



NEWSLETTER

Thank you and Congratulations

Congratulations to last year's Year 7 student council as they have been instrumental in the redesign of the school canteen. On joining BGS in September, 2021, I asked the Year 7 student council group to look at the school environment and decide on a location that we could improve and make better for all. The school canteen was their least favourite place in the school. The council wrote and presented a presentation to the school's finance manager who in turn helped the students gain funding from the PTA to re-decorate the 3 key pillars in the canteen. The students helped to decide the theme and thought that it was vital that there was a link to the school ethos, which is underpinned by the 3 key words of, **intellect, empathy and courage** as these shape our school community. Just before the half term break the pillars were completed. There has been much delight and excitement across the student body at BGS as the canteen also has a new design across the main wall as well as a new recycling system to reduce waste. The year 7 student council would like to thank the PTA for their support and funding as our school canteen is now a vibrant place to have lunch every day.



***Mrs Belton-Owen,
Director of Studies, Year 8***





Year 7 raise the roof at the Year 7 Music Concert

Monday 10th October was our annual Year 7 Concert, which is the first opportunity for our new students to get involved with the school's active music department, and showcase their talents in front of an audience. The afternoon kicked off with a full-year performance of 'Billy the Kid', where all students, seated around the edges of the hall, sang together in a four-part melody. Each music class performed a different song, which they had learnt within their in-class singing lessons. These songs were: 7w/Mu3 and 7xy/Mu1 singing 'Rhythm of Life', 7w/Mu1 and 7w/Mu2 singing 'Wonderwall', 7z/Mu1 and 7z/Mu2 singing 'Siyahamba', and 7xy/Mu2, 7z/Mu3 & 7xy/Mu3 singing 'This is Me'.

During the intervals between these group performances, were some very brave and talented soloists from across the year, performing a variety of songs from many different genres. Lastly, was another full-year-group performance of the 'Gospel Medley', which combines melodies from three well known tunes 'Oh when the Saints', 'Swing low sweet chariot' and 'I want to sing', into a round.

This concert was such a good introduction for students to all things musical that Bexley Grammar School has on offer, and hopefully, encourages students to join our wide range of extra-curricular activities. The Year 7 music teachers would like to congratulate them on their hard work in bringing this together in such a short amount of time, and I'm sure the parents and teachers who attended the concert will agree that it was phenomenal! And of course, this concert could not have been as successful without the efforts of the music teachers, music prefects and other volunteers.

Thank you to everyone involved, and those of you who attended!

Eve Goodchild, Year 12 Music Prefect

The Year 7 concert was a truly spectacular show - it was a shame that COVID prevented our year group from doing it! It was so heart-warming to see parents gleaming with pride at their children, they were brilliant! A big thank you to Ms Goddard, Ms Eacott and Ms Casling for making the event possible.

Hana Ostrowski, Year 9 Music Prefect





Music Mark Award 2022/23

The Music Department is thrilled to announce that we have been nominated for the Music Mark Award for the academic year 2022/23 by our local music hub, Bexley Music. This is in recognition of our commitment at BGS to high quality music provision and the value we place on music education as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

For further information about the awards the music department has, please click [here](#)



Looking for more extra-curricular music activities?

Dartford Symphony Orchestra are reaching out to any musicians Grade 8+ (or string players Grade 7+) who might be interested in joining the orchestra. Students must be 16 or over, but if parents also play an instrument and can accompany their child to the rehearsals, students can be younger. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings 7:30 - 10pm. Lots of opportunities for strings and percussion! If interested, please contact the orchestra through their webpage: www.dartordsymphonyorchestra.co.uk

Christchurch in Bexleyheath is also looking for choral and organ scholars in Year 12. These young musicians will come and support the choir during term time in the principle services of Holy Communion and Evensong of a Sunday, with additional services for Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter, and other feasts by arrangement. Potential Organ Scholars will ideally be pianists at Grade 5 or higher, with strong aural skills and a developing understanding of harmony. If you are interested, you must email Mrs Goddard directly who will be able to make a referral - email goddard_e@bexleygs.co.uk





Black History Month

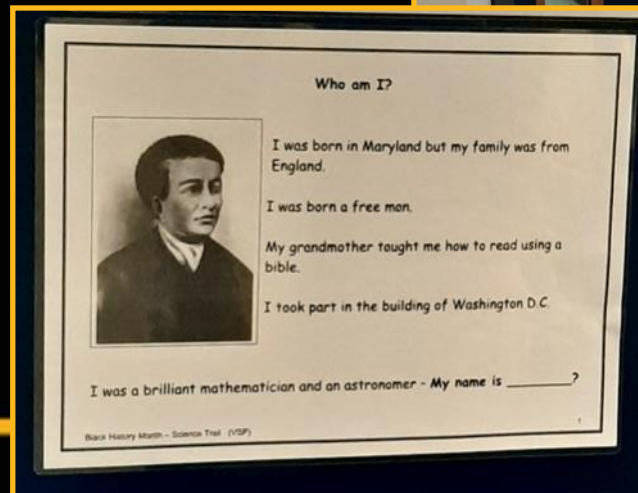
During October, we celebrated Black History Month. In science, our Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Black History Month Science trail in which they had to discover the famous scientist pictured on the doors of our science laboratories throughout the school.

I want to thank all of the students involved and their hard work in researching as well as their enthusiasm (quote from a Year 7 student, "This is so much fun, I love science!"). Congratulations to 7NRC and 8CED for winning the competition, I will be delivering your form prize to you this week!

Mrs Moore, Head of Science



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



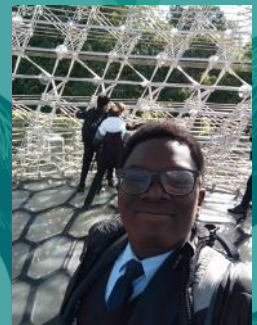
A Day at Kew Gardens ~ Year 9 Geography

On Tuesday 18th October, the French side of Year 9 went on a geography trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, Richmond-upon-Thames. Though the trip took the whole school day, I'd say I had quite a bit of fun on this.

So what exactly did we do? Once we got there, we were sorted into our groups and sent to look at certain parts of the gardens. We first went into the Hive, which to our surprise, was very modernistic in its design - as well as that, we also learnt the interesting fact that honeybees actually hum in the key of C.

As well as learning facts about animals that we may not know otherwise, we also learnt some facts about plants as well, such as about this plant, *Quercus turneri*, known as *Turner's Oak*.

After that, we went to the renowned Princess of Wales Conservatory, where we got to experience the biodiversity of several different biomes - among some, arid desert, tropical rainforest and temperate. There were over 12,000 specimens, and there was so much to explore that for a brief period of time, my friends and I were separated from our guide. Among the wonderful things, I saw the three





types of waterlilies: *Victoria boliviana*, *Victoria amazonica* and *Victoria cruziana*. The first was discovered earlier this year. We were also very surprised to see aquamarine life underneath the lilies.

Next was the walkway. Due to my fear of heights, this was probably my least favourite part of the journey, but others seemed to be having fun. In hindsight, it was quite cool to look down and see trees that you'd crane up to on the ground surface.

We then explored a place known as the Temperate House, where we learnt about plant life in the Americas and some parts of Australia. While there, we learnt about a type of tree whose nectar is scarlet-red: *Nesocodon mauritianus*.

We then gathered up for lunch and while the view of the lake was nice, some of us were harassed by nearby seagulls wanting food. The last few places we visited were quite memorable - we visited the *Palm House*, which despite the name, was surprisingly humid and warm.

There, we learnt about some plants and fruit that are grown in this type of biome - an example is the papaya, which is known by many names across the world. As well as that, we discovered that in humid biomes such as the Palm House, there are some plants which can help with certain diseases, like quinine for malaria. (As well as that, we saw the Water Lily House. It was really pretty, but there is little to mention about it that hasn't been mentioned in the Princess of Wales Conservatory.)

After that, we boarded the coach and headed back to school. This was a really fun activity and granted that this was our first ever school trip, I'd say this is an excellent start!

Omolade Paul-Taiwo, Year 9



well done!



House Activities Autumn Term

Since our return in September we have had several House competitions including House Harvest Box, House Music and House Sport.

The Harvest Box Competition was held after school at the end of September. Six students from each House, from Years 7 to 9 were given an hour, some old cardboard boxes and the use of any recycled bits and bobs they had collected to design and create a Harvest Box which was then subsequently filled with donations of food and other essentials from students of all ages. All donations were given to the Bexley Food Bank.

Here are the results:



1st Collins



2nd Prothero



3rd Mabbs



4th Wellman



5th Johnson



6th Kirkman

House Sport Football & Netball– Junior (Years 7 & 8), Intermediate (Years 9 & 10) and Senior (Years 11-13). The Junior and Intermediate competitions were held after school on 27th September where the Sixth form House Captains ran the tournaments set up by the PE Department. The Girls' Junior competitions for netball and football were the first opportunity for our Year 7 students to take part in a House Sport event and they came to the competitions with enthusiasm. The weather was kind and everything ran smoothly. The Senior Sport was held after school on 11th October and full teams were fielded by all in the sunshine.

Here are the results:

Netball

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th

Junior

Johnson
Collins
Mabbs
Kirkman
Wellman
Prothero

Intermediate

Johnson
Kirkman
Wellman
Prothero
Collins
Mabbs

Senior

Johnson
Prothero
Wellman
Mabbs
Collins
Kirkman

Football

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th

Junior

Collins
Prothero
Wellman/Johnson

Mabbs/Kirkman

Intermediate

Wellman
Prothero
Johnson/Mabbs

Collins/Kirkman

Senior

Wellman
Kirkman
Collins
Johnson
Mabbs
Prothero



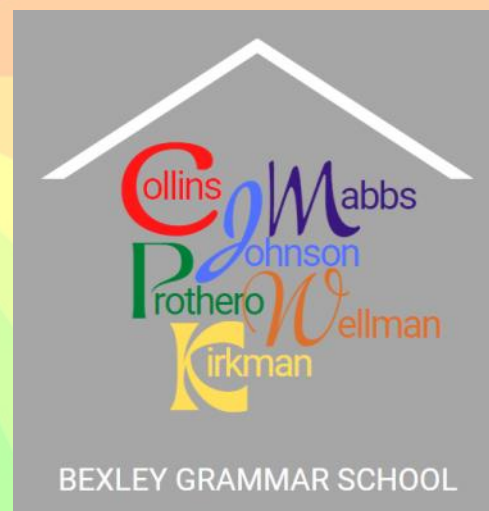
The House Music competition held on 5th October was the first of our 'big' competitions this year. The theme was *Music from the Movies* - no musicals or music from animated films. The House Captains rose to the challenge and we had both instrumental and choral pieces from The Guardians of the Galaxy, 9 to 5, to The Lord of the Rings to name a few. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of performances.

The results were:

1st	Johnson	33pts
2nd	Collins	30pts
3rd	Wellman	27pts
4th	Kirkman	24pts
5th	Mabbs	20pts
6th	Prothero	17pts

There will be an opportunity to join us at House Showcase at the end of the spring term to see and hear performances from both the House Music and the future House Drama and Dance Competitions.

Mrs J Snelling, House Leader



PE News

Well done to another lot of Year 7 pupils who made their debut against a very strong St Paul's squad. The result was not what we had hoped for and we were a little unlucky at times. Having said that the potential in the team is clear to see and I am really looking forward to working with the group for the rest of the season and beyond. Well done!

Mr Mackle, PE Department



Many congratulations to James Ng (7FIM) who won two medals at the Gloucestershire I13 tournament, part of the Badminton England junior circuit. James won gold in boys' doubles and bronze in the mixed doubles event. What a brilliant achievement!

Well done James.

Mr Lines, Head of PE





Special Educational Needs Department



Tea & Talk

Bexley Voice welcomes all members and non-members at our Tea & Talk sessions. Come along and meet with other parent/carers and get information and support on any SEND (special educational needs & disabilities) issues. Come to all or part of the morning. You only need to book in advance if you would like an individual session with the professionals attending the event. [See website](#). The next drop in session will be:

Thursday 10th November 9:30am-12:30

Laura Burke from Bexley MIND will be joining us for this session to talk about Mental Health and The Bexley Carers Service.

Our last Tea & Talk session of the year will be on Thursday 8th December 9:30am-12:30.

Mrs Haslam, Send & Inclusion Manager

Annual Poppy Day Appeal ~ On Sale Now!

Paper poppies, enamel badges, snap rulers, wristbands and for the first time this year, knitted poppies will be available to buy at the Reception, from Tuesday 1st November until Friday 11th November.

Please support the Royal British Legion.

Thank you





BGS PA presents

QUIZ NIGHT

BGS school hall

Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start

Friday 11 November

Teams of 6-8 people / £5 per person
Open to secondary students & adults

**To register your team & order tickets, email:
BGSPA@bexleygs.co.uk**

Bring your own food & drink
and change for interval games and raffle
Numbers are limited - all teams must be pre-registered



BGS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees **For Sale!**



The PA is pleased to offer discounted
Nordmann Fir Christmas trees to all
BGS families, staff, friends and neighbours!
A wide range of sizes are available from £22 - £60.
All proceeds will fund school resources or initiatives.

to order your tree, visit:
www.bgspa.co.uk/trees

Orders are due by Thursday 24 November



News items you may have missed



When: 7th-11th November 2022

Who can take part: Year 9 students (teams of **up to 4 pupils**)
no need to be in the same form/ class!

You will tackle a variety of language-themed challenges hosted on a virtual platform in different languages...the more languages you speak, the better!

To enter the competition, please email **Miss Giglione**
(giglione_m@bexleygs.co.uk) by **Thursday 3rd November 2022**

Please include in the email:

- * Your teammates
- * The name of your team
- * A photo for your team profile





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



We are looking for members of our school community, who are native speakers of Spanish, French, German, Italian 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





BGS Parents' Association

Christmas Raffle Prizes Donations Needed!

Can you or your company help the PA by donating a Christmas Raffle prize? We would be grateful for...

- restaurant vouchers
- theatre or family day out tickets
- bottles of wine, bubbles or spirits
- Christmas hamper items
- new gift items or other vouchers
- anything else you can think of!

Please email us: bgspa@bexleygs.co.uk

Thank You!



WELLING ROUND TABLE PRESENTS

DANSON PARK FIREWORKS

THE BIGGEST AND BEST
CHARITABLE DISPLAY IN THE SOUTH EAST

5th Nov

STAGE BANDS MUSIC HOT FOOD COME EARLY



Scan here for
online tickets

www.Skiddle.com/e/36172665

Or visit dansonparkfireworks.co.uk

No entry without online tickets

This is an all ticket event



Emil And the Detectives

Request for costumes for the school production

This year's school play 'Emil and The Detectives' is well underway and the cast are very excited to share the show with you in December (tickets will be on sale soon).

As the play is set in 1929, it requires a lot of period costumes to create the correct atmosphere.

Please can I ask if you are able to donate any of the following:

Smart shorts (Chinos or school shorts. Not football shorts or cargo shorts) as some of the cast are smaller, shorts from when students left Year 6 would be perfect. These should fit students up to 16, so if an older student has grown out of clothes, this would be ideal.

Men's Suits Any suit would be great, pinstripe or tweed would be ideal. These need to fit children, so again ones that are grown out of or belonged to a slender/shorter man, please.

Long Dresses/ Skirts Anything below the knee is acceptable, more for everyday wear than glamorous (we have those dresses). These will be worn by adult characters, rather than children characters, so needn't be too small- anything up to size 10, or children's 16.

Pinafores or Gingham Dresses Again, if you have these left over from primary school, these are for 'child' characters so may fit.



White Top Hat

Shirts

If you have any shirts, plain pullovers, hats or long socks that would suit the period they will be greatly received.

Please email otley_h@bexleygs.co.uk if you have any of these items and are willing to donate them.

Thank you



Are you entitled to free school meals?
Click on the link [here](#) to check your eligibility.



If your child has lost any of the items shown above or anything else, please click on the link [here](#) to report lost property or email us directly reception@bexleyqs.co.uk.

Thank you

Reception Team

Forthcoming Events

November

Tuesday 1st to Wednesday 9th ~ Year 13 IB Mock Exams (see timetable)

Thursday 2nd to Friday 11th ~ Poppies available to buy in school (see notice)



Tuesday 22nd ~ Year 11 Parents' Evening (details to follow soon)

Thursday 24th ~ Nordmann Fir Xmas Tree orders due (see notice)



Tuesday 29th ~ Power Day 2

December

Tuesday 6th ~ Year 13 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th & Friday 9th ~ BGS Christmas Production
'Emil and the Detective' (ticket information to follow)

