



NEWSLETTER

Thursday 21st October
www.bexleygs.co.uk

Fieldwork is BACK in Geography

We are delighted to be out on Geography fieldwork with our Year 12 IB students and this should mark the start of a year of Fieldwork at BGS.

Students worked in groups to collect data at 10 sites on the River Darent, Kent. We made our way from source to mouth collecting qualitative and quantitative data to examine how the river changes downstream and reflected on whether this is what the Bradshaw model would expect. It was a great day to get out in the countryside to carry out a practical enquiry and the Year 12s showed outstanding teamwork and progress with their learning.



On a grey cloudy day the Year 12 IB Geography students left BGS at 8am to head out to the River Darent to collect primary data for the internal assessments. Once all the students were on the coaches we left school and headed out. Miss Thurlow's and Miss Ashman's group headed to the first location near the rivers source while Mrs Belton-Owen's and Mrs Surplus' group went to site 2, a farmers field at Brastead 5km from the source. This year the field had sweet corn growing in it which made for an interesting walk to the river. For most the sweet corn was taller than their heads!



The first couple of study locations gave students the opportunity to get used to working in their groups and collecting the data, as this was the first time that they had completed fieldwork. Students collected primary data on river depth, width, velocity, wetted perimeter and gradient as well as drawing field sketches and taking photographs.

These photographs show some of our lovely Year 12 students completing river depth measurement at site 6, Farningham, now 23km from the start





of the River Darent. The day saw many students with wet feet and wellingtons full of water! But thankfully it stayed dry and we managed to collect all of the data that is required for this work. At site 9, the small bridge that crosses the river gave us the perfect opportunity as always for a group photo!

The Geography Department



Economics News

Year 12, BGS Economics students have published analysis in 'The Backseat Economist'. Click on the links below to read their reports.

'China's 'hidden debts' with Low-Income Countries'
Researched by **Billy Ryan** and by written by **Rohan Dhir**.

<https://www.thebackseateconomist.com/post/china-s-hidden-debts-with-lics>



'The Truth behind Rishi Sunak's Speech',
Researched by **Ibrahim Ahmed** and written by **Rohan Dhir**.

<https://www.thebackseateconomist.com/post/the-truth-behind-sunak-s-speech>





Poetry Competition

Poetry judges were very impressed and could say on behalf of the English department that they were also delighted with the vast number of entries to the poetry competition with pupils from all across different year groups and houses battling for the podium and the number one spot. We congratulate the number one spot (Tara Kale) for their very intricate and thought provoking

response on the theme of Choice, which discussed human judgement when it comes to preserving the earth and the distribution of our natural resources. Is it fair for others to belittle our motherland? Or for others to diminish the efforts of humanitarian activists in an attempt to save the planetary rock on which more than 7 billion people live on?

Second place was nabbed by Jessica Davis in Year 8 due to her amazing use of language and poetic techniques which reminded us of the poet Year 12 Higher English is studying, Seamus Heaney, for its motif of nature. A very impressive piece of writing especially for someone in such a young year group. The short, snappy sentences used really created a sense of urgency and hammered home the anxiety that sometimes comes with making a decision

Coming in at third, Mya Fewell (Year 11) wrote an allegorical poem. The powerful use of a semantic field of fire really made her poem stand out. We also liked how the reader was forced to reflect on the consequences of their choices through the use of rhetorical questions. A line from the poem we particularly liked was the idea that "words could be soaked in venom, dripping down my neck and into the ground" as it created (idk what im trying to say here icl)

We judged the entries on their unique and interesting perspectives on Choice and what it meant to them, and how that translated into their poems. Whilst we were thoroughly impressed by the top three entries, we would also like to give a special mention to one poem which had a completely unique approach and we thought deserved to be recognised even though it didn't make the top three. This poem wasn't lengthy and grandiose in size but packed a punch in as little as eight words clearly proving that a poem doesn't have to be the size of an epic but depict, or in this instance think creatively, of the issue and topic they are willing to address. The poem read as follows: "My choice is to not write a poem"

Alexandru Ionita and Anya Scothern, Year 12





My Plastic Pledge

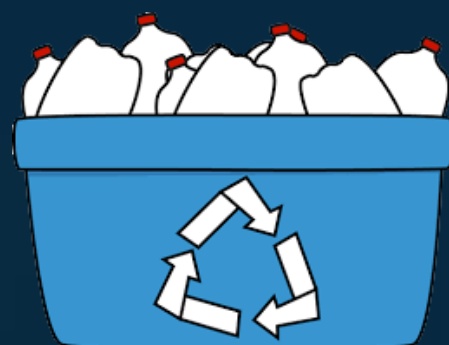
Year 8 Geography students have been completing a series of lessons from the unit of work **"Oceans on the Edge"**. Over the last few weeks we have covered ideas such as plastic in the ocean, threats to coral reefs and oil spills. Students in 8PDH and 8LPV were asked to write a pledge on ways that they can reduce the amount of single-use plastic that they use. I am delighted to share with you some of their amazing responses.

Jacek Brzeg's Pledge

At the beginning of 2021 my family already made a pledge to reduce single use plastic. So far this year we have:

1. Replaced laundry liquid and dishwasher tablets with eco capsules delivered in a paper box
2. Been using soap bar rather than liquid soap (we keep liquid for guests - we buy refill in eco packaging)
3. We buy drinks/ sparkling water in a glass bottle
4. We use a water filter instead of water in plastic bottles
5. We buy as much food from the market where you can return containers/ bring our own containers and we buy food without packaging where possible
6. We use our bags for life
7. We avoid buying one use/ unnecessary plastic items/ toys
8. If there is choice - we buy items in paper rather than plastic
9. We buy bamboo toilet roll/ kitchen towel in a paper bag (no plastic wrap).

During recent bin men strikes we were the only ones on the street who after weeks still had pretty empty plastic bin. That made me feel happy. I still hope we can further reduce food packaging - most of our plastic is still from food packaging (some of the fruits, yoghurt, oil bottles). I also want to use anything made from plastic for as long as possible - it is better to choose things more carefully, rather than keep buying new ones.



Tyler Cox's Pledge

I am going to buy non single-use plastic, try to buy more biodegradable items such as paper straws, biodegradable bags, metal bottles and metal cutlery. I am also going to try and recycle more. I will try and encourage friends and family to cut down on waste, for example my mum's friend only drinks bottled water which can end up floating around in the ocean for millions of years. I will encourage her to stop doing this and buy a metal bottle. Many of my friends only drink bottled water too so I could try and help them too.

Naima Mendjeli Pledge

To reduce the amount of single use plastic that I use, I will try my best to make educated purchases regarding plastic wrapping as well as buying cardboard cartons. I will try to avoid cling film and foil in favour of paper bags, and I will make sure I put my litter in the right section of the bin. Hopefully, I can also participate in organised litter picks my local area, and I'll try to persuade my family and friends to also take steps towards a plastic free future. I'll transform plastic bottles into art projects. Hopefully it can make a difference.



STOP OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION



Aliza Ahmad Pledge

I can reduce the amount of single-use plastic I use by finding alternatives that aren't made from plastic. For example, instead of using plastic straws, I could use paper straws, bring a bag made from cloth instead of receiving the plastic ones, and not use disposable plastic cutlery for your food. Choosing what you use for your daily life and finding replacements for plastics such as paper or metal is good for the environment as we are reducing our plastic intake easily.



Abigail Carter Pledge

I can reduce my use of single-use plastic by always carrying around or sticking with one single water bottle as it ensures I don't need to buy a plastic water bottle that I'm just going to throw away. Many plastic bottles are thrown away into the ocean daily, adding to the pollution and danger of the wildlife in the environment. Even if I do buy a plastic bottle, I shouldn't throw it away, just reuse it. I could also use metal straws as they can be easily carried around and don't need to be thrown away after every use like normal plastic straws. Even using paper straws are better than plastic ones as when they get thrown away, they get recycled and made into something else instead of adding to the millions of stray rubbish around the world.



STOP OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION

YEAR 7 Autumn term round up



Our new Year 7 students have had an **outstanding start** to the year. Ms Orchard and I have been delighted with how well all of the students have settled into BGS. The year group is well on the way to becoming hugely successful. In recent weeks our Year 7 students have taken part in their first international week, which saw **Andrey Polyarush** in **7JMP**, win the international bake off for his Honey cake. In addition to this, the summer induction poems were judged by the Year 13 English prefects and **Bay Ferry** in **7STA**, won for her highly reflective poem for which she was awarded a book of poetry for.



There have been a host of House events this term, one of the first was the Harvest Festival Competition. Many thanks to you all for your kind and generous donations that have been shared with our local community. The harvest festival event is an opportunity for students to be creative in designing and making a harvest box, which was won by Collins this year. House Music saw Year 7 students work and perform with students from across the school to win points for their Houses. This year the theme was 'songs from film and musicals'; Collins won this with an outstanding performance from Lion King. There have been a number of house sporting events and just last week Year 7 took part in their first Power Day which saw the year group tackle a number of wider issues from their PSHCE curriculum including healthy relationships and puberty.



Around the school students have impressed teachers with their positive approach to each of their lessons, as well as how brilliantly they have conducted themselves in wider school events such as school photos, flu jabs and their MIDYIS TEST.

It was lovely to meet so many of you at the successful 'Meet the Tutor' event in September. I hope that later in the year there will be further opportunities to welcome you to Year 7 and whole school events.

Lots of students have joined sporting clubs as well as trying new extracurricular activities including STEM Club, LEGO Club, Book Club in the library and musical opportunities. I am thrilled that **Adrian Platon** and **Kit Jardine** in **7J00** are going to be starting a new club "**Warhammer Club**" and **Cedric Mamodesen** also in **7J00** is organising an "**Origami Club**", both of these will begin after half term and further details will be available via the Tutor N for students.

The second autumn term is another busy one with the following key events taking place for Year 7 students. The first will be electing their tutor group representative for the student. These students will hold regular meetings with myself to discuss issues that are important to the year group as well as organise events. All Year 7s will be taking part in their second Power Day as well as the annual Swimming Gala in December.

Finally, please ensure that if your child rides a bike or scooter to school that they have lights, a helmet and are clearly visible, as both the morning and afternoons are going to be much darker very soon! Ms Orchard and I wish you all a restful half term.



Mrs Belton-Owen, Director of Studies, Year 7

Year 8 Form Council Ideas for over the Half Term

The Year 8 Form Council have been discussing things to do over the October Half Term to help interactions between their friends and family. Here's a few ideas you might want to try and submit to bgsformcouncil@bexleygs.co.uk:

Bexley Grammar School Half Term Bake Off

Can you knead bread like Paul Hollywood? Or bake cakes like Mary Berry? Make flavoursome tarts like Prue Leith? Or fancy yourself as a comedian like Noel Fielding or Matt Lucas? The big question is, however, "Are you a STAR baker?" Bake something with your family or friends over the half term and submit a picture and taste test summary (up to 50 words). The deadline is **Sunday 31st October** and the BGS "Star Baker" will be announced after half term.

Halloween Cartoon/ Story Competition

Halloween is fast approaching and it's time to celebrate by carving pumpkins, dressing up and eating chocolate! Can you add to the fun by designing a ghoulish Halloween cartoon and/or writing a short scary story (150 words)? Submit your entries to the above email by **Sunday 31st October**.

Photography Competition

The sunrise on Monday 18th October was truly beautiful and the colours of the trees are magnificent through Danson Park. If you're out and about over the half term, take a picture of an Autumnal scene and tell us where you've been. Deadline for this is **Sunday 7th November**.





PE News

Football

Girls' Football

A gorgeous afternoon football in the sun. A focus on preparing for our next U14 game against Trinity after half term. Great energy ladies! Special mention to our players of the session: Hannah, Scarlett and Mya for your help coaching the younger years.



Mrs Kemp

Year 7 Football

On Thursday afternoon a new look team took on a strong St Paul's team in our first Kent Cup match. Both teams started strong in the attack and within the first 20mins the game was already at 2-2! After that initial flurry both teams settled down and played some good football. After half time both teams made some changes and the game ebbed and flowed with some fierce battles in the midfield but St Paul's experience started chipping away at us and we conceded a couple of goals in the final quarter. The boys did really well especially as half of them had never played a competitive game of football against another team before. Special mentions to Luke, Jack (both scored 1) and Ikenna for outstanding play. I look forward to our next game.

Mr Skinner



Boys' U16 Competition

Bexley Grammar School U16 progressed further in the Invicta Cup on Wednesday 20th October thanks to a hard fought 2-0 win St Paul's Academy. St Paul's were well drilled and organised, frustrating the normal high quality of football played and were arguably the better side in the first half, but BGS were solid, brilliantly marshalled by Mason McKenna who was fantastic at the back. The second half saw BGS have chances, before a penalty was awarded and tucked away nicely by Obi, and then Riley finished a slick move to make it 2 late on.

Credit to the boys for a professional performance, where they defended solidly and held a good St Paul's side at bay, with neither BGS keeper having to do much. Thanks to Sam Rees for stepping up in goal from Year 10 as Aidan had to leave early, plus good performances from Riley on the left and Ilkan and Malachy in the middle, who were tenacious in the tackle.

Next game is Tuesday 9th November away at Canterbury Academy.

Mr Martin





Netball

3 out of 3 for the Year 7 Team

The Year 7 netball squad started their competition with a bang in October. The squad of 10 played their first ever matches against Welling, Trinity and Townley. Over the course of the afternoon the girls showed great improvement, showing steady and patient play. The teamwork and focus was fantastic leading to three fabulous victories.

BGS 2- 0 Welling School
BGS 4- 1 Townley Grammar
BGS 7- 0 Trinity School

Sophie and Poppy were voted as players of the day for their excellent performance in the shooting circle.



What a start to their season!

To celebrate the last netball training of this half term, Year 7&8 took part in a tournament on Wednesday. The 6 teams were made up of both Year 7&8 and competed against each other in some very close games. The purple team finished in 1st place after playing some very impressive netball. Congratulations to Yi Xin (Year 7) and Emily (Year 8) for grabbing the last Stars of week of the half term!



We have lots of games in the diary for both year groups after half term- so watch this space for more results and updates.

Year 7 & 8 Netball Club

Well done to everyone who has attended Netball club this half term- it really has been fantastic to see so many of you each week. The sessions have focused on a mixture of match play and drills to develop tactics and skills within the game of Netball. Students have shown great dedication, attending on a weekly basis and so improvement has been evident throughout! Our recent matches have shown the strength and skill within the squad- we are hugely proud of them! Well done all!



Stars of the Week

Each week we have been announcing a star of the week award.

Each recipient has shown great work in training and/ or matches. Well done to all students who have been selected as stars of the week.



Week	Year 7	Year 8
1	Adebola for her outstanding defensive skills in training.	Darina for her movement and shooting in training.
2	Yu Xuan for showing great improvement within the session.	Layla for her excellent feeds into the shooters and speed on court.
3	Mary for using skills learned in training in match play.	Caitlyn for her amazing and controlled footwork.
4	Poppy for her excellent shooting.	Ariana for her outstanding performance in the match against Trinity.
5	Sophie & Poppy for their performance in our games against local schools.	Charlie & Anshika for their focus within training.



Finally, a huge thank you to our Sixth Form coaches- Hannah, Milly, Lydia, Libby and Vitoria who have been fantastic role models and inspirations to our younger students. They have officiated, coached and managed students at the club and during games! Well done!!

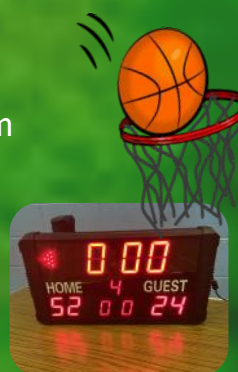
Ms Leffen



Basketball

A tough afternoon for the Year 10 basketball team on Monday who lost to Beths. They worked very hard, but came up short against very good opposition. Well played.

Mr Lines



Fitness Club

Well done to everyone who has attended Fitness Club this half term. We have done some circuit training, boxercise, whole body workouts, yoga and worked with equipment in the fitness suite. We still have lots more fun fitness activities to try and will be opening the club up to all students in Year 7 & 8. If you fancy trying a new club- come along- Wednesday mornings 7.45-8.15am!

Ms Leffen

Rugby

The Year 7 rugby team had their first ever matches on Wednesday afternoon, playing against two Hurstmere teams, and won both games! They were brave in defence, fast in attack, and very sporting in victory. I'm very proud of them, as I hope they are of themselves. Well done boys!

Mr Lines





BGS Production 2022 Auditions!

**Friday 12th November 2021, after
school, in the main Hall,**

Roles available: Actors, Singers, Dancers

**Sign up to the google classroom for all
the information:**

cabfchd





Year 11 Revision Booklet

Bexley Grammar School



Year 11
Preparing for Revision
2021 – 2022

Dear Student/ Parent/ Carer,

The Year 11 Revision Booklet has been distributed to students and is also available on the school website or by clicking on the link [here](#).



Nuffield Foundation Opportunities

Click on the link [here](#) to find out more.

Ms Lusted, STEM Coordinator

Students and Teachers

Spend your summer holiday enhancing your university application and career prospects on a Nuffield Research Placement

Nuffield Research Placements are funded by the Nuffield Foundation and delivered by STEM Learning. They are engaging, hands-on research projects, where students have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution towards the work of a host organisation. They are a fantastic opportunity for students to apply skills and knowledge learned at school and work alongside researchers and industry professionals to:



Develop subject understanding alongside research and quantitative skills to expand career prospects.



Learn more about higher education and different career paths.



Enhance UCAS personal statements and applications to university. An independent evaluation has shown Nuffield Research Placements increase access to university courses in STEM subjects.



Apply for a Gold CREST Award or the Big Bang Competition.



STEM skills webinar Series
and Mentoring Opportunities

STEM Ambassador Hub London

Upcoming events



'Skills in STEM' webinars for 14 - 18 year olds: 11th November - 9th December

Join us as we host STEM Ambassadors from across 5 different sectors in a series of online webinars taking place from November to December.

Schedule: 4.30pm - 5.30pm

- Thu 11 Nov - Project Management
- Thu 18 Nov - Human Resources and People Management
- Thu 25 Nov - Intellectual Property and Legal Concerns
- Thu 02 Dec - Communications, Marketing and Public Relations
- Thu 09 Dec - Logistics

In this series of webinars, STEM Ambassadors from a range of industries working in areas such as project management, communications and logistics, for example, will share what they do within the STEM industry and talk about their skills and experiences.

These webinars will take place on Thursday afternoons **after school**, starting at 4.30pm for 60 minutes, so that individual students with an interest in these topics may attend.

The webinars are designed for pupils aged 14-18 and will be delivered using Zoom with safe-guarding settings in place (no cameras, no microphones, interactions will be kept to the Q&A function which will be monitored by a STEM Ambassador Hub employee). Webinars will not be recorded.



To sign up, please share the [Eventbrite link](#) with your students and ask them to sign up individually. Links to each webinar will sent via email. Email addresses will only be viewed by members of the London STEM Ambassador Hub and will not be used for any other purpose than these webinars. All email addresses will be deleted at the end of this series of webinars.

[Register Here](#)

Student Mentoring Opportunities



[Free online 1:1 mentoring for Year 10-11s!](#) [November 2021](#)

Our second national online mentoring scheme is launching the first cohort on 8th November.

Run by [STEM Learning](#) and in partnership with [Brightside charity](#), it aims to help **14 - 16 year olds** to explore their future career options in STEM over a **six week period**. Young people interact with STEM Ambassadors who are trained volunteers from STEM companies or backgrounds via a secure and moderated messaging system.

Young people taking part will receive:

- one to one support and inspiration from a DBS or PVG checked STEM Ambassador
- training on how to use Brightside's secure and moderated messaging system
- support and resources to help them make informed decisions about their future

Please encourage your students to sign up via [this link](#) to access this great opportunity.

The deadline for mentees to sign up during this first cohort is **Tuesday 2nd November at 4pm**.

[Register Here](#)



Our Ambassadors have contributed to a **90% increase** in young people's engagement in STEM





[Home](#) > [About the School](#) > [What's On: About the School](#)

Friday 5 November at 10:00am



Girls in Jazz Day 2021

Jazz, Masterclass/Artist Conversation



Click on the link below to find out more about the free Girls in Jazz Masterclass 2021.

Mrs Casling, Head of Music

https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/about_the_school/view_all_events/?tx_julleevents_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=7058



BGS Talent Show Winners

During the summer holidays students created stylised, rhymical, beautiful dance pieces or performed, challenging, melodic pieces of music on their instruments. It was such a tough decision to decide the winners of the BGS Talent Show that we awarded as many people as possible. We look forward to seeing these talented individuals in future school performances and competitions.

Miss Gabriel, Drama Department

The winners of the Music Award

1st place

Guilia Montanari-Brown

2nd Place

Simran Sembhi-Dhanjal

3rd place

Dylan Banks

The winners of the Junior Dance Award

1st place

Matilda Jackson and Ella Warren

2nd place

Charis Okikiade and Asarti Monolakou

The winners of the Senior Dance Award

1st Place: Nick Sanz



Safeguarding Update

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Please see below two safeguarding updates from Andrew Hall, a leading safeguarding in schools consultant:

Parenting Smart (Place2Be)

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they can find themselves in with their children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?
- My child has trouble going to sleep
- My child says 'I hate you!'
- Cultural identity: who am I?

The Parenting Smart website can be found here:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>



Clocks back! Dark nights ahead

We'll soon be setting the clocks back an hour and summer-time will end. The resources below will help remind children, including teenagers, about road safety and keeping safe in the dark.

- Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents
<https://www.rosipa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>
- Safety First – Cycling at Night
<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>
- Be Bright, Be Seen Poster
https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Be_Bright_Be_Seen-A5-Flyer.pdf
- Dark Nights <https://www.childcare.co.uk/information/dark-nights-children-safety>
- Be Bright Be Seen <https://brightkidz.co.uk/initiatives/be-bright-be-seen/>

Have a safe and restful half term.

H.J. Gilmore

Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

News items you may have missed



Day	Subject	Location	Start & End Time
Monday	RS- some students will be invited to attend, others can join on a voluntary basis	M22	After school, until 4pm
	Maths- open to anyone who wishes to attend	G4	After school until 4.10pm
	Music- composition	MU2	After school until 4.10pm
Tuesday	English– skills sessions (invite only)	J11	Second half of lunch, week B
Wednesday	History– additional support will take place in lessons with 1 period a week set aside for revision/ support		
Thursday			
Friday	Food Prep & Nutrition	H rooms	Until 4.30pm



The BGS PA Lotto is a monthly draw to raise funds for the school. This was previously known as the Millennium Club.

How does it work?

Each month there is a prize draw with a first prize of £15 and a second prize of £10.

To enter the draw you need to purchase a share. Each numbered share costs £5 for the year and is entered into the following 12 monthly draws plus an additional Christmas bonus draw.

*You can join any time.

*You must be over 18 to enter.

*There is no limit on the number of £5 shares you can buy.

Visit

bgspa.co.uk/lotto

to order your shares!



Year 11 Update

I just wanted to provide a brief overview of the upcoming events to be aware of in Year 11.

The year group will be sitting their next round of mock exams after the October half term. The exam timetable will be released in due course and examinations will start on Tuesday 2nd November.

I have had a number of queries regarding Sixth Form choices and the process of choosing subjects. Covid permitting, the year group will have an information evening event at which parents and their child will receive information regarding the IB diploma and have the opportunity to speak to departments about their subjects. This, in conjunction with discussions with your child's teachers at Year 11 Parents' Evening on the 7th December (via Schoolcloud), will provide enough information for pupils to make decisions regarding their subject choices. This is further supported by work in PSHCE and subject taster sessions on a POWER day. Finally, Sixth Form subject choices are made after the Christmas holidays in the spring term.

A quick reminder that we would encourage pupils to book work experience placements for the summer term after they have completed their GCSE public exams.

Mrs Boulden
Director of Studies, Year 11

Mayor's Christmas Card competition

The 3 winners will win a £20 amazon voucher

How to enter:

Please send your design, on an A4 piece of paper (one side) to
The Mayor's Office, Civic Offices, 2 Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7AT

Please tell us your name, age and what school you go to along with a contact email, address and phone number.

Or send a scanned copy to mayors.office@bexley.gov.uk

The designs will be chosen on Friday 5 November 2021

Cllr James Hunt

Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley



Lost Property

Please click on the link [here](#) to report lost property or email us on reception@bexleygs.co.uk.

Thank you

Reception Team

Paper poppies, enamel badges, snap rulers and wrist bands will be available to buy in the foyer outside Reception during break and lunch time from, Tuesday 2nd November.

Please support the Royal British Legion.

Thank you



Forthcoming Events

October

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)