



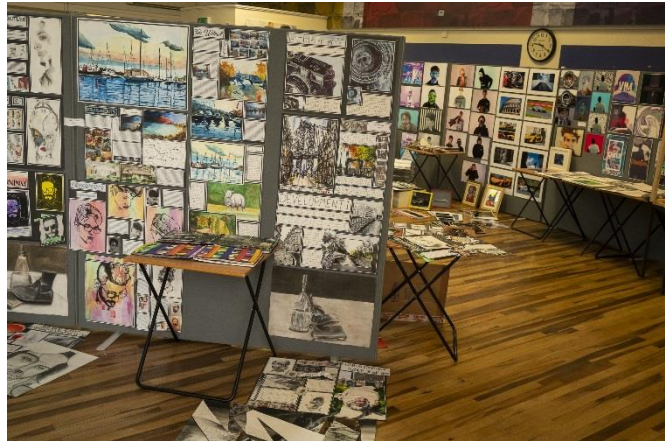
Beths Blog

Week ending Friday 6 July 2018

Art & Photography Show 2018

We have been displaying some wonderful art work in the Hall all this week which has been completed by our GCSE and A Level students and on Wednesday we hosted the show itself for parents to come along and view the work for themselves.

As ever, the talent shown by our students was outstanding. Please click on the following link to take a look at the photo gallery we've just uploaded to our website:



<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=3&gcatid=3&albumid=6>

Beths Politics, Philosophy and Economics Society visit the Houses of Parliament

Upon arrival, on Tuesday 19 June we were welcomed with a warm greeting by Lord Robert Hayward which led to the start of our much-anticipated tour. Lord Hayward is currently a British Conservative Party politician, the only politician to have been appointed an Office of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services outside of politics.

Gratefully, we had the privilege to start our tour through an exclusive entrance which is only accessible to Lords. Through the entrance, we were then guided to the cloak room. It was explained that although there are 800 members of the Chamber, only those with higher credentials were given access to a space to leave their belongings. Subsequently, we were led to the Royal Gallery, a massive room filled with paintings and portraits of monarchs. This room is solely used for important events including state receptions and parliamentary ceremonies with members of both Houses present. Afterwards, we were directed to the House of Lords chamber, where Lord Hayward works. Within the House of Lords chamber, we were shown to the various benches; front bench, back bench and crossbench, which was allocated depending on the different roles of those who sat on them. Within the House of Lords chamber, there is also an extremely decorative golden throne in which the Queen sits annually to give her state opening of Parliament. Consequently, we were guided to the House of Commons where we were informed of the reason behind the different colours covering the separate chambers within the



Houses of Parliament. Whilst everything in the House of Lords is red, the House of Commons is green. The reason behind this was that when the Parliament was first formed, red was a much more expensive dye and so signified the wealth of royalty.

Lord Hayward received an unexpected call, from a familiar voice in British Politics, James Brokenshire, MP for Bexley and a Conservative Party politician serving as Secretary of State for Housing. To our surprise, the MP had generously allocated time from his busy schedule to meet with us to discuss the workings of British Politics. Arriving in his personal office, where each minister receives their own, we were given an introduction to his role in parliament. This was followed by a Q&A where we took the opportunity to ask questions about



immigration policies after Brexit as well as the MP's personal view on Margaret Thatcher and her role within female rights. After this concluded we shook hands and took pictures before being escorted by Lord Hayward to the Lobby situated in-between the House of Lords and the House of Commons. This was where MPs and pressure groups came to discuss terms before leaving to their appropriate chambers. Consequently, we were shown to a building which MPs, Lords and Journalists meet to discuss policies. As a result, we saw a number of MPs, Lords and columnists such as the Head Writer of the politics column for the Sunday Times and writers for the Daily Express and Telegraph. Afterwards, we were escorted out and given a farewell by Lord Hayward before heading home.

As a result of going on this trip, I learnt the importance of having both Houses of Parliament to ensure a stable nation and I was impressed by the hard work, commitment and dedication from politicians when involved in political affairs. Although it was extremely busy in the Houses of Parliament, I especially liked how, with the aid of periodic bells used to signal the start of the next chamber session, everything ran in harmony.

Oswin Norbert, President of PPE Society at Beths Grammar School.

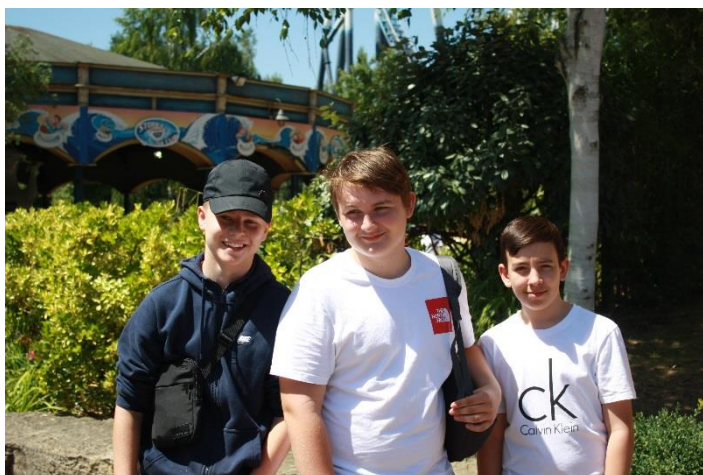
Year 9 Thorpe Park Trip – Mr McBeth Head of Year 9

On Saturday 30 July, 120 boys from Year 9 went on a trip to Thorpe Park as a reward for all their hard work this year. This was the first time we have organised a trip to Thorpe Park and it is safe to say that it went down a treat with the boys. The objective of the trip was simple: the boys were to have a day of fun in the company of their friends and enjoy themselves. Rarely do I give the boys such an instruction so it was good to see them grab the opportunity with both hands!



The journey to Thorpe Park was spent with the boys planning the day ahead and discussing what rides they wanted to try out. On arriving at the gates the boy's excitement levels were growing at a very fast rate – just slightly more than my blood pressure!

With tickets handed out and our own “VIP” entry to the park the boys were let loose to have fun. Their behaviour was excellent and it was great to see them socialising in the sun running from one place to the next with smiles on their faces. All boys were a credit to the school and themselves.



The boys have worked incredibly hard with preparing for their trial exams. Their attitude to their studies has really impressed me and I have high hopes for what they will continue to achieve here at Beths. With the last few exams remaining it was clear that they deserved this reward and it was clear that they appreciated a day away from study and revision. All seemed to have a great day – even though we did experience “minor technical difficulties” with the school minibus on the way home! I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the staff for giving up their Saturday. Without their goodwill this trip would not have happened. Even with the temptation of thrill seeking rides, most of the staff (including me) managed to keep their feet firmly on the ground! Maybe next year.....

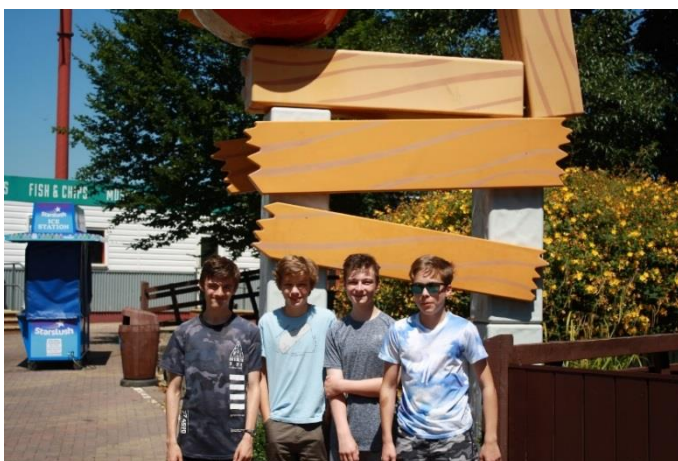


Thorpe Park Trip – By Ankit Pandey

The Thorpe Park trip was a great success and a really good day was had by all who attended. I think it was an excellent choice of reward from the teachers as it was very thoughtful. Young adults our age love thrills!



I thought it was an excellent day out. I could clearly see that everyone that got involved was very happy and were enjoying the day with all their friends. It was a very hot day however it did not stop us from queuing up for the Nemesis Inferno, Tidal Wave or Stealth. I was really happy about the fact we were allowed to freely roam around the park.



It was a great day and I can speak on behalf of all my friends to say that we are very thankful towards all the teachers that gave up their whole day for our enjoyment. We would like to give an extra thanks to Mr McBeth our HOY for organising the trip. We really appreciated it!

Beths China Trip for 21 Year 8 Students

Last Saturday, 21 of our Year 8 students flew from Heathrow to Beijing to experience a fortnight in China. Mr Parsons has been sending regularly 'Tweets' so please keep an eye on our Twitter feed and follow #BethsChinaTrip2018 so see what they've been, and what they are, getting up to.

Year 8 Camp 2018

Many staff members are already down at the site near Brockenhurst setting up 'camp' for the first arrivals tomorrow. This is actually the 40th year of camp and is, for many students, the highlight of their time at Beths Grammar!

We are looking forward to seeing some fantastic video footage and photos of what the boys will be doing over the next couple of weeks and will share with parents, via the Blog and the website, for your enjoyment.

Open Events for Year 5 pupils moving to secondary school in September 2019

Last year we held a series of 'informal' open events for boys in Year 5 due to sit their 11+ exams the following September. These were extremely popular and so we are therefore running something very similar again this year.

Events will take place next week on Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Friday 13 July 2018 and the Headteacher will be welcoming visitors from 9.00am prior to a 'mini' guided tour of the school. The event is anticipated to be finished by 10.30am. This year we will be running a booking system which is available on our website. Numbers for each event are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please follow the link below which will take you to the bookings page:

<http://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+5+Formal+Open+Events&pid=163>

Students on Site

A reminder that there are still 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.