

## Beths Blog

### Week ending Friday 6 October 2017

Hopefully you will have noticed that our website has changed.

We have been working hard to make improvements and to ensure that visitors to the site are able to navigate it easily and that all the information they are looking for is there. We hope the video, along with all the new photography, also gives you a good idea of what it is like to be studying here at Beths.

If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve this new site further, please email the school: [admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk) with the words 'Suggestions for the website' in the subject line so that these can be considered further.

#### Language and Culture week by Thomas McKeon, 9B

Language and Culture week was celebrated last week at Beths. It was an exciting time where numerous activities occurred that helped students gain a better insight into other cultures and traditions such as; Spanish Tapas tasting, beginner lessons in Russian and Italian, and French cheese tasting. During the Spanish Tapas tasting we got the chance to try a variety of different dishes and food like chorizo and Tortilla Española. ¡Era muy sabroso!

The event I most enjoyed was the beginner lessons in Russian and Italian because it was a very rare opportunity to speak to first language speakers and see the similarities and differences to English. Also there was a dressing up competition. It was very competitive and hard to choose the winners as students had put a lot of effort and thought into their costumes.

#### German: Professor Ulrike Zitzlsperger – Visiting Lecturer

Students studying German in Year 11 enjoyed a morning of German cultural enrichment and language tuition on the Friday morning of our Languages and Cultures Week. Professor Ulrike Zitzlsperger kindly visited Beths to deliver a lecture about German festive customs, and a smaller seminar-style session on German linguistic quirks, in which students got enthusiastically involved!

*From the students:*

“The overall experience was very interesting and informative. For example, we learnt about lots of their unique customs and how they are both



similar and different to ours. One of the differences is that on 'Father's Day' the Germans build a small cart and fill it with alcohol. Whereas, in the UK we exchange cards. Furthermore, one of their festivals include them having to dress up as witches to scare away the evil spirits." – Shahaab, Aatmiya and Theo, Year 11 German students.

### **Bubble Tea Bonanza**

No need to go to Chinatown – we have a pop-up Bubble Tea stall every so often at Beths. But students in Key Stage 3 at Beths are familiar with the routine – if you don't ask for it in Chinese, you can't have any! Years 7, 8, and 9 were invited to sign up for a special Bubble Tea tasting session on Wednesday of Languages and Cultures Week, organized by Ms McLeod and Miss Li and run by Year 13 Mandarin students (many thanks to Kevin, Dan, Archie, Tim, and Max!)



### **Hanban Teachers**

In the midst of all the cultural activities last week, the Beths MFL department was delighted to welcome our two new Chinese assistant teachers from Hanban, Ms Liu and Ms Cao. Ms Liu got straight into the action this Tuesday when she ran the first Beths KS3 Chinese Culture Club, teaching calligraphy (on magic paper!) to an enthusiastic group of students. All KS3 students are welcome to the weekly club – no language knowledge necessary!

