



## Week Ending Friday 25 September

### Messages from the Headteacher

A reminder, following on from my letters this week, that it is now the time that we would traditionally expect students and staff to be experiencing a range of mild illnesses. However, this year, we have the added complication of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is imperative, for the safety of the whole school community that, should your child be suffering from any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they must not come into school. If they do, they will be isolated in our COVID room and parents will be contacted immediately to come and collect them. They will not be sent home on public transport. Likewise, should a member of your household be displaying Coronavirus symptoms or has tested positive, NHS Test and Trace has contacted your child, or they have been in direct close contact with someone who has tested positive, no matter how well they feel, they must self-isolate for 14 days and, if they develop symptoms, take a test.

As you will be aware, there are many similarities between COVID-19, seasonal flu and the common cold and we appreciate that making the decision as a parent is increasingly difficult in these uncertain times. However, you know your child best and how they are when they are “normally” unwell, so we ask that you use your judgement and knowledge of your own child when making the decision to send them into school. If you are unsure, we would advise that you contact NHS 111 who will be able to help you.

We are encouraging everyone to attend school as we are increasingly concerned about the lost learning that we experienced earlier in the year, and what may lie ahead for us as a nation, so if you are confident that it is no more than a standard cold, (that you would not normally keep your child off for), then please do send them in.

Both COVID-19 and flu/cold can have varying degrees of signs and symptoms, ranging from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe symptoms.

We continue to ask students to practice safe social distancing and hand hygiene. We also ask that they wear facemasks for the entire journey, if they are travelling to school by public transport and ensure that they are wearing them in all indoor, communal areas of the school, except for classrooms.

Please be assured that we continue to work to reduce the spread of infection within the school but we also require your help in not sending your child in should they be presenting any of the COVID-19 symptoms – a high temperature of 37.8 or above, a new continuous cough or a loss of their sense of smell or taste. This is the only way that we might be able to keep the school operating as normally as we can without sending ‘bubbles’ or in the worst case scenario, the whole school home to isolate.

Having had a number of parents query when their child should or shouldn't return to school following a period of self-isolation, I would like to detail below the DfE and NHS guidance, for those in an **educational setting**. This is their recommendation, following conversations with both the DfE and NHS 111.



- Should your child test positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test.
- If someone in your household has tested positive, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of the positive test result.
- If you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the date they were contacted.

This guidance is for those within an **educational setting** and differs slightly to normal guidance. This is because of the numbers of individuals within an educational setting – we have over 1800 staff and students - and the need to be extra vigilant to ensure that we can contain any risk to those within the school. The reason that a child is asked to self-isolate for 14 days from the date that a member of their household tests positive is because the initial illness may simply be the common cold, for example, which then progresses into COVID-19. Hence it is crucial that the child does not come into school during the incubation period for COVID-19, which is the time between exposure to the virus (becoming infected) and symptom onset, is on average 5-6 days, however can be up to 14 days. During this period, also known as the “presymptomatic” period, some infected persons can be contagious. Therefore, transmission from a pre-symptomatic case can occur before symptom onset.

We have also been looking into our processes should the need arise to instigate a partial or full COVID Closure. As a result, we need to ask for your permission to dismiss your child, should the need arise. To be clear, if we are informed that a Beths student has tested positive for COVID, we will need to take immediate action and may need to ask students, in the same bubble as the affected student, to self-isolate.

If this happens, we would look to dismiss students from the school to make their own way home on foot or by public transport and ensure that they were wearing face masks at all times in this circumstance. If you do not consent to your child being dismissed, please contact the school at [headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk) by 8.30am on Monday 28 September to inform us who will be collecting them, should the need arise. You must be aware that all students would need to be off the school site within an hour of the notification being sent to parents and carers.

We will look to run a virtual version of the timetable for the affected bubbles or we will set work for individuals during the period of isolation.

Finally, a number of Year 7-11 students are coming into school when they have a games lesson, wearing football boots. This is not ideal for their feet to spend the day walking on studs but, with the weather deteriorating, this is even more of an issue on the wooden floors at school, which can become very slippery when wearing football boots. Therefore, please wear a pair of trainers on these days and bring your football boots with you.

**Mr R J Blyghton**



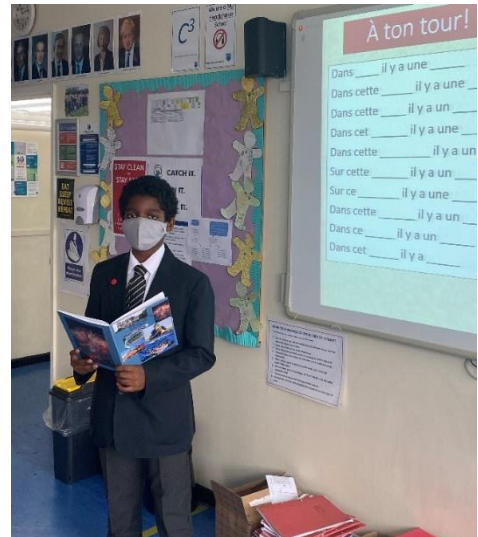


## Language and Culture Week

This year our annual Language and Culture week was held a little differently! Although students remained in their classrooms and there was no International Dress Day this year, they all got involved and learnt many a wonderful thing about different cultures.

### **A poem by Paul Eluard 'Dans Paris'**

This week Year 7 had the opportunity to create their own poem based on the poem 'Dans Paris' by Paul Eluard. They studied the structure of the poem learning lots of interesting vocabulary and noting that the poem describes objects that become smaller and smaller then larger and larger. They were able to create some very interesting poems with the vocabulary they have learnt as well as some new words to create their own version of this wonderful poem. They presented their versions to each other and translated them. Some very creative and interesting versions ranging from the 'universe' down to 'protons and electrons'!



Well done Year 7!



The Year 8 Italian class discovered where the different regions of Italy are including the islands and mountain ranges. They were able to research well-known cities and draw a detailed map of Italy with the information they had learnt about. Students wrote presentations about the areas which most interested them which they read out to the rest of the class including much of the vocabulary they had learnt during the session. The students were engaged and found about much more information about each region and not only where all the best football clubs are!

Well done Year 8!





Undoubtedly one of the most colourful, glamorous and historic carnivals in the world, Year 9 Italian students learnt all about the 'Carnevale di Venezia'. They practised vocabulary linked with the characters and their amazing costumes and were able to discuss the personality of each character and how they are portrayed. Year 9 were very engaged and inquisitive to know how the historical characters link to many of the theatre shows which developed through the later centuries, such as Punch and Judy and many of the cartoon characters they know so well today.



Well done Year 9!

### **After School Clubs**

Wednesday	After School	Basketball	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Thursday	After School	Football	Year 7	Year 8	-

### **The Mayor of Bexley's Christmas Card Competition**

Every year, the Mayor of Bexley sends approximately 1,000 cards out to other Mayors, Councils, staff and residents. This year, he wants something a bit different and has asked schools to set the challenge to their students.

He plans to pick three Christmas designs from the entries received, with the three winners winning a £20 amazon voucher.

Please send your design, on an A4 piece of paper (one side) to:

The Mayor's Office  
Civic Office, 2 Watling Street  
Bexleyheath  
Kent DA6 7AT

Please include your name, age and that you attend Beths Grammar School, along with a contact email, address and phone number.

The designs will be chosen on 6 November 2020





# Student Corner

## Mid-Autumn Festival - Culture week by Ethan, Year 8

This is the culture week at Beths. In Mandarin, we were studying the Mid-Autumn Festival, which will be on the 1st October this year. This is a festival that occurs on the day in which the moon is at its biggest, and as you may have guessed, it is typically in the autumn.

We also made lanterns, which are a key part of the mid-autumn festival, people usually put a candle inside and release it into the sky. When numerous balloons are released it fills up the sky with light and it looks beautiful.



We also completed a fun quiz as a class all about this amazing festival, and those of us that got a question correct won a prize! We all enjoyed learning about this wonderful festival where families meet and enjoy watching the biggest moon of the year. Thank you for reading!

## Thought For the Week

Your **talent** determines what you can do. Your **motivation** determines how much you are willing to do. Your **attitude** determines how well you do it.

## Assembly Theme For the Week

Celebrating Culture and Diversity

