

Bexley Grammar School



Sixth Form Induction Booklet

Intellect, empathy, courage

developing compassionate leaders

Welcome - From the Headteacher, Mr H Gilmore



Good morning,

Welcome to Bexley Grammar School's Sixth Form Induction Day. If you're someone who is carrying on from Year 11, welcome back! I hope that you're feeling excited about the next step of your school life and the many opportunities that will bring. If you're a new student, don't be nervous or doubtful about the future and if you're not currently at a grammar school please feel confident that, if you achieve the admissions criteria, you will succeed in our community. Many of our top students, Prefects and House Captains came from local schools and flourished at BGS.

At Bexley Grammar School, the Sixth Form is not just another two years of education. It's an opportunity to become a young leader; a role model for younger students and an important voice in the running of school life. Last year, our school was featured in a Sunday Times article about the happiest schools in the UK and showcased the leadership opportunities that our Sixth Formers embrace. From organising the vertical House system to Peer Mentoring, being Subject Monitors or representing the school as Senior Prefects, our students really do develop into compassionate young leaders. In addition to this accolade, the same prestigious newspaper listed us in the top 40 Secondary Schools in England based on our academic outcomes.

You'll be aware that this year marks an exciting new chapter for the school as we move back to an A Level curriculum. We continue to offer a wide array of interesting subjects, fully resourced and delivered by subject specialists. We proudly send over 90% of our students on to their first or second choice universities (many of which are Oxbridge or Russell Group), and those who choose not to take up prestigious work-based placements with companies such as British Airways or KPMG. I promise you that your experience here, guided by our highly skilled and experienced teachers and Sixth Form team, will provide you with life-changing moments and relationships.

Please enjoy your Induction Day today. Speak to our Sixth Form Ambassadors and hear for yourselves what life in the BGS Sixth Form is like. Ask them what opportunities they have been provided with and what they would recommend - as ever, our students are the best voices that the school has to offer. That said, today you'll also meet a highly experienced and knowledgeable staffing body who can advise you on the choices that you make for the next stage of your academic career.

I'm delighted that you'll be joining us on what is a new chapter, and perhaps also a new environment, in our Sixth Form.

Mr Gilmore

From the Head Prefect, Louis Luckman



Hello everyone, my name is Louis and it is my pleasure to be able to welcome you to Bexley Grammar! After recently having sat your exams, it can be nerve-wracking looking into your future at a new style of learning, a new set of subjects, a new set of peers, but see these changes as an amazing opportunity that you can harness with the help of BGS to reach your potential!

Bexley Grammar is a setting that not only provides an academically challenging *and* supportive journey in your education, but also extends far beyond that: providing students with so much opportunity for extra engagement, fulfillment, and success. Life at BGS is really whatever you make it to be.

The staff here are so supportive whether in your sixth form study, listening to your ideas and aspirations, or helping you if you are struggling. Throughout my time at BGS I have felt as though staff have my back when understanding the challenges that I face such as workload or the challenges my medical condition can bring. There are so many different avenues of support that you can access like you form tutors, the SEND staff, the safeguarding team, the sixth form team, and any member of staff you feel comfortable with.

As already touched upon: what undoubtedly makes BGS such a pleasure to be a part of is its community. This isn't just true of the staff, but is also found in the networks of peers. You can find people who share your interests in the vast array of extra- and super-curricular clubs and societies. Whatever your interests, you can find a club for you: like the musicals and plays, or the Environmental Action Group, or the Senior Science Society. And if you think there is something missing, you may be able to start a student-led society yourself: like how I cofounded Model United Nations this year with my friend Mia; or like the hugely successful culture clubs like ACS and SEAS.

The community is really close-knit, even outside of the sixth form, because you have opportunities to work as a leader for younger years in clubs, house events (maybe even as a house captain), as a peer mentor, an SEND ambassador, or part of student feedback groups like school council, academic council, and even the senior prefect team.

I can confidently express to you that BGS has made me the person I am today, and I know that it will be just as impactful on you! At BGS, I have been encouraged, guided, challenged, and truly valued as an individual. I hope to see you here next year, and feel free to come and have a chat and ask questions when you see me!

BGS Sixth Form

Bexley Grammar School has a high achieving, over-subscribed Sixth Form with highly committed, well qualified staff, excellent resources, a wealth of extra-curricular activities, all of which go toward creating a dynamic learning environment and providing an enriching educational experience for our students.

Our aims and expectations for Sixth Formers:

- to promote academic excellence
- to develop the personal and academic abilities of all our students
- to ensure that every student successfully participates in all aspects of the school life (sporting, music, drama, art, languages and the environment)
- to develop the leadership potential of all students through the setting of high standards of behaviour, appearance, achievement and endeavour
- to take an active role in leadership of the school
- to take responsibility for own learning to promote the school ethos to younger students

Our Admissions Criteria and Policy is available on our website - www.bexleygs.co.uk. Please see here for a wealth of information about the Sixth Form, including what content is offered within each subject area.

A Level Pathways

The majority of students will study three A Level subjects alongside completion of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Some students will study three A Level subjects; however, instead of the EPQ, students will undertake either an AS Level in English Literature, French, German or Spanish, or a Level 3 qualification in Mathematics.

A small minority of students will be permitted to study four A Level subjects. Entry to this pathway is subject to agreement with the Sixth Form team following GCSE Results Day. Students wishing to study Further Mathematics will be required to follow this pathway, as Further Mathematics is offered only as a fourth A Level and is available exclusively to students who achieve a grade 8 or above at GCSE Mathematics.

In addition to their academic pathway, all students are required to select an Enrichment Elective to support their wider Sixth Form education. Information regarding the available Enrichment Electives, which may include options such as Young Enterprise, Sport, Medicine, Law and Music, will be provided in September.



The EPQ

The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is an independent research qualification, equivalent to half an A Level, and is worth up to 28 UCAS points (28 = A*, 24 = A etc).

Students choose a topic that genuinely interests them and then carry out in-depth research, manage their own time and deadlines, and produce a final outcome. The final outcome is either a 5,000 word research essay, or an artefact or practical project (such as a design, performance, or product) with a shorter written report. All students also complete a presentation explaining what they have learnt and how they managed the project.

The EPQ allows students to investigate a subject beyond the A Level syllabus, explore a future degree or career area and study something they are passionate about. For example, a prospective medic might research medical ethics, an engineer might design and test a prototype and a humanities student might explore a historical debate.



A Level Options at BGS

Art & Design	Film Studies	Philosophy
Biology	French	Physical Education
Business Studies	Further Maths	Physics
Chemistry	Geography	Politics
Chinese	German	Product Design
Classical Civilisation	History	Psychology
Computer Science	Italian	Russian
Drama & Theatre Studies	Japanese	Sociology
Economics	Latin	Spanish
English Language	Maths	
English Literature	Music	

Extra-Curricular Opportunities



There are a variety of opportunities available to the Sixth Form at Bexley Grammar School. All students are welcomed and encouraged to be part of the school community. Many departments run clubs where students can participate and perform; some departments ask Sixth Form students to take a leading role in helping younger students. If there isn't anything you fancy, we encourage Sixth Form students to take lead roles in creating new and exciting opportunities for students within BGS.

Here are a few of the exciting clubs and societies currently on offer:

Basketball / Football / Feminist Society / Stem Club / LGBT+ Alliance / Medicine Society / Afro-Caribbean Society / Chamber Choir / Big Band / Law Group / South East Asian Society / Balkan and Eastern European Society / EmpowHer

We also have various student led clubs/groups. If you are interested in creating one, talk to your Form Tutor in September.



Leadership Opportunities at BGS

At BGS, there are loads of opportunities for leadership, all of which will help you with your applications after Sixth Form. Here are just a few of the leadership opportunities we have on offer at BGS:

Subject Prefects / Student Ambassadors / House Captains / Peer Mentors / Senior Prefects

Subject Prefects: Most subjects will ask for applications at some point during Year 12, and the jobs are largely focused on helping younger students or organising events within the department.

House Captains: The House system is particularly important at BGS and this is yet another great opportunity to get to know students throughout the school. Their general responsibilities are to help with the running of the House events, and to advertise these events to members of their House to encourage participation. If you're particularly passionate about sport, music, drama, dance or even looking after younger students, this is a great one for you. Applications open in the Spring term of Year 12.

Peer Mentors: Peer Mentors are a pastoral backbone for many students. They learn how to listen to problems effectively and also how to deal with their peers disclosing details for which they may need professional help, and how to pass this information on. If caring for others is something you're particularly interested in, then being a Peer Mentor could be a perfect leadership opportunity for you! Applications open in the Spring term of Year 12.

Senior Prefects: They have weekly meetings with the Headteacher and are the student voice for Sixth Form in the school. They help at induction days and open evenings, as well as plan assemblies and speeches. The Senior Prefect Team is always incredibly diverse, so if this opportunity is something you're passionate about, go for it!

Daily Life

Day-to-day

The school day runs 8.30 am - 3.10 pm, during which you have 6 lessons of 50 minutes, a 20 minute morning break, a 50 minute lunch break, and 2 sessions with your form group. Each week you'll have an assembly with the year group. Every student will belong to a House and there will be a weekly session to run through House information.

Private Study Periods

BGS has plenty of Sixth Form only study areas that cater for all needs. During study periods students are expected to work in a designated room to complete any outstanding work or carry out extended research around your studies. Facilities available cover silent study, computer work and small group work areas.



Mobile Phone Policy

Here at BGS we are committed to providing the best possible atmosphere for learning. Students may bring their phones to school but they may only be used in designated Sixth Form areas. It is important that Sixth Form students set an example to lower school students by not using their phones anywhere else in the school, including corridors, in the canteen and outside.

The Dress Code

Sixth Form students are expected to dress appropriately for a working environment. All students are expected to wear a blazer/suit jacket at all times. Skirt and trouser suits are appropriate, however dresses are not to be worn. As role models to our younger students and ambassadors for BGS, we would like our students to look smart and professional.

Sixth Form Bursary

Students aged between 16-19 years facing financial hardship whilst in full-time education may be eligible to receive a payment from the 16-19 Bursary Fund to help with costs for travel, books etc. If you or your household are in receipt of benefits or receive Free School Meals, you could qualify for a Bursary payment. Please contact Mrs Weatherley, in the Sixth Form Attendance Officer for more information.

Life after Sixth Form



The majority of Sixth Form students go on to higher education and all students are supported throughout the process of choosing and applying to university courses. A dedicated UCAS Evening is held in Summer of Year 12 and we have specialised support for students looking at alternatives to university, such as Degree Apprenticeships. We have developed excellent links with companies such as Commerzbank, EY, KPMG, Amazon and many more over the years.

Those aiming at the most selective university courses, including Oxford, Cambridge and medical schools, are part of the Aspirations Group, who meet regularly for tailored support with their applications. Over the past five years we have been the most successful school in the local area for securing places on the most competitive courses, including Oxbridge & Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary courses. To find out what our past students are now doing, head to our Destinations page on our website.

What to do next.....

You will receive an email from us regarding your application, please follow the link on that letter to enrol.

- Enjoy your summer!
- Read a few books to keep your brain engaged
- Check course information on the website - www.bexleygs.co.uk
- Collect your results!
- **EXISTING BGS STUDENTS:** If your application to the Sixth Form has been successful a confirmation slip will be included in your results pack. You will receive a link via email from Mrs Aspill before results day, please submit the Google form to confirm your place in Sixth Form
- **NEW BGS STUDENTS:** On results day, we will be operating an online enrolment process, further details will follow via email later this term including how to confirm your place and upload your results
- For all students, there will be the opportunity to come in to school if you have any issues you need to discuss regarding your results/subject choices but students are encouraged to make any course amendments they already have planned before the end of the academic year by emailing Mrs Aspill (sixthform_admission@bexleygs.co.uk)
- Prepare to start your chosen courses with us on Wednesday 2nd September by sorting your Sixth Form wardrobe, reading some recommended texts, sorting your route to school and reading through your induction booklet! **Bring this booklet in**, as well as lined paper to begin your studies
- Look forward to joining a friendly and academic Sixth Form because we are excited to have you joining us!

*We would like to take this opportunity to wish you
the best of luck with your GCSE results!*



We look forward to seeing you in September!