Merry Christmas!

It has been a busy term with numerous successes. Thank you for supporting all your daughters to achieve the very best they can this term: students with the highest achievement points daily have been awarded prizes this month to mark their efforts.

Awards Evening

We had our annual Awards Evening on 24th October at Crystal Plaza. The guests of honour were former BGGS student Mrs Rubina Darr (Executive Head Teacher within a Multi Academy Trust) and Mr Waheed Saleem (Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands). We had highly inspiring speeches from both guest speakers and our Chair of Governors Dr Mashuq Ally.

It was a joy to see so many parents attend the event. It was also pleasing to see so many students receiving awards for outstanding academic achievement, progress as well as contributions to the school community.

The audience were treated to some outstanding performances from solo performers, ensembles and groups.

Thank you to all the students who contributed and to the staff who have given up a considerable amount of their own time to make it happen.

Next Generation Award

Our students made us all very proud this term. Year 9 students involved in the Next Generation Award: Nazeefah Ali, Anfeesah Ali, Aisha Bibi, Ayesha Bibi, Saarah Akhtar and Anisa Naveed, came joint second overall from all schools in Birmingham. The students will be given £400 towards their project. What a fantastic achievement!

I am delighted to note the increase in number of achievement points (and decrease in behaviour points) that our students have been receiving for their attitude to learning and exemplary attainment. I hope to see this increased momentum next term.

Mock Exams

Our Year 11 students have been studying hard leading up to their mock exams this term. The results will be shared with students on Tuesday 7th January. Year 13 students will be starting their Trial exams on 7th January 2020.

UCAS

This term our Year 13 students have been busy completing their UCAS applications; I am pleased to note that some of them have already received offers for places at University of Birmingham, Coventry, Aston and Newman to name a few.

Finally...

We are sad to say goodbye to Ms Sue Simpson (Lead for Modern Foreign Languages) and Mr Ravi Jhalli (maternity cover for maths). Ms Simson starts in her new job in a local school in January.

Students return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2020. I hope you and your families have a very enjoyable holiday and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ms Hyare, Interim Headteacher
Remembrance Day Artwork

Top Achievers

At Bordesley Green Girls’ School and Sixth Form, we like to celebrate the achievements of our students by tracking the number of achievement points awarded.

Well done to our top students since the last Newsletter. We are proud of you and your achievements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amna (7SDH)</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushra (7SDH)</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisma (7SDH)</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumeya (7SDH)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahisa (8ANA)</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raabia (7SDH)</td>
<td>141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hifsa (7MAZ)</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roxana (7SDH)</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anjuma (7SDH)</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Police Cadets

BGGS, in collaboration with West Midlands Police, are launching the Police Cadets scheme for selected Yr8, Yr9 and Yr10 students.

This scheme aims to develop students leadership skills, increase self-confidence and provide an opportunity to have a positive influence in their local community.

We are looking to commence the project end of January and look forward to keeping you all informed of our students progress.

Look out for invitations to be part of this exciting new project.

Mobile Phones

We’d like to remind students and their parents of our rules about mobile phone use at BGGS:

Students in Years 7 to 11 are not allowed to use mobile phones or tablets during the school day. Students in Years 7 to 11 must hand in their mobile phones to Reception as they enter the premises each morning.

Sixth Form students are allowed to keep their mobile phones with them and to use them in a way which does not interfere with learning. However, they are NOT permitted to plug phone chargers into any sockets around the school.

Bag Searches

As a result of some safeguarding incidents this term, we intend to carry out sporadic bag searches from now on. These checks are to look for any items which are banned under our Behaviour Policy including electronic items and mobile phones.

Searches will be conducted by two members of staff in accordance with LA and national guidelines. If prohibited devices are found, then they will be confiscated for five school days and must be collected by parent/carer.

Thank you for your support with this matter.
FGM Awareness

On Monday 16th December, students from BGGS who are voluntary Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) awareness ambassadors attended a conference about FGM.

The conference, hosted here at the school and attended by nearly 50 delegates from schools and charities across the city, helped those in attendance increase their knowledge about the movement, so they can implement the relevant information into lesson plans. This will allow FGM awareness to be taught in delegates’ school just like it already is at BGGS.

The conference consisted of many different speakers talking and educating us on what caused parliament to legislate against FGM, the effects of FGM and the laws that stem from the legislation. There were many organisations that attended. For example, FORWARD UK, it is predominantly African women-led organization working to end violence against women and girls.

They focus on personal stories and the bigger picture as well as supporting affected women and girls on the ground – bringing together communities, developing skills and knowledge, and nurturing young women in to becoming leaders of tomorrow.

We met DC Wendy Bird, who explained the stages of how the police tackle FGM and we can raise awareness.

We also met, Sarian Karim, an FGM survivor, who offered advice on how we can help the school know more about FGM and we as ambassadors should handle any matters students raise with us.

Thanks to Ms Porter and Mrs Ayisha Ali for arranging this eye-opening experience and giving us the chance to talk to in front of fellow FGM advisors. This was definitely an experience which broadened our knowledge and we would use what we learnt during the conference to advise student about the serious consequence of FGM and how we should come together to tackle the problem and help save young girls around the world.

By: F Khan, S Akbar, I Khan, A Bibi, S Khan & S Boukhemicci

An Inspector Calls

Students from the Hearing Resource Base here at BGGS have been to the Malvern Theatre today to watch An Inspector Calls, as part of the English curriculum they are studying.

The stage set was highly stylised and deemed to be spectacular by the students – fitting an entire house (which then opened up) onto the stage was amazing set design.

The students also enjoyed the travelling the visit entailed including travel to/ from Malvern by train from school. #BGGSeffect
Trip to De Montfort University

By Isha Khan (12LCO)

On Monday 7th October 2019, being a year 12 student, I had the opportunity to visit De Montfort University in Leicester. Upon reaching the site, we walked through the grounds and got to witness the great diversity of cultures and personas around us.

The wide range of buildings and departments that we were surrounded by were quite varied - old, new, modern, outdated, but they each had a significance to the institution.

A tour of the site was given to us, in which we got to see the Vijay Patel Building, the John Whitehead Building, New Wharf Halls of Residence, The Portland Building, the Campus Centre, The Art Factory, The Hawthorn Building and much more. The busiest places of all were probably the food courts. The ones we saw were all impressive, serving cuisines from all over the world - Chinese, Indian, Swedish, Italian, Korean, Thai, English and more!

A presentation explaining the different choices and courses was also displayed to us, including the ‘go global or go local’ schemes at the university. This is basically a program which allows you to travel around the world, to places linking to your course and societies that you are part of. Another set of presentations were also given on nursing, wellbeing and health in society and psychology and social sciences. It was a very eventful day, full of fun and learning. I got to learn a lot about life at University and what opportunities lay waiting for people who work hard and achieve their goals.

Careermag for Parents

We’d like to tell you about Careermag for Parents because finding high-quality career advice and guidance can often be stressful, not only for your pupils but also for parents, carers or guardians.

The latest issue of Careermag for Parents is available for our students and their parents to sit down together to look at all the qualification and career routes available. It also has lots of articles about options for school-leavers and key dates to put on your calendar.

The magazine features:

- Top Tips for Parents
- University challenge
- UCAS 2019-2020 dates
- Degree and Higher Apprenticeships
- 20 things you need to know about Apprenticeships
- Qualifications Guide
- Traineeships
- 4 industries covered
- Plus much more!

Click the link to view the magazine:
Click the link to subscribe to future issues of Careermag - it’s free:
Photography Project

Pictures on this page were all taken by students learning about photography as part of our enrichment activities which extend our curriculum beyond the normal academic diet.

Elaboration

EXPLAIN AND DESCRIBE IDEAS WITH DETAILS

Ask yourself questions while you are studying about how things work and why, and then find the answers in your class materials and discuss them with your classmates.

As you elaborate, make connections between different ideas to explain how they work together. Take two ideas and think of ways they are similar and different.

Describe how the ideas you are studying apply to your own experiences or memories. As you go through your day, make connections to the ideas you are learning in class.
Informing You About Your Child’s Progress

Parents receive reports on each child at three assessment points in each academic year: two of these are short progress checks and the third is a full report.

Progress Checks
At the end of each term, progress checks are produced for each student for each curriculum subject, unless they have full reports that term. Progress checks are given to the students by their form teacher to bring home to you. They including the following information:

- Attendance
- Target grades
- Working At Grades
- Attitude to learning
- Independent learning

In addition, the following reports and progress checks will also include Estimated Grades: Year 10 summer term, All Year 11 progress checks and reports, All Year 13 progress checks and reports.

Full reports:
In addition to the data included in progress checks, full reports have a comment on progress and targets for improvement. When students have more than one teacher for a subject, only one report is written. Full reports are posted home directly to you.

Parents’ evenings:
Parents evenings are held annually for all year groups. They are spaced through the school year so each one is timely for each cohort, for example Year 11 parents’ evening is held shortly after their mock examinations.

Examination Grades:
Year 11 mock examination grades are shared with students in a mock results day assembly in January and sent to parents. The end of year examination grades for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 are included in the summer term progress checks to parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Autumn term:</strong> Progress Check issued on 18th December 2019</td>
<td><strong>Spring term:</strong> Full report posted home on 14th January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring term:</strong> Progress Check issued on 1st April 2020</td>
<td><strong>Parents evening</strong> on Wednesday 22nd January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer term:</strong> Full report posted home on 30th June 2020,</td>
<td><strong>Progress check issued</strong> on 1st April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parents evening:</strong> Wednesday 8th July 2020</td>
<td><strong>Summer term:</strong> Progress Check issued on 8th July 2020</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Autumn term:</strong> Progress Check issued on 18th December 2019</td>
<td><strong>Autumn term:</strong> Progress Check issued on 18th December 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring term:</strong> Full report posted home on 25th February 2020</td>
<td><strong>Spring term:</strong> Progress Check issued on 1st April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parents evening:</strong> Wednesday 4th March 2020</td>
<td><strong>Summer term:</strong> Full report posted home on 19th May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer term:</strong> Progress Check issued on 8th July 2020</td>
<td><strong>Parents evening:</strong> Wednesday 3rd June 2020</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Year 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Autumn term:</strong> Progress Check issued on 13th November 2019</td>
<td>Progress Check to be issued on 18th December 2019 with Full report and Mock Exam Results posted home on 24th March 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring term:</strong> Mock exam results posted home on 7th January 2010</td>
<td>Parents evening is on Wednesday 1st April 2020 &amp; a further Progress check will be issued on 8th July 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parents evening:</strong> Wednesday 15th January 2020</td>
<td><strong>Year 13</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full report</strong> posted home on 31st March 2020</td>
<td>Year 13 have already received their Full report and UCAS estimated grades. There will be further Progress Checks issued on 5th February 2020 and 1st April 2020.</td>
</tr>
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DECEMBER 2018 EDITION
When things go wrong

From time to time, things can go wrong and the quality of education/support we provide falls short of our own high standards. When this happens, we want to put things right as quickly as possible.

Get in touch with the school to let us what has happened and what you think we might do to put things right. Feedback like this is really important and helps us keep on improving as a school.

You can contact us via enquiry@bordgrng.bham.sch.uk or by calling on 0121 464 1881. We really do want to hear from you – and if we can’t resolve your concerns to your satisfaction, then our formal Complaints Policy (available from our website) sets out the steps you can take to ask us to look at the matter again.

Fundraising

There is a new permission slip in Firefly for students to request authorisation to undertake fundraising activities at school.

Since we introduced the new print management software at school, we have prevented over 11,000 sheets of paper being wasted. The software intercepts unwanted print jobs and prevents them from printing. Good huh?

We have raised £11,831.69 since May 2017
We are very proud of all the efforts of our staff and students and this result is testament to their hard work. GCSE exams are really important because they form the foundation of increased specialisation at A Level and for Level 3 courses in the Sixth Form.

The school's Chair of Governors joined with us on Twitter to acknowledge this good news:

These are excellent results. Well done to pupils, staff, and Interim Head Teacher, and the support by parents.

The score of 0.51 is considered to be well above average because it is 0.5 or higher, and the lower confidence interval is higher than 0.

In statistical terms, this means that the government is certain that the data it holds about BGGS puts us in the top 15% of schools for pupil progress.

Students who join us make significantly more progress than they would do at 85% of the other secondary schools nationally.

There are around 3,400 secondary schools and our Progress 8 score means we are ranked higher than 85% of them!

Eco-Warriors

The Eco-Warriors is an initiative led by students, elected as school councillors, whose focus is to improve our school’s carbon footprint and educating our whole school community about the increasing need to protect the world around us.

They aim to highlight environmental issues through:

- Assemblies & Poster campaigns
- Dedicated notice board
- Firefly page
- Arranging litter patrols
- Poster campaign
- Planting seeds and fruit and then harvesting produce
- Creating flower beds

The Eco-Warriors aim to circulate lesson ideas to staff which promote learning about global issues, such as sustainability and biodiversity – true student leadership in action!

Our eco-warriors meet once a week every Thursday lunchtime where we discuss our action plan, working towards our targets for the year.

Our 3 targets for this year:

1. Litter: Reducing the amount of litter in our local area
   - Arranging litter patrols
   - Poster campaign

2. Biodiversity: Caring for all plants, animals and insects
   - Promote learning about global issues, such as sustainability and biodiversity by circulating lesson ideas to all staff
   - Harvesting
   - Flower beds

   - Focus on partnership working with our partner school in Indonesia
Our Curriculum

Our teachers are passionate about their subjects. They work hard to share their specialist knowledge and their enthusiasm for their academic discipline with their students and to share the joy of studying that body of knowledge.

We want to share some of this passion with our parents and so we have compiled a guide to our curriculum (available on our website) and will publish extracts from it in coming newsletter. In this edition, we focus on the core subject of English.

Why not download the full guide from the website?

English

At BGGS, we believe that the teaching of English can provide the foundations of all learning and provide students with a mastery of skills that they will utilise throughout their lives.

We are passionate about instilling young people with insightful and perceptive knowledge of the workings of the English language, of cultivating a love of literature and developing high levels of literacy. What students learn in the classroom will equip them with the resilience to navigate the world outside.

They will ask questions, and feel they have a voice and the skills to articulate their thoughts and opinions. They will be robust and be able to face difficult questions. Our students will know their own mind and if they don’t, they will be able to look in the right places for knowledge, inspiration and ideas.

The thoughts, philosophies, concepts and controversies they come across will plant the seed for learning and exploring the world that they live in.

Our students will engage with the world around them, and that often starts in the classroom.

E&E Day: Staffordshire University Visit

I was part of group of students who were given the chance to visit a university campus in the UK. This is a core part of the E&E programme – one which we really value because it gives us a real chance to find out about university life.

My group visited Staffordshire whereby we were greeted by the student ambassadors and given a tour of the campus. Then we were delivered a very well put together presentation by one of the students about their course, life and university and a Q and A. Included amongst the activities was an interactive quiz about different courses in which we were in groups competing against each other. Likewise, we were also given some top tips about how to choose courses which was very eye-opening and made me realise I had a lot more to consider that initially thought.

Overall it was a very fun, engaging and informative day and we are grateful to the staff of BGGS and Staffordshire University for making the visit possible.
Lots more news and information on the web

We are encouraging all parents, carers and pupils to visit our website regularly. It is updated with all the latest news and information about the school and you don’t have to wait for newsletter to be published. Visit now for a video about the work of our Hearing Resource Base, Information about who the interim Deputy Headteacher is, a full breakdown of all the charitable causes we’ve raised money for, copies of all our key policies and much, much more. [www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk](http://www.bordgrng.bham.sch.uk)