



Bexley Improv Group, Masterclass with Sebastiaan de Krom

On Friday 8th July 2017 Bexley Improv Group performed at the National Festival of Music for Youth finals in Birmingham. Following our performance and recommendation from international jazz pianist Zoe Rahman, we were delighted to be awarded a National Partnership Scheme with the Leeds College of Music. This is the highest musical award that the school has ever won. Back in November we received this award at the Royal Albert Hall and got to meet our mentor from the Leeds College of Music, Sebastiaan de Krom. On Friday 30th June 2017 (exactly 51 weeks after we performed in Birmingham) the current band (Luke Montgomery, Josh Masters, George Ross, James Warren, Aaron Harrex, Matt Hamilton, Emma Abbate and Teshan Karunasekera) welcomed Seb for a highly anticipated session, lasting from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm in MUI.



Seb asked us to play several pieces in our current repertoire to him and then, using his wealth of experience as a professional jazz drummer (including playing with jazz legend Herbie Hancock) and director of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra Academy Big Band, fine-tuned each piece. He discussed with us the delicacy of the blending of the different frontline instruments and really made us think about the articulation and phrasing of every phrase, even if there were no markings on the leadsheet. After looking at this together as a band we could immediately hear how much tighter and slicker we sounded.

One of the main things Seb focussed on for the rhythm section in particular was the concept of groove. This is something that Zoe Rahman picked up on at the National finals in Birmingham so we were very glad to hear that Seb was going to try and improve our groove. A lot of time was spent getting the rhythm section to completely lock in with each other and start to change their comping and listen to each other intently. Seb, being a professional drummer, was not afraid to join in on the drums and show us the potential of the rhythm section to lead the group and establish a groove. It would suffice to say that every time Seb drummed the entire band was blown away by his playing!

The session was incredibly enjoyable, but it was also incredibly intense! At the end of the session Seb gave us a very motivational talk filled with advice for pursuing our musical careers. When he asked us if we had any questions we were unable to respond as we were so exhausted!

As a band we are so grateful to Seb de Krom for his session and we hope that we can use his advice as we progress in our musical careers. We are also very grateful to Mr Laing, who not only organised this session, but is also the reason we won the partnership in the first place. If you would like to hear the fruits of this session then tickets are available for the school's Jazz Evening on Tuesday 11th July in which Bexley Improv Group will be performing several pieces. Click [Here](#) to purchase your tickets.



Josh Masters, Year 13

New Phone Policy for September - early warning!

I have discussed with many parents over recent years the pros and cons of having mobile phones available for use during the school day. My reasoning has been that having an open policy enables us to work openly with students to help them to become increasingly responsible for their phone use and thus prepare them better for their lives beyond school.

I still think that this is our responsibility but in our ongoing review of phone use in school it has become clear that this responsibility is not contingent on students using their phones during break and lunchtime. A growing body of research is concluding that the one, simple thing we can do to support our children is to limit their screen time. When I consider any influence I have had over my own children's phone use at home, I reach the same conclusion: the only real impact I have had has been in restricting their screen time by physically removing their phones at specific times - e.g. mealtimes and bedtime.



Phones are a part of modern life and will continue to develop as powerful and necessary tools for students as they grow up. As a school, in addition to academic success, we are trying to support our students to develop resilience, mental well-being, social skills, physical health, confidence, empathy - qualities that will equip them to thrive in our fast-changing world. It is these same qualities that research is now suggesting are being hampered by excessive screen time.

We are therefore finalising a new mobile phone policy this week which will be in place for the new academic year. I will circulate it to parents before the end of term and students will be made aware in assemblies or form time. In short, students in Years 7-11 may bring phones to school but they will switch them off between 8:30am and 3:05pm each school day unless a member of staff permits their use for the purposes of a lesson. If a student takes a phone out or the phone rings during the school day, including break and lunchtime, the phone will be confiscated until the end of the day. If a student is foolish enough to repeat the mistake, the third offence will require a parent to collect the phone from school. Sixth Form students will be permitted to use their phones during the school day but only in specifically designated Sixth Form areas.

This is a considerable change and will require your support from the very first day of the new academic year in September - we need you to remind your children that they must not use their phones during the school day. A few mistakes may be made by a few students from force of habit at first but students will quickly adjust to this policy following confiscations. They will see that confiscation is not a punishment (since when their phone is taken away they will simply join everyone else in not using a phone during the day) but a reminder to help the system run smoothly for everyone. Most importantly, this policy will support us in our safeguarding responsibility to your children while they are in the care of the school.

The result: reduced screen time, healthier children and support for parents who are responsibly imposing some form of restriction at home. The full policy will be published soon.

Mr Elphick

Update - Bronze Medal Awarded Nihongo Cup - Japanese Speech Contest

On Saturday the 24th June, I competed in the Nihongo Cup Speech Competition organized by Japan Foundation, in Holborn. Competitors travelled from all around the country to compete, and the main prize of the day was in the Sixth Form category and it was a trip to Japan, which made us realise how prestigious it was! When it came to delivering the speech I was selected to go first and open the day's proceedings, which made me more nervous and excited than before. At the end the winners of their corresponding categories were announced, and I managed to finish third in the Key Stage 3 category and win a Bronze Medal!

I couldn't have come this far in the competition without the help of Mrs Everett and the Japanese Department!

George Amis, Year 9



Virtual Reality Visits



Congratulations to Charlotte Allen 9F on her Jack Petchey award of £250. Charlotte decided to invest this money into the Geography department to purchase some Virtual Reality headsets, enabling every classroom to go anywhere in the world and to explore the world – 'The art of the possible'.

This resource will be a fantastic tool within our classrooms that will allow students to explore different landscapes and enable them to visualise, and make connections with these different places to what we are working with in the classroom.

Charlotte is one of the top Geography students in her year – She is hard working, helpful to peers and always engaged and wanting to know more.

It was with pleasure that we were able to acknowledge Charlotte's kindness to the department with a plaque. Below is Charlotte with one of the headsets and unveiling her plaque on the Geography corridor. Thank you Charlotte for choosing Geography and for being such a pleasure to teach!

Miss Ferguson, Geography Department

Students visit to the Intra Art Workshop, Rochester

In the morning we arrived in Rochester, where Intra was located. Intra is a workshop for artists which allows the community to use free equipment and resources to create artwork with. As part of a group of 20 Art students, (both A level and IB), we participated in screen printing as well as learning the technique to Lino print. We first began drawing our stencil designs with black ink in order to later press on to our screens to screen print with. We all chose an image in relation to our project for our stencils. After completing our stencils we began the process of placing the stencil onto the mesh by covering the stencil with vegetable oil, then placing it onto the mesh to allow the stencil to show up on the screen. The students found this process quite fun as well as being able to see their design forming on to the screen. Whilst we were waiting for our screens to dry, some of us experimented with Lino printing, which was much trickier than screen printing. After, we were all ready to start screen printing onto paper as well as fabric! Using different colours we experimented with our designs and were able to print out a range of pieces. Being Art students, we found this trip to be helpful in aiding our knowledge on screen printing, but also an enjoyable atmosphere to experiment in!

Dila Aslan & Irista Dedja, Year 12



STEM Club

We have had a fantastic year at STEM (Science , Technology, Engineering & Maths) Club with projects ranging from dissecting eyeballs, to designing future cities, to our latest robotics project. Next academic year we will be running our first ever STEM house event for Years 8 and 9 so keep an eye out for that!

Here are some comments from students about the recent robotics challenge.

This term at STEM club we have been making a hydraulic robot out of cardboard and syringes. This has tested our Science and DT skills. We have been using the pillar drill and craft scissors to get the cardboard ready and some cocktail sticks to make the joints along with some super glue to assemble it. It has been really interesting and fun. I would recommend going to stem club because it is so fun and you learn something new.

Varun Vajrapu, Year 8

Currently, at STEM Club, we've been making hydraulic robotic arms. Following a video as a guide, we've used sheets of cardboard to construct them. To add motion, we added syringes to the joints, and a partner set of syringes on a 'controller' (another sheet of cardboard); we use the controller's syringes to affect the pressure in the corresponding syringes on the robot, to turn the joints. It's all been great fun, and we're all making it up as we go along (there are no precise measurements, so we have to estimate the sizes of the parts by eye, and we, by luck or by skill, have made fairly well-proportioned robots).

Enormous thanks to Miss Lusted, who has organised this project, helping us out with our creations, as well as to Miss Francis, who has allowed us to use the pillar drills, and glue guns, in H2; without them, our robots would still be a far-flung concept, doomed forever to the drawing board!

Sam Wilson, Year 8

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the core group of boys who have been coming every week, full of enthusiasm and making it such a great success. I look forward to building on this next year with the new Year 8 cohort.

Ms Lusted, STEM Club



Lockers



Please remind your children to empty their locker the last week of term as any remaining items will be disposed of.

Students will be issued with a new locker in September.

Thank you

Lost Property

Reception is holding a number of ladies and gents watches that have been handed in to reception, if your child has lost a watch over the last few months please contact us as we may have it.

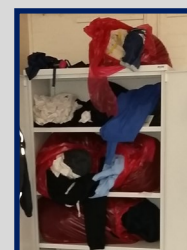
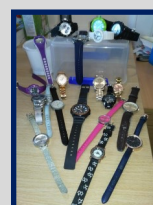
All enquiries regarding lost property for this term should be emailed to

reception@bexleygs.co.uk

by Thursday 20th July at the latest. Regrettably, we are unable to keep unclaimed articles indefinitely so they will be recycled at the end of the term.

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

Reception



Fantastic Opportunity for students aged between 14 and 16 ½

FIRE CADETS

The London Fire Brigade in Bexley is recruiting for new Fire Cadets to start in September. It offers students:

- The opportunity to develop Fire Brigade related skills aligned to a recognised qualification; the Edexcel 'BTEC Level 2 Award in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community'.
- There are 16 places available.
- The opportunity to learn and enhance life skills such as teamwork, leadership, problem solving, communication, H&S, first aid. And these are recognised within their LFB Portfolio.
- Previous cadets have also represented the Brigade at a number of events from local safety days, fundraising and commemorative events in London-wide and National events such as the Royal commemoration of the start of World War 1, the anniversary of Operation Dynamo, the London Marathon, The Lord Mayors Parade and last year, the Brigade's own 150th celebrations.

There is more information on the London Fire brigade website:

<http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/FireCadets.asp>

or email Ms Rock for a leaflet rock_s@bexleygs.co.uk.

If you are interested, please see or email Ms Rock for a referral form but you must; Be able to commit to one evening a week – Tuesday between 6 – 9 pm for the duration of the course at Erith Fire Station, Belvedere. DA17 6HR.

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF REFERAL FORMS
AT LONDON FIRE BRIGADE IS
FRIDAY 21ST JULY**

PE News



Shooters Hill LTC Summer Holiday Junior Coaching

All junior tennis players aged **11 - 18 years old** are invited to come along to experience 4 days of intensive drills, up to date technical advice and match play experience.

Week 1 Monday 31st July to Thursday 3rd August 3.30 – 5.30pm

Week 2 Monday 7th August to Thursday 10th August 3.30 – 5.30pm

Week 3 Monday 14th August to Thursday 17th August 3.30 – 5.30pm

Cost per day is £12 members/£15 non members or
£40 members/£50 non members for all 4 days.

Please book in before **Saturday 29th July** so we can plan and prepare to make the coaching as high quality as possible. If you cannot book before the date please call ahead to check availability.

To book in and arrange payment please contact Phil Layfield on
headcoach@shltc.info or call 07815927767.

Many thanks, Phil and the coaching team

www.shootershilltennisclub.co.uk

Forthcoming Events

July

Tuesday 11th ~ BGS Jazz Evening 7.00pm

Monday 17th ~ Speech Day - Early finish for students at 2.20pm

Friday 21st ~ Last Day of the Summer Term - Early finish for students at 12.15pm

August

Thursday 17th ~ A Level Results Day

Thursday 24th ~ GCSE Results Day

September

Friday 1st ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

Monday 4th ~ First school day after the Summer Holiday - Students registration at the following times:

Year 7 and 12 at 8.30am

Year 8, 9,10,11 and 13 at 9.15am

News Items You May Have Missed

Library Help!

I already have many keen student helpers in the Library, but it would be wonderful to have some adult volunteers too, particularly at lunchtimes.

If any parent has an hour or two available to help in the Library between 12.30pm and 2.15pm on any day of the week, please contact me via email carey_r@bexleygs.co.uk or phone 020 8304 8538 Ext. 228.

Thank you,

Mrs Carey, Librarian

