



Sixth Form Italian Exchange

On the evening of Friday 2nd February, a group of seventeen Year 12 and 13 students were excited to meet their Italian exchange students, arriving from Siena. Over the course of the following week, we engaged with these students to develop both our Italian and their English skills. On the Saturday morning, we all took part in a short treasure hunt around Bexleyheath, allowing us to get to know each other. Some of us then went to explore the pleasures of Bluewater, which, coming from a small town, our Italian friends thoroughly enjoyed. Sunday was spent with families - my student, Emma, experienced unusually deserted Central London streets whilst cheering me on in the Cancer Research Winter Run, then afterwards, being scared at the London Dungeons!

The students spent Monday in BGS with us, sharing in our normal IB lessons. We enjoyed “speed dating” in our Italian lesson, getting to know the other exchange students, without using our mother language.

On Wednesday we accompanied the Italians around Greenwich, seeing the Meridian line and the Cutty Sark, before taking a chilly riverboat trip to the South Bank then on to Covent Garden. To round off the visit, we enjoyed a dessert together at Creams, then said farewell to our students on the Friday morning. We are all very excited to be seeing them again, when we travel to Siena in April, where we can practise more of our Italian.



Thank you to the MFL staff, especially Mrs Rubbera, for arranging this opportunity for us.

**Matthew Lay
Year 12**



Letter from Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

Before Christmas, Year 9 was studying World War One and had undertaken research regarding the impact of Sir Douglas Haig, the British General during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Students had studied the events of the battle and were challenging interpretations of Haig to understand whether it is fair for him to be known as "the Butcher of the Somme". Haig has been remembered by the British government and is commemorated with a statue in Central London. Students compiled a series of letters to the current Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to express their views about whether the statue to Haig should remain in London. Just before half term, the students received a response from Sadiq Khan, shown here. Congratulations to all who submitted their ideas, but in particular to Elysia Reine Manuel, Deslyn Doherty, Ayo Adebambo, Brook Lord, Ethan Hosier, Rhys Belsham and Ethan D'Souza.

Mr Martin, History Teacher



Japanese Film Screening at the Institute of Contemporary Arts

On 9th February, Year 12 Japanese students were given the opportunity by the Japan Foundation to watch the Japanese film 'Where I Belong' (しゃぼん玉, which was one of many films from the Japan Foundation Touring Film Program 2018 held at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Prior to watching the film, students were able to enjoy a delicious Japanese meal of their choosing such as sushi, chicken kara-age (deep fried chicken) and more at the Japan Centre.

The film centres around Izumi, a thief and a criminal who ends up in a scenic mountain village, where he is welcomed by the elderly populace, who help him reassert himself with the fate and the world around him, thus beginning his story of redemption. The film features wonderful cinematography and captures the natural beauty of Japan's overwhelming mountain range. The hidden village setting creates a scenic atmosphere and gives a glimpse of a society free from the constant sounds of trains and cars, which immerses Izumi and the audience in the natural world. 'Where I Belong' also showcases serious topics in Japan such as the gradual decline of young people in urban areas that are rich in century-long traditions. Overall the film deeply embodies the respectful culture of Japan through the memorable cast of elderly folk, but also conveys the rather compelling story of Izumi and his journey from a thief to a completely different person.

Special thanks to Mrs Everett for organising the trip.

Vincent Balladares, Year 12



Culture Club: Amadeus, The National Theatre, Wednesday 31st January 2018

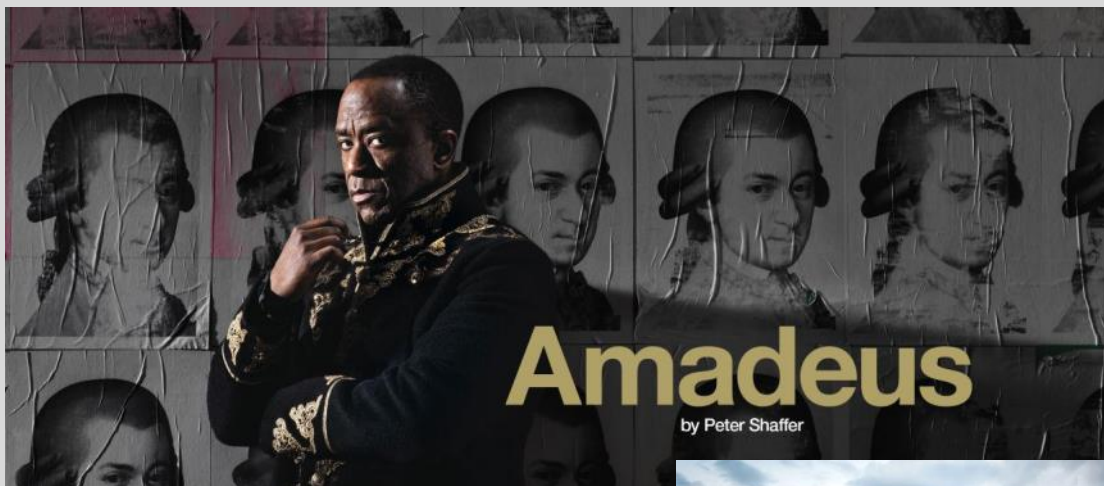
Culture Club recently saw Amadeus at the National Theatre on the Southbank, and if you have seen any of the reviews already then you will already know, it was absolutely amazing! The play is about the talented musician, Antonio Salieri, and his deep-seated rivalry with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This play premiered in 1979, in fact at the National Theatre and received rave reviews that allowed it to achieve huge international success, being shown in Broadway only a year after. I really enjoyed this play, moving me to the edge of my seat, to laughter, and to being moved on a personal level by the amazing score, lifted straight from Mozart's most famous music pieces.

While I absolutely enjoyed all of the play, there were scenes that solidified the experience as easily one of the best theatrical experiences of my life. One of those was when Salieri first read Mozart's pieces at the end of Act I. This scene sets up the rest of the play perfectly and adds massive weight and development of Salieri's character, as in this scene, he renounced God and promised to fight him, through his rivalry with Mozart. Lucian Msamati, Salieri, was brilliant and was able to convey the inner conflict wracking Salieri's mind in a way that was amazing to watch. Coupled with a masterpiece of a score that picked up at the perfect time, meant that this scene was nigh on perfect.

The Culture Club crowd who were lucky enough to come to see this, all had a brilliant night. This show was absolutely amazing and I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who enjoys theatre.

Many thanks to Ms Hanington and Ms Stoddard, who arranged the trip - when's the next one?

Jeevan Bhogal, Year 12



**National
Theatre**

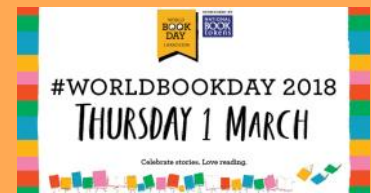
Author visit for World Book Day

We are pleased to welcome the author, Leo Hunt, to Bexley Grammar School on World Book Day. Leo will be giving a lecture to Year 8 students about writing ghost stories, and will later be delivering creative writing workshops where students will be encouraged to create their own ghostly characters and write an extended piece of descriptive writing.

We have Leo's books in the Library for students to borrow, and if any student wants to purchase their own copies for Leo to sign they are more than welcome to bring in their books.

For more information about Leo Hunt please visit his website: <https://www.leohunt.com/>

Mrs Carey, Librarian



The Ruthless Readers have completed the Trinity Schools Book Award

The Ruthless Readers have finished reading and reviewing all of the books from the TSBA and have voted that their favourite book was *The Declaration* by Gemma Malley! We are looking forward to attending the awards ceremony at Emanuel School next week and meeting four of the authors, including Gemma Malley. We have also entered an excellent review by Anna Hardie (Year 7) of *Welcome to Nowhere* by Elizabeth Laird into the Best Book Review competition, so it will be very exciting to see if she wins. Congratulations to all of the group that took part, they were all excellent readers!



Mrs Carey, Librarian

PE News

Year 7 and 8 cricket training will start on Monday 5th March in the sports hall after school - everyone is welcome, regardless of experience.

Mr Lines, Head of PE



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...**

Now running...

Board Games Club



Open to Years 7, 8 and 9
Period 5

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
In G4



News Items You May Have Missed

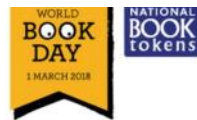
World Book Day is coming!

Once again the English department and the Library will be celebrating World Book Day 2018 with a series of events running up to the day on Thursday 1st March. Students should look out for further notices but below are a few things to be thinking about over half-term:

We would like to invite any pupil to bring in/wear an accessory that is a clue to their favourite book - this will replace full costume dressing-up. Obviously accessories deemed dangerous/inappropriate for a school environment will be confiscated so do please be creative with your accessory choice. The student should also bring in the copy of their favourite book to share with others.

ALL students and staff will Drop Everything And Read at some point on World Book Day so students will need to have a book with them to read on that day.

There are so many more exciting events planned!



#WORLDBOOKDAY 2018
THURSDAY 1 MARCH

Celebrate stories. Love reading.



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 2nd 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](#)

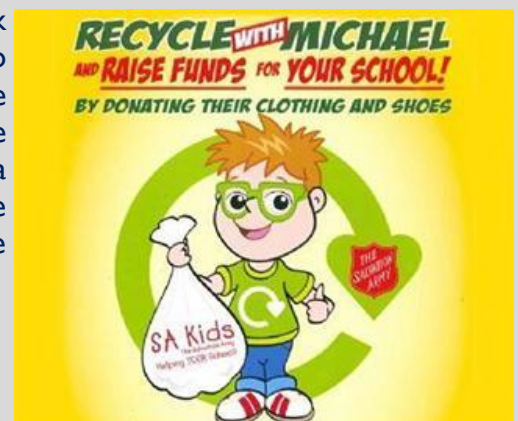


Recycle with Michael

Have you been clearing out of your clothes ready for summer during the half term? In the run up to Easter, Reception is running a competition for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to help raise funds for the school. We have an on-site Salvation Army Recycle Clothing Bin and students should have each received a bag in which to place any unwanted items of clothing or shoes. Each class will have the weight of bags recorded and the week before Easter the highest weight will win a tin of chocolates to share. The Salvation Army does a lot of great work with the homeless, elderly and others in need. The money raised from the sale of the clothing we recycle helps with this and we also get a share for the school. If students from the upper school would like participate they can collect a bag from Reception. Bags should be returned to Reception.

Many thanks for your support,

Mrs Beasley & Mrs Denyer



Forthcoming Events

March

Thursday 1st ~ World Book Day

Friday 2nd ~ PA Quiz Night , 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start (See Notice)

Tuesday 6th ~ Year 8 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 20th ~ Year 10 Parents' Evening

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

Thursday 29th ~ Last School day before Easter break

April

Monday 16th ~ First school day after the Easter break

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