

Week ending 15 January 2021

# BETHS VIP

## (Very Important Publication)



### Messages from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

Firstly, as we move into the second full week of virtual teaching and learning, we have received many positive emails from parents about how they feel we are doing during this third Lockdown—it is always really pleasing to be told that we are actually getting things right! I have added a few of these comments below and I hope that this is what the majority of you are also experiencing:

- We'd like to send a big thank you to you all at Beths for everything you're doing to support the boys during these unprecedented times. You're all so very much appreciated! We know it's not easy supporting a class and remote teaching, whilst also dealing with all the other issues the pandemic has thrown up from home schooling your own children, to the anxiety, to the pains of a dodgy internet connection and hearing "you're on mute" in your sleep etc etc. The list is never ending but you are all helping to make it as stress free and enjoyable as it possibly can be for your students - you're all doing an amazing job. Having the cameras on in lessons can't be easy for everyone, but the difference it has made, not only for helping our son engage with the learning, but also for supporting his wellbeing by getting to see his friends and teachers is so valuable! I know not all schools are doing this - my daughter's included - and the difference is very noticeable. It's fabulous. You're all fabulous! Thank you!*
- Hello, I wondered if you could pass along my deepest thanks to all staff at Beths who are dealing with such difficult circumstances, who with little or no notice had to redesign their classes to be facilitated online, those who are working tirelessly to make sure our boys have the tech needed, for teachers who have the unenviable task of trying to engage 30 boys per session and educate them, for all the administration that needs organising and those sifting through Govt advice daily... I applaud you all.*

#### Dates for your diary

[Monday 18 January](#)

Year 12 Parents Evening  
booking appointments  
closed

[Thursday 21 January](#)

Year 12 Parents Evening  
15.45-19.00

[Friday 29 January](#)

Closing date for Sixth Form  
Applications

[Thursday 4 February](#)

Year 7 Parents Evening



Beths Grammar School



@Bethsgs



Beths Grammar

## Messages from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher—Continued

- *I am SO grateful that you are doing what you're doing. I know how hard it must be. You have your own families and lives to be responsible for, yet you're showing up every day for our children. I can't imagine how much you're having to juggle.*

*I don't know what will happen to our boys' education this year, but I recognise how much you are all doing to keep them learning.*

*Thank you so very, very much.*

- *Thank you and all the staff at Beths for trying so hard to get organised and helping the boys have as productive a learning time as possible. We can only imagine how difficult this whole period is for you and all best bit was watching the clock go down on parents cutting them off mid-sentence, it was almost worth it! Hopefully, the Year 12 Parents Evening next Thursday, will go just as well. best bit was watching the clock go down on parents cutting them off mid-sentence, it was almost worth*

*We will do our best to give the boys a decent environment for their online learning, and to encourage them to take breaks and get fresh air. Once again, thank you for trying so hard.*

Yesterday, we had our first whole year Parents Evening, using the new 'virtual' meeting package. There was an excellent turn-out by our Year 10 parents and I hope that, even though they had been forewarned, they weren't too shocked when the clock reached the end of their five minute slot and rather abruptly ended the meeting! What was more of an issue was the School Cloud server, outside of the school, which crashed midway through the evening. We have been assured that they have fixed the problem for future evenings. Year 12 parents will take place with parents next Thursday with Year 7 on 4 February.

Please be assured that we will be in contact with all parent who missed their appointment(s) during the 'crash' to arrange alternative times for you.

Many staff chose to undertake parents evening from their homes, however, some wished to be in school and so our Facilities Team build a Covid-safe environment for them, see picture.



## Messages from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher—Continued

School Cloud sent us a very long email last night explaining exactly what the issues had been and also supplied us with the following statement for us to share with staff and parents. Please see this below:

*“SchoolCloud provides parents’ evening software to over 5,000 schools, and experienced an outage on 14th January affecting the parents & teachers accessing video calls at that time. An update to the system in December caused a web page to perform slowly and this ultimately took the system offline. This wasn’t up to the high standard of service that schools expect of us, nor that we expect of ourselves. We have already made changes, and continue to take further steps to ensure that you can continue to enjoy this new format of parents’ evenings.”*

A quick reminder that, if your son or daughter tests positive for Covid-19 or is isolating, please do let us know as we are still having to report this to the DfE. If they test positive, the details we require are when they tested positive, when their symptoms started (if they experienced any) and what they were. Also, if they were the first in the household and whether they have any siblings, currently at a Bexley school. Please send these details to [attendance@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@beths.bexley.sch.uk).

Starting on Monday 18 January, KS3 students will have Games lessons led by PE staff on Teams. All boys are asked to sign into Teams where they’ll meet their regular Games lesson teacher, who will guide them through activities and challenges.

Finally, for all those with students in Year 11 and 13 we, like you, are still waiting to hear exactly what will be agreed regarding exam grades this year. Once we know, we will adjust our teaching, if necessary but, until this is clear, we will continue with ‘Business as Usual’.

### **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 week was an ‘even’ week. Week commencing Monday 18 January is an ‘odd’ week.

*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.*

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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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**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.

**Top Tip:** you will need to mute your computer and have the sound coming from your phone to avoid the distortion/echo.

## Honours Ties

We would like to congratulate all Year 11 students on their achievements in their recent trial exams. The hours of revision sessions, enthusiastic lunchtime group sessions and determination to succeed were truly reflected in these exams. The following students are now receiving an Honours tie.

### ***Most Academic Progress***

Jesreal 11A, Anthony 11H, Great 11A, Jake 11B, Michael 11W

### ***An Overall Average Grade 8 or above***

Ashis 11A, Sayd 11B, Poli 11B, Luca 11C, Chinedu 11E

Ezinna 11E – for his exceptional work with the Bexley Youth Council.

These ties can only be earned by students in Years 10 and 11 and are awarded, not only for academic achievement, but also for academic progress and for upholding the school values to a high standard. Honours tie students are also granted special permission to continue wearing the tie as part of their Sixth form uniform in recognition of their achievements.



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## PARENTS EVENING

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Our first virtual Year 10 Parents Evening took place on Thursday and it was a great success, even though there were a few 'glitches' along the way!

The booking system is open until Monday 18 January, 12 Noon, for Year 12 to book their appointments.

# Musician of the Week

Congratulations to Peter in 10C, our Musician of the Week! Please see below a video, which also features Dinu 10H and Matthew 10E.

If you would like to be considered for Musician of the Week, please email [mymarriott@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:mymarriott@beths.bexley.sch.uk). We have some wonderfully talented students!

<https://youtu.be/auu98Oiu7PE>



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**HAPPY TO HELP ANY WAY WE CAN**  
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The advertisement features a man in a blue suit holding a large stack of papers and a cardboard box, standing next to a large office printer. To the right of the printer are several stacks of paper, a yellow binder, and a red binder. In the top right corner, there is a hot air balloon with the RE/MAX logo.

## BETHS ALUMNI

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 the school and what you are up to today and you would like to share this with us, please email [headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk)

It really is great to hear from our old boys (and girls) what you've achieved since leaving the school.

## Beths 100km Run to Brighton!

The PE Department are challenging you to run to Brighton (99.8km) over the next 4 weeks, and there is still time to sign up. Here's how it works...

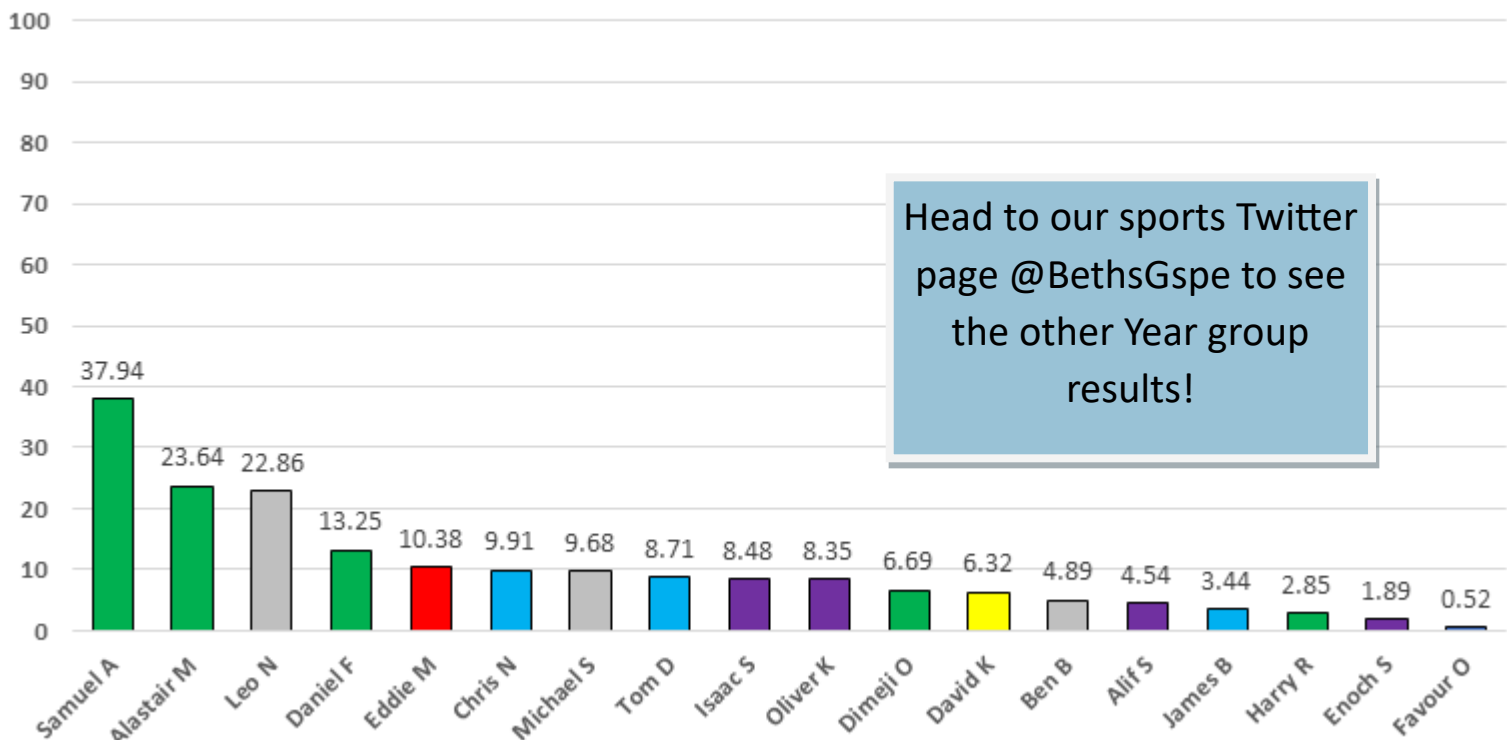
1. You need to download the Nike Run Club app on your phone.
2. You need to register (it's free) and create a username. Please make your username your full name, with your form after your surname e.g Jake Smith 7B
3. You then need to click the add friend logo top right of the homepage. Search 'Mr C Webb 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

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!

### Year 7 100km Challenge



# Careers

Mrs Austen from 'Prospects', is keen to still give Careers and Post-18 advice and guidance to students, despite her not being in school. Instead, she has been either conducting meetings over the phone or via Zoom or Teams with students at other schools and is happy to continue her work with Beths in the same way. To this end, would any students in Years 11, 12 and 13, initially, that feel they would benefit from independent advice and are happy to talk on a phone or talk on- line, please email me, so this can be arranged ([mssangster@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:mssangster@beths.bexley.sch.uk)). The meeting/call will be on a Thursday (her 'Beths'day) and would necessitate my passing on to her a preferred phone number or email address, so I would need your consent included in an email to me, so I can pass this on, along with your confirmation as to which method you wish to use. Prospects are fully aware of rules concerning GDPR and the safe handling of such information. The time slot will be when you would usually have either a Games lesson or study period, according to your timetable, and I will look at this before setting a 50 minute time slot. Unfortunately, some students have a full day of lessons on a Thursday, so I would ask that if you wish to see/talk to her, please let me know a time during the school day that you feel would have the least impact on your learning.

**Mrs Sangster**  
**LRC Manager and Prospects Co-ordinator**

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## **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/3rjRiT2>



**HSBC**



## 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

The logo for Marks & Spencer, featuring the brand name in a serif font. The ampersand is yellow, while the rest of the text is black.

What a great opportunity for students looking to get into business, management, retail or fashion!

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

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](#)

# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The first draw of 2021 was drawn on Tuesday night and we can confirm that the winners are:

1st Prize winner £20:

Jason O (9B) - Number 54

2nd Prize winner:

Ciaran L (10A) - Number 159

Congratulations to you both!

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.

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)**