

Bexley Grammar School



Sixth Form Induction Booklet

Intellect, empathy, courage

developing compassionate leaders

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“From the students, through my subject teachers and the senior leadership, to even reception staff, everyone has a smile on

“Each of my lessons has been enjoyable and already, I believe that this had made a big difference to my

“From the first day, I felt welcomed and involved, speaking to people as if I had been a student here for

“There is a place for everyone's interests and a place for any individual at Bexley Grammar School.”

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, I hope that you're feeling excited about the next step of your school life, and if you're new today I'm very pleased to welcome you. I hope that you've already got a taste for the special relationships within our school community that make BGS such a warm, vibrant and successful place to be.

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. Our most recent 'Outstanding' OFSTED report commented on both the opportunities that the Sixth Form gave our students but more importantly how wonderfully our young people embraced those opportunities and demonstrated true leadership through organising the vertical House system, Peer Mentoring, being Subject Representatives or representing the school as Senior Prefects. I'm very proud of the role that our students play in leading the school.

One of the keys to providing our Sixth Formers with the confidence to lead their peers is that they are studying the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The IBDP provides an excellent stepping stone from GCSEs to university or the workplace, and we have an enviable record of enabling our students to go on to access the very best opportunities in both degree courses and apprenticeships. Our expert teachers will guide you through your diploma programme, as you learn not only subject specific knowledge but also transferable skills such as time management, public speaking, self-discipline, literacy, numeracy, modern language skills and the value of striving to realise the best of your very considerable ability. 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 that the school has to offer. That said, today you'll also meet a highly experienced and knowledgeable staff body who can advise you on the choices you make for the next stage of your academic career.

I'm delighted that you'll be taking that step here at Bexley Grammar School.

Mr Gilmore

From the Head Prefect, Joseph Petros



Hello everyone and welcome to the Bexley Grammar School Sixth form. Well done on completing your GCSEs and I hope they went as well as you wanted them to! Try to get some well deserved rest and relaxation during the summer holidays before starting this new chapter of your lives.

The transition from GCSEs to the IB is an amazing opportunity to start fresh and grow as a person in every aspect of your lives. The IB course is tailor made to your interests and over the course of these two years your passions will be able to flourish. With the help of our incredible teachers and school community, you all will have the opportunity to immerse yourselves with the subjects you love and excel academically which will make working hard all the more rewarding.

Bexley Grammar School is shaped by all of us and in these next two years you will have the opportunity to find out so much more about yourself, make lifelong memories and leave your mark on BGS. Our school offers so many extra curricular opportunities, for me the musicals are always a highlight but whatever your interests are, you can find something that speaks to you. I often refer to BGS as a book, where every student has a blank page in which they can shape the school to become their own through becoming a Senior Prefect, House Captain or Peer Mentor. Everyone has an opportunity to write their own story and become part of BGS history. These opportunities are incredible for allowing you to make lifelong memories, all the while making you a well rounded leader ready to take on the outside world.

Many years ago I came here for an open day and our previous head teacher, Mr Elphick, ended his speech with a poem that went a little like this: “‘Come to the edge,’ he said. And so they came. He pushed them. And they flew.”

These next two years will be an unforgettable experience, filled with ups and downs but with just a little push you will come out on top of the world.

You've got this,
Joseph Petros

Induction Days

Your Induction Day will help you to get to know Sixth Form life at Bexley Grammar School and to give you a taster of what's on offer both academically and socially.

If after Induction Day you want to make changes to your subject choices you can contact sixthform_admission@bexleygs.co.uk with your changes.

As well as this, there is a plethora of fantastic resources on the school website including Pre-Course Material.

Pre-course Material

Activities and reading suggestions for each subject can be found on the school website. Please click on Sixth Form, Virtual Induction 2024, IB Subjects menu, choose the group, and follow the links to the pre-course material detailed per subject.

This material is not compulsory, but will help to bridge the gap between GCSE and IB, and will support you with your subject choices.

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

The International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate is a unified programme leading to a Diploma. Students follow a programme of six subjects with three studied at Higher and three at Standard Level. They follow a Theory of Knowledge course, undertake experiences & projects for Creativity, Activity, Service and complete an Extended Essay. At the core of the IB programme is an endeavour to nurture independent, creative learners with a lively curiosity about the world in which they live.

The status of an IB Diploma is recognised internationally and is perceived by universities as a very strong and stable currency.

Students following the IB also have a **tutorial programme** covering Life Skills, current affairs and topical discussion and Careers (including application to higher education).

IB Core Subjects

Extended Essay

The extended essay is a compulsory component of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper. Students are supported throughout the process of researching and writing the extended essay, with advice and guidance from a supervisor: a teacher at the school.

Theory of Knowledge

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is a compulsory and assessed component for all students. It provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge, and on how we know what we claim to know. TOK aims to make students aware of the interpretative nature of knowledge, including personal ideological biases – whether these biases are retained, revised or rejected.

Creativity, Activity and Service

CAS stands for Creativity, Activity, and Service. Think of CAS as the “active” component of your education, outside of the classroom, which will combine aesthetic, athletic, creative and service-minded activities. CAS is a compulsory component of the diploma for all students and time is given in school for you to plan, review and reflect on your projects.

IB Options at BGS



Group	Subject	Options
1	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Literature Literature & Performance*
2	Languages' ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese* French German Italian Japanese Latin Spanish
3	Individuals and Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Management Economics** Geography Global Politics History Philosophy Psychology Social & Cultural Anthropology
4	Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Chemistry ** Computer Science** Design Technology Environmental Systems & Societies*³ Physics** Sports, Exercise & Health Science
5	Mathematics' ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches ** Mathematics: Applications & Interpretations*
6	Arts and Electives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film** Music Theatre Visual Arts or another choice from groups 2, 3 or 4 above.

* Indicates a subject that is only available at Standard Level.

** Indicates a subject that is only available at Higher Level.

¹ The majority of students continue studying one of their languages to Standard or Higher level. However students looking for a fresh start in a new language or those who did not achieve a grade 5 or above might wish to study at beginners ('Ab Initio') level. The points earned are exactly the same as those for Standard or Higher subjects.

² Students doing HL Mathematics will undertake the Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches course. Students who study SL Mathematics will undertake the Mathematics: Analysis & Interpretations course, which is more straightforward and accessible to all students than the Analysis & Approaches course.

³ Environmental Systems & Societies can count as a group 3 or group 4 subject allowing students to take 2 subjects from group 6, Music and Theatre for example.

Students have to complete all areas, including TOK, CAS and EE to successfully be awarded the IB Diploma.



Admissions to BGS Sixth Form

Our admission requirements are set to enable all students to progress naturally into the Sixth Form while ensuring that students are able to access post-16 courses successfully. Minimum entry qualifications are at least grade 5 in English, English Literature and Mathematics together with minimum GCSE point score of 48 in their best 8 full GCSEs which must include English and Mathematics. In addition there are minimum grade requirements in the subjects applied for (or in subjects relevant to those applied for) at Higher Level. Please see the Admissions Policy on our website for full details.

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. All Sixth Form areas are listed on the following page.

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 must be out of sight between 8.30 am and 3.10 pm except for Private Study, break and lunchtime 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/suiting 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 Provision

Independent study is a crucial part of the IB course and here at BGS there are plenty of spaces that you can use during your private study periods, before school, at break and lunch, and after school. There are Sixth Form exclusive rooms with access to computers (K1 and L12), Sixth Form exclusive spaces for spending break and lunch (Sixth Form Centre), a Sixth Form exclusive room (L6) and the Library, which has computer access and of course a huge array of books to support your IB courses.



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 are always happy to try to accommodate, or, we encourage Sixth Form students to take lead roles in creating new and exciting opportunities for students within BGS. All of the below (and any new clubs) are a great way to earn add to your CAS portfolio.

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

Basketball / Football / Feminist Society / Redefy / Stem Club / LGBT+ Alliance / Medicine Society / Afro-Caribbean Society / Chamber Choir / Big Band / Law Group

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. Taking on one of these opportunities is a good idea but remember that you have lots of Sixth Form commitments!

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: The responsibilities of a Subject Prefect differ between subjects. 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. They will supervise House events during and after school, particularly sport, and are expected to run rehearsals for House Music, House Drama and House Dance. 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. Each new Year 7 form is assigned a pair of Peer Mentors who work closely with their form, and offer one-to-one mentoring when necessary. 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: There are normally only eight Senior Prefects, which are the result of a long competitive application system, but don't let it put you off. 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!

Take the opportunities available to you!



Ambitions after Sixth Form

While it might seem a long time away there is more to life after Sixth Form and at BGS we will equip you with everything you will need to succeed in whatever you choose to do.

The majority of Sixth Form students go on to higher education (approximately 90% on average over the past three years) and all students are supported throughout the process of choosing and applying to university courses by Tutors, Sixth Form staff and the school's Careers and Higher Education Adviser.

For those students who are looking at alternative options to university, trips are arranged to Apprenticeship and Insight events. Information sessions are also available for parents of Year 11 and 12 students, so they can be made aware of the other routes their child may take.

Those aiming at the most selective university courses, including Oxford, Cambridge and medical schools, are supported through weekly meetings and discussion groups, guest lectures by academics, admissions test and interview preparation, and dedicated all-day sessions each term. The school also hosts the Borough's annual Top Universities conference.

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. We have also supported students in achieving some of the most competitive apprenticeships in London.

To find out what our past students are now doing head to our Destinations page on our website.

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 S Jeffery, Sixth Form Attendance Officer for more information.

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 (from the recommended reading list) to keep your brain engaged
- Access the pre-course material and guidance on the www.bexleygs.co.uk website. Click on Sixth Form and Virtual Induction 2024
- Collect your results!
- **CURRENT 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 Tuesday 3rd 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!