



**Beths Grammar School
Joining our Sixth Form**

**Information for Parents/Carers
of Students new to Beths**

Entry September 2019

Welcome to Beths School:

Thank you for showing an interest in joining our school community.

The decision of where to go post 16 is difficult because there are so many factors to be considered. This evening's event, together with the Induction programme later in the summer, are designed to help you arrive at the best decision.

The purposes of this evening are to:

- Help you make the right choices
- Ensure you know our entry requirements
- Ensure you know our expectations
- Find out what you need to do on results day
- Find out what it's really like to be a student here

We are proud of our school, our students, their achievements and their participation within the local community.

Joining our school in September 2019 will mean that you are part of our large, diverse school community where they will have access to, amongst other things:

- Outstanding pastoral support
- A caring and inclusive environment
- An extensive A Level curriculum of more than 30 courses
- A work-like culture
- An outstanding team of specialist subject teachers
- A broad range of extra-curricular activities
- Outstanding opportunities and guidance about university choices/employment sectors
- An internship programme

Our academic curriculum is exclusively A Level. A Levels are still regarded as the 'gold standard' academic qualification for 16-18 year old students. They are qualifications understood by universities, employers, parents and students.

We hope that you find this evening informative and we very much look forward to welcoming you to our Induction events in June, and to joining us in September.

Mr. Richard J. Blyghton
Headteacher

Mr. Kevin A. O'Brien
Assistant Headteacher

Information Evening for Parents/Carers of Student new to Beths

1st May 2019

Programme for the Evening

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 5.00pm to 5.40pm | For early arrivals: An opportunity to have a brief tour of the school, given by our Sixth Form Prefects |
| 18.00-18.10 | Mr. R Blyghton - Headteacher <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to Beths |
| 18.10-18.25 | Mr. K O'Brien – Assistant Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Life of a Grammar School Student |
| 18.25-18.30 | Elgin, Head Boy and Olivia, Head Girl <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student life at Beths |
| 18.30-18.40 | Mrs. L Hubert – Sixth Form Admissions Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrangements for Induction• What do I do on results day? |

Staff will be around to take any questions at the end

Key Contacts:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Mr. R Blyghton | - | Headteacher |
| Mr. K O'Brien | - | Assistant Headteacher (Head of Sixth Form) |
| Mr. C Watkins | - | Head of Year 12 |
| Mrs. L Hubert | - | Sixth Form Administrator (Admissions & UCAS) |
| Mrs. K Sircom | - | Sixth Form Learning Mentor |
| Mrs. J Medlen | - | Office Manager |
| Mrs. J Chandler | - | Attendance Officer |
| Mrs. J Game | - | Careers, Information, Advice & Guidance |
| Elgin Addo | - | Head Boy |
| Olivia Best | - | Head Girl |
| Josh Hurley | - | Deputy Head Boy |
| Evie Shaw | - | Deputy Head Girl |

Why Choose Beths School?

At the heart of our school are the principles of promoting educational excellence and developing leadership skills.

Our aim is that students develop into a well-rounded, positive young adults, who cares about our community, maximises their academic ability and develop strong social skills to get to the next stage in life - be that university or employment.

We give all our students, from Year 7 to Year 13, every opportunity to excel, both academically and within the wider community. Our outstanding team of subject specialist staff provide a curriculum which is diverse and engaging and we push our students to achieve the very highest level.

Our goal is to ensure that they leave us with the skills, qualifications and confidence to pursue any path they wish and we will support them through every step of their journey. From our dedicated teaching staff to our outstanding pastoral support team; from advice and guidance at our annual Higher Education and Careers Day to organising an internship with an employer in a career sector of their choice – we will support, guide and advise them all the way from A Level to UCAS or job application.

What will students study?

Most students in Year 12 will begin on a core programme of three A Levels. For our most able students, there is the facility to study for four A Levels in Year 12 and 13 and, for students embarking on Further Mathematics and Mathematics, a programme of four A Levels is mandatory.

Our school day

08.45 – 08.50 Registration (Register closes at 8.50)

08.50 – 09.10 Assembly or Form Tutor time

09.10 – 10.00 Period 1

10.00 – 10.50 Period 2

10.50 – 11.10 Break

11.10 – 12.00 Period 3

12.00 – 12.50 Period 4

12.50 – 13.50 Lunch

13.50 – 14.40 Period 5

14.40 – 15.30 Period 6

What other opportunities are available for me to develop?

LEAP

In addition to their core A Level programme and to enhance and develop their personal/interpersonal skills, interests and academic studies, students will contribute to our LEAP entitlement programme - *Lead, Enrich, Act and Participate*. This means they will be able to benefit from activities such as Duke of Edinburgh, community placements in local primary schools and charities, volunteering with other schools such as Marlborough or be a Subject Mentor to younger students at Beths. They can also produce academic research on a topic which really enthuses them through the *Extended Project Qualification* (EPQ). Alternatively, they can complete a number of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) or play rugby, basketball, cricket, football, netball or use our gym.

Prefects

Around Easter-time of Year 12, we select our new Prefect team. Our Prefects have an important part to play in the life of the school and are a part of our school culture. They help organise charity events, act as guides to visitors to the school, assist at Open Days and other events (such as this evening) and liaise with the Head of Year, and Senior Leaders. Organised by our Student Leadership Team and Senior Prefects, the prefect team also support staff, within academic departments as well as in administrative roles. Prefects are also valuable role models for our younger students.

Clubs and Societies

There is a busy schedule of clubs and societies which operate around the school – the PPE Society, for example, is particularly popular.

Sport and Performing Arts

We have an extensive number of successful sports teams which provide opportunities for students to participate in a range of organised sporting activities both competitively and for pleasure. Our Music Department puts on regular concerts and our School Orchestra practises each week, while budding actors have the opportunity to take part in our annual school production (*Oliver* in 2019).

The House Community

When students join us in Year 12, as well as being a member of a Tutor Group, they will also be a member of one of our six Houses: Abbey, Brampton, Cray, Eardley, Hurst and Wickham. Each House is led by a House Captain (also appointed around Easter of Year 12) and is comprised of students from Year 7 to Year 13. The House system encourages competitiveness and provides opportunities for students to meet with other students from across the school as well as to participate in sporting, performing arts, debating and other events whilst competing to win the school House Trophy.

Pastoral Support

Form Tutors are the first line of pastoral support and will offer help and guidance to students throughout their time here. There are 10 Tutor Groups in Year 12 and these are mixed - in terms of students new to the school and those already at Beths, as well as by gender. Students from other schools always settle in well at Beths and quickly become highly valued members of our Sixth Form community.

The Head of Year 12, Mr. Watkins, and the Assistant Headteacher in charge of the Sixth Form, Mr. O'Brien, will also be involved in monitoring the progress of our Year 12 students, as well as offering any extra support and advice that might be needed throughout your studies.

Our Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Education programme (PSHCE) aims to support student's personal development and preparation for university, employment or gap year programmes. A key focus during Year 12 is to prepare them for university and/or employment. We provide expert guidance about those choices and use organisations such as Imperial College to help guide and inform students.

We encourage all students to make fully informed decisions about their futures and advice is available to assist, not only those wishing to apply for university, but also those wishing to enter into employment or training, or to take a 'gap year'.

In this respect, during Year 12 we provide access to outside organisations such as the UCAS Exhibition in London during March/April, and the Higher Education & Careers event, held at our school in June/July. For those students who choose not to go to university at the end of Year 13, we also provide a wealth of careers information, advice and guidance and work together with organisations such as Prospects as well.

Expectations and Independent Study

The Sixth Form at Beths is for anyone who is determined to develop both their academic abilities and their personal skills in order to achieve the best qualifications they can. We have high expectations of our students, and teaching staff will encourage you to achieve at the highest levels. The progression they must make between GCSE and A Level performance is very challenging in many ways and our Tutors provide support to help students manage this transition and develop their study and life skills throughout their time in the Sixth Form.

All students receive a detailed booklet at the beginning of Year 12: “*Introduction to Sixth Form Study Skills*”, and extra learning is provided through seminars, visiting speakers, workshops, and direct group/individual mentoring. Topics covered include Time Management, Learning Styles, Critical Thinking, Revision and Exam Techniques.

In addition to a Parents/Carers Consultation Evening, we issue progress reports during the school year. Please refer to the School Calendar at the start of the new school year in September (which will be available to download from our website), for the dates.

Our Sixth Form students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. Compulsory study periods on their timetable help to bridge the gap between the structure of the GCSE timetable and the freedom they will experience at university, should they choose to go.

The Sixth Form Study Centre is a large space which has been redesigned to give students a suitable environment where they can study privately, quietly and effectively. Our Sixth Form Learning Mentors help to support independent learning by supervising directed study periods and running workshops to assist learning. They are always on hand for advice and guidance, for example, about how to study effectively.

Attendance and Absence

- Year 12 students must in school every day by 8.45am
- All **compulsory** directed study periods are to be used in the Sixth Form Study Centre (SFSC)
- An electronic attendance register is taken at the start of every lesson.
- Year 12 students will be issued with an electronic access card, which enables entry and exit at lunchtime (12.50pm to 13.45pm) only.
- Students who need to leave or enter the site for legitimate reasons outside of these hours must contact reception staff and sign in or out.
- We operate an automated parental call out system for student absence. If a student is absent from morning registration and we have no explanation for this, an automated phone call is made to parents/carers
- We expect students to be punctual for the start of school. It is extremely important that any student who arrives late in the morning (after 8.50am), ‘signs in’ at Reception.
- In the event of an absence; please let the School Office know the reason for this before 8.45 am on the first day. Please telephone 01322 556538 ext 172 (there is an answerphone on this extension for out of hours calls and at busy times) or email attendance@beths.bexley.sch.uk with the details of the absence. If the absence is prolonged, please follow this up on the third consecutive day of absence. Where an absence is likely to be longer than a week, parents/carers (or the student) should speak to or email the student’s Form Tutor in the first instance, to discuss possible strategies for support.
- Requests for absence must always be made in writing or by email as early in advance as possible to the Attendance Officer. Doctors and dental appointments, wherever possible, should be made outside of school hours and evidence of these appointments will be requested.
- The policy of the Governors at Beths Grammar School is that the Headteacher should not, except in exceptional circumstances, approve requests for holiday absence due to the negative effect such absence has on a student’s learning. Each request for absence will be considered on its individual merits, and a response given in writing, if the absence is for a whole day or more.
- Authority for absence to attend interviews, for university open days or for any other Higher

Education related absence - should be made via Mrs Hubert in the Sixth Form Centre

- Authority for absence to undertake driving lessons during school time will NOT be given. However, time off, within reason, to take a driving test will be authorised providing sufficient notification in writing is received from parents/carers.
- Please be advised that letters will be sent home from time to time, where there are concerns regarding a student's attendance and/or punctuality or work ethic.
- Work commitments (paid or otherwise) must not affect attendance or punctuality to school.

Sixth Form Dress Code 2019: Formal, Business Attire

Our Sixth Form students are role models for the entire school in every respect, including uniform.

- A suit jacket/blazer must be worn at all times
- A formal shirt/blouse must be worn at all times
- Boys must wear our school tie at all times
- Girls must wear our school tie on formal occasions
- Jumpers are in addition to, not instead of, jackets/blouses
- Jumpers must be V-neck
- Skirts/dresses must be of appropriate office environment length
- Jeans, leather, suede and leggings are not appropriate
- Hoodies, du-rags and trainers are not appropriate
- Office environment footwear must be worn at all times
- Make-up/jewellery/accessories must be discreet and subtle
- Religious headwear is allowed, but faces must be visible
- Logos must be discreet

We reserve the right to send students home for breaches of the Sixth Form Dress Code.

Confirmation of Results and Enrolment

Our entry requirements are:

- a minimum of 7 full course GCSEs at grades 9 to 4
- an average of at least grade 6 in the best 7 full course GCSEs
- a minimum of grade 5 in both English Language and Mathematics
- plus the individual subject requirements you need for each of your subject choices

GCSE results are released on Thursday 22nd August 2019. Students holding conditional offers, who have met our entry requirements and intend to join our Sixth Form in September, need to enter their results onto their on line application forms (via <https://beths.ulas.co.uk>) no later than **12.00pm on Friday 23rd August**. Please remember to include any qualifications taken previously as well.

You must confirm the A Level subjects you wish to study on your application form at the same time. These course choices do not necessarily have to be the same ones you initially included on your application form. However, you will only be able to select courses for which you have achieved the necessary accessing GCSE grade(s). Please see our website for details of our individual subject entry requirements

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2806&type=pdf>

If you have not confirmed your place on line by 12pm on Friday 23rd August, we may assume that you no longer want the place here, and the offer is likely to be withdrawn.

Students who require advice or wish to speak directly to a member of the Sixth Form Team about their application following the publication of their results, should email us on sixthform@beths.bexley.sch.uk or call us between 10.00am and 3.00pm on **Friday 23rd August**. It may be necessary for you to attend an appointment on Tuesday 27th August to discuss your situation with the Head of Sixth Form. Students who do not meet our school entry requirements will regrettably, not have their place confirmed.

You should not come into school in person on results day, as staff will not be available to help you. Please also be aware that our School Office/Reception staff will not be able answer students' concerns or deal directly with any Sixth Form issues.

Enrolment

Once we have checked and confirmed the courses submitted onto their on line form, applicants will be notified by email and invited to attend their document submission day to complete their Enrolment. These will be held on **Tuesday 27th** and **Wednesday 28th August**. Please see below for scheduling.

Your son/daughter's place in the Sixth Form is not confirmed until they have attended this enrolment. Therefore, if it is unlikely that he/she can be available on either of these dates, they must speak to Mrs Hubert at Induction in June, in order to make alternative arrangements for their documentation to be submitted and their place in the sixth form to be confirmed.

Students will need **to download our six enrolment forms** from our website and bring them, fully completed, with them to enrol. They will also need to have confirmation of their GCSE results and valid ID. Please see the separate admissions letter (issued this evening) and 'checklist' below for full details of what will be required and what is accepted as ID.

Please see the schedule below for details of when your son/daughter should attend Enrolment, by the letter of his/her **surname**:

| On Tuesday 27 th August | On Wednesday 28 th August |
|--|---|
| A → arrive between 9.00am and 10.30am | L – M → arrive between 9.00am and 10.30am |
| B – C → arrive between 10.30am and 12pm | N – O → arrive between 10.30am and 12pm |
| D – F → arrive between 12pm and 1.30pm | P – R → arrive between 12pm and 1.30pm |
| G – H → arrive between 2.00pm and 3.30pm | S – T → arrive between 2.00pm and 3.30pm |
| I – K → arrive between 3.30pm and 5pm | U - Z → arrive between 3.30pm and 5pm |

Students attending an appointment on Tuesday 27th August to discuss their application, should also have all relevant documentation with them (as below) so that, should a programme of study be agreed, they can be enrolled while they are here.

Checklist of documents to be submitted at Enrolment:

Items 1 to 6 below need to be downloaded from our website. We will advise you as soon they are available.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 Data Collection Sheet | 6 Salbutamol Inhaler Consent (if applicable) |
| 2 Home School Agreement | 7 Original GCSE result slips (including result slips or certificates for any early completed examinations) |
| 3 ICT Contract | 8 Original birth certificate or valid passport (plus a copy for our records) |
| 4 Consent form for School Trips and Other Off-Site Activities | 9 A copy of your (family home) council tax bill |
| 5 Dress Code Agreement | |

TERM DATES 2019 - 2020

2019

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| September | Monday 2 | Staff only day – no students to attend |
| | Tuesday 3 | Start of Autumn Term for Students |
| October | Monday 21 | Half Term Holiday – Ends Friday 25 October |
| October | Monday 28 | Start of second Half of Autumn Term |
| December | Friday 13 | End of Autumn Term (Christmas Holiday) |

2020

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|----------|-----------|---|
| January | Monday 6 | Start of Spring Term for Students |
| February | Monday 17 | Half Term Holiday – Ends Friday 21 February |
| | Monday 24 | Start of second Half of Spring Term |
| April | Friday 3 | End of Spring Term (Easter Holiday) |
| | Monday 20 | Start of Summer Term for Students |
| May | Monday 25 | Half Term Holiday – Ends Friday 29 May |
| June | Monday 1 | Start of second Half of Summer Term |
| July | Friday 17 | End of Summer Term (Summer Holiday begins) |

Exam result days

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|-------|--------------------|
| A2/AS | Thursday 13 August |
| GCSE | Thursday 20 August |