



# Beths Grammar School

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

## Week Ending Friday 22 May 2020

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) – updates from the Headteacher**

As we approach half-term it is with caution that I optimistically hope that the Government briefing at the end of next week brings news that secondary schools, under advice, will be able to open their doors again in a limited capacity for Years 10 and 12. A first letter has already been sent to parents and gives a little bit more detail but since that we have not received much further information, it remains a little vague. If given the green light, I will write again to you during the first week in June to elaborate further on such plans. However, we also need to be aware of the fact that students will not be able to travel on public transport during the morning rush hour (see powerpoint from TFL saved below this Blog on our website, for further details) so we also need to take this into consideration.

My main objective has always been to ensure that students and staff are as safe as possible and this will mean that at some point both students and staff will need to make a decision based upon whether they feel the school environment, in their opinion, is safe. We will put in the necessary safeguards but it will down to individuals to share that confidence so I am not expecting everyone to return immediately. We are encouraging students to walk or ride bicycles but those who live further away may or may not choose to risk public transport. Staff and their representatives may have concerns and choose to delay their return so you can see that a plan can be put together then significantly modified when you realise the resources you find yourself with. We wait and see.

As this has been Mental Health Awareness week, I would hope that you are all looking after each other, that you are not letting things get on top of you, taking regular exercise, taking what opportunities you can to get out and see friends safely. If things aren't so good, knowing who you can talk to and such information has been provided to you in previous blogs which you can search on the school website in the area where this version has been placed.

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 ninth week and encourage you to be outside at 8.00pm on Thursday evening to show that gratitude.

More and more staff continue to use TEAMS, ZOOM or YOUTUBE during their lessons, but please understand that some staff still 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.

### **Thought For The Week**

This week is 'Success'. What is it? How do you measure it? What different forms can success take? It has been said that success can take many forms and at many levels. Completing this blog is a success but I would see it as a means to an end. Is success defined more of the gratification that one receives as a result of the said event? Does success require a "prize" for it to be meaningful?



Flipping the argument, how do we define failure? Surely we can't deal in such extremes and do we deal in degrees of greyness – more of a success than a failure?

## **This Week's PHSC Theme**

The PHSC theme focusses upon the rule of Law. Think about the changes to the laws of the land during the Lockdown. Were they a reasonable and proportionate response? What about those who flouted the Lockdown rules? What Laws do you believe to be essential to underpin an advanced society such as ours? Are there any Laws that you would like to see removed or added to improve our society? It is difficult sometimes to understand that the Law needs to be policed and upheld. We as adults may give a child a number of warnings or second chances so how do we convey across the notion that the Law can be inflexible and if it is broken, then a sanction must follow?

## **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 [headoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:headoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk) email address – we would love to be able to celebrate everything you are doing.

## **Home School Working**

Thank you for sending in your photos of you studying from home! Please keep them coming.





## Staff Working from Home

This is Mr Beaney working on the new timetable with the help of Huxley. So far, Huxley has suggested the timetable should consist of snacking, snoozing and playing ball. Mr Beaney has tried to point out that this doesn't cover the National Curriculum but Huxley remains insistent ...

## My Time at Beths

This week, we continue the article written by Kavern Batchelor (KJ) who is currently in Year 11. Here is the second part of his story of 'Life as a Beths Boy'. To read the entire article, please go to: <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=My+Time+at+Beths&pid=266&action=saved>



**Year 7**



**Years 10 & 11**



A key aspect of life at Beths Grammar School is preparation for life after sixth form and university. Firstly, from a young age, I have always had a passion for academia and I was truly blessed to go on a trip to Oxford University in year 8 with the rest of my year group. Attending an Oxbridge university has always been a dream of mine but seeing Oxford live, and in the flesh was a real deal breaker for me. That trip was a part of our university experience week which aimed to familiarise us with university life and expectations.

I was also proud to have been selected to attend the Oxbridge conference at Townley Grammar in Year 10 which gave me more of an insight into the university application process, the interview stages and life once accepted. I also got to know two year 13 students at Townley, Sawen and Tolu, who are now coming to the end of their first years at Keble College and Jesus College at Oxford and Cambridge. I talked to them about their GCSE grades, their application processes and any obstacles they faced on their way. To add, every year 10 was expected to go on two weeks' work







experience in different fields in the real world and I did mine at Barclays through LifeSkills where I learned a lot about customer service and the key aspects of banking.

From around the age of 4, I have had a passion for performing and the arts. With experience in films like 'Pan' and 'The Man Inside', various commercials and working with the BBC on CBBC's 'So Awkward' throughout year 7, I was eager to share my passion and experience in the field. In year 7, I played a role in the inter-house drama competition, run by Miss Rogers (the previous Drama teacher at the school), and this was an amazing experience as I got to work with fellow students on a passion of mine as well as using teamwork to produce two great performances - leading us to be placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. In year 8, I was excited to welcome our new Drama teacher, Miss Grady who would act as my mentor in the arts and school production director in the years to come. I was grateful to be a part of the production put on in P3 by Miss Grady, called 'The Murder of Mr Normanton', in which I played the butler; a suspect in the gentleman's murder. This was the first time I really got to observe the sheer talent of students in the school and I felt honoured to be a part of it. Year 9 sprang upon us, and I auditioned for lead role in the school production that year; 'Lord of The Flies'. I was ecstatic when I found out I was given the role of Ralph - beating several GCSE students at the time to the role. With such a major role I felt a huge sense of responsibility in regards to line learning and supporting other cast members. We put on 3 outstanding performances with positive reviews from parents and members of staff. I felt honoured to have played the main role in such an amazing play and also to have worked with some amazing cast mates who came together to put on a great display of our hard work.



Year 10 came and the cast size almost tripled from the year before! We put on our first ever musical- 'Oliver!' in which I played the Artful Dodger. This particular experience simply blew me away as the musicians, led by Mrs Marriott joined forces with the actors, led by Ms Grady and the art and tech crew led by Mr Metcalfe and Mr Hayman to produce 4 shows of dramatic excellence. I was honoured to have been awarded gold colours in performing arts as a result. Moreover, I was so proud of Beths for showcasing such professionalism and team work.





In Year 11, I was given the role of the Wizard of Oz in 'The Wizard of Oz' but unfortunately, due to coronavirus, we weren't able to put on any shows this year. Hopefully we can show the school how good the performance is later in the summer term.

One thing worth mentioning, is the culture of sport at Beths. I am proud to be attending a school where a wide range of sports are appreciated, including: Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Rugby, Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton, Athletics and Cricket. Here at Beths, we take pride in our inter-house competitions, and these were great fun to be a part of. More particularly, friendly matches of basketball and football that would take place over various lunchtimes against rival forms to compete for the house cup. Furthermore, sports day is an annual event that all students look forward to participating in and last year, we were able to have sports day at the Erith track for the first time ever! As usual, students and staff came together effectively to produce a successful day of sporting excellence. Over the years, I have observed various successes in sport such as participating in national finals as well as performing tremendously well in regional competitions and tournaments. At this school, we have academy footballers - playing for premier league teams like Chelsea and Watford, we have county hockey players, footballers, cricketers and volleyball players as well as some students representing England, Northern Ireland and Nigeria in Football.

Whilst studying here, I have been a committed member of the Athletics and Volleyball teams since I started 5 years ago. I was also proud to be captain of the Volleyball team - leading them to victories in the London Youth Games and winning the Bexley School Games. From this, I have also been selected as a player in the Bexley Volleyball team since year 7, and I hope to remain in the squad in the future. In athletics, I did the Triple Jump, 100m and 4x100m relay every year for Wickham at Sports day, winning triple jump every year and going on to qualify for Bexley Champs - representing Beths in the triple jump. I am proud to have qualified from Bexley Champs for the Kent School Finals to represent Bexley in Triple jump at the Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford. Although I didn't win, I was proud to have been part of such a great experience. In addition, I was honoured to have had the opportunity to train with younger students once or twice a week and help them to better their abilities in each of their chosen sports - helping with setting drills, spiking and springing drills. Ultimately, I loved providing younger students with moral support and helping them to continue the sporting successes here at Beths.

As mentioned at the start of this article, click on the following link to continue reading: <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=My+Time+at+Beths&pid=266&action=saved>

## Year 8 Students

Some of our Year 8 students have been sending in photos of what they have been up to, as well as studying at home!

It looks like we may have the next contestant on Great British Bake Off! How delicious do these cakes look!





Wow!

How incredible is this drama storyboard, created by one of our Year 8 students.

During this lockdown period spending more time at home can get you thinking about different skills or things you want to learn and try – like art, learning a language or even sewing and cooking!

Have you learnt a new skill?



### Library Books

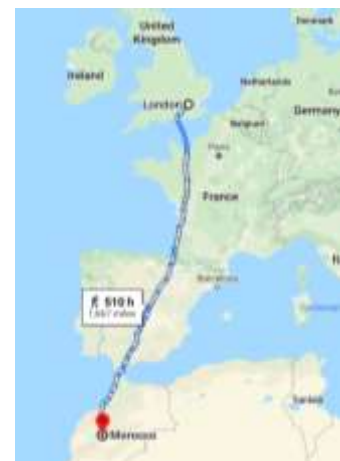
Whilst you are all studying from home, please take the time to have a good look around your bedrooms, book shelves, school bags, cupboards, under beds etc for any school books and, in particular, Library books. We have a number of books missing from our school library and these will all have the school 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!

### Beths to Morocco!

**We would like to thank everyone who supported this fundraiser either through donating or taking part, we have smashed our targets and raised £1058 for the NHS!**

Since our campaign started 2 weeks ago, the sense of community and togetherness within the Beths family has grown immensely, displaying our willingness to come together for a good cause. From what we first thought would be a small group of students participating, fourteen days later we have over forty participants, including both members of staff and Year 12 students. This selflessness and generosity has resulted in us exceeding our targets and raising a lot of money for the NHS, well done everyone! As a whole, we have run 2768.74km which is equivalent to us running to Morocco! We would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraiser, either through donating or taking part.



While the main idea of the initiative was to raise money for our hard working NHS, it has also promoted healthy competition between the teachers and students with Jack Straker, Harleigh Pugh and Mr Temple consistently competing with each other for the top spot. However, in the end the teachers







prevailed with Mr Temple finishing 1<sup>ST</sup> and has blown us all away with a total of 332km and averaged over a half marathon every single day!

Lockdown has been tough for us all but our ability to persevere has been outstanding. This Fundraiser was an amazing way for us to keep fit and look after our mental and physical wellbeing, and we hope that despite there no longer being a Running League, you all still continue keeping fit and healthy. Once again, thank you for all the support we received during this fundraiser. We should all be proud that the Beths community has once again come together to help others.

**Samuel Hatton and Maddie Smith**

### The National Open Youth Orchestra – looking for musical talent



The National Open Youth Orchestra is looking for talented 11-25 year old disabled and non-disabled musicians to join rehearsals in London, Bristol, Birmingham or Bournemouth from September 2020. They're particularly keen to receive applications from young disabled people with musical potential: musicians on acoustic or electronic instruments, but also young people using EyeGaze or other assistive technology with a degree of control that could translate to playing an electronic instrument.



Joining this high-profile, pioneering inclusive orchestra is free. Rehearsals are run in partnership with Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning, Bristol Music Trust's National Centre for Inclusive Excellence, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Services For Education, Midlands Arts Centre and Town Hall Symphony Hall. For more information and to apply, visit [noyo.org.uk](http://noyo.org.uk). Deadline is 12 June 2020.

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

Now Mr Blyghton is fully back at work, 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 tries to get through all those emails .... Below he shares with you his thoughts.

#### The Results from Week 38

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





## **Football Round-up**

The final games of the season created a few surprises and answered many of the questions previously asked. Liverpool were crowned Champions, Manchester City, Leicester and Manchester United completed the Champions League places. Chelsea and Sheffield United were entered into the

Champions League-Lite, the Europa League where they will explore the depths of Europe and discover places they had never heard of before.

## **The Final Round-up**

Watford made the short journey across North London to Arsenal. This was allowed under the new lockdown measures. Key members of the squad who didn't travel included Troy Deeney and Ben Foster who had important hairdresser appointments to attend. Their replacements Heurelho Gomes and the forgotten Danny Welbeck more than made up for the absences. Gomes, along with the rest of the Addams family kept Arsenal at bay having coasted through the first half. It was only when defender Cathcart was stretchered off with a groin injury that the tide was turned in the home side's favour. Arsenal took the lead with a clean straight shot from Pierre Boomerang and this was closely followed by a bullet of a header from Sokratis who had been philosophising at the edge of the penalty area. The Gunners took their fingers off the trigger to allow Watford back into the game. Goals from Cleverley and Smart evened up the tie. It was nip and tuck until the 89<sup>th</sup> minute when David Luiz committed a foul inside the penalty area. Substitute Troy Deeney fresh with his perm hammered the ball past celebrity host Jay Leno. Watford had saved themselves from relegation to the Championship.

Brighton went into the final game looking to secure a more solid footing in the Premier League. Their visit to Burnley was a tortuous affair with much of the game being in the middle third of the pitch which was quite an effort given social distancing rules. Aaron Mooy, lowed the opposition into sense of false security and steaked a claim for goal of the season. The bull finally going in off his calf, revealed a unique skill that he had herd about from colleague Pablo Friesian. Brighton rodeoed out the game to ensure a 1-0 victory and three points at Turf Moor.

Chelsea were hoping for a slip up from Manchester United today as they attempted to tame the Wolves. A bright start from Tammy Abraham and Willian gave Chelsea the impetus and a 2-0 lead at the break. However, Matt Lupus, free from punctuation, scored from an acute accent to give the Midlanders a hope of a draw. It was only Kepa who kept Wolves out. Fantastic saves from Jota, Moutinho and Neves left Wolves firmly in the doghouse as the game finished 2-1 to the Blues.

In a flight of fancy, the Eagle and the Cockerel battled it out at Selhurst Park. The encounter did not reap any goals. Manager Jose Mourinho who is no stranger to ruffling a few feathers was sent off for giving the referee "the bird". Again Spurs were frustrated having no recognised forwards available due to furloughing. Palace, taking their possession-football very seriously decided that they didn't want to play and they sulked off taking their ball home. This left the Tottenham team standing in the middle of the pitch, two metres apart looking at each other blankly – something the fans have been used to for most of the season.







Everton produced a vintage performance in disposing of the Cherries and sent them down to the Championship. It was clear that Bournemouth had had their stones removed. Richarlison and two from midfielder Bernard put the Toffees 3-0 up. They put their new-found freedom on the pitch down to manager Ancelotti removing their surnames so they were able cover more of the pitch in less time. Bournemouth realising their number was up decided to give it one last shot. A bullet-header from Charlie Daniels who had recently returned from Georgia with his band and a comical attempt from Jo(shua) King brought a little sobriety to the score. Everton ran out winners by three goals to two.

The big-game of the day brought third placed Leicester up against fourth-placed and Champions League chasing Manchester United. The big call from Brendan Rodgers was to leave out James Maddison who was angry to be placed on the substitute bench. After a cold start, Ben Chilwell of Leicester mounted a series of attacks on the United goal. Keeper David de Gea was having a better game than usual as he saved each shot. At no point did he ever look like dropping the ball! The deadlock was broken with a clean strike from Christian Fuchs. Goalkeeper de Gea shouted something similar to the referee earning him a yellow card. Rashford replied for United with two well-taken goals as they went into the break 2-1 up. Forward Juan Mata, when it did matter, scored a goal from a blinding free kick – one which Kasper Schmeichel didn't see coming. The Red Devils then sat back a little and were scalded by Leicester substitute Dennis Praet, who didn't make himself look like one, reducing the deficit to one goal. Chelsea fans were willing Leicester on to get an equalizer but to no avail. Manchester United won 3-2 and secured the final Champions League spot. Leicester safely remained in third place.

A quiet day was had at the Etihad as the season fizzled out. Norwich played with a freedom of a team well and truly relegated and Manchester City played with an air of resignation of a team who had relinquished their prized trophy. Both teams played a very much changed starting eleven. Life and soul of the party, Kyle Walker was given the captain's armband for the game and bossed the defence imperiously with freshly repaired Benjamin Mendy. The deadlock was almost broken with an out-of-this world attempt from Gabriel Jesus. However Norwich's Ben Godfrey cut out the cross to ensure that the Canaries weren't crucified by the Citizens. The game petered out towards the end leaving both teams looking on the bright side of life.

Newcastle entertained champions, Liverpool on a rainy, windswept afternoon that typified the Tyneside spirit. Newcastle were parading their new kit with sponsors Poundland, with a new material, polythene. Fans remarked that the shirts resembled carrier bags with armholes cut-out and looked as though they had been sourced from the local shop. Tough-tackling midfielders Nabil Bentaleb and Jonjo Shelvey put themselves amongst their opposite numbers and broke up the play. Liverpool were finding it hard to get out of their half, even Fabinho who wasn't that fab today was unable to supply a bread and butter pass to the front three of Mane, Salah and Entrée. It was inevitable that at some point Andy Carroll would get on the scoresheet against his former team. It was a swansong performance that held back the years, simply black and white rather than red and lifted him up to almost Shearer-status. Newcastle ran out winners by his solitary goal leaving Liverpool empty-handed.

A saintly performance from Southampton undermined a steely defence from Sheffield United. VAR played an important role in the game as the only goal of the game was subject to ten minute review. During the interim period, the players were able to have a cup of tea and ring up their partners. The





issue in question appeared to be whether sticking the ball under your shirt and running for goal was a legitimate scoring opportunity. Having consulted the rule book several times, the VAR referee was unable to find any reason not to award the goal. Manager Chris Wilder mocked the referee for his decision by running up the touchline afterwards, however, under his shirt was a large belly, not a football. Southampton held on to this slender lead until the end of the game.

West Ham battled it out with Aston Villa with a place in the Premier at stake. This was looked down upon by the visitors as they have been used to occupying a Villa for most of the season. The Hammers, business-like as ever, were forever knocking at the door of the Villa defence and it wasn't long before Sebastian Haller was pulled down inside the penalty area to gift West Ham an opening goal. He dusted himself down before calmly slotting into the bottom corner. West Ham continued to pressurise Aston Villa into the second half with both Huever and Dyson cleaning up. At that point the away supporters decided to leave the game early to get some shopping in at Westfields. The tie finished 3-0 to West Ham and the away supporters came away with a few bargains in the sales.

### Final League Positions

Position	Club	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	GD	Points
1	Liverpool	38	28	4	6	38	88
2	Man City	38	21	5	12	37	68
3	Leicester	38	18	8	12	27	62
4	Man Utd	38	17	11	10	20	62
5	Chelsea	38	17	10	11	13	61
6	Sheffield Utd	38	14	13	11	-2	55
7	Wolves	38	13	15	10	7	54
8	Arsenal	38	13	15	10	2	54
9	Burnley	38	16	6	16	-5	54
10	Tottenham	38	14	11	13	7	53
11	Newcastle	38	14	10	14	-4	52
12	Everton	38	14	10	14	-8	52
13	Southampton	38	16	4	18	-9	52
14	Crystal Palace	38	13	11	14	-5	50
15	Brighton	38	11	14	13	-3	47
16	West Ham	38	11	9	18	-13	42
17	Watford	38	10	10	18	-14	40
18	Aston Villa	38	11	6	21	-24	39
19	Bournemouth	38	10	8	20	-18	38
20	Norwich	38	5	8	25	-46	23

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We will return to this once the “real” games have been completed to see how close these predictions actually were. I hope you have enjoyed the weekly trawl through the fixtures and that I have not offended too many diehard fans.