



Beths Grammar School

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

Week Ending Friday 18 September

Message from the Headteacher

As we come to the end of our third week back at school, we hope that all students are adapting to our 'new normal'. We know that the timetable is not as simple as pre-Covid-19 and that only being able to use certain recreational areas or catering facilities can be a pain, but this is for the safety of us all.

We are however, continuing to update our procedures around the school and have already acted on some of your responses that came out from the survey earlier this week – details of which – I have covered below.

We continue to have to remind students that they should be wearing a face mask whilst inside the school site, excluding classrooms, to clean their work space with an antiseptic wipe before and after use and use the hand sanitiser available inside each room regularly. Please can I ask parents and carers to also remind your son or daughter that wearing a mask is an expectation in and around the school site. We do have a limited supply of disposable face masks which we are selling from our Reception for 50p each. Please note that these are for students who either forget their mask or that the one they were wearing has broken. We are unable to supply these for free but the cost of 50p is very competitive to the price you would pay in a supermarket such as Sainsbury's.

Buses, at times, have continued to be an issue however, we are working with TfL and any contact parents can make with them, may also help the situation. We staff the bus stops at the bottom of Hartford Road and ensure that students get the first available service in a controlled environment.

We are still receiving a number of complaints from members of the local community: students gathering in groups of more than six outside of the school, not wearing face masks on buses and trains, dropping litter – particularly fast food wrappings – in neighbours gardens etc. Please continue to remind your son or daughter that, although they may not like the new rules which have been put in place, it is imperative for everyone's health and safety that they do 'follow the rules' and, in turn, I will not have to keep moaning to you all.

We sent out our first survey of the term earlier this week. It consisted of two questions and the 558 responses concluded that 88% felt comfortable being in school and 87% felt that the school was doing everything it could to ensure personal safety. I intend to repeat this survey in about three weeks time to see how we are continuing to perform. As I mentioned, the survey included a section for comment and our responses to many of these are detailed here with the original comments:

Transport to and from the school

"Boys are literally piled up at the bus stops, no social distancing"

"We have to distance at school but what about the bus stops?"

[Students at bus stops, when supervised by staff, are required to wear a face covering.](#)



“Regarding the outside behaviour of the boys. My daughter was travelling on a non school bus which obviously did not let on the large amount of Beths boys. Many of them then swore verbally and using fingers at the driver. This was very intimidating for the driver and passengers on the bus. Could a staff presence be made around the bus stops? Also the boys are still not all wearing masks whilst at the stop.”

“Sort out the bus stops, put staff members on bus stop duties and ensure children queue to get on buses.”

Staff supervise the stops at the bottom of Hartford Road. Students board buses in an orderly fashion under supervision. We have no control over the timetable of buses/trains, we cannot force face masks on transport, we can only advise, we cannot control who gets on a student-only bus – this needs to be taken up with TfL and enforced by bus drivers.

Face Masks & Social Distancing/Bubbles

“Mask wearing is not being enforced enough”

Staff have been asked to remind students to put on a mask before they leave their classroom. Students in corridors and communal areas are also challenged by staff to wear face coverings.

“Social distancing needs to be improved within bubble groups.”

Social distancing rules between students within the same bubble do not apply. Staff are expected to maintain a social distance as they move between bubbles.

“Prevent bubble groups from mixing” - “Make dedicated routes for each year groups.”

Dedicated routes for Years 7-11 have been designed around their rooms, toilets, play areas and food outlets. Games groups have been advised regarding their routes from the field back to school. Sixth Form students now use the East Gate for entry onto the School site and are required to wear a face covering upon entry.

“Use of masks in classrooms”

There is no requirement to wear face coverings as students are in distinct bubbles in the classroom.

“Increased distancing between students and fewer classroom movements”

Apart from the Sixth Form, all other year groups are placed in zoned classrooms which are solely used by the respective year group. Where sixth form use a room, it is cleaned prior to and after its use by them or, if the timetable allows, the room is cleaned by the day cleaners.

“Add more social distancing rules. Make masks mandatory. Keep classroom sizes at a minimal level”

We are operating the rules stated in Government guidance. We are not required to make wearing a face covering across the whole site but have insisted that they be worn in corridors and communal areas. In order to educate all students in a face-face environment, we are not able to reduce classes in size without sending year groups home.

“Smaller bubbles more in line with new rules”

Education is exempt from new social rules.





“Many other children walk through their designated bubble area from other years”

Each year group has a designated route around the school with as little movement as possible. Sixth Form do move across bubbles and are expected to wear face coverings when they do so.

“Make bubbles more strict and secure implement sanctions for no face mask.”

When issuing sanctions, the expectation would be the student were detained or excluded. For persistent offenders I agree we need to sanction but with the transport issues affecting students to and from school as well the fact that most students have had the last 6 months off, keeping them after school or off school would be a very last resort.

“Maybe the school could sell or give disposable masks”

In an emergency, disposable masks can be purchased from Reception for 50p.

Break/Lunchtime

“Nowhere to sit for either son to eat lunch”

Our priority is to ensure sufficient adequate sanitised teaching spaces. It is not possible to also clean outside seating areas due to time and manpower constraints. Whilst not ideal, the ground does provide a place to sit. The washable benches from the canteen are distributed externally at lunchtime to provide some seating for students.

“A little concerned that Year 7 and Year 8 are mixing when leaving the tennis courts/hard courts at break times. Year 7 used to walk through the car park but now they have been instructed to walk along the path, meaning that the Y8s are having to wait for them and consequently being late for their lessons.”

We will look into this but it is a safety issue when walking through a car park and the only safe route is along a short path adjacent to the rooms MCC, M3, M2 and M1 and the only alternative path is through a Y11 bubble at the moment. A revised route is being devised for Year 7 that will ensure they enter and exit their break area on the tennis courts completely separated from other Year groups.

“As KS3 have a sufficient lunch break, the 3rd break at 2.15pm feels a little redundant. Would we be better off working through from 1.25 and finish 10 minutes earlier at 3pm?”

A 100 minute lesson at the end of day for KS3 would be quite a demand. The school buses at the end of the day - 601 and DJ Coach do not depart much before 3.45 pm and the frequency of the buses at the bottom of Hartford Road is less before 3.30 our usual finish times.

“I feel the lunchtime meal service should include a hot meal option, particularly as the Snack Shack does not appear to be particularly wide choice.”

It does include a hot-meal but choice is reduced as four outlets are serviced across a lunchtime of two sessions. The catering service is being regularly reviewed and, where possible, additional items are being added. Currently, along with the cold food options, waffles and bacon rolls (or similar and including a vegetarian option) are available at morning break, and hot pasta or curry pots are available during lunch. All of the food outlets around the school have the same offerings.





“There can be rotations of different year groups onto the field or the hard courts”

Year groups need to be familiar with where they are expected to go. Recreation areas are determined based upon which rooms, toilets and food outlet are used. Any changes would mean moving bubbles wholesale. We will be looking into areas as the term progresses and when the field is closed during the winter.

“More seating area for having lunch outside” - “Benches for the field for year 9” - “Year 8 hard courts - no seating or shade”

We have limited seating and staffing to move it. Whilst the weather remains fine, students are encouraged to sit down on the ground. When the weather becomes more inclement, covered areas will have some seating. As the virus can live up to one day on wood, it is not possible to permit the use of benches.

“It would be good if the bubbles didn’t cross over on the field.”

Sixth Form are now using a different entry point. PE Games groups are guided by staff such that they do not walk through bubbles.

“Since most yr 12s leave at 1, and they have a break in between lessons, make the pod available to the yr 12s or make the food accessible at an earlier time in the sixth form centre”

Key Stage 4 have the same lunch period that sixth form have. Sixth Form do have the opportunity to leave the school site for lunch if they have a lesson in the afternoon otherwise they leave the site at 1 pm and food is available in the Sixth Form Centre at the same time as the other outlets.

“Staff to monitor the queue whilst children get their food please”

Staff are on duty at the queues and in the designated break areas.

Hygiene

“More sanitiser stations”

All classrooms have a hand sanitiser, unless they are a commissioned laboratory. Sanitising units have also been installed at the entrances to all buildings as well as large communal areas such as the school hall, drama studio and sports hall.

“Ensuring ongoing cleaning.”

We have additional dedicated day-cleaners who work during school hours cleaning the school as well as a team of evening cleaners who ensure rooms are sanitised at the end of every day.

“Filter the water out if the water bottle refillers as they taste off - as if they went through rust pipes or something.”

All water fountains are regularly cleaned and maintained however, if a specific water fountain is an issue, please make us aware of the location.

“Provide more girls toilets”

Girls have toilet facilities in the Sixth Form Centre and in the Dining Hall.





“Why only 1 toilet in use for year 7”

There are three toilet areas for Year 7 – outside B14, inside the Dining Hall and along the Drama Corridor in two separate facilities.

“Let us go to the toilets when our bladder tells us to”

There is an increased number of breaks during the school day.

“Year 9 only have 2 toilets and this is not adequate”

The toilets allocated to Y9 are 3 toilets and 4 urinals which is line with what other year groups are provided with. It's not ideal, but to maintain bubbles in this pandemic we have little choice.

“If classrooms are not cleaned in time, please provide us with antibacterial wipes, so each student can wipe down their desk and chair for the next lesson to start.”

Wipes are in all classrooms and are replenished regularly. Students are asked to wipe down desks upon entering and leaving the classroom. Cleaning staff monitor and replenish both wipes and hand sanitiser throughout the day and Staff are able to email facilities if stock begins to run low for replenishment.

“Outside sinks are difficult to be used and sometimes there are no soap.”

On some there is a foot-pedal to build pressure to draw water up from the container, others are from water mains. Soap is dispensed by pumping the dispenser.

“Suggest you get more tests sent directly to the school as there are reports that there are long delays in getting testing kits. I do not want my son to be forced to stay at home for 2 weeks when he has only just got back to school”

The School has been provided with 10 test packs and is required to wait three weeks before re-ordering replacements.

Before School/On Site

“Please be more flexible on times children are allowed to enter the school, bus times mean my son has to hang around for 30 minutes before coming in, I'd rather he was safe on school premises than on the streets!”

“Allow kids come in from 8am”

“Could you please consider earlier entry to the school grounds?”

“To have safe places inside school for early arrivals”

“I think pupils should be allowed to wait in designated areas of the school grounds for school to commence. This would negate the issues with neighbours re hanging around outside, which cannot be helped depending on the timing of public transport”

We are unable to staff the site adequately and safely before 8.15am thus ensuring students are supervised and remain in their bubbles. We have repeatedly requested that students do not arrive before 8.15 am and we will keep to this time until further notice.





Classrooms/Remote Learning

“Too many people in classroom”

As each lesson is unique to a bubble, there is not a maximum number of students per class and some subjects are more popular than others.

“Increased use of remote learning for subjects which could be done that way for all year groups”

Teachers, where possible, are teaching lessons face-face. Remote lessons are unable to be provided for those that already have a face-face provision.

“Better connectivity and instructions for Zoom lessons”

We are looking to improve our wifi from school to deliver such lessons. Remote Learning takes many different forms of which Zoom is only one type.

“Regular enforced cleaning of desks”

All rooms are cleaned and students are required to wipe their work space before and after usage.

“Dedicated rooms for sixth form free periods” - “Make an area for 6th form for when they don’t have lessons so they don’t need to leave the school”

The School does not have the capacity to provide dedicated study rooms. Y12 remote lessons occur because we are unable to provide a clean room for the lesson in time because it has been used by another bubble.

“Separate year 12 and 13.” – “reduce 6th form bubble”

We would struggle with providing discrete rooms for Y12 and Y13 and the designated toilet facilities for the sixth form are in the Sixth Form Study Centre.

“Less confusing timetables - please ensure staff who explain to students consistently give accurate timetable information not contradict each other.”

The timetable is quite simple to follow – we have odd weeks and even weeks. Odd weeks are periods 1, 3 and 5 whilst the even weeks are periods 2, 4 and 6.

“The remote learning isn’t clear. Some teachers haven’t yet started these lessons nor put an alternative in place.”

Staff were asked to begin the remote lessons from Monday 7 September. Please email the staff directly.

“More time to get home for year 12 remote lessons.”

Students who are unable to get home for their remote lesson will need to speak to Mr O’Brien.

“I feel we’re are still to close in class. Maybe some type of clear barrier”

We are not able to place any additional furniture into rooms but as each group is in a discrete bubble, the distance between students is minimal but the distance between the class and teacher needs to be 2 metres.





“The remote classes to be replaced with real teaching”
We are looking to do this as soon as we possibly can.

“We don't stay in our PE kits for the whole day please.”
At the moment, we are unable to use changing rooms because of the increased level of hygiene required between each time it is used.

“Just thinking about the 6th form time table. Students are only allowed to attend solely for their lessons. Is there any scope for any social interaction/study bubbles of 6 pupils per subject (with mask wearing). As like all pupils they have been fairly socially isolated since March. Only coming in for reduced lessons does not foster any time social interaction.”
We are looking to reinstate sixth form registration for each tutor group soon.

Calendar

Please find below the link for our events calendar. You will see that this year there is not as much going on as would be expected and this is down to the fact that we can't hold concerts, performances and open events as we would normally expect to do. However, please be aware that, if there were changes to the guidance we are currently following, and we were able to hold this type of event, the calendar would then be updated. The link to our school calendar, which can be found on our website, is below:

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Events+Calendar&pid=169>

Welcome to Beths for Year 7 Parents/Carers

We are delighted that, as per the calendar, our Welcome to Beths for Year 7 Parents/Carers will be virtual this year. A pre-recorded video of Mr Webb, Head of Year will be sent to all Year 7 parents on Thursday 24 September, welcoming you all and answering any further questions you have sent through to us. Should there be anything that you would like Mr Webb to answer, please email headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk by Tuesday 22 September. He will then answer these questions, to the best of his ability, during the video.

Returned Books

A reminder to all Year 8 and Year 9 students to return your Activate Science books to your Form Tutor.

Parents Association

We would like to welcome all students especially the new Year 7's and Year 12's and their parents, to Beths Grammar School in September 2020. We know your son and daughter will enjoy their time at Beths.





The Parents Association aims to raise funds to enhance the facilities for current and future students. At the same time, it enables parents to socialise through the school events that it organises throughout the year. During the school year you will receive emails from us, sent via the school. These emails will contain updates from the Parents Association, but do also keep an eye on our webpage on the school's website along with our page on the weekly school Blog.

The PA is less “hands on” than junior schools but we do organise social events such as quiz nights. We are reliant on the generosity and support of parents and carers to make donations and to buy monthly draw tickets, raffle tickets, or refreshments at these and other school events.

We usually meet on the second Tuesday of every month to discuss fundraising events, the school requirements and any new ideas. Check the school events calendar for dates. We would encourage and welcome all new parents to come along and learn more about what we achieve. We have our virtual annual meeting on the 13 October 2020, when new members can join to serve on the PA. We have two vacancies to be filled, one for the treasurer and the other is the vice treasurer's position. We would greatly appreciate any volunteers with a finance background or previous experience on a PA to apply. Please contact us in order to receive a ‘new members’ form as well as to share your contact details for future communications.

If you would like any further information about the PA please do not hesitate to contact us via email, **beths.parents.association@gmail.com** or on our Facebook page or Instagram page (**#bethsparentsassociation**), details as below.

PA Chair

Adele Swart

Project funded by the Parents Association during the last financial year

- LRC reading books
- Year 8 camp equipment
- Music violin tuition
- English reading vouchers
- 14 audio interfaces for the Music department
- Year 8 camp new bikes
- 1st team rugby shirts
- Microphone hire for school productions
- £500 Tim Room Bursary for work experience

How can you get involved?

Easyfundraising

If you shop on the Internet please join easyfundraising

It is so easy, it costs nothing, just sign up at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/BethsPA





Shop via our easyfundraising page and we will automatically receive a donation.

You can also surf the web using www.easysearch.org.uk/Beths PA

Every time you search the web, they will give the PA a percentage of the fees paid by their advertising sponsors. If you are eligible, please also gift aid to maximise the donation.

Beths PA monthly draw

This is a simple way that not only supports our fund raising but also gives you the chance to win either a £20 or £10 monthly prize. To comply with the Data Protection Act, we kindly request that, to purchase your lucky numbers, please complete a form which you will find on Beths website, and return it to the school office via email. The 'Monthly draw' year starts in January and runs until December, but all payments needs to be made via your Parent Pay account by 1 December and you will be notified of your numbers in January 2021. Each number costs just £6 per year for the 12 monthly draws. The winning numbers are randomly drawn at the monthly PA meeting. Kindly note the school office will inform all parents via email once the option to pay is available on "Parent Pay".

AmazonSmile: You shop, Amazon gives. (smile.amazon.co.uk)

Do you shop with Amazon? If you want Amazon to donate to Beths Parents Association, you need to start each shopping session at the URL smile.amazon.co.uk and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible purchases if you make **Beths Parent's Association** your nominated charity.

Donations – Fund Matching

We welcome donations from individuals and businesses. If you are a tax payer please tick the gift aid box. If your employer has a charity matching scheme, please contact us for more details.

Monthly Draw Competition Winners

May 2020

Monthly Draw Winners below:

First Prize goes to Benji in 11W with winning ticket No. 21

Second Prize goes to Matthew in 10E with winning ticket No. 62

June 2020

Monthly Draw Winners below:

First Prize goes to Benji in 11W with winning ticket No. 9

Second Prize goes to Robert in 11A with winning ticket No. 77





Quarterly Draw Winners below:

Quarterly Prize goes to Michael in 8W with winning ticket No. 41

July 2020

Monthly Draw Winners below:

First Prize goes to Elliot in 12.11 with winning ticket No. 38

Second Prize goes to Benji with winning ticket No. 10

August 2020

Monthly Draw Winners below:

First Prize goes to Tom in 9E with winning ticket No. 66

Second Prize goes to Finley in 10A with winning ticket No. 83

September 2020

Monthly Draw Winners below:

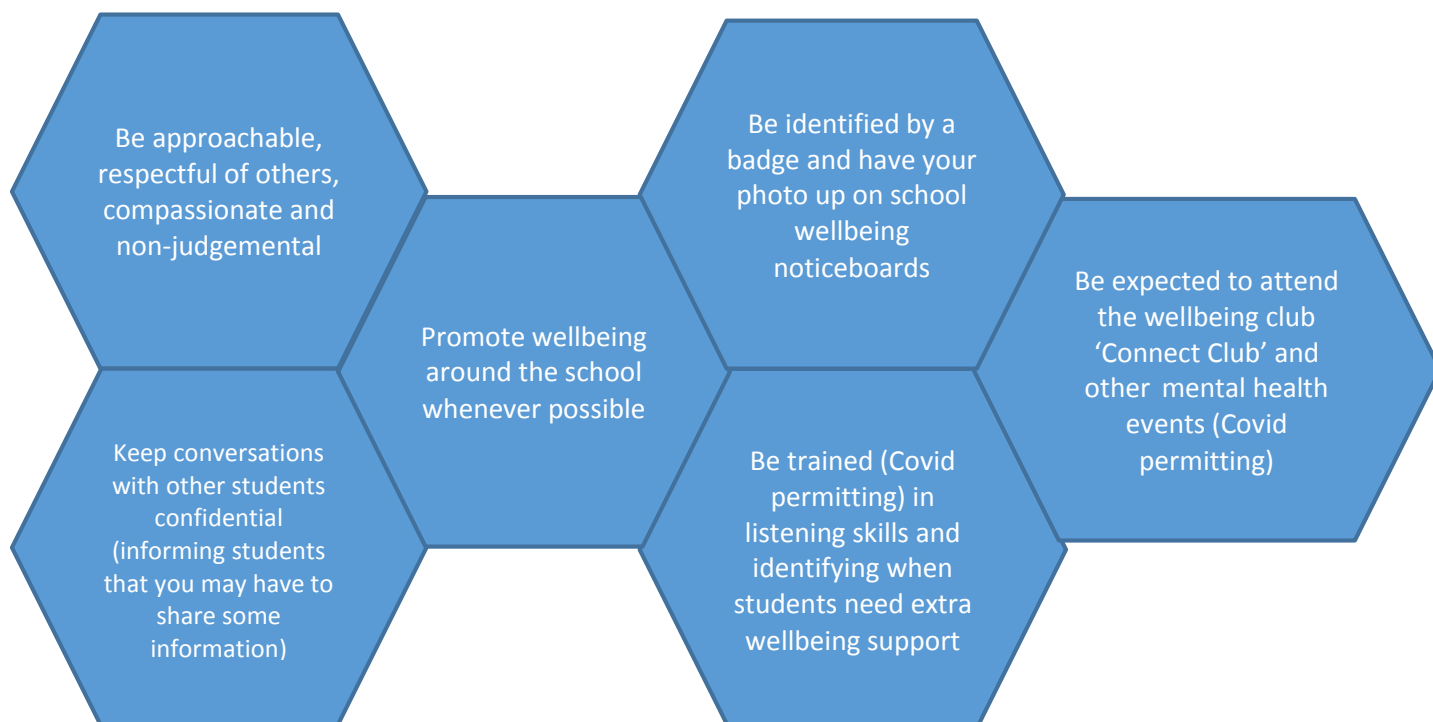
First Prize goes to Ignacio in 12.7 with winning ticket No. 76

Second Prize goes to Ethan in 10A with winning ticket No. 86

Quarterly Draw Winners below:

Quarterly Prize goes to Jayden in 9H with winning ticket No. 72

Becoming a Wellbeing Champion





The process for all students interested in becoming a Wellbeing Champion (including those who were Wellbeing Champions last year) is:

1. Write a few sentences about what wellbeing means to you and why you are interested in becoming a Wellbeing Champion at Beths. This should be done by Friday 25th September
2. Either submit this in person to Ms Brett-Smith or Ms Jones in the counselling room (next to C2), email us (Counselling@beths.bexley.sch.uk) or post in the Be Better Box (behind IEN). Don't forget to include your name!
3. Applicants will be invited to attend an interview with the Counsellors and successful students will be appointed as Wellbeing Champions.

Upcoming Events

- 21 September Language and Culture Week
24 September Welcome to Beths for Parents/Carers of Year 7 Students
26 September European Day

Student Corner

My Visit to Hastings Castle by Fahim B 9H

During the summer holidays, I visited Hastings Castle with my family.

I found that the site was incredibly interesting and it had ruins dating back to 1066. Moreover, a whole century of raids, erosion, and destruction, eventually led to the castle's demise, in 1399.

When I arrived at Hastings Castle, I had a picnic on the adjacent hill, with seagulls circling above wishing to eat our food. The first thing I did upon arrival was look at the castle's ruins and read about its history. I learned that this was the first castle ever built in Britain, by William the Conqueror.

However, after its destruction, the ruins gradually faded into obscurity during the 1500s as overgrown weeds hid the ruins. Then, in 1824, an archaeological investigation led to its rediscovery and it became a tourist attraction.

The best parts of Hastings Castle include the breath-taking views of the town, the eerie ruins, and the gargantuan hill, perfect for any picnic. Just looking at a millennium of history was pleasant to see as well, especially while eating a picnic. I would highly recommend visiting this place with the family as it is a lovely site to have a picnic while enjoying the fine summer day.

With the historical ruins to gaze at and a picturesque town below, one should definitely visit this place as it is perfect for everyone.





Career and Apprenticeship Information

Please find below the link to our careers page on our website. We will also post anything new that is shared with us on the blog.

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Career+and+Apprenticeship+Information&pid=75>

Get into Accountancy & Tech with Ernst & Young

For Year 12 and Year 13 Students

EY Webinar Details:

- £40 billion accountancy and professional services firm
- Fast Track offers for all attendees on the webinar when you select Young Professionals on your application under the partnerships tab!
- Year 12 / S5 paid Summer 2021 Work Experience / Year 13 / S6 Degree Apprenticeship Opportunities
- Bring your parents along too so they can find out what it could be like for you working in one of the biggest companies in the world!
- Starting salaries for apprentices are in the region of £20,000
- LIMITED PLACES

Please follow the link to book on and confirm your spot!

<https://forms.integrate-Events.com/events/ey/318624?background=ffffff&font=808080&page=ffe600>

