What A Busy Term!

It has been a very busy and productive half-term with our students involved in a range of events over the past few weeks. Our students have done us proud by showing their leadership skills on numerous occasions.

The School Council member along with staff helped organise a fitting memorial for Mrs Jenny Swaby, who had passed away in January.

Three of our year 11 CSE Champions presented to the Secondary Forum delegates from across the city. The students spoke with real passion about their commitment to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. The delegates were most impressed by our students and our school’s proactive strategies in providing support to targeted students.

Fundraising

Our students also raised a huge amount of money through fund raising events.

Exam Revision

Year 11, 12 and 13 students have been working hard for their public examinations. Revision and intervention classes have been taking place lunchtime, after school and on Saturdays. I would urge parents to ensure that your children attend the Easter revision classes that staff have organised. Lots of support materials will also be given by the subject teachers. Student must ensure they balance their studies with some relaxation time to maintain their mental health.

Rise in Achievement Points

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.

Numerous students have received awards for achievements in a range of subjects. I hope to see this increased momentum next term.

E&E Day

Year groups participated in a fantastic Enterprise & Enrichment day on 20th March. We had students involved in a range of activities on site and on different trips to a range of universities. Feedback from staff, external presenters and students was most positive.

Dhol Performance

Year 8 and 9 students performed brilliantly at the S4E Music Concert in King Edward’s school- their dhol performance was the highlight of the event.

The RAF encourage girls to consider careers in science, technology and engineering (see photo above).

Thank you for your support making sure every child is in school on time and in the correct uniform. Wishing you all a happy Easter.

Mrs P Hyare
Acting Headteacher
World Book Day

Top Achievers

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

Students are awarded achievement points for good behaviour, high standards of work, being a good citizen and representing the school.

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

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>A Alsabbouh</td>
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Art Gallery Visit

In our last newsletter, we ran out of space to report on the Art and Design Students’ visit to Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Students went to further develop their understanding of Pop Art and participate in a practical print workshop.

They were incredibly lucky as the gallery had fetched works of art by Andy Warhol and David Hockney out of storage especially for the visit.

Miss Hillier said “It was amazing to be able to see famous works of Art so close up but we had to be very careful as their combined value was over £750,000.”

The visit also gave students an opportunity to hone their practical skills using print. In a practical session, they developed a small piece of work using a layering technique and combining images.

Every March sees schools across the country celebrating World Book Day. This year was no disappointment as students and staff entered into the spirit of the day.

Congratulations to Iqra in Year 7 who won first prize for the best 100 word story in the Year 7 'Contamination' Writing Workshop; she beat some really good pieces written by other students. In fact, the whole of Year 7 were a brilliant.

Special thanks go to Ms Allen, Mr Rozak, Mr Bailey and Ms Batool for supporting English teachers and Year 12 students during the session.
Students and staff stepped up to the Five Lap Challenge last week to raise awareness of Breast Cancer and celebrate the memory of Mrs J Swaby.

The event was organised by the PE department with help from the School Council after students said they would like to do something to raise awareness of the disease and to show their respect for Mrs Swaby who died earlier this year after working for more than 25 years at Bordesley Green Girls’ School.

Some participants raised money via sponsorship, some ran, some walked and the really keen ones completed more than the suggested five laps of the running track. Mr Clements-Wheeler lived up to his word and completed all five laps backwards!

Staff Comments:

“Well done everyone – a really good effort by all!”
Ms P Hyare
Acting Headteacher

“The students did really well. Everyone taking part did it in good spirits; even those who got caught in the freezing rain shower!”
Mr Clements-Wheeler
Deputy Head (Business)

“Come on and do the conga round another lap with me.”
Mrs D Harris
Resources Manager

Theatre Company Visit

On Monday 25th March, the Ginificent Theatre Company attended BGGS to present a theatrical production of ‘The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde’.

The play was performed for the Year 10 cohort, who are studying the novel for their GCSE. Watching the play helped students understand the 19th century novel by Robert Louis Stevenson a lot better and proved a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining experience for all.

Thank you to the Ginificent Theatre Company
Reflecting on The Holocaust

When you strip someone of their humanity, you become capable of committing unspeakable acts against them. As young people today we need to understand the horrifying consequences of exclusion, division and lack of tolerance of others and develop a moral compass. Sadly, we all are witnessing a worldwide growth of an ideology which rejoices in killing its opponents. But, there are no opponents, they are human beings. Who all feel pain and suffer in the same way as we would.

We have to understand that the mass murder of six million Jews, and millions of non-Jews, is not a matter of abstract statistics. For unto each person there is a name, an identity just like you and me.

It is our responsibility, then, to give voice to the voiceless, to empower the powerless, be the disabled, the poor, the elderly, the women, the men or the vulnerable child. We must speak up against genocide - the crime of crimes whose name we should shudder to even mention - and always against indifference, against being bystanders to injustice."

This article is an edited version of a speech given by Amina Ali (12SBE) during the daily Act of Collective Worship.

“I want to share some of my thoughts with you all about the lessons we can take from the Holocaust in the hope we never become bystanders to any form of injustice against other human beings.

The holocaust was a crime committed against each and every one of us because it was crime committed against differences, and we all are different.

The atrocity teaches us about what it means to be human. It demonstrates the terrifying potential of dehumanisation.

Handprint Theatre

As part of student development for the deaf, we arranged for The Handprint Theatre to come in and deliver a workshop. They specialise in making theatre for and with young people, using storytelling, physical theatre, British Sign Language and a combination of anything they can get their hands on.

Students were encouraged to interact with each other and participated in the role of acting, answering questions and giving their personal view points on personal development and life skills!
Taste of Success

The students in Years 11, 12 and 13 with the highest number of achievement points from September to February were invited to celebrate their success at a fully catered lunch served in the Board Room.

Senior staff at the school said “the students who achieve their very best all day, every day deserve a special reward from time to time”

Who will be next?

We will be holding another special lunch for students. Can you earn enough points to participate?

Dodgeball & Boccia

Congratulations to the Year 7 Dodgeball team who came second in the Central Birmingham Schools Tournament.

The competition was a KS3 tournament, and our Year 7 side was the youngest and they still managed to come second.

The team was Safa, Maroua, Fatima, Ridate, Aliya, Mariam, Aliza, Malaika and, Liya

Our Boccia team came second in the U19 Birmingham School Games Finals. Well done to Javeria, Sophia, Nazia and Sofia (Captain).

They are a very established and experienced team, who unfortunately couldn’t beat a strong side from Hall Green to claim gold.

Geography Club

“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It’s about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it’s about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.”

– Former President Barack Obama

The geography club was established by some A level Geography students and Mr Jordan upon the request of some enthusiastic year 7’s who wanted to learn more about the world through creative and engaging methods. Now, weeks after our first session, we have several girls from year 7 and 8 who join us in the weekly geography club to learn and participate in activities and quizzes which aids them in further expanding their knowledge and understanding of the world today.

Recently, as one of the our club activities, we did a mini competition on who can create the most informative and engaging power point on the 7 wonders of the world. The power points were presented and judged by peers and A - level students. Fortunately, there was a tie and so 2 girls went home that day with more knowledge on the world and some chocolate!

Now we are participating in online quizzes on capital cities of countries around the world, where famous monuments are located and what countries across the globe are known for culturally, for example, did you know that the dates and olives of Siwa (an oasis) in Egypt are among the finest in the world? Today each crop is still cultivated in private gardens tended in traditional ways dated centuries back!

We would like to thank the girls that make the effort on every Friday to take part in the club and Mr Jordan for letting us borrow his room for the club. We have fun while also learning several interesting facts, so if you would like to learn more about the world you live in today, come visit us in Room 8 every Friday lunchtime. We hope to see you there soon!
**General News & Information**

**Pupils break up for Easter on Fri 12th April and return to school on Mon 29th April**

**Help us improve punctuality**

It is really important that students arrive on time every day. Arriving late means students miss important notices during registration, don’t hear the act of collective worship, their Form Tutor can’t speak to them and late students disrupt the learning of other students.

We issue detentions to students who arrive late and lateness to school and/or lessons will result in 30 minutes detention at lunch-time on the same day. If students are persistently late, they will be put in a longer detention after school and we will involve parents; asking for help from home to tackle the issue.

There are trigger levels for lateness which result in parents being called into school for a meeting about their child’s punctuality. Most issues get sorted out at this point, but if lateness continues, it will be treated as persistent low level disruption of the learning of other students. We may suggest a trial placement at another school at that point as a way of avoiding exclusion. Please make sure your child arrives at school on time!

**Revision via Seneca Learning**

Students now have free access to Seneca - a revision and homework platform making studying more fun. Seneca is an interactive way to learn and to revise course content. Their web app covers 150+ exam board specific courses condensing what students need to know for their exams.

The software is able to identify gaps in learning. For instance, when you get a question wrong, the platform will repeat the topic in different formats and their smart algorithm has proven to make students remember topics 2x faster. Seneca is free for students, teacher and parents. You can sign up via senecalearning.com
Art Workshops at BGGS

These images are from a trip to the Apple Store and an on-site workshop from Professional Artist John Denaro - a portrait specialist who helped students get to grips with large scale chalk and charcoal self-portraits. It was quite magical to see the portraits slowly emerging from the blank paper.
Stay Safe Poster Competition

Following on from the recent 'Stay Safe Day' students were invited to take part in a Stay Safe poster competition. The winners are as follows:

- Ahlem 7FRO
- Taybah 7LAR
- Hafsa 7ANA
- Mahrug 7DW

The standard of the competition entries was extremely high so well done to all that submitted entries. Ms Franks

Easter Revision Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>11/3 Maths SGH 11/4 Maths PHY</td>
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On Tuesday 2nd April BGGS were invited to attend and share best Anti-Child Sexual Exploitation [CSE] practice to the city-wide Secondary Curriculum Group.

Mrs Jan shared the innovative, focused and targeted intervention that the school has developed and proudly introduced three of the school’s CSE Champions, Janeene, Aamina and Maymouna.

Our three girls delivered an outstanding presentation which was created with the help of N Arshad, U Ayman, S Bano, A Akhtar, A Khan and H Mariam, all year 10 students and fellow CSE champions.

CSE Champions

The presentation helped the group understand that identifying and supporting victims of CSE is everyone’s responsibility and explained the different types of training the CSE champions had received in order to be equipped to provide guidance and information to fellow students.

The girls were articulate and passionate and had invested a lot of time and energy in promoting BGGS and the great work that we do.

They expressed the importance of students having a voice, taking ownership and being proactive so that we can nurture a supportive, open and compassionate culture. The group of professionals were so impressed with our intervention that some expressed interest in the CSE champions visiting their schools and promoting and sharing this initiative.

Ms Joiner said “To witness Janeene, Aamina and Maymouna’s hard work and passion made us feel very proud, well done to all who was involved in this project”.

Uniform

Students have been discussing changes and improvements to the school uniform in the School Council. They have set up a subcommittee who are helping Miss Voutsinou to design the new school uniform.

A questionnaire was used by the council to gain further feedback from all Form Groups in Years 7 to 11 and the findings have been shared with staff and the rest of the school council.

The suggestions are now being actioned by a council sub-committee. Further updates will appear in the next edition of the newsletter.
Our school council at BGGS, consists of a team of extremely active, dedicated and hardworking students. We’re the elected student body who provide a platform for the voicing of construction suggestions and solutions to improve school life. At the start of the year each form class elected 2 form representatives, who are responsible for putting forward the suggestions of their forms in meetings, which happen every week 2 Friday. Our aims are as follows:

- To promote debate and democracy amongst the student community
- To mark significant days within the year and organise charity events to help the wider community
- To celebrate successes and represent school council in events
- To promote RESPECT in and around school
- Most importantly having a platform where negatives can be channelled into positives and where action is taken.

The council is led by our heads, Mr Weaver and Amina Ali.

So far this year...

This term started with the council deciding to support the school on its journey to become a Rights Respecting School, the council will help Miss Riaz select the steering group.

Another notable success for the council, was Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). Students were introduced to the ‘Torn from Home’ theme in a meeting and wrote a piece on this topic.

The pieces were judged by Mr Weaver and Amina Ulfath (Year 8), Sana Khan (Year 9) and Amina Ali were chosen to attend the HMD event at the Town Hall. Our excellent council representatives were congratulated by many dignitaries at the event. This success was shared by the council at the next meeting where they shared how important it is to mark significant days like the HMD, which is one of our aims.

The council has also been focusing on how it can make a difference to the school community, using our budget. The school council debated and discussed the use for this budget in many meetings and produced a shortlist of ideas from these discussions.

Based on the Year 7-13 ballot the 3 most popular suggestions are:

1. Resources for the library and the OLC
2. Activities for track and social rooms
3. Bins around the school site

We will action these choices in the new financial year, after the Easter holidays.

Good Behaviour

The council also collected suggestions from all year groups about the Behaviour Policy via a questionnaire through which council form representatives gauged the opinions of students in their forms.

On the 3rd April, teachers, governors and pupils joined together to commemorate, and reflect on the 25 years of contributions made by Mrs Jennifer Swaby after she sadly passed away.

To celebrate the beautiful and strong character she was, students from Years 7,8,9 and the Sixth Form participated in a 5 lap challenge walk/run.

This challenge was in memory of Mrs Swaby who was an exceptional sprinter. She always encouraged whoever she met to be the best version of themselves would have been proud of the sheer determination demonstrated by those who successfully completed the 5-lap challenge. A very well done to all.

Mrs Swaby’s family kindly gifted the school with a memorial bench: a gesture that is highly appreciated by both students and staff who attended the bench reveal.

This was then followed by a 1-minute silence by all students and staff in respect of Mrs Swaby. After the unveiling of the memorial bench there was an after service in which memories of Mrs Swaby were shared and cherished.