

BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers,



Our first week back and we were straight into the new term with a Remembrance service delivered by the Reverend Trevor Wyatt from Christchurch Bexleyheath. Our scholars were taken through PowerPoint slides created by the History department, covering the wars and conflicts and the effects of them. Earlier this week staff and scholars took part in an 'Odd Sock' day, raising awareness for anti-bullying week. It was great to see many take the plunge of wearing odd socks into school on Tuesday!



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I'm also delighted to say that our scholars nominated Miss Monteith for the Anti-Bullying Week Award.



On Wednesday, it was National Kindness Day. Scholars and staff were encouraged to take part in random acts of kindness, such as helping with a piece of work, praising someone's efforts, or making them laugh. For staff, this included exchanging small gifts, covering a duty, or helping with some printing! It served as a reminder that in busy, hectic times, we can all look out for each other and keep kindness flowing.

On Thursday, we held a Sixth Form Information Evening for our Year 11 scholars, guiding both parents and scholars through various A-Level subject options.

During the half-term break, we ran three overseas trips: Cologne, Andalusia, and Paris. Over the next few weeks, we will share the scholars' experiences from these trips during the VIPs.

On Monday, 18th November, we will be holding a Year 10 Work Experience talk for parents in the main hall from 6 pm to 7 pm.

As we move into colder weather, I'd like to remind parents that if you choose to drop off or pick up your child from school, please avoid stopping or parking across our neighbours' driveways. The road outside the East Gate can become congested when cars are parked on the opposite side of the school, and parents stop on the school side, leaving room for only one car to pass. This creates unnecessary road blockages and poses a danger to our scholars crossing the road to enter school.

Please park away from the school and ensure your child has enough time to get into school safely.

Have a lovely weekend,
Richard Blyghton



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- **Monday 18th November** - Year 10 Work Experience talk for parents, 6pm-7pm
- **Wednesday 27th November** - 6pm, Winter Concert
- **Thursday 28th November** - Year 13 Parents Evening in person
- **Friday 29th November** - Year 7 reports sent home
- **Tuesday 3rd December** - 2:15pm Afternoon Tea for the retired community
- **Friday 6th December** - Year 12 reports sent home
- **W/c 9th December** - Winter Book Week
- **Tuesday 10th December** - Christmas dinner day for Years 7 and 10
- **Wednesday 11th December** - Christmas dinner day for Years 8 and 11
- **Thursday 12th December** - Year 12 Parents Evening (virtual) and Christmas dinner day for Years 9 and Sixth Form
- **Friday 13th December** - 2pm KS3 Carol Service at Christchurch Bexleyheath and Year 10 reports sent home
- **Tuesday 17th December** - 6pm Winter Concert
- **Thursday 19th December** - Year 9 reports sent home
- **Friday 20th December** - Last day of Autumn term, finishing half day.



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STUDENT SUCCESS



Well done to all of our Year 12 community ambassadors who are involved in our Primary school, Litter Picking, and Christmas Afternoon Tea initiatives! If you want to become a community ambassador then contact Mr Webb!

Rafferty proudly representing Beths as he appeared on the big screen at the Twickenham England V New Zealand rugby game.



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JAZZ FESTIVAL

Congratulations to the students who performed at the Rix Mix event during half-term! If you missed it and would like to catch their set, they will be playing at the London Jazz Festival this Sunday. Tickets are free and no pre-booking required! For more information please click here <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/london-line-up/>

Date: Sunday, 17th November

Location: Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX

Performance Space: The Clore Ballroom (the open area near the venue entrance on Level 2 of the Southbank Centre)

Time: 3:45 pm - 4:15pm



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COLOGNE TRIP

During the October half term, some of our German students had the opportunity to visit Cologne, Germany. After arriving in Cologne and getting unpacked, our Beths German scholars had a lovely walk around the city before arriving at our dinner stop - Brauhaus Reissdorf - a traditional German restaurant. Guten Appetit!



Day 2 - Our German learners started the day at Das Sport- und Olympiamuseum, where they learnt about the extensive history of the Olympics and tried their hand at a range of sports, from boxing to rooftop football. After their sporting efforts, we made our way to Das Schokoladenmuseum (chocolate museum), where students observed the chocolate-making process, learnt about the journey of the cocoa bean, and had the opportunity to taste the final product! Following this, students had some shopping time in the centre of Cologne before making their way to the pier for a 90-minute cruise along the Rhein. We then headed to the Hard Rock Café for some well-earned sustenance!



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COLOGNE TRIP

Day 3- Our Beths German students had a very full day today! Firstly, they enjoyed a trip in a cable car over the city, with stunning views of the river and cathedral. This was followed by a fantastic time at the zoo, where they saw a huge array of animals, from large predators to beautiful fish and cheeky primates! Afterwards, we returned to the town centre for a walk around the stunning cathedral, followed by some shopping. The day was topped off with a few games of bowling and yet more fast food! What a jam-packed day!



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COLOGNE TRIP



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COLOGNE TRIP



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COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA



You are warmly invited to..
Beths Grammar School's
**Christmas
Afternoon Tea**

for the retired & semi-retired



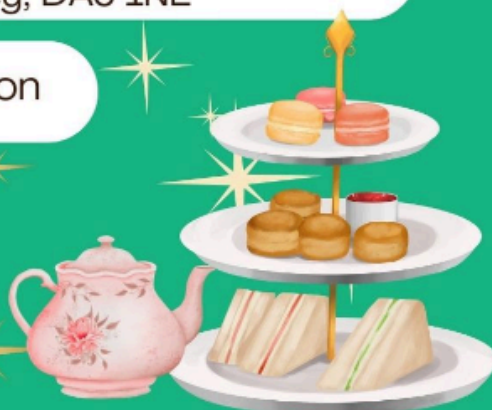
Please join us for a delicious afternoon tea with scrumptious cakes, endless tea and coffee, festive Christmas music, entertainment, raffle prizes, and the company of our scholars.

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 from 2:15pm-3:45pm

Location: Beths Grammar School,
Hartford Road, Bexley, DA5 1NE

£4 per person

Please register your interest by
emailing Admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk
or call 01322 556538 by Thursday
28th November 2024.



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WINTER CONCERTS

Beths Grammar School warmly welcomes you to their annual Winter Concert Series. Students from years 7-13 look forward to entertaining you with a wide variety of music, including holiday favourites. Our two concerts will see soloists, the Beths Orchestra and Beths Big Band all come together in magical evenings of music.

Let the magic of music bring us together this season—we can't wait to welcome you!



 Beths Grammar School
WINTER CONCERT SERIES

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Winter Concert - 27th November 2024
Winter Concert 2.0 - 17th December 2024

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Performances by Beths Big Band,
Beths Band classes, soloists, and much
more...

Tickets available via Ticketsource or scan the QR code :
www.ticketsource.co.uk/beths-grammar-school



For more information or to purchase tickets, please follow this link <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Beths-Grammar-School/winter-concert-series-27th-november-and-17th-december/e-jkgbjb>



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CRISP PACKET COLLECTION

Our Year 12 students are running a project in collaboration with The Salvation Army in Bexleyheath, where we will use crisp packets to create blankets for the homeless. The packets are thoroughly washed and ironed together, then covered with a plastic layer to create a waterproof blanket that reflects body heat back to the user.

If you have any crisp packets, please collect them and send them our way so we can use them for this great cause. Crisp packets normally take decades to decompose, but by using them to create blankets for the homeless, we can prevent them from harming the environment. Thank you for your support, and we hope you'll get involved.

You can also help by spreading the word to any clubs or workplaces you're part of to maximise our outreach! - **Edwin D, Year 12**



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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Easyfundraising is a website that allows shoppers to raise money for their favourite causes, including schools and parent-teacher associations, simply by shopping online. As a parent of a student at Beths we would be grateful for you to support the Beths Parents Association, you can register for easyfundraising and start raising money for the association today.

To register, simply go to the [easyfundraising website](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and click on the "[Support a good cause](#)" button. From there, you can search for the "[Beths Grammar School Parents Association - Bexley](#)" and select it as your chosen cause. Once you've registered, you can start shopping online as you normally would. Every time you make a purchase through an easyfundraising retailer, a donation will be made to the Beths Parents Association on your behalf.

The benefits of using easyfundraising are numerous;

1. Firstly, it's a simple and easy way to raise money for a cause you care about without having to spend any extra money.
2. Secondly, it's a great way to get involved and support your local school and community.
3. Thirdly, there are over 4,000 online retailers, including popular retailers like Amazon, John Lewis, and Argos, that participate in easyfundraising, so you can shop for anything you need and raise money for the Beths Parents Association at the same time.



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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION

In summary, easyfundraising is a great way for parents to support their local school and community by shopping online and raising money for the Beths Parents Association. It's easy to use, doesn't cost you anything extra, and has a wide variety of retailers to choose from. And so far, this has contributed to £5,260 for projects towards the school!

Thanks for supporting the school
Justin Zarb
Chair of the Beths Parents Association



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LEXLEISURE

Swim Bike Run MINI

Get involved with our recreational SWIM BIKE RUN Mini event

Entries available for Families (6+), Kids (6+) and Adults (15+)

Sunday 24th November 2024 // 07:30 - 10:00 // Erith Leisure Centre



Make your move

Register at <https://www.britishtriathlon.org/swimbikerun>
or contact emily.jay@lexleisure.org.uk



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KEEPING YOUR SCHOLAR SAFE

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING

Courses like Bikeability are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are Bikeability courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signalling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.

2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE

Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.

3 TRY A CARGO BIKE

Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.

4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE

It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M check' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.

5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR

Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly. If you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.

6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN

Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.

7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS

For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.

8 AVOID PARKED CARS

When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door unexpectedly or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.

9 START A 'BIKE BUS'

Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers, in case anything goes wrong along the way. Team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folks asking to join you?

10 HAVE FUN!

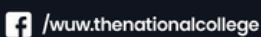
Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.

Meet Our Expert

Sophie Gordon is the campaigns manager at Cycling UK, a charity which inspires and enables people to start cycling. She has spent six years campaigning for safer roads and more protected cycle paths, while supporting communities to call for better cycling conditions where they live.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/teaching-cycle-safety>



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

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