



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Bexley Grammar School



I am Charlotte and although going to secondary school might seem intimidating, I can assure you within the first week I felt like I had been going to Bexley Grammar for years!

Friends

Firstly, it was super easy to make friends! Every year 7 is in the same position as you: a bit nervous! I was reluctant to socialise, but when I got into my form group, I met my soon-to-be best friend. At break we really could start talking and we bonded over our love of cookies. Since then, I have made many more friends and it feels like I have known them for ages!

The 'older scary kids'

It might seem scary going from Year 6 (the top of the school) to Year 7 (the bottom of the school). In year 7 you are the youngest year! The older years might look 'big and scary' as Mr Powell says, but in reality they are really nice and so when there is no teacher about to help you if you are lost, the older kids will!

Clubs

At Bexley Grammar there are a wide range of clubs, from Chess Club to Cooking Club to Book Club to many, many more! Clubs can be before school, at break or lunch time and after school. I recommend doing as many as possible because they are great fun and interactive!

Lessons and Homework

Lessons have been great from the very start! The teachers are kind and willing to help you if you are stuck. I especially love Computer Science because Mr Powell always makes us laugh and is great at feeding us knowledge. Year 6 teachers might make secondary school sound like a terribly strict place, but for the first week or so they are incredibly flexible and understanding, letting you ease your way into things. You might be worried about getting heaps of homework, but at Bexley Grammar they give you a tiny bit at first, gradually giving you slightly more challenging homework and a bit more. By the time you have 'heaps' you already know how to manage your time and complete homework easily.

What if...?

Now you might have questions like 'What if I'm not good enough?' You do NOT need to think that. Firstly, you are definitely academically bright because you passed your 11+ (Congratulations!) and you can do anything if you put your mind to it. You do not have to be negative because you will do just fine!

In conclusion, you will hopefully love Bexley Grammar! It is a great school with great people and great lessons! I'm so glad I got accepted into this school and hopefully you will be too!

Charlotte, Year 7



Like most of Year 7s, I was nervous for my first day. It's okay to feel that way, but it's not that scary after the first couple of days. The teachers here are really approachable and kind which makes learning here at BGS fun and enjoyable. I had butterflies in my stomach leaving to go to school on my first day, but I quickly realised there was nothing to worry about. I loved all the lessons and swiftly got to meet my Form Tutor and Peer Mentors which made me calm because I have someone to talk to if I have any problems. Everyone at the school will be welcoming and show you to your classes or start a conversation about how it's been so far.

The best part is every teacher teaches in their own way, this diversity makes BGS stand out! If you have any problems, it's good to email your teacher. They will call you during school time and talk to you in a friendly manner and fix your problem. If you walk past a teacher they will most likely say "Hello" or "Good Morning" to you. This is a great way to interact with the teachers and get to know them more. This is the new chapter of your life. Enjoy it as much as you can to get the most out of secondary school.

The planner provided at BGS is really useful: you can look at your timetable, plan and organise your work, space to write your work and information on most of the subjects you are taught in Year 7. If you're worried about homework here at a new school, don't worry! Homework is just a way of seeing where you're at in terms of what you remember in KS2. It's really good that you can attend clubs because you can make friends with anyone with the same interests as you. If everyone else settles in just fine, I'm quite sure you will too!

Good Luck!

Srish, Year 7

Starting in Year 7

My first few weeks in Year 7 at Bexley Grammar has been incredible! I was nervous at first, but the atmosphere is very friendly. I made friends so easily and all the teachers are kind. One thing that scared me was finding my way around; we had maps and you should never be afraid to ask older students for help as they have always been nice and helped me. My experience so far has been magnificent and it would be for you too!



Lessons

Obviously, secondary school is a big step up from primary school yet our teachers have eased us in very well with homework. Being organised is the main thing. In my opinion you've already done the hardest thing in passing the 11+ so well done!

Canteen food

Being someone that never liked school food, Bexley Grammar has surprised me! There is always a variety of food, from hot macaroni to tuna rolls, fruit, jelly or cake, choose what your heart desires. The chefs are friendly and amazing at their job (of course).

Clubs/extracurricular activities

There are so many clubs to choose from including choir, cooking, art, badminton, netball, coding & loads more. Even if you are busy after school like me there are plenty of clubs at lunch time. Extracurricular activities are also a great way to socialise and meet new people! I am looking forward to attending the Art Club, you can choose from all sorts of clubs and as many as you want.

Overall, I've had an amazing first month and can't wait to do more. I'm excited to share my experiences with the Year 6s looking to pick their new school.

Anna, Year 7



During my first few days at Bexley Grammar, I felt quite nervous and I was worried that I wouldn't make any friends, but that soon changed. I met wonderful people kind enough to let me join their friend group. We've had a brilliant time here already and it's only the beginning. Everyone here supports you and, although sometimes you might get lost, there are always older pupils that you can rely on.

The clubs here are amazing, there's at least one club for everyone. My favourite so far has been Robotics Club, where you can program a can program a robot and watch it zoom around. I have also enjoyed the clarinet group lessons where you are able to learn the instrument from a great teacher.

The school food is very tasty, there are many vegetarian options and the hot food tastes very good. You can even buy croissants and baguettes and paninis in the canteen. The canteen is very friendly and a social spot where you can eat and hang out with your friends.

The teachers here at BGS are approachable and supportive. They will always help you if you are stuck with something or if you are confused about anything,. They are always there to answer your questions and to talk to, if you need something or if a certain thing is worrying you.

The first day of school you may find can be challenging since the school is massive and you don't know where you're going or if you just don't know anyone. Well, these problems can be solved. At the beginning of Year 7 your Form Tutor will give a map of the school and a timetable with all your lessons and periods.

A great way to make new friends is to talk to people and engage in conversation and to smile. Many people are sure to approach you since many of them feel the same way as you do.

I would also like to mention that the school library is incredibly good, they have a wide selection of books of various genres. My friends and I go there every lunchtime to sit and read Manga or finish off homework or whatever you want to do. It is a social library so it's not completely silent. I've had a wonderful time at BGS already and I'm sure you will too next year. Good luck!

Nuno, Year 7

Why you should choose Bexley Grammar!

Although Year 7 seems stressful, it is easier than you think! Everyone is so kind on your first day and if you don't know where to go, they will gladly help you. BGS gives you a week or two to adjust to the schedule and where you need to be and I know that seems like not a long time, but it is just enough time to adjust. The schedule is a two week timetable that the school will give you and you only have those lessons for the first year so it is easy to keep track.



If you're feeling nervous about the queues to the cafeteria, then don't be! BGS gives you the first two weeks to go in early for lunch so you are guaranteed to get time to eat. You can also bring in a packed lunch if you don't want to queue and the Library is open so you can eat your lunch and then go and read there.

There are a wide range of clubs and activities that are before school, at lunchtime and after school. There's a Lego Club, Games Club, Creative Writing Club, Chess Club and many sports clubs as well. You are welcome to every club and I encourage you to get involved so that you can decide if you like them or not.

You get a planner at the start of every year and it is like a diary, but it is mainly for writing down any homework that you have and there is a little reading journal in the back so that you can write in the books that you have read (if you want to).

Everyone is really nice and it is easy to make new friends even for less sociable people! So think about it! We would really like to see many new faces at Bexley Grammar school and if you see my face around, feel free to say hello or ask any questions to me. I will be in Year 8.

Isobel, Year 7



Although secondary school might seem scary, I can assure you that it is not. The first few weeks for me have been a bit hectic, trying to find my way around the school, but then you know BGS like the back of your hand. The school environment will welcome you warmly.

Homework

For your first week of Year 7 the only homework you might get is to decorate your books relevant to the subject. For the 2nd week you will only have Maths and English homework. Then the next week you will have homework from every subject. The school does this so that you can settle in and you are not overloaded with homework and get stressed. Phew!

The School Buildings

The school consists of 7 blocks: The G block, H block, M block, J block, L block, S block and the K block. There are also Music rooms (MU) and the PE department.

The School Canteen

There is a huge variety of food, drinks and snacks. At the start of break and lunch, you will be required to line up as the staff call you in group by group. The huge variety provides a massive roster of food to even those of the pickiest eaters. That's how amazing our canteen is! Personally, I always go for chicken, potato wedges, Suso (drink) and snack. Generally, the food is quite cheap so sometimes you can find yourself paying for a huge lunch, but with a small fee.

Settling In

This is what I have found that many new Year 7s have struggled with. Usually, when you go to a grammar school like this you would have no friends coming along with you. So to counter having no people you're familiar with you should act friendly; try to have a nice conversation to get to know each other better. If you are having trouble with finding your way around the school, Sixth Formers and staff are a good place to start. Although I highly recommend that you learn where all your classes are asap.

Clubs

This is the most exciting thing I would like to talk about. The number of clubs is INSANE! As I am a huge fan of sports I have joined the Football Club ran by Mr Mackle (for Year 7s) I am also interested in music hence making me support House music. We got 2nd in the event and Miss Bellingham (Head of House for Wellman) is more than proud of us. From the top of my head there are 14 music clubs going on every week. There are also clubs going on in the library and sporting clubs.

James, Year 7

A Message from Mr Gilmore, Headteacher, to Year 6 Pupils 2023

Hello and welcome to this Open Day special edition of our school newsletter. I hope you find it full of informative information from our current Year 7 student ambassadors, who are the best people to tell you what you need to know about starting our school.

I have been at Bexley Grammar School for almost 20 years and I can honestly say that every day I'm proud of how our students are so friendly and warm. I'm sure that you will find it much less daunting than you imagine when you join a school with such welcoming children and young adults, and dedicated staff who will help you to settle in. There are no silly questions when you start our school, just things that you don't know yet, and there are plenty of Year 7 staff and Sixth Form Peer Mentors to support you.

Our school newsletters demonstrate many of the excellent opportunities, visits and extra-curricular clubs that are on offer at BGS and I encourage you to have a read through some previous additions, [here](#). However, there is nothing like experiencing things for yourself and I'm sure you will have lots of fun and make lots of friends when you become part of our exciting community. From September, you will be able to participate in trips, sports and music concerts as well as enjoying lessons in a range of subjects, some of which will be familiar to you and some of which will be brand new. There really is something for everyone, inside and outside of the classroom, at BGS.

There is a great deal to look forward to when you start school here. Parents / Carers will have the pleasure of meeting your Form Tutors to touch base after your first few weeks and then further opportunities to meet the Parents' Association and attend school events in the Autumn Term. We really are a community built on relationships and I look forward to welcoming those of you who are successful in joining us in September 2024!



A taste of
life at Bexley
Grammar for a
Year 7 Student

(Newsletter extracts from last academic year)

English Department News - October

Reading. Essential to mastering the English language and to the brain's development, it is one of, if not the most important exercise for a growing brain, but it is something that many students do less of as they go through secondary school. To help with this, BGS have a 'Reading Journal' section in the students' planners, where they can note what books they've read, how they felt reading it and what they plan on reading next. The English department encourages all parents to take action with their child's reading and encourage them on a reading journey by checking these journals and discussing the child's reading with them.



EXPLORE

Continuing on the theme of the brain's development, the University of Oxford has a free website called 'Explore', designed to engage 11-18 year olds with thought provoking questions

across a range of topics. The website was created to take students on a supported journey to find new skills and become critical thinkers; 'Explore' does this by including research, in the form of quizzes, images, videos, podcasts and articles, within each question. It's accessible to all students and we as a department encourage any Year 7s or Year 8s to use 'Explore' and tell their teacher about their experience.

Last but not least, BGS have encouraged any new Year 7's from primary schools in Bexley borough to bring in their most impressive piece of work. Big congratulations to Yousaf Mian (piece 1), Lowenna Bainbridge (piece 2) and Laila Dagtekin (final piece) who brought in their work. I am sure they'll be producing more writing of the same quality, and even better, as they continue their study of English here at BGS.

**Leon Paci,
English Prefect, Year 12**



Once upon a time, in a seemingly perfect landscape, there was a darkness that surrounded Ecton that left every soul disturbed. Hunters and wolves roamed the land; there was a fear of facing death at any time of the day. But, somewhere in the depths of the wood, a troll and her son (Gag) laid in their deserted cave, not giving up hope. The positive energy they gave to each other also gave them confidence. It made them optimistic that one day everything would change; they would be free from the incidious terror of Ecton.

Eventually, that day did come, but not how Gary and his mother expected. Gary was peacefully playing with his favourite toys when, suddenly, a midnight-blue and magenta galactic doorway opened. Fascinated, the toddler crawled along the floor like a spider and immediately got sucked in. During this peculiar event, Gary's mother had just entered the room. "Gary!" she cried, in her strange, troll language.

well done!

Loila
Daytaking Your Royal Highness King Philip II,

I am highly honoured that you have selected me to command the mighty Spanish Armada; however, I fear that my lack of expertise in leading such a mission could put the enterprise at risk of failure. Has your Majesty considered a commander more experienced in combat at sea?

My predecessor, the Marquis de Santa Cruz, was a great leader and I am concerned that I lack his seagazing skills and tactical expertise. The English will have that pirate Drake in command who has vast experience in naval combat too. In the midst of battle, I may have to alter tactics in response to the English attack; my inexperience could jeopardise the mission. Additionally, the Marquis de Santa Cruz had an intricate network of spies who informed him of the English plans and provided Spain with the advantage. I am unfamiliar with these agents and fear I could be easily deceived by falsehoods. If I were to be hoodwinked, I could lead the fleet into a trap.

Moreover, I feel it is my duty to inform you that I suffer from severe sickness. This malady could arise at any time and prevent me from giving orders at crucial stages in battle.

Year 7 raise the roof at the Year 7 Music Concert

Monday 10th October was our annual Year 7 Concert, which is the first opportunity for our new students to get involved with the school's active music department, and showcase their talents in front of an audience. The afternoon kicked off with a full-year performance of 'Billy the Kid', where all students, seated around the edges of the hall, sang together in a four-part melody. Each music class performed a different song, which they had learnt within their in-class singing lessons. These songs were: 7w/Mu3 and 7xy/Mu1 singing 'Rhythm of Life', 7w/Mu1 and 7w/Mu2 singing 'Wonderwall', 7z/Mu1 and 7z/Mu2 singing 'Siyahamba', and 7xy/Mu2, 7z/Mu3 & 7xy/Mu3 singing 'This is Me'.

During the intervals between these group performances, were some very brave and talented soloists from across the year, performing a variety of songs from many different genres. Lastly, was another full-year-group performance of the 'Gospel Medley', which combines melodies from three well known tunes 'Oh when the Saints', 'Swing low sweet chariot' and 'I want to sing', into a round.

This concert was such a good introduction for students to all things musical that Bexley Grammar School has on offer, and hopefully, encourages students to join our wide range of extra-curricular activities. The Year 7 music teachers would like to congratulate them on their hard work in bringing this together in such a short amount of time, and I'm sure the parents and teachers who attended the concert will agree that it was phenomenal! And of course, this concert could not have been as successful without the efforts of the music teachers, music prefects and other volunteers.

Thank you to everyone involved, and those of you who attended!

Eve Goodchild, Year 12 Music Prefect

The Year 7 concert was a truly spectacular show - it was a shame that COVID prevented our year group from doing it! It was so heart-warming to see parents gleaming with pride at their children, they were brilliant! A big thank you to Ms Goddard, Ms Eacott and Ms Casling for making the event possible.

Hana Ostrowski, Year 9 Music Prefect



PE News

Year 7 Bexley Netball Tournament

Finally, the sun was out and shining on our lovely Year 7 girls. It's the first time we have entered 4 BGS teams with over 30 girls representing the school. Phenomenal commitment to their training- we are super proud of you all! Well done to each and every one of you. After Christmas, we have another tournament so watch this space...

Special mention to our Sixth Formers Eve, Roxie, Ella, Isabel and Chiani for managing the teams on the day. Much appreciated.

Year 8 Netball Tournament

Back again for another netball tournament this time hosting for the Year 8s. Superb turn out this afternoon with all our netball teams competing against 9 teams in our friendly Bexley competition. Success at the top with our BGS Purple team coming 1st! (On goal difference we came second but don't tell anyone!)

Photo of our girls modelling our new bibs kindly donated as a Jack Petchey award. Many thanks.

A real pleasure to be with these girls today. Top effort from you all. Congratulations!

Mrs Kemp and Mrs Mallin, PE Department



Junior Ruby

The Year 7 rugby team produced another tough-tackling performance in a great game against Hurstmere on Thursday. 2 tries from Seb, and debuts for Lucas and Velizar were the highlights.



London Youth Games ~ Cross Country

Parris Brockwell-Low was another of our cross country runners in the London Youth Games, competing in the U15 age group. Parris finished second of the 7 Bexley runners, which means his time contributed to the overall team score. Well done Parris.



More cross-country success! Sam Chappell (Year 8) was another of the brilliant Bexley U13 team who were supplied by BGS. Great work Sam!

Mr Lines, Head of PE

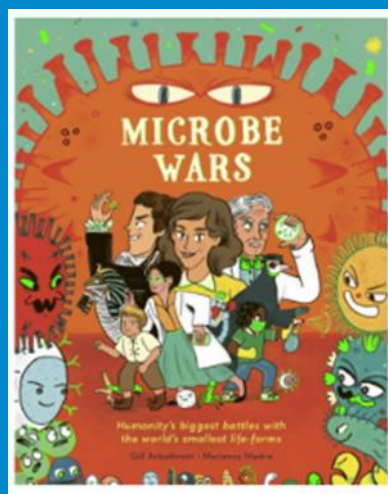


ROYAL SOCIETY YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCIENCE BOOK PRIZE

Year 7&8 Competition

The Young People's Book Prize aims to promote literacy in young people and to inspire them to read about science. It also supports the writing of excellent, accessible STEM books for under-14s.

Featured books have
been purchased for



A [Shortlisting panel](#) made up of scientists, an actor, a teacher, and children's authors has whittled down dozens of titles to six of the year's most fascinating books. We have selected the three most suitable for Year 7 students.

Your challenge is to read one (or more!) and write a book review.

The best reviews will be featured in the school magazine and on the school website.

Email your book reviews to lusted_r@bexleygs.co.uk



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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



Simply the best play I have ever seen. Everyone on and off stage was absolutely PHENOMENAL



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!



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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

