

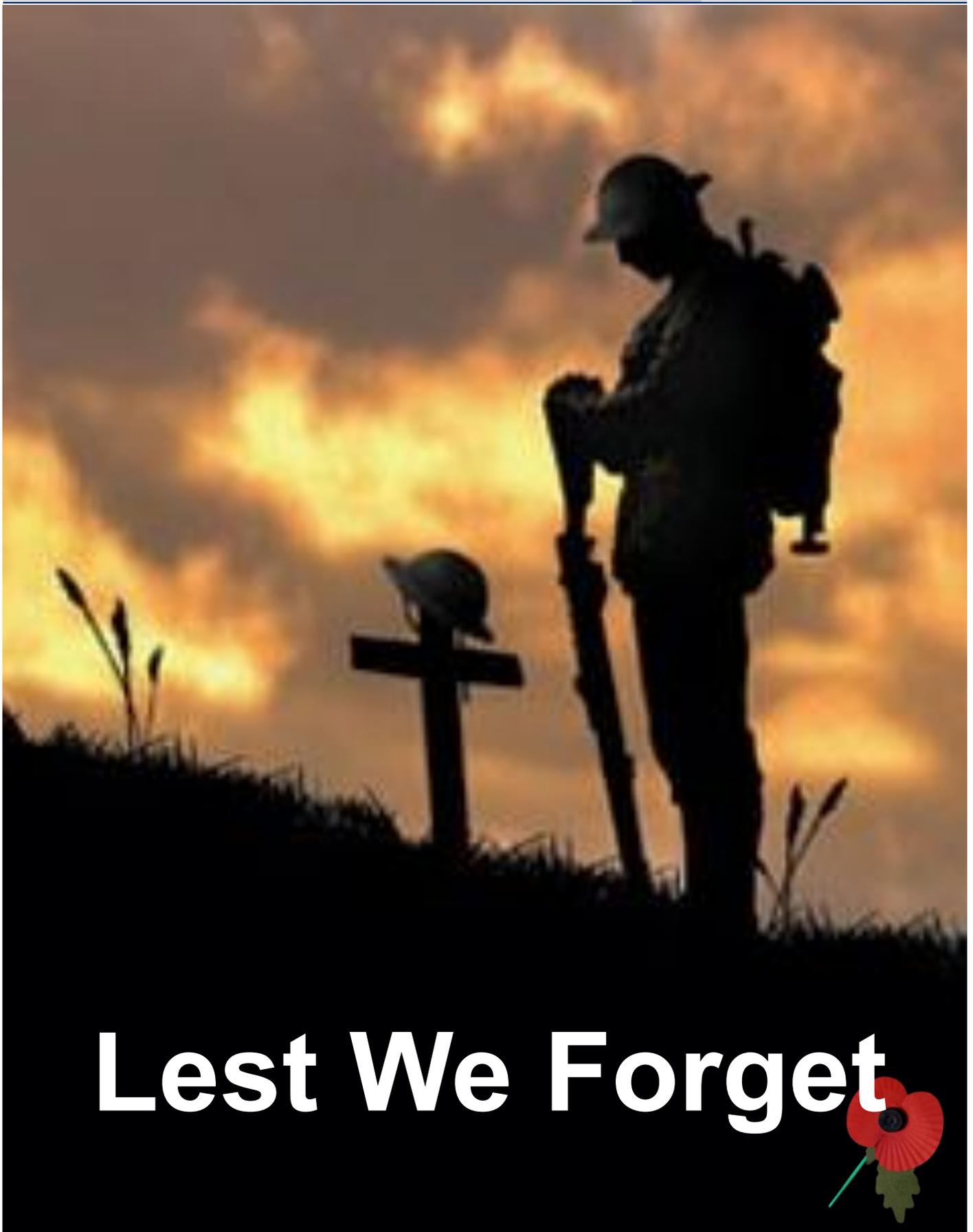


**BEXLEY  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL**

# **NEWSLETTER**

[www.bexleygs.co.uk](http://www.bexleygs.co.uk)

10th November 2017



# **Lest We Forget**

## Ypres Battlefields Trip

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, I joined a group of Year 9 students on the Battlefields trip to Ypres. After an early start we arrived at the Folkestone Eurostar terminal to take the train to Calais and then travelled on to Belgium.

Our first stop was the Menin Gate. I was totally overwhelmed at the sheer size of the monument to just under 55,000 soldiers who were never found and whose names are etched on to the panels. We spent a while searching for the names of soldiers who had our own family names. It didn't take long for me to find my family name (Smith) as almost every tablet had at least one. After a while we walked into Ypres town and went to the famous chocolate shop where we were able to spend our euros. I was very impressed by the imposing Cloth Hall, which looked very much like a cathedral. It had been totally razed to the ground during WWI and rebuilt in its original medieval style in the 1920s.

From Ypres we travelled to Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in the world. Nothing can prepare you for the rows and rows of graves. Tyne Cot is built on the top of a hill. During the war, the Germans built 3 pillboxes (machine gun towers) which gave them an advantage over the advancing Commonwealth soldiers who were trying to take the hill. During the ongoing Battle of Passchendaele thousands of men died. Eventually, the Germans were defeated and the two remaining soldiers in the pillbox fled and were gunned down. The two soldiers were buried where they fell and are the only two Germans in Tyne Cot. Their graves stand out, not only because they have a square top (Commonwealth graves have a rounded top), but because they are not buried amongst the rows of other soldiers.

After Tyne Cot, we went on to Langemark, the German Cemetery. Adolf Hitler fought at Langemark and some of his comrades were gassed and died there. During WWII he visited the site to pay his respects and the students were able to see a picture of him standing in the same spot as them. It has a very different feel: it is very dark and subdued. The graves are marked by stones which are not traditional headstones as they lie flat. Langemark is also the site of a German mass grave which contains the bodies of 32,000 soldiers. The mass grave seemed very small when we realised that so many men were buried there.

We travelled on from Langemark to Bleuet Farm to find the grave of Alfred Robert Seath, a relative of Emily and George Ross. Alfred was born in Bow, East London, in 1893 and lived in Hither Green, South East London. He died on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1917 at Ypres when serving as a sergeant (8611) with 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion, Hampshire Regiment. This was during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres, often known as Passchendaele. The 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion fought at Langemark, the battle for the Menin Road and Polygon Wood. Seath died during the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Passchendaele, somewhere near Langemark and was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

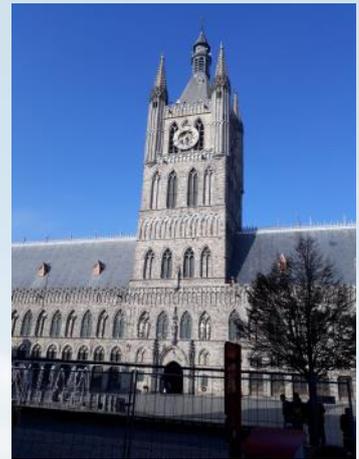
Our final stop of the day was at Hill 60. Hill 60 was so called on British military maps because the contoured height of the ground was marked at 60 metres above sea level. It was the scene of desperate fighting in April and May 1915 between the British and German armies. An indication of how fierce the fighting was is the fact that four Victoria Crosses (VC) were won on this site in April 1915 alone.

After Hill 60 we boarded the coaches and made our way back to Calais. It was a really good experience for all of us to visit Ypres, the scene of such important historical events, particularly given it is 100 years since the Battle of Passchendaele and so close to Remembrance Sunday.

**Mrs Arundel**



A.	SIBSON G.	WEBSTER H.
ENPE	SILCOX W.	WELCH R.
NR	SILLITO M.	WELCHER C.
NT J.	SIMMONDS E.	WELLCOME L.W.
NR.W.	SIMMONDS J.A.H.	WELLS E.A.A.
LS A.D.	SIMMONDS W.	WELSH W.
LS R.	SIMMONS H.W.	WENHAM C.W.
LS S.T.	SIMPSON A.O.	WESSON T.W.
LS A.J.	SKITTRAIL G.W.	WEST
SON T.	SLATER A.	WHEATLEY S.
W.	SMITH A.	WHISTLER A.
RY G.	SMITH A.E.	WHITE G. 1062
NA.E.	SMITH F.S.	WHITE G. 1234
NE.	SMITH G.	WHITE H.
NC.J.	SMITH G.C.	WHITE H.J.
NC.C.	SMITH G.E.	WHITE R.C.
NC.C.	SMITH G.H.	WHITEHEAD
P.J.	SMITH H.S.	WHITESIDE N.
EM A.	SMITH J. 2454	WHITFORD C.
OR J.	SMITH J. 3105	WHYATT S.
ELL O.	SMITH J. 4259	WHYBROW F.
LD H.	SMITH J.E.	WICKS C.J.
A.	SMITH R.	WICKS G.L.
P.	SMITH S.	WILCOX W.
W.J.	SMITH W. 8689	WILKINSON
D.	SMITH W. 18591	WILLIAMS
J.F.	SMITHERS A.E.	WILLIAMS
W.F.	SMYRK H.W.	WILLIAMS
F.	SOLE A.J.	WILLIAMS
P.C.	SOLEY H.	WILLIAMS
M.C.G.	SERVED AS PAGE H.	WILLS H.
ER E.	SOUTHGATE R.G.	WILMSHUT
P.W.	SPANIER A.	WILSDON
	SPENCER A.E.	WILSON
	SPENCER R.H.	WILSON
	SPENCER W.A.	WILSON
	SPICER S.	WILSON
		WILSON



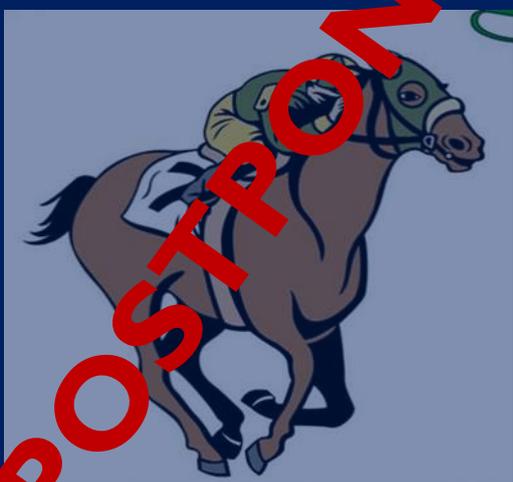
## Здравствует революцию!

Students studying Russian from Year 8 to Year 13 have spent the last week commemorating the 100 year anniversary of the October Revolution. All students engaged in various activities, from following Lenin on Twitter to acting out the various roles played by members of the society in the build up to the Revolution and from discussing the causes of the revolution to discussing if we should even be commemorating the Revolution. Thank you to all students for getting so involved in such a vital part of Russian history.

*Miss Roberts & Mr Gallimore, Modern Foreign Languages*



**PA Race Night**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November



### BGS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING



We are hosting a  
Christmas Shopping Evening on  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 from 7.00pm

If you are a local craft company, small business etc. looking to raise your profile and sell merchandise before Christmas then please do contact the Parents' Association via email at [parentpabgs@gmail.com](mailto:parentpabgs@gmail.com). For those who fancy doing some shopping that night please watch this space for further updates, we promise an array of stalls and an opportunity to purchase unique, affordable gifts before Christmas



## ECM Day Trip to Bodiam Castle

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October we went on a trip to Bodiam Castle.

As soon as we got into Bodiam we were immediately taken to a room on the second floor, if you could call it a second floor - it was so worn down there were barely any walls or floors left! On the way there, we had to climb what looked like newish stairs and an extremely steep set of older stairs (probably a few inches tall each) and as we went up, there was an arrow-slit, which was somehow still in great condition!



In the room on the second floor, we learned all about the armour and shields that the guards wore and even got to try some on, they were so heavy we could barely keep them on for a minute we have no idea how they kept them on for ages! We also learned about the crossbows and bow and arrows! We were also told that the archers using crossbows had less training and needed less physical ability!



Next, we had a tour of the first floor where we were told that in the castle all of the owners of the house, and the guests, would sleep on the left hand side of the castle and from the second floor upwards, meanwhile the servants and guards slept on the right. We know this because on the left there are more luxurious rooms which have window seating and heating and on the right, there were just stone boxes, as only the guards got windows so they could then attack intruders if needed.

Finally, we got to see about their cooking and were told that when they used a bread oven the bottom of the bread would go rock solid so they would cut it off and use it as plates! Yes, they actually ate off of burnt bread! We also got to see their wells and we were told that they would send young boys down to the well to fetch water! Now the water is green and murky. Gross!

We all had a lovely day so thank you to the teachers for bringing us and making it so interesting!!

*Zara Pipe, Year 7*

## Music News

### KS5 Showcase - DATE CHANGE!

We have had to change the date of the KS5 Showcase due to a clash in Hall bookings; it will now take place on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm.**

Tickets will be on sale just on the day, please come along and support our Sixth Form musicians!



### On Sale Now

Tickets for the Christmas Concert (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December) and the Music Department Quiz Night (Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February) are on sale now. Please click on the link to purchase your tickets.

<https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events?search=bexley>.

## PE News

### An England International in our midst

It's not every day we get to celebrate an England international! What a brilliant way to fill the final place on our individual honours board: Kyle Alexander (year 12) represented England during the summer in the 2017 Powerchair Football World Cup in Florida, reaching the semi-finals. Well done Kyle, top man.

**Mr Lines, Head of PE**



### Karate Superstars

2 more sporting superstars are within our midst! Eddie (Year 10) and Mia (Year 9) Lind have been making incredible strides in Karate, particularly in the kata discipline. Both are members of the UK National Squad and are currently training with former world champions. Their success has taken them training and competing around the world: in the recent GKR Karate World Championships, in Australia, Eddie's team won bronze in the kata, whilst Mia's team were crowned World Champions in their division, while Eddie won silver in the individual competition. Well done both of you.



### Basketball Win - A Brilliant Start!

The Basketball team's first game of the season was a resounding success. Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy were the visiting team and were soon on the back-foot, trailing 18-2 at the end of the first quarter. With a number of new faces in the team, the margin was always going to seesaw, but we finished the half with the lead. In fact, the lead was never relinquished and, despite a strong finish from the opposition, BGS managed to close out a 39-38 victory.

We have had an exciting influx of new players, which bodes well for this season and future seasons, and it was great to see so many students turn up and cheer for us - thanks! Our next fixture is November 23<sup>rd</sup> against St Olave's; it would be fantastic to get a similar turnout.

**Mr Brook, Basketball Coach**



### Team Players

Ife Adeoti  
Alessandro Basile  
Nathan Blake  
Osaru Ediae  
Nathan Fisher  
Joseph Gbadamosi  
Nkem Ogoji  
Seyi Ogunnaike  
David Oputa  
Keiran Stewart  
Mylan Roberts

## Christmas Drama Production of *Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist*

Ladies and Gentlemen! Step right up, for the wondrous K10 Theatre is being opened for public performances by presenting Neil Bartlett's adaptation of the classic: *Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist*. It is filled with all the Street Urchins, Musical Hall performance, Victoriana and pickpocketing you'd expect! But there is more: Marvel at the incredible lighting effects afforded to us in the new space; enjoy the amazing tiered seating; sample the delightful themed treats in the interval (Artful Jammy Dodger, anyone?) all presented with the physical theatre and ensemble movement you've come to expect from a BGS school play!

All the Light Design, Sound Design, Costume Design, Musical Composition and a great deal of the direction and choreography has come from pupils at the school. This is a wonderful chance to celebrate the amazing talents of the pupils at the school.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December will be a special gala performance to open the K10 Theatre officially (arrive early for a short reception) 7.00pm**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December will include a celebration of the pupils' work after the show, including some awards and brief speeches. 7.30pm**

Act fast as we expect this fundraising event to sell out quickly (especially the Friday night)!

Tickets for this Bexley Grammar School Drama Department Fundraising Event cost £8.50 (adults) and £6 (concessions), and are available in advance only. Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets.

Please note - the play is in the K10 Theatre and not the Hall, as in previous years. Please enter the school through the top gate/top car park nearest the roundabout, and walk down to the K block entrance at the end of the car park.

### ***Drama Department and the Production Team***



*Rehearsal photos courtesy of Katherine Beeching, Year 13*

# Harry Potter Library Art Competition



**Are you a wonderful mixture of book worm and artist?  
If so, we need you!**

**We would love to have a sign above the Library door  
with the following Harry Potter quote:**

“Because that’s what Hermione does,” said Ron, shrugging.  
“When in doubt, go to the Library”.  
- J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets



**Please submit any ideas for a  
beautiful sign on A4 paper to  
Mrs Carey by 30<sup>th</sup> November.**

**The chosen winner will then  
make the sign on a much  
larger scale, and this will be  
hung in the Library. They will  
also receive a signed copy of  
*Monster* by Michael Grant.**

## Vacancy



### School Office Administrator Vacancy

3 or 4 days per week (7.2 hours per day), 40 weeks per year  
Bexley Scale 7 (£22,506 - £24,510 incl OLW, pro rata)

We are seeking to appoint a motivated and enthusiastic individual, with a strong administrative background, to join our friendly School Office team. The successful candidate will have experience of working in a busy office environment, combined with meticulous organisation and excellent IT skills, including SIMS. Knowledge of Year 7 admission procedures would be advantageous, though not essential.

Further details about the school, the job description and an application form are available on the school website or by clicking on the link [here](#).

Closing date for applications is noon on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

## Forthcoming Events

### November

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Sixth Form Open Evening (Internals)

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** ~ ECM Day 2

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ KS5 Showcase 6.00pm (see Music notice – **Please note this is the new date for performance**)

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>** ~ Oliver Production 7.00pm (see notice)

### December

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>** ~ Oliver Production 7.00pm (see notice)

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Oliver Production 7.00pm (see notice)

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ Christmas Concert 6.00pm (see Music notice)

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** ~ Closing date for Sixth Form applications

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>** ~ Christmas Dinner in the canteen

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Last Day of the Autumn Term

### January 2018

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>** ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** ~ Inset Day (School Closed to Students)

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>** ~ First School day after the Christmas holiday