



NEWSLETTER

Bumper Christmas Edition

Emil and the Detectives An Outstanding Success!

I have been doing shows at BGS for longer than most of this cast have been alive, I am, more so this year than ever- so immensely proud and in awe of this cast and crew.

Emil and The Detectives is a show about kids taking the initiative and solving a crime who persevere through negativity and seemingly impossible odds- but all of these qualities are not only describing the fictional children in the script; they completely describes the real-life students doing the show too.

The cast, gave up so much time each week to do this whole show in just over 2 months! They helped each other constantly, and have so much love and support for each other. It's hard to single out actors when there were about 90 of them in the show- too many to mention were amazing both as actors and as part of the team. No one wants a 100 page newsletter, but I could easily fill it with praise for the actors- but I will save individual mentions for those not on the stage, as they don't get seen by the audience:





The band, who once again prove how exceptional the musicians at BGS are- playing perfectly and tightly with very little rehearsal time;

The stage management- there was not a single member of staff backstage, the show was entirely run by students cuing each other;

William Henderson, who composed ALL the music in the show and brought so much emotion and tension to the scenes;

Tadana Muhaso, who drew posters, operated the follow-spot and 3D printed a flick knife for the show;

Tom Dalrymple, sound design extraordinaire- as good as a professional.

Wyatt Knox-Newman, who sorted through our hundreds of costumes to put together pieces appropriate to the 1920s;

Mollie Arkwright, who kept everything running with set and props backstage;

Robert Humphreys, who is so much better with the lighting than Mr Otley! It's like having a professional here too!

And to the incredible Year 13 leavers- all 12 of them, those who were happy to have a little part in the play so the younger years had the chance to shine. Those who, as mentioned before, ran EVERYTHING backstage. Those who were happy to choreograph dances and learn songs at one day's notice.

But really, the best account of a show comes from its audience. These are genuine comments left by audience members:

Audience feedback





Awesome show. Fabulous Cast. fantastic music. So wonderful to see so see such young talent. Congrats all



*Fantastic in every way.
they were all brilliant-
Thank you for the fun
and quality!*





Cast write-up

Among the plays that I have done so far in the school, Emil and The Detectives has definitely been my favourite. I played Silent Irene, one of the detectives, and it was an absolute pleasure to be onstage with the other actors- there was never a boring moment. It was honestly such a great way to escape from everything going on! The play was put together perfectly (thanks Mr Otley!) and costuming was on point. Also, I definitely recommend trying out for the next Year 7-9 play (Twelfth Night) or the next production (Addams Family), it will totally be worth it and will be loads of fun!

Thanks sir for making Emil so memorable and fun!

Hana Ostrowski, Year 9



I really enjoyed being part of this year's play, Emil and the Detectives! It was lots of fun and this was, by far, my favourite play so far in my years at BGS. This show turned out a massive success with the help of an amazing (and large) cast of students and one teacher that made it all happen. It was nice to see all year groups working together to produce what some would say, a masterpiece.

Thank you to Mr Otley as without him we wouldn't have had a play! And thank you to all the people that weren't in the spotlight:

Tech, costume, lights, stage management and the live band.
Hope to see you next year for Twelfth Night!

Lukas Schreiner, Year 9





Emil and The Detectives was the most fun thing I've done in a while!

I, did the lighting and got to see the whole play so many times and could probably memorise the whole thing. I would recommend doing a school play as the experience is incredible!

I'm looking forward to doing more plays in the future, but for now;

PASSWORD: EMIL!

Tadana Muhaso, Year 8



Taking part in Emil and the Detectives has been so much fun! Doing a drama play is something I recommend that everyone tries out. Even if you don't think that drama is for you, there are many ways to involve yourself and enjoy the experience! The plays are always very lively and Emil and the Detectives has only added to this- it's been amazing (onstage and backstage) and I'm so sad it's over, I can't wait for the next play!

Deya Dimitrova, Year 10





Dear Parent/ Carer,

We are very fortunate to have been chosen as one of twenty schools (ten secondary and ten primary) across England and Wales to work with YoungMinds this year on a project to improve mental health and wellbeing support in schools.

As part of this process, we would like to invite you to take part in a survey to help us better understand the views of our school community. Taking part in the survey is purely voluntary and you may opt out of any of the questions. However, we hope that this survey will offer you the opportunity to be heard and help us to gain a more complete picture of mental health and wellbeing.

The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete, depending on any additional answers you give.

[Click here to complete the parent survey](#)

If you have not yet had a chance to complete this, the survey deadline has been extended until the 16th December.

I want to take this opportunity in advance to thank you for your support,

Ms S M Brand
Mental Health & Mindfulness Lead

About the Phoenix Project

The Phoenix Project is a whole school approach to managing anxiety based on YoungMinds previous schools and participation work. We want your school to finish the project with a practical plan to address anxiety and mental health within your setting, and the knowledge and skills to be able to implement it.

About YoungMinds

YoungMinds are the UK's leading charity fighting for children and young people's mental health. We have worked extensively within schools - providing training, consultancy and resources to implement a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

YOUNGMiNDS
fighting for young people's mental health





Year 9 News

I have been delighted by the enthusiasm of year 9 students this term - both in their academic studies and through their involvement in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.

In assembly this week we will be celebrating the award of 'star of the term' to students within each form group - nominated by their form tutors - for their role in their form community. Well done to all winners!

Miss Meacher & I would like to wish all students and their families a happy and restful Christmas break.

See you in the New Year!

Mrs Spencer

Director of Studies, Year 9





YEAR 10 NEWS

DOS Golden Weekly Award (28th November – 2nd December)

Congratulations to all the recipients of the award:

- * Jessica Wong – 10EAB (your work in ethics)
- * Isabelle Norris – 10MGG (your work in ethics)
- * Elijah Akintola – 10IAB (most improved)
- * Aqua Trumci – 10AMM (taking a lead on house planter)
- * Samuel Mutti – 10MEM (your work in ethics)
- * Tenzin Yeshe – 10JEA (very polite & constructive member of form)
- * Moses Baluba – 10ELS (active engagement & participation in form activities)

Congratulations!



Year 10 Form attendance Award
(28th November – 2nd December)

The form with the highest attendance this week is:
10AMM

Congratulations to all students in Miss Mani's form.



Year 10 Form attendance Award
(5th December – 9th December)

The form with the highest attendance this week is:
10JEA

Congratulations to all students in Ms Adlington's form.

Well done everyone for an amazingly busy term. We made it!
Keep up the great work.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year 2023

Mr Skinner and Mr Oyediji



BGS Senior Choir and Year 12 musicians visit Marlborough School



On Tuesday 13th December, students from the BGS Senior Choir and our Year 12 IB Higher musicians visited the Marlborough School in Sidcup to perform Christmas carols for their carol service. We were delighted to support their students, singing 'All I Want for Christmas', 'Feliz Navidad' and 'When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney', amongst other festive treats.

Our IB musicians arranged all the music for the carol concert, practising important skills for their upcoming music assignments. Everyone performed wonderfully, singing out and celebrating with the students of Marlborough School.

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music



ABRSM Exams ~ 24th March 2023

If you would like to enter your child in for ABRSM exams, we will be holding a session on Friday 24th March 2023. [Click here to access the form](#). The deadline for entries is 6th February 2023 - please sign up as soon as possible as we are likely to fill up this date.





Christmas time for the Music Department

On Monday 28th November the Music department celebrated the end of the first term with a wonderful Christmas concert to get parents, friends and family into the festive spirit. There was a wide array of music and ensembles (as usual!) and it was wonderful to see new Year 7s in all of our ensembles.

Mrs Casling opened the concert with 'Home Alone Christmas' and 'Lux Aurumque', which was accompanied by the Chamber Choir. This was the first time we have had a collaboration of this kind, and the 'Lux Aurumque' has been an exciting challenge to put together. Over the last few years, we have also welcomed the Samba group who have added to the drama on the stage with their drumming and movement. Clarinet Choir performed three short pieces themed around Christmas, including 'Ding dong bing bong'. Flute group performed 'Dance of the Mirlitons'.



String Orchestra performed a selection of music from 'Ratatouille' by Michael Giacchino, and did so brilliantly. Brass group performed 'The Prayer', led by our Year 13 student Will Henderson, before Chamber Choir finished the first half with 'Most Wonderful Time of the Year'.

In the second half, Junior Choir and Junior Orchestra opened with Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' and absolutely raised the roof and set the bar for the rest of the concert. Rock Group wowed, with additional solos performed by George Petts Year 12. Junior Jazz performed two pieces, 'Breezin' and 'Born to be wild' under the expert watch of Mr Laing. Big Band and Improv then came up to play - it never ceases to amaze us watching our musicians performing skilful improvisations.

Senior Choir finished the concert with 'Sing' by Pentatonix (Mrs Goddard obviously required the audience to participate!) and 'Have yourself a very merry Christmas' - it was a Christmas Concert after all, we needed something Christmassy to finish!

We finished with all performers on stage singing 'Step into Christmas' by Elton John, which brought the concert to a close. We were brimming with pride watching all of our students on stage - from Year 7 to Year 13, every student on the stage is a treasured member of the Music department.

We want to thank everyone, staff and parents, for supporting the event, as well as the PA who generously gave their time to serve refreshments and run the craft stalls.

Follow us on Instagram ([bexleygsmusic](#)) and on Facebook (search 'Bexley Grammar School Music Department') to keep posted with music concerts and events.

Mrs Goddard, Head of Music







maths INSPIRATION

INSPIRING MATHS LECTURE SHOWS FOR 15-17 YEAR OLDS

Year 12 Trip - Maths Inspiration Show!

On 29th November, a group of intrepid Year 12 students took the train up to London to see the Maths Inspiration Show in the Phoenix Theatre in London's glittering West End. The students learnt about how maths can be used in all kinds of fascinating ways, from designing a football stadium, to juggling, to predicting the behaviour of a crowd at a rock concert.

Mr Male, Mathematics Department



The speakers were (from left to right):
Host: Jennifer Rogers
Aoife Hunt: The Shape of Escape
Paul Shepherd: Simply the Best
Colin Wright: Patterns, Predictions and Juggling

The Maths Inspiration Show was a very interesting experience. We saw three different speakers who each talked about three different interesting topics that linked to maths and showed us how mathematics can actually be used in the real world. It was interactive and the three hours went by really quickly. We had the opportunity to ask questions and be involved as they asked the audience for volunteers. I definitely recommend going for anyone who finds mathematics an exciting subject.



Vanessa Mitkova, Year 12



The Maths Inspiration trip gave us a detailed insight into the application of mathematics in a variety of different careers and hobbies. Each speaker was both entertaining and informative, demonstrating the role of maths in each of their careers - structural engineering, crowd control, and even within entertainment such as juggling. It was interesting to understand how the maths we learn in school can be utilised in ways that may not have been apparent before (such as using maths to create social distancing guidelines in 2020). The interactive elements were also fun to watch and allowed us to join in and ask questions.

Ben Huggett, Year 12



Niall Orton 12MCS bravely volunteered to participate! His walking speed was measured and used to mathematically model the behaviour of a crowd at an outdoors event.





The students also met maths author and YouTube icon, Matt Parker!

maths
INSPIRATION
INSPIRING MATHS LECTURE SHOWS FOR 15-17 YEAR OLDS



PE News

Girls' Football

4-2 win against Bishop Justice in the U19 girls' league. Hat trick from Aicha and a phenomenal chip from Lily- yet another triumph from this team. Well played everyone- next game, Sevenoaks!

Mrs Kemp, PE Department



Rugby

The Year 8 rugby team produced a brilliant display in beating our friends at Wilmington Grammar School 50-40 on Monday. There were loads of highlights, but Valentino scoring 7 tries has to be the headline! Tries from George (2) and Joshua completed the scoring. Special mention for Brian and his epic tackling. Well played boys!

Mr Lines, Head of PE





Top of the Bench Competition



Recently, I was invited to take part in the RSC's Top of the Bench chemistry competition. We met after school and worked in teams of four: two Year 9s, one Year 10 and one Year 11. The regional heats consisted of a variety of chemistry-related questions. Some of these were trivia (but always related to chemistry in some way), some involved puzzles like anagrams while others were more closely-linked with the concepts covered in GCSE chemistry. Overall it was a fun experience, and a great opportunity to work as a team to tackle some slightly different problems to the ones typically seen in class.

Samuel Bowring, Year 11

On Thursday I took part in the chemistry top of the bench competition. It was a great experience and really tested my knowledge. It was so much fun working with other years to get to the answers too. It is something I would definitely want to do again and I hope we did well this time!

Matilda Jackson, Year 10

On Thursday the 1st December, 11 other students and I took part in the regional heats of the 'Top of the Bench' chemistry competition. In each of the three teams, there were 2 Year 9s, one Year 10 and one Year 11. Together as a team, we tackled challenging chemistry problems as well as problem solving tasks and trivia. It was an interesting quiz and a great opportunity.

Louis Luckman, Year 9





Record results for Brebas Computing Challenge

Students in Years 7, 8 10 and 12 all competed in the International Bebras Computing Challenge this term. This tests computational thinking skills with a variety of logic and coding puzzles. BGS always significantly outperforms the national average, but this year was especially successful with three students earning a perfect score of 200! Well done to George Barnes (8MPM), Viktors Klotins (10ELS) and Edgar Fedorcenko (11ML). Despite the fact that Year 11 are normally too busy with mock exams to take part, Edgar specifically requested to be allowed, since he has enjoyed the challenge so much in previous years.



This year also marked the first time that BGS invited students from nearby primary schools to come and join in. Danson Primary, Hook Lane and Days Lane schools all sent girls from Year 5, as part of our ongoing commitment to persuade more girls to take an interest in Computer Science (and BGS in general!). The atmosphere was incredibly enthusiastic and next year we hope to invite even more primary schools to take part.

Mr Villazon
Joint Head of Computer Science





Crafting Christmas decorations in the Library

On Wednesday last week, the library provided students with an opportunity to make **Christmas** decorations. The resources were old books, with the aim being to learn a new craft as well as to make a decoration to either take home or help to decorate the Library for **Christmas**. There were plenty of different ones to choose from, including an angel, stars, Christmas trees, snowflakes and more. It was not long until the crafting tables were busy with students from all year groups making and creating, led by Mrs Fabris-Abbate.

The Library is on the way to being **Christmas** ready. One of the most popular quick makes was an angel, ready to hang on a tree.

Mrs Belton-Owen
Director of Studies, Year 8



Spread the joy this season





TSBA Book Group

Book club is amazing! In this article I wanted to name some of the most exciting things we have done so far.

First of all, book club is a place where you eat biscuits, do fun activities and, most importantly, read books! You read 8 books in total and if you don't finish it don't worry because people in your group can tell you about it when you come. If you love book club and you know someone else who loves books then bring them with you.

The activities we have done so far involve acting out the book, making bookmarks, writing reviews about the books and even being a publishing company! Are you someone who loves merits? Well you get one every time you come!

We can't wait to see you there!

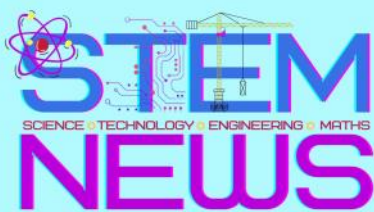
Book club hosted by the best librarian: Mrs Carey.

Grace Shaw, Year 7



Spread the joy this season





It has been an incredibly busy term for STEM at Bexley Grammar!

There have been more clubs than ever before in addition to lots of STEM activities in lessons. Year 13 have completed the practical element of the IB course with dozens of individual experiments taking place over four days.

ICE Cityzen Engineering Competition

For the first time we entered four teams for the ICE Cityzen Engineering Competition. The process is still underway but they have completed four online tasks so far. Teams had to balance the demands of different sectors to make improvements to their virtual cities. Only one bridge sank completely! The next phase is to produce a video describing a change that they would make to our local area. Keep an eye out in the newsletter for news of how they get on.



Quantum Ambassadors Program

A record number of Year 12 students got involved this year to work with our ambassador Vincenzy Pucino and find out all about the weird and wonderful world of quantum physics!



Key Stage 3 and 4 Clubs

As usual there are a wide variety of clubs available to Key Stage 3 and 4 students. From robotics, to chemistry, to building your own skateboard, students have been getting stuck in and getting the most out of what we have on offer.

If you want to hear more about these clubs please see the STEM page on the school [website](#). You can hear from students, see a photo gallery and even read some reviews of the science books and documentaries that our students recommend.





Science Book Reviews

Every year the Royal Society runs both a Science Book Prize and a Young People's Science Book Prize. They chose their favourite six books written in the last year in any area of science. It is a great platform for aspiring writers and also a great opportunity to promote an interest in STEM for our students.

This year we bought all the 'adult' books and the three most age appropriate Young Person's books for the Library and ran a competition of our own.

Adult category:



Young Person's Category:



Students read the books and submit a book review and here are a few of our favourites: Please see separate [document](#).

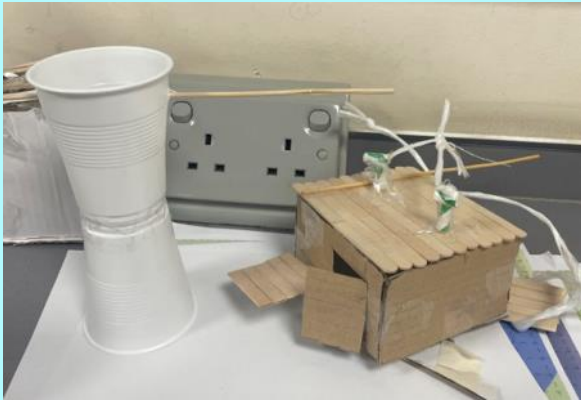
Power Day 2

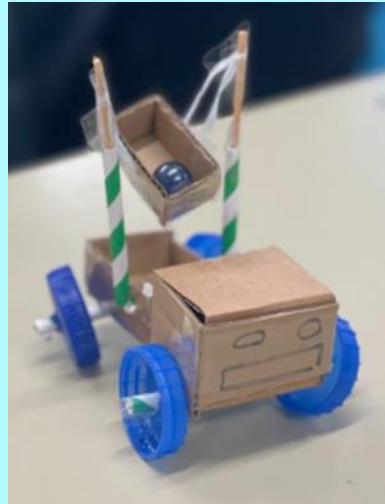
On November 29th the Power Day had a STEM theme for Years 9 and 10.

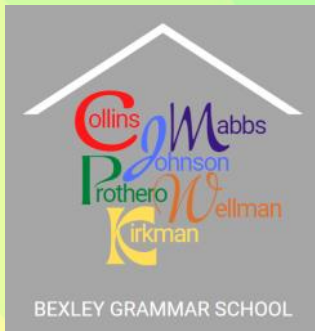
A number of exciting workshops were run including engineering, architecture, emergency medicine and computer science. Hopefully, the students were inspired by the industry professionals who worked with them on the day. Additionally, this may help some of the Year 9s to think about the options for their GCSE subjects which they will be choosing in the new year.



Ms Lusted, STEM Coordinator







Christmas House Standings



1st Wellman 189



2nd Johnson 182



3rd Collins 176



4th Prothero 167



5th Mabbs 146

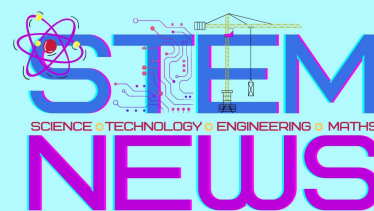


6th Kirkman 143



Dear Student,

Registration for EDT and Industrial Cadets **Virtual Routes into STEM** programme is now open.



Whose it for?

Students in Year 9 or 10 / S3 or S4 who are interested in exploring a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). All you need is an interest in STEM and curiosity about the future and is **open to all academic abilities**.

What's involved?

- Approximately 20 hours of study virtually at a pace that suits you over 3 weeks
- Exploring **different Routes into a STEM career including College Courses, University Courses, Apprenticeships** and learning from industry what is involved in a STEM career as well as enhancing your skills
- The course includes live interactive sessions over the half term break allowing you to listen and ask questions to STEM students and professionals
- Once you have been inspired by these different Routes you will get to work on a project set by a STEM company to look further at a career area that interests you

When is the next course running?

February half term 2023! The course will be available from Thursday 9th February – Tuesday 7th March 2023 with live sessions 13th – 17th Feb and 20th – 24th Feb (depending on when your February half term week falls this year).

What do you get out of it?

- A chance to find out about how different Routes into a STEM career from industry experts, college and university leaders as well as young people who are currently on that path
- Engage in projects and activities that will enhance your problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and innovation skills as well as inspiring you to find careers motivation.
- Projects include: a Biopharm challenge from GSK, a Design challenge from Balfour Beatty, a RSC Chemistry challenge and many more exciting challenges in all aspects of STEM.
- A chance to create your own personalised action plan to see your own Route into STEM
- Be able to learn about your career skills and how you could write about this in your CV/ Personal Statement or Application form
- Once completed you will receive an Industrial Cadets Bronze Award showing all that you have achieved on the course

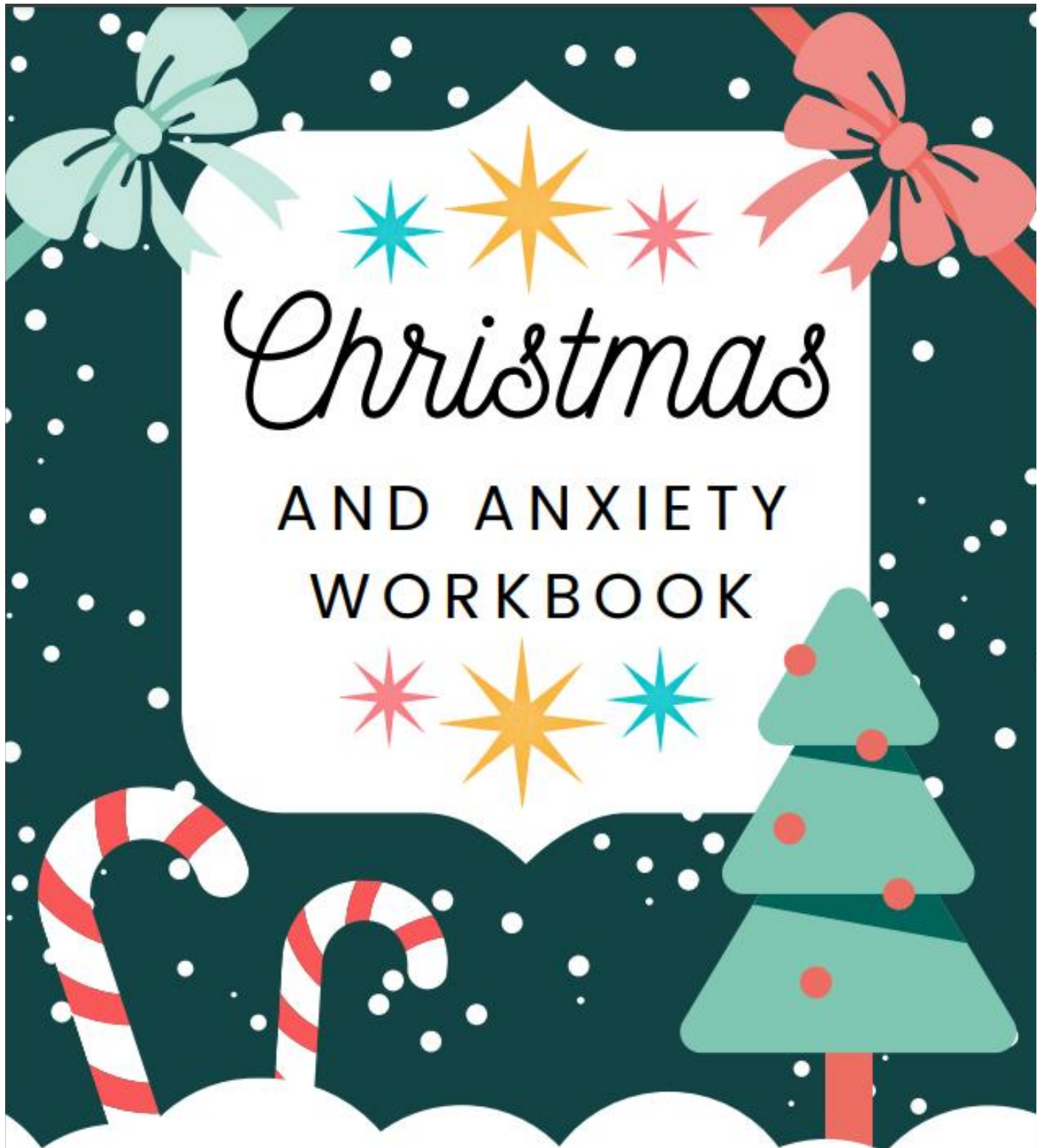
How to apply?

For more information and to apply please visit our website <https://www.etrust.org.uk/routes-into-stem-read-more>

Places are limited so do not delay and apply today!

Student Recruitment Team
EDT (Engineering Development Trust)





Click on the link [here](#)

Anxiety UK



Safeguarding Update

Setting up devices:

It can be difficult knowing all the different settings that are available on different devices to help protect children, this includes allowing or disallowing chat, friends, spending money, content filters and much more. On these pages from Internet Matters you will find the details, as well as non-technical instructions, which will help you understand what is available to you and how to set up your child's devices.

Gaming consoles and devices

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>

Smartphones

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>

Broadband and mobile networks

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

Entertainment and search engines

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/>

Safety/privacy settings on social media:

With many children and young people using social media it is important to understand what features are available to you to help protect your children. This is also important because for the most part, all privacy settings are default 'off' when a new account is created, but also because some social media providers change their features quite frequently, e.g. TikTok.

You can look at this link to see what is available to you and how to set up your child's social media. We would also advise doing this with your child so that you can discuss the features together.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>

Mr S Auckland

Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Head





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.

Reception Team



Forthcoming Events

December

Friday 16th ~ Final day of autumn term (all students in school)

Early finish

12.10pm Years 12 & 13

12.15 pm Years 9, 10 & 11

12.20pm Years 7 & 8

January 2023

Tuesday 3rd ~ First day of the spring term (all students in school)

~ Appointment booking **opens** at 12 noon for the Year 12 Parents' Evening

Monday 9th ~ Appointment booking **closes** at 12 noon for the Year 12 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 10th ~ Year 12 Virtual Parents' Evening letter [here](#)

Tuesday 24th ~ Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening for CORE SUBJECTS

Tuesday 31st ~ Inset Day (school closed to student)

February

Tuesday 7th ~ Year 9 in person Options Evening for
OPTION SUBJECTS

June

Wednesday 28th ~ GCSE EXAMS CONTINGENCY DAY

