

Week ending 13 November 2020

BETHS VIP

(Very Important Publication)



Message from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

We would like to welcome you all to our new *Beths VIP (Very Important Publication)*. This replaces the weekly school blog and will contain all the important information from the school, rather than sending out various emails to you throughout the week. Please ensure that you read all the articles within this document. Please note that, should we need to send any urgent pieces of information which can not wait until the end of the week, we will forward these to you separately.

On Wednesday 11 November, as we are currently unable to host full school assemblies like we have done in the past, Mr O'Brien held a Remembrance Service through Powerpoint, which was played to all classes at 10.45am.

Mr O'Brien read two poems written by William Walker, the 'Last Post' was played and everyone in the school bowed their heads for the one minute silence. It was a time for reflection, thanking of and honour to those who fell and have fallen in the defence of freedom.



Dates for your diary

[Friday 13 November](#)

Children in Need

[Saturday 14 November](#)

Diwali

[Thursday 19 November](#)

Year 12 Student Council Meeting

[Monday 23 November](#)

Open Event for Sixth Form Students (Internal/External) goes live on our website

[Tuesday 24 November](#)

Year 11 Trial Exams commence in the Hall

[Thursday 26 November](#)

Year 13 Student Council Meeting

[Wednesday 2 December](#)

Year 11 Trial Exams finish

[Thursday 3 December](#)

Full Student Council Meeting

[Friday 4 December](#)

Year 9 Reports issued to parents



Beths Grammar School



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Beths Grammar

Mask Exemption

Should your son or daughter be exempt from wearing a face mask, for medical reasons, you should contact the school at headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk attaching the evidence of medical exemption, in order for us to issue a lanyard to be worn in school. Whilst not wishing to highlight any underlying health concerns, we want it to be quick and easy for staff and students to identify that some members of

our school community who are not wearing masks are doing so for legitimate reasons, enabling us all to be more supportive of each other. It would avoid the need to challenge such individuals who are genuine in their not covering their face.

**I am exempt
from wearing
a face
covering.**



As we move into a second National Lockdown, albeit, this time, with the schools remaining open, we continue to follow the Government's advice and are updating our Covid-19 Risk Assessment (RA) accordingly. A reminder that, should you wish to read our RA, a copy of this can be found on our website.

Diwali

14 November 2020

Diwali is called the Festival of Lights and is celebrated to honour Rama-chandra, the seventh avatar (incarnation of the god Vishnu). It is believed that on this day Rama returned to his people after 14 years of exile during which he fought and won a battle against the demons and the demon king, Ravana.



Children in Need 2020

This Friday is Children in Need but unfortunately, due to the current climate we have been unable to raise money like we would have done in previous years.

Last year, the Year 13 Prefects asked for all staff and students to come into school in their craziest ties and they raised a fantastic £278.26. The year before, our Prefects held competitions with other students to raise money, as well as shaking their buckets in Bexleyheath Town Centre. We are hoping that next year, our Prefects will think of some other great ways to raise money for this fantastic charity!



Cray Valley PM - We Dared To Dream



JACK BEERLING

DEFENDER

You may have seen last weekend that Cray Valley Paper Mills reached the first round of the FA Cup for the first time in their 101 year history. It had been an incredible journey for the team, currently in the Isthmian League South East Division, and for me, as I was proud to be part of their first team squad, at just 16.

I joined Cray Valley three years ago and have played for them in the Kent Youth League. This season I was selected to play for their Under 18s and although it has been a step up, I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and was delighted that we were competing well, in spite of having a very youthful team of 15 and 16 year olds. When lockdown happened we had enjoyed an unbeaten run and are looking forward to returning to training and playing.



Cray Valley PM have always been keen to develop their younger players and I was thrilled, during pre-season, to be called up for their Under 23 team. Now this really was a step up! There was a mixture of excitement and nerves as I arrived for my first game, keen to play well. The weather that evening was horrendous, gale force winds and lashing rain. I came on for the second half and I must have made a good impression as I was selected for the remaining pre-season friendlies and asked to sign for them as soon as I turned 16 in September. I was delighted. I am now dividing my time between the two teams with matches for the U18s on Sundays and the U23s on Wednesday evenings. A particular highlight during two recent games for the U23s against Tooting & Mitcham and then Faversham, was playing alongside Kevin Lisbie, an ex-Charlton and Jamaican international.

It was following the U23 game against Faversham which we won 2-1 that I had a call asking if I would train with the first team. Yet another step up and completely unexpected. Again I was delighted and joined them for an enjoyable session where I worked as hard as I could and loved every second. I was therefore stunned and honoured to be called into their squad for their final FA Cup qualifying game against Maidenhead, currently in the National League and three divisions higher than Cray Valley. For me this was a very proud moment. Again there were feelings of excitement and some nerves as I joined the team coach on Saturday 24 October at our home ground, the Artic Stadium. The atmosphere on the coach was upbeat with everyone believing we could win this game and progress to the first proper round of the FA Cup.



Unfortunately for Cray the game didn't start too well. 2-0 down in the first half and the cup dream looked like it might come to an end but the team rallied and battled. After pulling one goal back, the momentum was high and a second goal followed to make it 2-2. In the dying seconds of the game, just when it looked like we were heading to penalties, super-sub Francis Babalola scored the sensational winner and within minutes the referee blew for full time. The celebrations that followed were incredible and continued from the pitch, to the changing rooms and onto the coach. We then awaited the draw to find out who we would face in the first round. It turned out to be another away fixture and this time to Havant & Waterlooville.

Whilst it would have been fantastic to play a First or Second Division side, we knew that this was a draw that was definitely winnable and could see us continue our journey in the FA Cup. Yet again I was delighted and still slightly incredulous to be selected for the squad and on Sunday 7 November joined the team coach to make the journey to Hampshire.

Slightly less nervous now, having been welcomed and accepted by the team, manager and coaching staff, I looked forward to the day ahead. The enormity of the occasion was obvious. We were each given a commemorative shirt printed with the FA Cup badge, date of the cup tie, Remembrance poppy and personalised with our name and squad number.

Walking out with the team and knowing that the match was televised, live on BBC via the red button, was an amazing feeling and we lined up to acknowledge the two minute silence. The game started well for Cray Valley. We dominated possession and put Havant & Waterlooville under pressure as they struggled to settle into the game. Unfortunately we couldn't convert our chances and suddenly they broke and scored against the run of play.

This was a real blow but knowing that we had come from two goals down against Maidenhead, again we rallied and fought back. Unfortunately this time we couldn't get the equaliser that we desperately wanted and deserved. In spite of hitting the woodwork and being denied a penalty, Havant & Waterlooville hung on to their slim lead and now head into the second round of the FA Cup.

Whilst it was a huge disappointment not to progress to the next round of the FA Cup, the whole experience for me has been phenomenal and has made me even more determined to train hard, progress, develop and follow my dreams.

My football journey with Cray Valley has been amazing but I am also very fortunate and proud to captain both Kent Schools and Beths. Lifting the trophy for Beths in Barcelona last year when we won the World School Football championships was an unbelievable feeling. I am grateful for the support and encouragement that I have been given and the belief that has been invested in me over the years. The past few weeks have been incredible and I have memories that will last forever. For now, however, my focus is to stay fit, healthy and concentrate on my GCSE trial exams which are fast approaching.



Jack Petchey Award

We are delighted to advise that two of our students, Charlie Venables and Charlie Parselle won the Jack Petchey Award this term. Mr Blyghton had the honour of presenting them with their certificates and personalised letter, a booklet about the organisation and a badge.

They both received £250.00 as well to spend on the school or members of the school community. Charlie P has decided to spend his money on a live streamed matinee performance from The Old Vic Theatre, of A Christmas Carol on Wednesday 16 December for all Year 7 and Year 8 students. Charlie V, after taking up music lessons within the school, has opted to purchase an acoustic guitar for the Music Department.

Congratulations to both of you!



THE GREAT BETHS BAKE OFF



Our fantastic Assistant Site Manager, Mr French, made a wonderful Gingerbread cake this week and we can all definitely say, it tasted amazing! If, like me, it has made you want to get in the kitchen and bake or even get into the Christmassy spirit, please try this recipe and tag us on our social media pages with #bethsbakeoff.

Gingerbread loaf cake

Ingredients

Cake

225 g Unsalted Butter
225 g Dark Brown Sugar
125 g Black Treacle
375 g Plain Flour
4 tsp Ground Ginger
2 tsp Ground Cinnamon
3 Medium Eggs
225 ml Whole Milk (warmed)
2 tsp Bicarbonate of Soda

Decoration

150 g Unsalted Butter
300 g Icing Sugar
2 tsp Ground Ginger
1/2 tsp Ground Cinnamon
Gingerbread Men
Gingerbread Crumbs
Sprinkles



For the Cake

Preheat your oven to 180C/160C Fan and grease and line a 2lb loaf tin with greaseproof paper

In a pan, gently heat the butter, sugar and treacle together in a pan until smooth, allow to cool for 10 minutes

In a large bowl, sift the flour, ginger and cinnamon together and pour in the treacle mix - stir to combine.

Add in the eggs and stir to combine.

Mix the bicarbonate of soda in with the warm milk and allow it to froth and thicken a little

Mix in with the rest of the mixture and pour into the tin

Bake in the oven for 50mins-1 hour, or until baked through! Once baked, leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, and then fully cool on a wire rack.

Decoration

Beat your Butter on it's own for a few minutes to loosen it and make it lovely and soft

Add in the Icing Sugar, and the spices, and beat again Continue beating until the buttercream is lovely and fluffy and perfect

Pipe your Buttercream onto the cake, and decorate with some Gingerbread Men, and Gingerbread Crumbs.

BETHS ALUMNI

We thought it was about time we shared some historic memories from the school.

Neil Powell, a past student from BETHS, (before we were Beths Grammar School) sent in a wonderful video of a Jazz Night from 1989. Below is the link to the You Tube page. This is three hours long so we don't expect you to watch the whole thing, but it is a wonderful video to take you back to the late 80's!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6F6umRI9wM&feature=youtu.be>

The stage was packed with performers, the floor packed with dancers, BYO food and drinks and a raffle to top it all off! What a wonderful evening!

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

New PSHCE Syllabus at Beths

The school would like to thank all parents who contributed to the survey on PSHCE development here at Beths last summer. The team developing the program are extremely grateful to everyone who passed on their views. In particular, thank you to all parents who took time to provide us with detailed information about what you would like our syllabus to look like. As lessons are finalised throughout the year, we are cross-referencing with the parental responses in terms of content and we are pleased to be able to report that most of the suggestions and issues raised can be addressed in some form.

Despite limitations placed on us due to the Covid restrictions, we are already seeing some good evidence of improvement in the delivery of this important subject. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or feedback on PSHCE education here at Beths then please do not hesitate to contact mroregan@beths.bexley.sch.uk

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

If you are keen to support the school, but not sure how, please read our two-minute summary on ways to help:



Under this scheme Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to Beths Parents' Association if you choose us as your nominated charity. It doesn't cost anything and is well worth remembering in the run up to Christmas and Black Friday.



If you shop elsewhere online, please join Easyfundraising and nominate Beths Parents' Association. Again, it costs nothing and Beths PA will automatically receive a donation.

Beths PA monthly draw

Our next monthly draw will run from January to December 2021, so please buy a ticket on ParentPay by the deadline of 12 January. Each ticket costs £6, so we could raise around £10,000 if every family bought one ticket.

Vote on which projects to fund

We're excited to be moving to a new model of crowdfunding. This should enable us to reach a wider network of potential funders. Our first step is to find out which projects are most valued by parents. We recently sent out a quick survey so you could vote on projects. Please take a minute to complete the survey by clicking on:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/38KBFNX>

We have extended the deadline until 5pm on 27 November to give people more time to respond.

Further details on everything

You can read detailed guidance on all of these schemes in the letter sent out to parents this week. The monthly draw form was included with this letter.

Thank you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 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.

When tested for Covid...

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.



Parking on Hartford Road and Student Behaviour Outside of School

We continue to receive complaints from our neighbours on Hartford Road, who have told us that vehicles are still blocking their driveways as they drop students off in the morning and collect them in the evening.

With the new lockdown, we can understand that parents may wish to do this, however, many of our neighbours are now working from home and so more of them are becoming aware of people parking across their driveways etc. and placating them can take up precious time which could be better spent trying to run the school during these difficult times.

We again, remind parents that Hall Place in Bourne Road, Bexley have kindly allowed us to use their car park as a drop off and pick up for parents and we would strongly urge you to please use this facility.

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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