



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College and
IB World School
Tel: 020 8304 8538

Headteacher: Mr S C Elphick

e-mail: enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk

21 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we finish for the half term break I write to share a few items with you.

We have received very positive feedback on our open mornings - once again, visitors are struck by the quality of our student tour guides (this year mainly from years 10 and 12) and pick up on the welcoming atmosphere on which we pride ourselves.

Year 13 finish their mock examinations today and it is the turn of year 11 after the break. Meanwhile, the extra-curricular activities that I mentioned in my last letter have continued to flourish; I'm especially proud of our numerous sports teams, the progress of which you are no doubt tracking in our newsletters. In addition to the teams, participation in various sports clubs and activities is the highest we have seen since we began rigorously collecting and analysing the data. We have also had the launch of our first World Challenge project in two years - to Malaysia in the summer of 2023. Unfortunately, we have also had to curtail a few indoor activities this week as Covid cases have risen across the school.

I hope that the half term break will act as a circuit-breaker for Covid transmission and that we return to full attendance in November but, as you will be aware, the national trend is going in the wrong direction at the moment. It is very possible that we will need to bring back some measures to minimise the likelihood of spread in school so I ask that you **please ensure that your child has a reusable face covering with them when we return on Tuesday 2nd November**, in case we need to do so at short notice. I would also ask that you avoid hosting parties which involve significant numbers of BGS students. Of course you are completely at liberty to do so but I raise this because we have some evidence that outbreaks in particular groups of students may have been linked to events outside of school as well as the inevitable contact of students within school. Thank you for your consideration.

On the same topic, we are awaiting information about the Covid vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds being offered in schools and I will write to you as soon as we know the details. We have been given the date of **Friday 12th November** by Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS trust (HRCH) which is administering the programme. Unlike the mass testing in schools which we organised in school, the NHS Covid vaccinations programme is using school buildings for convenient access to students for whom consent is given; the process is being managed entirely by HRCH and any questions about it will need to be directed to it. You will receive plenty of information on this in due course but in

the meantime, I understand that Covid vaccinations for 12-15 year olds will also be available in the community, from this weekend, by visiting www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination.

Our website homepage has been updated recently - you may have to 'hard refresh' (Ctrl F5) if the appearance is odd on your pc or laptop.

Our car parks have felt safer since I appealed to you not to use them for pick up and drop off unless your child has mobility issues or you have arranged to collect them because they are ill. Thank you. Could I add a new safety request by asking you to clarify with your child that **the raised traffic calming bumps on Danson Lane** (which unfortunately are not successful in calming some drivers) **are NOT pedestrian crossings**. There may be some confusion because the bump near our top gate (the roundabout end) used to be used as a crossing after school (the crossing lady who used to supervise the 'lollipop' crossing by our top gate retired just before the pandemic and has not been replaced by the local authority). In short, they are road bumps; they are not zebra crossings and do not confer any right to a pedestrian or a bicycle.

Finally, with winter approaching all too fast, may I remind parents that students should be wearing school blazers and plain black shoes (not boots or trainers). Students may choose to wear a school pullover under their blazer but not instead of a blazer. Please see pages 7 and 8 of your child's planner for the uniform policy.

Thank you for your support through what has felt like a whirlwind of a half term. We look forward to seeing everyone healthy and refreshed in November.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick

cc. Sixth form students