



Beths Blog

Week ending Friday 13 July 2018

The Last Week of the Summer Term

Staff and students have almost made it to the end of this academic year. Almost going out on a high with England nearly reaching the World Cup Final but they did surpass everyone's expectations. Good luck to them on Saturday in the Third Place play-off.

Next week continues as normal for most students. Year 7 will be in school all week in normal lessons except on Tuesday and Wednesday when some of the year group will be in Le Touquet and the others on a collapsed timetable, Year 8 are either out at Camp or on their University Enrichment Week, Year 9 students will be in normal lessons as will Year 10 students except for Thursday when they have 'the Stock Exchange' enrichment, some Year 12 students will be out on internships and the remainder will continue with their normal lessons.

On Friday 20 July – the last day of the term – students are invited to wear their own clothes (although, please, no fancy dress) and they are asked to make a minimum donation of a £1.00 which half of which will be given to the Parents Association and the remainder to a charity of the School Council's choosing.

Students will be in lessons/activities from Periods 1-2 and will then have special assemblies and will be dismissed from school between 12.00 and 12.30pm and will be required to be off the school site by 12.50pm.

Higher Education and Careers Event for Year 12 students

Our Higher Education & Careers Event took place last night and attracted more than 30 universities and more than 30 employment sectors – the biggest ever! We even had universities wanting to attend who we had to turn away as we were unable to accommodate them.

The event gave Year 12 students the opportunity to find out about career sectors that they may or may not have previously considered and to help make informed choices about universities and the different options they are able to offer.

Thank you to everyone who exhibited on the night.

Beths China Trip for 21 Year 8 Students

The trip to China has been going well and the team have been sending short bursts of information, along with some photos for us to share on Twitter – follow #BethsChinaTrip2018. They return tomorrow from a two week trip which appears to have been filled with some fantastic opportunities.

Here are some articles from some of the students currently on the trip.

My Birthday in China by Waleed UI Haque

你好! (Hello!) Today was a very special day for me as it was my birthday.

The day started off with breakfast and then Mandarin lessons about hobbies, introduction to Chinese music, comparison of Chinese and western cultures, Traditional culture. Miss Li checks our classwork and homework every morning. We should write our MEP homework in the evening.

We reviewed the content in the morning and then went to Song Qingling Science Youth Science Technology and Culture Exchange Center. In there we wore Chinese traditional robes. We learned about silk, silk worm, Chinese chest and Chinese dynasties. When we got into the music hall, the teacher got me a birthday cake and celebrated my birthday and my classmates sang the birthday song in Chinese Mandarin which we learnt in Year 7. It was a big surprise and I was very happy. I said 谢谢! (Thank you!). Then they taught us about musical artifacts and our guide even played some beautiful Chinese traditional music. I really enjoyed listening to those performances. We also learnt a Chinese poem.



A great day on the Great Wall by Samuel Desouza

I am one of the AMAZING MEP students (Mandarin Excellence Programme). July 7th was probably one of my favourite days of the China trip for two main reasons:

The first reason why was because we visited the famous Great Wall of China... After a long coach journey, we all got out straight into the pouring rain. As well as the rain dampening our clothes, it also dampened our moods AND our chances of going to the Great Wall that day, as you are not allowed to climb the wall in that weather. Luckily for us though, our FANTASTIC teachers found out that it would be sunny very soon so we got onto the coach yet again, and waited. Sadly, it was not sunny. However, the rain had stopped and the sky became brighter so we were allowed to climb up!!! After many, many group photos, we were finally allowed to begin our trek.

We had many stops at each and every watchtower or flat ground to either take a break, drink some water or...Yep, take more photos! We were privileged to be able to climb up very high to about 5 watchtowers! (This doesn't sound like much but actually each watchtower is really spaced out, and so it adds up to a massive distance altogether). Next, we began our journey back down which, in my opinion, was less tiring. (Literally, some of the steps were about 4 bricks tall, so we were forced to lift our legs really high.) The journey up and down the great wall was pretty much a long and tiring workout for all of us (even the teachers), but afterwards we all felt so proud to have climbed the vast complex of stairs, ramps and watchtowers.



We went into the gift shop, bought some souvenirs, and then proceeded on to the next destination via the coach.

The second reason why it was one of my favourite days of the trip was because we were able to try

the absolutely delicious traditional Chinese 'hotpot'. The 'hot pot' was, like the name suggests, a hot pot filled almost to the brim with steaming hot water which you would place various foods in (like thin strips of lamb, mushrooms, noodles and veg). You could then either dip it in the peanut sauce, or just have it on its own. You HAVE TO TRY hotpot as it was truly flavorsome (and I am not just saying that)! There were many other great days out to different tourist attractions, but this HAS to be up there with my favorites.

I am in Beijing by Oyin Atere

I am one of the hard-working students who is on the MEP China trip. Today is Thursday and I woke up at 7 o'clock. I was a bit late so I had to get ready for the day ahead very quickly. Once I had arrived at the restaurant, I took a tray, some chopsticks and piled my tray with rice, fried egg and milk. I learnt how to use chopsticks in China.

Soon after, I got onto the coach and we traveled to the Beijing Foreign Studies University. Today, we learned how to say different hobbies in Mandarin such as singing and surfing the internet. Then, we learned about Chinese opera and Chinese poems. Later in the day, we took the coach again but this time we went to a Science and Technology museum. Firstly, we dressed up in traditional Chinese clothes which looked hilarious because they looked so big. Second, we saw lots of ancient objects. Lastly, our tour guide took us to the instrument room. She played the string instruments perfectly. I really enjoyed it.



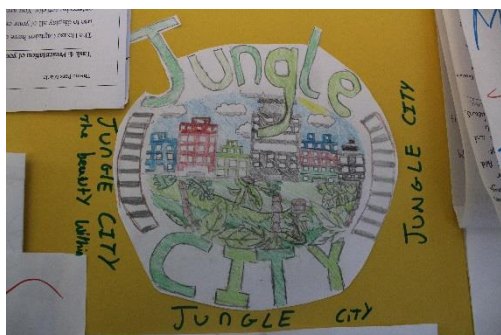
At the dinner table, I ate sweet and sour pork, breaded chicken, Chinese white cabbage and watermelon. The watermelon was very juicy and tasted very good. We have Chinese food every day. We must eat some vegetables every lunch and dinner because Miss Li says it's good for health.

It was my friend's birthday today so the teachers bought him a cake. We ate the cake and sang happy birthday to him in Chinese Mandarin in the evening again, I played basketball before going to bed at ten o'clock.

This was another amazing day in Beijing! I had fun and I learned a lot.

Year 8 Roller Coaster

One of the activities that the Year 8 students, not on camp, took part in this week was the 'Roller Coaster' enrichment where students design their own theme park and rides.



Pictured are some of this week's designs with more to follow next week along with more details of what took place.



Year 8 Camp 2018

Group 1 have been at Year 8 Camp – based near Brockenhurst in the New Forest - all this week experiencing the activities that many boys, over the last 40 years, have also experienced like ‘night-line’, kayaking, cycling and team building.

Today sees Camp changeover where Group 2 make their way down to Camp and Group 1 are set to return later this afternoon. Hopefully those returning boys will be able to regale their parents and friends with everything that they have got up to and we are looking forward to sharing some fantastic video footage and photos of what they’ve all been up to via the Blog and the website, for your enjoyment.

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

We have held four, very successful, informal open events this week for pupils currently in Year 5. We hope that our visitors have now been inspired that, if they are deemed selective following their 11+ tests in September, that they decide to put Beths Grammar down as their favoured preference.

As visitors said on many occasions that they liked the fact that they were visiting in smaller groups, we will try and accommodate this type of open event in the future and will endeavour to slot more of these into the calendar during the Autumn term.

Bank of England Economics Trip- by Kavern Batchelor

On 22 June 2018, both Year 9 Economics classes, (9Ec1 and 9Ec2), went to the Bank of England for the morning. We left school promptly at 9:30am and made our way to Bexley Station to catch the train to the London Bridge. From London Bridge all 40 of us walked to the Bank. Once we arrived at the Bank we had a talk lead by one of the staff at the Bank, where we learnt about the history of it, the many functions of money, inflation and deflation, how money is made and the various security features on our banknotes. Next on the trip agenda was a tour of the Bank’s museum. We learnt about the various governors of the Bank and the founder of it in 1696. Finally, we were asked to complete work booklets about the different exhibitions and displays within the museum and, whilst searching for answers, we discovered a solid gold bar worth over £300,000 and a staggering 13kg in weight! It was interesting to learn that the Bank stored hundreds of similar gold bars in its basement. We were all gifted with Bank of England pens and made our way back to school just in time for lunch. It was a very enjoyable trip and I hope to learn more about the bank in the future!



French Lecturer in School

A couple of weeks ago the MFL department had a visit from Kader Izri, a French lecturer from the University of Aberystwyth. He spent the day working with various French classes, delivering on topics such as health and Laïcité and festivals in France. It was a great opportunity for our students to practice their language skills and to learn more about French culture from someone with a lot of

knowledge! We are grateful to him for coming all the way to Bexley to see us. He was really impressed with our boys and how much they knew and how quickly they picked up new language and concepts.

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.