

NEWS LETTER

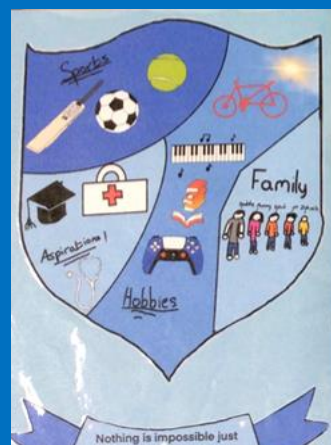
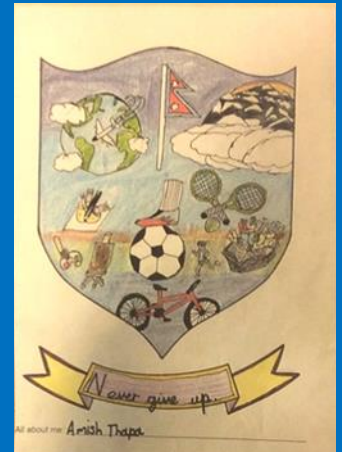
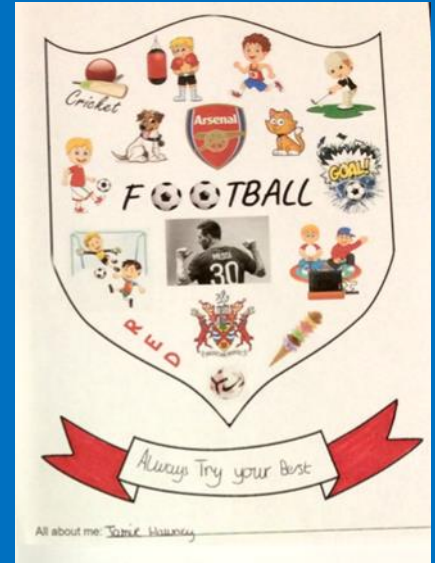
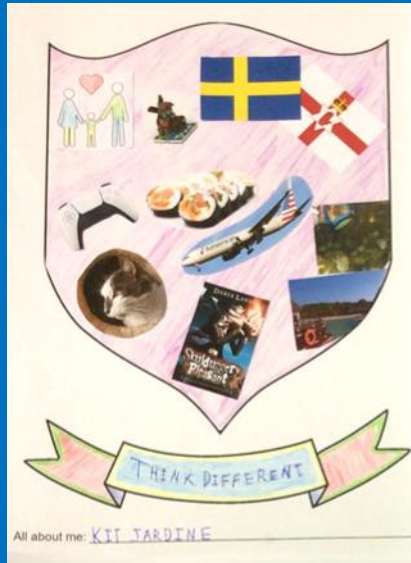


16th September 2021

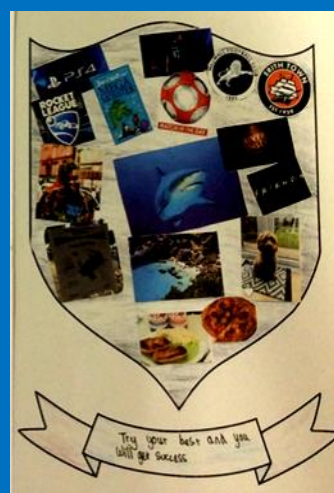
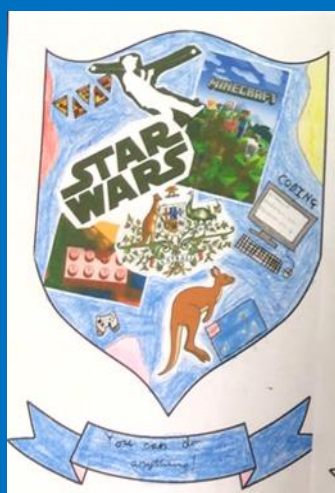
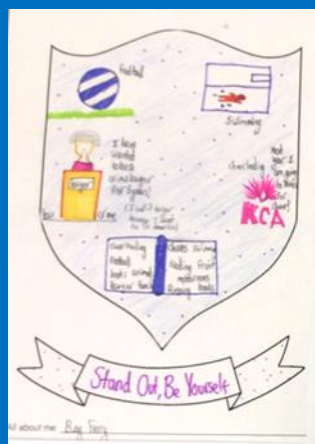
www.bexleygs.co.uk

Well done Year 7

Our new Year 7 students have made an excellent start to the year and are settling well into school life and the daily routines at BGS. Over the summer as a part of their virtual induction students were asked to complete 2 activities. The first being a shield to show their tutors, DOS and SAM all the hobbies, activities and things that they enjoy doing that make them all unique. The selection shown is just a small sample of the work that has been done and I am thrilled with their creativity, effort and final work.



Our International Celebration Week starts next week. See Page 9 for the timetable of events.



The second activity was an acrostic poem that linked to the school's ethos of empathy, intellect and courage. Again, I have been delighted with the creativity within the poems and how these relate to the feelings and thoughts of our new Year 7 students. Well done to each and every one of you. We will be judging the poems in the next couple of weeks to find the best one and a prize will be awarded in an up and coming assembly.

Much of this work will be on display in the hall at the up and coming **"Meet the Tutor Evening" on the 23rd September**. Ms Orchard and I look forward to seeing you at this event.

Mrs Belton Owen
Director of Studies, Year 7



Harrison Tanner

Encourage nervous friends to try new things.

Make sure your friends are ok by listening and caring

People may have different opinions.

Accept each other for who they are.

Thoughts and feelings matter.

Helping people respect each other.

You can help if you care.

well done!



Induction Activity 1: School Ethos

Intelligent, bright, new Year 7s enter into their classrooms eager to learn new exciting things,

Now they start to expand their intellectual abilities with just a bit of help from what everyone brings,

Then a student finds themselves with a question they don't understand,

Everyone else tries to help them as they went through the same problems first hand,

Learning from our mistakes is a big part of being at a new school,

Letting us have new chances to develop a love for different subjects and find them cool,

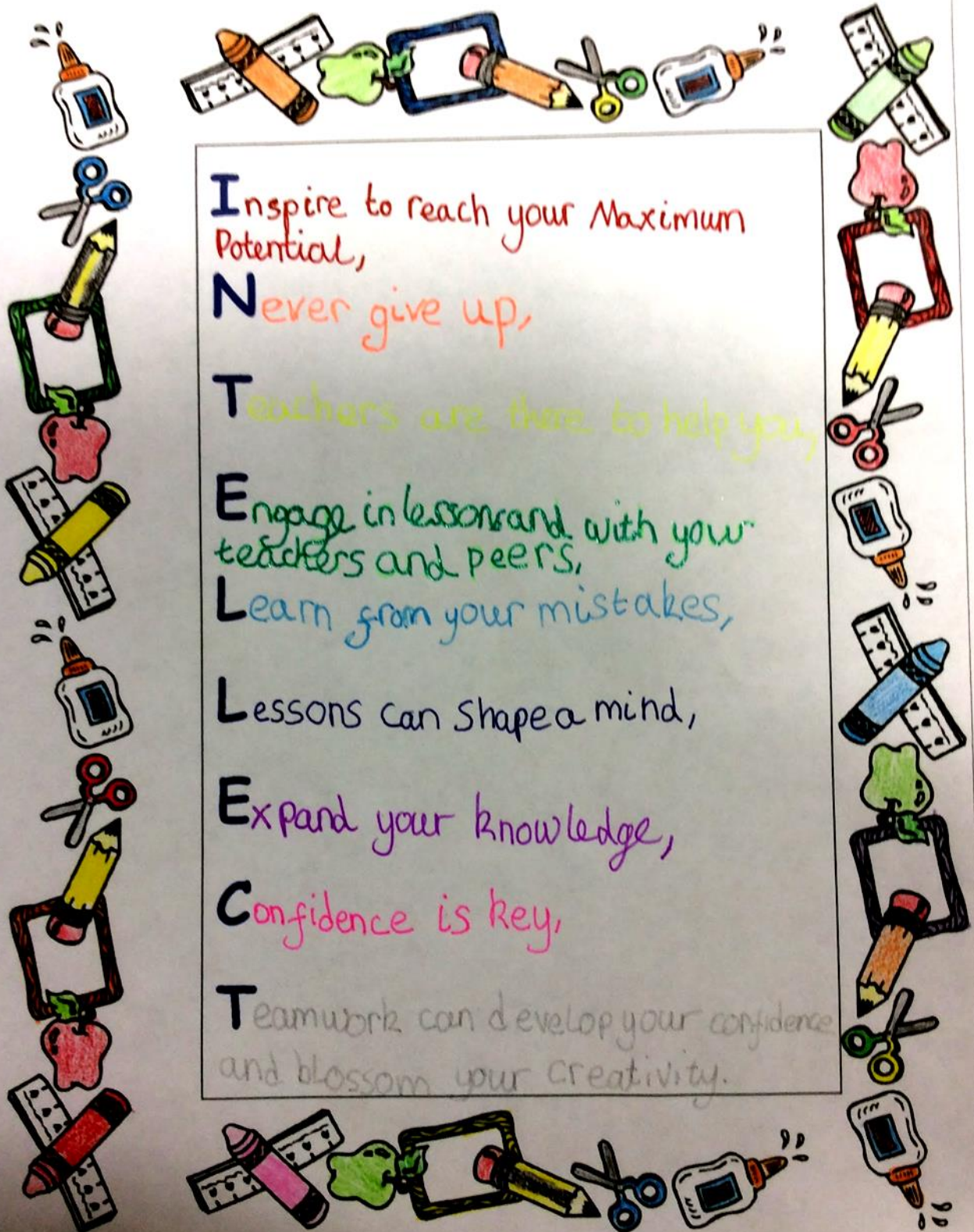
Effort is one thing that is key to developing your understanding,

Creating a pathway so that your work can be outstanding,

The older students help the new pupils with homework as they are finding it difficult. Being intelligent isn't about being independant.

Poem by:
Freda Pereira
7 MPM

well done!



By Shranya Virk

well done!



well done!

Maya Sutra

Inquisitive children willing to learn.

Never neglecting schoolwork.

Trying their hardest in every subject.

Engaging in every lesson.

Learning from their mistakes.

Listening to teachers.

Expressing their interests.

Committed to their studies.

Talented minds building their way to success



Giulia
Montanari Brown

C

ontrol your fear

O

pen up

U

ncertainty must be confronted

R

isks should be taken

A

sk questions

G

ood things can be accomplished

E

ngage in a new experience



International Celebration Week

Next week from **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.

Take a look at what's happening and get involved!

- Every morning registration will be taken in one of the different languages that's spoken in our school community
- Academic monitoring times will have international-themed quizzes and activities
- The canteen will be serving an international menu including Pad Thai noodles, Jamaican Jerk Chicken and French Coq au Vin
- On **Wednesday 22nd**, we're holding the **Great International Bake Off!** Open to all years and staff to bake something from another country, which will be judged on presentation, taste and cultural authenticity. In the past we've had Finnish brownies, Romanian apple cake, Russian dumplings, French macarons and even a German 'Bee Sting' cake! Bring your bakes into M4 in the morning, clearly labelled with your name, form and the name and country of your bake. You may want to add a note adding any cultural information about it or what inspired you to choose it. Don't forget to collect your bake at the end of the day. (Judges will use gloves and masks when cutting a sample)
- **Friday 24th** is our **Cultural Diversity Day**, when 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. In the past, in our desire to celebrate and represent a diverse range of countries and cultures, we have fallen foul of cultural appropriation. This year, we look to rectify that. We are not looking for fancy-dress but for authenticity. It is not a non-school uniform day: we don't want to dilute the vibrancy of our celebration of the cultural diversity and heritage of our school community. This celebration





does of course include traditional cultural clothing of any UK background. We hope that as many people as possible get involved by wearing their heritage's clothing and being willing to share with their form in Friday's academic monitoring a bit about their heritage and what it means to them.

- Every lunch time there will be activities to take part in. Currently the list is as follows, with more to come!

Day		Activity	Location
Monday 20th Sept	Lower lunch 12:55-1:20	Scopa - Learn a typical Italian card game using Sicilian cards	L6
	Upper lunch 1:45-2:10		
Tuesday 21st Sept	Lower lunch 12:55-1:20	Cheese tasting Discover the variety of French cheeses - will you dare try the smelliest one?	L6
	Upper lunch	Bailes en línea - Latin American group dances (extremely popular in Italian parties)	L2
Wednesday 22nd Sept	Lower lunch 12:55-1:20	Salsa, bachata & merengue workshop - Learn the basic steps of the most famous Latin American dances	L3
	Upper lunch 1:45-2:10	Russian word games - Can you solve situation puzzles?	G4
Thursday 23rd Sept	Lower lunch 12:55-1:20		
	Upper lunch 1:45-2:10		
Friday 24th Sept	Lower lunch 12:55-1:20	Origami Kabuto - learn how to make a samurai helmet which doubles as a book marker	L13
	Upper lunch 1:45-2:10		

We're really looking forward to celebrating with you!

Mrs Meyer
Head of MFL



HOUSE SPORT UPCOMING EVENTS

**AFTER SCHOOL
TUESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER
JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE**

**BOYS'
FOOTBALL**



**GIRLS'
NETBALL**





Harvest Box Competition

After school on Wednesday 29th September, in the Upper Hall for students in Years 7 to 9.

Remember when making the boxes they should not include any new materials, everything must be either recycled or have been used before (no new tissue paper, pipe-cleaners, foil, etc.). Start collecting sweet wrappers, cardboard!





Items particularly requested by
Bexley Food Bank:

Long life milk, noodles, custard, jam,
mash, sweets or chocolate, toilet rolls,
deodorant, house cleaning items.

**ALL YEAR GROUPS- PLEASE BRING
IN DONATIONS OF DRY GOODS**

All donations must be on the stage
in the Hall, next to or in your House
Box, by 8.25am, on
Thursday 30th September.

Thank you





PE News

It was great to see so many Year 7 and 8 students at Netball practice this week. A special mention to our Netball stars of the week:

Abebola (Year 7) who was fantastic in her first netball session and Darina (Year 8) for her super movement on the court.


It's not too late to join netball club- just come along next Wednesday after school.



Extra-Curricular Sport Timetable Update

There have been some updates to the extra-curricular sport timetable. Please check to see when your club is. Anyone is welcome. Please ask your PE teacher if you have any questions.

Mr Lines, Head of PE

 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
Lunch			Yr 7 & 8 Girls' Fitness Club	Wk B: Yr 8 Boys' Basketball	Wk B: Yr 10 & 11 Boys' Basketball
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 8 Boys' Football	6th Form Table Tennis**	Yr 11 Boys' Football	Yr 7, 9 & 10 Boys' Football	Archery Club**
			6th Form Football	Yr 9 & 10 Boys' Rugby	

Yr 10 Rugby Wk A, Football Wk B

Field

Gym

** Activities for girls & boys

Sports Hall

Netball Courts

Fitness Suite





Extra Curricular Music Groups

Don't forget to sign up first using the Google Form linked [here!](#)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM/ Break (10.15-10.55)	Clarinet Choir Grade 5+ MU1 Samba Group MU2	Flute Group MU1		String Group MU1	
Period 5 Lunch		Junior Jazz MU1	Junior Choir MU1		
Period 6 Lunch					Junior Rockschool MU1 All ages welcome, some experience of instrument necessary
After School (until 4.15pm)	KS3 Orches- tra MAIN HALL	Big Band (Grade 4+/ Year 8) 3.15-3.55pm Improv Group (Invite only) 3.55pm- 4.15pm	Symphony Orchestra (Grade 4+) MAIN HALL	Senior Choir (Years 9-13) MU1 Bexley Baroque (Invite only) MU2	Rockschool MU1 (Invite only) Show Band (January onwards)



Our Hidden Disabilities Sunflower

sunflower (representing hidden disabilities) was planted a couple of weeks before the end of the school year, and thanks to the lovely caretakers watering our bed in our absence and the recent sun injection, has meant our sunflower has bloomed. I think you can agree it's quite an impressive size too!



It is located between the canteen and SFC.

Mrs Sitch, Additional Needs Department



Years 7– 11 students. Are you entitled to Free School Meals?

Dear Parent/ Carer

If you believe your child may be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) this academic year, and your child is not current in receipt of FSM, we would ask you to complete the **online form**.

In the event of Bexley confirming your child is indeed entitled to FSM, please share the confirmation email with school, to enable us to update our systems accordingly.

To check your eligibility before submitting an application to Bexley Council website please click on the link **here**.

The eligibility criteria for new FSM applications is below. If you have any questions please feel free to contact **Mrs Ellis, Assistant Headteacher**.

Many thanks

To be eligible for FSMs, a parent / carer needs to be in receipt of one of the following:

- *Income Support*
- *Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190*
- *Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*





A Mindful Moment

What is a growth mindset?

Children (and adults!) with a **fixed mindset** believe that our intelligence and abilities are fixed traits; something that you are born with and that you can't really do anything about.

People with a fixed mindset might find themselves saying:

"There's no point, I'm just not good at it"

"My sister is just a sporty person, and I'm not"

"I failed that test. I'm rubbish"

On the other hand, people with a **growth mindset** believe that intelligence and abilities can be developed through effort, persistence, trying different strategies and learning from mistakes.

People with a growth mindset might find themselves saying:

"I don't find this subject easy so I need to pay more attention"

"My sister is really good at sport, perhaps she could teach me"

"I failed that test. What could I do differently next time?"

Why does it matter?

If you have a **fixed mindset**:

- failure can make you feel as if you are just not good enough
- you might avoid challenges for fear of failure
- you feel you have no control over your abilities so struggle with setbacks
- you might decrease your effort over time and feel there is no point



Children (and adults!) with a **growth mindset** think very differently.

They believe:

- they can better at something by practising
- that challenges help them to improve & make them more determined
- that if they fail, they can try a different strategy

Although no one likes failing, people with a **growth mindset** do not let failure define them; instead, they use setbacks to motivate them. Children encouraged to adopt a **growth mindset** enjoy challenges and the sense of achievement they get when they succeed.

This video helps to explain more about the difference between fixed and growth mindset in relation to taking on challenges.

More information about how to foster a growth mindset will be featured later in the term, but there is more information for parents on the BBC website [here](#).



Update

Auditions for Mermaid

Monday 20th September

3.15pm-5.00pm

(most will leave earlier than this)

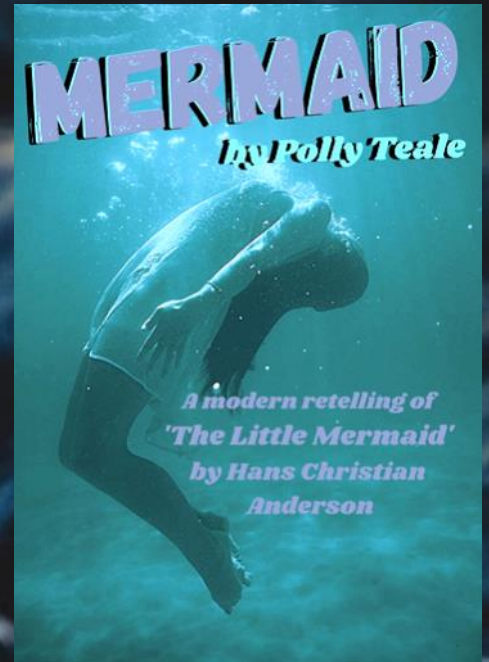
Call back

Wednesday 22nd September

If you want to audition
join the google classroom

[Bp5hc4o](#)

Audition pieces for actors (if you want to prepare) are in the Google classroom. We also need dancers (or confident movers) as well as actors. If you want a behind the scenes role join the classroom and message to Mr Otley.



Please take a LFD test that morning as you will be in close contact with several other students.



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



News items you may have missed

BGS TALENT SHOW

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



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



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

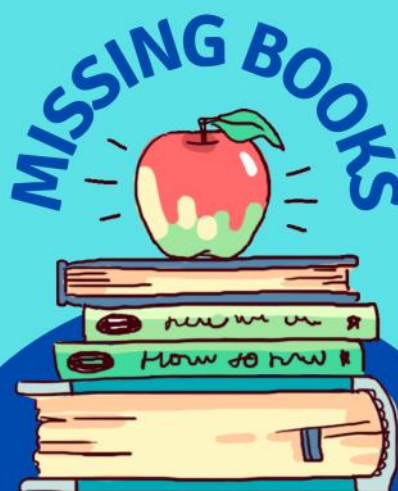
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n11LEZ3eaHL_KQu7gBnUxcixLokHXoC8sbp_q9J4QsQ/edit?usp=sharing

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Mallin

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





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.

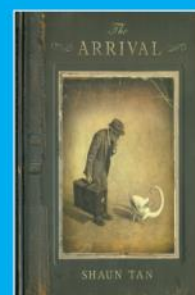
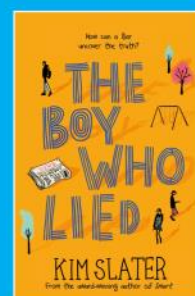
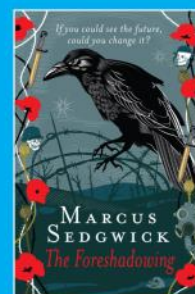
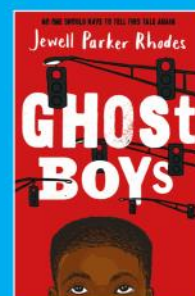
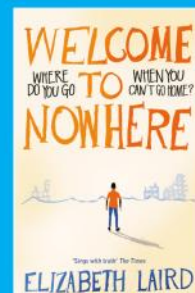
Students in the group will read one book each week, write reviews and take part in fun activities. They will also attend the TSBA awards ceremony in March, where they will be able to meet some of the authors. You can find more information about the award here:

<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





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 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

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)

Tuesday 28th ~ House Sports (see notice)

Wednesday 29th ~ House Harvest Box Competition (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)