



# Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyghton

**5<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers of Students in Year 10,

I hope that you have all had a great Christmas break and that your child is looking forward to the next term ahead in Year 10. We have been very impressed with the positive attitudes displayed by many of our Year 10 students as they begin their GCSE studies. This letter contains some important notices that I would appreciate your attention and cooperation with.

## FIRST ACADEMIC REPORT (AND REPORT REPLY SLIP)

Before the Christmas break, you should have received your child's first academic report for Year 10. Please complete the attached "report reply slip" and return this to your child's Form Tutor by **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. We will issue all students with a hard copy of this reply slip on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, when they return to school. This will give you an opportunity to open up a dialogue based on the reports, and you are welcome to communicate back to us regarding the latest report. Please take into consideration the following when completing the report reply slip:

- You are advised to spend time talking to your child about the report and ensure that they are part of this review process (it must be signed by both the parent and the student).
- With your child, prepare some realistic targets for the next term. State the actions that will be taken at home to address progress or attitude concerns. We will then use these to help support academic tutoring in school alongside your child's Form Tutor.
- Please look carefully to see if the predicted grade is less than the school target. If this is the case, your child is forecasted to make negative progress and therefore underachieve. This should be a cause for concern.
- If your child is late to school on more than three occasions this term, please state the actions that will be taken to ensure that punctuality to school improves.
- If attitude to learning or quality of homework is a **grade 3 or 4**, please state the actions that will be taken to ensure a more positive approach to learning in the next term for these subjects. The expectation is that every student should have at least a good attitude to learning.
- For quality of homework grades that are 3 or 4, please state the actions taken to address this important issue. Students are expected to spend at least 2 hours on revision, study, and the completion of homework every night at Key Stage 4.

## YEAR 10 TRIAL EXAMS

Year 10 will sit formal trial exams on week beginning **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024**. Whilst this may seem a long time away, we encourage students to remain focused on these important assessments. The performance in trial exams help to determine predicted grades. Predicted grades are used to determine an initial offer to the Sixth Form here at Beths (and they are used as part of the reference to other schools, should your child wish to apply elsewhere for post-16 study).

Hartford Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1NE

Tel: 01322 556538 Fax: 01322 621212

Email: [admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk) Website: [www.beths.bexley.sch.uk](http://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk)

Registered Company Number 7379768

A formal timetable will be sent three weeks before the exams along with a revision topic list to help your child prepare in advance. We will be working with the students this term on developing effective revision techniques.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE INFORMATION EVENING**

A reminder that the Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening will take place on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6pm in the Main School Hall**. This is an in-person event. Students must be accompanied by a parent/carer and students should be in full school uniform. The event is expected to last 1 hour. Parking will be available on school site.

### **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

Thank you to all parents who ensure that their child is sent to school every day on time. Your support here is greatly appreciated. Whilst I continue to refer to the importance of both attendance and punctuality it seems that for a number of students, I continue to be met with the same excuses. In January, students who continue to be late to school will serve a three-hour Saturday detention, as the current Friday detentions do not seem to act as a strong enough deterrent to get to school on time.

### **BEHAVIOUR AND CONDUCT**

During the Ofsted inspection conducted in May 2022, Ofsted praised Behaviour at Beths Grammar School as “exceptional”. Inspectors said students worked hard in lessons and were extremely committed to their studies. We are very proud of the working environment we have created here at Beths and we expect this to continue. You will at this stage, be well aware of our expectations regarding student behaviour. Although every year in school is important, Years 10 and 11 are probably the most important. Therefore, there simply cannot be any room for misbehaviour or disrespect towards staff or fellow students. No student has the right to disrupt the learning of others and I will not allow any type of poor behaviour at Beths. Your child will achieve their very best if they work in partnership with their teachers. We want students working with staff rather than against them. I would be grateful if you could speak with your child before they return to school in January regarding your expectations as well as those of the school.

### **TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL AND CONDUCT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

When our students are on school site they behave exceptionally well and are very polite. However, last term, we experienced a few issues from a very small number of students regarding their conduct outside of school, particularly on public transport and as they wait for the bus at Hartford Road.

We have a very good working relationship with the staff at Bexley train station, and they regularly keep us informed of the any issues involving our students. I would ask that if your child travels to school via public transport, that they read the attached information regarding expected conduct: [Rules of travel for under 18s - Transport for London \(tfl.gov.uk\)](https://www.tfl.gov.uk/for-you/for-parents/for-schools)

The main issues involve children not having enough money on their oyster cards and they try and get through without paying for travel. There has also been a small number of incidents involving some children displaying unsafe behaviour at the station and on trains, as well as being disrespectful to members of TFL staff. This must stop.

TFL have the right to report any breach of their rules of travel to the British Transport Police. Please be advised that whilst this is outside of our jurisdiction, any student displaying poor behaviour outside of school will be sanctioned for bringing the name of the school into disrepute.

## UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Please ensure that your child attends school each day in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment. This ensures that there is no disruption to learning. Our high expectations of student uniform remain, and our students should look smart at all times, wearing their uniform with pride.

Students must bring a blazer to school every day. Should they wish to wear a jumper, this should be a navy V-neck. Students are not permitted to wear trainers (or black trainers) to school. They must bring their lanyard and **sign in and out on Inventory every day**. Durags and wave caps are not permitted to be worn anywhere on school site or at the bus stops. **Students in the main school (Year 7-11) are not permitted to wear any jewellery (including earrings).**

A reminder that our students should not be in possession of **e-cigarettes/vapes** and, if found to be, we will apply our school policy consistently. Students will be excluded if found with these items.

I am a firm believer that top quality outcomes stem from hard work invested in every lesson and at home with study and revision. The students are here to work hard, learn and study but also enjoy themselves sensibly along the way. The demands of GCSE study are significant and part of an educational experience that requires commitment, hard work and an excellent attitude to learning. It is vital that your child begins the year with the right attitude and maintains this consistent approach throughout the year in preparation for their exams. I urge all students to now set themselves a worthy goal and work towards it with single-minded concentration and full commitment.

Thank you for your support with this information as we welcome the return to school for everyone. We look forward to working with you to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr R McBeth**

**Senior Teacher**

**Head of Key Stage 4**

[mrmcbeth@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:mrmcbeth@beths.bexley.sch.uk)