

BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



On Wednesday 12th February we held an opening event of the Sixth Form building. Louie French MP and Former Bexley Mayor, Eileen Pellan officially opened the Jubilee Sixth Form Centre Headteachers. Former Headteachers, Jim Skinner and John Tobin attended as well as some Trustees and staff members from the construction company (Huttons), building architecture company (Baily Garner) and PR company (PMLR).

The centre is part of our continued commitment to academic excellence and supporting all our scholars to “be their best at Beths”. We know that the creation of an inspiring and motivating learning environment is so important, and this new building is the next step in our commitment to this.

It may seem hard to recall what the old LRC building looked like, having been part of the school site since the 1970s. Here are some photos showing the stages of the building development.



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BAILY GARNER | BEFORE:



BAILY GARNER | AFTER:



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We now have recycling bins in the dining area, food recycling bins plus a mixed recycling bin (plastic packaging, mixed packaging, cartoons and mixed glass bottles or jars). As part of our sustainability pledge, we are encouraging our scholars the importance of recycling and to use these recycling bins, helping to save our planet a little bit each time.



Have a wonderful and restful break,
Richard Blyghton



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Monday 17th - Friday 21st February - Half Term

Monday 3rd March - National Careers Week

Thursday 6th March - Year 7 Parents Evening (virtual)

Friday 14th March - Year 11 and 13 reports sent home

Thursday 20th March - Year 10 Parents Evening (in person)

Tuesday 25th March - Year 12 at UCAS Discovery Event, ExCel London

Wednesday 26th March - 6pm Spring Music Concert

Thursday 27th March - Year 13 Parents Evening for selected students

Thursday 3rd April - 6pm Spring Music Concert

Friday 4th April - Ski trip to Mont Tremblant depart and the Bay of Naples trip departs



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JUBILEE SIXTH FORM CENTRE GRAND OPENING

We are delighted to announce the official opening of our brand-new Jubilee Sixth Form Centre, a milestone that marks an exciting new chapter in our school's journey. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Louie French, our local MP, and Eileen Pallen the Former Mayor of Bexley, for graciously cutting the ribbon and officially inaugurating the centre. Our sincere thanks also go to all those who attended this special occasion, including our dedicated Trustees, Former Headteachers, Beths Parents' Association, the design and construction crew, and our student Prefect team. A big thank you to Independent Catering for providing such an amazing spread. This state-of-the-art facility represents our commitment to providing an inspiring and enriching environment for our Sixth Form students, and we look forward to seeing it become a hub of learning and growth.



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JUBILEE SIXTH FORM CENTRE GRAND OPENING



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GCSE AND A-LEVEL DRAMA

Our Year 10-12 Drama students went to see The Curious Case of Benjamin Button in the West End last week, as part of their GCSE/A Level course. This was their final live performance of the year. Earlier this year, students also saw Hamilton, The Play That Goes Wrong, and Six: The Musical.



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NON UNIFORM DAY

On Friday, 14th February, our sixth form students organised a non-uniform day to raise funds for their upcoming prom as well as for the charity Mind. With it being Valentine's Day, many students took the opportunity to wear red and pink, using the day not only to show their support for these causes but also to spread kindness to one another.



BETHS BOOK PODCAST

February's Beths Book Podcast episode is now available!

<https://youtu.be/vt7TVpiv7sl?si=iSi4LJu8hm3e3dMV...>

This month's theme: The Medieval Period In this episode, you'll find:
Book suggestions An interview with Ms. Stevens and Ms. Minkowich A
deep dive into the Medieval time period



**BETHS BOOK
PODCAST**

SPECIAL MEDIEVAL EDITION

FEBRUARY EPISODE NOW
AVAILABLE!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- BOOK REVIEWS
- BOOK READING
- COMPETITIONS
- GUEST INTERVIEWS



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BEST OF THE BETHS

Best of the Beths January edition is now available [here](#). This month's issue includes: The Picture of Dorian Gray Review by Ronnie 12H2, We Live in Time Review by Evie 12A2, 2025 NASCAR Cup Series: Season Preview by Faeq 9B and much more!

BEST OF THE BETHS








THE BEST OF JANUARY

MCR - THREE CHEERS FOR SWEET REVENGE

HADI 10A

Album Background

Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge (2004) is the sophomore effort by American rock band My Chemical Romance. A major step up from their debut, Three Cheers is considered to be a quintessential release in the world of emo and post-hardcore, both bringing the genres into the mainstream whilst also being critically acclaimed. It topped the UK Rock and Metal charts, cracked the top 40 on the UK Mainstream Album charts and produced 3 top 40 singles. It has been certified multi-platinum worldwide.



Track Listing

1. Helena
2. Give 'Em Hell, Kid
3. To the End
4. You Know What They Do...
5. I'm Not Okay (I Promise)
6. The Ghost of You
7. The Jetset Life Is Gonna Kill You
8. Interlude
9. Thank You for the Venom
10. Hang 'Em High
11. It's Not a Fashion Statement...
12. Cemetery Drive
13. I Never Told You What I Do...



Hello there, stranger!



TRUMP BACK IN OFFICE

JESSICA 12A1

The USA and the rest of the world watched as Trump was elected on November 8, 2024. This was widely seen as a surprise upset victory. He was inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States on January 20, 2017. By the time he left office after losing the 2020 presidential election to former Vice President Joe Biden, Trump's first term was largely defined to be controversial. For example his administration faced numerous ethical concerns, including allegations of nepotism involving his family members into senior advisory roles.

The historically unusual nature of his presidency was confirmed four years later when he became the second person ever, and the first since the 19th century, elected to two non-consecutive terms. He took the oath of office for the second time on January 20, 2025.

However, despite being in the early days of his 2025 presidency, Trump is already facing significant backlash, particularly regarding his stance on the popular app TikTok. In 2020, the USA government announced that it was considering banning the Chinese social media platform TikTok upon a request from then-president Donald Trump, who viewed the app as a national security threat. On January 18, 2025, TikTok temporarily suspended its services in the United States, leaving many American users distraught with the most popular app in the world shutting down.

The following day, after Trump signalled that he would grant an extension to TikTok upon being inaugurated, services were restored.

Trump's sudden switch towards restoring the app left many American citizens believing the supposed ban was a calculated, political strategy to win over the hearts of the American people. One user in the app X wrote "The Tik Tok ban is very CLEARLY a ploy to make Trump look like a hero, as indicated by Tik Tok's statements surrounding the ban praising him for all his work to get the app back".

This highlights how Trump's second term has already begun with significant undocumented the January Capitol in

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF AI

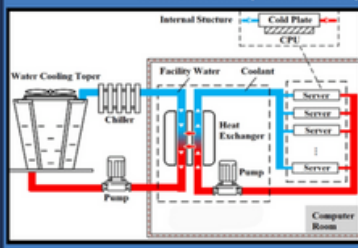
OLUWANIFEMI 11A

Recently, AI has experienced a significant surge in its growth and public interest. In November 2022, the release of ChatGPT marked a pivotal moment in the tech world. It reached over 100 million users within 2 months, making it the fastest growing app we've seen. As we continue to take advantage of ChatGPT and its predecessors, it's crucial for us to consider its effect on the environment and its sustainability.



When an AI model like ChatGPT receives a prompt, the prompt is divided into smaller units called tokens, whereby the AI will analyse the tokens, formulate a relevant response, and convert the tokens back to text that humans understand. A standard google search requires 0.3 Wh (watt-hours) of electricity, whereas a ChatGPT query requires 2.9 Wh, an 800% increase! Over 200 million ChatGPT queries are made daily on average, making its daily energy consumption to be roughly 621.4 MWh (megawatt-hours), which is enough to power nearly 22,000 UK homes for a day.

Besides energy, AI infrastructure relies heavily on critical minerals and rare elements such as Cobalt and Nickel for batteries, which are often mined unsustainably in countries such as Brazil and the DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo). Additionally, these facilities consume large amounts of water, as the substantial heat generated from the AI models and servers needs to be controlled to maintain optimum temperatures.



The image on the left shows a Chilled Water System, the most common cooling method in data centers. These systems use water-cooled chillers to remove heat from the air inside the data center. The chilled water circulates through cooling coils which absorb heat from the air. The heated water is then cooled again, often through evaporative cooling or cooling towers, completing the cycle.



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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Match Funding!

Dear Parents of Beths Grammar School,

Amplify Your Impact: Match Funding with Beths PA

The Beths Parents' Association is a registered UK charity. Many employers will match your donations, potentially doubling or tripling the amount. Check if your employer participates and make your contribution go further!

As a registered UK charity, the Beths Parents' Association plays a vital role in supporting our school and enriching the educational experiences of our children. Today, we would like to highlight an opportunity that can significantly amplify the impact of your generous donations: match funding.

What is Match Funding?

Match funding is a fantastic way to double or even triple your donations to the Beths Parents' Association without any additional cost to you. Many employers have schemes in place where they match the charitable contributions made by their employees. This can be in the form of direct financial donations or even volunteer time. Some companies match pound for pound up to a certain limit, while others may double or triple the amount of your donation or pay for your volunteer time.



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How to Find Out if Your Employer Participates

Please inquire with your Human Resources department to see if they offer a matching gift scheme. Some employers based outside the UK, especially those in the US, may also have similar programs.

How to Participate

To take advantage of this scheme, please follow your employer's specific procedures for match funding. The Beths Parents' Association will provide any necessary documentation to support your donation. By participating in this program, you can significantly increase the impact of your contributions, helping us to support more initiatives and projects at Beths Grammar School.

For any questions or further information, please contact our executive committee at exec@bethspa.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.
Warm regards, Beths Parents' Association



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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Raffle time!!!



⚽ Wembley Awaits! Win Sidemen Charity Match Tickets! ⚽

Don't miss out! Get your raffle tickets now! 2 lucky winners have the chance to win 2 x tickets to the hottest event in town – the SOLD OUT Sidemen Charity Match at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 8th March 2025 at 3pm. See your favourite YouTubers and internet stars battle it out.

Supporting Beths Grammar School PA.

Raffle closes 28th February 2025 at 7pm.

<https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/raffle/1218990689>



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Foolhouse

CENTRE
★ STAGE
THEATRE ACADEMY

Centre Stage Theatre Academy would like to invite the students of Beths Grammar School to take part in Summer Youth Project 2025!

Centre Stage Theatre Academy is a family run company with ten academy locations across Kent. Summer Youth Project has been running at The Woodville, Gravesend since 2014 and past productions such as Oliver, Shrek, Fame, Grease and Legally Blonde have been hugely successful with students returning to take part every year.

Summer Youth Project has a Junior Ensemble for ages 8-12 years and a Senior Ensemble for ages 13-21 years. We would love to share this wonderful opportunity to the students of Beths Grammar School. The course is open to all, and no experience is necessary, just a passion for wanting to learn, have fun and perform.

The course runs from Monday 28th July to Saturday 9th August every day from 10am - 5pm at The Woodville. Students will produce the full musical in just ten days, performing to a live audience complete with a full orchestra, lights, costumes, and a set!

We will be holding auditions on Sunday 16th March for Junior Students to take part in the ensemble and Senior Students who wish to audition for a principal or supporting role.

It is completely free to come along and audition, then after the audition day there is a non-refundable deposit of £50 due to register your space. The full two-week project is £275 inc VAT. and the final balance of £215 must be paid by 30th June 2025. This works out to less than £3.50 per hour for professional tuition and care. Payments plans are accepted.

We like to ensure that opportunities like this are available to all children and young adults, so we do also offer 50% and 100% funded spaces upon application.

We have enclosed some leaflets and posters, which we would really appreciate you putting around the school to promote our Summer Youth Project. Any questions at all please feel free to contact us.

Kind Regards,
Frankie Fitzgerald
Company Director

www.centrestagetheatreacademy.com
info@centrestagetheatreacademy.com
0800 058 2521



AUDITION APPLICATION



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**CENTRE
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THEATRE ACADEMY

Act. Dance. Sing.

BECKENHAM ACADEMY
THURSDAYS AT LANGLEY
PARK SCHOOL FOR BOYS

MAIDSTONE ACADEMY
TUESDAYS AT ST
AUGUSTINE ACADEMY

BEXLEYHEATH ACADEMY
THURSDAYS AT ST
COLUMBA'S BOYS' SCHOOL

MEDWAY ACADEMY
SATURDAYS AT BRADFIELDS
ACADEMY

BROMLEY ACADEMY
SATURDAYS AT HAYES
SCHOOL

NORTHFLEET ACADEMY
SATURDAYS AT NORTHFLEET
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

DARTFORD ACADEMY
WEDNESDAYS AT REYNOLDS
TRAINING ACADEMY

ORPINGTON ACADEMY
TUESDAYS AT NEWSTEAD
WOOD SCHOOL

GRAVESEND ACADEMY
MONDAYS AT THE
WOODVILLE THEATRE

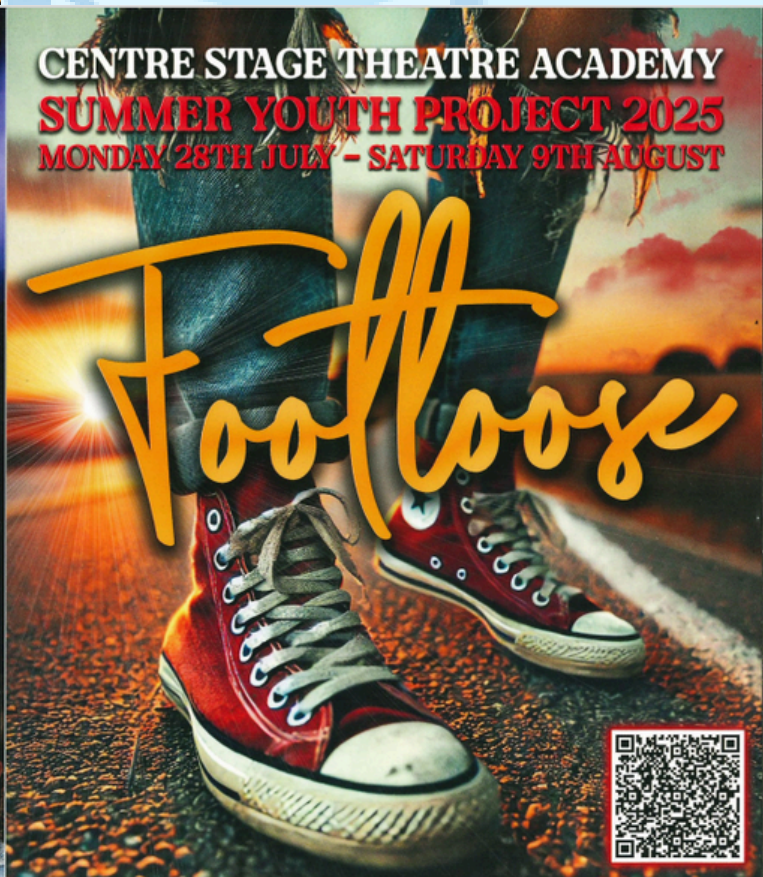
SIDCUP ACADEMY
SATURDAYS AT BURNT
OAK JUNIOR SCHOOL



BOOK YOUR
FREE TRIAL **0800 058 2521**
WWW.CENTRESTAGETHEATREACADEMY.COM

CENTRE STAGE THEATRE ACADEMY
SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT 2025
MONDAY 28TH JULY - SATURDAY 9TH AUGUST

Footloose



THE FOOTLOOSE CAST IS OPEN TO ANYONE AGED 8 - 21 YEARS

CONTACT US OR SCAN THE QR CODE
TO BOOK YOUR AUDITION:

0800 058 2521



WWW.CENTRESTAGETHEATREACADEMY.COM



'FOOTLOOSE' A STAGE ADAPTATION BY DEAN FITCHFORD AND WALTER BOBBIE. MUSIC BY TOM SNOW LYRICS BY DEAN FITCHFORD



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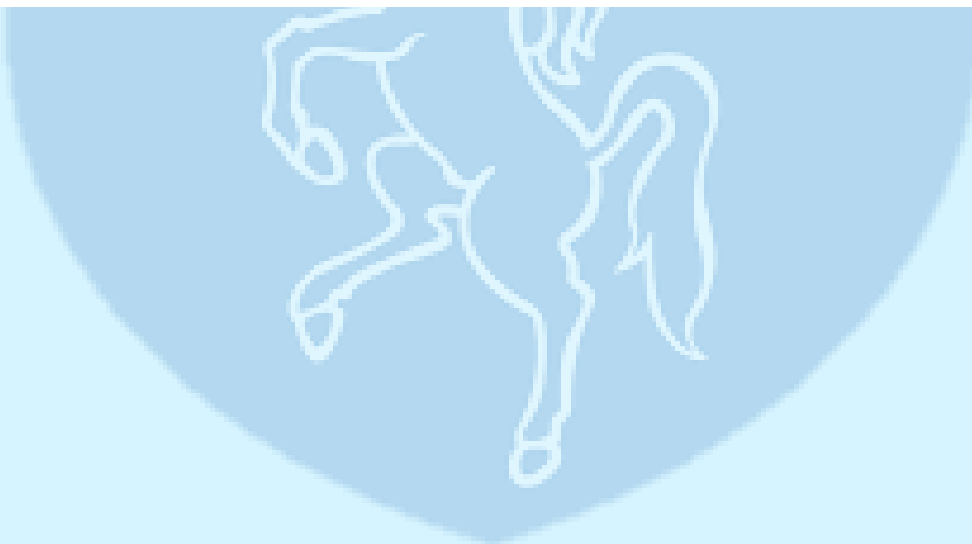
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FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Results for week commencing 10th February

RUGBY					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Score
11.02.25	Friendly	U13A	Tournament	Neutral	Lost
12.02.25	Friendly	U13A	V Bullers Wood School for Boys	Home	Won

FOOTBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Score
10.02.25	North Kent Cup	U13B	V Bexleyheath Academy	Home	Won 7-1
10.02.25	North Kent Cup	U13A	V Cleeve Park School	Away	Won 2-6
11.02.25	North Kent Cup	U14A	V Cleeve Park School	Home	Won 3-0
12.02.25	North Kent League	U12B	V Bexleyheath Academy	Away	Lost 2-0
13.02.25	North Kent League	U12A	V Harris Academy Falconwood	Home	Won 2-1



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FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Fixtures for week commencing 24th February

FOOTBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
26.02.25	Kent League	1 st XI	V Hayes School	Home	2pm
26.02.25	Kent League	2 nd XI	V North Kent College	Away	2pm
27.02.25	Tournament	U13A	Year 8 North Kent Football Tournament	Away	2pm

BASKETBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
24.02.25	Kent Basketball QF	U14A	V Ravens Wood School	Home	3:30pm
26.02.25	Kent Basketball QF	U17A	V Canterbury High School	Away	2:20pm

RUGBY					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
25.02.25	U14 Kent 7s	U14A	Tournament	Neutral	9:30am
27.02.25	U15 Kent 7s	U15A	Tournament	Neutral	9:30am
28.02.25	Friendly	U12A	V Bullers Wood School for Boys	Home	2:30pm

*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).

If you have any questions, please email us at fixtures@beths.bexley.sch.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.

Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.

2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.

3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.

4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.

5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.

6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.

7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.

8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.

9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.

10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.

Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/786040/survey_of_pupils_and_their_parents_or_carers-wave_5.pdf
<https://www.oecd.org/education/talents/tables.htm> | https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621070/Health_behaviour_in_school_age_children_cyberbullying.pdf

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ACTIONS FOR HAPPINESS CALENDAR

Friendly February 2025

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



SATURDAY

SUNDAY

1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



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BETHS GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
HARTFORD ROAD
BEXLEY
KENT
DA5 1NE

Email Address: admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk

**Email Address (to be used for items/concerns of a more
'sensitive' nature): HeadsPA@beths.bexley.sch.uk**

Telephone Number: 01322 556538



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