



# Welcome to Bexley Grammar School

It felt really strange, wandering around the school hallways of Bexley Grammar on my first day. Being surrounded by almost totally different people in a new class was something I had anticipated, but hadn't necessarily looked forward to. But by the end of the school day, I realized secondary school wasn't as scary as I imagined.

It's been four weeks since I first joined Bexley Grammar and I can safely say I no longer walk around the school blindly searching for my next class! I try to be friends with everyone but the two girls who have always been able to make me laugh are my best friends, Sneha and Eve.

After school, I go to team practices for two different sports. On Tuesdays and Fridays, I go and practice with the netball team. On Wednesdays, I go and play matches with the girls' football team and practice new skills.

If I were in Year 6, I would recommend three pieces of advice that honestly helped my transition into Bexley Grammar to be a lot smoother:

1. Make as many friends as you possibly can! No matter how shy you are, there will always be somebody that'll always be there to brighten your day and before you know it you're best friends! Don't sit by yourself at break and lunch, go and talk to someone even if they're not in your form.
2. Join any clubs that sound interesting and are convenient for you. Teams and Clubs are a great way to meet people in different years and houses to you. Even when you do things like football matches or you go on club trips these benefit you because you can enjoy them even if you're the only person in your form who does it.
3. Participate in house events! Help your House win anytime you can whether it's in-house drama, house cooking or even house swimming competitions. House events are so important at BGS, they're competitive, but at the same time, they're a great time to make memories and to ally yourself with people from your House.

I hope my advice and my experiences will inspire you to come to Bexley Grammar too. It's a very friendly environment to be in and I honestly enjoy coming to school to see what challenges I'll have to face and what memories I'll make.

**Timi, TSMK**



## My time at Bexley Grammar... so far

My time at Bexley Grammar so far has been truly wonderful. I've enjoyed everything, from Science to History, and Maths to FBCS. There have been lots of opportunities for me to involve myself at school. I have tried to stand out by taking part in multiple activities and events. Some examples of what I've got up to during my lunchtimes and after school are: House Drama, House Basketball, Junior Choir, House Harvest Box, becoming a Library Assistant and hopefully many more in my time to come. I think that my transition from primary school to secondary school has been truly phenomenal, as a year ago if I showed myself what I am doing now I would never have believed it. However, now, if you showed me what I'd be doing in a year from now, I would see a bright glow of what I will experience throughout my time at Bexley Grammar School.



### **Sophie TERR**



The transition from my primary school to BGS honestly did seem a bit scary at first, but it was fairly easy to settle in. For me, Bexley Grammar has been just like my primary school, but with a bit more of everything: You buy your lunch, the school itself is a lot bigger and there is more homework.

My first day at BGS started off in a classroom full of people I didn't know, that soon became a classroom I was familiar with. Secondary school was a time for change, it's taught me some things I didn't even know about myself! For example, I recently found out I'm not that bad at Table Tennis. One of the things I like about Bexley Grammar is that you have a variety of ways to spend your break time. You can go to one of the computer rooms and use an educational software like Google Classroom or Scratch. You can go to the Library and read or catch up on homework. You can hang out in the canteen or out on the field or even in the Basketball courts.

A really interesting thing about BGS is the House System. You are put in a House: yellow (Kirkman), blue (Johnson), red (Collins), green (Prothero), orange (Wellman) or purple (Mabbs) and get the opportunity to compete for points in various events (like Football or Table Tennis) and even a big Sports Day. All this adds up to the final score at the end of every academic year where the winners are announced. Believe me when I say it really gets heated at times!

A piece of advice I'd give to anyone considering coming to Bexley Grammar School is: learn how to manage your time and it's a great place to be. I'm telling you all this, and I've not even made it past the first half-term!

### **Joseph, TSMK**

I have enjoyed the various House activities the most as there is so much opportunity to get involved. I have also enjoyed the lessons, particularly (Science and Art) and the people that I have met and made friends with. The extra-curricular clubs I have joined are Science, Geography, Drama Club, the School Choir and I will definitely be joining the Rounders and Cricket clubs when they start. Overall, I have really enjoyed my time at BGS, so far and am looking forward to where it takes me later on in my school years.

### **Lydia, TERR**



## Year 7 - My experience of the Fresher's Fayre

### What did you do on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September?

Yesterday I went along to the Fresher's Fayre. The Fayre is an opportunity to find out about different clubs that go on around the school.

### What stalls did you visit?

I visited quite a few stalls like the Creative Writing Club which is basically where you develop your writing skills in a fun way. I also visited the Christian Union table. During this club, you played a game ate some food and prayed. Finally, I visited the Geography table. This club is about the Earth and all things connected with it.

### What was your favourite club?

My favourite club was the Japanese Club as it was very interesting and sounded quite exciting! Also, I don't really know much about Japan and their cultures so it will be a good opportunity to learn more about them.

### How did this help you?

It gave me a wider range of activities that I can participate in other than the most obvious ones, e.g. Football, Netball, Music, etc. Going to new clubs will give me the opportunity to get to meet new people.

Finally, I believe the Fresher's Fayre is a really good idea as it helps the Year 7s with the transition.

**Lily, 7MPJ**

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, our year group was invited to The Fresher's Fayre. This is an event set up by the school where students have the chance to join different clubs. It was nice as it reminded me of a marketplace with the stalls that the clubs set up in.

Even though it was about ten minutes, it was a great experience as you got to know the different clubs that take place around the school. There were Geography Club, Japanese Club, Drama Club and many more exciting things for you to sign up to. I signed up to the Creative Writing Club and might be going to Christian Union as these two clubs appealed to me the most.

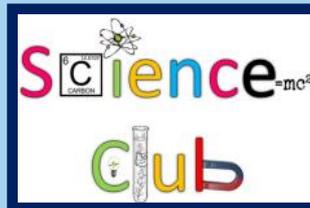
I definitely think The Fresher's Fayre is a great opportunity to see the clubs of Bexley Grammar and the lovely people in them; I hope that one day, I will have the chance to put up a stall and help others to enjoy their time at Bexley Grammar.

**Dezel, 7MPJ**



# Fresher's Fayre Clubs and Activities

- Art: Manga Club
- Cheerleading Club
- Chess Club
- Chinese Club
- Christian Union
- Creative Writing Club
- Drama
- Football
- Geography Club -  
Passport to the world
- History Club
- Homework Club
- Japanese Club
- Latin Clinic
- Music Junior Jazz
- Netball Club
- Rock School
- Salsa & Bachata Club
- Science Club
- Thinking Space: Philosophy
- Warhammer Club



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 HELLO

Hello  
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## International Week 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017



On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, Bexley Grammar School celebrated foreign languages and cultures as part of International Day. Students and staff alike represented a host of different countries by wearing international dress, whilst Years 7-10 enjoyed a variety of special lessons put on for the day. A massive thank you to all staff involved for putting on such varied and interesting lessons, and well done to all students for embracing internationalism so wholeheartedly.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, students from Years 7-11 took part in Bexley Grammar's second ever 'International Bake Off' event. For the competition, students were required to bring in a bake based on an international recipe. The bakes could be sweet or savoury, and were judged by our expert panel of judges: Mrs Meyer, Mr Reynolds, and Mr Elphick!



Once again the judges were thrilled by the variety of bakes our students entered. Famous bakes such as Tiramisu and Profiteroles were well represented, and appeared alongside exotic and lesser well-known recipes such as Russian dumplings! The quality of all entries this year was extremely high, and it was tricky for our judges to come up with a final list of prize winners.



In the end, this year's winners were:

### **Best Tasting Bake:**

Bethany Baker 7MPJ - American Key Lime Pie

### **Best Looking Bake:**

Adam Bagshaw 9ACR - Australian Lamingtons

### **Weird and Wonderful: Joint Winners**

Max Jansen 7MPJ - Dutch Apple Cake &  
Ugne Stanzyte 9ACR - Russian Dumplings

### **Star Baker:**

Kacey-May Smith 9ACR - Japanese Strawberry Shortcake

Well done to the winners and to all those involved for making the bake off such a successful (and tasty) part of International Week!

**Mr Gallimore**

**Modern Foreign Languages Department**



## KS3 House Harvest Box Competition 2017

The Harvest box competition was held after school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October and teams of Year 7 to 9 pupils from each House were given an hour to come up with a design and then create a box made entirely of recycled objects. Each House had been collecting their relevant coloured items in advance and were supplied with the larger cardboard boxes, scissors, sticky tape and glue (the only non-recycled items allowed).



Once created, each House then filled their boxes with dried goods collected from the whole school and displayed them on the edge of the stage in the School hall ready for judging on Thursday morning. Mr Elphick, Mrs Triggs and Mrs Bono had the job of judging the entries based on:

- Innovative use of recycled materials
- creativity
- final overall appearance

Mr Elphick summed up the Judges' comments and then announced the results in the Year 7 Assembly 5<sup>th</sup> October.

All the donated food is given to the Bexley Food Bank for further distribution.

*Mrs Snelling, House Leader*



### 1<sup>st</sup> Prothero

The Prothero dragon, very intricate details, down to the individual scales on the wings, fully recycled, creative and made use of many different recycled items.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Wellman

Very creative, fully recycled and well made.



### 6<sup>th</sup> Mabbs

Complex design, ambitious but the colour theme wasn't constant.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Johnson

A lovely blue whale with a spout, good creativity.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Kirkman

The Kirkman Lion, fully recycled, a lovely tail!



### 5<sup>th</sup> Collins

Beautifully decorated, intricate and fully recycled, but the concept was too simple.

## No Pens Day - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017



Today was very different from anything we have done so far at BGS. Pens and other writing materials were banned from all lessons! The day was all about talking rather than writing. We started off with Computer Science and we used 'Scratch' to create an awesome racing game. Next we had our Science lesson. Usually in Science we would be drawing graphs of previous experiments, but today we couldn't do this. The teachers chose the best bits out of our text books and we read them and shared the information with the rest of the class. Some people found hilarious ways of explaining their topic.

Later, in English, we all thought of words to go with the theme of 'Freedom' and Mr Griffin helped us to put them together to make a poem. At the end he read it out and it was great.

In our History lesson we acted out our anachronism posters. My group portrayed Henry VIII riding a motorbike and I think it was rather good.

In Maths, Miss Salp gave us word problems. They were tricky, but they made us think very hard. The fastest people to get the answers got merits so everyone was excitedly shouting out the answers to try to get one!

I really enjoyed a day free from writing and it meant we couldn't write any homework in our planner, so that was an added bonus!

**Hannah 7JED**



## Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Anna Hardie in (7LJB) who has won 1000 Pink Lady® apples for Bexley Grammar School. She entered a competition run by the Guild of Food Writers for young and budding authors to produce a blog post capturing their favourite food experience. Anna won the 11-14 age category with a wonderful piece on Scottish oat apple crumble served with Mauritian vanilla custard. The judges commented that they 'loved Anna's long and rambling love affair with the dish and found her entry evocative and emotional.' Well done on this wonderful achievement and keep up the writing Anna! If you would like to read Anna's entry, it can be found on the following link: [HERE](#)



## Library News

### National Poetry Day

In Year 7 Library lessons we have been discussing National Poetry Day and the theme of 'Freedom'. Students have performed Maya Angelou's poem *Caged Bird*, and discussed how growing up in segregated America influenced her poetry.

The groups then wrote a class poem about freedom, with each student contributing a line. All of the class poems were thoughtfully written, but *A Poem of Freedom* by 7ERR was particularly excellent.

*Mrs Carey, Librarian*

#### A Poem of Freedom

A caged heart screams  
When no one else hears the cry of help because your  
voice is not important.  
The storm cloud rains  
Inside unclimbable walls.

The free bird thinks of another breeze  
The hungry dog searches wildly around his cage for a  
scrap of hope.  
The sound of a bell releases me from my black abyss  
The door opens.  
A bird spreading its wings and flying freely  
Looks into my soul and sets me free.

A key turns in a lock  
The lock falls down with a clatter  
The asylum doors finally open,  
An open field with no fence.  
Finally the book opens and an instrument is played.  
The door of the dungeon falls.  
The hills rejoice in songs of freedom.  
Time for your chance.



## PE News

### Year 7 Rugby



From the first few rugby lessons of the year, it appears we have a lot of potential rugby talent among our Year 7 boys. Our first competitive fixture is against Beths on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> October. Watch this space!

### KS3 Swimming Team Congratulations!



Many congratulations to our fantastic swimming team, who finished as 3<sup>rd</sup> highest points scorers overall in a local gala held at Colfe's school last week. As the only school at the competition that didn't have a swimming pool, it is a tremendous credit to our swimmers (and their parents!) who manage to complete their training around school hours and perform at such a high level. Our students performed brilliantly against strong teams from Colfe's, Eltham College, Farrington's, Bromley High, St Dunstan's, St Olave's and Babington.

*Mr Lines, Head of PE*

## A Message to Year 6 Pupils from Mr Elphick, Headteacher

Timi, Joseph, Sophie and Lydia welcomed you to this Open Day Special edition of our weekly newsletter because it is students you want to hear from. At Bexley Grammar School, we understand that moving from primary to secondary school can be a daunting experience, but our dedicated, committed staff are here to give you constant support and advice to ensure a smooth transition. Our friendly students remember how they felt in Year 7 and help you settle in. The most important things you can do are make new friends, get involved and enjoy yourself!

We offer so many fantastic opportunities from the very beginning of Year 7 to ensure that you become part of our vibrant and exciting community. Our students make this the outstanding school that it is through their energy, imagination and commitment, their determination, creativity and willingness to participate. Bexley Grammar School will help you to develop the knowledge and confidence to reach your full potential and to succeed in your future endeavours.

The link [here](#) will take you to our weekly newsletters which will add flavour to the richness of the experience that we offer. I really hope you enjoy reading them and we look forward to welcoming you to our Open Day events.

