



Beths Blog

Week ending Friday 27 April 2018

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

Last weekend, the bronze Duke of Edinburgh team were out on their practice expedition walking over 30km for their final assessment later this year. They charged up and down hill after hill and did exceptionally well in the searing heat. The route started in Otford and took our groups over the North Downs to the finish in Sole Street. A thoroughly enjoyable weekend was had by all!



This weekend 20 of our silver Duke of Edinburgh students will set off on their practice.

Iceland Trip 2018 – by Mr Parsons

On 9 April, the Beths biannual Iceland geography trip left from Gatwick Airport. For the next five days, 50 of Beths finest made their way around the 'Island of Fire and Ice'. A slow dip in the geothermal pools of the Blue Lagoon was followed by a range of geothermal experiences – the geysirs at Strokkar and the geothermal village at Hveragerdi where they sampled geothermally boiled eggs and rye bread.



Of course it was not just boiling water in frozen places. The Skogafoss and Gullfoss waterfalls were an astonishing site as millions of gallons of meltwater made its way towards the sea. The glacier Solheimajokull glacier (see picture), put the whole thing into perspective.

The idyllic landscape of the land of 'Fire and Ice' is under threat as the glacier retreats year on year. It is estimated that there will be no glaciers in Iceland in the next fifty years, the thaw comes earlier and earlier each year as the climate begins to change.

Iceland is a beautiful place. If you get the chance, go and see it.

Year 10 – Health & Safety in the Work Place

On Wednesday 18 April the Rah Rah Theatre Company came into school during Periods 3 and 4 to prepare Year 10 students for their up and coming Work Experience and the 'World of Work'. All students, prior to going on Work Experience, must by Law be aware of Health & Safety in the work place.

The production comprised of a 'game show' with two teams competing against each other. The show had five rounds each highlighting one area of work experience and points were awarded at the end of each round. The areas covered were as follows:

Interview Techniques: preparation for an interview including initial telephone conversations with prospective employers.

Employer's Expectations: allows students to gain some insight into what employers expect of students during their work experience placement.

Dress to Impress: helps students decide what to wear during their placement including appropriate dress, health and safety, and hygiene.

Customer Service: allows the students to identify good and bad customer service which helps them during their work experience placement.

Health and Safety: demonstrates what students need to know about Health and Safety in the work place.

What we've been up to this week...

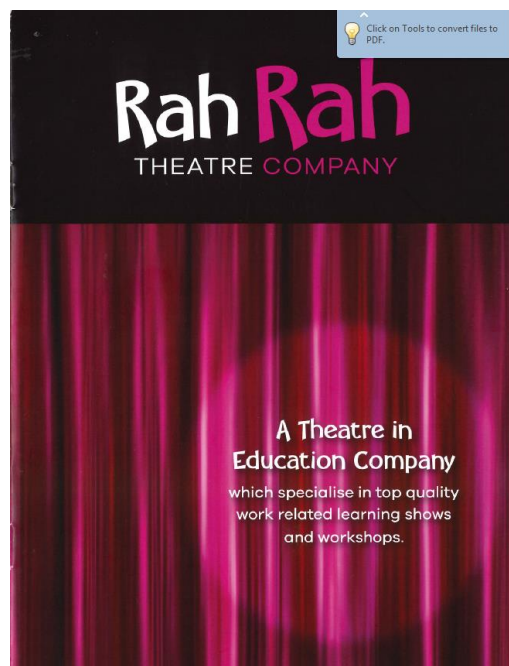
Well, there has been plenty of things going on. On Tuesday, Imperial College came into school to talk to the Year 12 students about how to write their Personal Statements – giving them pointers as to what sort of things universities are looking for when reading through the hundreds of personal statements they receive every year.

Over half of our Year 10 students visited Sussex University on Wednesday. This was a visit to give them a taster of what to expect if they chose to go to university. Students were able to attend lectures, see the sort of accommodation and entertainment that would be available to them and also meet current students to get a true indication of what life at Uni is all about.

On Thursday, all our Year 8 students sat the Junior Maths Challenge over the course of the day. This was sat in true 'examination style' in total silence and with invigilators present, which also prepares students for when they will sit their GCSE and A Level exams in the years to come.

Students on Site

We have been made aware of an increasing number of students arriving particularly early in the morning and staying late into the evening. The school actually opens for students at 8.00am in the



morning and we would encourage all students (unless they are remaining for pre-arranged activities) to have left the site by 5.00pm.

This request is being made as we are unable to supervise students outside of these times and we can therefore take no responsibility for them, should they be involved in any form of incident. It would therefore be helpful if we could ask parents to please discourage their sons and daughters from being on the school site outside of these times.

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.

We have also received a couple of calls from members of the public about parents dropping students in the morning actually on the roundabout at the top of Bourne Road – close to Dartfordians. This is obviously extremely dangerous not just for other road users, but also for the students themselves. We would urge that parents please find a safe place to drop-off their child/children for school.