



Beths Blog

Week ending Friday 16 March 2018

Chinese New Year – Our Chinese New Year Story

On the 7 March, a group of Year 7 and 8 students from the Year 8 Chinese group and the Year 7 Chinese Club performed a play demonstrating the story of 'Chun Jie Guo nian' - The Spring Festival (The Chinese New Year). The group consisted of Eugene Ofori-Boadu (Narrator), Robbie Whalesby (The villager in the dress), Aarav Singh (The Monster), Kai Thompson (Groom), Sharon (Villager), Ade Layi-Oke (Villager) and Ethan and Jonathan Lane (Villagers).



The play was about a monster called Nian ('Year') attacking a village and scaring away people on the eve of the Spring Festival. This happened until he came to a wedding where he saw people dressed in red which scared him, he then ran into children playing with fire crackers which also scared him. He ran off back to the forest, scared for his life. To celebrate the day that Nian ran off, never to be seen again, we say *xin nian hao* (Happy New Year) and *guo nian hao* (Happy Passing-the-New-Year). The Spring Festival is also a part of the celebration of the Lunar New Year. At the end of the play the actors were given the red lucky Chinese envelopes which could later be traded in for prizes at the Chinese Club, while the actual red envelopes are used in modern day to celebrate this festival. They are given to relatives and friends and they contain gifts of money.



Some of the highlights of the play included: A villager being rugby tackled and eaten (Robbie), Aarav the monster first coming out on the stage and roaring and Ms McLeod shaking the hands of the actors and giving them the red envelopes. The play was considered very informative and meaningful and it represented gratitude. This was performed in the hall for a KS3 assembly. *Zai jian, Guo nian hao!* (Goodbye, and have a Happy New Year).

Written and edited by Robbie Whalesby, Eugene Ofori-Boadu and Finn Bride from the Year 8 Chinese class.

Music Outreach



Since Christmas the Music Department has been involved in an outreach project at two local primary schools. The topic of 12 bar blues was chosen due to it being a very accessible genre to all ages and abilities. By the end of March over two hundred primary school students from Years 4 and 5 will have performed and learnt about the origins of the blues.

It has been great to see the musical

potential of so many young people with many of them singing or playing the drums for the first time in their lives. At the same time as performing, the students have learnt key vocabulary and characteristics relating to blues music as well as how to write their own lyrics.

The experience of working with primary school students has again proved that music crosses over so many barriers and boundaries and is a great tool for education in its own right.

Photos show Mr Penfold at Hurst Primary and one of the students writing their own music.



Mr Penfold

42nd Exhibition of Young Art in Bexley

The 42nd Exhibition of Young Art took place at Hall Place from 10 February until 11 March 2018. Three of our students won prizes: Martin Ryan, Sudarshan Rumi and Jessica Penfold, and nine students were awarded Highly Commended Certificates: Justina Semanaite, Blessings Oluleye, Ollie Claiborne-Dixon, Marios Gadaleta, Folu Fatal, Sam Priddy, Roderic Belmain, Kishan Vekaria and James Guest, four were awarded a Certificate of Merit: William Gaulig, Saul Andrews Udall, Ife Nwokolo and Kyra Jade Lamptey and Albert Frost was awarded a 3D Certificate of Merit.

Beths have won the trophy twice in the last three years and again, this will be proudly displayed in our trophy cupboard. Additionally, Jessica Penfold received an offer to buy her piece of artwork and Martin Ryan's piece of artwork will be used on the programme and flyers advertising next year's Exhibition.

Spring Concert

On Wednesday 28 March, our Spring Concert will take place from 7.00pm in the School Hall. Tickets and more details will be available shortly so please keep an eye out for further information.

Lord of the Flies

Our School Production – Lord of the Flies – will be taking place on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 March and we warmly invite parents and carers to come along and join us for what promises to be an excellent performance. Students will probably be aware of the ‘Vote Ralph’/‘Vote Jack’ campaign currently being waged in school and we have further information about the performance and the cast on our website at: <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Performing+Arts&pid=26>. Tickets will shortly be on sale so do come along and support the show.

Beths Grammar School
Presents

LORD OF THE FLIES

Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd March at 7pm

Tickets are available from the box office

Suggested Donation: Adults £4, Children £2.50

Family Ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £10

Produced by special arrangement with William Golding's "The Lord of the Flies", adapted for the stage by Nigel Williams



Music Workshop

On Wednesday, the Music Department held a 'workshop' for all those students who have applied to our Sixth Form in September and are interested in taking Music as an A Level. We had over 20 students in attendance and the day was hugely successful with it culminating in them all doing a solo performance in the Hall. We are now looking at other subjects also running 'workshops' for prospective students.

Adverse Weather Conditions

As snow has again been predicted over the coming weekend, we will be keeping our eye on any adverse weather conditions. We do not anticipate having to close the school but, if there is a need to do so, we will put a note onto the front of our website (<http://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/>) and on the Schools Opencheck (<https://opencheck.atomwide.com/Default.aspx>).

Safety and Courtesy

On a more serious note, we would like to remind parents, students and staff to continue to be respectful of our neighbours and not park across their driveways. The safety of our students continues to be our utmost priority and so we also ask that, if you are dropping off or collecting your son or daughter, you abide by the road markings and refrain from parking on zig-zags or double yellow lines.