

Good morning/evening ladies and gentlemen and boys, can I say it is privilege to welcome you to Beths Grammar School. Today is about what coming to Beths might mean for you and whether you have just clicked on this presentation or have already taken a virtual tour of the school.

My name is Richard Blyghton and I am the Headteacher.

Before I begin, I am very sorry that we cannot meet in person and that some of the activities that we normally have on display are not possible due the restrictions placed on us by the current pandemic but by the end of the presentation I hope you do get to feel what Beths is about.

My vision for your son is to enjoy his time at the school, maximise his academic potential, flourish into a well-rounded, confident, forward-thinking individual who will fully contribute to this vibrant community. It is my aim to support him so that he is able to smile and feel a degree of control over his endeavours.

Whilst not a “hot-house exam factory” we are a grammar school where our primary focus is academic achievement and it continues to be my intention that we remain the number one place to study and achieve top grades.

I want your son to have the courage to take risks and learn from his mistakes, be self-directed and comfortable with the unknown. My teachers will challenge him academically and work with him to ensure he receives the appropriate level of support to realise his potential.

I truly believe that this is the place to be where you begin to craft and fashion the rest of your life. We will educate and develop you, change your perceptions of how to study, foster a deeper love for lifelong learning with opportunities and pathways opening up as you age and ultimately guide you from being a fresh-faced student who has proudly joined us from their primary school to an adult leaving with top A Level grades who is independent, self-motivated, unique and ready to move onto the next stage of their life.

We like to think that there is something for everyone here at Beths. Our Year 7 Curriculum is taught in forms so that friendships can be strengthened within the tutor group. We offer the initial choice of three modern foreign languages to learn- French, Chinese Mandarin or Spanish with the opportunity to choose from a further three in Year 8 - German, Italian and Latin.

Our specialist science facilities will give you a rich experience in purpose built laboratories where you can explore the depths of Biology, Chemistry and Physics – we insist all our of students study separate sciences to GCSE. Six high-spec purpose-built workshops provide opportunities to practically engage in Technology whether it be Electronics, Graphics or Product Design. Each discipline is explored during your first year here. Our state-of-the-art Computer rooms are constantly in use before, during and after each school day where you are able formalise your experience in advanced programming.

We have a thriving Creative Arts Department. Concerts are held throughout the school year and there is an annual school production. The Art Exhibition in the summer celebrates the talents of our young artists - some of which is on show on the tour of the school, displayed on the platforms at Bexley station, on show in Hall Place and adorns the exterior walls of McDonalds in Crayford.

Sport has always played an important part in the life of Beths students, both on an individual and team basis. We are a football and rugby school as well as being successful in basketball, athletics and cricket and we offer many more sports too. You will receive many more opportunities to gain new sporting experiences both within and outside the curriculum than you would get in a mixed school. We have

seen our students become area, county and national champions in their chosen sports – we have been national champions in two team sports – U14 Football and U15 Rugby recently and we have a number of individuals who are currently attending prestigious footballing, rugby and cricketing academies – Arsenal, Brighton, Chelsea, Manchester City, Tottenham, West Ham, Charlton, London Scottish, Blackheath and Kent. The dedication of both students and staff is a testament to the on-going success that Beths continues to experience. The only limiting factor at Beths is the number of hours in the day. Exam successes have meant that our students are perfectly placed to accept prestigious opportunities with many moving onto medical degrees, places at Russell group universities and Cambridge.

At the top end, we offer a grammar school entitlement to all students who meet our entry requirements which results in a rich diverse sixth form community unique to Beths. We offer over 30 different A Level courses and remain committed to A levels as the gold standard of achievement. We believe joining Beths is a seven-year entitlement.

In cash-strapped times, a further statistic in considering Beths as your first choice is that we place your son at the centre in everything we do. We invest in our teachers. Class sizes in English, Mathematics and Science, once setted, average out at 24 from year 8 right up to GCSE in Year 11. In moving to the sixth form we have 7 periods for each A level studied where a teacher is front of the class for all seven periods.

Each student is provided with a Netbook to enable him to receive a real-21st century experience here at the school. This enables them to take a full part in the lesson whether they are physically in the room or participating remotely through either Teams or Zoom. We are inclusive and believe that we have solved the absenteeism problem and having to catch up with students being simultaneously taught in class and remotely.

We do not cherry-pick the very highest achievers and we pride ourselves on being a grammar school for our local area – we aim to educate the top 30% both within this authority and those closest to us and we retain our top achievers from year 11 into the sixth form.

In short, we aim to produce articulate individuals who take responsibility for their learning and want to achieve, they are disciplined and hardworking but also have an opinion and are not afraid to ask why.

Returning to the original question - what exactly might coming to Beths mean for you?

You can expect a diverse and engaging curriculum and excellent pastoral support for the full seven years we expect to educate your son. At our last Ofsted visit, the no-notice inspection judged the school continuing to remain outstanding.

Given the choice, the vast majority of our students remain with us in the Sixth Form. They want to stay, which is a testament to the quality of teaching they receive and to the school community which they belong.

In choosing Beths, you will be sending your son to a school that will nurture the whole individual pastorally as well as academically.

It means when your son walks through the school gates in September, he will be challenged and stimulated from that very moment.

He will be in an environment where working hard and achieving top grades are the norm.

Before I conclude, I would like to reach out to those who live in the Orpington area. We currently run a coach from the area directly to the school each day and it is our intention to continue this service and possibly expand the provision if demand requires it.

If there are any questions that that have arisen and you would like them answered, please email the school on headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk and I shall endeavour to provide you with one.

Thank you