



BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

*Welcome
Back!*

NEWS LETTER



9th September 2021

www.bexleygs.co.uk



DT News

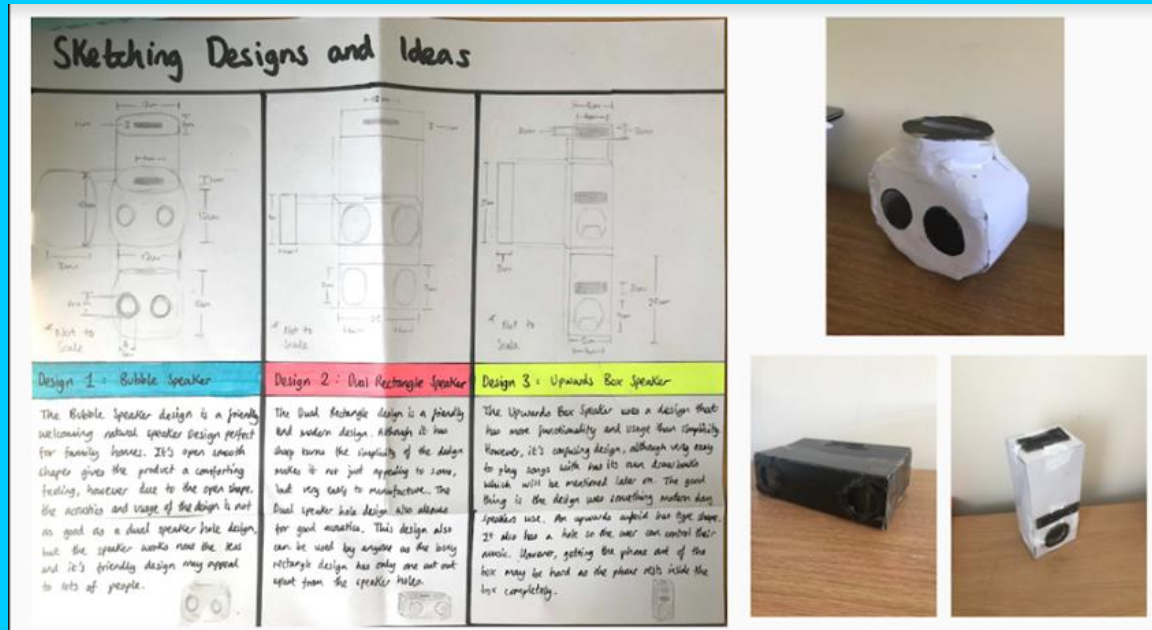
Year 10 Designers

Teaching Design Technology in a COVID world has been challenging over the past 18 months. Across the country, the core principles of the subject have been dissected beyond belief; teaching a practical subject without the practical 'bit' felt like it would be an impossible task. In spite of this, our students blew me away last year with their creativity and desire to develop as young designers and problem solvers. I feel it is incredibly important to showcase their talents and in particular, those of my Year 10 (now Year 11) class. I joined BGS in May 2020 and during lockdown, spent the first six weeks with this new GCSE cohort, without actually meeting them in person. Teaching online last summer to faceless names, I gave them a series of design challenges and research tasks to prepare them for the course. When we finally met in September, we started work on the different communication techniques designers use and then moved on to a project based on ergonomics and the redesign of everyday objects.

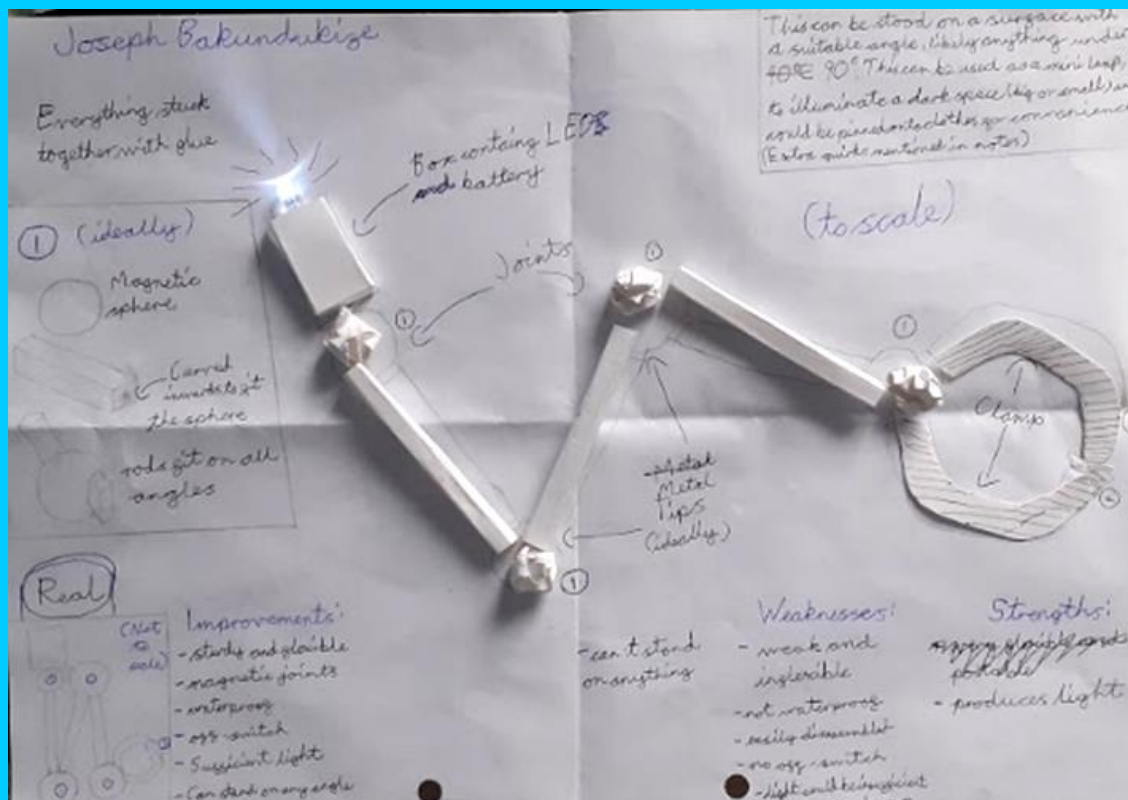
During the first lockdown, the students completed the Design Ventura mini challenge, a live brief set by the Design Museum. For this challenge, student's had to pick one of three user groups and design a product for them that could potentially be sold in the Design Museum shop. They also completed a problem solving task for which students were sent components through the post, in order to create a simple circuit for an LED light. Their task was to design the enclosure with the needs of a specific client in mind.



Smart Clock by Alex Miao



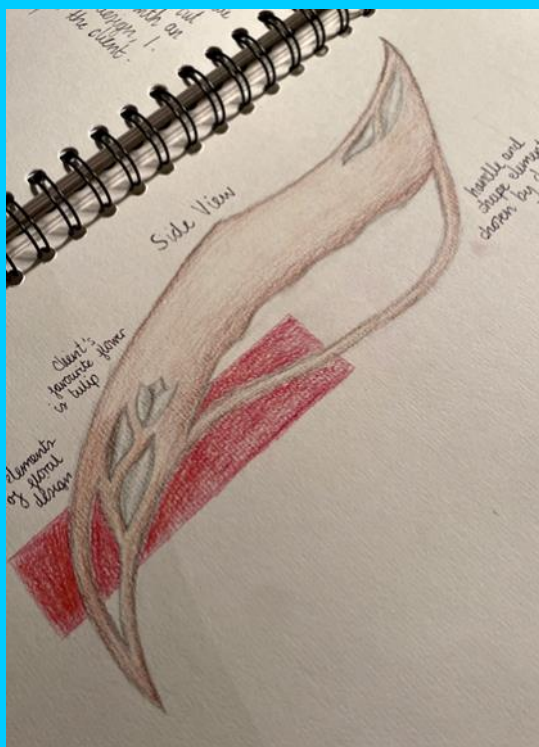
Passive Speaker by Kush Borse



**Prototypes for LED Enclosure
by
Joseph Bakundukize**

Communication of design is one of the key components of study for Design & Technology GCSE. It is also a fundamental building block for designers to bring their ideas to life. As such, we began the course looking at each one of the main techniques that designers use so that throughout the course, the students would have the tools to communicate their own ideas. Some of the techniques the students developed were:

- Freehand sketching
- Isometric and perspective drawing for 3D design
- Orthographic drawing for planning
- Enhancing designs using shading, texture and weight of line

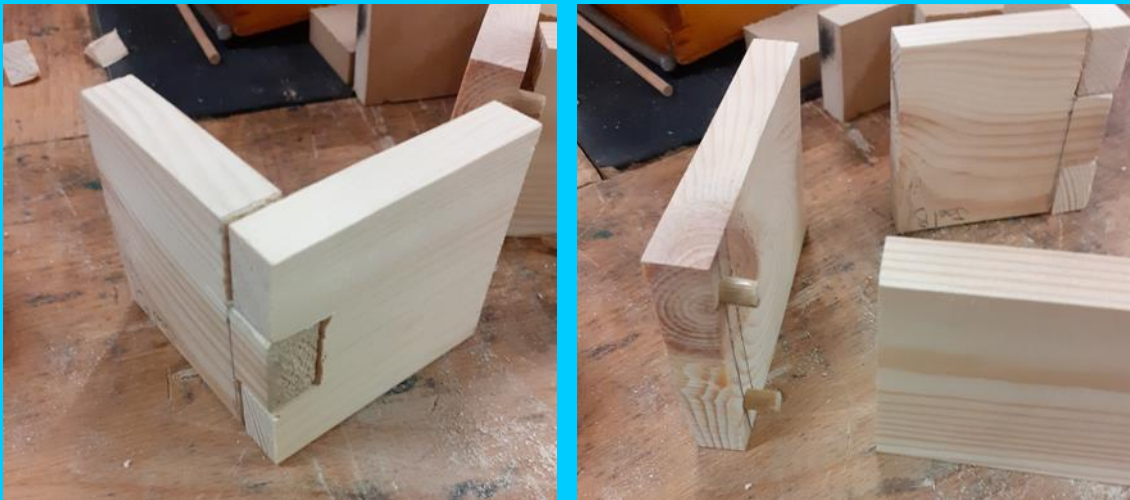


Sketching and Rendering
by
Ben Huggett

For the ergonomics project, students had to identify a suitable client and conduct primary and secondary research to learn more about the client's needs and what products are currently available commercially. We decided to focus on the redesign of the popular STAM IKEA pizza cutter. They analysed the existing product to discover its pros and cons and then they had to apply their mathematical skills through the application of anthropometric data collected from a range of stakeholders, which allowed them to design and model a more user-friendly, ergonomic handle for the cutter. It also meant they could personalise the previously standardised design to their client's tastes.



Once we returned to school after Easter, I wanted to give the students the much needed access to tools and machinery in the workshop, to allow them to develop their practical skills as well as knowledge and understanding of those processes. We started by spending time cutting and finishing timbers, one of the students key material groups within the GCSE specification. They enjoyed this immensely as they were allowed to use a number of different tools and machines to create a set of different traditional wood joints. This type of work requires precision and accuracy to create successful joints. The application of knowledge and skills will underpin and support both their practical work and exam revision in Year 11.



Traditional wood joints by Joel Banks

I am so proud of this group. Their work ethic, their enthusiasm and resilience throughout their first GCSE year has been inspirational. I am very excited to see what they will design and make in their final GCSE year at BGS!

Miss Milbank, DT Department





What did you do in the summer holidays?

During the summer holidays, I spent a week at Queen Mary University of London, Institute of Dentistry to do work experience. I spent 8 hours each day from 9am to 5pm.

On the first day, I learnt about health and safety measures, how to make teeth casts (we made a mould to fill up with plaster) and used specific equipment to change parts of the teeth.

On the second day, I worked in a dental simulation lab, where you would experience how to perform dentistry on a phantom head.

On the third day, I learnt the teeth chart and where each tooth was placed in a plastic model for students to practice with.

The following day, I worked in the crown and bridge lab where I learnt how they make 3D modelled teeth using a CAD (computer aid design) and how they made dentures for people with illnesses and lost teeth. I also visited the clinic where they treated patients.

On the final day of the experience, I learnt how to make a denture. I really enjoyed staying there as I learnt new things and found it quite fun.

Anis Houmani, Year 9



Centre for
Oral Clinical
Research



Queen Mary
University of London

well done!



International Celebration Week

Advanced notice that **Monday 20th to Friday 24th September** will be International Celebration Week, in which we celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our country and our world, culminating in Cultural Diversity Day on Friday 24th September. The week is all about inclusivity, taking pride in one's heritage, being empathetic and open to other ways of doing things and celebrating other cultures, peoples, languages and countries, and coincides with the European Day of Languages on Sunday 26th September.

There'll be internationally-themed lunchtime activities and academic monitoring quizzes taking place throughout the week, an international menu in the canteen, an international bake-off and more. On Cultural Diversity Day, we encourage people to wear the cultural or national dress of their heritage with pride and lessons that day will have an international flavour to them. Look out for a timetable of activities and more information in next week's newsletter!

Mrs Meyer, Head of MFL



PE News

Gum Shields

A note about gum shields for contact sport. Gum shields are recommended, but not compulsory. Most boys' groups will be taking part in rugby at the start of the year (for girls it will be later). Your son will be advised how quickly his group will start contact tackling to give you time to sort out a gum shield, if you would like. These can be purchased from a sports shop to fit at home for between £5 and £25. We will have basic gum shields for sale in the PE office for £2 each which require heating in boiling water and moulding to fit at home.



For more serious rugby players, a custom fitted gum shield might be worthwhile. These can be organised at your dentist, or by using a home impression kit from a supplier such as Opro (<https://www.opro.com/>).


Mr Lines, Head of PE

Extra-Curricular Sport Timetable

Here is the Extra-Curricular Sport timetable for this half term. There is no need to sign up for activities, or to have any prior experience - please just come along if you are interested in taking part. Clubs will start from Monday 13th September.

Please see Mr Lines if there is anything you would like added to the timetable later in the year, and we will try to make it happen for you.

Mr Lines

 Bexley Grammar School Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable - Autumn					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School: 7:45 - 8:15			Yr 7 & 8 Table Tennis**	Wk A: Yr 7 Boys' Basketball	Wk A - Yr 7 & 8 Girls' Basketball
			Yr 7 & 8 Girls' Fitness Club	Wk B: Yr 8 Boys' Basketball	Wk B: Yr 10 & 11 Boys' Basketball
Lunch					
After School: 3:15 - 16:30	Yr 7 & 8 Boys' Rugby	6th Form Boys' Basketball	Yr 7 & 8 Girls' Netball	Girls' Football	Yr 9 Volleyball**
	Yr 9 & 11 Boys' Football	6th Form Table Tennis**	6th Form Football**	Yr 9-11 Girls' Netball	
				Yr 7 & 10 Boys' Football	Archery Club**
				Yr 9 & 10 Boys' Rugby	

Field

Gym

Sports Hall

Netball Courts

Fitness Suite

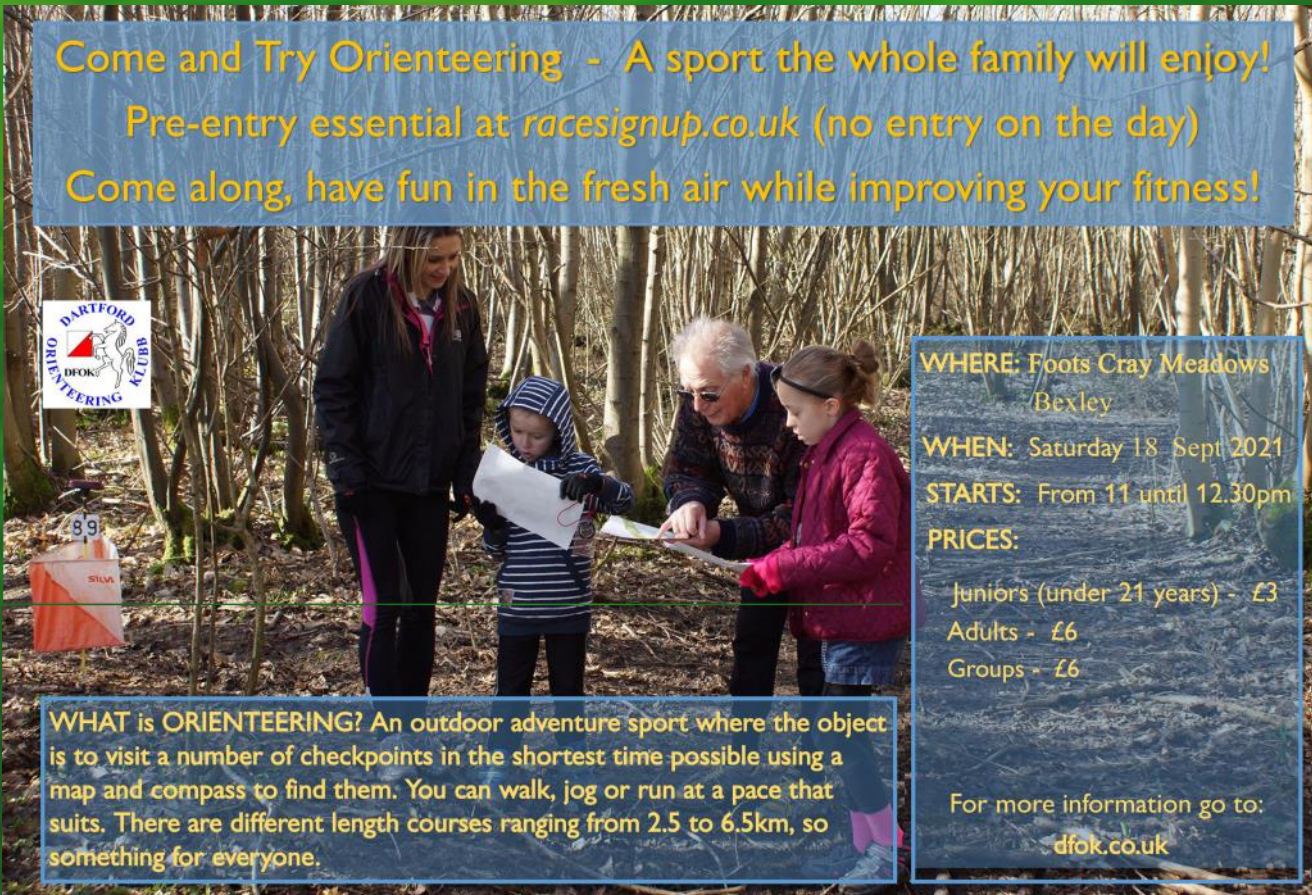
** Mixed activities



Orienteering

We have been very lucky to have Dartford Orienteering Klubb assist us with updating our orienteering resources around school in preparation for work students will be undertaking later in the year. They are having an event on Saturday 18th September for families to try out orienteering and would welcome newcomers to the sport. Details below or can be found at <https://racesignup.co.uk/>

Mr Lines

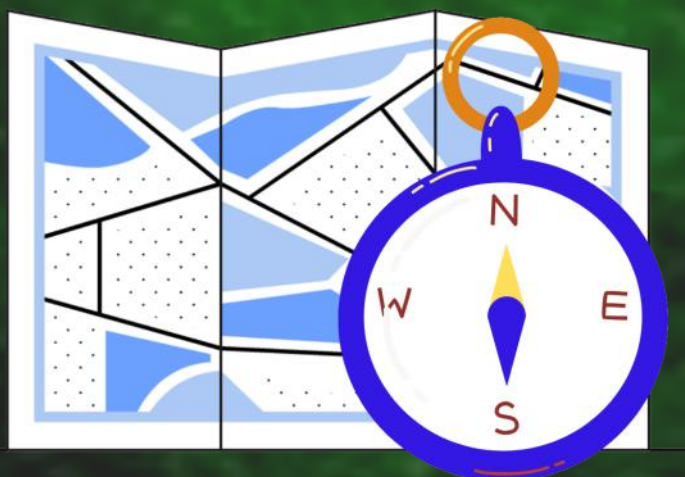


Come and Try Orienteering - A sport the whole family will enjoy!
Pre-entry essential at racesignup.co.uk (no entry on the day)
Come along, have fun in the fresh air while improving your fitness!

WHERE: Foots Cray Meadows Bexley
WHEN: Saturday 18 Sept 2021
STARTS: From 11 until 12.30pm
PRICES:
Juniors (under 21 years) - £3
Adults - £6
Groups - £6

WHAT is ORIENTEERING? An outdoor adventure sport where the object is to visit a number of checkpoints in the shortest time possible using a map and compass to find them. You can walk, jog or run at a pace that suits. There are different length courses ranging from 2.5 to 6.5km, so something for everyone.

For more information go to:
dfok.co.uk





CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
Entries must be sent to gabriel_k@bexleygs.co.uk.

BGS TALENT SHOW



THIS IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!
ENTRIES MUST BE BETWEEN 1 AND 3 MINUTES

- DANCE
- SING
- MUSIC
- ACT
- PERFORMANCE POETRY
- MAGIC TRICK
- SHORT FILM
- COMEDY ROUTINE

***You can work on your
own or as a group!***

Email gabriel_k@bexleygs.co.uk for more information



Take Two

Sign up for the Library Reading Group
Thursdays 3.00 - 4.00

Once again, our wonderful PA has generously given me money to run a reading group for the Trinity Schools Book Award. This will involve weekly meetings where we read and discuss six books in this year's theme of 'Take Two', a revisit of some favourite books from previous years.

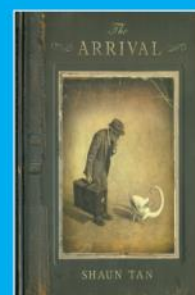
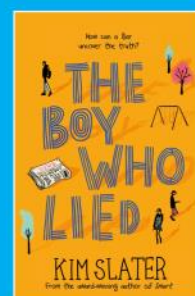
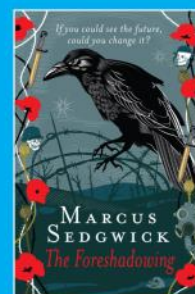
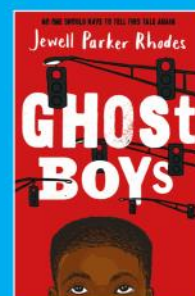
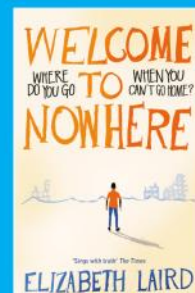
Students in the group will read one book each week, write reviews and take part in fun activities. They will also attend the TSBA awards ceremony in March, where they will be able to meet some of the authors. You can find more information about the award here:

<http://tsba.edublogs.org/>.

The reading group is open to all book lovers from Year 7 and 8. Please come to the Library to sign up, or email me at carey_r@bexleygs.co.uk by the end of Monday 13th September. In previous years we have had large numbers of students sign up and I have had to pull names out of a hat, so I will email on Tuesday 14th to confirm who is in the book group.

The first book group will take place on Thursday 16th September 3.00 - 4.00.

Mrs Carey
School Librarian





MidYIS Test for Year 7 students

On Monday 27th September, all Year 7 pupils will sit a computer based MidYIS test. No revision/ preparation is required from the pupils in any way. Many secondary schools countrywide give students some sort of a baseline assessment to their Year 7s on entry. The MidYIS test is what we call a "baseline assessment", designed to measure pupils' developed ability rather than what has been taught previously in school.

MidYIS assesses four key areas which research shows are linked to later academic outcomes:

- **Vocabulary – word fluency and understanding**
- **Mathematics – logical thinking, manipulating numbers and numerical concepts**
- **Non-verbal ability – recognising shapes, matching patterns, applying spatial awareness and visual intuition**
- **Skills - such as proofreading, perceptual speed and accuracy**

As the assessment is adaptive, each student sees a unique assessment and is challenged at a level that is suitable for them, making it enjoyable, engaging, and efficient.

It gives measures of pupils' underlying potential to do well, and tests their strengths and weaknesses. The focus of the MidYIS test is to derive a sound indication of likely later academic achievement if steady progress is made, and to provide us with a baseline starting point for each student.

Please see timetable below

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n11LEZ3eaHL_KQu7gBnUxcixLokHXoC8sbp_g9J4QsQ/edit?usp=sharing

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Mallin

Messages from the Attendance Office

Students Years 7 to 13

Please remember that school starts at 8.30am, this means that you should be **sitting at your desk for 8.30am.**

Aim to arrive at school for 8.15am this gives you time to get to your form room. If you arrive at the school later than 8:30 am, please report to the canteen to sign in. If no one is in the canteen because you have arrived after 8.45am, please make your way to the Attendance Office. It is crucial that you sign in as we use this information for the Fire Registers.



Failure to do so will result in an unauthorised late and a detention.

All student gates will close at 8.30am.

Thank you

Attendance Office



Dear Parent/ Carer

If your child has a medical appointment during the school day, please email Mrs Jeffery or Mrs Thomas or write a note in your child's planner.

Students will not be allowed to leave school without confirmation from home.

jeffery j@bexleygs.co.uk (Years 7-11)
thomas t@bexleygs.co.uk (Years 12-13)

Thank you

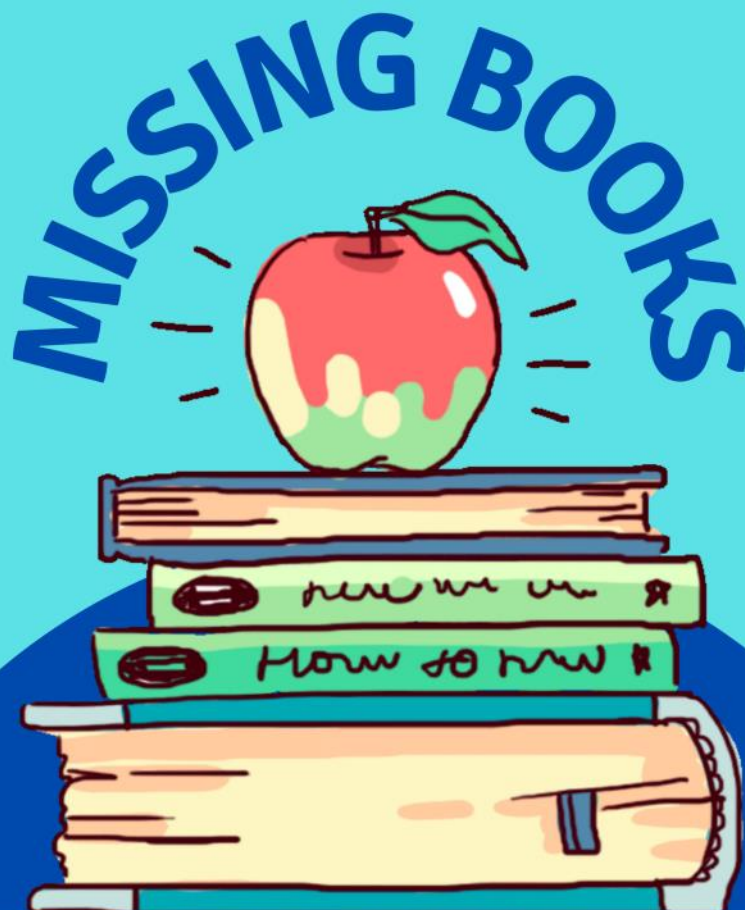
Mrs Jeffrey, Attendance Office



We are missing lots of books! Please can bags and bedrooms be checked and any library books returned as soon as possible?

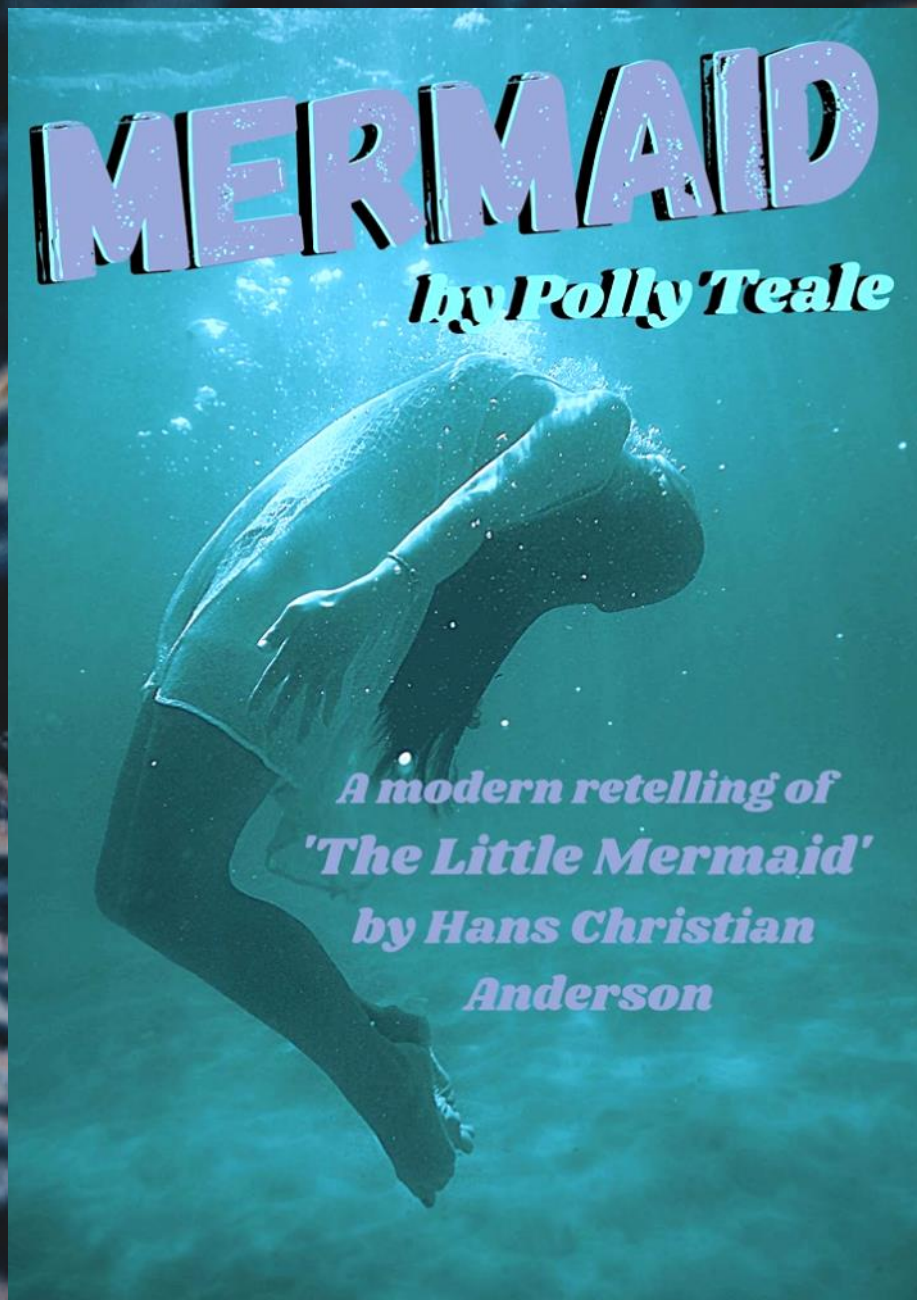
Thank you

Mrs Carey, School Librarian





This year's school play will be...



If you want to audition
join the google classroom

Bp5hc4o

We need Actors and Dancers!
Audition pieces will appear on the classroom shortly.



Is it like the Disney film?

Yes... But not really.

An unhappy teenage girl rewrites the classic tale to her experience of growing up. It deals with PTSD, depression, bullying...

It's funny too, I promise!

It has a sea witch, a prince and an engagement...
But no singing crabs (sorry).

What are the parts?

Blue (the girl writing the story)

The Mermaid

Other Mermaids

Grandmer (the head mermaid)

Prince

Queen

King

The Sea Witch

Soldiers

Sailors

Blue's Parents

The 'cool girls' at school

Show-biz reporters

And more



BGS PA

YEAR 8

family

SOCIAL!

BGS Parents' Association is pleased to invite all Year 8 families to an **OUTDOOR SOCIAL**. If the weather is unsuitable and we need to postpone the event, we'll send out an email and try to give as much notice as possible.

By attending, you are confirming a negative lateral flow covid test.

Drinks and snacks will be sold and there will be a **raffle with great prizes along with live music from BGS students!**

Tickets - £2 each

Order online: bgspa.co.uk/social

FRIDAY 17 SEPT

7.30 -9.30PM

(BGS grounds, enter via main entrance)



BGS Parents' Association

SOCIAL

for our new

YEAR 7

students, their parents & siblings

FRIDAY 1 OCT

7.30 -9.30PM

outside in the school grounds

Tickets: £2 each

Ticket ordering from next week



Forthcoming Events

September

Monday 13th ~ Extra-curricular Sports Clubs begin (see notice)



Tuesday 14th (Inset Day School closed to students)

Thursday 16th ~ TBSA reading begins in the Library (see notice)

Friday 17th ~ PA Year 8 Family Social (see notice)



Monday 20th ~ International Celebration Week begins (see notice)

Monday 20th ~ The Mermaid Auditions (see notice)



Tuesday 21st ~ Photo day for Years 7, 10 & 12

Thursday 23rd ~ Year 7 Tutor Evening (letter to follow)

Friday 24th ~ International Celebration Week finishes (see notice)

Friday 24th ~ BGS Talent Show Auditions (see notice)



Monday 27th ~ MidYIS Test for Year 7 students (see notice)

October

Friday 1st ~ PA Year 7 Social (see notice)



Thursday 21st ~ Last full school day for all students before half term

Friday 22nd to Monday 1st November Half Term (School closed to students)

Tuesday 2nd ~ First school day following Half Term (All student return to school)