



Week ending Friday 3 May 2019

We were delighted to welcome Ahmad Nawaz to Beths Grammar last Friday. Ahmad survived a terrorist attack which took place at his school when he was 14 years old.

But now the brave teenager has turned the atrocity into something positive by travelling around the country giving anti-radicalisation talks to other students.

During the talks he tells his story and then urges the youngsters not to allow themselves to be drawn into the extremist world. He tells them how he was just 14 when members of the Taliban stormed his school in Peshawar in December 2014 and carried out a brutal massacre of everyone in the building.

“My brother was killed, 150 of my friends were killed and I watched my teachers being burned alive in front of my eyes,” he said.

“It was the most horrible experience of my life because school is a place where you expect to be safe - I never thought I would be attacked there.”

Ahmad was badly injured during the attack and spent two months in hospital in Pakistan before being flown to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

“They thought my arm would have to be amputated and it took 11 operations and two years in the QE but they managed to save my arm,” he said.

“It wasn’t just the physical pain, I went through a lot of emotional pain as well.”

After he recovered, Ahmad and his father, Muhammad and mum Samina, settled in Birmingham and now live in Harborne.

Now 19, Ahmad is studying for his International Baccalaureate at King Edward’s School and plans to then go on to Oxford University.

He juggles his academic studies with touring schools giving talks, but said spreading the message was essential.

“I couldn’t believe that children living in the UK were going abroad to get involved in terrorism - I thought they were mad.

“I say to schools, this is my story, listen - you’re living in the UK, you’re lucky, you have lots of opportunities - use them.”





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London Marathon

Ben Huggon is a former student studying medicine at Oxford. He ran the London Marathon last Sunday in an amazing 3 hours, 2 minutes and 28 seconds!! Well done Ben and congratulations!

If anyone would still like to make a donation, please do so by following the link:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/BenHuggon2>



We are delighted, as a school, to also have been able to make a donation to this excellent cause.



Information Evening for new External Sixth Form Students and Parents/Carers – 1 May

We were delighted to invite over 500 external students to our Sixth Form Information Evening on Wednesday.

All visitors were remind as to how they apply for Beths Grammar's Sixth Form once they receive their GCSE grades in the August. They were also reminded that we are able to offer them more than 30 different subject choices – something very few other schools are able to do.

Next Thursday 9 May is our Information Evening for current Year 11 students and we hope to welcome many of you along at 5.00pm.

Year 12 Trial Exams – 2 May

Our Year 12 students will be continuing to sit their trial exams next week. We hope you are all prepared and ready to go! Good luck! Hopefully, when the papers are marked and returned to you, you'll be able to see how much you know and how much work you still need to do.

Touch Rugby

Mr Chamberlain is starting a new Touch Rugby club for Year 7 and Year 8 students. It will take place on Mondays, from 3.45pm on the School Field. There is a signup sheet outside the PE office. We would love to see lots of you getting involved!



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North Kent Football Finals

We are pleased to announce that we have two teams in the final! Beths U12 v St Columbas are playing on the 8 May at Fleetdown FC, Dartford. Beths U16 v Hurstmere are then playing on the 10 May at Fleetdown FC, both kicking off at 5pm.

We would love to see lots of you at the games, supporting our teams. It is £2.00 per adult and £1.00 per child to cover entrance and a programme.

A little Jenga

The large Jenga has arrived in school ready for the Sixth Form Leavers do at the end of May. We put it together in the Head's office and have had many members of staff dropping by to give it a go.

We managed to get it to a height of 38 rows!





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Art Show

On Wednesday 3 July, the Art Department will be hosting their annual Art Show. This will be showcasing all the work that has been created by Art GCSE and A Level students. This show is open to the public and it would be wonderful to see you all there!

If you would like to come along and join us, the Art Show will be taking place between 6.30-8.30pm on 3 July.

Supporting Your Child During Exam Time (Young Minds)

As we start to move towards exam season, Young Minds have launched advice for parents about supporting their children.

Tips include:

- Encourage your child to take revision breaks and find a balance between studying and doing things they find enjoyable and relaxing.
- Make sure they are eating and drinking at regular intervals.
- Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them no matter what happens.
- Remain positive and hopeful!
- Let them know their feelings are valid and normal, but also offer support and solutions where possible.
- Anxiety is often worst at night and this means it is useful to encourage a good bedtime routine.

You can find out more here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-exam-time/>.



We are looking for students to write articles for the weekly blog, whether you've been to the cinema lately and want to review a film, attended a sporting event and want to write about your experience, or even have your thoughts on equality for instance, what is your stance. Email your article to msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk for the chance for your articles appearing in our weekly blog.

Changes to the Blog

We are looking at ways of updating the weekly blog to make it even more reader friendly. Let us know if there is anything you would like us to start incorporating, ways that we could alter the look of the Blog or anything else you can suggest. Would you like to see more interviews with students or perhaps an end of the week quiz to get you ready for the weekend, for example? Please get in touch by emailing msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk.

This blog is for you all to read and enjoy and we would love to hear your thoughts!



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Emailing the School

Should you need to email the school with items/concerns of a more 'sensitive' nature, please email headspa@beths.bexley.sch.uk rather than the generic admin email address.

Sport

RESULTS

CRICKET				
Kent	30.04.2019	U14 v Dartford Grammar School	Away	Lost by 6 runs

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL			
N Kent Final	08.05.2019	U12 v St Columbas	Fleetdown FC
	10.05.2019	U16 v Hurstmere	Fleetdown FC
N Kent Semi Final	TBC	U14 v Hurstmere	King Henry School
BASKETBALL			
Basketball England Natl	10.05.2019	U12 v Various	Manchester Natl Centre
ATHLETICS			
Bexley Senior Champs	08.05.2019	U14 & U15 v Various	Erith Leisure Centre
CRICKET			
N Kent	07.05.2019	U12 v CSGS	Home (TBC)
	09.05.2019	U13 v CSGS	Away
Kent	07.05.2019	U13 v TWGS	Away
	08.05.2019	1 st XI v CSGS	Away
	09.05.2019	U15 v Hayes	Home





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Coming up

Upcoming Events

Information Evening for new Internal Sixth Form Students and Parents/Carers – 9 May

Last day for Year 11 Students – 9 May

GCE and GCSE Exams commence – 13 May

Students on Site

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.

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



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