



# Best of the Beths

ISSUE ONE

30/09/2019

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## A Warm Welcome to the Debut Newsletter



Welcome to the Best of the Beths newsletter.

The newsletter allows students to voice their opinions on current affairs, keep up to date with the local news in Bexley, get involved in school activities as well as carrying out a

number of interviews.

The newsletter club hope that you enjoy reading the first issue of the Best of the Beths and look forward to sharing their future publications with you all.

I would like to take this

opportunity to congratulate all of the news reporters on their hard work and resilience shown this month, particularly in pushing this first issue to be published in the first month of school. Well done!

**Ms Stevens**

## Interviewing Year 7 Students

The new year sevens seem to have had a fantastic start to the new school year. Some students in the year group pointed out that their first day was a great opportunity to 'play

sports with each other and break the ice'. Although some students were nervous about the transition from primary school to secondary school, one boy noted

that Beths was 'very welcoming' and this made it 'easy to fit in' and make new friends.

**Reuben H and  
Pharrell O**

# Welcome to Beths Grammar Year 7!

As we all know many new students have entered the school at the beginning of this academic year, some coming into year 7 and some joining the 6<sup>th</sup> form – but I am sure that they know better – so in my article I will be writing a bit about what the year 7s can do to become successful in this school.

## Commendations

Commendations are a perfect way to show that you have made a great impression with your teachers and can help you to win many awards. At the end of every year your Head of Year will count up all of the commendations for each form and declare which form has the most commendations. The commendations for the houses across the school will also be counted up at the end of the year. Great ways to earn commendations is through completing aspects of the super-curriculum. This is a way to further extend your learning outside of the classroom. An example of this could include in Spanish, to teach a family member 20 words of Spanish. Lots more super curriculum activities can be found on the school website!



## Extra-curricular activities

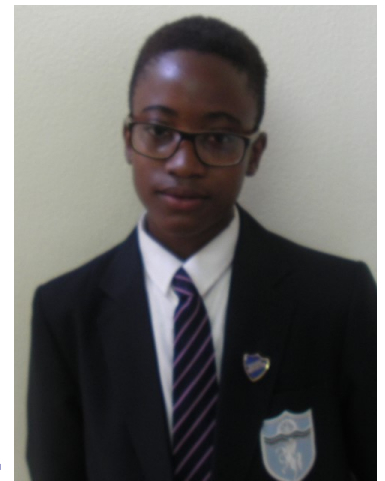
There are many extra curricular activities you can do such as joining a sports team, clubs and taking part in house tournaments. These allow us to socialise with people we wouldn't otherwise and take part in activities that aren't necessarily possible during lessons. My personal favourite is film club as you get to watch a variety of interesting and funny movies, this runs every Friday lunchtime in B4. Other clubs are advertised on the screens around the school as well as on a list in between the cafeteria and the B corridor. You could even ask your form tutor for permission to make your own club if nothing you see takes your fancy!

## Sports

This year Beths are creating a rugby team, so I would like to see as many of you at training as possible. In addition to this, we also have a cricket, football, volleyball and a basketball team. So there is no excuse for not playing a sport unless you are injured.

I hope this has helped some of you and good luck in your first full year of secondary school!

**Kwaku**



# The Guest Edit

Have you ever paused during a busy school day to wonder why you are here? To learn, of course; to study; ultimately, to pass exams and embark on a successful and productive adult life. Might you not also be here to achieve these things?

- To develop and carry with you for the rest of your life a love of learning
- To go out into the world as an interesting, thoughtful, sensitive, knowledgeable person
- To develop socially, culturally, spiritually and philosophically as well as academically
- To be able to express yourself (in written and spoken English) with beauty, clarity, precision and sophistication
- To develop intellectual curiosity and an enquiring mind

There is really only one way to achieve all these things: reading. Reading fiction, non-fiction, newspapers, graphic novels, comics, magazines – anything and everything. Reading is the most extraordinary and powerful act you can engage in as a human being and as a student. Consider why history repeatedly shows us that authoritarian regimes burn books and ban reading: because they know that the knowledge acquired through reading is a tremendous source of power.

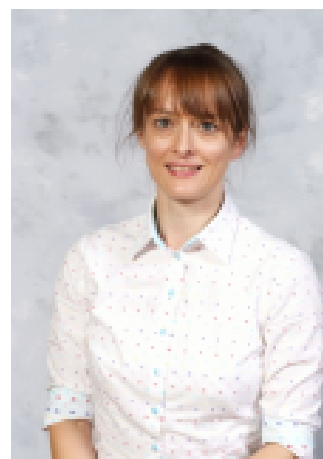
Even reading for ten minutes a day can make a significant difference to your achievement in *all* your subjects, not just in English. You need to be a confident reader to understand questions in Maths! Reading is essential for all careers, including those in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. I know that lots of you *are* keen readers here at Bets, but if reading is something you're struggling to find time for, here are my top tips:

- Read things you enjoy
- Talk to your parents and carers, teachers, friends, etc. about their reading
- Everything counts – books, magazines, newspapers, etc.
- Read around your interests
- Try non-fiction – 'reading' does not just mean 'novels'!
- Keep a journal or log of your reading so that you can look back and see how much you have read

If you would like any further advice or help with reading choices, or you just want to let me know about something you have enjoyed reading, please do come and see me in B1.

**Ms Easton**

**English teacher and  
Literacy  
Co-ordinator**



# Sporting Highlights in September

It has been a good sporting month for Bexley, with success in a variety of sports, like basketball, rugby and football, across all year groups. As we progress further into the year, there will be even more sports to choose from like cricket, athletics, cross country and even volleyball. In this article are the sports results from September 2019.

In year 7, the football B team smashed Bexley Grammar School 6-0 at home, with the year 8 A team on the pitch next to them, also playing Bexley Grammar. The result here was an 8-2 win, a destruction of one of our rivals. I bet there wasn't much chatter on their bus back to school. However, just four days later, the U13A suffered their first (and hopefully last) defeat of the season 3-2, to Thomas Tallis School in Kidbrooke, in the Kent Cup. When asked about his thoughts on the game, captain of the team, Michael Y, said:

*'We played well but it was just one of those games where we were unlucky. Hopefully from here it will be onwards and upwards.'*

Very positive, but in my opinion, we were robbed of a win. I blame it on the fact that we were facing the sun in the first half.

Let's just say that the rugby didn't go too well this month, with the year 7 B team losing 10-40, the year 7 A team defeated 10-45 and the year 8 A's losing 0-50. On the other hand, the year 9 A team won both of their matches, first beating Hurstmere 29-15, then Simon Langton 17-7.

In Basketball, only one fixture was played, and that was year 8 again, winners of the 2018-19 County Cup, facing Canterbury Academy away. The result here was unfortunately a 31-56 loss.

See you next month for the monthly sport report!

**Daniel**



# Thomas Cook is gone. What about its 21,000 staff?

Founded in Market Harborough in 1841 by a businessmen called Thomas Cook, the company organised railway outings. 178 years on, annual sales had reached £9,000,000,000, the company had 19 million customers a year and it had 21,000 staff operating in 16 countries. In May, the company posted a loss of about £1.5b, the firm nearly collapsed in 2011, but was saved by the banks, leaving them in debt by about £1.7b, which the company could not repay, causing them to go bust.

It is without a doubt that difficult times lay ahead for the ex-colleagues of the company and we can only hope that they find employment elsewhere quickly!



**Ben S**

# The Latest iPhone Craze

The iPhone 11's have finally arrived and we now have the iPhone 11, Pro and Pro Max. Apple have made a controversial change to the line of iPhones, with the new design of the camera setup. Instead of the cameras being presented in a line, it was in a square, as the new wide screen camera feature had been added to the back of the phone. However, the cameras are said to have improved in quality and so has the overall quality of the phone; speed, touch, Face ID etc.

All for the bargain price of £1,049 for the cheapest handset...

Happy dreaming!

**Levi A**



# Welcome to Beths Grammar Ms Pells!

Ms Pells is a new teacher in social sciences who teaches history and sociology. David O and Hamadin M went to interview her with the help of Aryan B. We hope you enjoy this interview and learn more about Ms Pells!

## **When did you join Beths/Apply for the job?**

*'I applied for my job back in April 2019 when I saw an advert to be a Teacher of History and Social Science. I love teaching history and sociology and thought I would like to apply. Also, I like teaching at an all-boys school as I have experience in working in one previously'*

## **What are your favourite subjects?**

*'Social Science. History, Politics, Sociology and English. Essay based subjects are the best!'*

## **How are you finding Beths?**

*'Everyone is very nice here. The sixth form are very lovely to teach. I teach GCSE students sociology its nice. It's also always nice teaching KS3.'*

## **Where did you train to teach?**

*'I did my training at Oxford University'*

## **Why did you start teaching?**

*'I love history. I really wanted to teach. I did my degree in history and sociology. I wanted to make other people love my subject. In addition to that I love working with teenagers as I'm quite young at heart.'*

## **Do you have any hobbies or interests?**

*'I don't do many extra activities. However, I used to do ice-skating, I read a lot and I travel a lot. I like reading crime and fantasy novels.'*

## **When did you think about teaching?**

*'I was in sixth form when I wanted to teach. I knew that I always wanted to be a secondary school teacher and not a primary school teacher.'*





# Back to it for the basketball team!

Richmond is the current captain of the basketball team for Beths. David A went to interview him about the first basketball match of the season.

## **How did you and the team feel after the match?**

*We were quite disappointed with our performance after the loss but we will use it to build on and come back stronger so that we can win next time.*

## **Who was the most achieving and motivational player on the team?**

*After hard consideration, I have selected myself; I was a 5 stat leader and stayed calm throughout the match no matter what the score was.*

## **Who do you believe has the most potential and requires improvement?**

*I think out of all of the team Believe has the most potential, whereas Benjamin requires the most improvement. However, everyone on the team is special and unique in their own ways.*

## **Do you think your line-up carried the same skill as you?**

*Although the rest of my team is very talented, personally I do not believe they are at the same level as me in certain aspects. However, some of them have the potential to be even better than me with hard work.*

## **If you could change one thing about your line-up, what would you change?**

*I would change the offensive positioning we used as that was one of the main reasons we lost. We were very congested in the paint and needed more spacing to get the ball to move.*

## **Was the team you were playing fair and clean?**

*Canterbury Academy were very talented and played better than us in the match; however, I believe some of the referees who work at the school were biased against us.*



# Fifa 20 released on the 27th of September

There has been a recent buzz over the new Fifa 20 which was released on the 27th of September. Some people pre-ordered the game, which meant for some editions (Champions and Ultimate) people were given early access to the game, three days before anyone else!

There are quite a few new features in the game including a new aiming mechanism, consequently giving you more creativity in your shots, more emphasis on your actions on the ball and more options with 1v1 situations in matches. Also, the ball movements have been improved with new shot trajectories to give you more options.

Happy Gaming!

**Levi A**



## Quizzing Corner — Sport

- Q.1) Which country retained the ashes this year?
- Q.2) How many countries are in the rugby world cup this year?
- Q.3) How many times did Sarah Thomas swim the English channel non- stop?
- Q.4) What was the Man City vs Watford score?
- Q.5) How many times has VAR been used this season so far in the premier league?
- Q.6) Who is top of the Premier League table so far?
- Q.7) Who is the premier league's top scorer this season, at the moment?
- Q.8) What premier league football teams have had goals disallowed by VAR this season?
- Q.9) What does VAR stand for?
- Q.10) Did England win their first Rugby World Cup game?

Answers in next month's Best of the Beths.

**Tom B**

