

NEWSLETTER



1st July 2021
www.bexleygs.co.uk

William Shakespeare's

MACBETH

Watch the digital production of Macbeth

Click link to watch the virtual production

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vegmKChdXo>

Warning- does contain flashing lights.

*By The Pricking of my thumb, something
wicked this way comes*



It's seen as bad luck to say 'Macbeth' in a Theatre, and this abridged 30 minute production has had its share of bad luck.

- It was cast in October- there was then an immediate ban on extra-curricular activities.
- We finally started in December- only to face a lockdown for 3 months.
- Having finally started again in March we thought we were finally able to film the performance... only for one of the actors to be forced to isolate for 10 days! (Luckily it was a false positive, so we still managed to film the play.)

Throughout this, the cast of 11 Year 9s (and a Sound/Lighting person) always stayed enthusiastic and committed to the production. I was constantly blown away by how well many of them learned so many lines and how they all put in hours after school, despite knowing the play would never have a live audience and there would be

YEAR 7
& FOOTBALL
TOURNAMENT
TATRE

Read about
this special
Year 7 event
on page 3



no applause at the end.

Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter

I would like to just mention Robert Humphreys and Mollie Arkwright, who are not actors in the play (well they cameo as trees, because if you do Drama you have to act as a tree at some point- it's a rule). They arranged all the sound and lighting for the show- by that I mean all the design and all the operating- there was no teacher input there at all. Robert's lighting is beyond anything a teacher at this school would have managed!

Performing Shakespeare is a challenge for actors of any age, let alone 13 and 14 year olds. We pride ourselves at BGS at challenging our KS3 students performing Shakespeare plays and I think the bravery, commitment, hard work and talent of this group of actors needs to be thoroughly celebrated- so please find half an hour to take this play in and appreciate what the BGS students can achieve.

Seek to know no more

Cast List

Macbeth

Lady Macbeth

Duncan, King of Scotland

Malcolm

Banquo, a General

Macduff

Witch, Lennox

Witch, Seton, Macbeth's Manservant

Witch, Angus, Servant

Porter, Ross, Donalbain

Menteth, Murderer

Alex Innes

Emily Atkinson

Joseph Turner

Ananya Pawar

Sam Parsons

Ifunanya Agodele

Zoe Handscombe

Rebecca Elkins

Holly Kinsella

Gurjit Kaur

Vivian Kellman



MACBETH



Soon after we heard about the CAS Diploma in our form time, Maddison and I were debating several ideas to complete an aspect of it. We had a spark of inspiration and decided to go ahead with a football tournament. We brought this up with Mr Martin and upon sharing our idea with him, he was happy to support and endorse our efforts. Since then, we had many meetings with him to plan and discuss it.

A few weeks before the set date, we had the task of going to each form and presenting a PowerPoint to show everyone what we were working on. After going around to shops near the school asking for donations for raffle prizes, we received donations from Tesco and Morrisons. We then proceeded to set up a desk near the canteen for people to buy raffle tickets and register their football teams. We had many interesting names such as Curry FC, Saddo FC, Stranger Mings and more. By then we had a solid plan and just needed to brush up a few details.

Before we knew it, it was the day of the event. As soon as the bell to signal the end of the day rang, students all flooded out and rushed to either set their stall up or get changed to play football. Once the event had commenced, the atmosphere was exhilarating and we had some great stalls such as the Stocks, a fortune teller, a multicultural food stall and many more! Many students and staff happily donated raffle prizes that people were happy to win! In total we raised £1007.18, with half going to Demelza House and the other half to Bexley Grammar School!

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved and helped us raise the money!

Anagha Pai & Maddison Lopez, 7LPV



It was great the sun was shining so we could all enjoy being outside at our first Year 7 event at BGS. There was a good variety of stalls including food, the stocks (including the teachers) and football matches going on in the background. Everyone showed teamwork in the setting up of the stalls. At the same time, the laughter and smiles on everyone's faces showed they were having a good afternoon whilst raising money for a great cause.

Zahra Selfi, 7LPV

I would like to say that the school Fayre was amazing. The atmosphere was wonderful and everyone was so nice and friendly. Nobody playing football was rude or disrespectful and everyone was a good sport. The things you could do at the stall were great. From food to dumping buckets on people.





Overall it was the best day of the year and I really enjoyed it.

Harvey Achu-Mofor 7AJW

I really enjoyed the Summer Fayre as there was an abundance of activities and the weather was really upbeat and clear. It was nice to see many people join to support Demelza and the school. 7LPV did some excellent food such as Samosas and the stocks were very exciting and fun, even though I got completely soaked.

Daniel Quinn 7AJW

I found the Summer Fayre really enjoyable. I was playing in the 5-a-side football tournament so I didn't really get to go to every stall to see what they were doing or selling. The football tournament was really fun and I would love to do something like that again. I would like to give thanks to Anagha and Maddison for creating the Summer Fayre.

Louis Spicer, 7AJW

I thought that the idea of a just the Year 7 Summer Fayre was very cool. It had everything a day out at the funfair would have. I especially liked the idea of a football tournament as it was a chance to show what we can do. I liked it as well because my team won. The stalls ran very well and made a lot of money.

Thanks to all the teachers and the students for organising this and joining in the fun.

P.S. #BICEY F.C!

Aydan Vekeria, 7ACR

I found that it was quite enjoyable and there was a lot to do. You could eat food; you could talk to your friends; you could throw soapy sponges at people. The experience overall was enjoyable. I hope that despite all the things that have happened this year, and the past year, we are able to carry on and do more things like this.

Lara Balint, 7AJW

Regarding the Summer Fayre, I am pleased to inform you that I thoroughly enjoyed it, even though my team sadly did not win the tournament, but I do believe that my team enjoyed most parts of the tournament. The food was delicious and the drinks were refreshing.

Tobi Chukwu-Ike, 7AJW





The Summer Fayre was really enjoyable, it was a new experience for me and I had a lot of fun. The stalls sold very well and I think we made a lot for charity- which is good. My favourite part was the water buckets and watching it was interesting and funny.

Lydia Ciurca, 7AJW

I enjoyed the Summer Fayre quite a lot. The environment was great and I liked all the activities from the other stalls. From the word go I could tell that we would raise a lot of money. The actual football matches were extremely entertaining to watch. My favourite part was just watching everyone get sponged in the face especially the teachers which was quite amusing. I also liked how smart the execution and idea of this actually was. I would like to thank everyone for the fun we had.

Anthony Faola, 7AJW

I'd like to echo the sentiments of Anagha, Maddison and all of the students who have shared their experience of the Year 7 Football Tournament and Summer Fayre. A fantastic idea and everyone who participated was a credit to themselves and the year group. A huge thank you to all of the staff and students who worked together to make the event a success.

***Mr Martin,
Director of Studies, Year 7***

Teaching is not supposed to be a popularity contest, but everyone has their favourite teacher and all teachers secretly hope to be the person that their students will go that extra mile for. Congratulations then to Mr Powell, whose students spotted him looking a little hot in the sunshine and immediately paid £5 of their own money to refresh him. Don't worry, that watch is probably water-proof!

Mr Villazon, 7VLP Form Tutor



**YEAR 7
&
Football
SUMMER
Tournament
FAYRE**





Zadie Smith Lecture: A Review

Lucas and I attended the virtual PTI lecture: 'In Conversation with Zadie Smith'. Zadie Smith is a well-established writer of both fiction and non-fiction and we had the honour of hearing her share her experiences. The lecture was in the style of a Q&A session, wherein attendees could ask questions ranging from Zadie Smith's experience as an author, to more specific queries about her body of work.

During the lecture, she explored the idea that novels are an imitation of life, and explained the beauty of their immersive nature: as readers, we are able to fall into alternate worlds and momentarily replace our consciousness with someone else's. Smith also spoke about the ubiquity of politics in any great piece of fiction and touched upon the necessity to look at the past in order to understand the present.

I found the session extremely interesting, as we were able to gain insight into how Smith perceives both the world and literature. One point she often emphasised that resonated with me was the importance of having freedom, as a reader: that being able to conjure a multitude of interpretations for a single story—whatever that's due to different ways of thinking or individual life experiences—is part of the joy of reading.

The entire experience was definitely enriching and I thank Mr Griffin for the opportunity to attend!

Joy Hui, Year 12



Carnegie Reading Group Virtual author event with Manjeet Mann

Every Thursday for the last few weeks, Year 7 and 8s have been meeting Mrs Carey in the Library for the Carnegie reading club. In this time we have read lots of books, but my personal favourite (as was many's) was Run Rebel by Manjeet Mann. I loved the inspiring story and the layout was so interesting. Run Rebel is laid out in a verse form, which originally I thought I would hate, but it has now become my favourite format. We had the great opportunity to attend an event with Manjeet Mann. We learnt lots about the Run Rebel writing process and heard her very inspiring story. I will definitely remember her advice and journey as a writer. And I can't wait to read her new book!



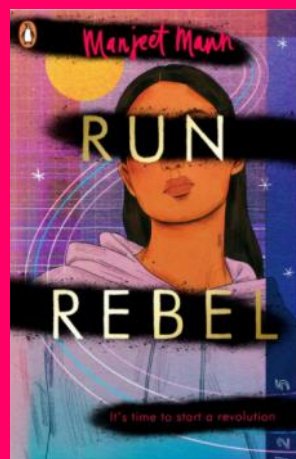
Matilda Jackson, Year 8

I really enjoyed the event with Manjeet Mann as I got to know more about the author than I previously knew before. Manjeet talked about her new book called The Crossing, which is based on the real life tragedies of the refugee crisis, and Run Rebel, which is about an 18 year old Indian girl fighting for her freedom, her sister's freedom and her mother's freedom. Manjeet told us that Run Rebel gives anyone and everyone the resilience and determination to do what's right. During the event, one of the questions asked was "If Run Rebel's protagonist was a boy, would it be different?" Manjeet replied saying it would've been very different because boys have more freedom than girls and are allowed to do almost anything they want. Because this book is about a girl, having a boy as the main character would be very different as in some cultures, boys are more valued and respected than girls, which is very unfair. The idea of The Crossing started in 2015, but for Manjeet Mann, it was in 2020 the book really started, pen to paper. She explained that she works with charities to help refugees and has seen what these unfortunate people have experienced. This is how the idea of The Crossing was triggered. Even though we all had to wear face masks and social distance ourselves, the event was very interesting and pleasant to be part of.

Nimrat Matharu, Year 7

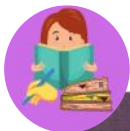
The event was very interactive. We were able to ask questions and get our long awaited answers, from Manjeet, who was very friendly and interested by our queries. We got to hear, not only about the book and upcoming projects, but about her personal life and the experiences that made her the award winning author she is today.

Aggeliki Mirza, Year 7





STAR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



English Star Students

well done!

Messina Messenger

ANGER, WEEPS AND ALL THE JUICY DEETS!

CLAUDIO'S RAGE ■ LEONATO'S FIST ■ HAIR TIPS

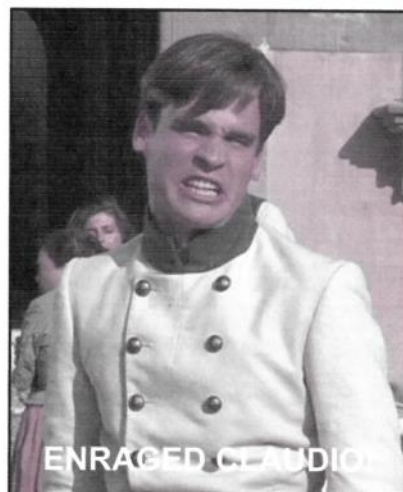
CLAUDIO HIT HERO!

The wedding was going fine until the enraged Claudio furiously struck his wife-to-be and accused her of cheating! Claudio, the handsome young soldier who recently returned from war, and Hero, the dark haired, beautiful daughter of Leonato, were set to be married yesterday but an unforeseen and unforgettable event disrupted the wedding.

The devastated young bride, Hero, was in tears on the floor next to the stage the wedding was being held on, as her ferocious fiancé stormed off down the aisle, leaving a trail of torn down decorations and shocked faces in his wake.

Don Pedro and Don John, Princes of Aragon, claimed that they had seen Hero secretly meeting with another man the night that the alleged affair had happened. They flew from the venue to support Claudio.

All of the gasping guests left, leaving Beatrice and Benedict to comfort and console the wailing Hero. Needless to say, Hero was deeply devastated at Claudio's cruel and careless exit and was cradled by her best friend Beatrice.



According to our sources, Leonato, the furious father, felt disgraced at his daughter's dishonesty and punched her in the face, to the horror of her friends. 'It was a complete outrage, I have never seen anything like it, poor Hero, I did feel sorry for her, but who knows if the rumours of an affair are true or not?', an unnamed guest told us.

In complete contrast to her father, and in support of Hero, brave Benedict declared that he believed Hero's innocence, to which Leonato responded 'Would the two Princes lie! And would Claudio lie!'. Then in a burst of sudden anger he screamed 'Let her die!'.

As Hero sobbed at the sound of her untrusting father's scathing words, Benedict came to the conclusion that the Princes' 'wisdom had been mislead' and that the only person who could have come up with the lie about the affair was his cold and cruel hearted brother 'John the bastard'.

Advertisement - Wonderful Wedding Hairstyles

HOW TO HAVE BEAUTIFUL HAIR CLASSES

Just 50 shillings a lesson!

My name is Madeline and I am here to show you how to have wonderful hair!

George Dare Williams, Year 7



Sports News

U12 Cricket

On Thursday BGS headed to Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (CSGS). We had lost in a close game earlier in the season so there was a lot riding on this performance. CSGS batted steadily and scored a very respectable 259 runs. Some excellent fielding from BGS restricted this from being a much larger total. After some superb individual contributions earlier in the batting order BGS needed 13 runs to win from the last 4 overs. Dexter Matthews and Lewis Hills were able to complete the innings in a calm and composed manner and get us to a winning total of 262 meaning we won by 3 runs! Whilst I was over the moon for the entire team my joy was short lived as I had to sit on the bus back to BGS with the jubilant squad singing Rick Astley's "Never gonna give you up". At this point in the season I can confirm that their cricket skills are far superior to their singing voices! Congratulations to the entire squad on another great result.

Mr Mackle, PE Department



Year 7 Charity Netball Tournament to support our school Library

Friday 16th July at 3:15pm

All proceeds to our school Library to buy us new books!
To participate, please bring £2 to Mrs Carey in the Library by Monday 12th July.

Any further donations are very welcome!

Caitlyn Osei-Tutu, Year 7





Sponsored Mini Marathon in aid of the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice

I am running in the Mini Marathon fundraising for The Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice. I feel that everyone deserves the best care in life. I love to help the community. I have participated since I was nine. I have previously reached my target of £100 for my cause and, this year, I am hoping to double my target and raise £200. My younger brother Talha is also taking part this year to help raise money for this cause. If you'd like to support my brother and I please donate on the link below.

<https://gbch.enthuse.com/pf/usman-kayani/post/698860>

Usman Kayani, Year 7



Geography News

Quick brain teaser

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.

Geography of HOLIDAYS this week as the green list announcements have got the hopes up of Mrs Belton Owen & Miss Ashman that they will travel this summer to warmer climates!

- 1) How many flights per day (in normal circumstances), does Heathrow handle per day?
- 2) The longest flight from the UK is 19hrs, but which city and country is the final destination?
- 3) Which European country receives the most British holiday makers each summer?
- 4) Which is the least visited country in the world and where is it located?
- 5) Where am I? I am one of the most visited places in South America and I am 7000 feet above sea level?

Juicy fact: Tourism is worth more than £120 billion a year to the UK.



Bexley Grammar School Parents' Association

Thank you parents & staff for supporting the Summer Raffle!

We would like to thank local businesses
and PA members for donating raffle prizes:

Robinson and Jacksons - Welling

Morrisons - Welling

The Entertainer - Bexleyheath

Asda - Bexleyheath

Barrett & Coe

Long Haul Micro Pub

Bake by Design

Spices Indian Takeaway

Flamingo Products - Kate Porte

Reign & Soap

Kassiopi Cove Soft Play

Nail Bird - Emma Garland

Winning Ticket Numbers

309 1153

181 1181

905 659

1372 1355

1487 1134

1294 980





Stride Forward 2021 National Competition Details

As we emerge from the pandemic, Youth Mental Health Day 2021 will focus on how young people can **STRIDE FORWARD** with their mental health. It will invite young people across the country to reflect on how the last year has impacted their lives and share how they will stride forward and move towards more positive wellbeing.

While Youth Mental Health Day isn't until September, BGS has teamed up with teenage mental health provider Stem4 to give students a chance for their work to be part of the national campaign.

Students from Year 7 and 8 were encouraged to reflect on their experience of the pandemic during the Power Day on Monday 28th June and will be set the challenge of expressing their experience in a creative way. It could be anything... a painting, poem, paper mâché creation, play, rap, short story, drawing, song, dance, or anything that expresses the feelings that they have gone through.

Work will be reviewed by an expert and celebrity panel and entries of note will go on to be highlighted as part of the national campaign. Our students will also be given priority for selection for a future 'Stride Forward Exhibition' in a London Gallery and they will have the chance to be featured in Stem4 promotional material to promote and support student mental health.



To be honest, over the
last year I have felt

To #StrideForward I am
setting myself a goal to

#YMHD

#StrideForward

ymhd.co.uk



YOUTH MENTAL
HEALTH DAY
7th September

stem4
supporting teenage mental health
registered charity No. 1144506



News items that you may have missed

BGS ARTSFEST!

TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021

4 - 6PM

To mark the end of the school year, Music, Drama, Art and DT have come together to put on our own festival for you! Featuring exhibitions, food, music and drama, there will be something for everyone!

**TICKETS: £5
PER HEAD
(AVAILABLE ON
PARENTPAY)
BRING A
DECKCHAIR OR
PICNIC RUG**



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](https://www.bgsp Performing Arts.com/instrumental-lessons.html)**



Forthcoming Events

July

Monday 5th ~ Year 7 Virtual Appointment booking system closes at midday

Monday 5th ~ Year 8 Virtual Appointment booking system opens at midday

Tuesday 6th ~ Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening 4pm-6.30pm

Monday 12th ~ Year 8 Virtual Appointment booking system closes at midday

Tuesday 13th ~ Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening 4pm-6.30pm (letter to follow next week)

Tuesday 20th ~ BGS Artsfest (see notice)



Wednesday 21st ~ Last day of summer term