



22nd February 2023  
[www.bexleygs.co.uk](http://www.bexleygs.co.uk)

## JOURNALIST, SAM DAVIES (Ex-BGS Student) visits school



On Monday the 23rd of January, a group of other students and I from across the school had the opportunity to listen to a talk delivered by Sam Davies on an introduction to Journalism. Sam Davies is a freelance culture journalist and writer, who has written for a wide range of publication companies from the BBC to the Guardian and more, focusing on topics such as music, film, travel, LGBTQ culture and the internet. Not only has Sam interviewed many famous celebrities, such as Kano (Top Boy actor and British rapper) and even the voice of Bart Simpson, but he was also a student at Bexley Grammar - taught by Mr Griffin himself! Sam's talk focused heavily on the different pathways you can take into becoming a writer, that isn't just the conventional University route, as well as how important it is to practise writing whether that's as simple as a diary entry or a short story. One of the main takeaways from the talk was that regardless of what you choose to write, it should be something you're passionate about so it's enjoyable and much easier to write about.

Sam kindly answered some of our questions in the talk, alongside a few I emailed him:

*Q: What inspired you to go into journalism?*

*A:* I actually decided to try and get into music journalism after graduating from uni, following years of not knowing what I wanted to do, because I wanted to write about the Frank Ocean album 'Blonde'. I was really obsessed with it and felt like I had to write something about it, so started a blog purely for that reason. Then I



Sam kindly answered some of our questions in the talk, alongside a few I emailed him:

***Q: What inspired you to go into journalism?***

**A:** I actually decided to try and get into music journalism after graduating from uni, following years of not knowing what I wanted to do, because I wanted to write about the Frank Ocean album 'Blonde'. I was really obsessed with it and felt like I had to write something about it, so started a blog purely for that reason. Then I wrote about Aphex Twin, Kanye West and so on, until eventually I landed a commission with Mixmag, and then the Guardian.

***Q: Which publication companies have you written for and which topics do you typically enjoy writing about?***

**A:** I've written for lots of publications in the last six years, including the BBC, Guardian, Financial Times, Dazed, the Face, Bandcamp, Crack, DJ Mag, Readers Digest, Vice, Pitchfork and loads of others.

***Q: Was English always your favourite subject at school?***

**A:** English was my favourite subject, yes, but I also liked French, Spanish, drama, politics and history. I was always terrible at science.

***Q: What career path did you follow, and if you had to do it again would you change anything?***

**A:** I did work experience at NME when I was 15, but didn't actually know I wanted to be a journalist until after I left university. I was working part-time jobs in both a nursery and a pub, and I started pitching ideas to editors in my spare time. Eventually I was able to generate enough income to support myself and work full-time as a freelance journalist, while also taking copywriting jobs on the side for a range of different brands. If I had to do it again I actually think I probably wouldn't have gone to university – I loved uni, but I'm still in debt from the tuition fees, and I could have started a career in journalism much earlier if I'd started pitching ideas when I was 18. That said, I wouldn't advise anyone to forgo university unless they were 100% sure they wanted to be a journalist and had a clear plan of how to get there.

***Q: What do your days typically look like?***

**A:** My days vary a lot, which is nice. Most often I'll spend my mornings sending out ideas or checking the usual places – Facebook, my email inbox, online jobs boards – for freelance writing gigs, and sending out any ideas I have for stories or trying to arrange interviews with artists/actors/interesting people. Afternoons I'll often spend writing. I also have to interview people all the time, either in person or over the phone.

***Q: What's the one piece of advice you would give to someone interested in journalism?***

**A:** In terms of advice, I'd probably just say: find something you want to write about, something you care about, and just start writing. If you're really passionate about something and convinced that other people should know about it that will come through in your writing and make it worth reading.



Finally, I think it's important to remember that there are also many opportunities in and around school to put pen to paper and get creative. For example, creative writing runs on a Wednesday after school for Years 7-11, giving students a chance to think creatively and produce a variety of different types of writing, as well as entering competitions externally and internally led. Many departments are also often looking for articles to be written to represent them in the school newsletter, and as Sam pointed out, you're never too young to start building your portfolio of work and presenting ideas to publishers.

*Scarlett Barber, Year 12 English Prefect*



## Online awareness and parental controls

We often highlight to parents and carers the areas of the internet which pose the most obvious risks to our young people. However, the tactics that online offenders use are not always obvious. We all know that criminals will use a variety of social engineering tactics, but to be able to use those tactics there has to be some form of engagement, which requires communication features. Whether that is messaging on Snapchat or chatting within a video game, if there is a communication feature, then there is a potential risk to any child or young person.



We have recently been made aware of online extremists targeting young people playing games as a means of introducing radical views, and even the chat option on Spotify being used to initiate abusive relationships. As always, we would encourage all parents and carers to take an active interest in regulating what our young people are doing online and their communications.

Internet matters have produced some helpful guidance on parental controls here:

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

**Mr S Auckland**  
**Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Head**

**internet  
matters.org**





# Year 7 News

## The Year 7 'Glow Boxes' are coming!!!

From the start of the half term, all forms will have a form Glow Box in their form rooms. These will be decorated in House colours and will be a post box into which pupils pop their thoughts on the weekly theme. This activity will help us all recognise the small things, the times we are resilient, the moments that make us proud and help us acknowledge everything we re grateful for. As the initiative settles in, we will be popping some quotes into the newsletter so watch this space!



## Year 7 Diploma

The next subject to set their academic diploma task will be the Languages department. There is only one subject this half term and so plenty of opportunity to get involved and produce your best work.



Good luck!

*Mrs Boulden, Director of Studies, Year 7*



## STEM NEWS

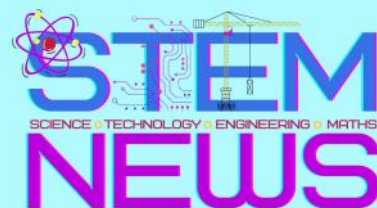
### House STEM Competition

Teams of budding engineers from Years 9 and 10 met weekly to design and build model race cars. On 6th February, race day had finally arrived and after some last minute adjustments the teams were ready to race!

The cars were judged on both their performance in the race and also the quality of their design. The final outcome of this House Event will be announced when the results of the House Year are announced in March. However, I can tell you that after a photo finish Mabbs won the race, with Johnson second and Wellman third. Well done to the Mabbs' pit crew Jesse Oshogwe and Behzod Marufou (Year 10) and Caleb McCann (Year 9).

'Taking part in the House STEM competition was fun - despite how long the completion was. This year's challenge was to build the best car. To start with, we were given a prototype we could use for inspiration and then we were allowed to branch off that first build to create something of our own. We had around 5 weeks to finish our cars, with plenty of time to test them. Throughout the competition, there were challenges; mostly figuring out how to make our car drive straight. Not only were we graded on the functionality (how fast it went etc.), but we also had to make sure the design of the vehicle was good too. I really enjoyed working with my team to create our car - which ended up winning! (Go Mabbs!)

**Jesse Oshogwe, Year 10**





# WORLD BOOK DAY

Friday 3rd March 2023

BGS will be celebrating  
World Book Day  
on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.  
Please click on the link [here](#)  
to read Mr Griffin's  
letter and find out about all  
the planned events.





## PE & Sports News

### Year 8 Inter-Tutor Basketball

On Tuesday 7th February Year 8 held their first inter-tutor basketball event, as organised by their student council. This saw teams of 5 play each other in rapid, fast paced 6 minute games. These were kindly refereed by Tega Osew from Year 10, Leroy and Jibril both from Year 9. Tutor teams had to change for each game to ensure that all members of the tutor group got a turn to play in a game. The winner was decided on points, with a win being worth 3 points, and a draw 2. Miss Milbank and I were on hand to keep an eye on the overall proceedings. Each game was a tough battle between the teams, but thankfully there were only a few bumps and bruises!

The final scores where:

CED 15 points  
ERE & MPM 9 points  
JMP & FTM 5 points  
STA 4 points

Well done to all of the year 8 students who took part in this event. It was great to see you supporting each other, working together and welcoming each other so that everyone could participate.

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











## Year 8 Basketball

Well done to the Year 8 basketballers who performed admirably but were beaten 16-4 by King Henry School. It was a very entertaining match and BGS did well to compete against a squad containing some extremely tall players. Bring on the next match!

**Mr Mackle, PE Department**



## Year 7 & 8 Girls' Cricket

Our new Year 7 and 8 girls' cricket coaching started on Tuesday with a brilliant group of students working hard. We're really excited to get our teams established in Years 7 & 8 this season. The season starts here!

**Mr Lines, Head of PE**



## Year 7 Power Day 4

# £1 PER 1K

On Power Day 4 year 7 will be participating in a fundraising run/walk to raise money for the PE department. It will help fund new equipment and resources for all of our students.

We'd like you to get sponsorship from friends and family for £1 per 1 kilometre you are able to complete. Sponsorship details to follow!





# Come and try.. **ORIENTEERING**



## Danson Park, Bexleyheath, Saturday 18 March

Orienteering is an exciting outdoor adventure sport which involves navigating around a course using a detailed map. Dartford Orienteers are holding an event at Danson Park, Bexleyheath on Saturday 18 March. It's open to everyone, with courses suitable for absolute beginners, family groups, or those with more experience.

Courses start at 2km, up to 4.6km for those who are more confident. You can start the courses at any time between 11am and 12pm. Entry is £3 for under 21s, £5 for those over 21 or £8 for family groups.

Find out more and book your entry online by going to [dfok.co.uk/events](http://dfok.co.uk/events)






## United Judo - Inclusive Judo Sessions

- Disability inclusive judo sessions for D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people
- All disabilities/abilities welcome
- Learn judo movements with contact and non-contact both possible
- Fun judo-orientated games
- Loan of a judogi (judo kit) will be available for all.

- Where: United Judo, Bourne Road, DA5 1LW
- When: Every 3rd Saturday of the month (first session 18th March)  
11.30 am - 12.30 pm
- Ages: 8-15
- Cost: First session free, £5 thereafter



### Register here:

 <https://bit.ly/UnitedJudo-Inclusive>  
Or scan the QR code

Once registered, you will receive the booking information for Spond.  
You must be registered on Spond before attending.

### For more information, please contact:

 020 7993 9883

 [Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.org.uk](mailto:Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.org.uk)







BEXLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# 'OUT OF THIS WORLD'

A MUSICAL ODYSSEY

**Monday 20 March, 6 - 8.30pm**  
**£6.50/£4 concessions**

From Star Wars to Avatar, to the moon and back again, we look forward to performing for you

Purchase your tickets here:

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CEYP>



BGS Parents' Association

# Mother's Day

## ♥ SHOP ♥

Gifts for your mum from £1 - £5

cash and card accepted

Open during lunch in the canteen on:

Thursday 9 March

Friday 10 March

Monday 13 March

Tuesday 14 March







**THIS  
FRIDAY  
NIGHT!**

**7.30-9.30pm**

# **Board Game Night**



**LAST  
CHANCE  
for tickets:**

**order by 8pm on  
Thurs 23 Feb**

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**Adults £5  
Students £3  
(8-18yrs)**

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**bring your  
own snacks  
& drinks**

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**classics,  
international  
games and chess**

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**tickets:**

**[bgspa.co.uk/boardgames](http://bgspa.co.uk/boardgames)**

**all proceeds will help the PA fund resources  
and initiatives to enhance learning at BGS**







## 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).



## Forthcoming Events

### February

Friday 24th ~ PA Board Game night (see notice)

### March

Friday 3rd ~ World Book Day (see notice)

Tuesday 14th ~ Year 10 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 22nd ~ PA Meeting 7.30-9pm (see notice)

### June

Wednesday 28th ~ GCSE EXAMS CONTINGENCY DAY