

Week ending 11 December 2020



# BETHS VIP

## (Very Important Publication)

### Message from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

I would like to quickly reiterate my letter of earlier this week. If your son or daughter is unwell, even if you believe it to be unrelated to Covid-19, please keep them off school to protect the wider Beths community. As we head towards the festive period, I would be deeply saddened to have to tell some families that they would be required to isolate over the five day period that we are allowed to meet with family and friends.

As a reminder, we have agreed that we will remain open to students on Friday 18 December, so long as we still have enough staff to open the school safely, however, we have decided to change the Government's suggested INSET day to Wednesday 6 January—which we feel would make more sense

and can be used for planning and preparation for the spring term.

A reminder that Friday 18 December is our own clothes day and those students who wish to participate should bring £2.00 to throw into buckets as they enter the school gates. All proceeds will go to Bexley Mind, Bexley Foodbank and our brilliant Parents Association.

On the last day of this term, we will have a staggered finish to the day. The sixth form will depart at 11.20am, KS3 at midday and KS4 at 1.00pm.

Finally, this year we are donating 46 Christmas presents to the children's Willow Ward at Darent Valley Hospital. These will be shared between A&E, out patients and ward based patients. We wish them all and you, a very Merry Christmas!



#### Dates for your diary

##### Wednesday 16 December

'A Christmas Carol' live stream for Year 7 and Year 8 students

18.00 Year 11 Russell Group Universities Information Evening—Virtual

##### Friday 18 December

Last day of term

Year 8, 10, and 13 reports issued

Year 11 predicted grades and reports issued

##### Thursday 7 January

First day of Spring Term for students



Beths Grammar School



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Beths Grammar

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## Message from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

### ***Spring term Arrangements***

I am in the process of finalising details regarding next term and I will make a finalised announcement in the VIP next Friday.

Under consideration are Year 12 Form Time in the morning, KS3 and 4 Form Time in changing which year groups are staggered for 8.45 and 9.00.

The on-site teaching of Year 12 in the afternoons which are currently taught remotely. The extension of the third session of the day to at least the length of the morning sessions.

All of these changes will need to take into consideration the latest changes and ensure that staggered starts, breaks, lunches and departures ensure that bubbles are not compromised. We believe we are moving towards an answer but not there yet!

I will mention that one sticking point will be the significant shortening of the Sixth Form lunch break and also the need to ensure there is enough gap at the end of the day to allow for key stages to depart the bus stops before the next year groups come down.

### ***Staff Leaving***

Ms Bissett is leaving the school after 12 years, six of which as Head of English. She is relocating to Derbyshire and takes up her post in Macclesfield in January. We are very sorry to see her go but wish her every success in her new challenge. We are in the process of recruiting a new Head of Department and have all of her current classes being taken on by our experienced and existing staff. Ms Quinn has taken on the role of Key Stage 4 English Coordinator, Ms Takeda is the Key Stage 3 English Coordinator and Ms Clough is the Key Stage 5 English Coordinator. This team will be led by Mr O'Regan (SLT English Line Manager) for the remainder of the academic year whilst a new Head of Department is successfully recruited.



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## Own Clothes Day—Friday 18 December

*We will be fundraising for Bexley Food Bank, MIND and Beths PA. We are asking for students to donate £2.00, to enable us to split the donations between these three fantastic causes. As you may already be aware, all charities have suffered this year and have received fewer donations, either monetary or physically. If you are able to donate more than £2.00, that would be amazing! Any one not wishing to take part should just wear their normal school uniform.*

We are delighted to advise that we have a brand new Twitter page, @BethsGsPe. Please follow the account, which will be full of sporting photos, memories and House sport events.



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### Year 7 Notebooks

***A reminder that the ICT Loan Agreements, should you require a Notebook, MUST be emailed in to [msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk) by***

***Tuesday 14 December.***

***If the agreement is received after this date, your son will receive a Notebook, but only once the next batch has arrived, which will be in the new year.***

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### Coach Service

Please note that as the school closes early to students on Friday 18 December, the coach will arrive on site at 11.45am and will aim to leave around 12.15pm.

We are pleased to advise that we currently have a few spaces remaining on the coach. If you would like to include your son on the journey, please contact Ms George via email, [msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk) as soon as possible.

For further information on the route and cost, please see the below link:

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Coach+Service&pid=323>

***Well done to Abbey,  
the Year 10 House  
Football Champions***

## Science Snails

As the school closes over the Christmas Break, we need to find a home for our snails. Last year, Year 7 students took them home to look after. We are asking whether anyone would be interested in looking after them this Christmas. If so, please email [msgardener@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:msgardener@beths.bexley.sch.uk) or speak to someone in the Science Department.



*"The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline."*

*We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.*

If we cast our minds back to this time last year, our students and their families amazed us with their generous donations of food for our Bexley Food Bank drive. Students in KS3 used their imagination to design ways to display the food as it was being collected: we had brightly decorated Snowmen, Santa on his sleigh and an enormous Christmas cracker! When the volunteers from the foodbank came in they were blown away by the displays and by the amount of food donated - it took two full cars to take it all to the foodbank.

This year, we need to do things differently for obvious reasons but we sincerely hope that you can be equally generous: we are unable to collect food donations but we are asking you to donate whatever you can afford via our **Give.net** page to help support Bexley Food Bank and those families in our local community who need it the most at this time of year.

Please give what you can and remember that your Gift Aid declaration will also boost the fund. Thank you.

<https://www.give.net/bethsgrammarschool>



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## BETHS ADVENT CALENDAR

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If you have missed out on opening the door of our advent calendar check out our social media pages! This week we asked everyone to help name the elves so... drum roll ... please let us introduce you all to....



# Careers



The National Careers Service [questionnaire](#) on how to find the type of work you might want to do in the future – it only takes 5-10 minutes to complete.

For those students planning to head to university in 2021, this blog from Pearson College London has tips on [managing the transition](#)

For those who think a subject-focused route might not be for them, live events from the [London Interdisciplinary School](#) could help them find something to suit

Google has shared some great insights into how their staff got to where they are today, as well as a range of resources from their [Digital Garage](#)

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## Ages 12-18 | The Ultimate Work Experience | London 2021



You will:

- Advocate before a judge in the Supreme Court
- Privately network with MPs in the House of Commons
- Meet corporate lawyers in an iconic London skyscraper
- Work alongside UN and Foreign Office staff in "Model UN"
- Cross-examine witnesses in a high-stakes murder trial

Students can register before 31st December and use the code **INTERN15** to receive **15% off**.

Register now (Ages 15-18)  
Click [Here](#)

Register now (Ages 12-14)  
Click [Here](#)

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## Success Beyond School

We are delighted to announce InvestIN's very first careers evening for parents. Click [here](#) for further information.

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Imperial College London have a series of workshops to encourage young people from a Black Caribbean or Black African background to in Years 7-13 to consider **Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine**

Click [here](#) for more information.

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# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

December is the last month to buy tickets for the draw, so get yours now!

It is well worth remembering in the run up to Christmas and Black Friday that an Amazon smile purchase will be great to help with our fundraising for our school.

Thank you to everyone who has started shopping via Amazon Smile; we have received £56.60 for 1 July and 30 September 2020. To be part of this amazing fundraising option please follow the steps below:

Please go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and search for Beths Parents Association. You need to start each shopping session at the URL [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk). Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible purchases. It doesn't cost anything.



If you shop elsewhere online, please join Easyfundraising. Again, it costs nothing and Beths PA will automatically receive a donation. You can sign up at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/BethsPA](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/BethsPA) and we will automatically receive a donation anytime you shop. If you are eligible, please also give gift aid to maximise the donation.



Thank you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact us at [beths.parents.association@gmail.com](mailto:beths.parents.association@gmail.com) if you have any queries or ideas about how we can raise funds and support our children through this challenging time.

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# SCHOOL DINNERS

GREAT FOOD &  
GREAT VALUE

**FABULOUS, FRESHLY MADE FOOD - HEALTHY, HOT AND NUTRITIOUS**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO FEED MORE PUPILS!**

**IT'S AN EDUCATION IN GREAT FOOD, HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE THE WEEKLY MENU CYCLE**

**IT'S SO EASY TO PAY ON LINE**

**IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED, YOUR SON/DAUGHTER  
MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS. FIND OUT MORE AT  
[WWW.GOV.UK/APPLY-FREE-SCHOOL-MEALS](http://WWW.GOV.UK/APPLY-FREE-SCHOOL-MEALS). PLEASE APPLY AND A CREDIT IS  
ADDED TO PUPILS' CASHLESS ACCOUNT DAILY - **USE IT OR LOSE IT!****

WE ONLY USE



FRESH MEAT



FREE RANGE EGGS



MSC FISH



ORGANIC MILK



LOCAL FRUIT & VEG



WHOLEMEAL PASTA

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EDUCATERLIMITED.COM

## BETHS ALUMNI

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*If you are a past student of BETHS or Beths Grammar School and have some photos, videos or even an article you have written about your memories of Beths and where you are today and you would like to share, please email [headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk)*

### When tested for Covid...

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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 or Microsoft Teams.



## Student Behaviour Outside of School

We regularly receive emails and phone calls from members of the local community regarding our students conduct within Bexley Village and beyond. Please remind them that in wearing school uniform, they are representing the School and need to be more aware and respectful of others. Please ask them to refrain from using foul and inappropriate language either to each other or members of the public in the Village as it directly impacts upon the reputation of the School.

### **Beths Grammar School**

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