



Welcome Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Welcome to the new academic year!

What a brilliant start to the new school year! It is always a particular pleasure to lead the first assemblies of the new Year 7 and Year 12 cohorts. Both were smartly turned out, the slightly nervous, subdued atmosphere of the Year 7 assembly contrasting with the palpable excitement and energy of a powerhouse of Year 12 students; we welcomed a host of keen students from local schools joining our own Year 12 students and took a moment to celebrate their remarkable GCSE achievements this summer. Giving these two year groups a day to settle in before the rest of the school returned has allowed a very calm and smooth start to the year.

You will have seen the excellent results at GCSE, IB and A level (for the last time), summarised in my news items on our new website. I will resist the temptation to outline those wonderful achievements again here. Suffice to say, our outgoing Year 13 have secured the places they deserved at university and at a range of other distinguished institutions for degree level apprenticeships and so on; the sixth form continues to go from strength to strength.

I am so proud of what our students have achieved individually and as cohorts and I am deeply grateful for the tireless work of the staff here at BGS, staff who, having invested so much time and energy into their success, appear as excited and nervous as the students themselves on results days. Similarly, thank you, parents, for your support through the years that culminate in these achievements.

There will be plenty of news in our weekly newsletters (which are published online each Thursday and emailed via Parent Pay) as the term moves on and I ask all parents, please, to take a few minutes to browse the newsletter each week; it is our foremost method of regular communication with you all, complete with important dates and reminders.

Two quick items of business:

1. Thank you to all the Year 7 parents who added funds to ParentPay so quickly after our biometric registration on Tuesday. Lunchtime ran very smoothly on Wednesday as a result and we hope to be cashless by Friday. Parents of any Year 7 or Year 12 students new to the school who have not yet put funds on ParentPay for their children, please do so as soon as possible.
2. Parents dropping off and picking up students - please arrange to meet them as far from the gates as possible to minimise congestion and the associated hazards. Local residents request that car drivers respect their driveway access and do not leave engines running while they wait. Please do not use our visitors' car park unless you are collecting a student with mobility issues. It is very dangerous for cars to operate in that area at the end of the school day.

We've had a busy and productive start on the back of some excellent achievements. I wish everyone success and fulfilment in the year ahead.

Mr Elphick, Headteacher

Welcome back Year 8!

Mr Risdon and I hope you all had a lovely summer and have returned refreshed and ready to learn! The second year of the KS3 Diploma will begin immediately and so we would encourage everyone to be organised with extra-curricular events, CAS and departmental tasks.

The departments with Diploma tasks in the first half of the autumn term are Classics and Music. Please see below for the full schedule for Year 8. Please note that the English and Maths are compulsory and must contribute to the overall final grade. A quick reminder that if you are absent on the day the task is due, it is best to bring your work in the first day you are back in school (even if you have not got that specific subject that day).

Year 8 Autumn A Classics
 Music

Year 8 Autumn B Maths
 FBCS

Year 8 Spring A History

Year 8 Spring B English

As before, pupils should join at least one extra-curricular club each term (and attend frequently) and participate in at least one House event this year. Most clubs will start after the first week of school so do keep an eye out for timetables.

Finally, to keep everything in balance, we encourage pupils to achieve their 15 hours of CAS **each term**. This equates to 5 hours of something active (maybe a sports club), 5 hours of something creative (for example, something musical or artistic) and 5 hours of something service related (volunteering or even helping with cooking and washing up at home!). These can be completed inside or outside of school and simply need to be signed off by the adult supervising. We will be writing reflective journals on your CAS journey later this year, so do keep a complete record in your planners.

Good luck Year 8!

Mrs Boulden and Mr Risdon

Year 12 Students ~ Graphical Calculators

All students, no matter which of the IB Maths courses you are taking, will require a graphical calculator. The model we will be using this year is the Casio FX CG50 which is a more advanced calculator and much more user friendlier than the one we have used in the past. We have managed to secure this from our suppliers at a bargain price of £44.95 (it retails for over £115 on amazon). You can purchase this via ParentPay and collect it from the Finance Office at school the following day. All students will be expected to have a graphical calculator by the second week of term as it will be used in every lesson and forms an essential part of the course. Any student who may find it difficult to afford a graphical calculator should speak to Mrs Thomas in the Attendance Office in confidence.

Mr Shackleton, Head of Maths



A whole new word ~ Year 10

This year, all Year 10 students will be focusing on continuing to expand their vocabulary in the preparation for their more challenging GCSE courses. We hope all students will continue to read for pleasure at home as this is the best way for them to become confident with the written word. Alongside this, Year 10 will be taking part in a new initiative of learning a new word a week, for every subject. They will learn the meanings of these words in their specific context during lessons and should become more adept at using them either in their own speech or their writing. We thought it might be useful for parents to see these new words, as communication about learning at home can help to promote this learning.

Many thanks for your support in this matter,

Miss N Ramsden, Whole School Literacy Co-ordinator

Week 1

English

History

Geography

MFL

Computer Science

P.E.

Music

Classics

FBCS

Art

Bio, Chem & Physics

Drama

Business & Economics

Misanthropic

Supernatural

Holistic

Register

Algorithm

Performance

Melodic Device

Metaphor

Adalat

Adaptation

Osmosis/ Relative Atomic Mass/ Power

Montage

Entrepreneur



Visitors from Japanese High School

On Friday 27th July, we were fortunate enough to welcome a group of Japanese students from the Hyogo Prefectural High School to Bexley Grammar. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn and get a taste of what Japan is really about. The day kicked-off with various ice-breaker activities in which our language skills were put to the test. Although I am still a beginner and find it difficult to express my thoughts, I was amazed at how relaxed and supportive the atmosphere was. Everyone got involved in game activities, which led to lots of laughter and even a silly face competition! I am sure that all those who turned up, took away with them good memories and true friendships.

Later in the day, we had lunch at Toby Carvery where we got to know more about each other and were surprised by gifts from our visitors. I felt very lucky to be able to take home a small bit of Japanese life.

For me, the most memorable part of the visit was getting dressed up in a summer Kimono. This was special as it was an insight into Japanese culture and more importantly, an amazing way to spend time with our friends from across the globe.

In the end, the most important thing is that we all had fun and were inspired to keep learning, meeting new people and trying new things!

Ugne Stanzyte, Year 10



Music News

Extra-curricular Music 2018-19

Just turn up for ensembles with your instrument on the correct day!

Junior Ensembles	Senior Ensembles	Advanced Ensembles
<p>All members of Junior Ensembles will receive a Lunch Pass which enables them to skip the Canteen</p> <p>Junior Jazz Monday P5 - Mu1 Wind, brass, rhythm section (piano, guitar, bass and drums); Beginners - Grade 4</p> <p>Junior Orchestra Tuesday P5 - Mu1 Wind, brass, percussion, keyboard, guitarists and string players all welcome! Beginners - Grade 4</p> <p>Junior Choir Tuesday P5 - Mu1 Open to ALL singers in Y7-9; sing songs in 2 and 3 parts in a wide variety of musical styles. Perform in public in a variety of locations!</p> <p>Rock School - Mu1 Friday 3.10 - 4pm Open to all years: Guitarists, keyboardists, drummers, vocalists who want to form a band/ play pop/ rock songs.</p>	<p>Senior Choir Monday 3.10 - 4.10pm in Mu1 ALL in Y9-13 welcome to sing in a variety of styles in 3-4 parts.</p> <p>Big Band Tuesday 3.10 - 4.15pm in Mu1 Saxes, brass, rhythm section; grade 4+</p> <p>Symphony Orchestra Wednesday 3.10 - 4.15pm in Mu1 Wind, brass, strings, percussion incl. Piano; Grade 4 upwards.</p> <p>String Orchestra Thursday 3.10 - 4pm in Mu1 For string players of all levels (violin, viola, cello, bass)</p>	<p>Clarinet Ensemble Monday Ac Mon Led by our clarinet teacher for those G5+; Invitation only</p> <p>Brass Ensemble Wednesday Ac Mon Led by our brass teacher for all Brass players</p> <p>Chamber Choir (in Mu1) Friday Ac Mon Small, advanced choral ensemble for Y10-13. Audition only.</p> <p>Show Band Accompanies the annual school production in July; Grade 6+; invitation / audition only; <i>(to be announced from Jan)</i>.</p> <p>Improv group Tuesday after Big Band Saxes, brass, rhythm section. By invitation only.</p>

BGS Music Tour to Slovenia 2018

On Tuesday 17th July, 36 students from our senior music ensembles and 6 members of staff, departed for the annual music tour, this year to Slovenia. During our week long trip, the group performed in 3 different venues, including the beautiful location of Lake Bled. As well as the rehearsals and 3 concerts, the students also enjoyed trips to the Postojna caves, Ljubljana castle, travelling by pletna boats and swimming in Lake Bled and spending a day at a local water park. It was such a fantastic week for all involved. A huge thank you to Miss Swadkin for organising the trip. The tour company has included our review of the trip on their website (<https://www.gowertours.com/blog/slovenia-schools-music-tour>) which is well worth reading.

Mrs Casling, Music Department



For Sixth Form Students:

Heard about Mindfulness?

Want to find out more?

I will be running an introductory session after school on Monday 17th September followed by a 9 week Mindfulness course every Monday after school 3.15-4.00. This will look at what mindfulness is, how to build positive mental health and provide you with various different techniques that can help you find some calm even when things get busy. It is open to any Sixth Form student.

This is a certificated course and can also count towards your CAS.

If you are interested, please email Miss Brand (brand_s@bexleygs.co.uk)



Could you spare us an hour or two on a Monday?



The school library has been thriving since it was renovated and Mrs Carey threw her creative energy into it. Book borrowing has more than trebled in two years. A wonderful team of volunteer parent/carers help at lunchtimes during the week. We have a vacancy this year on a Monday. If you think you may be able to help, please email Mrs Carey (carey_r@bexleygs.co.uk) as soon as possible.

PE News

Sports Award Winners 2017- 2018

GCSE student of the year
IB Student of the Year

John Collins Football Prize
Lesley Gentry Cricket Prize
Lesley Gentry Tennis Prize
Boys Team of the year
Girls Team of the year
Sportsman of the Year 7
Sportsman of the Year 8
Sportsman of the Year 9
Sportsman of the Year KS4/5
Sportswoman of the Year 7
Sportswoman of the Year 8
Sportswoman of the Year 9
Sportswoman of the Year KS4/5
Sports Leader of the Year KS4
(outstanding contribution to leadership
in Physical Education) Shield

Sports Leader KS5 Shield
Don Wellman (outstanding contribution
to School Sport - one) Cup

Daniel Tye
Year 13- Teddy French
Year 12- Shona DeSouza
Harrison Try
Shrenik Chouta
Frank Tennant
2nd XI Football
KS3 Girls Football
Oliver Knight
Harrison English
Shrenik Chouta
Conor O'Boyle
Freya Bucksey
Libby Garrod-Jobbins
Kacey-May Smith
Amelia Houghton-Boyle

James Hunt &
Koyin Rufai
Mattie Jones

David Oputa



Notices

Boys' Football trials take place next Monday, as mentioned in Mr Mackle's assembly. It should finish around 4:30 pm.



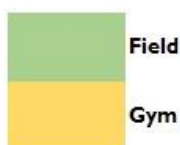
None of the other activities have a "trial" - everyone is welcome regardless of experience (as they are with football training. The only reason for the trial is to try and organise a team for early fixtures in the next couple of weeks)

Boys' Rugby training will start the following Monday - 17th September.



Bexley Grammar School Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable - Autumn/Spring

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School: 7:45 - 8:15		Fitness Club	Table Tennis Yr 10-11		Table Tennis Yr 7-9
		Yr 7-9 Boys' Basketball	Yr 7-9 Girls' Basketball		
Lunch	Yr 10 Netball	Yr 7 Netball	Yr 9 Netball Week A		
After School: 3:15 - 16:30	Yr 7-10 Rugby		5K Club	Yr 7 - 10 Boys' Football	Archery
	Yr 8 & 11 Netball		Girls' Football	Dance Club	Senior Basketball



ROALD DAHL'S **Charlie** AND THE **CHOCOLATE FACTORY**

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (school play)

Auditions 18th September

Call backs 20th September

Auditions for this year's school play will be held in The Drama Theatre (K10) after school on 18th September. People will be released at different times depending on when they are seen at the audition- they may be in school as late as 5.30 pm (we'll see younger pupils first, but we may need them to read another piece later)

Some will be asked to attend a call back audition on the 20th September, this means you will read for a specific role.

Everyone is welcome to audition, Year 7 to Year 13, regardless of if you have been in a play before or not, the main thing is enthusiasm. Don't think you won't get a part because you are younger, we need a lot of child characters and Oompa Loompas.

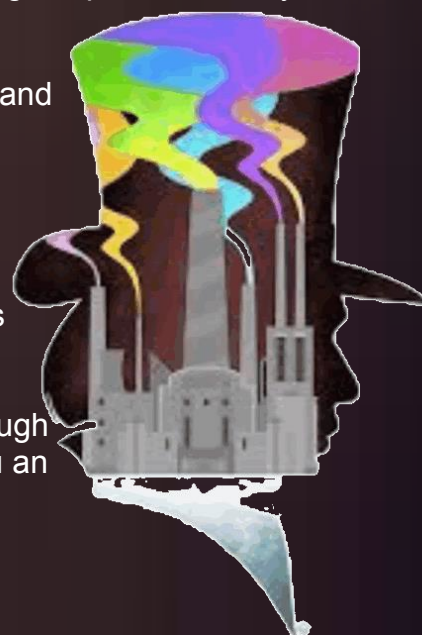
If you are on a trip or have an appointment, tell a Drama teacher and we can arrange something for you.

The play will be on 4th - 8th February 2019.

The characters in the play are listed [here](#) and more information is available on: www.bgsperformingarts.com/charlie

There is no need to specifically prepare anything in advance, though I'd recommend reading the book or watching the films to give you an idea of the characters.

Mr Otley, Head of Drama & Theatre Studies



Forthcoming Events

September

Tuesday 11th ~ Inset Day (School closed to students)

Tuesday 18th ~ Charlie & the Chocolate Factory Auditions (See notice)

Thursday 20th ~ Charlie & the Chocolate Factory Auditions (See notice)

Thursday 20th ~ Raising Achievement Evening **by invitation only 4.30pm - 7.15pm**

Wednesday 26th ~ 'Meet the Tutor' Year 7 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6pm (Information to follow)

Friday 28th ~ PA BBQ for Year 7 6pm– 9pm

October

Tuesday 2nd ~ Year 13 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm

Tuesday 9th ~ Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm - 6.30pm

Tuesday 15th ~ Year 11 Work Experience week begins

Friday 19th ~ Last school day before half term

Monday 22nd - Friday 26th ~ Half Term