



An Unexpected Turn of Events

After starting our day with one of us arriving ridiculously early and the other being stuck on the tube due to problems on the line we ended up having a series of amazing events happen. Whilst Finley sat outside Westminster Palace with a hot chocolate he managed to come across some people who were to attend the breakfast reception for 'The Careers & Enterprise Company' and they kindly offered for him to join them for some breakfast. Luckily George was left an invite to pick up when he arrived as to not leave him out on all the fun. After some networking to start the event George finally arrived 19 minutes into the start of the event. After sheepishly walking in and getting to his seat, he was inundated with business cards from people such as the vice-chairman of KPMG and Lord Young's personal assistants. During the final speech, we even received a 'shout out' as some young people ready to mingle and network. The woman giving the speech, asked colleagues to make sure they gave us their business cards, as she was sure we were likely to be top dogs in many of the fields of work all of the attendees were from.

We were able to talk to Lord David Young, one of the benefactors to the organisation whose event it was. He was extremely nice and even offered to try and get us into Prime Minister's Question Time which was the main reason we were going to Westminster for our UCAS day. He also graciously took us on a private tour around the House of Lords, including many of the areas which are not usually open to the public, even taking us to the chambers. As we walked to the admissions office to try and secure tickets for Prime Minister's Questions, he talked to us about what it was like to have served in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet as Secretary of State for Employment.

To end an amazing and unexpected day we managed to gain entry to Prime Minister's Questions only after having a chat with some of the people we had met at the function before the speaker's procession was held. We managed to see high Profile MP's such as the PM Theresa May as well as Jeremy Corbyn, Boris Johnson, Ed Miliband, Jacob Rees-Mogg and Andrea Leadsome to name but a few. Speaker of the House John Bercow was of course cracking jokes during the proceedings.

Overall, it was an amazing day, and a massive turn of events, as we assumed we would not even be able to get into Westminster Palace let alone have breakfast with a Lord, have a private tour of the House Of Lords by Lord Young and see Prime Minister's Questions.

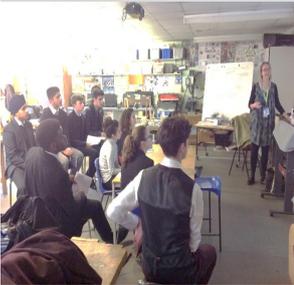
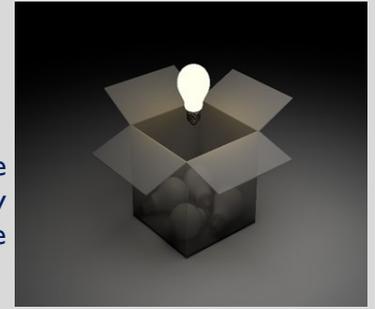
George Ross & Finley Barry, Year 12



Design & Technology Update

This has been a busy term for our exam students.

In order to help them focus on what career prospects in design might look like, we invited Nadine Bennet Senior lecturer in Product Design at Ravensbourne University to come in and work with them for a day. Her focus was to highlight some of the skills they should develop and would need for the future world of work.



Year 12 A level product designers were challenged to present their ideas for new products confidently and with conviction to a client looking at their ideas for the first time.

Year 12 IB students explored how important it was to develop products and ideas that reflected real needs of consumers and to think about how to adapt and design for a rapidly changing world.

Year 11 and 13 had their eyes opened to the range of businesses from banking to supermarket chains, oil companies and retail that were recruiting design graduates for their ability to solve problems, their creative and strategic thinking skills.



Innovation was the buzz word after the Year 10 lesson, they were so interested and Nadine was so impressed with them, she stayed for an extra design drawing session after lessons had finished for the day.

Nadine plans to return later in the term to give Year 10 and 12 coaching on their major design projects.

Jill Swan is a sculpture who, having bought her own woodland, then set up a business running workshops in carpentry and land conservation.

Year 12 IB and Year 10 product designers spent an afternoon experiencing first hand the qualities that make wood a popular material to make products with and some of the techniques to develop the quality of their work further.

A big thank you to Mr Roberts for setting this up for the students.

Comments from the students

‘Really inspired by the examples Jill brought in. I know what to aim for with my work’.

‘Expected a really dry lecture on what wood is, enjoyed a proper grown up practical session and learnt loads’.

‘Can we spend time making our projects on location in Kent, Miss?’



Finally, congratulations to Prity Chatterjee and Mark Hawes these two students are currently going through the process of becoming Arkwright Scholarship students. Having completed the application process and exam successfully they are now waiting for the interview. Whatever happens in the future the department is intensely proud of the mature attitude they have shown over the past few weeks.

Miss Francis, Head of Design and Technology



ECM Day - Year 8 Europa Town Event



During ECM day on Wednesday 25th January, all of the Year 8s visited Europa Town, a multicultural marketplace set up in the hall for one day only. Here, they could practise their French or German by buying clothes, groceries and medicine (all fake, don't worry), as well as very real ice-cream and croissants.



When they first arrived, the Year 8s went to passport control, where they received a 'credit card' and plastic bag in exchange for answering a few questions in their language, which shouldn't have been a complicated task, but for the fact that nobody could hear anything through the window at the booth, causing us eventually to abandon the stall and stand in front of it. They then went on to the other stalls, manned by a combination of Year 11s, Sixth Formers, teachers and assistants. At these stalls, they could buy whatever they wanted, simply by asking for the product and reading out the numbers on their credit card, all in French or German, of course.

The Year 8s all had a great time practising their languages in such an immersive way, and it was very entertaining for the store managers to see the unusual and slightly bizarre outfits put together after visits to the clothing store. Thank you to all the teachers that made Europa Town happen, and all of the students for their eagerness and enthusiasm.

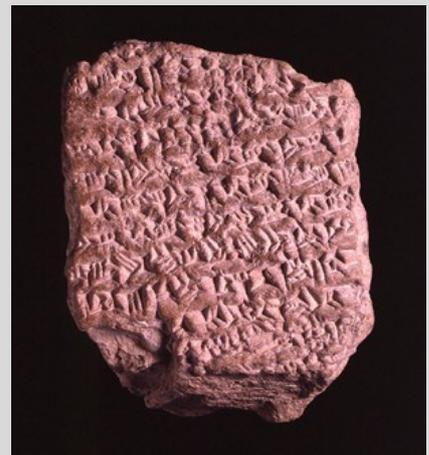
Lucy Sargent, Year 11



Alexander the Great Lecture

By Professor Hugh Bowden

On the 1st February after school, in SFC1, Professor Hugh Bowden Head of Classics at King's College, University gave a talk about Alexander the Great, famed historical ruler of the Macedon, and about the different historical interpretations and depictions. The talk was very interesting, and it was made all the more interesting by the evident passion Professor Bowden had for the subject matter. For example, he said that we know the exact date that Alexander the Great died, and this is due to a Babylonian Astronomical Journal (pictured) that says the king died.



Also, he said that he was often portrayed in a godlike way, as his friends wanted him remembered as a great ruler. However, the Romans depicted him as a corrupted leader with too much power, as this image was allegorical with the political climate at the time (Marc Antony and Augustus). He greatly increased my knowledge of Alexander the Great, while also improving my critical thinking with historical narratives, and the whole experience was thoroughly enjoyable.

Adam Dykes, Year 12

Young Enterprise Workshops

On the 25th January, 3 Business students, Shyon Gredley (Marketing Director), Manraj Soor (Finance Director) and Henry Murati (Financial Analyst), visited Whites & Case LLP for a series of workshops based around the Young Enterprise competition that many students are participating in this year. Our company, Chameleon has been working hard on creating our own product being a colour changing toothbrush to sell to the general public. We are due to present our ideas in the Company Competition in March this year in a competition against the other schools in the area.

The workshops at White & Case LLP allowed us to gain Knowledge on the 3 main aspects of the competition: the presentation, the trade stand and the business report. Alongside a few other schools competing, we were given presentations on what things we can do to make sure we maximise our chances of being successful in the competition. After collecting this information, we reported back to our team and created a plan as to how we should move forward. We would like to say thank you to Young Enterprise for hosting us and hope we are able to get more opportunities to meet with business people and Young Enterprise representatives throughout our time in the competition.

If you want to know more about our product, please contact us at chameleonbrushes@gmail.com

Shyon Gredley, Year 12



Culture Club: The Kite Runner, Wyndham's Theatre, Wednesday 25th January 2017

On Wednesday 25th January, Culture Club organised a visit to see the stage adaptation of 'The Kite Runner', based on the internationally best-selling book by Khaled Hosseini. Set amidst the rise of the Taliban and the ensuing conflict in Afghanistan, the play follows one man's endeavour to confront the hauntings of his past, and ultimately find redemption from his former childhood mistakes.

While the audience are hit by the powerful effects of a war-torn country plagued by hatred and ignorance, the play retains the witty, honest narrative Hosseini has gained such popularity for, without losing any of the dignity or poignancy behind the story. Ultimately, we witness a play about friendship, and the lengths some are willing to reach in order to protect their friends.

As someone who was moved to tears and cries of frustration while reading the novel, I can assure you the stage production does not disappoint – although I would recommend reading the novel more highly if you wish to truly immerse yourself in the thoughts and emotions of the narrator, and gain a more thorough understanding of the context behind the story.

As plays go, 'The Kite Runner' is surely a success; performed with skill, sensitivity and authenticity, this is a production you will definitely not regret, or forget, seeing.

Sapphira McBride, Year 12



Field Trip to Flatford Mill for current Year 12 IB Biology & Environmental Systems Students



We are running a field trip to Flatford Mill Field Centre in Suffolk in November 2017. A letter describing the trip and its costs has gone to parents via ParentPay and teachers will have discussed the trip in lessons this

week. It is a very valuable trip both in terms of gaining experience of ecological concepts and fieldwork techniques, but also in order to collect data for the coursework element of the course (the internal assessment). We hope that all of the IB Biology and Environmental Systems students will join us on the trip which is always an enjoyable experience. Please note that the initial deposit of £50 is required by February 24th via ParentPay.

Mrs Earl, Science Department

Year 9 Options Form

The Year 9 Options Form has been sent to students e-mail accounts this week. Forms need to be completed and submitted by Tuesday 21st February.

The Year 9 Options Booklet can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

**Bexley
Grammar
School**



**Programme of Study
Year 10 and 11
Core & Options**

[Click here to access the Options Booklet](#)

Library News

A big thank you to Devon Fell-Smith, Mia Chan, Ria Chavda, Catherine Hibbs and Nyahalo Tucker for holding a second bake sale and raising £62.17 for library books.

Thanks to these students we will have lots of Manga books coming soon!

Mrs Carey, School Librarian



Hot Teenage Topics

From time to time, the Pastoral team at BGS come across websites or articles we think might be useful for parents to see. We deal with a wide variety of issues outside of academics and know that these can sometimes be tough to manage not just in school but at home, too. We have no affiliation with the producers of such materials and they do not necessarily reflect our opinions. Our aim is for these links to provide some helpful guidance on hot topics affecting our teenagers. First up: [Cyber-bullying](#)

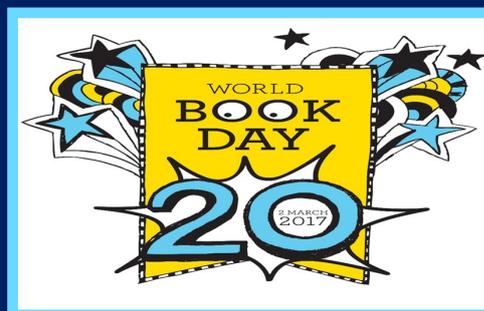
Miss Wood, Pastoral Team

Lost Property

We have lots of gloves in lost property this week, mostly single gloves, but quite distinctive. We also still have lots of winter coats. All enquiries regarding lost property should be emailed to reception@bexleygs.co.uk.

Could you please ensure that all items of clothing and equipment are clearly named so that we can return items to their owners.

Mrs Beasley, Reception



Forthcoming Events

February

Monday 13th ~ Half Term

Monday 20th ~ First school day after half term

Wednesday 22nd ~ PA Meeting

March

Thursday 2nd ~ World Book Day

Tuesday 7th ~ Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 13th ~ A Level and IB Solo Recitals

Thursday 16th ~ A Level and IB Solo Recitals

Next week is half term

Students return to school on Monday 20th February 2017