

BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers,

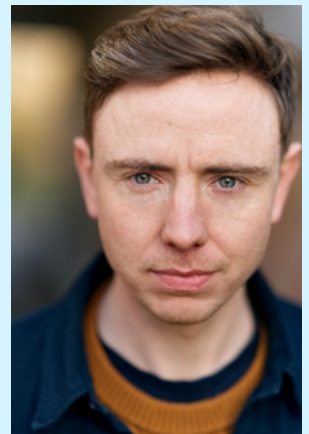


On Monday we welcomed our new Year 7s and 12s to our school community, it was great to see our new scholars settle in and find their feet around the school. We welcomed the rest of our scholars on Tuesday and again, they settled back in well and remembered their lanyards! We look forward to seeing them flourish over the academic year.

On Thursday we held our Presentation Awards ceremony for scholars of 2022-2023 and again, welcomed back our leavers to collect their award. We were delighted to have Alex Cobb, former student at BETHS (2000-2007), deliver a touching and inspirational speech to the scholars, encouraging all present be prepared, work hard and follow their dreams.

Alex studied Drama, Film Studies and English Lit at A Level. He graced the school's stage in school productions, with leading roles in Little Shop of Horrors, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui and Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.

Following his highly successful accomplishments at Beths, Alex studied at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) 2008-2011. Since graduating Alex has collected a wide variety of credits across Film, TV, Theatre, Radio and Video Games.



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His TV credits include two seasons of Indian Summers (C4) with Dame Julie Walters, three seasons of Grace (ITV) with John Simm and Parade's End (HBO) with Benedict Cumberbatch. Alex has also featured in many well-known series such as Call the Midwife, Mr Selfridge, Ripper Street, Vera, The Outlaws and Whitstable Pearl. 2022 saw Alex break through to the Marvel Extended Universe, starring in Moon Knight (Disney +), sharing the screen memorably with Oscar Isaac.

His theatre work is equally impressive, including Antony & Cleopatra (National Theatre) with Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo, Red Velvet (West End) as part of Kenneth Branagh's Theatre Company and a run with the Royal Shakespeare Company in The Duchess of Malfi, a Jacobean revenge tragedy by John Webster.

He can be seen later this year in Top Boy (Netflix), Father Brown and Boiling Point (BBC).

I look forward to sharing more news with you as the term continues.

Kind regards,
Richard Blyghton



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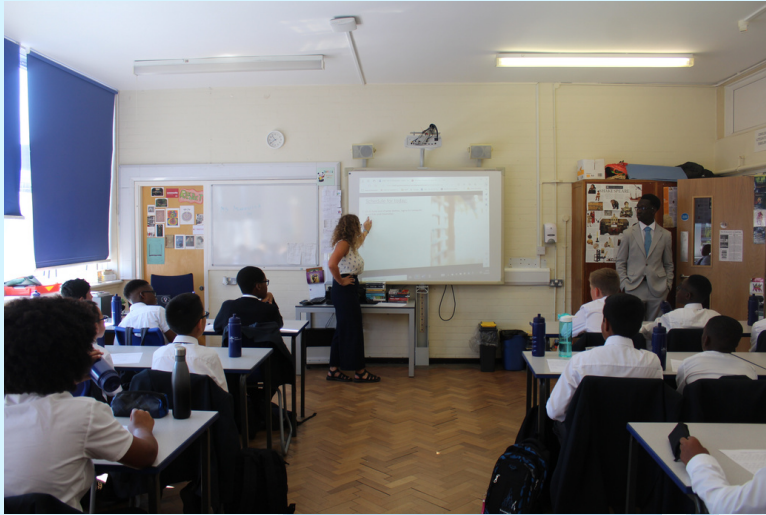
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WELCOME YEAR 7, YEAR 12 AND OUR NEW STUDENTS

Our Year 7 students are settling in well on their first day. So far they have undertaken a school tour in the form of a treasure hunt and participated in a range of ice breakers and activities. Welcome to Beths!



YEAR 7 SPORTS

Throughout the week our Year 7 students had the opportunity to try a range of sports including football, rugby and basketball. On Saturday we held our sports trails to try out for our sports teams! Well done to all those who participated.



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STUDENT PHOTOSGRAPHS

On Friday we held our annual school photos. This was an opportunity for students in Year 7, 9, 10 and 12 to take new solo pictures. Well done to our wonderful prefect team in helping in the smooth running of the event



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DAY TRIP TO PARIS - JULY 2023

On Wednesday 19th July, Ms James and Ms Bridge led a group of 20 enthusiastic French students from years 9, 10, and 12 on a whirlwind trip to the City of Lights!

The day began with a very early start – at 4:30am we boarded the coach to St Pancras International. Students were in high spirits as we boarded the Eurostar to Paris, ready for a day of adventure!

One of the unique aspects of this trip was that it was conducted entirely in French by native speakers living in Paris. This provided our students with an incredible opportunity to practice their language skills in an authentic environment.

After meeting our guides for the day, our first stop was to a local boulangerie, where the students got to order their own French pastries – they were blown away by the delicious flavours and artful presentation. One student described his croissant as “eye opening – the best I’ve ever had!”



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We then started our tour in the cobbled medieval streets of the Latin Quarter and Saint Germain, passing amazing sites like Shakespeare & Co. bookstore and Café de Flore where Picasso, Sartre and Hemingway found their inspiration, before crossing to the Cité and Saint Louis islands to reach the Notre Dame Cathedral. Our knowledgeable guides shared the history and significance of this legendary site, making it all the more meaningful.



From here, we walked through Place Dauphine, learnt about the history of the Palais-Royal, and stopped for lunch in a little park by the Seine. However, the pinnacle of our day was yet to come.

Students were unanimous in saying that the highlight of our trip was the river cruise along the Seine, offering unparalleled views of the Eiffel Tower. The iconic landmark was a breath-taking sight, and sailing beneath it was undoubtedly an experience that we will never forget.



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DAY TRIP TO PARIS - JULY 2023

Next on our adventure, we walked along the river and had the opportunity to stop at the Bouquinistes to buy souvenirs, from postcards and keychains to second-hand books and posters before crossing the Pont des Arts (once famous for its love locks) to reach the Louvre. The world's largest and most famous museum was once the palace of the French kings, and the motifs built into the architecture had many secrets to reveal.



Our afternoon was spent strolling through the luxurious Tuileries Garden that inspired the garden of Versailles and discovering the history of Place de la Concorde, the site of many notable public executions during the French Revolution, including those of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.



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DAY TRIP TO PARIS - JULY 2023

We ended our day of cultural immersion walking from east to west along the Champs Élysées, the most famous avenue in Paris with its high-end shops and cafes, giving students one last chance to soak up the city's ambiance and practice their French while shopping for souvenirs, authentic literature and buying a well-deserved ice-cream!



The day trip to Paris was an educational and immersive experience that brought our French language studies to life. Students returned home with a deeper appreciation for French culture and language, and memories that will last a lifetime. Paris, tu nous manques déjà! (Paris, we miss you already!)



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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 www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time, often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch. Viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast: such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for unsuitable content and poses some risks to children: it's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

AGE RESTRICTION

13+ 16+ 18+

Age varies by platform

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require proof of age at sign up – meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be older or younger than they actually are). In many cases, this means that young live streamers can never be totally certain exactly who they are broadcasting to and who is engaging with their live stream.

DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO

A characteristic of live streaming is the ability for videos to be instantly shared worldwide. Without the correct privacy settings enabled, a child could inadvertently reveal personal information or their location, making them vulnerable to online predators or identify theft. It's wise to regularly check the privacy settings (and what data is being shared) on any apps your child has signed up for.

ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN

As the video streams are live, children might encounter (or inadvertently share) inappropriate content. Most live-streaming apps have rules to prevent this and monitor their services, also providing report buttons where content can be flagged for review. It may not be dealt with instantly, however, meaning that your child could be further exposed to harmful content during a live stream.

UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS

Each live streaming platform stores completed videos for different periods (Twitch saves broadcasts for 60 days, for example, while Facebook and YouTube remove them only at the creator's request). Deleting a video, though, doesn't always stop it from being shared: in some cases, streams have been illegally recorded (or screenshots taken) by certain viewers and redistributed on other sites.

ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS

Children can also watch other people's live streams, which could potentially contain anything at any time (such as nudity, drug use or profanity). Most apps claim to monitor live streams and will stop any that don't adhere to their guidelines – but with millions of streams per day, it's complicated to regulate them all, so children could be exposed to inappropriate content without parents knowing.

DANGER OF GROOMING

There are increasing reports of children being coerced into performing "suggestive acts" by strangers on some live-streaming apps. Due to the lack of verification required for certain apps, almost anyone can sign up to these services (including anonymously or under a fake identity). It's vital, therefore, to ensure the correct safety measures are in place before your child begins live streaming.

Advice for Parents & Carers

PUT PRIVACY FIRST

Through the streaming app's settings, switch your child's account to 'private', so only their friends and followers can see their broadcasts. You could also turn off the live chat, shielding your child from any upsetting comments – although viewers' feedback is often seen as an integral part of the fun. Identify any nearby items (such as school uniforms or visible landmarks) that could give away your child's location.

MANAGE MULTISTREAMING

Some apps and sites let users stream their content through multiple social media platforms at once. A broadcast on SteamYard, for example, can be shared on YouTube, Twitch, X and Facebook if the accounts are linked. The privacy settings can differ on each of these, so we'd suggest only streaming via one platform at a time to maintain greater control over who's watching your child's videos.

GET INVOLVED YOURSELF

Research suggests a significant number of streams show a child on their own, often in a supposed safe space like their bedroom. If your child wants to live stream, ask if you could be present because you're interested in how it works. You could even set up your own account to gain a more detailed knowledge of what your child talks about in their live streams – and who they're broadcasting to.

TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING

Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming apps your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's unwise to reveal personal information while streaming (even to friends). If you feel your child's too young for live streams, explain your reasoning to them and perhaps agree to review this decision in the future.

CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION

As the broadcasts are live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply 'vanishes' once the stream ends. However, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Meet Our Expert

Rhodie Smith is Head of Digital Learning at Thomas's Kensington, London. Recognised in the EdTech 50 UK Awards Yearbook 2022 for his efforts in the digital transformation of Cubitt Town Primary School and Tower Hamlets. He is also a Google for Education Certified Trainer and guest lecturer at University College London on the integration of technology across the curriculum.



Source: <https://www.taf.org.uk/media/23/3/nc2/distribution-of-captures-of-live-streamed-child-sexual-abuse-final.pdf>

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