



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

E-mail: admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk Website: www.beths.bexley.sch.uk



24 February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Important Safeguarding Information

Several years ago, the school acted to safeguard members of the Beths community against groups from outside who sought to involve individuals in money laundering.

Online Fraud

It has now been brought to our attention that a group is attempting to target school children again to help them collect money through online fraud. They are looking to exploit teenagers and persuade them to pass illegally obtained money through their personal bank account. They either ask the young person to withdraw the money for them, or temporarily take hold of the account in order to withdraw the illegal money themselves. In order to ensure that you child is not taken advantage of in this way, or drawn into this illegal activity, we would advise that you:

- Regularly check his/her bank account
- Regularly monitor his/her phone use
- If they have a bank account, you should teach your son/daughter **never** to pass on their bank details.

In addition to the above there are other forms of fraud that you should be aware of so please be alert to any form of suspicious buying or selling activity.

Please note that any student found to be promoting criminal activity within our school community will be permanently excluded from Beths Grammar School.

WhatsApp and Phone Contacts

Please be aware that if your son/daughter joins a WhatsApp group, their phone number becomes available to all others within the group. The Group Administrator (usually another young person) then has the power to add/remove numbers from the group. This means that your son/daughter has the potential to be in close and regular contact with older teenagers or inappropriate adults via this app, if it is not closely monitored. This becomes more important in many ways as they get older. Please ensure that you regularly check your child's phone and monitor which groups they are part of and the people who they are able to communicate with via their phone. Other useful strategies include:

- Don't allow phones in bedrooms – make sure they are left to charge downstairs overnight – buy a traditional alarm clock – don't allow the phone to be used as an alarm
- Regularly check contacts and insist on knowing who each person is in the phone
- If you are not convinced about a contact insist on speaking to the contact's parents

While these safeguarding risks are important to manage, please also be aware of the power of this new technology for learning. For example the complete works of Shakespeare can be downloaded on an app in less than 10 seconds.

Thank you for your support with these issues and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you would like to discuss any of the above.

Yours faithfully

RJBlyghton

Mr R J Blyghton
Headteacher