

Week ending 20 November 2020

BETHS VIP

(Very Important Publication)



Message from Mr Blyghton, Headteacher

We have now entered into the latter stages of the Autumn Term and this traditionally brings coughs and colds with both staff and students suffering. Add in the Covid-19 virus and the School sits on a precipice. We have had a number of staff who are not in school either through illness or being required to self-isolate and we have got close to sending year groups home. I am very grateful to those staff who are not in school, who are still teaching their lessons remotely to their classes from home.

Students from Years 11, 12 and 13 met with Governors virtually to discuss their experiences with online and remote learning, given that each year group has had to do this at some point this term. My understanding from the initial feedback is that students would prefer being in a classroom but believe that remote learning through Teams & Zoom has enhanced their learning experience and blends well with their school lessons.

A request to all parents is please be proactive in judging whether your child has Covid or a cough/cold. Please don't send them into school unless you are certain it isn't Covid and do not send your child into school if you are waiting for a test result. If your child tests positive, please ensure they are clear who they have been closely associated with so that Test-and-Trace can be accurately informed. Please do not expect the school to guess who they have been with at break and lunch.

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.

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.

Dates for your diary

Monday 23 November

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

Wednesday 25 November

Year 13 Student Council Meeting

Thursday 26 November

Year 11 Trial Exams start

Thursday 3 December

Full Student Council Meeting (CANCELLED)

Friday 4 December

Year 11 Trial Exams finish

Year 9 Reports issued to parents



Beths Grammar School



@Bethsgs



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.**



We have begun rolling out the Notebooks for students, with Year 12 able to collect theirs from today. We hope this will benefit all the students that require them and will inform Year groups, as and when they are available to them.

Social Media

As much as social media is a wonderful thing, please could we ask for students not to post their Covid-19 results on any social media platforms - before telling the school. As you can imagine, when this happens the school ends up with phone calls from numerous, concerned parents when we haven't been made aware of the results at that point.

Protecting Schools from Covid-19 App

This is an app to report your current state of health which feeds into national data. It takes about 30 seconds to complete each day. Some staff members already use the app and feel that they are beginning to understand how the pandemic is developing and changing over time.

If you are interested in using this app, please click on the link below:

<https://covid.joinzoe.com/post/covid-school-communities>



How can parents register their children in the app?

This is your school's unique invite code. Parents will need to enter it in their app to link their children to school.

Invite Code: BXUNLHR

Virtual Work Experience - Half Term Oct 2020

By Bradley M, Year 11

Due to the current circumstances, many of us were not able to take the usual work experience placements and enjoy the opportunity to physically attend a place of work and experience all that has to offer. I would, however urge anyone who is offered the opportunity to take up a virtual placement to do so and give it a try. I was a little dubious about how a virtual work placement would work but nevertheless took the opportunity to apply for a couple of roles and was fortunate to be offered both. I chose a placement at bmJV who are a Civil Engineering and Construction Joint Venture involved in the Design, Planning and Construction of the M27 Smart Motorway Project.

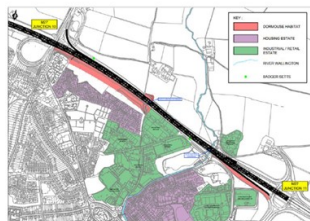
I worked with a team of other students (aged 14-18) on a project for the M27 Smart Motorway between junction 10 and 11 with a £50 million budget. I took the lead within my group, ensuring the work was evenly distributed across my team and utilised individuals strengths, making sure everyone understood their tasks, remained organised and focussed to deliver the Project within the deadlines provided. As well as Project Lead, I also took the role of Design Manager and Structural Engineer.

I have enclosed a couple of slides from the presentation we delivered on the final day and I was pleased to receive some very complimentary remarks and feedback from the Senior Management team at the time.

GO Construct Smart Motorway



Our task is to design, cost and plan a 5km stretch of the M27 smart motorway from junction 10 to 11. This includes a gantry, acoustic barriers, traffic management and emergency refuge areas. As a team we will be careful and mitigate against disturbing the nearby habitats of protected species, housing estates and industrial areas. Our project will be completed within 52 weeks and we have a budget of £50 million.



Project Design



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Initial Design & Development-<ul style="list-style-type: none">Orthographic & Isometric initial design & Bird's Eye ViewGantry planning & researchEmergency Refuge Area planning & research
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Further Design & Development-<ul style="list-style-type: none">Orthographic & Isometric initial design & Bird's Eye ViewSound Barrier planning & researchMedian Strip planning & research
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final Design & Development-<ul style="list-style-type: none">Orthographic & Isometric final design & Bird's Eye ViewClose-up sketch & coloured design of gantry & sound barrier.

At the end of the week, I received a certificate to confirm I completed the work and the following week I also received a fantastic reference which I will add to my record of achievements and should hopefully help with any potential future applications, either for further education or employment. I found the whole experience to be extremely beneficial. It was well organised with a lot of content and the opportunity to learn and develop new skills. I met various professionals within the industry who taught me about their particular roles, previous experiences and what they have done to become successful in their chosen careers. I feel I have gained confidence in a variety of working situations and grown with maturity during this experience.

In summary, it was without doubt an extremely worthwhile experience and I would certainly recommend a virtual work experience placement to any student.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to Ms Clarke for making me aware of the opportunity in the first place.

THE GREAT BETHS BAKE OFF



Last week was dessert week!

In honour of such a fun week on the show, Ms George's 6 year old made his extra special No Bake Oreo Cheesecake!

Donned with his chefs hat and apron, he took control of the kitchen, Mary Berry style and made a wonderfully decadent cheesecake—after licking the bowl and spoon!



#Bethsbakeoff

For the Base

300g Oreos (Chopped finely)

60g Butter (Melted)

For the Filling

450g Cream Cheese

125g Icing Sugar

1 tsp Vanilla Extract

480ml Whipping Cream

15 Oreos (Chopped)

Method

- 1. Begin by preparing a 9" circular springform tin with baking paper.*
- 2. In a food processor or using a freezer bag and rolling pin, crush up the Oreos to a fine crumb. Mix in a bowl with the melted butter and pour into the tin, pressing down firmly. A top tip is to use a potato masher to apply the right pressure.*
- 3. Place the tin into the fridge to chill whilst you make the filling.*
- 4. In a clean mixing bowl, whip together the cream cheese, icing sugar and vanilla extract.*
- 5. Reduce the speed of the mixer and add in the whipping cream. Increase the speed once again, beating the mixture to a soft peak consistency.*
- 6. Gently fold in the Oreo crumbs. Remove the tin from the fridge and spoon in the filling, using a spatula to smooth the top.*

BETHS ALUMNI

Following our new edition last week, we received an email from a former student, who is now in his second year at University of Sheffield, studying Journalism. This time, last year, (20 November) he interviewed David Hathrill, another former Beths student and Head Coach of Kent Women's Cricket. He kindly sent the interview, which is below—a great read showing both the achievements of David Hathrill and writing skills of Henry Clark.

From coaching schoolchildren to leading Kent Women: the David Hathrill journey

By: Henry Clark



Header image credit: Kent Cricket

Dealing with petulant children in after-school cricket classes doesn't sound like the usual starting point for a career in elite coaching. But David Hathrill's career as a coach has rarely been 'usual'. To outsiders it seems Kent Women have taken a gamble. But to those in-and-around the group, both on the pitch and in the backroom staff, there is little surprise at the appointment.

As the right-hand man of former Zimbabwe international Mark Dekker, Hathrill oversaw the county win their record-breaking eighth championship title and was seen as a key part of the side's success. Make no mistake about it, the 23-year-old recognises how fortunate he is to have the opportunity to coach the most successful women's county side and knows there's still a lot of learning to be done.

He said: "When I first came into Kent I came in with the impression 'What are people going to think of me?' having not played to any sort of level or having years of experience from a playing capacity. But that means I've been able to watch more coaches and I've tried to surround myself with very different coaches with different styles."

Hathrill has been learning ever since he made his first steps into coaching, teaching cricket at Bexley's primary and secondary schools as well as Bexley Cricket Club. He believes those experiences and his subsequent coaching journey along the junior talent pathway at Kent has helped mould the coach he is today.

"I've learnt how to work with people of different ages and at a younger age it allows me to start building relationships with players and parents which is important. You understand how people best respond to what coaching methods, how you get the best out of the whole group and the best out of each individual."

Last season's success comes as no surprise to those familiar with the women's game. Kent not only have a host of representatives at international level but also have the silverware to show for their efforts.

He said: "It goes right down to the roots. There's a lot of work done at grassroots level in Kent, especially in the women's game, that goes unnoticed. We are very lucky as a county that girls have had a lot of investment in them as players from a very early age because volunteers go above and beyond to provide them with a love of the game."

For some, especially a young coach with no experience playing at the highest level, the prospect of taking over from a former international cricketer could be a daunting one. Hathrill, though, believes time spent with Dekker last year has been invaluable in terms of his development as a coach.

"He (Dekker) was fantastic last year and it's been fantastic for me to be able to pick his brain. His demeanour is incredible. He knows how to get the best out of every player and he really taught me that coaching wasn't about being able to sit down and recite knowledge about cricket, but actually understanding the value of each player and making sure that they know their importance in the team."

Hathrill says he will resist the temptation to make wholesale changes to the side since the foundations of success have already been laid.

He said: "I'm not looking to go in and change too much because the work that was done last year with Mark was excellent. The learning that Lydia (Greenway, former head coach) put into them before Mark was brilliant too."

"There's a lot of talent and experience in that dressing room which I want to take as much from as I can give. It's very much about setting a team ethos together and creating an environment where players know what it means to represent Kent."

The vacancy left by Dekker would undoubtedly have been one of the most sought-after jobs in the women's domestic game. That Paul Downton, Director of Cricket at the county, and the rest of the Kent hierarchy decided to offer the position to Hathrill is a testament to their belief in him.

He said: "It came as a bit of a surprise (Dekker's departure after one season) but to my understanding it was never just a one-year plan. If you are able to achieve a lot in the game then that doesn't go unnoticed."

"Last season was really special for everyone involved. The results were fantastic from the outside but the togetherness of the team was brilliant. It's a real cumulative effort and that's one of the reasons why Kent were so keen to keep it to somebody who they knew and who knew the system."

"It's a close-knit group which is not only a work-in-progress but one that's already made really good progress in a short period of time."

Leading a county which has set a precedent for success is a tough proposition for your first head coach role but Hathrill doesn't harbour any ambitions for where he wants to take the team.

"I'd be silly to say that we didn't want to win the league title again because it was fantastic last season. For myself it's about learning. I've achieved a lot of career growth very quickly and I'm looking to just settle and work with the incredibly talented players that we've got."

"My success will be by how many of them reach their full potential and how close they are to the goals that we set at the start of the year."

He added: "I don't think too much beyond that because I'm in a very privileged position to be able to support all of the women in their development and also be a part of a fantastic county steeped in history, especially in the women's game."

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

Lewis Bate - Chelsea U18

Following on from Lewis captaining the Chelsea U18 Team in Youth Cup Final versus Manchester City, a newspaper article in the Daily Mail was published about our former student Lewis and it made very interesting reading. It highlights the fact that we had a very special footballer playing for Bets.

CONTRIBUTORS: Jack Gaughan, David Coverdale & Tom...

THE SECRET SCOUT



Our scout is a top football expert who attends matches each week searching for the next star. He'll bring you his verdict in *Sportmail*.

LEWIS BATE



CLUB: Chelsea
AGE: 18 **POSITION:** Midfield
VALUE: £1million

to scuttle with short strides to make it difficult for the opposition midfielder to get his head up and pass. He was also a major factor in influencing his team's press. That's a sign of good coaching and understanding by the players. He is mainly left-footed, but can use his right too.

WHAT'S HE GOT?

THIS teenage midfield player looks as though he could follow the likes of Mason Mount and Billy Gilmour into the Chelsea first team. He is a busy bee of a player who links up well with his team-mates and plays sharp, early passes. He was rarely caught in possession when I saw him. If he did lose the ball, his determination to regain it was clear. He has a lovely range and his left-footed corners were spot on. I liked the way he sees passes early when he commands the ball. When confronted, he has the skills and strength (though he is small) to turn out and shield the ball. Bate never stops probing. His team-mates trust him and he receives the ball with a calm control. Quick to confront opponents, he seems



WHAT DOES HE NEED?

I MENTIONED his corners and they were accurate, but I just thought Bate (left) should have varied them occasionally. I did also consider that he might look to burst forward himself occasionally and have a shot. But he is essentially a provider and a very talented one at that. He can see a reverse pass as well as the bread and butter simplicity. His athleticism gets him round the field and he has energy. Barring injury or bad luck, he seems destined for a fine career and maybe a loan move soon to give him experience.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is well worth remembering in the run up to Christmas and Black Friday that an Amazon smile purchase will be great to help with our fundraising for our school.

Thank you to everyone who has started shopping via Amazon Smile; we have received £56.60 for 1 July and 30 September 2020. To be part of this amazing fundraising option please follow the steps below:



Please go to smile.amazon.co.uk and search for Beths Parents Association. You need to start each shopping session at the URL 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 and we will automatically receive a donation anytime you shop. If you are eligible, please also give gift aid to maximise the donation.

Total raised for the school via easy fundraising is below:



The winners for the November Monthly Draw are:

1st Prize - #16 won by Benji, Year 12

2nd Prize - # 90 won by Thomas, Year 10B

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.

INDEPENDENTCATERING | EDUCATER LIMITED



SCHOOL DINNERS

GREAT FOOD &
GREAT VALUE

FABULOUS, FRESHLY MADE FOOD - HEALTHY, HOT AND NUTRITIOUS

WE WOULD LOVE TO FEED MORE PUPILS!

IT'S AN EDUCATION IN GREAT FOOD, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE THE WEEKLY MENU CYCLE

IT'S SO EASY TO PAY ON LINE

IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED, YOUR SON/DAUGHTER
MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS. FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.GOV.UK/APPLY-FREE-SCHOOL-MEALS. PLEASE APPLY AND A CREDIT IS
ADDED TO PUPILS' CASHLESS ACCOUNT DAILY - **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

WE ONLY USE



FRESH MEAT



FREE RANGE EGGS



MSC FISH



ORGANIC MILK



LOCAL FRUIT & VEG



WHOLEMEAL PASTA

INDEPENDENTCATERING.CO.UK
EDUCATERLIMITED.COM

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.



Student Behaviour Outside of School

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

**Hartford Road
Bexley
DA5 1NE**

Phone: 01322 556 538

Email: admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk