



Once again, this year the school had planned a whole host of original events to celebrate World Book Day, on the 1st March. Yet as the most aware of you will have observed, this coincided with the snow days, when the school was closed. So, we did nothing for World Book Day. Article finished.

No! This school wouldn't really put off book celebrations by a bit of snow! In truth, we simply delayed the celebrations by a week.



During the day, students and staff could come in with a prop, from which others could guess which book they were thinking of. I saw quite a few Harry Potter wands in the corridors, and Mr Griffin had his Arsenal scarf. Personally, I took in 'the precious... Gollum!'

For Years 7 - 9, there was also a twenty-minute 'drop-everything-and-read' session, at a random unexpected time in the school day. Our school has held this tradition for many years now, and I still fondly remember being able to take some extra time out lost comfortably in a book (as opposed to lost helplessly in a maths problem).



In addition, Year 8 enjoyed a particularly special event this World Book Day: a visit from a published ghost-story author, Leo Hunt. His books are available from the school library. The whole year group received a door-opening lecture from Mr Hunt, in which he explained how he likes to go about his creative writing. Adding to this, some students were selected to attend his creative writing workshop during the day. Who knows? Perhaps one day we'll see their own writing published too. (See separate article about this visit by Mrs Carey).



Yet what about the upper years? Open to the whole school was the book Freecycle: staff and students' no-longer-wanted books donated over the past couple of months were spread out in the canteen, for anyone to help themselves to. I took two classic novels for myself, and also saw many conventional works and comic books taken to other new homes. No books should be wasted; there will always be a willing reader somewhere!

There were also two book quizzes: one for Years 7-9, and another for Years 10 and up. I thought I did pretty well on the complex questions (such as 'What is catharsis?'), even if I didn't do so well on simple name-the book cover. I guess I'm just cursed to overthink all things. Still, there were two Tolkien-based questions – and in case you haven't realised, Tolkien is easily the best author of all time – which makes this quiz perfect.



One final thing to mention is the after-school Kahoot quiz, held in the Library. As all students will know, Kahoot is an interactive quiz website, popular in this school. Teams were booked with Mrs Carey – a big thank you to her for organizing this!



In all, (delayed) World Book Day was a distinguished, fun-packed day for all – staff and students alike. Students were even given a £1 book token to spend. Special thanks go to Mrs Allen, Mrs Carey and Mr Griffin, and to the English prefects who helped organize these events.

Samuel Masters, Year 12

Leo Hunt - Author Visit

We were thrilled to have the author Leo Hunt join us for World Book Day (the second). He gave a lecture to all of Year 8, which was a fascinating insight into how he wrote his ghost story, '13 Days of Midnight', and created the gruesome characters in 'the Host'. The students had lots of excellent questions for Leo, including how he chose the names for his characters, which writers inspire him, how the publishing process works and even how much he earns!



Leo then ran 2 workshops with some of the Year 8 students, during which they had to create their own ghosts, answer a quiz about them, and then write an introduction to their story. Leo was amazed at how creative our students were, and how exceptional their writing was. We had a frustrated child prodigy ghost,



a Banshee/Psiren cross that lured people in and then murdered them with her screeching and a ghost that had decided to be evil because in life he was nice and it hadn't gotten him anywhere. It was great to see the students so engaged with their writing, and one student told me he was going to go home and continue his writing as he was enjoying it so much.



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Mrs Carey, Librarian



Missing Titles Competition

Congratulations to Baidehi Sarkar (Year 10) for recognising all of the missing book titles and authors in the poster – she wins the £10 book voucher.

Mrs Carey

WORLD BOOK DAY

CALLING ALL COMIC FANS
JOIN THE EXCELSIOR AWARD

Are you a fan of graphic novels and manga? Then join our reading group for the Excelsior Award. We will be meeting in the Library on Tuesdays, 3.05pm - 4.00pm, and reading and reviewing the best 8 graphic novels and manga books published this year. To sign up, please email me or come to see me in the Library.

Mrs Carey, Librarian

**SIGN UP IN THE LIBRARY
TO JOIN OUR COMIC AND
MANGA READING GROUP**



Excelsior Award Shortlist 2018



For further details, ask your Librarian or visit
www.excelsioraward.co.uk

PE News

Come and support us!
U19 2nd XI Cup Final:
Simon Langton GS vs BGS

Date: Saturday 21st April 2018

Kick-Off: 16:00

Venue: Gallagher Stadium (Maidstone United's Ground)
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



All are welcome and I am sure that the squad would be pleased to have plenty of support. Information regarding tickets will be sent closer to the time.

Mr Mackle, Football Coach

***Friday 23rd March is Non-Uniform Day in aid of
Sport Relief - Please bring £1.00 to School***

**WHATEVER
MOVES YOU**

DO IT FOR

**SPORT
RELIEF**

News Items You May Have Missed

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.britishscienceweek.org>

Mrs Vialls, 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:

16th March

Parent Meeting:

22nd March, 6 - 7pm, Hall

Year 9

Student Assembly:

23rd March

Parent Meeting:

26th March, 6 - 7pm, SFCI
(old Sixth Form Centre)



A Night of **Music from the Movies**

MONDAY 26th MARCH 2018, 6pm
Bexley Grammar School

**★ Buy tickets from: 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 28th 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

W P
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K JOHNSON
IRKMAN Collins Mabbis



Forthcoming Events

March

Tuesday 20th ~ Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd ~ World Challenge Launch Meeting for interested Year 10 Parents (see notice)

Friday 23rd ~ Non-uniform day in aid of Sport Relief (please bring £1.00 - see notice)

Monday 26th ~ A Night of Music from the Movies, 6.00 pm (see notice)

~ World Challenge Launch Meeting for interested Year 9 Parents (see notice)

Wednesday 28th ~ BGS House Showcase 7.00 pm (see notice)

Thursday 29th ~ Last School day before Easter break

Early finish at the following times:

~ 1.25 pm for students in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13

~ 2.15 pm for students in Years 7, 8 & 9

April

Monday 16th ~ First School day after the Easter break

~ Year 10 Mocks & Year 12 Part 1 Exams begin until 27th April

Saturday 21st ~ U19 2nd XI Cup Final: Simon Langton GS vs BGS, 4.00 pm
(see updated notice - come & support us!)

Friday 27th ~ Year 10 Mocks & Year 12 Part 1 Exams end

~ Year 13 IB External Exams begin

May

Tuesday 1st ~ Year 7 Parents' Evening