11th October 2022



# NEWSLETTER

#### Year 7 Open Morning Edition

# Welcome to Bexley Grammar School

It was amazing starting at Bexley Grammar school! It was exactly as people told me it would be. You can never be without friends, and everyone is so nice. There is a club for everything you can imagine. There is something for everyone including drama, science, sports and much more. Every classroom you walk into, the teachers are warm and friendly and always ready to help you. If you are worrying about Year 7



homework, it's nothing to worry about. The homework was phased in gently for us to adjust to secondary. Are you a person that didn't enjoy your school dinners? Well, the food here is always delicious especially when sitting with my friends. Altogether, I have loved my first term at BGS and look forward to what the rest of the year brings. I hope you choose this school community for year 7, you will never regret it!

Grace Shaw, Year 7

# Settling Into Bexley Grammar School

Hello, My name is Tomiwa and I would like to talk to you about how it is settling into Bexley Grammar School. I know it is sometimes tricky or even scary at times starting in a new school, but I promise that you will settle in very quickly once you are a part of our majestic, diverse school.

I had an excellent experience starting at Bexley Grammar. On my first day, I was very nervous, but



I soon realised there was nothing to worry about. Everybody there was very friendly and approachable, especially in the older years, and I quickly made a lot of friends. Another good thing about Bexley Grammar is that it celebrates difference and diversity. We had International Week recently,

which was a week to commemorate people from all over the world. There were many activities and the lunch menu was adapted each day to showcase foods from different countries.

Along with the induction day we had to introduce us to the school, there was a three-day summer school with taster lessons and activities. I met a lot of new people there, so when I started on my first day I recognised a few faces. We also have Peer Mentors who visit us in our classroom every week and are always there to help us with any issues we have. Something else that makes it very easy to get involved with the school is the vast amount of activities and clubs that Bexley Grammar has to offer. There are sports clubs, drama clubs, music clubs, singing clubs, language clubs, subject clubs and many more.

For Year 6s starting next year, my advice would be not to worry about anything because everyone is very supportive and although the school is very big, you find your way around very quickly.

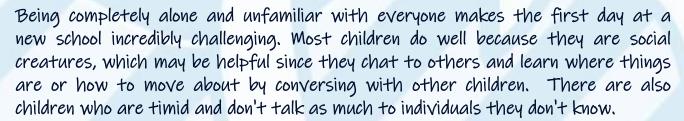
Tomiwa Adebisi, Year 7

# First day of Year 7

Hello prospective Year 7s! I'd like to talk to you about starting a new school because I've been in your situation before. Although I can appreciate how it could seem frightening, it's not as horrible as your year 6 educators have warned you. Believe me.

The greatest year is Year 7, since Bexley Grammar provides you ample time to adjust! You are not expected to meet all their expectations yet, you are given an opportunity to settle

down. This certainly calms nerves and gently eases you into a certain school routine. Six formers and teachers are really nice and inviting!



Additionally, the first day offers us a fresh outlook on events. On our first day of school, we noticed things that we don't usually notice. It's because on our first day, we're quite conscious of our surroundings.

All in all, it was a wonderful experience. Everyone typically recalls their experience

and cherishes it forever, whether they are a Year 7 entering a new school for the first time or a four-year-old starting school.

I genuinely hope that this writing will convince you that Bexley Grammar is the greatest option and that year 7 is the best year

Princess Otto, Year 7

# Why I Joined Bexley Grammar School (and why you should too!)

For me Bexley Grammar school is a good, local, and friendly school. Don't worry about making friends because you will have tons of opportunities e.g. the induction day where you get fun taster lessons like DT, a bit of Maths and orienteering.

## The first few days

The first few days are solely focused on form time and getting to know each other in your form class and don't worry about getting around, orienteering is there for a reason so you can use your map (and skills) to help you get to your next lesson and don't worry about being late!

#### The canteen food

There is not much to say, but it doesn't mean the chefs are nothing short of amazing! There is a variety of different foods, and you will surely find a few favourites! It depends if you want a cold (but still mouth-watering) tuna sweetcorn sandwich or a hot cheesy pasta bake. It's your choice!

#### Lessons

Year 7 may seem like a big jump for you but it really isn't, the teachers will ease you into the swing of it and homework helps you get up to speed! There aren't many difficult lessons or pieces of homework (the most difficult piece was an English research task) but most of the first homeworks were to start decorating our books.

#### Extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities in BGS are awesome! You can join all sorts of clubs. I am in 3: Running, Unicode and Robotics, so time after school never gets dull! If you want to join one, all you have to do is go to reception in your free time e.g. lunch, break, before or after school and check when the clubs start!

#### The conclusion

Thank you for reading this and I hope you (If you are the Year 6) or your child (if you are the adult) want to join our BGS community!

Thomas El Baaj, Year 7

## Welcome to Bexley Grammar School!

Hello and welcome to BGS. First of all, well done for passing your 11+! Second of all, I know that srarting secondary school can be a bit scary so I'm going to tell you all about it to help reassure you.

Starting secondary school, I was very nervous but there was nothing to be afraid of. People there, students and teachers, are so nice and kind and they will happily help you with anything, anywhere, anytime. The school is quite big so it is quite



busy between periods, all trying to get to their next lesson but that is what you'd expect from a secondary school.

At lunch, there is a wide selection of meals that taste delicious (so much better than primary school meals!)

There are also lots of extracurricular clubs that you can join such as sports clubs (netball, football, rugby, basketball and more), drama club, choir, origami club, Lego club and so much more.

Bexley Grammar is an amazing school and I'm so glad that I got in.

Olivia Harmer, Year 7

When I started secondary school I was really excited but a part of me was extremely nervous. I had butterflies in my stomach as I entered the school gates but I realised I was going to be alright. On my first day, the school reassured me that for the first few weeks if I ever got lost, all I needed to do was ask a teacher and they would show me where to go. Starting the school year, I was given a timetable and map to help me out along with a student planner so I can record any important pieces of information if needed. The school is mas-



sive and they have amazing facilities, including a rock climbing wall in the sports hall! The cafeteria food is amazing and it serves both hot and cold food.

We have some of the best teachers in the country from Maths and English to Languages. As BGS is an IB school, there are a few more subjects to study but we can always take on a challenge to expand our mind and change our way of thinking. Our school ethos words are: intellect, emapthy and courage and all students are expected to show these values. Intellect means we can change our way of thinking when required, empathy means we are to show love and always try hard to grow and courage means that we are not afraid to fail and we will always try our best. I was scared I wasn't going to fit in but then I realised we are all born to stand out. All you have to do is believe in yourself and be the best you can be.

If you join our school, you will do just fine and  $\mathbf{I}$  am sure you will enjoy your time at  $\mathbf{BGS}$ .

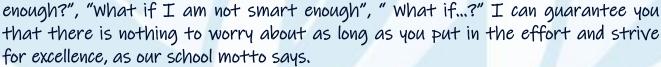
Naina Jain, Year 7

# Starting at BGS

Starting at a new, bigger and more profound school can be quite daunting at first, however, I can assure you that starting at Bexley Grammar School you will quickly feel at home and welcomed into this astounding school.

## Intelligence

Undoubtedly, you are all very bright and intelligent students having passed your 11 plus however, many students including myself could have thoughts like "What if I am not good



#### Aspiration

Aspiration according to the English dictionary means 'a hope or ambition to achieve something'. So to me this means that if you have a goal or your mind is set out to achieve something then that is aspiration and that is your chance to give 110% in everything you do. This can be as little as getting into the school football team or as big as getting full marks in most of your tests in the term. However, of course, like everything the difficulty varies depending on the person because after all we are all completely different people and the school will support you throughout your journey.



#### Endeavour

Starting something new means that you have an opportunity to be the best version of yourself that you have always wanted to be and try something new like a few more sports, or join a band but it is entirely up to you. Some of the exciting sports that I do are Chess club, running club, football, basketball and there are many other sports that you will surely enjoy. So starting from the first day that you walk through the gates you will surely not regret your decision of coming to Bexley Grammar School.

Teniola Adeosun, Year 7

Starting Bexley Grammar School was like starting a whole new chapter in my life. Not just because I was officially in secondary school, but all the perks of becoming a student here; the freedom, the respect, the responsibility, it was all so magnificent to picture. That moment when I first entered the building was just immaculate. I immediately knew that this was the place for me, the place I had been waiting to set foot in my whole life. I couldn't wait.



But, there was also another feeling - something I hadn't thought of. I was in a whole new school, a whole new environment, surrounded by a whole new bunch of faces. Just something about that made my stomach turn. I barely knew anybody or anywhere in this school and just thinking about all of that made me nervous. I tried to ignore this emotion while walking to my very first lesson but it kept eating me up inside. So much so, I had just realised I had not a notion where I was going. The school felt like a maze that would constantly drag you back to right where you started. As I wandered the halls, I kept trying to build up the courage to ask somebody where something was or how to get there, but I never seemed to have built up enough to actually do so. But, even though it took a while, (about a few weeks) thanks to all the support and friendly people, I was able to settle in just fine, and I'm sure you will too.

Lucia Wahba, Year 7

#### A Message from Mr Elphick, Headteacher, to Year 6 Pupils 2022

Our Current Year 7 ambassadors welcomed you to this Open Day Special edition of our weekly newsletter because it is students who are best placed to tell you what you want to know. At Bexley Grammar School, we understand that moving from primary to secondary school can be a daunting experience, but, in addition to our friendly students, our dedicated, committed staff are here to give you constant support and advice to ensure a smooth transition. The most important things you can do are make new friends, get involved and enjoy yourself!

We offer so many fantastic opportunities from the very beginning of Year 7 to ensure that you become part of our vibrant and exciting community. Our students make this the outstanding school that it is. Together, with energy, imagination and commitment, with determination, creativity and a willingness to participate, Bexley Grammar School will help you to develop the knowledge and confidence to reach your full potential and succeed in future endeavours.

Next September, this is what you and your parents might expect during the first few weeks: Your parents will meet your tutors twice with you, once for a 5 minute 'touch base' meeting after a couple of weeks, and once at the Parents' Association BBQ. You will have an extra-curricular 'fair' where new students would have been able to visit stalls telling them all about the activities on offer to Year 7 - about two dozen clubs/ activities! We have a music concert in which the whole of Year 7 are jammed into the school hall with your parents for a startling performance after only 5 or 6 music lessons! Our trained Year 12 peer mentors would be meeting with you all and seeing some of you for 1-1 meetings. Our programme of trips and visits both at home and abroad will be underway...

There is a great deal to look forward to. I look forward to welcoming those of you who are successful in joining us in September 2023!

The link <u>here</u> will take you to our weekly newsletters which will add flavour to the richness of the experience that we offer.





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(Newsletter extracts from last academic year)

# NET ER S

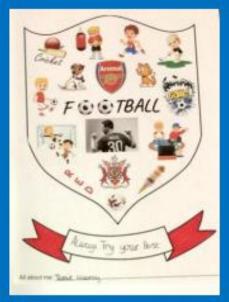


16th September 2021 www.bexleygs.co.uk

# Well done Year 7

Our new Year 7 students have made an excellent start to the year and are settling well into school life and the daily routines at BGS. Over the summer as a part of their virtual induction students were asked to complete 2 activities. The first being a shield to show their tutors, DOS and SAM all the hobbies, activities and things that they enjoy doing that make them all unique. The selection shown is just a small sample of the work that has been done and I am thrilled with their creativity, effort and final work.







































The second activity was an acrostic poem that linked to the school's ethos of empathy, intellect and courage. Again, I have been delighted with the creativity within the poems and how these relate to the feelings and thoughts of our new Year 7 students. Well done to each and every one of you. We will be judging the poems in the next couple of weeks to find the best one and a prize will be awarded in an up and coming assembly.

Much of this work will be on display in the hall at the up and coming "Meet the Tutor Evening" on the 23rd September. Ms Orchard and I look forward to seeing you at this event.

Mrs Belton Owen Director of Studies, Year 7



Harrison Tanner

Encourage nervous griends to try new things.

Make sure your griends are ok by. Listening and caring

People may have diggerent opinions.

Accept each other zor who they are.

Thoughts and zeelings matter.

Helping people respect each other.

Vou can help ig you care.







Maya Sutu

Inquisitive children willing to learn.

Never neglecting schoolubry.

Trying their hardest in every subject.

Engaging in every lesson.

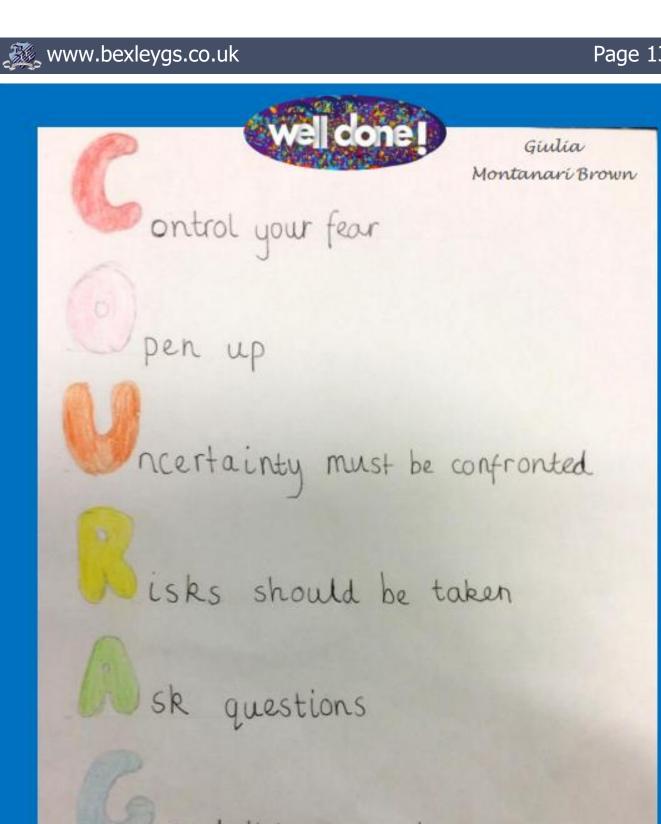
Learning from their mistakes.

Listening to teachers.

Expressing their interests.

Committed to their studies.

Talented minds building their way to success



good things can be accomplished ngage in a new experience



#### Year 7 Merit Award Certificates

A huge well done to the students named below as they are the **top two merit earners** in their tutor group for the first half term of the year. Certificates have been awarded and students have been celebrated. In some of the tutor groups the race was tight at the top. There will be further rewards given out at the end of this half term, so keep working hard and being helpful, respectful and considerate to earn merits from your tutors and teachers.

Mrs Belton Owen Director of Studies, Year 7

7JOO Emily Chan & Kartikeya Sriyastava

7MAM Maks Adaemiec & Zafir Chaudhuri

7MPM George Barnes & Guila Montanari Brown

7STA Yu Xuan Ong & Aiden Janse van Rensburg

7FTM Lilly Middleton & Adebola Olateru

7JMP Andrey Polyarush & Shraya Virk





#### Year 7 ~ Trade your way challenge

The aim of the Year 7 Power Day that took place on Wednesday 24th November was to get Year 7 students working collaboratively to design a sustainable product and put together a simple business plan. These new products would be pitched to the rest of the tutor group with each group voting for one winner. The winning groups would then present to the whole year group and by the end of the day we would have a product that was voted the best new sustainable concept.





The Power Day was very awesome and I liked the Idea of advertising things made from recycled material and it also gives us an idea of business and makes us so more creative and everything was so organised and fun! And also congratulations to 7STA for winning it!

Yajat Gupta, 7STA

I thought this Power day was a good idea as it helped the students understand how to run a business and work with other people as a team-Erin Furmage, 7MPM

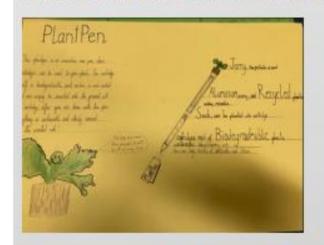
There were two very similar ideas in the Year 7 competition which shows that you need a complex idea to win Adam Albu, 7MPM

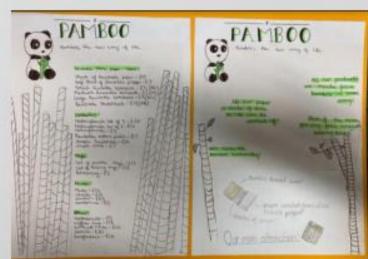




Ms Orchard and I were lucky enough to spend time with some of the tutor groups as they carried out research about their products. This includes reviewing the pricing of the product so that profits could be achieved. All of the groups of students had to work as a team to design their product as well as a present that included a poster to showcase their new idea.

I got to watch the class presentations of 7STA here are some of their product ideas. I was hugely impressed with their professional approach to the task as well as their presentation skills. The winning idea in 7STA came from Lilly Middleton, Hussain Nabeel, and Max Perex.







All of the winning groups then competed against each other in an inter-tutor competition for the best sustainable product across the year group.















#### .b An Introduction to Mindfulness

7STA and 7MAM have just completed their Mindfulness course as part of their personal development curriculum. These classes completed the first five sessions of the ten week .b course developed by the Mindfulness in Schools Project. The students looked at different ways to think about our mind and discussed ways in which they could start to train it. We also looked at recognising worry and how to manage our concerns in a variety of ways. I was really impressed with how students engaged in these lessons and they will be issued with certificates by their form tutors before the end of term.

Here are some comments from some of the students when asked about what they liked the most:

- I liked the fact that you were allowed to tell what you really felt in mindfulness without having to think that it is weird.
- I liked that I could wind down and get rid of any worries that I was thinking about.
- I enjoyed how I could clear our minds when it was full of thoughts.
- I enjoyed this mindfulness course because it gave me new ways to practice calming myself down. My favourite one is the beditation as it has helped me get to sleep and de-stress a lot before bed.
- I used finger breathing when I was stressed out and angry, and it helped me calm down.
- In tests I did .b. When I get stressed at home I some of the time use the 7/11.

Over a guarter of the students said that they found the beditation the most useful practice. If you would like to find out more about this practice, then watch this

The other four Year 7 forms will have a chance to complete these lessons later in the year during their Sports Science lessons.

#### Miss Brand, Mental Health Lead Teacher





# Drama Club

**EVERY FRIDAY, 3.15-4.15, J16** (SOMETIMES K10)

**YEAR 7-9** 

HAVE FUN, MAKE PLAYS AND MAKE FRIENDS

DRAMA CLUB CLASSROOM CODE-NUAC337

# Techie Club

**MONDAY WEEK A** 3.15-4.15, K10

**YEAR 7-11** 

LEARN HOW TO DO THE LIGHTING, SOUND, STAGING AND PROJECTION FOR SHOWS

'BACKSTAGE' CLASSROOM CODE-HITGUN5



Origami Club is a hub of creativity and has been successful thanks to the efforts of Cedric Mamodesen in 7J00. Cedric has brought his skills to the club and has been I teaching others how to fold, bend and complete a range of origami objects. This at imes is not easy to do as there are multiple folds and re-folds to complete!

The members have made Ninja stars, Samurai hats, spinning tops and will be moving onto Christmas decorations in the coming weeks. Each week each student leaves with a set of new skills, further confidence in origami and a completed piece of origami to take home.

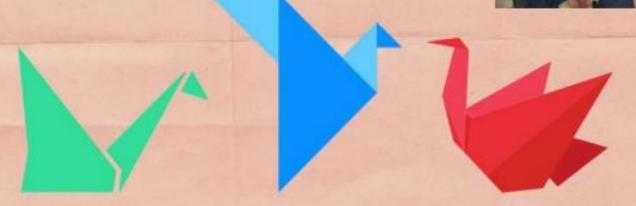
This club happens every Wednesday after school and starts at 3:10, in G16. New members are always welcome.















# Lit in Colour - 100 books for BGS Library

In 2020 Penguin released a report on 'Diversity in Literature in English Schools' which found that fewer than 1% of students at GCSE study a book by a writer of colour. In response they set up a Lit in Colour project to support schools in the UK to make the teaching and learning of English literature more inclusive. I bid for books for BGS and Penguin have kindly donated 100 books to our library, which will be on display until the end of January and students are welcome to come up and borrow these.

Thank you to Mrs Fabris-Abbate for her wonderful creative skills in making the display, and to the many students who helped cut butterflies in their break times!

If you'd like to see a list of the books we have been given you can click here.

Mrs Carey, School Librarian

# NEWS LETTER



20th January 2022 www.bexleygs.co.uk



#### PE News

Year 9 Rugby

Another win. Well done to the Year 9 rugby team who ran out 26-10 winners over a very big St Columba's side. Tries from Zac (2), Elijah and Andy and kicks from James and Sean sealed the win.

Year 8 Rugby

Well played by the year 8s on Monday. They performed very well in scoring 9 tries against St Columba's this afternoon, leading to a 45-15 win. Try scorers were: Stelios (3), Caspar, Marvel, Rohisan, Keir, Sam and Theo.

Year 7 Rugby

Another rugby win! 40-5 for the year 7s over St Columba's. Tries from George (3), Leonard (2), Uzo, Oscar and Valentino added to tremendous display of tackling from the boys. Well done!

Mr Lines, Head of PE





Under 16 Girls' Football

2022... We are hoping to add a trophy to our cabinet! Some of the U16 girls enjoying the afternoon sunshine out on the football field whilst preparing for their semi-final game along with helping support the key stage 3 girls in preparation for their games this term. Good with your games next week!

#### Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 netball team continue their success with a win against Trinity. Slow out of the starting blocks but a mighty comeback! Such a lovely bunch of girls - full of enthusiasm, great sportsmanship, a pleasure to take on this away fixture.

Players of match voted by opposition: Sophie and Adebola. Special mention to Laura for ensuring all her teammates had equal time on the court. Superb play ladies!

#### Mrs Kemp, PE Department















#### PE News

#### Football

The Year 7B football team really enjoyed an away trip to Hurstmere on Thursday afternoon. They played some excellent football, dominating much of the game, and were very unlucky to lose 3-2. Well played.



#### Netball

Smiley girls! Defeated on court but a resounding "yes!" when asked if they enjoyed the game. Chis and Sid were victors this time. Well done to all of the girls and a special mention to Violet, who was voted player of the match by the opposition. Bravo ladies!

Mr Lines, Head of PE



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The cherry tree and its blossoms are one of the most immediate and enduring symbols of Japan. You can find it on their currency and displayed proudly on the chests of the country's national rugby teams. And pretty much every tourist montage of Japan includes masses of the pink and white trees in full bloom. In Japan hanami - cherry blossom viewing - is one of the most eagerly awaited events of the year, with tens of millions of Japanese heading to sit beneath their nearest cherry trees and gaze up at their beauty. With some tasty snacks, too, of course!

The gifting of the tree is part of The Sakura Project, which was launched in the autumn of 2017 during a meeting between the Japanese and British Prime Ministers of the time as a symbol of and means to deepen ties between the two countries. Mr Elphick and Mrs Meyer were guests at the ceremony alongside students from Year 8 – Year 13.

Mrs Meyer, who has been involved with the project from the outset four years ago remarked how neatly this mirrored our students' journey through KS3 and KS4 up to GCSE. Mr Elphick remarked that he hoped that the event would also mark a return to the normal running of our exchange programme with Keio Shonan Fujisawa School.

Ashna Adhikari, a Year 8 student of Japanese said of the event, "The tree planting ceremony was a very special event to me. I love how through it, I was able to expose myself to Japanese culture by experiencing this event. Sometimes, we have culture lessons in our Japanese classes, which help to show me the importance of the Sakura tree to the country. I think culture plays a crucial part in Japan, so I'm glad I was able to learn more about Japan with this."

The blooming of cherry blossoms is very much determined by climate and weather and the Somei-Yoshino tree that we now have can be expected to put forth its white blossoms in late March or early April, allowing us to do our own hanami here at Bexley Grammar School.

#### Mr Adams, MFL Department







To 7MAM who have delivered the first tutor led assembly of the year virtually to all of the Year 7 tutor groups. The students involved had researched a number of issues about environmental sustainability, which links back to the work that has been completed in PSHCE lessons.

There were an incredible amount of facts about the impact of plastic on the environment. "You may not realise it but 60,000,000 plastic bottles are thrown away carelessly EVERY DAY!

And 22 billion are thrown away ANNUALLY! "some of these are pretty mind blowing when you take a moment to think about the volumes of plastic involved. The assembly included ideas about what we can do at school to reduce plastic and recycle more. Including the easiest solution of all, to sort out our rubbish into the right bins as well as ensuring that there is clear signage so staff and students know which bin to put their rubbish in.

Joshua Chukwu-Ike created a short animation to show the value of shopping in stores where you can take your containers to buy dry goods. Really impressive and what a skill!

Taran Maung had made a short video looking at transport and how we travel to school. This showed really clearly the importance of using public transport to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Well done.

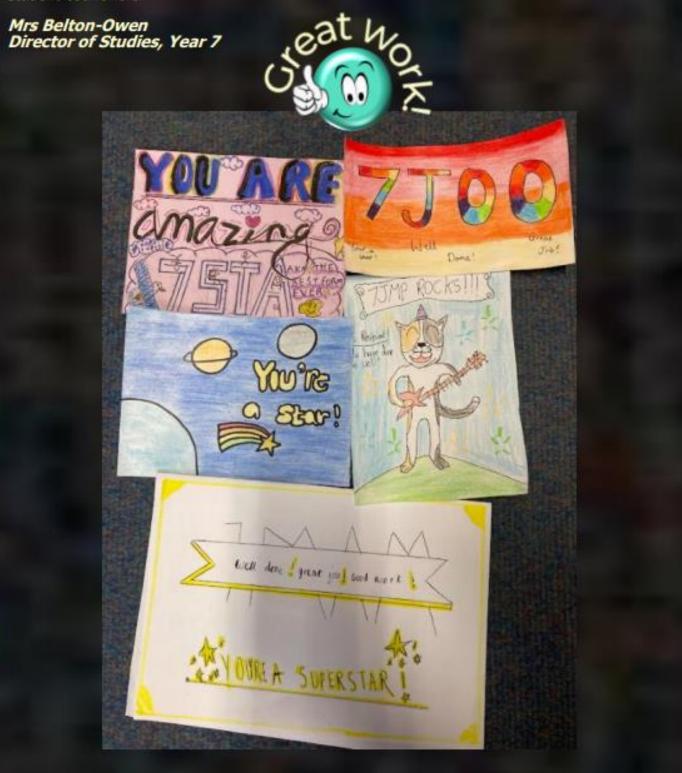
Thank you 7MAM for your assembly, an impressive effort from you and Ms Millbank.



#### Year 7 Council News

The Year 7 school council wanted to have a reward postcard that the tutors could use to celebrate student success. So they decided to set a little design competition with each tutor group having to design a postcard that was unique to them. The winning design for each tutor group has been printed and is ready to be given out. These can be seen below. So look out for these coming home in your child's planner throughout the rest of the year.

As their Director of Studies I was impressed with the designs, colour and effort that has gone into this reward postcards, I continue to be impressed with the ideas and work from the Year 7 student councillors.







# POSITIVITY JARS





## SPRING TERM WELLBEING

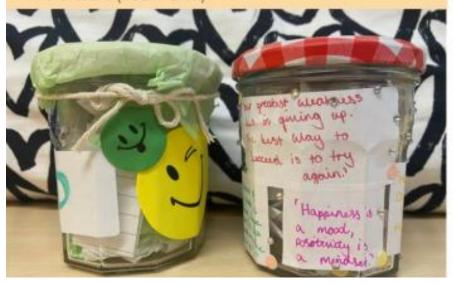
Last half term, our theme for Year 7 Friday Wellbeing sessions was gratitude and Year 7 participated in an exciting range of activities. They wrote thank you notes to teachers, went on mindful guided walks, and created form group positivity jars.

All the positivity jars were wonderful and Mrs Belton Owen and I had a lovely time reading the thoughtful messages. You can read a small selection of them on the next page.

7STA and 7JOO particularly impressed us. 7JOO added happy faces and green paper to represent their House, and 7STA added positive quotes outside of their jar and even folded all of their gratitude notes into little origami hearts. What lovely ideas!

Well done Year 7 2

-Ms Orchard (Year 7 SAM)



#### 7STA

We loved this idea because even if nobody knows and nobody can see, some people are hurting inside and a little thing like this can make them really feel better. It may seem silly, but it can help some people through rough times knowing that they have a jar full of positivity.

In 7STA, we chose to decorate our jar with quotes on the outside too, so that you don't even need to open it to read something that will lift your mood. We then filled it up with even more positivity on the inside. People who are happy with themselves and their lives may not realise how someone else can be hurting. However, they too will have rough days and feel loweveryone needs a bit of positivity!

-Lilly Middleton, 7STA

## 7300

For our well-being activity, we made 'positivity jars'. These are small jars that are filled up with notes about what made our day better. These notes can be quotes, lines from a song or a book, or just happy memories. I wasn't expecting much because when I started the activity, I didn't have many ideas.

In the end, however, it was surprising how many ideas the class and I wrote down: it was enough to fill several jars to the brim! Looking back, I can still relate to the things we wrote down, and just thinking about them puts a smile on my face.

-Sian Niaz 7J00

BE WHO YOU ARE AND FOCUS ON WHAT YOU WANT. EVERYTHING ELSE WILL FOLLOW.

STAY SMILING, IT MAKES EVERYONE'S DAY \*SHINE\*

SOMETIMES WHEN THE RAIN COMES, A RAINBOW SHINES THROUGH

> LET POSITIVITY FLOW, LET NEGATIVITY GO

NEVER COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHERS, BECAUSE YOU ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH

> WHEN YOU ARE IN YOUR ROCKING CHAIR MANY YEARS FROM NOW, TALKING TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN, BE SURE YOU HAVE A GOOD STORY TO TELL

YOU ARE BRAVER THAN YOU THINK, SMARTER THAN YOU SEEM, AND MORE LOVED THAT YOU KNOW

> IT'S NOT HARD, IT JUST NEEDS TIME.

HAPPINESS IS NOT OUT THERE, IT'S IN YOU

> YOU NEVER HAVE TO FACE THINGS ALONE

#### Year 7 Celebration Breakfast

Tuesday 29th March, saw the first break time celebration for the top merit earners in each of our Year 7 tutor groups. The top 2 boys and girls from each tutor group, along with the Year 7 tutors, Mr Elphick and Mr Gilmore came together to recognise the hard work and effort that students have put into a whole host of activities at school. Merits are awarded for both academic achievements as well as taking part in wider school activities, being helpful and showing consideration to others.

As their Director of Studies, I was impressed with just how many merits some students have been awarded in the last term. Congratulations must go to all Year 7 students as they have all had another hugely successful term which You are invited to the celebration merits breaktime with the head teacher and year 7 team. Tuesday 29th March, break time,L6



has included two power days, numerous House events and the start of their diplomas in many subjects.

Miss Orchard and I wish you all a very happy Easter and restful break. We look forward to meeting you at the summer fayre in June.

Mrs Belton-Owen Director of Studies, Year 7











#### Titschen

For the first time ever, along with my classmates, I took part in the Annual Titschen Competition. Titschen is the German name for an egg fight, in which painted/coloured eggs clash together in an "arena". After a short countdown: drei... zwei... eins... tisch!" the 2 eggs collide with each other. One will inevitably crack and one will stay strong.

My experience of Titschen in school was amazing! Even though I did not win, I enjoyed it very much as the tension rose throughout the competition.

Congratulations to Billy for winning the competition and I hope we will be able to take part in this tradition again next year.

#### Kristian Nachev, Year 7

On the morning of Friday the 22nd of April the most epic Annual Titschen Competition the world has ever seen took place. The hard boiled eggs were dressed to impress many in the colours of the German flag and one particularly dashing egg had the Berlin Skyline in silhouette embossed across its midriff, another was in traditional Tracht: Lederhosen. It was a rollercoaster of emotions: there were highs and there were lows. From Zidan's heroic dash to Reception to collect his misplaced battle egg, which got him through 2 rounds of legendary titschen to an unfortunate explosion during play between Hailey (who had forgotten to hard boil her egg) and a good humoured Jamie, which saw both Jamie and me being covered in raw egg and the moment the crowd went wild as Billy was crowned Titschen King leaving a defeated Jack in the dust as runner up! 7300, you are true warriors, I am very proud of you all.







# Well Done 7FTM!



The brilliant 7FTM have been having fun with German real estate this week. They were challenged to interview for jobs as estate agents. They also went to a board meeting wearing their extremely fancy hand decorated photo ID badges. Recently they received property packs and worked in groups to write adverts and successfully market them. They even executed house tours and made impressive sales! Well done, 7FTM- fantastic work!

Ms Anderson, MFL Department











500 Words



# 500 Word Short Story Winners

Year 7s have absolutely stunned the Year 12 English prefect judges with their spectacular short story writing skills! The ones which stood out in particular covered a plethora of topics ranging from a police man's logbook to a vivid tale about a troll. We saw an impressive range of vocabulary, complex structures and unique in-depth storylines within the 500 word limit.

Well done to all the class winners, as nominated by your English teachers:

7STA - Thomas Jaggs 7MAM - Amy Spillet 7JMP - Tianming Xie

The overall winners are as follows:

In third place, we have the story titled: 'The Log of James Martin', by Arjun Manivannan in 7MPM. He covered the topic of a police chief dealing with a rather peculiar case of an unknown entity and takes the reader on a journey log by log with details regarding his case.

In second place, Zuza Mainka Pearson from 7FTM took the reader into the depths of the 'Spider Web Forest' where we experienced the journey of an unnamed heroine traveling through its horrors.

In first place, an immersive experience of an Ocean Child is documented by Emily Chan in 7300. She used interesting paragraphing as well as an impressive syntax throughout the story and created pathos.

In conclusion, it has been a great showcase of skills from the younger years and this has been a pleasure to judge. Promising futures ahead and well done to all that have participated!

Keep your eyes peeled for the winning stories over the next few weeks.

Alex Ionita and Malo Fowle, English Prefect Team





## 500 Word Short Story Winners ~ 3rd Place

#### Log of James Martin Police Chief

#### LOG 1

It was him again. Of course, not that I'm surprised, it's just that...that all this is starting to get repetitive. Too repetitive. Whenever there's a case that the police need to handle in this town it's always him. Or... could it be **them**? Whenever we think we have him, another case pops up even though he's locked up. Oh well, I guess we'll look at it tomorrow. His mark has these runes on them. We don't know what they mean but they're written using his victim's blood. We checked and they always match. They are always killed in the most remote locations we can find. The least isolated area was the forest where all the citizens are forbidden to go without police authorization. Something's fishy.

#### LOG 2

All the signs point towards one person. We managed to translate the runes on this symbol and it all points toward one person. It translates to **THE ANONYMOUS**. But still, I seem to be getting too obsessed with all this. I should have a rest. I'm starting to feel a bit... drowsy almost. Everything is blurry and out of focus. My head is starting to spin and my body is aching in every manner. Perhaps it was just because of a hard day's work. I've never felt like this before though.

#### LOG 7

There was another one. Five days ago. The same symbol, but there was one thing that was different. The runes. They were displayed differently and we decoded them again. All they were this time were 2 letters. **JM**. It stands for nothing that I can think of related to these murders.

#### LOG 127

No new leads. But I start to feel odd. Almost paranoid. Like someone's always watching me. And my head, it just feels so weird as if I'm not the one controlling myself. It just switches between on and off every now and then and it just feels like there are these blank spots in the middle where I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY-THING!!! It just feels... wrong. I always seem to black out and collapse and when I wake up, I'm in a completely different area. Something's wrong with me. I just don't know what.

#### LOG 3605

I think I've done it. I've finally done it! But I'm not quite sure I like it. Half of me is just happy it's over. But the other half... just can't believe it. That all along the evidence was right there on the table. And here I am now writing in my log. The log of the guilty. I know it wasn't really "me". I saw everyone who could help me. A therapist, a neurologist... and finally, FINALLY, they figured out what happened. It was him in jail. But he hypnotised me. He controlled me during my blank spots and that's why I can't remember anything. But finally, despite the result, what's done is done and I can finally res...NO NOOOO IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!

Arjun Manivannan, Year 7



500 WORD**S** 

500 Words

ds



## 500 Word Short Story Winners ~ 2nd Place

#### Zuza Mainka, Year 7

The spider web forest. No one who's entered has ever left. No one would find them here. It was a solid mass of life, made of intricately woven trees strangling each other in a battle for sunlight; if one was cut it wouldn't fall, it wouldn't even move. The forest was splattered with tiny pockets of empty space, completely secluded from the rest of the world, most were flooded with complete darkness, light unable to pierce the canopy but life finds a way. Each pocket formed its own ecosystem, some filled with plants, insects and fungi that glowed, making their own light where there was none. In some pockets light managed to penetrate the canopy; plants would thrive, crowding together, blanketing the floor in vibrant flowers and innumerable shades of green. It was a fountain of life but if a person managed to find a way in it was certain death.

The forest was the size of countries yet it was far quicker to go around than to try to get through. The outskirts were navigable but only for around a kilometre in. The deeper you got the more crowded the trees became until they formed an almost impenetrable wall - it could take days to move a few metres.

They would make it. They would make it because unlike everyone else, whether they had no intention of entering the forest, whether they were trying to prove something, they would be guided, protected. Of the thousands of corpses adorning the trees thousands must have thought they were special. They thought they would be the first, they thought they would survive, that this wouldn't be the end. They were wrong. But she would make it, her family would make it because they really were special they were meant to make it.

Light soon turned into a fond memory of a distant past. It could only accompany them for so long before it was obstructed by the canopy. Their eyes quickly grew accustomed to the darkness but even so they still needed light to see, even if it was only the faintest glow. They had to feel their way. As they moved forward they ran their fingers along bark, sometimes smooth, sometimes rough and flaky, they ran their fingers along leaves, some soft others prickly, they held onto each other, staying close to the sound of breathing, occasionally calling out names making sure they hadn't left anyone behind. Their progress slowed; the trees became denser, crowding around them, watching them, suffocating them.

They were fine, this was not meant to be easy but if they did everything right they would be protected, safe. She was certain.

A holy mission. Her family devoted their entire lives to preparing for it so she did too. Her family were good people. They cared for her when no one else did. They only wanted what was best for her. Now it was her time. She would pass this trial. She would leave behind her mortal body. She would make it. She would reach true enlightenment, become one with the universe.

It's what's best for her.







# 500 Word Short Story Winners ~ 1st Place Emily Chan, Year 7

#### Farewell, Dear Child of Mine

Blindly tearing downhill, she breaks at the lapping edge, and roars on all fours at the force of the tides, a wounded wolf wailing its injustices to the moon. It wrenches my soul out a billion times, to see tears streaming down a sallow face framed in wild strands of scraggly black curls whipping about in the moaning wind. Eyes of shattered crystal snarling in defiance.

Like a mother would to a lost child come home, I sweep her up in my cold embrace, holding the fragile being in bitter silence whilst her cries stifle into choking sobs. Then the floodgates released a torrent of love and spite.

jabber of a thousand foreign voices, the flash of cameras blurring her sight as the aftermath of lightning strikes once did. Armed forces pushed back the sea of flalling bodies as more in black sealed her broken chains. As doors slid closed behind her, the mute purring rose to a roar and she lurched forward...

I wake, rub my sore eyes and stare at This can't be true. But deep down I the stark confines of my prison. I don't know it is. remember losing consciousness. I tense like a coiled up snake, eyes drifting over to the 2 metre-square window growing. It has been years since the pain, the decision is made: laborics had come to sample me. At the thought of those monsters I growled from the bottom of my throat, pupils dilated into slits. They mimicked the neat rows of scarring along my limbs and back. Bringing two skeletal fists to my cheeks, I breathe in deeper than the vastness of the Ocean, lucid eyelids sagging closed...

We were a long way from home. No longer did seabirds serenade the trees around our home, as home no longer was. The only resemblance was the

Silent like the shadows permeating every inch of the compound, I slipped from beneath the slacking guards' eye. They wouldn't miss just another sickly girl: I was always back in time for the head count.

No electric fence could hinder me.

Finally free, I shot down the hill faster than the bullets tearing through my soul, ferociously churning up grey Her firecracker ears rang with the mud underfoot. The Ocean welcomed me of a thousand foreign voices, the into its fluid grasp, letting me pour my

> I can still recall the instance they found an Ocean's child. It was the beginning of the end, and I'll never forget it.

Stop. I try to process what I have found.

I taste her rooted fear. I can smell the sulphur and breathe in the smoky air. to the 2 metre-square window I feel as if my heart would be brimming occupying the ceiling far above. A frigid with sorrow. Her helplessness shames gust billows in through the crack in the me. The losing war with insanity reinforced glass, one that is slowly consuming her. Sensing the bottomless

> May you know that I will always cherish you tenderly, and may you float at



# Year 7 Bake Sale Success

On Thursday 19th May, the Year 7 student council had organised a bake sale. This was held inside unfortunately as the weather was not playing ball!. After a quiet start during the first break, the cake sale was inundated with students, keen to buy a cake, cookie or muffin. The Year 7 student council worked hard to sell and after a frantic 20 minutes had almost sold out. To sell the final few goodies, Yasmin & Jake popped into a number of staff offices at lunch, to get our final sales of the day.

The bake sale has been a huge success and raise an impressive £193

A big thank you to all the students and parents that baked to support the sale today from both myself and the Year 7 student council.



















## Year 7 and 8 students make a trip into Space!

7 and 8 students made two separate trips into space this month, as part of competitions run by the Computer Science department. James Norrington, Sam Geary and Tymon Arendt, all from 8LPV, took part in the MARSBalloon challenge hosted by Thales Aerospace (<a href="www.thalesgroup.com/en/futuremartians">www.thalesgroup.com/en/futuremartians</a>). Their experiment, which included microorganisms called tardigrades and samples of their own hair was carried to an altitude of 32km - the very edge of space - by a weather balloon. The conditions at this altitude are very similar, in terms of temperature, pressure and radiation, to those on the surface of Mars. Their experiment was recovered successfully by parachute, landing somewhere in the Mendip hills and should be back at school in the next week or two, ready for our team to inspect their payload.

Victor Zhuang (7MAM), Lucas Hicks (7FTM) and Archie Williamson (7STA) also became astronauts of a kind, when their code was run aboard the International Space Station, as part of the AstroPi project, run by the European Space Agency (astro-pi.org). Each student designed a computer program that took readings from the environment sensors aboard the Space Station and printed a message that scrolled on a screen for the ISS crew. The certificates they received include an orbital track showing the International Space Station was above the Earth, when their code ran.

Well done to all the students! If you would like to take part in these or similar competitions, come along to one of our after-school clubs - either Unicode club on Wednesdays, or Robot Club on Thursdays.

Mr Villazon, Head of Computer Science

