



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyghton

16th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Well Done to all scholars in their first half term as Year 8 at Beths Grammar. I am very proud of their achievements thus far and thoroughly impressed by the standard Year 8 have set for themselves. Currently we are the top performing year group in KS3! I look forward to celebrating this achievement with the year group in the near future.

Every year at school is essential to the development for scholar progress and we strongly believe that the younger years are the most crucial in instilling good habits for learning and a culture for hard work and high achievement. To ensure we achieve this I have made reference to a number of key areas below that I would like you to discuss with scholars. My hope is that this will ensure a smooth and successful year for all.

Academic progress/achievement and homework

Our aim at Beths is to ensure all our students achieve their full potential, both academically and socially. Every lesson in school counts towards scholar development and it is therefore essential that they are giving their 100% in and outside of lessons. With GCSE and A-Level qualifications becoming more challenging, it is essential that scholars are working hard at Key Stage Three in order to be best prepared for these important exams. We ask that you ensure scholars have adequate provision for completing homework and academic study/revision at home where they are free from distractions and able to complete all homework to the best of their ability.

Teachers will expect all homework to be completed to a high standard and handed in on time. The completion of homework is compulsory. Failure to complete homework will be treated as a serious issue and sanctions will be imposed. We ask that you contact your son's Form Tutor and class teacher immediately if any problems with the completion of homework arise, in order that the matter can be resolved quickly.

The school has a homework club operating in the LRC after school each day running for one hour. This is a voluntary extra provision for students who require a quiet place to work and study. However, homework club will become compulsory for students who have failed to complete homework on time and/or to an acceptable standard. Students who attend the compulsory homework club will do so daily where they will be supported and monitored to ensure that their homework is up to date and reflects their ability. Attendance to compulsory homework club will be reviewed regularly. You will be informed if your child is targeted for compulsory homework club. We have put extra support in place this year for scholars using our homework timetable to ensure homework is set at given times for scholars to follow.

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All homework (and classwork) must be well presented. As such, I would ask that you continue to check the quality of homework before it is submitted to check that the work is well presented (dates present, titles underlined and that the work is fully complete). Homework is designed to be challenging and engaging and it should not be rushed. Where a piece of work is slightly more challenging and requires more time, it is expected that scholars will invest the extra time to ensure it is completed properly. Failure to take academic study seriously will result in your son being placed on a monitoring report.

Student planners

Scholars have now had the opportunity to settle with their planners this half term. I cannot emphasise enough the proper use of the school planner as an instrument of communication between yourselves, the school and your son. Please be vigilant in checking homework is being done, and to take note comments from staff, both positive and negative. We expect all scholars to be recording the homework set including the date due, and this should be neatly recorded in the student planner. We do ask parents/carers to sign the planner weekly to ensure that homework is completed and brought to school by the set date. Please also check demerits and detentions and sign these accordingly. We expect scholars to pack their bag the night before using the planner to check through the next day's lessons and ensure that all important items and books are brought to school on the correct day. Scholars should treat the planner as their most important piece of equipment and as such keep it organised, neat and on their person at all times when in school.

Attendance and punctuality

Scholars must report to their form room every morning for registration. Form rooms are open for scholars from 8:30am each morning. Form starts at 8:45am, it is crucial students are in form time before the bell goes at 8:45am to avoid a late mark. If scholars are late more than three times in a half-term without an acceptable reason, they will receive a detention on a Friday directly after school. We advise students to not always rely on the last bus or train as any interruptions to bus or train routes could leave your them late for school. Please review the school policy on attendance and authorised absences on the school website. I will be closely monitoring any students late to school or with persistent absences.

Behaviour

Beths Grammar School has high expectations of all scholars and this includes having high expectations of students' behaviour. The school has an emphasis on good discipline and ensures that a calm learning environment is created in which every student can learn and feel safe. We are pleased that the vast majority of our scholars consistently follow school rules and demonstrate extremely positive behaviour and attitudes to learning. Scholars are expected to be respectful of one another and to the school building. Scholars are expected to raise their hands and not call out; they will be expected to move around the school **quietly and calmly** and most importantly of all, no student should ever argue with a member of staff or refuse to follow instructions of a member of staff. We believe that no student has the right to disrupt the learning of other students. Swift sanctions will be implemented where a student fails to comply with school rules.

Bullying is rare at Beths and we are proud of the fact that our students are thoughtful and courteous to one another. Please continue to speak with scholars regularly about their time at school and if they are being bullied, or you suspect there is an issue in school, please contact form tutor as soon as possible so we can investigate the issue. Any student caught bullying or creating a difficult environment for another student will be sanctioned according to our behaviour policy.

Mobile phones and online safety

Thank you for supporting our revised mobile phone policy September 2024. Our policy states; *Students are allowed to bring their mobile phones/devices in school. However, the school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones/devices that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while students are travelling to and from school. Mobile phones and earphones must be out of sight, on-site. Key Stage Three (Year 7, 8 and 9) students cannot use their mobile phones and/or earphones in lessons, except for rare exceptions in music and drama. The platform Memrise can also be used. Mobile phones may be used in these subjects as directed by the teacher.*

Key Stage Four and Five students can use mobile phones and/or earphones as directed by teachers. When students are not directed to use mobile phones and/or earphones, they should be put away, in bags. They should not be visible e.g. on desks, or laps. Students must charge their electronic devices at home and not in school due to insurance, fire, health and safety regulations. Phones and/or earphones must be out of sight, on-site when transitioning between lessons. Phones and/or earphones must be out of sight, on-site during recreational periods, apart from the phone zones. Phones and/or earphones can be used during recreational periods in the 'phone zones,' by Key Stage 4 and 5 students only which are the main hall and sixth form building only. Staff reserve the right to monitor phone use and search any phone being used by students within the school. Please note that appropriate provisions will be made for students with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

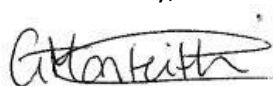
Uniform

Please ensure scholars arrive to school in full correct uniform that complies with school rules. Hooded tops are not part of the Beths uniform. If scholars are caught wearing a hooded top it will be confiscated. When the weather is colder, they should wear their school coat. We ask that parents/guardians ensure that the coat is **navy blue or black** and of an appropriate design. Coats are **not to worn inside the school building and must be carried over their arm, hung over their chair once in lesson**. This includes movements between lessons. Students who fail to comply with this rule will receive L1 demerits.

All scholars must wear a proper pair of black shoes for school. They are not to wear trainers – even black ones – to school, except in exceptional circumstances, where an accompanying note is required, e.g. medical. Any circumstances that are deemed not to be exceptional will result in the student being taken out of circulation until the situation is resolved. Shoes and the rest of the school uniform should be cleaned regularly, and scholars must wear only black socks to school. Belts should be black leather only with a sensible buckle. Uniform will be monitored regularly by form tutors and subject teachers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and communication thus far. I look forward to celebrating more Year 8 successes in the coming weeks and months ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Miss G C Monteith
Head of Year 8