Summer Edition







### Message from the Editor

Welcome to the Summer edition of the BGS Buzz! It has been such a pleasure to see all the wonderful things our students and different departments have been up to this term, and to finally see a return to normality!

School Magazine Editor: Ms Contini

Reporters: Rachel Smith, Talya Cilek, Estefania De Silva Bigott, Megan Lisle, Sam Bowles, Donovan, Isabel Daly, Emma Krznaric.

Many thanks also to: Mrs Chan, Mr Griffin, Mrs Belton-Owen, Ms Orchard, Miss Thurlow, Miss Fisher, Aaron Kiley, Andy Yu, everyone in the PE Department, Mr Martin, Emily Chan, Max Konosonoks, Omolade-Paul Taiwo - apologies if I have missed out anybody!!

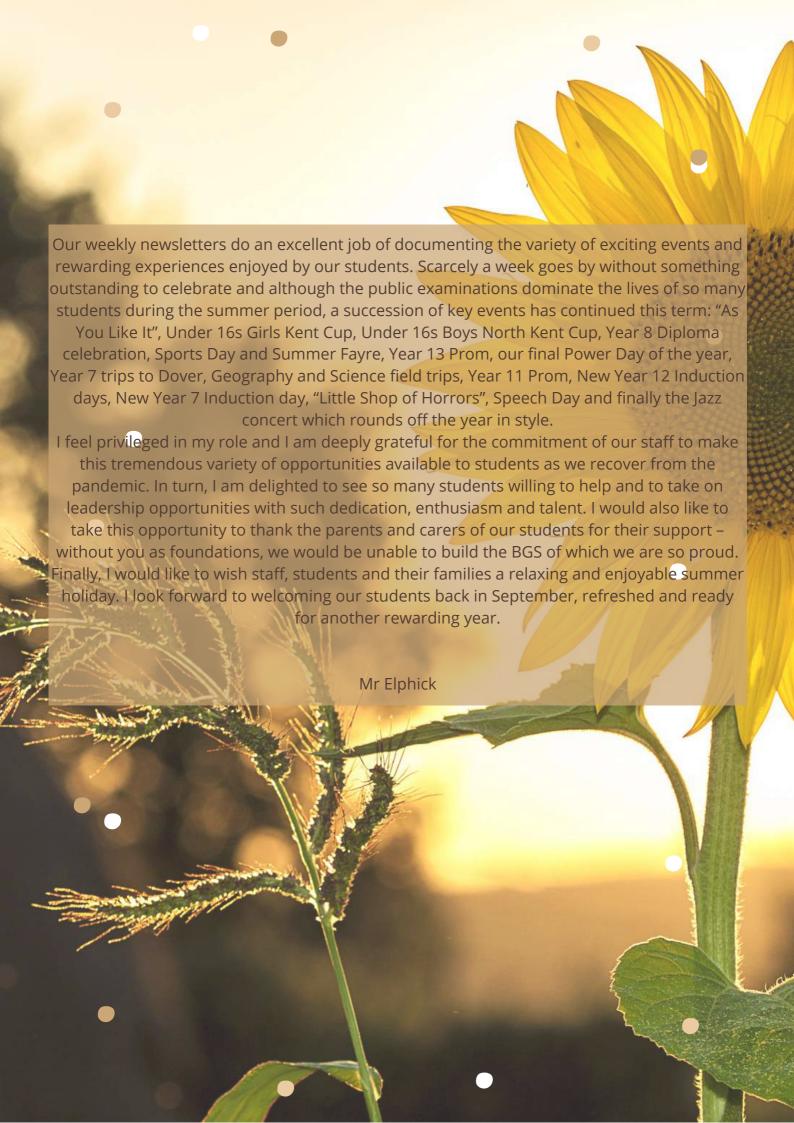
# Message from the Headteacher

#### Welcome to the summer edition of the BGS magazine!

I write on a warm, sunny day, on which our new year 7 pupils in September are in school for their induction day. Tonight is the first night of this year's musical production, "Little Shop of Horrors" and tomorrow our year 13 receive their IB results. In the two weeks left between now and the publication of this magazine at the end of term so many things will happen... As year 13s leave us they will have feelings of excitement for their next steps in life, tinged perhaps with sadness at leaving friends and the school community. Armed with their results tomorrow, most will have more certainty about the year ahead than they've had for many years as they continue to enjoy the longest holiday they are ever likely to have. Year 11 students are also basking in the longest holiday they have had in years, most of them having joined us with 200 external student applicants for one of two Sixth Form Induction days last week.

Both year groups should know - you have been a credit to the school during the challenges of the past two years and you deserve to achieve excellent results in your examinations. We look forward to welcoming year 11 back in September alongside external students to enjoy the buzz of a sixth form back to the way it should be. Year 13 - good luck and work hard as you follow your aspirations and ambitions building on your IB success. Come back to tell us your individual success stories - perhaps in a future magazine!

We have several staff leaving us - there have been more moves than usual after two years where Covid restricted opportunities to interview and gain promotions. You can read about those leavers in this magazine but I have to mention four staff who are retiring after long and remarkable careers at BGS. Mrs Vialls, Head of Science, retires after 19 years of impeccable service seeing literally thousands of students through their sciences and out into life as doctors, engineers, vets, etc. She has kindly agreed to cover a maternity leave until Christmas so you will see her around a little longer. Mr Morris joined BGS 25 years ago and has been both Head of English and Head of Sixth Form. He is retiring, but like Mrs Vialls, is staying on for a short time to cover a maternity leave. Mr Shackleton is retiring after 31 years at BGS where his Shack Attack is now legendary. He has been Head of Maths for most of those years and is proud of the results that generations of students have achieved in his subject. Finally, at 18 years, although not the longest serving of our leavers, Mr Morgan has been Deputy Head throughout his 18 years with us. He has worked with 3 headteachers and I am sure they, as I have, benefited from his advice and support. He is retiring but will also return part time in September, mainly as a maths teacher. To all our departing staff, thank you for all you have given during your years with us and all best wishes for your next steps.





#### THE RACE TO NO. 10



#### BY ISABEL DALY AND EMMA KRNZARIC, YEAR 12

After losing support from his MPs and the majority of the conservative party- Boris Johnson resigned on the 7th of July. A multitude of reasons and a lack of integrity from the PM in dilemmas such as the infamous Partygate, and more recently the Chris Pincher affair where the PM hired Pincher with the knowledge that he had been accused of sexual assault.

#### How will the new leader be elected?

Each candidate can only enter the race if they have the backing of 20 Tory MPs. There are 358 Tory MPs who will now hold a series of votes until there are only two candidates remaining: in the first round, candidates with <30 votes are eliminated, if all candidates reach that number, the one with the least votes is eliminated. These rounds of voting continue until only two candidates remain.



Former chancellor Rishi Sunak has been considered as the frontrunner to succeed Mr Johnson as he has been number 11 since early 2020 and assumed a prominent role in the government's pandemic response. His popularity however, took a hit in recent months after introducing a number of policies that did not go down well with the Tory MP's, such as national insurance rise. He was also fined for being involved in the 'partygate' scandal, which hurt his popularity with the general public.

Foreign secretary Liz Truss is the longest continuously serving member of the cabinet, having held positions under David Cameron, Theresa May and Mr Johnson. She seems to be Mr Sunak's biggest competition, as Many MPs on the right of the party appear to be throwing their weight behind her in a bid to stop Mr Sunak winning. Unlike her opposition, her policies seem to be viewed as much more favourable by the public as she has told The Daily Telegraph she would "start cutting taxes from day one" if she was to become prime minister.





A former soldier who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, Tom Tugendhat was the first to enter the fray after Boris Johnson left office. Currently the chair of the Commons foreign affairs select committee, Mr Tugendhat lacks any ministerial experience, however claims that he is the 'clean start' candidate. In his policies he promises to reverse the increase in national insurance contributions, reduce fuel duty by 10p a litre, and equalise funding across all English regions.

Currently the minister of state for trade, Penny Mordaunt is arguably one of the candidates with the most ministerial experience. Mordaunt's highest-profile role so far, as the first female defence secretary, was cut short after just 85 days when then-incoming Prime Minister Boris Johnson replaced her with Ben Wallace. She has also played a prominent role in the 2016 referendum as one of the biggest Brexit backers from the outset. Her policies state that she plans to half VAT on fuel and raise income tax thresholds for basic and middle-income earners.





Attorney General Suella Braverman was first elected as an MP in 2015 and is a brexiteer with the backing of former minister Steve Baker. In her policies she has promised "rapid and large tax cuts" to ease inflation. In a campaign video, she spoke of delivering "all of the great opportunities" of Brexit, as well as taking a "firm line" on migration.

Former equalities minister Kemi Badenoch at the age of 42 would, like Mr Sunak, would be the youngest prime minister to enter Downing Street in more than 200 years. Her monetary policy will focus on tackling inflation, she said, but she wants "system change" and will not commit to "micro policies". She also supports lower

taxes "to boost growth and productivity", but refuses to enter a "tax bidding war of my tax cuts are bigger than yours". In regards to her ministerial experience, she claims that the fact that she has not yet served in the cabinet is an advantage in the leader race, as she criticised the ex PM Mr Johnson saying he was "a symptom of the problems we face, not the cause of them"



#### MENTAL HEALTH WEEK: LONELINESS



BY RACHEL SMITH, YEAR 12

In the UK, Mental Health Awareness Week was 9-15th May. Every year a specific theme is chosen- this year it was loneliness.

Since the pandemic, the issue of loneliness has been more prevalent than ever. Due to us all being locked in our houses, no social events, no work, isolation levels have grown. Without the innate need for contact that people require, it has sent loneliness levels through the roof, and this often causes a downward spiral as it has terrible consequences on our mental health. It can cause us to feel more anxious, plagued with doubts and worry. It can cause us to feel a sadness that will just not go away. It can even cause us to feel nothing at all.

But loneliness doesn't just stop when you're alone. Even in company, some people still feel very much ostracised and set apart. A recent study found that 1 in 5 people feel lonely at work. Despite the hustle and bustle, the constant communication and teamwork needed while working, people STILL feel lonely.

To me, this shows even if you have others around you, you need to make strong connections, attachments and relationships with others. It's the emotional side that counts, not just the physical presence of those around you, although that may help.

Loneliness is a real issue in today's society, and we need to remember that being alone and being lonely are two different things. One can provide us with that moment of sanity after a long day, a relaxing period of sanctuary and relaxation. The other is the darker side, the claustrophobic feeling of being trapped in your own company.

So this is a reminder to check up on those around you, or a reminder that there are people around you who you can talk to about feeling this way.

Don't let loneliness overtake your life.

#### THE REVERSAL OF ROE V WADE



#### BY TALYA CILEK, YEAR 12

What is Roe v Wade? It was a decision made by the Supreme Court in 1973, where the court ruled that the Consitiution of the United States protects a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. However, on the 24th June 2022, the Supreme Court made the decision to overturn Roe v Wade, thus leaving it up to each individual state to legislate on access to abortion in that state. This means that states are free to make abortion illegal or to severely restrict it in that state.

What does this mean for the US? Making abortion illegal or severly restricted across many States in America, means that it will be likely that many of those who have got pregnant as a result of rape are unable to get an abortion. Not only this, but in some states, such as Idaho, if a rape vitcim gets an abortion the rapist is allowed to then sue the woman, effectively giving the rapist more rights than the victim herself. Abortion is still legal in most States if the woman's life is at risk, but it has to be approved by doctors and many doctors have implied that they will wait until it is evidently life-threatening in order to avoid legal repercussions. This means that in many cases they would wait until the woman is haemorrhaging or septic, therefore highly increasing the chances of the woman to die.

Who made the decision? Five member of the Supreme Court voted to revoke abortion rights, leading to the ban. Four out of five of these members were men, demonstrating how the majority of people that have the right to dictate women's bodies were men. In addition, after Trump's appointed justices there is a conservative majority in the Supreme Court at the moment, and many have expressed concern about the fact that this and future rulings will be motivated by traditional Christian beliefs, thereby compromising the separation of Church and State, which is the foundation of the US democracy.



Who does it affect? Most Republican states across the country are immediately banning abortion; the ban is expected to take place in 26 states across South and Midwest America. People living in these states will have to travel in order to get an abortion, this means that the bans affect some people more than others. Those who cannot afford to travel to get a safe abortion may try to do it unsafely at home or through illegal means, putting their own lives at risk. Thus more so affecting poorer women. Women who are suspected of having an illegal abortion will have to undergo an investigation and could be sentenced to, in some cases, over 10 years in prison.

Across the world there has been widespread condemnation and concern for this decision and for its consequences. It will be interesting to see how the single states decide to either ban, restrict or guarantee abortion rights.



# BIG CELEBRATION.

SAM BOWLES, YEAR 12

The news nowadays can feel like a neverending cycle of grief with what can only be described as a cascade of events being thrown upon us for as much of the day as possible. But this Pride we thought we would instead take the time to appreciate some little victories for the LGBTQ+community. This is not to detract from the fact that Pride is still very much a protest, but serves as a way of acknowledging the good amongst what seems to be the unrelenting bad.



We start by looking no further than our own school, where the LGBT alliance Pride bake sale was exceptionally successful and brought in support (and money) from across the year groups. Adding to the Pride-related news, parades and events across the UK have never been more successful than ever at bringing in support and fundraising. Pride Canterbury, for example, was at its biggest yet with over 20,000 people attending and London Pride is set to be one of the biggest yet for its 50th anniversary. Outside of the UK pride is thriving just as well with celebrations across the world, and even for the first time in some places. One March in particular to take note of took place in Poland, where LGBTQ+Ukrainians took to the streets for their country's "peace and freedom", an excellent and heartwarming example of how even in times of crisis this community can come together and celebrate.

In the world of popular media, great strides in LGBTQ+ inclusivity and diversity have been made recently. One of the most prominent announcements of this year was that Ncuti Gatwa has been cast as the 14th doctor in BBC's Doctor Who. He will be joining showrunner Russell T Davies (known for his monumental work on Queer as Folk, Years and Years and It's a Sin) for the next series in 2023/24. Working alongside these two will also be Yasmin Finney, who also starred in Netflix's HeartStopper, a queer coming-of-age series following the blossoming relationship between Charlie (Joe Locke) and Nick (Kit Connor). The show was met with an amazing response and is a must-watch. With representation finally becoming a focus in the film and TV industry, shows like Heartstopper, Doctor Who, Gentleman Jack, First Kill and so many more can now inspire people around the world and present the world as it is, and not how one privileged demographic says it should be.

There is infinitely more to say on the recent spread of acceptance and love for LGBTQ+ people and nowhere near enough space to say it all. We are living in unprecedented times of progression and though there are still issues at large, hopefully this article has brought to light some of the many instances where love has prevailed over hate and made the world a much safer place for everyone.

Please visit https://www.gaytimes.co.uk for more information on subjects discussed in this article.



#### more amazing news::

The LGBT+ Alliance at BGS organised a bake sale for Pride and raised over £240 for charity!!





# EQUALITY: TRANSGENDER ATHLETES IN SPORT



BY MEGAN LISLE, YEAR 12

Swimming is the latest sport to effectively ban transgender women athletes from competing, after their international federation FINA joined the likes of other sporting bodies (including the International Rugby League (IRL) and the British Triathlon Federation) to adopt policies aimed to hinder or completely block the inclusion of transgender women in sports.

The term 'transgender' refers to someone who identifies to a different gender than the one they were assigned at birth. Whilst transgenderism is not a new idea, it has recently become a topic of hot debate due to the widespread media attention it has received as transgender athletes attempt to access sport at elite levels. Scientific experts, LGBT+ organisations and athletes continue to debate the ways in which sport should and could balance inclusion with fairness in sport. In the vicious jaws of public attention, key information about the topic has been twisted, distorted or simply lost. Here, I hope to cover the key information and gain an insight on whether these bans truly are necessary.

Many believe that allowing transgender women to compete in the same category as cis-gender women (women who were assigned female at birth and continue to identify as female) puts those born female at a disadvantage. After all, haven't we created separate gendered categories for male and female athletes for the sole reason of ensuring fairness for women? Men and women have different physiologies that allow men a physical advantage in exercise; during male puberty, they develop denser muscle mass, higher bone density and higher power producing capacities. Males also typically have higher testosterone levels. In order to mitigate the hormonal advantage transwomen may have, the IOC (International Olympic Confederation) requires transgender female athletes to maintain 'total serum testosterone levels below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to competing and during competition.'

Despite the regular, rigorous hormonal level testing, studies show that they may do little to lessen a biological male's advantage. Some suggest that there is as little as 5% decrease in lean body mass, muscle area and strength. These statistics would suggest that trans women therefore obtain a biological advantage in sport that those assigned female at birth cannot compete against, and thus it would be unfair for them to compete in the same category.

On the other hand, some organisations argue that the physical difference in the bodies of trans women and ciswomen athletes is irrelevant. Ultimately, they many athletes have physical advantages over their competitors in sport. For example, two time Olympic champion swimmer Adam Peaty has a 46 inch chest - the average man's is just 40 inches. Yet, Adam Peaty does not face public pressure to shrink his chest through any means possible. Usain Bolt has far longer legs than the average man, allowing him a longer stride and thus an advantage in his 100m sprints. Should we try to demand he cut off part of his legs to equal the playing field? Almost every sporting great has had a different anatomical build that has allowed them to conquer. By holding transwomen to much stricter standards surrounding physical advantage, many argue that this clearly means that sports are choosing to discriminate.





Not only could these bans be viewed as discriminatory and unfair, I think it's important to contextualise the struggle transgender people already face. A recent shocking analysis found that trans people face 'startling level of discrimination', particularly black transwomen. They are one of the most persecuted minority groups, having to fight both legal and societal battles every day simply to exist. Trans athletes face huge amounts of harassment; Emily Bridges, a cyclist, faced cyberbullying in the form of hateful comments and messages on a monumental scale, to the point where she had to deactivate her social media presence. These bans do not only risk current athletes, but also threaten to fuel further bullying of young transgender teenagers, who already face a 7.6 times higher risk of suicide than their cisgender peers. They also risk driving trans children away from participation in sport, depriving them of the all the benefits - learning leadership skills, teamwork, improving self-esteem, building discipline - it offers to cisgender children. Given the scarcity of trans athletes in elite sports, it seems strange to risk higher rates of bullying and suicide in trans teenagers in the pursuit of 'achieving equality' for so few.

This debate will not disappear anytime soon. That much is clear.

The inclusion of transgender women in sports will act as a standard with which we choose to treat transgender people in all manners, from healthcare to the legal system to education. I, like you, am not an expert. This, I believe, is the most important thing to remember as we struggle not to form brash opinions. We must look at the studies, scientific opinions and experiences of all athletes to truly understand how we can create fair policies for inclusion and competition in sport. Our ideas, our understanding and our approach will fluctuate and evolve as new evidence is released. For now, we must remember to focus on treating people with respect, no matter their identity or opinion, and honour the togetherness that sport is intended for.

#### UNORTHODOX: WHAT I LEARNT FROM ATTENDING A LIBERAL SCHOOL



BY ESTEFANIA DA SILVA BIGOTT, YEAR 12

You might recognise the title of this article from Netflix's Special TV programme based on Deborah Feldman's Unorthodox; The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots, a memoir where the author documents her life in the ultra-religious Jewish community of Satmar in Brooklyn, New York. The story charts a familiar path of doctrinal rebellion, where young Esther Shapiro - producer Anna Winger's angsty and eerily naive character grows up with laws prohibiting reading books in English, singing in public, and a basic Western education until she runs away from a loveless, emotionally and sexually dysfunctional arranged marriage aged 19 and pregnant to live a secular life in Berlin with her estranged mother. For Esty (and supposedly Feldman), Berlin offers the possibility of a new life and being free, away from the constant repression of closed religious communities. However, what this story fails to explore is the advantages of a community, tradition, and belonging found in exclusive religious settings.

Religion is more than just something devotees do on holy days; it's not something you can easily give up in favour of something else. This is especially true with fundamentalist varieties practised in insular communities. Your entire purpose and existence is shaped around these values; your parents, your relatives, best friends and role models all follow this religious standard. It changes how you perceive the world and what your role, or duty is inside it. The most unrealistic aspect of this series is probably Esty deciding unilaterally that she wants to stay in Berlin, sleeping on a floor mattress in her mother's apartment with no cash, no job, and a ridiculous hope of joining a world-class conservatory with hardly any professional musical training after six entire days. Or her effortlessly removing her sheitel - a wig Orthodox women are required to wear after marriage - and chucking it into a lake as she floats on her back without stockings. In the eyes of someone who has been raised in a liberal household, this might seem as no big deal. But it's not that simple. Julie Joanes, who is herself Orthodox, wrote on the influential Jewish-American Forward magazine the following regarding Hasidic representation in the miniseries:

"Today, in Western society, everything has to be equal or it's not fair. But the fact is that men and women were created with different physical traits and different spiritual traits. Many Jewish practices highlight this difference and allow each gender to achieve its potential not by copying the other, but by highlighting its own uniqueness. Women don't sing in public. Women don't learn the Talmud."

Although it's not necessarily what we must or should believe, some people are happy living by these standards, and they have the right to feel that way. However, some people who are born into these communities don't have the same positive, faith strengthening experience as their fellow believers do. This is rooted in the fact that adhering to religious teachings is not a suggestion; it's a directive, whether you like it or not, which is why it's often labelled as a moral obligation. I would know - not because I'm Jewish - but because I was raised in a Restorationist Christian household. Me and the women at home were not required to cover our hair and wear tights, but unlike what some progressive Christians might do today, we didn't mould religion to our personality. We moulded our personality to religion. We dress modestly. We don't watch certain movies or read certain books. We keep conservative values and standards. And that is how we've lived for every single day of our lives. So I can tell you for a fact, unless you stop believing a long time prior to breaking away from that standard, you don't feel comfortable doing so, even if you genuinely want to. As a religious person, I've had to deal with struggles secular people just would never understand.

A very common example of this phenomenon is the rise of vaginismus within conservative females. Vaginismus is a medical condition which can affect intimacy between straight couples. Amongst the causes for vaginismus, there is a lack of basic sexual education, or a strong belief that talking about such matters is wrong or shameful. The NHS website contains a lot of information regarding what it is, what happens at an appointment and treatment, would you like to know more about the subject. Sometimes religious institutions, most commonly churches, will provide services such as marriage counselling or therapy for newly-married couples, the aim being helping both mates navigate living together for the first time. You'd be surprised how frequent these issues are, even for women well into their mid and late 30s.

There is also the psychological prison created by some (I would like to highlight it's some and not all) religious leaders and divine command theorists who overly burden their followers with a constant threat of punishment. Rejecting the significance that "religion" has played in causing conflict, repression, and sometimes even brutality makes no sense whatsoever. Any religious or nonreligious belief system that contests this historical reality and asserts that it is the only pure, exclusively freeing, just, and true is more likely to be a source for evil than for good. Actually, when it enters the power struggle and is manipulated to support nationalism or ethnicity, whether in the US or Russia, Israel or Iran, the Balkans or the Indian subcontinent, it may prove to be the most destructive. It's very powerful stuff. However, it also has the power to transform, produce leaders of a new humanity, raise awareness of the greater good, and provide consolation and solace, which is what religion was originally made for anyway.

When something overcomes the limitations, structures, rules, and customs of "the world" as it is, that is when religion does good. It often performs best when it is "counter-cultural," does not fit in, and must fend against the need to be conventional. It asserts that both our actions and omissions are our responsibility. And most importantly, it gives us a framework for what is "right" and what is "wrong". Some might agree with the standards set by their religious organisations, and some might not. But whether you're a Hasid and choose to follow all 613 Mosaic Commandments in Stamford Hill or a Dutch Quaker who believes there is a little bit of God in all of us, you have a right to religious freedom, which is a human right that everyone should respect. But on the other hand, we should be aware of how OUR actions affect other people. For someone like Esty, it can take years to fully adjust into a community outside of the sect. It's about time we made the distinction between both worlds a more manageable one.











I FOUND OUT ABOUT SKATEBOARD CLUB WHEN A CLASSMATE ASKED IF I WANTED TO JOIN HIM. IN THE CLUB, STUDENTS DESIGN, CONSTRUCT AND TAKE HOME THEIR OWN SKATEBOARDS

I MADE THE BOARD ITSELF WITH THREE LAYERS OF PLYWOOD GLUED TOGETHER, EACH WITH THE GRAIN IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS FOR ADDED STRENGTH. THE DESIRED SHAPE WAS DRAWN AROUND A STENCIL BEFORE THE BOARD WAS CUT USING A BAND SAW. NEXT, I WORKED ON THE PROFILE OF THE BOARD: THE FRONT AND THE BACK OF THE BOARD NEEDED TO BE RAISED AND SO DID THE MIDDLE OF THE BOARD (ALTHOUGH TO A LESSER EXTENT). THAT WAS OBTAINED BY FORCEFULLY PRESSING THE BOARD (USING WEIGHTS) AGAINST A THICK WOODEN JIG THAT ALREADY HAD THE REQUIRED SHAPE. THE NEXT STEP CONSISTED IN SANDING THE BOARD TO OBTAIN A SMOOTH SURFACE USING DIFFERENT GRADES OF GLASS PAPER. THEN, I DRILLED EIGHT HOLES FOR FIXING THE HARDWEAR.

THE DESIGN THAT I WANTED TO CREATE WAS A BLACK BACKGROUND WITH HAZY GREEN TOUCHES ON THE BOARD'S ENDS. I ACHIEVED THIS BY FIRST APPLYING BLACK PAINT WITH A BRUSH AND, AFTER IT HAD DRIED, SPRAYING GREEN PAINT TO THE FRONT AND BACK. I REALISED, WHEN SPRAY PAINTING, THAT THE GREEN SPRAY PAINT COULD NOT BE EASILY SEEN ON THE BLACK BACKGROUND. TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, I ADDED SOME VIVID YELLOW PAINT. THE RESULTING COLOURS WERE CLOSE TO WHAT I HAD HOPED FOR. WHEN APPLYING SPRAY PAINT TO THE ENDS OF MY BOARD, SOME OF THE PAINT ACCIDENTALLY STAINED THE GROUND. I CREATED A DESIGN USING 2D DESIGN. A STENCIL WAS GENERATED ON THE LASER CUTTER, I SCREWED THE WHEELS ON AND APPLIED GRIP TAPE TO THE UPPER SURFACE. I WAS AMAZED WITH THE FINAL RESULT.

DANIFI DURAND 8PDH.

#### SKATEBOARD CLUB

CREATING A SKATEBOARD WAS FUN AS IT TAUGHT ME HOW TO USE STEM SKILLS. I ESPECIALLY ENJOYED THE PAINTING PROCESS, HOWEVER I DO THINK I COULD CHANGE THE CENTREPIECE. ANOTHER THING I FOUND CHALLENGING WAS CUTTING THE GRIP TAPE AS I FORGOT TO USE THE SCREWDRIVER TO PROFILE IT (MAKING IT EASIER TO CUT TO SIZE/SHAPE). WIKTORIA BZDYRA YEAR 9











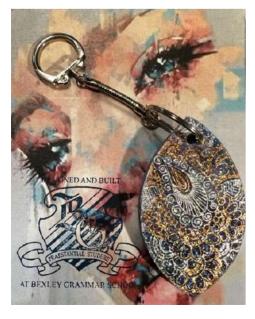
















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A HEARTBREAKING RANGE OF CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY OUR WONDERFUL YEAR 8S THIS YEAR.



I CHOSE THE CHARITY SHELTER FOR MY PROTECT BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK IN REDUCING HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING IN THE UK. THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE I WANT TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT AND DESIGN AFFORDABLE HOUSTING TO HELP STOP HOMELESSINESS.



















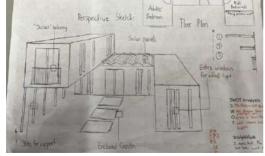


STRUCTURES: WE LOOKED AT USING CONVERTED SHIPPING CONTAINERS TO HELP HOUSE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT ISSUES BEING FACED. HAND DRAWN AND USING AUTO-CAD AND ONLY 12/1 3 YEARS OLD...





LEV G YEAR 8



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THE FINAL PRODUCT IS ANY EXTREMELY PLAYABLE GUITAR (MOSTLY THANKS TO THE TAPERED PRS STYLE NECK AND THE COBALT STRINGS I BOUGHT FOR IT) EXCEPT FOR THE FRET ACCESS WHICH IS REMINISCENT OF AN ACOUSTIC GUITAR AS I HAVE SINCE LEARNED HOW TO ACTUALLY ATTACH THE NECK IN RELATION TO THE CUTAWAYS (WHICH IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY). ALL IN ALL THE GUITAR SOUNDS VERY GOOD WITH THE PUSH/PULL POT (POTENTIOMETER THE BOTTOM DIAL 1) GIVING A WIDER RANGE OF TONAL POSSIBILITIES BY INTRODUCTING THE NECK PICKUP IN POSITIONS 1 AND 2 (BRIDGE, BRIDGE AND NECK) WHICH IS A SOUND REMINISCENT OF PINK FLOYD GUITARIST DAVID GILMOUR (WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO PLAY A BLACK/BLACK STRAT).

AT ENGINEERING CLUB TO WORK TOWARDS AN ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP, I SET MYSELF THE AMBITIOUS CHALLENGE OF BUILDING A FULLY-WORKING ELECTRIC GUITAR. I SET MYSELF THE BRIEF OF BUILDING A COPY OF THE LEGENDARY FENDER STRATOCASTER, THOUGH MANY DESIGN CUES FROM OTHER GUITARS ENDED UP IN THE FINAL PRODUCT (NAMELY A PRS STYLE NECK AND A DISTINCT HINT OF FENDER MUSTANG IN THE BODY). OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS OF DEDICATED WEEKEND SHIFTS I USED MANY TECHNIQUES AKIN TO THOSE USED IN INDUSTRY AND HAD TO OVERCOME MANY PROBLEMS.

THE FIRST STEP AFTER THE INITIAL DESIGNING WAS TO CUT THE BODY OF THE GUITAR. I USED PINE AS THIS IS RELATIVELY CHEAP AND READILY AVAILABLE (ALSO SOUGHT AFTER IN GUITARS AS IT WAS USED IN VERY EARLY MODELS) THOUGH IN REALITY MANY MANUFACTURERS USE ALDER, ASH AND MAHOGANY. FOR ME, THE SHAPING PROCESS WAS A CRUDE COMBINATION OF USING A JIGSAW TO CUT THE ROUGH SHAPE AND THEN USING RASPS AND SPOKESHAVES (A NEAR REDUNDANT FORM OF PLANE SPECIALISING IN CURVES) TO GET THE CLASSIC BEVELLED LOOK. AFTER THIS I USED A ROUTER TO PRODUCE THE CAVITY FOR THE PICKUPS AND WHERE THE NECK MEETS THE BODY. THIS WAS A VERY DELICATE AND TIME CONSUMING PROCESS AS DOMESTIC ROUTERS CAN ONLY TAKE OFF A FEW MILLIMETRES AT A TIME AND THE DEEP SWITCHING MEANT THAT I GOT QUITE CLOSE TO BREAKING THROUGH. THE INDUSTRIAL PROCESS FOR THE ABOVE IS A COMPLEX SERIES OF ROUTERS WHICH ARE ABLE TO PRODUCE THE SHAPE AS WELL AS THE CAVITIES.

THE FINAL STEP WAS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH WHERE ALL OF THE BOUGHT COMPONENTS CAME TOGETHER (NECK, PREWIRED PICKGUARD, BRIDGE, BOAT JACK). THE FIRST STEP HERE WAS TO SOLDER THE PICKUP WIRES TO THE OUTPUT AND TO EARTH THE BRIDGE WHICH WAS AN IMPROVED PROCESS AS MANY GUITARS DO THIS THROUGH THE USE OF A TREMOLO STYLE BRIDGE (FUN FACT: A TREM SYSTEM GIVES YOU VIBRATO [WAVERING PITCH]AND NOT TREMOLO[REPEATED NOTES]) BUT AS I WAS NOT USING ONE OF THOSE I HAVE TO USE AN ADDITIONAL BOLT ON THE BRIDGE WITH AN EARTH WIRE ATTACHED TO IT.

AARON KILEY YEAR 10









RECLAIMING THE WAVES BY MAKING WAVES: THIS PROTECT HAS BEEN ONGOING SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. IT'S NOT BEEN EASY, IN FACT IT'S BEEN QUITE A STRUGGLE, BUT NONE OF THAT IS IMPORTANT NOW BECAUSE THE FIRST SURFBOARD IS ALMOST COMPLETE. OUR MAIN DESIGNER AND MAKER IS NOT MALE AND WE ARE EMPOWERING AND BREAKING STEREOTYPES...BECAUSE WE CAN AND INSPIRED BY A MOVEMENT FROM THE STATES WHICH IS ENCOURAGING PEOPLE OF COLOUR TO TAKE TO THE WAVES. ON THE BACK OF THIS AND GOING FORWARD DT WILL BE RUNNING A KICKSTARTER STYLE CLUB NEXT YEAR. WE ARE EXPECTING THE FIRST FEW SESSIONS TO BE VERY BUSY AS THE WORD SPREADS THROUGH THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. PROJECTS SOMETIMES TAKE ON A LIFE OF THEIR OWN. AND IN THAT CASE THE CLUB SHOULD EXPECT TO SPEND MORE TIME CREATING AND FULFILLING REWARDS REGARDLESS OF YEAR GROUP



THE SHINY BOOT Maker and creator Year 9

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO,

BEXLEYGRAMMARDT



Instagram



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S SPORTS AWARDS WINNERS!

### GCSE student of the year

### Gracie Speak

Gracie stood out as an exceptional GCSE PE student right from the start of the course in Year 10. An obvious love of sport contributed to her success in the subject. Gracie remained enthusiastic in all aspects of the course, demonstrating excellent understanding in the theory, high levels of effort and commitment in the practical and producing a wonderfully written piece of coursework, drawing on her personal experiences as a footballer. More recently Gracie has played for the school netball team and was a key player in the under 16 girls team reaching the Kent Cup football final and then becoming Kent champions. Congratulations Gracie.



### IB student of the year



#### Jessica Bates

Jess is a diligent student with a conscientious and hardworking approach to her studies. As a sport science prefect, she has been an excellent role model to all her peers. Her positive, infectious energy and determination to exceed has enabled her to perform at the highest. We are very proud of Jess; she has been a pleasure to teach and we wish her the very best in the future. Well deserved level 7 IB grade - huge congratulations!

#### Team of the year - boys

## Year I Rugby

Our year 9 rugby team have made huge strides this season and notched up some impressive performances to go unbeaten this year. The game against a strong Wilmington Grammar School was a particular highlight. This team has quite a low level of experience, but their athleticism and skill ensures they are able to perform at a very high level. They are also a really great group of boys to work with, and always represent the school so well when we play our matches. Thank you for a great season gentlemen.



### Team of the year - girls



# U16 Girls Football



This team made a promising start to girls football by winning the Welling football tournament as a warm up for the U16 Kent Cup final. Since Year 7 they have always shown the potential to succeed and we were proud to watch them roar to victory against Farringtons in the final to hold the title of Kent champions. We can't wait to see future successes when you move to the U18s next season. Congratulations to: Hannah, Scarlett, Mya, Lily, Freya Bucksey, Freya Bibby, Isabel, Daisy, Gracie, Emily, Neve, Chloe and Summer.

## Sportsman of the year 7

#### Ikenna Azodah

Ikenna represents much of what we are hoping to achieve with our year 7 students. He has attended almost every extra-curricular club, and made a huge contribution to the life of sport at Bexley Grammar School. He has played for the rugby, basketball and football teams in the earlier part of the year. The summer term has been arguably his best chance to shine - he won the 100m at our sports day and at the Bexley Schools Athletics Championships, and then won a bronze medal at the Kent Schools Athletics Championships.



## Sportsman of the year 8

### Caspar Nalepa



Caspar continues to represent the school brilliantly. He is undoubtedly one of the stars of our strong year 8 rugby team, a ferocious tackler and strong ball carrier who always causes our opposition problems. A treat for this year was seeing Caspar able to show off his swimming prowess in our gala vs Colfe's and Alleyn's where he powered to victory against students in year 10. Caspar is always keen and ready to play, and is a pleasure to work with.

## Sportsman of the year 9

#### Matthew Smith

Matthew might be the most talented all-round sportsman at BGS. He is a district cricketer, and leads our year 9 team with distinction. He is a key member of the rugby team and, although he isn't the biggest, his super-competitiveness and strong technique mean he is both a great defender and dangerous attacking threat. Matthew is also a very talented hockey player outside school and has many other skills up his sleeve. I'm sure we could put any form of bat or ball in Smithy's hand and he'd be very comfortable. Well done Matthew.



# Sportsman of the year Ks4/5



Riley is often one of the first names on the team sheet due to the excellent balance he provides the team playing at left wing back or left wing. He has an excellent left foot, but displays confidence with his right foot too. He's strong in the air, good in the tackle and deceptively quick. He's versatile, playing central midfield when needed, and reliable, popping up with important goals and assists throughout the season. This is what has led to him being a constant feature in the North Kent Cup winning team with his Yr 11 peers. Riley's confidence and passion rubs off on others and he uses this to encourage those around him to play their best too.

Riley Woods



# Sportswoman of the year 7

Sophie Black

Sophie is a fantastic sportswoman who has attended lots of extra-curricular clubs this year. She is a county Netball player and represents Kent County Netball Club who have competed at a regional level this season. At school, Sophie captained the Year 7 Netball team to victory in the Bexley Schools Tournament, showing great leadership in a variety of positions. Sophie has also represented BGS the Colfes Swimming Gala in March where she achieved a top 3 spot in her event. She has also participated in the Rounders team, where she played a pivotal role at back stop and 2nd base, with the team achieving 3rd in Bexley. Sophie is thoroughly deserving of this award, her commitment to training and fixtures and her very humble approach to school sport has been a huge benefit to the success of our teams, and a great help to her peers. Well done Sophie!



### Sportswoman of the year 8



Charlie Furlong

Charlie is an all-round sportswoman, who participates in almost every extra-curricular club here at Bexley Grammar. Charlie is a member of Beacons Netball club and Greenwich Tritons Triathlon club and excels in both sports. She has represented BGS in Netball,

Rounders, Swimming, Tennis and Athletics this year and on occasions has captained. In Netball, Charlie has been a superstar, playing in a variety of positions to strengthen the team. She helped the team to secure many victories this year and 2nd in the Bexley Schools tournament. At the Colfes Swimming Gala in March where the Year 8 team secured first place in the freestyle relay. Charlie's impressive attitude and commitment in training has really helped those around her and we encourage her to keep up the hard work!

Well done Charlie and a very well deserved award!

### Sportswoman of the year 9

Alice Black

Alice is a very talented Netball player, who represents Kent County Netball Club and Kent County in local, regional and national leagues. Her Netball team secured the title of league champions this season. Throughout her time at BGS Alice has played a vital role in the school Netball team, dominating in attack (even though her prefered position is in defence!). Alice has further talents in the pool where she competed for BGS at the Colfes Swimming Gala in March. She managed to secure first place in her two events; 100m Individual Medley and 50m Freestyle.





# Sportswoman of the year Ks4/5

Megan Ulooton

Megan is thoroughly deserving of this award. A Kent and Regional area swimmer, butterfly being her qualifying stroke, over no less



area swimmer, butterfly being her qualifying stroke, over no less than 3 distances; 50m, 100m and 200m, achieving impressive results. Megan's prowess in the water extends beyond that of butterfly, as she dominated her races at Colfes back in March, across 50m in freestyle, breastroke, backstroke and of course butterfly. Inspirational to the rest of the Bexley Grammar swim squad. Megan enjoys giving back to the sport by volunteering to coach youngsters aged 4 to 8 at Waves. "It's nice to share my love of sport and teach an important skill." She says. Megan's enthusiasm and dedication extends into her sporting life at school. She enjoys a variety of activities and has played for the school netball team. Most recently she has included climbing in her list of sports that she is excelling in. Congratulations Megan.

### Sports Leaders of the Year Ks 4

For outstanding contribution to leadership in Physical Education

Harry Adby
and
Divani
Magulathas



Harry and Divani share this award for their outstanding level of enthusiasm and delivery of sporting opportunities to others. Harry was a key member of the Year 10 sports leaders organising a tennis competition for Year 3 & 4 pupils from local primary schools. His manner and encouragement ensured that all pupils had a wonderful experience. Divani had a great opportunity to share her love of cricket during the Primary Cricket Festival for Year 5 & 6 pupils from the borough. Her knowledge, excellent officiating skills and inspiring nature contributed to the event being a huge success. Well done to both!



### Sports Leaders of the Year Ks 5

Timothy and Milly share this award for their contribution to the organisation of our two main Bexley Athletics Championships in 2022. Timothy is a highly qualified athletics volunteer and his experience and help was invaluable in the smooth running of those competitions. Milly assisted both with the running of events, and also in support of our athletes themselves, who benefited greatly from her help.



Timothy Masters
and
Milly Hooton



### Speech Day Prizes

#### **Don Wellman Cup for outstanding** contribution to School Sport





#### Shrenik Chouta

Shrenik received our top award for his overall contribution to school sport throughout his 7 years at BGS. It has been a pleasure to see him grow into such a talented sportsman and student. Shrenik has represented the school in football, basketball, athletics and cricket and studied PE at GCSE and Sports Science at IB level. He has also helped coach teams and refereed matches and can be relied upon to help out whenever possible. His crowning achievement is making his first appearance for Kent Cricket this summer. We are very proud of Shrenik and wish him all the best for the future.

#### Freya Bucksey

A talented and exceptional all rounder, congratulations go to Freya for her continued football success leading the BGS U16 girls football team to victory firstly in the Welling Tournament and the U16 Kent Cup. An invaluable member of the team; competitive, determined and a key team player has resulted in her successfully gaining her place in the Kent team and gaining her well deserved place on the school honours board.



#### John Collins Cup for outstanding achievement in Football



#### **Lesley Gentry Memorial prize Cricket**





Matthew is awarded this prize for his leadership of the year 9 cricket team this year, and his consistently high standard of play both with bat and ball.

#### Harry Kitchener Harry has been an invaluable member of the tennis squad at BGS. His performances are always assured and

his ability to play some difficult shots and make them look easy is a credit to his technique. In addition to his tennis skills, whether he is in a winning position or not, he seems to really enjoy all aspects of the game and plays with a huge smile. We are hopeful that his recent trip to Wimbledon with the school to watch the professionals will inspire Harry to keep on progressing



**Lesley Gentry Memorial prize Tennis** 



Year 12 PE



### Hannah Monksfield

Hannah is a superstar. Not only is she a fabulous Sports Science student, but also a fantastic sports leader. This year Hannah has helped with Year 7&8 Netball club and Rounders club, helping to inspire our younger students.

She has planned challenging training sessions and supported our teams within fixtures. She, alongside other year 12 students, have played a hugely important role in developing our younger students. Hannah is a keen netball player herself, competing in local leagues for Hornets Netball Club.

Alongside this Hannah is amongst our most able Year 12 Sport Science students. She is a hardworking and dedicated student who achieves well in all aspects of the course. We are extremely lucky to have Hannah on our course and we wish her every success in the coming year. Thank you & congratulations Hannah!

#### Geography news.



#### Y10 Geography fieldwork trip to Stratford and Epping Forest

By Ella Curl and Chloe Box, Year 10.

Last week Year 10 Geography students were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go on two amazing trips for the fieldwork portion of our GCSE's. We travelled by coach on Wednesday to East Village and Olympic Park in Stratford, East London, to investigate the success of the regeneration that took place there, and were able to work on a range of geographical field work skills such as predicting, surveying, map reading and even got to ask some questions to the local community about their views on the sustainability of the regeneration. Alongside instructors from FSC we all had a great time in the hot weather and the open green spaces in East Village.

#### **Year 7 Geography Docklands Diploma**

#### How successful was the London Docklands Regeneration Project?

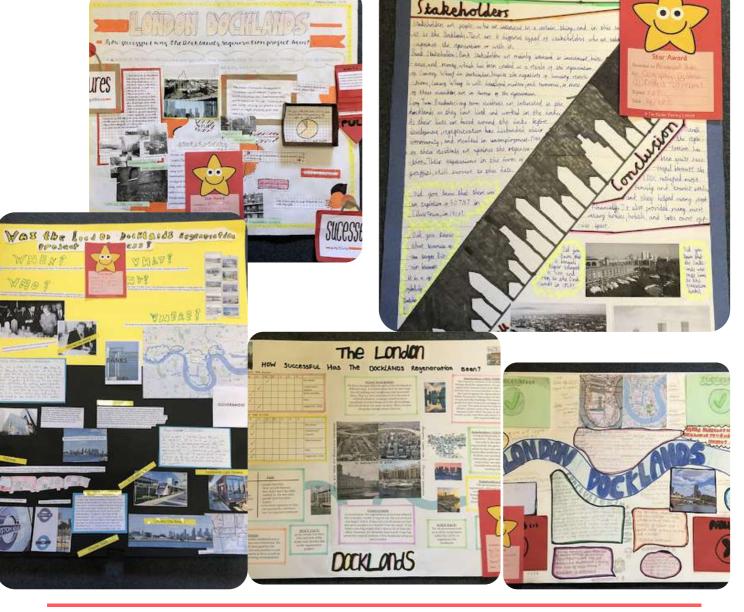
7STA



We are really pleased to share the wonderful work of the Year 7 Geography classes created as their Diploma Task.

Congratulations to all those who passed, were awarded a merit for their magnificent work and those who achieved a distinction for exceptional work. We have been impressed by the mapwork and fieldwork skills completed as well as the high levels of analysis and evaluation. Congratulations Year 7!

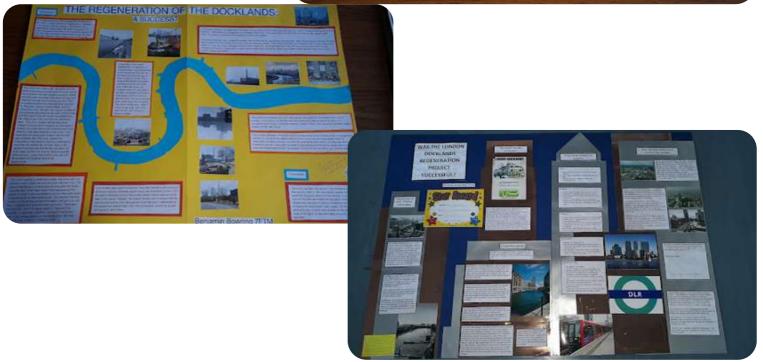
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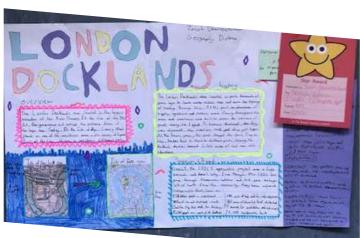
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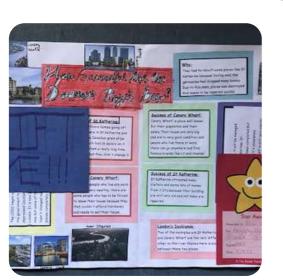


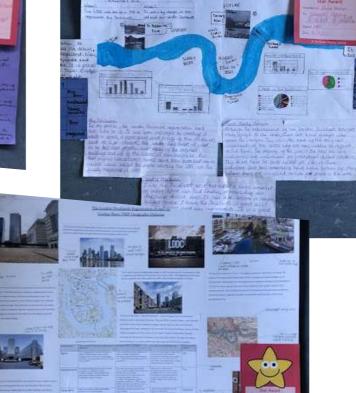




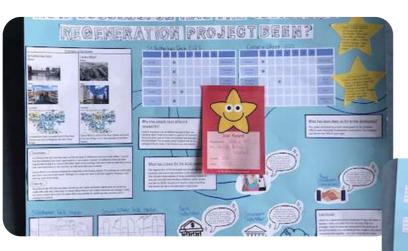
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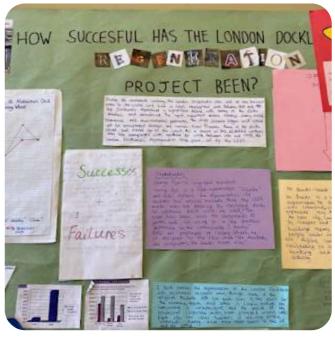


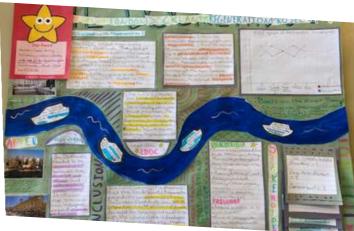
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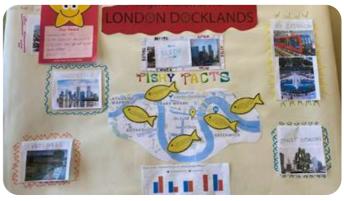






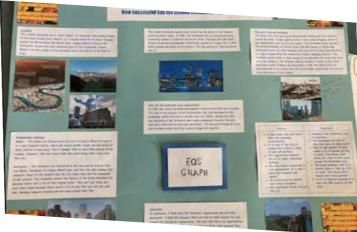






#### **7J00**

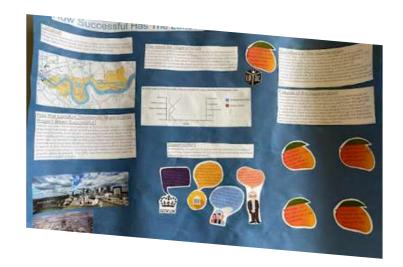


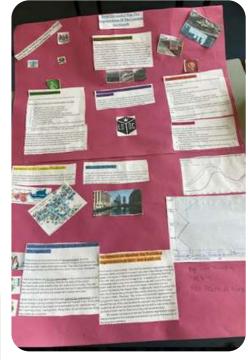


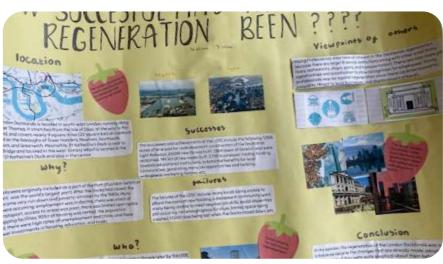




#### **7MAM**







# Excellent work year 7!

## FBCS NEWS

### Year 7 end of year reflection: Why is it important to learn about different religions and belief

systems?

FBCS in year 7 has been one of my most interesting and informative subjects, and I've thoroughly enjoyed learning about beliefs and opinions involving religion. This year, we focused on religions and how different religious believers would live and think. Personally, my favourite topic has been about Humanism, because of how radical, controversial and different it's been to our other topics.

I think that FBCS is important to learn in school, because a person's religion or beliefs are a key part of their identity. Learning about different ways of thinking benefits us by building our general understanding of society. The focus on human behaviours also helps us to form or adopt our own opinions and ideas, making it a relevant subject for the 21st century.

Recently, we were asked the question: 'Does God really exist?', and evaluated different arguments for and against. We also learned about how famous Humanists (who are either atheist or agnostic) answered this question, as well as other questions that relate to how they makes sense of this life and what happens after we die. I believe that questioning God's existence is critical, as it allows us to rethink our beliefs. And it's quite fascinating to see how people have answered this question over the centuries. Hopefully next year will be just as good.

**BY EMILY CHAN, 7JOO** 





"In my opinion, I think that it is extremely important to learn about other religions, because when learning about them, you are broadening your knowledge, you understand how to be respectful and are aware that people following a religion may face some problems. If we were to not learn about this, then we may accidentally be unkind, or disrespectful to a religious person. For instance, if you meet somebody who is a Muslim and they can only eat 'halal' foods and you have a pack of sweets made with pork gelatine and you decide to share it with all of your friends. If every one of your friends gets a sweet, but the Muslim friend doesn't, they may feel left out or lonely which may upset them. Another example is that you meet a Sikh person and you notice that they are dressed differently to you. Rather than you saying that they are different and being rude, you can now understand the reason why they may wear a bracelet or a small sword, called a kirpan, which are part of the 5 K's. Lastly, you might follow a different religion to someone else, but you might be learning about their beliefs. If this is the case, may disagree with their beliefs, but there is a difference between disagreeing and disrespecting. Therefore, I think that it is vital to be able to learn about other religions and to be able to help and be kind to anybody regardless of what religion they follow, and not discriminate against them."

BY MAX KONOSONOKS, 7MPM

## Year 8 end of year reflection: How does my faith impact my attitudes to social issues?

#### BY OMOLADE PAUL-TAIWO, YEAR 8.

In the summer term, year 8s have been discussing some serious societal issues, such as sexism and gender based violence. Sometimes, these issues are directly mentioned in religious works, sometimes, they are vaguely mentioned, and some are not mentioned at all.

By interpreting scriptures such as the Bible, the Quran, Vedic texts or the Buddhist Tripitaka, we have explored how these can influence believer's attitudes towards sexism and gender inequality, LGBT rights and racism.

As of the last century, efforts have been made to achieve equality between men and women - back then, there was a more binary sense of thinking when referring to gender - which includes the right to vote, introductions of women to jobs originally thought of as meant for men, and feminist movements dedicated to improving conditions further.

Christians' opinions on the matter could be widely different, depending on kind (e.g. Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopalian etc.), and interpretation. The Bible is a compilation of texts, made by several authors, so there are times where the Bible ostensibly contradicts itself. In Genesis 1:27, it states (from the NIV version), 'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.' This suggests that men and women are physically equal, with none having clear superiority over the other. But in 1 Corinthians 11.3, "[Paul wants] you [the Corinthians] to understand that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." This suggests a completely different viewpoint - though this is from a mainly religious perspective, it still suggests that women are subject to men, if not always, at least in marriage and the family. In very conservative Christian households, it may still be believed that the father, at least, is the main breadwinner of the family. As a Christian myself, we are somewhat more liberal with our interpretation of gender roles, given that my mother does not just work at home, and that parental responsibility is shared.

The Quran, the Islam holy text, is somewhat similar. 4:124 quotes from translation that "... whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, while being a believer - those will enter Paradise and will not be wronged..." This means that people, regardless of their sex and gender, will receive just heavenly reward after death for their deeds. Despite this, in a number of Muslim households, women can only receive permission to marry from male relatives, which could suggest that women are the property of men - at least in my interpretation of things. More conservative Muslim households are likely to follow this, but some households may be more comfortable with women making their own decisions on whom to marry.

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The LGBTQIA+ community is a very controversial topic when it comes to religion. Others of the same faith may accept, while others may outwardly show disapproval - among many of the reasons that coming out to parents can be hard for people in the community. In the Bible, there are various views on it. The book of Leviticus, specifically Chapter 18, Verse 22 states that "you must not lie with a man as with a woman; that is an abomination." "Abomination", or "detestable" in some versions, suggests that homosexuality is something to be hated. Nevertheless, in the Gospel Books (i.e. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), new rules are set in place. Jesus says, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." [Matthew 7:1-2], to "love your neighbour as yourself." [Mark 12:31] and 'love one another.' [John 13:34] As these are said by Jesus, who is an instrumental basis of Christian beliefs, they also ought to be considered when bringing up homophobia due to conservatism.

In Buddhism, reactions to LGBTQ+ are mixed. The Dalai Lama has mentioned that "... [he is] a Buddhist and, for a Buddhist, a relationship between two men is wrong. Some sexual conduct in marriage is also wrong." Though he tolerates it, he does specify that from a Buddhist perspective, it is improper, which may tell us about some Buddhist sections' reactions to the community.

The last area of this essay to tackle is racism. Hinduism and Islam do have their caveats, as well as their benefits. In Hinduism, the caste system is very prominent, and though it is mainly in the class section, the 'Untouchables' (aka the lowest level of the caste system) were, and in some cases, still are, scorned due to their status in the caste. Sometimes, people of darker skin tones are lower down in the caste system, which can be seen as very problematic. However, despite this, beliefs include a person's atman, equivalent to a soul, which is completely independent of outward appearance.

Meanwhile, Islam's views on it can be said to have changed. During the era of Muhammad, identities were formed, usually on ethnic and tribal lines, despite the Quran stating that Allah (God in Arabic) made everyone equal.

Through certain religious texts, viewpoints have, and can be, developed, changed or outright challenged, but in spite of religious differences, there is one thing that we can agree on in Bexley Grammar: that opinions must be treated with



## BGS Musical production



By Estefania Da Silva Bigott, Year 12

A carnivorous plant has been spotted somewhere in Bexley Grammar School's halls, and it sure thrived there on the 8th of July 2022, when a full house indulged on the staging of the musical comedy. Little Shop of Horrors, based on the Roger Corman movie about a flower shop employee who unknowingly tends to a bloodthirsty venus flytrap in hopes of winning the heart of his kind and friendly co-worker. Seymour Krelborn, played by William Henderson, is a walking "lovable nerd" trope, easily influenced by those around him and seemingly brought up to believe he doesn't deserve love or human decency unless he makes something out of himself (a common behaviour among the casualties of his neighbourhood, the notorious Skid Row). He's clumsy, nerdy and smitten with Leila Thaifa's soulful character Audrey, the victim of her sadistic, nitrogen-oxide addicted boyfriend. Orin Scrivello, DDS, played by Harizaka Ramanoelina.

The production deals with dark themes, such as poverty! domestic violence, greed and the cut-throat nature of the American Dream ideology, with refreshing comedic satire complemented with some 60s Bubblegum Pop. all done by the live band right next to the audience. The play itself is not supposed to be taken too seriously, but it elegantly presents the consequences of generational trauma and how it affects Seymour's and Audrey's relationships. Because they have never been in any other kind of relationship - Seymour being a Skid Row orphan. Audrey having been left by her father at a young age and raised by her impoverished mother - they enter abusive ones since hurt has started to seem and feel like love. When they eventually come to one another. Seymour has internalised violence and transformed into a reluctant psychopath and Audrey can't see herself as anything more than a victim due to her inferiority complex, contrasting their relationship's sly innocence.

Regardless, none of the characters in Little Shop are completely good or bad. Even the detestable Orin has his funny, relatable moments during his musical monologue "Dentist!". Mr Mushnik who's played by Maximilliam Armstrong-Moullinie, Seymour's dishonest and stingy mentor, repeatedly exploits him yet has amazing chemistry with him and at times shows some genuine concern for him. However, what all characters have in common is their clinging to their dreams and hopes for the future. Audrey's musical solo "Somewhere That's Green" is the perfect example: in it, she expresses her desire to leave the urban Skid Row and Scrivello, marrying Seymour and live on "a little street in a little suburb." with a washer, a toaster and a television - luxuries that are practically unknown to her. Most importantly, she wishes for a loving and supportive family.

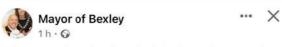
And she comes pretty close to it: as soon as Audrey II begins growing, all three Mushnik's Flower Shop employees are suddenly propelled into the kind of fame that is typically reserved for lottery winners. In addition, with Orin gone (and by gone. I mean smothered, dissected and eaten). Seymour and Audrey can finally confess their feelings for each other. Audrey II attracts all sorts of attention — TV producers, botanists and scientists flood in trying to get Seymour to sign one of their contracts and showcase the perennial droseraceae to the world, making Seymour a very wealthy man. This creates a parallel between Seymour and other characters of modernist literature such as Jay Gatsby from The Great Gatsby. Emma from Madame Bovary and Clarissa Dalloway from Mrs Dalloway.

Since its foundation, the idea that one may rise from poverty to affluence through hard labour has been a central part of the American identity. European settlers travelled west to America in search of prosperity and freedom. Although Audrey II's development of a conscience could just be a fictional, dramatic plot twist, it could also be a representation of the tainted American Oream. The goal of constructing a life has been replaced with the goal of being wealthy, at all costs. Seymour views money as the answer to all of his problems, seeks it through unscrupulous means (to the point where he betrays the people closest to him, to be precise), and ends up feeling hollow and estranged from the person he was before, as noble as his initial intentions were. Horribly good.

Taking part in 'Little Shop of Horrors' has truly been amazing. Since we haven't performed in a while due to COVID. the spirit of this show was just incredible— the energy on stage and backstage was something we had missed and we all couldn't wait to get back to. All the students and teachers have put so much time (and we mean a lot of time) into making this possible, and the result is something that we should all be very proud

From the countless rehearsals going over harmonies and dance moves to practising 'being eaten' and picking up the right phone, there have been some "strange and interesting" aspects of putting this show together. It's not often that you get to be a part of a show with such a brilliant band and cast, and whilst it's been a long process, it goes to show that hard work really does pay off. We would all like to say a big thank you to all of the teachers involved for even making this show possible, as well as the amazing tech and backstage crew for actually making us visible and heard (when we're supposed to be). If we've learned one thing from this experience, it would definitely be "don't feed the plants".

by Hannah Monksfield



What a good production of Little Shop of Horrors, by Bexley grammar school. Those young people who performed were absolutely great. Brilliant orchestra as well.

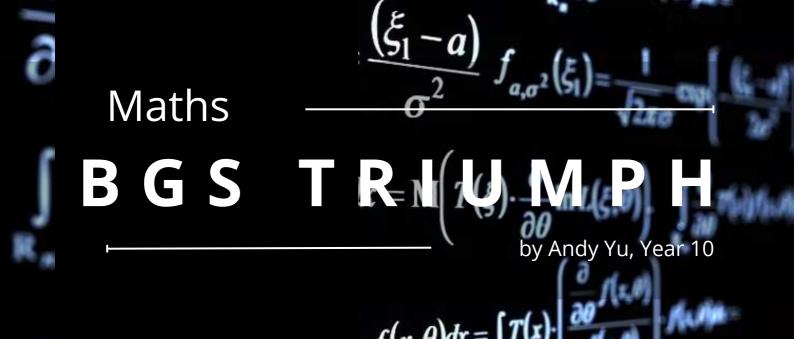












## A very enjoyable and challenging tournament!

On 13th July 2022, Ethan, Megan, Freddie and Zoe in Team A and Theo, Haris, Daisy and me in Team B set off to Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar to compete in a Year 10 Maths tournament, hosted by AMSP - and we came first place! It was a very tight race - Newstead got 3rd with 116/123, Chis and Sid got 2nd with 116.5/123, and we came first with just 117/123! The questions were at about GCSE-level, although some were deceptively hard given we couldn't use calculators! They were quite logic-based and you didn't need much specific knowledge of Maths, although there was quite a bit of mental maths involved.

() amsp

There were four rounds of questions: the first round had 5 questions with a total of 40 marks; the second round had 4 questions also with a total of 40 marks; the third round was a cardsorting activity where we paired certain questions with certain answers (for 23 marks). For the final round (with 20 marks), each team was split into 2 pairs, where a pair would solve a problem and then tell the other the team answer. because they need it to solve their problem, before passing answer onto the 1st pair to solve their problem etc. If a pair gets one wrong, they lose a mark but the correct answer is given anyway (so there won't be carrying errors).

It was very fun to take part in this competition and I'm very proud of how we did! Everyone on the team contributed as we did lots of crosschecking between different people for each question. I think personally liked the final round the most, mostly because everyone was constantly active solving something while waiting for the other pair and there was never time to get bored. It was very enjoyable experience and I hope Bexley Grammar can get to compete next year!



Haris Dalipi, Teddy Graham, Andy Yu and Daisy Rowland receiving a copy of *Things* to *Make and do in the Fourth Dimension*, by Matt Parker

## English Department

#### Highlights

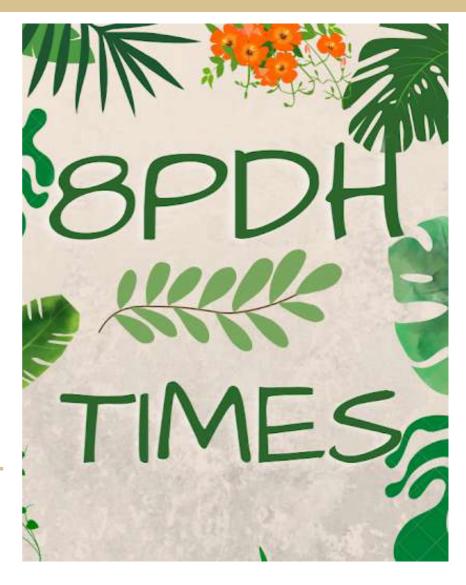
**500 Word Short Story Competition** 

Year 8 Group Magazine Project

'Read Around The World Book Challenge'

BGS Summer Fayre: BGS BOOKS!

**KS5 Book Club** 



by Lora Stancheva, Karl Brown, Sophia Barry, Rachel Smith, Malo Fowle and Georgia Holman English Prefects - Year 12

This term, the English Department has been offered many exciting, collaborative and compelling activities which have allowed students across the school to engage with their English learning beyond the classroom. Take a look at some of these activities below:

#### **500 Word Short Story Competition**

The Short Story Competition involved children in Year 7 writing a short story of their choice with Emily Chan from 7JOO taking first place. In close second was Zuza Mainka Pearson from 7FTM and in third place, we had Arjun Manivannan in 7MPM. Well done to the winners and to all students for such an impressive start to English at BGS!



#### Year 8 Group Magazine Project

Over the past few weeks, Year 8s had the amazing opportunity to put together a magazine, filled with different, exciting articles about a wide range of topics. It was a difficult decision to make, as there were so many amazing magazines in each class. After much deliberation, our congratulations go to students in 8PDH for winning the best magazine! The group filled their magazine with colour, creativity and compassion; our favourite article was their 'celebrity interview' with their Form Tutor, and we especially enjoyed the funky transitions throughout the magazine.



to Naima, Bess, Mia, Eloise and Rafael!

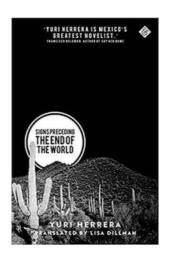
#### 'Read Around The World Book Challenge'

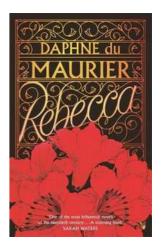
Year 7 and 8 students have had the opportunity to partake in a 'Read Around The World Book Challenge' - a joint venture between the school library and the English Department. This has been a wonderful chance for students to read a wide range of stories with settings or authors from around the world.



#### **Ks5 Book Club**

Another exciting aspect of the English department is the KS5 Book Club, where each term we read an exhilarating new book and discuss anything that we found thought-provoking. Throughout the year, we have explored a variety of genres - from borderline existentialist books, such as 'Signs Preceding the End of the World', to modern classics such as 'Rebecca'. My current favourite is 'Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit' where the author narrates from the perspective of a young girl attempting to make sense of the world, pushing against rigid religious customs and her mother's almost oppressively 'traditional' nature.







With the chance to experience a wide range of books from a variety of time periods, anybody could find a book that captivates them - which only made it all the more exciting. The Club continues in September with new members always welcome.

#### **Creative Writing Club**

This term has seen the continuation of the weekly Creative Writing club, where the department's Prefects have seen dozens of enthusiastic and extremely talented young writers in action. They have eagerly responded to various prompts, prepared by Prefects, to take their stories to a new level. We have seen a wide range of brilliant stories, ranging from horror tales to love stories, or even taking us on trips around the world! We have been extremely impressed by the students' abilities to develop on the previously mentioned prompts, creating characters, tension and excitement in just half an hour of writing!



Having seen such a positive engagement from these students, we hope they continue to attend next year and perhaps encourage others to join. Finally, we would like to thank and congratulate our KS3 participants for all their contributions this year, regarding the quality of their writing as well as their consistent attendance and energy throughout!

It has been a pleasure!

#### **BGS Summer Fayre: BGS BOOKS!**

At the BGS Summer Fayre, the English Department, Mrs Carey the school librarian, her student assistants and the Y12 English Prefects organised an excellent book stall. The objective was simple: to encourage people of all ages to read more! Furthermore, the majority of books sold that day were donations kindly handed in to the school. We were able to raise over £400: a brilliant achievement. We would like to thank those who bought and donated books that day. We hope that we can put together another event and raise even more!



## House News

#### SUMMER TERM

AS WE COME TO THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR WE SAY GOODBYE TO TWO OF OUR HEADS OF HOUSE. MR WARD (WELLMAN 2014 - 2022) AND MR SETHI (PROTHERO 2019 - 2022). I'D LIKE TO SAY A BIG 'THANK YOU' FOR ALL THE WORK THEY HAVE DONE WITHIN THE HOUSE SYSTEM DURING THEIR TIME AS HEAD OF HOUSE, BOTH ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN EVENTS AND HELPING OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS TAKE ON THEIR HOUSE CAPTAIN ROLES WITH ENTHUSIASM. MISS GABRIEL (MABBS) IS ALSO CURRENTLY ON MATERNITY LEAVE SO WE WILL HAVE THREE NEW HEADS OF HOUSE IN SEPTEMBER: MISS BELLINGHAM (WELLMAN). MISS ASHMAN (PROTHERO) AND MR HANSFORD (MABBS). I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THEM JOINING OUR TEAM.

**CURRENT STANDINGS:** 

Total	80	67	69	78	81	86
OVERALL RANK	Third	Sixth	Fifth	Fourth	Second	First

1ST WELLMAN

86 POINTS

2ND PROTHERO

81 POINTS

3RD COLLINS

80 POINTS

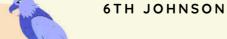
4TH MABBS

78 POINTS



**5TH KIRKMAN** 

59 POINTS



ON 67 POINTS

MRS SNELLING HOUSE LEADER

## A message from the Heads of House:

JOHNSON HOUSE



I WRITE THIS REPORT ON WHAT IS THREATENING TO BE ONE OF THE HOTTEST DAYS OF THE YEAR SO FAR, AND SHORTLY BEFORE THE INAUGURAL GIRLS' HOUSE CRICKET COMPETITION AND OUR DAY OF SUMMER SPORTS, WHERE ABOUT HALF THE SCHOOL WILL BE OUT ON THE FIELD WORKING HARD FOR SUCCESS.

WE'VE HAD ANOTHER POSITIVE YEAR IN JOHNSON, AND I CONFESS THAT I HAVE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION LOOKED AT THE HOUSE CUP WINNERS' BOARD IN THE HALL AND SMILED AT THE FACT THAT JOHNSON IS UP THERE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. HAVING SECURED THE LOCKDOWN CUP, IT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A CHALLENGE TO DELIVER ANOTHER VICTORY, BUT WE DID IT. THAT IS DOWN IN NO SMALL PART TO MY AMAZING TEAM OF HOUSE CAPTAINS - A GROUP WHO, COLLECTIVELY, MAY HAVE DONE MORE THAN ANY OTHER TEAM THAT I'VE WORKED WITH. LED TIRELESSLY BY TOLU OLATERU AND SUPPORTED BY THE EFFERVESCENT SHRENIK CHOUTA AND THE REST OF THE TEAM, OUR HOUSE LEADERS DEMONSTRATED REPEATEDLY THAT THEY WERE UP TO THE CHALLENGE OF RETAINING THE HOUSE CUP. I'M DELIGHTED TO SAY THAT OUR NEW TEAM, LED BY HANNAH MONKSFIELD AND KATIE NEICHO, SEEMS TO BE SIMILARLY DRIVEN.

TO WIN THE HOUSE COMPETITION REQUIRES CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF EVENTS. OUR RECENT ACHILLES' HEEL, THE MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCE, WAS WELL AND TRULY REHABILITATED THIS YEAR. WE CAME SECOND IN THE MUSICALS-THEMED MUSIC COMPETITION WITH AN IMPRESSIVE COMBINATION OF I KNOW HIM SO WELL AND SINCERELY ME, FROM CHESS AND DEAR EVAN HANSEN RESPECTIVELY, IMPRESSIVELY ARRANGED AND COORDINATED BY MIA LIND. OUR PERFORMANCE IN THE DRAMA AND DANCE COMPETITION, WHERE WE AGAIN CAME SECOND, WAS A MOVING INTERPRETATION OF HANSEL AND GRETEL. IT FEATURED THE STANDOUT DANCE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMPETITION WITH A NUMBER THAT WAS EXPERTLY CHOREOGRAPHED BY TOLU AND EXECUTED BRILLIANTLY BY A CAST FEATURING STUDENTS FROM Y7 ALL THE WAY UP TO Y13.

Y7-10 BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS SAW JOHNSON STUDENTS WIN 46/48
AVAILABLE POINTS, AND OCCURRED ON THE DAY WHEN MOMENTUM SHIFTED
DECISIVELY IN JOHNSON'S FAVOUR. FROM THAT POINT ONWARDS THERE WAS NO
LOOKING BACK, AND WE HELD ON TO THE LEAD FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR,
DESPITE FACING A STRONG (AND WORRYING!) CHALLENGE FROM PROTHERO FOR
THE REMAINDER OF THE COMPETITION. IMPROVING OUR BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAMS
WOULD SEEM TO BE A PRIORITY THIS YEAR, TO PROTECT THOSE OF US WITH A
NERVOUS DISPOSITION AS THE END OF THE HOUSE YEAR APPROACHES!

I WHAT HAS BEEN MOST PLEASING THIS YEAR, I THINK, IS TO HAVE SEEN THE CONSISTENT EFFORT THAT WAS PUT IN BY STUDENTS ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE COMPETITION. JOHNSON HOUSE WAS SEEMINGLY FLOUNDERING IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS, REMAINING IN FIFTH OR SIXTH PLACE FOR A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF EVENTS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY TO BE DISHEARTENED, BUT SUCH WAS THE RESILIENCE OF THE HOUSE CAPTAINS AND OUR AMAZING STUDENTS THAT THEY JUST KEPT CHIPPING AWAY AT THE LEAD OTHERS HAD OVER US, AND THAT ATTITUDE ULTIMATELY GAINED ITS REWARD. IT WOULD BE NAIVE TO THINK THAT ATTITUDE IS ALL THAT IT TAKES, BUT IT HELPS HUGELY. SOMETHING ELSE THAT GAVE US A SIGNIFICANT BOOST WAS THE ARRIVAL OF 7STA IN SEPTEMBER. OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS HAVE BROUGHT A HUGE AMOUNT OF ENERGY AND A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TALENT AND ENTHUSIASM. I CAN ALREADY SEE IN THEM, AS IN OTHER FORMS, POTENTIAL FUTURE HOUSE CAPTAINS. I WILL FINISH THIS REPORT WITH SOMETHING I WOULDN'T NORMALLY INCLUDE, AND THAT'S A PARTICULAR MENTION OF TWO STUDENTS WHO, SADLY, WILL BE LEAVING BGS THIS SUMMER, BUT WHO HAVE ENCAPSULATED TOTALLY WHAT I LOVE BEST ABOUT BEING A HEAD OF HOUSE. GABRIELLA AKANBI AND EVA WANG, BOTH OF 8ARM, HAVE THROWN THEMSELVES INTO JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING THEY COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AT BGS, INCLUDING AS MANY HOUSE EVENTS AS POSSIBLE. IN JUST TWO YEARS THEY HAVE MADE THEMSELVES INDISPENSABLE, WHICH MEANS THAT THEIR DEPARTURE TO PASTURES NEW WILL BE PARTICULARLY HARD FELT. THIS PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ALL THAT THEY'VE DONE FOR JOHNSON HOUSE AND FOR BGS WILL EMBARRASS THEM, BUT I DON'T CARE! THEY HAVE SET A STANDARD FOR ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION THAT, WERE IT TO BE REPLICATED IN ALL JOHNSON STUDENTS, WOULD ENSURE TOTAL DOMINATION OF THE HOUSE COMPETITION FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. I WISH THEM, AND ALL OUR OTHER JOHNSON STUDENTS WHO WILL BE MOVING ON AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, A BRIGHT AND SUCCESSFUL FUTURE. THAT'S IT FROM ME. ROLL ON THE SUMMER! GO JOHNSON! MR ASKER

#### KIRKMAN HOUSE



OUR PLACING AT THE END OF THE HOUSE YEAR AT EASTER DID NOT REFLECT THE FANTASTIC LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION AND TEAMWORK!

AFTER A COUPLE OF DIFFICULT YEARS IT WAS REALLY GREAT TO SEE LARGE NUMBERS INVOLVED IN THE MUSIC AND THE DRAMA/DANCE, AS WELL AS ALL THE SPORTS EVENTS.

SPECIAL SUCCESSES IN TERMS OF RANK WERE INTER CRICKET, FOOTBALL (GIRLS AND BOYS) AND TABLE TENNIS, JUNIOR TENNIS AND SOME GREAT SECOND PLACES, AND SENIOR FOOTBALL AS WELL AS A GREAT SECOND PLACE IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY.

WE ALSO WON THE BOTTLE TOP COMPETITION!

SO WE CLEARLY HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF TALENT, AND THE TEAM NURTURING THIS PROMISING START IS A NEW DREAM TEAM: WELCOME TO MAX, MARIE, LEILA, JACK, JANO, FAVOUR, LORA, IZZIE, BEN AND TOM, AND THANK YOU TO AIMEE, OLIVER, JAKE, ADAM, MARIUSZ, SIMRAN AND DEBORAH FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK. HOWEVER, I AM GENUINELY MOST DELIGHTED ABOUT THE HIGH ENTHUSIASM AND PARTICIPATION LEVELS IN EVIDENCE, LONG MAY THIS CONTINUE AND LET'S GET THE CUP BACK THIS YEAR!

#### MISS FISHER



#### COLLINS HOUSE



IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL SUMMER TERM FULL OF COMPETITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS. THE FIRST SUMMER FAYRE AND SPORTS DAY THAT MOST STUDENTS HAD EXPERIENCED AND THE EFFORT AND ENTHUSIASM DEMONSTRATED WAS EXCEPTIONAL.

11TH AND 12TH JULY WERE THE FINAL HOUSE SPORTS DAYS OF THE YEAR AND IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE EVERY YEAR GROUP HAVE THEIR TEAMS OUT FOR TENNIS, ROUNDERS AND CRICKET FULL A FULL DAY OF INTER-HOUSE SPORTS. THE YR 12'S UMPIRING AND LEADING THIS LED TO THE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE SO THANK YOU TO ALL THE COMPETITORS WHO TOOK PART WITH GREAT SPORTSMANSHIP AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FABULOUS COLLINS HOUSE CAPTAINS.

WISHING YR 7 ALL THE BEST FOR THEIR MFL SONG COMPETITION AND YR 8 FOR THEIR SPELLING BEE.. THE LAST TWO EVENTS OF THE HOUSE YEAR.

CURRENTLY IN 2ND PLACE ON THE LEADERBOARD SO IT'S ALL TO PLAY FOR IN THE AUTUMN TERM!

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL BACK IN SEPTEMBER.



#### WELLMAN HOUSE



WELLMAN HAS CONTINUED TO THRIVE DURING THE NEW HOUSE YEAR; AT SPORTS-DAY WE ACHIEVED A MASSIVE 838 POINTS, TAKING FIRST PLACE. IN ADDITION WELLAMN BROKE SEVERAL SCHOOL ATHLETICS RECORDS AND NOW HOLDS 32 RECORDS, MORE THAN ANY OTHER HOUSE. AS PREDICTED THE WELLMAN HOUSE CAPTAINS DEMONSTRATED THEMSELVES TO BE DEDICATED, RELIABLE, ENTHUSIASTIC AND EFFECTIVE IN THEIR ROLE OF SUPPORTING OUR YOUNGER YEARS. OUR STANDING AS FIRST PLACE AT THE START OF THE YEAR HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN SECURED, NOW WE JUST NEED TO MAINTAIN IT!

I AM SO PROUD TO HAVE BEEN HEAD OF WELLMAN THE PAST NINE YEARS. THE AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR PUPILS OVER THE YEARS, AS WELL AS THEIR UNENDING WILLINGNESS TO VOLUNTEER AGAIN AND AGAIN LEAVES ME IN AWE OF THE QUALITY OF PUPIL'S IN WELLMAN. SADLY, THIS WILL BE MY LAST TERM AS HEAD OF WELLMAN, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY CONGRATULATE MISS BELLINGHAM FOR TAKING UP THE MANTLE; I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH HER LEADERSHIP WELLMAN WILL CONTINUE TO IMPRESS.

WELLMAN HOUSE WELCOMES THE COMING YEAR'S COMPETITION AND ARE EAGER TO SURPASS OUR PRIOR GLORY.

MR WARD

#### PROTHERO HOUSE



AS I AM WRITING THIS, WE HAVE JUST FINISHED THE SUMMER HOUSE SPORTS DAY - THIS YEAR EXTENDED TO INCLUDE AN AFTER SCHOOL EVENT THAT WAS HELD YESTERDAY TO COVER THE FIRST GIRLS HOUSE CRICKET EVENT. A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT, IF NOT SLIGHTLY OVERDUE! AS YOU MAY HAVE READ IN THIS ISSUE, I AM STEPPING DOWN FROM MY ROLE OF HEAD OF HOUSE, AND FROM BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL THIS YEAR. I AM SO GLAD THAT ONE OF THE FINAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR NOT ONLY WENT SO WELL FOR PROTHERO, BUT ALSO SHOWS HOW THE INCREDIBLE HOUSE SYSTEM IN THE SCHOOL IS CONTINUING TO GROW, AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR BOYS AND GIRLS TO SHINE OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM. DID I MENTION HOW WELL WE DID AS WELL?

FINISHING SECOND OVERALL THIS YEAR WAS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT THIS YEAR, BUT WE WERE AGONISINGLY CLOSE - THE HOUSE SHOWCASE WAS A REAL MIX OF EMOTIONS. A FEW EVENTS GOING A DIFFERENT WAY, A BIT LESS CHESS, AND WE WOULD HAVE BEEN NECK AND NECK WITH J\*HONSON. FOR ALL THOSE WHO SAW THE HOUSE DRAMA THIS YEAR, WILL PROBABLY NEVER FORGET IT EITHER. WE HAVE ALSO MASSIVELY IMPROVED IN SPORTS THIS YEAR, AND NEXT YEAR THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE FORMIDABLE TEAMS - I DON'T ENVY THE COMPETITION IN NEXT YEAR'S SENIOR BASKETBALL, BADMINTON OR NETBALL! AND GIRLS FOOTBALL FOR THAT MATTER, IF WE RUN THAT COMPETITION NEXT YEAR.

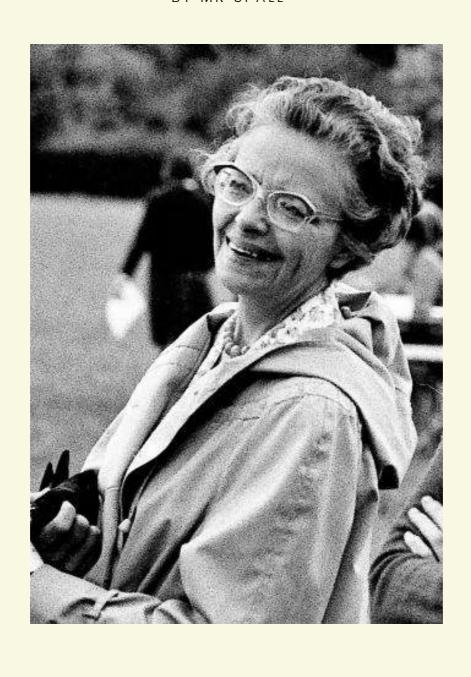
LHAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE SCHOOL'S HOUSE SYSTEM WAS ONE OF ITS GREATEST STRENGTHS, AND I HAVE BEEN SO PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF IT. I AM DELIGHTED THAT MRS ASHMAN WILL BE TAKING OVER AS THE HEAD OF PROTHERO, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING ABOUT A PROTHERO WIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE!

MR SETHI



"A LOVELY WOMAN WHO AMAZINGLY HAD TIME FOR EVERYONE, EVEN ME!"

BY MR SPALL



We heard recently of the death of Miss Margaret Mabbs, two days after her 98th birthday. Miss Mabbs joined Bexley Grammar as Deputy Head in 1964, remaining in that post until 1981, simultaneously being Head of Johnson House. She taught History, but also Religious Studies to all the First Form (Year 7) classes, thereby learning the names-to-faces (and personalities?) of every pupil in the school. She organised and coordinated all external exams, all lost property, the School's charity efforts including the annual Christmas party for local elderly people, and was the main link with the Parents' Association. But most of all she was keenly interested in the well-being and education of all the pupils.

Included in Mr. Jones' leaving tribute to her in the 1981 School Magazine was this paragraph: Margaret Mabbs's interest in young people was real and it was active. Her sincere philosophy of life led her to respect people and to treat everyone as an individual. She trusted others to do the best for themselves and for the community in which they lived and worked: for the most part her trust was rewarded. In her quiet way she had the happy knack of arousing enthusiasm in others; her support was often unobtrusive but she never stinted on the time given to others.



Miss Mabbs retired a little bit early from teaching, then joining the Church of England, becoming one of the first women to be ordained into the priesthood, and served Saint Luke's Eltham with equal enthusiasm (apparently knowing the addresses of all the parishioners there, even into her nineties). She kept in touch with BGS, and in 1996, when the school had expanded so much that four Houses were not enough, one of the two new Houses was named Mabbs, in recognition of her service. Having joined the school as THE deputy just six years after its creation, her 17 year influence set the tone and traditions of the school that has developed into BGS today.

When her birthday and subsequent death were announced on the BGS Alumini Facebook page there was a tsunami of positive tributes from former pupils, including: "That is tremendously sad news. She will have touched so many lives in her chosen path of education and service to God". "So very very sad - May you Rest in Peace - and no doubt teach them a thing or two up there!" "Such sad news, she was inspirational and certainly knew many of us better than we knew ourselves. She indeed made Johnson house the most caring." But perhaps the simplest and most succinct is from a man who was perhaps regarded as "a bit of a rogue" when a boy at BGS – "That's very sad, she was a lovely woman who amazingly had time for everyone, even me!"

## What a Year! What a brilliant Year 7!

We started getting to know each other in September and what a year it has been! From the start, your shields showed us all what an outstanding year group you would become.

Tutor photos of 7JMP, 7MAM & JOO show the energy and enthusiasm that you have all brought to your first year at BGS!

















You have shown great ingenuity and started 3 brand new clubs this year including Origami, Warhammer and a Debate group.



PAMBOO

Pamboo, the new way of life.

Remaine stone paper stems:

Stack of Reusable paper - E15
Half stack of Reusable paper - E7
Small Fewable Notebook - E5 (No)
Medium Reusable Notebook - E6 (No)
Large Reusable Notebook - E9((No))
Reusable Shetchtook - E11(NO)

Cosmetics:

You designed and pitched new sustainable products in your Autumn Power Days including plant pens and bamboo beauty products.



Ms Orchard and myself greatly enjoyed your dynamic group presentations.



12 of you became student councillors and have been working hard all year on a number of projects to improve our school environment.

The school councillors also organised a design competition! Your tutor now has a postcard that they can send home, so that all of your achievements and positivity can be shared.

In Geography you planted native British trees which will help our school environment and will be your legacy.

Here we can see 7MPM in action.





You contributed to Form Positivity Jars in our Wellbeing sessions, reminding us of the positives and happiness we can find each day, as well as participating in a wellness walk with your tutor.



You have taken part in many school sports competitions and even outside of school, you have also been successful in so many different events and endeavours!

You conquered Dover
Castle on the History
trip in June,
overcoming chilly
weather, wind and rain,
and (for some of 7FTM)
impromptu pitstops...









You collaboratively organised (and ran) amazing stalls at the BGS Summer Fayre. From selling plants, to treasure hunts- and so much more- you helped to raise money for your school. Thank you for your efforts.

While also taking place in so many of the sports events helping to win points for your house. I know myself, Ms Orchard and all of your tutors felt proud of each and every one of you.



As a year group, you have read over 3495 books!

Having checked the league tables with our Librarian, Mrs Carey, our top readers were....!

Hussain Nabeel 7STA, who read 130 books Ishanth Elamaran 7STA who read 114 books and Reginald Cyril-Osunde who read 105 books

Very impressive efforts!!

The students council have been proactive in bringing change to our school environment, especially the school canteen as this was seen as a shared school space in need of improvement.

The year 7 School Council successfully presented (and gained) a bid from the school PTA to help re-decorate the school canteen.

Look out for improvements in the first term next year. They organised a bake sale to raise money to improve the environment of the canteen. Look out for changes in September!



To finish the year and celebrate our year 7 community, lots of you took part in our first intertutor football competition: a mini 5-a-side tournament to see which is our top football team!!

#### What a year!

Myself and Ms Orchard wish you and your families a restful, summer holiday.

We are so proud of you and look forward to seeing what you will achieve next year.

#### YEAR 8 NEWS

## PANT POSITIVITY



Key Stage 3 students have participated in a number of events over the year in support of "Only7Seconds", a well-being and mental health organisation introduced to the school by Emily Ross. The premise of "Only7Seconds" is that it only takes that time to have a positive impact on people around you. Some of the activities have included Post-it Positive, where positive words of encouragement have been displayed and the school, and, more recently, Plant Positivity. Thanks to all of the students and staff who have been involved this year! I look forward to seeing even more positivity next year

Mr Martin Year 8 Director of Studies Miss Fuwa Year 8 Senior Academic Mentor

In June, under the shade of a warm day, I attended the Plant Positivity club which raises the awareness of the positivity that plants can bring. We expressed our creativity by painting plant pots with acrylics whilst socialising with each other. It was truly a fun and interesting experience - I will definitely be there in the weeks to come, and hopefully we can plant some summer flowers into our hand-painted pots! Following the initial event, we have continued with our painting and have planted seeds and bulbs in the pots to help bring positivity around the school.

Hana Ostrowski 8ACR



#### BGS Homegrown talent.

#### JEDIDIAH BROWN: FAITH, DETERMINATON AND RESILIENCE



#### MY JOURNEY FROM BGS TO SEMI-PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL.

BY JED BROWN

My time at Bexley Grammar feels like it was so long ago now. The years have gone by so quickly, and yet from time to time it feels like the memories were just yesterday. I was at the school from 2010-2016 as I left at the end of year 12 to go to a football college, which was more suited to me at the time. I did end up returning for my year 13 prom so it felt like I signed off from the school properly. Other than the standard core subjects we all had to do as students, I studied Economics, PE, Music, Spanish, German and a few others that I seem to have forgotten. Of those listed above I was extremely fond of Spanish and Music and have continued trying to learn in those areas particularly in this past year. For A-levels, I did PE, IT, Business and Economics. Again, some of these taught me skills that I ended up needing to tap into very recently.

The best memories of my time at BGS were the time I spent with my friends during class, at lunchtimes, after school - even the house competitions. I always tried to take part in as many of those as possible and winning house dance in year 7 with Kirkman was a memory I'll never forget: same as winning the overall house competition. In the end I became a house captain too but didn't get to fulfil my role as a result of me leaving the school. Most of my best times were spent playing sports but other than that, everything with my friends was just a laugh. Every now and then I wish I could go back and experience it all for one more day but that's life. Time always moves forward so we must, too.

BGS shaped quite a bit of my character in terms of how I see myself. My confidence and self-assuredness came from knowing I went to a good school, am an intelligent person, and having a lot of friends made it easy for me when in bigger circles.

Since I was never really trying to fit in too much and was strong minded in my early years at the school, I'm able to be myself more freely today and find it easy to get along with people. That being said, a lot of what has shaped me today is my faith in God, my family, and all I believe in - my time at BGS was the icing on the cake, so to speak.

Since leaving BGS, life has been a series of ups, downs, lessons and the odd curveball. In my years after leaving the school I dedicated all my time to football, as being a professional was my dream, and in that time I came within touching distance on three separate occasions with three trials at professional clubs (twice at the same club and both teams being League 1 and Championship level). Each experience taught me more about life, career, and most importantly myself. My first two opportunities came when I was 19 and 20 respectively, with the former being the one that set the tone for the rest of my hopes. I had a good trial but seeing as I was still young and the club was already pushing for promotion, I was told that although I had the potential to make it, the time was not now, and the club said they would monitor me at a high semi-professional level to see how I did there first. That sent me on a bit of a downward spiral - going through, and subsequently being rejected by, various semi-professional clubs because talent and potential was not enough - I needed experience!

After the failure of my second trial at the second club (arguably one of the toughest experiences of my life to date), I have since gained many unexpected experiences playing for a YouTube Sunday league team.

"BGS shaped quite a bit of my character in terms of how I see myself..."



"...That being said, a lot of what has shaped me today is my faith in God, my family, and all I believe in..,"

I have been able to meet and train with Premier League and Champions League level footballers at many English clubs, and even some European giants such as Borussia Dortmund (Germany) and Valencia (Spain). Post-COVID 2019, after the lifting of the lockdown restrictions in June 2020, I trained harder than I had before until I picked up an injury. At the time I had no idea how much of an impact this would have on me, but by September it became apparent. I was called back on trial by the first team for one more week and had to make the choice to force my way back from injury to do all I could to get in this time round. After a few days playing through the injury, things got worse and I could no longer go on. I was in tears when I was told that I could not sign once again and now had the pressure of recovering from my first long-term injury looming over my head.

Fast-forward two years and I am in a completely different space physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. I realised somewhere down the line that my life has so much more to offer than just football, and have now delved into other areas as well as football. All I know is that I'm here to use what I have, and what I have learned to encourage, inspire, and set an example for the next generation.

Currently, I am playing football at a semi-professional level but working towards my next opportunity. But the other things I have taken up now are tapping into skills and qualities I never knew I had. I've served in my church as a youth leader for the past 5 years. On a weekly basis I'm able to pour knowledge into the minds of young people through discussions, and consistently give advice and life lessons that they may need whenever necessary. Doing this for so long made me realise I had a passion for passing on knowledge so I then made the decision to work part-time at my primary school to see what sort of impact I could have there, too.

On top of that, the small amount of social media influence I have has helped me in terms of being able to network with many people I otherwise wouldn't have been able to reach. This caused even more openings in different spheres to sprout, and with all the time that the first lockdown gave everyone at home, I opted to use mine as effectively as I could. I worked tirelessly on some projects and can now say that hopefully at some point this year I will be launching my very own clothing brand, however at this time I can't reveal anymore than that so you'll just have to wait and see.

I'd say the qualities that allowed me to achieve or at least push for my goals right now are my persistence and perseverance, diligence, attention to detail, and my passion for what I do. I have a strong sense of purpose and that means that everything I do, I put 110% effort because I know it is bigger than me - it's all about impact and legacy. I'm someone that believes I was given many talents and therefore I would be silly not tapping into them.

My hopes for the future are probably too much to write on paper and being someone that keeps things close to his chest, I never really share too much. I'd much rather just stay as focused as possible. However, I will say that my future and all its possibilities are limitless. In addition to football, teaching, and clothing, I would also like to try my hand in music, film, books, and many other projects.

God has put so much on my heart and in me to share and I'd be foolish to hide it all. None of this is to brag because it's only by grace and for His glory.



"I have a strong sense of purpose and that means that everything I do, I put 110% effort because I know it is bigger than me - it's all about impact and legacy."



The same is true for each one of us - we have many gifts and talents that we fail to tap into in our lifetimes but if you would just take the risk then you could live a fulfilled life.

My advice to current BGS students would be split into a few parts and somewhat contradictory but all true. First I would say that you should try your best to push yourself out of your comfort zone and find what it is you are good at or passionate about as soon as possible, and put your all into those things. Second, would be to not feel rushed or pressured into finding your purpose just because those around you seem to have it all figured out. The worst thing you could do is compare your race to others, especially if it's the so-called "goals" you see people post on social media. Remember there is no time limit on being successful, despite what Instagram, Twitter or TikTok would have you believe. On social media, you see pictures and posts but they only tell part of the story, so don't make the mistake of thinking that you would want what someone else has without knowing exactly what they had to go through to get it, or better yet, what they are suffering from and hiding behind the screen and posts you see. My third bit of advice is to take your studies seriously, but use wisdom in doing so. I realised that although what we learn in school is very important and university is a gateway to the working environment, it's only really useful if what you want to do in life would require that level of studying. Some teachers probably won't like me saying this, but there are certain careers that definitely require education at university level, and others that would be better enhanced with on-the-job workplace experiences through apprenticeships and the like.

I never went to university because what I wanted to do had nothing to do with the courses I could study like Economics. If I had gone, I would've missed out on all the opportunities that I have had these past five years, and would have unnecessary debt over my head while doing so. My fourth and final bit of advice, and quite possibly the most important is to surround yourself with the right people. These are the ones that push you to be a better version of yourself and likewise you do the same for them these are the best kind of friendships to have where you want the best for each other and you're more likely to achieve it this way, if vou're like minded and hold each other accountable. I have a handful of friends that I am able to confide in. They encourage and push me when I need it, advise me as required and correct me when I need it. There is a Bible scripture close to my heart that helps me remember this so this is what I'll leave you with. Proverbs 27:17 reads: "As iron sharpens iron, so one friend sharpens another"



"... surround
yourself with the
right people.
These are the
ones that push
you to be a better
version of
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likewise you do
the same for
them ..."



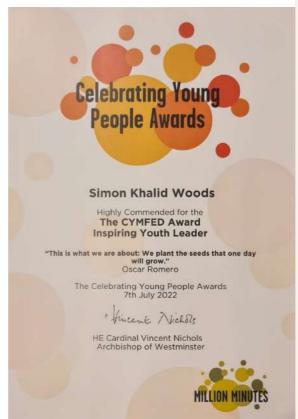
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#### SIMON WOODS: MY COMMENDATION AT PARLIAMENT



Thursday 7th July I was invited to Parliament for an awards ceremony hosted by an organisation called "Million Minutes", which is a Catholic organisation 'dedicated to enabling young people to transform their lives and lead change in their community'. I arrived at the Cromwell Green visitors entrance with my parents at around 6 o'clock, and after going through security was given free rein to walk around the public areas, I spent around an hour exploring the Westminster Hall - looking at all of the interesting gothic architecture - before moving into the St Stephens Hall, which is full of significant historical paintings going all the way back to the 1400s, such as Erasmus and Thomas More visiting Henry VII. Then at around 7 o'clock we were escorted down to the Terrace Gardens, the section on the banks of the Thames which is also home to one of the bars for the House of Lords - in fact we were in the area right next to it. As many of you may know, the day I was at Parliament was the day when Boris Johnson resigned as leader of the Conservative Party following several other notable departures, so as you would imagine, it was quite busy where we were, and even busier in the surrounding area.





As the event started, we were welcomed by Siobhain McDonagh MP and a few other notable guests, including the Archbishop of Westminster and HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who explained the organisation and the significance of the awards, of which there were seven – each with a unique meaning and criteria. I was Highly Commended for the 'CYMFED Award', which is given inspiring youth leaders – I was nominated for this award by the Scouts organisation for all the work I did as a Young Leader, and for the work I now continue to do as a Scouts Leader at the 1st Bridgen group.

Prior to my nomination I had no idea about the Million Minutes organisation, but after having spoken with members, fellow nominees and prior awardees I came to realise the magnitude and significance of voluntary work; I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and would recommend when nominations open next year, that if you know someone who volunteers in their community you should put them forwards for an award.

"Prior to my nomination I had no idea about the Million Minutes organisation, but after having spoken with members, fellow nominees and prior awardees I came to realise the magnitude and significance of voluntary work..."

## Leaving staff

As every end of year, we sadly have to say goodbye to some amazing members of staff - some of them absolute giants of BGS history. We are so grateful to them for what they brought to BGS and wish them all the best in their future endeavours!

#### Mr Shackleton

#### How long have you been at BGS?

I have worked at Bexley Grammar School for 32 years. I arrived in 1991 aged 28 for the post of Head of Maths. Back in those days, I used to come home covered in chalk dust as we only had class blackboards on which to show the work, no member of staff owned a computer of any description, and only 6th form pupils had access to a calculator.



#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

I have been lucky to work with some fabulous members of staff over the years, with whom I have had varied school experiences. Alongside Cathy Wallace I organised many ski trips to Canada, USA, and the French Alps which were exhausting, sometimes hair-raising, but always a fantastically fun time, especially the 'silly games' evenings. Cricket is one of my passions and the Friday night staff team had us pitched against rival schools across Bexley and Kent. The renowned Don Wellman and I took a trip to Romania to deliver aid in a time where orphanages in the country were in desperate need. The lasting memory from that trip has to be fearing for our lives when we had to buy fuel on the black market at a ridiculous price out of some bloke's back garden. The culmination of each year used to include a 'Staff Revue' where we had the opportunity to make fools of ourselves for the entertainment of the students. The boards saw me playing the guitar and keyboard in our 'Maths band' and I would even occasionally sing and dance on stage! My biggest thrill was the year all 30 students in my GCSE class achieved a grade A\*.

I will definitely miss working with students and seeing that moment when a spark of understanding ignites. There's nothing better than seeing someone overcoming struggles and eventually feeling proud of what they have achieved. I shall also miss all the staff at BGS who have been such amazing people to work with over the years. However, I'm NOT going to miss getting up at 5.00am and travelling 25 miles down the A2 from Medway to Bexley every day!

#### What will you go on to do now?

I am retiring and most looking forward to having more time to spend cycling and walking. We're also on the top of the waiting list for an allotment, which will be a satisfying project to undertake with my wife. I will take on a bigger role providing the music for our local church, and I look forward to attending more music concerts. We hope to enjoy the novelty and benefits of taking holidays during term time – the world's waiting to be explored.

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

Bexley Grammar School has been such an important part of my life, but I'm ready for the next chapter. What a privilege it has been to be a part of a school with such high standards, and students who want to learn. I wish you all the best as you continue on your road of success.

#### **Mr Morris**

#### How long have you been at BGS?

25 years! I know I don't look that old, but I am, in fact, older than the school!

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

It has been great to see so many former pupils become colleagues - at least a dozen, I'd say. I also get a kick out of teaching generations of the same family.

It will sound corny, but the simple truth is that the students and staff here are genuinely kind, good-natured and caring. I have had various roles, including Head of English, DoS and Head of Sixth Form, and in each case, the team I've worked with have been incredible; I must emphasise here that I include support staff who make our work as teachers possible. (Also, I married one of them!)

#### What will you go on to do now?

Retiring - in October - but I'm going to work in a rare book shop in Central London, so I can steal some first editions.

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

I love books and reading. For 45 years I have been paid to do the thing I love, and, hopefully, to share that love with other people. Thank you to all the thousands of students and colleagues whose insights and responses have done so much to enhance my own.

I never teach a text without learning at least as much as my students.



#### **Mrs Thomas**

#### How long have you been at BGS?

Almost 20 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

I've been very lucky to work with Mrs Aspill and Mrs Jeffery - they make me laugh every day, not always intentionally! I very much enjoyed the time I spent helping students with their CAS - seeing the range of activities has been absolutely amazing. Also, we have a bursary for Sixth Form students and it has been a privilege to be able to help students achieve their ambitions in spite of considerable disadvantages.

#### What will you go on to do now?

Taking a year off and travelling and then we'll see.



#### Miss Ramsden

How long have you been at BGS?

22 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

It is very hard to condense into a few words the memories I have from BGS from over the years - I will always remember my form trip to St Malo, for various reasons: not least the fact that in attempting to demonstrate how one should use an epipen, before we boarded the coach, I injected it into my own finger. I will never forget Mr Frost bundling me onto the coach and promising he would take me to get it checked ONCE we arrived in France, since he did not want to miss the ferry!

I have many memories from my time with the English department over the years, too - I cannot confess to some of the tricks I have played on Mr Griffin over the years, because I will possibly still get in trouble even now, but I am aiming to see if I can keep this up, remotely. I will miss my good friends in the department immensely, and have always appreciated coming into work and having their support, abuse and kindness in equal measure. I know that I will not have another department like them again.

I also feel greatly privileged to have taken on various different roles during my time at the school - in my second year here, I worked under Pete Spall as his deputy when he was Head of Sixth form and spent many a morning running early morning litter picking with grumbling sixth formers (one of whom might have been Mr Husbands). Thanks to Pete for his support in those early years - he didn't know then that I would still be harassing him to help me with spreadsheets, 20 years later! However, the thing of which I am most proud is having taken a form through from year 7 to year 13 and watching them grow and bloom. The relationships forged in the school are one of its key strengths and when I was asked to do a reading at one exform member, some years ago, it reminded me of what an impact we can have on children's lives. It all (sort of) makes up for the hours, the pay and the stress:-)

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

BGS has been a fabulous place to work & I will miss it dearly, but when you look around staff meetings and realise that you taught so many of the teaching staff, you know it is time to go! I will miss absolutely everything about the school - (apart from the astronomical marking workload!) Good luck to you all in the future - I'm so sorry to have missed OFSTED this year: I've been looking forward to it since 2007.



#### **Mrs Sutton**

#### How long have you been at BGS?

22 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

I will mainly miss the people. I have many memorable moments, but some of my favourites are from back in the day when we did practical exams. It gave me great job satisfaction to see the labs set up with all the equipment needed for the exam.

#### What will you go on to do now?

Retirement. Spending more time with my family, especially my parents and grandchildren

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

I would like to thank all the staff, especially the technicians and teachers in the science department who I have thoroughly enjoyed working with over the years. It has been a privilege.

Lastly I wish the school, staff and pupils continued success and best wishes for the future

#### **Mrs Vialls**

#### How long have you been at BGS?

20 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

It is so hard to choose, I have had so many good memories. Travelling to Slapton Ley for the Biology A level and IB coursework. Working with other professionals on so many occasions to develop resources, and then putting them into action in the classroom. Nurturing students in my role as form tutor, and seeing them develop into confident human beings when they leave in the sixth form, has been a great privilege. Leading the science department has enabled me to work closely with wonderful teachers and technicians, I could not have asked for any better role to end my career.

#### What will you go on to do now?

Retiring, spending more time with my Grandchildren. Travelling with my Husband.

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

Massive thanks to all the staff who have in some way touched my life over these past 20 years, it has passed by so quickly. BGS is a wonderful school to work in, and a place of excellence for education. Students are lucky to have staff like you who care very much about them. BGS keep doing what you are doing!. I wish you all, staff, and students alike, the very best for the future!

#### **Mrs Macleod**

#### How long have you been at BGS?

15 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

have many fond memories of working with our fantastic NQTs (newly qualified teachers) and having the privilege of welcoming our new staff on their induction days. Theatre trips, as well as amazing school performances ('Alice in Wonderland' and 'Hairspray' were particular highlights) will stay with me. I will miss our amazing students - especially (in my capacity as a sixth form tutor) watching them grow into impressive young people ready to take on the world.

But what I will miss the most is the wonderful English department who have made me laugh so much, been super supportive and are a constant source of inspiration. You are irreplaceable!

#### What will you go on to do now?

Retiring. Looking after the new arrivals to the family (kittens and granddaughter!)

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

I can't think of a better school to finish my long career as a teacher. My thanks to everyone who has helped with the new staff induction, particularly the incredible mentors who have been so generous with their time and inspired the next generation of teachers. You are such a talented, caring, dedicated staff who go above and beyond every day to guide and support our students. I shall miss you dearly in September.





#### Mr Kinsella

#### How long have you been at BGS?

7 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

Amongst the many fantastic memories I have, a few stand out. Hassling the Classics Department for a couple of years to let me go on a Classics trip and finally going to the Bay of Naples. It was amazing!

Being a big money spinner at the Summer Fayre. The cold water is bracing.

I was also the victim of the nerdiest graffiti I've ever seen in my life:

 $\sqrt{-18\Sigma}_{\pi}$  and it had twins in it." - Titus Andronicus. Only at BGS would you find someone combining mathematical notation and some obscure Shakespeare. I will miss the camaraderie amongst the staff and the willingness for people to just stop and talk nonsense for a few minutes during the day.

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

It's been a pleasure.



#### **Mrs Rubbera**

#### How long have you been at BGS?

7 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

I think I've laughed every single day I've worked here! I've been on some brilliant trips to Brittany and Tuscany. Some of my best memories are of running the Splat the Teacher stall. The teachers here are such great sports and many were happy to have a whole bucket thrown over their heads! I've had 3 wonderful form groups and I find the students here really care about their teachers; from opening doors for me to checking how my day is going. The office staff, my year team and SEN could not be more helpful.

I don't think any other school has such a dynamic and fun MFL department - they have taught me so much, made me a better teacher and made me laugh until I cried so many times that I've lost count!

#### What will you go on to do now?

Taking on extra responsibilities in a school closer to home

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

BGS is such a special school. I have woken up every day, happy to come into school. I never once got the Sunday Scaries. I'm actually feeling a bit tearful writing this and it's starting to feel real that I'm leaving!

If I could go back in time, I would have come to this school as a student, that's how much I've loved it.

I'd like to thank all the staff I've worked with over the years - it's been an absolute joy and I hope I've made some friends for life.





#### **Mrs Jones**

#### How long have you been at BGS?

7 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?



I have loved my time at BGS and it has been both an honour and privilege to work here. From the minute I came to interview for the post of school counsellor I knew there was something very rare and special about this school. It has a family feel about it and that has never been lost in my time here

I have had the pleasure of working with many wonderful students and staff in my role.

One of the highlights for me each year is recruiting, training and working with the Peer Mentors. Every year, we always end up with the most amazing group of students who want to give back to younger students and the school community as a whole. Part of the beauty at BGS is the nurture, support and education given to assist each individual's personal growth and development helping them to reach their full potential. To watch this ethos handed down by older peers is really special.

#### What will you go on to do now?

I am moving on to nurture and grow my own private practice and to also support fellow counsellors. I am also hoping to do some charity work and further study in my field.

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

BGS will always hold a very special place in my heart.

We have experienced a lot together as a school community in my 7 years here (pandemic amongst them)! There have been many ups and also some downs but that is where you all shine best and pull together!

I have learnt so much and been touched by so many at BGS which has left a big footprint on my heart.

Thank you to you all!

A special thanks and love are sent to the wonderful SEND & Safeguarding teams for all their support and friendship in my time with them. I wish each and everyone of you every happiness for the future.

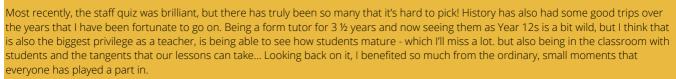


#### Miss Fuwa

How long have you been at BGS?

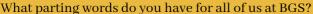
6 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?



What will you go on to do now?

A Masters in Film and TV Production





Working at BGS has truly been a very formative part of my life and leaving is very bittersweet! But I am forever grateful that this was where I was able to develop both as a teacher and person and that is because of everyone here! Thank you to the staff who work hard to create and enforce a supportive and kind environment and the students who have ensured there is NEVER a dull moment. I'll miss this immensely!



How long have you been at BGS?

5.5 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

I have had a great time at the school, probably the most satisfying moments have either been doing my Olympiad classes after school for the past 5 years, or seeing the Prothero House Captains step up to their duties every year. I really missed both of those things during the lockdowns.

I really loved going on the year 7 and 8 science trips every year, such a lovely trip to do later in the year, and the students really gained some valuable practical skills that are hard to replicate on the front lawn.

What will you go on to do now?

Moving to a school closer to home

What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

Go Prothero!



#### **Ms Anderson**

#### How long have you been at BGS?

4 years

#### What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

It's all been fab. The thing that makes BGS an amazing place to work is 100% the people. My students make me laugh every single day. I'm not sure how many people in other professions can say that of their jobs but I doubt it's many. The teachers are some of the best of the best. I've loved all the socials and getting to know everyone and again, laughing A LOT. The site team, reception staff, canteen staff, support staff, finance office, main office, cover supervisors, attendance office are all amazing people and I feel very lucky to have been here.

What will you go on to do now?

Relocating to North West London and becoming head of German.

#### What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

Working here has been a real privilege. I struggle to imagine what it might feel like to walk out of this amazing school on my last day. It will be almost impossibly difficult to leave my students. To the kids I teach and have taught - I miss you already! Keep being the wonderfully weird, kind hearted and extra pary individuals you are. To my wonderful colleagues - thank you so much for all your support and smiles. It's been amazing



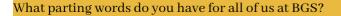
#### **Mr Street**

How long have you been at BGS?

4 years

What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

Having lots of fun every day. Trips to St Malo and to Fontainebleau were also fantastic



It's been a pleasure. Thank you to all of you for making my time here so enjoyable.





How long have you been at BGS?

2 years - there was one other spell of a year's maternity cover too, back in 2015

What will you miss the most? What are some of your favourite memories?

It's been a great pleasure working at BGS. The banter in the English office is 2nd to none; the kids are tremendously fun and I love how the BGS classroom is a positive learning place for everyone!!

What parting words do you have for all of us at BGS?

Thank you to everyone here - it feels like a big family!! Everyone is very considerate towards everyone else. Best of luck to you all!!











# Have an amazing summer!





