon Boat Festival was really entertaining; I would definite-



ly recommend them. We first made souvenirs for the event that were colourful dragon designs, which involved sewing and sticking on features of the dragon onto a circular piece of felt. After that, we drank bubble tea which (fun fact!) was first made at the Chen Shui Tang tea shop in Taiwan, where owner Liú Han-Chien sold his high mountain oolong tea. We learnt about the origins of the festival and the other activities done during in this festival that we couldn't carry out, including eating rice dumplings (Zongzi), drinking Realgar wine (Xiong Huang Jiu), and racing dragon boats. I especially liked how even today, where many of the Chinese may not necessarily believe in the origins of the festival, but they still follow the tradition and celebrate it. Overall, it was a great experience and I would love to do it again!

Ruth Yehualashet (略得),Year 8

In this Chinese lesson we had the chance to experience how to wrap Zongzi and had the opportunity to taste it along with drinking (珍珠奶茶) bubble milk tea. This lesson was very meaningful as we had the chance to experience and find out about the activities that occurred during the festival. We also learned about other events that happened during the festival such as the dragon boat racing events and how other countries also partake in these events. This lesson was very eventful and I had a lot of fun experiencing Chinese culture first hand.

Miu Yee Huynh (妙儿),Year 12





Well done!

I am really proud of the work that Anagha Pai and Maddison Lopez have put in to organise a Year 7 charity football tournament to raise money for Demelza House and Bexley Grammar School. They have put in a lot of work organising the details such as speaking to local businesses for raffle prizes, creating resources and collecting money from the entries to the tournament.



All Year 7 students are invited to attend on Wednesday 23rd June between 15:30 and 18:00, even if they do not play football, as there will be food, drinks, raffles, games and other activities available. I really hope that Year 7 enjoys this fantastic afternoon and we can raise as much money as possible for Demelza House and the school. If you, as a parent, would like to contribute to the event, we are accepting donations of food and drink to be sold on the day, as well as any offers for raffle prizes. Please ask your child to give any items to their form tutor to pass onto me or drop items in Reception before Wednesday 23rd June.

Unfortunately, due to current government guidelines, parents are unable to attend and we appreciate your understanding and support during this challenging time.

Mr Martin, Director of Studies , Year 7



CHARITY 5-A-SIDE OOTBALL TOURNAMENT

23RD JUNE 3:30PM

Proudly supporting Demelza

JOIN OUR 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL AND DEMELZA'S CHILDREN CHARITY - WINNERS RECEIVE A MEDAL EACH

TEAMS CAN BE ALL GIRLS, ALL BOYS OR MIXED YEAR 7
(NEED TO BE REGISTERED IN ADVANCE)

MADDISON + ANAGHA WILL BE IN CANTEEN AT LUNCH ON WEDS/THURS - BRING ALL INFORMATION OF TEAM AND CORRECT MONEY TO REGISTER - £2 PER PERSON (AFTER 14TH JUNE = £4 PER PERSON)

CHOOSE, FOOD/GAMES ETC. LETS RAISE AS MUCH MONEY AS
POSSIBLE FOR OUR SCHOOL AND DEMELZA

RAFFLE

£1 A STRIP OR £4 FOR 5

PRIZES INCLUDE:
SIGNED FOOTBALL MERCH,
PRODUCTS + SERVICES FROM
LOCAL SHOPS

FOOD + DRINK

PURCHASE ON THE DAY - ALL DONATIONS
TO GO TOWARDS REFRESHMENTS ARE
GREATLY APPRECIATED

National School Sport Week

National School Sport Week is back! This year the theme is Together Again to celebrate the lifting of restrictions and a return to some kind of normality after an extremely difficult year. Taking place from 19-25 June, the week will give families, communities, schools and sports clubs the opportunity to get active and put on some events that everyone can take part in. The Youth Sport Trust have created some fantastic easy to follow resources, full of ideas for activities that you can do to bring the people around you closer together.

How do I find out more?

Registering couldn't be simpler. Just go to the National School Sport Week section of the YST website https://www.youthsporttrust.org/join-us/national-school-sport-week and click on the link to register as a parent. Simply fill in your details and off you go...

What about NSSW at BGS?

We will be adding extra competitions to our lessons and extra-curricular clubs throughout NSSW, and awarding certificates to our winners and participants.

Spotlights for the week are below, with links to challenges posted throughout the week on the BGS PE Google Classrooms:

Monday: We will be given students the chance to learn the iconic duo that Afro Pierre showcased on Sky One's "Got to Dance".

Tuesday: football day! The Euros are up and running with Scotland and England both in action. Today's challenges will be football focused, looking at skills and drills for students to try at home (or in the park!). You can also support England at 8pm.

Wednesday: we're celebrating International Olympic Day with an Athletics based challenge.

Thursday: We are asking you to try something different today, this can be an activity of your choice. We will be giving you a Fencing challenge to complete, but this is optional!

Friday: a chance to look forward at the coming months of sporting events coming to our screens and to plan what you will be doing to keep active over the summer. We will be sharing the links to a variety of after school sports activities created by some athlete mentors to inspire you!

Let your PE teacher know how you get on.







How much do you know about?



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.

As the sun is shining and the summer has started, here are some summer themed questions.

- 1) Which year from the list below has the MET office declared the hottest summer on record: 2019, 2018, 2017.
- 2) What is the hottest recorded temperature that England has recorded?
- 3) What is the hottest night temperature that was recorded in Brighton and when was this?
- 4) What defines a heatwave?
- 5) How many days of rain do we get in July on average?

loment







ave the date

ARTSF&ST?

TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021

AN EVENING OF MUSIC, DRAMA AND ART.

FURTHER DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE.



MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSON APPLICATIONS FOR 2021-22 ARE NOW OPEN!

We offer lessons on a number of instruments, from cello, violin, flute, clarinet, piano, brass and drum kit! FutureDJs will also be making a return.

If you'd like to start lessons at BGS next year, click on the link below!

APPLY ONLINE

HTTPS://WWW.BGSPERFORMINGARTS.COM/INSTRUMENTAL-LESSONS.HTML



News items that you may have missed



MUSIC EXTRA-CURRICULAR **GROUPS SUMMER TERM 2021**

If you'd like to join any of these groups, please email Mrs Goddard

(goddard_e@bexleygs.co.uk) or turn up!

Samba Drumming (Ac Mon, MU1 -Monday by invite only) GCSE Composition (Y10)

Big Band (After school in the hall) Tuesday Grade 4+

Junior Choir (After school in the Wednesday hall, Y7-8)

String Group (Ac Mon, MU1) Senior Choir (After school, in the Thursday hall, Y9-13)

Bexley Baroque (After school in MU1 - by invite only)

Flute Choir (Ac Mon, MU1) Orchestra (After school in the Friday hall, Y7-13) Rock School (After school in MU1 -

by invite only)





Great prizes to be won!

Up at the 02 - Family Ticket Family Photoshoot & Portrait Adventure Island - 4 Tickets Family Day Out - Wingham Wildlife Park Pamper Hamper Beer Bonanza Variety of Vouchers Pimm's O'Clock Reign & Soap Eco Mini Hamper **Chocolate Hamper** Illumination of Candles

Tickets £1 each

No Place like Gnome

To buy your tickets, visit:

bgspa.co.uk/raffle

The last day for ticket sales is 25 June. The raffle will be drawn on 26 June by PA trustees and winners will be notified.



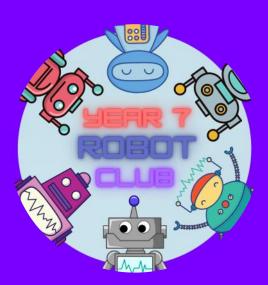
The Robots are Coming!

As robots become more and more advanced, it is surely just a matter of time before they become self-aware, demand the vote and begin passing laws to punish all the puny humans that stood in their way. Luckily, everyone who comes to Year 7 Robot Club is guite safe, because we are friends to all - whether they are brilliantly efficient calculating machines, or nervous, inexperienced humans.

Every Wednesday, 15:20 - 16:30 in H14

Come along, or see Mr Villazon for details.





Forthcoming Events

June

Monday 14th ~ Year 9 Virtual Appointment booking system closes at 10am

Tuesday 15th ~ Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening 4pm-6.30pm

Saturday 19th ~ National Schools Sport Week begins (see notice)



Wednesday 23rd ~ Year 7 Football Tournament & Fayre 3.30pm (see notice)

Friday 25th ~ Last day to purchase PA raffle tickets (see notice) **Saturday 26th ~ PA summer raffle (see notice)**



July

Tuesday 6th ~ Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening 4pm-6.30pm (letter to follow next week)

Tuesday 13th ~ Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening 4pm-6.30pm

Tuesday 20th ~ BGS Artsfest (see notice)

