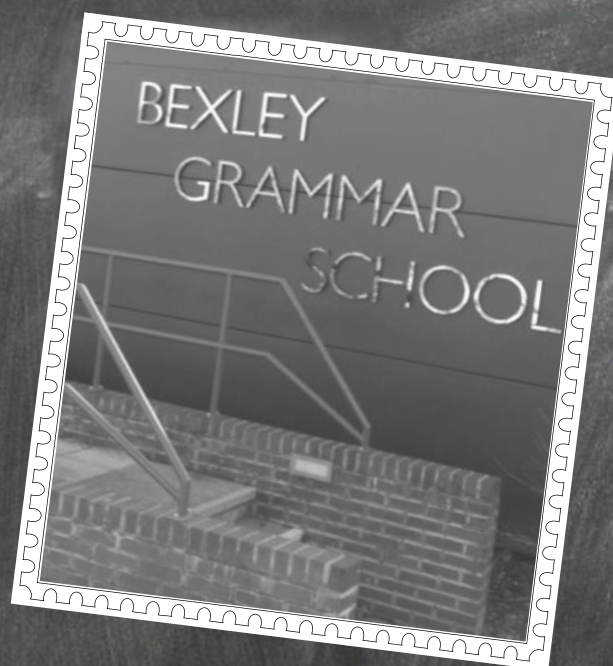




NEWSLETTER

Welcome back
everyone!

DO
Amazing
THINGS!
in
2022-2023



School emails diverted to spam/junk ~ FAO Year 7 Parents/Carers

Please note that some email clients classify bulk emails as spam and deliver it to the recipient's spam/junk folder. Depending on the email provider, the setting may be known as "whitelist", "safe senders list" or a "rule" - if this is the case, please add our email address 3034000@capita-intouch.co.uk to either your email address book or the appropriate list, in order to prevent future messages being blocked. Known providers intermittently blocking emails currently include Gmail, BT internet and hotmail.

Whole school letters and letters to entire year groups continue to be saved for parents' ease of reference on the '[Letters Home](#)' [page on the school's website](#) - with Mr Elphick's letter of 1st September being the most recent addition.



How to apply for free school meals

You can apply for your children to receive free schools meals if you are receiving certain welfare benefits.

All children get free school meals if they are in reception, year 1 or year 2. If you receive any of the benefits below you should still apply so that the school gets extra funding.

This money could go towards things like learning support and after-school activities.

Am I eligible?

You must already be receiving any of the following benefits to apply:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - you must annually take home £7,400 or less in Universal Credit payments. This equals an average of £616.67 per month in net earned income (after deductions).

You are not eligible for free school meals if you receive Working Tax Credit or other support payments that are not mentioned above.





Greenwich

If your child attends a school in another borough you will need to apply to the relevant council or school directly. APPLY TO BEXLEY.

Tower Hamlets

Children whose parents live in the borough but who attend schools outside the borough. Parents should apply to the authority where the school is located. APPLY TO BEXLEY.

Medway

Does not specify the location of the school and just has a link to applications.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200164/school_information/354/free_school_meals. May need to go via Bexley after this process.

Bromley

If your child attends a non-Bromley school, you must apply to the local authority where the school is situated. APPLY TO BEXLEY.

Dartford

If your child attends a non-Dartford school, you must apply to the local authority where the school is situated. APPLY TO BEXLEY.

When these applications are completed a notification should be sent to the school for us to update records accordingly but may be worth the parents sending in the email confirmation to us too.

Bexley Application Link

<https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/free-school-meals/how-apply-free-school-meals/free-school-meals-form>




School Play 2022

Auditions in K10

Wednesday 14th September 3.20 pm

Call backs Thursday 15th September



Emil And the Detectives

All year
groups
welcome.

Join our
Google Classroom for
more information

gi2xkio

HOW ARE BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED IN CHINA?



When someone mentions birthdays, cake, presents and candles are some of the few things that come to mind. However, this is not always the case for some people, especially those who have a different nationality. In Chinese culture, there are many different traditions that vary hugely from Western traditions and beliefs. Firstly, the two very important dishes at a Chinese birthday celebration are long noodles and red eggs. Long noodles, which are sometimes called longevity noodles, are left unbroken in bowls as they symbolize living a long life. It is important that you do not break or cut the noodles as this symbolizes putting yourself at risk of cutting your own life short. Peeling the shells of red eggs evokes a fresh start. In addition, the present you choose to give to someone has a certain set of rules to follow:

- Timekeeping devices can remind people that they have a short life ahead of them and that death will come eventually.
- Candles are also reminders of death as they are used for mourning and funeral rituals.
- The word shoes in Chinese is pronounced 鞋; xié, which sounds like the word evil pronounced 邪; xié hence this is also a gift usually avoided.

Furthermore, the age calculations are different in Chinese culture as when a baby is born, their age is considered to be 1, which is different from the age calculations in Western culture, as a baby is considered to be 0 when they are born. Their birthday is also celebrated again when it is Chinese New Year, making them 2 years older than they already are.

Nimrat Matharu 妮拉

It is said that in China, birthdays (though important) aren't as important as certain ages, such as your 1st, 2nd, 60th and 70th. For a child's first birthday, long noodles called "longevity noodles" are served in hopes the child will have a long life. Tigers are often a theme of gifts as thought to protect the children.

抓周 (pronounced Zhuazhou) is a traditional ceremony in which on a child's first birthday, many different objects are placed in front of the child and whatever is the child's object of preference will determine their career and interests later in life.

Traditionally, Chinese people feel that celebrating their birthday after the date delays everything in the later year so they celebrate it on the day. It is also possible for Chinese people to align their birthdays with the lunar calendar, which means they can have two birthdays if they choose to.

Prachi Thapa 佩琪



After reading about how birthdays are celebrated in China, the first thing that surprised me was the fact that they count birthdays differently. I found it interesting that someone could really be a couple years younger, by western terms, than they are by lunar calendar terms. I think it makes more sense that your age goes to 1 when you're born, instead of it resetting back to 0. It was also interesting that gifting them a watch on their birthday reminds them of death and that things like flowers and shoes are to be avoided. In most other places in the world, there are nearly no rules around birthdays, so it was definitely interesting to see a different set of customs.

Yuri Hoyte 琉璃

There are many differences between how we celebrate birthdays in the UK and how birthdays are traditionally celebrated in China. For example, similar to our custom of eating a birthday cake, people in China eat a bowl of noodles representing longevity. These must be eaten whole rather than biting them, because that symbolizes cutting your life short. Superstitions around mortality continue with certain birthday gifts that are considered impolite, such as watches and clocks, since these are also said to represent the slow approach towards death. Birthday celebrations in China have until recently been reserved only for the young and old, with much less focus put on them compared to the Western culture, however, this is slowly changing as Western culture has more of an influence on China.

Lev Griffin



**HOW ARE BIRTHDAYS
CELEBRATED IN
CHINA?**



Summer Sporting Successes

Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022

The start of the summer holidays saw an outstanding number of medals being won by the England stars across a breadth of activities. Finishing a close second with 176 medals, this becomes England's highest medal tally to date for the Commonwealth games. Maybe one of these athletes inspired you to try out a new sport? Impressed with the BGS students at sports day, Perry, the commonwealth mascot, ventured off to Birmingham this summer. He was busy watching netball live in action from the NEC (Australia v South Africa). Inspired by the action you may have seen, come along and join netball Thursdays after school.



Perry also caught up with the badminton stars; lucky enough to catch India in action against Singapore. If this is a game you want to try, pop along on Friday mornings (Week A).



Flying the flag for us at the games, was an ex-BGS student, Divine Oladipo, who finished a fantastic 5th place in the women's shot at the Commonwealth Games with an impressive throw of 17.23m. Well done - we are proud of you!



Euros 2022

Football Champions at long last, since 1966! What a spectacular performance from the Lionesses with a nail-biting win at the Euros 2022 against Germany. Talented sporting stars and advocates for the sport. We even had a local girl Alessia Russo scoring a vital goal in the semi-finals... Let's hope our BGS football stars can triumph to victory again this year following on from our successes last year. Come along to practice on Thursdays to sign up for our cup and friendly games.



What about your own sporting achievements? We know some students are quietly modest about their successes, but we would love to celebrate their achievements. If your child has represented their district, county, borough, we would love to know. Please keep the PE Department updated with their successes so we can regularly update our Honours Board.
Let's showcase your talent!

The extra-curricular timetable is now available. Please check out our PE Facebook and Instagram pages for regular sporting updates! We are also keen for volunteers to help run these practices or assist with the officiating aspect of the games to help further your sporting opportunities.

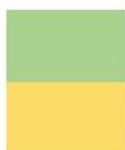
Google Classroom codes for netball and football can be found on the year group classrooms for you to join. Remember the House events in the school calendar too. Catch up with your House Captains and Heads of Houses for further details.

Mrs Kemp, PE Department



Bexley Grammar School Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable - Autumn

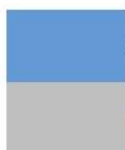
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School: 7:45 - 8:15			Wk A: Yr 7 Boys' Basketball*		KS3 Table Tennis
			Wk B: Yr 8 Boys' Basketball*		Week A: KS3 Badminton
					Week B: Running Club
Lunch			*Basketball will start after October half term		
After School: 3:15 - 16:30	Yr 7 & 8 Boys' Rugby	6th Form Basketball	Cheerleading: All years	Girls' Football	
			Year 8 Boys' Football	Girls' Netball	
	Yr 10 Boys' Football	Girls' Netball / Football Fixtures	Year 9 Boys' Football	Year 7 & 11 Boys' Football	
			6th Form Football	Yr 9 & 10 Boys' Rugby	



Field



Gym



Sports Hall



Netball Courts



Stay Connected

Follow the social media channels below for updates on events and fixtures in the PE department

IG: @bexleygspe

Twitter @BexleyGSPE

Facebook: BexleyGSPE





The Mark Evison Foundation

<https://www.markevisonfoundation.org/>

The Mark Evison Foundation's mission is to promote the personal development of young people through the undertaking of challenges.

We invite young people to create and plan projects which are personally challenging. Such projects develop confidence, strength, resilience and breadth, as applicants take independent ownership of something they are keen to do. Applications are self-designed and we provide mentoring and expenses funding for accepted projects. If you're in Year 12 and are interested in undertaking a project that you've always wanted to do, then please see Mr Martin or Miss Brand for more information.





Welcome back! We're looking forward to welcoming students old and new to the Music Department.

Extra-curricular Music

You can find more about our extra-curricular timetable on the poster below. If you'd like to sign up for these, please sign up for clubs [here](#) (please use your Bexleygs login).

Peripatetic Music Lessons

We continue to offer individual music lessons with our team of peripatetic teachers. Learning an instrument is an experience that stays with you for a lifetime and offers students the opportunity to develop a talent. If you would like to sign up for lessons, please visit <https://www.bgsperformingarts.com/instrumental-lessons.html>. If you have any questions regarding lessons, please contact Mrs Goddard.

Student successes

There has been such a buzz in the Music Department following last summer's Grade-1-athon, with all students passing! We celebrated a fantastic summer of ABRSM results too and hope that you have all been able to toast the success of our music department members.

Edmund Keeling, Year 11, also tooled his Grade 8 Trombone before the summer and got a Distinction. He has also been part of the National Youth Music Theatre this summer, performing with the company for the musical *Ragtime*. He did so well, and had the opportunity to experience life as a professional musician. Congratulations Edmund!

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music



Congratulations!



MUSIC EXTRA-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES 2022-2023

Monday



Clarinet Ensemble

Ac Mon, MU2

Led by our clarinet teacher for those Grade 5+ Clarinet

Samba Band

Ac Mon, MU1

Led by our drum teacher. By invitation only.



KS3 Orchestra (Y7-9 only)

After School, Hall

All orchestral players welcome - must be having music lessons on an instrument.



Chamber Choir

After School, MU2

A small vocal group for Y11-13. By invitation only.



Tuesday



Junior Jazz (Y7-9 only)

Lunchtime, MU1

Wind, brass, rhythm section (piano, guitar, bass and drums). Grade 1+. Must read music.

Big Band

After School, MU1

Wind, brass, rhythm section (piano, guitar, bass and drums). Grade 4+. **Improv Group** continues after for exceptional performers.



Wednesday

Flute Group

Ac Mon, MU1

A group for flutes! Must be grade 3+.

Symphony Orchestra

After School, MU1

Wind, brass, strings, percussion including Piano - Grade 4+.



Thursday

String Group

Ac Mon, MU1

For violinists, violists, cellists and double bassists of all levels.



Senior Choir (all years)

After School, MU1

3/4-part choir, singing modern classical to pop and beyond.

Friday



Junior Choir (Y7-8 only)

Lunch, MU1

Open to all singers. There will be a trip to Young Voices at Wembley too!

Rock Groups

Lunch and After School, MU2

By invitation only - if you are a serious performer on guitar, keyboard, drums or singing. Space is limited.

Coming soon...

Come and meet the family in our music production '**The Addams Family**'. Be part of the cast, crew and show band. We will be performing a 4-night show in July 2023. Watch out for further details and audition dates!





Native speakers of French, German, Italian, Russian or Chinese...



We are looking for members of our school community, who are native speakers of French, German, Italian, Russian or Chinese, who would like to join our amazing team of Modern Foreign Language teachers in September 2022 in maximising the exposure our Sixth Form students have to authentic conversation in their chosen language of study.

The Language team would organise a schedule around your availability, which would allow for small workshops and conversation classes of 2-5 students. We are looking for native speakers who could ask students questions and support them to articulate and develop their responses accurately. Our Language teachers would support you with the planning of the workshops and topics for discussion. Topics are interesting and include: Identity, Traditions, Tourism, Food, Culture, School Systems, Equality and The Environment.

If you would like to know more, please see this link to our FLA Advert [here](#) (also available on the school website). Alternatively you can email reed_j@bexleygs.co.uk. We would welcome the chance to include our wider community in our mission to continue to provide an outstanding curriculum.

The MFL Team



Supporting Bexley Grammar School in raising attendance and improving punctuality



Dear Parent/ Carer,

Staff work hard at Bexley Grammar School to ensure that your children receive the education they deserve. In order for staff to be able to deliver that education, your child must attend school regularly.

There was a shift in the way education was delivered during Covid which saw, for some extended periods, students working online from home. As you are aware, this has ended and we are back in school full time.

Most parents/ carers are aware of their responsibilities regarding their child's attendance and punctuality and support their children well. However, **please take a few minutes to read the following points carefully** to ensure that everyone understands exactly how our policies operate:

- Online lessons are not offered now that we are back in school full time.
- Work is not provided for students that are absent due to illness. If you report a child as being unwell they should be at home recuperating. In most cases, if a child is healthy enough to complete work at home they should be able to complete it in a classroom at school.

(The only students who will have work provided by teachers to be completed at home are those with a medical condition, are in post-operative recovery, or have tested positive for Covid. In these circumstances you will be asked to provide medical evidence to support these absences so that the attendance office can arrange with teachers to provide work to complete at home. Please do not approach teachers directly to request work; it puts them in a difficult position.)

- Parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their child attends school and arrives punctually.
- Students should be seated at their desks by 8.30 am when the register will be taken. Entering the school grounds or the school building as the bell goes at 8.30 is counted as late. We are aware that many students rely on public transport and that there are sometimes disruptions to the services. Your child needs to ensure that they allow adequate time to travel to school to ensure they do not arrive late, just as those of us who travel to work by public transport or, indeed, by car, have to allow additional time each day in case of disruption.
- Please do not keep a student at home in order to revise outside of authorised study leave. This will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. (Everything your child needs to prepare for a test is provided in school.)
- If your child has a medical appointment during the day, please ensure they attend school before and/or after the appointment. Very few medical appointments require the whole school day. A copy of the appointment notification is required to authorise that absence.
- Holidays during term time are not authorised. The DFE expects parents to ensure that you book your holidays to fit in with the 13 weeks of holiday that we have during the academic school year. (We are fully aware of the lower cost of holidays during term time but that is simply a frustrating fact of life that we all have to live with when we have children.)
- If a parent keeps a child at home without a valid reason, the school will not authorise the absence. Equally, if a child has repeated absences without valid reasons the school will not authorise these additional absences.



- Where students display poor attendance, parents will be requested to attend a meeting at the school during which we will explore ways to improve your child's attendance. Failure to engage with the school may result in your child being referred to the Local Authority as a concern.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that students at Bexley Grammar School have the highest standards of punctuality and attendance.

Mrs Jeffrey, Attendance Office



Forthcoming Events

September

Monday 12th (Speech Day) ~ School will finish at 2.15pm

Tuesday 13th ~ Inset Day (School closed to students)

Thursday 15th ~ Sixth Form BBQ

Monday 26th to Friday 30th ~ International Week



International Celebration Week

October

Thursday 20th ~ Last full school day before half term (**all students in school**)

Friday 21st to Monday 31st Half Term (School closed to students)

November

Tuesday 1st ~ First day back following the half term (**all students in school**)