



Welcome Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Welcome to the new academic year!

What a brilliant start to the new school year! It is always a particular pleasure to lead the first assemblies of the new Year 7 and Year 12 cohorts. Both were smartly turned out, the slightly nervous, subdued atmosphere of the Year 7 assembly contrasting with the palpable excitement and energy of a powerhouse of Year 12 students. These are some of the most enjoyable moments for a headteacher. The new Year 12 is particularly exciting as our first fully IB cohort; we welcomed a host of keen students from local schools joining our own Year 12 students and we took a moment to celebrate their remarkable GCSE achievements this summer.

You will have seen the excellent results at GCSE, IB and A level, summarised in my news items on our website with some highlights on our homepage headers. I will resist the temptation to outline those wonderful achievements again here. Suffice to say, our outgoing Year 13 have secured the places they deserved at university and at a range of other distinguished institutions for high level apprenticeships and so on. Of course I cannot resist the urge to repeat our new BGS Oxbridge record of nine places (in fact ten were offered but one student chose not to take up the place); the sixth form continues to go from strength to strength.

I am so proud of what our students have achieved individually and as cohorts and I am deeply grateful for the tireless work of the staff here at BGS, staff who, having invested so much time and energy into their success, appear as excited and nervous as the students themselves on results days. Similarly, thank you, parents, for your support through the years that culminate in these achievements.

There will be plenty of news in our weekly newsletters (which are published online each Friday and emailed via Parent Pay) as the term moves on and **I ask all parents, please, to take a few minutes to browse the newsletter each week**; it is our foremost method of regular communication with you all, complete with important dates and reminders.

And finally, to all the staff who voluntarily give up several days of their holiday during the two exam result periods in August to support students and, specifically, to the sixth form team who spent days before the beginning of term individually enrolling about 230 students into our buzzing Sixth Form – thank you all.

Two quick items of business: Firstly, **our new policy on mobile phones is working beautifully** - students, parents and staff are clearly hugely supportive and, although it may be a little premature, we are convinced we are already seeing a beneficial effect at break and lunchtimes. Thank you to everyone. Secondly, could I ask all parents to impress on their children, whether Year 7 or Year 13, to **be especially careful on Danson Lane as they leave the school each day**. There was a very near miss on Monday as a boy stepped off the pavement to cross the road to his parent, without looking properly. **Any parents collecting students, please arrange to meet them as far from the gates as possible** to minimise congestion and the associated hazards.

We've had a busy and productive start on the back of some outstanding achievements. I wish everyone success and fulfilment in the year ahead.

Mr Elphick, Headteacher

Important Information for Parents/Guardians of Year 12 & 13 students - Every Child Matters days from Sept 2017

I am writing regarding the organisation of Every Child Matters days for Sixth Form students. The days provide an opportunity for students to focus on

Gaining experiences beyond the classroom

- By taking their subject knowledge and understanding further through lectures, visits, workshops etc.
- By volunteering within the community.

Preparation for university or work

- Through careers days, time researching careers & universities,
- Work on producing excellent CV's, application forms, university personal statements and interview techniques.



The table below provides an outline of each of the days.

ECM Day	Year 12	Year 13
Thursday 19 th October 2017	IB Group 4 Projects all day.	UCAS, Careers & Motivational Workshop
Monday 27 th November 2017	Reading day – out of school Students who are up to date with all work will have the opportunity to undertake visits, CAS opportunities, work placements etc.	IB chemistry & physics Internal Assessments. All other students a CAS day – out of school.
Wednesday 24 th January 2018	Extended Essay introduction day For all students.	Reading day – out of school Students who are up to date with all work will have the opportunity to undertake visits, CAS opportunities, work placements etc.
Tuesday 27 th March 2018	UCAS & Careers day with fayre Careers and uni speakers, fayre.	'After BGS' day UCAS student finance application, careers day for non-uni students, budgeting. All students have English exam mocks starting at 1pm.
Tuesday 12 th June 2018	UCAS and Careers day Applying for and researching uni and personal statements.	Students have left.

If you are a parent/guardian of a Sixth Form student, please support your son/daughter in the organisation of suitable activities for their Reading Day. Ideal activities are those that enhance their university application, provide CAS or work experiences, or facilitate work or research that goes above and beyond the school classroom so maybe attending a subject lecture or workshop. Organising this early will give students time to investigate opportunities and arrange a really worthwhile day.

If you would like any more information about any of these days, please feel free to contact me via the Attendance Office.

Ms S Rock, PSHCE

Parents of Year 8

I'd like to introduce myself to parents of Year 8 as their new Director of Studies. I have been the Senior Academic Mentor for two year groups now so am delighted to be guiding this cohort through the various stages of their academic life and helping them to achieve their full potential. I am especially looking forward to the wonderful opportunities this year will present, including the Creativity, Action, Service programme (I'll be joining in!) and the First Give charity campaign. More news on those to come. Miss Roberts will also be joining the team as our new Senior Academic Mentor.



Mrs Harris
Director of Studies, Year 8

I'm very pleased to be taking on the new role as Year 8 Senior Academic Mentor and I look forward to getting to know a year group that I have heard lots of great things about! After being a Year 8 form tutor last year I am aware of the challenges and exciting opportunities that await our students this coming year.



Miss Roberts
Senior Academic Mentor, Year 8

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 week's link:

internetmatters.org

The Pastoral Team

Music News

I am delighted to be able to offer your child the opportunity to learn an instrument at Bexley Grammar School. **25 minute lessons are available on an individual weekly basis (£140 per term), or an individual lesson every other week, at £70 per term**

To apply, please click on the hyperlink below, read the information and terms & conditions carefully and fill out the online application form: [Instrument Lessons Application Form](#)

All choirs and ensembles will start rehearsing from Monday 11th September. Please visit the BGS Performing Arts website to see the full schedule & just turn up next week with your instrument/ready to sing! For new students: if you bring your instrument in, you can leave it safely in a practice room in the department during the day. Drop it off before registration, and collect it after school.

[Music extra-curricular timetable 2017-2018](#)

Miss Swadkin
Head of Music



"All change in PE"

This is just a reminder that all students should bring kit to PE lessons, even if they are injured and have a note from parents/carers. Teachers are able to adapt activities to include injured students in lessons as fully as possible and this should be done in PE kit. Students who fail to bring their PE kit to lessons, even with a note for injury, will receive a PE detention.

Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Mr Lines,
Head of PE



Adult Evening Language Classes

Our language assistants are offering adult evening classes in French, Spanish, German and Italian, as well as individual tuition on a private basis. So whether you're looking to brush up for a holiday, are looking to master the basics or to get a little bit more fluency and confidence with a language you already know, there's something for you.

The beginners' adult course will commence on Wednesday 20th September, from 7.00pm - 8.15pm in the L block. Depending on the uptake, there may well be an intermediate class, from 8.15pm - 9.15pm. This will be a 12 week course for £150, from Wednesday 20th September - Wednesday 13th December, (not including the half term Wednesday.) Cheques made payable directly to the assistants, paid at the first lesson, please.

In order to confirm your place on the course, please email the relevant assistant, including your name, contact details, language learning experience and level interested in. Their email addresses are:

Scheurich_S@bexleygs.co.uk (Saskia; German)

Lorthioir_T@bexleygs.co.uk (Thomas; French)

Matassa_S@bexleygs.co.uk (Simona; Italian)

Perez_P@bexleygs.co.uk (Paula; Spanish)



Private lessons for adults or students cost £20 per hour and can be arranged directly through the assistants.

Many thanks for your interest,

Mrs Meyer, Head of MFL



**INTERNATIONAL WEEK
25th-29th SEPTEMBER**



**INTERNATIONAL DAY
TUESDAY 26th
SEPTEMBER**

Bexley Grammar School is once again celebrating different languages and cultures from around the world this September.

FEATURES:

- Year 7-10 off normal timetable for special lessons on International Day
- International fancy dress for ALL years on International Day to raise money for charity
- Food from around the world in the canteen
- The Great International Bake-Off competition
- Quizzes in form time and registration in different languages
- And games and activities for all years to enjoy!

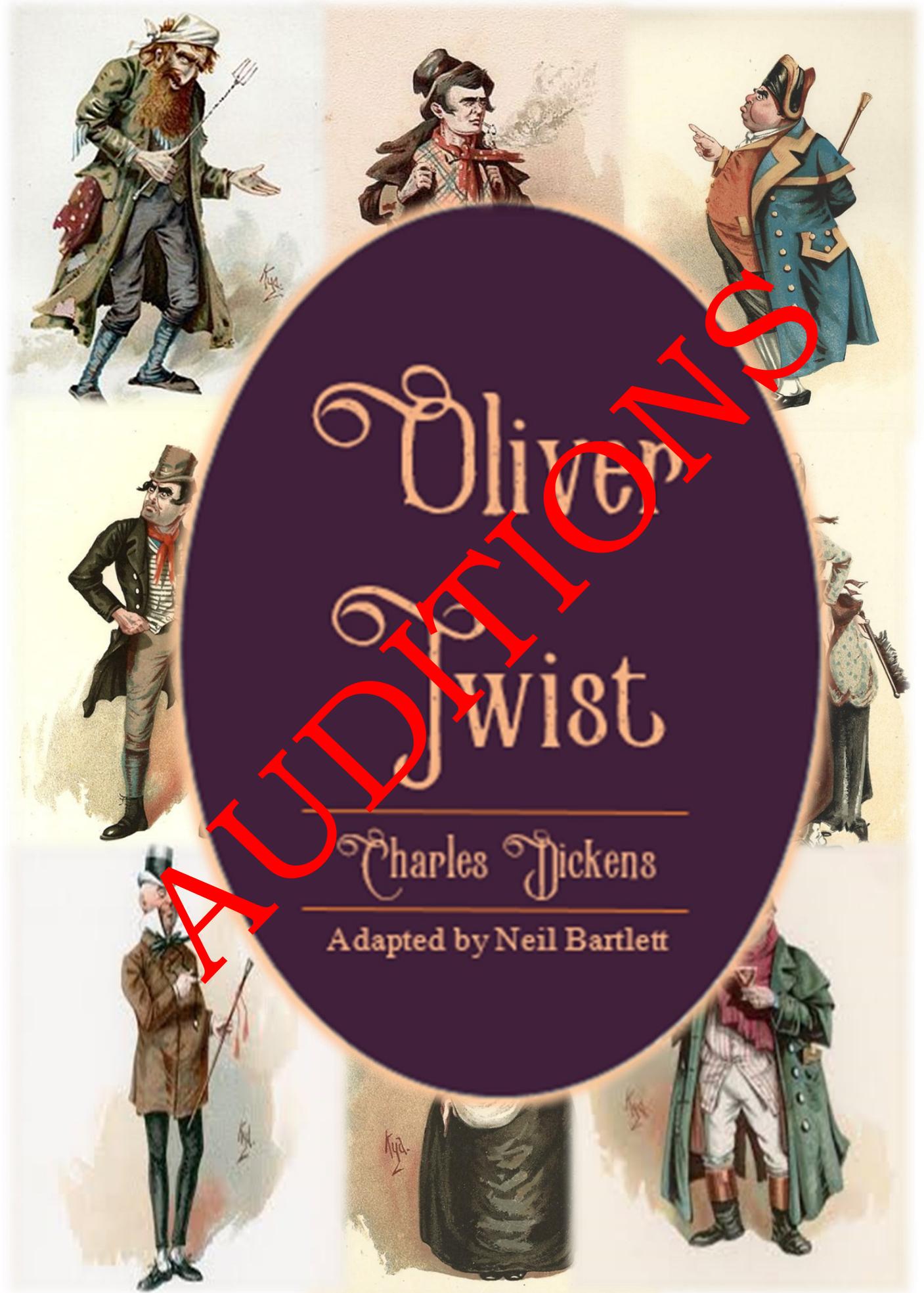


**Parents'
Association**

The Parents' Association will be meeting on Wednesday 13th September at 7.30pm in the Sixth Form Centre. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 7.00pm. Everyone welcome! Please come along to meet our lively team!

Many thanks

**Mrs Sword
Assistant Head**



Auditions

Who can audition? Anyone in Year 7-13
(no previous experience necessary)

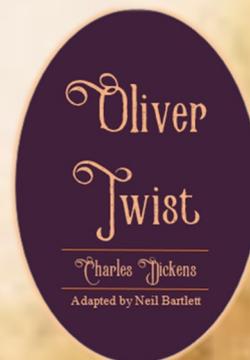
When? **Wednesday 13th September at 3.10pm**
Callbacks Thursday 14th September

Where? K10 Theatre

What will I do? There will be a workshop where you will work with a group to identify actors for callbacks. At the callbacks you will have a script and be assigned a character to audition for.

As well as ACTORS we also need you if...

- **you can play an instrument that existed during the 19th Century-** e.g. Piano, violin, banjo (guitar), concertina, percussion (spoons, washboard, Cajon), brass or wind (**There are musician characters**)
- **you have dance experience** (there will be a Dance troupe)
- **you have experience making dresses or tail coats (especially for steampunk/ Victorian Cosplay)**



More information go to:

www.bgsperformingarts.com/olivertwist

Sleeping Beauty Production

A small group of Year 13 students is putting on a production of Sleeping Beauty on the 27th & 28th September at 6.30pm in the new theatre to raise money for the **Mark Evison Foundation and Evelina London Children's Hospital**. Refreshments will be sold and all money raised will be split between the two charities. Adult tickets are £8 and concessions £4 and can be purchased by clicking the link <https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events> and searching for Bexley Grammar School.



Forthcoming Events

September

Tuesday 12th ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

Thursday 21st ~ Raising Achievement Evening (for selected Year 11 Parents ONLY)

Wednesday 27th ~ Parents' Evening Year 7 (Form Tutors ONLY)

Wednesday 27th ~ Sleeping Beauty Production in the new theatre 6.30pm

Thursday 28th ~ Sleeping Beauty Production in the new theatre 6.30pm

Friday 29th ~ Parents' Association BBQ for Year 7 (further details to follow)

October

Tuesday 3rd ~ Parents' Evening Year 13

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)

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

Friday 20th ~ Last school day before Half Term

Monday 30th ~ First school day after Half Term