



Beths Grammar School

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

Week Ending Friday 15 May 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – updates from the Headteacher

As I write this, I am reflecting upon a meeting that I have had on Zoom with the other Headteachers from the Bexley secondary schools. It is very easy to get back into the routines and workings of such gatherings. And so, in the light of recent announcements, we turn our gaze back to here. We know what we want to achieve but we are also mindful of the potential risks there are when we take the plunge – once started there isn't much going back so we have to be sure-footed in what we plan but also when. There is more and more guidance being introduced into the public forum for scrutiny. Much of it helpful, some of it conflicting, most of it encouraging but against a backdrop that suggests we still have to take more of the risk out of it. We have made many plans – some still on the drawing board, some almost ready to be tabled but all will need to consider the safety of both students and staff before any suggestion of implementation. Given that social distancing remains a priority and ironically you need face coverings in an enclosed environment yet not in a classroom, our classrooms at most will house no more than 20 students at a time (and that's a few at best) and given the 2 metre gap between means that we will, at some point welcome back Years 10 and 12 but certainly not as a whole, probably in halves or even quarters and not necessarily straightaway. As for Years 7-9, we will continue to provide work through a variety of online approaches.

I do hope that you are all healthy, staying safe and that your well-being is of a positive mindset. We all need to pull together and support each other. We are all very grateful to our NHS and key workers who are caring for us and who are facilitating our ability to get through, now in our eighth week.

More and more staff are using TEAMS, ZOOM or YOUTUBE during their lessons, but please understand that some staff do not feel comfortable in using these platforms and I would ask that students and parents do not put pressure on them to do so. As said above, we are actively encouraging staff to use a variety of ways of delivering information. Please also keep an eye out for any additional information that we send to you regarding the safeguarding advice around platforms like Zoom and would be grateful if you could speak to your son or daughter about these.

If and when we do return to school this side of the summer holidays, and the advice is currently that we should, it is our intention that the focus will be on teaching for the entire time that we would be in school for. Any calendared events that would normally take place will now not happen – they will either be cancelled or postponed to a later date.

Thought For The Week

This week is 'Violence is Never the Answer'. This is a rather poignant and apt time to be discussing how we interact with each other given that restrictions are being slowly loosened. Whilst we have spent so much time at home, how have we coped and are we coping still? Frustration can easily boil over when understanding can become clouded. A split-decision can escalate a situation when counting to ten or pausing can sometimes avoid confrontation. In the past week, how have you managed a situation well? Why did something go badly wrong – could it have been steered or managed differently? I will use an analogy that links last week's thought to do with road safety. In lockdown, road etiquette was very good, people were calm and traffic was infrequent. This last week



with an increase in vehicles on the road, road rage is back with a vengeance – people cutting others up, drivers showing anger, vehicles speeding and tail-gating. We need to think before we do. Otherwise we will continue to make the same mistakes again and again. Anger and violence is not the answer.

This Week's PHSCE Theme

The PHSCE theme focusses upon eating disorders. This is not just about diets, starvation or binges but about looking into the psychology of what could cause an eating disorder, the publicity culture of how one should look and appear, the social angle of public opinion both locally and globally where opinion can push an individual in a certain direction, how we can recognise early symptoms and advise and how we embrace healthy eating that suits ourselves. What is healthy eating? Cutting out of certain foods or cutting down regularity or size of portions? What advice is good advice?

Key Workers

As we continue to mention, we know that many of our students' parents and carers are going above and beyond in their jobs as key workers and we would love to be able to create a collage of images of you all, as a massive thank you and to introduce everyone to the extended #BethsFamily.



If you are working in a supermarket, for the NHS or as a carer, a delivery driver, a postman, working in the supply industry etc, please send us a photo of you, in your uniform and we hope to create something wonderful.



Please keep sending your photos in to the headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk email address – we would love to be able to celebrate everything you are doing.

Home School Working

Likewise, we would love to share with everyone their home school work set up. Have you been studying in the garden as the weather has been pretty good, are you at your desk, are you pets helping you study? Send us a photo of you working so we can create a collage of everyone's different working methods that are helping them through this unusual time. Please keep sending these images in to headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk so we can share these images too.





Staff Working from Home

This week we are pleased to bring you our Senior Deputy Headteacher, Mr Neylan, alongside his very helpful cat Jess who is, apparently, a whizz on the keyboard and much quicker at touch-typing than her owner.

Apparently, when we do return to school, Jess will be joining Mr Neylan as his personal secretary!



My Time at Beths

This week, we start a new feature here in the Blog and we begin this week with Kavern Batchelor (KJ) who is currently in Year 11. Here is part one of his story called 'Life as a Beths Boy'. The second part will be available next week in the week ending 22 May issue.



Year 7



Years 10 & 11

When I first stepped through the gates of this school

5 years ago, I didn't know what to expect. The tour from the induction day had helped me to gain a rough understanding of this maze but I was still anxious about manoeuvring through large seas of senior students. Luckily, most people were really friendly and directed me to classrooms whenever I asked. To add, I had already made friends with my entire form from induction day as well as other students that travelled to school with me at the time, so the pressures of secondary school were already fairly manageable. I know at many schools, the transition between primary and secondary school can be a daunting time, however, at Beths, there is an air of invitation at all times which helped ease the pressure.

I was eager to take on various roles and responsibilities at my new school as I had enjoyed rising to the roles of sports captain, house captain, form captain and student council representative at my primary school. Straight away, I was voted in by my form mates for the role of student council representative for Wickham house in year 7 and remained in this position until year 9. Furthermore, another student and I observed the vast amounts of litter in the school throughout year 7 and launched our own anti-littering campaign. This proved to be a success as not only did we greatly reduce the amount of litter around the site, but we got large groups of students to actively work on





posters and art work to promote recycling and bettering our environment. As I worked my way through the school, I was awarded captaincy roles in Volleyball and Athletics for the school which allowed me to better my leadership skills and improve relations with fellow students. In key stage 4, I was honoured to be hand-selected by members of staff to mentor younger students - sitting and talking with them at lunch time to make their transition to secondary school easier. I felt as though it was my responsibility to ensure others felt comfortable at the school and the pressures that I once felt were reduced for them too. In year 10, I observed a large step up for me and my cohort; specific members of each form were selected by teachers to be junior prefects. I feel as though we took to this role in a mature and appropriate manner - assisting other students with GCSE catch-up and teachers in various departments. I am proud to be a part of this cohort as we had seemed to have grown up from little 11 year olds to respectable young adults in no time.

At Beths, I've always been astounded by the numerous subjects on offer in the curriculum. Of course the core subjects but others like physical education, music, art, drama, business education, design and technology, the social sciences and over five modern foreign languages. Every lesson stretches and engages you here and you have the opportunity to work with teachers and other students who are like-minded and push you to your limits. Sometimes the work load seems overwhelming but it all pays off in the end, I promise. At Beths, I find there is a balance between enjoyment and intense focus which is reflected within the classrooms and integrated within Beths culture.

Although Beths strives to produce academically rigorous individuals, a lot of the curriculum contains hands-on projects and physical activities that engage every student and enhance learning capabilities. For example, a key part of the key stage 3 experience is the motte and bailey castle project in year 7 history. Each student is expected to go out and purchase materials to make a model of the castles and bring them to school. These gave us a chance to visualise the lives of particular members of Norman society, as well as grasp the key concepts of William the Conqueror's infrastructural ideologies from a young age. I feel as though this project was a key stepping stone in each of our paths to independence as we were expected to carry out specific tasks before a particular deadline. Another example, and one of my personal favourites, was the infamous coral reef project in year 8. Each year 8 geography student is expected to go out and model their own coral reef ecosystem with the hope to grasp a better understanding of key aspects such as colours and specific organism characteristics. Many other projects such as the fruit bowl project for year 7 art and the Greek theatre project in drama year 7 allowed us to engage more with particular topics but also eased the transition from primary school, where we were more used to hands-on learning.

Sometimes, we are lucky enough to continue learning outside of the classroom on educational visits and events. In Year 7, our year group took a visit to Mountfitchet Castle to widen our knowledge on motte and bailey castles, in year 9, we took a trip to the Bank of England for deeper knowledge on the gold stores there for Economics. In year 10, top set science was selected to go to science live in the Apollo Theatre which deepened our knowledge on complex topics. In year 11, I was selected for the Elite English Programme in which I was able to take part in Macbeth workshops and talks about Jekyll and Hyde and an Inspector Calls (our GCSE English Literature texts at Beths).





One highlight of life as a Beths boy for me was definitely Year 8 camp. Before that week of outdoor adventure, I hadn't really had the best opportunities to socialise with other students but it gave me a chance to finally make some new friends and get to know my cohort better. Whilst on Year 8 camp, we went on the Lyndhurst hike, a day of cycling, night lining, canoeing and kayaking. These activities required great communication, resilience and team work.



I took one key concept from year 8 camp, and that was the best leaders don't always necessarily travel at the front but will travel behind the pack, to help and support the weaker ones. This message helped me with my leadership skills as I learned to sit back and observe other people's ideas more than I would before. Fortunately, our team work and week-long progress paid off as my team, the Pumas won the first week of year 8 camp. As a bonus, I was honoured to have been awarded 'Camper of the Week' for leading and supporting my team throughout the week.

Another highlight for me was the Bronze DofE award I completed in year 10. I submitted various documents in regards to improving my skills, physical abilities and helping with volunteering in the LRC before embarking upon the expedition. Although it seemed tedious at the time, looking back, both the practice and the real thing were some of the best experiences of my life. I enjoyed hiking with my team, boosting the morale as we went along and supporting each other at various check points. We also had the liberties of pitching tents in our own time and preparing our own meals which consisted simply of oats for breakfast and indomie. The views were breath-taking and I was glad to be enjoying the outdoors with some of my closest friends.

The second part of KJ's really interesting article can be read in next week's Blog ...

Library Books

Whilst you are all studying from home, please take the time to have a good look around your bedrooms, book shelves, school bags, cupboards, under beds etc for any school books and, in particular, Library books. We have a number of books missing from our school library and these will all have the school stamp inside the cover. If you find any, please return to school, when you are able and any fines will be waived. We'd just like the books back. You may find one that you'd forgotten even borrowing!

Being at home all the time is an ideal time to look at fiction on your shelves that you no longer want. We are always interesting in adding books to the library, so if you are having a 'spring clean' and are happy to donate books, it is a win-win situation! Parents should know what books to consider donating for the age groups we have. Please can you put any books to donate in a pile ready for when we come back, for students to bring down to the LRC, they will be much appreciated!





Senior Student Leadership Team Challenge

A reminder that the Student Leadership Team have organised a running league so students (and staff) can stay fit during these unprecedented times and all proceeds will go to NHS charities. This is the Beths way of saying a big thank you to those keeping us safe.

As of today we have raised 87% of our target - £875 with a final target to raise £1000 and we would love to have your support on our fundraising journey!

If you would like to help us reach our goal, please follow the link below in order to donate on our JustGiving page.

<https://bit.ly/BethsRun>

Stay safe and thank you in advance,

Sam, Maddie and the Student Leadership Team

Mr Blyghton's 'Dice Magic' – a humorous look at what the Premier League could have looked like

When Mr Blyghton isn't working, he spends his time dreaming about football on a beach in the South Pacific with the wind rustling the leaves of tall palm trees and a cold beer in hand thinking what could have been ... as he marks his classes Mathematics papers Below he shares with you his thoughts.

The Results from Week 36

Brighton	2		2	Newcastle
Wolves	1		3	Crystal Palace
Man Utd	0		1	West Ham
Aston Villa	3		5	Arsenal
Tottenham	2		4	Leicester
Bournemouth	1		3	Southampton
Liverpool	3		3	Chelsea
Norwich	0		1	Burnley
Watford	1		3	Man City
Sheffield Utd	3		3	Everton

Football Round-up

Here we are at the penultimate weekend of the season with many questions still to be answered. Champions League and UEFA places are still up for grabs and the relegation places at the foot of the table are still to be finalised with two games to go.

Brighton entertained Newcastle at the Amex "That will do nicely" Stadium on a rainy afternoon in Falmer. To their credit, Brighton who were fielding a number of loan players, were indebted to the





Magpies generosity in front of goal as they took a 2-0 lead in the first 20 minutes with two goals from the much talked about debutant Romaric Yapi. Danny Rose, who had fallen down the pecking order at Spurs used his experience to marshal the Newcastle defence and ensured that no further goals were conceded. Christmas signing, Andy Carroll was on-song as he reduced the lead with a piledriver of a header, taking the teeth out of elderly gentleman who was sucking on a Werthers Original, at the time sitting 7 rows back in the crowd. A 10 minute whirlwind performance from substitute, Dwight Gayle, gave Newcastle a share of the points when his driven shot winded the goalkeeper before it bounced into the net after 86 minutes.

Palace, having got their house in order, travelled to the West Midlands for an important fixture. Wolves had all their parts of speech fit for this fixture. A close first half saw each team question the skills of the goalkeepers. Play was often punctuated by a numbers of fouls, usually on Wilfried Zaha who recorded the highest numbers of fouls inflicted in a game with 124 independent incidents. He felt that only 120 of them were clear penalties. Needless to say, the teams went in goalless at half-time. Portugeezer Doggo Jotta drew the Palace defence towards the nearside with his skills before allowing Pascal Twente to score giving Wolves the lead. This shook Palace into life with Oak, Acorn and Squirrel logging tree goals in tree quick minutes.

Man Utd passed up the opportunity to secure a Champions League spot by losing this competitive encounter with the Hammers who themselves are fighting, to stay in the division. Goalkeeper De Gea had a better game and Paul Pogba spent the whole game warming up on the touchline. Aaron Cresswell scored the only goal of the game with a sharply taken opportunity on the stroke of half-time. This left United with egg on their face as this defeat appeared to be neatly sandwiched between a series of victories.

Arsenal threw caution to the wind which blew in the face of the Villans. They picked a team of forwards to ensure that they need not have to worry about defending – as they never do anyway and it paid off with five well-taken goals. Villa appeared to be already thinking about their holidays as the goals racked up. Even veteran John Terry couldn't foul enough Arsenal players to stop the rout. Jack Grealish was pulled over early on in the game and as a result took no further part as his vehicle had been impounded. The Claret and Blues did reverse the play late on in the game with thirty-something, Trezeguet rolling back the years to score two goals great goals. Substitute Paul Knee added a third with a header in injury time.

Tottenham were cursing the VAR technology which found Manager Jose Mourinho encroaching in two disallowed goals. The first involved his excessively large ego being flagged offside whilst the second was a touch unfortunate in that in watching himself on the replay screen noticed that he was the best looking man there and the referee objected. Again, Spurs failed to field any forwards as they had all been furloughed and put out to pasture. Rebekah Vardy leading from the front put Leicester ahead on the half-hour streaking through the Spurs defence before letting rip with a screamer of a shot. Tottenham replied with two quick blows through Jason Puncheon who has been a real hit with the supporters after his signing in the transfer window. Leicester re-grouped after the break, calling upon a calm James Maddison to orchestrate a response. Goals from Flute, Cornet and Bass were music to manager's Brendan Rodgers ears who felt that they had hit the right note and had set the correct tone in securing third spot in the league.





The Battle of the South Coast was greatly contested between Southampton and Bournemouth with Will Smallbone conquering Harry Wilson. He darted towards the goal ensuring his attempt was as straight as an arrow. Further tranches from Long and Bow gave the Saints a 3-0 lead at half-time. Bournemouth, fresh from returning from a midweek cup game at Stamford Bridge were slow to take the game to the opposition citing reasons of injuries incurred earlier. Manager Eddie Howe questioned whether they could, might, develop a way back. It was not to be but Tommy Whye who has answered a lot of questions this season did pull one back late-on.

A goal-fest at Anfield and an unexpected visitation made this the game of the day. Alex Oxtail-Soup, a consommé-ate professional, played his first game of the season following an operation to remove the croutons from his broth. He was instrumental in orchestrating a string of chances for the Reds early on. This resulted in a fanfare of strikes for Emerson, Lake and Palmer, all common men to give Liverpool a 3-0 lead at half-time. Guesting player Steven Gerrard hoped that today there were going to be no slip-ups. Chelsea looked a weary side but help was coming to their aid. On 75 minutes, a flying saucer dropped down onto the pitch and the entire Liverpool defence were kidnapped. The flying saucer had rather strange blue markings and some writing which looked suspiciously Russian – so Chelsea with greater numbers, bombarded the Reds goalmouth and Moses, Mount, and debutant Sinai levelled the game 3-3. It was end to end, then side to side, back and forth, up and down and then finally neck and neck. Aeroflot released the players at the end of the game unharmed.

Norwich, long having booked their ticket straight back to the Championship welcomed Burnley to Carrow Road. The venue, naturally socially-distanced was busy and business-like but the traffic was one-way due to roadworks. It was a vintage performance from Jack Cork who did not bottle his chance to gain the three points for Burnley to give them an outside chance of a UEFA League place. Norwich were unfortunately under-strength due to forward Teemu Pukki being sidelined due to sickness.

A questionable performance from Watford landed them a fruity verbal lashing from their manager Nigel Pearson. Watford sit in the relegation zone and could really have done with winning but a choreographed performance from Manchester City secured the three points with goals from Shake, Rattle and Roll.

The final game of the weekend saw Everton produce a minted performance that rolled back the years. In fact, Bob Latchford, Andy Gray and Duncan Ferguson all got on the score sheet for the Toffees. Sheffield United responded with a flick from Fleck, a cool chance from McBurnie and a belter from Von Strap. The final ten minutes saw each team reduced to ten men following the sending off of Richarlison and McGoldrick for fighting.

See over the page to see as it stands under Mr Blyghton's 'Dice Magic' after week 37:





Position	Club	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	GD	Points
1	Liverpool	37	28	4	5	39	88
2	Man City	37	21	4	12	37	67
3	Leicester	37	18	8	11	28	62
4	Man Utd	37	16	11	10	18	59
5	Chelsea	37	16	10	11	12	58
6	Sheffield Utd	37	14	13	10	-1	55
7	Wolves	37	13	15	9	8	54
8	Arsenal	37	13	15	9	3	54
9	Burnley	37	16	6	15	-5	54
10	Tottenham	37	14	10	13	7	52
11	Newcastle	37	13	10	14	-5	49
12	Crystal Palace	37	13	10	14	-5	49
13	Everton	37	13	10	14	-9	49
14	Southampton	37	15	4	18	-12	49
15	Brighton	37	10	14	13	-4	44
16	West Ham	37	10	9	18	-16	39
17	Aston Villa	37	11	6	20	-22	39
18	Bournemouth	37	10	8	19	-18	38
19	Watford	36	9	10	18	-16	37
20	Norwich	37	5	7	25	-46	22

The final game of the season is next week. Three from five will go down and who will get the fourth Champion's League spot and the two UEFA places?