

# NEWSLETTER



[www.bexleygs.co.uk](http://www.bexleygs.co.uk)

10th February 2022

## Ex-BGS student publishes future bestseller!

The new and exciting entrant in YA fiction, the author Finn Longman, brought one of their most intricate pieces of crime riddling thriller to Bexley Grammar school on Monday 31st January. They discussed with their audience of eager English Language students the journeys of finally being a published writer after 12 years of writing drafts from their teenage years and how they found different writing styles and genres. Trying to relocate peace in the chambers of writing and reinvent the modern crime genre, their mission is to get rid of the typical "attractive female protagonist romance" stigma that has suddenly plagued all modern authors to write about to make the book "sellable" and market it better to younger audiences. They say that this book, as well as an attempt at removing said stigma, was also a way of expressing their feelings towards certain bits of injustice in society, although they have mentioned that some things which are in the book were intentional, and others not so much.

Finn also talked to us about how they approach world-building in writing and the way they found the made-up language of Esperanto as well as it being a driving factor for the town's name and the language the characters spoke in the book. Finally, Finn gave us a very early taste of the book "The Butterfly Assassin" (codenamed the Dark Butterfly in its early stages). The book is about a secret assassin programme for minors in which the protagonist, Isabel Ryans, has been part of since a little girl. Living in the fictional city of Espera, a top-secret ammunition site built after WW2, the two rival organisations which control the city are being attracted by this unaffiliated killer who is cold-bloodedly roaming the streets and wanting to recruit her into their organisation. Despite this, Isabel wants to live a normal life but after running away from home she meets a new friend which for the first time in ages gives her hope. Will the blood on her hands cost her everything? You can find out when the book will gracefully land on the 26th of May 2022 and is available for pre-order on most book-selling platforms.



Before departing I want to thank Mrs Quinton for arranging this opportunity for the English department.

'Till next time!

**Alexandru Ionita**  
**Year 12, English Prefect**





## Cyberhacker Finals

Diep Anh Nguyen, Angela Luong, Sophie Huang and Anagha Pai, all from 8LPV competed in the South East Finals for the CyberFirst Girls competition on Saturday. The event is run by the National Cyber Security Centre; the branch of the Security Service tasked with keeping the UK safe from computer threats. The competition was hosted at the National Air Traffic Services headquarters near Portsmouth and the BGS team went up against 11 other schools from the South East.



The competition involved a gruelling day-long series of challenges to crack codes, solve puzzles and find hidden messages. The crown was ultimately claimed by Highgate School in North London, but BGS were definitely hot on their heels - at one point our team were running second on the leader board. The girls showed incredible drive and determination as well as amazing teamwork. Well done to all four!

Cybersecurity is a career field that currently has more than 30,000 unfilled vacancies in the UK alone, and women account for just 16% of the workforce. The NCSC runs the CyberFirst Girls competition for Year 8 girls each year to encourage more girls to consider this as a career path.

**Mr Villazon**  
**Head of Computer Science**







# Club Swimmers

We have a gala at Colfe's School on  
Tuesday 8th March.

We will be taking teams from Years 7  
to 10 female and male and will be  
competing in 50m races across all  
4 strokes and relays.

Please see Mr Lines to express your  
interest and preferred races.

*Thank you*







## PE News

### Swimming

Every year there is an event for swimming called the Kent Swimming Championship (KSC) where all the swimming clubs in Kent and all their fast swimmers compete in races to see who the fastest swimmer is. The KSC had been cancelled for 2 years due to COVID so this was the first KSC in 3 years and it was a pretty big event! I ended up winning 4 gold medals, 4 silvers and a bronze medal. Overall out of 14 races and I managed to get into the finals in every one of them (the finals are the fastest 8 swimmers from the previous heats in your age group), but for some I came 4th and 5th. I'm also pretty sure I won the most gold medals for my age group which is 13, however, I'm not 13 until May compared to others who have already turned 13. I managed to win a gold medal for the 200 Butterfly, 400 Individual Medley, 400 Front Crawl, 200 Backstroke and silver medals for the 200 Front Crawl, 100 Butterfly, 800 Front Crawl and 1500 Front Crawl. I also won a bronze for the 50 Backstroke. The difference between all of these races and me getting golds were milliseconds which was quite annoying. All of these races are long distances which are my best races because when swimming I have high stamina and a good technique meaning I can swim fast for a long time, but compared to others who have muscle and speed they would be better in the short distance races where I would be worse.

***Raef Owen, Year 8***



### U14 National Cup - Girls Football

Nail biting game on Tuesday 8th February at BGS. The U14's played against Colfes in the National Cup narrowing losing 6-5 but cracking goals from Isabelle Dorney (2), Macie Richardson (1) and Poppy White (2). A big thank you to Alex for stepping in to play due to the Goal Keeper's absence. Exciting game! Good news is they will be entered into the shield so more games to follow... Good luck everyone!

***Mrs Kemp, PE Department***





Poster by Millie Laming

Each review will be tallied by your class' form tutor(s)

Open to all of year 8

There will be a winning form for which class reads the most

# Reading contest

The book must be 50 pages long or more



Each review is required to have an adult's signature

Once the book has been finished, write a 100 word review of what you liked or disliked about it in the book review section of the planner

There will be a mvr (most valued reader) per class who will receive a prize

The amount of books read will be tallied for each individual

Reviews without adult signatures will be discounted





# Year 12s

Want to give something back?

Are you caring?

Responsible?

A good listener?



Want to work with young people?

Then you are needed as a Peer Mentor!

**GOING TO  
SCHOOL  
CAN FEEL  
SCARY.**

The BGS peer mentors are  
here to listen.



FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US OR SEND AN  
EMAIL TO  
BGSPEERMENTORS@BEXLEYGS.CO.UK



## Aims of the Scheme

- The aim of the Peer Mentor Service is to provide support for all students in school.
- Specific focus is on the transition period from Year 6 through to Year 7.
- Involves Group and one to one work.
- Ensure our school is a happy and secure community for all students.



## Applications

Please send a e-mail to Mrs Jones ([jones\\_g@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:jones_g@bexleygs.co.uk)) by Monday 21st February explaining:

- Why you wish to be a peer mentor.
- What you could bring to the role.



The BGS peer mentors  
are here for you.

**IT'S  
OKAY  
TO ASK  
FOR  
HELP**



This week is Children's Mental Health Week (7-13 February 2022). This year's theme is Growing Together

This year, the theme is encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. Click below to watch a virtual assembly from Place2Be hosted by Emma Willis and featuring students from Folkestone Academy and Carrick Academy in conversation with Shadow and Bone actor, Kit Young, and CBBC's The Dumping Ground actor, Kia Pegg.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WIyGEIWuDo>

There are some interesting discussions about students writing to their future self with some ideas for activities that you can work through together at home.

## Special Educational Needs Department



### Tea & Talk

Bexley Voice welcomes all members and non-members at our **Tea & Talk** sessions to come along and meet with other parent/ carers and get information and support on any SEND (special educational needs & disabilities) issues. Come to all or part of the morning. You only need to book in advance if you would like an individual sessions with the professionals attending the event. [See website.](#)



### Tea & Talk

Thursday 10th February 2022

Outside Speaker from The Bexley Education Welfare Team will join us to discuss school avoidance.





**Half Term Fun!**



**AGES  
5-13**

# **HALF TERM SPORTS CAMP**

**Monday 14th - Friday 18th February**

Activities include: football, dodgeball, gymnastics,  
athletics, dance, to name a few!

All staff are DBS checked, have undertaken safeguarding  
training & first aiders are always on site!

**HURRY... LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!**  
**Reserve  
your  
place  
today**



**Kinetic Camps @**

**Bexley Grammar School, Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL  
&**

**East Wickham Primary Academy, Wickham St, Welling DA16 3BP**



**AGES  
5-13**

2022 PRICE LIST

<b>14th - 18th FEBRUARY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>EARLY DROP OFF</b>	<b>LATE PICK UP</b>
Bexley Grammar School Danson Lane, Welling DA16 2BL	9am to 3pm	£18 per day or £65 per week	8am  £4	3.30pm  £2
East Wickham Primary Academy Wickham Street, Welling DA16 3BP	9am to 3pm	£18 per day or £65 per week	8am  £4	3.30pm  £2

**Hours 9am-3pm, Monday-Friday****Early Drop: Off 8am +£4 - Late Pick Up: 3.30pm +£2**

**Children are required to bring a packed lunch  
and a refillable drinks bottle.**

**"WE ARE A NUT FREE ZONE!"****Please do not include foods that may contain nuts in your packed lunch****Reserve your place now !****[www.kinetickidsacademy.co.uk](http://www.kinetickidsacademy.co.uk)****TAILOR MADE BIRTHDAY PACKAGES AVAILABLE FROM £160****FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US ON 07597 231669****Follow us for regular updates & offers****Kinetic Kids Academy****@kinetickids2017****Kinetickidsacademy**





## News items you may have missed



## LGBTQ+ History Month

My student Library Assistants have been on flag duty this week, and have made the library a proud and colourful place to be. Please come up to see the large collection of books for LGBTQ+ History Month, many of which were bought using money from our generous PTA.



**Mrs Carey, School Librarian**

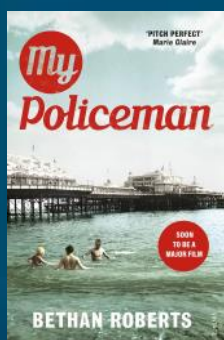


### Student LGBTQ+ book recommendations

#### Heartstopper - Alice Oseman

I recommend the graphic book series Heartstopper by Alice Oseman! It's a lovely book surrounding the lives of Nick and Charlie and their challenges that needed to be overcome to be accepted by their family and school as well as lots of light-hearted comedic scenes! It's such a heart warming series and Oseman is such a great writer and illustrator. My favourite character is Oliver, Charlie's little brother! This book is a must for anyone interested in reading LGBTQ+ books!

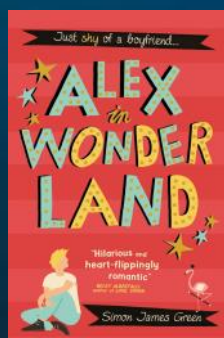
**Jessica, Year 8**



#### My Policeman - Bethan Roberts

I read the book My Policeman a couple of months ago. It is about three characters called Tom, Patrick and Marion, in which Tom and Marion are supposedly in a relationship with each other as Tom begins to fall in love with a museum curator he met called Patrick. As they play it off as a close friendship, their secret relationship grows behind Marion's back, as being gay was illegal at the time. I love this book because it's interesting to see the lengths people will go to, to be with the person they love and the risks they would take to conceal it at a time when they can't express their love. I recommend this book to Year nine and above.

**Mya, Year 11**



# LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH



### Heartstopper - Alice Oseman

I really enjoyed the book 'Heartstopper' as it talks about the hardships and mental health issues that formulate due to homophobia. It shows that there isn't a shortcut to mental health recovery. I also liked the bond between Nick and Charlie.

*Isabelle, Year 8*

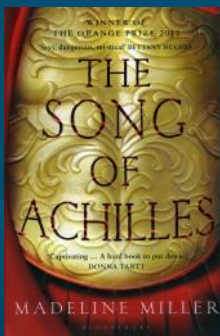


### The Song of Achilles - Madeline Miller

Set in Ancient Greece, The Song of Achilles is a book following the hidden romance of Achilles, a half-god destined for greatness, and Patroclus, a banished prince. As the friendship grows into something more, they're faced with a series of complex challenges and opposers to their relationship. A retelling of the well-known story, Achilles and Patroclus are called to war and the test of their bonds are pushed to the limits. I love this book as it's not only a beautiful relationship, from friends to lovers, but also because of the different perspective provided. I would

recommend this book to not just ancient history/ history lovers, but to everyone - from age Year 9+.

*Scarlett, Year 11*



Heartstopper, Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda, Alex in Wonderland, Beautiful Music for Ugly Children, The Art of Being Normal and Buy Meets Boy are all amazing.

*Alex, Year 9*



# LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH





- Speaker: Patrice Bain
- Date & Time: Tuesday, 15th February, 5.30 pm, online
- Costs: Free
- Description: Have you watched your child struggle with school-work? Would you like to know how best to help your child with learning? Patrice Bain (@PatriceBain1), teacher and parent, has worked with cognitive scientists for over 15

years in identifying principles and strategies that increase learning and decrease anxiety. Author of Powerful Teaching: "Unleash the Science of Learning" and "A Parent's Guide to Powerful Teaching", Patrice will discuss evidence-based tools and strategies that work.

- Link to register: <https://bit.ly/Parents-Webinar-Learning>

#### Free Webinar for parents!

Help your child learn more effectively!

A great way for you to understand how learning works, so you can best support your kids.

Free tickets: <https://bit.ly/Parents-Webinar-Learning>

15th Feb



Patrice Bain  
@PatriceBain1

## Forthcoming Events

### February

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

### March

Wednesday 9th ~ Closing date for Sutton Trust Summer School Applications <https://summerschools.suttontrust.com/>

Tuesday 15th ~ Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening

Wednesday 16th ~ PA Meeting

Monday 28th ~ Power Day 4

### April

Friday 1st ~ Last day of the spring term

**Monday 4th to Monday 18th ~ Easter Holiday (including Easter Monday Bank Holiday) school closed to student**

Tuesday 19th ~ First school day following the Easter Break

Wednesday 20th ~ PA Meeting

Tuesday 26th ~ Year 8 Virtual Parents' Evening

### May

Tuesday 3rd ~ Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening

Wednesday 18th ~ PA Meeting



BGS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

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.