



Beths Blog

Week ending Friday 15 February 2019

It's Half Term!

What are you up to this week?

Year 7 Parents Evening

It's the first parents evening for Year 7 students. Parents, please make sure you book your appointments via our online system on the school's website. Bookings close on Monday 25 February at Midnight.

Italian Lunch

Year 8 students studying Italian enjoyed a lunch time of eating homemade vanilla ice cream with a shot of coffee – the famous and tasty Italian dessert, 'affogato.' They listened to Italian music and learnt how the Italian coffee maker works (the water boiling up the contraption, through the coffee, creating the smooth, silky coffee drink!) We were joined by Year 10s who love Italian and who helped serve, and also joined in the eating!

We all had lots of fun and students really enjoyed tasting affogato – parents, you should ask them to make it for you – it really is very good!

Grazie for coming – what shall we have next time?



Chinese New Year Celebrations

As the Chinese New Year celebrations continue, some students have written entries for the blog to explain what they have been up to:

My Mandarin experience by Kishan V

Dumplings: On Wednesday the 6th of February, on the second day of Chinese New Year we made dumplings. Miss Wang showed us how to make the dumplings. We learnt how to roll out and fold the dough around our filling. We also were provided with soy sauce as a dip. It was delicious for me and my family.



Chinese Experience Club: In Chinese experience club, I have done many fun things from learning how to use chopsticks to making Chinese opera masks, paper lanterns for Chinese new year and cards for Christmas. This was fun and we learnt many things about Chinese culture and different characters like 圣诞 which means Christmas in Chinese. We also learnt characters like 蓝 which means green, 绿 which means blue and 红 which means red. These characters were linked to the opera masks where we learnt colours. Chinese experience club is on every Thursday and it is a great way to have fun with friends and also learn.

In conclusion I believe that Mandarin is all about learning and enjoying yourself at the same time. I think that is a great combination.

新年好 Happy New Year by Joel H

During the last week it has been Chinese New Year, throughout the week the Mandarin students enjoyed a variety of activities to celebrate, we also performed an assembly to the rest of KS3 (Year 7, 8 & 9). We all enjoyed the last week and the activities that it brought.

Monday 4th February-Chinese New Year's Eve
Last Monday we experienced a celebration with the Kung Fu Master we learnt a variety of Chinese arts including: Kung Fu, Tai Chi and Lion dancing.

- **Kung Fu**

During Period 1 the Kung Fu Master taught us a variety of Kung Fu techniques including 'Ma Bu' (horse stance in English) where you have to stand in a squat position and punch at the same time as making the noise Hua! We were also taught a lot of stretches to warm us up for the Kung Fu routine that followed.

- **Tai Chi**

Tai Chi is a lot calmer and flows more than Kung Fu. In Tai Chi the Kung Fu Master taught us a basic, rhythmic routine which the entire class tried our best to copy (although this is not as easy as it seems). It very much surprised us when the final move was a stamp with the right foot given this is not as calm as the other moves. During this exercise you must be calm and, most importantly, move quietly and slowly to get the calm effect across.

- **Lion Dancing**

During the end of Period 3 we learnt how to move a lion's head, and body to portray different emotions- this is known as lion dancing. To make the lion happy you must use one hand to pump and once this is complete you must use the other hand. To make the lion angry you pump both arms at the same time. And to make the lion sleep you must pull on the levers and this will make the eyes close (so if you pull one string you can make the lion wink!

Wednesday 6th February

On the 6th February the students who study Mandarin performed an assembly in order to celebrate Chinese New Year. We performed an assembly to the rest of KS3 explaining Chinese New Year to the students, during this Year 7 also performed a song (新年好呀) which tells you what Chinese people do at Chinese New Year. Miss Li awarded prizes to students who won the Chinese New Year quiz.



U14 Basketball

We congratulate the Under 14 Basketball team who qualified in the Regional rounds of the England Schools competition to reach the last 16 in the country.

Congratulations team!

October Open Events for Year

Following a recent survey of our current Year 7 parents regarding whether they would have preferred an open event on a Saturday, rather than on a Thursday evening, an overwhelming response came back with 'yes' to the Saturday.

With this in mind, we will be holding an open day on Saturday 12 October with the intention that the school will be closed to all staff and students on Monday 14 October.

Further details will follow in the next few weeks.

Duke of Edinburgh

In preparation for the end of the summer term, some Year 10 students were involved in the external Duke of Edinburgh risk assessment training on Wednesday afternoon.



St George's Hospital Trip

Mr Neylan and Mrs Sangster took 23 Year 12 students to St George's Hospital, University of London in Tooting on Wednesday to find out about medical degrees.

St George's had laid on a fantastic programme, meeting academic staff and students. Students were given good advice about applications, grades, personal statements, and volunteering experience, all of which are essential for successful applicants for medicine. Some time was spent in a lecture in St George's specimen museum where some of the body parts and organs were up to two hundred years old.

After lunch, there were two clinic workshops. One workshop focused on Physiotherapy. The other workshop was based in St George's training ward, no live patients, just manikins, where students practiced CPR, measured lung capacity and reflexes, amongst other things. It was a full-on insight into what studying for medicine is like.



House Hero

We are looking to celebrate a member of each house with a 'House Hero' award. This will be displayed on the House notice boards in school and will be an ongoing feature, refreshed every half term, with a new 'Hero'. The nominations will be centred on Beths core values of Excellence, Community, Respect and Nurture.

Staff will be nominating students who they feel fit the criteria and the first House Hero's will be presented after the February Half Term.

Book Amnesty Month

February will be a 'Book Amnesty' month, in that all overdue library books returned during February will have the fine waived. Students have been asked (by form tutors) to please check lockers, school bags, at home on bookshelves and in bedrooms to see if they have any school library books (all books are stamped inside). We would really appreciate parents and carers help in finding and returning books. All books in the library have been scanned and so during March all current lenders of 'late' books still outstanding will be contacted. Fines will then be payable and if books still not returned, they will need to be replaced. Thank you.

Additionally, if you have books in good condition at home that are no longer wanted (and are age appropriate for our students) then we really welcome such additions to the library. Please bring any donations in to school reception, or ask your son or daughter to bring them to the staff in the LRC.

Come and join the Parents Association

We've had a busy start and already we have a couple of dates to keep free in your diary.

We have dates for the next Beths PA Quiz Night is 30th March 2019. This is always such a fun night. Teams of eight, Adults and older children (11+) all welcome. It is £5.00 per ticket for adults and £2.50 for the older children. Keep an eye out for the flyer that will be e-mailed to you by the school.

Another date to keep free in your diaries is Saturday 8th June 2019 as we are lucky enough to be able to invite Out of Bounds Comedy in to run a Comedy Night. This is a hugely popular event a Beths and has proved extremely popular in the past. An evening of stand-up comedy with talented comedians, socialising with other Beths parents with a licensed bar – fundraising for your school doesn't get better than this! Come along for a chat, a laugh; bring yourselves and bring some friends...The bigger the crowd the bigger the laughs!

Sport

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL			
N Kent (quarter Final)	25.02.19	U19 v King Henry	Home
	25.02.19	U12 v King Henry	Away
	28.02.19	U16 v St Pauls	Away



BASKETBALL

National	26.02.19	Year 7 v NTC	Away
	27.02.19	Year 9 v Cheney School	Home

RESULTS

FOOTBALL

N Kent (quarter final)	13.02.19	U14 v Bexley	Home	Won 2-1
	13.02.19	U12 v King Henry	Away	Postponed to 25/2

BASKETBALL

London Youth Games	11.02.19	U16 v Raines Foundation	Home	Lost 66-49
--------------------	----------	-------------------------	------	------------

Coming up

Chess Tournament

A new chess tournament is about to begin shortly! This will be taking place in the MCC on Friday lunchtimes, alongside the Beths Chess Club. If students would like to register, please see Mr Hegarty before the Half Term break to participate in the tournament. There will be chances to win prizes and the top 10 players will be able to go to the Dalancey Chess Tournament!

Good luck!

St Patricks Day Community Event for Retired/Semi-Retired

Our MFL Department will be hosting another community event and this time the theme is St Patrick's Day. It will be held on the Monday 18 March 2019 between 14:00pm – 15.15pm.

More information to follow...

Students on Site – one arriving at 6.40am on last week!

A reminder that there are still an increasing number of students arriving particularly early in the morning and staying late into the evening. The school actually opens for students at 8.00am in the morning and we would encourage all students (unless they are remaining for pre-arranged activities) to have left the site by 5.00pm.



Beths Grammar School



@Bethsgs



Beths Grammar



As the title suggests, one student arrived at 6.40am in the morning last week – just ten minutes after the first member of the site team – as we hope you understand, this is really not acceptable.

The school is unable to ensure there is a qualified first aider on site before 8.00am in the morning and after 4.30pm in the evening. This request is being made as we are unable to supervise students outside of these times and we can therefore take no responsibility for them, should they be involved in any form of accident.

Safety and Courtesy

On a more serious note, we would like to remind parents, students and staff to continue to be respectful of our neighbours and not park across their driveways. The safety of our students continues to be our utmost priority and so we also ask that, if you are dropping off or collecting your son or daughter, you abide by the road markings and refrain from parking on zig-zags or double yellow lines.

We have also received a couple of calls from members of the public about parents dropping students in the morning actually on the roundabout at the top of Bourne Road – close to Dartfordians. This is obviously extremely dangerous not just for other road users, but also for the students themselves. We would urge that parents please find a safe place to drop-off their child/children for school.