



# Beths Grammar School

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

## Week Ending Friday 26 June 2020

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

We welcomed Year 10 back for a second week. It is intended that we will continue with the current timetable of Core Subjects until the last week of term. In that final week we will publish a new timetable for the Wednesday and Thursday where your son will be invited in for one day to receive face-face tuition from the teachers who deliver the Option subjects. This facility has only been possible because the Year 12 teaching would have been concluded and the rooms used can now be made available for Year 10, having been thoroughly cleaned.

I continue to be very grateful to Mrs Walker and her Facilities Team who have prepared the whole School site in readiness for staff and students to return each day. 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. Once guidance is received from the Government about distancing we will embark upon adding additional desk into classrooms, whilst maintaining a safe environment.

In the meantime, 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

Year 12 sessions continue with Group 1 on Monday/Tuesday and Group 2 on Thursday/Friday. Please stick to your groups, refer to your old timetable of when subjects here 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.

As with so many aspects of schooling at the moment we are modifying how we send home report and progress information this year. With Years 10 and 12 in school we are relying on the students to actively seek feedback on what they need to do to progress from their teachers. If parents would like specific subject information about their young person's progress then they should email the member of staff directly. Staff email addresses can be found on our website at: <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Teaching+Staff&pid=123>

For Years 7 through 9 we will be sending out information on how thoroughly your child has completed the work set for them over lockdown. We understand that there are myriad reasons why students may have been unable to complete work so this is not intended to be judgemental, simply informative. Students will receive a numerical grade from 1 to 4 for how well they have engaged with their remote learning, with 1 being excellent and 4 being significantly below expectation. Again, I reiterate that we understand there may be complex reasons behind this and we don't want to cause any undue concern. As with any year we will look to close the gaps in knowledge created by this period of absence from school and will do our best to ensure no student's education suffers.

Included in the Years 7 to 9 reports will also be a short paragraph from each subject detailing what your son should have covered during this period so you can help him check he is up to date for September.



Finally, since Monday 23 March, we have offered our key worker parents the opportunity for their son or daughter to attend the school in our special provision. This was also available right through both the Easter holiday and May half term. However, with guidance changing, we feel we are now in a position that, from the end of Thursday 16 July, the provision will close.

Finally, with the school adapting to a new normal, our induction process for both new Year 7 and 12 students has had to be rethought. We are offering a 'virtual induction' and, if you would like to have a look at what we have been doing, please take a look at our website by following this link: <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Virtual+Inductions&pid=268>. Year 12 are having a rolling programme which is being updated on a regular basis. Year 7 are receiving weekly scheduled updates – fronted by their Head of Year – where he is 'showing them the ropes' as to what to expect when they join us in September.

### 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 view. 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**

**“Equality”**: Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death. They apply regardless of where you are from, what you believe or how you choose to live your life. They can never be taken away, although they can sometimes be restricted – for example if a person breaks the law, or in the interests of national security.

These basic rights are based on shared values like dignity, fairness, equality, respect and independence. These values are defined and protected by law. In Britain our human rights are protected by the Human Rights Act 1998.

Human rights are relevant to all of us, not just those who face repression or mistreatment. They protect you in many areas of your day-to-day life, including:

- your right to have and express your own opinions
- your right to an education
- your right to a private and family life
- your right not to be mistreated or wrongly punished by the state.

The atrocities of the Second World War made the protection of human rights an international priority. The United Nations was founded in 1945. It allowed more than 50 Member States to contribute to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948. This was the first attempt to set out at a global level the fundamental rights and freedoms shared by all human beings.

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/what-are-human-rights/what-universal-declaration-human-rights>

Is everyone equal? What rights are missing?

## **This Week’s PHSCE Theme**

“Learning to Learn” continues the theme of pushing yourself further to stretch your mind. Academics push themselves into the unknown where there isn’t always an answer but they have tried and tested methods to attempt to find a solution. It may not be the case that you have found the answer, rather what isn’t the answer. I challenge you to look at the Super-Curriculum on the School Website and pick a task that interests you and try it. You may not get an answer at the end but it is more about how you have attempted to find out an answer that is important as opposed to the answer itself.

## **FT.Com**

We have just received confirmation that staff and students can now have access to FT.com. Staff and students (so long as they are over the age of 16) will now be able to access Standard FT content, allowing them to download and use their app and other tools. Individual accounts can be created by registering at: <https://join.ft.com/e93844bf-47bf-44fe-95c2-c104b5f07290>





\*\*Please note that the link is IP restricted, however, in light of recent events this restriction has been temporarily lifted. Once the activities are resumed, the restrictions will be reinstated and you will need to be connected to the school's WiFi\*\*

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

## James' Bass Guitar

Check out James' bass guitar which he made from chipboard he found in his garage!

He watched lots of YouTube videos to help him create this masterpiece and it took him many hours to create and now wants to create another.

He may have a whole band soon!

Have you created something whilst being at home, or learnt a new skill? Let us know and email us at [headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk)

