



NEWSLETTER

Thursday 18th November
www.bexleygs.co.uk

BGS PA

Discounted Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees For Sale

**only
7 days left!**

Orders due by
4pm on Thursday
25 November

to order your tree, visit:
www.bgschristmastrees.co.uk





Year 7 Student Councillors

I am thrilled to share with you the students that are our **new Year 7 student council**. The students will be working with Ms Orchard and me throughout the year on ideas suggested by the year group and supporting new initiatives from Ms Orchard and me. Each student has presented a speech to their tutor group and been voted into the role. Congratulations to each and every one of you.

Mrs Belton Owen
Director of Studies, Year 7



7J00



Idris Miah



Rosie Waghorn



Yasmin Mofakham



James Spencer

7MPM

7JMP



Jake Armstrong



Karthik Saravana

7STA



Bay Ferry



Austin Tanner

7MAM



Kristian Naydenov



Neewa Subba

7FTM



Sophie Allen



Oscar Rayneau



Year 7 Merit Award Certificates

A huge well done to the students named below as they are the **top two merit earners** in their tutor group for the first half term of the year. Certificates have been awarded and students have been celebrated. In some of the tutor groups the race was tight at the top. There will be further rewards given out at the end of this half term, so keep working hard and being helpful, respectful and considerate to earn merits from your tutors and teachers.

Mrs Belton Owen
Director of Studies, Year 7

7JOO	Emily Chan & Kartikeya Sriyastava
7MAM	Maks Adaemiec & Zafir Chaudhuri
7MPM	George Barnes & Guila Montanari Brown
7STA	Yu Xuan Ong & Aiden Janse van Rensburg
7FTM	Lilly Middleton & Adebola Olateru
7JMP	Andrey Polyarush & Shraya Virk



English News

The Elephant Vanishes

*Following our study of Haruki Murakami's short story collection, **The Elephant Vanishes**, in our HL English class, I recommended that students should read an interview with Murakami and Mieko Kawakami in which she questions his representation of his female characters. In response to the interview and her own reading, Alison Balint reflects on his work from a feminist perspective in this thought provoking article.*

Ms Hanington

In an **interview with Mieko Kawakami**, celebrated Japanese author Haruki Murakami discusses the feminist critiques of his work, which are often considered to objectify women. There are numerous interpretations of Murakami's work that view his portrayal of women as overtly sexual and not full characters, but rather as mere catalysts for the progression of the (usually) male character.



I think what's most striking about Murakami's responses is his unwillingness/inability to recognise the social context of his objectification of women. While he may not necessarily intend to portray women in a purely sexual/ non-sentient way, that is a very common interpretation/ impact of his work, and yet he continues to assert the fact that he merely portrays his characters as human beings, who happen to be male or female.

I definitely am a bit more unsure of where I stand on a feminist interpretation of Murakami's work, due to the fact that he seems to harbour an apathy towards his inadvertent display of traditional gender roles. But this perceived 'apathy' may be a positive thing, in the sense that he simply chooses to write what he wants and feels is true, not beholden to the pressures of political correctness. From my own inherently Western and feminist perspective/bias, the concept of valuing a lack/ unawareness of political correctness feels very foreign, but perhaps there is more to be gained when accepting that there is no way to justify a text making me feel uncomfortable. A freedom, perhaps, that we have erased from our liberal society: discomfort.

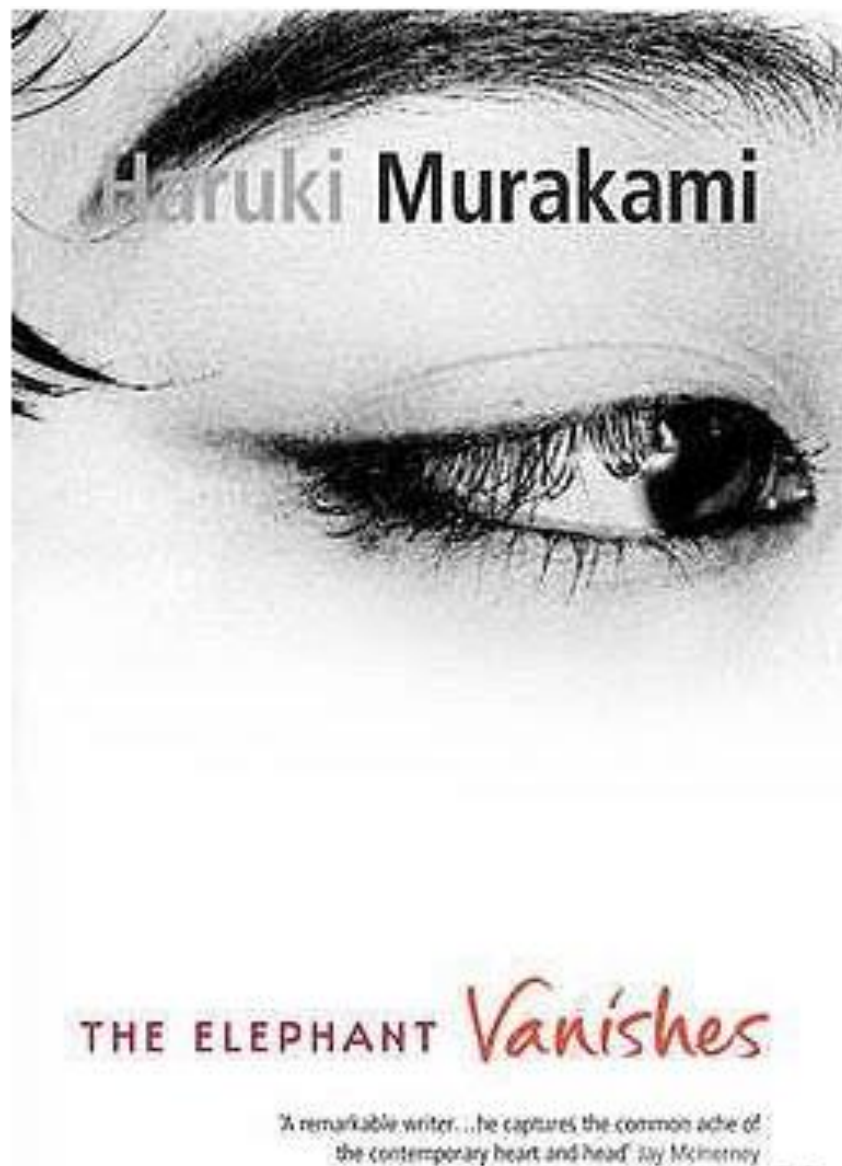
Speaking about his characters, Murakami states that 'on a fundamental level, **before** I see them as a man or woman, I see them as a human being', but I think that personally, I would be unable to not consider a person's gender, due to how deeply my gender has impacted my life and personal experiences. The idea that we can divorce a person of something so defining as gender seems almost dehumanising and reckless to me, on a personal level. It would be as if I were disregarding someone's very essence. And yet, Murakami challenges what defines an individual, and how an individual chooses to make sense of the world around them. I think that because we are so rarely confronted with texts that challenge our perception so deeply, there is the possibility for an immediate disconnect with Murakami's work, but instead, we react very emotionally, be it positively, negatively, or somewhere in between.



Due to the lack of continuous action or events, Murakami's stories may initially appear simplistic, but there is always a feeling of something beneath the surface that we just haven't grasped yet. And Murakami's refusal to explain, or even explore his characters seems fundamentally autonomous, as if he is flagrantly disregarding an established social convention. In our society, we constantly demand explanations and purpose, and through his withholding of this, Murakami not only shocks, but provides us with the rare opportunity to form intensely personal interpretations.

What a great read!

Alison Balint, Year 13





PE News

Thursday saw a busy afternoon of sport. The Year 8 rugby team won 35-20, and the Year 10 rugby team won 46-12; both games played in an excellent spirit against our friends at Wilmington GS. The Year 8 football team lost 6-2 vs Bishop Justice, but fought very well.



As lots of our students are back playing sport, we're keen to make sure our representative honours board is up to date. If you've recently been selected to play for your county, or country, please come and see Mr Lines so that we can recognise the achievement and inspire other students.

Year	Name	Sport
2017	D. O'Shea	Kent - Football
2017	E. Lill	Kent - Football
2017	M. Lill	Kent - Football
2017	R. Black	Kent - Football
2018	F. Black	Kent - Football
2018	T. Montgomery	Kent - Football
2019	A. Black	Kent - Football
2019	J. Jamal	Kent - Football
2019	D. Atkinson	Kent - Football
2019	L. Rowland	Kent - Football
2019	T. Masters	Kent - Football
2019	F. Bucksey	Kent - Football
2019	L. Harry	Kent - Football
2020	V. Garimella	Kent - Football
2020	F. Bucksey	Kent - Football

Mr Lines, Head of PE

Girls Sport Education is underway in Key Stage 4 PE lessons with the battle for the top place being their focus. Who will be the Christmas champions? Can you guess who they may be?



Congratulations to our new GK who is stepping in to represent the school in our next match against Trinity. Our well-deserved player of the demonstrating what we pride ourselves on at BGS... Courage, this week goes to Yasmin. Fab work!

Mrs Kemp, PE Department





Year 8 News

Year 8 Merit Raffle winners were:

Jude Chance (8ACR)
Naima Mendjeli (8PDH)
Manveer Hundal (8CPB)
Lara Balint (8KAS)



Students get a raffle ticket for every 10 merits they collect for a draw at the end of each half term, so keep collecting!!

FAO of Year 8 Parents/ Carers

Year 8 Students have had an assembly last week from NIA, a charity that works in East London with vulnerable women. The purpose of the Assembly was to discuss and inform about healthy friendships/relationships and bystanderism, giving students skills to deal with the online and real world. NIA recommended this [link](#) to CEOP, linked with Childline, which has been shared with students for them to read and get advice from if they need support for many issues that they might face. It offers some good advice and could be useful for you as parents to be aware of some of the pressures that our young people face in the online world.

Year 8 Council Photography Competition

Winner of the Year 8 Form Council Photography Competition, Karan Abrol for his images of a view of Glasgow Cathedral from Necropolis Cemetery and a view from the Turret built in AD 122 and the Hadrian's Wall.

Mr Martin
Director of Studies, Year 8





STEM News

This term is incredibly busy for all of us at school, but the Year 13 scientists, in particular! All lab based experiments for the Internal Assessments took place in the first week of November. This year is our biggest cohort ever with 60 students in physics alone. With all students completing a unique experiment the variety of activities across the different labs really was a sight to behold!

Mr Villazon's Robotics Club is going from strength to strength. Sadly this term it can no longer be more than one bubble so we are excited to see what the Year 8s get up to! Here they are coding Rovers:



Exciting Opportunity for Year 8 Girls

The National Cyber Security Centre is running a national competition called CYBERFIRST GIRLS. This is a fantastic competition with huge prizes and national recognition up for grabs! Are you keen and enthusiastic? Can you represent your school with your friends?

You have until November 29th to get on board. Please join Mr Villazon's Google Classroom if you are interested. Code: **bgnl3ea**

We have two teams already but we want more!

Watch this [video](#) to find out more.



Power Day 2 - STEM Day

On **Wednesday 24th November** ambassadors from a huge range of STEM careers will be visiting BGS to run workshops with Years 9 and 10. Year 9 can choose which set of activities they would like to complete during the day.



If you are already doing Duke of Edinburgh then do not sign up but otherwise Year 9 students should be completing the form emailed by Ms Lusted.

To see what exciting opportunities are being provided for Year 9 please see these [slides](#).

Ms Lusted, STEM Coordinator

Quantum Ambassador Programme



The UK has entered a global race to develop new quantum technology. Thanks to the **UK National Quantum Technology Programme**, BGS are going to get involved too!

Are you a student aged 16 to 19 and interested in the latest developments in science and technology!

The Quantum Ambassador **Programme** will provide quantum physics activities which will take students from the first quantum revolution (lasers, MRI scanners, GPS and semiconductors) up to the present day and into the future.

This exciting programme will enable post-16-year-olds to:

- engage in science and emerging technologies
- understand the scientific process
- enhance their understanding of quantum physics and technology concepts
- be signposted to relevant career pathways

It will involve completing about 2 hours of activities over the course of the academic year, which will be supported remotely by ambassadors who can answer any questions about the work or even about their careers in this exciting field. In the following year, ambassadors will visit us to provide face to face workshops.

We anticipate running this as a lunchtime club for Years 11-13. Please email Ms Lusted if you are interested in taking part.

Ms Lusted



SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free School Meals (FSM) and Pupil Premium (PP)

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals (s)he will be able to have a meal each day in the canteen at no cost to you, up to £3. Students in receipt of Free School Meals cannot be identified by other pupils because all students use our biometric (cashless) system to pay for school meals in the canteen.

In addition to free meals you also have access to help with costs of school trips and other school-related expenditure; the money received by the school from the Pupil Premium grant supports personalised education for your child. **We would encourage all parents/carers to apply if they are in any doubt.**

1. To check whether your child is eligible for Free School Meals, please click the following link: **Free School Meals Eligibility Check**

2. This check will provide a '**certificate of eligibility**' but you must complete the process by completing an online application. Residents of Bexley borough can click this link: **Bexley - Free School Meals Application**, for other boroughs please make your online application via your Local Authority website.

3. Please forward your '**certificate of eligibility**' along with the **email confirmation from your local authority** to our Finance/Business Manager: Mr Walsh (**walsh_a@bexleygs.co.uk**) who will ensure your child is added to our system as receiving Free School Meals.

Please note that we are unaware of a successful application for Free School Meals until we are informed by parents/carers.

To find out more please click on the BGS link **here**.





BGS PA LOTTO!

November Draw

Congratulations to the following winners
of the BGS PA Lotto for the November draw:

D. McCann (no. 40) - first prize of £15

B. Bailey (no. 5) - second prize of £10

**Next month we'll be drawing first & second
prizes and a Christmas Bonus Draw of £50!**

Draw date is 15th December. If you don't have shares, you can
order by Sunday 12th December to be included in the December draw.

Visit

bgspa.co.uk/lotto
to order your numbered shares!

*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. Shares are valid for a year which includes
12 monthly draws plus a Christmas bonus draw.



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

£6.50/£4 CONCESSIONS



Mermaid

by Polly Teale

A modern retelling of
'The Little Mermaid'
by Hans Christian
Anderson

Performance Dates

Wednesday 8th December 7pm

Thursday 9th December 5pm

Friday 10th December 7pm

Adults £8.50

Children/ Concessions £5

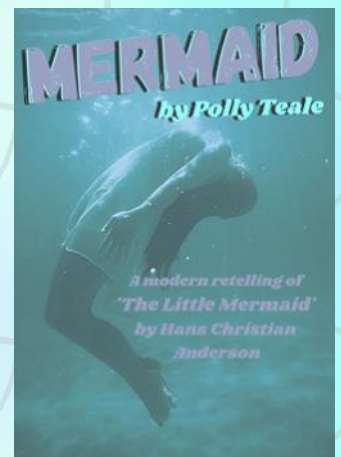
Family (4 tickets, at least 2 children) £20

[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





Bexley Grammar School Parents' Association

Quiz Night

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

Thursday 25th 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





Lost Property

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

Thank you

Reception Team

Forthcoming Events

November

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 (letter to follow soon)

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