



Beths Grammar School

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

Week Ending Friday 17 July 2020

A Message from the Headteacher

We have now reached the end of a school year that, when we came back last September for the start of the Autumn term, and again when we returned for the Spring term in January, we could never in our wildest dreams believed that we would have been in lockdown for weeks followed by schools opening their doors to Year 10 and 12 students whilst the remainder were taught virtually.



We have also missed so many things that were in the school calendar like the production of *The Wizard of Oz*, that so many students and staff had put so much time and effort into making such a spectacular performance, to Year 8 Camp not taking place – the first time this has happened in 42 years!

I have been really pleased to see how many Year 10 and 12 students have come into school to make use of the limited provision that we have been able to provide – for instance, we have had over 90% of Year 10 students in this week to catch up with their option subjects.

I now have to turn my mind to planning for September 2020 and designing a timetable to enable all year groups to come back to school. My plan ensures that students will be in school for five days each week and this will be within the normal school working day. There is some staggering of arrival and departure times to allow for year group 'bubbles' and for rooms to be cleaned, but without going into the finer detail, the plan has taken into account:

- Each year will be placed into a discrete and separate bubble
- Each year will have a set number of allocated classrooms for their timetable
- Each year will have designated toilets
- Each year will have designated routes
- Each year will have a designated outside play area
- We will run a two week timetable - odd periods (1, 3, 5) one week, even periods (2, 4, 6) the second week. That means three double periods per day. The rationale behind this is that it reduces movement around the site during the day and preserves the sixth form timetable.

All students will be expected to enter the site via the West Gate by Knoll Road end of Hartford Road. This allows for maximum dispersal at the point of entry. Students should not use the East Gate as the pathway is restrictive and will not allow proper social distancing at busy times. Staff will be on the West Gate to direct students to their form rooms. We do not have the facilities available for students to arrive on site early so ask that they do not arrive before 8.15am. At this time, students will go directly to their Form Rooms where their Tutors will be waiting for them from this time.

Registration Times are as follows:

8.45 am: Years 7 and 10
9.00am: Years 8, 9 and 11
8.45am: Year 12 and 13 for one form time per week which is arranged with Form Tutor, otherwise 9.40am.



Departure times are as follows:

- 1.00pm: Year 12 as it is planned for them to have remote learning for their final period of the day
3.10pm: Years 7, 8 and 9
3.30pm: Years 10, 11 and 13.

The detail within the day varies with each year group having breaks and lunch taking place at different times. Each individual year group will have their breaks at the same time each day. There will be a cold-food service provided by the Caterers for the first half term and students may bring a packed lunch and drink themselves.

It is not a perfect plan by any means but we believe it is a workable one providing everyone plays their part. Further details regarding infection control can be found on the School's Website under the Covid Risk Assessment which can be found, along with a number of other useful documents/advice at: <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Covid%2D19%3A+Continued+Advice+and+Actions&pid=316>.

You will also find, on this page of the website, details about whether you should come into school in the event that you become unwell. If you, or anyone in your household, are experiencing a high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss or change of taste or smell you must remain at home, notify the school and arrange for a Covid-19 test to be taken as soon as possible.

Students who are travelling to school using public transport (TFL) or our new coach service should adhere by all the mandatory regulations. Please ensure that you queue and use the service whilst socially distancing and wear your mask at all times and this will ensure the safety of all those travelling. For those students being driven to school, we ask parents and carers not to drop off or park in Hartford Road or the surrounding vicinity to stop the congestion that will be caused. We therefore ask you to drop them a 10 or 15 minute walk away from the school – perhaps in either Hall Place Car Park or the small car park in Thanet Road, opposite the rear of Bexley Library. If at all possible, we would encourage your child to either walk or cycle to and from school.

Currently the wearing of face masks is not compulsory in schools and we would not be expecting students or staff to wear them. However, should a student or member of staff feel more comfortable by wearing a mask, please be assured that they would not be asked to remove them, but we would ask for them to wear them correctly.

For those who are wearing disposable face masks, you will find clearly identified at the entrance and around the school which are specifically for PPE, to be disposed of.

As from September, students can revert to wearing their full school uniform and, as per our normal rules, non-compliance of uniform will be addressed. However, if your son has PE or Games, to save students using the changing rooms, they will be able to come into school wearing their school sports kit.





Please note that we will endeavour to ensure that any of the information placed on our new Covid-19 website page is kept up to date, however, as you are probably very aware, the guidance and advice is changing so frequently, we cannot always guarantee that this is the case.

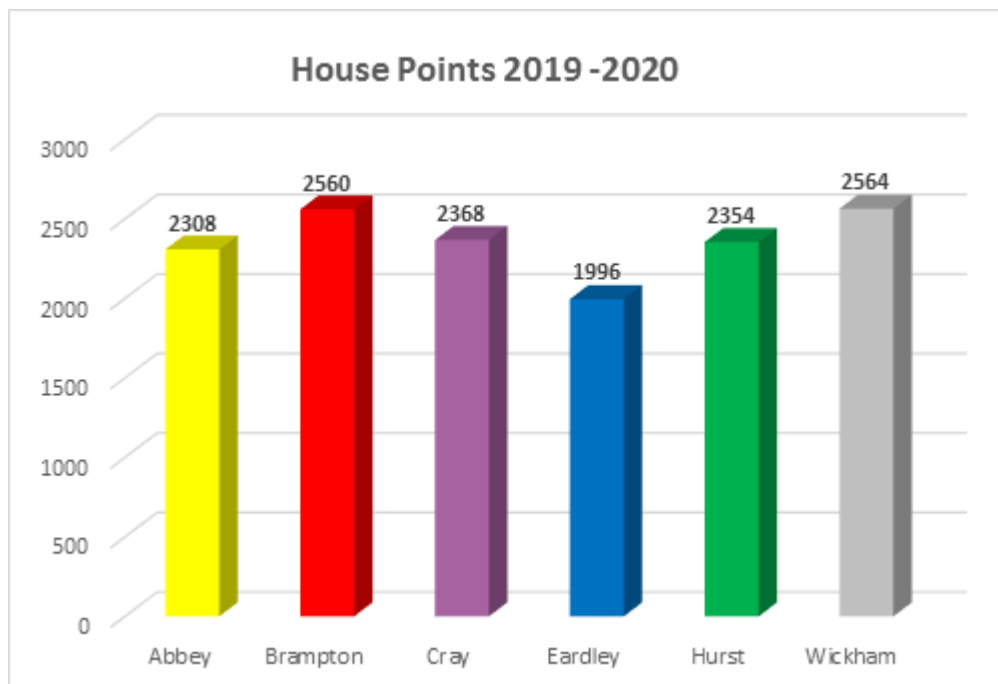
House Points

And the champions for this academic year are.....

Wickham

Congratulations and well done everyone for working hard and getting those extra House points over the last week, since we last updated you.

Looking at the results from last year, Wickham moved from the bottom to the top! Commiserations Eardley – let's hope next year you steam ahead with House points and take the glory!



Talking of House points and events, click on the below link to our website to see the most recent photography House competition and its winners!

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Photography+Competition&pid=317>

Summer Holiday Experiences

As we head towards the summer break, it will be great if you can let us know what you get up to in the next six weeks. Have you been able to find a part time job or apprenticeship? Are you visiting somewhere new or even heading abroad for the first time in a long time? If you read any books or watch any films, can you write a review? It would be lovely to fill our first blog of the new school year with lots of information about how you have spent your summer break!





Social Media

We would love to hear from you about what you want to see on our social media platforms? More photos from sporting ventures and fixtures? Videos of school life? To see what is going on in our lunch and after school clubs?

Let us know what you want to see! Please email headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk

Thought For The Week

Rather than a thought for the week, a challenge for the summer. We are often putting things off such as visiting, reading, gardening, baking and conversation to name but a few pastimes that we often remark that we are too busy to attempt. So, please think about something you have been putting off and do it.

Mr Blyghton's 'Dice Football'

The final update will be given in the first Blog of the new Academic Year but with three games to go, the bottom three are as predicted but the Champions league places are all still up for grabs.

Final Reminders

To confirm that Tuesday 1 September is a staff only day and face-to-face Induction for our new Year 7 students. Wednesday 2 September sees the Year 7 and Year 12 students start and then Thursday 3 September is when the remainder of our students join us.

Finally, please look out for a Blog towards the end of the summer break. This will contain any updates regarding Government advice – you know how often this changes – along with reminders about the start of the Autumn Term.

Enjoy your summer!

