



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

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Dear Parents/Carers

Year 13 students returning to school in September 2020

We are delighted that, following the exceptional circumstances we have found ourselves in since last March, we are now in a position to welcome all students – both new and old - back to Beths Grammar – albeit to a slightly different environment to that which they may remember. Years 7 and 12 will join us from Wednesday 2 September and Years 8-11 and 13 on Thursday 3 September, and we would ask all students to please adhere to the new rules that we have put in place as these are there to protect the whole school community. We have put together a video giving guidance on how the school will look and work from September and a link to this can be found here: <https://youtu.be/lfceKgBB5mg>

We have been working tirelessly over the summer to ensure that, in September, all students and staff are welcomed back to a community which is Covid-safe and secure and have been closely following the Government's guidelines whilst conducting rigorous risk assessments and ensuring that hygiene control is our priority. To this end we have cleaners working throughout the school day and have installed hand sanitizer stations outside all classrooms as well as installing additional sinks around the school to ensure there are plenty of handwashing areas for students to use. We would also encourage all students to carry a small hand sanitizer to improve their own personal hygiene.

I am highlighting below some important pieces of information but would also ask that you and your son or daughter read the attached 'Guide' which gives more details.

Year 12 and 13 will be in our 'Sixth Form Bubble' and, when moving to their form bases, should do so by using the most direct route, without entering the school buildings. The sixth form will have their own specific toilets within the Sixth Form Centre and this is where they will also be able to purchase food.

It is expected that students in Year 13 will attend all lessons whilst ensuring exemplary behaviour at all times in and around the school. Staff will be working hard to get through the syllabus and student co-operation is therefore essential to ensure this is possible. For those students who wish to apply to university, it is imperative that they engage with their Form Tutor during their one morning of allocated Form Period per week.

We are trying to limit the amount of people on site at any one time and this also includes parents. Therefore, no parents will be able to park on site at any time. Again, to limit numbers around the school, we would kindly ask that YOU DO NOT drop your son or daughter off in Hartford Road – not only because it is currently being dug up but also as it is a bottle-neck and we are trying to ensure the safety of the students around and close to the school site, wherever possible. We have made an arrangement, however, with Hall Place, just around the corner in Bourne Road, DA5 1PQ, and they have kindly agreed that parents can use their car park and wait for students to meet them there.

Again, in an effort to ease large gatherings close to the school site, we would encourage students to use other bus stops and not just the ones at the end of Hartford Road. As you will read in the Guide attached, TfL will be putting on additional buses during busy times and we also hope that this will alleviate congestion.

The trains will also be running and will provide a safe Covid option for many, especially if they are travelling against the adult commuter traffic. If a bus is the only means of transport available for your child then we recommend that they use one of the school buses if possible and always wear a face mask. You should also encourage them to be flexible in the bus they take and have a system for them to inform you if they are waiting for a later less crowded bus. We also ask that you discuss which is the best bus stop to use (maybe walking some of the distance home) so as to avoid over-crowding at the bus stop. Masks should be worn while waiting for buses at bus stops.

To help manage the movement of students before and after school we are asking that they should not travel in groups (unless in the same family) and students in Years 7-11 should not be given any money to spend in local shops. All food should be either purchased at school via the cashless system or brought in a pre-prepared packed lunch.

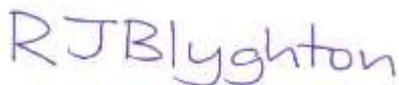
We are very keen to work closely with parents over the first few weeks to monitor our Covid security both on site and while travelling to school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions, concerns or ideas about how we can improve our systems further.

For parents of students in Years 11 and 12 I want to add in some additional thanks for everything you have done over the last few years in preparing your son for GCSE success. Despite the interesting governmental approach, and the issues with the national management of examinations this year, I am delighted to report that all indicators in terms of teacher assessments and mock results across the last two years show that the recent high GCSEs achieved by the students at Beths were thoroughly well deserved and a result of their excellent endeavors since the start of their courses. It is also pleasing to see a three year school improvement strategy, placing academic ambition and excellence at the heart of everything which we stand for day in and day out, coming to fruition. Through a relentless focus on outstanding attitudes for learning and high quality teaching in every lesson, we were able to submit teacher assessment grades which were outstanding and capable of standing up to any level of external moderation. We are exceptionally proud of our students in KS4 from last year and have no doubt that they will surpass the excellent achievements of our outgoing Year 13.

I would also like to remind you that you should not send your son or daughter into school if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and I have copied a link here as a reminder as to what these are: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/> Likewise, I would ask that you notify us if anyone within your household is diagnosed with Covid-19.

Finally thank you for all of the kind messages of support which many of you have sent during this exceptionally challenging period and I'm sure that, working together in the Beths spirit, we will make this year an exceptionally successful one for your child.

Yours faithfully



Mr R J Blyghton
Headteacher