



French Exchange 2018

Following months of planning, a group of BGS French students travelled to Fontainebleau, a town south of Paris, taking part in an exchange, with a reciprocal visit from the French partners two weeks into the summer term.

Week 1: Fontainebleau

After meeting at Ebbsfleet International, we took the Eurostar to Paris and a subsequent SNCF train to Fontainebleau-Avoine station, where we met our partners. We had just enough time to socialise with them before the end of the day, having already made contact with them over social media.

Given Easter Monday is a national bank holiday in France, we spent time with our exchange partners before going to their school on the Tuesday. On Sunday, my exchange partner took me to play football at a local recreational ground, followed by watching a televised match in the evening. Monday was spent in Paris, where we saw a handful of well-known sites, like the Eiffel Tower and L'Arc de Triomphe, and looked for bargains in vintage clothes shops.

On Tuesday we spent the day in the school that our partners attended, Lycée François Premier. At the start of the school day, we were welcomed by a breakfast put on by the school, which featured a selection of croissants and hot drinks; we were also given a welcome package which had many leaflets and brochures from Fontainebleau. Much to the dismay of some of our students, the school days in France finish two hours later than at BGS, inevitably tiring us out towards the end. The next day we spent some time in school learning about Le Château de Fontainebleau, which we visited in the afternoon. All of us were extremely impressed with the detail of the architecture and the grandeur of the castle, which ultimately made for some very aesthetic pictures!

As the week in France began to come to an end, we took a trip to Paris as a group and went around the city, parading the Champs-Élysée, finding more vintage shops and taking impressive photos of the scenery. During the free time we were given, some of us went shopping, whilst others, like myself, wandered not too far from the meeting point to find the vans selling crêpes! On our final day in Fontainebleau, we spent the day at the school once more. The lunch had an English theme and we were presented with the option of fish and chips, which tasted incredibly like an authentic English meal! We also handed out food from England in the form of biscuits and cake to the French students, which they seemed to love, particularly shortbread.

Unfortunately, our trip came to an end the next day. On Saturday we took the trains back to England, allowing us time to revise hard for our mock exams and wait eagerly for the arrival of our partners a few weeks later.



Week 2: Welling

Upon their arrival we meet our partners in the canteen. After saying our greetings and catching up, we led them to where they would be staying for the rest of the week. Having already done the first leg of the exchange in France, it was now our turn to make sure our correspondents were well looked after and engaged in a real British experience.

As a group, we took part in numerous activities and outings in example, a river cruise and the watching of Aladdin the musical. Following the river cruise, we were given free time to roam Greenwich with our partners, where we acted as tour guides and our skills of hospitality were put to the test. Additionally, with the weather not being the best (typical English weather) we were placed with the task of entertaining and keeping the spirits of our partners high.

Whilst hosting, it was our priority to take care of our partners as well as they did for us. This included providing meals and in our free time, after school and on the weekend, taking our partners sightseeing or places that they wanted to go. In my case, we spent our weekend in central London enjoying the day meeting other French partners and exploring the city. This was followed by a relaxing day in Brixton and Camden, where they had the opportunity to see a different side of London and embrace the multicultural component which makes the city so great.

These experiences further helped to strengthen the bonds between exchange partners and created an atmosphere of pleasantry where we felt comfortable to converse in both French and English. I would advise everyone who has the chance, to take part in an exchange. If not for the linguistic benefits, for the chance to experience a new culture by immersion. If only for a week.

We very much enjoyed our trip to France and the interaction with our French partners when they came to England, as a result, we would highly recommend the trip to anyone looking to improve their French, irrespective of their level. Finally, we would like to thank those who organised the trip and who made it so enjoyable, most specifically, Mrs Meyer, Mr Stewart and Miss Ashman, as well as the French teachers for ensuring we enjoyed our trip.

Jake Rodrigues & Kenya Lawrence



Year 9 Trip to the Japan Embassy

On the 10th May, our Year 9 Japanese class went on a trip to... Japan, you ask? No! We actually went to London! How on earth does London have anything to do with Japan?

We first attended two lessons, then met up in the canteen, went to Welling station, and took the train to Charing Cross. From there, we then walked to our first destination, the Japan Centre!



When we arrived, everyone was astounded by the amount of amazing Japanese food! We all spent a long time choosing what to buy as it was all so good, but eventually, we all managed to choose something. There was cold food, hot food, and lots of snacks. Being honest, a lot of us spent more money than what our teacher thought we would have, that's how good the food was! We then took our food to Leicester Square, only a 5 minute walk away from the Japan Centre. There, we had lunch. Once we had finished eating, we went to our next destination, the Japanese Embassy!

We went inside and had a security check. We all put our phones into a bag, as any photography was banned. We then went into a large room where we were shown a presentation about Japan. It highlighted big differences between the UK and Japan, many of which were about Japan's technological advancements. We were amazed at all the wonderful things Japan had.

After watching the presentation, we went into another room, to a table covered in newspaper, regular paper, brushes and ink. Yes, we were going to do calligraphy! First, we were taught how to do all the main types of stroke. All of us had done calligraphy before, so we found this quite easy! We were then taught how to write a kanji - Kanji are one of the Japanese scripts, which all have a special meaning. We were taught the kanji for life, made up of the basic strokes we had just learned. We practiced writing it a few times, and then at the end, had a group photo with our best one.

After the calligraphy class, we went back into the large room where we had a presentation. We were introduced to our final activity - dancing! We were taught about a type of Japanese dancing called Yosakoi. It involved an instrument called Naruko. It's a bit like castanets, but with a handle. We were given some large Japanese jackets to dance in and then taught a famous dance routine that all the Yosakoi dancers know. It wasn't too difficult, and everyone did really well! We split into two groups and watched the other perform. Then, we took a group photo of us in our jackets with the Naruko. Unfortunately, that was our last activity of the day, and then we had to go back home! We each were given a bag with Japanese information booklets and magazines, along with a few other things. We exited the embassy and took the train from Charing Cross back to Welling.

London is a great place to experience Japanese culture! It was really fun and a truly amazing experience. Maybe next time we should really go to Japan! Imagine that!

Sarah Sanz, Year 9



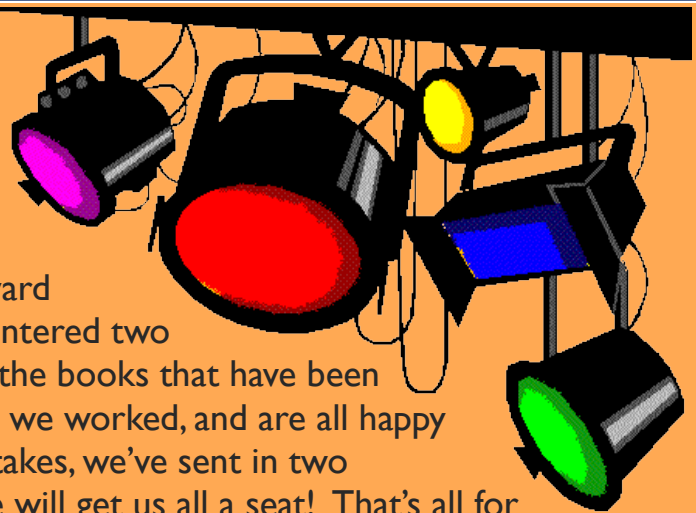
Library News

Reading Group - Carnegie Award

Lights! Camera! Action!

This week we have finished our videos for the chance to be present at the London award ceremony, with the winning author. We've entered two videos, discussing our group's meetings and the books that have been nominated. We munched on some crisps as we worked, and are all happy with the final results. Despite all of the outtakes, we've sent in two humorous, informative videos that we hope will get us all a seat! That's all for now, we'll make sure to keep you posted!

Brook Lord & Olivia Harry, Year 9



Reading Group - Guardians of the Graphic Galaxy

Our reading group has been meeting each week and have nearly finished reading all of the graphic novels in the Excelsior Award. Over the weeks they have designed their own comic book characters, created their own alternative cover art, and had lots of discussions about the books they have been reading. This week The Guardians of the Graphic Galaxy are turning Coadie and the Creepies into a film trailer.

Mrs Carey



PE News

A storming start for the Year 7, 8 and 10 Girls' Rounders season. All teams had convincing wins over Townley. Year 7s won 15 - 7, Year 8s 14 1/2 - 8 1/2 and the Year 10s 8 - 4 1/2. Well done girls, starting as we mean to go on.

Mrs Howard & Mrs Kemp



KS3 Musical Showcase

Please come along to support our KS3 students performing next week in their musical showcase, featuring our junior music ensembles and soloists/groups from Years 7 - 9.

The performance starts at 6pm and tickets can be bought on the door for £3/£2.

Mrs Eacott, Music Department

May Half Term Cricket Camps
Bexley Grammar School, Danson Lane, Welling, DA16 2BL



www.bexleydistrictcricket.co.uk
@BexleyDC @BexleyBashers

ECB Qualified Coaches — No Experience Needed — Hardball & Softball Cricket

Day & Date	All Stars (School Years R, 1, 2) Softball Skills & Matches £10 per day	Mini Super 8s (School Years 3 & 4) Softball Skills & Matches £25 per day	U10-U11 (School Years 5 & 6) Softball Skills & Matches £25 per day	U12-U14 (School Years 7, 8 & 9) Hardball Cricket £25 per day
Wednesday 30th May	1000—1200	1000—1600	1000—1600	1000—1600
Thursday 31st May	1000—1200	1000—1600	1000—1600	1000—1600

Book two or more days in advance to receive a 20% off!

To reserve a place email bookings@bexleydistrictcricket.co.uk, quoting the date(s) and age group, we will email you a confirmation.

Summer Fayre Requests In preparation for Saturday 9th June

Please could you send the following items into Reception to support the Summer Fayre

- Bottles - any unopened bottles for our tombola
- Unwanted and unused gifts (any!)
- Matched funding - please let us know if you are able to support us with matched funding.

Many thanks,
Bexley Grammar Parents' Association

7JED is looking for any unwanted plates, bowls and mugs for crockery smash at the summer fayre. Please bring any donations to Reception.

Thank you!
Mr Dufton



News Items You May Have Missed



Ladies Fashion Show **AND** Pop-up Shop!

**SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS
AT 50% OFF OR MORE!**

Colours.

**[FUN] DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS**



Parents'
Association

Thursday 24th May 2018
Bexley Grammar School

Bexley Grammar School, Danson Lane, Welling DA16 2BL

Doors open 7pm, show starts 7.30pm

Tickets: £5 *includes a free drink. Students - £2.50 (under 18's)*

Tickets to be purchased in advance.

Charity raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!

For tickets and more information please contact:

Dawn Sims - 07584 373643 or Deann Peetoom - 07884 436992

or click on the link [here](#)



SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS AT 50% OFF OR MORE!



Next Coral Jumper
Colours price £15.00



Dorothy Perkins
Lace cold shoulder smock top
RRP £24.00
Colours price £18.00



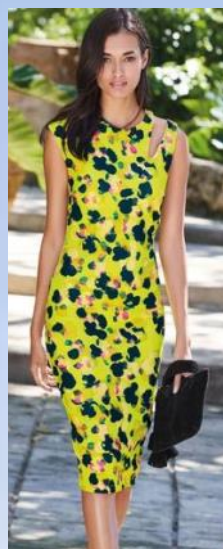
M&S
Duster Coat
RRP £55.00
Colours price £25.00



New Look
Pink skinny jeans
RRP £29.99
Colours price £15.00



New Look
Bardot jumper
RRP £29.99
Colours price £16.00



Next
Citrine dress
RRP £38.00
Colours price £18.00



Mango
Boyfriend jeans
RRP £29.99
Colours price £18.00



Pimke jumper
(big French brand)
Colours price £15.00





Parents'
Association

BGS Parents' Association (BGSPA) has yet again been able to secure reduced price ride wristbands for Adventure Island, Southend. Adventure Island is a great day out for all the family, with a wide choice of rides for all ages. Check it out at: www.adventureisland.co.uk

Although entry is free, purchase of a wristband is required for unlimited use of all suitable rides. Once purchased, a wristband can be used on any one day in 2018 that Adventure Island is open. At peak times (weekends and school holidays), for anyone who is over 1.2 metres tall, a wristband would cost £22.50 if purchased online (£30 if purchased at the ticket office on the day). The PA can provide these for **only £18.00**. For those who are 1.2 metres tall, or less, we have wristbands for **only £12**, instead of the usual £18.75 online price (£25 if purchased at the ticket office on the day).

Wristbands are available as follows:

Big Adventure Band for anyone over 1.2 metres tall. This permits unlimited access to **all** rides.

Junior Band for anyone 1 to 1.2 metres tall. This permits unlimited use of more than 20 rides with a lower height restriction.

If you would like to purchase reduced price wristbands (**these are valid for 2018**) please click on the link [here](#) complete the form and follow the instructions.





**Do you own or work for
a local business?
Looking for an
Opportunity to Advertise?**



On the **9th June** the school will be holding its annual Summer Fayre and in past years this has been extremely well attended. To complement this, we produce a printed programme for visitors that sets out the events taking place during the day. The programme will also have space for advertising and with the expected numbers of people attending this offers a great opportunity for local businesses to promote themselves in the community at a fraction of the cost of a local newspaper advertisement.

This year we are offering a full page (A5) advert for only **£30** or half page for **£20**. If you would like to advertise in our Summer Fayre programme and require further information please contact:

Michelle via email at bgspa.summerfayre@gmail.com by 21st May*.

All funds raised will be helping towards BGSPA's target this year of **£10,000** to benefit various projects across the school. *Payment must be received no later than 1st June to ensure inclusion on the programme.

Forthcoming Events

May

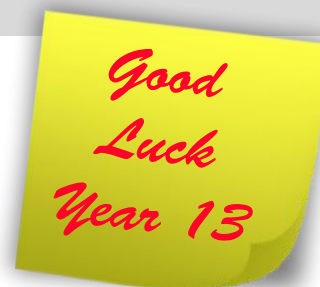
Friday 18th ~ Last day Year 13 A Level
~ Final assembly for Year 13 cohort

Monday 21st ~ Year 9 Exams (in classrooms) begin until
Friday 25th May

Wednesday 23rd ~ KS3 Musical Showcase (see notice)

Thursday 24th ~ PA Event, Ladies Fashion Show & Pop-up Shop, doors open 7pm (see notice)

Friday 25th ~ Last full school day before half term



June

Monday 4th ~ First school day following half term

Saturday 9th ~ BGS Summer Fayre & Sports Day ~ information to follow shortly
(normal school day for students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12)

Monday 11th ~ School closed to students ~ day off in lieu following Summer Fayre & Sports Day

Tuesday 12th ~ Every Child Matters (ECM) day

Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th ~ Year 7 & 8 Exams

Tuesday 26th ~ Sixth Form Induction Day ~ by invitation only

Thursday 28th ~ Sixth Form Induction Day ~ by invitation only