

BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers,

It's hard to believe we have been back in school for three weeks following the half term break. This term is always a busy term with lots of activities and events crammed in.

We have recently been re-accredited with the Wellbeing Award for Schools. My thanks go to Ms Bridge and the Wellbeing team for making this happen. Further communications on the school's upcoming Wellbeing week will be sent out shortly.



Last week our Year 9 Rugby team beat Norton Knatchbull 12-10 to win the Kent Shield. Congratulations to the team and PE department for getting them through.

Our Sixth Form open events for external students commenced this week. Our Sixth Form Admissions page on the school website gives information on courses, entry requirements and talks from students and members of staff in the Sixth Form team. We look forward to welcoming new families and students around our school.



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Coming up this term, we have our Winter concerts (taking place in the Main Hall on Thursday 30th November at 6pm and Tuesday 12th December at 6pm), and it would be lovely to see you there. Our annual Carol Service at Christchurch Bexleyheath for KS3 students is on Wednesday 13th November from 2pm and I am delighted to announce that we are bringing back the Community Afternoon Tea for the retired and semi-retired community on Thursday 14th December.

We will also be holding the annual Christmas Jumper day on Thursday 7th December, should students wish to participate. Full school uniform will apply however, a Christmas jumper can be worn under the blazer instead of a school jumper, and with the changing weather that might be an additional welcomed item of clothing! More information will be sent via the school communication email.

Students will be on remote learning on Friday 1st December, please check your emails for further details.

Kind regards,

Richard Blyghton



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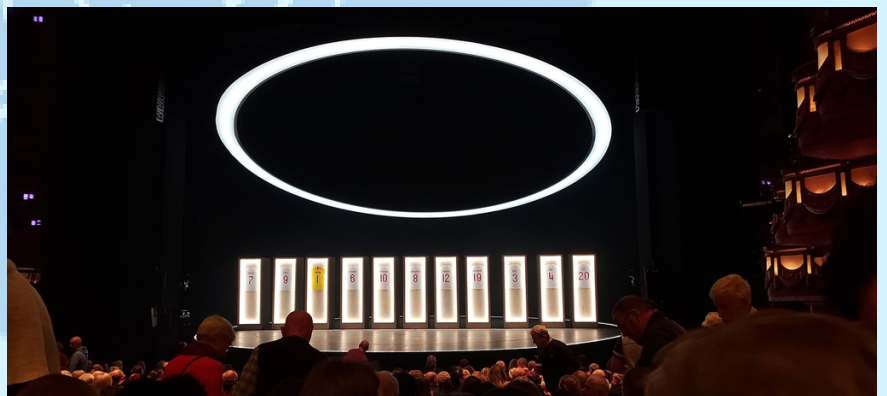
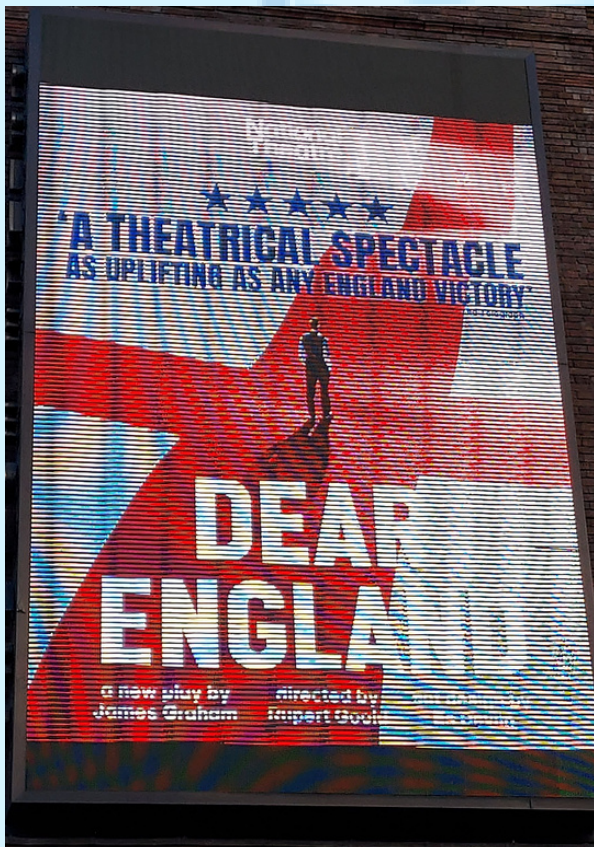
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THEATRE TRIP

On Thursday 23rd November students from GCSE and A Level Drama went to watch Dear England at the Prince Edward Theatre in London. The students had fantastic seats with clear views of the stage to see how Gareth Southgate turned the England team around getting them through a dreaded penalty shoot out and into the final of Euro 2020. The play brought some of the main players of the team and back room staff to life to give us an insight into how the team changed their mindset to produce better results in the game and come together as a real team. The students thoroughly enjoyed the show and were complimented for their top behaviour whilst watching the show.



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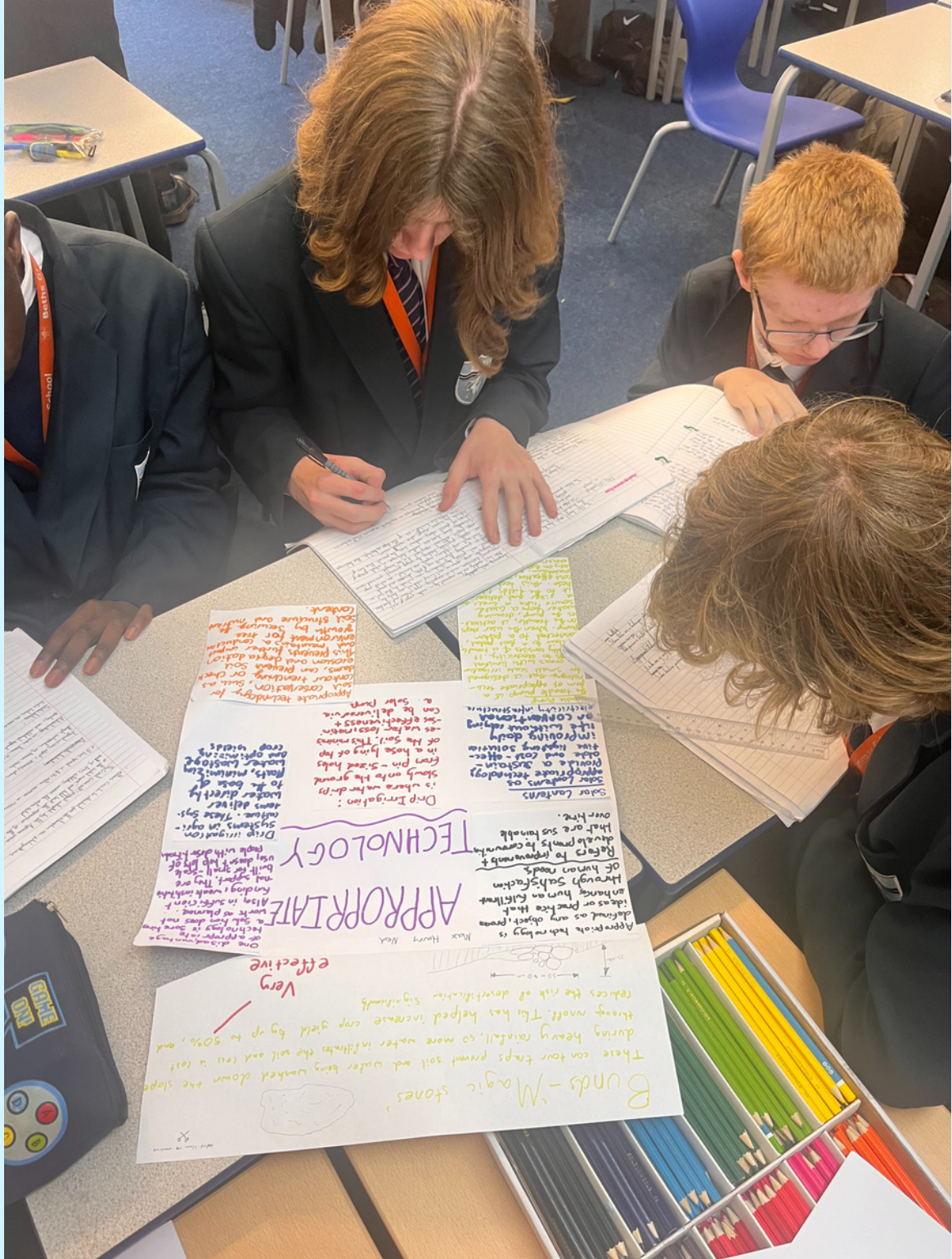
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YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY LESSONS

This week in Geography Year 10 students have been researching strategies to reduce desertification and sharing their findings.



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YEAR 7 RE LESSONS

Ms May's Year 7 class presented their spirited arts homework on Wednesday the 22/11/23. The theme was 'how do Christians express the spiritual through the arts?'. Here are some examples of their spectacular work!



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CHINESE CLUB

During Chinese Club students learnt about the art of Chinese Painting. During the session, members were provided with traditional Chinese brushes made from goat hair, ink, and Xuan paper. Under the guidance of Ms. Wang, they painted bamboo and pandas, learning to control the brush and mix the ink with water to produce various shades. The session lasted for 45 minutes, and the students were rewarded with cookies at the end of the class. Everyone was so proud to show their paintings!

The Chinese department welcomes all of the Key Stage 3 students to join the Chinese Culture Club on Odd Week Wednesdays, from 12:10-12:50 in Room S18. Please keep an eye on posters around the school as there are more activities to come!



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STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to our Year 9 Rugby team who won the Kent Rugby Shield beating The Norton Knatchbull School in a thrilling final. Well done for all your hard work so far this season!



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CHARITABLE INITIATIVES

Scholars and staff across the school community are being encouraged to bring in items that will be donated to Bexley Foodbank. The festive season can often be a stressful time and put additional pressure on those who may be struggling at this time. The final day for scholars to donate to this cause is on Friday, 15th December. During the collection period, a creative team of scholars will be helping to build a bumper hamper to hold the year group's collection of donations in. A list of urgent and surplus products can be found on the Bexley Foodbank website: <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>.



**Christmas
FOOD
DRIVE**

Build a collection of food in your tutor group to be donated to Bexley Foodbank.

Deadline for items:
15th December

**SCAN TO
SEE WHAT
IS NEEDED**



Bexley Foodbank will collect items on 18th December. Food containing alcohol such as mince pies and Christmas pudding are not accepted.



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CHARITABLE INITIATIVES

Scholars are also encouraged to bring in a coat which will be donated to HandsOn London's charitable initiative, WrapUp London. With rates of homelessness and sleeping rough on the rise within our local boroughs and the city, this is one thing that we can do to make sure that those facing the harshest of cold conditions this winter are supported. Coats are needed for men, women, children and babies. More information about this initiative can be found here: handsonlondon.org.uk

A poster for a 'Winter Coat Collection' with a cream background and illustrations of various winter coats in green, red, and blue. The text is centered and reads: 'WINTER COAT COLLECTION' in large, bold letters. Below this, a paragraph explains the initiative: 'This winter you can support WrapUpLondon by donating your lightly used coats to Beths Grammar School. These will then be donated to those facing the harshest of cold conditions this winter. Coats are needed for men, women, children and babies.' The school's crest is shown below the paragraph. Further down, the 'Donation Deadline' is listed as 'Friday, 1 December' with a clock icon. At the bottom, the 'Drop Off Location' is 'Main School Reception' with a location pin icon.

**WINTER
COAT COLLECTION**

This winter you can support WrapUpLondon by donating your lightly used coats to Beths Grammar School. These will then be donated to those facing the harshest of cold conditions this winter. Coats are needed for men, women, children and babies.



Donation Deadline:
Friday, 1
December



Drop Off Location:
Main School Reception



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MUSIC CONCERTS

Beths Grammar School warmly welcomes you to their annual Winter Concert Series. Students from years 7-13 look forward to entertaining you with a wide variety of music, including holiday favourites. On 30th November you will see soloists, chamber groups, the Beths Orchestra and Year 8 Band Class all come together in magical evenings of music. We look forward to seeing you there!



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FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Results for week commencing 20th November

FOOTBALL

Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Result
20.11.23	North Kent	U13A	V Bexley Grammar	Away	Lost 7-1
21.11.23	ESFA Rd 3	U12A	V Carshalton Boys Sports College	Home	Won 4-3
22.11.23	KSFA League	2 nd XI	V Hayes School	Away	Won 2 – 3
22.11.23	KSFA League	1 st XI	V Christ the King	Home	Won 4-3
16.11.23	ESFA	U12B	V Hurstmere	Home	Lost 1- 5

RUGBY

Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
22.11.23	Friendly	1 st XI	V Roebucks Rugby Academy	Away	Lost 47-41

BASKETBALL

Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
21.11.23	Kent Cup	U16A	V Gravesend Grammar	Away	Won 49 - 69
22.11.23	Kent Cup	1 st XI	V Gravesend Grammar	Home	Lost 42-50

*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



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FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Fixtures for week commencing 27th November

BASKETBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
27.11.23	Kent Cup	U16A	V Trinity	Away	4:00pm
28.11.23	Kent Cup	U13A	V Eden Park High School	Home	4pm
29.11.23	Kent Cup	U18A	V Northfleet Technology College	Home	2pm

FOOTBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
27.11.23	ESFA Rd4	U12A	V Howard of Effingham School	Away	2pm
29.11.23	KSFA League	1 st XI	V Gravesend Grammar School	Home	2pm

RUGBY					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
28.11.23	Friendly	U14A	V St Olave's Grammar School	Away	2:30pm
30.11.23	Friendly	U13A	V Bexley Grammar School	Home	2:40pm
30.11.23	Friendly	U12A	V Oakwood Park Grammar	Away	2:15pm

*Please note that some matches may be cancelled/postponed and therefore we ask you to keep an eye on the SOCS website.
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WELLBEING AT BETHS

Be a Parent Wellbeing Champion at Beths!



We place wellbeing at the heart of all we do at Beths and are looking for parents to participate in our Wellbeing programme.



For more details please contact Ms Lucy Bridge

Msbridge@beths.bexley.sch.uk



In partnership with



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2020–2023



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KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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