



# BGN Newsletter

Summer 2022

## A word from the Headteacher

It has been a very busy end to the final term of the 60<sup>th</sup> year of BGN and to celebrate this occasion we hosted an open afternoon for friends, past students and staff. It was very interesting and nostalgic going through the school's archives in preparation for this event. There have been lots of fun activities going on in school including our first production since 2018, entitled 'Anything Goes', which was excellent. Many of our students had never experienced the fun of a BGN Sports Day before and they have embraced the spirit of House competition with their usual enthusiasm. Our beautiful choir have been rehearsing for a Memorial Concert in memory of Miss Rachel Smith and they have made a recording of our favourite BGN hymns. We will send out details of how to purchase a copy of this in the near future. Thank you to everyone who has gone the extra mile to support these events for our students.

This term we say goodbye to the following admin staff: Donna Ayers, Trudy Boyle, Harriet Raitt and Janet Thornton [although she is continuing with us as an Invigilator]. We also say goodbye to the following teaching staff: Helen Furniss, Edwin Garavito, Daniel Hornby, Elaine Hunt, Rachel Nutt, Katherine Raw and Jasmine Sheehan. We wish them well for the future.

I would also like to welcome Jacqueline Nielan who started with us this term as our new Admissions Officer.

I hope all our staff, families and friends of BGN have a restful and enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Niamh Dolan  
Headteacher



### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Please may we ask you to make sure the office has the most up-to-date contact details for you in case of emergency.**

**Thank you**

## Important diary dates

### Tuesday 19 July

School closes at 3 pm for the summer break

### Thursday 18 August

A Level results day

### Thursday 25 August

GCSE results day

### Tuesday 6 September

School opens at 8.40 am to ALL students [Week A]

### Thursday 15 September

Year 7 and Year 11  
Photographs

### Tuesday 20 September

Year 10 Expectations Launch

### Thursday 22 September

Year 7 Welcome Mass

### Wednesday 28 September

Open Evening

### Thursday 29 September

INSET day—school closed to all pupils

### Thursday 20 October

Year 7 Parents' Evening

## Miss Rachel Smith

It has been an incredibly difficult time in school as we are all adjusting to life without Miss Smith. A huge hole has been left in so many people's lives and we have had to use our strength in trying to follow her example of leadership and courage at this most challenging time.

After recovering from the shock of hearing of the news of her passing, we knew that the BGN community would do all it could to honour the life and devotion of Miss Smith. It started with supporting her funeral which was held at St Mary and St Modwen's Parish in her home town of Burton-upon-Trent, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, a former School Chaplain of BGN and close friend of Miss Smith. There were at least 10 other members of the clergy concelebrating the Mass, highlighting the reach and influence that Miss Smith had on so many people. A coach full of staff and students made the journey and filled the service with the beauty of their sound, all with great composure at such a sad occasion.



On 29 June, the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, our whole school Mass was dedicated to Miss Smith. In his sermon, Father John made comparisons between the lives led by Miss Smith and those two great saints putting our BGN Gospel Values of compassion and service into action. Some of Miss Smith's relations were in attendance and were really touched by the service which included presenting gifts at the offertory which represented her life. We were also able to give them two medals presented by the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage to her.

Miss Smith's outreach was so vast that the people of the wider community also wanted to honour her with a Mass dedicated to her on Saturday 2 July at St John's Parish Church. Mr Wilson led the choir in producing an incomparable sound with people coming from all over the country and watching the live stream from across the globe to join in this most prayerful occasion.

On Monday 11 July, the choir was once again active in recording a downloadable set of contemporary worship songs which they had been rehearsing all year. Miss Smith had been integral in the planning of this venture and the students were delighted to be chomping on a Pizza which had been delivered in to school at the end of the recording – all Miss Smith's idea.

The final event of the year will be on Tuesday 19 July when students past and present will all gather to put on a memorial concert for Miss Smith. There will be guests from many different eras who all had the privilege of sharing in Miss Smith's life. A memorial fund has been set up in her name and it is hoped that donations on the night will be a great catalyst for the fund as we try to carry on the great work Miss Smith has started in our school, particularly by reaching out to those in need.

*[Mrs Mawn—Assistant Headteacher]*

## Miss Rachel Smith [*continued*]

We would also like to share with you some words that Mrs Mary White, former Head of RE at BGN, who knew Miss Smith very well, has written about her.

Miss Smith first came to BGN as a Trainee Teacher in 1995, having studied Theology at St Anne's College, Oxford. From the outset, we knew that she was special. Although she was not much older than the Sixth Form pupils that she was teaching, her command of the subject and her natural authority ensured respect and order in her classroom. Moreover, she was always well prepared and built enjoyment into learning. So impressed were we that the then Headteacher, Mr Dawson, asked her to return when College finished to do some supply teaching and to join as a full member of staff in the RE Department the following September. She used to joke that the only interview she had was walking across the school playground from the carpark. Those were different days.

Miss Smith soon made her mark and, in a short time, was asked to be Head of Year 7, and then Head of Sixth Form. She set about organising speakers from industry and from universities to come and talk to pupils so that they would know what was expected of them, and what to aim for. She ran study skills sessions and brought in well-being coaches, focusing on the complete person. In many ways, she was ahead of her time.

Miss Smith's interest in her pupils did not end when they left BGN. She followed their progress with interest, helping when she could, and providing sound advice when asked. As Head of Department and Assistant Headteacher in charge of Catholic Life at BGN, Miss Smith believed in teamwork and always worked to develop colleagues according to their strengths, be that academic or pastoral.

As many of you will know, Miss Smith took an active part in school activities outside the classroom. She went with students on theatre trips, ski trips, Lourdes and choir trips. She supported Amnesty International and loved sport. While at school she took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. She was never just a bystander. She continued to play netball for her home town of Burton, even though this involved a round trip of some 140 miles. She would do this even if she was only on the reserve team. Miss Smith was always totally committed to everything she did.

Her academic abilities were recognised outside the Archdiocese of Birmingham and she was asked to join a national group called Teachers' Enterprise where she worked on producing RE textbooks for Key Stage 3. She was particularly good at clarifying language and suggesting activities that would reinforce learning; this nationally important work was something she very much enjoyed.

Miss Smith loved music and played the flute in her local parish Church at Sunday evening Mass. She worked closely with Mr Wilson, at first on the music for Mass and religious services and later, with the choir more generally. Her work behind the scenes, helping to organise rehearsal schedules, photocopying all the music and photocopying it again for those of us who lost it, organising folders, choir tops and choir trips was invaluable. This has made the experience of BGN choir very special for so many staff and students over many years. Her talents also extended to helping with musical productions, acting as a Stage Manager and, of course, staging '*Born for This*', and taking it to local parishes in collaboration with Mr Wilson and other staff.

The word liturgy means '*the work of the people*' and the school Masses and Services of Reconciliation organised by Miss Smith were always joyful and prayerful. Her morning prayer with staff each day has been a source of comfort and inspiration to many, and was always thoughtfully chosen. She put her faith into action, helping those in need when she could, especially through CAFOD, and has been a great support to so many colleagues over the years.

Miss Smith's life may have been short in years, but she lived every day of it to the full and will be remembered with gratitude and love by her many friends, colleagues, pupils and past pupils of BGN School.

Lord, may she now enjoy the fullness of life in your presence.

## Year 12 students attend UCAS Exhibition in Derby



A cheerful bunch of Year 12s returned from a UCAS Discovery Exhibition at Derby Arena on the 29 March, armed with bags full of university prospectuses which they will no doubt enjoy perusing! They can choose from over 55,000 university courses at 120 UK universities, and can start their online UCAS applications for September 2023 as soon as 17 May.

Our Sixth Formers also continue their research for higher and degree apprenticeship opportunities at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. Imagine being paid well while you study for a degree!

[Margaret Ellul —Careers Guidance Sixth Form]

*"We attended the UCAS exhibition which gave us an insight into the university options. We were able to talk to people from different universities who helped us to gain more information about the range of courses the university offers which encouraged us to investigate the universities which met our specific needs and interested us. The exhibition offered live talks by volunteers, and we were able to hear their experiences first-hand. Overall, the day was informative, fun and encouraging for the next step in our future, whether that is going to university or doing an apprenticeship."*

[Polly Holloway and Alina Shaji]

*"The UCAS trip was a fun and exciting way to get a good look at different universities and apprenticeship courses. It has helped me narrow down what university courses I would like to do, while also enlightening me on the financial implications and everyday life of university. In addition, the day was made so much better by the fact it was inside a velodrome, which was really exciting. I would really recommend it."*

[William Mander]



## My amazing brain!



On Tuesday 26 April we had the opportunity to attend the 'My Amazing Brain' exhibition as part of our neuroscience work experience that commences in July. This exhibition was a collaboration between Banbury Museum and WIN.

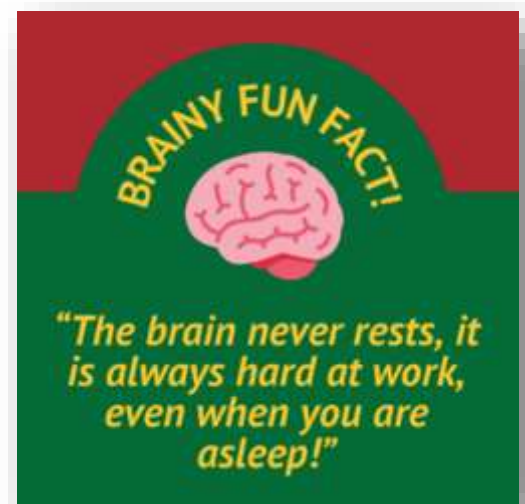
Our day started with mini lectures from four speakers who each have a career in neuroscience. We particularly enjoyed these sessions because it allowed us to see the implications of one course in so many different career options. These lectures also gave insight into how collaborative and inclusive research can be, which was extremely interesting as we were previously unaware. We explored a plethora of areas from the physics of how MRI machines work to how a clinical trial may be conducted to test efficacy of a new antidepressant which, to us as biology students, was useful.

In the afternoon, we attended the exhibition which we found to be interactive, fun and informative. The concept was to ensure that people of all ages could participate and understand a bit more about the brain which certainly was the case.

During this time, we spoke to current students who shared with us their own research and we were able to ask questions to which they provided very thought provoking answers.

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves during the exhibition and we would say it was successful in developing our understanding.

[Neha Noby and Diya Biju—Year 12]



Singing, dancing and acting classes for 4-18 year olds



**READY**  
WHEN YOU ARE...

**HOLLYWOOD**

**ASK ABOUT OUR TWO WEEK TRIAL**

**Stagecoach Banbury**  
Singing, dancing and acting classes for 4 - 18 year-olds

**W** [www.stagecoach.co.uk/banbury](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk/banbury)

**07788 722406**

**Blessed George Napier School, OX16 9DQ**  
**Longford Park Community Centre, OX15 4GJ**

**STAGE COACH**  
*Creative Courage For Life!*

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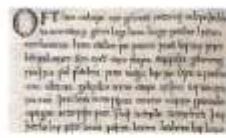
## English Department News...

Last term, Year 9 studied a brand new module about the English Language. Pupils looked at some of the complications with spelling and why they do not seem to match up with pronunciation. We also examined some of the history of our language and how we have borrowed many words from all over the world. Finally, we considered some of the influences on language and how it might change in the future.

Many pupils began to question whether the English language is actually English! We wondered where the next new words to be added to the English Language would come from.

Below is a snapshot of some of the writing from our Year 9s

[Mrs Sharpley —English Department]



### *The English language*

You may think all the words we say are just English but they're not. Many of our words come from different places such as: Romans, Anglo Saxons and Vikings. The reason for our words not being all of ours are because of the Celtic tribes moving too Wales, Scotland and Cornwall. When the romans invaded, they brought Latin with them. Then finally the Vikings and Anglo Saxons invaded bringing many popular words we use today with them. We use about 4,500 Anglo Saxon words today

#### *Anglo Saxon words:*

Talk, ear, hit, bring, bear, carry  
amaze,

#### *Viking words:*

Scare, anger, rotten, skirt

Grace Clarke [Form 9 Edith Stein]

#### So, you think you speak English?

Amazingly, English is not English! it's actually a collection of other countries' words. A lot of English words we use today such as, the 'talk' and 'bear' all come from the Anglo-Saxons. The English language has been influenced in many ways, starting with the Norman invasion in 1066. During that period of time, the English language changed tremendously. French was the new way of speaking, and anyone who didn't speak French was considered a peasant. Can you imagine speaking French? Did you know the words we use today such as 'regade', 'mascara', 'bikini' and 'pizza' all originated from Italy?

Maizie Lawrence [Form 9 Devereux]



### So, you think you speak English?

Well, historically speaking you are not.

English is one of the world's most internationally spoken languages and in the current era it is almost compulsory. But have you ever thought, is the English we know today truly English?

English belongs to the Indo-European Language, well strictly speaking the West Germanic Branch family derived from it. That makes English distant relatives to both German and Dutch! Right now you must be thinking that this information is total gibberish. However according to sources dating back to 1066 and the invasion of William the Conqueror this is highly plausible.

During the period of the Reign of the Norman Monarch French was thought of as the language of rulers and the well-known English of today was the peasant language used by the working and lower class. Nevertheless as time passed English began exerting its influence over England once again and began merging with French, resulting in a mix of English and French words which are even used to this day. LG words like - cuisine and chic.

Yet even that English wasn't originally English..

If we look back before the battle of Hastings, the Vikings and the Anglo Saxons we have the Roman Conquest that drove out the true inhabitants of Britain. The Celts in AD 43. So in reality English Really isn't English its and amalgamate of Old English, Danish, Norse, and French, and has been changed by Latin, Greek, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Dutch and Spanish, along with some words from other languages.

Steffi Reji [Form 9 Calcutta]



### So you think you speak English?

Rihanna Robinson

You must be wondering what you think this question means? Well the English Language is more unusual than you think... It actually came from the Indo-Europeans, a Germanic Branch, and if you spoke Old English at that time you were seen as a 'peasant'. We actually stole 10,000 words from the French, which is about 30%. Fun fact, before the 15<sup>th</sup> Century there were no English spelling rules, so you could spell anything however you wanted! Also some English words we still use are from the Anglo Saxons including; talk, ear, the, scare, anger and skirt.

The Celtic tribes had to move to Wales, Scotland and Cornwall because of the Romans invasion but after awhile they left and went back to Italy but no one knows why they just decided to leave. After awhile the Vikings took over England with the Anglo-Saxons but lived on a different part. They became neighbours but were never fond of each other. (This was about half way through the 5<sup>th</sup> Century).

After many years, in 1066, England got invaded by the Normans and King Harold was shot in the eye with an arrow and later died from it!! This was called the Battle of Hastings and went on to speaking French for 400 years. As French was seen as a 'Language for the rulers' the lower class wasn't seen worthy enough to speak it. After speaking French the English language was evolved to be known as 'Middle English'.





## English Department News... [continued] Summer reading challenge for students

How many of these can you complete? When you complete a challenge, record the date in the appropriate box.

Read a book non-stop for 60 minutes	Read a biography	Read a book that is set in a different century
Read a book based on a true story	Read a book based on a film	Read an online article
Read a book that has won an award	Read a book that has been published this year	Read a non-fiction book



*Happy Reading*

[Mrs Sharpley—Head of English]

## Building work progresses



### Building for the future

The work on the new teaching block and hall is progressing well and both are taking shape.

The roof is now on, and the cladding and windows have also been completed. The inside rooms are now coming to life, and we can see what an asset they will be to BGN when they are finished.

The internal refurbishment work has started in certain areas of the school, including the Drama studio, the Business Studies room, the old Sixth Form and one of the Science Labs.

At the start of the summer holidays work will also begin in the old staffroom, reception, main hall and the playground. It is anticipated that most of the internal refurbishment work will be completed before school begins in September but there may be some areas that will not be fully functioning and alternative spaces will be utilised.

[Mr Buzzard  
Operations Manager]



## Year 9 Glasbury residential

Hello everyone! This year we were fortunate to be able to book a week in the sunny month of May to give those pupils who had missed Glasbury last year due to Covid, a chance to go, this time in Year 9. What an action-packed week we had. Our BGN pupils rose to the daily challenges and did us proud!

Well done to the Year 9s who came and thank you for being the amazing individuals that you are!

Now, let's hear a little more about it from our pupils in the following account written by Willow Firth.

[Miss Fisher—Head of Year 9]



To any students planning on going to Glasbury, I'd highly recommend that you go for it! There were so many unforgettable experiences and fun activities, I'm sure my group will agree.

To begin you are put into groups and then you start team building and trust activities, such as lifting each other to ring a bell; these give you help with the larger activities, making sure you are comfortable and can trust your team. By the end of this exercise we all pretty much trusted each other with our lives!

During our stay, we took part in a whole range of fun and exciting activities such as caving, mountain walking, canoeing and high ropes. The instructors do an excellent job in making sure you are comfortable, happy and safe.

Personally, Glasbury was a fantastic experience because of the exciting (and scary!) activities, but also because you learn a lot of good skills and make bonds with people you never really spoke to previously. It pushed us out of our comfort zones but, at the same time, we were not made to do anything we didn't want to. The experience made me feel very proud of myself for what I had achieved and learnt.

Please find opposite and on the next page some thoughts from other pupils.

[Willow Firth—Form 9 Bakhita]

### A word from some of our students...

*Glasbury was really fun and it was a good experience. When I was there my favourite activity was the climbing wall. I won a prize for climbing this; it was a winter hat! I also enjoyed jumping into the cold water with Mrs Lewandowska. Also, when I was at Glasbury I made new friends from my year group. I have many memories to remember Glasbury by.*

[Chiara Sallaj  
Form 9 Calcutta]

*Overall, Glasbury gave me an excellent time. Some of the most fun I've ever had was there. I learnt many things, caring, teamwork, communication and it gave me the chance to get out of my comfort zone. Glasbury taught me to do things I don't usually do, enabling me to strengthen friendships with people I already knew and make new friends in the groups we were put in. All the activities helped me grow and become more confident in myself and my skills. I did many things I didn't expect to do such as going into tight spaces in caves or climbing a mountain to see the beautiful sights from there. Glasbury was a fun time for me in general.*

[Ethan De Luna  
Form 9 Devereux]



## Year 9 Glasbury residential [continued]



### A word from some of our students...

The biggest thing that Glasbury taught me was that sometimes the treasure is the journey. Hear me out. When I did the mountain walk it was a workout and the view at the top was nice, but the best part was walking up the mountain helping each other. When I went canoeing, we didn't even go anywhere, the fun was the experience of being in the canoe, showing no mercy to any who dared challenge us to a water fight. When I went carving and the instructor left us to go by ourselves, the fun was being able to carve out our own path. Simply put, having fun in the experience and not worrying about time or destinations or whatever. Now I want to live life as it comes.

[Jose Mari Delos Santos  
Form 9 Devereux]





## May Lourdes Pilgrimage

During the May half-term, eight Year 12 students ventured on the Archdiocese of Birmingham's Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, assisting with the sick and elderly pilgrims. Following a 24-hour bus journey we arrived in Lourdes exhausted. After



settling into our hotel, we attended the opening Mass with the whole Archdiocese, toured the Sanctuary and explored the town. On Monday, we embarked on our first shift escorting pilgrims to dinner in a beautiful restaurant in town and eating with them. This provided the perfect opportunity to chat and get to know them. In the evening, we attended the Marian Procession led by the Archdiocese of Birmingham through the Sanctuary. We took our pilgrims and prayed with them in what was a very memorable experience.

On Tuesday, we visited Gavarnie for the day, giving us a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the sun and have fun with our friends. The Pyrenees were impressive and we thoroughly enjoyed the visit. We began Wednesday by celebrating the International Mass in the underground Basilica with 2,000 people and BGN had

the honour of being chosen for the offertory. We took our pilgrims for a lunch out at 'Lac de Lourdes' giving them the opportunity to enjoy the weather, have a nice meal, chat with us and listen to some hymns we sang for them. An exciting part of the trip for us was the Youth 'Open Mic Night' run by the Kenelm Youth Trust. This entailed music, quizzes and even a performance of a mashup we had created!



Our final shift was on Thursday morning which involved cleaning the pilgrims' rooms, making their beds, serving breakfast and accompanying them around the town. This was followed by a final Mass to mark the end of our pilgrimage before holding our prayer service centred around the lighting of the school's candle and intentions. Friday morning was our last in Lourdes. We had a final wander around the town, followed by a celebratory brunch before heading back home on another 24-hour bus journey.

Lourdes was a rewarding, fun and spiritual experience which I will remember forever. I would strongly recommend this experience to future Year 12 students.

*[Emily Rowe—Form 12 Bakhita]*



## May Lourdes pilgrimage [continued]

Well! What a week! Exhausting, energising, crammed full of blessings; I could reach for a thesaurus to check all the entries for 'glorious,' 'humbled' and 'fully focussed' and still not manage to let you feel the energy and life force which surrounded us all while we were in Lourdes.

Four members of staff and eight students made up the BGN fortunate few. We were one of just four schools in the Birmingham Diocese who managed to take students this year, whereas normally there would be more than 20 schools represented. Because of the pandemic (how many more times will we hear that phrase?) the decision was reached only in late spring that the pilgrimage could go ahead. For most schools it was too late for fundraising to be effective meaning that hundreds of Sixth Formers had to be denied the life changing experience of taking part in this pilgrimage. We were so relieved when the decision was taken that BGN could take part since we knew, from the 29 times that we have taken our students to Lourdes before, that the blessings they give and receive during those few days will change their outlook on life and provide them with an experience they will never forget.



**If you are a parent or relative of one of our participants,** then quite simply, thank you.

- Thank you for letting them accompany our school on pilgrimage.
- Thank you for helping them to pay for their journey.
- Thank you for allowing us to take your daughter to do service for others.
- Thank you for trusting us with one of the most precious people in your life. ...  
... a student who was such a faithful ambassador for our school.

**If you are one of the students who came with us,** then the French word would be 'chapeau.' As members of staff, we 'take our hats off' to you.

- For your perseverance when it was really hot and the arrangements were changed for the umpteenth time.
- For your generosity of spirit and kindness when working with the pilgrims.
- For not complaining, ever, even when breakfast had to be re-timed for 6.15!
- For being so prayerful and reverent during our liturgy.
- For being such incredibly good company... and for simply being you.

You received so many plaudits from total strangers during our stay, commenting on your kindness, your reverence, your ability to listen and to be open to new ideas.

**And if you are a parent of one of our younger students,** please do start to talk to them about the importance of pilgrimage and the opportunity of looking after others that the Lourdes experience provides.

The International Mass probably provided a highlight for many of us since we were asked to present the gifts to the Bishop at the altar. The underground basilica in Lourdes is enormous, able to hold some 10,000 people. We were therefore slightly awestruck, as you may imagine, particularly since all our actions were projected on to large screens, positioned throughout the space. The priest who directed us instructed that we should offer each of the gifts in a very particular way, since we were not just offering a gift to a priest, rather we were offering of ourselves to the Lord.

This is exactly what our students did, all day, every day. And now to start planning for next year...

[Prim Herridge—Pilgrimage Assistant]



## Maths Puzzle Day—Monday 20 June 2022



Monday 20 June saw all the Year 7 students take part in the annual Year 7 Puzzle Day organised by the Maths Department and run with the help of 38 Year 9 Maths Leaders.



It was a very busy day of problem solving, building a newspaper model to hold a cream egg, making a tricky origami cube

and tackling a relay of Maths questions. Each team of four Year 7s was supported by a Maths Leader and all these activities earned points over the course of the day.

Many thanks from the Maths Department for the help of the Year 9s and the enthusiasm and hard work of the Year 7s who all made it an enjoyable and fun day!

The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Matthew Bonacua, Emmanuel Danquah, Eliza Kennedy and Ruby Spengler
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Matteo Bruno, Laibah Jabbar, Emily Healey and Elliot Dyer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Gracie Self, Grace O'Leary, William Westmoreland and Oscar Brady

Our wonderful Maths Leaders were:

Abhinav Adhikari, Cassie Boateng, Camryn Bose, Daniel Bruno, Oliver Chadbourne, Julia Curzydlo, Tomaso Dariol, Pietra De Lorenzi Cancellier Magagnin, Ethan De Luna, Josemari Delos Santos,



Daniel Dziemiach, Sophie Elliot, Christopher Fayker, Harry Flack, Scarlett Flack, Arion Golland, Philippa Goodman, Darragh Guinan, Rachel Hayes, Gabriel Holden, Brooke Josephs-Sims, Oscar Kardas-Alexander, Julia Kasperek, Piotr Krol, George Macleod, Nathaniel Manzanares, Helena May, Calum McFarlane, Matteo Metcalf, Sean Mistula, Caius Moggridge, Chloe Rawlins, Luke Readings, Iannah Sacaria, Leon Sanoj, Philana Sony, Liz Sorilla and Ewelina Sroda

[Mrs Lunel  
Maths Department]



## School production of 'Anything Goes'



'Anything Goes' is a musical extravaganza set in the 1920s aboard the ocean liner SS America. It was performed over three nights in July and the production was a roaring success. Well done to all those involved, both in front and behind the scenes.

Below is a list of our wonderful cast and production members:

Gracie Self, Niamh Gilkes, Finley Jordan-Smith, Adam Fallaize, Toby Smith, Dylan Aris, Matilda Johnson, Isobel Bennett, Lily Conway, Kitty Russell, Matthew Chalmers, Bea Vidal, Benjamin Jordan, Rachel Hayes, Cydney Rankin, Caius Moggridge, Willow Firth, Raphael Savory, Olivia Ginns, William Tomlin, Rebbeckah Condo Cuenta, Isabel Conway, Lizzie Williams, Damian Ciesielski, Jakub Olaszewski, Jennifer Spencer, Cameron Hughes, Silvia Martin-Maroto, Grace Jordan, Aimee Fallaize, Oliver Dyer, Lewis Manley, Abbie Cullup, Abi Clark, Alice Chucre da Silva and Ella Ramaglia.



[Mrs Furniss and Mrs Sinclair  
Expressive Arts Department]



### A word from some of our students...

"It was fun, full of energy and a great thing to be part of."

[Oliver Dyer  
Form 7 Calcutta]

"It was a really fun experience and I want to be in the next production."

[Matilda Johnson  
Form 8 Edith Stein]

"It was really good fun and you get to make friends; and it helped with improving my acting, singing and dancing."

[Rachel Hayes  
Form 9 Devereux]

"It was a lot of fun after school. You get to talk to new people from different years and learn from older students."

[Gracie Self  
Form 7 Bakhita]

"It was good fun and I liked the costumes."

[Matthew Chalmers  
Form 9 Calcutta]





## Year 13 Prom—in true Hollywood style



Covid did not stop Year 13 celebrating in style this year. Sent home in lockdown 1, their Year 11 Prom had to be cancelled so this year they decided to glam up, arrive in style, and celebrate like the stars they are!

It was a truly special night and the Whately Hall did us proud. They even threw in a few F1 team members for the night before the Grand Prix. We had our own BGN 'Oscar Ceremony' which had us laughing out loud and sharing memories of what has been a challenging two years. However, the best thing of all is that the students have come through these challenges and shared friendships, laughter and joy together as they close one chapter in their lives and move onto the next with eager anticipation.

They have been a wonderful year group and we will miss them. We wish them well and look forward to celebrating again with them in August when they receive their results; and then hearing from them later in the year when they have settled into their new place of education or employment. Good luck Year 13 Class of 2022!

*[Mrs O'Donnell—Head of Sixth Form]*

## Year 11 Prom—what a ball!

Firstly, I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to Ms Smith who did the bulk of the planning and arrangements for the Year 11 Prom! I would also like to extend my thanks to all the staff that supported with the set-up,



arrangements, supervision and administration in order to make the Year 11 Prom happen.

Secondly, may I thank our parents for the time and effort that went into getting our Year 11s to the Prom. They turned up looking absolutely amazing as you can see from the picture, and in some of the most incredible modes of transportation! We saw some very inspired vehicles: sports cars, a digger, classical cars and trucks. It was a spectacle and one I was glad to be part of.

The students arrived to a red carpet reception and walked into a beautifully decorated venue. They enjoyed a three course meal, followed by an awards celebration. Our Prom King and Queen were William Jones and Natasha Panejko!

No Prom would be complete without the students putting on their dancing shoes and having a great time on the dancefloor. It was joy to see the students finally able to celebrate their rollercoaster journey of school, home learning and back at school across the past five years. I wish everyone the very best for their next stage in education and I hope to see as many of you on results day: Thursday 25 August 2022.

*[Mr Savania—Head of Year 11]*

## PE Department News

### Football Academy Filming

We were fortunate enough to be selected by the FA to be the face of YST Barclays Game as part of England football. This national programme supports schools to deliver life skills through sport and complements leadership training. The programme provides training to girls in Key Stage 3 to design, create and deliver football opportunities to their peers. The FA also worked with a



mixed group to show a range of activities for schools' training and CPD purposes.

All students involved over the two days had a chance to see what life in front of the camera is like. With a full camera crew, drone footage, multiple takes and students mic'd up for interviews, it was a fantastic opportunity for 52 of our Year 8 students—one that none of them will forget.

Look out for them from September at <http://www.girlsfootballinschools.org/>



### Girls' Coach Academy

Six Year 9 students have been attending the Oxfordshire Coach Academy, led by ex-Olympian Jenna Downing. The programme is designed to work with young people and develop confidence and leadership skills enabling them to deliver physical activity sessions for less active students in schools. Our Year 9 students, Judit, Phillipa, Emily, Emma, Maisie and Evie, used the training to provide opportunities for BGN's Year 7 students. Their main aim was to try and encourage Year 7 girls who do not attend extra-



curricular clubs to be active outside their PE lessons. Each week they have been working with Year 7 girls during tutor time, increasing their activity levels and showing them how they can be active through games. Activities have included dodgeball, benchball and netball. All the students have really loved these sessions and fully participated in them. Well done girls!



## PE Department News *[continued]*

### Athletics success!

Of all the sports we have been desperate to get back to competitively, athletics was top of our list! The last time we were able to compete was in 2019 so this summer has been a long time coming. Students have been out training once or twice a week for the summer term, improving their technique in field events, and pushing themselves to the limit on the track. This has all been in preparation for the District Athletics held at NOA, with each year group taking their turn each week to compete.

Every Thursday students played their part in achieving success for the school, with the aim of making sure the District Athletics Trophy came back with us—as BGN were the last school to win it in 2019. Our students competed in the 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 800, 1,500m, long jump, high jump, triple jump, shot, discus, javelin and relay, and they did not disappoint.



Years 8, 9 and 10 came out 1<sup>st</sup>, with the girls' and boys' points combined. Year 7 had a tough week where, due to a turn in the weather, they were only able to compete in girls' track and boys' field before the rain put a stop to their events. However, they still gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place for their year group.

When all the girls' and boys' points were added together across all the year groups, BGN came out in 1<sup>st</sup> place. We were so proud as they had been training since Easter and given everything they had. Congratulations to everyone who competed... same time, same place, next year!



*[Miss Gines—Head of PE]*



## Duke of Edinburgh is back at BGN

We are delighted to announce that next year we will be running the Bronze and Silver DofE Awards.

Bronze is available to our Year 9 and Year 10 students next year [currently Year 8 and Year 9 students]. Those that participate will be working through a volunteering, skill and physical section, while also preparing for and completing two over-night expeditions in the local countryside.

Silver is available to our Year 11 and Year 12 students next year [currently in Year 10 and Year 11] who successfully completed their Bronze Award or Certificate of Achievement this year. The Silver Award includes the same activities as the Bronze; however, students must commit to their sections for a longer period of time and must plan and complete two 3-day expeditions, which will take place in the Peak District National Park.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a fantastic opportunity for young people to challenge themselves, help their local community and develop life skills and independence.

**Both awards have now been launched to students and information has been given to them regarding how they can use this summer to plan, and possibly begin, their activities. The deadline for students to hand in their completed draft activity planning sheet is Monday 19 September 2022. This must come to Mr Woodham in the PE Department. Please can students not hand anything in before we break up for the summer holidays.**

We wish lots of luck to all those involved and look forward to seeing all the great work achieved by our students throughout the local and wider community.

*[Mr Woodham —DofE Co-ordinator]*







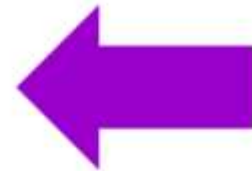
## Save the date for your diary

### Future events for 2022

Please contact: [fbgn2977@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:fbgn2977@bgn.oxon.sch.uk)  
Further information will be available in September



Friday  
14 October



Friday  
25 November



## Attendance DOES matter



*SO WE WANT YOU in school on time, every day, in line with current restrictions, in order to achieve the best grades possible and be the best you can be.*

### **Attendance and punctuality**

Punctuality and good attendance are essential if students are to benefit fully from their education. All students are expected to attend for more than 96% of each school year. This is the national expectation for all students, as research shows that anything less than this will mean students miss out on more than 10 days of school in an academic year and will more than likely drop a grade in their achievement each year this happens. If a student's attendance is less than 90%, they will be classed as a 'persistent absentee' by Ofsted and the Department for Education.

### **Punctuality**

At BGN we expect all students to arrive in school on time as lack of punctuality affects learning and behaviour not only of the pupil who is late, but it has an impact on all other learners as the teacher is required to recap on missed lesson content for those who arrive late.



Punctuality is also a key workplace skill which must be learnt at school. Employees who are regularly late to work may lose their job.

### **Reporting sickness**

Please notify the Attendance Office on 01295 264216 extension 518 or email: [absence@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:absence@bgn.oxon.sch.uk) by **9.30 am each day** of your child's absence. As duty of care to students is paramount to us, should we not hear from you, we will send a text to remind you to contact the school regarding your child's absence. If we still have not heard from you by 10 am as to why your child is absent, we will telephone you as student welfare is a priority. Any unexplained absences will be marked as unauthorised.

## Sport Leadership



Primary school competitions and festivals have again graced Blessed George Napier playing fields during the summer term. Sixty-four Student Leaders in Years 7, 8 and 9 have supported Mr Mawn in the delivery of five events for our Cluster Primary Schools involving some 478 children. These events included Year 3/4 Quadkids Athletics, Year 5/6 Dynamo Cricket, Year 1/2 All Star Cricket, Year 6 Transition Leader training and Year 3/4 Multi-skills. The schools involved were Bishop Loveday, Longford Park, Orchard Fields, St John's, St Joseph's and William Morris. Below



is a selection of some of the comments we have received from the events run this term:

### Quadkids Athletics

"Very well organised, encouraging environment and friendly smiling Sport Leaders." [St Joseph's]

"BGN Sport Leaders encouraged our pupils and were well organised." [St John's]

"Lots of praise and encouragement from young Leaders." [Bishop Loveday]

### Year 5/6 Dynamo Cricket held at Banbury Cricket Club

"Umpires were fair, knowledgeable and helpful." [Bishop Loveday]

"BGN Leaders were excellent." [William Morris]

"Nice, relaxed atmosphere, children got to have a go at all positions." [Orchard Fields]

### Year 6 Transition and Year 3/4 Multi-skills

"Student Leaders were amazing, kind and helpful. They became more confident as the morning went on." [St Joseph's]

"Great activities, clear instructions, encouragement given and kindness shown by the BGN Leaders." [Bishop Loveday]

"The leaders and the organised activities were really positive for the children... Such an incredible opportunity to transition Year 6s, building their confidence and leadership skills. Thank you." [St John's]

### Year 1 and 2 All Stars Cricket

"Activities were fabulous and the Leaders were brilliant. Well organised to keep the pupils engaged." [Bishop Loveday]

"Student Leaders were very clear and confident delivering activities." [Longford Park]

[Mr Mawn—SSCo]





## PUSHing into the future Year 12



Year 12 had a two-day conference this term to consider their Future Options and career paths. We had visitors from several universities who supported students in thinking about applying for Higher Education. The conference finished with a presentation given by Moj Taylor from [www.push.co.uk](http://www.push.co.uk). The article below is from a Year 12 student.

During our session today with Moj we were shown the key factors of employability and how to sell ourselves to our future employers. He approached many key aspects showing us how to apply our skills and personality to support us with future applications/interviews and how our mindset can change the way people perceive us. Moj

interacted in a great way that we could fully relate to, making the whole session more understandable and enjoyable. Every example he brought to the talk was useful and somehow captivating enough to keep the whole group's attention. The key features he talked us through centred around the information we could use in the professional world and how we could apply it in our day-to-day learning. One of the first topics he approached was the evolving world of technology. This is normally looked upon with a negative overview because it has become so common for robots to take over jobs in our society; making students scared of having flaws, with the preconceived idea that this alone will make them unable to succeed in getting a job. However, Moj made it clear that by being human and being different, and having flaws with a capability to feel, think and solve problems is what truly sets us apart, and this is what employers are looking for. This idea really applies to trying again, *'giving things another go, even if you get it wrong a couple of times'*. The step we take after failing is the important thing to learn from. What technology cannot give is opinions and creativity and this is what essentially makes us more employable.

Curiously, Moj approached many topics I know students are hesitant about, such as the belief that our experience in school seems almost 'useless' in comparison to the 'real world'. During this session he taught us how we can separate our subjects from our skills and how these things are essentially what employers look for: the ability to take some learning away, although an overall course may not be useful. Moj talked through many key aspects of our mindset towards work which, in turn, can be reflected in the way we approach our learning. The attitude we have towards our work, how we manage it and how we choose to learn from it is what truly makes a difference. It really highlighted how, as individuals, we see and process things differently. He made our group take part in active memory activities, using our abilities to solve problems quickly, and learn how we react in the face of adversity.

Our path to university can often be overwhelming and stressful, as A Levels are a higher level of education, and it can become difficult to manage new responsibilities. This experience made me realise just how much I truly want this and how I can change chances and achieve my main goal.

[Alice Chucre da Silva—Form 12 Calcutta]



'Be in it to win it!'



# BGN 200 Club



Why not join our 200 Club? For just **£5** a month you have the opportunity of winning **£100** every month whilst donating to a very worthy cause – your child's school.

We currently have spare numbers available, so if you are interested or want any more information, please contact our 200 Club Administrators at [finance@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:finance@bgn.oxon.sch.uk).

*congratulations!*

April's winning number is **18**

May's winning number is **2**

June's winning number is **157**