



Students Celebrate The Chinese New Year & Lantern Festival

Our Chinese lessons are not only covering writing and speaking, but our teacher, Miss Lu has created fun and educational lessons where we learn about the culture, food and different sayings in Chinese such as 大吉大利 'good luck' (da ji da li).

Most recently we celebrated the Chinese lantern festival, this is a special day symbolizing the Chinese New Year by organizing parades with very impressive floats decorated with lights depicting dragons and, this year especially, Roosters as this year is the year of the rooster.

In the lesson we started off with a fun pop quiz about the lantern festival. The questions were very difficult, but we learned a lot. Then our teacher introduced us to some Chinese riddles where we had to find out which character it was describing, we then had a chance to come up with our own riddles and test our partners.



After we made up our riddles we wrote them on a piece of red paper and turned the paper into some pretty lanterns. Miss Lu then gave us four traditional sticky rice balls each which she told us was to symbolize the four seasons, or could be interpreted as wishing us luck all year round. The rice balls were gooey, sweet and delicious.

These lessons are not only fun but educational as they teach us the Chinese culture as well as the language, it helps us understand what may go on in someone else's life and lets us experience it. I enjoy these lessons and I hope that other language lessons will start to also explore the culture as well.

Catherine Hibbs, Year 8



Sixth Form exchange trip to Paris

Early on Wednesday 8th February, 11 students, accompanied by Miss Brand and Mr Stewart, met at St Pancras to start their journey to France for an exchange trip. After getting the Eurostar to Paris, we had a quick stop at the Eiffel Tower for a picture before heading on the train once more to Orléans, where we spent the first evening with our host families.

Over the next two days we experienced French lessons, including the long days (8am to 6pm!) and the weirdly relaxing bell that confused us all very much. The evenings were spent bonding with our partners and their families, and exploring the local town. The cathedral of Orléans was particularly popular, considering that without planning, we all ended up there. On Friday night the whole group went bowling, which was an excellent time to get to know other people and for people show off their 'skills' (although some were questionable!)

On Saturday there was another impromptu meeting at *le Chateau du Chambord* which was a beautiful but cold castle in the region of Sologne. With its awe-inspiring towers and beautiful staircases, it was definitely one of the highlights of the trip. After spending our final evening with our families, we met back at the station the next morning to head home, but not before seeing Notre Dame and eating lunch at a traditional French crêperie.

It really was an amazing trip that allowed us to make some good friends, and immerse ourselves in French culture. We are all very excited to welcome our partners to England in a few weeks time.

Thank you to Miss Brand, Mr Stewart and Mme Guérin for organising such a good trip.

Jusleen Gill, Year 13



Lord Mayor's Cadet

Congratulations to Aisha Malik-Smith (Year 12) on her appointment as Lord Mayor's Cadet for 2017! She will represent London's St John Ambulance Cadets (volunteers aged 10 to 17) when she attends prestigious City of London functions hosted by the Lord Mayor.



As well as being a youth volunteer with St John Ambulance, Aisha is also an appointed member of the NHS Youth Forum, representing the views of young people on the health service. She is often asked to attend events with senior figures in the NHS to ensure that young people are heard.

It is wonderful to see such volunteer work recognised. See the full article here:

[Lord Mayor's Cadet - Newsshopper 9th February 2017](#)

BGS

BGS from the air as you have never see it!

An amazing drone video by a Year 8.



Each week, Year 8 students complete a project in Science. During the last Teacher Training Day, Daniel Baker (8EKR) and his father came in and flew his drone around the

School as part of his Science presentation. The resulting video is remarkable. (It is a little over four minutes but well worth watching all the way through.) Daniel has posted the link on his own YouTube channel which you can view by clicking here:

[An Aerial View of BGS](#)



Hot Teenage Topics

From time to time, the Pastoral team at BGS come across websites or articles we think might be useful for parents to see. We deal with a wide variety of issues outside of academics and know that these can sometimes be tough to manage not just in school but at home, too. We have no affiliation with the producers of such materials and they do not necessarily reflect our opinions. Our aim is to provide some helpful guidance on hot topics affecting our teenagers.

The Pastoral Team

E-Safety Notice

We have been advised by our Safer Schools officer to warn parents about the use of the MyLoL app by teenagers. Parents are advised to discuss this with their children if appropriate and to delete the app and block the website.

Parent Governor Vacancy

One of our very active parent governors is relocating which leaves a second vacancy within one academic year - an unusual occurrence for BGS. Each family should have received a nomination form by email and by pupil post (sent out on Wednesday).

This is an important opportunity to nominate a parent (which can include you or your spouse) to a role that is becoming increasingly critical to schools. Parent Governors are not 'delegates' but act according to their own consciences and points of view. For some, it provides an opportunity to "give something back" into the school that is looking after their child or children.

Please see the nomination letter for more information including the deadline next week - noon on Wednesday 1st March.

Best wishes,

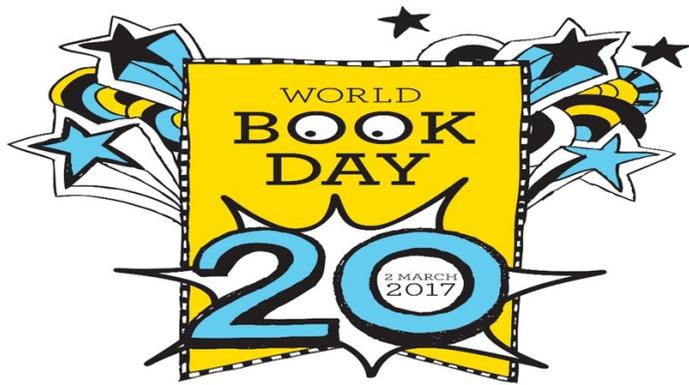
Mr Elphick

PE News

A number of girls in Year 9 contributed to a study that a former student was undertaking as part of her university work. If your daughter received a consent form I would be enormously grateful if it could be signed and returned to the PE Office as soon as possible. If your daughter no longer has the consent form, please ask her to come and see me for a replacement. Thank you.

Mr Lines, Head of PE





Year 7 you lucky things!!!



- All Year 7 students will be given a £1 voucher during their Library lessons.
- Take the voucher to WHSmith or Waterstones, and swap it for one of the ten £1 World Book Day books!
- Or you can use your book token to get £1 off any full price book instead!

- At some point during a lesson on Thursday a bell will sound.
- You will be asked to **'Drop Everything and Read'**.
- You have already been asked, via a letter home on parentmail, to bring a book/something to read into school that day....
-Don't forget something to read!
- And enjoy the silent 20 minutes of reading time!



Dressing up!
Come to the library at 1pm (P5 LUNCH) on WBD for a photograph and to enter our best-dressed competition!

If you are in years 7, 12 or 13 we would like you to dress-up as a literary-inspired character.



..for a book-themed quiz at academic!
Show off your book knowledge to your form!

Cryptic image book trail - look for posters around the school



Name the author and the title of all 15 books on the trail to win a free book of your choice (up to £10).

Library book quiz

Join us in the library at 3.05 on Thursday 2nd March - take part in a Kahoot book quiz.



Raise money for children in hospital



- Want to read books and help others? Take part in a sponsored 'readathon' - you can be sponsored per book, per page or per 10 mins of reading.
- The money raised will help the Readathon charity to provide new books and storyteller visits to children's hospitals across the UK.
- £5 book vouchers will be given to the students who raise the most money for the charity.
- Come to the library to sign up and get a sponsorship form.



Book freecycle



In the canteen at BREAK and LUNCH there will be a freecycle book stall.

FREE BOOKS! FREE BOOKS! FREE BOOKS! FREE BOOKS!
FREE BOOKS! FREE BOOKS! FREE BOOKS! FREE BOOKS!

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

A concerned resident wrote to me just before the half term break about her serious worries regarding the morning drop-off near the school gates. I am working with the Head of Danson Primary to try to raise the awareness of parents using cars both before and after school. There are too many near-misses as a result of carelessness or thoughtlessness on the part of car drivers. The resident of Merlin Road agreed that I could quote from her letter to me:

"Sadly every time I leave home between 8.20 and 8.45, I consistently observe inconsiderate and dangerous car parking. Parents/Carers often cross residents' drives, park illegally near the end of roads and practically on the roundabout, or simply stop in the middle of the road or even on the roundabout to let their children out. I have observed children run out between moving cars...

...Having been a busy working parent myself I do understand the pressures in the morning. However it is important that parents and carers behave in a considerate and safe way...

...Can you please make a plea to parents and carers to simply allow themselves enough time in the mornings to bring their children to school and to park safely, considerately and legally. They are fortunate to have so much car parking within a short walking distance of the school."

I have similar concerns about the traffic at the end of the school day when over a thousand of our students spill out of the front gate and make their way home. Our children are old enough to walk a little distance from the school before they need to be picked up in surrounding roads. Danson Primary releases their children ten minutes after us but the concentration of parents and children at about 3:15pm means that drivers need to be especially careful and must acknowledge the areas designated as no stopping.

Thank you for your support in keeping your children safe.

Mr Elphick



Forthcoming Events

March

Thursday 2nd ~ World Book Day

Tuesday 7th ~ Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 13th ~ A Level and IB Solo Recitals

Tuesday 14th ~ Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 16th ~ A Level and IB Solo Recitals

Monday 27th ~ School Spring Concert

Tuesday 28th ~ ECM Day 4

Wednesday 29th ~ House Showcase

Friday 31st ~ Last day of the Spring Term

April

Tuesday 18th ~ First school day of the Summer Term

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