



**BETHS
GRAMMAR
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**Excellence – Community
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**Week ending
Friday 12 July 2019**

Year 8 Camp

The infamous Year 8 Camp has had its first week in the New Forest this week, with Group 2 currently on their way down to the New Forest. Photos are being uploaded on a regular basis to our social media accounts so please keep an eye out to see what they've all been getting up to.



Ypres

On Friday 5 July, 90 Year 9 students travelled to Belgium to visit the WWI battlefields. Sites visited included Tyne Cot and Langemark War Cemeteries, Passchendaele Museum and reconstructed trenches and the Menin Gate in Ypres. Khalid in Year 9 said "Our trip to Belgium was not only a great opportunity to establish the learning we had been doing in class but also to broaden our understanding of the events of WWI. My personal favourite being our tour of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, a spectacular building with countless names of soldiers who died fighting for their cause inscribed onto it, again another reminder of the scale of the war.



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"After an informative talk from our guide, we were given the chance to explore the area. Many took the time to attempt to find relatives that may have possibly fought in the war but I saw it as an opportunity to take some fabulous photos!

"Overall, I very much enjoyed the chance to visit Belgium and reinforce our work in the classroom. I learnt many new facts, for example - that Calvin Leon Graham was the youngest soldier to fight in WWII, at just the age of 12!"



Sam Edozie signing his Manchester City contract



You may remember from the Blog a couple of weeks ago that we reported that our Year 11 student, Sam Edozie had signed for Manchester City Football Club.

Here is one of the official photos of the signing.

Well done to Sam and we look forward to seeing him playing for the First Team.

MEP Trip to China

Below are some articles from boys currently in China on their MEP Trip.

Today was the sixth day of the MEP China Trip. The day started as any good day must-breakfast. After breakfast, we went to lessons. We learnt about directions and Xi'an attractions. After lessons was lunch, where we had fried rice and chicken. Then we went to our room to take a nap. In China, all the students take a nap at lunchtime. We left to do speaking revision on directions by asking University volunteer teachers who were scattered around the campus where they told us how to get to points on the campus map. Using our Mandarin skills, we found out where the 9 places were. I finished and had a lot of fun. Before dinner we had planned a surprise birthday party for the many students and workers who had a birthday. We all had a slice of cake (some had more) and then it was dinner time. For dinner we had chao main and more chicken. After a satisfying meal, we all had some free time to play sports. After a tiring day, we had a nice sleep."

Maxwell, Year 8





My Birthday in China

“At the beginning of the day I Face Timed my parents, as usual, before breakfast. After lunch we came outside of the classes to play a game which involved a ping pong ball and half-tubes, it was really fun. Whilst I was playing the game I was called by a teacher, then me and some students had to stay in the teaching building, I thought I had done something wrong. The assistant teacher then took us to the courtyard, but the gate was closed. He knocked on the door, it was very loud. And when it opened I was welcomed by an abundance of students from every school on the MEP Xi'an trip. I was lost for words!!! This was completely unexpected and really humbling as everyone had put in an effort to make this happen. This is why I would like to thank everyone at the Mandarin Excellence Programme for putting the effort in to make my 13th birthday important and meaningful. They all sang the birthday song in Mandarin and we had a massive cake in the middle of courtyard to share. Thank you!”

Liam, Year 8

Banjo Museum in Xi'An City China

“On Sunday 7th July, we went to see the Terracotta Warriors and Banpo Museum. I enjoyed the day overall. The Terracotta Army was built by Emperor Qin (the first Emperor in China) to protect him in the afterlife. The Terracotta Army was built from 246 BC to 208 BC over 2,200 years ago. According to a history book named Shih Chi, the 13-year-old Qin Shi Huangdi (259 BC - 210 BC) commanded his subjects to build his mausoleum along with the Terracotta Army in 246 BC when he was crowned as the King of Qin State. The total size of the army discovered so far is a similar size to Hong Kong. The figures are normally 5'11 or taller depending on their role. The Terracotta Army was astonishing and very historically interesting. I also learnt a lot of things there: for example, I learnt it took over 40 years to build. Then I bought a colourful figure for 90 yuan that was reduced from 180 yuan. Bargain! Then we went to the Banpo Museum to learn some more interesting facts. Then we went home where we had free time and had Chinese food. Also I bought a nice painting for my family for 150 yuan. Anyway it was a good day overall.”

Ayomide, Year 8





Jack Petchey Awards - Thursday 4 July at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford

Many of our students attended the presentation and received Jack Petchey Awards on the night. They were Louis F, Oba O, Max R, James H, Kelechi C. Oba was picked out as a particular special case story and is currently appearing in an article in the Bexley Times – however, it does say that he spent his prize winnings on 'books for his classmates' but he actually spent it on buying books and resources specifically to support mentoring in school.

Robert McBeth won the Leadership Award.

Also winners, but unable to attend on the night were Ciaran B, Temi A, Adrian A and Jefferson E.



The special guest handing out the prizes on the night was former UK Olympic athlete, Donna Fraser.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Year 7 and 9 Rewards - Bowling

On Wednesday 20 of our Year 7 and 9 students went out on a Rewards trip to the TenPin in Bexleyheath. Well done to all who were selected to take part.



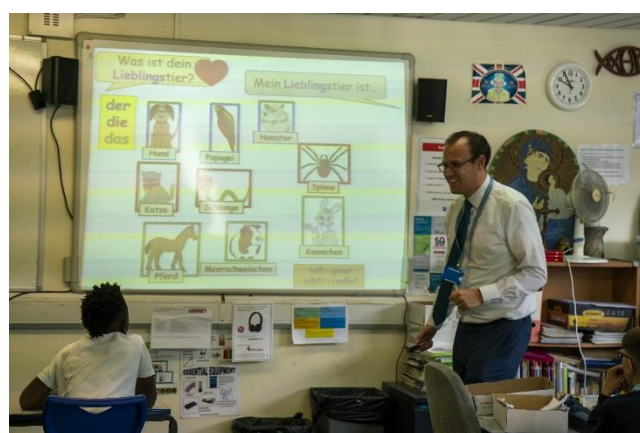
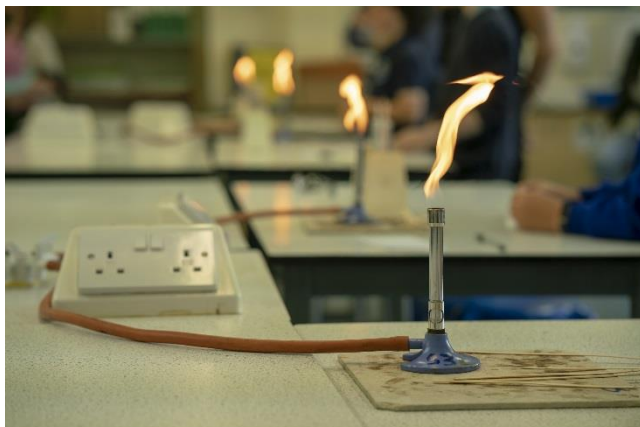


Year 5 Open Events

Last year, we held some Year 5 Events during the end of the summer term which were very well received. However, this year, we decided to offer boys, and their parents, the chance to take part in three 20 minute 'taster lessons' to give them a feel of what it is like to come to a secondary school and move around to your lessons rather than remaining in one place for the whole day.

These sessions were really well received and, having asked parents to complete a Survey Monkey following their visit, the results have been excellent. There are a few suggestions which we will look to address but, overall, there was very little that we could have done better.

Thank you to all who turned up and we wish all of you sitting the Bexley Selection Test in September all the very best of luck.



Year 7-9 Celebration of Achievement – Tuesday 9 July

A new event on the calendar, this took place during the afternoon of Tuesday and was a chance to celebrate the year. Prize winners names were listed on the screen throughout the afternoon and those winning 'special' prizes were presented them by the Head over refreshments after the event.

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PA Raffle Tickets

The Summer Draw tickets have now all been issued to students.

There are three great prizes on offer!

1st prize Beats wireless headphones

2nd prize £100 Amazon vouchers

3rd prize £50 Nando's vouchers



Please dig deep in school bags if you haven't seen the tickets yet and help us raise vital funds by purchasing what you can. The draw takes place on Friday 19th July.

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.

Student Features

Are you an avid writer or enjoying reporting or reviewing things? Have you read a good book or seen a great film lately?



Let us know! We love receiving articles for the blog, especially from students. This is a great opportunity for any one with an interest in journalism.

Please email msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk and you could see your feature in the blog!

Up and Coming Events

University Enrichment week for Cmp Group One – 15th July

Year 10 Stock Market Challenge – 18th July

Camp Group Two returns to Beths, approx 15.00 – 18th July

Last day of Summer Term, school closes for students at 12.50pm – 19th July

Students on Site

A reminder that students are still 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.



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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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