



Beths Grammar School

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

Week Ending Friday 19 June 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – updates from the Headteacher

We welcomed both Year 10 and Year 12 this week in smaller numbers – 25% of the combined year groups each day, around 140 students and I can report that our uptake was around 80% meaning that four in every five attended which is a fantastic effort. I did note the joyous faces of parents who were dropping their children off – even if it was only for a 3 hour break.

I am very grateful to Mrs Walker and her Facilities Team who have prepared the whole School site in readiness for staff and some students to return. They have peppered the site with little footprints to follow, rolls of hazard tape, clear directional routes and made each area as safe as is possible with sanitisers outside and inside classrooms, wipes inside the room and only the necessary desks required. A mammoth effort which needs to be maintained each day so that rooms are ready and I do think our students appreciated the opportunity to be back in familiar surroundings amongst their peers with staff who they get on well with.

Year 10 will follow the same subjects on the same day of the week as the one just finished although I have changed the order as some staff noticed that some students were quite fatigued by the last session because of the high-impact lessons delivered every 30-minutes. I managed to deliver the 3 lessons of Mathematics set for the week in my 30 minutes but I felt, by the end of it, quite tired!

Year 12 sessions continue with Group 3 on Monday/Tuesday and Group 4 on Thursday/Friday. Please stick to your groups, refer to your old timetable of when subjects were taught and also note that there are no directed study facilities on site. You are only supposed to be in school when you have a taught lesson. The site is as safe as can be but we are only allowing those that need to be on-site, on-site.

Temperature Screening

As a reassurance for all staff and students coming into school, we have installed a new 'temperature screening' machine next to the Millennium entrance. The temperature screening machine gives an accurate reading of your current temperature and anyone with a reading of over 37.9 will be asked to move away and after a minute, retake their temperature. If it remains above 37.9, if a member of staff, we would ask them to leave the site immediately and book themselves in for a Covid-19 test. If a student, records a reading above 37.9, they will be escorted to the Medical Room where they will remain, whilst being monitored on CCTV, until their parents can arrive to remove them from the site. Again, they would be asked to arrange for a test to be taken and to report the result to us at their very earliest convenience.

Should a member of staff or student have a reading of above 37.9, an alert will sound both at the unit and remotely to alert a member of staff who will make their way down to the console to assist.

We understand that recording a temperature of above 37.9 does not necessarily mean that they have contracted Covid-19 but, as it is a possible indicator, we would ask that a test is undertaken.



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.

However, as we said last week that we have listened to staff, students and parents and have now decided that although the default setting is that the cameras are off, members of staff at their own discretion can leave student cameras on.

Could we therefore ask your son or daughter that they are suitably dressed, in a suitable location in the house with no identifiable personal information in shot. 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

“British Values”

The five British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. These are the five fundamental values that have been developed by the UK Government in an attempt to create social unity and prevent extremism. The Government guidance on the implementation of the fundamental values framework provides both examples of what students should know, and what to teach.

Examples of what students should know include:

- How to influence society through lawful democratic participation;
- That the freedom to religion, including the freedom of others to hold faiths other than your own, is enshrined in British law;
- That people of diverse faiths should all be respected and not be discriminated against as a result of their religious affiliations;
- That it is everyone’s responsibility to identify and challenge discrimination wherever it occurs.

Examples of teaching strategies include:

- A critical analysis of democracy, its strengths and weaknesses, and how it contrasts to other forms of governance;
- Implementation of small-scale democratic processes within schools that focus on childhood citizenship. This might include allowing students to have a voice on matters of importance to them and how their school is run;
- Hold mock elections, including mock election debates, through which students can voice their differences of opinion in respectful and tolerant ways.





This Week's PHSCE Theme

“Learning to Learn”. Last week we explored the principle of life-long learning and how we acquire knowledge throughout our lives. This time we focus upon how we learn – are you someone that forever makes notes, spider diagrams that link ideas and concepts or are you a person that learns through practicalities where experiential learning is the main methodology? Do you use a mixture of both? It is a fact that many people do not see the link between school and employment but if you break it down without the detail, a link can be established. Each subject at school requires you to learn and process a body of knowledge, it's not important what the knowledge is but embedding skills of how you use the knowledge that you acquire is. At work you process a body of knowledge and skills related to the employment which is kind of what you do in school.

How do you use the knowledge that you have acquired? Think about three subjects that you currently study – say Mathematics, Art and Geography. What is similar in how you learn them and what is different? Think of three professions – say Police Officer, Bus Driver and Construction Worker, what body of knowledge is there for them to learn, how do they learn the skills and how similar or different is it to what you do in school? If you are able to establish how you learn best, you would be able to maximise your learning opportunities in the future.

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.

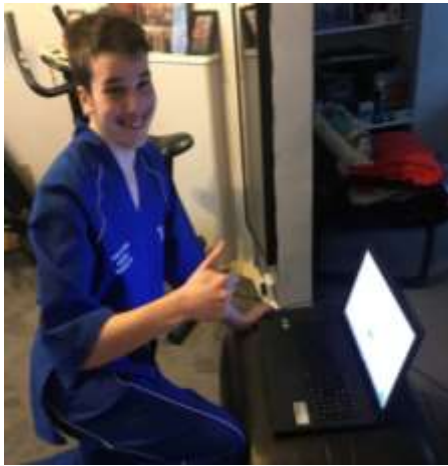
If you are working in a supermarket, for the NHS or as a carer, a delivery driver, a postman, working in the supply industry etc, please send us a photo of you, in your uniform and we hope to create something wonderful.

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.

8W Lockdown Competition – by Ms Stevens

Before lockdown I was used to seeing my tutor group every single day. We would read together, chat about the weekend and topical news or even watch documentaries together. During Lockdown, this integral social aspect of school has been lost. To try and regain some community spirit, I have been running a weekly competition with my tutor group to give them some focus and get involved in something that is hopefully fun! The tutor group have responded fantastically and have shown me the views on their walks, the food they have cooked and the games they have been playing. Most recently, I have received a number of reviews on the Bundesliga! A winner is picked on a weekly basis and they receive a book of their choice as the prize.





MyBnk - Online Money Twist – Years 7-9

MyBnk have created a programme, of which you will need to register via the below link to get access to:

<https://learning.mybnk.org/courses/online-money-twist-years-7-9-2/>

This programme will help students explore their relationship with money and what to do with it. Along with this blog, is an accompanying document with more information.



Emre's Chair

We thought we should share this wonderful 'handmade' chair that Emre in Year 8 has made during lockdown. He has amazing skill and should be so proud of what he has achieved.

If any other students have been up to anything like this over the lockdown, do please share it with us by emailing headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk.



My Beths Experience from Year 7 to Year 11 – by Musa – third installation continued from last week

Year 11 was the second half of our educational marathon, a true strive for success after we'd gotten a taste of it last year. It was interesting how by this point we didn't even need to be told much. It was make it or break it, the final stretch, the home run and everyone was putting in 100%, doing late nights till 6pm in school revising and attending revision classes, to early mornings getting in to practise any practical assessments you had. I was also selected to be part of the 'elite English programme' in which I engaged in Macbeth interactive workshops that allowed me to explore the context and meaning of the play more as well as Jekyll & Hyde talks.

No matter who you were, everyone was on track to achieve higher than they were expected to and we all had the dream to glorify the school's name against the other schools in Bexley who we knew we were better than...all until that opportunity was snatched from between our hands.

But before all that, I would like to reminisce on the experiences of Year 11, such as playing countless hours of table tennis in a competitive environment where I improved greatly and increased skills, as well as boxing more than ever to improve myself for fights outside of school hours and assessment, or going rock climbing for two days where we stretched ourselves to new heights (quite literally). Experiences like that were cherished by all of us especially as we knew they were the last time's we would be together.

Aside from GCSEs there were other achievements though; across my time at Beths I've been presented



the award for English, as well as general excellence in the annual school prize giving, in addition, I know some of the roles that may be available in Sixth Form as I was a junior prefect. I hope to pursue these to the highest level in order to mentor and help the younger years, as well as inspire others how I was inspired; for example, I gave an assembly this year on an inspirational sports person which many young people may be aware of, hence the message may resonate with them more. To add, I was proud to have been selected to help younger students with their





education and made sure I did my best to guide them in the best direction possible while uplifting their experience.

The sudden and abrupt ending to the year, as well as secondary school as a whole, was heart-breaking to say the least. I remember sitting in Mr McBeth's room late in the evening revising as he walked in and told us that the school was closing; I was overjoyed as I thought I'd have an extended study leave but as he was reading the article there was a sudden pause... 'oh' he uttered, as we stared at him, confused, only for him to break the news that would change our lives forever: 'GCSEs and A-Levels have been cancelled'. My head went into my hands as my jaw dropped in disbelief, I stood up speechless as it slowly dawned on me that everything I'd been working towards for the last few years of my life slipped out from beneath me. The next day, as per government instructions, we were sent home and a real sense of emptiness was felt amongst all of us, a family going separate ways all in the space of a day. Hopefully, we will get the chance to have a last day with the correct send-off but in the end we've come out with a lot more than just subject content, rather learnt a lot of valuable skills such as my work ethic, balance in lifestyle, public speaking, time management, and determination that'll help me all throughout my life

As for the future I would like to be the best Head Boy Beths Grammar has seen, providing the people of the school with incredible experiences, competitions and inspiration to carry on our traditions and help students with their exams and school life, as well as assisting and managing events and ceremonial roles where I can really sell the school and show parents of young kids all that their child could be and most importantly, helping them see the importance of hard, smart work just as I was shown. Also, I would like to achieve top grades in my A levels of Business Studies, Maths and Economics, while continuing to network with people in my desired career industry and expand other business ventures. The end goal is to reach a prestigious University such as Cambridge that will provide me with a great degree and many opportunities.



My advice for younger students would be to:

- Develop your community within your year group and make sure you all get along because trust me, those are the people and the years you remember
- Participate in extracurricular activities and broaden your horizon to make yourself as experienced and valuable as possible
- Develop a desire within to achieve, and share and showcase it with your people once everyone does as and you see others working, you too are motivated to put the effort in and succeed
- Inspire each other to be better, don't let any of your friends slack off
- In the end, have your fun - balance out the work correctly and don't take everything too seriously, up until it's time to do so.

