

# NEWSLETTER



[www.bexleygs.co.uk](http://www.bexleygs.co.uk)

11th November 2021



## Remembrance Day: A Celebration of Unity and Courage

Twenty one million injured. Over nine million soldiers killed. A tragedy forever in our minds.

From 1914 to 1918, Europe was brought to a standstill as World War One (WW1) raged throughout the continent. Over 30 nations declared war and seventy million military personnel were sent to fight for their countries. To honour their heroism, bravery and sacrifice, we have Remembrance Day. Celebrated annually, Remembrance Day is observed throughout the Commonwealth on the 11th of November at 11AM, at the time Germany surrendered to The Allies.

Many soldiers would have been young, encouraged by the omnipresent propaganda and galvanised by the rising patriotism in Britain, to enlist. As students ourselves, it's imperative to recognise the great number of lives lost at such a young age. Many were young: 17-19 years old. They were barely older than us, yet they were not comfortably learning in school but suffering in the trenches and dying on the battlefield. On the 11th of November, we must remember both the savagery of war that cut their lives short, and celebrate their sacrifices. Further than that, we must remain grateful for the opportunities in life given to us that were not possible for them, and choose to live life to the fullest...



This year, I'm also choosing to highlight those who aren't always celebrated on Remembrance Day. Soldiers on the battlefield faced great struggles; however, women left on the Homefront also faced problems and overcame them with admirable courage. These issues included food shortages, bomb strikes and a crippled economy. Fear and hardship were rife at home, yet those who suffered are often forgotten on Remembrance Day. Girl Guides picked up shovels and grew food for the whole nation; children knitted socks for soldiers; women became farmers, train drivers and factory workers. The bravery they displayed in face of great upheaval should not be forgotten, but celebrated alongside the actions of brave soldiers for their contribution in winning the war.



Many soldiers were also forgotten; in particular, 1.5 million soldiers from British colonies in Asia and Africa have been erased from history. Rather than being commemorated with headstones, like their comrades, their names were scrawled on a registrar and they were buried in mass graves. We never learn about their bravery, their truth and they remain forgotten. By choosing to highlight their bravery this Remembrance Day, we do not diminish the actions of British soldiers but instead embrace the strength and courage shown by all those who contributed in World War One, regardless of race and nationality.



In the sixty seconds we have on the 11th of November, let us remember all those who contributed to the war effort. Let us remember all the women, all the leaders and all the soldiers who helped secure our future. But most importantly?



Let us take their sense of unity and togetherness forward into the future. In face of recent problems, the world has fractured and each nation has chosen to pursue its own selfish interests. Countries have chosen to ignore each other's struggles and forced themselves to battle alone. This is not a viable solution. We must step into the future: **together and united.**

***Megan Lisle & Megan Le, Year 12***



## A Beautiful Tribute

A beautiful tribute from trumpeter James Orchard (Year 10) and Sam Bowles, video editing (Year 12) helping us to commemorate Remembrance day in our virtual assemblies today, Thursday 11th November 2021.

Link to video:

<https://youtu.be/sIKMRKYZIOA>

***Mrs Casling, Head of Music***







## A Black British Hero: Walter Tull 1888 to 1918

### Early Life and Background

Walter Tull was born in Folkestone Kent in 1888 being the grandson of a slave with his father having arrived in the country from Barbados in 1876 although his mother died when he was just 7 years old and Tull & his brother Edward were sent to a Children's Orphanage in Bethnal Green.

The reason why this decision was taken was because it was believed it would prevent the family from becoming destitute as Tull's stepmother was struggling to cope with a large family as he had four other siblings & the two older boys were seen as liabilities that the family could not afford.



At the time Tull and his brother were sent to the orphanage there was always the option that he could return home although in the event the two boys stayed in the institution which was a relatively safe environment until their teenage years and were starting to think of life beyond the home.



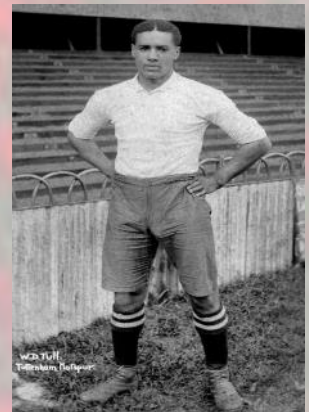
Tull completed his education whilst in the orphanage before getting a job at a local printers which he was hoping would provide an opportunity for him to have some kind of career as a reporter on a newspaper & in his spare time he played football on a regular basis as this was a real passion for him.

### Career as a Professional Footballer

Walter Tull showed himself to be a talented footballer and when he was 20 in 1908 he had a trial for local amateur team Clapton in the East End of London and was picked to play for them and after just one season he had made such an impression that he was spotted by talent scouts who were looking for new players and signed up by Tottenham Hotspur from the First Division (top flight of football in Britain at this time) For this he received a signing on fee of £10 and a wage of £4 a week

At this time Tull was the only second black man to play professional football in Britain and he soon settled in at Tottenham making a significant impression on the club who had just been promoted to the First Division although he often had to deal with racial abuse from opposition fans at away fixtures.

After just seven games for Tottenham however Tull was dropped and during the following season he joined Northampton Town and played just three games but after this he did become a regular player for the team and began to generate interest in other clubs notably Glasgow Rangers who wanted to sign him.





## World War I and Career in the Armed Forces

The move of Walter Tull to Rangers never took place because of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 resulting in his decision to join the army as a member of the Football Battalion and within a relatively short period of time he was promoted to the rank of sergeant indicating his leadership potential.

Walter Tull was not posted to the Western Front until November 1915 and once here he found the situation in the trenches challenging and suffered from shellshock particularly after being involved at the Battle of the Somme which started in July and was sent home in order to recover from his condition. Within a relatively short period of time Tull returned to the Western Front but he was sent home again suffering from trench fever although in spite of this he continued to impress his military superiors who recommended that he should be considered for further promotion as an officer.



## Career as an Army Officer and Death in 1918

Walter Tull was sent to the officer training school at Gailes in Scotland and in spite of military regulations which stated that "any negro or person of colour" could not be an officer Tull received his first commission as a Lieutenant in May 1917 and in doing so became the first Black combat officer in the British Army.



Tull was sent to the Italian Front and led his soldiers at the Battle of Piave in January 1918 and was remarkably successful in his first raid as his battalion suffered no casualties in spite of the fact that they were under intense fire by the enemy with this being viewed as impressive by his superiors. Tull remained in Italy until 1918 when he was transferred to France so as to take part in the attempt to break the German lines on the Western Front and on 25<sup>th</sup> March he was ordered to lead an attack on their position at Favreuil but he was shot by German fire in the head in No Man's Land and died instantly.



During his relatively short period in command Tull had become a popular officer with his men and following his death several of them attempted to rescue his body from No Man's Land and bring it back to the British trenches but had to give up because of heavy enemy fire from German machine gun positions.

It is now known that Tull was recommended for the Military Cross because of his bravery in battle although this was never received by his family with the Ministry of Defence claiming that there is no record of such a recommendation existing although it is now believed that the issue of race played a part.

**Mr Goodall**  
**Head of History**







## Performance Dates

Wednesday 8th December 7pm

Thursday 9th December 5pm

Friday 10th December 7pm

Adults £8.50

Children/ Concessions £5

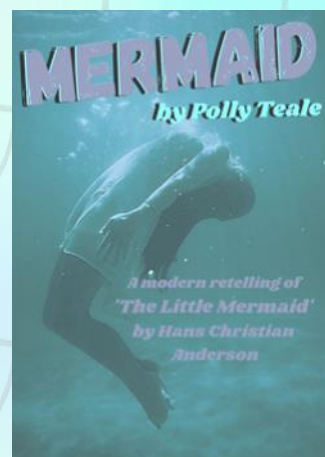
Family (4 tickets, at least 2 children) £20

[Click here to purchase your Mermaid tickets](#)

*This bold reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's tale of love, loss and desire, transported to a contemporary setting.*

*Beneath the ocean's waves there is no death or pain or separation. Above, the modern world is beset with war, poverty and desire.*

*On her sixteenth birthday, a mermaid rises up to the surface, leaving her childhood behind forever when she falls in love with a mortal prince. She knows that she can no longer live at the bottom of the ocean - but must she destroy herself in order to be loved?*



Featuring students from Years 7-13, you can once again enjoy the breadth of talent at our school; a welcome joy after Covid restrictions cancelled last year's school play.

While this is an adaptation of a children's show, there are no singing crabs in this play- it has more depth than you might expect... It's suitable for all age groups being aimed at young teenagers, but younger children will still enjoy it.

We have also introduced a 'family ticket' which allows you to bring your loved ones at a reduced rate. If you are bringing younger children we encourage you to come to the Thursday show at 5 pm, so they do not need to stay up too late to watch the show.

*This performance will be socially distanced, groups arriving together will be able to sit together. As the capacity for the venue is reduced, Please act fast as it will almost certainly sell out!*

There will also be an excellent exhibition of Art work in K1





for you to enjoy before the show and during in the interval. Please make some time to see it.

To purchase your tickets please go to 'yourboxoffice.co.uk' and search 'Bexley' or click on the link [here](#).

**Mr Otley, Head of Drama**



## PE News

### KS4 Core PE

Sport Education is under way in our Year 10 and Year 11 core PE lessons. This friendly competition will run for the remainder of this term. Who will roar to victory? The contenders are the Buffaloes, Badgers, Bears, Bulls, Beavers, Bullfrogs, Broncos and Bobcats. Watch this space!

***Mrs Kemp, Miss Leffen, Mrs Howard and Mrs Mallin, PE Department***







Well done to the Ruby, Isabelle and Emily who tested out their reaction time at fitness club this week. The students used BlazePods to work on various elements of fitness alongside reaction time in some competitive situations.

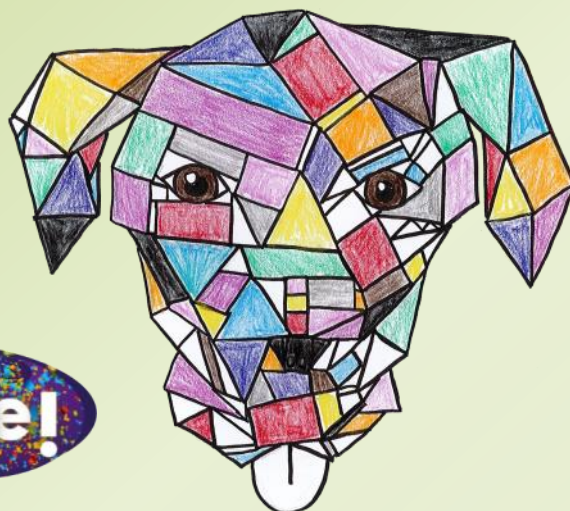
**Miss Leffen**



**iEl cubismo!**

Our Year 8 Spanish beginners have been studying Picasso and Cubism this term. They have come up with some tremendous Cubist pictures of their own! Well done Sienna and Alice for your amazing creative and linguistic skills in Spanish!

**Ms Adlington, Year 8 Spanish Teacher**



### Perro cubismo

Cuatro rectángulos morados, tres triángulos morados, dos rectángulos Verdes, Cuatro triángulos verdes, un cuadrado verde, dos rectángulos amarillos, tres triángulos amarillos, tres cuadrados amarillos, tres triángulos Naranjas, un rectángulo rosa, un rectángulo naranja, tres cuadrados naranjas, cinco triángulos rosas, dos cuadrados rosas, tres triángulos rojos, tres rectángulos rojos, dos cuadrados rojas, Seis triángulos azules, dos rectángulos azules, un cuadrado azul, cinco triángulos violeta, dos rectángulos violeta, Cuatro triángulos grises, tres rectángulos grises, dos óvalos grises, dos triángulos marrones, dos rectángulos marrones, uno cuadrado marrón, dos círculos marrones, treinta y seis triángulo blanco, once rectángulos blancos, tres cuadrados blancos, dos círculos blancos, un semicírculo blanco, Seis triángulos negros, tres rectángulos negros, dos círculos negros y muchas líneas negras

Sienna Alwan ~ BCPB





## Year 9 Geography fieldwork trip to KEW GARDENS

Last week the Geography department took the whole of Year 9 out to explore, enjoy and be captivated by the awe and wonder of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. This was an excellent finale to our topic of World Biomes and allowed students to explore vegetation and ecosystems from around the world. We had beautiful autumn weather which set the perfect scene as our native deciduous woodland trees and vegetation were turning red and golden. Students visited a range of top attractions in the garden including the tree top walk, Palm House, Temperate House, The Hive and the students favourite the **Princess of Wales Conservatory**. This greenhouse included desert biomes, tropical rainforest and ferns, carnivorous plants and beautiful orchids.

The pictures here show the delights of Kew in all of its glory. The Hive is an incredible art structure that is designed as a bee hive would be and being inside you hear the noise of bees buzzing and the lights flashing representing how the bees communicate. The image shows what the inside of **The Hive** looks like inside.



Year 9 groups outside **The Palm House** before we entered the humid rainforests that span the equator. It was not long before coats were taken off as the heat inside helped to create a real experience. Inside the drips off the leaves help to create the damp jungle conditions that you would experience in the tropical rainforest. Students had to find examples of fruit, medicinal plants and drip tip leaves!

The **treetop walkway** was another highlight of the trip. Where students experienced the top of the trees from 18m up and could look out across the treetops and west London.



Inside the glasshouses.  
This bamboo grew in 8 days!





The Treetop Walkway. Us at the top



Enjoying the lake & lunch in the Teepees!



Year 9 students are entering our Kew Gardens photo competition, here are just a few of the photographs taken from the day; we have been impressed with all of the photographs.



Leila Stepanova



Jean-Pierre Duah



Alex Anastasov





Mia Millin



Elijah Crawford



Edgar Peree



Mubarak Adelasoye



Adeleke Gabriel



Deya Dimitrova

## Students' impressions of Kew Gardens

**Ammar Yasir** - This trip at Kew Gardens was fantastic! We saw many interesting plant and fungi species. My favourite place was the bonsai trees as they were very cool to see. Did you know that originally Bonsai trees come from China?

**Gabriel Rocha** - I really enjoyed my stay at Kew Gardens. I visited many places such as The Hive, Princess of Wales garden, The Palm House, Temperate House and the canopy walk. I enjoyed The Princess of Wales Garden the most as it had many different biomes you could explore such as desert and rainforest. We also saw some Carnivorous plants there. Overall I really enjoyed my stay at Kew Gardens and I would like to come back one day.

## Precious Nwaekpe

World Biomes wrap up  
The trip to the Botanical Gardens in Kew was very exciting and informative. My We learnt a lot about the biomes we had previously studied in school so this was a great chance to further our knowledge. We all enjoyed seeing the plants in a climate as close as possible to their biome they're from. We discovered many interesting facts and how some of the plants could be used in things such as food and medicine. The Madagascar's periwinkle can be used to treat leukemia and 70% of the world's sugar comes from New Guinea. My best bit of the day was the Tree top canopy, which was 18m tall and surrounded by trees. Before I wasn't afraid of heights, so this was a breeze in the park for me and as I wasn't worried about imminent death I was able to marvel at the magnificent view. It was breathtaking. I'd love to go again, but preferably in the summer as it was a bit chilly.





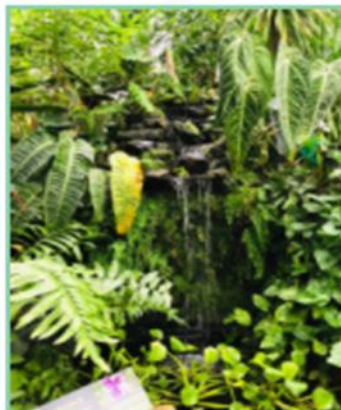
I really enjoyed the trip to Kew Gardens. There were lots of different plant species for me to hear. My favourite place was the Princess of Wales Conservatory because I really liked the cacti and carnivorous plants. There were also streams in some glasshouses which I really liked the look of. I also managed to take lots of good photos of the different plants. Overall, I loved the Kew Gardens trip and I would really like to do it again.

**Jana Wheate-Martinez**

Kew Gardens was amazing. I learnt so much new things there, for example how some cactuses are taller than humans. I really enjoyed the river and the tall bridge, the view was nice. Also, I enjoyed the greenhouse because of the flowers and how it imitated a tropical rainforest.

**Kenenna Eneh**

### **My Kew Gardens Wrap Up**



The time I had at Kew Gardens was amazing! All the different plant and tree species were astounding. My favourite activity was the Princess of Wales conservatory because I found the desert and rainforest biomes incredible. They housed more different species of plants and trees than I had ever seen before. There were mini waterfalls and even venus flytraps, one of my favourite species of plants. Lots of the photos I managed to take were amazing but these three were on the top of my list.

**Leo Leupold**





I chose this picture because it shows the versatility of the plants next to water sources. There's either plants that float on water, are found near water or even grown in the water! All of them are unique and colourful.

**Basika Rai**







BGS PA

# Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees For Sale!

**14 days left to order**



The PA is pleased to offer discounted  
Nordmann Fir Christmas trees to all  
BGS families, staff, friends and neighbours!  
We have a wide range of sizes available from £20 - £58.  
All proceeds will fund school resources or initiatives.

**To order your tree, visit:**  
**[www.bgschristmastrees.co.uk](http://www.bgschristmastrees.co.uk)**



Orders are due by Thursday 25 November





News items you may have missed

BEXLEY GRAMMAR MUSIC DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS

# BGS Christmas Concert

1ST DECEMBER 2021, 6PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM  
[WWW.YOURBOXOFFICE.CO.UK](http://WWW.YOURBOXOFFICE.CO.UK)

£6.50/£4 CONCESSIONS





# BGS Production 2022 Auditions!

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, after  
school, in the main Hall,

Roles available: Actors, Singers, Dancers

Sign up to the google classroom for  
all the information:

**cabfchd**





## **Bexley Grammar School Parents' Association**

# **Quiz Night**

All the money raised will help fund equipment and initiatives at Bexley Grammar School.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

**Doors open 7pm for 7:30 start**

**Tickets £5 per person**

**Teams of 6 - 8 people**

**Bring your own food and drink**

**Bring change for interval games & raffle**

**Held in the school hall with windows open for ventilation so wrap up warm!**

Numbers are limited and all teams must be pre-registered.

To register your team or for any questions please email

**BGSPA@bexleygs.co.uk**







## The 13th Bexley Young Musician of the Year



## Bexley Young Musician of the Year 2022

In 2020, both Mia Chan and Charlie Keeling expertly represented BGS in the Bexley Young Musician of the Year, having successfully got through to the finals. Charlie Keeling then went on to win the overall award. Will we have another winner from BGS in 2022?

<https://bexleyyoungmusician.com/>

***Mrs Casling, Head of Music***

## 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](mailto: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

***Closing date extended to Friday 12th November***



## Lost Property

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

Thank you

**Reception Team**

## Forthcoming Events

### November

Thursday 11th ~ PA Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees Sale continues (see notice)

Friday 12th ~ Little Shop of Horrors Auditions (see notice)



Tuesday 16th ~ Sixth Form Open Evening 5.30pm - 8pm

**Wednesday 17th ~ Late start following the Open Evening - Registration at 9.20am**

Tuesday 23rd ~ Year 13 Virtual Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm

Thursday 25th ~ PA Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees last orders  
~ PA Quiz Night (see notice)



### December

Wednesday 1st ~ BGS Christmas Concert (see notice)



Friday 3rd ~ Collection Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees

Saturday 4th ~ Collection Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees



Tuesday 7th ~ Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm

Wednesday 8th ~ 'Mermaid' Production, 7pm (see notice for ticket sales)

Thursday 9th ~ 'Mermaid' Production, 5pm (see notice for ticket sales)

Friday 10th ~ 'Mermaid' Production 7pm (see notice for ticket sales)



**Friday 17th ~ Final day of autumn term**