



Beths Grammar School

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

Week Ending Friday 6 November 2020

Masks

As of the start of this half term, it is compulsory for all students and staff to wear face masks from the moment they enter the school site and will only be able to remove them, in the case of students, within classrooms or once they reach their outdoor area for recreation; and in the case of staff, once they are within classrooms and two metres from the students within the class, or in their departmental offices. Please note that the Sixth Form Centre and the LRC have become areas where masks must be worn as these are not classified as classrooms. It is vital that face masks are worn correctly, over your mouth AND nose.

This week the number of students requiring to be reminded has decreased as the week has progressed. We will continue to enforce the campaign and ensure that students routinely follow the Government instruction. Once we get to the stage in the near future where we are dealing with just a small number of deliberate and persistent offenders, the School will invoke the Behaviour Policy (Covid-19) which will result in high-level sanctions including an extended exclusion from the premises.

We would also advise that any students travelling to school, via public transport, wear a different mask to the one they wear on school site. Please ensure that the mask they are using for travel is placed in a plastic bag when entering the school and a new face mask is put on.

Should your son or daughter be exempt from wearing a face mask, for medical reasons, you should contact the school at headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk, attaching the evidence of medical exemption, in order for us to issue a lanyard to be worn in school. Whilst not wishing to highlight any underlying health concerns, we want it to be quick and easy for staff and students to identify that some members of our school community who are not wearing masks are doing so for legitimate reasons, enabling us all to be more supportive of each other.

Technological Advances

We would like to update you regarding the notebooks which we have ordered, through the DfE, for all students. These were ordered back in July. Due to the pandemic, we have been informed that our order has yet to be fulfilled but we should expect some of the order to be ready during early November. We are chasing this on a daily basis and notebooks will be issued to all students, as soon as they are available to us. This will enable all students to access on-line learning, should we be placed into a similar position as we were during the earlier lockdown. We will, of course, keep you updated when we receive the delivery.



Trial Examinations

Those of you with children in either Year 11 or 13 will, no doubt, be watching the debate avidly as to whether or not GCSE and A Levels will be taking place during the summer term. At the moment, though delayed, it does appear that this will be the case, however, as last year, the situation could change depending upon the national picture. Therefore, it is vital that students are mindful of the importance of all formal assessments including Trial examinations this year in the event that, as last summer, the school is asked to submit Centre Assessed Grades.

As we move into a second National Lockdown, albeit, this time, with the schools remaining open, we continue to follow the Government's advice and are updating our Covid-19 Risk Assessment (RA) accordingly. A reminder that, should you wish to read our RA, a copy of this can be found on our website.

11 + Selection Tests

Throughout the whole of this week, we have been hosting 11+ selection tests for children living outside of Bexley Local Authority or who attend Catholic Primary Schools. Due to the pandemic, we have had to run these differently which is why we have hosted five days of testing. Firstly, we have had to allow for children to be sitting two metres apart from each other, all desks and chairs have had to be cleaned between each session, and they have had their own toilets and been kept separate from the rest of the school. Additionally, the collection and pick up point their year has been at Hall Place where all children were registered and then brought to and taken away from the school by DJ Coaches. This has been quite a military operation but was vital to ensure the school site remained safe for all our current students and staff.

Our neighbours have also benefited from this new arrangement as 11+ testing day is normally a nightmare for them with the additional traffic caused. This year, they have only had to worry about an additional four small DJ Coaches going up and down Hartford Road.

Good luck to all those children who we have tested this week. A big thank you to the whole team who organised and administered these tests. It was a huge team effort!





Year 7 Flu Immunisation

The School Nursing team will be in school on Monday 9th November to immunise our Year 7 students against Flu. This will be undertaken using strict social distancing and the Nursing Team will be wearing full PPE. This is a quick immunisation which is done by nasal spray rather than through an injection.

Year 11 Debating Competition

Following some hotly contested debates around topics such as *Should 16-year-olds be allowed to vote* and *Is human cloning acceptable*, 11B and 11C (second team) have made it through to the final of the debating competition. Congratulations to both teams and the final will take place next week.





Beths Parents Association Fund New Basketball Hoops

Beths students would like to thank our wonderful Parents Association for the funding of new basketball hoops for use at break lunchtime by students. Basketball remains one of the top recreation activities for our boys when relaxing. The hoops will also support our teaching of this sport in outdoor games lessons and outdoor training for our elite basketball teams including the Beths Basketball Academy.





U18- Cup Final Manchester City v Chelsea

This took place last Monday evening where Manchester City deservedly beat Chelsea 3-2. However, Chelsea's record of being in the final 9 times out of the last 11 years winning seven of them meant that they had to give somebody else a go. The reason for mentioning this fixture is that it brought two ex-Beths students together – Lewis Bate (Chelsea) and Samuel Edozie (Manchester City). Lewis captained the Chelsea team whilst Samuel was a substitute for City. It is brilliant that our students do themselves proud at the highest level. The picture shows Lewis holding the Club pennant.



If your son or daughter is tested for Covid-19, please alert the school and do not allow them to return until they have received a negative test result. Again, should they be unfortunate enough to test positive, please inform the school immediately so that we can alert the LCRC for guidance.

Similarly, should anyone within your household take a test for Covid-19, we ask that your child remain at home until the test results are known. If the result is positive, they will need to continue to remain at home isolating for 14 days from the start of the symptoms or, if there were none, for 14 days from the date the test was taken.

If you have any queries regarding isolation and what you should do, please contact the school and we will try to help you out.

We would also like to reassure you that we will also endeavour to include your son or daughter in lessons as they are taught. We have had some excellent lessons taking place within the classroom with absent students taking part at the same time via Zoom.





We continue to receive complaints from our neighbours on Hartford Road, who have told us that vehicles are still blocking their driveways as they drop students off in the morning and collect them in the evening. With the new lockdown, we can understand that parents may wish to do this, however, many of our neighbours are now working from home and so more of them are becoming aware of people parking across their driveways etc and placating them can take up precious time which could be better spent trying to run the school during these difficult times. We again, remind parents that Hall Place in Bourne Road, Bexley have kindly allowed us to use their car park as a drop off and pick up for parents and we would strongly urge you to please use this facility.

Whilst we are having a moan, we regularly receive emails and phone calls from members of the local community regarding our students conduct within Bexley Village and beyond. Please ask them to be more aware and respectful of others and please ask them to refrain from using foul and inappropriate language either to each other or members of the public.

Thought For the Week

‘Light tomorrow with today’ – Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Service
Thursday 12 November	Year 11 Student Council Meeting
Friday 13 November	Year 11 reports issued to parents
Thursday 19 November	Year 12 Students Council Meeting
Monday 23 November	Open Event for Sixth Form Student, September 2021 entry

