



Beths Grammar School

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

Week Ending Friday 3 June 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – updates from the Headteacher

The Government has made its announcement about returning all students back full-time in September. We will consider the information provided in order to safely interpret the guidance. It is unlikely that transport will be any easier in the Autumn so planning the school day with all of the caveats/restrictions depending upon your perspective will mean some very intricate timings. These will take time to construct but I hope to be able to get back to you before the end of term with an idea or two, but this will be determined by the further discussions between the Professional Associations and the Government as they try to forge some common ground. It is also dependent upon how local conditions change regarding the easing of the lockdown. So not too many variables!

I hope that what we have been able to do this term in School has helped in Year 10 and Year 12. I know it has been considerably more than what other schools have offered. I would also like to thank you all for supporting your sons and daughters through this term and hope that we as a School have not come up short.

A reminder that, having offered a provision to our Key Worker students since Monday 23 March, we have made a decision that, as of the end of play on Thursday 16 July, this provision will be closed. This is because we feel that, with all the recent changes that have been made by the Government, families are now in a better position to arrange the normal childcare for their children which they would in 'normal' times.

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 say that we are doing more than many of the schools in Bexley.



We have listened to staff, students and parents and have 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 & This Week's PHSCE Theme

“The Power of Knowledge”- Is there anything more powerful than knowledge? Are some forms of knowledge more valuable than other forms? Who determines this? Was David Beckham a genius?

Knowledge is like a garden, if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested. Do you agree?

Confucius said, “The man who asks a question is a fool for a minute, the man who doesn't ask is a fool for life”. Is it that definitive?

What do you value as knowledge?

Make a list of themes that you consider valuable to acquire and another list of what you consider not to be. Are there any similarities?

Is the knowledge you value made up of old material, recent material or a mixture? Is it real knowledge you value or is it the knowledge of skills?

Is the ability to recall a series of complicated facts such as the dates of the reigns of Kings and Queens of this country more valuable than recalling the top 50 Beatles singles of all-time in terms of sales?

Is having the knowledge of how to make the “perfect” dessert more valuable than having the knowledge of putting garden furniture together?

Do we need to acquire knowledge? or do just we look it up on Google?

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.





Emad's dad is a Doctor



PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The following statement has been issued by the Parents Association:

Dear Beths Parents,

We hope this message meets you well. The government's directive to observe lockdown and social distancing, imposed inevitable and unprecedented restrictions that consequently prevented the association from meeting since our last meeting in April 2020. Since then, like many of you, the executive members of the PA have been monitoring the situation and liaising with the school as we collectively adhere to the evolving government's directives. Immediately, a number of our proposed events, regrettably had to be put on hold but the dated ones had to be cancelled as they lapsed.

The executive members deemed it necessary to meet and discuss the state of affairs and actionable plans in view of further easing of the lockdown. The following were in attendance:

Adele Swart- Chairperson

Irene Obaseki- Vice-Chairperson

Dele Ojomo- Secretary

Olu Obafaye- Treasurer

Georgina Schoeb- Deputy Treasurer

In view of the above, the following decisions were taken on behalf of the committee:

1. All dated events that have lapsed remain cancelled and costs incurred are written off against the books, where refund or recovery of costs is practically impossible.
2. Monthly/Quarterly draws are suspended until the PA committee is able to meet again. Hence, all missed monthly/quarterly draws will be conducted at the first meeting, post-lockdown.
3. Adele and Olu are liaising with the school to discuss pending payments funded by the association, like the school mic hire (for the school play) and how to get the payment across.





The decision to cover the cost was taken in the March meeting and that is the only payment due to the School from the Association.

4. A letter to the year 6 parents/guardians has been sent to the school and is due for mailing by the end of this week to the parents of the prospective students.

While it is unclear when we are able to meet again, face-to-face, we hope further government directive will ease the lockdown with guidelines that allow mass gathering up to the size of our meetings. In view of that optimism, we anticipate that the September meeting will be held ahead of the AGM due in October. On that note, we would like to acknowledge the members that have been of great service to this association but will not be joining us as we reconvene in future, because their children have completed their studies in the school. We wish to express our profound gratitude for the selfless services rendered and we hope to continue the good works and legacy of these great individuals.

Finally, we hope you are all keeping safe along with your loved ones. The disease is still very much around but just like the ones before this, we will defeat it.

Yours faithfully,

Beths Parents' Association

