



No Pens Day 4th October 2017

Today was No Pens Day in school. That meant that in all of our lessons we didn't have to write. Instead, we did lots of fun activities that involved us using our eyes and ears more than our hands. It made a change to what we normally do, which made it very interesting to see how everyone worked without any pens. For example, in Maths we did a problem-solving sheet where we had to figure out a mystery by completing four different tasks, using what we had learnt recently. Working in teams showed how good our co-operation was and gave us a chance to work the way we wanted. Also, in English our class did a debate. We only had that lesson to prepare and do it. That also showed how well we could work in teams.

I think the main thing about No Pens Day is that we have a chance to properly take everything in and see how difficult we find it to learn in a different way. Because there is no writing involved, the teachers all did one thing in common - encouraged us to work in groups. I found that No Pens Day was a more enjoyable way of learning and we should do it more frequently: once a term or once a half term maybe. I hope that everyone else enjoyed the day as much as I did.

Rachel Smith, Year 8

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 Batt 7JED



International Day

During the International Day celebrations at Bexley Grammar, students and teachers alike represented nationalities the world over. Dressing in cultural attire from the country of their choosing.

(As part of the day, Years 7-10 took part in a range of inspired, interesting lessons. Here is what Year 9 got up to:

Chinese Perfume Pouch Sewing (We sewed little bags with colourful silk cloth, filled the bags with cotton, and then strung them with silk threads. Traditionally, they are said to ward off evil)



Human Rights Talks (We explored the refugee crisis in the Middle-East and Africa, creating Google slide presentations in groups on the topic)

Salsa Dancing (We mastered the steps to the salsa! Each pair performing to the class at the end of the lesson.)



Moroccan Biscuits Baking (Aprons on and hands washed, we attempted to bake these gloriously golden Moroccan biscuits)

All of these amazing lessons were really enjoyable, while having a more serious note during the human rights talks. Meanwhile, during lunch and after school, students could take part in lots of different cultural games and activities such as card games and food tasting.

In the school canteen the lines were crowded in anticipation for the international lunch the canteen staff had organised.

I believe that international day is a very enjoyable, educational experience for the students at Bexley Grammar where we celebrate and embrace the diversity and cultural differences. As a school we have succeeded in exposing the students to alternate ways of life and different vantage points and I can assuredly say that we will continue to do so for the years to come. Thank you to all those who organised it.

God's Favour Oluwanusin, Year 9

On Thursday 28th 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

Japanese Daikagura Jugglers and a Yose-moji Calligrapher visit BGS

On 25th September, during the International week we had a few special guests who are Japanese professional performers. This event was organized and supported by the Japan Society and actually Ms Potter OBE, CEO of this society joined the event. The performers gave Japanese students a wonderful and valuable experience. Daikagura has its roots in the ceremonial music and dance performed in Shinto shrines. During the Edo period (17th – 19th centuries), these shrine rituals developed into a set of performing arts including dance, juggling, music and Yose comic theatre. Yose-moji means calligraphy used in Yose comic theatre which is equivalent to stand-up comedy here. It has a particular style different from standard calligraphy. Our students produced wonderful pieces of art during the Yose-moji workshop and enjoyed it very much. We felt very lucky and would like to express a special thank you to the Japan Society.



Mrs Everett, Modern Foreign Languages Department

School of Rock Auditions

General audition for ALL will take place on Friday 10th November after school.

Auditions for the 'children' who become part of the onstage band will be via video and submitted online.

Callbacks for principal roles will be on Friday 17th November (after school).

For more information about auditioning for all roles, please go to: <http://www.bgsperformingarts.com/schoolofrock>

Miss Swadkin, Head of Music



Library News

Book Donations



This term students are borrowing books from the Library more than ever, and we are often running low on copies of the most popular series. If you have any books that you have finished with and would like to donate to the Library then I can assure you that they would be very gratefully received!

The most popular series are:

- Alex Rider - Anthony Horowitz
- CHERUB - Robert Muchamore
- The Maze Runner - James Dashner
- The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins
- GONE - Michael Grant
- Artemis Fowl - Eoin Colfer
- Divergent - Veronica Roth
- Mortal Instruments - Cassandra Clare
- Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman
- Zom-B - Darren Shan
- Maximum Drive - James Patterson

Thank you

Mrs Carey, School Librarian

House Harvest Box Competition 2017

The Harvest box competition was held after school on Wednesday 4th 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 5th October.

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

Mrs Snelling, House Leader



1st 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.



2nd Wellman

Very creative, fully recycled and well made.



4th Johnson

A lovely blue whale with a spout, good creativity.



3rd Kirkman

The Kirkman Lion, fully recycled, a lovely tail!



6th Mabbs

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



5th Collins

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

James Dyson Foundation Engineering Summer School

Since Year 11, I have wanted to be an Engineer – mainly because I admire the way Engineers find innovative ways to solve everyday problems. I also like the design aspect of Engineering because Product Design has always been my favourite subject. I enjoy putting pen to paper and expressing my design ideas and the Product Design classes at my school have always given me the opportunity to be creative and innovative.

While I was sure I wanted to be an Engineer, I was still unsure about what type of Engineer I wanted to be so I was always looking for opportunities to find out more about the different types of Engineering available.

During one of my online searches for Engineering related opportunities, I came across the James Dyson Foundation – UCL Engineering Summer School. This innovative summer school challenged Year 12 students from across the UK to redesign the wheelchair for the modern age. I was quite excited when I saw this because the summer school gave students the chance to experience how engineers use their knowledge and skills to tackle real life challenges. Students who attend are asked to come up with ways that they can improve the design and effectiveness of a wheelchair so that the user's lifestyle is significantly enhanced.

As I read more about the school, I must admit that I did get a bit intimidated because the website stated that for last year's summer school, only 16 out of 200 applicants were successful! However, I decided to apply and I was pleasantly surprised when I was one of the 20 successful applicants chosen from over 300 who had applied from all over the UK.

The placement was for a full week with a presentation on the last day to show our progress and final design. On the first day, we were introduced to a series of wheelchair users and they informed us about their day to day struggles and which wheelchair models suited each person the best. This was eye-opening for me because I had never thought about how the design of a wheelchair could have such a significant impact on the user.

Working in groups, on the second day we started to come up with different possible design ideas that could improve the user experience and tackle the various problems the users had mentioned. My group came up with a wheelchair that would be adjustable in terms of width to accommodate users of different sizes.

We also learnt how to use micro bits, which are a scaled down computers that store and record data once programmed to do so. We used these micro bits with a pressure sensor to



investigate which section of the chair had the most pressure applied to it. This was important as it gave us a better idea of how to adjust our design.

On the third and fourth day, we actually started making our idea. My team used a series of springs, bolts and washers along with some polypropylene to create the adjustable seat that we had in mind. We tested the idea with the various disabled users in the room and the idea proved to be effective every time. We were happy with this because this showed that our design could actually be manufactured to a high consistency in real life.

The last day was when we all presented our ideas to various UCL staff members and Engineers from James Dyson. We were praised for how we listened to the wheelchair users and used their feedback to shape our design. I was a bit disappointed that my group came out in second place out of the 5 groups, but I was really happy that I got a chance to be part of such a special summer school.

At school, I have been learning about the importance of Ergonomics in design because products designed for people have to take into consideration human factors. This school, really brought this to life for me!

I would finally like to say thank you to the Sixth Form Staff and Design Technology Department for supporting my application to such an amazing event.

Osaru Ediae
Year 13



PE Notices

KS3 Swimming Team Congratulations!

Many congratulations to our fantastic swimming team, who finished as 3rd 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.



KS3 Girls' Football Team

Well done to the girls' Year 7 to 9 football team, who got their season off to a great start with a 3-2 win this afternoon. Some great stuff from new players too.



Basketball Training - to clarify the rotation of training sessions on Tuesdays after school - Week A is for Years 9 and 10 only, week B is for all Years from 7 to 10. Sorry for any confusion.

Forthcoming Events

October

Tuesday 10th ~ Parents' Evening Year 11

Monday 16th ~ Work Experience starts for Year 11

Tuesday 17th ~ Open Morning (for new Year 7 Students starting in September 2018)

Wednesday 18th ~ Open Morning & Evening (for new Year 7 Students starting in September 2018)

Early finish at the following times:

~ 1.25pm for students in Years 10, 11 & 13

~ 1.30pm for students in Years 7, 8, 9 & 12

Thursday 19th ~ Every Child Matters (ECM) Day 1

~ Late start for all students at 9.20am following the Open Evening

Friday 20th ~ Last school day before Half Term

Monday 30th ~ First school day after Half Term