BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers,



With only another three weeks left of term, I am proud that our new Years 7 and 12 scholars are settling in well to life at Beths. As a school we value our community links and it is important for the channels of communication between home and school are open. This month we have held welcome meetings for both our Year 7 and Year 12 Parents/Carers. Please make yourself familiar

with your scholars Form Tutor and Head of Year, should you have any queries regarding their education or pastoral support.

This week was Beths International Week, incorporating the European Day of Languages on the 26th September. The Modern Foreign Languages department hosted a range of activities during the week. This years chosen language was Greek which was shared in all subjects and our scholars had the opportunity to taste some Greek food from the canteen. On Friday 29th September we held an International Dress Day, where all could come into school in clothing from their cultural background or that of their friends. A small donation was asked for this and will be split between the charity WaterAid and our Sixth Form's Multi Cultural Committee. More can be seen in this edition.







We are hosting our Year 6 Open Events until the end of term. All open mornings run between 9:30am -11:15am and afternoons run between 2:15pm -3:45pm.

- Thursday 5th October Open Morning and Open Afternoon
- Friday 6th October Open Morning
- Monday 9th October Open Morning and Open Afternoon
- Tuesday 10th October Open Afternoon
- Wednesday 11th October Open Morning and Open Afternoon
- Thursday 12th October Open Morning
- Friday 13th October Open Morning
- Tuesday 17th October Open Morning and Open Afternoon

Because of the 11+ results coming out on the 17th October, we will host more dates from the 17th October, to be published shortly.

Parking across neighbours' driveways

Please can I stress to parents who drop off and/or pick up their son/daughter from school, to not park across our neighbours driveways. We have received complaints this week about parents parking and preventing our neighbours from leaving their homes. I'm sure you will appreciate this is not acceptable and something that we would we not like to experience ourselves. Just as our scholars behaviour outside of school reflects on Beths, so does the behaviour of our parents, and community relationships are important to our school. Parents stopping for 5-10 minutes whilst waiting for the end of the school day, is restricting our neighbours from accessing their driveways.

Our neighbours are within their rights to report you/your vehicle to Highways and Bexley Traffic Enforcement Team.

Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter, and for your continued support.

Kind regards, Richard Blyghton







LGBTQ+ SOCIETY

We will be running our LGBTQ+ society for all KS4 and KS5 students every Friday 1pm-1:45pm. This is a space for LGBTQ+ students and allies to share their experience, run events, create campaigns, go on school trips and outings etc. Everyone is welcome!



Open to <u>all</u> KS4 & KS5

EVERY FRIDAY KS4/5 LUNCH

13:00-13:45PM WEEK 1 S19/WEEK 2 S15

A SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ STUDENTS AND ALLIES

Any questions, please email: msharris@beths.bexley.sch.uk

What is the LGBTQ+ Society and what do we do?

- A safe space for LGBTQ+ students and allies- student and teacher-led
- Includes games, icebreakers and socialising over lunch (bring your own!)
- Debates and discussions around issues in the news, pop culture, politics etc- for example, cancel culture- necessary for accountability or detrimental to free speech?
- School and community campaigns e.g Think Tanks with other schools in Bexley Borough around wellbeing, raising visibility and awareness in the wider school community
- Celebrations of LGBTQ+ History Month (February) & Pride Month (June)
- School trips and outings
- Education about LGBTQ+ terminology, history & laws

Why should you come to LGBTQ+ Society?

- You identify as LGBTQ+ and want to meet like-minded people
- You are questioning your gender/sexuality and want a safe space to explore
- You want to support a friend
- You want to educate yourself on LGBTQ+ issues & get involved in activism
- You want a fun space to hang out on a Friday lunchtime

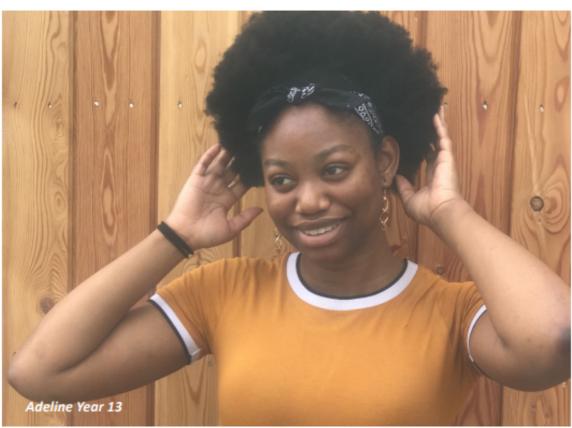
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Note: This is not a club to debate the existence or rights of LGBTQ+ people.









Growing up I hadn't been too fond of my 4C natural afro hair and throughout the years I have had my challenges in accepting my hair as beautiful. The beauty standard which I came to agree with was that of the smooth, straight, and silky hair of those around me and those I saw on TV. I aspired to have hair like that. I remember begging my mum to let me relax my hair, just so my hair could emulate those of my white and Asian classmates. She always told me "No, your natural hair is beautiful as it is, you shouldn't do anything that could damage it". I couldn't quite wrap my head around it. I thought my hair was ugly and I looked crazy with it.

I used to think that with afro hair I look like a clown but now I have come to realise that it stands tall, like a crown on my head allowing me to look like a queen. I encourage all my black sisters to wear your afro crown, it looks expensive not "messy". Till present day I have never relaxed or texturized my hair, and I am not regretful. This is because some of the chemicals in these treatments can cause damage to your hair long term by causing hair loss, many people resort to going natural again which can be difficult as it often involves the "big chop". To me it doesn't seem worth hindering your hair health for it to look a particular way only to then strive to change it back into its natural state if damaged. I am not concluding that all women only have these treatments for visual reasons, however the reality is that some do. The majority of black women do not undergo these treatments purely for the effect it has on looks, but more for the ease of maintenance. I think is a valid reason as there's no denying that the tight coils of afro hair can make it hard to manage and sometimes painful. However, I personally like to find ways to make my hair easier to manage in its natural state. By maintaining healthy afro hair due to hair care I have been able to maintain healthy hair that sometimes has hairdressers frightened.

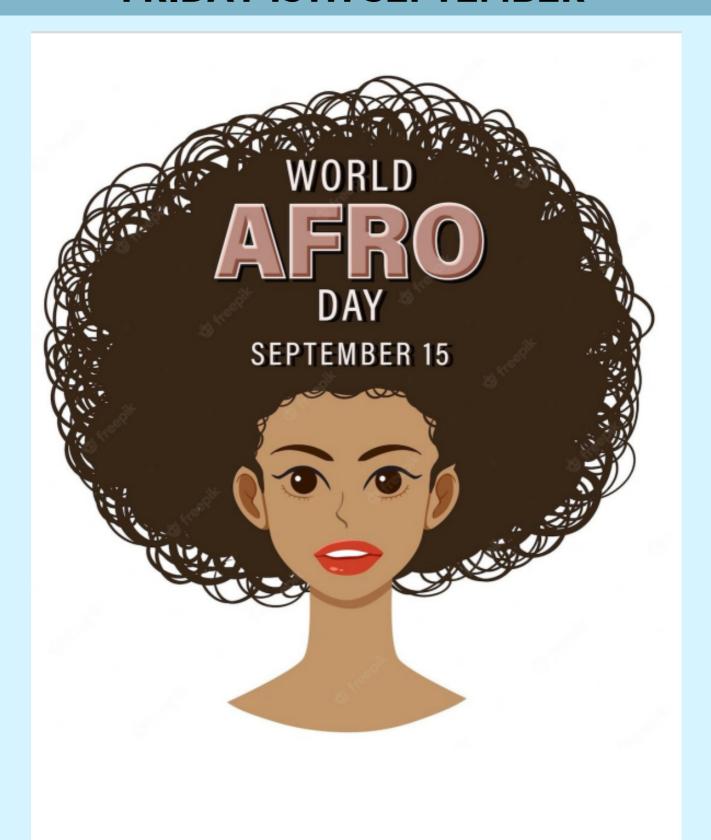
It is so important to take care of your crown if you are going to have pride in wearing it. Therefore, a step that I make sure not to miss is using my leave-in conditioner from KeraCare. I apply this to my moist hair after shampooing and leave for at least 20 minutes. I noticed much softer and less tangled my hair is from using this as opposed to regular conditioner that you apply and wash off within a couple minutes. I have found that finding the right detangler comb for you is very important. For years I used the same combs to comb my hair but now I have tried different combs and have found the one that Is most effective and pain free for me. Whilst I think that combs only make a minor difference it's still worth your time as little difference is still difference!















World Afro Day is part of a movement towards positivity in the black and mixed-race community. And it all centres around the afro, a hairstyle that has become a cultural symbol and has also been part of this cultural history for hundreds of years. In an effort to remove the biases that may be associated with the afro, this day is all about making the afro beautiful and accepted in everyone's eyes.

Read more to learn about the holiday's history and how it can be celebrated all over the globe!

#WorldAfroDay









My hair is a part of me, it makes me feel good just looking at it. I remember when I used to have waves, I was on constant brushing mode. I liked my waves however once I started Yr. 12, I wanted to try something different, so I started to grow my hair. Up to this day I'm still doing that while I discover what I want my hair to look like in the long term.

I still need to find out how to maintain a presentable appearance. My Dad has said to me all the time to look presentable because otherwise you will start looking like a mad professor. Therefore, while I grow my hair, I tend to like keeping it in a protective style such as cornrows as they look tidier. I started my journey with my Mum, she was the first person to braid my hair and I am thankful for that. It made me thankful that she was comfortable with my choice of getting cornrows, the reason is because I know that there are loads of people who want to do their hair in a different way or grow their hair but they can't, maybe for religious reasons or because they have strict parents.

Durags have been my favorite arsenal. When I had waves and still now that I have cornrows, I tie my hair in a Durag to maintain its freshness. Durags can become your best friend while you're in the gym but MOST IMPORTANTLY while you're asleep. Durags allowed me to keep dressing in a stylish way, I often like to wear hats and Durags prevent the hair being dragged out of order while my hats being worn. What I love right now is that while I'm protecting my hair, cornrows help my hair growth too, therefore it makes me feel like cornrows are only the beginning of another chapter of a book called Daniele's Hair Journey as we continue to wonder the finale.









Coming from a mixed background, my hair has a unique texture and colour. Over the years, its texture has changed as I experimented with various hairstyles, especially during my primary school days. Back then, I used to have a standard low cut, but I didn't fully appreciate the potential of my hair at that age. I felt some pressure to fit in with my surroundings since my primary school was predominantly white, and I often wondered why my hair was curly while others had straight hair.

However, I eventually came to appreciate the beauty of my hair. I delved into the history of Afro hair, which inspired me to let my hair grow out. Suddenly, I realised that my hair was not a curse but a crown. I embarked on a journey to let my hair flow and grow, embracing its luxurious, divine, and slightly chaotic nature. As my hair grew, It became a magnet for curious hands; people just couldn't resist not touching my hair. It's not that I was against showing off my hair, but if I'm being real - those precious minutes I spent sculpting my morning hair masterpiece shouldn't be undone by an overly enthusiastic hair touching. /Over time, I've been compared to everything under the sun, quite literally. Some say my hair is as big

as the sun, while others lovingly refer to it as a "mushroom." But at the end of the day, I know it's all just good banter. I consider these comparisons to be the perks of being blessed with such fabulous hair.

Maintaining hair like mine requires patience and the right products. I used the 2020 lockdown as an opportunity to grow my hair and find the best products for it, which helped me reinvent my hair care routine. Using the right combs, oils, and conditioners is crucial for keeping my hair healthy and looking its best. Most importantly, I've learned not to be afraid to experiment with different styles and products. Even to this day, I consider what my next move will be; you should to!











The journey of me and my hair has been quite of a rollercoaster. From a young age I was always told to cut my hair and never really got to experience an Afro till covid where I had no other choice but to keep my hair. It was during this time where I really started to love the idea of having an afro and wanted to start growing it. I had a lot to learn about my hair from what hair texture I was to the type of leave in conditioner I use. It was a long process and I really struggled with maintaining it mainly because of my 4c texture and quite frankly because I didn't like combing my hair all the time. I had wanted a solution to this and I wanted to resort to getting my hair braided however this is when I faced a problem.

Living in an African household there has always been a stigma about hair braiding. I found this very frustrating as I never really understood. I had done research into black culture and hair braiding and found that the idea of hair braiding had gone back as far as the 1960s. This was one of the points I used and eventually after a long rigorous road I finally got my hair braided.

Braiding my hair has helped me express myself and protect my hair. I love my hair as an afro and in a protective style and wouldn't trade anything in the world for it. Through my journey I have learnt about the culture of afro hair and my knowledge has been broadened.







STEM CLUB

In KS3 STEM club, students had a fantastic time making their own lava lamps! They experimented using different chemicals and temperatures. The best models successfully demonstrated the lava lamp effect







STUDENT SUCCESS: NOAH'S NEW BOOK

You may remember Noah N. who while in Year 7, wrote a book which was published on Amazon. Noah is now in Year 9 and has published another book called 'Ren Genis' which can be found here:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Ren-Genis-Noah-David-Neilson/dp/B0CGTWZ7W8/ref=mp s a 1 1?

<u>crid=148O1DQKX1FH9&keywords=ren+genis&qid=1694025262&sprefix=</u>
<u>%2Caps%2C86&sr=8-1</u>

A massive congratulations to Noah on his new book, we hope they'll be many more!









BETHS COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

Beths Community ambassadors are helping keep the streets of Bexley clean while helping our local community. Well done for all your hard work!

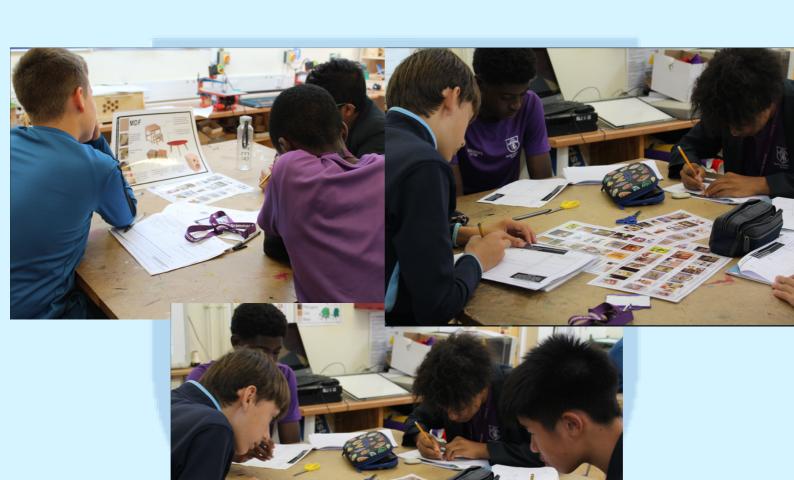






YEAR 9 D&T LESSONS

In Year 9 Design and Technology lessons this week, students are researching and designing their own mechanical toys. They are excited and eager to start making them in a few weeks time!







INTERNATIONAL DRESS DAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023

To end international week we held an international dress day! This was an amazing opportunity for students to represent their country, a country they love or even a country they would like to learn more about. We had many beautiful outfits from all over the world.

Make sure to check back to next weeks VIP newsletter to find out more about what we got up too during International Week!



LION KING TRIP

On Wednesday 27th September, a few of our drama and music students took a trip down to London to attend Lion King the workshop followed by the musical.













FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Results for week commencing 25th September

FOOTBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Results
25.09.23	ESFA R1	U14B	V Bishop Thomas Grant School	Away	Won 0-9
25.09.23	KSFA	U12A	V Thomas Tallis	Home	Won 3-1
27.09.23	Kent league	1 st XI	V Gravesend Grammar	Away	Won 0-2

RUGBY					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Results
26.09.23	Kent Rugby	U14	V Gravesend Grammar	Home	Lost 14-19
28.09.23	KSFA	U12A	V Tunbridge Wells Grammar	Away	Won 0 - 33

Fixtures for week commencing 2nd October

FOOTBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
02.10.23	ESFA Rd 2	U15A	V Blenheim High School	Home	3:00pm
02.10.23	ESFA	U14A	V Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich	Away	2:45pm
03.10.23	ESFA Rd 1	U12A	V Wilson's School	Away	2:30pm
04.10.23	Kent League	1 st XI	V Harris Academy Beckenham	Home	2pm
04.10.23	Kent League	2 nd XI	V Langley Park School for Girls	Away	2pm

*Please note that some matches may be cancelled/postponed and therefore we ask you to keep an eye on the SOCS website. Beths Grammar School | Sports Home (bethssport.co.uk).

If you have any questions, please email us at fixtures@beths.bexley.sch.uk







FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Fixtures for week commencing 2nd October

RUGBY					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
02.10.23	Friendly	U14	V Bexley Grammar	Home	3:45pm
04.10.23	Friendly	1 st XV	V Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Home	2pm
07.10.23	Friendly	U12A	V Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Away	10am
07.10.23	Friendly	U12B	V Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Away	10am
07.10.23	Friendly	U13A	V Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Home	10am
07.10.23	Friendly	U14A	V Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Away	10am
07.10.23	Friendly	U15A	V Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Home	10am



If you have any questions, please email us at fixtures@beths.bexley.sch.uk









Dear Parents,

The Beths Parents Associations mission is "To bring together parents, teachers and scholars by raising funds to make the school a better place to learn, whilst strengthening the school community". Please download and join the over 600 Beths Parents in the Classlist app on your phone to find out more (http://join.bethspa.co.uk).

We are excited to announce that the BETHS Parents' Association will be hosting its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 10th, 2023 at 19:30. This is a significant event in our calendar, as it provides an opportunity for us to come together, reflect on our achievements, and plan for the year ahead.

As part of the AGM, we will be opening up the various roles within the Parents' Association for review and a vote. We believe in transparent governance and the empowerment of our members, and this process is a testament to that belief.

The roles within the Executive Committee include:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Vice Treasurer
- Secretary
- Vice Secretary







Additionally, each year, we require a board of Trustees/Committee Members. This board is crucial as it allows us to vote on the various Causes and Care items we champion throughout the year.

We also encourage any parents that just want to support the Parents' Association to become a class rep where you will join a special group in Classlist to understand the activities the Parents' Association are involved in and how you can help

For those considering a role, please know that engagement levels can vary based on your availability and interests. Each role's specific responsibilities and accountabilities are documented for your reference at <u>BETHS PA Playbook</u>. (http://playbook.bethspa.co.uk/)

If you're passionate about contributing to the BETHS community and having a more profound understanding and input into your scholar's education and social experiences, we warmly invite you to submit yourself for a role in the BETHS Parents' Association. Please express your interest and provide details via this online form. (Microsoft Forms)

Your involvement can make a significant difference, and we look forward to the possibility of working alongside you to enhance our school community.

Thank you for your support Beths Parents' Association









Step right up and seize the opportunity to support the scholars of Beths Grammar School! Introducing the 2024 Beths Parents' Association Monthly Draw ticket, your golden key to a year full of surprises and delights.

Key Dates:

- Sales Period: <u>Tickets are on sale NOW</u> for £10 per ticket and will be available until January 8th, 2024.
- First Draw: The excitement kicks off with the first draw scheduled for the January Beths Parents' Association Meeting. The January winner will be drawn and announced at this very meeting!

Features:

- 12 Chances to Win: Your ticket isn't just for a one-time chance. It
 qualifies you for every monthly draw starting in January 2024 and
 continuing throughout the entire Calendar Year. That's 12
 opportunities to come out on top! There are first prizes of £20 and
 second prize of £10 per month and quarterly prizes also.
- Regular Announcements: No need to fret about missing out on the results. Every winner will be proudly announced on classlist, letting our community cheer for the victors.







- Multiply Your Chances: Why stop at one ticket? The more tickets you purchase, the brighter your odds shine. Remember, every additional ticket amplifies your chances of being that lucky winner and supports the scholars and the work we can do to help support causes.
- Support with Every Purchase: While the thrill of the draw is exhilarating, the cause it supports is even more heart warming. Every penny of profit we make from your purchase is directly funnelled back to support the scholars and the myriad programs at Beths Grammar School.

Get Your Tickets Now:

Ready to be a part of this exciting journey? Purchase your tickets directly from our official store: http://monthlydraw.bethspa.co.uk

Why Buy?:

When you buy a ticket, you're not just giving yourself a chance to win – you're investing in the future of our scholars. The funds raised go a long way in enhancing their educational experience, funding extracurricular activities, and ensuring every student at Beths Grammar School gets the best out of their time with us.

Join hands with the Beths Parents' Association, play for a cause, and stand a chance to win all year round. Your support shapes futures. Grab your tickets now!







KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE









BETHS GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

HARTFORD ROAD

BEXLEY

KENT

DA5 INE

Email Address: admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk

Email Address (to be used for items/concerns of a more 'sensitive' nature): HeadsPA@beths.bexley.sch.uk

Telephone Number: 01322 556538



