

BETHS VIP

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Welcome back from the half term break, I hope you had a relaxing break and are ready for the next term ahead. We are halfway through our Year 11 and 13 trial examinations and this has gone well so far. For our Year 13 students, this is their first time of sitting exams under the proper examination conditions. We hope students are continuing with their revision and get the grades they deserve. Please remind

students attending their exams to continue to arrive to school in their full uniform or business attire as this is a requirement of the examination conditions.

From Thursday 24 February, the Government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. We are following the guidance from Public Health Bexley that adults and children who test positive are advised to get a PCR test (if they have symptoms) and continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days (count zero from the date of the first symptom or positive LFT), and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results 24hrs apart.



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Students are no longer required to test twice weekly and therefore no reminders from Test Register will be received. Please note the school will no longer be providing lateral flow tests. These can be obtained from the Government website, local pharmacies or libraries.

An update from our Christmas Jumper Day in December, we raised £310.70 each for the PA and Cancer Research. Thank you again to those who participated and supported these charities.

Our assembly topic this week covered LGBT History month. Students were taken through the history and laws against homosexuality over the decades/centuries and of the changes in laws, politics and societies in general.

Have a great weekend
Richard Blyghton



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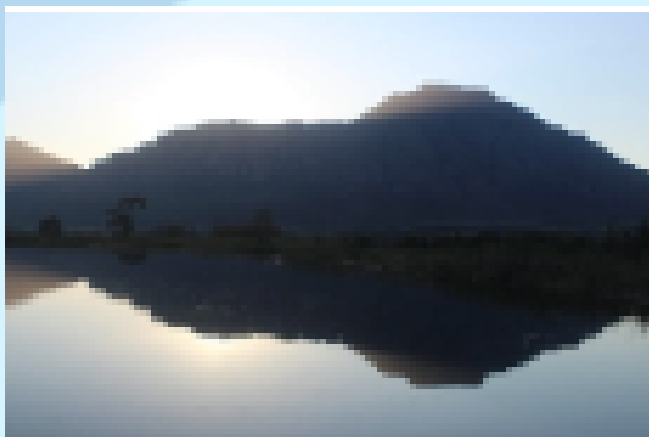
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LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA BY EMMA, YEAR 12

Moving from a place where you have lived for the entire 16 years of your life to a new, completely different place 10000km away is not easy. I moved from South Africa just over four months ago. I had to leave the only place I have ever known to start a new life here. It was not an easy decision leaving all our friends and family behind, but the choice to secure a promising future for myself and my younger sister took priority.

The feeling of going to a new, unknown country on holiday and being able to explore places you have never been to is exciting, however, making the permanent move there is a slightly different story. Having to adapt is a difficult task, especially when paired with the challenges of catching up work, studying and doing extracurricular activities. Initially, it felt like an exciting adventure, seeing new places and being able to meet new people with completely different experiences, however the one-way ticket to a new country makes you realize how linked you are to your heritage once you leave.

I grew up in the Cape Winelands, which has been ranked one of the most beautiful places in the world. The weather there is considerably different to British weather, something that I am still trying to adjust to. Holidays were spent at the beach surfing and swimming with friends. Afternoons spent paddle boarding and kayaking on the lake in our estate. This meant that, moving to the UK, not only did my lifestyle have to change, but also all my hobbies.



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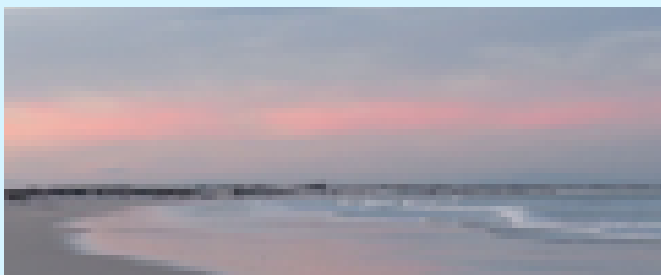
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LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA BY EMMA, YEAR 12

I came to England in the middle of the first term of Year 12. This meant catching up all the work I had missed while I was in South Africa. By now, I was used to catching up work, as I had to skip a grade while I was in South Africa because there, we start school a year later and I did not want to fall behind academically when I started A levels. School in England is vastly different to the school I went to in South Africa. The most noticeable difference being the size-in South Africa I went to a small private school with only 12 students in my entire year.

Several factors contributed towards our decision to relocate to the UK. Although South Africa is a beautiful country and an amazing place to live, it has become rife with corruption, crime and unemployment in recent years. Riots outside our school, armed robberies at my parents' restaurant and new laws made by the government made life in South Africa difficult and stressful. In search of greener pastures, we decided to move to England, where I have a British Citizenship, as both my parents were born here. Although I did not want to leave the place that has been my home since the day I was born, the advantages of a secure future, safety and endless opportunities undoubtedly outweighed my concerns of leaving South Africa.

South Africa and England are completely different in almost everyway. Taking a train and bus was a first for me when I moved here, as crime in South Africa meant that public transport was something you would never dare to use. Walking down the streets was also something I was never able to do in South Africa due to the issues in safety.



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LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA BY EMMA, YEAR 12

In South Africa I lived in a security estate patrolled by armed security guards. It had a lake, forest, restaurant (owned and run by my parents) and several outdoor gyms. Many of my friends lived on my estate, which meant that I was able to see them whenever I wanted. Although South Africa was not safe enough for you to be able to walk the streets, once you were in our estate you were safe and able to walk around without worrying. Cape Town was warm almost all year round, even in the coldest months it would never be colder than 18°C.

In the past weeks the temperatures have reached 45°C there, a temperature that England never reaches. During the holidays we would go on beach or mountain holidays with friends, swimming and hiking all day. Even the food in South Africa is different; there are many foods here that I have never seen before and even more foods that we used to eat in South Africa that you cannot get here, such as biltong, rusks, koeksisters, boerewors and our famous South African braais (the closest to which you will get here is a barbeque, which is nothing like a braai).



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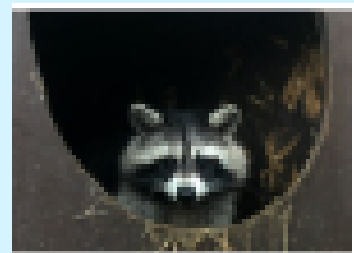
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LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA BY EMMA, YEAR 12

There are also countless experiences in South Africa that you will never experience in any first world country, such as load shedding—when they cut our electricity for hours at a time (sometimes up to 12 hours) because the power stations have not been maintained and they cannot produce enough power to keep the country running. Studying for exams in the dark made school much more difficult. Another experience is riots. There have been numerous occasions where we were evacuated from school due to rioting. A certain incident I remember is when our school was tear gassed after a particularly violent riot outside our school where they burned tyres and threw teargas bombs into the fields. Walking into a random shop at any given day and time and seeing multiple people with guns, including security guards holding AK-47's and having my dad held up at gun point by two men during an armed robbery in his own restaurant. As you can imagine, life has become a lot less stressful since I have moved to the UK.

Although I have had countless questionable experiences in South Africa, I have had many unforgettable ones. Such as going on a business meeting with the prospective future president of South Africa and paddle boarding 2 kilometres out to sea with my cousins on the fastest tides in the country (a fact I only found out after having National Sea Rescue called on us).

I have embraced my new life here, in the UK, and not only have I become involved in school activities, but also started volunteering at Second Chance Animal Rescue in Swanley every Sunday, a rewarding experience, as I work with exotic animals, such as meerkats, foxes and raccoons. I have high hopes for the future as I continue to grow as a person and continue my new life in England.



**Written by
Emma, Year 12**

ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Year 10 Public Speaking Team! Through to the third round of the English Speaking Union public speaking competition!

On the 24th January, Prince (10A), Levi (10B), Mayokun (10C) and I (Arjan 10E) represented Beths in the second round of the English Speaking Union Competition.

Having qualified for this round back in November we had been eagerly anticipating competing again. After school we grabbed a quick snack before doing some final practice and preparation.

We all reprised our roles from the previous round of the competition, where I delivered a speech on why the UK should not sell weapons to repressive regimes, Prince chaired another school's speech, and Levi and Mayokun questioned that speech. Mayokun also played a vital role in making sure everything ran smoothly by helping us all with our tasks.

Due to covid, the competition ran online. There were 8 schools in our second-round heat, and by the end of the night we were one of four schools that proceeded to the third round. We now look forward to the third round in March, which will be in-person in central London.

Thank you to Mrs Takeda and Mr O'Regan for giving us the opportunity to participate in this great experience, which we are all thoroughly enjoying.

**Written by
Arjan 10E**



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CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Earlier this term, some students had the opportunity to participate in various activities including Kung fu, Tai Chi and Lion Dancing in celebration of Chinese New Year.



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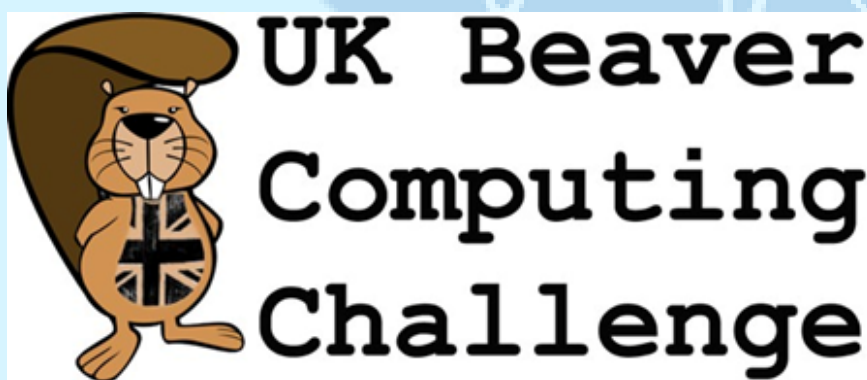
OXFORD UNIVERSITY COMPUTING CHALLENGE

The Beaver Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It runs across 50 countries and is designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. The first round took place between the 18th and 19th November 2021 and some of our Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 students took part. Of the 525 students that took part, only 84 achieved Gold status.

The second round of the competition took place during the week beginning 7th - 11th February 2022 and the 84 students were entered on Wednesday 9th February (16 Year 7s, 23 Year 8s, 31 Year 9s, 9 Year 10s and 5 Year 12s). The final round will be on 15th March 2022 and we are delighted that two of our students, Michael T (Year 12) and Alex C (Year 10) have made the finals of the competition.

Good luck!!

We are proud of all our students for taking part in this competition and hopefully they have gained a love for the world of Computing.



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PSHCE, PA AND HOUSE POINTS

Thank you for everyone who has donated unwanted foreign coins and money so far....

The house totals for donations are:

Abbey - 980

Brampton - 120

Cray - 863

Eardley - 1411

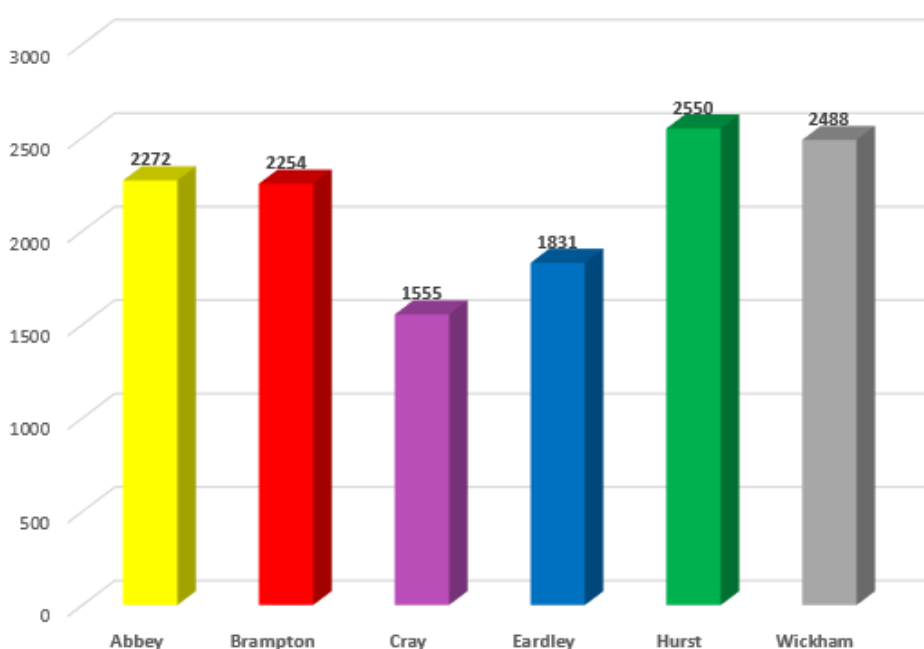
Hurst - 41

Wickham - 24

Why not ask around in your community for old unwanted coins?

The joint project between the PA and PSHCE department to raise money for the school and Wateraid will continue until mid-March. Coins should be sent into school on a Wednesday during PSHCE.

House Points 2021-22



An update on the house points so far this year, Hurst are currently in the lead with 2550!

2nd- Wickham (2488)
3rd - Abbey (2272)
4th - Brampton (2254)
5th - Eardley (1831)
6th - Cray (1555)



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WIZARD OF OZ

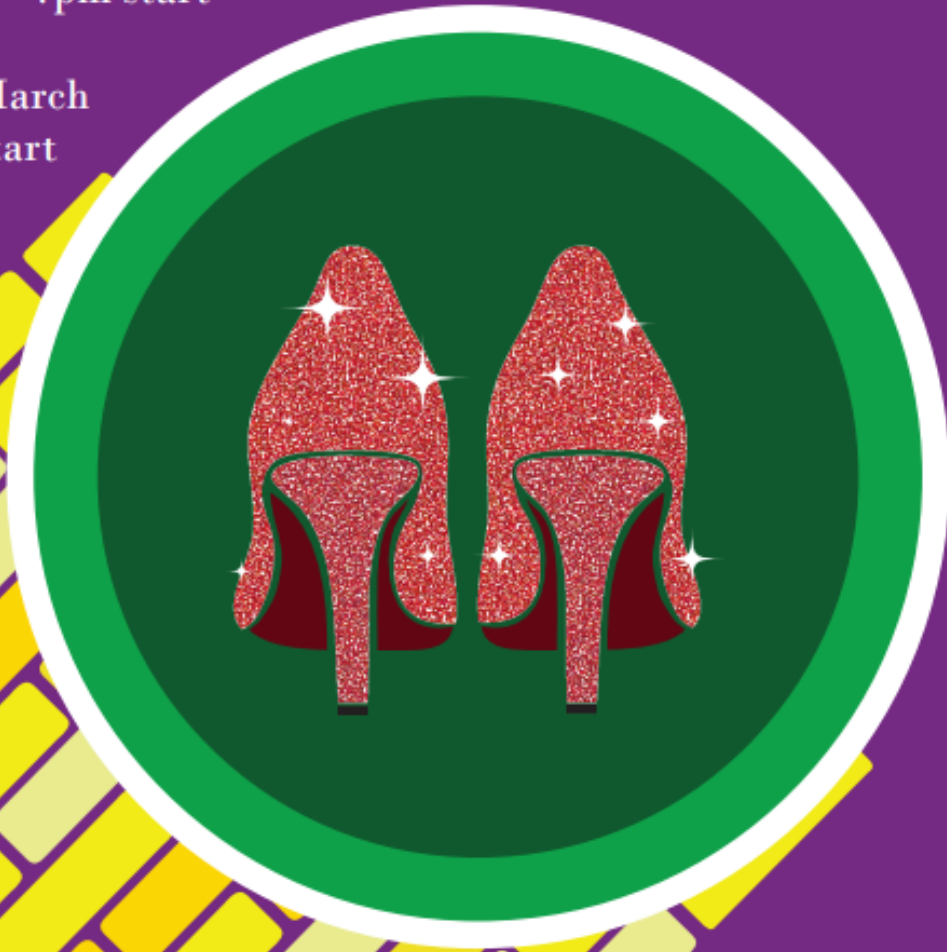
Beths Grammar School Presents

The Wizard of Oz

(RSC VERSION)

17th March & 18th
March - 7pm start

19th March
1pm start



Tickets
£8 Adult

£5 Child and Concession
production@beths.bexley.sch.uk

Tickets are now available and can be bought through <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Beths-Grammar-School>. Tickets are limited and will sell out quickly so make sure you purchase your tickets today!



MUSICIAN OF THE WEEK

This weeks Musician of the Week is: Year 7

Here is a really excellent video of Year 7 during their Taiko Drumming lesson earlier this term.

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbpOLqu-IH4>



Any student who would like to be featured in the Beths 'Musician of the Week', whether it be a group or solo performance or a composition, please send your entries to Ms Marriott msmarriott@beths.bexley.sch.uk

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

There are a range of activities/ clubs on offer for students. These activities run before school, lunch time, and after school. Below is a list of all activities currently offered. Please speak to the member of staff listed below if you would like more information.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school 8 – 8.30am	KS3 Basketball	KS3 Basketball	KS3 Basketball	KS4 Basketball	KS4 Basketball
Lunch time KS3 12.00 – 13.00	Year 9 Basketball (Mr Temple) Chess club – Week 1- All key stages in A2, Week 2: KS3 Online (Mr Runacres) Chinese Experience Club – S18		Year 8 Basketball ALL (Mr Webb) ODD WEEK Year 7 Rugby (Mr G.S + Mr Smith)	KS3 Badminton (Mr Temple) KS3 Drama – P3 (Ms Grady) Year 7 and 8 robotics club – A6 (Mr Morgan) Year 8 Design Technology club – A8/A9 (Mr Knott)	Year 7 Basketball (Mr G.S + Mr Smith) Year 8 Football – Team Training (Mr Webb) ODD WEEK ONLY
KS4 12.50 – 13.50	Year 10 Basketball (Mr Smith) Chess Club - Week 2 KS4 and KS5, A2. (Mr Runacres)	Year 11 Basketball	Sixth form: Football, Rugby, Basketball, Netball (Ms Deane/Ms Ewing) Eco-club: KS4/5 –A7A (geography department)	Girls Fitness Sports Hall (Ms Ewing)	Sixth form Basketball (Team) LGBTQ+ Society – S15 (Ms Harris)
After school 3.20 – 4.45pm	Rugby Training Years 7 – 10 KS3 Badminton (Mr Healy)	Year 8 Basketball – Team Training (Mr Webb)	<u>Warhammer Club, S1 (Mr Turnbull)</u>	KS3 Football (ALL) Year 7 Basketball Year 7 STEM club -S12 (Mrs Sarkar) Choir (all staff and students invited) – P12 (Ms Marriot)	

The full list of clubs and activities can be found on the school's website

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra+Curricular+Activities&pid=50>



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RESULTS AND FIXTURES

Results for week commencing 21st February:

FOOTBALL					
23.02.22	League	1 st XI	V Gravesend Grammar	Home	Won 5 – 1
24.02.22	KS3 North Kent Comp	U14A	V Bexleyheath Academy	Away	Won 0 – 9
24.02.22	KS3 North Kent Comp	U12A	V Trinity	Away	

Fixtures for week commencing 28th February:

FOOTBALL					
01.03.22	KS3 North Kent Comp	U14A	V St Pauls Academy	Home	KO 3:45pm
01.03.22	KS3 North Kent Comp	U13A	V Trinity	Away	KO 3:45pm
02.03.22	League	1 st XI	V Christ the King Sixth Form College	Away	KO 2pm
02.03.22	KS4 North Kent Comp	U15A	V Bexley Grammar	Home	KO 3:30pm
03.03.22	KS3 North Kent Comp	U12A	V Harris Garrard	Home	KO TBC

*Please note that some matches may be cancelled/postponed and therefore we ask you to keep an eye on the SOCS website.

Beths Grammar School | Sports Home (bethssport.co.uk)



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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION:

1. Latest Parents Associations' latest events

Bring in your Coins Collection of old foreign currency every Wednesday @PSHE

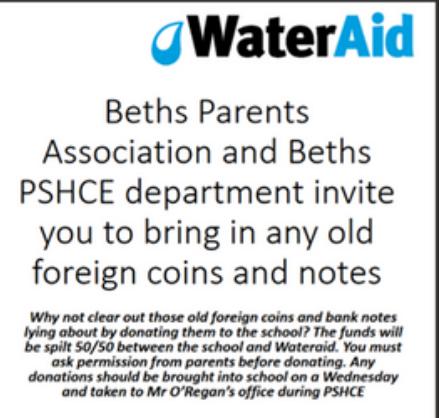


2. The countries where your coins are coming from will be showcased on Beths' giant map, please share your stories!

After hearing about Dominik's initiatives, WaterAid wrote on Beths' Instagram page:

"Hi Dominik, that's an excellent idea you had. It's such a lovely and unique way of fundraising and supporting our work at WaterAid. Thank you! You really will be changing lives by bringing the gift of clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to communities living without these basic human rights. You should be proud of your hard work and this excellent initiative. Well done and keep up the good work. Aminur at The WaterAid Team"

Dominik's initiative to support this fantastic fundraising idea has inspired many other students! THANK YOU all for your great involvement



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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION:

Coming soon: 4th Online Chess Tournaments...

Beths Parents' Association next Online Chess Tournament will help to raise funds for the school's Chess Clubs!!!! Please donate your Chess Board Games

With our 3Rs scheme, the PA is launching a new idea link to its 3 Rs scheme "Reuse, Reduce, Recycle" by asking for donations of any used or non-used chess kit for the students at the school's Chess club.

If you have a Chess Board Game at home that you are not using anymore, could you please give them a new life by kindly donating them for our students.

THANK YOU for your continuous support.



Our virtual Nearly New PTA Uniform Shop is now fully open! We are asking for any donations of nearly new blazers and unembroidered PE kit. If you have any of the specified school uniform items that your son has grown out of, please do consider donating it to our PTA Uniform Shop. Simply drop them off at the School Reception.

We are aiming to sell these items for you to purchase once we have received donations and can provide an inventory. If you require any items, please email the PTA via

beths.parents.association@gmail.com.

UNIFORM. DONATIONS.



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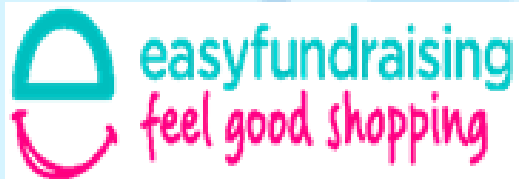
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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION:



Before half-term, Beths PA have been busy shooting a video to share its enthusiasm and motivation to make a difference by helping the school to provide wider opportunities to our children... please watch out for our video!

Generating donations and it doesn't cost you anything!



If you shop elsewhere online, please join Easyfundraising. It costs nothing to you and Beths PA will automatically receive a donation. You can sign up at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/BethsPA and we will receive a donation anytime you shop. **If you are eligible, please also give gift aid to maximise the donation.**

The other exciting projects chosen by parents with the aim to raising £10, 000 which can be increased by 25% with Giftaid

- Radio Beths – £5, 000 donate here <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/17268>
- Musical instruments – £2, 000 donate here <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/17270>
- Lighting for drama – £1, 000 donate here <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/17269>



£2000 has already been raised! THANK YOU!
Every £ help us to get closer to our target goal.



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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION:

Friends and Sponsors of Beths Parents Associations

We would like to say a special THANK YOU to our sponsors and William Jones who have generously donated towards the second edition of Beths Parents Association Online Chess Tournament, with cash functions and prizes for the winners.



Why not become a sponsor by donating and having your business logo published on our pages! Please contact us for more details:

beths.parents.association@gmail.com THANK YOU!

Important dates

Every Wednesday: Bring your Coins Collection @ PSHE



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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION:



Next meeting: on Tuesday 8th February 2021
@ 7.30pm - Zoom

Please keep checking on our website and social media pages
for upcoming events



beths.parents.association@gmail.com



Beths Parents Association



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'sensitive' nature): headspa@beths.bexley.sch.uk**

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