



Excellence—Community—Respect—Nurture

Beths Grammar School

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyghton



BETHS VIP (Very Important Publication)

Messages from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

You may have noticed that we have re-designed this publication – we hope you like it. You may also see that, somewhere within this VIP, we have used a phrase using these initials (VIP) and plan to come up with a new phrase each week – just to have a bit of fun and to try and make you read the whole publication!

Following a number of parental requests that we reinstate a parents evening for both Year 7 and 8 students, we are in the process of confirming plans and hope to be able to offer a ‘virtual’ parents evening (which may take place during the school day), during the final week of this term. Further details regarding both these events will follow shortly.

I was delighted to be made aware that one of our Year 7 students is a published author! Congratulations to Jesse Nwagbara – what an incredible achievement! If you would like to read his book, you can find it on Amazon and it is entitled: ‘My Imaginary Friend’.



We eagerly await the Government’s next announcement as to whether they will be opening the country up on Monday 21 June. This announcement will allow us to make final decisions on events currently in our calendar. We have agreed, however, that our new Year 7 students will be invited into school for their induction on Tuesday 6 July, and the programme for the day will be dependent upon any announcement.

A reminder that, for everyone’s safety, we strongly recommended that students continue undertaking Lateral Flow Testing and, should anyone require any additional tests, please ask your son or daughter to go to Reception for these.

Finally from me, some of you may have watched the first episode of the new Avenger’s series ‘Loki’ on Wednesday on Disney+. I was delighted when Mr Russell came rushing over on Thursday to say that the Director of the entire series was ex-student, Kate Herron, who he taught Film Studies A Level to! We are now looking to contact her to see if she will come into school and talk to our current students about her career so far and, perhaps even allow us to ‘put her in the spotlight’.



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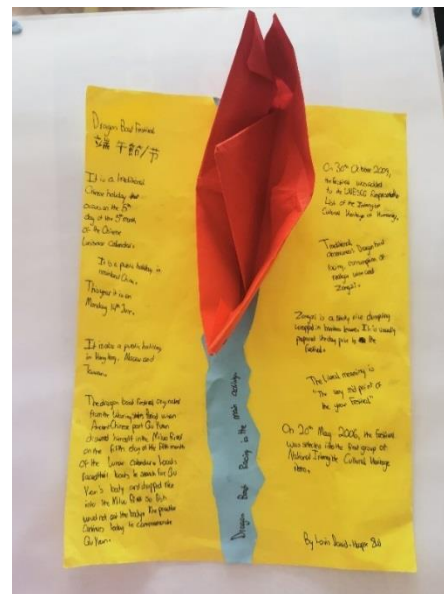
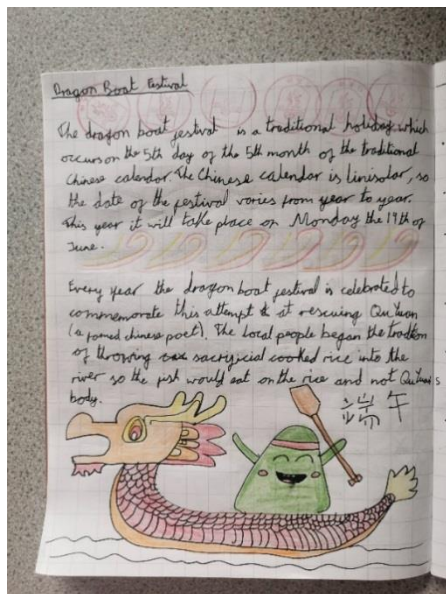
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Date Published: 11 June 2021

What's been happening in class?.....

Dragon Boat Festival By Louis David-Hooper 8W

We learnt all about the Dragon Boat Festival, a traditional holiday in China. We followed a traditional Chinese video on handcrafting paper boats for the Festival, and made posters on the research we did. As well as learning about the origins of the celebration, we also learnt about the food prepared and eaten during the holiday, and how it is celebrated, not just in China, but all across the world. It is believed by many that the Dragon Boat Festival originated from the suicide of Qu Yuan, a poet from the Chu Kingdom, in 278BC. The celebration is held to commemorate his death, and the boat racing is because the people of Chu Kingdom went searching for his body in the Miluo River, after Qu Yuan jumped in with a heavy stone tied to his chest at the age of 61. His people desperately attempted to save him, but had no luck. This year, the festival is on Monday 14th June 2021. It changes every year in the solar calendar as China has a lunar calendar, which means it relies on the Moon. The traditional food eaten is zongzi (rice dumplings) wrapped in bamboo leaves. A boiled sticky rice and mugwort cake, known as dagao, is also eaten. People drink realgar wine, and eat pancakes too. The Dragon Boat Festival is a very exciting time for many around the world, and is unlike any other national holiday. To many people's surprise, the Boat Racing is not the sole aspect of this holiday.



Carrying on with the Mandarin classes, our Year 11 students who started in 2016 at Beths Grammar School have now completed their KS4 study. Time flies!

Please find below the link to a video of their 5 year journey both in China and in the UK. They all loved it when they watched in the class!

[Beths Grammar School - Mandarin](#)



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Year 11 Futures Week by Jack Ead, 11E

During Year 11 Futures Week, many students were lucky enough to experience a motivational and interesting talk with a corporate lawyer from the prestigious city law firm, Macfarlanes. Sarah-Louise advised on claims in relation to employment, trusts and probate, competition, tax and general commercial/corporate matters. She had also spent time on secondment at Vision Capital LLP and is a member of the Junior London Solicitor Litigation Association. After Year 11 students had spent a significant amount of time in a state of deliberation as to what questions they should ask first, they began to discover more about life as a corporate lawyer. Overall, every student present at the time left with a greater understanding of what is required to pursue a career in law, and how this can affect their ambitions for the future.

Events this week

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome back a Police Officer from SCO10 - the Specialist Fire Arms Command of the Metropolitan Police who was here to talk to our Year 10 students about the issues surrounding 'gangs', 'consent' and sharing too much on social media and how, like the current issues in the news surrounding the cricketers at the moment, something they post now, could easily come back to haunt them in many years to come. He went through the implications and we think made quite an impact on the year group.

We have now booked him in to come and visit our new Year 7 students, during their induction period in September, although the content of his presentation will be age-appropriately adjusted.



Dates for the Diary

Saturday 12 June	The Queen's Birthday
Thursday 17 June	Year 8 Student Council Meeting
Sunday 20 June	World Refugee Day



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Sports Fixtures and Results

Results

CRICKET				
08.06.2021	Tony Church Trophy	U14 v CSGS	Away	No Match
09.06.2021	U12 T20	U12 v Harvey GS	Away	Won – 6 wickets and 99 runs

Next week's fixtures

BASKETBALL			
15.06.2021	Friendly	U14 v Canterbury High School	Away



Congratulations to our winning U12 Cricket team!



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Musician of the Week

This week's musician of the week is Ewan, 8W. He climbed Mount Snowden during Half Term and brought with him his ukulele. When he reached the top, he did a little performance.

Please click the below link to watch his video:

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Music+%26amp%3B+Performing+Arts&pid=55&action=saved>

If you would like to be considered for Musician of the Week, please send your entries to Ms Marriott.

Student achievements outside of Beths Grammar

Alastair participated in last weekend's Kent Young Athletes League competition representing his club, Central Park Athletics. It was his first time competing in high jump and shot putt, and he also competed in the 1500m and a 4x100m relay.

He will be competing again in the next meet of the league in July.

Well done Alastair!



If you are part of a club outside of school and participate in any competitions/challenges, please let us know – we would love to celebrate your achievements!
headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk



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Spotlight on Beths Grammar School Alumni

I've been part of the Charlton Athletic Academy from the age of 7 and having joined Beths in September 2014, I immediately felt at home, met by the warmth of all staff from the then Headteacher, Mr Skinner to all of the new teachers who taught me on a weekly basis. Being more sports orientated, Beths exposed me to a variety of sports to which I could compete and learn within a team environment whilst simultaneously providing a demanding educational programme to ensure I could keep pushing myself on an Academic level. Looking back now, I will always carry some of my fondest memories in Year 9 when the school football team went unbeaten the whole season and won the treble, including the national cup. By Year 10 the school allowed me to have one day off to train at Charlton each week in the good faith my academic results would not suffer. At the end of Year 11, I had come out with seven 9's, three 8's and 1 A* at GCSE level and a football scholarship offer.

After long deliberation about the next step for my footballing career, my decision was made easy due to the timetable flexibility Beths were able to offer in order to allow me to pursue my passion whilst also attain my chosen A levels in Maths, Economics and Chemistry. This would not have been possible without the humility and humble nature of the Headteacher, Mr Blyghton, who personally worked with me for one double period a week on Maths. At the time of writing this I'm predicted 3 A*s and have secured a professional contract so I'm delighted to now pursue my passion of playing football full time. Looking back, I've learnt to value that not only has Beths provided me with the academic tools to move on in life but also emphasised the importance to becoming a good person first. This can be exemplified, not only by the words of teachers, but the actions every day. There is no better example of this than the Headteacher leading by example to set a positive culture within the school.

Whilst I believe ultimately you get out what you put in, there is no doubt in my mind that Beths as a school have played an integral part in me growing up as a human being and aspiring individual.

By Richard Chin



We love to hear from any of our ex-students as to what they have achieved since leaving Beths so, please do keep us updated!

Contact us at headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk with any career updates and also photos, videos or even articles you have written about your memories of the school—we would love to share them with current staff and students.



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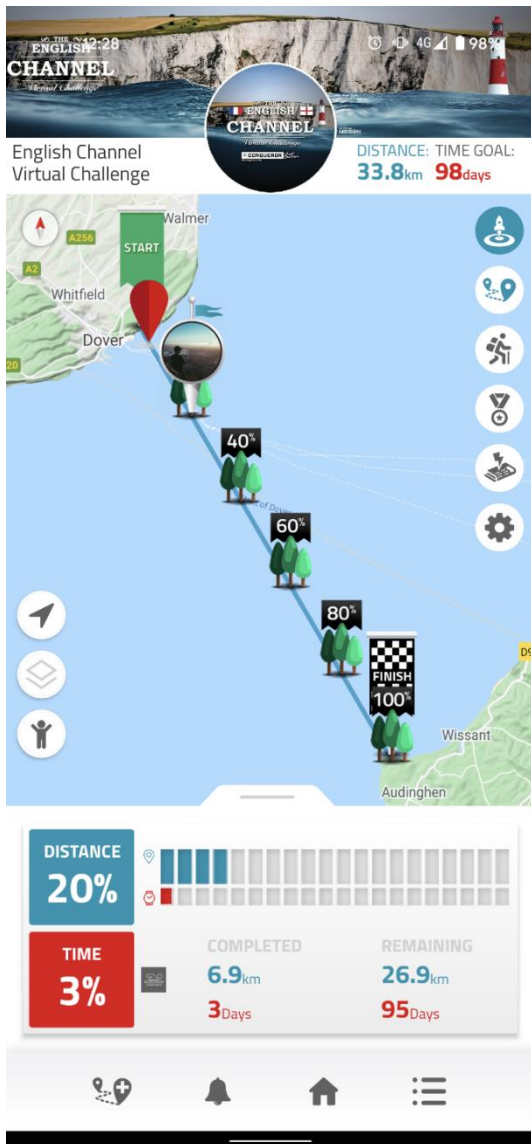


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English Channel Challenge

I am undertaking a virtual swimming challenge across the English Channel as a way of keeping fit and thought it might be good to include regular updates on my distance throughout the next few weeks. I've already completed 6.9km/33.8km and I have set my goal to arrive in France by the end of the summer - easily achievable I think.

The challenge that I have signed up for has a small entry fee and for every 20% that I complete, they will plant a new tree – a vitally important positive to ensure our planet’s longevity. Details are below about the challenge so why not sign up and see if you can race me.



TREE COUNTER

So far we have planted:

2,547,950 Trees

Plant a real tree for every 20% of a challenge that you complete.

[Learn more here](#)

Mr D Metcalfe



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Parents Association

Our goal is to raise £10,000 and this means we will be able to support the following fantastic projects:

Outdoor chess tables – £2,000

Musical instruments – £2,000

Lighting for drama – £1,000

Radio Bets – £5,000

We have many more **ambitious future projects**, and one of these may well include a new mini bus for away PE fixtures!

Please keep checking on our website page for upcoming events!

[Beths Grammar School - Parents Association](#)



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Careers

STEM & Medical Sciences Work Experience—Ages 12-18

'Live Online' or In-Person at UCL



***Architecture—Computer Science—Dentistry—Engineering—
Investment Banking—Medicine—Psychology— Veterinary Medicine***

Register now for unique opportunity to work alongside experienced engineers, doctors, psychologists, vets and others this term. Students can choose to attend 'Live Online' before Easter or in-person later in April. Our in-person events have strict COVID measures in place.

[Choose Your STEM Work Experience - InvestIN Education](#)

[Choose Your Work Experience \(Ages 12-14\) - InvestIN Education](#)



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