

# BETHS VIP

Week ending  
18 December 2020

## (Very Important Publication)

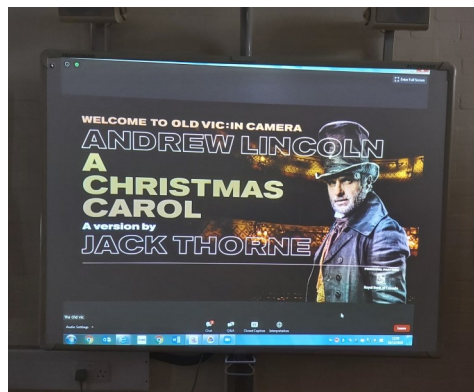
### Messages from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

Firstly may I wish you a very happy Christmas! We have finally reached the end of what has been a very difficult and different Autumn Term for us all. I would like to say a very big thank you to all parents and students for bearing with us as and when we have had to ask year groups or parts of, to self isolate and switch to remote learning, the majority have been very understanding as to why this has been done. Your support really has been very much appreciated.

As you know, staff are due to return on Wednesday 6 January – for our INSET day – and we then should be welcoming some students back into school from Thursday 7 January. However, please look out for a letter from me after the New Year, in case there have been any changes to guidance from the Government as to what their expectations regarding the opening of schools, for instance, is at that time.

We are also currently receiving details for testing of staff and those students who have been identified as having had close contact with someone who has tested positive to Covid-19. These details are still in their infancy and, again, as soon as we know exactly what the expectations are and how these will be implemented, I will be in touch.

The Old Vic's 'live' performance of a Christmas Carol, which was watched by Year 7 and 8 students on Wednesday, was a great success—the technology worked and, even though for a moment we thought that 7B were going to be watching a totally different age-inappropriate production, at the last minute (or two minutes behind the rest of the students), the right performance appeared! Thank you to Charlie in Year 8 who purchased this for students with his Jack Petchey prize money.



#### Dates for your diary

Thursday 7 January 2021

First day of Spring Term for students

Monday 11 January 2021

Year 13 Trial Exams commence in the Hall

Thursday 14 January 2021

14.40 Year 8 Students Council Meeting

15.45-19.00 Year 10 Parents Evening

Thursday 21 January 2021

15.45-19.00 Year 12 Parents Evening



Beths Grammar School



@Bethsgs



Beths Grammar

## Messages from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher (continued)

### **Arrangements For the School Day from January 2021**

I have attached a copy of the plan for your perusal. It has been a lengthy process to ensure that bubbles were respected, students and staff were kept safe and afternoon lessons in school for Year 12 were reinstated. Below is a summary of the changes:

**Key Stage 3:** Lunch will be between 12:00—12:40 which is a shortening of 5 minutes. The school day will finish at 15:15 which is 5 minutes later than currently. Registration for Year 7 and Year 9 will be at 8:45 and for Year 8 at 9:00. Students will be allowed on site up to 30 minutes before their registration.

**Key Stage 4:** Lunch will be between 12:50—13:50 which is 10 minutes earlier than currently and is shortened back to an hour. The afternoon session will be 13:50 –15:30 which is longer than at present to take account of the lost learning time from this term. Both changes are in line with timings pre-March lockdown. Registration for Year 11 will be at 8:45 and for Year 10 at 9:00. Students will be allowed on site up to 30 minutes before their registration.

**Key Stage 5:** Year 12 are expected in for Registration at 8:45 on the days they have a session 1. Year 13 will be expected to follow the Registration pattern established this term. They will have a timetabled classroom break of 10 minutes during session 1 and will finish session 2 for lunch at 12:50. They will be afforded a 40 minute lunch break. The afternoon session will be from 13:30-15:00 and Year 13 will have the opportunity to work in the LRC until 16:30, if they wish.

The shortening of the lunch period for the Sixth Form has not been taken lightly —it was originally proposed to be 30 minutes. I was faced with the dilemma of where do I accommodate over 700 students on-site for that period of time, therefore the lunch options for Year 12 and Year 13 are, bring a packed lunch, buy lunch on the way to school, avail themselves of the Canteen from no earlier than 12:50 as the Canteen is used as a thoroughfare by Year 7 until 12:40 or quickly go into Bexley Village to get food. In all cases, students are expected to be in their afternoon timetabled lessons at 13:30. Therefore students will not be expected to travel to Bexleyheath Shopping Centre to get their lunch as there is not enough time to do so between 12:50 and 13:30. SLT will patrol the gate for latecomers and may turn them away as lessons become disrupted with constant interruptions and I believe punctuality is a valuable social skill to learn.

### **Rapid, Asymptomatic Testing for Schools**

In the New Year schools and colleges are to be provided with rapid-result tests to help safeguard the health of the workforce and to keep as many students and staff in school as possible. This will help to identify asymptomatic cases, which make up a third of all cases, and help limit the spread of the virus.

At present we have limited information but understand that this will be implemented in a phased approach starting with secondary schools and colleges. The school workforce will be offered a weekly test (this is not compulsory) and will receive their result in approximately 30-minutes. In the event the result is positive they will have to isolate and take a second test that will be processed in a lab. If the test is negative, they will be able to carry on as usual.

The rapid-result tests will be coupled with serial testing for both staff and students who have been identified as a close contact of a positive case. With their consent, they will undergo a daily test for seven days. Once again, in the event of a positive test result, they will need to isolate and take a second test that will be processed in a lab. A negative result will enable them to continue uninterrupted with their work or education.

Whilst this is a positive step forward, it remains possible that an individual may still have the undetected disease and be infectious. It is therefore essential that everyone continues to follow good hygiene, wear a face covering as directed and observe social distancing measures, whether or not they have been tested. It is hoped that planning for the testing will commence early in the New Year with additional information being made available to you at the earliest opportunity.

## **Paid Volunteer Opportunities**

Following the Government's announcement yesterday regarding the requirement for schools to test all staff weekly for Covid19 from January 2021, we are now looking to recruit for a variety of roles – both administrators and testers/processors – to undertake this requirement. Availability would need to be from the beginning of January and the roles will be on temporary rolling contracts with salary starting from £13.39 per hour depending upon age, experience, qualifications and job role. We currently envisage these roles to be Monday-Friday and would consider both full and part time.

The successful applicants will, of course, be required to be DBS checked by the school.

If you know anyone that may be interested, please ask them to send a CV through to [headspa@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:headspa@beths.bexley.sch.uk)

### **Hartford Road**

I hate to sound like a broken record but we have once again received complaints about the parking on Hartford Road, both before and after school. Please can we ask that all parents think about the residents on the road, their driveways and safety of all students.

Bexley Local Authority have caught a few cars on camera and they have been fined, but we are still having these issues. We have asked for pick up and drop off to be at Hall Place, where we have had an agreement with them to allow parents to do so. It is a short, 5 minute walk from Hall Place to the school.

The Music Department would like to welcome you to watch our virtual Christmas Concert. Despite the fact we can't bring you holiday cheer in person, we would still like to send out our warmest holiday wishes to you at home. Thank you to everyone who sent in videos, although not all are featured in this concert, we will be featuring you all very soon. We hope that you will have a relaxing break and please look out for our new music features coming to you in the new year.



## Mastering Application – The Business Department

The Business Department had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Ian Marcouse on Friday 11 of December. Mr Marcouse is the author of “AQA Business for A Level”, a lead examiner and has a career in exam paper development and standardisation. The Year 13 Business cohort got an insight to the importance of fundamental skills which will be examined in the summer. Focusing on application skills Mr Marcouse focused on the

importance of the appropriate use of the paper context and demonstrated how to fully utilise the material to maximise the grades awarded. The “Mastering Application” lecture provided invaluable skills and hopefully will help students in their mocks in January.



We are delighted to let you know, that even though students were not in school for weeks during the summer term, they have still managed to donate a wonderful £56.00 to the LRC Charity Pot! Ms Sangster will split and donate the monies between today's charities, Bexley Foodbank and MIND.

*“The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline.”*



*We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.*

If we cast our minds back to this time last year, our students and their families amazed us with their generous donations of food for our Bexley Food Bank drive. Students in KS3 used their imagination to design ways to display the food as it was being collected: we had brightly decorated Snowmen, Santa on his sleigh and an enormous Christmas cracker! When the volunteers from the foodbank came in they were blown away by the displays and by the amount of food donated - it took two full cars to take it all to the foodbank.

This year, we need to do things differently for obvious reasons but we sincerely hope that you can be equally generous: we are unable to collect food donations but we are asking you to donate whatever you can afford via our **Give.net** page to help support Bexley Food and exceeded our original target of £250—we are currently up to £344.31, so let's try and double it!

Please give what you can and remember that your Gift Aid declaration will also boost the fund. Thank you.

<https://www.give.net/bethsgrammarschool>



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## YEAR 10 RECEIVE HONOURS TIES

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On Tuesday 15 December, we were delighted to award the first batch of Honours Ties and certificates to 23 students in Year 10. Ties are awarded to students who have demonstrated a sustained and significant commitment to serving the school and/or wider community. It is recognition of exceptional academic scholarship, outstanding contribution to the life of the school and clear endorsement of the school values.

After what has been a challenging year it was great to spend time celebrating the evident achievement these students have made since starting their GCSE studies. The students who received these ties were delighted with their achievement. We look forward to awarding more Honours Ties as the year progresses.

This has been a very successful term for Year 10. Below gives you an indication of the progress we continue to make as a year group under such challenging times – this is a credit to the boys, staff and parents:

**2,688 “outstanding” and “good” grades for attitude to learning and quality of homework** were issued on reports for boys across their 10 subjects – outstanding achievement.

**4 boys received straight “1” grades** for attitude to learning and quality of homework in their December report.

Over **3,809 achievement points** have been awarded for excellent work in lessons and engagement with learning.

From this time last year the number of behaviour points issued has **decreased by 58%**.

The average predicted GCSE grade across the year group is a **7H** (equivalent with the old “A” grade on the old A\*-U measure).

**Mr McBeth**

A reminder that the Parents Evening Appointment Booking system is now live for Year 10 Parents Evening on Thursday 14 January 2021. Please log on to the system, even if it is to let us know that you will not be attending. Appointments are on a first come first serviced basis and therefore we suggest booking early to avoid disappointment. Bookings close on Friday 8 January 2021.

### ICT LOAN AGREEMENT FOR YEAR 12, 10, 9, 8 AND 7

If you have yet to sign and forward the ICT Loan Agreement for the Notebook, available to ALL students, please can you forward to [msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:msgeorge@beths.bexley.sch.uk) by Friday 8 January 2021. Paper copies of the form will not be accepted at this time.

We will endeavour to get the Notebooks to students in January 2021.

## **BETHS ALUMNI**

We are very lucky to have some former Beths students who play professional football and, since games have been allowed to play, we are seeing more of our old boys on the team line up!

### **Jubril Okedina**

Jubril is in the U23 squad for Tottenham Hotspur and is now back from injury. He played in this week's thrilling match against Chelsea, as Captain of the team. And even scored the opening goal!

Unfortunately they lost 3-2. Follow the below link for further details on the match,



*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](mailto:headsoffice@beths.bexley.sch.uk)*

# Careers



The National Careers Service [questionnaire](#) on how to find the type of work you might want to do in the future – it only takes 5-10 minutes to complete.

For those students planning to head to university in 2021, this blog from Pearson College London has tips on [managing the transition](#)

For those who think a subject-focused route might not be for them, live events from the [London Interdisciplinary School](#) could help them find something to suit

Google has shared some great insights into how their staff got to where they are today, as well as a range of resources from their [Digital Garage](#)

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## Ages 12-18 | The Ultimate Work Experience | London 2021



You will:

- Advocate before a judge in the Supreme Court
- Privately network with MPs in the House of Commons
- Meet corporate lawyers in an iconic London skyscraper
- Work alongside UN and Foreign Office staff in "Model UN"
- Cross-examine witnesses in a high-stakes murder trial

Students can register before 31st December and use the code **INTERN15** to receive **15% off**.

Register now (Ages 15-18)  
Click [Here](#)

Register now (Ages 12-14)  
Click [Here](#)

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## Success Beyond School

We are delighted to announce InvestIN's very first careers evening for parents. Click [here](#) for further information.

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Imperial College London have a series of workshops to encourage young people from a Black Caribbean or Black African background to in Years 7-13 to consider **Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine**

Click [here](#) for more information.

# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly we would like to say a big thank you to all parents for their support and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New year!

The final date to enter the monthly draw is 12 January 2021! Contact us now to be included.

As part of our commitment to supporting a fantastic educational experience for our students, we are currently raising money for four projects in addition to supporting extra-curricular projects as normal. These four projects have been selected by the parents from a shortlist of ten provided by the school:

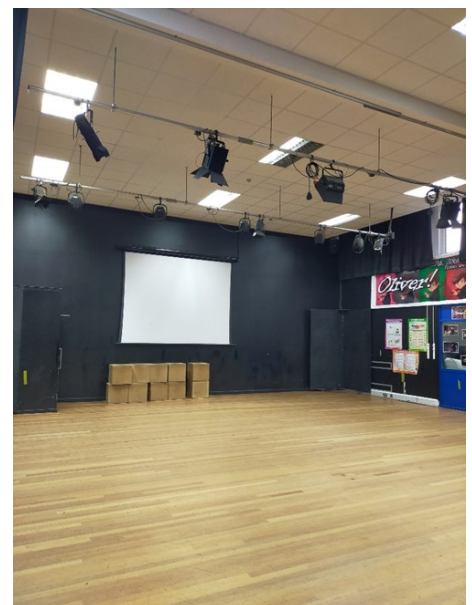


For **£2000** the school can buy enough instruments for half a class

With more school instruments we can ensure that more students are able to experience learning these great instruments despite not having formal lessons and owning their own. These instruments have been selected to try and engage more students in whole class music making and fun group learning experiences.

For **£1000** we can transform the studio with 4 new lights

This picture shows the current pitiful old lights which have limited capability in the drama studio. Some of those on display even are too old to work effectively. With new lights we can bring our drama lessons and smaller productions alive with the latest lighting and special effects.







When you have a school with so many great strategic thinkers honing their logic in this ancient game is a no-brainer. At over **£2000** per table these are quite an investment but made of stone they could be there for many years to come and could benefit Bethians for centuries to come....

Buying a purpose built portable radio studio this kit from <https://andertontiger.com/listen/> should make it possible for Beths to set up its own radio station without too much technical knowhow. Coming with training and educational consultancy attached for the price this could be a great inspiration for our boys in developing their oracy skills. The whole community benefits are also massive if we match up the enthusiasm of our fantastic staff with this technical wizardry.



The total cost for this ambitious project is

**£5000.**

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.

## 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 or Microsoft Teams.



**STOP PRESS:** Today's Own Clothes Day has been another success. Students have done themselves proud with their donations, raising a fantastic £1,052.38. We are sure that Bexley Foodbank, Bexley MIND and our own Parents Association will be delighted to receive their share of the monies raised.

Thank you to you all for your amazing generosity!

## Beths Grammar School

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