

# Bexley Grammar School Summer Magazine



## 2017-2018

- \*The outcome of this year's House Competition.
- \*Meet the new Prefect team + House Captains
- \*Find out about school trips.
- \*Reviews on top films.
- \*Teacher interviews.
- \*Meet the new Peer Mentor team

## **WELCOME TO THE SUMMER MAGAZINE 2018**

Welcome to the final edition of the magazine from the current team. We have all worked tirelessly this year to produce interesting, thought provoking and fun articles which we hope you have all enjoyed. We have a range of articles to appeal to everyone in this edition from a *Politics Round Up* to *Days out for Under £20*. Myself and Jake have loved our roles as Co-Chief Editors and would like to thank the whole team for their ongoing commitment to making each article the best that it can be. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Johnson for her fantastic coordination and guidance this year. Have a great summer!

**Isabelle Merralls, Co-Chief Editor**

After hearing the devastating news that our friend and teammate, Tommy Crush had passed away, we set out to organise a memorial football match to raise money for charity and as a way of remembering him. I am pleased to say that we managed to raise over £2000 for the cause, through donations, spectator fees and a bake sale! We would, therefore, like to dedicate the Summer Magazine to Tommy, gone but never forgotten.



**Jake Rodrigues, Co-Chief Editor**

## **School Magazine Team 2018**

**Chief Editors:** Isabelle Merralls 12MGN and Jake Rodrigues 12RJG

**Associate Editors:** Samuel Masters 12SMB, Dliveen Dler 12SMB and Mia Atkins 12ACS

**Cover Design:** Lauren Birch 12JM & Edward Baker 12RJG

**Magazine Co-ordinator:** Mrs Johnson

### **Magazine Team**

#### **Correspondents/Contributors:**

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Patrick Maslin 12HCB

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## **Summer Magazine 2018 Headteacher's Message**

I write just as the final A-level examination is completed, the day after a particularly enjoyable World Cup result against Panama, and with a sunny week ahead of us. Even in the short time between now and the publication of this magazine, so much can happen...

As Year 13 leave us they will have feelings of excitement for their next steps in life, tinged perhaps with sadness at leaving friends and maybe some trepidation about their examination results. IB students will have received their results by the 6<sup>th</sup> July and most will have more certainty about the year ahead as they enjoy the longest holiday they are ever likely to have. Year 11 students are also basking in the longest holiday they have had in years, most of them having taken a day to join us and external student applicants for one of our two Induction Days for the Sixth Form. Wherever they are headed, both Year 11 and Year 13 students have been a credit to the school during the challenging external examinations season and deserve to achieve excellent results - best wishes to all of you!

We had to say goodbye to Mr Crawford (Chemistry) and Ms Rock (Geography) soon after Easter who have served for 11 and 12 years respectively. By the end of term, we will also have said our farewells to Dr Wood (Geography), Mr Proddaturi (Computing), Mrs Gandhi (Mathematics), Miss Swadkin (Music), Ms Golding (English), Mrs Sword (Mathematics), Mrs Whitehorn (Art) and Mr Costar (MFL). The last four teachers in that list have completed 74 years between them! Mrs Sword left briefly to be 2i/c in a Maths department but returned a few years later as a Deputy Head! Mr Costar started in 1993 and has worked for four of the five headteachers that Bexley Grammar has had since it opened in 1955! We thank all these staff for their tireless contributions and their commitment to getting the very best from our students. These will be difficult goodbyes.

Our weekly newsletters do an excellent job of documenting the variety of exciting events and rewarding experiences enjoyed by our students. Scarcely a week goes by without something outstanding to celebrate and although the Public Examinations dominate the lives of so many students during the summer period, a succession of key events has continued this term: a Year 12 UCAS evening, the New Year 7 Parents' evening and New Year 7 Taster Day, the BGS Top Universities Conference, the Sports Day and Summer Fayre, an Enrichment week with our final ECM day of the year, Language trips to France, Germany, Spain and Italy, the Sixth Form Induction days, the annual Art Exhibition and finally the Jazz concert which rounds off the year in style. I have left this year's musical production until last: 'School of Rock', with two completely separate casts, pushes creative and physical boundaries yet again but sadly marks Miss Swadkin's final production at BGS. I have written a brief tribute to her in the 'School of Rock' programme.

I feel privileged in my role and I am deeply grateful for the commitment of our staff to make this tremendous variety of opportunities available to students. In turn, I am delighted to see so many students willing to help and to take on leadership opportunities with such dedication, enthusiasm and talent. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and carers of our students for their support – without you as foundations, we would have been unable to build the BGS of which we are so proud.

Finally, I would like to wish staff, students and their families a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. I look forward to welcoming our students back in September, refreshed and ready for another rewarding year.

**Mr Elphick**



## **House Report June 2018**

The Annual House Showcase back in March marked the end of the House year 2017-18 where we celebrated the best of House Music & Dance and House Drama. The winners this year were Prothero with 365 points:

	Collins	Johnson	Kirkman	Mabbs	Prothero	Wellman
Sportsmanship	3	1	3	3	5	3
Total	328	315	330	316	365	339
OVERALL RANK	Fourth	Sixth	Third	Fifth	First	Second

The number of points each House scored this year was slightly reduced as we only had two 'Big' competitions; for the next House year 2018 – 19 we are reverting back to the 'Big Three', House Dance, House Drama and House Music competitions and so the scores will increase again.

As ever, the House year was very busy with a full range of competitions which gave the House Captains many opportunities to show their creativity and organisational skills. The Captains have been thanked for all their hard work throughout the past very successful year and we wish them well in their future studies and career path. We look forward to the new House Captains taking up the reins. This term has seen the appointment of our new House Captains, forty two in total, seven per House and the first test for them was Sports Day, where they showed an enthusiasm for their roles, being highly organised on the day. The PE department must also be thanked for the very smooth running of Sports Day, a very busy event which saw many school records broken during the day:

## **SPORT'S DAY NEW SCHOOL RECORDS**

Shot: Damilare Salami	Year 9	<b>Wellman</b>	12.1m	2018
Christine Enechi	Year 9	<b>Johnson</b>	7.75m	2018
Julianne Odetola	Year 10	<b>Wellman</b>	7.1m	2018
Long Jump: Zeyd Caliskan	Year 7	<b>Collins</b>	3.65m	2018
Triple Jump: Magnus Amasiatu	Year 9	<b>Kirkman</b>	11.3m	2018
1500m: Laurel Broughton	Year 7	<b>Prothero</b>	06:05:12	2018
Lucien Asbury-Perret	Year 8	<b>Wellman</b>	05:08.33	2018
Lucas Zurdo Symons	Year 9	<b>Wellman</b>	04:55.45	2018
Helen Norman	Year 12	<b>Kirkman</b>	06:10.08	2018
800m: Freya Bucksey	Year 7	<b>Collins</b>	03:07:00	2018
400m: Fuad Busoir	Year 12	<b>Wellman</b>	00:56.08	2018
300m: Daniel Hughes	Year 8	<b>Wellman</b>	00:48.45	2018
Caleb Sinclair-Constance	Year 9	<b>Mabbs</b>	00:43.26	2018
Abisola Falade	Year 10	<b>Wellman</b>	00:57.96	2018
Gemma Mullings	Year 12	<b>Kirkman</b>	00:47.93	2018
200m: Shaniya Odulawa	Year 12	<b>Wellman</b>	00:29.80	2018
100m: Magnus Amasiatu	Year 9	<b>Kirkman</b>	00:12.49	2018
4 x 100m: Boys	Year 9	<b>Kirkman</b>	00:53:25	2018
Girls	Year 10	<b>Wellman</b>	00:59:89	2018
Girls	Senior	<b>Kirkman</b>	00:59:99	2018

### **Jack Petchey Report - January to June 2018**

The January Award winner was from Collins House, William Henderson: William is in Year 8 and puts his full effort into everything he does both academically and extra-curricular. He participates in lots of extra-curricular activities - Music, Drama, House activities and he is also involved in other clubs outside school such as Guides, Archery and Cricket. William is also involved in the community (a server within the Church) and is very organised in everything he does, all the time being cheerful and ready to help.



The February Award was from Johnson House, Ammar Gill: Ammar is in Year 7 and has made an excellent start in school, also cheerful and working very hard at everything he tries. Ammar volunteers for St. John's Ambulance, learning first aid and knitting blankets for premature babies while also supporting large events at the weekend. Ammar also participates in Charity Bike Rides, and this May is cycling to France over three days. On top of all this, Ammar also makes time to be part of the Bexley Youth Council.

The March Award was from Kirkman House, Alex Lukov: Alex is in Year 11 and has worked hard academically, aiming for high grades this summer. As well as this hard work he has recently won the title of 'Bexley Young Musician of the Year' despite stiff competition from the other finalists. He has taken part in many House events and been involved in countless school concerts helping with younger ensembles, as well as learning new instruments when required for the School's annual music production. He is a real team player and highly regarded by others.

April's Head's Choice award was nominated by Year 9 students and Sam Wilson was the winner for the following reasons: Sam is very kind and helps people, he does very well in school academically and helps others who are struggling with homework. He is popular with staff and his fellow students alike. Sam is very caring and he always makes sure you're ok and tries incredibly hard in his academic work. He's also doing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, being very positive about all aspects of this, helping others and leading by example. As well as being helpful both in school and outside he is also very intelligent and always works hard to achieve the best he can academically, his Head of Year was delighted when Sam was nominated for this award and very pleased to present him with his certificate in his Year group's assembly.

The May Head's choice Key Stage 3 category was won by Samuel Huynh: Sam gives up his time to help his Form so they don't forget homework and his whole class felt he deserved recognition for his support. Samuel organises daily planner services letting his form know what homework is due for the day beforehand, so they don't forget and get into trouble, he puts reminders on the timetable and says what to pack the day ahead. Sam is always smiling and is a good friend to everyone.

The June Head's Choice award was nominated by Year 12 students and was won by Daniel Birch: Daniel has recently been appointed as a House Captain and he is a very supportive person who puts himself forward for taking part in everything. He is part of the school football team but gives up his own time to coach younger students outside school. He has obvious leadership qualities and has a calm responsible influence on people around him.

### **Jack Petchey Leader Award.**

The students of the school were given the opportunity to vote for a member of staff to be nominated for an Annual Leader Award. Unlike the other nine award winners nominated throughout the year, where the students' choice is the automatic winner, the Leader award has to be approved by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Our Nomination was sent off to the Foundation mid-June and we have recently heard that it was successful and that Mr A. Stewart has been awarded the Jack Petchey Leader Award. Here are some of the reasons for nomination: *Mr Stewart is an excellent form tutor, he always smiles as he walks into the form room and lifts the spirits of the class, even though he might not notice it. He is always a positive role model, striving to organise us as a form and pushing us to try our best at everything we do academically and with life skills: a good coach for the football team, always cheery and willing to talk if there is a problem; a great teacher, who is patient and kind to every member of the form equally; he lets us express our opinions freely and keeps things positive. He doesn't mind embarrassing himself for the rest of the class to laugh at. He is a brilliant role model for the boys. Mr Stewart is an inspiring languages teacher who makes our lessons fun but also develops our skills in pronunciation and has made us quite like French and Spanish. He goes above and beyond to keep us engaged and make learning enjoyable. He recognises and rewards hard work, a small gift relevant to the interests of the student and sends postcards home to parents to share in the good news. He tests us regularly to identify skills and vocabulary we need to practise which means we know the work and do well.*

The school will now be able to apply for a small grant of up to £750 to put towards a project of Mr Stewart's choice.

Last year's Leader Award winner Mrs Stoddard's small grant was spent on buying books for the School Library as part of their 'Women in Literature' project at the start of this year.

The majority of our prize winners will be presented with their Jack Petchey winners' medallions at the Jack Petchey Celebration Evening at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford in July. Due to their involvement with the School's Annual Musical Production, William Henderson and Alex Lukov will have their Winner's medallions presented to them at the Gala Evening performance of the *School of Rock* along with Mr Stewart who will also be presented with his Leader Award.

**Mrs Snelling**

### **Prothero House Report**

Hi everyone,

What a wonderful year it has been for Prothero at BGS. A year to remember! We have all worked so hard and have been driven as a House in achieving the great success of WINNING the House competition this year - Go green dragons!

This excellent achievement was due to a variety of reasons. One reason in particular was the hard work and commitment from our departing House captains. Sophie King, Shyon Gredley, Zoe Le Conte, Matthew Smith, James Brown, Sascha Dodd and Evie Booker, alongside all other members of the House who showed true leadership from the earlier years - some of whom are now a Captain for the new House year - have supported me all the way. But more importantly, our Captains have demonstrated what being a true leader and role model involves. I wish them all the best in their new adventures beyond BGS.

Prothero are often up there in the top ranks when it comes to the 'Big 3' due to their hard work and dedication, as well as their attention to detail. Our House Drama this year was no exception. The great ideas of those involved ensured that our performance was not only fun to watch but also educated the school about the different styles of Drama covered here at BGS. The students took on this challenge and created a masterpiece worthy of full marks. The success in sporting activities had a part to play in keeping us ahead, alongside the other events that don't always get the same attention, such as our success with the House planter, photography and many more. I would like to show an extended thanks to Miss Ballantyne, 7LJB and Zoe Le Conte in the leadership of these events.

Our new House Captains for the Year - Niamh Leonard, Lauren Hawkins, Nicole Chan, Kylie

Tackie, Mithunan Arulkumar, Cameron Tarplett and Jeevan Bhogal - and Assistant Captains, Amy Cullen and Dylan Moody, have proven to me that they are up to the task ahead. Their role will be very different, however, for they must take us up the leaderboard from last place. They will have to reinforce their perseverance skills!

I would also like to thank everybody who took part in the Sports Day activities, as well as those who volunteered to fill in the gaps. However, we know we need to work hard in this coming year.

I have a feeling this year will be a tough climb, but remember we must ALL continue to work as a family and rise to the challenge.

Wishing the New House Captains all the best.

**Mrs Mitten**

### **Wellman House 2017/2018**

With Wellman achieving a strong second place finish in the House Year, I would like to thank all the Wellman competitors and especially our House Captains on a very hard fought House Year. We had some great successes this year, as well as some struggles, but we always showed our true colors (Orange of course!) as we came out to compete. There were, of course, numerous successes throughout the year; including but not limited to our blowout victory at House Swimming Gala, three first place victories in Rounders, and an overall first place victory in House Chess. These examples illustrate our drive and determination. Although we were not quite the top scoring House this year, it was closer than ever before. We have lots to be proud of and will be coming back to seek our victory next year!

**Mr D. Ward**

### **Kirkman House Report**

This year has been one of downs and ups, pretty much in that order. We ended the year fairly surprisingly in third place, having been languishing closer to the bottom end of the table for quite some time. This wasn't due to any lack of support or attendance, just placement in some results!

Some very notable successes were our Drama ' *Dear Evan Hansen*', adapted by Ellie King and with a cast led brilliantly by Jonny Henderson and Ulysse Abbate. The captains and all the cast worked really hard on this and it rightly garnered many points. Music and Dance were combined this year which proved to be a big challenge; but a 70s glam rock theme was the backing for some imaginative and entertaining performing. We had successes in Photography, Junior STEM, House Quiz and Cookery as well as many sporting events, such as Junior Cricket, Netball and Chess, and Inter Basketball, Tennis and Badminton. The recent Sports Day was a great example of my vision for the House, as a place of Sportsmanship, stepping up and having a go, and we were rewarded in this by being placed first or second in each age group, which saw us first on the new House table overall. New records were set by Helen Norman, Magnus Amasiatu, Gemma Mullings, and the Senior girls relay team.

My outgoing House Captains have done a brilliant job and I am very grateful to them being so dedicated in the face of all the work they have to do. Thank you!

I'm already enjoying working with my new team: Lara, Calvin, Helen, Ulysse, Morgan, Arianne, Charlotte and Jeremiah. We are looking forward to a successful year ahead.

**Alice Fisher, Head of Kirkman**

### **Collins House Report**

It has been a challenging year for Collins House 2017-2018. At the same time it has been an amazing year. We came first in the following events: Junior Boys' Basketball and Football, Junior Girls' Basketball, Junior House and Table Tennis, Intermediate House and Table Tennis, Senior Boys' Football, Senior House Cookery and finally we came second in one of the big three house events... Music and Dance combined.

I am very proud of the students who took part in these House events all through the year for their dedication and enthusiasm.

I would like to thank our outgoing House captains for 2017-2018: Joel Akande, Bethany Blackie, Nana Kwarteng, Jenna Rye, Matthew Bentley, Jack Pleckinger and Fjolla Bivolaku for all their hard work and effort. Collins House wishes you all the best for the future.

The new House year 2018-2019 began with Sports day events... I am proud to say that at the end of the events Collins House is joint 3<sup>rd</sup> with Mabbs House. This is a great start.

As a team and House we need to continue to work together and encourage one another in the next year.

At this point Collins House would like to welcome the new House Captains for 2018-2019: **Senior House Captains:** Joseph Gbadamosi and Noela Oliech, **House Captains:** James Wald, Morenike Ojuri, Shirin Sirdi, Katie McKenna and Gary Hoang, **Assistant House Captain:** Cavan Wynne. I hope you all will be able to move the House up from 4<sup>th</sup> place to \_\_\_\_\_. Good luck to you all.

Finally, from myself and Collins House, Have a great summer holiday.

**Mrs Lasoye, Head of Collins**

### **Mabbs House Report**

Although our final position on the table is in fifth position, this is not a reflection of the many successes we had, both individual and as a team.

Our highest point was winning House Music and Dance! The House Captains took the challenge of combining these creative arts with determination and tenacity. George Ross led the exceptional musicians with a lively rendition of Stevie Wonder's masterpieces. The Dance team accompanied the outstanding music with flair and verve. It was a great way to finish the House year at the showcase.

There have been many other notable achievements throughout the year. In the sporting activities, we may not have come first, but we were definitely a hard opposition. Photography has always been a Mabbian win and once again we won the Junior competition, as well as winning House Bridge with a brand new team!

A huge thank you to all students who participated throughout the year and, of course, lots of praise to the wonderful **House Captains:** Leah Cann, Yasmin Bekir, Manjyot Birdi, Sarah Cotter, Abi Bishi, George Ross, James Caddock, William Rodrigues, Christian Harmsworth, Ethan Cheung and Andres Ramirez. They have been a pleasure to work with; I wish them every success in the future.

**Miss Gabriel**



### **Johnson House Report**

Hello. My name's Mr Asker, and I'm the (very excited) new Head of Johnson House. I took over from Mr Husbands at the beginning of the new House year and I am thrilled to be back where I feel I belong - in the House that my first tutor group was in.

Mr Husbands had led Johnson through some glory years. In fact, in the first four years of his tenure Johnson won the House competition twice, making them the most successful House in that time. Sadly Johnson gave him a send-off that was more damp squib than firework bonanza. Despite having some significant success in some of the sporting events (our Juniors came first and our Seniors second over the year) the overall standings at the end saw Johnson squeezed into sixth place by Mabbs, who had scored just one more point by the end of the year.

So, I have inherited a House looking to prove itself, and Sports Day saw the first opportunity for students to do this. Some brilliant individual performances and excellent cameos by last-minute substitutes were not quite enough to avoid fifth place at the final count, although one of our House Captains - Luke - was awarded the only sportsmanship point of the day, and we're just one point (again!) from a share of third place. We're looking forward to a strong finish this term with the cricket, rounders and tennis. Hopefully we'll be back to winning ways soon.

My thanks to Mr Husbands for handing over this special House - I hope to regain the standards set very recently. My thanks, also, to my House Captains, who have been organised, efficient and dedicated in their work thus far. Final thanks go to the Johnson students and tutors, who have welcomed and supported me wonderfully in these early days. Here's to a blue future. Here's to Johnson House!

**Mr Asker**

### **LEAVING TEACHERS**

#### **An interview with....MR COSTAR**

*By Edward Baker*

How long have you been at Bexley Grammar?

*25 Years*

What was the most memorable moment?

*A 23 hour trip to Germany with 60-70 Year 7 students. Other trips were similarly memorable.*

What was the funniest moment?

*The Year 13s covered the language office with foil, but they left my desk clear.*

What are your future plans?

*Retirement. Long walks. I hope to reach every end-station on the underground.*

What will you miss?

*My colleagues and the pupils; they were both good for a laugh.*



#### **An interview with... MR CRAWFORD**

*By Dliveen Dler & Corinna Dunzendorfer*

How long have you been here?

*I've been here for 13 years; I joined in September 2005.*

*What was your funniest moment?*

I once closed a kid's head in the door in my first year; he was a student that was quite naughty and was trying to disturb my lesson. I slammed the door in his face but accidentally caught his head in the door. I didn't get in trouble either— I think he didn't complain because he was interrupting my lesson. So that was quite memorable as I had just started off!

Also, there was another Chemistry teacher who had started at the same time as me. I remember her setting fire to the bin. She threw away some paper towels without realising they were still alight!

*What was your most memorable moment?*

Apart from slamming a kid's head in the door and seeing a bin catch fire, I blew my hand up in front of a class doing a practical for another teacher who was too scared to do it, so I thought, "that's fine, I will do it", but it went wrong! It was a thermite reaction between iron and aluminium and you set fire to it but the fuse fell in half and fell in the reaction mixture but my hand was right next to it as I was lighting it. I still have scars on my hand!

All of my year groups and some of the experiences I've had with them as well are memorable; there have been some fantastic kids who have come to the school in the years that I've been here. Seeing them come back is especially touching and nice.

*What are your plans for the future?*

I'm going to a new school and I'm really looking forward to a new challenge. I've enjoyed every moment of being here but it would be really nice to actually see what another school is like and have more responsibilities. I'll be the Assistant Head and I'll find out what that's like, which I'm really looking forward to!

*What will you miss most about BGS?*

The students! As a student body, you are all really fantastic; we can have conversations as if we were friends and have chats about other topics that don't have to be about school work. I think that is unique, especially comparing to my other friends who started teaching at the same time but at different schools where it wasn't the same. You are all such lovely students and nice people to be around!

Also, all the staff that I have worked with and the camaraderie of being here! I have some really good friends amongst the staff; the Directors of Studies, people like my Deputy Heads of year, and all the Science teachers too. All fantastic people to learn from!

***An interview with... MRS GANDHI***

*By Isabelle Merralls*

*How long have you been at Bexley Grammar?*

8 years

*What was the most memorable moment?*

When my Year 9s made a video for me which I played at my wedding and I had to dress up as a witch and my husband was dressed as Gandalf.

*What was the funniest moment?*

I've had so many great moments in classes where kids would sing or do rap battles

*What are your future plans?*

To maybe move abroad and have a family

*What will you miss?*

I'll miss the kids and teachers. The people are so nice here!



### ***An interview with...MS GOLDING***

*By Mia Atkins*

How long have you been here?

15th year... ages! I started as an NQT and I've had 15 very lovely years here.

What was your most memorable moment?

I think in the classroom one of my most memorable moments was when I taught English Language A-Level and, to teach them what prepositions were, we all acted out the kids' book 'Bear Hunt' - you know, 'Going on a Bear Hunt'. They used to love doing it and we had the kids' book there - that was really funny and they never forgot what prepositions were! I think my most memorable moment with the department was when we had an English trip for a day across to France in a minibus, just to have fun and hang out together, which Mr Morris arranged; we had karaoke on the minibus on the way home and a lovely meal in France while we were there, it was such a lovely day.

What was your funniest moment?

There used to be a lot of teachers' karaoke for charity - a lot, like all the time! I think probably the funniest moment was when there weren't enough teachers in the hall to keep it going long enough, so the Music teacher at the time, Mr Medlicott, said to me, "Right, we need to get up here - let's do Grease, 'Summer Lovin'" and we got up and we did the song, but I was 8 months pregnant! So I was bumping him with my pregnant tummy during the romantic moments! That was quite a laugh.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm off to live in Suffolk. I've always lived in cities, in London and Manchester, and for 34 years in the same area, and we just thought while the kids were still beach age (my kids are 9 and 6), we'd go somewhere where we could live on the river, enjoy the beach and try and get there after school, and go to the parks and just see what it's like to live somewhere a bit more rural, just for an experience, just for a little adventure.

Are you still going to be teaching?

Yeah, I'm teaching in a new secondary school, doing a maternity cover for a year, to try out our move to Suffolk. We're going to rent as well, so we might come back to London, but... I had to cut the apron strings from BGS really. 15 years! I need to go off and learn new things, find out what else there is to learn and what other schools offer, and what I can offer them. It's been such a pleasure though.

What will you miss most about BGS?

I think it's just the family atmosphere; the students have always been amazing, the teachers are lovely - the English Department is like a family. The kids are so so receptive, and you know you can have fun while you teach and learn. You can really see them fly when you give them tasks, and everyone is really appreciative. It's just a lovely place to be, as well as to work.



### ***An interview with... MS ROCK***

*By Isabelle Merralls*

How long have you been here?

I joined BGS in September 2006!

What was your most memorable moment?

Good ones have always been trips, particularly Iceland! We've had some amazing times looking at the geysers and watching the



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waterfalls. My worst moment was a trip to Norfolk when a student got hurt... that'll always stay in my memory.

What was your funniest moment?

On another trip when a student managed to fill a set of waders with water and then fall over in the river!!

What are your plans for the future?

I'm retiring. I have moved to Margate and I intend to maybe get some part-time voluntary work there and also get a dog and spend a lot more time with my children and family.

What will you miss most about BGS?

The students! They've always been really great and I've had some amazing times here!

### **An interview with... MISS SWADKIN**

*By Sam Masters*

How long have you been in this school?

11 years, and 2 years as a clarinet teacher here before that.

What was your best or most memorable moment?

The first show that I directed, which was *Hairspray* in 2013. I'd never actually directed a show before, so for me, that was a really exciting moment.

What are your future plans?

I am going to Eltham College as Head of Academic Music from September, joining Mr Collins who is working there now!

What was your funniest moment in this school?

When Miss Love-Davies set the fire alarm off by burning toast. And I think probably – can I say this? – when Josh Hall threw me in the lake on a Music tour!

What have you liked best or will miss most about B.G.S?

I'll miss the students. There are some brilliant people here, especially in the Music Department. We have such an amazing time. A normal Monday is such a pleasure for me, just being in choir and orchestra and with all these students. It doesn't ever feel like a job in that sense, so I've been really privileged to have worked with some amazing people.



### **An interview with...MS SWORD**

*By Jake Rodrigues*

How long have you been at Bexley Grammar?

I first joined BGS in September 1999 as 2i/c Mathematics.

I came back in September 2004 as Deputy Headteacher, before going part-time in September 2009 after the birth of my twins.

What was the most memorable moment?

My most memorable moments are always the Summer Fayre days. It's fabulous to have the whole school community together enjoying the sunshine (or lack of!).

What was the funniest moment?

My funniest memory was when Miss Lloyd Thomas painted the then Maths block a deep pink and it became known as the 'Love Shack'!

What are your future plans?

I'll be going to a new school, but in the future, I think the end goal would be a headship.

What will you miss?

Oh, that's an easy one - it has to be sharing an office with Miss Hannington.





## **An interview with...MRS WHITEHORN**

*By Isabelle Merralls*

How long have you been here?

Almost 20 years. I did my teacher training placement here, so that might make it two jubilant decades.

What was your most memorable moment?

Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001, when we learned that an aeroplane flew into one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. It was one of those pivotal moments that drew everyone close together, we hunted around for a radio to listen in on the news and comforted one another, especially those that did not know whether or not family members were safe.



What was your funniest moment?

During one of our annual Flatford painting weekends with Year 12 students, I was painting outside the front of the mill when a teacher from Townley asked me to critique her work. Little did I know that Michael Portillo was behind me, filming BBC2 Great British Railway Journeys. He kept being interrupted because I was so loud and talking over him. Consequently, they had to keep moving further down the path to escape my dulcet tones. There is a fleeting glimpse of me on the Manning Tree East Bergholt Episode, blink and you miss it! Squint too as by this time they were quite a bit in the distance.

What are your plans for the future?

Spending more time with Jed, my 13-year-old Yorkshire Terrier. Plenty of travelling with my partner Patrick, which will include visiting various racecourses whilst driving around England and then on to Europe, all at a leisurely pace. Painting in my beautiful studio in Newmarket where I will live full time and maybe working towards an exhibition.

What will you miss most about BGS?

Friends, colleagues and all the students. I love the early mornings in school, there is always a happy face to greet me on my way down to H8, I often get a hug or share a few words of greeting or if I'm lucky someone to carry my bag. I will miss offloading all the old rubbish from home for some imaginative student to use in their art. Somehow, old hoovers, electric leads and a drum kit have been transformed into fantastic pieces of work. Inspiration can take many forms and not only do I enjoy inspiring the students I teach but the fact is they often inspire and motivate me. Keep up the good work you lot and good luck with your future, I will miss you all very much.

We also say Goodbye to **Mr PRODDATURI** who is leaving the Computer Science Department to take up a post at Greenwich Free School.

**Collated by Isabelle Merralls, Year 12**

## **The Senior Prefect Team**

Selecting the wonderful Senior Prefect team was a challenging process, which lasted for a majority of the spring term. Essentially, it was split into three stages which aimed to narrow down the team to that which we have today.

Firstly, all the staff and students in Year 12 received a form which asked us to choose 6 students from our year group, who we thought would be suitable for the role of Head Prefect. Then, the votes were counted and the top 24 students received letters from Mr Morris. These students were invited to write a letter about why they would have liked to be

considered for the role of Head Prefect, and what skills they had which could help contribute to the Senior Prefect team. However, the letter was limited to only 250 words, with only a few days to perfect it!

Then, the letters were reviewed independently by Mr Elphick, Miss Leffen, Mr Morris, and the previous Senior Prefect team. From this, 14 students were then invited for interviews and were asked to prepare for a short presentation, entitled '*What makes BGS a superb place to study as a Sixth Former*', addressing Year 11 students.

The interviews took place on Tuesday 27th March, a pleasant ECM day for most students in the school, but possibly one of the most stressful and difficult days for the selected 14 students. The first interview was with Mr Elphick, Mr Morris, and 4 members of the previous Senior Prefect team, which first involved presenting, before answering many thought-provoking questions! After this, the second interview with Mr Gilmore, Miss Leffen and the



remaining 4 members of the previous Senior Prefect team was held; in this interview, the students were provided with complex scenarios, which they were required to overcome by providing solutions.

Finally, at the end of the exhausting day, the teachers and students involved in the process came together. After much tension and suspense, it was first announced which 8 students had made it to the Senior Prefect team, and then finally the Head Prefect. Below are the names of this year's Senior Prefect team. Congratulations!

**Head Boy:**

Jake Rodrigues

Fuad Busoir

Shona DeSouza

Corinna Dunzendorfer

**Deputy Head Prefects:**

Timi Akinsola

Catherine Astier

Shivani Hindocha

Evangeline Tonks

Goodbye to the previous Senior Prefect team, and thank you for all your hard work!

**2017-18 Head Boy:** Teddy French

**2017-18 Deputy Head Prefects:** Ijaz Fayaz, Maisie Harrison, Moyosore Kadri, Molly Lucas, Eris Nishku, Mariam Yacoub, Dheen Zia

**By Dliveen Dler, Year 12**

**Goodbye and Thanks to the Y13 Peer Mentors**

I would just like to thank our Year 13 Peer Mentors for all the hard work and enthusiasm they put into their many roles in school this year; from welcoming in the Year 7s and helping with the Y12 Induction back in June 2017, to helping recruit and interview their successors, the next crop of Peer Mentors, in March. We wish them good luck with their results and in their new adventures as they leave BGS!

**Mrs Johnson**

### **A Big Welcome To The New Peer Mentor Team!**

The Peer Mentor system at BGS was designed to provide a helping hand and a support system to the student body. Peer mentors are there to help and support whoever needs it and work with different Year 7 forms to get them well adjusted to life in secondary school. With the imminent departure of Year 13 students, the process of selecting the new members of the BGS Peer Mentor Team began.

After a rigorous application and interview stage, the final team of 18 were selected to be this year's Peer Mentors! The 18 students were invited to take part in an important training session in Sidcup, given their badges and assigned to new Year 7 forms for next year, while some students were even assigned to work on a few current Year 7 forms straight away!

After the training day, different members of the new team accompanied teachers to surrounding primary schools to speak to students who planned to come to BGS and helped conduct the Year 7 Taster Evening alongside the Year 7 Induction Day, both of which proved very successful overall. Well done to the new team!



**By Gabi de Vasconcelos, Year 12**

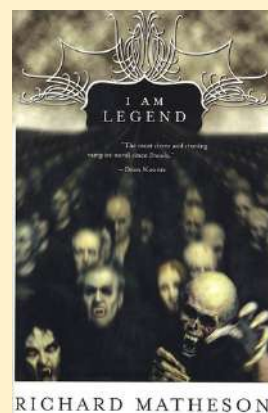
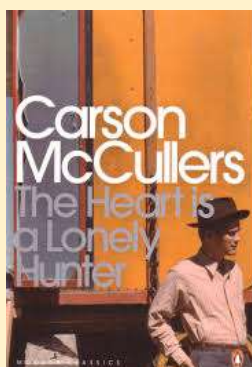
### **English Department 2017-2018**

One year; much achieved. As always, the English Department has displayed an impressive range of activities since September...

#### **Sixth Form Book Club**

Every year Mr Griffin and his group of keen readers challenge themselves with a wide range of texts. This year, we explored Carson McCullers' pre-war American society in *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*; Richard Yates' empathetic short stories, *11 Kinds of Loneliness*; and Richard

Matheson's horror-sci-fi fusion, *I Am Legend*. None of these would I normally choose to read; I enjoyed them nonetheless. Our discussions engaged in complex literary issues and interesting similarities between such contrasting texts.



#### **Creative Writing Club**

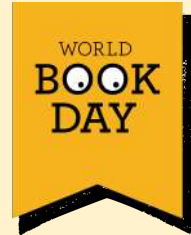
*(See below for some example pieces)*

Another successful club. Run by students for students, this club has great appeal to the full range of ages. Here our future authors have improved each other's writing skills through group feedback. Sometimes activities focus on specific genres or techniques; other times

we simply read out stories or poems people have written on their own initiative. Special thanks to Jacob van Gogh for heading this group – and coping with the mania we invariably descend into! Jacob's ideas also provided inspiration for Mr Griffin's Year 10 Enrichment Week Creative Writing Workshop.

### **World Book Day**

Delayed by unseasonal snow, on 8<sup>th</sup> March B.G.S celebrated World Book Day. We had a book "freecycle", helping ourselves to donated books; staff and students were invited to bring props hinting at fictional characters (I saw many Potter wands about); and younger years had a twenty-minute "Drop-Everything-And-Read". Excitingly, Year 8 also attended a lecture from the fully-published ghost-story writer, Leo Hunt.



### **Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge – Kirsty Moore**

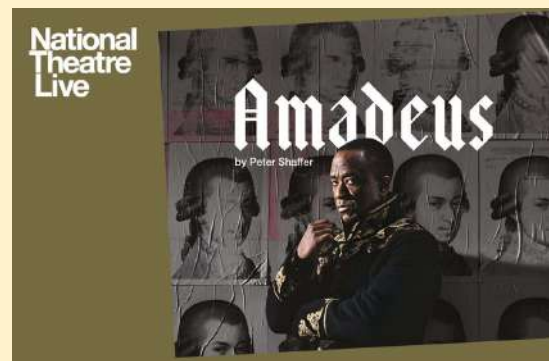
*Kirsty Moore (10SFG) attended the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge Regional Final at Trinity Church of England School and competed against 16 competitors from all of the secondary schools in Bexley. Kirsty was fantastic and managed to come in second place, winning a trophy which will be put in reception, and a £50 Amazon voucher; she will also be a judge at the Regional Final next year.*



### **Mr Husbands**

#### **Culture Club**

1 year; many trips. Culture Club's adventuring this term ranged from an African-themed adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*; the musical presentation of Mozart's life, *Amadeus*; and a classic circus trip. Special thanks to organisers Ms Stoddard and Mrs Hanington.



#### **The Globe Players**

To complement their studying of *Much Ado About Nothing*, all Year 7s were treated to a performance by The Globe Players. In 2 hours a rapid round-up of many Shakespeare plays, characters and ideas occurred with much added-humour. Guests from Danson Primary School Year 6 were also invited.

**By Samuel Masters, Year 12**



## **B.G.S Creative Writing Club**



### **The Monster**

It cannot be stopped.  
 It cannot be controlled.  
 It cannot lie  
 It cannot die.  
 It will tear your world down around you head  
 with everyone wishing you were dead  
 It kills millions each year  
 crushing their very souls with fear  
 It will shroud you with illusions  
 until your only reality is it's madness.  
 It does not let you choose.  
 If you fight it you will lose.  
 If you concede you will become its vehicle of death.  
 You become the monster.  
 It cannot be reasoned with.  
 It is the ruler of minds, the crusher of hearts, the fuel of rage, fear and fire.  
 It is the starter of wars.  
 It is the face that sailed a thousand ships and you can never ever escape from it.  
 It is love.

**By Patrick Maslin, Year 12**

### **Why?**

I hate Sisyphus  
 I was so full of resentment at the gods especially Hades when I was selected for this task.  
 Why should I be forced into this relationship?  
 I was one of his most faithful servants, yet I was sentenced to this eternal suffering.  
 With a foolish human.  
 I understood that this worthless and idiotic man needed punishment but why couldn't they  
 just throw him into Tartarus. That's the standard punishment.  
 His stupid grin as he continuous with his absurd task is infuriating  
 And no matter how hard he fails each time he finds some last reserve of strength and  
 ploughs on  
 Why can he not stop this?  
 Just give up on his pointless task and instead try and find a way out of here,  
 Try to find a way of escaping his  
 Is he actually enjoying this punishment?  
 Is this what gives his life purpose?  
 To constantly suffer with only the smallest illusion of hope to force his battered spirit  
 onward?  
 Pushing a rock up a hill that will only crush him before he gets it to the top.  
 His body is already mottled with scars from his previous 1 million attempts.  
 Yet he never complains.  
 Even as he attempts to bend my body to his will his smile ever present.  
 Is it in the vain hope that I will one day let him reach the top.  
 What idiots these mortals are.

**By Patrick Maslin, Year 12**

### **Pity**

What a sorry sight to behold!  
 This human cannot possibly hope to revoke the will of the Gods  
 Those vain and arrogant beings who seek dominion over all.  
 Unlike mortals they do not change.  
 They do not progress.  
 They do not learn.  
 They can't even see that  
 The moment they rose up against the titans was the moment that their fate was sealed.  
 To become as cruel as Cronos.  
 That was his curse upon them  
 A perpetual cycle of cruelty.  
 Much like this mortal and his rock.  
 Trapped, unable to escape the illusion of free will.  
 Doomed to repeat their mistakes  
 For all eternity.  
 I watch over this human.  
 Hoping  
 Praying  
 That one day he will accept the futility of his actions  
 But he will not.  
 So I stand sentinel  
 Over his decaying and immortal soul  
 powerless to stop time.

**By Patrick Maslin, Year 12**

### **The Memory of You**

Is distance created, in you moving too fast?  
 Or is it because I stopped; I always finish last?  
 Our lives are rearranging,  
 And this turning world keeps changing,  
 But please, please wait, for me.

I should have known, not to let you be,  
 Now I beseech you, please wait for me.  
 I watch as the distance grows,  
 As time, uncaring, flows.  
 I'm a fool, reaching desperately to someone I once knew,  
 I am branded; I'm enslaved, by the memory of you.

**By Olisaemeka Ogoji, Year 12**

### **The Moon** (-Dedicated to ToK)

Today we are going to discuss the history of the moon. Why?  
 Because despite how much we know of it, there is also so much we  
 don't know.

For instance, did you know that - in ages long past - people  
 believed this gigantic boulder of rock was made of cheese?

You did? Oh. Well, did you know that some *still* believe the moon is made of cheese? In  
 fact, they could be right... partially. Afterall, only 12 men have ever set foot on the moon;



how do we know its exact composition? Not every deep layer of the moon has been studied.

And even if it has, we have only the word of the world's scientific nerd clubs that there is no cheese. This makes it a perfectly plausible theory that the moon is in fact a huge store of rich cheese, hoarded by NASA for studying its seemed scientific impossibility (or perhaps just hoarded for its taste). Who knows? Exactly - no one. Prove my theory wrong. You think gravity would simply cause the cheese to implode? Perhaps. But even today, scientists have not yet managed to prove gravity's existence; it is just another theory (albeit a widely-held one) which may one day be disproved - much like the 15th century flat-earth theory. Thus, the Cheese Thesis is possible too. More than that, it is just as possible as any other theory. Experts claim the moon was formed after another planet collided with the earth. But given the unexplainable registered movements across the universe, it is just as likely that somewhere out there, there is a giant cow, who supplies stores of cheese rocks.

How do we know? How *can* we know? We cannot. We know nothing.

**By Samuel Masters, Year 12**

### **Dyslexia Report - BREAKING NEWS!**



Henry Smith MP becomes Vice President of the British Dyslexia Association, supporting the 1 in 10 who are delightfully dyslexic

*'The British Dyslexic Association is pleased to announce Henry Smith MP as another highly-valued Vice President. Having previously talked openly and honestly about his own dyslexia, Henry Smith MP is taking this opportunity to raise awareness and ensure others can appreciate the positives, as well as the challenges, of being dyslexic.'* <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/news>

It is fantastic to see that The British Dyslexia Association has secured such a prominent figure as their Vice President; someone who is committed to raising awareness of dyslexia and other neurodiverse conditions and is campaigning for a dyslexia-friendly society!

There is HOPE!

Do look at the Association's Website for other interesting news and resources.

**Mrs Collier (Additional Needs Department)**

### **DRAMA- Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"- The Junior Production**

To mark 10 years of performing Shakespeare's play at Bexley Grammar School, the Junior Production presented "Romeo and Juliet". This was the first Shakespeare play performed at the school and therefore a fitting way to celebrate this dedication to the bard was to perform it again! This heartbreaking story was performed by 54 Year 7 - 9s set in the 1920s era.

So many talented students auditioned for the show and as a result, we had a superb cast! They rose to the challenge of learning and understanding Shakespeare's text to bring a fresh approach to the play. We also had many students across Years 9, 10 and 12 supporting the cast by directing scenes, designing and operating the lighting and the sound.

The cast rehearsed alongside a very busy school calendar from January and performed the "glitz and glamour" in 5 performances over two days: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (Shakespeare's



birthday and death day!) and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April. A shining performer in this production said: *"I love the rehearsals because we get to know each other as a cast and have fun working together. It is really great to see the other cast members to creatively build their characters and laugh whilst doing it. Being a part of the cast has really shown me how much time and effort the teachers and the students put in to really polishing the play and how much time it takes to learn lines and cues. I have really enjoyed being a part of this amazing production"* **Mya Fewell (7LJB)**

The first performance was for the whole of Year 9. They were mesmerised by the production and enjoyed the lively, shocking fight scenes: many students highly commended the theatrical sight. The production also went on tour to two local primary Schools- Danson Primary School and Hook Lane Primary School. The show captivated the audience ranging from Years 3- 6; as demonstrated by the questions they asked after the performance. The tour is a fantastic and challenging experience. One superb cast member *"feels proud to be performing to a younger audience"* (**Anya Scothern 8OTF**), which seemed to resonate throughout the whole cast. The rapport between the cast members and the excitement of producing a homage to Shakespeare has been amazing; there are even some cast members eager to start work on next year's play!

### **GEOGRAPHY Kingswood Trip Y10**

During the enrichment week, the GCSE Geographers took a trip to Kingswood, Norfolk. It was a fun-packed three days which involved a range of activities and field work skills. Our first day of work consisted of visiting three beaches on the North Norfolk coast within a 5000 km range and collecting data. This data was used to measure pebble size, shape and longshore drift. It was a windy day but that didn't stop us from making the most of the day and really enjoying ourselves as Geographers!

The next day, we visited Norwich city. It was packed with people and we did surveys, pedestrian counts, traffic counts and transport surveys. These all contributed to our GCSE coursework and our question about sustainability in Norwich. When we finished the work for that day, we had the privilege of exploring Norwich and having free time after working hard. Many of us visited McDonalds to grab some lunch and a milkshake. It was a beautiful sunny day which meant it was great to explore the urban environment.

We had many fun moments, such as ice cream on the sandy beach, group activities like bouldering and nightline. We got free time in the evening to play pool, watch football and just relax with our friends! Overall, Kingswood was a memorable experience and it made us work



hard but also we thoroughly loved our time there and the accommodation and food provided was appreciated by all of us who went on the trip!

**By Fran Williams and Lucy**

**Nicholls, Year 10**



## **ECM DAY TRIPS**

### **ROYAL ENGINEERS MUSEUM TRIP - March**

We had such a lovely time at the Royal Engineers Museum at Gillingham. Ten of us Year 7/8s went on ECM day. Just a short coach ride and we were there. We had a tour of the mock WW1 trenches and got a really good feel of what it was like back then for the soldiers.



We were able to ask lots of questions. It was such an interesting museum. What was really interesting is seeing all the Victoria Cross medals, the highest honour awarded. After lunch we did an 'art of camouflage workshop', where we made camouflaged periscopes. Outside we saw huge tanks used in various combats by the Royal Engineers. Yet again a great trip and can't wait for the next one.

**Year 7 Pupil**

### **THE TURNER CONTEMPORARY GALLERY- June**

The new Turner contemporary Gallery is perched on the old harbour in Margate. It was the destination for our ECM day trip. A small group of us from Years 7 and 8 went for the day.

It was quite a long coach ride but that didn't matter, as it was nice to talk to people that we didn't know very well before the trip and make new friends.

When we got there we went straight into our art workshop and then went up to the gallery to look at the exhibits that we would be focusing on. The focus of the gallery this month is 'Animals and Us'. We then had a really productive art session making prints of constructed animals. We brought the final prints back and they have been put up in the S block. When we had finished our printing we were able to go around the gallery and look at the exhibits. There was a space where we put animal costumes on and did some more drawing.



We all had a really great day.

**Year 7 Pupil**

### **ANCIENT HISTORY - Year 10 Tour of Roman London**

On Friday 15th June, the Year 10 Ancient History class travelled to Cannon Street after a summary of London's Roman roots, describing how it had once been hailed as Londinium and traces as far back as 50 AD. We first went to the Temple of Mithras which lies above the old Walbrook River, and had been occupied by a mysterious yet popular cult. It was found during the construction of the Bloomberg Building, and has now been converted into a free experience with lighting and sound effects, complete with a display of the many items which were found when the area had been excavated. The class then walked to Fish Street Hill, the first road built in Roman London, which leads to Monument and Leadenhall Market, which we later visited, as it had been the nucleus of Londinium, serving as a space for both the forum and the basilica.



We visited one of the best preserved pieces of the original city wall at Tower Hill, which had originally been built after Boudica burned down the first version of London. The location also had a statue of Trajan, a Roman Emperor who ruled during the peak of the Empire. After a lunch break, we walked into the Guildhall Art Gallery, where the amphitheatre had once lain, and outside was an indication of the size it once amassed. The final destination we went to was the Museum of London, which illustrates the progression from the first Londoners to the current ones, and has thousands of Roman artifacts, including some that had been found at the temple of Mithras we first visited.

On behalf of the 10AH, thank you very much to Ms Pearson, Ms Johnson and Mr Beecroft for organising such an immersive and interesting trip for us!

**By Yingfei Chen, Y10**

## **PE Sports Report**

### **Sports Awards 2018**

At the close of each year, we are pleased to reward some of our fantastic sportspeople with our annual sports awards. The table below includes all our award winners

<b>Award</b>	<b>Winner</b>
<b>GCSE student of the year</b>	<b>Daniel Tye</b>
<b>IB Student of the Year</b>	<b>Year 13- Teddy French Year 12- Shona DeSouza</b>
<b>John Collins Football Prize</b>	<b>Harrison Try</b>
<b>Lesley Gentry Cricket Prize</b>	<b>Shrenik Chouta</b>
<b>Lesley Gentry Tennis Prize</b>	<b>Frank Tennant</b>
<b>Boys Team of the year</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> XI Football</b>
<b>Girls Team of the year</b>	<b>KS3 Girls Football</b>
<b>Sportsman of the Year 7</b>	<b>Oliver Knight</b>
<b>Sportsman of the Year 8</b>	<b>Harrison English</b>
<b>Sportsman of the Year 9</b>	<b>Shrenik Chouta</b>
<b>Sportsman of the Year KS4/5</b>	<b>Connor O'Boyle</b>
<b>Sportswoman of the Year 7</b>	<b>Freya Bucksey</b>

<b>Sportswoman of the Year 8</b>	<b>Libby Garrod-Jobbins</b>
<b>Sportswoman of the Year 9</b>	<b>Kacey -May Smith</b>
<b>Sportswoman of the Year KS4/5</b>	<b>Amelia Houghton- Boyle</b>
<b>Sports Leader of the Year KS4</b> (outstanding contribution to leadership in Physical Education) Shield	<b>James Hunt &amp; Coyin Rufai</b>
<b>Sports Leader KS5 Shield</b>	<b>Mattie Jones</b>
<b>Don Wellman</b> (outstanding contribution to School Sport - one) Cup	<b>David Oputa</b>

### Sports Leaders

Our fantastic Year 10 Sports Leaders have been busy in the Summer Term hosting the Bexley Schools District Trials in April, the Primary Mini Tennis Tournament in May and the Kwik Cricket Tournament in June. The 43 Year 10 students have been outstanding and shown great commitment to their course. Well done all involved!

### Rounders

Bexley Grammar girls, again, have shown great dedication to Rounders club this year. A special mention goes to our Year 8 & 10 teams who have had fantastic numbers at training and matches this year. The Year 8's achieved 4th place in Bexley at their tournament in June.



### Tennis

Tennis has been a success for a second session with all year groups competing in the Kent Schools league. We have also been lucky enough to have Shooter's Hill Tennis club coming in to lead sessions with our budding Tennis players. A huge thank you to Shooter's Hill and Jon.



As well as the success of the Shooters Hill Coaching Sessions we have recently had a trip to Canterbury with our Year 7 / 8 boys to compete in the finals of the Kent School Games



2018. We finished 3rd overall and the team (Finlay Wicks, Max Dawkins, Mario Rodriguez, Reed Brayford) should be very proud of their achievements.



### **Athletics**

A huge well done to our brilliant Year 10 athletes for a great day at the Bexley Athletics Championships in May. It was a great day with some excellent performances. Particular congratulations to Marie Reine- Fotso (100m) and Patrick Jackson (100m) who all were

selected to represent Bexley in the Kent Schools Championships in June.

Our Junior Athletics team had a fantastic day in the sun in June. We took our largest ever team - 51 athletes - who performed very well against some of the best athletes in the borough. Particular highlights were Lucien Asbury-Perret, who stormed to a most impressive victory in the 1500m, and Matthew Linane, who won the javelin.

### **Golf**

Early May saw Ewan Kelly and Tommy Hawney (both Year 11) competed in the Kent Schools' Golf Championships, held at Rochester and Cobham Park Golf Club. Both boys finished in the top 10 in the scratch competition, with Tommy finishing first overall in the net competition (scores inclusive of handicap). Well done boys.



## **LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

### **MFL School Report**

On the 15th March 2018, Language Leaders from Years 10 and 11 took part in the national BBC News Report event. In five different languages, we created news reports about a variety of topics and then set about presenting them in various ways. During the first lesson, we wrote a script about what we were planning to say and practised our best accents.



Then, during our second and third lessons, we acted out and recorded our reports so that we could upload them onto the website. Some people chose to present their reports in front of the camera, whilst others decided to try their hand at radio. The best part of the day was definitely trying to film and record our masterpieces, as we all kept giggling halfway through and having to start all over again! A big thank you to Mr



Gallimore for organising and running the event and to the other teachers in the MFL department for helping us to correct our reports. It took a lot of hard work and effort but it was all worth it in the end - and we had lots of fun doing it too!

**Charlotte Allen, Year 10**

### **Language Lecture Report**

Earlier this year, Dr Chris Pountain from Queen Mary University London came to our school to give a lecture called '*How posh words become ordinary*', and linguists from Years 10 and above came to see it. Dr Pountain first spoke about general language change before going into greater detail about how words such as 'problem' have become more frequent and normal over time. He had a fascinating knowledge of how the history of one language cannot be understood without references to other languages, which was interesting for us as we could make comparisons between the languages we all study. Overall, the session was very enjoyable and a great experience for those interested in linguistics.

**Kush Ruparellia, Year 10 Language Leader**



**Year 9 Rhineland Trip** On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, many students on the German side of Year 9 were lucky enough to be able to travel to Germany, Rhineland to be precise. The journey was long (but travelling across the English Channel on an enormous ferry was fun), and I was quite nervous about meeting the people we were going to stay with (this was my first experience of staying with a host family), but we found ways to pass the time (eating, sleeping, playing cards, looking out of the window and taking in our surroundings)

On Wednesday, after having had a pleasant night's sleep (meeting the host family and getting settled in wasn't nearly as hard as I'd expected), we met up at our coach and made our way to Cologne. We stopped outside Cologne Cathedral, a towering, gothic structure which acts as a centre for the town. We walked alongside the Rhine down to the Chocolate Museum, where we learnt lots about how chocolate makes its way from the bean to dark, milk and white chocolate. At the end of our tour, we received a wafer with melted chocolate from a chocolate fountain and were also taken through a tropical climate room so we could get a feel of the environment in which cocoa beans grow. Next, we travelled up Drachenfels (a very tall hill) by funicular railway, and got to see some breathtaking views from the top! Later the same day, we visited the house where Beethoven was born (the ceilings were very low) and we got to see some of the instruments Beethoven himself played!

On Thursday, we travelled once more to Cologne, where we received a guided tour of the town. We then were fortunate enough to go on a boat trip along the Rhine, seeing Cologne from yet another angle. A short ride took us to Cologne Zoo, where we were given free rein to look at all the animals, trying to read the information about each animal, which was written in German. When we met up again at the coach, the heavens opened (we got back not a moment too soon!)

Friday saw us go to Phantasialand, a German theme park. I went on lots of rides, and had great fun (even when one of the water rides that I was on broke down just before a big drop!) The attention to detail was amazing in the theme park, with many different zones based on different cultures (including African, China Town and Mystery), and buildings everywhere that really looked the part! Tired and soaking from that one water ride that I loved and went on 5 times, we squelched back to the coach, for the final night with our host families, when we thanked them and packed our bags.

And in no time we were back home! I felt like I'd been away for weeks with everything that had been packed in! Just like going out to Germany had been weird to start with (walking past people in the street talking German instead of English as we are used to, but also passing English tourists, to really confuse us!), coming back to England felt really odd (back to driving on the left side of the road, being able to speak fully in English etc.) But, around 800 pictures, well over 700 miles of travel (just from school to the Rhineland and back), and lots of German spoken later, we were back home, really tired with heads spinning with all our new and exciting experiences!

Huge thanks to our kind and welcoming host family who fed us, gave us a place to sleep, and enabled us to practise our German in conversation with German speakers who have no knowledge of English! Great thanks, too, to our coach driver who put up with our noise for the whole trip, took us wherever we needed to go (and back again!), and was so friendly and kind all the time! And most of all, enormous thanks to our teachers (especially Mr Lopez, who organised all of this) for taking us on this amazing trip, sorting out everything we need and making everything constant fun! We couldn't have had such a brilliant and valuable experience such as this without them, and we'll remember it forever (in a good way!)

**Sam Wilson, Year 9**

### **Year 9 Hamburg Exchange**

*Der Austausch ist toll. Tolle Lehrer, tolle Schülerinnen und Schüler, tolle Stadt. Die Familien sind toll und die Partner sind toll. Du musst den Austausch machen.*

*Zu Beginn war ich mir nicht sicher über den Austausch. Ich wollte zum Rheinland fahren. Dennoch bin ich nach Hamburg gefahren und es war kein Fehler. Am ersten Tag sind wir mit dem Flugzeug gefahren und haben die Familien kennen gelernt. Es kann schwierig sein aber das ist normal. Sobald du angekommen bist und dein Zimmer gefunden hast, kannst du zu Abend bei der Familie essen und dann gehst du schlafen. Nach der ersten Nacht wirst du eine unglaubliche Woche haben. Am zweiten Tag machst du eine Bootsfahrt und kletterst du den St Michaelis-Turm. Es gibt 450 Stufen! Am nächsten Tag hast du einen Tag in der deutschen Schule [dem Albrecht-Thaer-Gymnasium] und die Unterschiede sind groß! Dann hast du eine Pause vom Deutsch-Sprechen – du entspannst dich in Planten und Blumen ohne deinen Partner. Später an diesem Tag machst du eine Tour im Chocoversum und du machst eine Tafel Schokolade! Es ist sehr lecker! Am fünften Tag gehst du nach Miniatur Wunderland und das ist sehr cool! Alles ist winzig! Der letzte Tag ist sehr aufregend, weil du zum Hansa-Park gehst. Es gibt viele riesige sowie kleinere Fahrgeschäften. Nachdem wir 5 Stunden dort hatten haben wir Lübeck besucht. Das ist eine schöne Stadt aus dem Mittelalter. Wenn du Architektur magst, wirst du Lübeck mögen.*

*Am letzten Tag fährst du nach Hause und es ist sehr emotionell. Nachdem du eine Woche mit der Familie verbracht hast, willst du nicht gehen. Es ist sehr traurig.*

*Wenn du nicht am Austausch teilnimmst, wirst du es bereuen.*

The exchange is great! Great teachers, great students, great city. The partners are great and the families are great. You have to do the exchange!

To start with, I wasn't sure about the exchange. I wanted to go to Rhineland. But I went to Hamburg and it wasn't a mistake. On the first day, we went on the plane and met the families. It can be difficult but that's ok. As soon as you have arrived and found your room, you can eat dinner with the family and then go to bed. After the first night, you will have an unbelievable week. On the 2nd day you go on a boat trip and climb up St Michael's church tower. There are 450 steps! The next day, you spend a day in the German school (Albrecht-Thaer Gymnasium) and there are some big differences! Then you have a break from speaking German – you relax in the Planten und Blumen botanical gardens without your partner. Later that day you do a tour of the chocolate factory and make your own bar

of chocolate. It's really delicious! On the 5th day, you go to Miniatur Wunderland and that's really cool! Everything is tiny! The last day is really exciting, because you go to the Hansa Park. There are some huge rides and some smaller rides. After spending 5 hours there, we visited Lübeck.

That is a beautiful town from the Middle Ages. If you like architecture, you will like Lübeck.

On the last day, you go home and it's very emotional. After you've spent a week with a family, you don't want to leave. It's very sad.



If you don't take part in the exchange, you will regret it.

**By Mack Preston (German and English version!)**



### **French Exchange Report**

#### **Week 1: Fontainebleau**

After meeting at Ebbsfleet International, we took the Eurostar to Paris and a subsequent SNCF train to Fontainebleau-Avon station, where we met our partners. We had just enough time to socialise with them before the end of the day, having already made contact with them over social media.

On Tuesday we spent the day in the school that our partners attended, Lycée François Premier. Much to the dismay of some of our students, the school days in France finish two hours later than at BGS, inevitably tiring us out towards the end. The next day we spent some time in school learning about Le Chateau de Fontainebleau, which we visited in the afternoon; the grandeur of the castle made for some aesthetic pictures!

As the week in France began to come to an end, we took a trip to Paris as a group and went around the city, parading the Champs-Elysée, finding more vintage shops and taking impressive photos of the scenery. In the free time we were given, some of us went shopping, whilst others, like myself, wandered not too far from the meeting point to find the vans selling crêpes! On our final day in Fontainebleau, we spent the day at the school once more.

Unfortunately, our trip came to an end the next day. On Saturday we took the trains back to England, allowing us time to revise hard for our mock exams and wait eagerly for the arrival of our partners a few weeks later.

#### **Week 2: Welling**

Upon their arrival we met our partners in the canteen. After saying our greetings and catching up, we led them to where they would be staying for the rest of the week. Having already done the first leg of the exchange in France, it was now our turn to make sure our correspondents were well looked after and engaged in a real British experience.

As a group, we took part in numerous activities and outings, for example, a river cruise and the watching of *Aladdin the Musical*. Following the river cruise, we were given free time to roam Greenwich with our partners, where we acted as tour guides and our skills of hospitality were put to the test. Additionally, with the weather not being the best (typical

English weather) we had the task of entertaining and keeping the spirits of our partners high.

In my case, we spent our weekend in central London enjoying the day meeting other French partners and exploring the city. This was followed by a relaxing day in Brixton and Camden where they had the opportunity to see a different side of London and embrace the multicultural component which makes the city so great. These experiences further helped to strengthen the bonds between exchange partners and created an atmosphere of pleasantries where we felt comfortable to converse in both French and English.

We would like to thank those who organised the trip and who made it so enjoyable, most specifically Mrs Meyer, Mr Stewart and Miss Ashman, as well as the French teachers for ensuring we enjoyed our trip.

**Jake Rodrigues and Kenya Lawrence, Year 12**

### **Spanish Exchange trip to Malaga 2018**

On Wednesday 23rd May, the ten of us set off to London City Airport along with Miss Orchard and Mr Martin Lopez. Despite being tired from the early start, we were all very happy and excited to see our Spanish friends again. Once in Malaga Airport and waiting for our luggage, we spotted our exchange partners waving at us through the glass. We grabbed our bags and ran out to meet them. We then met everyone's parents, and I was pleasantly surprised by how friendly everyone was.



Later that day, we had a traditional lunch where we were treated to lots of delicious, fresh seafood. After lunch, we strolled along the beach to help get our bearings of the town before going to watch the girls play a basketball match - which they won! Afterwards, we went out for ice cream (the first of many!)

On Thursday, we woke up early for school, which I was very interested to see. The Maristas school was different to ours in every way: there was no uniform and the lessons were taught very differently. At the end of the school day, we found out everyone had brought in food and we all had lunch together! That night, dinner was made for us by the dad of one of the girls, who owned a pizzeria. I think it's safe to say it was one of the nicest pizzas I've ever had!

The next morning, we went to get traditional churros with chocolate! When we got back to school, we watched many student presentations about Malaga and its culture. Sometimes their English was hard to understand but in general I was very impressed with their language skills. We stayed at school afterwards because the girls had more basketball training. Even though it was scorching hot, a few of us did manage to get up and have a go. The Spanish girls thrashed us! Later that night, we went down to the pier before being surprised by a thunderstorm. It was not the weather we had prepared for but we didn't really mind, we're British after all! We had a very full weekend! On Saturday, we all went to support the Maristas basketball

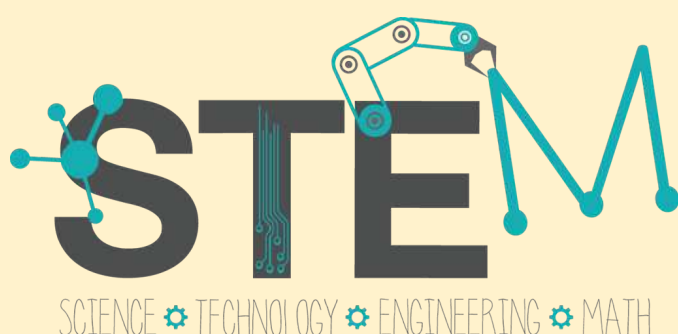




team in the final match of the season. They won! We were so pleased and a few of the girls on the team actually cried. We went out for lunch to celebrate and then went to watch an annual religious procession for the Virgin Mary. It was a beautiful sight to see; through the streets there were hundreds of men carrying big, golden statues of the Virgin Mary, marching bands with lots of drums, as well as rosemary and incense. After this, we all went to a small party to chill out and watch the Liverpool v Madrid match. On Sunday, we finally went to the beach and went for a swim. We had been asking to go since we arrived and it was well worth the wait. A whole day of swimming, eating and getting sunburnt! Monday, we went to the Aqualand waterpark which was amazing. There were barely any queues so we had time to go on loads of rides. Some of us were more adventurous than others! Later that night we spent our final night as a group listening to music, eating, and enjoying our last moments together in Malaga.

A big thank you to everyone that helped make this trip as good as it was, especially Miss Orchard and Mr Martin Lopez, ¡viva España y viva los españoles!

**Kirsty Moore, Year 10**



It has been a fantastic year for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths subjects at Bexley Grammar School. There have been a mind-boggling array of trips, national competitions, enrichment events and outreach work completed since September, including the first EVER House STEM competition.

### **Lower School Enrichment**

The **House STEM competition** took place between the October half term and Christmas with mixed teams from Years 8 and 9 working together to design, build and race a model car. They all rose to the challenge and after six weeks of tireless collaboration and lots of trial and error, there were some really fantastic creations. Guest judges included Mr Reynolds (Head of DT), Mrs Ellis (Physics specialist) and Mr Elphick, who awarded points based on the design process and the quality of the finished vehicles.



(Sai Varun Vajrapu,  
Adam Bagshaw and  
Elsbeth Bradley)

The grand finale was a race across the canteen floor. There was an unexpected challenge of the untimely mopping of the floor just before the race but after a quick dry the race took place as planned. To the sounds of their cheering teammates and Heads of Houses, it was a photo finish with Wellman winning by a nose, Collins in a close second place and Kirkman a respectable third. I have been busy planning next year's house event and I cannot wait to see what the students pull out of the bag for that one.

The three best teams are invited to a Science and Technology Challenge day in July where they will compete against teams from local schools in a range of



challenges including Robotics and Medical Diagnostics. Fingers crossed we will get through to the regional finals!

(Kirkman, Wellman and Collins entries)

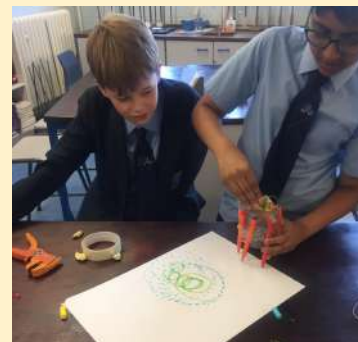


*Year 7 Science Club* has been hugely popular this year, with budding scientists investigating all things that pop, fizz and bang. Miss Bellingham has worked tirelessly to design hands-on activities that amaze and inspire, supported by our wonderful Science Prefects.

*"Science Club is a club that is held every other Monday (Week B), where we make and carry out different experiments. Some examples of the amazing experiments we have done include slime making, kidney dissection, fire writing and even making a safety net for hard boiled eggs! That had me cracking up! Our egg was named Terry and we were very sad to be separated from him! We all thought that Terry would be scrambled eggs when we opened him.... But we came joint first place!"*

*One of the practicals that we did in Science club was fire-writing. We first sketched out our message on filter paper, like hello or your name. The sketches were then covered in potassium nitrate, to make sure it burns properly. We also had to dry them with a hairdryer as "preparation". Now for the actual fire writing: we had a bunsen burner on an orange flame. Using a splint, we began burning the letters of potassium nitrate and if it had been done correctly, it would spell a word. So overall, Science Club is an astounding club with great activities to get stuck into! In fact, we wish that it was on every week."*

Isabel Lilley and Ben Huggett,  
Year 7



Nathan Singleton and Kush  
Borse, Year 7



Simon Woods, Year 9 and Jake  
Hurley, Year 8

The Year 8 and 9 **STEM Club** has been running every Monday after school. Spurred on by the success of last year's STEM club project of building a hydraulic robotic arm we have undertaken a number of projects throughout this year. The most recent being the building of a trebuchet, a medieval siege weapon that is a cross between a slingshot and a catapult. At the time of writing the students have made working mini models out of lollipop sticks and are in the process of up-scaling to build a wooden trebuchet that may not be able to knock down a castle wall but could hopefully send a water balloon a few metres across the field!!

Keep an eye on the website for a video of the final product in action.

*"On Wednesday the 9th of May, four Year 8 students travelled to the University of Greenwich for the **Salters Festival of Chemistry**. The challenges were fun, even though at times unsuccessful, however, the highlight of the day was the*



*presentation where they used liquid nitrogen to turn juice into sorbet which we, in turn, got to eat!"*

**Daisy Cripps, 8OTF**

### **Trips and Visits**

**Year 7** also enjoyed a visit to **Wildwood Discovery Park**, where they came nose-to-nose with British Wildlife of the past and present, with over 200 native animals set in 40 acres of beautiful ancient woodland. Students completed a guided tour of the animals, followed by a CSI style workshop which brings together adaptation, food chains and practical problem solving as students try to solve the woodland murder mystery of Who Killed Mr Bunny.



*"Recently my class and I went to Wildwood discovery park for a school trip and I can unbiasedly say that it was the best school trip I have ever had. It had just about everything from an investigation centre to a play area to a lake containing Otters and everything is just immaculate. I had a very good time and so did my friends and fellow classmates. There are Turtles and Snakes and Lizards and lots of other animals to interact with. My favourite part was when everyone got on the slide at once and we all got stuck inside it. Overall I had a really fun and pleasant time at Wildwood and I recommend it to everyone."* **Aidan Wicks, Year 7**

*"My experience at the Year 7 Biology trip, Wildwood, was great. It was a vast area of woodland which was kept as a habitat for the animals. It was amazing to see and take many pictures of different species of animals and birds like ravens, bears, tortoises, otters, wolves and many more. My favourites were the wolves and otters. It was a unique opportunity to meet the animals and learn different things that you usually wouldn't see so close up or not see at all. Sometimes the animals were hidden away in their shelters but every time they poked their head out we got excited and started to take a picture of it whenever we got the chance, especially the otters. The staff who worked there told us interesting facts about them like their habitat, diet, how they lived etc. There were also activities that we participated in, which were educational and fun. It was a crime scene where we had to figure out who the murderer was by relating it to different animals' features. Plus, there was also a playground where our form had lots of fun in it; we spent lots of time there. There was a huge slide which people loved and kept on going on and there was also a gift shop that had many souvenirs that many people liked and bought things like teddy bears and sweets, they were wonderful things to keep as a memory from Wildwood."* **Riya Varda, Y7**

For the first time this July, **Year 8** students will visit the **Wide Horizons Environmental Centre**, Eltham. Where they will learn how to identify and study the factors affecting different ecosystems. They will practice different sampling techniques to measure the abundance of a range of organisms within these habitats. The trip is designed to introduce GCSE Biology topics and skills, whilst also providing insight into potential future careers in wildlife conservation.



### **Enthuse Programme**

Bexley Grammar School has worked to develop the provision of Science education within the borough in a number of ways over the years. Currently, we are working as a lead school in the Enthuse Programme, which links primary and secondary educators and students. Over the last 6 weeks the Year 12 Science leaders have been able to participate in the very rewarding experience of helping to run a Science Club for Year 6 students at local primary schools. This included Northumberland Heath Primary School, Burstled Woods, Hook Lane and St Thomas More.



Connie Theobald, Gabriela De Vasconcelos Garces, Johanna Espanola and Amy Cullen,  
Year 12.

*"Each week we carried out a different experiment with the students to try and teach them a variety of different things about science and to get them ready for science classes when they get to secondary school. Activities included making volcanoes, alka-seltzer rockets, glow-sticks investigation, making bath bombs and making ice-cream (which was delicious!)."*

*It was a very fulfilling experience for all of the Science Prefects involved each week as we taught the students things that most of them didn't know before and at the same time we were able to get them excited about science and scientific experiments. The primary school students also really enjoyed the experience and are now looking forward to going to "big" school."*

### **Amy Cullen 12RJG and Miss Among**

Also part of the **Enthuse project** a group of 8 Year 10 students visited **Willow Dene School** to run science sessions with the students there. They had to plan suitable and stimulating activities that would be accessible to pupils with a range of needs. Here is one review:

*"During Enrichment Week, a group of students took part in a wonderful trip to Willow Dene Secondary, a special education school, all organised by Miss Bellingham. On this trip, BGS students set up small, yet undeniably interesting science experiments, including a keyboard powered by bananas, the strange substance that is 'ooblek', rainbows made from sugar water, and homemade lava lamps. It was so much fun to be a part of, and the children we met were beyond lovely, with their enthusiasm for the activities making it all the better."*

*All the students who went on this day out would like to thank all the staff involved in this trip for allowing us such a great opportunity :)"*

**Niamh O'Toole-MacKridge, 10MEA and Samantha Hayes-Holgate, 10AWS**



Niamh O'Toole-MacKridge,  
Kylie Li, Ellis Marsh, Jenny Lake, Satie Polidoro-Thursby, Natacha Loisin, Year 10



### **Career Progression**

At Bexley Grammar School a number of students will go on to study STEM subjects, including Medicine, Engineering and Dentistry, at university. In order to support students into these fields, BGS holds regular enrichment events throughout the year to inspire our young people and educate them about the wide variety of careers that exist.

### **Marine Engineering Workshop - the Most Fun Two Periods You'll Ever Have at School...**

*"On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, I, along with many other fortunate pupils, took part in a Physics workshop in which we were educated about careers available at sea for engineers and the elements required to complete a working boat. Firstly, we were all informed about the incredible opportunities presented to marine engineers – I don't want to give too many secrets away but it involves a tax free career – and all of the different paths accessible to them, from working on private superyachts to huge cargo ships where there will be at least 8 other engineers with you. After this, we learnt why a boat floats and a submarine sinks: density, upthrust and even nuclear energy popped up in this section.*

*Finally, we reached the zenith of the fun: we were given a certain amount of materials to craft a boat with! We did not necessarily put blood, sweat and tears into ours, and although it did not hold the most marbles, it managed to have a capacity of 86 before it capsized, and it was not necessarily the extravagant Titanic ending that my team had hoped for. Overall, the workshop was extremely interesting and enjoyable, and now I would certainly consider a career in marine engineering."*

**Oliver Harrison 9JCM**

### **iGEM Workshop for Year 10**

During enrichment week a group of university students from King's College London ran a workshop for Year 10 students. The university students are competing in the iGEM competition as part of their degree courses and luckily one of them has a student here at BGS in Year 7 and contacted us to get involved!!



Patrick Jackson, Jason Odeh, Ifeanyi Ifeji and Oluwatimilehin Abel, Year 10

*"There was a broad range of students, studying degrees such as Bioengineering or Biochemistry, who were all taking part in iGEM. iGEM is a competition in synthetic biology, in which students create genetically engineered systems using standard biological parts called BioBricks (a programme); this is one of the many competitions available to those studying sciences. There are also many opportunities to do your own research; you can carry out your own experiments in labs or create group projects. There is more freedom, especially the longer the degree, to experiment and research in specific fields that interest you. The research that students do often has large impacts in the real world, one year's winner's of the iGEM had their project taken on and developed by a company. For example, in the field of synthetic biology, research is being done by both university students and many medical scientists to see if there is a cure for diseases such as Parkinson's (which affects ten million worldwide), by creating new or altering existing genetic sequences.*

*During the session, we learned about what the definition of synthetic biology (The application of genetic engineering to generate modified or even completely new forms of life), and had many interactive activities."* **Natacha Loison, Year 10**

### **Operating Theatre Live**

This event featured in the previous magazine but it was such an enthralling experience for all those involved that I had to include it in our roundup of the year's main events. 65 Year 12 Science students from BGS and Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School had the exciting opportunity to experience a Live Surgery and gain experience of life as a medical student. They dressed in full surgeon's scrubs and had hands-on involvement in calculating and administering anaesthetic doses and carrying out real and model dissections including the digestive system & cardiovascular system.



It was summed up beautifully by **Corinna Dunzendorfer, Year 12:**

*"After experiencing body parts we never thought we would have the opportunity of seeing, and smelling smells we wished we never had the opportunity of smelling, we were more prepared for the future in any health career. And we definitely have much stronger stomachs after this enthralling experience!"*

### **Physics and Biology In Action Conferences**



As usual, the annual conferences of Physics and in Action and Biology in Action took place and were attended by two groups of Year 12 students. Both conferences are presented by professionals who discuss how Biology or Physics are integral in their jobs. It is an excellent opportunity to have concepts from the curriculum reinforced in interesting and engaging ways but, more than that, it opens the students' eyes to a host of possible careers in their subject area. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, the Chemistry in Action trip was cancelled but it will be rescheduled for during the next academic year.

**David Jones, Year 12,** describes his experience of the Physics in

Action trip.

*"On the 9<sup>th</sup> November, Year 12 IB Physics students travelled to the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster for a day of Physics based lectures from 5 different professors from around the country. It was an insightful day with many of the lecturers explaining their studies and work and the theory behind it. From particle accelerators to quantum physics, we were informed of various different topics in which all BGS students were indulged. Hosted by Greg Foot from BBC Earth Lab, the day was enlightening and inspiring for all students involved."*



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## **NHS obesity and diabetes talk by Professor Jonathan Valabhji**

This year, the NHS is reaching its 70th anniversary and, as part of this, professors and doctors are visiting some schools to give talks about health.

On Friday 29th June, Professor Jonathan Valabhji gave a talk to the Year 10 and 12 students about the rise of obesity since the 1900s. He highlighted how there has also been a rise in people with Type 2 diabetes. Consequently, the NHS is implementing a new diabetes prevention programme to reduce the effects of this.

After the Assembly, those of us interested in pursuing careers related to Medicine were then fortunate enough to be part of a 30-minute question and answer session. Professor Valabhji began by giving us an insight into his life as a junior doctor and then his journey in becoming a clinician in the field of obesity and diabetes.

Thank you to Professor Jonathan Valabhji and the teachers involved in organising this wonderful opportunity!

**By Charlotte Allen, Year 10 and Dliveen Dler, Year 12**



## **Top Universities Conference**



On 21st June, BGS hosted the Top Universities Conference. The event was a chance to invite external speakers and representatives from universities regarded to be some of the best in the country. Open to a number of schools in Bexley, the conference gave us all the opportunity to find out more about the application process, helping us to make a well-informed decision about our futures at what can be a confusing and stressful time.

The day began in the hall with a welcome address and an icebreaker. We were encouraged to interact with people from other schools using interview techniques, since similarly, the university interviewer would also be a stranger to us. This proved to be an enjoyable activity, once we got over initial nerves. Our conversations continued into break where we got to know each other, discussing our future ambitions and debating the possibility that England might do well at the World Cup!!

Next we heard from representatives from three renowned universities, Oxford, Cambridge and London School of Economics. During the three talks, we found out a great deal about what the universities look for in a student, conveniently leading onto the subject of personal statements, which a lot of us were writing at the time!

Following the talks, we then attended two seminars regarding a subject or topic that we had chosen to find out more about on the day. With these sessions ranging from traditional school subjects to some studied at university, like Law, the seminars proved to provide a wide range of information to help us find out more about our future studies. For those perhaps unsure about the university process or their subjects, Mrs Caley-Gardiner ran a session on choosing the right course and university. It cleared up any confusion I had

regarding the application process and some of the terms associated with university that I did not understand entirely. My second session was on Modern Languages, led by Ms Brand and some current language students. I thoroughly enjoyed it and it led me to decide that taking French at university might be the right course for me!

After lunch, we had the opportunity to speak to some undergraduate students and university representatives. It was at this point that I think most questions were answered and excitement about university was definitely increased, surpassing any initial worries! At the end of the conference, we heard from some former students about strengthening our applications before the conclusion of the event.

Having spoken to a lot of students throughout the day, both internal and external alike, I enjoyed the conference and felt it was well organised and unbelievably useful. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about my potential future subjects and I was interested to see what I could do to help myself in the future at university! On behalf of the students, I'd like to thank Ms Stoddard and the staff involved during the event for organising the event and for her continual support throughout the process.

**Jake Rodrigues, Year 12**

## **2018 Politics Recap**

In our Autumn Edition, I reported on the overthrow of dictator Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe. I was hopeful of an improvement in the quality of life of the people of Zimbabwe. The new President, Emmerson Mnangagwa, has shown some promising signs since his ascension to the Presidency. Although Zimbabwe is still a military dictatorship, Mnangagwa vowed to serve the people and reduce corruption. British Minister of State for Africa, Rory Stewart, said that the change in leadership was, "an absolutely critical moment," after Mugabe's, "ruinous rule." The new President plans to: compensate farmers who have had their land confiscated, hold the 2018 General Election that Mugabe cancelled and re-engage with the West and - specifically - Britain. Mnangagwa made a specific point of inviting the United Nations, the European Union and the Commonwealth to oversee the 2018 elections.



In our Spring Edition, I reported on the PyeongChang Winter Olympics and the two Korean nation states competing under the same banner. After inflammatory remarks were fired between Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump, a seemingly surprising turn of events occurred. A summit in Singapore was planned and actually happened. It now seems that power politics relies on maintaining respect and throwing hard balls and softballs simultaneously. Even Bill Clinton knew of

this style of power politics. One may vehemently disagree with the aggressive dialogue between the world leaders, but the unprecedented results speak for themselves: the leaders of North and South Korea shaking hands on both sides of the border, the release of US prisoners of war, the decommissioning of nuclear testing sites, North Korea's promise to denuclearize and the end of propaganda broadcasts. Anti-American souvenirs in North Korea have also disappeared. The US ended its war games with South Korea in exchange and South Korea's president issued no complaints to the concession. This concession is also



dependent on North Korea upholding the terms of the summit. We must not forget the efforts of Xi Jinping: the paramount leader of China. In the wake of the emboldening of North Korean officials in recent decades, even China has felt threatened by North Korea. Now, China has been able to impose sanctions in coordination with the United States which has helped North Korea come to the table. Will Trump and Kim devolve back into 'tantrums'? Absolutely. But one can be hopeful, if not optimistic. Relations on the Korean peninsula have been at their best for at least three decades.

The political situations in Zimbabwe and on the Korean Peninsula have given me hope that areas of the world that have suffered from years of tyranny can regenerate into thriving democracies: slowly but surely. I hope that you can objectively judge these situations. Remain sceptical but accept that not everything in the world is taking a turn for the worse!

**By Dylan Moody, Year 12**

### **SUMMER READS...**

***Whether you are reading on the beach, poolside or in your garden...these are the recommended books of the summer***

*By Isabelle Merralls*



### **ULTIMATE YA FICTION:**

1. PEOPLE LIKE US by Dana Mele
  - This story is just right for fans of Pretty Little Liars, it will tease you, mislead you and ultimately betray you.
2. THE CRUEL PRINCE by Holly Black
  - A fantasy tale from the author of The Spiderwick Chronicles
3. AMERICANIZED: REBEL WITHOUT A GREEN CARD by Sara Saedi
  - This story combines current politics with Young Adult fiction
4. LIFEL1K3 by Jay Kristoff
  - Described as being 'Romeo & Juliet meets The Terminator' this is definitely one for your reading list!!



### **SIXTH FORM READS:**

Year 12 Book Club has opened my eyes to a range of genres, authors and stories which I would not have necessarily read before. This year we have read:

1. The Heart is a Lonely Hunter  
- Carson McCullers
2. 11 Kinds of Loneliness  
- Richard Yates
3. I am Legend  
- Richard Matheson

If you are starting Year 12 in September, Book Club is an excellent way to broaden your reading lists and enjoy new genres!

### **AUDIOBOOKS:**

- Audiobooks are becoming more and more popular in the digital age and if you don't enjoy reading, try out an audiobook! A 30 day free trial is perfect for the summer holidays in order to immerse yourself in numerous books. (£7.99 per/month after the free trial)

## **MRS CAREY RECOMMENDS...**

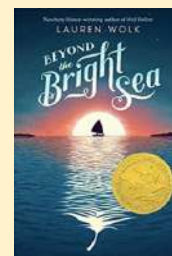
Our School Librarian, Mrs Carey, recommends...

### **BEYOND THE BRIGHT SEA**

By Lauren Wolk

Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbour across the sandbar.

Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.



## **FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER IN LONDON!**

6 weeks is a long time to be sitting at home...  
... we have compiled a list of the top things to do this summer to suit all budgets!



By Isabelle Merralls

### **1. Cereal Killer Cafe**

- Choose from 120 different types of cereals and more than 30 different varieties of milk and toppings at the cafes in Brick Lane & Camden from £2.60.

### **2. Hire a Pedalo**

- Hire a pedalo on Hyde Park's famous Serpentine Lake (£10 for 30 minutes).

### 3. **Zip Line Over London**

- The world's longest inner-city zip line is situated on the South Bank. The experience gives amazing views of the London Eye, the River Thames and Parliament across 225m. Even better, up to three people can ride at the same time, so pick your friends wisely!! £20.00

### 4. **God's Own Junkyard**

- Discover a neon paradise at this quirky spot in Walthamstow, it is *free* to enter and it enables you to have hours to take hundreds of instagramable pictures.

### 5. **Open Air Cinema**

- Film4 Summer Screen at Somerset House invites 2000 cinema lovers to the largest outdoor cinema screen in London. The event runs from 09-27th August and tickets start from £19.75. Films include *Sleeping Beauty*, *Selma* and *Call Me By Your Name*.

## **EXCITING FILM RELEASES THIS SUMMER:**

*Enjoy a day out to the cinema this summer (look out for Teen tickets or sign up to Meerkat Movies for the cheapest prices!)*

#### 1. ***Mamma Mia 2***: Here we go again!

- 20th July
- Start your summer right with the sequel to the 2008 feel good musical

#### 2. ***Mission Impossible - Fallout***

- 25th July
- Enjoy the action-packed 6th installment of the Mission Impossible franchise

#### 3. ***Hotel Transylvania 3- A Monster Vacation***

- 27th July
- If you love cheesy animation, this is the perfect film for you this summer!

#### 4. ***The Nun***

- 27th July
- The new spin-off from 'The Conjuring' is set to be the most frightening horror film of the year

#### 5. ***Ant-Man and the Wasp***

- 3rd August
- Another Marvel delight to meet the needs of any superhero fan this summer



## **Avengers Infinity War Review**

Quite possibly the biggest crossover in movie history, *Avengers Infinity War* was finally released last month after 18 films of build up. It follows the *Avengers*, the *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Doctor Strange*, *Black Panther*, *Spiderman* and so many others in their fight against Thanos after he decimates 2 major populations (the nova core homeworld and the Asgardians) and takes their infinity stones for himself with his sights set on the two infinity stones on earth he searches for the remaining stones with his black order consisting of Ebony Maw, Black Dwarf, Proxima Midnight and Corvus Glaive. Will the Avengers be able to stop Thanos before he gets all of the infinity stones and kills half of the universe? (*the answer may surprise you*).



Straight away, I want to say that this movie is not for those who are unfamiliar with the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) as it relies quite a bit on pre-existing relationships with very little recap which helps the move feel faster but makes it a bit confusing for those who don't at least know the basics of the MCU. With that being said, this is a fantastic movie and an achievement in filmmaking that they have managed to tie this universe together so coherently and effectively. It feels like watching the first *Avengers* in that you cannot believe that all these characters have come together in a universe of such scale. It also gives every character at least one fantastic action (these are the same guys who made *'The Winter Soldier'* and here they most certainly bring their A game) and some much deserved emotional development.

This movie also manages to fix two of the biggest problems that people seem to have with the Marvel Universe which are: the lack of good villains and the fact that there are no stakes or that no one dies. Josh Brolin plays a fantastic version of Thanos which is different enough from the comics to be interesting whilst still not abandoning the original idea of the character. He is also one of the most terrifying threats that the Avengers have ever faced and it really makes you fear for our protagonists. However, that doesn't make you any less sympathetic as you really do get to understand his ideas and even maybe think that he is right. If I had to say something negative about him it is that he seems too powerful and that in some scenes you think "*why is this taking so long?*" but even then I would chalk this up to an emotional conflict, especially after a certain event that shows his character in a completely different light.

Overall a fantastic movie with some of the most impressive action, special effects and universe building in a film to date.

**8.5/10**

**By Patrick Maslin, Year 12**

### **Review Of Isle Of Dogs**

Wes Anderson has a rather bullet proof film record and is instantly recognisable from his use of colours and cinematography. His latest film follows the fictional banning of dogs in Japan due to a dog flu virus that infected every single dog. Most of these dogs are sent to a new home, the disease and trash ridden island now appropriately called 'Trash Island'. Among the dogs sent to Trash island was Spots (Liev Schreiber), the guard dog of the orphaned ward of Mayor Kobayashi (the main villain of the film, voiced by Kunichi Nomura) and Atari Kobayashi (the main protagonist voiced by Koyu Rankin). Missing his dog so much Atari hijacks a plane and escapes to Trash Island and, with a motley crew of dogs who are desperate for an owner and food, goes looking for his dog. Apart from Chief (voiced by Bryan Cranston), who hates owners but is roped into looking for Spots anyway. Together they go on a journey of discovery, fun and along the way run into an evil scheme run by cat lovers to get rid of dogs all together! Overall I really enjoyed this movie. The performances are great and deadpan, featuring the majority of Wes Anderson's recurring characters such as Edward Norton and Bill Murray, mixed with a majoritively Asian cast who work very well together. I was surprised at how many subtitles there are in this movie, with only the dogs line in English, but it surprisingly helped make the performances even more deadpan. It was also wonderful to see Anderson's return to animation as it really fits his style and makes his





cinematography effective. His visual jokes (that are plentiful in this movie) and unusually frequent action scenes are even better than normal. I would even go so far as to say that this is a better film than his previous trip into the realm of animation with *Fantastic Mr Fox*. It isn't just all style and jokes though, despite the film mostly being a parody of children's movies in general, there is some minor social commentary that I would like to see explored further. That is generally the problem of Anderson's films or at least in my case. They touch on bigger ideas despite the hilarity but they never explore them in any level of complexity and the characters don't go much beyond archetypes, although they are still interesting. However this is still a fantastic visual comedy and a true Anderson movie through and through.

**6.5/10.**

**By Patrick Maslin, Year 12**

### **Top 5 Anticipated Movies**



#### **Sicario 2: Soldado**

The original was a mindblowing movie that explored the dehumanism of war. Co- starring Josh Brolin (who blew everyone away as Thanos) what could go wrong?



#### **Antman and the Wasp**

It might not be the sequel to *Infinity War* that we need but it looks to be a well deserved break from the emotional turmoil of *Infinity War*.



#### **Mission Impossible Fallout**

Well it was the reason why Henry Cavill did not shave his moustache to play Superman so it'd better be good!



#### **Hotel Transylvania 3**

A series that, despite starring Adam Sandler, continues to get better with each iteration and this seems to be keeping with tradition



#### **Black KKKlansman**

The latest film from Spike Lee that has a hilarious premise and looks to tackle racism with Spike Lee's characteristic comedy and dolly shots.

**By Patrick Maslin, Year 12**

## The School Summer Musical

# School of Rock

**- a resounding success!**

After months of hard work and gruelling rehearsals, the annual school musical has once again been exceptional. Both the cast and crews' tireless dedication to ensure the musical's perfection was evident in their outstanding performance. From the moment the curtains opened, to the final round of applause the play ran seamlessly, and was extremely entertaining. The on-stage connection between the actors was so authentic that, even in the heat, it was easy to become captivated by Dewey Finn, a failed wannabe rock star, turning straight-A pupils into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band.



**Photo: "Hendrix Cast", Ulysse Abbate and Evie Booker**



**Photo: "Megadeth Cast" , Emily Humphrey (Centre), as Summer**

The production was brilliantly cast with students not only singing, acting and dancing, but also playing the guitar/ piano/ bass/ drums live on stage! The extraordinary talent of BGS students is further seen by the fact that there were two casts ('Hendrix' and 'Megadeth') - but it wasn't just the talented actors of all ages that made the play remarkable, the live band was also phenomenal and flawless. Therefore, the months of excitement and anticipation were worth the wait to spend almost 3 hours laughing and smiling watching the performance. The production was, as always, a brilliant end to the year and yet again showed the amount of sheer talent we have in this school. Thank you to all the teachers and students who gave up countless evenings and weekends to put the play

together, it was thoroughly enjoyed by every audience.

**Shivani Hindocha,  
Year 12**



## **The Jazz Evening**



### **The Year 13 Music Leavers:**

Sascha Dodd,  
Jacob Mills ,  
George Ross,  
Lizzie Combes, David Oputa,  
Eddie Stocker, Sophie Papworth,  
Francesca Bird, Luke Montgomery,  
Teshan Karunasekera, Jordan Harrex,  
Heather Goodchild



Taking place on another hot evening just 2 days after the school production, Mr Elphick announced that rock is dead and unofficially opened Bexley Jazz Academy.

The audience was entertained by Big Band Theory, Junior Jazz,

Junior Choir, Tour Band, School Choir and Improv. Highlights included Monty with Strings, playing an arrangement of Just Friends from the seminal Bird with Strings album; Teshan's arrangements and compositions for Junior Jazz and Improv; Sascha and Jacob's vocal performances in front of Improv's slick choreography.

**Mr J Laing  
Music Department**



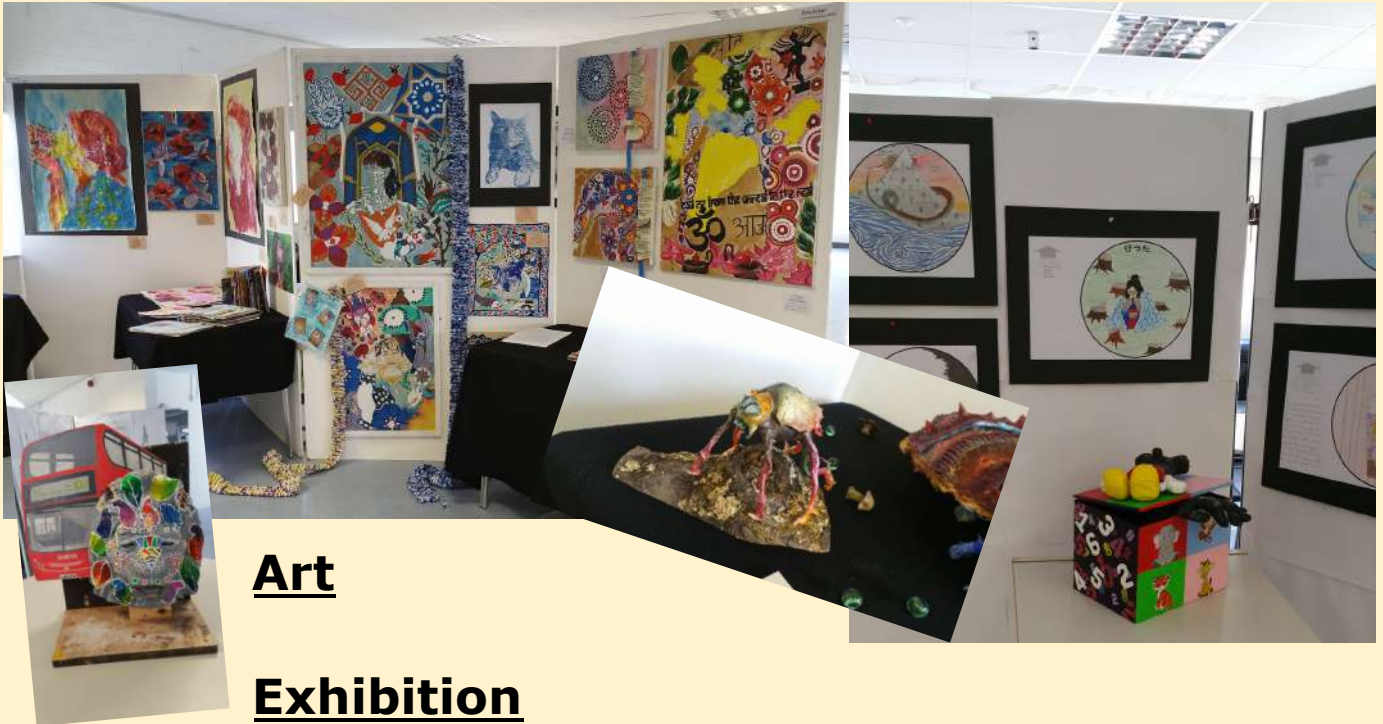


**Photo: Big Band**



**Photo: Junior Jazz**





**Art**

**Exhibition**

Year 13 Textiles have created some stunning works of art this year which are currently exhibited in the Sixth Form Centre along with some artwork from Y11 and Y8.

**\*\*\*STOP**  
**PRESS\*\*\***

## The English Year 8 Magazine Competition

was judged on Monday by a group of English Prefects (who also put the School Magazine together!). The judging criteria were: Content, Accuracy and Overall Design. The prefects

were impressed by the general standard of the finalists, and came to a unanimous decision about the top three. They were:

3rd Place - 8CIL 'Tempo' (Johnson)

2nd Place - 8JMP 'Mode de Vie' (Mabbs)

**1st Place - 8OTF 'Mediapolis' (Prothero)**

House points will be awarded accordingly. Well done to all of year 8 for their efforts in this





Thank you for  
reading and have  
a great summer!