



This year, Bexley Grammar School have been remembering the Holocaust in the lead up to Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27<sup>th</sup>. January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1945 is a key date in History as it was the day that the Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, was liberated by the Russian Army. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been doing History, English (thanks to Mrs Allen!) and FBCS (thanks to Miss Contini!) lessons in order to find out more.

### ***Mr Martin, History Teacher and Year 7 SAM***

During our History lesson this week, we learnt about specific people, who were significant in the Holocaust, and that period of time (1939-1945). We also learnt about things that happened to the Jews and what tortures they endured. We were then set a task of delving more into the person's life story and find out why they were so symbolic. We had to make a project in a group, which is also a great opportunity for us to express our opinions and learn together. This was a unique task and one that was a valuable lesson to all of us. This lesson was necessary because everyone that withstood the terrible happenings of the holocaust, deserves to be remembered. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about this subject, because it made us realise how lucky and fortunate that we are, especially because we are living in a time of peace and democracy, where everyone has freedom and goodwill.

During our FBCS lesson this week, we looked at how not only Jews were treated badly during the Holocaust, but other groups of people. For example: LGBT people, twins, Poles and Slavic and gypsies. They were sent to concentration camps just because of what they believed in, their race, their jobs or actions. They had their names taken away and a number tattooed on their arm. They had their identity stolen. Also, the Nazis told the people in the camps that they were going for a shower, but in fact, they were being sent to a gas chamber where they would die. The Victims are an inspiration to us all because of what they had to put up with and throughout the whole process, they still had hope.

During our English lesson, we looked at a poem and studied its effect and meaning. It was about when the Nazis came round looking for different groups of people. The man was neither of these groups, but was still taken a prisoner. This poem was interesting for us to study because it showed us different people's point of view on the Holocaust.

Overall, this was a fantastic opportunity for us to learn about the Holocaust and how people suffered, and we hope that we get another time to study this in future years.

### ***Grace Taylor and Eve Goodchild , Year 7***



INTERNATIONAL  
**HOLOCAUST**  
REMEMBRANCE DAY

January 27



## Music Department News

The Music Department would like to offer their grateful thanks to the P.A., who have very generously donated £3000 towards our Practice Rooms campaign. **In addition, an anonymous donor has donated £500 online - I hope this is someone who reads the Newsletter and will receive our thanks!**

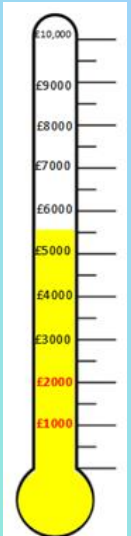
We are blown away by the support from everyone so far (our Quiz Night on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February has so far sold over 100 tickets - there is still space for a few more tables, so if you'd like to come, please buy your tickets online at [www.yourboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.yourboxoffice.co.uk)) and we are so excited that the prospect of new practice rooms could be a reality sooner than we hoped; we hope to purchase our first one in the next few weeks.

If you would like to make a donation (however small, it all counts), please visit our Justgiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/bexleygrammarschool/music>

Thank you!

*Miss Swadkin, Head of Music*



## Satyagraha at ENO

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January the Music department was lucky enough to go on a trip to see the dress rehearsal of an opera about Ghandi's early life by Philip Glass at the English National Opera. The theatre was very beautiful and we were well accommodated. Philip Glass writes music in a minimalist style, and being shown this new style of music confused us at first, but as we got into Act 2 it started to become clearer and we began to really appreciate the music and the story line.



*Maddie Hansford & Eleanor Wenbourne, Year 10*

## The Beat Goes On

As a reward for all our hard work so far this year, Mrs Eacott arranged for all Year 9 students to participate in a samba-reggae percussion workshop provided by the company 'The Beat Goes On', combining Afro-Brazilian musical styles to create a hybrid genre of music native to places such as Argentina, Brazil and Jamaica.

The workshop lasted an hour and gave everyone an opportunity to play two instruments that were mostly foreign to them such as djembes, agogô bells, snare drums, tamborims and surdo drums. After going through the way in which, to play each instrument and the individual beat for each, we were led by director Ollie Tunmer into a composition, similar to the ones played through the streets in Brazil. Having tried out our first instrument, we then sambaed our way to our second percussive instrument, which we were briefly introduced to by Ollie and started to play as we were now led by members of our group instead, creating new, unique rhythms as a class. Throughout our workshop, Ollie told us more about samba-reggae music and its history as he explained the culture of the instruments.

I thoroughly enjoyed this workshop due to its unparalleled experience and complex cultural roots. This was, I believe, extremely beneficial for our year at this stressful point in our lives, as we are about to choose our GCSE options, and should be offered to more students at BGS.

*Alison Balint, Year 9*



## LGBTQ+ History Month

To celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month we have lots of new fiction books on the theme of Gender and Identity, including *The Upside of Unrequited* by Becky Albertelli, *History is all you left me* by Adam Silvera, *This is not a love story* by Keren David and *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* by Emily M Danforth. We also have memoirs by Abby Wambach, Jazz Jennings, Gareth Thomas, Maggie Thrash and Katie Rain Hill.

For a full list of the books we have please pop up and see the display in the Library or view the Gender and Identity reading lists on the school website

<http://www.bexleygs.co.uk/48/library>.

**Mrs Carey, Librarian**



## Geography is tweeting

Interested in the world? Want to know what's going on and why?

Then join the conversation by following the Geography department's twitter feed



@JuIceOnTheLoose  
Up-to-date and current articles straight to your mobile device, daily juicy facts & much more.

**Mrs Belton-Owen  
Head of Geography**

### Bikeability Express— Levels 1, 2 & 3 Cyclist Training



## Bikeability EXPRESS



**FREE** Holiday training course for Bexley Grammar Students

Missed the chance to complete Bikeability at your old school?

SIGN UP FOR BIKEABILITY EXPRESS

Date: Thursday 15 February (9.30-15.00)  
Venue: Bexley Grammar School

Bikeability Express is a new cyclist training programme for secondary aged students. The course combines all three Bikeability Levels and is taught over one (whole) day.

As an advanced course it is only suitable for students who are already confident and competent cyclists.

The course is designed to prepare you to cycle longer/more complex journeys (including routes to school). Training takes place on quiet and then busier main roads.

*You must have your own roadworthy bicycle and an approved cyclist safety helmet (not full-faced).*



Contact the Road Safety Team to book your place

Road Safety Team  
Civic Offices  
2 Watling Street  
Bexkeyheath  
Kent DA6 7AT

TEL: 020 0345 5357  
EMAIL: [roadsafetyeducation@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafetyeducation@bexley.gov.uk)



# QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**  
**Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 start**  
**Tickets £5 per person.**  
**Max. 8 per team**  
**Bring your own food and drink**

To register your team click on the link below

[Quiz Night Booking Form](#)



## News Items You May Have Missed

### Do you have an old PC you don't need?

Last week we asked for any old computers and inadvertently set the minimum specification too high. We are looking for anything down to an i3 processor or equivalent. If you are not sure, please email in (below) and let us know what you have.

In school we can operate relatively old-spec computers effectively in areas that are not graphic-heavy by using our powerful network to good effect. If you have a computer with the following minimum specifications which you no longer need, BGS could put it to good use for students and staff. Or perhaps you have a screen you no longer use.

Equally, if any parents are linked with businesses which upgrade their hardware regularly, we would be very grateful for any donations of 'old' computers.

**Minimum specification = i3 processor or equivalent and a minimum of 4G RAM.**

If you think you may have something, please contact: [suki@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:suki@bexleygs.co.uk)

Thank you



## Forthcoming Events

### February

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Music Department Quiz Night 7.00pm (See Music Notice)

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ Year 9 Parents' Evening

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ Half Term

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>** ~ First School day after Half Term

### March

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>** ~ PA Quiz Night (See Notice)

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** ~ Year 8 Parents' Evening

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Year 10 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ Last School day before Easter Break