



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



20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will undoubtedly know, the school will be closed from the end of today for the foreseeable future, to most students. We will of course, inform you as soon as we become aware of the date that the school will re-open.

This is an unsettling time for all of our school community and will cause anxiety and stress for parents, students and staff alike. However, we do have measures in place to support your son/daughter during this period.

These are extraordinary times. As such, I am sure you will understand that normal school processes, procedures and timescales for responding to queries will not apply.

All Students

Our aim, during this period of continued uncertainty, is to establish some sort of regular work routine and continued learning across the curriculum. We appreciate this will not mirror a typical day at school, nor the number of hours spent in lessons and we also understand that access to computers in some cases will prove to be a challenge. However, we need your support with this so that your son/daughter's education can continue.

From Monday 23 March, subject teachers will be uploading work on relevant learning platforms. Students have all been informed about where they can find these resources and further details about these are available on <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Departments&pid=16>. In most cases, work will normally be uploaded during the day when your son/daughter has that lesson.

Where remote work is to be assessed by staff, they will make this clear in their instructions as it is set. Staff will set work to be assessed where it is appropriate and practical to do so.

If your son/daughter has problems accessing our learning platforms please email it@beths.bexley.sch.uk

Year 11 and 13 Students

We were all devastated following the Government announcement concerning the cancellation of GCSE and A level examinations this summer. Ofqual has released a statement explaining how GCSE and A level grades will be assessed and awarded this year. Further information can be found by following this link: <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Departments&pid=16>.

We have today written to those Year 11 students who have applied for our Sixth Form, via ULAS, to confirm that they will all receive an offer of a place in the Sixth Form at Beths in September.

We will offer all current Year 11 and 13 students the opportunity to celebrate their time at Beths properly, once the school has re-opened. I cannot give you a precise date for each event yet, but please be assured that we understand the value of marking these rites of passage and will give students the opportunity to do so.

Parental contact

Should you need to contact the school, we would advise you do this by email. Staff email addresses can be found <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Staffing&pid=30>. If you wish to contact a member of staff about a pastoral issue, in the first instance this should go directly to your son/daughter's Form Tutor. If you wish to contact a member of teaching staff this should go directly to their regular class teacher.

During this period of school closure, if your son/daughter is ill, please email attendance@beths.bexley.sch.uk. Please be aware that responses to any emails will be made during normal term time, school hours.

Students of critical workers and vulnerable students

Following the publication of the government's definition of critical workers earlier this morning <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>, we surveyed all parents and carers earlier today asking if their sons/daughters needed schooling provision. For those who qualify, an email has been sent this afternoon. If your son is attending school and is unwell, again, please contact attendance@beths.bexley.sch.uk as we will be chasing up on those students who are due to be in school.

Students who normally access free school meals

The Government has announced that there will be a national voucher scheme to support families who would normally access free school meals. Once we have the full details of this, we will let you know. In the short term, if there are any families who are concerned about providing lunch for their children please contact us on admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk and we will liaise with our dining room staff to support you.

Students who have EHCP plans or are in the care of social services

We will contact you directly if your child is part of this group. Supervision arrangements will be the same as those detailed above for the children of critical workers.

School counsellors

Our school counsellors will continue to work remotely with students in their care. This contact will be by email unless there is an emergency, in which case they will contact students via their home telephone number.

We will continue to send you updates but in addition to these, please keep checking our website <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/>. I know that you will understand that remote learning over a prolonged period of time for us as well as you, is untested and far from ideal, but we are confident that, with your support, we can make this work.

I want to thank all the staff at Beths for their hard work all year and particularly through these extraordinary times, our students whose resilience and character of strength has marked them apart and to you, for the support and patience you have already shown and will show during this period of school closure.

Finally, you will receive, at the start of next week, a letter from your son or daughter's Head of Year.

Yours faithfully



Mr R J Blyghton
Headteacher