



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a very pleasant and restful summer break and it is with great pleasure that I welcome your son back to school to begin his studies in year 8. As Head of Year 8 and I am looking forward to again working with your son to ensure he achieves his full potential whilst at Beths Grammar School. You will already be aware of most of the schools procedures, and know that you are always welcome to contact your son's Form Tutor or myself over any matter to do with your son. The form tutor should be your first point of contact, please request a phone call via the school planner where possible.

Every year at school is essential to the development of your son's progress and we strongly believe that the younger years are crucial in instilling in students good habits for learning and a culture for hard work and high achievement. To ensure we achieve this I have made reference to a number of key areas below that I would like you to discuss with your son to ensure that you are both fully aware of the expectations for arriving back to school. This will ensure a smooth and successful start to year 8.

Academic progress/achievement and homework

Our aim at Beths is to ensure all our students achieve their full potential, both academically and socially. You will be already familiar with the process of academic tutoring and this will begin within the first few weeks of your son starting back to school. Every lesson in school counts towards your son's development and it is therefore essential that he is putting in his best effort both in and outside of lessons. With GCSE and A-Level qualifications becoming more challenging it is essential that your son is working hard at Key Stage Three in order to be best prepared for these important exams. We ask that you ensure your son has adequate provision for completing homework and academic study/revision at home where he is free from distractions and is able to complete all homework to the best of his ability.

Teachers will be setting homework using the **New Show My Homework website**. Your son has been given log in details so that he can access the homework. Subject teachers will expect all homework to be completed to a high standard and handed in on time. ***The completion of homework is compulsory***. Failure to complete homework will be treated as a serious issue and sanctions will be imposed. We ask that you contact your son's Form Tutor and class teacher immediately if any problems with the completion of homework arise, in order that the matter can be resolved quickly.

The school has a homework club operating in the LRC after school running for one hour. This is a voluntary extra provision for students who require a quiet place to work and study. However, homework club will become compulsory for students who have failed to complete homework on time and/or to an acceptable standard. Students who attend the compulsory homework club will do so daily where they will be supported and monitored to ensure that their homework is up to date and reflects their ability. Attendance to compulsory homework club will be reviewed regularly. You will be informed if your child is targeted for compulsory homework club.

All homework (and classwork) must be well presented. I ask that you continue to check the quality of your son's homework before it is submitted to assess if the work is well presented, dates presents, titles underlined and that the work is fully complete. Homework is designed to be challenging and engaging and it should not be rushed. Where a piece of work is slightly more challenging and requires more time, it is expected that your son will invest the extra time to ensure it is completed properly. Failure to take academic study seriously will result in your son being placed on a monitoring report.

Student planners

The size of the student planner has been reduced due to not having to record homework information. I cannot emphasise enough the proper use of the school planner as an instrument of communication between yourselves, the school and your son. Please be vigilant on a daily basis to note comments from staff, both positive and negative. We ask parents/carers to sign the planner weekly to ensure that any comments have been noted and commendations, demerits and detentions checked. We expect boys to pack their bag the night before using the planner to check through the next day's lessons and ensure that all important items and books are brought to school on the correct day. Students should treat the planner as their most important piece of equipment and as such keep it organised, neat and free from graffiti, and on their person at all times when in school.

Attendance and punctuality

All boys must report to their form room every morning for registration at 8.45am. If he is late more than twice in a half-term without an acceptable reason, your son will receive a detention on a Friday directly after school. We advise students to not always rely on the last bus or train as any interruptions to bus or train routes could leave your son late for school. Please review the school policy on attendance and authorised absences on the school website. I will be closely monitoring any students late to school or with persistent absences.

Behaviour

Beths Grammar School has high expectations of all students and this includes having high expectations of students' behaviour. The school has an emphasis on good discipline and ensures that a calm learning environment is created in which every student can learn and feel safe. We are pleased that the vast majority of our boys consistently follow school rules and demonstrate extremely positive behaviour and attitudes to learning. Students are expected to be respectful of one another and to the school building. Students are expected to raise their hands and not call out; they will be expected to move around the school quietly and calmly and most importantly of all, no student should ever argue with a member of staff or refuse to follow instructions of a member of staff. No student has the right to disrupt the learning of other students. Swift sanctions will be implemented where a student fails to comply with school rules. Please see below the revised sanctions under the new behaviour policy for this academic year:

Detention Type	Duration	Reasons
On the day	up to 30 minutes	Minor misbehaviour
Individual staff detention	Up to 45 minutes	Misbehaviour, avoidable underachievement, lack of work
Late Detention	30 minutes 45 Minutes 1 hour	3 Lates in one term 6 or more Lates in one term 9 or more Lates in one term
HOD/HOY Detention	Up to 1.5 hours	Persistent misbehaviour, persistent underachievement, persistent lack of work
Deputy Head's Detention	Up to 2 hours	Serious misbehaviour, serious underachievement, serious lack of work
Saturday Detention	Up to 3 hours	Serious misbehaviour, serious underachievement, serious lack of work
Staff Only Day Detention	Up to 6 hours	Serious misbehaviour, serious underachievement, serious lack of work

Whilst bullying is rare at

Beths and we are proud of the fact that our students are thoughtful and courteous to one another. Please continue to speak with your son regularly about his time at school and if he is being bullied, or you suspect there is an issue in school, please contact his form tutor as soon as possible so we can investigate the issue. Any student caught bullying or creating a difficult environment for another student will be dealt with.

Mobile phones

Phones should be turned off whilst in lessons and whilst walking to lessons. Should a student be caught using his phone in or between lessons, or a phone going off in a lesson, the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the day. Should this continue to occur with the same student the phone will be placed in reception to be picked up from the parent/guardian. Boys may access the internet in school and use their phones in lessons only when directed to do so by their classroom teacher. Mobiles can be a useful learning tool, but only when used correctly and sensibly.

Online safety

Many young people now communicate using social networking sites. Please ensure that you monitor his activity to avoid him from accessing inappropriate sites or communicating with people he may not know. Because of his age it is good practice to have access to their social networking accounts in order to monitor his online behaviour. 'WhatsApp' groups are a popular way of communicating and many boys use these sensibly, however it only takes for one group member to post something offensive that could cause distress to others. Please be aware of what social networking channels your son has access to and monitor his activity regularly. If your son is caught using his phone inappropriately in school it will be confiscated and you will be asked to collect it from the school office.

Uniform

Please ensure your son arrives to school in full correct uniform that complies with school rules. Hooded tops are not part of the Beths uniform. If your son is caught wearing a hooded top it will be confiscated. When the weather is colder, he should wear his school coat. We ask that parents ensure that the coat is grey, navy blue or black and of an appropriate design. Boys do not need expensive school coats. Coats are not to worn inside the school building. This includes movements between lessons.

All boys must wear a proper pair of black shoes for school. They are not to wear trainers – even black ones – to school, except in exceptional circumstances, where an accompanying note is required, e.g. medical. Any circumstances that are deemed not to be exceptional will result in the student being taken out of circulation until the situation is resolved. Shoes and the rest of the school uniform should be cleaned regularly and boys must wear only plain black, navy or dark grey socks to school. Belts should be black leather only with a sensible buckle. Uniform will be monitored regularly by form tutors and subject teachers.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and I look forward to working with you and your son over the year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D K Keeley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs D K Keeley
Head of Year 8