



Bexley Grammar School

Background Information

Introduction

Bexley Grammar School is a co-educational, selective school with Academy status (2011). The school opened in 1955 in pleasant and spacious grounds. It is situated in suburban southeast London within easy access of the capital and the southeast coast. It occupies a corner of Danson Park and is a short walk away from Welling town centre. Its buildings have been extended and added over time as the school expanded and they provide specialist facilities in all areas of the curriculum.

Our students achieve outstanding academic results. The school has retained the characteristics of having Science, Mathematics and Language College status and these influences are felt throughout the school. The school takes pride in its broad and ambitious curriculum and it was a natural step, driven particularly by our Language College status, to move to a fully International Baccalaureate in the Sixth form which we achieved with the year 12 entry in 2017. Bexley Grammar School is therefore the only school with a fully IB sixth form in southeast London and it has strong links with other prestigious IB schools in Kent. The school is also a founding member of the [Prince's Teaching Institute](#) and several departments benefit from links with other schools that this membership generates. (Our 2021 award included the PTI mark for 6 (English, Geography, History, Modern Languages, Music and Science) out of the 8 subjects the PTI offers.) The school also works collaboratively with four other local schools as part of an umbrella trust, the [Penhill Academies Trust](#). Each academy within the Trust is unique and retains its own individual identity, autonomy and governing body.

Vision and Aims

Our vision is of a school that gives students the confidence to succeed in whatever they aspire to do in their lives. We want all students to reach their full academic potential in line with the [Learner Profile](#) of the IB and with our ethos, expressed in the three words: Intellect, Empathy and Courage.

- *Intellect* - Students are excited by the world around them and curious to know more. They engage critically with information and grapple intellectually with global and more personal issues.
- *Empathy* - Students appreciate and value other people and acquire the skills needed to communicate ideas and information. They understand and appreciate their own culture and are open to the values and traditions of others. They act to make a positive difference to the lives of others.
- *Courage* - Students are open to new situations and experiences and have the independence of spirit to explore new ideas. They act with integrity and honesty and take responsibility for their own actions. They give thoughtful consideration to their own strengths and limitations and act to support their own development.

It can be helpful to picture our ethos in terms of a sports team or a music band or the cast and crew of a play:

- *Intellect* - learning to play, developing skills, tactical knowledge
- *Empathy* - working together, sensitive to the team around you
- *Courage* - to practice, to persevere, to perform - resilience

Everyone who visits our school notices the warmth of the relationships between students and staff. The sixth form is the powerhouse of the school and drives a vibrant community which enjoys a remarkable array of extracurricular activities, many of them rooted in our vibrant and competitive house system. Our school motto translates as "to strive for excellence" and we also use the slogan 'developing compassionate leaders' which links the empathy of our ethos with the impressive leadership of our student body,

particularly in the sixth form. They have, for example, worked closely with senior management in response to the Black Lives Matters protests in the summer of 2020 and the issues of sexual harassment raised in the spring of 2021.

Ofsted

The school was last inspected by Ofsted in November 2007. The report judged the school to be Outstanding, and noted that:

- What makes Bexley Grammar School outstanding is an unrelenting drive to ensure that all students achieve their very best, both academically and personally;
- Management of its work as a specialist college is excellent and fosters the School's vision of always seeking to raise students' expectations and achievements;
- The School's supportive ethos motivates students to perform to the best of their ability and makes them 'thirsty to learn'. As a result, they show high levels of interest in everything going on in school;
- Classroom relationships are very positive and students feel that teachers 'will always go the extra mile' to help them. Teachers are passionate and knowledgeable about their subjects;
- A particularly strong feature of the School is its outstandingly rich curriculum that raises students' aspirations and stretches their imaginations;
- This is a very caring school. Parents, carers, students and staff are rightly proud of this aspect of the work of the School. Behaviour and attitudes are exemplary, both inside the classroom and around the School;
- Leadership and management are outstanding at all levels and high quality teamwork is a particularly strong feature.

In an Interim Assessment carried out in April 2011, Ofsted indicated that the School's outstanding performance had been sustained. As an Outstanding school, it was exempt from inspection for many years but with exemption for such schools now removed, we are looking forward to a visit from inspectors in order to demonstrate that it should retain that judgement. The statements above still describe the school accurately and we are also proud to have gained the [Wellbeing Award for Schools](#) in January 2020 in recognition of the impact of our ethos on wellbeing for both students and staff.

Selective admission

Following a series of tests set by CEM and overseen by the Local Authority and the four local grammar schools, 'selective' education in the London Borough of Bexley is offered to the top 30% (approximately) of Bexley pupils transferring to secondary school at age 11+; similar opportunities are available to pupils from outside the borough who reach the same standard. The school's annual Year 7 intake comes from about 40 primary schools. There are also specific requirements for entry to the sixth form for both internal and external students; about 75% of our year 11 take up their BGS place in the sixth form and are joined by approximately 70 students from other schools. The current school roll is 1,450 with some 430 students in the sixth form.

Leadership

The Senior Leadership Team comprises the Headteacher, two Deputy Headteachers and four Assistant Headteachers. The two Deputies each lead a 'Learning Team' consisting of Assistant Heads, Heads of Department, Directors of Studies, Subject Leaders, Heads of House and key Support Staff. Members of the Senior Leadership Team experience job rotation with the intention being to enhance professional expertise through first hand experience of, and involvement in, as many aspects of school leadership over time as possible. They line-manage departments through Heads of Departments; pastoral year teams through Directors of Studies; and also take responsibility for a range of specific areas of the school's leadership and operation such as DSL, staffing, oversight of the curriculum and timetable, and so on.

Further information

Please explore our website for further information about the character and operation of our school. The following links include parent and student feedback - the ultimate measure of the success of a school.

Particularly relevant sections include:

- [School Prospectus](#) (separate main school and sixth form)
- [Short introductory video](#) (made in school and featuring some student viewpoints)
- [Introductory video](#) to our virtual Sixth Form open experience
- [DFE Performance tables](#)

- [Curriculum Overview](#)
- [The IB at Bexley Grammar School](#)
- Browse our [weekly newsletters](#)
- [House system](#)
- [Parent Views](#) (116 responses during the last academic year)