

Week ending 8 January 2021

# BETHS VIP

## (Very Important Publication)



### Message from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

At the start of this week, we were preparing for Mass Testing of students and staff and expecting that, by Monday 18 January, all students would be back in school ... what a difference 24 hours makes! So, on Tuesday we started to re-evaluate all the plans that we had put in place to reflect the National Lockdown which had been announced at 8.00pm the previous evening.

We were convinced that our remote learning provision would be far superior to that which we had offered during the previous lockdown in 2020 as we had taken the opportunity to train staff and, although some were initially wary of this new method of teaching, all were soon learning new ways to make it fun, engaging and a really good substitute to actually being in the classroom.

As you know, we have decided to revert to our normal—out of pandemic—times of the day which, for all those students except Year 7 and 12 who were new to the school in September, will be familiar to them. Students will receive a proper registration and time with their form tutor from 8.45am before starting their first lesson at 9.10am. We have also asked students to keep their cameras on, wherever possible. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, it means the teacher can see exactly who is in the lesson and that they are ok and if they are concerned about anyone, they can then deal with this outside of the lesson. It also means that the teacher is not teaching to a blank screen—we believe that being able to see who is in your lesson makes teaching a better experience for all as you know there is someone there and also can see their reactions to what you are teaching and whether they have understood what you have taught.

I do understand that asking for cameras to be switched on can cause an unnecessary strain on some of your wifi systems where there are several of you using it all at once, but if I could ask that they turn their cameras on, even if it's just for the registration, it allows the staff member to be assured that your son or daughter is ok.

I am sure there will be some teething problems along the way but would ask that you please continue to bear with us. We will get there!

#### Dates for your diary

##### Wednesday 13 January

Governors Students Committee (Virtual)

##### Thursday 14 January

Year 10 Parents Evening (Virtual)

##### Monday 18 January

Year 12 Parents Evening booking appointments closed

##### Wednesday 20 January

Year 7 Parents Evening booking appointments open



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## **Cancellation of the Summer Examination Session**

As you will know the summer exam session for both A Level and GCSE has now been cancelled.

The Secretary for Education announced that teacher assessments would replace examinations as the method for determining grades. This will be similar to the process used last year by the school. We must now await on further guidance from Ofqual and the DfE about the processes they will put in place to support schools.

We appreciate that this may cause concern and potential anxiety for some who feel they have not yet had the chance to demonstrate as much progress as they would like this year. Please be assured that students will have plenty of chances to demonstrate this over the coming months. As we did last year, teacher assessments will be holistic and will be drawn from a wide range of assessment and data sources. No single test will determine the final grade awarded to your son/daughter.

Until more information is available we ask that everyone focusses on what we can control. Students should ensure they are attending all their remote lessons, completing all work and revising their subjects thoroughly. This will allow them to be in the best possible position for any future assessments, whatever format that may take.

We ask that parents and students do not interrogate staff about any potential grades that may be awarded. They are not in a position to answer this at the moment. The guidance provided by Ofqual in 2020 was that teacher assessments were confidential right up to the point of Results Day in August and could only be challenged afterwards on the grounds of a genuine inputting mistake or proving serious malpractice in the calculation of the said grades. Whilst this position hasn't been announced, it should give you an idea of what you should possibly expect.

In the interim period, both Year 11 and 13 parents will have received reports at the end of the Autumn term and this should help to flag up to students where they need to make improvements to ensure their final grades are the best they can possibly achieve.

As we receive more information we will ,of course, share this with you.

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***PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS IS***

***29 JANUARY 2021.***

***Please head to our website for further information.***

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### Our revised timetable during this period of lockdown:

8.45am	Morning Registration for all students in Years 7-11; Year 12 and 13 students will continue to register in the small groups as they have been doing in school
9.10am	Session One for all Students (one hour 40 minutes in length)
10.50am	20 minute break
11.10am	Session Two for all Students (one hour 40 minutes in length)
12.50am	Lunch
1.50pm	Session Three for all students (one hour 40 minutes in length)
3.30pm	End of the school day

We will continue with the three session day, split as currently, into odd and even weeks. This Thursday and Friday is an 'odd' week. Week commencing Monday 11 January is an 'even' week.

We have also updated our Remote Learning Policy and, although long, will give you a wealth of information as to what we are doing and our expectations. We would ask that, as well as reading this through yourself, you also please share this with your son or daughter. The link to this policy which is on our website can be found here:

*Whilst the school is closed, staff are all still here - albeit virtually - to support students and families at this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact form tutors, heads of years, subject teachers, heads of departments or the senior team, if you have any questions or need our support. If you do need to contact any member of staff, all our email addresses can be found on the school's website.*

*The following link will take you to way these can be found: <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Staffing&pid=30>*

*As we only have a skeleton staff in school, we would ask that parents and carers do not turn up at the school unannounced, as there is unlikely to be anyone available to help them. Likewise, we would urge all parents to contact us by email as this is currently our prime means of communication.*

# Musician of the Week

We want to celebrate all of the wonderful musicians that we have here at Beths. Celebrating both performances and compositions from some of our very talented students. So, we would like to honor Nish from the Sixth Form as our first Musician of the Week. Congratulations Nish!

Each week we will be uploading a link to the video in our weekly Beths VIP. Don't forget to check it out!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHCl\\_woojPU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHCl_woojPU&feature=youtu.be)

If you would like to submit a performance or composition to be considered, please email Ms Marriott.

## **Emmanuel—our first student to receive a Lateral Flow Test**

Emmanuel is currently making use of our Lockdown Provision as both his parents are key workers. He was therefore the very first student in the school to take a Lateral Flow Test in our new testing facility which has been set up in the Sports Hall.

Emmanuel said: “The test was very quick and not too bad. I would rate the pain at 5/10; putting the swab in my throat was not bad but putting it up my nose and spinning it around for 10 seconds was quite painful.

“Overall it was a not bad test and best of all—I got a negative result!”

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## YEAR 10 PARENTS EVENING

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A reminder that the Year 10 Virtual Parents Evening will be going ahead this Thursday from 15.45. Please note that this is the first time we have used this system for a whole year group so we apologise if there are any technical issues, however our fingers and toes are crossed that it all goes well and that you find the evening helpful.

The booking system is currently open for the Year 12 Parents Evening, happening on Thursday 21 January. If you are having any problems logging in, please email [parentsevening@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:parentsevening@beths.bexley.sch.uk)

## Beths 100km Run to Brighton!

The PE Department are challenging you to run to Brighton (99.8km) over the next 5 weeks, and here's how it works...

1. You need to download the Nike Run Club app on your phone.
2. You need to register (it's free) and create a username. Please make your username your full name, with your form after your surname e.g Jake Smith 7B
3. You then need to click the add friend logo top right of the homepage. Search 'Mr C Webb Beths'. You should see my username. Add me as a friend.
4. I will then invite you to the challenge, of which you will need to accept.
5. Remember to take your phone when you run, and the distance you run will automatically be added to the overall Challenge Leaderboard!



And that's it, you're in! 100km is an average of 20km a week for the next 5 weeks. A 5km run will take you around half an hour or so, so 4 runs a week should do the trick. Try to get as many of your friends involved as possible, as it will be good have a fun day out in Brighton! Also every week the top 3 from each year group will be mentioned on the School PE and Sport Twitter, and be rewarded. Good luck!

Any issues with the app or joining the challenge, then please message me directly on Teams. Members of staff are more than welcome to get involved too!

### **Possible solution for anyone who does not have a camera or microphone on their home device**

You could buy a small usb webcam online, alternatively you can use your phone alongside the computer. Teams allows a user to join with two devices. You can have the lesson on your desktop (clearer/larger) but can also access the lesson from your phone Teams app to take advantage of the camera and microphone.

# Careers

## **HSBC Work Experience**

We have some really exciting news to share, HSBC Work Experience is now live!

Opportunities across the whole of the UK, in financial services, investment banking, marketing, digital, compliance and HR.

The Work Experience opportunities will be available through June to August 2021 and will be one week long.

Open to all secondary school or college students in Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13, applications close on 21st February!

If you have any questions about applying, please get in contact!

**Application Link:** <https://bit.ly/3rjRjT2>

## **Marks & Spencer's Webinar**

2020 has proven how much retail means to our communities, so why not be a part of transforming it at one of the UK's most iconic brands.

M&S are recruiting Retail Management and Fashion apprentices across the UK, giving you the ultimate fast track to managing your own department and looking after multi million pound budgets, all while being coached and mentored by their retail management experts.

If you'd like to consider applying for a M&S apprenticeship program and are interested in Business, Retail, Management or Fashion then you can find your unique sign up application link below to this webinar!

### **Key Details:**

- Thursday 28th January, 5pm - 6pm
- Insight to M&S (one of the UK's most iconic brands)
- Open to all Year 12 and Year 13 students

Great opportunity for students looking to get into business, management, retail or fashion!

**Webinar Application Link:** <https://www.research.net/r/Marks-Spencer-Webinar>

# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

To be part of this amazing fundraising option please follow the steps below:



Please go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and search for Beths Parents Association. You need to start each shopping session at the URL [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk). Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible purchases. It doesn't cost anything.



If you shop elsewhere online, please join Easyfundraising. Again, it costs nothing and Beths PA will automatically receive a donation. You can sign up at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/BethsPA](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/BethsPA) and we will automatically receive a donation anytime you shop. If you are eligible, please also give gift aid to maximise the donation.

Thank you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact us at [beths.parents.association@gmail.com](mailto:beths.parents.association@gmail.com) if you have any queries or ideas about how we can raise funds and support our children through this challenging time.

## BETHS ALUMNI

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*If you are a past student of BETHS or Beths Grammar School and have some photos, videos or even an article you have written about your memories of Beths and where you are today and you would like to share, please email [headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk)*

### When tested for Covid...

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If your son or daughter is tested for Covid-19, please alert the school and do not allow them to return until they have received a negative test result. Again, should they be unfortunate enough to test positive, please inform the school immediately so that we can alert the LCRC for guidance.

Similarly, should anyone within your household take a test for Covid-19, we ask that your child remain at home until the test results are known. If the result is positive, they will need to continue to remain at home isolating for 14 days from the start of the symptoms or, if there were none, for 14 days from the date the test was taken.

If you have any queries regarding isolation and what you should do, please contact the school and we will try to help you out.

We would also like to reassure you that we will also endeavour to include your son or daughter in lessons as they are taught. We have had some excellent lessons taking place within the classroom with absent students taking part at the same time via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.



## Student Behaviour Outside of School

We regularly receive emails and phone calls from members of the local community regarding our students conduct within Bexley Village and beyond. Please remind them that in wearing school uniform, they are representing the School and need to be more aware and respectful of others. Please ask them to refrain from using foul and inappropriate language either to each other or members of the public in the Village as it directly impacts upon the reputation of the School.

### **Beths Grammar School**

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**Hartford Road**  
**Bexley**  
**DA5 1NE**

**Phone: 01322 556 538**  
**Email: [admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk)**