



Bexley Grammar School
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL
A Specialist Language College and
IB World School
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I was going to write just before the half term break next week but I was prompted to communicate this afternoon by an alert from Blackfen School today:

"We have had 2 reports of young people being approached by someone they don't know whilst on their way to or from school.

On Thursday evening, a student was approached in Danson Road by a man who was driving and stopped their car and asked a question.

On Friday morning a student was approached by a man in Bexleyheath. He approached her at Chapel Road and asked a question.

Both students are safe and were able to report what had happened to home. We have also notified the school's police officer. This email is to notify you and is a reminder for all young people to be vigilant whilst travelling to and from school."

I echo this request that you remind your child to be vigilant in their school journeys and to travel with friends where possible. I am also appealing again to anyone driving near the school to park well away from our gates (beyond the width restriction at one end and the roundabout at the other) and never to stop on the yellow zig-zags or attempt a three point turn anywhere along Danson Lane.

In more upbeat news, we finished three very successful open mornings (two sessions each) across which just over 1400 people visited and toured the school. Your children are brilliant ambassadors for BGS; we received nothing but praise for them as guides - helpful, intelligent and honest. And it was only on Monday afternoon that the music department had held their amazing year 7 concert, literally the whole of year 7, in the hall with as many parents as we could squeeze in - our first time since 2009.

Some of you may be aware that we have had some issues with our biometric system which helps the smooth running of the canteen. One hardware installation and the accompanying software have to be upgraded before we can add all the students who arrived in September to the system. *ParentPay* has been unaffected and everyone has had access to food, but the efficiency of our provision has been compromised all this time. We are hoping that the necessary upgrades take place next week and students will then be re-registering their biometric information in order to use the new upgraded canteen system. All should be running smoothly again after half term.

Whilst mentioning the canteen, your children may have mentioned the new decor - professionally installed vinyl 'wraps' which have brightened up the area considerably. We are also finalising a recycling station to separate food, plastic and paper.

It has been a busy first half term which I am sure you have been following through our weekly [newsletters](#). It ends with our year 11 mock examinations (which started today) and after half term, year 13 have their part 2 examinations while year 11 are on work experience.

We are still awaiting our visit from Ofsted; it will be fitting if inspectors arrive in November to celebrate 15 years since they last visited, so that we can show them how we have continued to grow and develop to retain our outstanding status, giving us the freedoms to pursue excellence that this status confers.

We have our first *Power Day* (collapsed curriculum day) on Wednesday, just before we break up on Thursday. And please remember that there is no school next Friday nor the Monday after the week break.

Have a good weekend and I hope many of you get to enjoy the half term break with your children when we get there.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick