

BGS BUZZ

Summer 2024



Message from the Editors

Welcome to the Summer 2024 Edition of BGS Buzz!

What an undertaking it has been to take over magazine for the always much anticipated summer issue. To say it has been easy would be a lie as we've really grown to appreciate all the work that has gone into past editions. It has been wonderful reliving the 2023-2024 academic year as we've collated our wonderful experience into this edition. We hope you all have a wonderful summer and are ready to do it all again next year!

Have a great summer,
The Magazine Editors:
Michael Ato & Scarlett Basquil

Special Thanks To: Mr Gilmore, Mrs Snelling, the Geography Department, the Science Department, the English Department, the Economics & Business Department, the FBCS Department, the MFL Department, the PE Department, the Music Department, the Art Department, the DT Department, the Heads of House and House Captains, ACS, SEAS, EAG, all our journalists and reporters, and the Senior Prefects.

Sorry if we've forgotten anyone!

Message from the Headteacher

Hello everyone and welcome to the Summer 2024 edition of the BGS Buzz!

I hope that you enjoy reading our School Magazine. This edition, in particular, is always a good opportunity to reflect on the many, many exciting opportunities that we have at Bexley Grammar School.

Not only can we look back at this term, celebrating the fantastic Legally Blonde production, our Year 9 PGL trip and our recent IBDP results successes for example, we can also take the opportunity to reflect more broadly on the year that has gone by.

I'm sure all of our students will have their own achievements and special moments to reflect upon, whether it be in the classroom, an extracurricular event or a sports fixture.

I'd like to particularly thank two of my Senior Prefect Team for this term's edition. Michael Ato and Scarlett Basquil have done a wonderful job in collating the many articles you'll read below, all whilst juggling other Prefect duties with their own studies this term. I'd also like to thank Miss Contini, who for many years was the driving force behind bringing BGS Buzz together and this term has remained a source of advice and guidance for the student writers.

Best wishes for a lovely summer holiday,
Mr Gilmore

Departing Teachers

Mr Spall

If you've sometimes noticed a white-haired old chap wandering the corridors of BGS, then that's me. I'm the one who's been using spreadsheets for the past 14 years to analyse your report grades and exam results to help teachers see how you're doing. I have, in fact, been wandering the corridors since 1974, when I first came to a much smaller BGS as a Physics teacher, then the youngest employee here. I later became the Physics Head of Department and rose to the senior position of Head of Sixth Form for seven years around the turn of the millennium. I'm now the oldest employee here. I stayed because it is such a pleasant place to teach and be, with the nicest of students and fellow teachers, and I still wanted to stay on even when the time came to retire from teaching. I have so many fond memories of this place (as you might expect after 50 years?) and identifying the fondest would be an impossible task; but many of them would involve what has gone on in the Hall on that stage, wonderful things, that continue today going from strength to strength. I can look back to the BGS of 1974 and confidently say that it was a good school then, but nowhere near as good as the outstanding school it is now. I hope you too will realise that you are members of a wonderful community with more opportunities than there have ever been. Make the most of it - and it will make the most of you!

All the best
Pete Spall

Ms Giglione

I joined the MFL department in September 2019. I previously worked as part time teacher and tutor of Latin and Greek near Rome, where I grew up. As I started travelling and studying abroad, I realised how much I missed teaching and eventually decided to move to the UK to complete a PGCE course.

My fondest memory is hard to narrow down to one, so I will give you my top three: the birthday surprise 7AMM prepared for me before going into the first lockdown, back in March 2020; the literature lessons with the first Y12 Higher class I ever had; attending the final Y11 assembly with my form group, 11MGG, back in May.

There's lots to miss but I think I'll miss my wonderful MFL colleagues and my Y10 class.

Grazie di tutto, BGS!

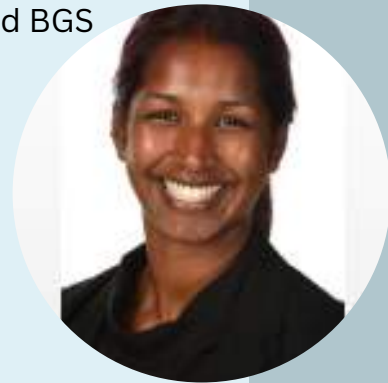


Miss Mani

I started teaching Maths in 2019. I left teaching for a year to work as a PT before coming here. Above all, I'm most thankful for the appreciation I've received from all the students I've taught and even the ones I wasn't graced the opportunity to. And that's why what I'll miss the most is being able to make a difference in young peoples' lives - the students at BGS really are the future. Teaching at BGS has been truly amazing - I wish I had found BGS before the past 3 schools I worked at prior to coming here.

But unfortunately it does have to come to an end. I'm off to make it big and off to earn 6 figures! ...hopefully :)

All that's left for me to say is, to all the students:
You can do anything you set your mind to. Believe in yourselves!



Mrs Lee

I began my journey at Bexley Grammar in 2017 as a science teacher (chemistry), and I have found my time here incredibly rewarding. BGS stands out as a truly exceptional place, and I will forever treasure the memories and experiences I have gathered here.

Over the last seven years, I have greatly cherished the opportunities for both personal and professional growth. Teaching science, guiding our students through the marvels of the world, and observing their moments of understanding have been profound joys and privileges.

After a fulfilling 16 years of teaching, I am going back to the civil service, returning to the field of medical regulation where my professional path originally started. The flexibility and hybrid nature of this role are particularly suited to my current career aspirations.

While I am eager to embark on this next chapter, leaving the staff and students of this wonderful school will be bittersweet. I am looking forward to staying connected and will always hold this community close to my heart.





THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!!



Outstanding IB Results!

A huge congratulations to our Year 13s who received their brilliant results this month! This year has been the largest ever cohort of all IB students and they have set an amazing standard for the years to come.

Some fantastic statistics:

- The average point score was 34 points equivalent to 3 A-level A* and higher than the world average of 30.3 points!
- 47 students scored 38+ points
- 24 students scored 40+ points
- 9 students scored 42+ points
- 4 students scored 43 points
- 1 student scored 44 points
- 10 students are successful Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science applicants
- 7 students are successful Oxbridge candidates

well done!

We are all very proud of their success and wish them a restful extended summer break!

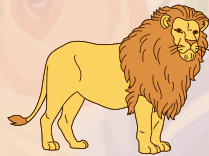


House News!

CURRENT STANDINGS

The new House Captains have been in place for a while, from day one showing their enthusiasm for the role. Sports Day in June was the first real test for them in which they showed their organisational and leadership skills. The PE department were also thanked for the smooth running of the day, a very busy event which saw many school records broken. We have welcomed Mrs C Ellis as the new Head of Collins House after the departure of Miss N Thurlow at Easter.

Current standings as we break for Summer:
(not including boys Cricket, all tennis & rounders)



54 Points



53 Points



52 Points



36 Points



29 Points



29 Points

Collins House

Dear Collins

I could not be prouder of the Collins House team and the dedication, enthusiasm and resilience you have shown this past year. Your dedication to working as a team was especially evident during Sports Day with us coming in 1st place.

One of the many joys of house events is discovering your talents through participation in a range of activities; I am extremely impressed with you whether it's dance, cricket, photography or music. Your enthusiasm for collaborating and competing along with the friendships you make across year groups is the absolute joy which house events bring. Please keep participating!

As the incoming Head of Collins House, I did not have the pleasure of working the 2022/2023 House Captains. However, I would like to say a fond farewell and thanks to the Senior House Captains, Maddy and Isabella. Your hard work and contributions have all worked to set the tone for the incoming House Captains. Everyone in Collins wishes you all the absolute best for your future endeavours.

Looking ahead to the incoming Year 12 house captain team - you have made a fantastic start and are an excellent team. Each of you are developing strong leadership skills that will stay with you. I have every faith that Collins will be in safe hands with our Senior House Captains, Edward and Ella. Your leadership was especially evident during this year's Sports day - quite simply, Collins could not have done it without you!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in September, rested and ready for the upcoming house events - let's see if we can continue showing the same level of dedication and resilience that was evident during sports day!

Mrs C Ellis, Head of Collins House



Collins House

Of all the houses, Collins was amongst the last to select their senior representatives due to a change in leadership as we said goodbye to Miss Thurlow and welcomed Ms Ellis. Initially, Miss Thurlow conducted group interviews to select captains, and asked. However, upon announcing her unfortunate departure from the role after a good few years as our Collins leader, she passed the senior selection process onto Ms Ellis, our new head of house, who has taken the role in her stride and already proven to be an amazing Collins head. She decided to choose both myself and Ella Curl to be senior captains. Under Ms' leadership, we've already made changes like making the weekly house form more engaging and I'm looking forward to continuing to work with Ms since she is just as passionate about Collins as all of us house captains are.

Already Collins is in good stead to win the house cup for the first time in almost 20 years after winning sports day and performing well in various other events. Even though much of the house year remains, I can't help but be excited by the prospect of winning the house cup after seeing the house I've been a part of for 6 years not win once, and I'm both grateful and proud of everyone who has helped out and taken part so far, not just the house captains, but everyone in Collins also.

For anyone who might consider becoming a house captain or even senior house captain in the future, I would really recommend it as it's a great opportunity for you to demonstrate your maturity and all your capabilities. Being able to work alongside people throughout all years across the school is a fantastic way to engage with the school community. It's also strangely gratifying seeing everyone work together for the house, and although it may seem like a bit of extra work, it is completely worth it.

To win the cup this year would not only be great for Ms Ellis in her first year as Collins' head, but also be a fantastic way to end the BGS journey. So to all of you in Collins, please keep up the good work.

Edward Bourlet - Collins Senior House Captain



Kirkman House



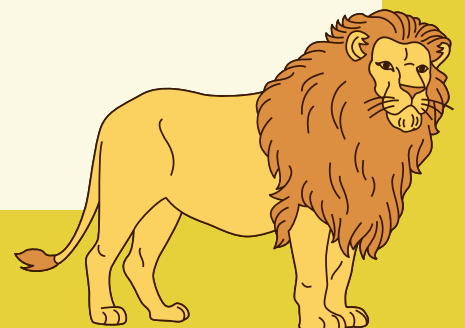
Kirkman House year 2023-4 was a year of variables! We started the year at the bottom of the table, and despite full teams and some very notable successes we managed to scrape our way to 4th place at the end of the year.

A huge amount of time and effort went in from Captains Grace, Natsuki and Isaiah to mastermind our House Music and Drama/Dance entries, both of which we won. They had a lot of help and support from the Year 12s, many of whom are now Captains themselves! The energy and participation in these events was palpable and I am very proud of them! You can't win everything all the time, and our sports results were mixed, but with full teams and some sportsmanship points which is the main thing.

Other successes were in photography and Stem; not all first places but very pleasing efforts.

As ever, participation and enjoyment are my two main aims for Kirkmanites. However, we started this new House Year with first places in Junior and Senior Athletics, and am feeling optimistic! All the best to my new team: Rob, Freddie, Ethan, Gracie, Lucy, Viv, Luke, Mateja, Jonah, Neve and Ify. You have made a great start!

~ Miss Fisher



Kirkman House



After looking up to the other Senior House captains each year we have been at BGS, we always knew we wanted to follow in their footsteps, becoming ambassadors for the house, continuing Kirkman's legacy. So far this house year, we have already developed skills such as collaboration when working with our great team of captains, organisation as a result of creating the house slides each week and passionate leadership by taking Kirkman to a strong second place finish in Sports Day this year. Thank you to all Kirkmanites, who have got themselves stuck in already and we plan to bring Kirkman back to it's rightful position at the top of the table.

~ Robert Humphreys & Freddie Morgan



Wellman House

It's wonderful to be a part of the team spirit of Wellman House!

I am so pleased with how Wellman House has done this year. It was heartening to see all of the Wellies (collective name voted in by the students themselves) rally together throughout the entire year to represent Wellman at every event and work together as a house. This incredible year was made possible thanks to the immense amount of work put in by our House Captains. A huge thank you to Scarlett, Claudia, Ava, Malin, Ben, Mason, Tobi, Abi, Sid, Daniel, David, Darcey, and Isabel. The Wellies have exhibited amazing house spirit and teamwork, and I am immensely proud to be the Head of Wellman.

As we begin the new House Year, the Wellies are ready and excited to get involved in the upcoming events. We welcome our new House Captains: Beth, Isaam, Joshua, Isobel, Nexus, Malven, Shishir, and Sapho, led by our Senior House Captains: Henry and Israel. They are eager to leave their mark on Wellman House, and I am confident that this year will be another remarkable chapter for us.

Miss Bellingham, Head of Wellman House



Wellman House



The events throughout the house year have been some of the most enjoyable and memorable moments of our BGS lives. After idolising my house captains in year 7 I have been extremely fortunate to become senior house captain for Wellman house and now mentor the year 7 form. I can't wait to progress further with my house and teach even new heights!

When we first came to this school and were introduced to the house system we all played an integral part in house system trying our best winning two years in a row for our house. Becoming a house captain allowed me to see the years below me with this same passion and hopefully we will lead them to a 2025 Wellman Victory!!

~ Henry Bush & Israel Oladimeji



Johnson House

It's been a funny old year for Johnson in the House competition. Despite being the most successful House in the past ten years, we have struggled to rediscover the form that led us to a recent double, and found ourselves pipped at the post by two other Houses, leaving us in sixth place for the first time in many years. This is not to say that Johnson students didn't contribute fully to the House competition. Our netballing girls (Juniors and Inters) maintained Johnson's reputation for being the ones to beat (not that many managed it!) and our young badminton players enjoyed success on a very different sort of court. Johnson chess players also triumphed in a competition that has rather become our own in the past few years, although with Akeel's departure this year we need to ensure that we continue to nurture our chess talent. There were other strong performances, but overall we didn't get things quite right this year. The new House year has started in a fairly low-key manner for us, and we're hoping that the cricket, rounders and tennis in the final week will have done a bit to raise spirits and our place in the table.

Thanks must go to the outgoing House Captains (Angel, Gracie, Delphinal, Holly, Will, Florence, Amelia, Tommy, Ceejay, Akeel and Lyla) and those who have taken their places at the top of the House (Holly, Ravi, Marie, Ursule, Jacob, Yu Xin, Zaid, Amber and Freddie). The role of a House Captain is an exhausting one when done properly, but the rewards of seeing our students giving it their all, event after event, make the Captains' efforts worthwhile.

Our motto is 'Be more eagle', and is based on an 'inspirational' video about all of the lessons we can learn from eagles. One thing to learn from eagles is that they don't eat dead meat, which apparently (according to the video) translates into not being able to live off prior successes. This message has come through loud and clear in the past year, and with the enthusiasm of the current Y7s, and the fresh energy to be provided by our new intake in September, plus some excellent leadership from Holly, Ravi and their team, here's hoping that this year will see Johnson once again climbing through the ranks and challenging the top Houses for glory. GO JOHNSON!

Mr Asker, Head of Johnson House



Prothero House



What an amazing second year as Head of Prothero House - placing 2nd for the 2nd year! We've had some amazing highs and this is all thanks to the hard work and dedication of every member of Prothero. Importantly, the House Captains: Anna, Mya, Michael, Mollie, Zara, Ray, Abi, Finbarr, Aksan, Princess and Sarah really role modelled what commitment to the house system is, with giving up often huge amounts of time afterschool alongside their often stressful academic commitments. We were crowned 2nd place victors at the House Showcase and it was a truly fantastic way to send the outgoing House Captains off on their study leave before Easter.

With the new House Year already started Prothero is feeling ambitious and already the new House Captains: Joe, Zoe, Jasreen, Nana, Esther, Emmanuel, Albert, Josiah, Malak, Tayo and Hayden have made a serious impact by championing participation and success on Sports Day. This is a promising start and therefore Basil and I are very hopeful for a new academic year to come.
Miss Ashman, Head of Prothero House



Prothero House



Becoming Prothero's senior house captains has been a great honour and we are both looking forward to what the year will bring. We both very much enjoyed the sports day events (even if Joe did come last in the 200m...) and are very excited for future competitions! We are both looking to keep the Prothero notice board near the latin rooms updated so do keep a look out for news surrounding coming events and opportunities. Please do not hesitate to get involved in the events and we shall see you all in September for a strong house year!

~ Joe Turner & Zoe Handscombe



Mabbs House



What a year for Mabbs! We won! What an incredible year for the 2023- 2024 House Captains led by the dynamic Rosie Barnwell and Bethany Baker. They wanted to win the House Cup since they were in Year 7 and I am so glad this was able to happen. The rest of the team, Lilly, Tiya, Matthew, Toby, Amos, Krishna, Dhara and Bradley were instrumental in leading us to victory from coming second on Sports Day to third in House Drama and first in so many different events. I am so proud.

As we start the new House season, the new House Captains are raring to go. Senior House Captain Erin Banks and Michael Yaroson lead a strong team: Chloe, Marina, Leo, Liam, Aiste, Kai, Emma, Khush, Daniel, Callum, Bianca and Neha. Sports Day was a success with so many marvellous Mabbs students trying their hardest to win. There were so many individual wins! Here's to more so we can win another year. Gooooo Mabbs!

Miss Gabriel, Head of Mabbs House



Mabbs House



As an incoming external student, I was very surprised and honoured to become Mabbs Senior House Captain. After the application and interview process, I finally met the 2024-2025 Mabbs team—a wonderful group that I'm very lucky to be a part of. It was announced that Michael and I would be fortunate enough to be the senior leaders, which I was really excited about. I am extremely proud about being the only external Senior House Captain this year as it assured me of my valued place in the community.



So far, we've had the pleasure of participating in and watching the Mabbs House events at Sports Day. The energy and enthusiasm from both the participants and spectators were truly infectious. It was incredible to see everyone come together, cheering each other on and displaying such remarkable team spirit. As well as this, earlier in the year, I participated in house music, and house drama which were both really rewarding experiences as I got to know the previous house captains and also my fellow Mabbians.



Being part of this amazing community has been an amazing experience. The dedication and camaraderie within the Mabbs team are inspiring. I was really touched by the spirit in which I was welcomed into the Mabbs community and the willingness to always strive to be the best we can be. As an external, it was a completely new experience for me and I am so proud to be their senior House Captain.

My fellow captains and I have already started brainstorming and planning for upcoming events, and I am personally eager to see what we can achieve together and to further develop my rapport with those in Mabbs.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, I'm excited about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Whether it's organising house competitions, supporting our peers, or contributing to school-wide initiatives, I am confident that our team will make a positive impact.

In conclusion, becoming Mabbs Senior House Captain is a role I embrace with gratitude and enthusiasm. I am committed to leading by example and working collaboratively with Michael and the rest of the Mabbs team to create an unforgettable year for everyone involved.

~ Erin Banks, Senior House Captain



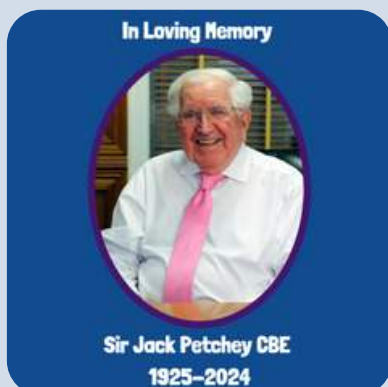
Jack Petchey Report



The Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Celebration Evening was held in June at The Orchard Theatre Dartford where our Award winners for this academic year were presented with their Jack Petchey Medallions by The Worshipful the Mayor of Bexley, Cllr Sue Gower MBE JP and Councillor Ahmet Dourmouh.

Our Leader Award Winner was Miss Meacher and seven of the nine Award winners attended: Anna Hardie, Sohasina Ramanoelina, Maddie Hosier, Grace Taylor, Holly Bale, Wlad Soroczynski and Dev Prasadh.

Bethany Baker and Holly Brewster received their medallions in school at the Gala performance of Legally Blonde at the beginning of July.





*News from
Departments
A year in Review*

FBCS News

Why does FBCS matter?

As another school year draws to a close, Naina Jain and Anushka Sharma reflected on the wealth of topics we have covered in year 8, and the importance of having acquired such knowledge and awareness.



**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

In FBCS this year we looked at a broad range of topics all to do with how our society is shaped. These include learning about who we are, what rights we have, democracy and stereotypes.

Identity is who you are, like your name, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender and personality. Diversity means having different kinds of people, like friends from various backgrounds. Equality means treating everyone fairly, no matter who they are.

Why is it important to learn about this in school? Well, it's important to learn about things like this in school, especially in England, because we live in a culturally diverse society where people of all races, genders, and appearances should be accepted and welcomed. However, we can still see several cases of racism and homophobia in every country today. This can make people feel unsafe and insecure about who they are, but in reality, everyone has the right to express themselves freely without any backlash. Although people who aren't white, British or Christian are still discriminated against, they play a vital role in our society, making up a significant part of the NHS workforce, for example, and other jobs that are vital to keeping this country running. Also, we are taught to respect members of the LGBTQ+ community because they already face a lot of hardships and are labelled as not being 'normal', when who you like and who you feel like isn't a choice. Learning why we shouldn't mistreat people, no matter who they are at school can help create a better future for our generation.

The topics we have learned are important to know, as this helps us to understand other people's lives. At first, I thought that transgender only applies to those who have physically changed in some way, like with transitional plastic surgery. However, I now understand that it's not about what you look like, but what you identify as. It is also important that we know that consent is necessary and the boundaries of abuse. Overall, I am very grateful that I have this important knowledge and am able to understand the importance of these topics.



Understanding democracy, justice, and human rights helps us make sure everyone is treated fairly and with respect. Human rights are basic rights that everyone has from when they are born until they die, no matter who they are or where they live. These rights include being able to speak freely, being treated equally, and being safe. Democracy is a way of running a country where people get to have a say by voting for their representatives. These representatives make important decisions about laws and policies. Learning about democracy and Parliament helps us understand how to participate in decisions that affect our lives, like voting in elections.

Without Parliament, our country could become a dictatorship, which could lead to more violence and protests. Justice means making sure everyone follows the rules and is treated equally; decisions will not be influenced by race, ethnicity, or gender, with consequences for breaking the rules and help for those who are wronged. If someone violates your human rights, they will be punished. Parliament is made up of people who have been elected to make laws in a democracy. They discuss issues, create laws, and make decisions that affect everyone, whether that be negatively or positively. Roughly every four years, we vote to choose which party will represent us, as we have seen, for example, in July 2024. It's important to vote for your chosen party based on what the party promises to do, not just who is representing the party. By understanding these ideas, we become better citizens, treat others with respect, and participate in our community. This helps create a fair and safe society where everyone's voice is heard and everyone is treated with respect. Learning about human rights, democracy, and justice shows us how to live together peacefully and fairly and how we can help make our society better.

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

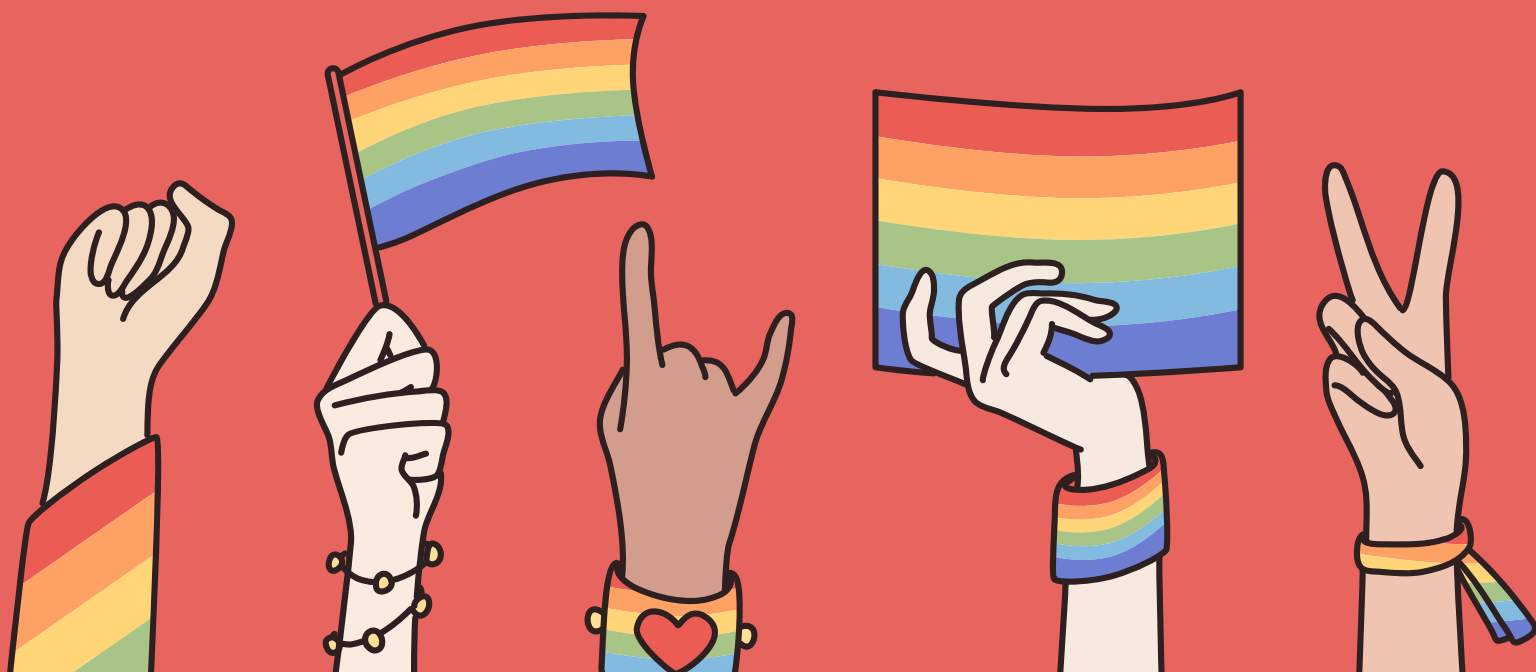
Learning about sexism and gender-based violence helps us understand that everyone should be treated equally. Sexism happens when someone is treated unfairly because of their gender, often against women and girls. This can mean girls not being allowed or offered the opportunity to do the same activities as boys, like rugby or football, or saying that boys are better than girls.

Gender-based violence is when someone is hurt or abused because of their gender. This can include hitting, threatening, or bullying. It's important to know that these actions are wrong and that everyone deserves to be safe and respected. Many people don't report these incidents because they are scared, even though they happen a lot.

Understanding these problems in society helps us recognise when something is wrong. It teaches us to stand up for ourselves and others, to do the right thing, and to treat everyone equally, whether they are a boy or a girl. Using hurtful phrases, even as a joke or as "banter," is not okay and can hurt others. We can help stop sexism and gender-based violence by educating ourselves, speaking up against it and supporting those who are affected, making them feel safe and comfortable.

By understanding these issues, we can help make our society a place where everyone is treated with kindness and respect. This makes our society safer and happier. Learning about these topics demonstrates how to live together peacefully and helps us make a positive difference for others.

This is why year 8 FBCS is important, it helps enhance our understanding and spread awareness in society. Since we are the future generation, it is critical that we know how to treat others and how to stand up to injustice.



Geography News

Year 7 Docklands Trip

Year 7 have recently been on the annual geography trip to the Docklands to experience the regeneration of this area. The students carry out fieldwork skills, including drawing a field sketch and completing an Environmental Quality Survey. This work goes towards their diploma that will be completed this term. On Tuesday 21 May 7TMR, 7ML and 7LC managed to enjoy St Katherine's Dock before the rain started.



On Wednesday 7JR, 7NMG & 7SDA got a little bit wet in the morning but the weather stayed mostly dry for our jaunt around Canary Wharf in the afternoon.

The students were brilliant and they were able to form an opinion on the Docklands regeneration based upon what they experienced! We look forward to them completing their diplomas after they have completed their Y7 exams.



Juniper Hall

Following the Geographer's recent weekend away to Juniper Hall for river data collection, the students have given their feedback on what their highlights from the weekend were. The Geography department would've loved to have included all comments, but here are some of the best ones!

"I enjoyed when we were collecting data and picking up rocks. I also enjoyed getting takeaway and watching the Euros."

"The trip to Juniper Hall was extremely enjoyable - make sure you bring a football!"

"A truly magical trip, I had an amazing trip with my friends and teachers and learned a great lot. Thank you to the people that made it possible - I will never forget."

"The trip was a very unique, entertaining and informative experience. I enjoyed every bit of this trip as I shared it with my friends; I was able to create memories that I will remember in years to come."

"As any inquisitive geography student before an exciting stay in Surrey, I was full of joy on the coach ride there. My expectations were met and conquered! It was a great trip and was an experience sleeping at 10:30pm every day!"

"The Geography trip was an exhilarating experience. The free time allocated was filled with everlasting memories and joyous moments. I am grateful to have shared these moments with some unforgettable people. It was truly a pleasure."

"The trip was a very fun weekend getting to live with all your friends for a few days. The food isn't bad and the free time after finishing all the work is the best...especially the rooms during the night."

"It was the best school trip I have ever experienced, the teachers and everyone were so lovely and it was so entertaining. I wish I could go back!"

"Great time collecting data for the IA and spending time with friends."

"My highlight of Juniper Hall was the sunset walk up to Box Hill and all the wildlife in the area like cows and deer."

"I enjoyed going out for the day and collecting data in my group. Free was also good as we got to merge and all relax outside!"

"I liked playing football and manhunt; the hot chocolate was also nice! Using different river measuring equipment was also quite interesting and fun to use."

"Brilliant location for fieldwork and free time. There was lots of space for frisbee and nature."

"The instant hot water tap was an incredible invention - cups of tea for days!"

"Hot showers, nice teachers and lots of outside time."

"A time to reconnect with nature."

year 10 field Trips!

Greetings! We recently had our annual GCSE day trips to Epping Forest and the Olympic Park. We took out our eager cohort of Geographers to undertake their compulsory fieldwork days for the course. There were many highlights such as coach Karaoke including renditions of Drake and Taylor Swift, high-vis vests worn for interviews and seeing many 'famous' internet influencers such as KSI and Jedward.

Look at the photos below and read the snippets of highlights from some of our Y10 students.



I enjoyed the environment of Epping Forest. A nice change of pace from a normal school day.
~ Fope



I enjoyed the opportunity to collect data from the river, particularly the cork experiment.
~Lenny



I enjoyed going around Stratford and learning about its redevelopment.
~ Sebastian



I enjoyed the opportunity to go off and carry out our work in groups when we were in Stratford.
~ Lev



BUSINESS & ECONOMICS NEWS

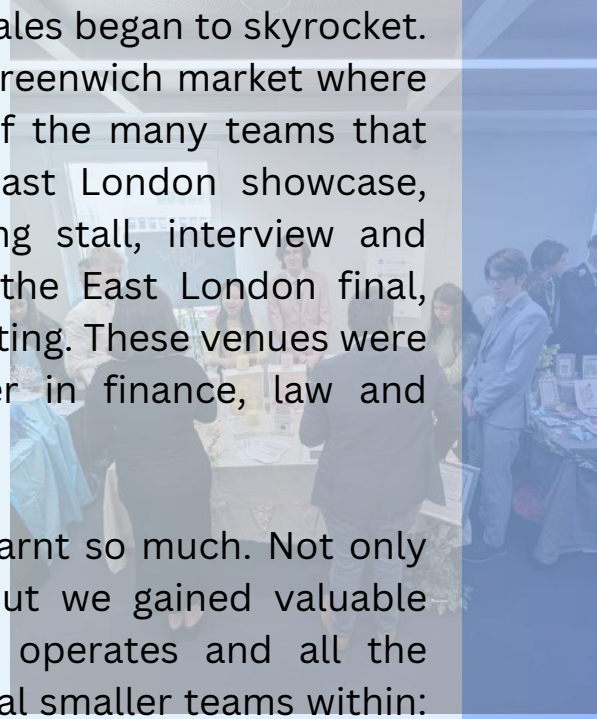
At the start of the school year, 30 business and economic students began our Young Enterprise journey. Our outstanding team created Illumina candles- mood sensory candles with specially curated spotify playlists linking to each of the moods. As a team, we were very proud of our product.

Our candles became very popular as our sales began to skyrocket. We sold at both Spitalfields market and Greenwich market where we were announced best company out of the many teams that were there. Additionally, we won the East London showcase, hosted at BNY Mellon, with our amazing stall, interview and presentation. After this, we made it to the East London final, hosted at BCLP, where we won best marketing. These venues were incredible and the insight into a career in finance, law and business was inspiring.

Throughout this process, our team has learnt so much. Not only have we learnt how to make candles, but we gained valuable knowledge on how a business actually operates and all the different aspects of it. Since we had several smaller teams within: marketing, finance, sales, sustainability and social media, every member of the team was able to contribute and specialise in their area of expertise. Young Enterprise prompted us to work efficiently as a team and, although at times it was difficult, we really practised our communication skills.

I have learnt a lot from the Young Enterprise competition and I now understand how difficult starting a business really is! I would definitely recommend this process to anyone studying business or economics, regardless of whether you want to study the subject further, since it was an incredibly valuable experience.

Jasreen Ghag Year 12

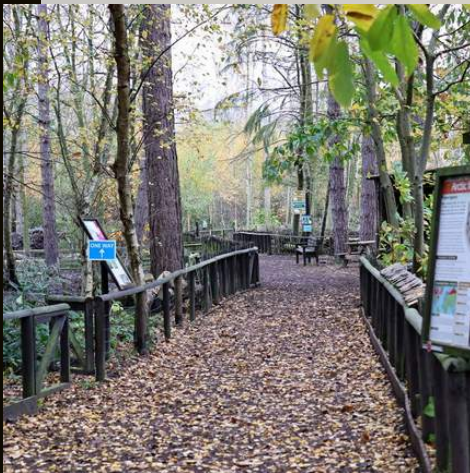


SCIENCE ROUND-UP: A YEAR OF INNOVATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

As we reflect on the scientific milestones and achievements of the past year, we celebrate the innovative minds and inspiring events that have shaped our community. From the remarkable insights into artificial intelligence at the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures to the exceptional accomplishments of our students in various competitions, this year has been a testament to the power of curiosity and dedication.

The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Exploring the Future of AI

This year, the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures delved into the fascinating world of artificial intelligence. On December 14th, we attended the second lecture in the series, led by renowned AI expert Mike Wooldridge. The lecture highlighted the transformative potential of AI, demonstrating how these technologies can autonomously learn and excel at a myriad of tasks. From AI-driven gaming systems outpacing professional drivers to groundbreaking advancements in protein modelling, the versatility and rapid improvement of AI were on full display. Engaging demonstrations and expert speakers made this lecture an enlightening experience, perfect for families to enjoy during the holiday season.



Wildwood trip

Our Year 8 students recently enjoyed an exciting trip to Wildwood in Kent, marking our first excursion since the pandemic. The students had a fantastic time exploring the park and learning about animal adaptations. They observed various species and discovered how each has adapted to its environment, gaining valuable insights into the natural world. This trip not only broadened their understanding of biology but also provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with nature and each other. A memorable and educational experience for all!

Empowering Female Students in STEM

We continue to prioritise initiatives that support and inspire female students in STEM fields. Year 9 Power Day workshops, led by female professionals in Computer Science and Architecture, provide hands-on career exploration opportunities. Additionally, our Year 10 engineering sessions feature female engineers, serving as role models and mentors.

We actively promote the Empowering Females in STEM programme by UpSkillMe. This year, four Year 12 girls successfully participated, gaining valuable experiences throughout the autumn and spring terms. A local STEM club also offers holiday workshops and mentoring, specifically targeting girls interested in engineering. Currently, a Year 8 girl is benefiting from this mentoring programme, and a Year 10 girl has secured an engineering work experience placement for October.

STEMFest brought together 30 Year 8 students (half of whom were female) with engineers and football club outreach staff. Over six weeks, students engaged in hands-on activities, culminating in a day of presentations and workshops at London Stadium. This innovative programme, run by The Fest Hub in collaboration with Charlton Athletic Football Club and Ramboll Group, aimed to inspire a new generation of engineers.



CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Arkwright Scholarship Triumphs

We are proud to announce that for the second consecutive year, Bexley Grammar School has seen double success in the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship program. Congratulations to Matilda Jackson and Yu Qi Ong from Year 11, who successfully navigated the rigorous three-stage application process. This esteemed Engineering Mentorship Programme opens doors to numerous opportunities and experiences, and we eagerly await the achievements of these promising students.

Biology Challenge 2024

Our Year 10 students excelled in the Biology Challenge competition, with 22 participants achieving remarkable results. Competing against over 45,000 students worldwide, they scored an impressive average of 82%. Notably, 21 students received medals, with 9 earning gold, showcasing their exceptional knowledge and passion for biology.

Biology Intermediate Competition 2024

Following the Year 10 success in the Biology Challenge competition, we are thrilled to share the results from the Year 12 Intermediate Biology Olympiad. This prestigious and highly competitive challenge involves the brightest 16-17 year old Biology students from around the world. From BGS, 22 students participated, with over half receiving certificates. Among the awards were 1 Bronze, 3 Silver, and, for the first time since 2020, a Gold award achieved by Shishir Gautam .



Chemistry Cambridge Challenge 2024

We are thrilled to announce the fantastic achievements of our students who participated in the Chemistry Cambridge Challenge. This national competition pushed our students to navigate through unfamiliar Year 13 IB content and contexts, showcasing their resilience and dedication. Special congratulations go to; Leo Duhunookchand - Silver Award (achieved by only 21% of the 13,000 students nationwide) and Selinam Amenyo - Copper Award (achieved by 29% of the 13,000 students nationwide).

British Science Week

British Science Week was a whirlwind of activities, including trips, special lessons, quizzes, and a Rocket Show. During February and March 2024, our students attended a series of engaging lectures in London: Biology in Action, Chemistry in Action, Physics in Action and GCSE in Action. These lectures provided students with valuable insights into contemporary scientific research and real-world applications. They had the chance to learn from leading scientists and researchers, gaining a deeper understanding of topics ranging from quantum mechanics to environmental biology. The interactive sessions and hands-on demonstrations made these lectures both educational and inspiring.



Year 12 Science Leaders: Inspiring the Next Generation

Our Year 12 Science Leaders have been actively involved in delivering science clubs to local primary schools during the summer term. Our primary school science clubs aim for 50% female participation, encouraging young girls to explore scientific interests early on. Through interactive experiments and engaging activities, our Science Leaders have successfully fostered a love for science in the next generation. Their dedication and leadership have made a significant impact on the local community, highlighting the importance of mentorship and outreach in STEM education.



Operating Theatre Live Workshop December 2023

Back in December 2023, a cohort of Year 12 and Year 13 scientists attended Operating Theatre Live and its Anatomy Lab workshop. It was a very fascinating live workshop in which we learnt so much about anatomy while doing first-hand surgery and dissections. It was led by someone who used to work in the post-mortem industry and now does amazing demonstrations all around the UK and on the BBC, so it is fantastic to see this in our school and before our very eyes. During our workshop we did countless things that we never had a chance to do anywhere else, such as opening up lungs and tracheae and seeing how they look anatomically close up, how to extract eyeballs and also learning the grim, but immensely fascinating science of dead bodies and medical science. This ranges from how the cause of death is investigated and determined from a body, why they use skin moisturiser on cadavers and the effects of steroids and creatine on the heart.

Throughout the Operating Theatre Live, we participated in many dissections of our own, bravely and carefully using the scalpel to dissect the carcass, but don't worry, it was only sourced from the butchers! Together in small groups of young pseudo-surgeons, we had a wonderful and informative first-hand experience on what it is like to be a surgeon...and if I had a chance to do the entirety of the Operating Theatre Live again in the future, I would definitely say yes without hesitation!

Lastly, a huge Thank you to our PA who generously contributed to this even making it affordable for us all.

Munna Alauddin. Year 12



A message from Mrs Moore, Head of Sciences

This year has been filled with discovery, innovation, and a relentless pursuit of knowledge. Here's to another year of scientific exploration and achievement!

Sports Awards

Each year BGS PE department highlight those who have shown great dedication to PE and sport with awards. This year you can see our fantastic award winners listed below:

Award	Award winner
GCSE student of the year	Matthew Smith
IB Student of the Year	Sofia Di Fabio
Year 12 IB student of the Year	Mateja Smailys-Bartkus
Boys Team of the year	Year 9 Football Team
Girls Team of the year	Year 10 Netball
Sportspeople of Year 7	George Bono Elodie Kuhn
Sportspeople of Year 8	Alfie Edwards Shriya Chouta
Sportspeople of Year 9	Valentino Bono Lisa Cao
Sportspeople of the Year KS4/5	Riley Boyle Isabella Ward
Sports Leader of the Year KS4	Ava Gowlett Layla Evans
Sports Leader of the Year KS5	Sam Hood Yu Xin Zhao
Don Wellman	Lily Hewitt
Fundraising Champion	Kasey Bokhoree- Cejzner

GCSE student of the year Awarded to a student who has shown great dedication to their GCSE studies, both in theory and practical elements of the course

IB Student of the Year Awarded to a student who has shown great dedication to their IB studies throughout the two years of the course

Year 12 IB student of the Year Awarded to a student who has shown great dedication to their IB studies in Year 12

Boys Team of the year Awarded to the team who have shown great dedication to training and games

Girls Team of the year Awarded to the team who have shown great dedication to training and games

Sportspeople of Year 7 Awarded to students who have shown great dedication, commitment and talent in one or more sport within school

Sportspeople of Year 8 Awarded to students who have shown great dedication, commitment and talent in one or more sport within school

Sportspeople of Year 9 Awarded to students who have shown great dedication, commitment and talent in one or more sport within school

Sportspeople of the Year KS4/5 Awarded to students who have shown great dedication, commitment and talent in one or more sport within school

Sports Leader of the Year KS4 Awarded to two students who have shown outstanding contribution to leadership in Physical Education and co-curricular sport

Sports Leader KS5 Awarded to two students who have shown outstanding contribution to leadership in Physical Education and co-curricular sport

Don Wellman Awarded to a student who has shown outstanding contribution to School Sport throughout their career at BGS.

Fundraising Champion Awarded to a student who raised the highest amount during the Year 7 sponsored run.



MUSIC NEWS



Guys and Dolls Trip

One of the highlights of this year's musical was definitely the guys and dolls trip. It was great fun for the legally blond cast, band and team to spend some time outside of rehearsals with each other. The show was absolutely amazing, especially because of its interactive elements. As it is a newer version of the production, none of us had seen it before, so we were all equally excited. During both the intermission and the finale a few students even got up on stage and got to dance with the cast, which was a great experience for all of us. The show was definitely a hit with the students, as we sang the soundtrack the whole train ride back!

~ Aggeliki Mirza, Year 10

Spring Sing

In April of this year, the Bexley Grammar Chamber Choir (made up of a small group of Year 12 and 13 students) participated in the inaugural "Spring Sing" festival in Christ Church Bexleyheath in which we performed three of our best songs we had learned together as a group over the duration of the school year: "Glow" by Eric Whitacre, "Grace Kelly" by Mika, and "Big Yellow Taxi" by Joni Mitchell. It was the first time we had sung together as a group at a venue outside of school (and as for me and I presume many others, the first time singing in an event separate from school all together), and I think it was the ideal opportunity to do so- the support from the audience, watching the other local choirs and schools perform and the location of the concert were all amazing. There couldn't have been a better way to end the year we had spent together as a choir (thanks must go to Mrs Casling for putting up with- I mean, directing- us), and hopefully we will be back at next year's "Spring Sing" festival with an updated group with the new Year 12s. Good luck to all the Year 13s who left!

~ Freddie Morgan, Year 12



Exam Success

Congratulations to all the students (52 in total!) who took their ABRSM or Trinity exams at BGS this week (10th-12th July). As I write the exam results from the Trinity exams are in and are FANTASTIC! A particular mention to Ben and Nuno from Year 7 who both achieved their Grade 1 clarinet exams having come through our clarinet taster programme in the Autumn Term at the start of Year 7 with Mr Cooper. To make such progress in less than one year is excellent.

We had 4 students taking either Grade 7 or Grade 8 on their instruments which is such a fantastic achievement, the youngest being Giulia M-B and Emily H, both in Year 9.

It was also lovely to welcome in 17 external students who took their exams with us at BGS and we look forward to hopefully seeing them at BGS when they choose their secondary school choices! Lovely to make those connections with our surrounding primary schools.

~ Mrs Casling

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON





BEXLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL



March 25th 2024 - So fantastic to see so many of our BGS musicians performing in the Bexley Music Showcase at Fairfield Halls in Croydon. Such a lovely event, and featured a solo by our very own BGS student Max Jansen





A YEAR OF CONCERTS



Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert features all of our instrumental and vocal ensembles. This year, students from our brass taster programme also performed after only 8 weeks of group lessons, a special well done to them! The Christmas concert is always a brilliant way to start the festivities and this year was no exception. As always such a high quality of performances by our fabulous BGS musicians.



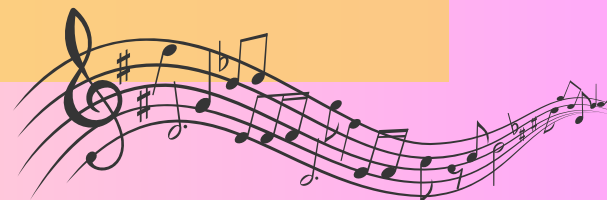
BGS in Technicolour!!

In March we held our annual Spring Concert, this year with a theme of 'BGS in technicolour' with all pieces linked to the theme of colour. The concert featured items from all of our BGS ensembles, as well as a piece with our local primary school St Joseph's, conducted by our very own BGS student Rob Humphreys. Another fantastic performance from our amazing BGS musicians.



KS3 Showcase

In May this year students from KS3 put on a fantastic KS3 showcase, taking the opportunity to perform either solos or ensemble performances. Our KS3 orchestra, KS3 choir and Junior Jazz also performed at the event. It was a lovely afternoon of entertainment!



MFL News

MFL2 Fest - a cultural festival hosted by Y10 MFL prefects

Last month, the MFL department hosted the vibrant and multicultural MFL2 Fest, an event directed by the Y10 language and Ms Giglione.

The MFL2 Fest opened its doors to the entire school during break time, allowing everyone to partake in the festivities. Later, during Period 3, the event was exclusively enjoyed by the Y10 MFL2 students, providing them a more immersive experience exclusively for dual linguists.

One of the highlights of the festival was the array of ten food stalls, each offering a taste of the food and cultures linked to the languages studied at BGS: Spanish, Italian, French, German, Russian, Japanese and Chinese. The Y10 MFL prefects prepared an assortment of international delicacies, from crispy churros and mini pizzas to refreshing bubble tea and sweet tanghulu. This culinary journey around the world was a hit, bringing together flavours that delighted the palate and celebrated global diversity.

In addition to the gastronomic delights, the MFL2 Fest featured a variety of cultural activities. The cultural section was a hub of creativity and learning, with face painting, calligraphy stands, origami making, and a book stall, as well as a raffle and stickers stand.

The dedication of the Y10 language prefects, combined with the enthusiastic participation of the school community, made the festival a memorable and enriching experience for all.



MFL Trip to Oxford University

In May, the MFL Department ran their very first MFL trip to Oxford University with a selection of our Year 10 and Year 12 linguists. The focus of the trip was to give our most enthusiastic linguists a glimpse of the opportunities that studying languages at university could open, especially when combined with another subject in joint degrees. On the day, students had the chance to attend some very informative sessions led by Nicola Brown, School Liaison Officer at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, and Sarah Large, Outreach Program Coordinator at Mansfield College. After a taster lecture in literature, our group met two BGS alumni, Lucas and Harry, for a private tour of Hertford College. Our students were not only inspired by the academic sessions but also by the personal stories and experiences shared by the student ambassadors and our BGS alumni. The opportunity to explore the beautiful and historic campus of Oxford University was an unforgettable experience that has sparked a newfound motivation and curiosity in our linguists. Witnessing their excitement and engagement throughout the day was incredibly rewarding.

In May, I, along with 24 other Y10 language leaders and Y12s, visited Mansfield College (Oxford University). When we arrived at the college, after a brief walk through the beautiful grounds, we were offered biscuits and refreshments, which we enjoyed outside under the shade of parasols in the warm sun. Afterwards, we attended a lecture where we learnt about the process of applying to university and the various opportunities and jobs that having a language degree offered, which included careers in law, advertising and education. Shortly after, there was a Q&A with three Oxford students, which I found immensely interesting and learnt that studying languages involves a lot of culture as well as literature, which made me more eager to continue to learn languages in the future. After the lectures, we were taken around the college for a tour, where we saw the beautiful library as well as the impressive artwork of some Oxford students which were decorated around the corridors, some of which were celebrating the anniversary of when women were first admitted into the university. We then attended a seminar, where we analysed an 18th century text, which gave us a fascinating insight of the literature segment of studying languages at university, which was shortly followed by a tour of Hertford College led by two BGS alumni: Harry and Lucas. The trip was an excellent opportunity for me to understand the experience and enjoyment which comes with studying languages at university, as well as providing a general overview of the application process of university - I definitely recommend this to anyone who is given the opportunity to go on this trip!

Hana Ostrowski





Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators 2024

We're delighted to announce that one of our Y10 students won the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators 2024 in the following category:

German, Level 3: Sofie Rygielska (10ML)

This competition, run by The Queen's College at the University of Oxford, is inspired by the life and work of the great translator Anthea Bell. Over 3600 students across the UK submitted their creative translations from Spanish, French, German, Italian and Mandarin into English. Sofie translated a passage from a novel by Susan Kreller called 'Elektrische Fische' (Carlsen Verlag 2019). Well done to Sofie!

The importance of speaking multiple languages

Languages are not just a means of communication; they are windows into different worlds, gateways to diverse cultures, and keys to unlocking the beauty of human expression. As we navigate through the vast tapestry of our global community, languages act as bridges, connecting people from various backgrounds. They enable us to share our stories, learn from one another, and celebrate the richness of our collective human experience.

The importance of languages becomes even more evident in the realm of education and professional opportunities. Multilingualism opens doors to a myriad of possibilities, from accessing a broader range of literature and research to expanding one's career prospects on a global scale. Employers often value language skills as they enhance communication in multicultural workplaces and facilitate international business relationships. Learning and embracing different languages, therefore, not only broadens our intellectual horizons but also enhances our adaptability in an ever-changing world.

Learning languages has made me a more well-rounded individual. It's opened my mind to new possibilities and has shown me that there is always more to learn about the world and myself. I'm grateful for the opportunity to study languages and I'm more excited to continue learning and growing as a multilingual person. In conclusion, the importance of languages extends far beyond their practical utility in communication. They are the carriers of culture, the tools for building connections, and the means by which we gain a deeper understanding of the world. As we recognize the significance of languages, we contribute to the creation of a more inclusive, understanding, and harmonious global community. Anagha Pai (10LPV)



BGS succeeds in UK Linguistics Olympiad 2024

On Thursday 8th February, 16 BGS students from Year 10 and 2 students from Year 9 took part in the UK Linguistics Olympiad 2024, a language-analysis competition for secondary schools in which pupils solve language puzzles. The aim of this initiative is to encourage a lifelong interest in the world's languages. The language puzzles were presented in the following languages for the Intermediate level, which was sat by 4 teams:

1. Xhosa, or isiXhosa: one of the eleven official languages of South Africa. Xhosa is spoken by approximately 10 million people as their first language, and by 11 million people as an additional language mostly in South Africa, making it the second most widely spoken language in South Africa after Zulu.
2. Tariana: an endangered language spoken in the Vaupés river area in Brazil, close to the border with Columbia. There are about 100 speakers left of Tariana, while there are a further 1,500 Tariana people, who no longer speak the language.
3. The Adinkra symbols: these are symbols that represent concepts, originally created by the Bono people (Ghana). They represent various concepts or proverbs and can be used to convey various morals or beliefs.
4. Kannada: a Dravidian language spoken by around 60 million people, primarily in the Karnataka state in south-west India. It is written in the Kannada script, and has a literary tradition dating back over 1000 years.

In order to solve these puzzles, students have to use a range of skills: pattern-recognition, analysis, lateral thinking and problem solving. What's most impressive is that competitors have to not only make these analyses mentally, but also put them into words in an explicit explanation of how the underlying system works in order to solve the challenge.

Find out below the amazing results they attained :)

-Intermediate level (Y10) three teams out of four were in the top 20% best attaining teams across the UK and have been awarded with a *Bronze Award*;
- Foundation level (Y9) Caitlyn and Tianming were entered as the only Y9 candidates and managed to score 70%, which is 2 points above the threshold for the *Silver Award*! This means that they were in the top 10% attainers in the UK

- Team 1 - 71% (Intermediate L, Bronze)
- Team 2 - 71% (Intermediate L, Bronze)
- Team 3 - 63% (Intermediate L)
- Team 4 - 68% (Intermediate L, Bronze)
- Team 5 - 70% (Foundation L, Silver)

UK Linguistics
Olympiad



Art & Design News

The Gala Art Exhibition 2024

The recently concluded Art Exhibition at BGS served as a testament to the importance of recognising and celebrating our students achievements. The exhibition, which featured a diverse array of work from GCSE Art and Textiles students, provided a platform for students to showcase their creative abilities and express themselves through various artistic mediums.

Of particular note were the thought-provoking political collages and drawings from Year 9 students, which sparked important conversations among viewers and our prestigious guests.

Equally impressive were the surreal landscape perspective works created by Year 8 students, which showcased their imaginative approach to depicting the world around them.

The Art Exhibition was not just a showcase of artistic skills; it was a celebration of creativity, innovation, and individuality. It served as a reminder of the importance of recognising and supporting student talent, both within the school community and beyond.

The Art Department continue to be exceptionally proud of our students achievements. In doing so, we continue to encourage our students to embrace their artistic abilities and cultivate a lifelong passion for creativity.

Miss Harrison
Head of Art



English News

As the academic year comes to a close and our cohort welcomes the summer break, let's have a retrospective glance at what the English Department has been up to this year!

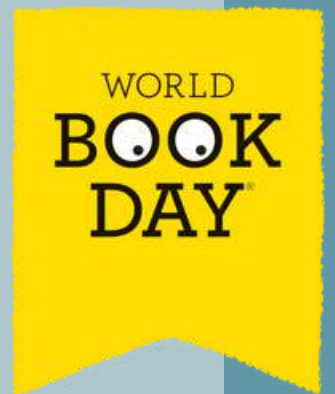


World Book Day 2024

To begin our journey with something other than our biggest event, the annual World Book Day, would be a travesty to our subject. This year on Thursday 7th, it continued to be by far our department's busiest day, and this year's version was no stranger to fun and exciting activities!

As per long-standing tradition, we asked enthusiastic readers across the school to dress up as their favourite book characters, and this World Book Day cohort put on their very best efforts. Year 7 and 8 showed off some amazing costumes and props, with our highlight being the front row's frog prince:

Even the Y12 prefects and our elusive English teachers joined in too! Can you guess which book characters they're dressed up as?



The Write Up: Workshop with Ross Welford

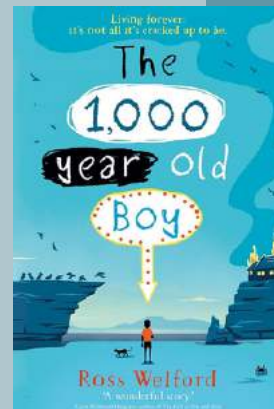
A highlight of this year's World Book Day, a group of selected Y7 students were requested to experience a Creative Writing workshop with the author of 'The 1000 Year Old Boy' - Ross Welford.



World Book Day Competitions

As well as our recurring dress up event, we make sure that every World Book Day features a multitude of fun (yet fierce) competitions!

It goes without saying that our staple competition this year was a reading challenge - the *Ultimate Reading Challenge*, inviting students to take pictures of themselves reading in odd places! Our top three entries included Drake (Y7) in some shrubbery, Sophia (Y7) having found her way into Mr Gilmore's office, and Liv (Y8) reading under a chair!



Of course, it wouldn't be a BGS English Department event without both reading and writing, thus our Post-It Note Story Competition! Students were invited to write a short story in the miniscule space of a single post-it sticky note, yet we had some truly fascinating entries! Our panel of English Prefects had no small task judging the winners...

Even though World Book Day is such a highlight in our year, the English Department is active throughout the calendar year, and this includes various competitions that we organise and judge ourselves!

Creative Writing Competitions

This year saw three competitions turned outstanding from the quality of the entries we received and considered. This year's Poetry Competition blew the Y12 Prefect judges away - we were absolutely astounded by the creativity and the technical depth that Y8 students were able to demonstrate, especially considering that their poems delved into personal and sensitive topics that they found ways to express beautifully.

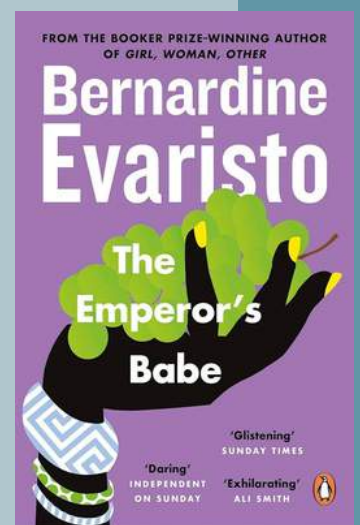
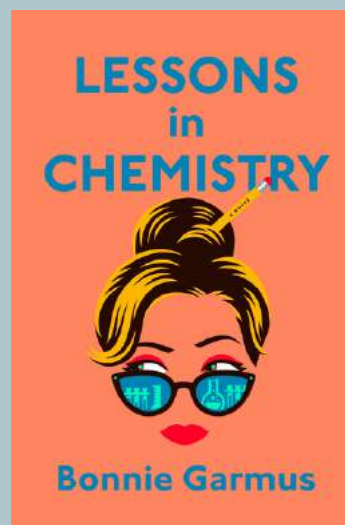
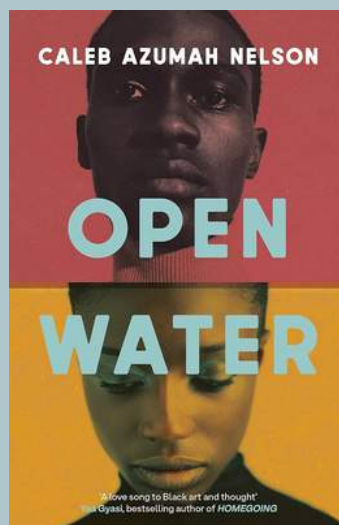
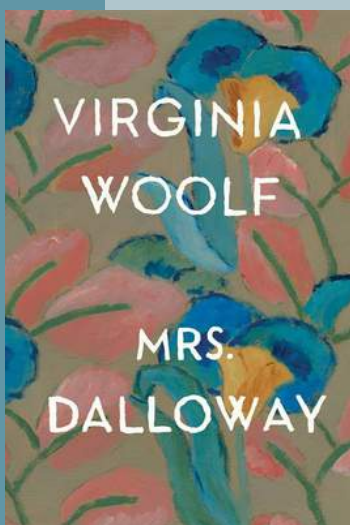
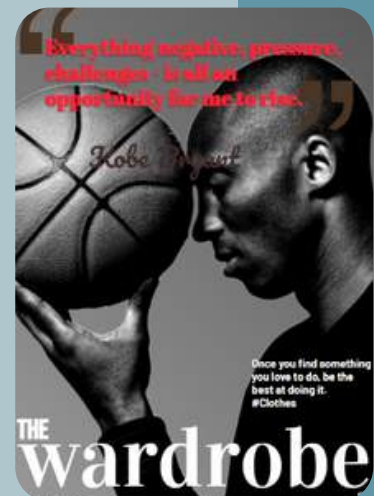


We also judged this year's Short Story Competition, which similarly featured a number of brilliant pieces. We were once again blown away by the talent and skill on display in the stories laid out in front of us. Between both these competitions we witnessed just a fraction of a truly promising collection of young writers, and I can confidently say we were amazed by what we saw.

This was no different when we judged this year's Magazine Competition. Facing the entries we had to judge and narrow down to merely 3 of the best, we were completely stunned by the level of composition and creativity that these Y8 students were able to display. Truly, these magazines were indistinguishable from professional-quality editions. This particular one, which we narrowly decided to be the winner, was produced by the wonderful 8NIQ form!

English Department Clubs

We consistently run a number of clubs that encourage students to practise and explore the skills that we consider of utmost importance - reading and writing, the essential duo of English abilities. For avid Sixth Form readers we run the Senior Book Club, within which we get the opportunity to gather and discuss our personal experiences of reading each round's nominated book. This club enunciates diversity and the books selected originate from cultures around the world, from both male and female writers, allowing us readers to deepen our breadth of literary understanding. Shown below were the books nominated this year!





From the competitions run, we have not a shred of doubt that some brilliant creative writers hide away in our school cohort. For those in years 7-10, the English Department runs a Junior Creative Writing Club every Wednesday after school! Whether they're writing for external competitions or personal growth, the creative writers here are truly inspiring and we have no doubt that their skills will take them far beyond this club's weekly runtime.

Finally, entering its second year as the first of its kind in BGS history, the English Department's Senior Creative Writing Club is set for its grand return! Previously exclusive to the Y12 collective, the department intends to restart this club using an after school session, allowing returning Y13 students and Y12 students alike to discuss, connect and practise the art and skill of creative writing. For those interested, keep an eye out for further details!

This concludes the BGS English Department's reminiscence of an eventful calendar year. As always, keep reading, keep writing, and on behalf of the entire department we wish you a restful and peaceful summer holiday.

-Anh Nguyen, Y12 English Prefect



Design Technology News

New Designers Exhibition

On Friday 5th of July Year 10 GCSE and year 12 IB Design Technology students embarked on an exciting journey to the Business Design Centre in Islington for the annual New Designers Exhibition. This event showcased the innovative work of newly graduated degree students across a wide range of design disciplines, offering our students a unique opportunity to witness the cutting edge of design firsthand. The show offered a glimpse into the future of design. What made the experience truly exceptional was the chance for our students to engage directly with these emerging designers. They eagerly asked questions about the designers' creative processes, from initial concept to final product, gaining valuable insights into the design journey. This immersive experience not only broadened our students' perspectives but also ignited their passion for design, providing them with fresh ideas and motivation for their own GCSE / IB coursework.

Mrs T Papp



The Exhibition Through Student's Eyes

As part of our Year 10 DT trip, we went to the Business Design Centre in Islington to see the Designers' Exhibition, where we got the opportunity to see many new and innovative products, and even talk to some of the designers. We are currently in the process of developing our NEA (Non Examination Assessment), so this was also an opportunity to take inspiration from these designs and help us with creating our own.

One of the first pieces that we saw was a portable, flat-pack grill for camping, where we got to speak with the designer and discuss his design process; he told us about his research into existing, portable grills and his dislikes with them, his initial design ideas, and even the history of grills and BBQs. His process was very similar to what we are currently doing in our NEA, and our conversation helped give us some ideas and inspiration into what our own products could be, especially as for some of us, our chosen theme for the NEA is 'eating away from home'. We particularly liked how the bag was designed to keep the parts of the grill separate and clean, with a smooth, silicone-like material inside to prevent stains.

Another great design we saw was a camping bag. It was a good example of containers for our brief 'Eating away from home', and was very versatile. It could be collapsed into a small rucksack for things where you only need a packed lunch or something, or could be expanded so as to become a bag for larger things such as a sleeping bag or a tent. It was good to see as a part of eating away from home counts as camping, and so allowed for some extra thought into that area.

Inclusive Design

We also came across a design called Footer by Rebecca Brown, which is a sensory kit aimed at neurodivergent individuals to help reduce stress and anxiety. The designer sought to support people with stress, depression, autism, and ADHD by encouraging safe stimming behaviours. The sensory kit is customizable, can spin, and includes various sensory textures. It's also portable, allowing those with anxiety or stress to have something to fiddle with on the go, and really inspired us as another theme some people chose for our NEA was "Educational toys and games", and helped us consider fidget toys as a possible design. There were so many other amazing designs that we saw that couldn't fit into this article, but overall, we all really enjoyed this experience, as we got the opportunity to see so many creative and unique designs to take inspiration from, and talked to a lot of aspiring designers who gave us some amazing advice for when we will also be designing our own products. It was really inspiring to see these designers talk about their creations with true passion for their work, and we would really like to visit another one of these exhibitions in our own time in the future.

Lucy P, Alex P.H., Elin M & Jessica F



Mathematics News

BGS and the UK Maths Challenge

Throughout the year, BGS students have again been achieving wonderful things at the various UK Maths Trust (UKMT) challenge competitions. Here is a round-up for you.

October 2023: Senior Maths Challenge Success

The UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge (SMC) is a 90-minute, 25 multiple choice question, first-round Challenge aimed at students year 13 or below. The problems on the Senior Maths Challenge are designed to make students think! The UKMT describes the questions as “stimulating problems for both beginners and experienced problem-solvers”.

On the 3rd October 2023, BGS entered a team of intrepid sixth form students and the results were superb - 4 Gold, 6 Silver and 5 Bronze medals. Special mention to **Max Jansen Y13** for the best in his year; and **Andy Yu Y12** for the best result in the school!

Max, Andy plus **Freddie Morgan Y12** and **Eashan Patel Y12** were all invited to the follow-on round, known affectionately as the “Senior Kangaroo” (due to the UKMT’s historic ties with Australia) where they achieved excellent results. In a case of history repeating itself, Max was best in year and Andy was best in school.

March 2024: Intermediate Maths Challenge Success

The UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (IMC) is a 60-minute, multiple-choice challenge which takes place once per year.

It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems which are designed to challenge even the brightest of students.

On the 31st January, forty eight BGS students across Years 9, 10 and 11 participated in the IMC and achieved an extraordinary result: 23 Golds, 13 Silvers and 8 Bronzes. To give a sense of the scale of this achievement, only the top 8% of students in the country achieve a gold. Congratulations to everyone!

A special mention must be given to Max Perez Y9, Diep Anh Nguyen Y10 and Victors Klotins Y11, who were all the respective best in their years. Ten students went onto the follow-on Pink Kangaroo round, where Diana Androshchuk Y10 and Victors were best in their years.

Meanwhile, Max went on to participate in the Cayley Olympiad, and Diep Anh in the Hamilton Olympiad - remarkable achievements both.



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

April 2024: Junior Maths Challenge success

On April 25th, it was the turn of Years 7 and 8 to step up to the plate and test their mettle against the mighty UKMT. The results speak for themselves: forty four students entered, of which 8 received Bronze, 20 Silver and 13 Gold. A special mention must be given to Caitlin Mackintosh Y7 and Matilda Sargent Y8 who were both best in their respective year groups.

Bearing in mind that to get a “medal” of any colour, students need to be in the top 50% of the country, and Gold only goes to the top 8%, this is a stunning achievement. Below are some of our high-achieving Year 8s.

Four students proceeded to the Junior Kangaroo round, where two achieved Merit (Christopher Male Y8 and Colin Lai Y8). And congratulations to Matilda Sargent Y8 who made it to the Junior Olympiad where she achieved a Merit, making her one of the top mathematicians of her age in the country!



Just some of our triumphant Year 8s with their JMC certificates

Your Turn!

Our congratulations to all the students who participated across the school. If you would like to have a go at the JMC yourself, please see the [UKMT questions archive](#): a treasure trove of mathematical pleasure and discovery.

Written by Mr Male

Windrush Voices

It was a pleasure to offer the opportunity to 19 students to attend a Windrush Voices workshop at the British Library as a reward for their hard work and performance in Year 12. The students had the opportunity to engage with oral histories and see the amazing resources at the British Library first hand. Thank you to everyone who attended for their enthusiasm and engagement. Have a restful summer.

~ Mr Martin and Miss Aspill



On the 22nd of July, some of us had the chance to attend a workshop by the name of Windrush Voices at the British Library. The intention of the workshop was to explore the experiences of the Windrush generation through the examination of a variety of historical sources, and thought-provoking discussions. We had time to look over some really interesting sources like old newspapers, novels, etc. as well as having the opportunity to visit the Treasures Gallery which holds a trove of historic documents. Despite not taking history as a subject, it was really fascinating to be able to see these relics, some pertaining to the Windrush generation like a letter from a son at home to his father in Britain asking for new shoes, and some not, like Shakespeare's First Folio. We were able to ask questions, talk about them as a group, and then got to give our perspectives on the importance and utility of oral history by listening to some recordings from members of the Windrush generations and their experiences growing up in Britain. The workshop was very well run by a lady who was ecstatic to have a cohort of students who showed deep engagement with the topic, which added a lot to the quality of our discussions. In all, it was a really interesting experience even for someone who doesn't take the subject, and it is definitely an activity that I would recommend.

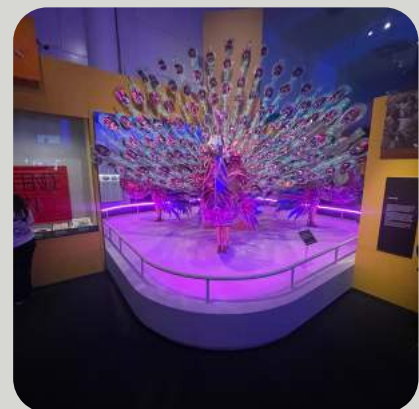
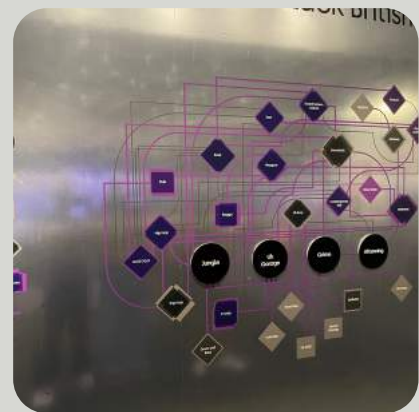
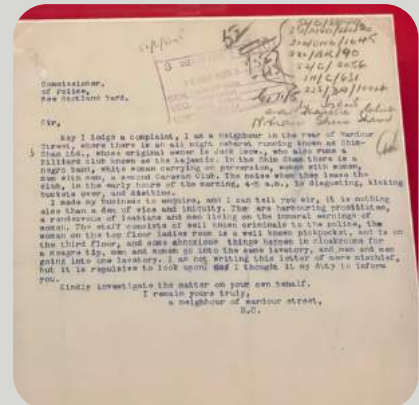
~ Edward Bourlet

Windrush Voices

Our time at the British museum, although short, was bursting with knowledge and opportunity. We were lucky enough to experience first hand primary sources in the form of oral history which really highlighted to us the significance of individuality in telling the stories of a generation. This excursion was an excellent reminder that what we lesen in books is often not the full story and we must return to the source to avoid painting our own perceptions as facts and that individual voices need to remain heard in order to maintain a just retelling of history.

We were also fortunate enough to see 500 years of black British basslines - an insightful look into the history of black British musicians. My personally highlights of this were the letter of complaint regarding th Shim Sham tavern as well as the web connecting the origins of black British music.

~ Michael Ato





*Current Affairs
and Issues
What's in the News?*

TOUR DE FRANCE

29TH JUNE TO 21ST JULY, 2024



JED BAULCH, YEAR 12

The Tour de France is one of the world's most prestigious and gruelling cycling races, held annually since 1903. It is held in France with occasional segments in neighbouring countries. Originating as a promotion by the French newspaper L'Auto, the race spans 21 stages over 23 days, covering around 3,500 kilometres and featuring a mix of terrains. Cyclists compete for various jerseys, including the yellow jersey for the overall leader, the green jersey for the best sprinter, the polka dot jersey for the top climber, and the white jersey for the best young rider. The teams consist of eight riders facing challenging terrains, from the Alps to the Pyrenees, with the race traditionally concluding on the Champs-Élysées in Paris. The event attracts millions of spectators with last year there being 42.5 million viewers in just France alone. Famous winners of the event include Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault. However, the race has seen many doping scandals, the most famous being Lance Armstrong being stripped of his medals, after being found cheating. Despite this, the Tour De France remains the most famous cycling event in the world, with a very large number of viewers each year. This years race starts on the 29th of June at 11:00am. The event starts in Florence and then ends three weeks later on July 21st in Nice, with daily coverage taking place on various TV Channels. We can see 8 different British Cyclists taking part in the Tour De France this year, all on various teams. Hopefully we see one of them win!

PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

26TH JULY TO 11TH AUGUST, 2024



BETH ABEGUNDE- WILLIAMS, YEAR 12

The countdown to the Paris Olympics 2024 has started and is set to be a spectacular event, with high hopes placed on this year's competition especially the women's 100m as the top female athletes of the year once again go head to head to this worldwide showdown. However, the United Kingdom has created a formidable and exceptional team of athletes with the potential to leave marks on this year's competition. One to look out for is GB's very own 100 and 200 sprinter Dina-Asher Smith.

Dina Asher-Smith, who is already a household name in the UK, is expected to be one of the standout stars of the Paris Games. As the reigning World Champion in the 200 metres and European Champion in both the 100 and 200 metres, Asher-Smith has consistently demonstrated her amazing ability on the track. Her exceptional speed and determination definitely makes her a favourite for multiple medals in Paris, and she will be a key figure in Britain's athletics team. Going up against the likes of Sha'Carri RICHARDSON, Shericka JACKSON, Shelly-Ann FRASER-PRYCE to name a few, Dina ASHER-SMITH is most definitely a fan favourite.

Another athlete to look out for is 16 year old skateboarder, Sky Brown. Already a skateboarding prodigy, having won bronze in the women's park skateboarding event at Tokyo 2020, making her one of the youngest Olympic medalists in history. At just 13, her exceptional talent and fearless approach to the sport were on full display. Despite a serious injury a year before the Games, Brown made a swift recovery, showcasing her resilience and determination. Her innovative tricks and fearless style have gained international acclaim, setting her apart in the competitive skateboarding world. She definitely aims to inspire young athletes to work hard at doing what they love.

The Paris 2024 Olympics not only provides a platform for these incredible athletes but also represents a return to the roots of the modern Olympic movement. With the inclusion of new sports like breakdancing and the introduction of mixed-gender events, the Games continue to evolve. As the countdown to Paris continues, British athletes are training hard, fueled by the hopes and dreams of a nation

SHOOTING PARA SPORT AT PARIS 2024

28 AUG 2024 - SUN, 8 SEPT 2024



MATEJA SMAILYS-BARTKUS, YEAR 12

As the countdown to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games begins, anticipation is mounting for one of the most thrilling events on the schedule: Shooting Para sport. Set to take place between August 30 and September 5 at the prestigious Chateauroux Shooting Centre in central France, this competition promises to be the ultimate test of accuracy and control.

In Shooting Para sport, athletes are renowned for their steady hand, unwavering concentration, and emotional control. Techniques such as focused and controlled breathing play a pivotal role in reducing heart rate and enhancing stability for optimal performance. Competitors engage in rifle and pistol events across various distances, each aiming to land shots closest to the centre of a 10-ring target.

With up to 160 athletes from around the globe expected to participate, the stage is set for a showcase of talent and technique. Among the standout names in the sport's history is Sweden's Jonas Jacobsson, widely regarded as the most decorated shooter of all time. His remarkable achievements serve as a testament to the dedication and skill required to excel in this demanding discipline.

Not to be overshadowed, Australia's Elizabeth Kosmala has left an indelible mark as the most successful female athlete in Shooting Para sport. Her nine gold medals and three silvers, earned between 1976 and 1988, are a testament to her enduring legacy in the sport.

However, it's China that has been a dominant force in recent Games, clinching the top spot on the medals table for the third consecutive time at Tokyo 2020. With four gold medals out of the 13 up for grabs, China's shooters showcased their prowess on the international stage once again.

The Chateauroux Shooting Centre, a state-of-the-art facility inaugurated in 2018, stands as one of Europe's largest shooting venues. Equipped with multiple shooting ranges, it provides the perfect setting to host all 13 Paralympic events. Beyond Paris 2024, the centre will continue to serve as a venue for international competitions, solidifying its status as a cornerstone of the global Para sport community.

As the Games draw nearer, excitement builds for what promises to be a thrilling display of athleticism, determination, and sportsmanship at the Shooting Para sport competitions. With history in the making and medals up for grabs, the world eagerly awaits the action to unfold at the Chateauroux Shooting Centre.

This anticipation is shared not just by athletes and coaches, but also by fans and newcomers to the sport. The Paralympic Games offer a unique opportunity to witness incredible feats of precision and control, celebrating the human spirit and the power of perseverance. Moreover, the Games play a crucial role in promoting inclusivity and awareness for athletes with disabilities, providing a global stage where their achievements are rightly celebrated.

The 2024 Games also promise to introduce innovative technology and support systems designed to enhance both the athlete and spectator experience. Advanced scoring systems, real-time analytics, and enhanced broadcast capabilities will bring the excitement of Shooting Para sport to audiences around the world, offering an unprecedented level of engagement and understanding of the sport.

As competitors prepare to converge on Chateauroux, the legacy of past champions will undoubtedly inspire new records and personal bests. With each athlete's unique journey and the collective pursuit of excellence, the Shooting Para sport events are set to be a highlight of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, capturing the imagination and admiration of people worldwide.



US ELECTION

THE SHOWDOWN



THEODORE GRAHAM, YEAR 12

Among the 97 countries opening their polling stations in 2024, surely one of the closest followed elections worldwide will be that of the US.

On November 5, voters will elect not only the president and vice president, but also all 435 voting seats in the House of Representatives and 34 of the 100 seats in the Senate. Currently, the incumbent president is the Democrat Joe Biden. However, both the House and the Senate are controlled by a Republican majority, but there is only a very small Republican majority in each, so both houses could switch allegiances this year.

The Candidates

Donald Trump, the Republican presidential candidate, is a self-described nationalist and semi-isolationist. He aims to axe the climate change legislation put in place by Biden's government, lower restrictions on guns, and has pledged to protect manufacturing workers especially, with a focus on stopping illegal migrants. Trump has also been convicted of 34 felony charges of falsifying business records and is the first ever president to be convicted of criminal charges.

Joe Biden, the Democrat presidential candidate and incumbent president, has pledged to lower living costs for working class families, grow the middle class, and fight to restore reproductive freedom. He has been criticised for his military campaign in Afghanistan, which he withdrew from in 2021.

Biden is currently 81 years old and is the oldest ever serving president. His cognitive ability has been criticised due to his age. However, Trump is 78 years old and if he wins the election he will overtake Biden to be the oldest ever serving president. Both candidates have already served a first term, making this only the seventh ever presidential rematch.

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON

UK 'SWIFTONOMICS'



SCARLETT BASQUIL, YEAR 12

Taylor Swift is an American singer-songwriter with a diverse discography ranging from country to pop and indie to synth. Since her debut album was released in 2006 when she was just 17 years old, her music has sent shockwaves around the world. People have been captivated by her cathartic lyricism and mesmerising melodies, forming a dedicated fan base called Swifties (I myself being one!). She is arguably one of the most successful musicians of our generation as she has won 14 Grammys, is one of the highest selling music artists of all time, the richest female musician, and she became the first billionaire in history with music as the main source of income. Oh, and Taylor was Time's Person of the Year 2023!

In March 2023, Taylor began her worldwide tour called the Eras Tour, a journey through all 11 of her albums. It is the highest grossing tour of all time, currently sitting at around \$1.44 billion and is expected to reach an unbelievable \$2.165 billion by the time it ends in December 2024.

In June, Taylor Swift landed in the UK and Ireland, performing a total of 13 three hour long shows in Edinburgh, Liverpool, Cardiff, London and Dublin. Thousands of Swifties went each night to *Shake It Off* to the music in outfits inspired by Taylor and her music, with the obligatory friendship bracelets to trade. An average of £848 is spent by each Swiftie when going to the Eras Tour. This *gold rush* includes the greatly desired tickets, outfits, travel, accommodation, and much more. When tickets went on sale last year, they sold out in a matter of minutes and hotels were booking up just as fast. The tickets cost on average £206 when they first went on sale, but now on resale websites such as StubHub the cheapest is around £900!

So how is all this spending helping the UK economy?

Barclay's 'Swiftonomics' report shows that the *Lucky Ones* attending the concert spend 12 times the average cost of a night out in the UK (£67) and over double the amount spent as a guest at a UK wedding (£398). Adding up all the spending - so over 1.2 million tickets for stadiums at full capacity, restaurants, bars, merchandise, outfits, travel, accommodation and more - the Eras Tour is expected to bring in almost £1 billion to the UK economy.



The popularity of the show has had a surprising butterfly effect in keeping inflation at 2% which is the value the Bank of England targets and it has been at this rate since June.

And it's not only the overall economy she's making an impact on. She is also making a difference to normal people's lives. Along the worldwide journey of the Eras Tour, Taylor donates to charitable organisations, particularly food banks, in every city she performs in. Her heartwarming gestures have made a huge difference in the UK with food banks saying this is the largest donation they have ever received and it will help them get through the next year. With the money, the food banks would be able to provide 10,800 meals, the equivalent of feeding 1,200 people three meals a day for three days.

She may have said *So Long, London* for now, but it will not be long until she is back again in August for a further five shows. So we will wait till then to see what *Untouchable* impacts she has then.

And if you are one of the *Gorgeous* people going to the August shows (like me!) I hope it's beyond your *Wildest Dreams*. If you aren't, don't be the *Smallest Man Who Ever Lived* and instead dance and sing along to her *Timeless* classics!





*Around the
Grounds!
What's been up at BGS?*

SOUTH-EAST ASIAN SOCIETY

When starting BGS our goal was to start a society that appreciated and also educated on Asian culture and heritage and BGS allowed me to make this happen. Every Tuesday after school we ran entertaining sessions and activities that allowed students to participate and learn about the cultures in Asia. Our fun activities and events included culture day, calligraphy nights and candle making. This allowed us to celebrate important festivals such as Lunar New Year and Diwali. By leading a club our organisation skills and leadership skills have significantly improved. Running a club has allowed us to feel more connected to our peers and our cultures.



The highlight of SEAS in our opinion was organising culture day. Many of our peers put a lot of time and effort choreographing a dance routine which was the main feature of the whole event. Additionally, we organised a fashion parade where many students had the opportunity to showcase their culture's dresses and traditional clothing. We had an amazing turnout from different year groups from varied backgrounds. We are even more excited for next year's culture day and we are expecting an even greater turnout!

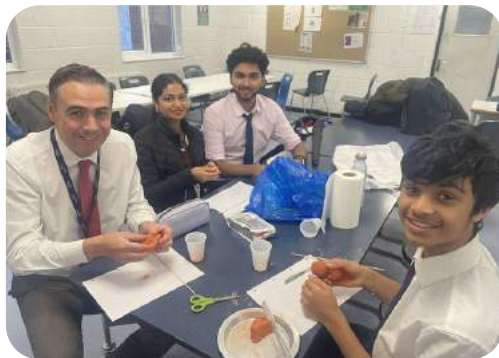


Instagram - @seasbgs
TikTok - @seasbgs





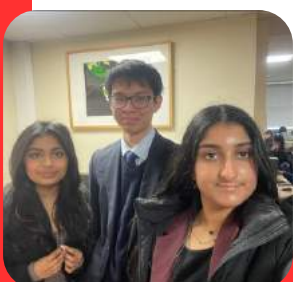
Our first session of running SEAS was diva/candle making for Diwali! We explained the story regarding the origins of Diwali making sure our club is not only educational but creative and fun. We moulded candles out of clay and used toothpicks to carve designs in the candles. Then next week we painted them and gave prizes to who we thought were the best designs!



Another key moment when running SEAS was hosting the calligraphy night where we used paints to write and Lunar New Year in Chinese characters as well as other characters! We were so impressed with the designs and the effort our members put into making these scripts. We educated our peers on the history of the lunar new year and the extent it is celebrated in East Asian countries explaining concepts such as red envelopes.



We also created fun quizzes which tested students' knowledge of Asian countries, usually quizzing students on the geography and history of Asian countries. We looked at flags, capital cities, rivers and oceans, wars and landmarks.

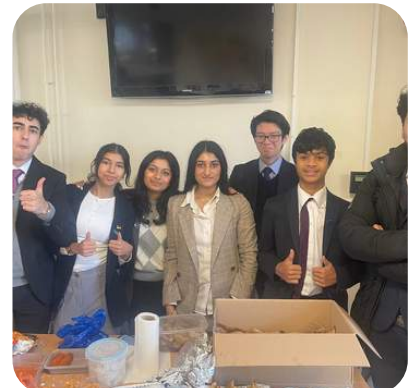
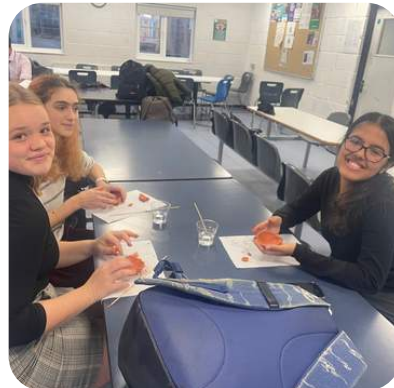


Instagram - @seasbgs
TikTok - @seasbgs



Finally, the SEAS team wants to thank everyone who got involved and supported our club. We really appreciate your support and for making this club happen. Check out our social media to see what we do at our club!

We hope to see many more students attending SEAS next year :)



LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

After campaigning to do this show for about a year, I was so excited to finally get the chance to perform my favourite musical with my favourite people in the world. The shows are always a highlight of my year where lifetime memories and friends are made. The shows were an absolute joy to perform and I especially made a lifetime memory when Freddie and Alex started kissing in front of me on stage. I want to say a huge thank you to our teachers and crew who put so much hard work into making these shows possible so we can have the time of our lives.

There is so much work that goes into these shows to produce a genuinely amazing experience for both the performers and the audience. From the endless rehearsals, the meticulous planning, and the intricate set designs, every detail is carefully crafted to bring the story to life. The dedication and passion of everyone involved truly shine through, making each performance a magical and unforgettable event.

I am incredibly grateful to be part of such a talented and supportive community. The bond we share as a cast and crew is something truly special. We laugh together, we cry together, and we support each other through every challenge and triumph. The sense of camaraderie and teamwork is unparalleled, and it's what makes these productions so meaningful.



LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

To our teachers and directors, thank you for your unwavering guidance and inspiration. Your expertise and vision drive us to be our best and push us beyond our limits. You create an environment where we can grow as performers and as individuals, and for that, we are eternally thankful.



To the crew, thank you for your tireless efforts behind the scenes. Your hard work and dedication often go unnoticed, but without you, the show simply would not go on. From the lighting and sound technicians to the costume and set designers, every role is crucial in bringing the magic of the theatre to life.



To my fellow cast members, you are my second family. The memories we have created together will stay with me forever. Each of you brings something unique and special to the stage, and it's an honour to perform alongside you. I cherish every moment we've shared and look forward to many more adventures together.



From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much!

~ Joseph Petros

BGS MOCK ELECTION

A small group of staff (Ms Lusted, Miss Gowdie, Miss Custer, Mrs MacDonald, Mr Goodall and myself), led by Mr Griffin, coordinated the BGS Mock General Election schedule during June and July this year. Year 12 students volunteered to represent the 5 major UK political parties (Conservatives, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Reform) to elect leaders, create information videos and posters to inform students across the school about the party manifestos, participate in a vibrant and energetic candidate Hustings, and drum up support during break, lunch and their free time. Every student had the opportunity to vote outside a windy SFC on Thursday 4th July, with staff manning the polling station to ensure that voting was done fairly.

Following a tense and tightly fought campaign, the results were as follows:

- 1st - LABOUR 300 votes (28.7%)
- 2nd - GREEN 280 votes (26.8%)
- 3rd - REFORM 247 votes (23.6%)
- 4th - LIB DEM 97 votes (9.2%)
- 5th - CONSERVATIVES 63 votes (6%)

Spoiled ballots - 60 votes (5.7%)

Well done to all the students who actively participated in ensuring the Mock Election was a success, in particular, the leaders Joseph Petros (Conservatives), Malak Rezk (Green), Alex Innes (Labour), Ethan Abbate (Liberal Democrats) and Blake Aham (Reform). Thank you to the staff who were involved in the coordination of the event, especially Mr Griffin, who worked tirelessly to ensure everything ran smoothly (same again in 5 years, please!), and to all of the students who engaged in the democratic process. Hopefully, this gave young students an insight into politics and sparked an interest in current affairs that they will develop in the future.

Mr Martin
Head of Sixth Form

AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY



AFRO CARIBBEAN SOCIETY

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

Bexley Grammar School's Afro-Caribbean Society has had a remarkable year, brimming with vibrant events that have celebrated the rich heritage, dynamic culture and true spirit of the Afro-Caribbean community. From the electrifying Open Mic Night to the grand ACS Gala, the society has offered a diverse array of events that have engaged, educated, and entertained. Here's a look at some of the standout moments of this school year.

Open Mic Night: A Platform for Voices

Kicking off the year with a burst of creativity, the ACS Open Mic Night was an evening dedicated to self-expression and artistic freedom. Held in the hall, the event drew a lively number of students eager to showcase their talents. Performers took to the stage with a mix of dance, comedy, singing and instrumental performances. All maintained with some wonderful afro-caribbean snacks. The atmosphere was electric, with the audience's enthusiastic support creating a sense of community and mutual appreciation. The night concluded with a powerful group performance, uniting diverse talents in a shared celebration of Afro-Caribbean culture.



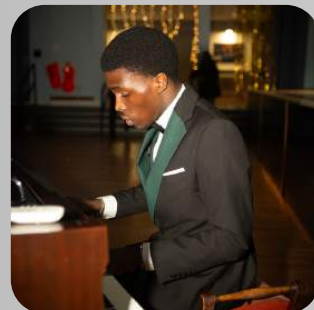
ACS Gala: Elegance and Excellence

The ACS Gala was the pinnacle of the year's events, a night of elegance and excellence held in a transformed hall, beautifully decorated and adorned in black and gold. Attendees donned their finest attire, ready for an evening of sophistication and celebration. The gala featured a keynote spoken word performance from George the Poet, who spoke on the importance of community and cultural pride. Guests enjoyed a full dinner featuring a range of Afro-Caribbean dishes, followed by music and dancing that kept the celebration going into the night. Awards were presented to outstanding members for their contributions to the society, highlighting the spirit of achievement and recognition that defines the ACS community. The night culminated with the announcement of the new leadership team, Presidents Michael Ato & Ifunanya Ayodele! We look forward to seeing what they bring next year!



ACS Food Sales

Throughout the year, ACS hosted a series of food sales that brought the delicious flavours of West Africa to the school canteen. These events not only provided a taste of home for many students but also introduced others to the rich culinary traditions. Dishes like jollof rice, plantains, chinchin and puff puff were sold, with proceeds supporting ACS's chosen charities, The Sickle Cell Society and Access UK, and future events. The food sales were a hit, often selling out quickly and leaving attendees eagerly anticipating the next opportunity to indulge in their favourite African treats. We promise there is more coming soon!





Culture Day: Celebrating Diversity

Culture Day was a highlight of the school calendar, designed to showcase the diverse cultural heritage of those at the school. The day-long event featured a variety of activities, including dance performances, fashion shows, and a cultural food market. Attendees were encouraged to engage directly with cultural practices, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation. We are very appreciative to have been invited by our wonderful friends and SEAS and we look forward to working with them more this years!!



We would also like to thank our outgoing president Elvis Ekeh for all his hard work in allowing this all to be possible. Good luck for the future Elvis!

Here's to a great year of celebrating cultural diversity at BGS!!

~ Michael Ato

Environmental Action Group

The Environmental Action Group (EAG) is a student group of enthusiastic eco-warriors working towards making the school more environmentally conscientious and sustainable. It is open to all students; the only requirement is to be passionate about the environment and changing the school for the better. We meet once a week to discuss the ongoing initiatives and new possibilities to improve the school on themes such as recycling, energy reduction, or reducing food waste. In addition, we've had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Department of Education to give our views on climate change educations and learn more ways we can improve the environmental footprint of BGS.

So far, we have implemented policies including moving away from plastic cutlery in the canteen to metal reusable cutlery, obtaining and using new plastic recycling bins, and performing inspections on classrooms to ensure energy is not being wasted.

Being part of the EAG is very rewarding as it allows you to give back to the school and protect the environment for future generations. It also allows you to meet with other people who share your enthusiasm for the environment and connect with the school in a new, positive way. I would strongly recommend anyone interested in the environment to join the EAG.





HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!