

BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents, Carers,

A reminder that next week is our school Well-being week and on Monday 4th December students have the option of wearing their PE kits to school if they wish to take part in the 'be active' structured activities at break and lunch time. Sixth Form students who wish to participate in activities during break and lunch time can wear a plain navy blue or black tracksuit, no hoodies, no distinctive branded clothing. This is not a non-uniform day!

On Wednesday 6th December, school will finish earlier as follows:

KS5 depart at 12:50pm

KS3 depart at 2:30pm

KS4 depart at 2:45pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Be active. Students to come in in games kit. Structured activities set up around school during recreational time as well as usual facilities</p>	<p>Notice Students encouraged to either leave their phone at home for the day or leave it switched off in their bag and benefit from some screen-free time</p>	<p>Keep learning. Students follow their usual timetable but follow an alternative curriculum learning life skills. This day will include an early finish in the afternoon to spend some time learning a skill or topic of their choosing</p>	<p>Give Thankyous from students to staff and staff to students, as well as our usual Christmas Jumper Day charity initiative</p>	<p>Connect All students to receive some basic training on how to listen actively, encouraged to reflect on the week and what has worked for them</p>



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Only the blue/white surgical NHS face masks are permitted in school, not any other colour or pattern. If your son/daughter would like to wear a face mask because of the cold/flu bugs or to protect a family member from them, they can do so, but it must be one of the blue/white NHS face masks. There are some available at our reception desks if required.

Next week our Year 11s commence their Trial Exams for two weeks. We wish them all the best with their revision and exams.

KS3 have taken on some charity initiatives for the festive season. I look forward to reporting on this in the coming weeks.

Coming up

Don't forget it's Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 7th December. A £2 donation is asked to support the Save the Children charity and School Sixth Form Prom.

Also, on the 7th December is our Year 13 Parents Evening in person from 4pm-7:30pm. The Year 12 Parents Evening will be held virtually on Thursday 14th December from 4:30pm-7:30pm.

We have our Christmas Concert taking place on Tuesday 12th December at 6pm. Please come along and support our Music department and budding musicians.



Kind regards,

Richard Blyghton



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DONATED BOOKS TO THE ART DEPARTMENT

On 29th November 2023, Councillor, Phillip Read; Journalist and Author, Ken Barrett; and ex Police Officer, David Hinxman, visited the Beths, where they had studied as pupils from 1958. We are delighted and grateful to receive a large selection of quality art books donated by Phillip Read for the furtherment of Beth's art students. Mr Hayman graciously received the numerous books which included catalogues from the Royal Academy, books accompanying recent exhibitions by range of influential contemporary practitioners and beautifully illustrated biographies of well-known masters. We are certain our pupils will benefit greatly from this resource.

Furthermore, Ken Barrett presented our school with a signed copy of his latest book '22 Walks in Bangkok: Exploring the City's Historic Back Lanes and Byways' which records some of his time living in the city with lots of historical facts and amusing anecdotes. We would like to thank our ex-pupils for presenting us with these gifts, which will inspire and support our pupil's curiosity and sense of adventure!



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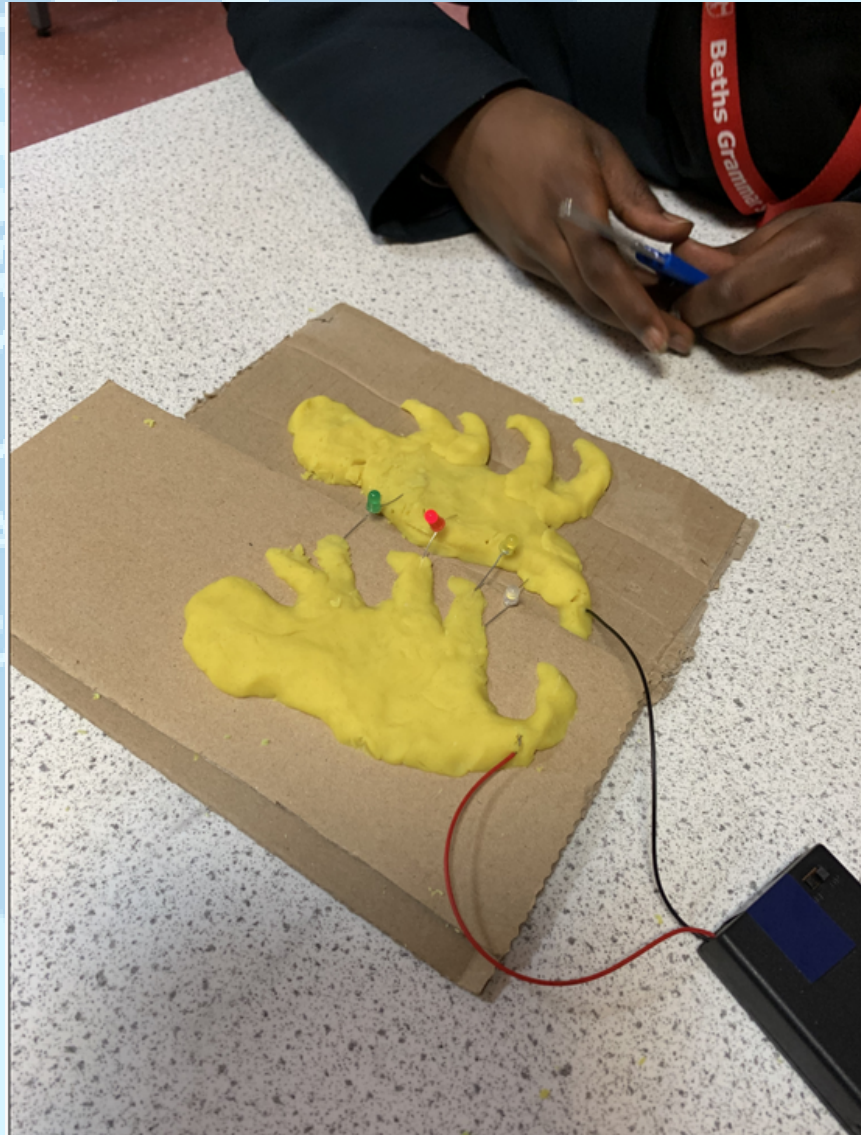
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STEM CLUB

This week we held a Christmas themed STEM club. Students made Christmas decorations with dough (a conductor) and made a circuit with LEDs to make it look like a Christmas lights. We saw some amazing designs with innovative ideas there. Well done all!



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SPORTS NEWSLETTER

The Year 7A team played Carlshalton sports college in the 4th round of the national cup. Beths got off to a very good start controlling the opposition. Finally, our goal came. Caleb's low driven shot hit the post and Raphael scored the rebound. Carlshalton instantly upped their game as they were on the front foot. Some sloppy clearances from our defence made their midfielder score into the far corner. Not long after that, Beths got a free kick won by As'ad. Caleb took the free kick and it roared into the net. The half concluded. As the second half began, it was not clear who would win this tie as both teams were playing well. Awesome drove the ball up the pitch and played a spectacular pass to Caleb. He shot from far and it smacked the bottom corner. By now when Caleb shoots, he scores. Beths lost their composure conceding corner after corner and then, they got what they deserved. Carlshalton hit a corner into the box and none of us can clear our lines, so the player edge of the box let the ball fly and it went into our net. It's currently 3-2 to Beths with quite a bit to play. The opposition conceded a corner to us and we capitalised from it. Caleb hit a corner in and yemi took a touch inside the box and hit it in. 4-2 Beths with 5 minutes left. Can we hold on? Majority of those 5 minutes, Riley-our keeper-kept us from not conceding. Near the end of the game, Carlshalton had a corner and their defender scored a header to make them still in the game. Fortunately, Beths held on and they won 4-3 to progress to the 5th round of the national cup.



- by Izhaaq 7B



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SPORTS NEWSLETTER

Well done to our new cohort of Sports Leaders who set up and ran a Year 6 indoor Athletics Competition for 4 schools in the Bexley area. The competition was very competitive, where the year 6 students battled it out for a place to represent Bexley in the English Schools Competitions. Thank you to all of the Sports Leaders who helped make the event run smoothly and successfully!

- by Mr Webb



This months edition of Beths Sports newsletter can be found here: in this issue we look at Sixth Form football games, Year 9 football games, Year 9 Rugby V Bullers Wood (Kent Shield Semi Final) and much much more!

To view the newsletter, please click here

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Sports+newsletter&pid=393>



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CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

We would love to warmly invite you to our community Christmas Afternoon Tea for the retired and semi-retired on 14th December 2023 from 2-3:45pm.

Numbers are limited so please register your interest by emailing mrwebb@beths.bexley.sch.uk or 01322 556538 by Friday 8th December. We look forward to welcoming you into our school community.

 You are warmly invited to..
Beths Grammar School's

Christmas Afternoon Tea

for the retired & semi-retired

Please kindly join us for a delightful afternoon filled with treats, music, raffles and wonderful company as we host a community afternoon tea.

Thursday 14th December 2023 from 2:00pm-3:45pm

Location: Beths Grammar School,
Hartford Road, Bexley, DA5 1NE

£2 per person

Numbers are limited so please register your interest by emailing Mrwebb@beths.bexley.sch.uk or call 01322 556538 by Friday 8th December 2023.



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WINTER BOOK WEEK

From 11th-15th December, we will be holding a Winter Book Week, filled with many wonderful events including; Shakespeare Spelling Bee, poetry reading and Q&A, author talk and book signing and much more!

Please find more information below.



Winter Book Week: 11th-15th December

Throughout week: Shakespeare spelling bee (Dr Easton/Ms Minkowich)

Monday

KS4 Assembly – Ms Quinn

Yr10 - Session 1 and 2 – Amelia Kyazze - author talk and book signing in Main Hall.

Tuesday

Year 12 Assembly – Ms Cale

KS3 Lunch: Scholastic Book Fair, **English Department**

Wednesday

KS5 – 9.15am 45 minute informal chat with Dr Adam Kay in Main Hall (book signing TBC)

KS3 Lunch: Scholastic Book Fair, **English Department**

Thursday

Year 13 Assembly: Ms Cale

KS4/5 Lunch: Film Club – Top five book adaptations with a focus on The Godfather.

KS4/5 lunch: Dr Easton poetry reading and Q&A

Friday

KS3 assembly: Dr Easton

KS4/5 Lunch: Kerry Barrett – author talk and book signing in Conference Room.



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BOOK FAIR

On Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December during Key Stage 3. Lunchtime in the English Area, we will be running a book fair. The fair will be cashless and the books can browse and paid for by following the QR code on the poster.

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME TO THE BOOK FAIR

Your support helps earn
FREE BOOKS for our school

NEW THE HUNGER GAMES THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES SUZANNE COLLINS £8.99 13+

WONDER R.J. PALACIO £7.99 £4.99 SAVE £3 13+

HEARTSTOPPER ALICE OSEMAN £12.99 £8.99 13+

NEW THE IMMORTAL GAMES ANNALIESE AVERY £8.99 13+

NEW FIVE SURVIVE HOLLY JACKSON £8.99 13+

NEW TWELVE BONES ROBIE & TALBOT £8.99 13+

The best new books from only £2.99



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SCHOOL PRODUCTION: THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Behind the scenes of rehearsals for our school production of The Addams Family. In rehearsals, students practiced 'When You're Addams'. The school production will run on 14th, 15th and 16th March 2024. Tickets will be available to purchase in January.



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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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MUSIC CONCERTS

Join us at Beths Grammar School to celebrate the Christmas Spirit through the joy of music! At our Christmas Concert, you will hear music from our Beths Big Band, the Year 9 Band Class, Chamber Ensembles and so much more! We hope you will join us for the magical evening.

The concert will run on 12th December from 6pm- to approximately 8pm



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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 nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



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