



IB Class of 2017 & their amazing Creativity, Action & Service (CAS)!

With their exams fast approaching, the Year 13 IB students have been finalising their CAS portfolios for moderation. The outstanding activities and projects carried out are reflected in their ManageBac accounts, which we have had the pleasure of reading.

Once again, our students have supported local hospitals, youth groups such as Scouts, Rainbows, Boys Brigade and Brownies. They have fund-raised for various causes: Bexley & Greenwich Community Hospice, Demelza House, Cancer Research, Diabetes UK and Young Minds are just a few of the charities which have benefitted from our students' volunteering. Bexley's Library Summer Reading Challenge again saw our students dedicate a part of their holiday to encourage younger children in the borough to read throughout the summer holiday. Our annual Elderly Easter Tea Party was a great success and saw the team members who helped organise this annual event bring two communities together.



Below are just some of the other fabulous projects our students have been involved with over the past 18 months:

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| Young Enterprise | Learning Korean |
| Nijmegan | Donating Hair to the Little Princess Trust |
| Archway Project | SLAMBassadors UK |
| World Challenge | Running Medical Society |
| Student Ambassador | Bexley Schools' Public Speaking Competition |
| Police Volunteering in Bulgaria | Urban Planning workshop |
| Knitting Club | Greenwich Youth Band |
| MFL Debate Competition | Care Home Volunteering |

The IB aims to create 'the all-round' student and one that can reflect. Here is the reflection of a student for her involvement in an Open Evening where she was representing the Languages Department: 'Sometimes you never fully understand your own passions until you're asked to instil that passion in another person. Obviously, after having chosen to study both German and Italian at higher level for the IB, I was aware that I have a passion for languages, or at the very least I have a pleasant time learning them. However it wasn't until this open evening, as complete strangers wandered in to scrutinize my school's language department, that I realised just how much I've enjoyed my language lessons every week for the past 5 years, and how much I wanted these young children to have the same experience. Before the arrival of the parents and children, I was nervous,

and sure that I would be tongue-tied the second a question was directed my way. But this was definitely not the case and towards the end of the evening I had to make a conscious effort to keep my passionate ranting to a minimum as the parents had a lot of other departments to visit!



I also developed an understanding of how different education is for my generation compared to the education of my parents' generation, for example. As language teachers such as Mr Dufton outlined the course and all of the different options available at BGS, I noted that many parents seemed taken aback by the wide variety of languages offered here, and a fair few of them commented on their own basic education that had been limited to only learning French, with no choices or freedom. If anything, this allowed me to become more confident in my own belief of the importance of learning languages, and more determined to convince these children to attend Bexley Grammar. On the back of this confidence boost, I worked with some other volunteers at the Open Evening to provide stimulating and interesting language-based games for the children, and many of them were keen to join in and impress their parents with their new found knowledge!

Overall I believe that we were very successful, judging by the abundance of positive feedback from both parents and children.'

Many of our students undertook The Challenge (NCS) – a national charity whose mission is to connect and inspire people to strengthen their communities, bringing together local people across all generations, ethnic groups and incomes to build a stronger society.

One student reflected on her involvement in the Challenge 'I feel more confident speaking and being in new social situations than I was before and I have confidence in my abilities to overcome challenges I set myself. After Part 1 I could honestly say that I had made some good friends which was an awesome feeling. Not only had I overcome personal challenges but my actions had had a positive impact on other people's lives too; I supported my team members and encouraged them to push their comfort zone like I had done to feel even better afterwards. I found I have a strength in supporting people and this encouraged me to put myself forward more for leadership roles later in the NCS programme and I am so glad I persevered with NCS and have been able to gain so much from the experience.'

A Year 13 IB student actually designed the official 90th Anniversary badge for 12th Erith Scouts, it was attached to the children's uniforms to commemorate the anniversary.



Four of students in Year 13 experienced a fantastic opportunity of being involved in the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust Programme AQA Unlocking Potential, which aims to motivate and inspire young people to discover and develop their strengths and to make the most of their potential.

Debate Club is a student led club. Here is one student's reflection on their meetings: 'Debate Society has been the most intellectual of my CAS projects, and it has also been brilliant fun! I have learned a lot from working with my fellow enthusiasts; learning to explain my points and defend myself in the face of (fairly staunch) opposition. I have found myself at times very engrossed in the issues discussed and before many of the weeks I found myself mentally preparing my stance and viewpoint; in order to make sure I was not outspoken by other, more prepared members.

It was a very interesting experience to discuss topics that affect people across the globe, not just in Britain: for example; discussing the significance of the global military in the middle-east came up a few times was enlightening to discuss and fuelled some of the arguments I made in my Extended Essay about US intervention in Iraq.

I also learnt how to prepare a session of discussion by running the sessions on childhood obesity and mental health: after both of which; the side I was representing had the majority vote. It was challenging to prepare these sessions as I had to make sure the facts were separate from the arguments and that my own opinion was apart from the main body of the presentation.

In summary; taking part in the Debate Society has been an intellectually stimulating experience and I have developed many skills that will be necessary for my university career.'



Two of our students are passionately involved with Air Cadets, one of them received the award for "Cadet of the Year". Part of his reflection read: 'Overall I can say that this was definitely one of the best things I have done as part of Cadets and I will look back on it for a very long time.' Supervisors review students' involvement in their CAS events, his supervisor wrote: 'His excellent attendance and commitment to external activities saw him win the annual award of 'Best Cadet' and consequently led to further promotion of sergeant which should see him working towards helping the staff manage the squadron taking on a greater level of responsibility and maturity.'

The other student also received an outstanding review:

'She had full responsibility as a Junior NCO for the management and leadership of over 15 cadets under her command. She continuously performs her duties with dedication, enthusiasm and outstanding professionalism; she is a credit to the Corps and her Squadron and leads by example at all times and this set her apart as a role model to her fellow cadets and she is highly respected by her subordinates and counterparts within the Squadron and beyond. She is always the first to volunteer for any duty and always there to offer advice and guidance to her cadets in her charge. She is also always the last to leave on any duty and has an abundance of enthusiasm which is highly contagious. Her enthusiasm has affected both staff and cadets alike. This cadet is inspirational and is highly respected by her cadets and adult staff'



One student sat on the Bexley Youth Council and alongside her fellow members and achieved something that will have a hugely positive impact on our local society. Her supervisor writes: 'She became quite involved with the Bexley Youth Council and had a particular interest in the Legal highs Campaign. She was one of the members who discussed this with James Brokenshire MP and helped to make this act illegal.'

Many students yet again got involved in World Challenge: 'World Challenge was quite hard to reflect on, not because there is not enough to say, but too much. It was great! It was really great and I came back with lots of friends I never thought I'd have, and even a date ;). I'm glad to have had this experience, especially now I have paid my parents back the £800 debt.'

'World Challenge was one of the best experiences of my life.'

'This was a great experience for making sure that I appreciate the things that I may take for granted at home.'

'This trip has also motivated me to work hard so that I can achieve everything that I want from my life. Overall, World Challenge is something that I would recommend everyone to do because it was the best month of my life.'

Another student has been committed to Boys' Brigade and has clearly gained as much from them as they have gained from her involvement: 'She has been volunteering at Boys' Brigade working with both the Anchors and Juniors since she was in year 10. She is confident in engaging young people of all ages and leaders in conversation and sharing with them her thoughts and opinions during our community badge work. She engaged in a young leaders weekend for her Queens badge course during which she showed empathy and emotional intelligence when taking part in the conversations and she has visibly growing in confidence in dealing with young people from all backgrounds. She is a valued young leader at the 1st Plumstead.'

Peer Mentor is an extremely valuable role that Sixth Formers are involved in, one of our fantastic students reflects: 'I truly believe that having the role of Peer Mentor has been an invaluable experience, I have always, tried my best, to act with my best interests of the younger student in mind at all times and within the structures set by the school. I am thrilled that, as a Peer Mentor, I have been part of ensuring our school, 'Bexley Grammar', is a happy, secure and enjoyable community for ALL students'.



Young Enterprise at Time Inc. HQ

On a pretty miserable Monday morning, the sales team from Young Enterprise which included me (Jordan White), Alex Sutcliffe, Alex Tyler, Jack Dalton, Samantha King and Irgena Dibra along with Miss Wood all headed up to Time Inc. HQ.

Before heading into their office, we all stopped at Starbucks for a morning boost to get us ready for the day. With Jack getting some weird concoction of burnt caramel latte with who knows what else!

Now, all ready and eager to go we meet Jemma, the Sales Performance Director for Time Inc. She handed us our own named passes which made the group feel extremely important walking straight past security. Once led to their offices where they were playing Drake's new album "More Life" (which is so good), we were led to "The Bunker". As soon as we all settled down and got comfortable, Jemma put us straight to work. Firstly, starting with a few icebreakers getting us to tell interesting facts (but more like embarrassing stories) about ourselves. Then the work started to get serious. The session started with role play with everyone getting into pairs and pretending to sell our product (our thermo-chromic toothbrush). Jack and I went first and with Jacks, acting background you knew it was going to be interesting. After we had finished the whole group gave feedback and as the other pairs performed you could tell they had been listening and learning with the girls who had gone last being the best out of everyone's. Next Jemma went through how we could get customers hooked with what questions to ask and the importance of product knowledge. We learnt all about the 'FAB' system to really show off our product's best attributes - the colour changing material and that it is eco-friendly and durable. With all the help from Jemma, we were lucky enough to test ourselves with potential customers, including the Managing Director of NME! This was also a great opportunity to do some more useful market research.

As the day came to end we were very sad indeed as we all enjoyed ourselves so much. It was a very informative, inspiring and worthwhile day. Thank you to Miss Wood for organising the trip for us and a big thank you to Jemma from Time Inc. for taking time out of her busy schedule to put so much preparation into the training and running it so well.

Watch out as we will very soon be selling our product online and around school!

Chameleon Dental



Young Enterprise through to the next round of the Company Competition

On Wednesday night the Young Enterprise team competed against 6 other teams in the South East



London finals of the Company Competition. They prepared a trade stand, business report, were interviewed by judges and gave a presentation to around 100 people. The 5 representatives from the team did a fantastic job in all areas and scooped prizes for Best Report in Bexley, Best Presentation, Best Company in Bexley and Best Overall Company in South East London. They are through to the East London finals on 4th May.

*Miss Wood,
Young Enterprise Coordinator*

Fond Memories of BGS

Franz Josef Schopper had been young teacher here in 1967/68, he had been sent from Bavaria to teach at BGS. We asked him a couple of questions about his experience whilst on his visit, he said the School had grown so much bigger and he was impressed with the choice of languages we now offer, he commented on the uniform change and security but overall he said the school still had the same friendly feel to it.



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 to provide some helpful guidance on hot topics affecting our teenagers.

Here is this weeks link:

[How Stress Affects Kids and How to Help Them Cope](#)

The Pastoral Team

Raising Girls

Raising Girls: Helping Your Daughter to Grow Up Wise, Warm and Strong is a response to what Steve Biddulph identifies as a "sudden and marked plunge in girls' mental health" over the past five years, years during which the growth of social media has encouraged anxiety and narcissism, and corporations have made millions from the pinkification of girlhood.

On 15th May Steve is coming to BGS to talk about girls and their role in society, and our role as parents, carers, teachers and relatives to help them to grow up safely and happily in a challenging world. Tickets are almost all sold now, but for those few of you still hoping to join us you can get tickets at:

www.trybooking.co.uk/BPY

Tickets are £8 or £5 for concessions.

NB we regret babies and children cannot be admitted to the session.



Year 10 & Year 12 IB Examinations Update

The mock examination timetables and details of study leave arrangements for students in Year 10 and 12 (IB students only) have been distributed via ParentPay and are on the website. You can also click on the following links below to access them.

Year 10 Study Leave

Please click on the link within the [study leave letter](#) below and complete the Google form to indicate whether you grant your son/daughter permission for study leave. **If the Google form is not completed by Thursday 30th March we will assume that you do not give permission for your child to take study leave and study leave will therefore not be permitted.** Thank you to everyone who has already completed the form.

[Year 10 Mock Exam Timetable](#)

[Year 10 Exams & Study Leave Letter](#)

[Year 12 IB Mock Exam Timetable](#)

[Year 12 IB Exams & Study Leave Letter](#)

Examinations Office



**Your opportunity to
come and see the
top entries from
House Drama,
Music and Dance**

**HOUSE SHOWCASE
WEDNESDAY
March 29th
7pm**

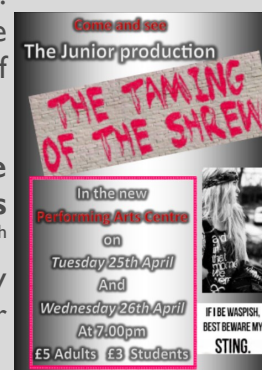
Click [HERE](#) to
Purchase your tickets

Taming of the Shrew Tickets

At the start of the year we had an impressive number of Year 7 - 9 students in the audition process for "The Taming of the Shrew". As always, the talent was high which made it extremely hard to cast 30 cast members. To accommodate the wealth of talent, the cast was increased to 50 exceptional actors!

The cast has been working hard this term to grasp Shakespeare's comedic lines and the complicated, controversial storyline: lovers, haters, swapping identities, mistaken identities and "taming" an angry woman by forcing her into marriage. They have, of course, risen up to the challenge and have breathed a new sense of life into Shakespeare's words and characters.

This will be the first show to open the new Bexley Grammar Performing Arts Centre. The premiere is on Tuesday 25th April at 7.00pm and runs until Wednesday 26th April. Click [HERE](#) to purchase your tickets.



Forthcoming Events

March

Monday 27th ~ School Spring Concert

Tuesday 28th ~ ECM Day 4

Wednesday 29th ~ House Showcase

Thursday 30th ~ Non-School Uniform Day (in aid of Cancer Research - Please bring in £1.00

Friday 31st ~ Last day of the Spring Term, Early Finish
Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 at 1.25pm
Years 7, 8 & 9 at 2.15pm

April

Tuesday 18th ~ First school day of the Summer Term

Tuesday 18th ~ Year 10 and Year 12 (IB students only) mock examination period begins

Tuesday 25th ~ Taming of the Shrew

Wednesday 26th ~ Taming of the Shrew

Friday 28th ~ Year 10 and Year 12 (IB students only) mock examination period ends

Sainsbury's

We're Collecting Vouchers!

It's that time of the year again when we start collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please send them in to School and ask your child to deposit them in the box by Reception.

Thank you

