



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyghton

Hartford Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1NE Tel: 01322 556538 Fax: 01322 621212

Email: admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk Website: www.beths.bexley.sch.uk



October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of this half term, I would like to bring to your attention some important reminders as well as keep you informed of recent and future events that affect your son in Year 7.

Reports

The first interim academic report for Year 7 will be issued on **Friday 22nd November 2019**. This report should prove useful in establishing your son's current and predicted academic progress in all of his subjects. It is really important that your son is actively working on all of his targets in all subject areas to make excellent progress. His Attitude to Learning and Quality of Homework grades are equally as important in giving an indication of how much effort he is putting in to his subjects, in and out of the classroom. The numerical grades for Attitude and Homework are the same in all subjects: 1 = outstanding; 2 = good; 3 = requires improvement; 4 = inadequate. All students should aim for 100% outstanding or good for their Attitude to Learning and Quality of Homework grades in all subject areas. After the reports are issued, form tutors will use the interim reports to discuss key target areas with their tutees. Your son should be able to reflect on his attainment, but also overall effort. Please discuss with your son the importance of receiving an excellent report and setting targets that enable him to reach his full potential. Later in the term I will be sending positive letters home to students who are in the top 10% of the year group based on their Attitude to Learning and Quality of Homework grades in this report cycle.

Show My Homework and School Comms Gateway App

All students have been issued with their unique login for Show My Homework. They should be checking regularly for their homework details and ensure that they are completing homework on time and to their best of their ability. Parents and carers can also access the website and check their son's homework too. Details of achievement and behaviour points can also be tracked on the School Comms Gateway app. If you have not already downloaded that App, details of how to do so are below.

25 Book Challenge 2019-20

As many of you are hopefully aware, we run a KS3 reading challenge in form time. The aim of the challenge is to try and read 25 books in one academic year. Students must keep a record of these books in their booklets kept in their form rooms. Of course, many boys will exceed this number. The first award will be a postcard home for completing 5 books by **Monday 28th October 2019**. It is vital that we encourage students to continue reading for pleasure well into their teens as research shows that those who do are more successful and happier in life. I have attached our KS3 and 4 reading list to this letter so you can see some of the books we recommend.

Beths Super Curriculum

At Beths we want students to develop a passion and love of learning which will not only help them be more successful in school but also beyond. Moreover, we want students to delve deeper into the subjects that they enjoy most and tackle activities which will enhance their normal curriculum studies. As such, please look through the Super Curriculum ideas for each subject on the school website and encourage your son to pick and complete activities.

School Clubs

Many boys in the year group have already joined lunchtime and after school clubs. We have many clubs on offer and I would urge all boys to join at least one. It is a great way to socialise and meet other boys in the year group outside of their forms. Please check the school website for more details. Students can always check on the screens around the school for which clubs are on and when.

Uniform and PE/Games Kit

It is clear that the Year 7s are taking great pride in their uniform and appearance at school. Please note that students must wear black school shoes (not trainers or trainer-style) to school. All Year 7 students have been reminded that if they are not wearing black school shoes, they will lose their break and lunch time. Students should always bring their PE/Games kits on

the days when they are required and take responsibility for keeping their belongings safe, for example in their lockers when not in use. All items of uniform should be labelled clearly with your son's full name and form group.

Attendance and punctuality

It is really important that your son arrives to school on time every day, as good attendance and punctuality is a life skill. Your son should be on school site by 8.30am and in form time by 8.40am, in order to be promptly registered at 8.45am. Students who are late to form time will not receive important information and therefore will not be prepared for the day ahead. Please note that after 3 lates to AM/PM registration, your son will be issued with an after school Head of Year detention. All students should aim for 100% full attendance and punctuality.

Contacting the school

This is a gentle reminder that any general queries should be sent to admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk. Form Tutors are always the first port of call for pastoral matters and academic queries should be sent to subject staff. Email addresses for staff are in the format mrXYZ@beths.bexley.sch.uk or msXYZ@beths.bexley.sch.uk where XYZ is replaced with their surname.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the school and our commitment to your son's academic progress and personal development. The transition between primary to secondary school can be a difficult one; however, the Year 7s have generally settled in very well and are now very much used to the way in which the school operates day-to-day. It was fantastic to see so many of you at the 'Welcome to Parents of Year 7 Evening' earlier this term and I hope we were able to answer all of your questions.

I look forward to welcoming your son back to school after the half term break on Monday 28th October 2019.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Amin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a dot over the 'i' in Amin.

Mrs A Amin
Head of Year 7

Messaging system and reporting to Parents/Carers

We aim to make delivery of correspondence from school to home as efficient as possible by e-mailing bulk correspondence to parents using a service called School Comms. We also use both emails and text messages to contact you if your child is absent without explanation. Occasionally we also send urgent information via text message. School Comms offer a free smartphone app (Android and iPhone), which allows us to send notifications free of charge that you can also reply to for free.

As part of our behaviour and rewards policy we are also keen to share more information with parents as to how your child is applying himself in school. The app will allow you to see daily any commendations that he receives. We are currently developing our approach to rewards and believe that regular reporting of rewards to parents will significantly improve the motivation of students at school. In addition through the app you can see if there have been any problems at school and can monitor your son's behaviour. You will also be able to see your son's timetable, attendance information, and progress reports when they are issued.

Please support us by downloading the app to your phone - this will help us improve communication with you and also save the school money.

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play or on your phone go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android)
2. Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications"
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

As soon as you've got the system set-up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/alerts as normal.

This letter has been emailed to you today – if you have not received that email, please check your spam/junk folder and add School Comms to your safe sender list.

We hope that you find this application useful.