9th November 2022

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Reflections on the First World War

Volunteers to the British Army

When WWI broke out in 1914 the decision was taken in Britain to call on volunteers to join the army as opposed to forcing men to join up through conscription. Propaganda posters were used to encourage men to join such as the famous "Your Country Needs You!" image



of the War Minister Earl Kitchener pointing his finger. This image influenced two men who joined up in 1914 as they felt it was their duty to serve their country in the war to help defeat Germany.





The Story of John Parr

John Parr was born in 1897 and was Finchley in North London & after leaving school at the age of 14 carried out a series of odd jobs before joining the army in 1912. When WWI began in August 1914 John and his Middlesex Regiment were one of the first groups in the army to be sent to the conflict in Belgium and France. He became an infantry scout with his job being to ride out ahead of the lines on a bicycle to detect the enemy as this was before trench warfare had started.





The Story of George Ellison

George Ellison was born in Leeds & like John Parr joined the army before WWI although he was older having been born in 1878. George left the army before war broke out and made a living as a coal miner but re-joined the forces in 1914 as a member of the Royal Irish Lancers. In the conflict George saw service at the Battle of Mons in Belgium (like Parr) together with Ypres and Cambrai and over the conflict had a distinguished military record.

The Significance of John Parr and George Ellison

John Parr & George Ellison never met each other but they are linked by their experiences in the Belgian town of Mons during the war. John died on 21st August 1914 at the age of 17 (underage) when he encountered a German patrol in his scouting work and became the



first British fatality of the conflict. George was killed at 9.30am on 11th November by enemy sniper fire from the German lines at the age of 40 and is believed to have been the last British fatality in WWI.

The Importance of John Parr and George Ellison

The experiences of John Parr and George Ellison at as "bookends" to WWI for Britain in which 900,000 soldiers serving for Britain and the Empire died between 1914 & 1918. The tragic irony is that both men should not have died in the conflict with John being underage at the time and George being shot after the armistice was agreed (5.00am) Although these two men never met they are buried a few feet from one another in St. Symphorien Military Cemetery in Mons which contains the graves of soldiers of all nations. This was stipulated by the local landowner who would only agree to a German request for a cemetery to commemorate the dead if it was available for all countries which had been involved in the conflict from both sides.



The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

The idea of having a "Tomb of the Unknown Warrior" was the idea of Reverend David Railton who was a serving army chaplain on the Western Front in 1916. His idea was that the unidentified British soldier would represent all of those from across the British Empire who had served and died in the armed forces in the war. Railton's idea gained the support of the British Prime Minister David Lloyd-George and after the war ended in 1918 arrangements were made for this to take place

The Choosing of the Unknown Warrior

On 7th November 1920 4 bodies were exhumed from the different areas of battle on the Western Front where the British army had fought in the war. These were Ypres, Arras, the Somme, and Cambrai. The four unidentified bodies were taken to the chapel at St. Pol in northern France & each one was covered with the Union Jack flag. The commander of British troops in France and Flanders Brigadier General Wyatt chose one which should be returned to Britain and the others were re-buried.



The Return of the Unknown Warrior

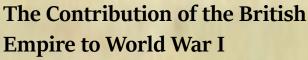
After Wyatt's decision on the body of the "Unknown Warrior" it was transported to Boulogne by train and cross the English Channel on HMS Verdun. On its arrival in Britain the body was placed on another train so as to travel to London Victoria where it arrived on 10th



November 1920, The body was placed on a gun carriage on the morning of 11th November drawn by six horses to the new Cenotaph war memorial on Whitehall for 11.00am.

The Burial of the Unknown Warrior

After the two-minute silence at the Cenotaph the body continued its journey with King George V who had been at the Cenotaph going with it to Westminster Abbey. The body was reburied at the west end of the nave with the unknown soldier having a full state funeral which is the only time in history that this has occurred. The burial had a profound impact on the British people as over the next week it is believed that over 1 million people visited the abbey to see the new grave.



The contribution of nations within the British Empire was immense and it is now generally accepted that without it Britain would have found the conflict more difficult. It is believed that the approximate number of soldiers is as follows:

- Canada 600,000
- Australia 400,000
- New Zealand 100,000
- South Africa 136,000
- India 1.5 million
- East and West Africa 120,000
- West Indies 16,000

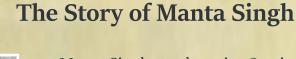














Manta Singh was born in 1870 in the Punjab state of India and in 1906 he joined the 15th Ludhiana Sikh regiment which formed part of the British army at the time. Manta joined the army as he felt this would be a good career move as British officers regarded Sikh soldiers as being individuals with leadership qualities. Manta had a good education, and this enabled him to be appointed to the rank of Subedar (captain) which was just below that of the British officers within the army.

Manta Singh and the First World War

With the outbreak of the conflict Manta's regiment was sent to France to reinforce the British forces on the Western Front. Manta found the living conditions in the trenches harsh although he was with compatriots as one in three soldiers under British command were Indians. In March 1915 Manta went into battle for the first time at Neuve Chapelle and after initial success their advance against Germany ground to a halt.



Manta Singh and George Henderson

As a result of reinforcements, the Germans counter attacked with the result that the Allies suffered heavy casualties (13,000 with 4,000 being Indian troops). Whilst on the battlefield Manta saw his friend Lieutenant George Henderson suffering who had been seriously injured and who without medical help would die. Under enemy gunfire in no-man's land





and showing courage and selfless bravery Manta found a wheelbarrow and pushed his friendly to safety in the trenches.

The Impact of the Actions of Manta Singh

As a result of his brave actions Manta suffered major wounds & was invalided out of the war and sent for treatment in Britain at the Indian Hospital in Brighton. Due to his wounds and infection Manta had to have both his legs amputated before dying from his injuries on 15th March. George Henderson survived his injuries and the war and ensured his young son Assa Singh was cared for and encouraged him to join the Sikh Regiment like Manta



The Legacy of the Singh-Henderson Friendship

Assa Singh became friends with George Henderson's son Robert with both men serving together in World War II. This friendship continued after World War II through Manta and George's grandchildren Jaimal Singh & Ian Henderson. After WWI a war memorial to the Indians who contributed to the conflict was built outside Brighton in recognition of their effort and each year Jaimal and Ian visit it together.



The existence of this memorial reflects the contribution made by the people of India to the First World War in which 72,000 of their soldiers were killed in battle.





The Story of Alhaji Grunshi

Alhaji Grunshi came from Dagbon which is now in northern Ghana & at this time formed the colony of the Gold Coast which was under British rule. Alhaji served in the Gold Coast Regiment from 1908 to 1924 and saw military action in the West & East African campaigns against Germany in their colonies. It is believed that Alhaji fired the first British rifle shot in the war on 12th August 1914 dispelling the myth that all of the action in the conflict took place in Europe.

The Nature of Alhaji Grunshi's War

The Gold Coast (Ghana) was next to the German colony of Togoland, and this is the reason why Alhaji saw action so early in the conflict which led to a German defeat. Following his action in Togoland Alhaji faced the Germans in their colony of the Cameroons before he was transferred to East Africa to face German forces in this theatre. Alhaji was involved in a number of incidents of fierce fighting in what is now modern-day Tanzania over the course of 1917 and 1918.









Alhaji Grunshi and the East African War

Alhaji distinguished himself in this campaign in WWI impressing his British superior officers & was Mentioned in Dispatches which were sent back to Britain. It

was said of him that he "had on all occasions shown a fearless example in

action" & that he was "a most reliable & pushing patrol leader". As a result of the efforts of Alhaji and his fellow members of the Gold Coast Regiment German forces were eventually defeated in East Africa in the summer of 1918



Military Recognition for Alhaji Grunshi

World War I took its toll on soldiers from Africa and other parts of the British Empire as many went to serve on the Western Front and its awful conditions in the trenches. Alhaji

was lucky enough to survive the conflict in East Africa unlike a large number from his Gold Coast regiment who were either killed or died of disease. By 1918 Alhaji has been promoted to sergeant and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and by the time he retired in 1924 he was a Regimental Sergeant Major.



Mr Goodall, Head of History



Year 9 Kew Gardens Geography Photography Competition

The Geography department is excited to announce the winners of the Year 9 Kew gardens photography competition. Winners will each receive a mini cactus to treasure!! Congratulations to each of the winners.



9A

Arjan Sehota won the prize for 9A as this beautiful photograph really encapsulates the vividness of the flora that our Year 9 students experienced! Well done!





9B

Cailtlyn Osey-Tutu is the winner for 9B. I loved the way that this small flower has gained the attention of the photographer, the light from the windows makes the petals look exceptionally colourful even though the rest of the picture is in demi-shade. The focus on the flower is excellent and I like the faded background. Lovely picture!



Congratulations!

9C

James Norrington. This is the winning image from 9C. I loved this photograph as it made me smile as it is such a happy image. I loved the bright colours and simple focus on one plant, the Marigold. The sunlight in the background of this image, ties in with the yellow petals and adds to the sense of the happiness that this image portrays.

Well done James!





9D

Macie Richardson, Macie is the winner from 9D as I loved the perspective of this photo and how the water so beautifully mirrors the ceiling. Not to mention how it wonderfully captures those giant water lilies. A great photo that has managed to capture lots of detail, well done!

9E

Zahra Selfi. "Gustavia Augusta" This is the winning image from 9E. From a technical viewpoint, this is capturing the light and the colour beautifully, it looks as if the photographer has scouted for a special plant, found a beautiful example we are generally not familiar with and did it justice with a carefully taken photograph, the detail is so good you can see the droplets on the petals and the sun lighting up the top part. Lovely work!





Congratulations!



9F

Lydia Ciurca has won the prize for 9F as this beautiful photograph really shows the interest and symmetry of vegetation in the desert biome. Such varied and exotic xerophytic plant life. Well done Lydia!

9G

Aggeliki Mirza won for this image of the greenhouse which hosts one of the collections of giant lily pads at Kew - what I love about this image is that if you look closely you can see some of our BGS students intently studying the lily pads - super work!



9H

Zack Walker. This photo is taken from underneath one of the huge decorations currently adorning the Temperate House. If you look closely it is actually made up of hundreds of (biodegradable) paper flowers. As well as being taken from a very clever angle it really encapsulates the vibrancy of the exhibit. Well done.



Congratulations!

91

Jonathan Balogun has won the prize for 9I as this beautiful photograph really shows complexity and interdependence within biomes. You have managed to capture this striking underwater scene - Well done Jonathan!



Young Enterprise Bake Sale

Currently we (a group of Year 12 students) are fundraising to enter the Young Enterprise competition. This is a programme which gives students the opportunity to develop their employability skills and prepare for the world of work.

As part of the Young Enterprise competition we held a bake sale on the 20th of October to help us raise money to enter.

This was only possible due to the help of Krispy Kreme and Morrisons, Welling who generously gave us a £25 voucher to put towards the goods we sold. Also we would like to say a huge thank you to anyone who supported us by buying some of our products.

The bake sale has raised us £230 which is part of the money needed to enrol our business and we are hoping to enter very soon and therefore would be hugely appreciative if you could watch out for, and support, any of our future plans.

Eve Fisher & the Young Enterprise Team









PE News

BGS Honours Board

We've had a number of students selected to various representative teams recently, and we'd love to update our sports honours board in the PE department to reflect those successes. If your child has been selected for a county, regional or national squad recently - please do drop me a line (lines m@bexleygs.co.uk) and let me know so we can share the good news and provide some inspiration to everyone else.





Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 rugby team were beaten on Monday afternoon by a very strong team from Wilmington GS. Despite the loss, the boys played incredibly hard, particularly in defence. Well done!

Mr Lines, Head of PE



What a fantastic start to this half term! The Year 7 squad came back from being behind twice in their North Kent fixture at home to Beths. The final result was 3-2 with a last minute goal which caused chaotic celebrations and plenty of smiles from the pupils involved and those who were there watching. A great demonstration of team spirit and supportive team mates.

Congratulations on a brilliant performance!

Mr Mackle, PE Department





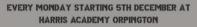
"FROM THE PRESENT TO THE FUTURE"

A GIRLS ONLY ELITE FOOTBALL **ACADEMY FOR ASPIRING** PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS

AGED 10-16!

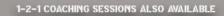


BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW: PRO2PROACADEMY@GMAIL.COM 07885815089



AGES: 10-13: 6-7PM

14-16: 7-8PM







ACADEMY

COACHED BY PLAYERS WITH...

INTERNATIONAL - WSL - CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYING EXPERIENCE



Geography Creativity: World Biomes Make, Bake, Create!

Recently in Geography, we have been studying biomes. To help us learn about a type of biome in more detail, we were asked to complete a project called Make, Bake, Create; this is where we had to either bake a cake, create a postcard, a biome in a box or a pop-up biome! Make, Bake, Create was a lot of fun to complete and getting to see (or even taste!) all of the different biomes people in my class made was really fun! It definitely helped me understand biomes creatively.

Hattie Pigott-Denyer, Group 91



















GEOGRAPHY MAKE, BAKE & CREATE



Aashraya Karki, Group 9D

Aashraya's amazing Make, Bake, Create endeavour is a clay model on a canvas print. The level of detail is outstanding and Miss Surplus was so impressed with the amount of effort that had gone into this piece of work. Well done Aashraya!





Group 9A

There were many notable 'Make, Bake, Create's' in 9A... so much so that over 10 star awards were given to students in celebration of their creative homework submissions!









GEOGRAPHY MAKE, BAKE & CREATE



Anagha & Angela's tropical rainforest cake, Ella and Hannah's desert cake and Millie's coral reef model.

Group 9G

9G produced some tip top 'Make, Bake, Create' homeworks which most of the class enjoyed eating during one of our lessons!





GEOGRAPH MAKE, BAKE & CREATE

Year 9 Creative Writing Workshop with author Jendella Benson

I found the workshop really helpful and enjoyable. Jendella Benson taught us how important the backstory of a character is and how to create one. We looked at examples of stories and found information about characters' lives. To create our own interesting characters we played a game where we randomly gave traits to each other. With our new characters, we wrote a short story including everything we were given. The challenge was hard but extremely fun. I would definitely do it again and will use what I have learnt in my next creative writing piece.



Bess Clements, Year 9







In the workshop, we first discussed the key components of books: plot, key characters and the creation of suspense. We played a game that led to us creating characters from random ideas within our group. I really enjoyed the last activity - creating our own stories. Many of the stories created within the group were really funny. My story was about a 29 year old man named Babatunde, who found out his mum was diagnosed with cancer. In his search for a cure, he discovered that he had a rich uncle! These random stories made the session fun and engaging.

Zach Dalrymple-Hayfron, Year 9



The workshop was very intriguing as Jendella Benson taught us about how she creates her characters. At first we analysed some texts and then we chose characteristics to create our own. My favourite activity was the last one because it was very funny hearing others' stories.

Lenny Sault, Year 9



BGS Sixth Formers meet published debut novelist!

Earlier in the month, the Senior Book Club for Years 12 and 13 received a very special visit from a real life author! Jendella Benson has burst onto the literary scene this year with her debut novel 'Hope & Glory', and we had the pleasure of being able to chat to her about it. The book follows Glory, a young British-Nigerian lady who has returned home from LA; back to her family in Peckham for her father's funeral. She decides that she does not want to go back to the U.S, and sets about rekindling friendships, finding love and, most importantly, searching for her long-lost sister Hope.







At our Book Club, Jendella was on fine form, responding to our burning questions with answers that matched the effortless flow of her writing. She even came prepared with a few questions to ask of us, allowing us to debate over deeper meanings and our favourite characters. And all that in the space of a Monday lunch time!

Needless to say, I would absolutely recommend this book, and the Senior Book Club.*

Dylan Oates, Year 13

Next meeting - Monday 12th December: 'Brighton Rock' by Graham Greene







Sixth Form Classics Conference

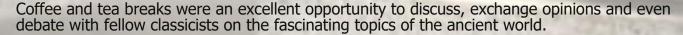
On Friday 4th November, the BGS Classics department attended a sixth form Classics conference at the Harrodian School, in Barnes, South West London.

Four prestigious speakers from some of the country's top universities lectured on fascinating classical topics.

Professor Armand D'Angour of Jesus College, Oxford spoke on 'The Chorus in Greek Tragedy'; Professor Richard Jenkyns of Lady Margret Hall, Oxford on 'Women in Homer and Virgil'; Dr Rosie Wyles of the University of Kent on 'Violence and Athenian Civic Identity'; Dr Mairéad McAuley of University College London on 'Transgender Antiquity'.

The class favourite, 'The Chorus in Greek Tragedy', explored ancient musical notation, the various modes of music and the sounds of ancient Greek instruments. Professor Armand D'Angour engaged with the musical accompaniments to the 'Ode to Man'

verse from Sophocles' *Antigone*, and parts of the chorus from Euripides' *Orestes*, much of which he had reconstructed himself! We were lucky enough to hear parts of the reconstructed passages sung as the Chorus would have done in 441 BC.



Overall, the day proved to be an enlightening and thoroughly enjoyable experience, witnessing the great breadth of topics Classics has to offer and discovering their recent breakthroughs.

Siona Canaj and Matthew Linane, Year 12 Classics Prefects







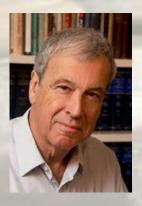
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Images:

Top Right: Professor Armand D'Angour

Top Right: An ancient Greek aulos

Bottom, left to right: Professor Richard Jenkyns, Dr Rosie Wyles, and Dr Mairéad McAuley

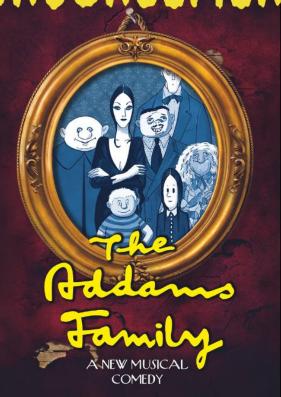






AUDITIONS ANNOUNCEMENT!

Google
Classroom
code:
ow7tbxt



Audition
packs on
Google
Classroom.
Email Mrs
Goddard if
you have any
questions.

Auditions will be held on **Wednesday 14 December**, Main Hall, after school.

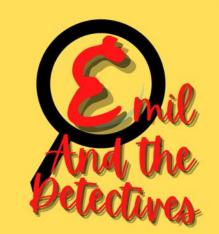


Emil and The Detectives adapted by Carl Miller written by Erich Kästnor.

Performance dates;

Wednesday 7th December 7pm Thursday 8th December 5pm Friday 9th December 7pm

Adults £8.00 Children/ Concessions £5 Family (4 tickets, at least 2 children) £20



Growing up is the most exciting adventure of all.

Featuring live band (performed and composed by students). Projections (designed and animated by students), an exciting lighting design (yes, by students), period costumes and props (also by students) and a huge ensemble

of 96 actors (all students) directed by a teacher...

Join young Emil as he says goodbye to his mother, leaves his small town and sets off on a journey that will change his life. When his money is stolen on the train by a mysterious stranger, Emil thinks he's lost everything. But as he starts tracking down the thief, he soon discovers that he's not alone in the big city after all. For this classic tale of a boy learning to rely on himself – and on his new detective friends – the BGS Theatre stage transforms into 1920s Berlin: a place full of surprises and danger, where everything moves at the speed of your imagination.

This performance is suitable for children aged 1 to 101. Come and join us for an exciting and fun celebration of our wonderful students' talents.

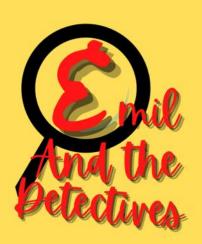
Ticket link: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emil-and-the-detectives-tickets-459955418037





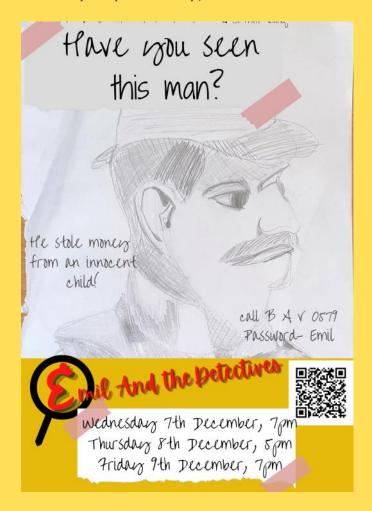








Click on the link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjmn6Ju0gw to watch the show trailer created by Sophia Barry, Year 13



Life Skills

What is a growth mindset?

Growth mindset has become an educational buzzword. Carol Dweck says that 'growth mindset is based on the belief that your basic qualities are things that you can cultivate through your efforts, your strategies and help from others'.

You can watch an illustrated version of Dweck's TEDXTalk here.

In terms of our learning, having a growth mindset enables us to continually grow our ability provided we have the right attitude to learning and conditions in which to learn. There are direct links between growth mindset and the school ethos of Intellect, Empathy and Courage, as well as the ten characteristics of the IB Learner Profile. It really is at the heart of how we approach learning.

Growth mindset is the explicit focus of the Year 12 Life Skills program this half term but its principles have relevance for students of all ages. I will continue to share the resources during this half term to help support students to develop their mindset, reflect on learning behaviours and set their own targets for developing their independent learning skills.

Ms S Brand Year 12 Director of Studies & School Mental Health Lead





BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

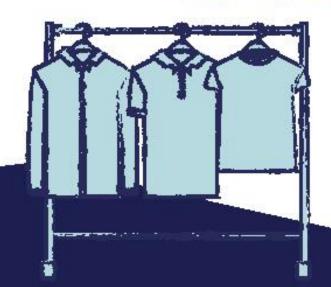


Monday 28 November, 6 - 8.30pm Main Hall £6.50/£4 concessions

Tickets go on sale on Friday 11 November at 9am Click here to purchase your tickets!

BGS PA

Pre-Loved School Uniform Sale



-for parents
and students
- all items
under £5
-cash and card
accepted

Friday 18 November 3.15 - 3.45pm School Canteen

many thanks for your donation - washed uniform items can be dropped off at school reception





BGS PA LOTTO!



The BGS PA Lotto is a monthly draw to raise funds for the school.

How does it work?

Each month there is a prize draw with a first prize of £15 and a second prize of £10.

To enter the draw you need to purchase a share. Each numbered share costs £5 for the year and is entered into the following 12 monthly draws plus an additional Christmas bonus draw.

*You can join any time.

*You must be over 18 to enter.

*There is no limit on the number of £5 shares you can buy.

Visit

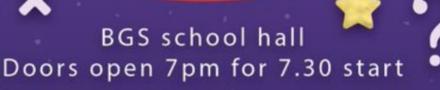
bgspa.co.uk/lotto

to order your shares!





QUIZ NIGHT



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

register your team by 5pm, Thurs 10th Nov

BGS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



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

All proceeds will fund school resources or initiatives.

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

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

Environment.



How to apply for Free School Meals

Are you entitled to free school meals? Click on the link here to check your eligibility.



Lost Property

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@bexlevgs.co.uk.

Thank you

Reception Team

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



Forthcoming Events

November

Thursday 2nd to Friday 11th ~ Poppies available to buy in school (see notice) Friday 11th ~ BGS PA Quiz Night 7pm (see notice)



Monday 14th ~ Appointment booking **opens** at 12 noon for Year 11 Parents' Evening (letter **here**)

Tuesday 15th ~ Sixth Form Open Event for Year 11 parents and students **Wednesday 16th ~ Late start registration for all students at 9.20am** Friday 18th ~ PA Pre-loved uniform sale (see notice)

Monday 21st ~ Appointment booking **closes** at 12 noon for Year 11 Parents' Evening Tuesday 22nd ~ Year 11 Parents' Evening Thursday 24th ~ Nordmann Fir Xmas Tree orders due (see notice)

Monday 28th ~ BGS Christmas Concert 6— 8.30pm (see poster) Tuesday 29th ~ Power Day 2

December

Tuesday 6th ~ Year 13 Parents' Evening (letter follow soon) Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th & Friday 9th ~ BGS Christmas Production 'Emil and the Detective' (see poster)

