



Big Band Theory perform at Music for Youth, Regional Festival



On the 19th February, the members of The Big Band Theory (the new name for the Big Band...) travelled to Camden to partake in the regional heats of the 2017 Music For Youth competition, and to hopefully follow on the success of the Improv Group last year.

The set was made up of two contrasting songs. First up was "Boz" by Jeff Jarvis, a laid-back funk tune with a focus on individual soloists; followed by the Charles Mingus classic "Moanin'", which could get extremely chaotic with moments where everyone improvised at the same time. This created a varied set, showcasing two contrasting styles of Jazz - something on which the judges commented particularly.

Both songs performed were praised highly by the judges, with the band having a "real grasp" of what it meant to play as a big band. Specific members of the ensemble were also praised - from a "fabulous" saxophone solo, to the "delightful" addition of euphoniums (every section was mentioned!).

All in all, it was a great opportunity to perform in a new venue - especially in London; and the entire band played extremely well.

Aaron Harrex, Year 13 Music Prefect

MFY
MUSIC
FOR YOUTH



Bexley Public Speaking Competition: Second Place Finish!



On the 22nd February a team of four students: Jack Dalton, Sophie King and Kitty Munro, as well as myself as a reserve, met at the Bexley Civic Offices for the prestigious annual Bexley Public Speaking Competition. Four schools in total competed in the competition: Welling School, Bexley Academy and Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, each being represented by their own team of four pupils.

Our group had been anticipating this event since our selection in early October. This year's sponsor of the event - the Marriott Hotel – would be assisting with the judging and therefore the topic of our speeches had to revolve around the theme of 'hospitality'. We were offered a selection of suitable example titles for the speech, such as "Is the customer always right?" and "Hospitality in our daily lives". Our team, however – in an effort to be more distinct - decided to invert the subject matter and do a counter-presentation on global inhospitality.

For almost five months we worked on our speech, incorporating current political developments like the recently inaugurated President Donald Trump, Brexit and the multitude of terrorist attacks which have taken place across the world in order to invoke a trend of discomfort and destabilisation that we hoped would engage the audience. Despite the problems that naturally occur from four different students all attempting to write one speech, each with their own preferred style and personal tone, by February we had managed to assemble our twelve-minute speech which needed to be learnt off by heart. After lengthy preparation it was time for the group to demonstrate the results of all our efforts.

All three members performed their speech without a single pause or mispronunciation. It couldn't have gone better.

After witnessing the other speeches, a brief presentation on the career opportunities available at the Marriott Hotel, and a forty five minute "refreshment" break involving cucumber sandwiches and fancy biscuits, the judges announced the results. Our team had come second.

According to the judges it had been a closely run competition for first and second place, but Bexley Academy was declared the winner and we all agreed that this was well-deserved victory and congratulated them thoroughly. We were happy with the recognition of the effort we put into the performance and our second place trophy now sits in the school reception in testament to this.

I would like to end by commending my teammates' performance and thank Mr Husband for coordinating the team and making this opportunity possible.

Alex Sutcliffe, Year 12



Russia Trip

February 2018

For Current Years 9 – 12

The Modern Languages Department would like to invite all current Year 9 - 12 students to join the trip to Russia from the 12th February - 17th February 2018.

For many years we have run successful trips to Moscow, but now, for the first time ever, we will be visiting both Moscow and St. Petersburg in one trip. During the trip we will visit many of Russia's most iconic sights, such as the Kremlin, St Basil's Cathedral, and the Hermitage, and students will have the opportunity to learn more about this fascinating country first hand. Students do not need to study Russian to take part.

The trip will cost £949, including flights and hotel accommodation. Please click [here](#) to view the letter for signing up, or contact bgstrips@bexleygs.co.uk. The initial deposit of £300 is due for Friday 10th March. Alternatively, if you would like more information, please contact Gallimore_s@bexleys.co.uk.

Mr Gallimore,
Modern Foreign Languages



Music News Spring Concert Ticket

Tickets for our Spring Concert on Monday 27th March are now on sale! It starts at 6.30pm in the School Hall, will feature all the main school ensembles will be a celebration of all the music-making at BGS this term.

Buy your tickets in advance online by clicking on this link :

[Spring Concert Tickets](#)

Miss Swadkin,



Hot Teenage Topics

From time to time, the Pastoral team at BGS come across websites or articles we think might be useful for parents to see. We deal with a wide variety of issues outside of academics and know that these can sometimes be tough to manage not just in school but at home, too. We have no affiliation with the producers of such materials and they do not necessarily reflect our opinions. Our aim is to provide some helpful guidance on hot topics affecting our teenagers.

Here is this weeks link:
[Use talk not tech to tame your children's online habits](#)

The Pastoral Team

Forthcoming Events

March

Tuesday 7th ~ Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 13th ~ A Level and IB Solo Recitals

Tuesday 14th ~ Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 16th ~ A Level and IB Solo Recitals

Monday 27th ~ School Spring Concert

Tuesday 28th ~ ECM Day 4

Wednesday 29th ~ House Showcase

Friday 31st ~ Last day of the Spring Term

April

Tuesday 18th ~ First school day of the Summer Term

News Items You May Have Missed

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

A concerned resident wrote to me just before the half term break about her serious worries regarding the morning drop-off near the school gates. I am working with the Head of Danson Primary to try to raise the awareness of parents using cars both before and after school. There are too many near-misses as a result of carelessness or thoughtlessness on the part of car drivers. The resident of Merlin Road agreed that I could quote from her letter to me:

"Sadly every time I leave home between 8.20 and 8.45, I consistently observe inconsiderate and dangerous car parking. Parents/Carers often cross residents' drives, park illegally near the end of roads and practically on the roundabout, or simply stop in the middle of the road or even on the roundabout to let their children out. I have observed children run out between moving cars...

...Having been a busy working parent myself I do understand the pressures in the morning. However it is important that parents and carers behave in a considerate and safe way...

...Can you please make a plea to parents and carers to simply allow themselves enough time in the mornings to bring their children to school and to park safely, considerately and legally. They are fortunate to have so much car parking within a short walking distance of the school."

I have similar concerns about the traffic at the end of the school day when over a thousand of our students spill out of the front gate and make their way home. Our children are old enough to walk a little distance from the school before they need to be picked up in surrounding roads. Danson Primary releases their children ten minutes after us but the concentration of parents and children at about 3:15pm means that drivers need to be especially careful and must acknowledge the areas designated as no stopping.

Thank you for your support in keeping your children safe.

Mr Elphick

