STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Vladimir F who goes through to the British Informatics Olympiad (BIO) 2024 final which will be held at Trinity College, Cambridge, from 5 - 7 April 2024.

The British Informatics Olympiad (BIO) is an annual competition in computer programming for secondary school students and only 15 contestants have been invited to the final and the top four finalists will win an expenses-paid trip to Egypt in September, to represent Great Britain at the 2024 International Olympiad in Informatics.

We wish Vlad the very best of luck and congratulate him for getting this far.

MFL SPELLING BEE SUCCESS!

On the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd January, a group of eight students from years 8 and 9 went to Bexley Grammar School for the KS3 MFL Spelling Bee Regional Final, each having been identified as the top linguist for their respective languages in their year groups following an in-house competition.

Our students were competing against the top linguists from Dartford, Bexley and Townley grammar schools in a race to spell aloud as many words as possible in their language of study, including accents and using the target language alphabet, within one minute.

The competition was fierce and we are delighted to share that two of our students emerged victorious - Sam E in 9B is the regional champion for Italian and Manolis P in 9C is the regional champion for German!

A huge congratulations to all students who took part - you were a credit to the school and your teachers are very proud of you!
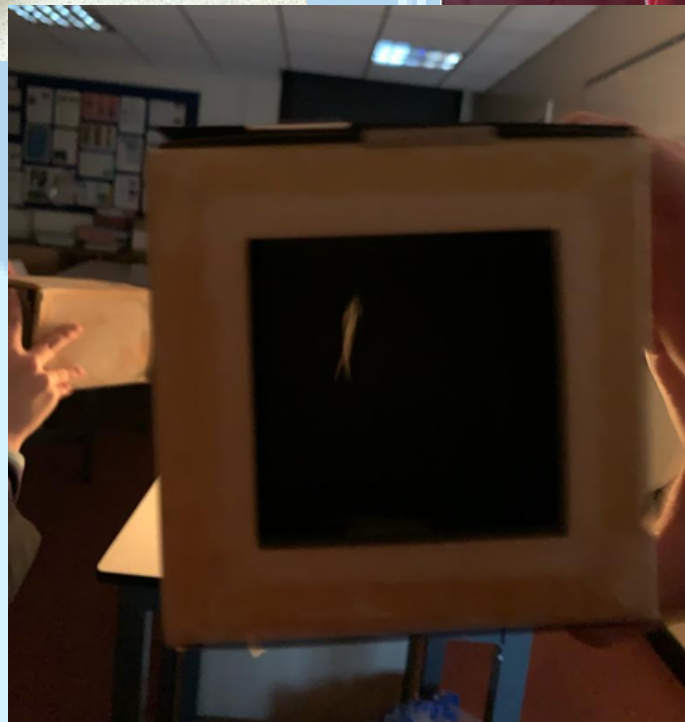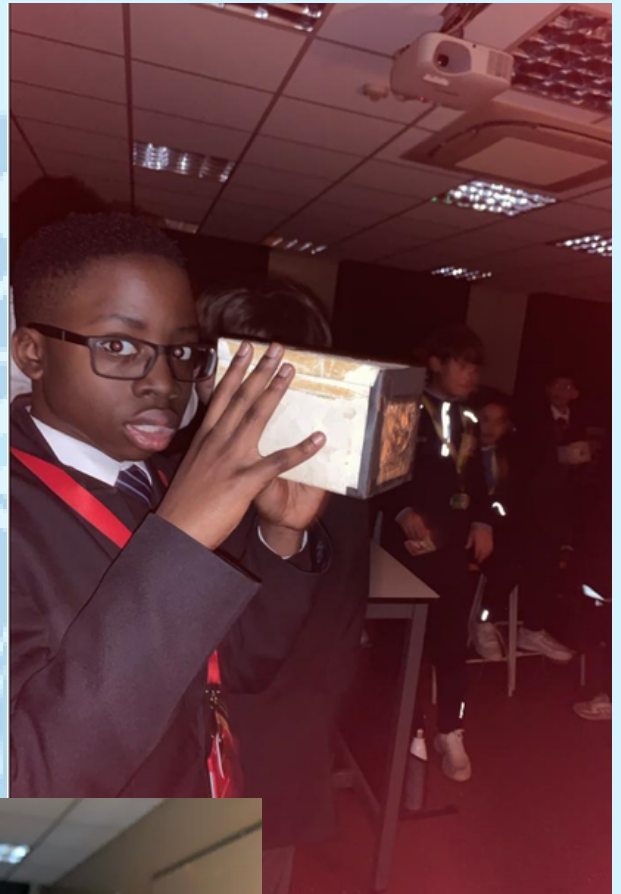
YEAR 10 HONOUR TIES

Congratulations our new Year 10 Honour Tie students. These ties have been awarded to students who have exemplified the school's values: Excellence, Respect, Nurture and Community. Well done all!

KS3 STEM CLUB

During KS3 STEM club this week, students made a pinhole camera and captured images of a Bunsen Burner flames. It was another exciting session, full of fun and challenges.

FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Results for week commencing 22nd January.

FOOTBALL					
Date	**Competition**	**Team**	**Opposition**	**Venue**	**Start time**
23.01.24	North Kent	U15A	V Welling School	Away	Won 1 – 5
24.01.24	Kent Cup	1st XI	V Dane Court Grammar School	Home	Won 1 – 0
25.01.24	Kent League	U13	V Bexleyheath Academy	Away	Lost 1- 0

BASKETBALL					
Date	**Competition**	**Team**	**Opposition**	**Venue**	**Start time**
22.01.24	Kent Cup	U15A	V Bexley Grammar	Home	Won 74-29
23.01.24	London Youth Games	U14A	V The Royal Liberty School	Away	Won 47-25

RUGBY					
Date	**Competition**	**Team**	**Opposition**	**Venue**	
22.01.24	Friendly	U13A	V Dartford Grammar	Away	Won 25-45

*Please note that some matches may be cancelled/postponed and therefore we ask you to keep an eye on the SOCS website.
Beths Grammar School | Sports Home (bethssport.co.uk).

If you have any questions, please email us at fixtures@beths.bexley.sch.uk

@BethsGrammar   Beths Grammar School   @BethsGS

FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Fixtures for week commencing 22nd January.

FOOTBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
29.01.24	North Kent League	U16A	V St Mary Magdalene	Home	2:30pm
29.01.24	North Kent League	U12A	V Bexleyheath Academy	Away	2:30pm
30.01.24	North Kent League	U15A	V Wilmington Grammar	Home	2:30pm
30.01.24	North Kent League	U12B	V Bexleyheath Academy	Away	2:30pm
02.02.24	North Kent League	U14	V Bexley Grammar School	Away	2:30pm

BASKETBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
31.01.24	Kent Cup	U18A	V Haberdashers	Away	3:15pm
01.02.24	Kent Cup	U16A	V The Royal Liberty School	Away	3:45pm

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KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION 13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was $9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posting under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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