

# NEWSLETTER

www.bexleygs.co.uk

27th January 2022



## U16 KENT CUP FINALISTS!

Cracking performance by the U16 Football Girls in the semi-final against Ravensbourne on Saturday 22nd January. A thrilling game resulting in extra time after a 2-2 draw at full time. With sheer grit and determination, our girls showed resilience hitting the back of the net three more times to make it a final score of 5-2 to secure their well-deserved place in the final of the Kent Cup. Great finishes from Freya Bibby and Lily Hewitt. Outstanding performance and our player of the match went to Lily. The BGS PE department are super proud of you all.



Terrific support on the side-lines from parents, classmates and staff, so a big thankyou from us all. Watch this space for more details regarding the final...

***Mrs Kemp, PE Department***

## MERMAID ~ SCHOOL PLAYS BACK UP AND RUNNING IN 2022

Last Tuesday to Friday 85 students embarked on 4 performances of Polly Teale's *Mermaid*. Those fortunate enough to be in the audience will have seen the explosion of joy and energy from the young actors, all that had been pent up in the last 2 years of cancelled school productions came to life. It was wonderful, but don't take my word for it, click on the link [here](#) to see Sophia Barry's (Year 12's) wonderful video 'Behind the Sea-nes'.





To further evidence, here is what some of the cast had to say:



Being a part of Mermaid was an exhilarating experience for me. It was great to see all the hard work that was put into the rehearsals reflected in the amazing performance and I enjoyed every second of it!

After not being able to perform plays properly for the past 2 years or so, it was brilliant to see everyone on stage together and sharing the same passion. The atmosphere was also great- we were like one big family. Doing the play helped me to make friends with people from different year groups, people I probably wouldn't have talked to without having taken part in Mermaid.

My part in the show was as a mermaid and after having performed, it is safe to say that I loved the role! I loved doing the dances with all the other mermaids, dances that ranged from "happy and frolicky" to more

creepy. One of my favourite things that I did was drowning the prince- especially the lift (which sometimes went very wrong!). The mermaids also got to wear handmade dresses and colourful makeup which I think made the role even more special.

Mermaid was an unforgettable experience for me and I hope that I get to take part in another school play in the future!

***Zoe Allen, Year 9***

Taking part in 'Mermaid' has truly been a breath of fresh air! Since we haven't performed in a while due to COVID, the spirits of this play were through the roof. The energy on stage and backstage was something I had missed and I know we all couldn't wait to get back to. I played many roles, a soldier, a lady in waiting, a protestor/ fan and a partygoer! It was so much fun as I had the chance to experience many different atmospheres because Mermaid has a very interesting plot! Even switching between the costumes was fun. Doing the play was not only an amazing acting experience, it was also a time to socialise with other people with similar interests and make new friends! Overall, the "Mermaid" play was a pleasure to be included in and I can't wait to audition for the next play soon!



***Deya Dimitrova, Year 9***

Being part of Mermaid was such a great way to start Year 9! Since Year 7, I have taken part in all the plays I could, but due to lockdowns a lot of them weren't possible to go ahead. I feel like this made Mermaid more special for every one of us. To feel the magic of the theatre, the chaos of backstage and just the general teamwork that goes into it. As a student at BGS who loves drama, I was so happy Mermaid was able to go ahead even if our T-shirts did say 2021... I had a very different experience in this drama performance because





I wasn't just acting, I was also dancing! Being a mermaid was so much fun- we even got to see our dresses being crafted. We had the opportunity to do so many new and different things, it was great to see the audience in awe, as we lifted the prince above our head. Everyone in the audience left with a huge smile on their face and for me that's the reason why performing is such a great thing, you are sharing your joy with everyone in the audience. If you are a student at BGS who doesn't take part in the Drama plays, you should really consider it: you will make lifelong friends, gain so much confidence and it is just so much fun!

***Matilda Jackson, Year 9***



When I first joined BGS in September I didn't imagine that, less than a month later, I would be cast in one of the lead roles for the school production of 'Mermaid'. I knew that it'd be a really great opportunity to start doing something extracurricular as theatre is something I'm really passionate about. It meant that I got to meet a bunch of amazing people in all the show's departments (all of the actors, tech team, stage managers and costume & makeup people were amazing)!

It was a really ambitious show and I'll be honest, there were some scenes that, when we first started rehearsing them, I thought 'Mr Otley's mad if he thinks we'll be able to pull this off'. And yet, we did it and it felt incredible!

I've been in a fair few plays in my life but, as a result of being able to play with the unexpectedly in-depth and intriguing role of the Prince and working alongside such talented people under Mr Otley's brilliant guidance, this has been one of the most enjoyable ones I've ever done.

***Dylan Oates, Year 12***



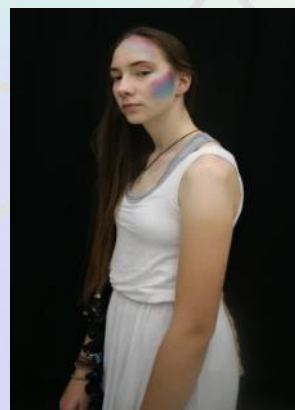




# Mermaid

by Polly Teale

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





## Music News

### Spring Concert

The Spring Concert is soon at BGS, with the exciting theme of "Legends and Icons"! This will be a lively event, with many performances by all of the different ensembles we have at Bexley. They will be performing iconic music, including songs from Queen, David Bowie, Les Misérables and much more! The rehearsals have already started and the ensembles have started preparing for this brilliant opportunity to play in front of an audience for the first time this year!

### Ensemble Skills in Curriculum

After two years of online music lessons, ensemble work is finally back in the curriculum! This has been such a positive reintroduction as students can now work with instruments in their lessons, composing and playing pieces in groups. In Music lessons, we always get to play new instruments and be introduced to new genres of music- which is always exciting. Year 9 has been working on the song "Forget You", played by violins, keyboards, pianos, drums, guitars and singers!

Being able to play instruments in our lessons has been such a fun experience which we hadn't been able to take part in due to online learning. Getting back to this has been a breath of fresh air! In my group, I play the drums, which is something I hadn't had the opportunity to do before, and which I enjoy. Listening to our piece put together with the different instruments is truly great.

### IB Recitals

The IB recitals (including Year 12s) are also underway, taking place next week. This is a very exciting time for these students and long awaited by them. IB students also play a range of instruments and have a great range of skills musically!

### Exciting Opportunities

For anyone who is interested in taking part in a collaborative music experience with other aspiring artists, this could be a great opportunity for you! Anyone who plays an instrument and is passionate about their music is free to join. In this programme, you will be able to collaborate with other students and work together to make great music!

**<https://www.lpo.org.uk/education/junior-artists-overture.html>**

### GCSE Music

For those thinking about GCSE music, you're always welcome to talk to the Music Teachers and the Music Prefects and ask any questions you may have! The GCSE music curriculum helps you explore many different instrumental ranges all the while expanding your musical knowledge. It's a great way to expand your creativity and learn an exciting new skill. It is an enriching experience that anyone is welcome to take part in!

***Deya Dimitrova, Year 9***







# Join the ArtsTrain Academy

MUSIC AND SONGWRITING SKILLS FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE IN BROMLEY AND BEXLEY



## WHAT IS ARTSTRAIN?

At ArtsTrain we believe that making-music changes lives. Giving young people the opportunity to explore and express themselves through music is empowering and is proven to strengthen feelings of confidence, self-worth and identity.

We work with community and education partners to target as many different groups of young people as possible, particularly those who might face barriers. Our inclusive workshops are youth-led and designed to support young people to pursue careers in music.

To hear some of our young people's music visit:  
[www.artstrain.org.uk](http://www.artstrain.org.uk)



## WHAT IS THE ACADEMY?

The ArtsTrain Academy are a group of young people from different schools across Bromley and Bexley who meet weekly to develop their songwriting skills and musicianship by working closely with our industry professional music leaders.

We are looking for young musicians and artists with exceptional musical talent who are not only interested in collaborating with other young musicians and songwriters but who are passionate, committed and serious about their potential as a successful musician or artist.

Being a part of the ArtsTrain Academy will push the young people out of their musical comfort zones and is Experimental and Cross-genre; Collaborative; Performance based; A stepping stone to a career in the Creative Industries; Rewarding and potentially life-changing.



To refer a young person  
onto the programme  
or for more info, email  
[artstrain@mytimeactive.co.uk](mailto:artstrain@mytimeactive.co.uk)

## SUPPORTED BY:

mytimeactive



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



National Foundation for  
**Youth Music**



**PRS  
Foundation**



## PE News

### Basketball

A fun evening in the sports hall on Thursday for the Year 8 A and B basketball teams. With games against Trinity and Beths, the boys came away with a pair of defeats and a pair of wins.

***Mr Lines, Head of PE***



## Please Support 8REL ~ Update

8REL are raising money for The Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust which support local families who have been affected by Cancer.

Thanks to your generosity we have raised £543 so far and would love to reach our target of £550. Since their Fun Run on Thursday 13th January. Can you help?

Please use our **JustGiving** page [here](#) to donate to this brilliant charity.

Thank you

***Ms Lusted and 8REL***

The  
Chartwell  
Charities



well done!







## Safeguarding Update

Dear Parents / Carers,

Please see below for some resources which you may find useful:  
The Children's Commissioner for England has issued some guidance on talking to children about online sexual harassment. I found these quotes from Dame Rachel DeSouza DBE particularly relevant: *The overriding message you'll see from our focus group is talk early, talk often... My advice to parents and carers is to create the culture before the crisis.*



<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/>

Internet Matters have published some information for parents / carers on Fake News and how to help children identify if what they come across online is true.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub/resources-to-deal-with-fake-news/>

The Metropolitan Police have flagged an alarming rise in reported incidents of Hate Crime since February 2021. Hate Crime can include:

- Physical assault
- Verbal abuse
- Incitement to hatred

The motivation for Hate Crime is prejudice, real or perceived, towards someone because of their:

- Race or ethnicity
- Religion, faith or belief
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity
- Disability

If you are the victim of a Hate Crime, or become aware of an instance of it towards someone else, this can be directly reported to the police. Alternative reporting mechanisms include:

- Crimestoppers can be called anonymously on 0800 555 111
- Fearless, an anonymous online reporting mechanism for young people, at [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org)
- Bexley Council - make a report at [www.Bexley.gov.uk/ASBreport](http://www.Bexley.gov.uk/ASBreport)

**H.J. Gilmore**  
**Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead**

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS DEPARTMENT



Please email Mrs Haslam  
[haslam\\_c@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:haslam_c@bexleygs.co.uk)  
if you would like to speak about  
any concerns you may  
have regarding your child.





News items you may have missed



**Raising**

**awareness**

**about mental health**

**FOOD FAIR IN/ OUTSIDE H4!**

**All are welcome!**

**About blink:**

Blink mental health charity aims to provide **peer** and **professional** support when people need it most.

**HELP US RAISE MONEY AND AWARENESS,  
WHILE ALSO HAVING FUN! 😊**

**EVERYONE IS INVITED ON THURSDAY 27TH JANUARY**

**LOCATION: H4**

**TIME: 12:45 - 1:15pm**

**THERE WILL BE:**

FOOD, DRINKS, VOUCHER, RAFFLE  
(guess how many sweets are in the jar £1)

**FIRST 20 PEOPLE TO BUY A RAFFLE TICKET  
GET A FREE SQUASH**

**CASH & COINS ONLY PLEASE**



**FOOD FAIR! FOOD FAIR! FOOD FAIR!**

**#BLINKMENTALHEALTH**



## 8PDH are fund raising for The Greenwich and Bexley Hospice



Since last half term, Year 8 have been completing First Give: an organisation that helps children from secondary schools to support their local charity by organising and taking part in social actions.

The local charity that my form (8PDH) has chosen is the Greenwich & Bexley Hospice. We thought that this charity had achieved a great deal and had benefited the lives of others enormously. The hospice helps people who suffer from illnesses and diseases, such as cancer, as well as offers support and care to those who may be depressed or suffering at home.

On the last day of term, our form spoke to Lucy Griffith-Searles, a representative from the Greenwich & Bexley Hospice, and had the opportunity to interview her with some questions regarding the charity. As a form we learnt some interesting information about what the charity does which we would never have learnt if we had not been fortunate enough to speak to Lucy.

We discovered that when the hospice helps people who are suffering from disease, many other people close to them also benefit from their work: family, friends as well as the hospice staff. We were also surprised to find that one of the highest costs the charity faces is that of laundry, and that our fundraising would help support them offer this essential service. The hospice also said that they help thousands of people a year; the money that we hope to raise would therefore be really helpful and have a direct impact on the lives of those most in need.

To help raise money, 8PDH are arranging a Year 8 Netball and Football House tournament. We hope to be able to use the funds we raise to support the Bexley and Greenwich Hospice.

To find out more information about our charity please click on the link below:

[About the Hospice - Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice](#)



Greenwich & Bexley  
Community Hospice



## Applications to our UK Summer Schools and Apprenticeship Summer School are now open!



*"Attending the summer school was one of the best things I have done in my education - it helped me realise that I really wanted to study my subject and that I wanted to go to university"* Summer School Student 2020

*"I was given unique insights from employers and apprentices and on a personal level I was pushed beyond my boundaries. I am so glad that I took this opportunity and would highly recommend it to those considering the apprenticeship route."* Apprenticeship Summer School Student 2020

We are pleased to announce that applications to our 2022 University and Apprenticeship Summer Schools are now open. Read on to find out:

What the different programmes entail  
How students can apply  
Informational webinars for you to find out more  
How we're able to support a further 10,000 students this year

### What are our Summer Schools?

Sutton Trust Summer schools offer students a week-long residential at one of our thirteen partner universities. Our Summer Schools increase confidence, raise aspirations and equip students with the necessary skills to navigate the Higher Education system. Upon completion of their programme, students also gain access to our outstanding alumni community.

All costs including travel, accommodation, food and activities are covered by the Trust and our partners which means it is completely free of charge for students to attend.

You can watch a short video [here](#) that features students and programme alumni to give you a taste of what Sutton Trust Summer Schools are like.

### What is the Apprenticeship Summer School?

The Apprenticeship Summer School is focused on building an understanding of degree apprenticeships, what they involve and whether a degree apprenticeship is the right choice. Students will hear from current apprentices, experience networking opportunities, attend sessions hosted by employers and learn the different application processes employers use.

### How can students apply?

To apply for the programme, students must:

- Be in Year 12 in England or Wales, Year 13 in Northern Ireland, or S5 in Scotland
- Have always attended a UK state-funded secondary school/college (non-fee-paying)

More information about eligibility, and the application form, can be found [here](#).

The application deadline is **Wednesday 9th March**. We are unable to accept any late submissions so please do encourage your eligible students to apply soon.

On our [website](#), you can find a poster and postcard to share with students and parents. Here we have also uploaded an assembly presentation if you would like to speak to a group of students about the Summer Schools.



# FIND OUT WHAT UNIVERSITY LIFE IS REALLY LIKE

**“Taking part in the Summer School has given me a plethora of resources which have helped in my university application.”**

**ATTEND LECTURES AND CLASSES**

**RECEIVE UNIVERSITY  
APPLICATION SUPPORT**

**ACCESS TO SUTTON TRUST ONLINE**

**SPEAK TO CURRENT UNDERGRADUATES**

**JOIN OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY**

**EXPERIENCE UNIVERSITY LIFE**

**OVER 40 DIFFERENT SUBJECTS**

**13 LEADING UNIVERSITIES**



**FREE TO ATTEND**

**OPEN TO STUDENTS IN:**

**YEAR 12 IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

**YEAR 13 IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**S5 IN SCOTLAND**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE MIDDAY WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 2022.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY, AND TO APPLY, VISIT:**



@sutton\_trust





@sutton\_trust



# GETTING YOU ON TRACK WITH DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

*"I was given unique insights from employers and apprentices,  
and I was pushed outside my comfort zone."*

NETWORK WITH TOP EMPLOYERS  
HONE YOUR INTERVIEW SKILLS  
MEET STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE UK  
RECEIVE APPLICATION SUPPORT  
SPEAK TO CURRENT APPRENTICES  
ACCESS SUTTON TRUST ONLINE  
JOIN OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY



## FREE TO ATTEND

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN:  
YEAR 12 IN ENGLAND AND WALES  
YEAR 13 IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
S5 IN SCOTLAND

APPLICATIONS CLOSE MIDDAY WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 2022.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY, AND TO APPLY, VISIT:





All BGS parents are welcome  
to attend our meetings!  
The next dates are:

**23 FEBRUARY**  
**16 MARCH**  
**20 APRIL**  
**18 MAY**

PA meetings will be held from 7.30-9.00pm  
either at school or on Zoom.

Please email [bgspa@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:bgspa@bexleygs.co.uk)  
to confirm the meeting place.





## Forthcoming Events

### January 2022

Monday 31st ~ Year 9 SchoolCloud Virtual Parents' Evening booking system opens at midday

### February

Wednesday 2nd ~ KS4 Showcase Concert (see notice)



Monday 7th ~ Year 9 SchoolCloud Virtual Parents' Evening booking system closes at midday

Tuesday 8th ~ Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening

Friday 11th ~ Last full school day before half term

**Monday 14th to Friday 18th Half Term ~ school closed to students**

Monday 21st ~ First school day following the half term

Tuesday 22nd ~ Deadline to submit Year 9 options

Wednesday 23rd ~ PA Meeting (see notice)

### March

Wednesday 9th ~ Closing date for Sutton Trust Summer School Applications (see notice)

Wednesday 16th ~ PA Meeting (see notice)

### April

Wednesday 20th ~ PA Meeting (see notice)

### May

Wednesday 18th ~ PA Meeting (see notice)

