



# From strength to strength - another year of IB success!

**Congratulations to Year 13 IB students and their teachers for another year of superb IB success!**

This year we celebrate the achievements of the 102 students who have followed the IB Diploma Programme. Nearly 80% have already (10<sup>th</sup> July) been accepted into their first or second choice of university, 5% into Oxford. As a flagship for the IB, Bexley Grammar School has the only fully -IB Sixth Form in a South East London borough and stands proudly alongside the highly successful IB grammar schools across Kent which deliver the depth, breadth and challenge of the IB Diploma, demonstrably the best preparation for higher education and for a fulfilling future.

Mr Elphick enthuses, "I am delighted for our students, their teachers, their families, indeed for the whole BGS community which celebrates these strong outcomes from the world-class education they have enjoyed. The summer is now theirs to enjoy, secure in the knowledge that they will be studying at some of the most prestigious universities in the world this autumn. It is remarkable that the *average* achievement of our 102 students in UCAS points exceeds 3 A\* grades at A level. We are proud to see such a successful group of students flourish and we are excited that twice as many students will be in their position this time next year, building on these excellent results, as we experience our first all-IB cohort."

*In brief:*

- Grades 7 to 5: 85%
- Average Point Score per student: 33 (World average 29.8)
- Diploma pass rate: 99%
- Extended Essay pass rate: 100%
- Theory of Knowledge pass rate: 100%
- CAS pass rate: 100%
- Students gaining 40 points or more out of a possible 45: 14%
- Students gaining 38 points or more (typical Oxford offer): 20%
- Average UCAS point score achieved is equivalent to either:
  - more than 3 straight A\*s at A level
  - or a little less than 4 A grades at A level.



## Jack Petchey Award, Celebration Evening Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Last Thursday evening the majority of our Jack Petchey Award winners for 2017-18 attended the Celebration Evening at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford along with several members of staff to receive their winners' medallions presented by the Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley, Councillor Brian Bishop.

*The Jack Petchey Celebration Evening was a fun, relaxed few hours where we got to know about the achievements of people from schools all across the Borough of Bexley. It was great for me and the other award winners from BGS to have some teachers from our school there (some familiar faces!) There was so much clapping that my hands were aching afterwards, and there was lots of loud music (and some awe-inspiring performances by students from some of the other schools in the borough). We received awards from, and got to shake hands with, the Mayor of Bexley. The whole evening was presented by an incredibly friendly and enthusiastic host!*

*I feel so grateful to have been one of the people chosen from BGS to win this award! Huge thanks to anyone who nominated me!*

### Sam Wilson, Year 9



September Kweku Brobbey



October Remy Preston



November Paula Navarro Flores



January William Henderson



February Ammar Gill



March Alex Lukov



April Sam Wilson



May Samuel Huynh



June Daniel Birch



Leader Award Mr A Stewart



Two of our Award winners were involved in the Musical production of School of Rock and were unable to attend the Celebration evening and had their medallions presented to them at the start of the Wednesday evening's Gala performance, along with our Leader Award winner, Mr Stewart.

**Mrs Snelling, Jack Petchey Coordinator**





SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

## Latest News

The three winning teams from the House STEM challenge were rewarded with a trip to Shooters Hill College on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July for a day of fun, interactive challenges. The highs were taking part in a robotics challenge, producing an e-fit picture of some very dodgy characters and building and racing model cars. The low was the realisation that they would be put into mixed teams with two students from another school! Once they got over the shock they all embraced the challenges really well and I hope will agree that it was a valuable lesson in teamwork and an insight into work life, where you might get put into a team working with people you don't know.

I was very proud of how all the BGS students performed and there were some fantastic leadership qualities in evidence. It was a competitive event with the overall winning team being invited to the regional finals. We did not secure a place in the regional finals for any of our teams, however, one team did win in the Robotics Challenge. Well done to Lucas Zyrdo Symons and Matthew McCaughey.

### *Ms Lusted, Science Department*

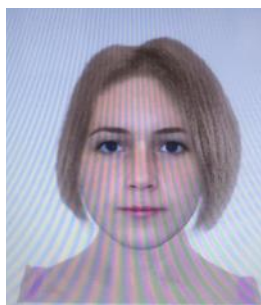


Ms Lusted



E-fits of Ms Lusted

Would you have guessed correctly?





## Robotics Trip

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July, I was fortunate to be part of the Year 12 cohort that visited the UCL Computer Science department on a trip designed to display a practical application of the theory we have learnt this year.

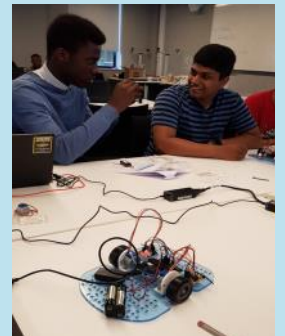
Chaperoned by Ms Muirhead and Mr Brook, and enthused by the warmth that has soaked London for the past few weeks, we made our way into the heart of the city, our journey consisting of a myriad of train stations, brisk walking and the general energy that rush hour in the city of London demands.

Arriving at the university, we were immediately made to feel welcome and ushered into a lecture theatre, receiving a short introduction to the day's itinerary, as well as being introduced to three students currently studying computer science. This provided an undeniably valuable insight into, not only what the course entails, but an honest student perspective on life at UCL: high points of their year, regrets and prospects for the future. The consensus was that going on to continue studying the subject in question would be an enriching experience that opens doors, with graduates going on to work in healthcare, education and even zoology; in a fast-developing world, technology equips us to solve real-world problems in newly creative and efficient ways.

Given the opportunity to employ our own creativity, the group was introduced to Professor Stephen Hailes, the Deputy Head of Computer Science Department and Head Autonomous Systems, who was to lead our robotics session. Once briefed on the nature of programming with microbits, our first task was to assemble a basic model of a robotic caterpillar, then program it's movement using specialist software online. Like all programming tasks, this required collaborative skills as well as clear and open-minded thinking, but like all programming tasks, it also brought a feeling of immense satisfaction and accomplishment when we solved the problem presented.

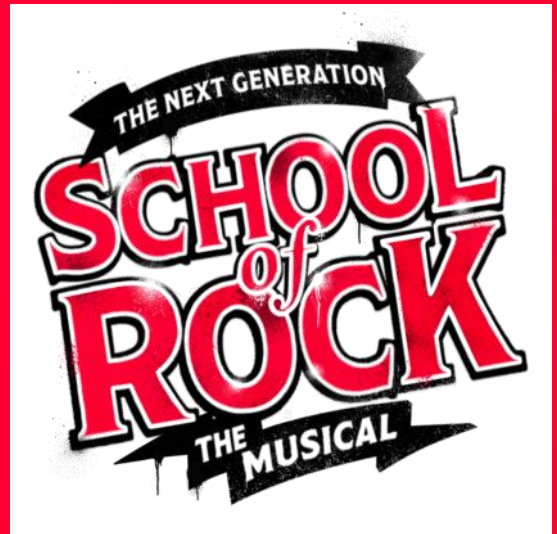
To end the day, the students we had met earlier led us on a tour around the university's campus. The highlight of this to me was how seamlessly old and new buildings were combined to form a cohesive environment conducive to learning, again exemplifying the timeless nature of knowledge and the role it plays in our lives; the steps we take in harnessing technology as a tool today will only advance our already fast-paced world, a concept that is as exciting as it is promising.

**Sade Imole, Year 12**





How to persuade the Head that a musical about a teacher creating anarchy and chaos in a school is a good idea? Maybe having done a Monty Python musical last year this did not seem such a silly idea, but somehow we persuaded Mr Elphick it was a good idea. The musical has been incredibly popular in the West End and on Broadway, and the 2003 film by Jack Black and we had the largest number of students audition ever for a school musical! (15% of the school), which led to us making the decision to cast two separate casts this year, which perform for two nights each. For the production team, a number of new (frightening!) challenges: live music in the pit *and* live music on stage, louder music than ever before (would the hall sound system cope?!), and more students involved in a show than ever before.



The students have once again risen to some very challenging roles: Sascha, Evie, Jonny and Ulysse in particular coping with incredibly vocally demanding roles, the younger members of the cast showing impressive fitness and energy with the constant jumping and singing, and older students stepping into parent / teacher roles with impressive authenticity. It really was a community show - with important contributions from a range of students such as Ellie King's designs for the set and the Horace Green 'badge', Ella Warren for helping younger cast members learn the dance routines. We were lucky to receive advice and assistance also from BGS alumni Lewis Watson (now studying Theatre Lighting at Central School of Speech & Drama), and Ben Smith (who graduated in Music from Bristol University last year and is now working as a professional sound engineer).

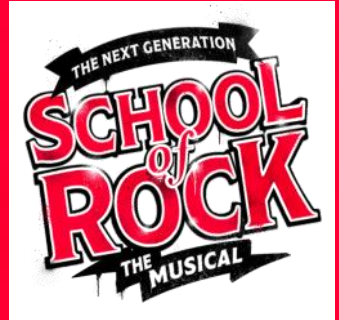
It has been a fantastic privilege to work with the incredible 'Dream team' once again, for what has now transpired to be our last show together. Their commitment, energy, professionalism and creativity have made this show as special as it is. I am going to miss their humour and friendship so very much, and whether working as Musical Director or Director, I know how lucky I have been to be part of such a wonderful team in creating these shows over the last 11 years; the BGS musicals have been a very special experience, and are the absolute highlight of every single year for me.



Thank you to Miss Fisher for her support as Assistant Director, Miss Roberts for her masterful choreography, Mrs Snelling for realising a fantastic set and costumes, Mr Asker for his superb lighting design, Mrs Eacott for her vocal coaching and recorder playing, Mr Laing (Musical Director) for making the band sound so professional and Mr Ross for making the show sound so good.

Stick it to the man!

**Miss Swadkin, Head of Music**



Next year's school Play will be Charlie and The Chocolate Factory.

The play is open to all students from Years 7-13, not only as actors, but also we need musicians, technicians, makeup and costume help. If you wish to be involved in these backstage roles, please email Mr Otley.

The play will be in February (as opposed to the usual slot in December)

**We are auditioning on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September, in K10.**

Audition pieces will shortly be available on-

<https://www.bgsperformingarts.com/charlie.html>

I'm sure this will be a very sweet production, having such an impact it causes Galaxy Ripples and filled with much comedy- eliciting many Snickers in the audience. This is sure to give everyone a Boost in late winter.

**Mr Otley, Head of Drama**



## PE News

Champions - again! Well done to our fabulous Year 7 and 8 Tennis Team for retaining the Shooters Hill Tennis Club's Schools Championship trophy this afternoon. Next up, the threepeat! Well done everyone.

*Mr Lines, Head of PE*

### Team Players

Finlay Wicks  
Reed Brayford  
Mario Rodriguez-Nunez Munoz  
Max Dawkins  
Elsbeth Bradley  
Gracie Speak  
Freya Bucksey  
Megan Lisle



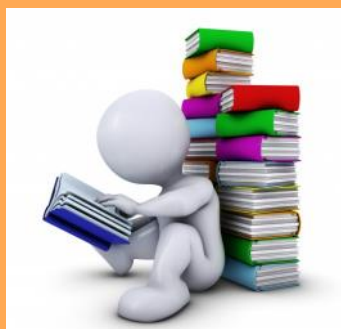
## Library News Book Donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated books this year, we have some extremely generous students and parents at Bexley Grammar! We are still seeking any books that people want to donate, so if you have any that you no longer need please send them my way.



Thank you,

*Mrs Carey  
School Librarian*



## Instrumental Applications for 2018 - 2019

Please note that if you already have lessons with a teacher in school, this will **automatically roll over** to next year.

If you wish to cease lessons, please inform your teacher in writing before the end of this term. Apply here for new students:

<https://www.bgsperformingarts.com/instrumental-lessons.html>

*Miss Swadkin  
Head of Music*



## Thank you

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the bake sale on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, your support was overwhelming.

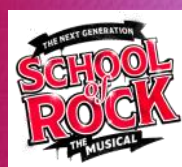
I have a number of cake tins and boxes remaining in M12, please collect and take them home.

*Mrs Pearman*



## 'School of Rock' DVD

'School of Rock' DVDs from both casts ('HENDRIX' – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and MEGADETH' – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> & Friday 6<sup>th</sup>) are now available to order. Please place your order by clicking on the link [here](#) by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July and go to ParentPay to pay.



*Miss Swadkin  
Head of Music*

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students for their excellent performance in the Chemistry Cambridge Challenge this summer:

Diveen Dier achieved a **Gold Award**  
Corinna Dunzendorfer achieved a **Gold Award**  
Jaskiran Matharu achieved a **Silver Award**

*Miss Ampong  
Science Department*



## Overseas Residential Trips 2018 – 2019

To help parents decide which overseas/residential visits they would like their child to participate in for the coming year we have drawn up a list of trips (including expected cost) that have been approved for 2018 - 2019. **Please note this is a revised list.**

Department	Trip Name	No of Nights	Year Group	Approx. Cost
<b>October</b>				
PE	Barcelona Sports Tour	5	Years 7- 9 Invitation only	£740.00
Geography <b>Half Term 2019</b>	The Azores (KS3)	5	Year 9 (current Year 7 students)	£780.00
Modern Languages	Japanese Exchange	11	Years 8, 9 & 10	£1,700.00
<b>February</b>				
Classics	Classics Trip to Greece or Italy	5	Years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12	£790.00
Economics & Business Studies	USA or China Trip	7	Year 13	£1,300.00
PE	Ski Trip	8	Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13	£910.00
Geography	Iceland	4	Years 12 & 13	£960.00
<b>May</b>				
History	Krakow & Berlin Trip	5	Year 10	£700.00
Modern Languages	Sixth Form French Exchange	6	Years 12	£450.00
Modern Languages	Sixth Form Italian Exchange	7	Years 12	£450.00
Modern Languages	Sixth Form Spanish Exchange	7	Years 12	£450.00
Modern Languages	Sixth Form German Exchange	7	Years 12	£450.00
Modern Languages	MÃ;laga Spanish Exchange	7	Year 10	£450.00
Modern Languages	Sardinia Italian Trip	5	Year 10	£340.00
<b>June</b>				
Geography	Kingswood Field Trip	4	Year 10	£260.00
Modern Languages	Hamburg, German Exchange	6	Year 9	£300.00
Modern Languages	St Malo French Trip	4	Year 9	£420.00
Modern Languages	Rhineland German Trip	4	Year 9	£420.00
<b>July</b>				
Modern Languages	China 2020	7	Years 10, 11, 12 & 13	£1,900.00
Music	Music Tour to Europe	7	All years involved in Music clubs	£750.00





# Class of 2017 - 2018

## Inspirational, Successful & Creative

### September

We celebrated International Day

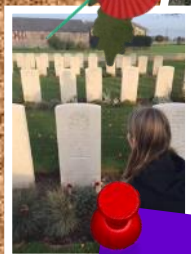


### October



We watched  
Operating Live  
in the BSG Theatre

### November



We travelled  
to Ypres &  
remembered!



### December

Our production of  
Oliver Twist officially  
opened the  
BSG Theatre



We congratulated our Sixth Form  
Mathematicians for their achievements  
at the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge



## January

A New Year and new challenges await another group of our successful Oxbridge Students



National Theatre



Sixth Form, Culture Club saw a production of 'Amadeus' at the National Theatre



Year 11s attended the Business is Language Workshop King's College London

## February

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, replied to Year 9s after they wrote to him questioning the justification of the Statue of Earl Haig remaining in London



## March

We welcomed our Japanese exchange partners to a cold and snowy London



We celebrated success at the Bexley Young Musician Competition



April



'Romeo & Juliet'  
The Junior Production  
marked 10 years  
of performing  
Shakespeare at school



We became the U19 2<sup>nd</sup> XI  
Kent Champions

May



Year 8s collected for  
the Bexley Food Bank



ECM Day - We  
participated in the  
first Industry Day

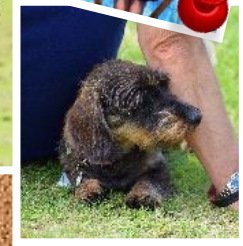


We welcomed our Spanish exchange partners to London  
& visited our French exchange partners in Fontainebleau



June

Our Summer Fayre & Sports Day was a success



We completed our exchange programme when we visited our German partners in the Rhineland



Year 7s & 8s participated in the 'La Boheme' workshop at the Royal Opera House



July

We rocked with the cast of the 'School of Rock' at our end of year production



We celebrated brilliant results with our successful IB students



August

We eagerly await our GCSE and A Level results





**News Items You May Have Missed****ENTER ANY OF YOUR POEMS  
TO THIS COMPETITION**

The competition is open to any writer  
aged 11-17 on the deadline of  
midnight 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

Entries must be written in English and  
it is completely FREE to enter.

For the competition this year, Caroline has said that she will be  
looking for “a poem that feels alive on the page... rich  
with imagery and playfulness, highly alert to language.”

Whilst Daljit remarked that “all I’m looking for is a poet having  
a good time, whether it be about a serious subject such as  
environment issues or a silly one such as a chocolate wrapper.”

**Go to**  
**<https://foyleyoungpoets.org/>**  
**to find out more!**

***Miss Gabriel***







Parents'  
Association

BGS Parents' Association (BGSPA) has yet again been able to secure reduced price ride wristbands for Adventure Island, Southend. Adventure Island is a great day out for all the family, with a wide choice of rides for all ages. Check it out at: [www.adventureisland.co.uk](http://www.adventureisland.co.uk)

Although entry is free, purchase of a wristband is required for unlimited use of all suitable rides. Once purchased, a wristband can be used on any one day in 2018 that Adventure Island is open. At peak times (weekends and school holidays), for anyone who is over 1.2 metres tall, a wristband would cost £22.50 if purchased online (£30 if purchased at the ticket office on the day). The PA can provide these for **only £18.00**. For those who are 1.2 metres tall, or less, we have wristbands for **only £12**, instead of the usual £18.75 online price (£25 if purchased at the ticket office on the day).

Wristbands are available as follows:

**Big Adventure Band** for anyone over 1.2 metres tall. This permits unlimited access to **all** rides.

**Junior Band** for anyone 1 to 1.2 metres tall. This permits unlimited use of more than 20 rides with a lower height restriction.

If you would like to purchase reduced price wristbands (**these are valid for 2018**) please click on the link [here](#) complete the form and follow the instructions.





## Recycle with Michael

Thank you to all those parents who sent in clothing and shoes to be recycled, we have raised over £108.00 so far. The money raised will be used to renovate our wildlife area. The PA has also kindly donated funds so we will continue our recycling after the summer holidays. More details will be announced in September. We are still accepting donations, bags can be collected from reception, so if you will be clearing out, school shirts, skirts or trousers that have been outgrown, we will gladly recycle them.

*Mrs Beasley, Reception*



**RECYCLE WITH MICHAEL**  
AND RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR SCHOOL!  
BY DONATING THEIR CLOTHING AND SHOES



## Forthcoming Events

### July

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ Early School closure for students at 2.15pm for Speech Day

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Last day of summer term

### August

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ Results Day - Year 13 A Level

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Results Day - Year 11 GCSE

### September

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Inset Day (School closed to students)

**Please be aware of the staggered start for students in September**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Year 7 and 12 students only

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ All students

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>** ~ Inset Day (School closed to students)

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ Charlie & the Chocolate Factory Auditions (See notice)

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Charlie & the Chocolate Factory Auditions (See notice)

**This is the last edition of the Newsletter before the summer break.  
Look out for the summer Magazine next week.**

**Year 7 & 12 students only return to school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**  
**All students back in school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018**