

www.bexleygs.co.uk

16th November 2022



# NEWSLETTER

it's official, Ofsted says we are:  
*Outstanding!*  
click on the link [here](#) to read the report :



## Music News



### Year 13 students perform IB recitals

On 10th and 11th November, Year 13 students performed a variety of music for their peers as part of their IB music course-work. This is the second year of our new IB music specification, which allows students to really explore their own individual music interests as well as exploring more unfamiliar repertoire. It was a joy to listen to our Year 13 recitals, and we hope that all the hard work and effort will pay off for you all in summer 2023!

### BGS Trumpeters mark Remembrance Day

On 11 November, our three trumpeters Will Henderson (Year 13), Anna Hardie (Year 12) and James Orchard (Year 11) performed 'The Last Post' to mark our minute of silence to remember those involved in conflicts as part of Remembrance Day at Bexley Grammar School. Our trumpeters performed exceptionally on what is one of the most important musical performances of the school calendar.

Thank you Will, Anna and James for being exemplary musicians.

***Mrs Goddard, Head of Music***





## Work Experience ~ Congratulations Year 11

Congratulations to the Year 11 pupils for completing their work experience placements! It has been fantastic to receive such lovely messages from employers who were clearly very impressed with the effort and application of the BGS students. Here are a few extracts from emails but I could have provided more!

**Pre School Nursery:** *"He was conscientious, looking to move around and help/ interact wherever it was appropriate and engaged well with the children. He was able to work alongside children needing extra help and enhanced their development."*

**Bank:** *"It was an absolute pleasure to work with her."*

**IT Company:** *"He came across very well and maintained his interest in the different subject areas that the team went through with him, asking pertinent and probing questions."*

Part of the joy of work experience is to build up relationships and contacts for the future. One of our pupils has gone a step further and will be volunteering on a regular basis after a very successful placement at a Cyclopark.

Here is a short paragraph written by **Sophie Pooley** (11ML) who actually had an **article** published whilst on work experience:

*Last week I was given the opportunity to work at a local press agency for my work experience. Throughout the week I had the chance to cover different news stories and see first-hand what it is like to work as a journalist. I was able to write articles about a variety of current topics and was lucky enough to get one of them published! It was an amazing experience and I found it really useful as it gave me lots of information about the industry and an insight as to whether this could be a job I'd be interested in in the future.*



# Congratulations!

It really does sound like you all represented the school in a superb manner and you should be very proud of your achievements!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Caley-Gardiner for all her hard work throughout the organising process.

Thanks,

**Mr Mackle**  
**Director of Studies, Year 11**





## Exciting news from Prothero House

Well done 8ERE!

A massive congratulations to 8ERE for winning the form board competition. Their form board met the brief of being Prothero inspired, representative of them all and incredibly creative. Awesome work!

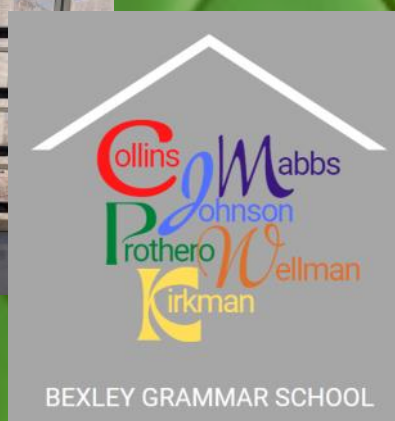


well done!

Meet Basil!

The naming of the dragon competition has now ended and a name has been decided. This was a hotly contested event and there were over 100 submissions for names including Norbert, Dragonmir, Rhoderick, Speedy and many many more! However, the name that was chosen was warm, friendly and most importantly GREEN. Many thanks to Kate, Bess, Raphael and Hattie for suggesting the fabulous name of **Basil**!

**Miss Ashman**  
**Head of House, Prothero**







# YEAR 10 NEWS

## *Year 10 film-making*

*Year 10 were involved in film-making session on Power Day (Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022) about the dangers of social media. This was judged by Year 12 Film Prefects who watched all the entries and chose a winner.*

*The winning production goes to: Roxanne, Zoe, Ruth, Steph, Rajashvi (10ELS)*

## *Congratulations!*

### *DOS Golden Weekly Award (7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> November)*

*The award this week has been nominated by the DOS and SAM based on amazing autumn 1 report. Congratulations to all the recipients of the award:*

- \* Davina Gordynska - 10AMM*
- \* Matilda Jackson - 10JEA*
- \* Adeleke Gabriel - 10MGG*
- \* Paul Despabiladeras - 10IAB*

### *Year 10 Form attendance Award (7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> November)*

*The form with the highest attendance this week is: 10EAB*

*Congratulations to all students in Mr Bulgarelli's form.*

*Let us do it again next week!*

### *Year 10 Academic Student Council Representatives*

- \* Matilda Jackson - 10EAB*
- \* Behzod Marufov - 10MGG*

*Working together accelerates progress*  
*Mr Oyedeji*





## PE News

### Rugby

The Year 10 Rugby team produced an almost faultless performance in racking up a 22-5 victory over Hurstmere on Wednesday. Tough tackling, strong running, and excellent sportsmanship as always. Very proud of them all.



### Basketball

Well done to the Year 9 Basketball team, who secured a win in their first Kent cup game 43-39 vs Langley Park on Tuesday.



We have been trialling the use of leggings as part of our PE kit for girls in our GCSE PE classes. Some students have found them preferable to the shorts or tracksuit bottoms previously used. We are now happy to extend this kit choice to girls in all years. Leggings with BGS badges are available from Casey's. We are happy for plain black leggings to be purchased elsewhere, but please ensure that they are sportswear, and are suitably opaque. If we do not feel that leggings are suitable for PE we may ask your daughter to wear shorts instead.

***Mr Lines, Head of PE***



## STEM Futures

STEM Futures is a new multi-year programme of activities and support for students of Black heritage\* who are interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine). Black people are currently underrepresented in STEM so it can be difficult for young Black students to find out first-hand what their next steps should be. This programme has been developed to support you to discover the wide range of subjects within STEM studies and to help you to get into university.

**Imperial College  
London**

You can join the programme in either Year 10 or Year 12 and the programme is designed to be relevant at whatever point in your school studies that you start. Please see the sections below for more information on each stage of the programme.

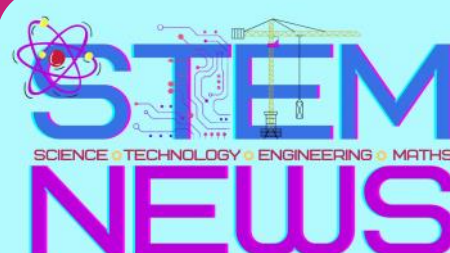
\*This includes Black or Black British- African, Black or Black British- Caribbean, Other Black Background, Mixed- Black African and White, Mixed- Black Caribbean and White, or Other Mixed background (including Black African, Black Caribbean or Other Black background).

Click on the link [here](#)

### STEM Futures



Supporting students from Black backgrounds in years 10 and 12 to explore STEM degrees & careers through lectures, subject-specific workshops and sessions around careers, personal development, and study skills.







# Life Skills

## Life Skills: Do you have a fixed mindset?

Students in Year 12 continued to look at the concept of growth mindset in their Life Skills session this week. Dweck (2006, p7) 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'. If you believe that your ability can be developed, then you recognise that effort is the key to success and you are more likely to embrace the challenges that help you learn. If you believe that ability is fixed, then failure (such as a low mark in a test) can make you afraid of challenge and prevent you from thriving.

Sixth Formers completed a simplified version of Dweck's questionnaire this week to think about the views they hold about intelligence and learning.

### SCORE CHART

22-30 = Strong Growth Mindset

17-21 = Growth with some Fixed ideas

11-16 = Fixed with some growth ideas

0-10 = Strong fixed mindset

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Your intelligence is something very basic about you that you can't change very much	0	1	2	3
No matter how much intelligence you have, you can always change it quite a bit	3	2	1	0
Only a few people will be truly good at sports, you have to be born with the ability	0	1	2	3
The harder you work at something, the better you will be	3	2	1	0
I often get angry when I get feedback about my performance	0	1	2	3
I appreciate when people, parents, coaches or teachers give me feedback about my performance	3	2	1	0
Truly smart people do not need to try hard	0	1	2	3
You can always change how intelligent you are	3	2	1	0
You are a certain kind of person and there is not much that can be done to really change that	0	1	2	3
An important reason why I do my school work is that I enjoy learning new things	3	2	1	0





If your result is a strong growth mindset, it suggests you will always see ability as a result of your own effort and something you can change. Likewise, a strong fixed mindset suggests that you consider ability to be fixed or determined by your nature. However, most of us are somewhere in between these two extremes.

It is helpful to look at what 'fixed' beliefs we hold in order to challenge the beliefs that are limiting our progress. For example, you might hold a fixed belief that you are bad at Maths, which means you are less likely to put in the effort to improve as you feel that will never change. In Year 12 Life Skills, we will start to look at ways that we can grow our mindset over the next few weeks, but the first step is to try and notice your own mindset (how do you respond to challenges and setbacks, for example?).

Further Reading: Dweck, C.S. (2006) *Mindset. Changing the way you think to fulfil your potential*. Random House: New York.

Ms Brand,  
Year 12 Director of Studies  
Mental Health & Mindfulness Lead



internet  
matters.org

## Safeguarding Update

### Young People's Wellbeing in a Digital World

Internet matters have put together an excellent report on young people feeling in control of their lives. This report explores how the mindful use of digital technology can benefit our wellbeing. Using the example of managing screen time, it shows the value of not just counting time spent online, but also reflecting on what we are doing with that time.

You can read it in full here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TikTok-Agency-Report-ENG.pdf>

*Mr S Auckland, DSL and Deputy Head*

## Important information for all GCSE students

Please note, contingency days are timetabled for the **afternoons of 8th and 15th June**, as well as **Wednesday 28th June 2023**. These contingency days are designed to be used in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations.

**This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the date of their first exam until Wednesday 28th June 2023.**

This decision is not a school decision and does apply to all candidates in all schools.

Please click on the link [here](#) to view the provision GCSE examination timetable 2023.

***Mrs Bono***  
***Examinations Officer***







# Movember 2022

## Supporting Boys' and Men's Mental Health this Movember



### **stem4 webinars for Parents and Carers—Building Self-Esteem and Positive Body Image in Boys and Young Men**

This November, youth mental health charity Stem4 is focusing on supporting the mental health of boys and young men.

Whilst there is a focus on building confidence and self-esteem in girls, boys can struggle with self-esteem too. Boys and young men often have to conform to gender stereotypes which set standards based on 'strength', both physical and emotional, as well as encourage competition and advantage.

Boys and young men often express low self-esteem differently. Some may act out through challenging behaviours, whilst others may 'escape' into distraction behaviours or withdraw.

Parents and carers play an important role in identifying and supporting positive self-esteem and worth. Our webinar this November looks at:

early warning signs of low self-esteem and self-worth in boys and young men;

- identifying when eating issues might turn into eating disorders;
- management of muscle dysmorphia;
- practical ways in which parents and carers might engage with and address some of these concerns.

Join Stem4 for a webinar on Thursday 24 November at 7:30 as they open up the conversation on self-esteem in boys and young men.

You can sign up to join this webinar here:

[https://stem4-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_84-jx9W4RimiBPI1zcgq2A](https://stem4-org-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_84-jx9W4RimiBPI1zcgq2A)

(This is provided by an external service)



BGS PA

# Christmas

## RAFFLE!

TICKETS £1 EACH

**TO BUY YOUR TICKETS, VISIT:**

**[bgspa.co.uk/raffle](https://bgspa.co.uk/raffle)**

**GRAND PRIZE**  
**£200 Bluewater**  
**Gift Card plus**  
**the 12 prizes**  
**of Christmas!**

The deadline for ticket sales is Sunday 11th December.  
The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 14th December  
by PA trustees & winners notified. **Thank You!**





BGS PA

# *Pre-Loved School Uniform Sale – this Friday!*

3.15 - 3.45pm in the School Canteen

Coats.....	£5
Blazers.....	£5
Rugby tops.....	£4
Jumpers.....	£4
Trousers.....	£3
Skirts.....	£3
Shoes.....	£3
Trainers.....	£3
Ties.....	£3
Badges.....	£2
Shirts.....	£1
Socks.....	£1
PE shorts.....	£1

\*sale held on 18th Nov for students and parents

\*cash/card accepted

\*many thanks for your donations

\*washed uniform items can be dropped off at school reception



an invitation from  
BGS Parents' Association

# December Meeting & Social

Monday 12 December 2022  
from 7.30pm  
Danson Stables

Come meet the PA!  
Please RSVP  
by Mon 5 Dec to:  
[bgspa@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:bgspa@bexleygs.co.uk)

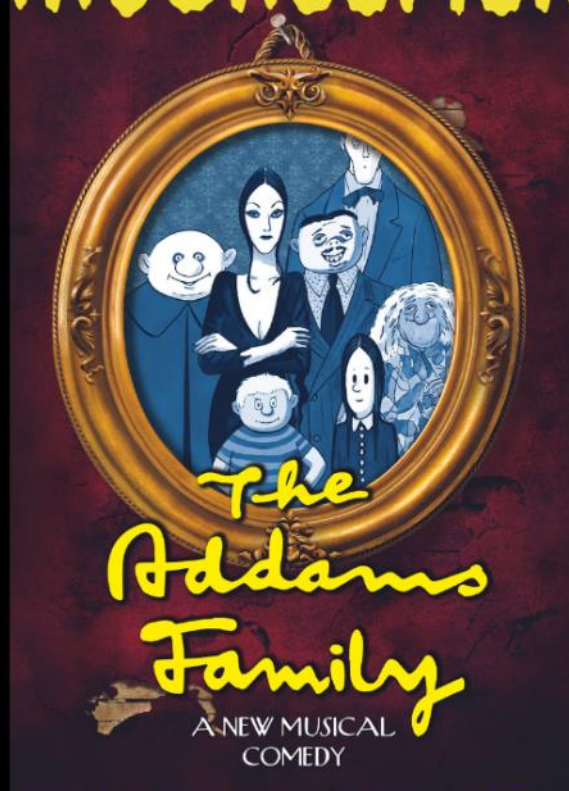




News items you may have missed

# 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.



BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



# BGS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**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!](#)





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

Performance dates;

**Wednesday 7th December 7pm**

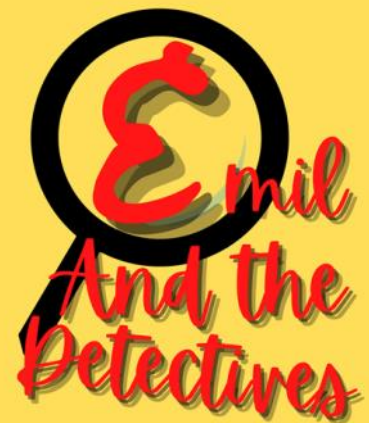
**Thursday 8th December 5pm**

**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.*

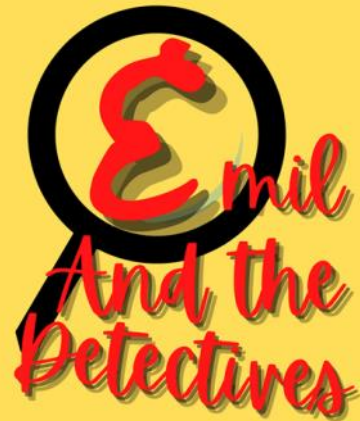
Featuring live band (performed and composed by students). Projections (designed and animated by students), an exciting lighting design (yes, by students), period costumes and props (also by students) and a huge ensemble of 96 actors (all students) directed by a teacher...

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=gjmn6Ju0gwI> to watch the show trailer created by Sophia Barry, Year 13

Have you seen this man?



He stole money from an innocent child!

call B A V 0579  
Password- Emil



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





# *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](mailto:otley_h@bexleygs.co.uk) if you have any of these items and are willing to donate them.*

*Thank you*







BGS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

# Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees For Sale!

**\*9 days left  
to order\***



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](http://www.bgspa.co.uk/trees)**

Orders are due by Thursday 24 November



## 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](mailto: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***







## 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@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:reception@bexleygs.co.uk).

Thank you

**Reception Team**

## Forthcoming Events

### November

Friday 18th ~ PA Pre-loved uniform sale (see notice)

Monday 21st ~ Appointment booking **closes** at 12 noon for Year 11 Parents' Evening  
(letter [here](#))

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)



Monday 12th ~ PA Meeting & Social (see notice)

### June 2023

Wednesday 28th ~ GCSE EXAMS CONTINGENCY DAY (see notice)