



Big Buzz

CHRISTMAS
★ 2021 ★

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the BGS magazine!

My message in the last edition referred to our first music concert for well over a year, which took place out on the field in the summer term. I am delighted that we have just managed to squeeze in our first music concert inside for two years, with all our varied ensembles taking part; it was brilliant, so good to see our students back in their element, bursting with enthusiasm and talent!

And this sense of a return to normality has kept us hopeful during this term. Our extra-curricular programme, including a handful of day visits, has been busy. The huge range of sports activities on offer have reported record participation levels and there has been a full, and very successful, calendar of fixtures for both girls and boys. Music and drama rehearsals have flourished. Most of our clubs and societies have resumed along with one or two new ones, following the ever-widening interests of students.

It has been an exhausting term too, as we expend additional time and energy in continuing to adapt to new norms. For example, although we were grateful to be able to open our doors for face-to-face open events for prospective year 7 and year 12 cohorts for September 2022, we could not simply throw open our doors as we have done in the past. Each event had to be carefully planned with online bookings and managed with short presentations and time-limited tours. And to cater for the numbers who wanted to visit, we had to put on more events. The feedback from prospective parents has been brilliant but the preparation takes its toll. Much of the work of our staff in providing the outstanding education you enjoy as students has followed this theme of adaptation but feels as close to normal as we are likely to achieve for some time.

One of the themes of my assemblies this term (which had to go back to virtual events this half term) has been 'not taking things for granted', a lesson which this pandemic is repeatedly teaching us. Both staff and students are reminded regularly, by little daily successes, that we are generally very fortunate as a school to enjoy the quality of relationships between students and staff and the tremendous support of our parents, which come together to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which to learn.

So, even though the threat of the Omicron variant is beginning to disrupt the approach to Christmas and, even though I hear, as I write, that our existing Covid infections among staff and students are threatening to postpone the school play,

Mermaid, we will bounce back together in the new year to ensure that we continue to provide the best possible school experience within the restrictions of the ongoing pandemic. And we will remember not to take this for granted. This magazine demonstrates the vibrant life of our school and the resilience of our students' creativity. Thank you to Miss Contini and her brilliant editorial team for this rich, celebratory publication. I wish staff, students and their families a wonderful festive season and look forward to a refreshed start in 2022.

Mr Elphick



EDITOR'S MESSAGE



We hope you enjoy this edition of our beloved magazine, jam packed with interesting and thought provoking articles and showcasing some of the brilliant events that have happened during the Autumn term here at BGS.

Thank you to my team of reporters, editors and designers:

Donovan, Rachel Smith, Talya Cilek, Estefania De Silva Bigott, Megan Lisle, Tofunmi Onakoya, Christabel Masaba, Sam Bowles, Natalia Dziedzic,

Many thanks also to Mr Asker, Mrs Lusted, Mrs Snelling, Robyn Snelling, Mrs Eacott, Miss Harrison, Chijoke Ifeanyi-Dibie, Mrs Harris, Marie Touray, Matilda Jackson, George Miao, Eloise Knowles, Joseph Kirby, Milo Meisuria-Nicholls.





Current affairs and issues

THE COST OF CHRISTMAS



BY CHRISTABEL MASABA AND SAM BOWLES, YEAR 12

Celebration has long since been a linchpin in the complex, ever-moving mechanism that is our culture. The will to come together as a collective, whether that be as families or as larger communities, to rejoice in the various beliefs each of us holds, is a concept as old as humanity itself. From the New Years' festivals of ancient Mesopotamia to the simple birthday party, these traditions have no doubt been a part of all our lives and will continue to be for the foreseeable future.

During this era of isolation and unpredictability, it has been harder than ever to come together and celebrate the things we love with the people we love. But now, as our lives seem to be returning to what could be considered as 'normal', we take this opportunity to look at the profound impact of one of the most prominent celebrations of our time: Christmas.

Sparkling lights, roast dinner and presents haven't always been the staple of Christmas. Despite being a predominantly Christian celebration (wherein the birth of Jesus is celebrated), Christmas is actually an amalgamation of hundreds of years of different beliefs and ideologies. This is evident in the way in which different areas celebrate the event. Though originally frowned upon, Christmas has merged with many aspects of other, non-Christian beliefs. For instance, one example could be the old Germanic traditions which celebrated the winter solstice (jöl which is where the word Yule is thought to have originated from). This marriage of diverse beliefs may be considered as subjugation of less well-known belief systems (an effect common as a result of colonialism) or it can be interpreted as a peaceful joining of said cultures. In truth, the answer is entirely dependent on both which culture is taken into question and you, the individual- the interpreter.



Older, and at times lesser known, religious ceremonies and celebrations aren't the only things overshadowed by the now capitalist juggernaut that is Christmas. Practices that are widely known and popular today are still overlooked in favour of the typically Christian Holiday. The reason for this? Commercialisation.



Commercialisation can be defined as altering something to make it profitable. Now it wouldn't exactly be ground-breaking news that Christmas has been altered... at best.

From Coca-Cola Santa to Rudolph, wrapping paper to elves, even Christmas cards and ornaments, in short most of the traditions we look forward to are now a result of commercialisation. Overall, you could say the result is fantastic. You may spend much (much) more than you would on the average month but it's for your loved ones and *everyone* is in a joyous mood. But at the end of the day it's rooted in capitalist economies. Maybe for some cultures or faiths it is easy to connect to the real meaning, but have we all drifted away from the real roots of Christmas?

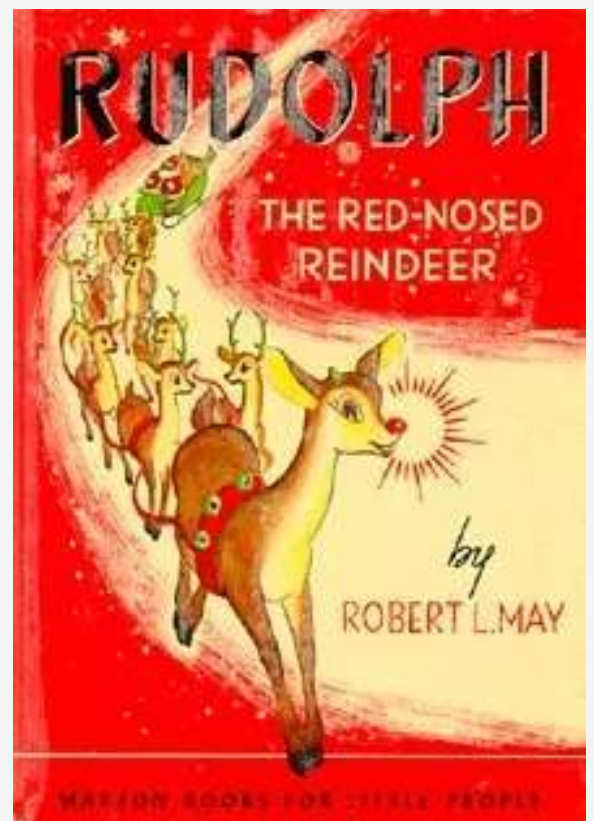
It is more commonly known that Santa was originally green (known as "Sinterklaas" from its Dutch roots) but was refurbished and made red by the powerful company that is Coca-Cola. However, his beloved reindeer Rudolph has also been changed a little - well, entirely. In 1939 Montgomery Wards dreamed up the magical red-nosed reindeer as a way to dominate headlines; over 2 million copies of the book "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" (by Robert L. May) were given away for free and just as he said "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer... you'll go down in history".



Similarly, the Christmas foods we look forward to like the Yule Log or Candy Cane, even Christmas dinner have been tweaked. While they do actually have traditional value, they aren't known for them at all. The candy cane is from Germany, approximately 250 years ago, while the Yule Log dates further back to Europe's Iron Age as a celebration of winter solstice. Christmas dinners were more reserved for the royal family and those who could obtain it from their church. These sentiments aren't kept anymore (maybe for the better when it comes to Christmas dinner) but we do still see them as a symbol of the season.

There's so many more aspects of Christmas that have been commercialised (we'll leave those for you to find). While this may be disheartening to know, it is also reassuring to see the true meaning of Christmas never being truly lost: generosity, love, joy.

So yes, the majority of traditions, myths and legends have faded from the forefront of the season - or evolved significantly - but the magic has never disappeared.



COP26: THE CONSEQUENCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



BY MEGAN LISLE, YEAR 12

We all know about climate change. Or at least, we've all heard about it. It's in our books, our news and our TVs. And most recently, climate change was a hot topic when Cop26 took place in Glasgow, a mere month ago. Over forty thousand delegates attended, from almost two hundred different countries - but what did these countries actually decide? And what effect will these decisions have for the young generation's future?

Cop - or Conference of the Parties - is an annual summit where members of the UN review their progress made on climate change. Since the first Cop in Berlin in 1995, they have been held almost every year and have resulted in some of the most important pieces of international environmental legislation. Think of the Kyoto Protocol (1997) or the most famous accords, the Paris Agreement (2015). Unfortunately, none of these agreements have ever succeeded in setting targets strict enough to avoid the Earth warming by 1.5C. Current projections show that Earth will warm by 1.5C by 2052 at the very latest, and 2030 at the earliest. If global temperatures rise by 1.5C, there will be catastrophes across the globe: raging wildfires, huge storms and whole countries swallowed by the rising seas. Cop26 was the chance for Britain to show its leadership in the climate catastrophe, to show the whole world the way forward. We failed.

Over the course of its twelve day run, Cop26 did produce some outcomes. Over forty countries agreed to phase out coal, which is easily the most polluting fossil fuel. Through the Climate Finance Delivery Plan, developed countries promised \$100 billion every year to aid those countries most vulnerable to climate change. Most importantly, the Glasgow Climate Pact was signed; this agreement strengthened promises to reduce fossil fuel emissions by 2030, and set targets to be net-zero by 2050 at the latest. But these legal documents weren't the only important things happening at Cop26. If anything, the events outside were far more exciting.



Marching down the streets outside, thousands of young people were making their voices heard. Among the 10,000 protesters were prominent climate activists Greta Thunberg, Vanessa Nakate, Dominika Lasota, and Mitzi Tan, all denouncing Cop26 as 'blah, blah blah.' British- Bangladeshi activist Mya-Rose Craig, 18, spoke about the growing anger and resentment for the government among the young generation as 'climate change is really frustrating because nothing is happening and so much could be done.' After years of Friday for Future protests, the world knows young people are angry. But we're hopeful too.



World leaders may have failed us, but we will not fail ourselves. Our future is in danger and we're rising to the challenge. Not only are we mobilising huge protests across the globe, young people are determined to hold themselves and others accountable. We're more likely than any other age group to change personal habits to reduce their environmental impacts. These changes include where we shop, what we eat and how we travel. We're writing books, creating documentaries and sharing our stories with the world. As global temperature rises and climate change continues, we are the generation determined to make the change.

TIPS FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS:



**CHRISTMAS DINNER:
CHOOSE SUSTAINABLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS FOR
A SUSTAINABLE DINNER THIS YEAR**

**GIFT WRAPPING:
TO WRAP PRESENTS THIS YEAR, CONSIDER
USING RECYCLABLE GIFT WRAP (CHECK THE
LABELS!)**



**FESTIVE DECORATIONS:
REUSING DECORATIONS OR CHOOSING
RECYCLABLE ONES MEANS WE CAN ENJOY
AN ECO-CHRISTMAS**

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS:
OPENING GIFTS IS ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF
CHRISTMAS, BUT TRY TO CHOOSE QUALITY OVER
QUANTITY**



GO WITH THE FLOW: HOW COVID-19 CHANGED THE COURSE OF MENTAL HEALTH.



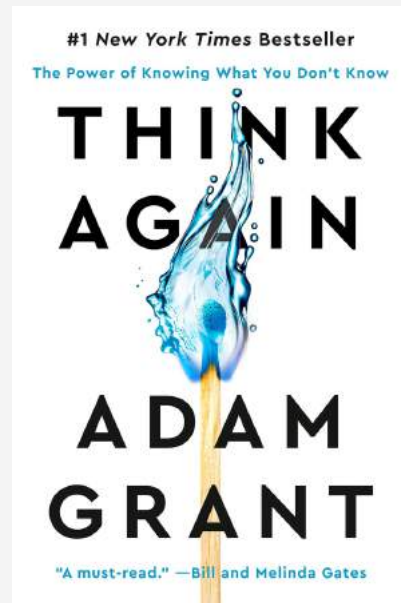
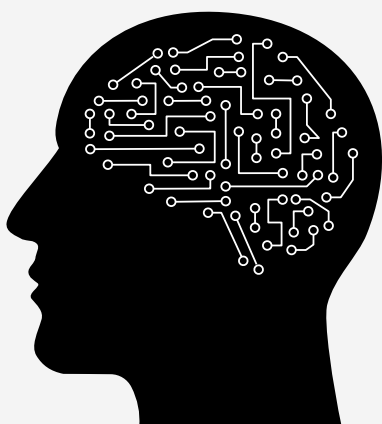
BY ESTEFANIA DE SILVA BIGOTT, YEAR 12

I think we can all agree on the fact that the city is not the best place to find solace. The thought came to me right after reading a Guardian article on the therapeutic benefits of visiting Malvern Hills, along the Worcestershire and Herefordshire periphery in West Midlands England. It's not a secret that we're obsessed with the natural visual world as a species and associate it with finding what psychiatrist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi came to call "flow", a state of being fully immersed in a specific task with untiring focus.

The ongoing search for flow is nothing new; if you're familiar with the rituals of Zen Buddhism, and its origins dating back to the 6th century C.E, you'll probably think of rigorous meditation-practice, where believers put emphasis on viewing the world "just as it is". This strong link between nature - our nature - and mental health is what has driven positive psychologists to study what it is about activities such as gardening, adopting a pet, or simply taking a walk outside that is so beneficial for the human psyche. But first, let's consider what the importance of finding flow is - as students, as parents, as employees and employers.

In the late stages of lockdown, many struggled with loneliness and grief. Even those who had a seemingly high quality of life had to confront the uncertainty of the unknown. What we first imagined to be a temporary safety measure turned into long months of confinement. During this time, children and teenagers experienced increased sadness, depression and worry. Their school lives were also disrupted by difficulties with concentration and attention for long periods of time. In simple terms, we were, and some of us are still, living in the world of the “meh” attitude. Though the symptoms may not be severe, feelings of aimlessness can lead to procrastination, lack of motivation and tiredness. It’s a formula for disaster and the worst nightmare for any person that has exams, a job or must meet any type of deadline.

So, how do we achieve flow? There are so many people who believe that flow belongs exclusively to the elites and intellects of society, even though we’re all programmed with the same brain. Going back to the mention of nature, though research has shown that being in contact with the environment increases a sense of calmness and releases stress, the truth is you don’t have to retire to the rural corners of the country to find flow. The key lies in what we do with our time; gardening, adopting a pet, taking a walk, running, cooking and so on. Organisational psychologist Adam Grant was able to find flow while playing Mario Kart with his family while in isolation, which led him to develop his Mario Kart peak flow theory. His three conditions were mastery, mindfulness and mattering.



The strongest factor in daily motivation and joy is a sense of progress. But mastery doesn’t have to include a big win. Small wins followed by rewards can make your studies and career a lot more enjoyable. Small wins make us feel good about ourselves, and move us to contribute to our progress, leading to more achievement. Yet, we can’t feel good about our mastery if we don’t include a balanced amount of mindfulness. Our work life is only a small fraction of what makes us happy. The simple reality is the antidote to the total lack of excitement in our lives doesn’t always have to be something productive.

Yet, what Grant argued made it a “peak” experience was mattering. Busy people hate wasting time, and the idea that we’re doing something that doesn’t matter nearly always slows us down. For Grant, playing a game - something people would culturally class as meaningless - meant he was having fun with the people he cared about the most. For others, such as volunteers, social workers and parents just to name a few, mattering branches out into the effects your actions have on other people’s lives. Research has shown that individuals living in socially cohesive communities, or those that have strong connections, have better health outcomes than those who are socially isolated. In fact, serving is considered one of the few “secrets of success” - that and constantly pushing yourself out of your comfort zone. Now, it’s not always easy to push yourself; the elevator to success is out of order. You’ll have to use the stairs...one step at a time.

ME AND MY MO'



INTERVIEW WITH MR ASKER

You spent the month of November growing a moustache. Why would you do that to yourself?

Firstly, while it's not the facial hair of choice for many, the moustache is a valid form of self expression for those who do choose to grow one. However, for me it is not something that I would do without a very good reason, and my reason was to take part in Movember, an event that is held every year across the world.

What is Movember, and what made you take part this year?

The Movember website does a better job of explaining what it's about, so here is what it says:

"Men's health is in crisis. Men are dying on average five years earlier than women, and for largely preventable reasons.

A growing number of men – around 10.8M globally – are facing life with a prostate cancer diagnosis. Globally, testicular cancer is the most common cancer among young men. And across the world, one man dies by suicide every minute of every day, with males accounting for 69% of all suicides.

Movember is uniquely placed to address this crisis on a global scale. We fund groundbreaking projects all over the world, engaging men where they are to understand what works best and accelerate change."

Speaking with colleagues, this is something that many of us have thought about doing over the years, with a few actually taking part in the past. I'd been concerned in the past that I'd just look stupid with a moustache. Lockdown gave lots of us an opportunity to grow beards that we might not have done previously, and with confidence that I could at least grow some facial hair, I thought I'd go for it.

Apart from feeling that you might not look too silly, did you have any other reasons for taking part?

I realised only recently that there are several examples in my life of men and boys who have struggled with their mental health. When I was a student at school, my chemistry teacher committed suicide. He also happened to be a family friend, as he'd worked with my dad in the past, and it was a huge shock to us and also, obviously, horrendously difficult for his family. I myself struggled when I was at university. It was only because a friend of mine was sufficiently concerned to tell me that I needed to go and speak to someone that I realised that perhaps things weren't all OK. The counselling I received helped me hugely, and so I'd always advocate finding someone to talk to if either you realise that things aren't good, or if someone who knows you suggests that it would be a good idea.

As a teacher, I've had students talking to me about their mental health, several of whom were boys, and too many of us have experienced loss as a result of someone being unable to see their way through the difficulties that they were experiencing. Teaching psychology gives me the opportunity to talk about mental health within some of my lessons, but not everyone gets the chance to ask questions in that sort of environment. Supporting a charity that aims to raise awareness of and provide support for men's mental health felt important to do.



Do you think that men's health issues deserve their own platform?

That's a really tricky question. In this day and age, attention is rightly being brought to the many inequalities that exist in our societies. I think that, wherever there is inequality, action should be taken. Where one section of society is suffering more than others then we should look at what can be done about that. There are various conditions that affect women more than men, such as breast and ovarian cancers, and there are specific world days acknowledging this. Movember is looking to do the same for conditions that affect men more than women. I think that's appropriate.

What sort of reactions has your moustache provoked?

Fortunately, the response has been incredibly positive. Students and colleagues have been almost universally complimentary, as have many acquaintances outside school. People to date have donated £460, which I am amazed at and hugely grateful for. If that helps improve even one life through the work of the charity then it was worth doing. I might cheekily add that the fundraising continues. If anyone feels moved to add to that total then you can find my Movember page at <https://uk.movember.com/mospace/14668120>.

Did anyone not like the moustache?

The strongest negative responses have been from my nearest and dearest... My wife didn't even want to look at me; my mum couldn't wait for it to be gone!

Do you think you'll do it again?

It will certainly take some thinking about. The moustache itself was uncomfortable and had me wiping my mouth almost compulsively after eating or drinking anything as I wasn't sure if a crumb or a drop had stuck where I didn't want it. Obviously those inconveniences are nothing in comparison to the problems that Movember aims to solve, so it would be churlish to say no just because of that. I must take my family's feelings into consideration, and I don't know if I would raise as much money again now that it's been done once. I think my decision on that front will wait for a few months yet!

Is there anything more you'd like to add?

I'd just like to encourage anyone who is struggling with their thoughts and feelings, or who is concerned about a friend of theirs, to find someone to talk to. I found that for me that was enough, but others might have a more serious difficulty, and it's really hard to get out of these things on our own. You can find support all around, but if you don't know where to begin then you could go to <https://uk.movember.com/mens-health/mental-health> as a starting point. You could also visit <https://www.kooth.com/>, call the Samaritans (free on 116 123) or Childline (0800 1111) or go to your own GP. Whatever's going on, please just don't suffer in silence.

Before the mo'



With the mo'



Well done Mr. Asker!

THE NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL.



BY TOFUNMI ONAKOYA, YEAR 13

The Nationality and Borders Bill is a new law that has passed its third and final reading in the House of Commons: 298 MPs voted in favor of it, while 231 voted against it. The Bill has now gone to the House of Lords.

The Bill makes changes to the UK immigration system as it relates to asylum seekers and refugees, and does this primarily by introducing a two-tier system for asylum-seekers arriving in the UK, differentiating based on the method of arrival. Before the basis of the bill is identified, it is important to define and understand the community which will be affected by this bill: refugees and asylum seekers. An asylum seeker is someone who, having left their country of origin to seek safety, has applied for asylum and is waiting for their claim to be evaluated. This person would have applied for asylum on the grounds that returning to their country would lead to persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, or political beliefs. A refugee is a person whose asylum application has officially been approved. In the year ending June 2021, the UK received the 4th largest number of applicants (37,235). In comparison to the rest of Europe, the UK does not accept as many refugees as countries such as Germany and France. In the same month, Germany received the highest number of asylum applicants (113,625) in the EU+, followed by France with 87,180 applications. It is well known that in the European Union, Germany takes in more asylum seekers and refugees than other European countries and till this day, over half of these refugees have found a job, and public support for immigration remains high.

The Government claims that this law's aim is to achieve the following: break the business model of people smugglers, save the lives of migrants crossing into the country, establish and strengthen safe routes to asylum, protect refugees and survivors of modern slavery, reduce delays and backlogs of the movements of migrants, save public funding, deter unlawful entry into the UK, fulfill international obligations including under the 1951 Refugee Convention and correct long and profound injustice in British nationality law.

However, many human rights organisations have criticised these claims and deemed them false and misleading. Indeed, when looking into asylum seekers and refugees, what many may not be aware of is the dangerous routes in which migrants take, when looking for a safe haven within another country. If this law gets approved, these journeys will be made even more dangerous, as when attempting to enter the country via boat, the law will authorise the pushbacks of these boats. In addition, they could have their claim ruled as inadmissible and could receive a jail sentence of up to four years if they arrive in the country illegally; however, due to the lack of safe and legal routes from their country into Britain, these people do not have a choice but to arrive here illegally. A case deemed as "inadmissible" means that asylum seekers and refugees attempting to have their stay granted by the Home Office will have their claims denied and will therefore be sent back to their country of origin.

An asylum seeker has to go through a lengthy and traumatic process in order to be granted asylum within the country that they have migrated to. In the UK, when a migrant has processed an application after it has been screened by the Home Office, the government will decide if the claim can be considered in the UK. If it can, an asylum interview will be with a caseworker, a process, which is said to take up to 6 months. For the most part, after this application has been filed, most are denied and are therefore forced to return back to the countries from which they have escaped in the first place.



This new law is very controversial among UK citizens as members of parliament, as it contradicts various conventions such as the UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. Many could say that the reasoning behind this Bill can be deemed as racist, as it disproportionately affects people of colour who tend to be the most represented group amongst asylum seekers. When looking into the subject matter through a post-colonial lens, we can see how the UK has a history of exploiting migrant workers when they were in need of rebuilding a workforce, as demonstrated by the Windrush generation's contributions after World War Two, only to subsequently deny them the most basic human rights, as seen in the Windrush scandal.

It is feared this Bill, if it becomes law, will have a global impact on some of the most vulnerable people on earth.

Amnesty International has published a very useful fact-checking guide that challenges the main claims of this law - please take a minute to read it and to evaluate it for yourself.

#BordersBill FACT CHECKER

- > **THE GOVERNMENT SAYS** the bill's asylum focus is a new approach, is urgently needed, and will improve the situation.
- > **WE SAY**, most proposals in the bill are not new. The government says we face an emergency - yet very few people claim asylum in the UK. In the last two years, numbers have remained stable. As the government's approach is not new, it won't bring improvements. Here's a summary of our response to the bill.

1

- > *The government claims the bill will break the business model of people smugglers.*
- > **The bill is not designed to do this – in fact, the opposite.** It will allow people smugglers to thrive – and increase exploitation of people seeking asylum – even after arrival.

2

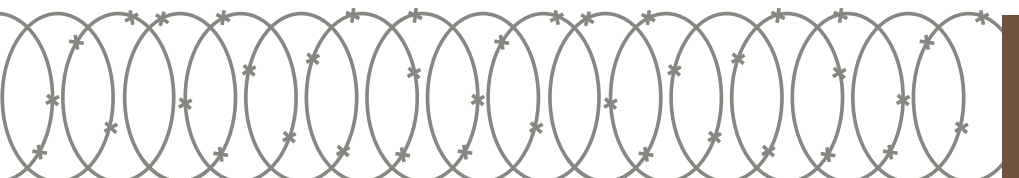
- > *The government claims the bill will save lives.*
- > **But the bill sets out to criminalise people for saving lives.** It fails to provide any safe route to claim asylum, so will continue to force people – including those with family and connections here – to resort to smuggling gangs and perilous journeys to reach the UK. .

3

- > *The government claims the bill will establish and strengthen safe routes to asylum.*
- > **Nothing in the bill does this – in fact it does the opposite.** The government has not established any safe routes for people to seek asylum. Worse, it restricts or completely removes safe routes for family members to join a refugee already here.

4

- > *The government claims the bill will better protect refugees and survivors of modern slavery.*
- > **The bill sets out to do the opposite.** It will make it harder for people to establish refugee status or other entitlement to protection. And for people who – despite the increased barriers – establish their entitlement to protection, the bill reduces the protection given.



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#BordersBill FACT CHECKER continued

5

- > *The government claims the bill will reduce delays and backlogs.*
- > **But provisions in the bill will – in some cases intentionally – increase delays, workload and backlogs.** Yet the UK has seen no significant increase in asylum claims in recent years – and lags behind eg France, Germany and Italy in number of people received in its asylum system.

6

- > *The government claims the bill will save public funds.*
- > **But it will result in more work, delays, backlogs and dysfunction, all of which are likely to increase public expenditure.** Moreover, it is expressly recognised in the bill that some of its provisions will require more money to be spent.

7

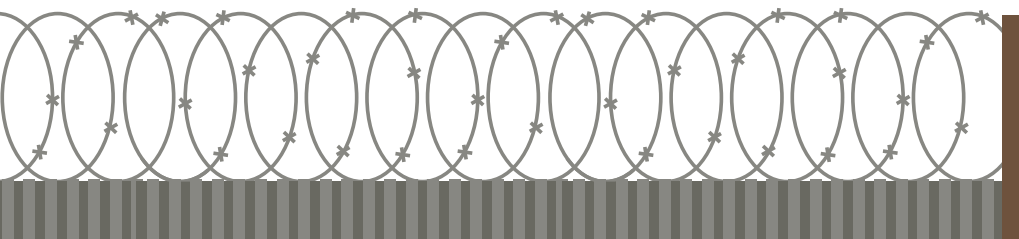
- > *The government claims the bill is to deter unlawful entry into the UK.*
- > **The government's own impact assessment shows little evidence for this.** As the bill continues to provide no safe routes to seek asylum, it is unlikely to deter unlawful entry. But it may deter people who enter the UK from claiming asylum - making them more vulnerable to exploitation and increasing the number of undocumented people in the UK.

8

- > *The bill should fulfil international obligations including under the 1951 Refugee Convention.*
- > **Instead the Bill undermines several international obligations under the Refugee Convention and under international law including duties to protect life at sea and to provide stateless children with citizenship.**

9

- > *The government claims the bill will correct long and profound injustice in British nationality law*
- > **Significant provisions in the bill do this – with Amnesty UK's strong support. But it falls short of ensuring that all British people can access their rights to British nationality.** And the bill penalises many stateless children born in and growing up in the UK, by blocking their right to be registered as British citizens.



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• News from
• departments •

ARTS DEPARTMENT NEWS



Rhoda Wilson's artistic skills impress the Prince's Foundation!

by Miss Harrison, Head of Arts

Recently I received a letter from the Director of Education, Daniel McAuliffe at The Prince's Foundation remarking on the quality of one of our past Year 13 students, Rhoda Wilson (one of her pieces "Sleeping Me" is pictured above).

"It is with great pleasure that we have Rhoda Wilson attending The Prince's Foundation Diploma Year in Fine and Applied Art. During the selection process, we were really impressed with the skill and quality of the work in her portfolio and impressed with her interest in and commitment to the subject. Rhoda has proven to be a skilful and conceptually aware student who demonstrates a real aptitude for drawing and painting from life with a thoughtful and committed approach. We thank you for supporting her application to us."

I am always so overwhelmed with all the hard work and commitment from our students year after year and so pleased that this has been recognised from a prestigious foundation. We have some exceptionally talented individuals attending Bexley Grammar School and our Department very much looks forward to working with many more.

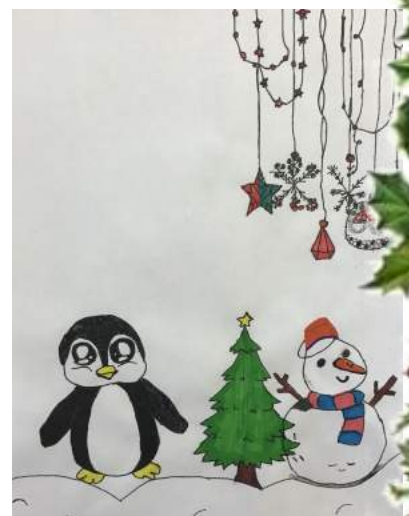
Well done Rhoda!

2021 CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

SUBMISSIONS

We are delighted to show you some of the submissions for the Headmasters 2021 Christmas Card Design competition; there has been some amazing artwork, too difficult to show everyone's however we thank all students for their participation, and are looking forward to seeing more of your artwork in the future!



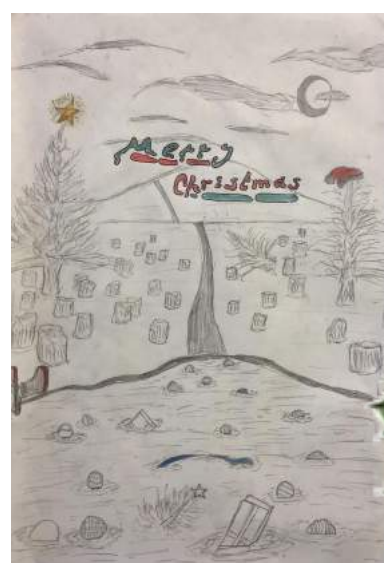
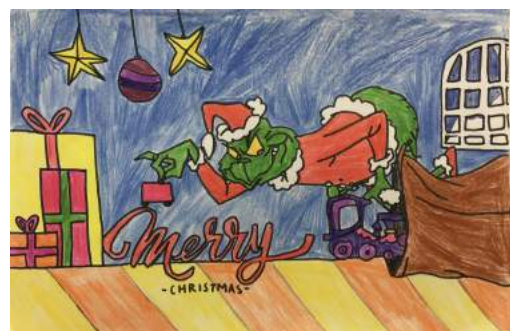


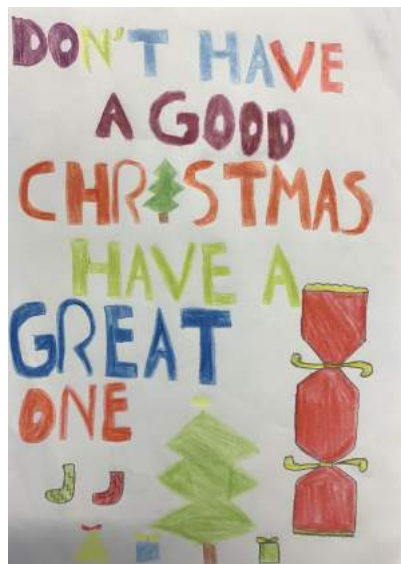


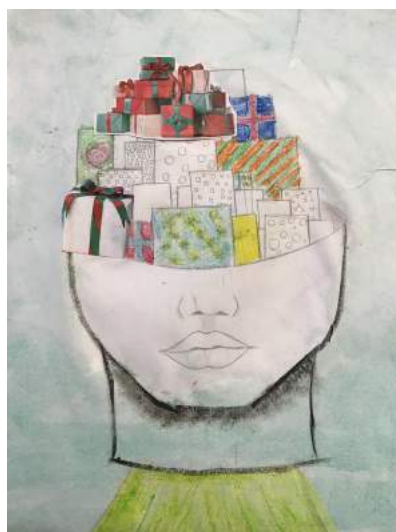
ROBINS APPEAR WHEN
LOVED



ONES ARE NEAR









design and technology news

Last term we ran the BGS Skateboard Making Club with a view to focusing on our talented pupils' individual creative design skills in a real world setting.

The results went beyond anything we could have hoped for: individually brilliant, useable end products and students being up-skilled in a really enjoyable setting in one of the UK's growing creative cottage industries.

There are waiting lists for next term's classes as we expand to more ambitious product clubs including now making six foot surf boards applying the same skill sets of building, shaping, designing, finessing and finishing polished end products.

It has been a notable highlight to oversee these clubs and the feedback from students has been that this has been the best experience of a club that they have attended and pride that the end products featured in the Summer Art Festival.



the making of a surfboard



The diary of making, a much slower process in comparison to the skateboards. Creating the template in card to use as the base.



Adding layers of polystyrene board to get the required depth. Most students worked with 3.



Printing out and creating a template for the stringer. This is different for each maker, the stringer dictates the profile of the board and also adds to its strength. Without the centre stringer the 6 footer would be floppy and fragile. We found online templates, printed them out A4 size and connected them so they were full board length.



3 sets per designer
These are then masked to the ply and cut using the bandsaw



Creating the fins



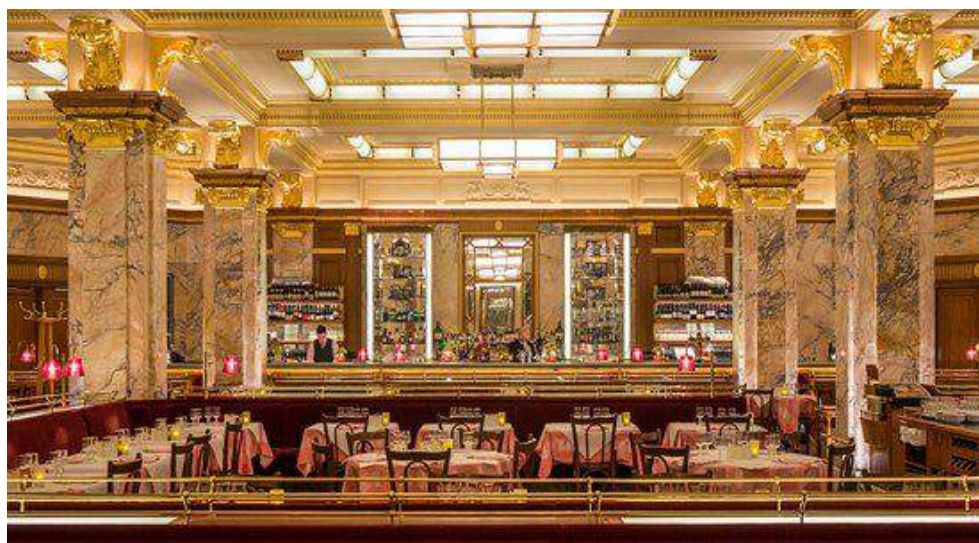
Marking the rails and shaping the tail feature



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[bexleygrammardt](https://www.instagram.com/bexleygrammardt)



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Marrying creative students with real world industry is an ambition of the club mindset and that's exactly what we've done with Brasserie Zedel where, working with year 9s, 10s and 11s, we secured a top London chef and his team to donate their time to prep, cook and present a series of incredible dishes shown in the photographs.

Year 10s learned to prepare starters, main courses and desserts and in the process learned cooking skills such as de-boning, butterflying and tenderising meats as well as preparing and presenting desserts.

In the kitchen, these incredibly inviting pictures only paint part of the story. The real 'proof of the pudding' was that so many of our high-performing students returned home and cooked for their families in a real world application of practicing for their finals and learning an unforgettable set of skills.

Year 11 food prep and nutrition *la dolce vita*



Our current year 11 started their GCSEs in Year 9. It was clear from that point that both of the groups were going to be high performing and they haven't disappointed.

Practice skills in preparation for their finals with the theme of Italy. From biscotti to meringues and salsa di lamponi...



English Department

What has happened during the autumn term?

Highlights

Sarah Lasoye

Senior book club

Creative writing club

National Poetry Day

By Max Armstrong-Moulinié

A thriving department!

The English department is thriving at the moment! From external visitors to our own clubs, the department has had a plethora of opportunities for students of all ages

Sarah Lasoye



Earlier in the term the wonderful Sarah Lasoye, a BGS alumna, gave an inspiring talk on her career and passion for poetry as a whole. This provided us with an insight into what it means to write well and how to develop your love of a subject as well as how to respond to criticism and acknowledging that whatever you do there will always be people who criticise your work.

Lasoye also shared how her experience of lockdown affected her writing and stressed the importance of staying in touch with others and having a support network to help further your own work.

These ideas are channelled into her debut collections of poems, *Fovea/ Ages Ago*, which is a stunning exposition of her powerful views and opinions about the world around us.

Senior book club

Senior book club - run by Mrs Quinton and Mr Griffin - has been a joy, a space where we could all enthuse about novels that we had read within the group, which so far includes 'Signs Preceding the End of the World' by Yuki Herrera and Du Maurier's fabulous 'Rebecca'; after Christmas we are going to reconvene and share our thoughts on the controversial 'Lolita'. A great opportunity to share your passion for the subject and to claim some CAS!



Here are some reviews for "Rebecca"

A stunning piece of work that sublimely exceeds all aspects of a novel from the minute details of a characters persona to wistful imagery and a storyline tinged with murder and betrayal, all through the eyes of an wonderfully anonymous protagonist. I loved each and every part of this book, especially the zealous character of Mrs Danvers who so deeply loved Rebecca and let her death consume every aspect of her life from her daily task of eerily dusting and prepping Rebecca's boudoir as if she still lived to still reviewing the supper list with the new wife. My favourite moment was when Mrs Danvers challenges the protagonist to commit suicide for her life was not worth living; all at Manderley still deeply loved Rebecca and she believes the new bride would never be Mrs de Winter, just the sheer, twisted tension of this scene was breath taking. A superbly crafted novel that was impossible to put down, most certainly Daphne du Maurier's finest work!

Max Armstrong-Moulinie 12 JDF

I really enjoy reading and discussing Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier with the book club as it was so interesting to hear everyone's different opinions and thoughts on the characters and the way in which Du Maurier writes. Personally, I loved 'Rebecca' and it is one of my favourite books. Du Maurier's descriptive writing and metaphors are so engaging to read and the overall plot of the book was so enticing that I couldn't put it down!

Hannah Kitching 12 MGN



Rebecca is a period masterpiece that perfectly encapsulates the pressure faced trying to fulfil societal roles, and doubles as a young woman's struggle with love and trying to live up to an idealised figure who's legacy torments her throughout the book

Tyler Applewhaite 12 JDF

The suspense Du Maurier creates is incredible from Mrs Danver's chilling character to the gothic references of Rebecca laced throughout. Despite the protagonist's name not being mentioned, her character development through the novel is so detailed and fleshed out that she has become one of my favourites. The description of Manderley is beautifully elaborate - straight from the first chapter - and immediately sets the eerie tone of the book.

Definitely will be reading more from her!

Georgia Holman 12 RJG

Creative writing club

Creative writing club celebrates the talent of BGS's emerging writers and is run by our prefects each week under the watchful eye of Ms Adeaga! There is a new theme each time which really gives the younger years a chance to explore different writing styles and express their ideas in creative ways. One the run up to Halloween we had some spooky descriptive tasks, ranging from dilapidated houses to monsters lurking in the dark, and in the coming weeks we will, undoubtedly, have some festive fun planned!

National Poetry Day



In addition to this already whirling creative storm, some budding poets of our own submitted some awe-inspiring work, in order to celebrate National Poetry Day in November. Along the theme of 'Choice' some beautiful concepts were refined and exquisitely expressed, Tara Kale developed her own beliefs on the choice humanity has when it is faced with the preservation of our planet and the distribution of our resources. All the entries had a unique perspective on the stimulus that allowed them to express themselves and think on how to take their ideas and transform them into a sterling piece of poetry. Well done to judges (and English Prefects) Anya Scothern and Alex Ionita, and to Ms Gabriel for organising the competition.

Skills Support Sessions.

The English Prefects are also involved in three different 'Skills Support' sessions. Devised and overseen by Ms Ramsden, Ms Adeaga and Mr Husbands respectively, they provide the chance for Y12 Prefects to act as subject mentors to Year 7s, 8s and 11s, giving them extra help with their literacy skills.

All in all, the English department is flourishing under the sheer amount of extracurricular activities on offer which aid our creativity in a multitude of ways, from innovative thinking to our own self-expression.

A great thank you to all of the English department who make all these superb things possible!

FBCS NEWS

Gender Diversity Around The World

BY TALYA CILEK, YEAR 12

This term in Social and Cultural Anthropology, we have been learning about gender identity and how views of gender change around the world.

There are many different ideas about gender and the variations of gender. These ideas are typically culturally dependent and there are actually many gender diverse cultures around the world (meaning they don't follow gender binary).



(Map of gender diverse cultures - [click to visit the website](#))



One of the main cultures that we looked at was the Bugis in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, where they believe that there are five genders! As well as male and female, they believe that there are also calalai, calabai and bissu. This may appear to be confusing at first, however it is actually quite similar to our ideas - trans male(calabai), trans female (calalai) and non-binary(bissu). Unlike our culture though, these genders have been acknowledged and accepted for over 600 years- but where did this idea come from?

The Bugis are the largest ethnic group in South Sulawesi and these beliefs have been a major part of their culture for 6 centuries. Some believe that you must be born male or female whereas others say that if you learn the language, songs and incantations you have a gift for bestowing blessings. This gender is acquired through a traditional ritual. The initiation of a Bissu is a long process that requires a potentially life-threatening ceremony, in which they have to prove themselves immune to a ceremonial knife called a keris. They are also required to abstain from marriage and sexual relations and wear conservative clothes.

Despite these ideas of gender being a fundamental part of their traditional culture and being accepted for years, there has been a huge change. A rise in hardline Islamism and homophobia has caused a dramatic decline in the amount of Bissu, due to an escalation of LGBTQ+ persecution across Indonesia. These people who were once accepted in their society now face a lot of harassment from the police and hardline Islamic groups. However, they stay fighting and are confident this will change.

YEAR 9 CROSS CURRICULAR PROJECT

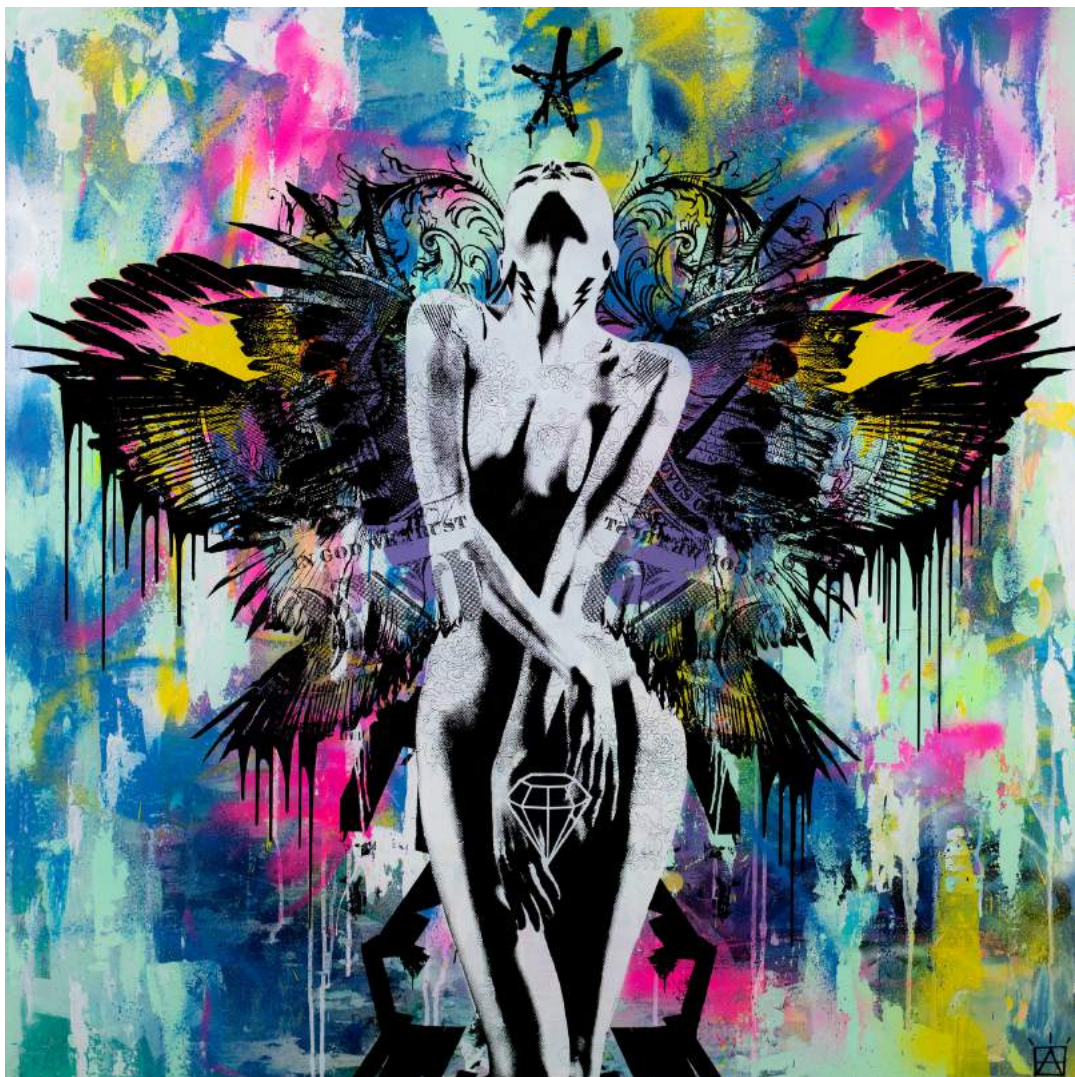
ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

BY MATILDA JACKSON, YEAR 9

In FBCS this half term we have been carrying out a cross curricular project, to learn about how RS links to other subjects and things we see in everyday life. We worked in groups to research and put together a presentation on topics ranging from the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to ethical issues caused by AI and religious responses to it, to the Magdalene Laundries in Ireland, to the conflict in DCR Congo over coltan, a mineral found in most of our electronics.

My group and I researched the link between RS and Art. Before we started this project I didn't really consider the fact there was a link between these subjects, I thought it would be even more interesting if I tried to link it to what we were actually currently learning about in our art lessons. This is street art, collage and Ben Allen. I took a lot of interest in Ben Allen's angel art pieces so I researched them into more detail. I found this quote from his website:

"The women depicted in the Angels series are symbolic of power and feminism. They are sentient beings, emerging from a ubiquitous urban background as symbols of hope and possibility. They are strong, provocative and encouraging and the appropriation of images from fashion magazines roots them in a new context - no longer simply observed, these women are part of a wider narrative which is concerned with society, power and a shift in the balance of masculine and feminine."



I found this so interesting because so much meaning was put into this art- meaning we may not realise. I took more interest in this and looked at more quotes from him on his website.

"I don't want to tell people what they are looking at, I want them to find something they connect with it physically and emotionally."

"Create to rebel to empower to be a part of something bigger than yourself."

"Each paint stroke is an unconscious monitor of my mood and message..."

This begins to demonstrate how we can learn a lot about society's values and how we can push those boundaries and the opinions and views represented. Art can really portray the message of social injustice and ways we can and should fix these problems.

Overall I learnt so much during this project, particularly about the importance of RS in our everyday lives in examples like AI and coltan (a material used to make our phones). It was a great opportunity at school and I hope we have more projects like it in the future!

Some other year 9 students have researched the work of Mark D'Antuono, an American contemporary artist whose art focuses on socio-political issues such as systemic racism. Here are a few of his paintings:



A TALE OF TWO HOODIES SHOWS A COP WEARING A KU KLUX KLAN [KKK] HOOD. IT SHOWS A SMALL BLACK CHILD WEARING A WHITE HOODIE. HE IS HOLDING A SKITTLES PACKET AND POINTING IT AT THE COP AND THE COP IS HOLDING A GUN AND POINTING IT AT THE CHILD. THIS IS INSPIRED BY TRAYVON MARTIN'S CASE. TRAYVON WAS KILLED GEORGE ZIMMERMAN, WHO STILL WALKS FREE.

IT STOPS WITH COPS WAS MADE AS A CALL TO HOW POLICE CAN EARN THE TRUST OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY. IN THE PAINTING, A POLICEMAN IS STOPPING ANOTHER POLICEMAN FROM HITTING THE HANDCUFFED MAN BUT IN THE SHADOWS, THE POLICEMAN IS ACTUALLY TAKING AWAY THE WEAPON FROM THE OTHER POLICEMAN SHOWING THAT COPS SHOULD TRY HARDER TO PREVENT THE SITUATION OF POLICE BRUTALITY HAPPENING. D'ANTUONO SAID "I HOPE THIS PIECE WILL EMBOLDEN THE 'GOOD COPS' TO BREAK THROUGH THE 'BLUE WALL OF SILENCE' BECAUSE GOOD COPS DON'T LET BAD COPS KILL UNARMED CITIZENS"



ETHICAL ISSUES WITH AI



BY JOSEPH KIRBY, ELOISE KNOWLES, MILO MEISSURIA-NICHOLLS AND GEORGE MIAO, YEAR 9

AI stands for Artificial Intelligence. This means the ability of a computer to think and learn on its own like a human. This will most likely be used in the future to do tasks and jobs that are normally done by humans, ranging from boring and repetitive jobs like working at a hotline, to smaller chores like making beds or cleaning. It may also be used to do dangerous jobs. AI is a huge opportunity for the entire world, however, it does pose potential very serious risks. Today we will be discussing some of these risks.

Firstly, the development of AI is rapid, and they are now capable of many different tasks and deeds that humans can also do, and they can do them arguably faster and better. In the future, the difference between humans and AI will be immense, and there will be absolutely no benefit in using a human instead of just using AI. Which begs the question, what will people do when their jobs have been taken over by AI? This is not just a faraway problem that will solve itself, it is already becoming a reality.

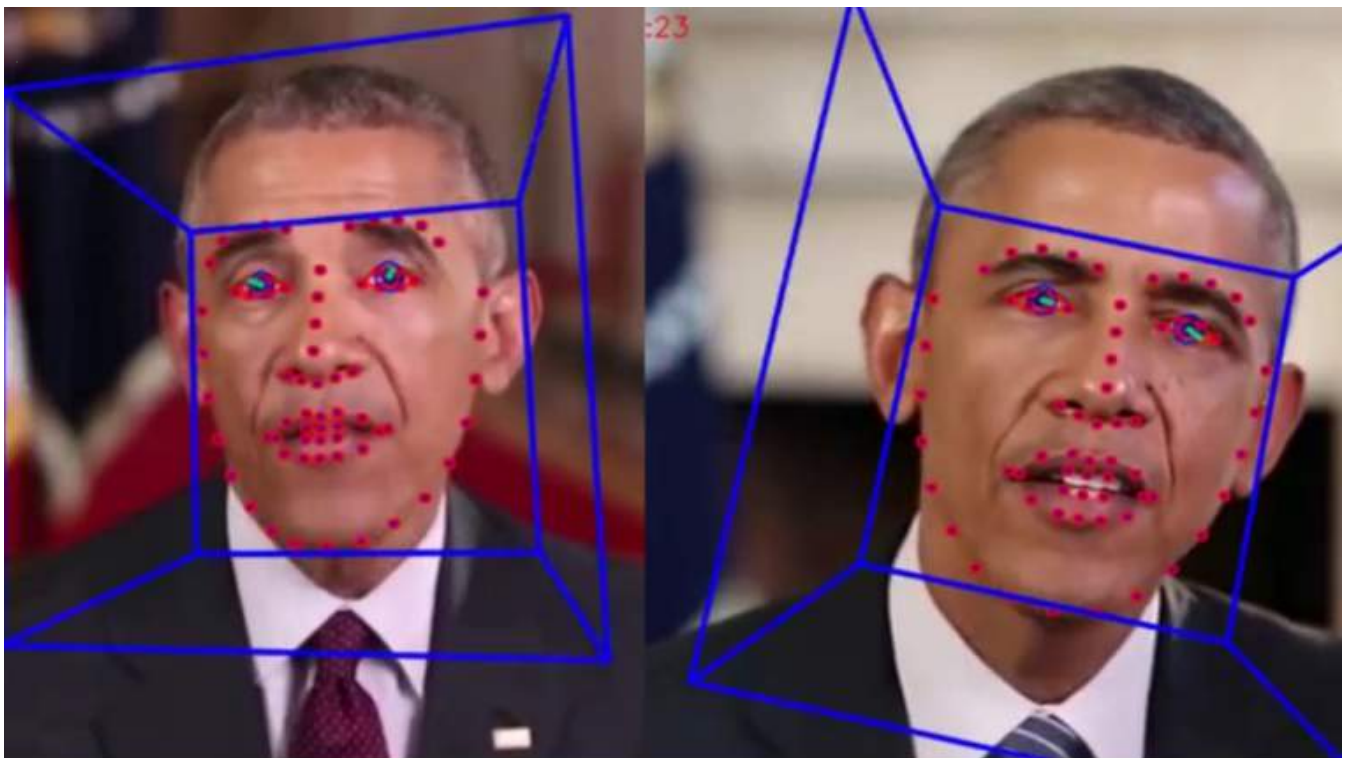
AI has already replaced thousands if not millions of jobs that used to be held by people before COVID and the lack of jobs are already taking a huge toll on the impoverished communities, especially on people of black and ethnic minorities. Although the government is only doing this because of restrictions, soon they will see how profitable and useful AI is, and businesses and private companies will soon catch on and begin to use AI instead of regular people. It will not be long before entire industries are being overtaken by AI.

This is a huge problem that may occur in the near future, however, problems with AI are already unfolding in the present. Collecting data from users and using it for profit has been a huge issue online.

Although there are laws preventing breaches of privacy, the company is usually allowed to use your data as long as you consent to it, which comes in the form of a long, tedious text pop up that explains the terms that will never be read. After consenting, AI can now take your data and use it as it sees fit. There have been many cases of this happening, including one peculiar case with Google and a company called Dinerstein . Allegedly, Google stole hundreds of thousands of medical reports from Dinerstein clients, which is a complete breach of privacy. Although Google denies this, the fact that AI might have done this is still a massive problem.

Another problem that could emerge in the future is impersonation. So called “deep fakes” are appearing across the internet, some may look harmless, however, a few of them possess surprising and potentially dangerous realism. In a few years, AI could perfectly copy someone’s voice and tone, as well as their other features as well. This could be used for fraud and even more serious crime, which could be a problem for many people. However, I believe that we can anticipate a solution to this problem, as technology is evolving fast. Still something to look out for.

Another one of the key flaws of AI is its complete lack of morality and how it can be controlled without outside regulation. When AI takes over jobs and industries, the person operating the AI will have a lot of control over the company or even the entire industry. In our age this wouldn’t be a problem due to humans being able to refuse instructions given to them. However, AI isn’t like that, it will perform any task that it is commanded to unless it is physically or functionally unable to carry out the task. This also could make AI a vicious and unforgiving military weapon in the future, being able to carry out instructions precisely, kill without hesitation, as well being far more expendable and practical than a human being. Using AI as weapons and soldiers would escalate wars, and would cause more casualties in the end.



Drones that are deployed by most armies are already similar to AI, just far more limited. New weapons are also being developed, including LAWS (lethal automated weapons systems), machines capable of predicting human behaviour and killing far more efficiently than humans could ever do. These types of weapons may be seen on the battlefield far sooner than we expect.

So what do religious communities think of AI? It is difficult to say how Christians saw the idea in the past, due to the absence of any basic AI, but Christianity is based on the idea that God created humans as the only beings capable of intelligent thought to shape the earth and rule over it:

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Some faiths have already welcomed robots, which will only be enhanced by AI, into their religions. In Japan, a country where religious faith is dwindling, a robot priest named Mindar has been introduced into a Buddhist temple. Currently, Mindar is not programmed with AI, but the creators are planning to install AI, and the temple does not at all disapprove of this. This goes to show that there are many religious groups that are starting to accept AI. However, on the other side of the spectrum, there are also groups which strictly forbid it. Islamic faith prevents Muslims from recognising anything that doesn't have a 'soul' (I assume anything that isn't alive) as a being with rights.



YEAR 9 REFLECTIONS ON THE CROSS CURRICULAR PROJECT:

I have learnt a lot about AI and how dangerous it can be but also about how powerful it is. Without this project I would never have known about data breaches from massive companies and it was all down to AI.

This project made me realise the huge inequality seen in today's society, and in our own country. Those who live in poverty are at huge risk, and this issue is not taken up by the government. I feel this issue should be addressed as soon as possible.

Researching the Magdalene Laundries was incredibly insightful into how recent brutalities against women are, and how even though issues of equality are made to seem like they are far from the past, they are more recent and prevalent than we are made to believe.

The fact that your whole life is built off of blood and famine changes your whole perspective on life. It really makes you think on how justice should be taken on DRC coltan mines and how maybe locations of mines should be switched with a more ethical country that also has a large supply of coltan

AUTUMN 2021

BGS MUSIC

**Exemplar student work: Omolade -
year 8 ([link here](#))**

Omolade has been an absolute star this term, both in curriculum lessons and as a committed new member of the extra curricular program. This track is his 'theme and variation' which we learnt about in the first half term.

Samba band at the Christmas Concert



Year 7 concert rehearsals



**Exemplar student work: Rhys and
Seb - year 13 ([link here](#))**

Well done on some incredible IB performances! This is *Fulfillment* played by two of our music IB students at the showcase.

Little Shop of Horrors Auditions



Wow, what a term it's been! We've been so grateful to be able to return to some semblance of normality and to hear our classrooms filled with the sound of music making once again! Our music students have approached the lifting of restrictions sensibly but also with enthusiasm and many have enjoyed having access to all the facilities again.

14 of our ensembles have been able to go back to regular face-to-face rehearsals this term and even with the slight hiccoughs along the way - students isolating, additional preventative measures being put in place to ensure a safe school environment - we still managed to put on our first indoor concert in two years at the start of December. Our musicians performed with gusto and we are incredibly proud of their achievements this term.

Our year 7 cohort also managed to put together their first performances at the end of the first half term in their singing lessons. Many had not sung publicly for a long time and to be able to join forces with other students was a luxury we had taken for granted before. Unfortunately we weren't able to invite parents as we have done in the past but with any luck, the KS3 showcase in the Summer term will enable us to share some of the hard work our students have put in over the course of this term.

In our other lessons, our students have reacquainted themselves with music technology-based programmes, coming back after school to work on their projects or for some, working on compositions at home in their own time. Mu1 and Mu2 have gone back to having live performances once again with KS3 refreshing their keyboard skills and KS4 and 5 performing on their instruments in whole-class ensemble work. Our recording studio has also been dusted off and some incredible compositions have been created within it's walls by the 2022 and 2023 IB cohorts.

Leading on from this, huge congratulations go to our year 13 IB students who recorded their recitals at the start of the second half term. With so much disruption over the past two years, many had not had the opportunity to perform publicly and with very few goals to aim towards, independent practice required a huge amount of motivation. As a department we are so proud of all of them. Performing under pressure is challenging in itself, even without the added difficulties from the lockdowns. Well done everyone.

The peripatetic team have returned in force and we are proud to host exceptional teachers offering high quality instrumental lessons. Some students have taken exams this term and done brilliantly; Nathan Singleton among them, who has just received a distinction for his grade 8 piano exam! Well done to everyone who has persevered through the lockdowns with their practice; we know it wasn't easy!!

We are very excited to also announce that this year's musical *Little Shop of Horrors* has kicked off with a bang. With so many students auditioning for parts we were spoilt for choice and found the selection process incredibly difficult. If we could have cast you all, we would have. Thank you to everyone who came along. The team are so looking forward to starting rehearsals in January and seeing the production take shape over the coming months.

And to finish...with 6 Open Morning performances, 3 Open Evening performances, over 130 rehearsals, 1 year 7 concert, 11 IB recitals, 2 sets of auditions, 1 Christmas concert and countless instrumental lessons later, we have come to the end of the Autumn Term! Our department runs on a huge team effort so well done to everyone involved. All of your contributions are invaluable and appreciated.

Merry Christmas everyone,

Mrs Eacott and Mrs Casling

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

NETBALL:



YEAR 7 & 8 NETBALL CLUB:

The Year 8 Netball started their season with a huge win over Trinity school at the start of October, winning 25-0. The team were patient when bringing the ball down court and were fantastic defensively. A brilliant squad performance, with Ariana being selected as Player of the match.

Our second round of matches was at the end of November with some tough opposition coming over to BGS. Due to the increased numbers of games we were able to play two separate squads against Harris Garrad, Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar and Townley Grammar. Our first game was against Harris, where a new squad played their first ever netball match. The team played well, showing patience through the court, finishing the game with an impressive 11-0 win. Player of the match was Nimisha for her excellent shooting. Second up was C&S, usually a very tough opposition. Our defensive skills were fantastic with lots of interceptions and the girls worked hard to win 4-1. Isabella was voted player of the match for her interceptions in defence. We finished the evening against Townley Grammar. The team played some lovely netball, showing skill and flair. The final score was 7-1 to BGS with Charlie being named player of the match for her patience bringing the ball down court. A huge success- well done all!

The year 7 netball squad started their competition with a bang in October. The squad of 10 played their first ever matches against Welling, Trinity and Townley. Over the course of the afternoon the girls showed great improvement, showing steady and patient play. The teamwork and focus was fantastic leading to three fabulous victories.

Sophie and Poppy were voted as players of the day for their excellent performance in the shooting circle.

What a start to their season!



AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

NETBALL: STARS OF THE TERM:

WEEK	YEAR 7	YEAR 8
1	Adebola for her outstanding defensive skills in training.	Darina for her movement and shooting in training.
2	Yu Xuan for showing great improvement within the session.	Layla for her excellent feeds into the shooters and speed on court.
3	Mary for using skills learned in training in match play.	Caitlyn for her amazing and controlled footwork.
4	Poppy for her excellent shooting.	Ariana for her outstanding performance in the match against Trinity.
5	Sophie & Poppy for their performance in our games against local schools.	Charlie & Anshika for their focus within training.
6	Rosie for her defensive skills	Emily for her constant running and hardwork
7	-----	Charlie, Ariana & Isabella (nominated as players of the match)

WELL DONE!

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

NETBALL:



YEAR 9, 10 & 11 NETBALL CLUB:

Well done to our year 9 netball team for two very impressive performances in their first game in the Bexley league. After winning 19-0 against Bexleyheath Academy, they went on to secure a second win 14-1 against Trinity School.

A special mention to our players of the matches:

Lottie and Alice in our first game against Trinity, where Lottie's defending made it very difficult for BA to move the ball down court. Alice was a key player for us and her shooting success was fantastic.

In our second game Grace and Imogen were voted as players of the match. Grace showed skill and determination in defence, whilst Imogen was calm in centre court, working the ball up to our shooters efficiently. Fantastic work from a super bunch!

International Netball - To keep you interested in the game, there are the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games in July to look forward to...



AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

NETBALL: AUTUMN TERM RESULTS

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10
Trinity vs BGS Trinity - 0 BCS - 7	Trinity vs BGS Trinity - 0 BCS - 25	Trinity vs BGS Trinity - 1 BCS - 14	Townley vs BGS 3 Teams - Win, Lose, Draw
Townley vs BGS Townley - 1 BCS - 4	Harris vs BGS Harris Garrard - 0 BCS - 11	BA vs BGS Bexleyheath Academy - 0 BCS - 19	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar vs BGS 3 Teams - Win, Lose, Draw
Welling vs BGS Welling - 0 BCS - 2	Chis & Sid vs BGS Chislehurst & Sidcup - 1 BCS - 4	Chis & Sid vs BGS Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar Lost by 4 goals	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar vs BGS 1 win, 1 Loss
-----	Townley vs BGS Townley - 1 BCS - 7	-----	-----

AMAZING!

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

GIRLS FOOTBALL:



U13:

Such a shame we only had one training session before this game. It was a tough first game against an excellent opposition in the 1st Round against Eden Park High home. A 6-2 loss but their Thursday practises during the season are proving successful.

Their recent participation at the Charlton Athletic tournament showed their true potential.

On a wet and cold morning, the girls showed great determination and were supportive. Ava was player of the day with some impressive saves.



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Their recent participation at the Charlton Athletic tournament showed their true potential.

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AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

U13 FOOTBALL: AUTUMN TERM RESULTS

RESULTS
BCS 5- 0 Wilmington Academy
BCS 2-0 Plumstead Manor
BCS 0-0 Coopers School
BCS 0- 1 St. Ursulas
BCS 2- 0 St Thomas More

WOAH!

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

GIRLS FOOTBALL:



U14:

In the U14 Girls friendly competition against Trinity, we won 3-1!

Our Super skills saw a break in play from our defence onto our attacking players who managed to hammer in three amazing team goals! Thank you again to Poppy, Isabella W and Isabelle D for being so patient on the sidelines despite your eagerness to play in a 20 girl squad.

Special mentions:

For displaying our BGS value of courage for overcoming her nerves and being confident in playing her competitive game the first mention goes to Lily

Secondly, for her attacking play on the left delivering in crucial corners, battling through the oppositions defence with a goal to finish, this mention is to Isabelle D.

As always, Thankyou to our sixth formers for officiating and being our overall support on the sidelines. Much appreciated.

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

GIRLS FOOTBALL:



U16:

This term the U16 girls football team have had many successes, these include:

1st Round U16 Buller's Wood W5-0
2nd round U16 Bonus Pastor W10-2
3rd round U16 Invicta W5-2
Quarter Finals: Rochester Grammar W5-2

As well as this they managed to reach the semi-finals of the Kent cup with fantastic performances. The quarter final win was secured thanks to goals from Lily (2), Freya, Emily and an own goal. Herbert made a string of fantastic saves and was our player of the match. We can't wait for the semi-final!

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE F.A. WOMAN'S
SUPERLEAGUE ON SKY SPORTS TO KEEP UP WITH
THE RULES AND PERHAPS LEARN SOME NEW
TRICKS!



AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

FITNESS CLUB:

This term we have been focusing on various aspects of fitness at the Year 7 & 8 Girls' Fitness Club. A keen bunch of students have been fantastic at attending this new morning club every Wednesday. We have worked in the fitness suite, on Circuit training, Boxercise, Yoga and lots more!

Well done to all that have participated and if you fancy something new in 2022- come along!



AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

CAS - YEAR 12/13 HELPERS:

These students have been an integral part of training. Without them, these clubs and matches would not be able to take place. Our ethos of 'Intellect, Courage and Empathy' is highlighted through our extra-curricular programme at BGS, the older students helping the younger. A massive heartfelt thanks to: Alfie Winter our excellent ref, Jess Bates our sports prefect for her infectious enthusiasm, Ronnie Ashmore for his football knowledge, Sasha Hodden, Pippa Verge, for their weekly commitment across both clubs, Yessika, Isabel, Isabel, Daisy. Ben Threader and Tom Brown have been helping officiate with the girls football fixtures to help support the younger years and to work towards their CAS hours.

Herbert, Milly, Libby, Vittoria and Lydia have played a vital role at Year 7&8 Netball club, officiating and coaching students. They have been an inspiration to the younger students and we thank them for all that they have done!

Outside of school also has lot going on! For example:

London Youth Games Steph Whiting Kayaker
Kayak. 1st Slalom/5th Sprint. Stephanie Whiting
Beach Volleyball girls 4th Lydia Sophia Higenbottam
Beach Volleyball girls 4th Leigh-Ann

During curriculum time friendly competition on sports education have been taking place for girls, these include table tennis, basketball and badminton. This allowed for an amazing emphasis on our school values of Courage, Intellect and Empathy, courage drawn from the bravery of entering competitions, Intellect stemming from the ability to make informed tactical decisions and of course empathy in being able to respect your fellow players.

So who will triumph?: the Bexley Bobcats, Broncos, Bears, Beavers, Bullfrogs, Buffaloes, Badgers or the Bulls? Watch out for the winners in the next newsletter! Next term we hope to take on a new sport

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

FOOTBALL:



YKS3 Football:

It has been a very busy term of training and fixtures for the Year 7, 8 and 9 boys with all having the Kent Cup and North Kent Cup fixtures to play. All year groups are regularly turning out 30-50 students to every training session since September with the Year 7's having fielded nearly 40 different boys in a BGS shirt throughout their games some of whom are playing their first competitive fixtures ever! The boys have been very good at playing some new strategies and positions and it has yielded 3 wins and 3 losses so far. There are several more games coming up in the Kent Cup after Christmas which we are hopeful that they can progress to the next rounds in. Similarly, the Year 8's and 9's are amongst the top trainers and we are regularly seeing new faces in attendance. The Year 8's got through to the third round of the Kent Cup with a tight win in the second round over Bullers Wood for Boys but came up against a strong Bishop Justice team that ended their cup hopes. The Year 9's unfortunately had an early exit too from the Kent Cup with tough opposition in the second round. They did however, bounce back in stirring fashion winning their opening game in the North Kent Cup with a 4-2 win over Harris Garrard.



AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

FOOTBALL:

Year 10 Football:

Year 10 football has been superbly attended all term since September. Come rain or shine there has been an excellent turn out at every training session or match so far this season, and competition has been fierce for places in the team. Our first game of the season saw the boys go close in a friendly against a well-drilled St Paul's side who just edged us out. In the Kent Cup we came up against an excellent Bonus Pastor team, meaning despite a very spirited display, we now await the delights of the North Kent Cup draw after Christmas. Well done to all who have got involved with real enthusiasm and played the game in such a brilliant spirit.

Mr Auckland

Year 11 Football:

It was a pleasure to be able to train with the current Year 11 team through the Summer as we began to get back to "normal", but the biggest joy was travelling to St Paul's on a glorious summer's evening for our first Kent Cup game since March 2020 and hoping that the new 5-3-2 system would work. And boy did it! 4-1 at half time, 8-1 at full time, an exhibition of brilliant football and time to face Hurstmere in the Nationals.

Having lost heavily the last time we played, it was time to show what we were made of at Hurstmere. A slow start saw us 2-0 down, but a brilliant fightback made it 2-2. However, a few dubious calls and the luck ran out as Hurstmere won 5-3 in the end and it was time to focus on the Kent Cups.

A solid 8-0 win at Queen Elizabeth in Faversham (brilliant set piece goal worked on in training from towering centre back Mason McKenna), a 2-0 win against St Paul's (again! Goals from Obi and Mal) saw us go to Canterbury Academy. A real battle on a dodgy pitch, with excellent performances from Riley and Dexter in particular, saw us score a deserved last gasp equaliser, before crashing out on penalties. Credit to those who stepped up to take a kick, I've a lot of time for your efforts and it will be a positive learning curve in the future.

After the disappointment at Canterbury, we needed to bounce back at Northfleet. However, a super slow start meant we were 2-0 down after 4 mins. Some bizarre calls from the 6th Form ref led to frustration and we were 3-1 down at half time, but a stirring second half display saw Liam score twice from the spot, before Northfleet were reduced to 10 men and Eman, who scored for the first time after his return from injury to send us through 4-3 in a chaotic finale.

It's a real pleasure working with the 15 young footballers who care so much about their game. It's great to have regular training sessions and then interesting conversations on the bus to the game, as well as DJ AC on the way back. Each and every one of them is a credit to the school, themselves and their families. Keep up the good work and I wish them every success with their football this season.

Mr Martin

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

FOOTBALL:



Sixth Form Football:

Since the beginning of September we have had a huge amount of interest in our Sixth Form Football Squad. With numerous injuries and squad rotation a number of players have had the opportunity to represent the BGS first team. Although there have been some impressive performances we have drawn 5 of our 6 games. The league position does not make for fantastic viewing as a result. We move into January 2022 maintaining a positive outlook and looking for that elusive first win of the season. The entire squad is an absolute pleasure to work with and I am very proud of their efforts! Even on cold and wet Wednesday afternoons when we do not have a game that week, we have a good number of pupils turning up for training. Keep up the good work!



AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

RUGBY:



Our rugby teams have enjoyed a really good term with loads of new faces joining our teams and some incredibly impressive results have been achieved. Our year 7s have made a brilliant start, with lots of the boys playing rugby for the first time ever. They started with a very good result against Hurstmere, and have another match against Hurstmere and more vs Hayes and Wilmington to look forward to. I've been super impressed with Tobi, Ikenna, Leonard and Valentino in this team.

The year 8s have played some really strong rugby. After an early training match win vs Trinity they earned a couple of hard fought wins vs Hurstmere and Wilmington. This team has really started to develop well, and we are lucky to have some very talented players. Caspar and Stelios have been the standout players for these guys, but loads have contributed to the team effort.



The year 9s probably produced the performance of the season so far. In their first game for a couple of covid-ravaged years, they romped to a 50-15 win over Wilmington Grammar. They are lucky to have a couple of club players, but there is an enormous amount of new talent in this side. They missed their second game due to covid, but have a fixture vs Hayes coming up and we are desperately trying to get more games in the diary for them! Zac, Euan and Matthew have, of course, been brilliant - but I've been delighted with the emergence of Andy, Zahid and Jesse.

The year 10s played some fantastic rugby in two losing efforts in the national cup. They lost by 5 points to a very strong Colfe's team, and then were well beaten by CSGS, but showed tremendous fight throughout and scored a couple of brilliant tries. They then showed their quality with a fantastic performance against Wilmington to pick up their first win of the season. Henry has been outstanding, but George and Shishir have both made huge contributions to the performances.

AUTUMN TERM SPORTS

FINAL MESSAGE:

As a final point about our rugby players in ALL year groups: they have, to a man, been tremendous company and impressive ambassadors for our school wherever we have been. I have been inundated with comments from opposing teachers and parents, telling me how much they have enjoyed coaching against and playing against our players. They have been polite, helpful, competitive and sporting in both defeat and victory. I have been filled with pride when I see how they represent themselves and our school on their travels. I hope that you are, too.

Mr Lines



*Thank
you!*

STEM NEWS



HIGHLIGHTS

ROBOTICS CLUB

CYBERFEST GIRLS

QUANTUM AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

POWER DAY 2 - STEM DAY

UPSKILL ME PROGRAMME

by Ms Lusted

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

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



Exciting opportunity for Year 8 girls!



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

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

bgnl3ea

We have two teams already but we want more!

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

Quantum Ambassador Programme



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Power Day 2 - STEM Day

Power Day 2 on November the 24th had a STEM theme.

For years 9 and 10 this meant workshops run by ambassadors. Despite the threat of covid, we managed to pull in a record number of ambassadors with two full year groups taking part for the first time.

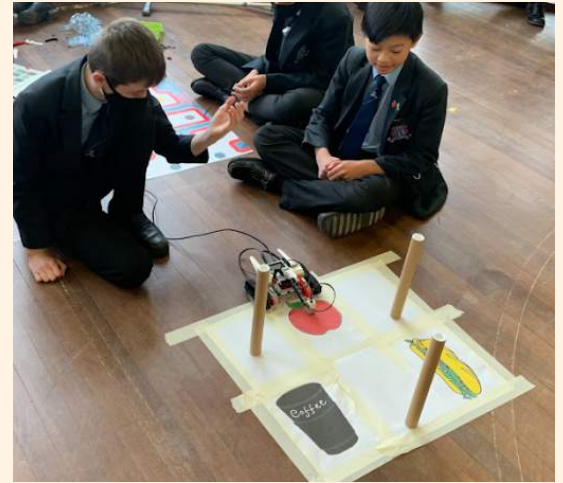
Year 9 each completed three different workshops including food technology, engineering, product design, architecture, emergency medicine, police robotics and computer science. Sadly, the emergency medicine ambassador had her own medical emergency a few days before the event and broke her foot! This meant that she could not deliver the session in person but put together a virtual workshop instead. Although this meant a slightly different approach we all appreciate the efforts she went to!

For year 10, seven engineers from a variety of specialisms joined them in completing a series of tasks and challenges throughout the day. We are extremely grateful to them all for giving up their time to come in and inspire our young people.

Every workshop meant an opportunity to work as a team, problem solve and think creatively, and also meet someone who really works in that field. As always our students impressed all our visitors with their attitudes, efforts and achievements. The ideas and creations from both year groups were amazing and I couldn't have been more proud!

"In engineering we were tasked to make a roller coaster out of various materials like cardboard boxes, paper cups and tape. For the first part of the session we were taught about different types of engineering and the process engineers go through to create. I think it would have been a little more interesting to learn more about the different jobs you can go into regarding engineering and the different subjects within it, as they were only touched on briefly. Making the roller coaster was very fun, and the presenter made sure to come around to each group and check how we were working. I think the group sizes (about four or five) worked very well as there were enough people so that there were lots of ideas and it was enjoyable, but not too many that there was room for arguments, and it was very well planned and termed so that we could all understand.

I think a lot of people wanted to do cooking, so some were disappointed when they didn't get it. Obviously that can't be helped, but I wonder if there are ways to get more engaging subjects for people who aren't as academically focused on classic STEM subjects. I think a good example of this was the last minute product design workshop that replaced the medicinal chemistry one, but I think all of the workshops did a good job of being accessible and engaging for all students" A happy student Year 9





Upskill Me programme



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.

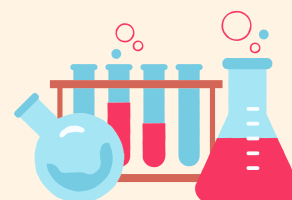
They are:

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

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.

Mayuki Panda



The Women in STEM programme is a 6-month course for non-binary and female pupils interested in science, technology, engineering, or math. 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



Whole school events



YEAR 7

Christmas



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.

Pshe



In PSHE 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 students 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

Christmas Competition

TUTOR ROOM DOORS DECORATIONS!

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.

Myself and Ms Orchard had a tough decision to decide who the winning door would be.

The runners up were:



7J00: A excellent use of paper and organis 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!



Excellent work!

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.

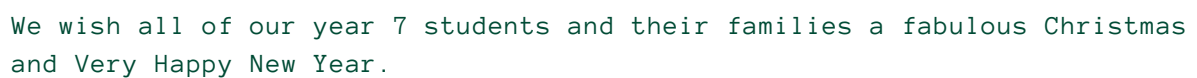


The winning door went to 7STA, we really loved the creativity used to make the folded snowman and Santa. Along with the sign of the North Pole. The use of made and upcycled decorations from home helped to win the competition for 7STA. A fantastic effort.

Well done 7STA!



A collage of 20 hand-drawn Christmas cards by children, displayed on a red background. The cards feature various themes including penguins, snow globes, gingerbread men, snow globes, and winter scenes. Text on the cards includes "MERRY CHRISTMAS", "Jingle Bells", "Gingerbread Man", "Merry Christmas", "Snow Globes", and "Merry Christmas".



House News

AUTUMN TERM

SINCE OUR RETURN IN SEPTEMBER WE HAVE RUN SEVERAL HOUSE COMPETITIONS INCLUDING HOUSE MUSIC. IT WAS SO GOOD TO BOTH WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE STUDENTS PERFORMING THEIR ENTRIES BACK ON THE STAGE IN THE HALL AGAIN -

IT'S BEEN A WHILE! THE STANDARD WAS GOOD AND IN THE END COLLINS WERE VICTORIOUS WITH 34 OUT OF A POSSIBLE 36 POINTS. BOTH THE INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR HOUSE COOKERY COMPETITIONS WERE RUN AGAIN THIS YEAR AS WELL AS HOUSE NETBALL AND FOOTBALL. WE HAVE LAUNCHED THE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION WHICH DOESN'T CLOSE UNTIL NEXT FEBRUARY SO STUDENTS OF EVERY AGE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENTER AT LEAST 1 PHOTOGRAPH INTO EITHER THE JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE OR SENIOR CATEGORY OF THE COMPETITION. JUNIORS HAVE THE CHOICE OF EITHER 'LIGHT AND SHADOW' OR 'HIDDEN WORLD'.

THE INTERMEDIATE HAVE 'ISOLATION' OR 'WINTER WILD' AND THE SENIORS 'ANTICIPATION' OR 'WINTER WILD'. UNFORTUNATELY THERE WAS NO SWIMMING GALA AGAIN THIS YEAR.

AS WE FINISH FOR CHRISTMAS THE CURRENT STANDINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



1ST COLLINS - 161



2ND PROTHERO - 157



3RD JOHNSON - 148



4RD MABBS - 142



5TH WELLMAN - 132



6TH KIRKMAN - 125

Jack Petchey

AUTUMN TERM

THIS HALF TERM THE STUDENTS HAVE NOMINATED AND CHOSEN THREE JACK PETCHEY GOLD AWARD WINNERS. FOR SEPTEMBER IT WAS GEORGE MIAO, NOMINATED BY WELLMAN HOUSE, OCTOBER SAM BOWLES, NOMINATED BY PROTHERO HOUSE AND NOVEMBER, HARRISON BAILEY NOMINATED BY MABBS HOUSE. ALL THREE STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATE AND PIN BADGE AND HAVE EACH SPENT £250 TOWARDS NEW EQUIPMENT FOR THE PE DEPARTMENT AND LIGHTS FOR THE FILM AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT.

THIS TERM THE STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOMINATE A MEMBER OF STAFF FOR A JACK PETCHEY LEADER AWARD. OUR NOMINEE WAS MISS W AGGREY, SHE WAS NOMINATED FOR MANY REASONS, HERE IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE OFFICIAL NOMINATION THAT WAS SENT TO THE JACK PETCHEY FOUNDATION FOR APPROVAL: A CARING AND INSPIRING CHEMISTRY TEACHER WHO INSPIRES HER STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. AS ONE STUDENT COMMENTED, MISS AGGREY HAS A "UNIQUE AND MEMORABLE TEACHING STYLE WHICH ELEVATES OUR LEARNING EXPERIENCE MASSIVELY. SHE HELPS US A LOT OUTSIDE LESSON TIME, GIVING UP HER LUNCHTIME AND AFTER SCHOOL TIME TO ADD EXTRA REVISION MATERIAL, DEDICATED TO ENSURING THE STUDENTS UNDERSTAND." ANOTHER: "SHE GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND IN RUNNING SCIENCE CLUBS, IS ABLE TO MAKE LESSONS FUN AND, AS WELL AS INSPIRING STUDENTS TO WORK HARD, SHE TELLS THEM TO 'STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE!' SHE MAKES SCIENCE A LESSON TO LOOK FORWARD TO."

HER HEAD OF DEPARTMENT WROTE: MISS AGGREY IS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL STUDENTS ESPECIALLY GIRLS, SHE IS A GREAT ROLE MODEL FOR GETTING FEMALES INTO SCIENCE. SHE IS FIRM IN HER STYLE OF TEACHING, AND COMMANDS RESPECT IN THE WAY SHE APPROACHES HER CLASSES. HER PERSONA IS ALWAYS A SMILING CARING FACE. HER SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE IS EXCELLENT. SHE TEACHES CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS TO GCSE AND IN THE IB, SHE TEACHES HIGHER CHEMISTRY AND HAS ALSO TAUGHT IB ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES. SHE HAS LITTLE SAYINGS WHICH SHE ASKS STUDENTS TO REPEAT WHEN ASKED. IN THIS WAY THEY REMEMBER CONCEPTS, AND DEFINITIONS IN CHEMISTRY. THEY CAN BE HEARD CHANTING IN RESPONSE TO SUCH THINGS AS WHAT IS AN ION? SHE IS ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE PEOPLE I HAVE EVER MET. SHE IS AN EXCELLENT ROLE MODEL FOR ALL STUDENTS, ENCOURAGING GIRLS PARTICULARLY TO STUDY CHEMISTRY IN THE SIXTH FORM.

SHE IS ALSO A RESPECTED FORM TUTOR, MOST RECENTLY HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WRITING REFERENCES FOR UCAS. SHE IS AN INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER, AND VALUED COLLEAGUE AND IS A RAY OF SUNSHINE WHEN SHE ENTERS THE ROOM. WE ARE EXTREMELY LUCKY TO HAVE HER AS A ROLE MODEL FOR THE STUDENTS AT BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE HEADTEACHER OF THE SCHOOL ADDED: MISS AGGREY IS AN EXCEPTIONAL SCIENCE TEACHER WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR AND POSITIVITY THAT COAXES THE MOST RELUCTANT STUDENT TO ENGAGE WITH THE SUBJECT FOR WHICH SHE HAS SO MUCH PASSION. WHENEVER I HAVE OBSERVED HER LESSONS, I HAVE ALWAYS WISHED I HAD BEEN TAUGHT WITH SUCH CLARITY AND ENTHUSIASM WHEN I WAS AT SCHOOL. SHE'S A GEM!

WE HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER THAT THE NOMINATION HAS BEEN APPROVED AND THAT MISS AGGREY IS NOW OUR 2021 JACK PETCHEY LEADER AWARD WINNER, CONGRATULATIONS!

MRS J SNELLING
HOUSE LEADER & JACK PETCHEY COORDINATOR.



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December 06, 2021

Product Brochure



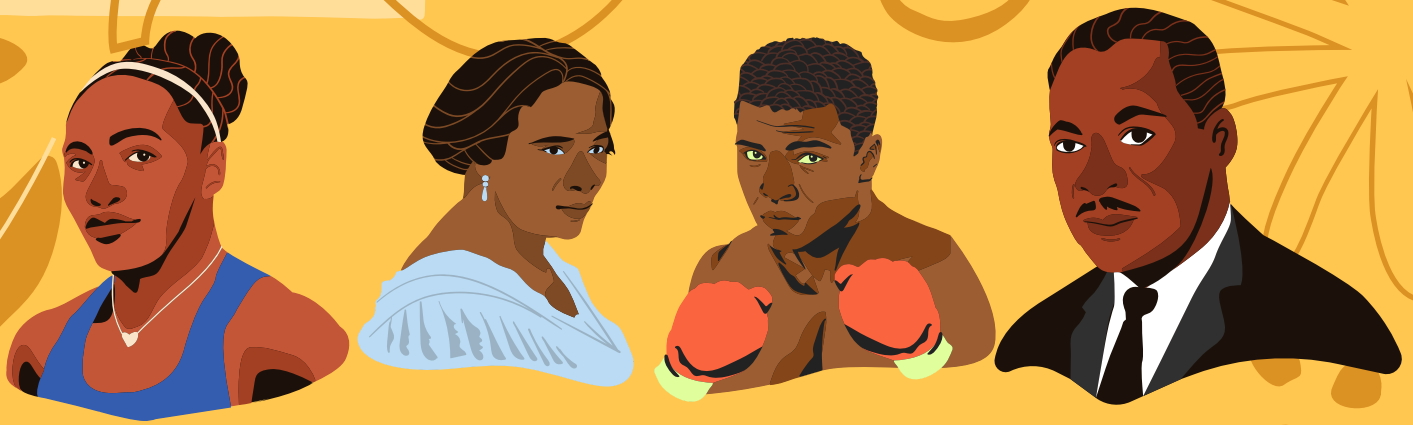
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Affordable Price !



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AFRO-CARRIBBEAN SOCIETY

This term was very exciting for the Afro-Caribbean Society; the ACS team collaborated together to celebrate black history month and put together a presentation to epitomise the purpose of black history month. We wanted to not only celebrate black excellence and success but we simultaneously wanted to highlight and emphasise the way in which despite these amazing examples of black greatness, there remain struggles and barriers that have to be overcome. We note that there has been a lot of progress when it comes to being open and communicating things surrounding race. We also wanted to take a different perspective on black history whereby rather than discussing typical topics, we brought awareness to key figures in modern day society who are currently making history and will be key historical figures in the next decades.

At the beginning of term, the society gathered together with the help of Ms Fuwa, Mrs Moore and Miss Contini to discuss our plans this term regarding black history month. Through having these meetings we established, not only what we wanted to achieve this term but also this academic year. Recently we have begun holding an extra-curricular club after school weekly which is open to everybody regardless of their ethnicity or background of course; our aim as a society is to bring people together and have discussions about the ways in which we can better our school and feel more comfortable about communicating our experiences as individuals.

We plan on implementing new ways of celebrating culture and diversity outside of black history month which will emphasise the fact that black history is always relevant throughout the year. As a society we want members of our school to be comfortable enough to approach us with any ideas or recommendations they would suggest for making our school more interconnected and in touch with diversity and multiculturalism.

MARIE TOURAY

BGS Homegrown talent.

ROBYN SNELLING: BGS ALUMNA AND YOUR LOCAL JEWELLER



FROM THE DT WORKSHOP TO OWNING A SHOP!

BY ROBYN SNELLING

Somehow, I'm the proud owner of my own shop. How?

It's not been straightforward!

When I left Bexley Grammar in 2006, I had no idea what I wanted to do. The school had really helped me express my creative side in 'A' Level DT and I'd contributed to the School's musical productions. I helped make props and sets for West Side Story, Hairspray and the Sound of Music, to name a few. I knew that was something I wanted to dedicate more time to.

I started my undergraduate in 3D Design, Woods, Metals & Plastics and while it increased my knowledge of certain materials and processes, I soon realised that wasn't right for me, so I switched to Fine Art, not an easy decision but the right one for me. I loved this course and ended up winning the University's Anniversary Sculpture Competition, where my piece, named 'Maturity', was constructed to celebrate the University's history, having started as separate colleges and eventually merging to form the University of Wolverhampton. The piece is still on show at the Telford campus, and has quite recently been the backdrop for a BBC interview. I went on to complete my MA in Fine art, where I got to explore even more materials and their properties.

After University, I worked in various different retail roles and also did a stint as the Art & DT technician at Bexley Grammar. It was really refreshing coming back to the school after so many years and I learned a lot from working with the pupils and hopefully I imparted some of my acquired knowledge to them too. Whilst I was back at BGS the PA purchased a new laser cutter which I was able to learn everything about, it sort of became my baby. Because of this I actually bought my own, slightly smaller version, with the intention of starting my own business. The new part time business offered personalised laser designs, wedding favours and other pieces. Starting your own business always seems like a massive undertaking at first but I found that taking it one step at a time, one day at a time was the best way to start.

At this point I still didn't know what I truly wanted to do for the rest of my life. I loved being back at BGS but as it was a part time position I had to start looking elsewhere for full time employment.

To add to this uncertainty I felt at this point, life decided to throw me yet another curve ball...

At the age of 29 I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, I'd have to learn to live with this condition counting the carbs I eat and making sure I inject the correct amount of insulin. A wrong calculation in either direction could have dangerous repercussions. It can either really affect my day or, on the odd rare day I actually forget I have it...

Diabetes can be triggered by so many things. It will be different for everyone, some are triggered in childhood, some are triggered by pregnancy, a virus, even shock can trigger some people. I still don't know what triggered mine, but one thing is true for all of us... it's not having a sweet tooth!

So after another false start at Specsavers, I decided, whatever I ended up doing, I needed to have my creative side satisfied. I applied to be a brand manager in a flagship Monsoon store in Central London and got it!

This position had me working closely with Monsoon Head Office, and I had hoped to progress to be The Visual Merchandiser of the company, responsible for making sure the stores look the way they are meant to, that all the stock is displayed in the way I had designed them to be. Due to the changes affecting the Retail sector this career path was brought to an abrupt end.

It was at this point that my previous employer, Paul Castle of the jewellers at The Oval, approached me to say he was looking at retiring in a few years time and wanting to find someone to take over the jeweller's spot there. I had worked there on Saturday mornings when I was a student at Bexley Grammar and had stayed in touch with Paul ever since. So have a think about what your part time job during school might be, as you never know where it may lead!



I then spent 2 years preparing to take over the shop, undertaking jeweller's courses and shadowing the business management side of what Paul was doing, learning about stock management and bookkeeping.

During this time I also had my son, on the 14th March 2020. For anyone keeping score that was a week before the first lockdown.

"Robyn's" officially opened on 11th May 2021 and it's been going really well! Loyal customers have stuck by the shop and new ones have popped their heads in for watch batteries, jewellery repairs or to have a browse at what's on sale (Bexley Grammar students, staff and alumni get 10% off!) I love running my own shop, being my own boss, fully utilising my people skills and my creativity each day. I have big plans for the shop so watch this space and please come and visit.

Having a baby and starting my own business in the middle of a pandemic hasn't been the most straightforward experience, but nothing worthwhile ever is. I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do when I left Bexley Grammar, but I took the experience one step at a time and it worked out for me. You don't need to have a plan or have anything figured out, just learn from every experience, build your resilience and take every opportunity in front of you.

At this point I still didn't know what I truly wanted to do for the rest of my life. I loved being back at BGS but as it was a part time position I had to start looking elsewhere for full time employment.



Merry
Christmas
& Happy
2022.

