

NEWSLETTER



www.bexleygs.co.uk
Bumper Christmas Edition

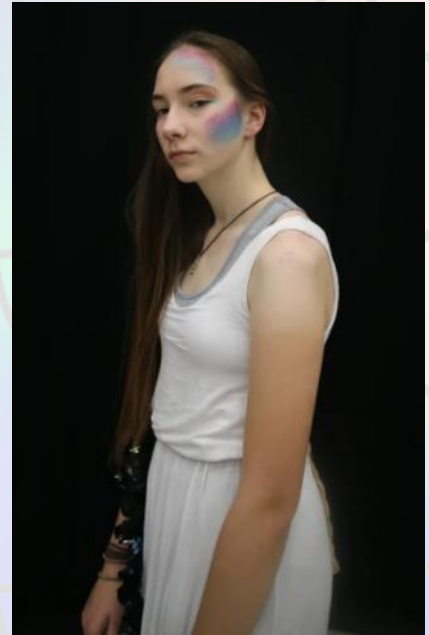
16th December 2021



Mermaid

by Polly Teale

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



All tickets have been automatically transferred to the equivalent date:

Wednesday 8th December to 19th January

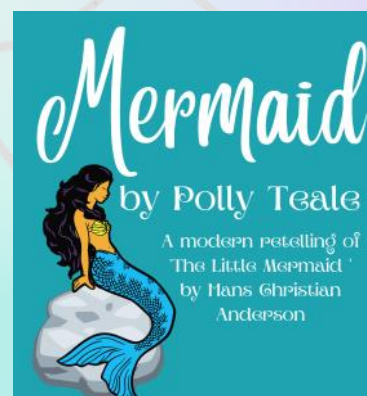
Thursday 9th December to 20th January

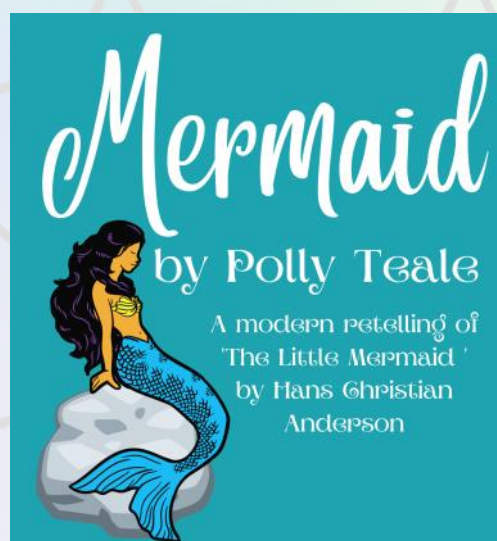
Friday 10th December to 21st January

If your ticket has been transferred to a date you cannot make, please contact bgstrips@bexleygs.co.uk and you can transfer or refund tickets.



- Shows will be social distanced and masks will be required for anyone aged 11 years or over except for persons medically exempt.
- Audiences are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test before coming to the show.
- We will endeavour to keep everyone as safe as possible.





There are remaining tickets for the show on Thursday 20th at 5.30pm, which will be released in the New Year.

Mr Otley, Head of Drama





Year 7 ~ Christmas News

Another busy term is now over at BGS. The Year 7s have again taken part in a host of house events including the 2 big sporting events of the term, House netball and football. A number of Year 7 students have starting training for House chess which takes place in the New Year and the annual photography competition. So 2022 will again be jam-packed with house events and opportunities to take part in our wider school community.

In PSHCE, Year 7 we have been discussing what it means to be environmentally sustainable. This has helped to show students how to think about their own impact on the environment. The final piece of work that all students have completed is to design a sustainable menu for their own restaurant. There have been some very delicious sounding ideas. All of the Year 7 tutor team have been impressed with the work that students have completed.



The Year 7 Student Council have been completing work to survey some of the school facilities to help identify areas for improvement. I have enjoyed the many heated discussions that have taken place in our meetings. The council representatives for each tutor group were also instrumental in organising the Christmas decorations on their tutor room door. Our first inter-tutor competition! The aim was to plan, design and implement a sustainable door. This meant that decorations could be up-cycled, made out of recycled paper or waste materials, and must be either recyclable or usable again in the future. I enjoyed seeing the designs take shape over the last couple of weeks.

Ms Orchard and I had a tough decision to decide who the winning door would be. The runners up were:

7J00: An excellent use of paper and origami skills. We loved the snowy trim too.

7JMP: This was an excellent use of tinsel... You can never have enough!

7MPM: The recycled Father Christmas, made out of crisps packets was inventive as was the use of French to sway the judges!

We loved the design from **7MAM**, this was perhaps the most creative door out of all of the 6 entries. This has certainly caught the attention of other members of staff. Well done!

The only double door design was from **7FTM**. We loved the snow flakes and painted trees. A great effort by this team.





The winning door went to **7STA**, we really loved the creativity used to make the folded snowman and Santa. Along with the sign of the North Pole. The use of made and upcycled decorations from home helped to win the competition for **7STA**. A fantastic effort!



Year 7 have also completed some beautiful Christmas card designs, which are now on display in the school reception. I absolutely love the Painted Robin, by **Lila Osborn** in 7MPM and the Gingerbread Man in a BGS school uniform, by **Tabitha Selby-Boothroyd** in 7JMP.



We wish all of our Year 7 students and their families a fabulous Christmas and Very Happy New Year.

Mrs Belton-Owen & Ms Orchard





Music News

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Nathan Singleton for achieving grade 8 piano with distinction!

Mrs Casling, Head of Music

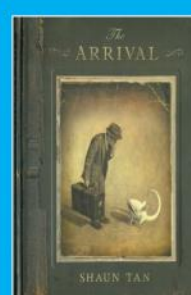
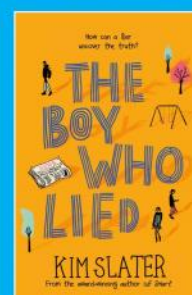
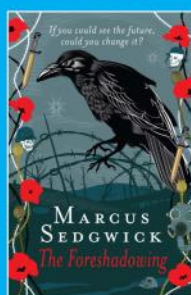
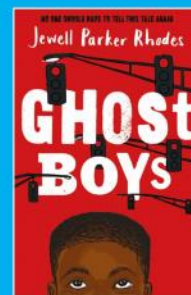
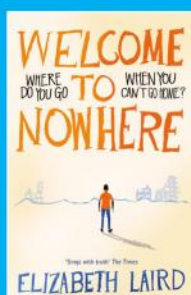


TSBA Reading Group

This term it has been fantastic to run the Trinity School Book Award twice, with both Year 7s and Year 8s, who have taken part in activities such as writing reviews, delivering publishing presentations, creating marketing materials and participating in a Kahoot quiz on all the books they read. All of the students were excellent at sharing their opinions on the books, and listening to others' viewpoints. I was particularly impressed by Kit Jardine (7J00) who wrote interesting, amusing reviews about all six of the books that we read.

Mrs Carey, Librarian

Take Two





PE News

Netball Club

A huge well done to everyone who has attended Netball club this term. We have had record numbers participating in Year 7 & 8 and I am hugely proud of the progress you have all made. I would like to say a big thank you to our Sixth Form helpers and to each and every one of you who has attended sessions with big smiles in all weathers.

NETBALL STARS OF THE TERM: This was very tough to select as all students have been amazing.

All of our stars have had very impressive attendance to training and have both shown a positive attitude towards both games and training.

Year 7

Adebola for her tremendous progress this term. She is able to read play and react by making lots of interceptions and tips.

Poppy, again for her progression throughout the term. Her shooting has been very accurate, scoring many of our goals in games against other schools!

Year 8

Ellie C for her determination within the centre court. She works hard to win the ball and has shown a huge improvement of the term.

Charlie for her calm and patient play and leading the team within competitive games. She is a very versatile player who has played all over the court this term!

Our Sixth Form netball team managed to secure an impressive 25-6 victory over Christ the King on Wednesday afternoon.

Well done ladies!

Ms Leffen
PE Department





Year 9 Rugby

A wonderful last game of the term with the Year 9 rugby team. Matias' last second try secured a 22-20 win. Fantastic from these guys!



KS3 Sports Clubs

Well done to our top KS3 sports clubs attendees this term! We've been really impressed with the incredible number of students who have come along to extra-curricular sport since September - and the students listed below were the most committed. Thank you for making the effort and we hope you've had as much fun as we have.



Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
Emily Chan	Dhylan Bracken	Isabelle Gorman	Samuel Pooley	Daniel Sesay	Poppy White
Yu Xuan Ong	George Barnes	Eva Hewitt	Udbhav Gupta	Luke Seagroatt	Cynthia Hin
Holly Brewster	Ikenna Azodoh	Caitlyn Osei-Tutu	Rohan Matharu	Matias Daniele	Yu Qui Ong

Mr Lines, Head of PE





Well done to our Year 7 & 8 netball stars. During our final training of 2021 we competed in the Christmas tournament.

Final results:

- 1st The Jingle Belles
- 2nd The Rocking Reindeer
- 3rd Santa's Elves
- 4th The Santa Squad

Ms Leffen



Cyberhackers make it to the Finals!

Diep Anh Nguyen, Angela Luong, Sophie Huang and Anagha Pai, all from 8LPV have won a place in the South East Finals for the CyberFirst Girls competition. Run by the National Cyber Security Centre each year, the competition is open to girls in Year 8 across the UK and aims to support girls interested in a career in cyber security. This year BGS fielded *seven* teams of four, who each worked together to solve puzzles and crack codes, over a week-long online qualifying round. Our winning team (known as "D.A.S.A.") was one of the 12 highest scoring teams from the South East, which means they will be travelling to a secret venue somewhere in the South East for the regional finals on February 5th. Well done girls!

Mr L Villazon, Head of Computer Science






Upskill Me

Upskill Me are running a brand new programme to break the glass ceiling and empower young women and non-binary students to enter the world of STEM careers. As a school we were invited to nominate 10 students in Year 12 and 6 of ours were successful in getting accepted on the course! An impressive feat when over 600 people applied for the 150 places. They are:

Lora Stancheva, Leila Thaifa, Bianca Daniele, Mayukhi Panda, Christabel Masaba and Francesca Adeloye

Congratulations!

Ms Lusted
STEM Coordinator




PSKILL ME PRESENTS

EMPOWERED FEMALE
STEM MENTORING PROGRAMME


INSPIRE 100 YOUNG FEMALES
OPEN TO YEAR 12 STUDENTS

MEET INSPIRING FEMALE
LEADERS WORKING AT
SOME OF THE UK'S
BIGGEST COMPANIES!

CONNECT WITH FEMALE
MENTORS FROM TOP STEM
ORGANISATIONS TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT CAREERS IN
STEM AND STEPS YOU CAN
TAKE TO GET THERE
YOURSELF



OCTOBER 12TH-MARCH 2022



This programme is for girls and non-binary people in Year 12 who have an interest in STEM, and allows us to meet once a month with STEM professionals from employers such as Facebook, Google, UCB and Atkins, who share their own experiences as women in STEM with us.

The sessions are engaging and let us interact with a lot of amazing people in STEM, who really help you understand what a career in STEM is like, and how to thrive in one. I would recommend this program to girls who enjoy STEM subjects, as I feel it has been such a great opportunity to meet and get to know new people, as well as to get more experience around work and practical skills.

Mayukhi Panda, Year 12





The Women in STEM programme is a 6-month course for non-binary and female pupils interested in science, technology, engineering, or maths. It provides group mentoring sessions, work experience and workshops, plus the amazing chance to meet females in top UK companies.

I think it's a wonderful opportunity as you get to be around other non-binary and females who have a passion for these academic areas. It really is empowering being in a room – or zoom rather – with people you can identify with and look up to. I've found these sessions have made seeing myself in a STEM career more vivid, simply by seeing a fellow woman there. They also teach you how to present yourself professionally, which builds your self-confidence. I would definitely recommend it to other non-binary/ female pupils currently enjoying their STEM subjects.

Christabel Masaba, Year 12



Girls' Tech Day 2021

MISSION POSSIBLE

AWS Girls' Tech Day 2021 activities:

- Learn about coding through interactive sessions
- Connect with our all-star line-up of women in tech and girls in STEM
- Discover how algorithms, machine learning, and cloud computing power Amazon's fulfilment process
- Register for the Launch Prize Space Competition
- Dance with DJ Les, play trivia games, and much more

This is a fantastic opportunity for any girls who want to learn more about STEM careers and complete different activities. There is the potential to work with NASA scientists on a project as well as learn about coding, be inspired by women in STEM and get some great experiences for your future.

<https://onlinexperiences.com/scripts/Server.nxp?LASCmd=AI:4:F:QS!10100&ShowUUID=E3B90249-7BCD-47C9-B042-5ED8C1E9EDA4>

Students will need a parent/guardian to register and they have until February 2022 to access the activities. Could be a fun thing to do over the Christmas break!

Ms Lusted, STEM Coordinator





A Mindful Moment

LOOKING AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AT CHRISTMAS

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" is what we hear constantly at Christmas. Whether it's on the radio, the TV or out in public, we are constantly told that Christmas is a time to be happy. But what if you're not happy?

Just because it's Christmas, it doesn't mean caring for your mental health has to be put on hold.

Take time out

It's so important to take time out every day, not just in the festive period. If you feel yourself getting a bit overwhelmed, or upset, take five to ten minutes away from everyone on Christmas Day to just have a bit of time to yourself. This could be as simple as watching something on television or sitting down with a good book. Christmas Day can be quite an overwhelming day, so by taking time out you can allow yourself time to recharge.

Sleep

A good night's sleep is so important when it comes to looking after your mental health. It's said that teenagers need an average of nine-and-a-half hours' sleep each night. When it comes to the festive period, ensuring you get enough sleep can become difficult due to things like late nights at home. To make sure you get back into your normal sleeping routine easily, try going to bed at normal times as the festive period draws to a close. This'll make getting up for school a lot easier and, in turn, will help your mental health a lot.

Exercise

Physical activity releases a chemical called endorphins, which makes you feel good, so if you're feeling a bit overwhelmed or low at Christmas, why not go out for a walk? You could go on your own or with someone else, or go for a bike ride or even a run.

Try to relax

It's easy to say "Christmas is fun - just relax", but the reality is that relaxing can be tricky. Try doing things like yoga, breathing exercises or meditation to help you calm down if you're feeling a bit stressed over the festive period. Just because it's Christmas, it doesn't mean caring for your mental health has to be put on hold.

Ms Brand
Mental Health & Mindfulness Lead



A message from Young Minds



Dear Bexley Grammar School

You may have heard by now: we're having the biggest conversation we've ever had with young people. And we need to hear from you.

There's so much going on in our lives, and in the world, that it can all feel so hard to deal with. Things need to change. You and other young people deserve to feel good and hopeful about the future.

To make things better for you, we need to know what you're struggling with. We don't want to take a guess at what these things are, we want to hear directly from you.

If you're 13-25 and in the UK, take the Big Young People's Survey and tell us more about the things that worry you. Whether it's covid-19, climate change, problems at school, political issues, bullying or loneliness – it's important that we hear what are the big issues affecting your life and how you feel.

By taking part in the Big Young People's Survey, you will be contributing to the biggest piece of mental health research we've ever done. What you tell us will influence what we focus on over the next couple of years. Your voice has the power to make a difference.

Already taken the survey? Please share with your friends, school, college or workplace so we can hear from as many young people as possible.

Thank you,

The Young Minds Campaigns team

p.s. When you finish the survey, you'll be entered into a draw to win a £10 Wagamama gift voucher (we've got 1000 to giveaway) AND the chance to win Wagamamas for a full year! **Terms and conditions apply.**

The survey is available here: <https://opinionpanel.decipherinc.com/survey/selfserve/53b/211118?state=908650d5-753e-48dd-9f63-2421f6787b04#?>





Holidays during Term Time

Please beware that The Education Authority has made it very clear that parents should not be removing students from school during term time for holidays. Removing your child to go on holiday will have a negative impact on their education. We have 13 weeks of holidays in which you can arrange to visit family or go on holiday. Please do not let your plans interfere with your child's education, there is no online learning for students who are absent from school due to holidays or sickness.



- It is a legal requirement that students attend school every day unless unwell. Only the school can authorise an absence from school.
- If for any reason you do require your child to be away from school you must contact the attendance office beforehand and obtain an application form.
- An email or telephone call on the day is not acceptable.
- You will be asked to provide evidence supporting your request. **Without supporting evidence your request will not be considered.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents that do comply with the schools policy on holidays and for supporting your child's education.

Mrs Jeffery, Attendance Office

Application Form can be obtained from:

Mrs Jeffery Years 7-11
jeffery_j@bexleygs.co.uk

Mrs Thomas Years 12-13
thomas_t@bexleygs.co.uk





BGS PA

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest!



First place: Creedy Family



BGS PA
*Christmas Tree
Decorating Contest!*



Second place: Miss Giglione (BGS MFL teacher)



BGS PA

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest!



Third place: Banks Family



BGS PA

Recycled Christmas Tree Winner!



Winner: Gaimda Family

The tree was built from recycled and leftover building supplies plus old decorations.
Photo of Kieran in year 7 painting the tree.



BGS PA

Other Recycled Christmas Trees



Well done Zahari Selfi
in year 8 for this great
newspaper tree!

Thank you to the DT
team for submitting your
recycled tree (broom stick
and recycled textiles) and
to Mrs Mitten (BGS staff)
for the cardboard cat tree.





Thank you, everyone!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all
parents and staff for supporting our
fundraising initiatives this
past term.

Best wishes for a lovely Christmas
and happy new year!

BGS Parents' Association



BGS PA LOTTO!

December Draw

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

T.Headon (no. 26) - first prize of £15
D. Peetoom (no. 44) - second prize of £10
S. Gatfield (no.107) - Christmas Bonus - £50

Visit

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

*You can join any time.

*You must be over 18 to enter.

*There is no limit on the number of £5 shares you
can buy. Shares are valid for a year which includes
12 monthly draws plus a Christmas bonus draw.

Thank you for your support!





News items you may have missed

**PROVISIONAL GCSE EXAMINATION TIMETABLE Summer 2022**

The date that has been set aside as the contingency day is **Wednesday 29 June 2022**.

This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the date of their first exam until Wednesday 29 June 2022.

This decision is not a school decision and does apply to all candidates in all schools.

DAY	START	SUBJECT	Exam Board	LENGTH
Monday 16th May	8.30am	Religious Studies	AQA	1hr45m
	1.30pm	Computer Science P1	Edexcel	1hr30m
Tuesday 17th May	8.30am	Biology P1	OCR	1hr45m
	1.30pm	Psychology P1	AQA	1hr45m
Wednes- day 18th May	8.30am	English Language P1	AQA	1hr45m
	1.30pm	German Listening and Reading	AQA	1hr 45m
		Economics P1	OCR	1hr30m
Thursday 19th May	8.30am	History P1	Edexcel	1hr15m
	1.30pm	Italian Listening and Reading	AQA	1hr45m
		Drama	AQA	1hr45m
Friday 20th May	8.30am	Mathematics P1	Edexcel	1hr30m
	1.30pm	Chinese Listening and Reading	Edexcel	1hr50m
		Business P1	AQA	1hr45m
		Ancient History P1	OCR	1hr45m
Monday 23rd May	8.30am	Geography P1	AQA	1hr30m
Tuesday 24th May	8.30am	French Listening and Reading	AQA	1hr45m
	1.30pm	Physical Education P1	OCR	1hr
Wednes- day 25th May	8.30am	English Literature P1	AQA	1hr40m



DAY	START	SUBJECT	Exam Board	LENGTH
Thursday 26th May	8.30am	Spanish Listening and Reading	AQA	1hr45m
	1.30pm	Religious Studies	AQA	1hr45m
Friday 27th May	8:30am	Chemistry P1	OCR	1hr45m
	1.30pm	Computer Science P2	Edexcel	2hrs
Monday 6th June	8.30am	German Writing	AQA	1hr20m
		Chinese Writing	Edexcel	1hr25m
		Economics P2	OCR	1hr30m
		Latin P1	WJEC	1hr30m
	1.30pm	Psychology P2	AQA	1hr45m
Tuesday 7th June	8.30am	Mathematics P2	Edexcel	1hr30m
	1.30pm	Geography P2	AQA	1hr30m
Wednes- day 8th June	8.30am	English Literature P2	AQA	1hr45m
Thursday 9th June	8.30am	History P3	Edexcel	1hr20m
	1.30pm	Physics P1	OCR	1hr45m
Friday 10th June	8.30am	English Language P2	AQA	1hr45m
	1.30pm	Japanese Listening and Reading	Edexcel	1hr50m
		Physical Education P2	OCR	1hr
Monday 13th June	8.30am	Mathematics P3	Edexcel	1hr30m
	1.30pm	Ancient History P2	OCR	1hr45m
		Business P2	AQA	1hr45m
Tuesday 14th June	8.30am	Geography P3	AQA	1hr
	1.30pm	Italian Writing	AQA	1hr20m
Wednes- day 15th June	8.30am	Biology P2	OCR	1hr45m
	1.30pm	Russian Listening and Reading	Edexcel	1hr50m
		Design and Technology	AQA	2hrs
		Latin P2	WJEC	1hr15m



DAY	START	SUBJECT	Exam Board	LENGTH
Thursday 16 th June	8.30am	History P2a	Edexcel	55m
	1.30pm	French Writing	AQA	1hr20m
Friday 17 th June	8.30am	Spanish Writing	AQA	1hr20m
Monday 20 th June	8.30am	Chemistry P2	OCR	1hr45m
	1.30pm	Food preparation and nutrition	AQA	1hr45m
		Japanese Writing	Edexcel	1hr25m
Tuesday 21 st June	8.30am	History P2b	Edexcel	55m
	1.30pm	Latin P3	WJEC	1hr
Wednesday 22 nd June	8.30am	Music	Edexcel	1hr45m
Thursday 23 rd June	8.30am	Physics P2	OCR	1hr45m
Tuesday 28 th June	8.30am	Russian Writing	Edexcel	1hr25m
Wednesday 29 th June		Contingency day		



Forthcoming Events

December

Friday 17th ~ Final day of autumn term

Year groups will be dismissed at the following times:

12.10 Year 12 & 13

12.15 Years 9, 10 & 11

12.20 Years 7 & 8

January 2022

Tuesday 4th ~ First day of the spring term

Students Years 7-11 Covid testing and then go home

Tuesday 4th ~ Schoolcloud booking system opens for the Year 12 Parent's Evening at 9am

Wednesday 5th

Students Years 7-11 normal start time registration 8.30am

Sixth Form students staggered start times and Covid testing

Year 12 test from 8.30am and return to lessons for period 2

Year 13 test from 9.30am and return to lessons from academic monitoring

Monday 10th ~ Schoolcloud booking system closes for the Year 12 Parent's Evening at midday

Tuesday 11th ~ Year 12 Virtual Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm

Mermaid Production (see notice)

Wednesday 19th ~ Mermaid production 7pm (tickets automatically transfer from 8/12/21)

Thursday 20th ~ Mermaid production 5.30pm (tickets automatically transfer from 9/12/21)

Friday 21st ~ Mermaid production 7pm (tickets automatically transfer from 10/12/21)

Tuesday 25th ~ Inset Day school closed to students

Merry
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

