



## Bexley Young Musician success for Alex Lukov

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, the final of the Rotary Club Bexley Young Musician of the Year took place at the Townley Grammar School Theatre. There were ten finalists who performed (from a range of Bexley schools), and BGS was represented by three of our finest musicians: Luke Montgomery in Year 13 (alto saxophone), Alex Lukov in Year 11 (piano) and Mia Chan in Year 9 (piano).

Luke's performance was a highly sophisticated, flawless recital of challenging classical and jazz repertoire, including a virtuosic performance of 'Round Midnight' by Thelonious Monk, which was of the most impressive performances I've ever heard by a school-age student. Mia was by far the youngest finalist taking part, and her lovely performance included music by Bach and Debussy. Alex's piano recital included a wide range of musical styles, ranging from Baroque to French 20<sup>th</sup> century, and finishing with a contemporary piece by English composer Diana Burrell, which included unusual techniques such as strumming the strings inside the piano!

I was an extremely proud Head of Music on Saturday night; I am obviously biased, but I felt that they were three of the best performers! I am thrilled that for the first time, the winner of the Bexley Young Musician was a Bexley Grammar student. Congratulations to all three performers, and thank you for representing our school so spectacularly well; I had long conversations with both the Mayor of Bexley and the Headmaster from Townley Grammar who were both highly impressed with the standard of performance from our BGS musicians.

**Miss Swadkin, Head of Music**



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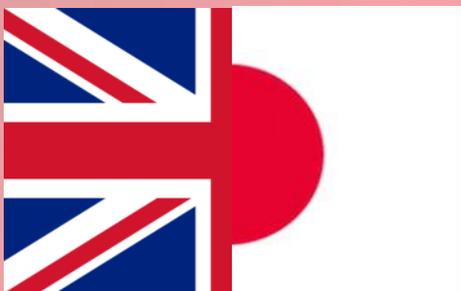


## Japanese Exchange Programme at BGS

From the 26<sup>th</sup> February until the 4<sup>th</sup> March, I accompanied a wonderful exchange student, Sakurako, who came from Tokyo. I was nervous, worried about somehow messing it up, but as soon as we were introduced to our exchange partners, I knew it would be an amazing week. The next morning after an evening of unpacking and tiptoeing around the language barrier, we made our way to school. The Japanese students would be given a tour, to help them understand how a British Grammar School is run and its differences to theirs. Then, it was time to attend English subjects, to give them a taster of a variety of typical lessons we have during a school day. Sakurako was very interested and intrigued about British culture, and both she and I learnt a lot about the how Japanese schools and British schools differ. On Wednesday, when we discovered the school was shut due to adverse weather, we were honestly a bit saddened at the fact she wouldn't be able to experience more British school life, but that didn't stop us from having fun. Just like many other children on the exchange, when the school was closed, we packed our sledges, wrapped up warm and picked the best hills to show our new friends. Snowmen were built and a copious amount of tea was drunk on arriving home to help us thaw out. On Thursday (another day off school), I helped Sakurako tick off buying an English newspaper and visiting a Christian church before meeting up with the rest of the exchange students for two rounds of surprisingly competitive (but extremely enjoyable) bowling, and obviously we couldn't let the day go by without a friendly snowball fight.

On arriving home, we decided to bake a traditional British shepherd's pie (which Sakurako had expressed a great fondness of) before going to see a school musical. Despite our original trip being cancelled, on Friday, Mrs Everett braved the cold with us as we embarked on a trip to London, where we visited the National Gallery, journeyed across the Thames on a boat, and went to Greenwich Market. Sakurako wanted to return to London, so on Saturday, we ventured back to the city to visit Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Covent Garden, making sure not to forget afternoon tea, before returning home for dinner and an evening of rock climbing at an indoor climbing wall. It was time to say goodbye on Sunday, gifts and hugs were exchanged, along with teary farewells, but it was an amazing week, filled with unforgettable memories. I can't thank Mrs Everett enough for making it possible. Everyone involved with this trip benefitted, my Japanese improved as did my exchange partners English, and so many new valued friendships were formed. Thank you to everyone at Keio Shonan Fujisawa High School for coming to visit us, and I know I speak for all of us here at BGS when I say we were honoured to host you, and we look forward to seeing you again in October.

**Niamh O'Toole-MacKridge, Year 10**



# 9-18 March British Science Week 2018

British Science week is an annual event, it is a ten day celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths.

Students across the school will be encouraged to participate in a number of activities to encourage them to think about the important role that the Sciences play in their everyday life.

Year 7 & 8 students will be asked to create a poster on the theme of exploration and discovery, the five best will be entered in the national competition.

In Year 9 & 10 students will be given information on two activities organised by British Science week:

**Citizen Science:** There is a rising tide in our oceans, a tide of waste plastics.

It is a sad fact that 60% of our oceans are being heavily contaminated with plastics, which has a negative effect on the wildlife living within the seas.

'The Plastic Tide' is a citizen project that uses drone technology to survey and take photos of contaminated beaches, where plastics can be found. The project needs help to examine hundreds of thousands of images to locate these pieces of waste in order to train computers to find the litter in the future.

**Run to the deep:** an immersive running app which chronicles a journey from the sea surface to the Marianas Trench - the deepest part of the ocean – as you run over a 10K distance.

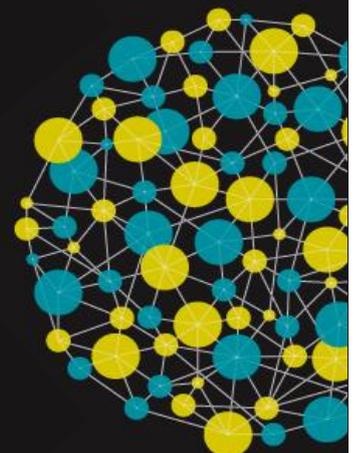
Sixth Form scientists will be informed via a Google classroom of talks and lectures offered by Universities, and other institutions such as the Royal Society and the Royal Institution.

As parents I am sure that you may also be interested in the events taking place across the country, including the activities we have chosen for our students.

You might start by looking at the British Science Week website.

<https://www.britishtscienceweek.org>

*Mrs Valls, Head of Science*



## Years 9 & 10: World Challenge 2020

Are you interested in taking on a unique challenge in the summer of 2020? We are looking to recruit a group of students to embark on a three week expedition, involving fundraising, trekking, project work and immersion in a new culture. There is a launch assembly and a Parent Meeting for each year group this term, so make a note of the dates and come along to hear more.

### Year 10

Student Assembly: 16<sup>th</sup> March

Parent Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 6 - 7pm, Hall

### Year 9

Student Assembly: 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Parent Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> March, 6 - 7pm, SFCI (old Sixth Form Centre)





# QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Doors open 7.00 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](#)**



## New Date This Friday

### News Items You May Have Missed

#### PE News

**Come and support us!  
U19 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup Final:  
Simon Langton GS vs BGS**



**Date:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018  
**Kick-Off:** 16:00  
**Venue:** Gallagher Stadium (Maidstone United's Ground)  
James Whatman Way  
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

**Mr Mackle, Football Coach**

#### Year 8 Girls HPV Immunisations

HPV immunisations will be taking place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Forms have been distributed to all girls in Year 8 and we would like to thank those parents who have already returned them.

Ideally, the School Nurse would like to process the forms ahead of the day so please could you return any outstanding forms to Reception as soon as possible, but no later than Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Many thanks,

**Reception**



# *A Night of* Music from the Movies

**MONDAY 26th MARCH 2018, 6pm**  
**Bexley Grammar School**

**Buy tickets from: [www.yourboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.yourboxoffice.co.uk)  
£6.50 / £4.50 concessions**



*Featuring music from...*

**Star Wars, James Bond, Whiplash, Lord of the Rings,  
The Greatest Showman, Mission Impossible, The  
Blues Brothers, and more...**

# BGS HOUSE SHOWCASE



Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7pm

Tickets now available from  
<https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/events>

Your opportunity to come and see  
the top entries from House Drama  
and House Music & Dance

Finale  
The announcement of the  
House Champions for 2017 – 2018  
Presentation of the House Cup



## **Forthcoming Events**

### **March**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ PA Quiz Night , 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start (**New date See Notice**)

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

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup>** ~ A Night of Music from the Movies, 6.00 pm (See Notice)

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>** ~ BGS House Showcase 7.00 pm (See Notice)

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

### **April**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ First school day after the Easter break

~ Year 10 Mocks & Year 12 Part I Exams until 27<sup>th</sup> April

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** ~ U19 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup Final: Simon Langton GS vs BGS, 4.00 pm  
(See Notice - come & support us!)