



Oliver opens BGS Theatre

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A musical feast with our KS5 Showcase & the Annual BGS Christmas Concert



A busy fortnight for the Music department with our KS5 Showcase last week, which featured our Sixth Formers performing pieces to be recorded for their IB portfolios, and A-Level recitals. We were treated to a beautiful performance by the Chamber Choir of 'Winding Road' by Thomas Hewitt-Jones; the composer tweeted us afterwards that he was thrilled school choirs are singing his works!

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Oliver Twist cont...

Friday's performance of "Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist", on the first day of December, was the perfect occasion to open, officially, the new BGS Theatre. The event began downstairs in the new Sixth Form Study Centre with bubbles (courtesy of the PA which also provided refreshments for the interval) and canapes (which had been created only an hour or two earlier as part of the Senior House Cookery Competition). We were pleased to welcome previous Headmaster, Mr Jones (1976-1995) and his wife, governors, councillors, long-standing friends of the school and a host of alumni to mark this happy event.

Upstairs, in the new space with retractable seating for an audience of 200, Bethany Webster, celebrated the opening of the theatre by revealing a plaque to commemorate the occasion (a little envious that she hadn't been able to perform in it!) and outlined how important it would be to the future of so many students in years to come. Bethany was involved with several productions during her years with us and is now in her second year at Birmingham University. (She is also a granddaughter of the late Reg Bowen, long-standing governor and friend of the school who would have been thrilled to see this new development, being one of the members of the PA who actually built the Sixth Form Centre decades ago.)

The cast and crew under Mr Otley's leadership really made the space their own with an energetic and very entertaining performance of the stage play of Oliver Twist. Students report that "it feels like performing in a real theatre"; certainly the audience felt that it was experiencing a performance in a real theatre, complete with some sophisticated lighting effects and use of projected images. The energy and enthusiasm was palpable and the physical theatre skills were impressive; a great way to start the Christmas season.

Congratulations to all involved (and a special thank you to the PA) and a huge thank you to Mr Otley, Miss Gabriel and Mrs Brazier for their work to inspire our students to perform with such confidence. Look out for Shakespeare in the Spring!

Mr Elphick



From the cast

After many long weeks, the play is finally finished. four amazing performances from two great, hardworking casts which started with over 140 people at the auditions.

After taking part in two drama productions in Year 7, I was eager to be involved again this year and it didn't disappoint. I've enjoyed meeting new friends from all year groups - and the buzz of performing makes all of the after school rehearsals well worth the time and effort. It has been a lengthy process, but not lacking the fun and laughs always provided in BGS drama productions. I loved playing my part in the play - Charley Bates - as I am usually the annoying one who always laughs in real life, this part suited me really well and being a victim of attempted murder just sweetened the deal.

A massive thanks is due to the drama department and Sixth Formers who have spent countless hours helping us improve and develop in drama, as well as making this amazing production. I am looking forward to the next production (fingers crossed!), Romeo and Juliet and highly recommend anyone interested in drama to come to the auditions too - you won't regret it.

Many thanks again to everyone who has taken part in the making of the production.

Max Dawkins, Year 8

This year, I had the pleasure of being a part of the amazingly talented cast of Oliver Twist. We were lucky enough to have had the opportunity to perform in the new drama space (K10), making Oliver Twist the first Christmas play in the auditorium and hopefully many more to come!

Like every other year, we welcomed many new faces into the cast, many of which were Year 7s. The experience of being part of these plays is made even better by being surrounded by so many talented and friendly students who are all as invested in making our annual drama production the best it can be as each other. We all share a love for drama and it's very fulfilling to put work into something that is so worthwhile and fun to do.

The people behind this wonderful experience, however, are the Drama teachers and prefects involved who work tirelessly and in their own free time to get the productions running smoothly. Without the work of people like Mr Otley, Ms Gabriel and Ms Brazier, we would never be able to put on such amazing shows every year.

Isabelle Eaton, Year 10





A final note of thanks

A special word of thank you to the Parents' Association for catering the event on Friday, but also providing the cast with so much squash and biscuits that they were able to have them at the next two shows as well!

I would also thank Evy Williams for the donation of her Jack Petchy award money to the department. It was used to purchase the materials to build the set, the doorways, coffin and fireplace - further to this the always amazing Martyn Bain for building these items for the show!

It has been a truly wonderful show and I don't know if people realise how much hard work and commitment it takes from the kids to put a show together, it's an incredible achievement - perhaps all the more incredible that some of them do it three times every year!

Mr Otley, Head of Drama & Theatre Studies

Music News cont...

On Tuesday 5th December, we held our big Christmas Concert, which featured all thirteen of the ensembles which rehearse every week. This ranged from Junior Orchestra, Choir and Jazz to the Senior Ensembles (Symphony Orchestra, Senior Choir, Big Band), plus String Orchestra, Rock School, Chamber Choir (and Junior Chamber Choir in their debut performance), Clarinet Choir and Brass Group, playing music which ranged from Mozart's Magic flute, the Radetzky March, German Oom-pah music, to Uptown Funk, Ozzy Osborne and Bjork! The concert featured approximately 10% of the school performing, which is fantastic, and a wonderful number of Year 7's who have thrown themselves into the musical life of the school.



Thank you to Mr Laing, Mrs Eacott, Miss Radzvilaite, Mr Ross and Mrs Snelling for their enthusiasm and commitment this term in our extra-curricular activities. A particular thank you must go to our Music prefects who did a sterling job in supporting the department yesterday; they were all brilliant but Teshan Karunasekera, Eddie Stocker and Sophie Papworth from Year 13 deserve a special mention, accompanying a number of groups on keys, bass, guitar and drums for the various choir performances, all of which sounded more professional for their contribution.

BGS does Band Aid!

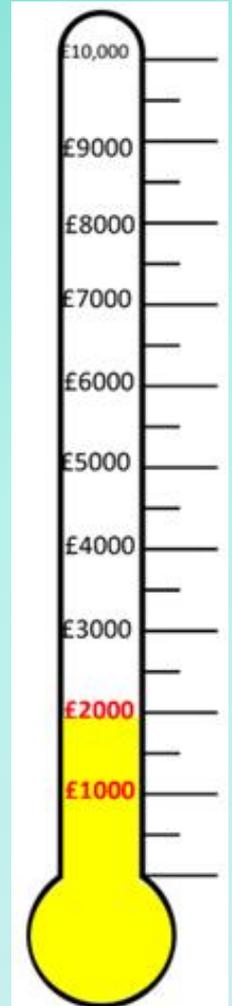
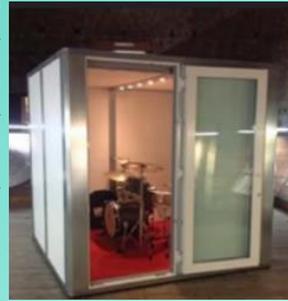
Our Year 13 A-Level and IB Musicians have produced a wonderful video to celebrate Christmas, which features the song 'Do They Know It's Christmas' (which was also the finale to our concert on Tuesday).

The video was made in school, but entirely independently by the students, and somehow they managed to keep it a secret until the video was finished! It is superb to see our KS5 students just having so much fun making music together; we are also pleased to see our A-Level Music Technology students putting their skills and knowledge to good practical use. They are keen to raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves, and I hope that some of you will be moved to donate to a charity of your choice this Christmas.

Arranged and directed by Teshan Karunasekera, the video features Francesca Bird, Lizzie Combes, Sascha Dodd, Heather Goodchild, Jacob Mills, Emily Miu, Luke Montgomery, Eris Nishku, Sophie Papworth, Eddie Stocker, and George Ross. Click [here](#) to see the Youtube video.



This December we are launching a campaign to raise £10,000 to buy two music practice room 'pods'. These are entirely soundproof, and so can go anywhere in the school (where there is space!). This will have a big impact on both our classroom teaching (enabling us to use current practice rooms for rehearsal space during lessons), and provide better quality teaching spaces for our instrumental teachers. So far since July, we have raised nearly £1000 from the Jazz Evening, Year 7 Concert, and KS5 Showcase, and were very touched to receive an extremely generous donation of £1000 by the parents of a departing Year 13 student at the end of last year, so our campaign is off to a brilliant start...



Please support the campaign by coming to our Quiz Night on Saturday 3rd February. These are traditionally great fun, with quiz rounds written by our Sixth Form Music students, and live musical entertainment in between rounds. Tables are for 8 people, and you can buy individual tickets or a complete table of 8 if you have a team ready! Reserve tickets at:

<https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/bexley-grammar-school/255-music-dept-quiz-night>

At the Concert on Tuesday, donations from audience members as they left totalled £250, of which £125 will go to our Practice Rooms campaign, and the other £125 to Save the Children's Syria campaign.

Chamber Choir will be carol singing at Tesco's on Welling High Street on **Tuesday, December 19th from 3.30pm** to raise money for the Music department's Practice room campaign! Come and hear us!



Miss Swadkin, Head of Music

Well Done

Well done to 8CIL for being the first Year 8 form to complete their CAS hours for this term! All 32 members of the form have done 5 hours of creativity, 5 hours of action and 5 hours of service.

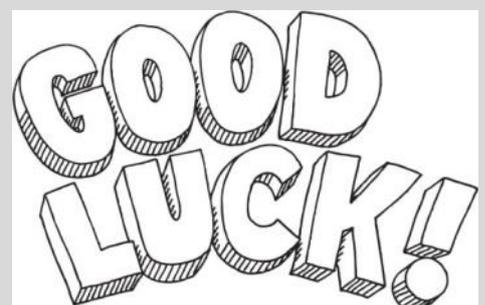
Congratulations!

Miss Roberts
Senior Academic Mentor,
Year 8



Year 11

Miss Scott and Mr Mackle wish the Year 11 students all the best in their mock exams.



Year 10 Trip to Tate Modern

On Tuesday 28th November 2017 the Year 10 Art students were privileged enough to have a great day out to the Tate Modern Art Gallery, where we were able to see many different works of Art and analyse them for our coursework. We did have a few mishaps on the way but they all just made the day even better. One of us came home with a free pair of boots as a gift from the Gallery.



We saw many famous pieces of work from Pablo Picasso's 'Weeping Woman' to Cildo Meireles' 'Babel', all being unique and wonderful in their own ways each getting weirder and weirder. One of the first things we saw was a huge playground area filled with swings. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves each swinging till we felt dizzy. The motivation behind this piece was working together as each swing had three seats.

We later explored the different levels of the Gallery which were all so interesting and eye catching and the meanings behind the Art were so deep and the fact that you can interpret all of the pieces anyway you wish is what makes them even better. My favourite kind of rooms were the dark enclosures which were all so fun to play in. Another piece I liked was by the artist Sheila Gowda's 'Behold' which consists of two contrasting materials, steel car bumpers and knotted human hair. I interpreted it as webs but others thought differently.

Despite the bitter weather I think that I speak for everyone when I say we had a great day and we will remember it for a long while. I would like to thank Miss Harrison and Mrs Whitehorn for giving us the chance to go to this great trip.

Abi Falade, Year 10



Year 12s visit the NME #LifeHacks' event

On Thursday 23rd November, Mrs Harris took a group of 12 Sixth Form students and I to an amazingly new and urban event called 'NME #LifeHacks', in which rising stars cooperate to produce an amazing set of panels and workshops with a group of individuals from age 15 years and up. The event was an amazing experience, involving panels with inspiring individuals, including professional female Football player Eniola Aluko, aspiring rapper with ADHD Loyle Carner and MOBO award founder Kanya King. The event was also packed with workshops (in which I devised a new game combating racism in the workspace), a hackspace for recreation, free food and drink, and even a surprise performance from the amazingly talented Tom Grennan! Overall, it was an absolutely fantastic experience, which helped me to finalise many of my future decisions.

Timi Akinsola, Year 12

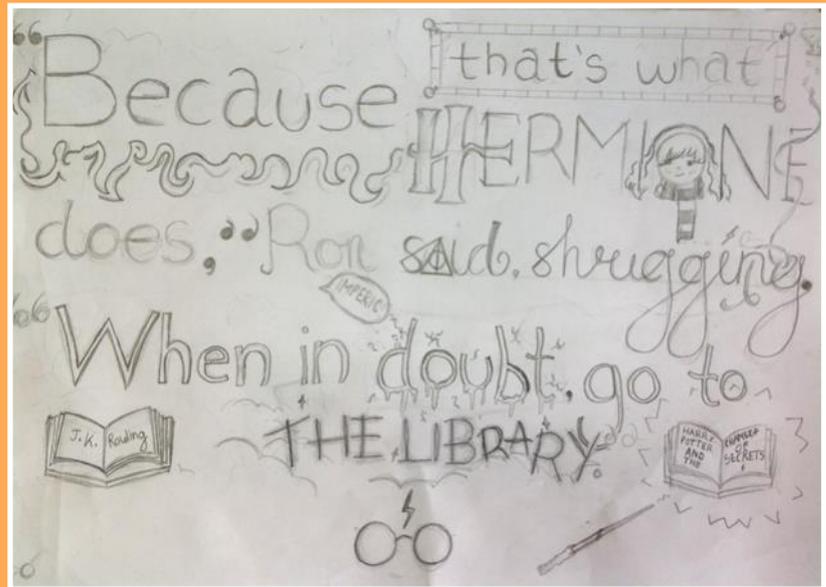


Harry Potter Library Art Competition

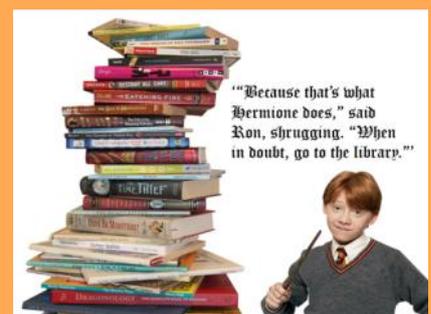
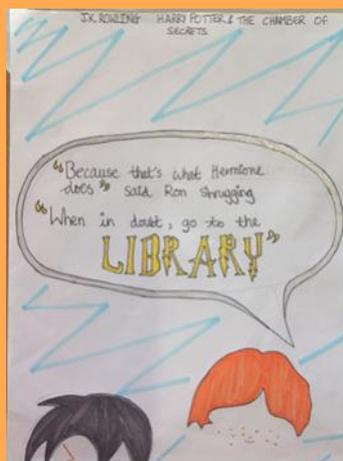
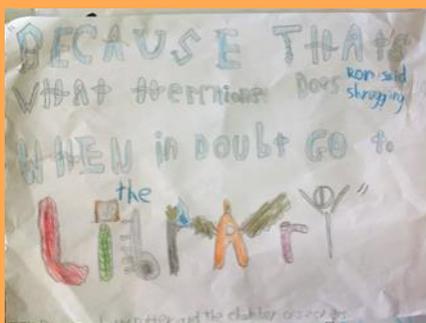
Congratulations to Davina Ngenegbo from 7MPJ, the winner of our competition to design a sign based on a Harry Potter quote. Davina has won a signed copy of *Monster* by Michael Grant, and will now paint her design on a much larger scale to be hung above the Library door for all to see.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the competition - Kyoko McRae 7MPJ, Emma Farcas 7EKR, Edwyn Harding 7MPJ, George Murphy 7ERR, Noah Hanley McLatchie 8OTF, Olivia Wrate 10SFG and Wiktoria Wojcik 10SFG. We had some fantastic designs submitted and it was an extremely difficult task to choose a winner as they were all so creative and beautifully illustrated.

Mrs Carey, Librarian



Davina's winning design



PE News

Wednesday might have been our busiest day of the year. There was a girls' Rugby festival our Year 7s and 8s attended, the Year 7 & 8 boys both had rugby matches too. There was also football for the Year 7s, 10s and the Sixth Form. A cold, but fun afternoon. Well done everyone!

Mr Lines, Head of PE



On Wednesday 29th November 2017 Bexley Grammar Year 7s faced a talented Beths side in Football. In an excellent result, we got our revenge on them (Beths won 3-1 in a Kent Cup fixture in October) and won 1-0. The match was tough, but we scored in a crucial moment, just after half time.

The game started and we were throwing all we had at them. Fantastic work from Malachy, Dexter, Brian, Jonny and Riley for penning them in their own half. The defence didn't have much to do in the first half. We had the better of them in defence and attack.

No goals by the end of the first half, although the ball was begging to go in the back of Beths' net. A change in formation and we went into the second half. Beths had a bit more fire in them now after the break and they pressed us in our own half better. After about 10 minutes we received a throw in deep in their half. With a good passage of play we managed to find Brian in the middle who banged it in the bottom corner. It came towards the last ten minutes of the game and Beths were throwing all they had at us. Putting four players in very attacking positions meant we had to change formation yet again. Liam really kept the win as he saved off the line. Our defence coped well and the full time whistle blew.

Well-done to everyone who was involved! Thank you, Mr Martin for taking us and being a great manager. Let's hope we win against Cleeve Park on Wednesday 6th December.

Oliver Knight, Year 7

Team Players
Aidan Wicks
Liam Hutchings
Oliver Knight
Dillon Walton
Malachy Turner
Dexter Gilchrist
Riley Woods
Emanuel Eyin
Brian Igwe
Jonny Lawson
Ilkan Aydingun



We'd like to say an enormous thank you to our fantastic Parents' Association and Katie Henderson (Year 10) for generously helping us update our PE area with the addition of a new trophy cabinet and honours board. We received a very generous contribution from the PA, and Katie donated her Jack Petchey Foundation Award too. We could never have afforded this without your kindness and support.

Congratulations also to David, Florence, Mia and Eddie for being the first named on the new board; we're very proud of you all.

Mr Lines



News Items You May Have Missed

Lost Property

As the weather is turning colder lots of **winter coats** are being handed in to lost property. **If your child has lost a coat this term, please e-mail reception@bexleygs.co.uk with a description by the 20th December at the latest.** We will then try to reunite them with their owners. Please also make sure students' names are clearly marked on all items, this will help us get items back to students quicker.



We also have more school jumpers to give away, if you would like one please e-mail us with size and student name. We also have the usual lost items, keys, watches, pencil cases, glasses, etc. Please encourage your son/daughter to ask at reception.

The lost property cupboard will be cleared at the end of this term as regrettably, we are unable to keep unclaimed articles indefinitely. Please note that we donate all lost clothing to the Salvation Army for recycling.

Mrs Beasley and Mrs Denyer, Reception

Thank you



A big thank you to Mrs Beasley and four of our Year 8 students (Jemma Chalmers, Benicia Alapatt, George Kirby and Max Ashton) for helping to sell Poppies this year. Together as a school we raised an amazing £407.39. Well done!



BGSPA CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are priced at 50p each (£2.50 a book) giving you the change to win one of the following fabulous prizes:

- Family Christmas Hamper
- Three course meal for two with wine at Pizza Place Bexley
- Family Photo Shoot
- £69 Specsavers Voucher
- Two Adult tickets to the Transport Museum
- His & Hers Babylis & Harding Gift Sets
- Chocolate Hamper
- Salt Cave voucher
- Chocolate & Fizz
- £10 John Lewis Gift Card

Click [here](#) for tickets – Good Luck

Exams

Year 11 & Year 13 Students

Please click on the links below to view the Year 11 and Year 13 (IB) Mock Exam Timetables, December 2017.



[Year 11 Mock Exams Timetable - Dec 2017](#)

[Year 13 Mock IB Exams Timetable - Dec 2017](#)

Bexley Grammar
School



Year 11

Preparing for Revision
2017 – 2018

Click [here](#) to view the
Year 11 Revision Booklet

Forthcoming Events

December

Friday 8th ~ Closing date for Sixth Form applications

Thursday 14th ~ Christmas Dinner in the canteen (£3.00)

Wednesday 20th ~ Last Day of the Autumn Term (click [here](#) to view end of term/start of term arrangements letter)

January 2018

Wednesday 3rd ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

Thursday 4th ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

Friday 5th ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

Monday 8th ~ First School day after the Christmas holiday