

Week ending 12 February 2021

# BETHS VIP

## (Very Important Publication)



### Messages from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

We have made it to the end of this half term! It's been a different year and I am sure that, this time last February, none of us could have predicted the year we have had!

I think that you will all agree that this lockdown has been far greater than the first one we experienced in March 2020. Our on-line teaching has improved immeasurably—the compliments we are receiving daily from parents have been a real lift to our teaching staff. I believe the best thing we did this time was to try and create as close to a 'normal' school day as possible for students which has enabled them to have a routine—which is always a good thing.

However, next week, I expect students, and parents if possible, to enjoy a well earned break from lessons. I know that this won't be a normal half term break where you can meet up with friends and head out to the cinema, but why not have a lay in, read a good book or learn a new skill!

Later in the VIP you will see some ideas for books that students might enjoy reading over half term that our English Department have kindly put together.

As you will be aware, we are waiting for the Government's announcement on schools on Monday 22 February, as well as the result following Ofqual's recent consultation regarding GCSE and A Levels and will be in touch with all parents as soon as we have had the chance to consider and make decisions on both of these.

#### Dates for your diary

[Monday 22 February](#)

First day back

[Thursday 25 February](#)

Year 9 Parents Evening  
(Postponed)



Beths Grammar School



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Beths Grammar

# 新年快乐！Xīnnián kuàilè!

## Happy New Year!



Chinese New Year is on the day of the second full moon after the December solstice. Every year is named after one of the Chinese zodiac animals. They are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Goat, Cat, Rooster, Dog and Pig. It is believed that the animals originate from a myth about a Chinese Emperor who got the 12 animals to race across a river. The order of the Chinese zodiac years were decided by where the animals placed in the race. The rat won the race by riding on the ox's back. Therefore, the first year was the year of the rat and the second was the year of the ox and so on.

Lunar new year is a widely celebrated event in China and is celebrated by dragon dancing, large family meals and giving friends and family money. To commemorate the festival, I decided to draw a picture with all of the zodiac animals. I decided to colour them in red, with gold for additional detail, this is because red and gold are lucky colours in Chinese culture. I also decided to do some research on this historic festival as well as learning the characters for all the zodiac animals.

This year is the year of the Ox, which is also the zodiac animal for my birth year (2009). People born in the year of the ox are very patient and work hard to achieve their goals. They are also confident and remain calm in a crisis.

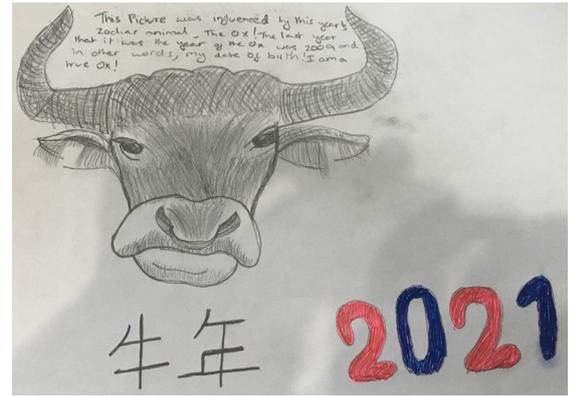
新年快乐！

Harry R, Year 7



Chinese New Year 2021 falls on Friday 12th February. This will be the year of the Ox – an animal that symbolises strength and determination. Usually, people in the UK celebrate by attending events with dancing dragons and parades in London. But this year celebrations will be different as we are in lockdown. In our Mandarin classes we have been looking at different ways of embracing Chinese New Year. One task was to create a piece of art that symbolised the year of the Ox. I designed my piece to resemble a Chinese lantern, a hanging decoration that would look festive in our house. I used red and black card, concertinaed like fans to create a circle and then added a cartoon image of an ox. I also added the Mandarin characters for the Year of the Ox. For the loop and hanging tassel I used black and white ribbons. I really enjoyed researching the variety of festive creations that people have made and I discovered a great deal about the Chinese New Year.

By George I, Year 7



There are 12 animals in the Chinese Zodiac: the rat, the ox, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the sheep, the monkey, the rooster, the dog, and the pig.

The Chinese New Year red envelope is a traditional gift for children during Chinese New Year. Wrapping lucky money in red envelopes is expected to bestow more happiness and blessings on the receivers. Hence, it is impolite to open a red envelope in front of the person who gives it to you.

Traditional food for the Chinese in the Chinese New Year is: Dumplings, Spring Rolls, Niangao, Sweet Rice Balls, and tangerines.

I've always liked doing paper craft for doing this paper sculpture from Ecogami to calendar for 2021.

It has been much more meaningful to me as the Chinese during the new year. I love interesting and Miss Li is a really fun teacher mandarin journey.



By Vincent T, Year 7

example origami, and I really enjoyed represent the Ox of the Chinese lunar

I have learnt lots, like the traditions of learning mandarin as it is really who has helped me through my

## Beths 100km Run to Brighton!

And you've made it! 100km to Brighton. How do you all feel? Even if you didn't quite make it all the way—did you all enjoy the challenge?

Well done to everyone who is participating. Sport and exercise is such a great thing for everyone—mentally and physically.

**COMIC  
RELIEF**

### Are you ready to participate in our next challenge?

Everyone, irrespective of their fitness level will be able to participate in this challenge and it is for a great cause, Comic Relief (Friday 19 March 2021)

We have looked towards an aspirational goal this time and so will be running, walking, cycling, cross training or rowing (for all those who have home gym equipment) from the school to the University of Oxford (virtually, of course!). This will be a 100 mile challenge or 160km. On average, therefore you will need to run/cycle/walk 20 miles a week, for the next five weeks.

We understand that this is a huge challenge for a lot of people but even just participating is a reward in itself. You have decided to take something, head on and make your way to reach a goal.

As this is for Comic Relief we would like to ask everyone taking part to either get sponsored, perhaps for every 5 or 10 miles or even donate yourselves once you reach the target of 100 miles.

Here are the steps to sign up to the challenge:

1. Download the Strava app on your mobile device, or sign up online if you do not have a smartphone.
2. Sign up and enter your details – please note that there is an age restriction of 13 years old. Therefore you need parental permission to sign up, or may have to use parents details. Please also enter your House letter or Form Group, as House points will be awarded.
3. Click Explore at the bottom, and then Clubs at the top. Search Beths Grammar School, and join the club.

You can now use the app to track your distances for whatever type of activity you are doing! You can also manually enter your distances in case you are unable to download the app.

Track your distance and your challenge is to reach 160km in the next five weeks!

If anyone would like to share an image of them taking part in the challenge that would be great – especially if you are doing it on a scooter! Please send all footage to [mrwebb@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:mrwebb@beths.bexley.sch.uk), or alternatively tag the Beths PE and Sport Twitter.

You are probably raring to go and the Challenge starts at 5.00pm this afternoon. So, off you go and good luck!



Year 11 Futures Conference took place on Saturday 30th January with over 50 Year 11's taking part. This online conference was organised by the Junior Prefect Team as part of their leadership development. The conference involved a focus on careers helping students learn directly from accountants, lawyers, engineers, software designers, NHS therapists and even an architect. It also involved a look to the future of the planet and after a lively debate it was decided that the climate emergency must be tackled using action on local, national and international levels through multinational cooperation and local action while not prohibiting the economic development of the developing world.

We definitely have some future politicians in Year 11.



# Musician of the Week

Congratulations to both Levi and Matas, in Year 9 who are this week's Musician of the Week. Check out the video on our social media pages, or on our website:

[Beths Grammar School - Music & Performing Arts](#)

We have had so many students send in their submissions for Musician of the Week—it's great to see that we have so many talented students!

If you would like to be considered for Musician of the Week, ***please email [msmarriott@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:msmarriott@beths.bexley.sch.uk)***.

**Reading is the most extraordinary and powerful act** that a student can engage in.

Reading makes it possible to go out into the world as an interesting, thoughtful, sensitive, knowledgeable person; to develop socially, culturally, spiritually and philosophically as well as academically; to be able to express oneself with beauty, clarity, precision and sophistication; and to develop intellectual curiosity, an enquiring mind and – perhaps most importantly – a lifelong love of learning.

Below are lists of books that students, and parents alike, can delve into and explore. If you have a spare moment, even during the upcoming Half Term, pick a book and have a read. Let us know which books you're reading and what you think! Do you have any good book recommendations?

### Books *that will...*

#### *...change the way you think*

- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- A Streetcat Names Bob by James Bowen
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
- Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
- Wonder by RJ Palacio
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

#### *...scare you*

- 1984 by George Orwell
- Lord Loss by Darren Shan
- The Rats by James Herbert
- The Shining by Stephen King
- The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks
- Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson

**...help you understand you**

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger

The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

The Outsiders by SE Hinton

**...make you cry**

The Colour Purple by Alice Walker

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

**...thrill you**

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones by Cassandra Clare

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Gone by Michael Grant

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy

The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins

**...teach you about love**

- We Were Liars by E Lockhart
- The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- Forever by Judy Blume
- Twilight by Stephanie Meyer
- How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff
- Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

**...inspire you**

- Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls
- Letters of Note: Correspondence Deserving a Wider Audience by Shaun Usher
- Penguin Books of World War One Series
- Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt
- Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer
- Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
- Touching the Void by Joe Simpson
- I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

**...make you laugh**

- Catch 22 by Joseph Heller
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾ by Sue Townsend
- Geek Girl by Holly Smale
- Angus, Thongs and Full-frontal Snogging by Louise Rennison
- Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson

**...transport you**

- Harry Potter series by JK Rowling
- The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien
- Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan
- Life of Pi by Yann Martel
- Northern Lights by Philip Pullman
- The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald

***Happy reading !***

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**

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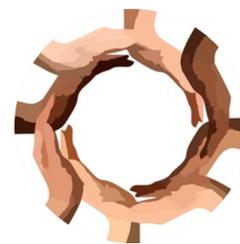
## EMAILING STAFF

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If your email to staff is to multiple members of staff, please can we ask that you cc everyone in. We have had occasions where emails have been sent to multiple staff members, separately, resulting in issues either being missed or duplicated.



***The Multicultural Committee  
now have their very own  
Instagram page:***



***@multiculturalcommittee***

# BETHS ALUMNI

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](mailto: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.

## PARENTS ASSOCIATION

### **Please find below Monthly Draw Winners for February 2021**

1st Prize - Aidan L in 8A with winning number 28

2nd Prize - Jason O In 9B with winning number 55



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.

# Careers

## Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the Veterinary Profession

Click [here](#) for more information.



Please head to [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) for a career planner quiz.

## **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***



can

Register now for unique opportunity to work alongside experienced engineers, doctors, psychologists vets and others this term. Students 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](#)



We are delighted to announce the InvestIn *"Success Beyond School"* events for this term: **free-of-charge** interactive 'Live Online' seminars designed to help parents supercharge their children's career potential.

**Wednesday 24th February: The Skills Surgery**

How to break into careers in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science

**Wednesday 3rd March: The Power of Networks**

How your child can build a powerful professional network

**These events are for parents of students aged 12-18 and free to attend.**

[Parent Event Series - InvestIN Education](#)



Most of the GP spaces have filled up until the end of March now - but we do have spaces on our "Virtual Ward Round Course". We actually built a hospital ward where we can live-stream hospital patient cases directly to aspiring medical students. I have included details of the next Ward Round Live course below:

**Next available course:**

**Name:** Ward Round Live

**Ages:** 15+

**Next Date:** 15th February 2021

**Time:** 10am - 4pm

**Link:** <https://educationprojects.co.uk/medical-projects/ward-round-live/>

For more information on careers and apprenticeships, please head over to our website.

[Beths Grammar School - Career and Apprenticeship Information](#)

There is now information on Summer Schools 2021 on our Super Curriculum page. Please take a look to see if there is anything there that interests you.

[Beths Grammar School - Super Curriculum](#)

We are currently living through unusual and exceptional times and it may be that you, or a member of your family, are experiencing difficulties and need some form of support. Below is a list of a variety of helplines, which may be able to help:

**Samaritans** – 116 123

**SANEline** – [http://www.sane.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/support/helpline](http://www.sane.org.uk/what_we_do/support/helpline) or 0300 304 7000.

SANEline is a national out-of-hours mental health helpline offering specialist emotional support, guidance and information to anyone affected by mental illness, including family, friends and carers. We are open every day of the year from 4.30pm to 10.30pm

**CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably)** – 0800 58 58 58 or <https://www.thecalmzone.net/>

Anyone can hit crisis point. We run a free and confidential helpline and webchat – 7 hours a day, 7 days a week for anyone who needs to talk about life's problems. We support those bereaved by suicide, through the Support After Suicide Partnership (SASP).

**Drinkline – The National Alcohol Helpline** - 0300 123 1110 or <https://www.wellaware.org.uk/organisation/drinkline-the-national-alcohol-helpline/>

Confidential advice and information on all aspects of alcohol. Calls are free.

Drinkline offers the following services:

- \* Information and self-help materials
- \* Help to callers worried about their own drinking
- \* Support to the family and friends of people who are drinking
- \* Advice to callers on where to go for help

**Talk to Frank** – 0300 1236600 or <https://www.talktofrank.com/>

Targeted confidential advice for young people around all legal and illicit substances.

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** – <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/> or 0808 2000 247

**CRUSE Bereavement Care** – <https://www.cruse.org.uk/> or 0808 808 1677

Cruse offers telephone, email and website support. We have a Freephone national helpline and local services, and a website ([hopeagain.org.uk](http://hopeagain.org.uk)) specifically for children and young people. Our services are provided by our network of 5,000 trained volunteers and are confidential and free. Cruse also provides training and consultancy for external organisations and for those who may encounter bereaved people in the course of their work.

## **Beths Grammar School**

**Hartford Road**

**Bexley**

**DA5 1NE**

**Phone: 01322 556 538**

**Email: [admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk)**