



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyghton

Monday 7th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of Students in Year 11,

It was great to see so many of you at the Final Push information evening last Wednesday. I am so pleased that you were also able to have a tour of the new Jubilee Sixth Form Centre and to get a glimpse of the new study environment that awaits your child in September, as they prepare to enter the Sixth Form at Beths. The feedback from parents about the information and support offered for our students as well as the new building was extremely positive and I have shared these with the Headteacher, Senior Team and Trustees. This has been the most ambitious building project undertaken by the school in over 25 years. Whilst some see this as just a building, we see it as an investment in our young people and a mark of our continued pursuit to ensure that Beths offers the very best educational experience for your children. Over the Easter break and into the summer term we are working on building a new Food Technology classroom and a dedicated Library space for our students.

As a school we have hit the headlines (both locally and nationally) lately on a number of occasions. The official opening of the Jubilee Sixth Form Centre corresponds with a record-breaking number of applications to entry in both Year 7 and Year 12. The school was ranked as one of the highest schools in Bexley for an “overwhelming majority of happy pupils” according to official Ofsted survey results. Last years Progress 8 and attainment outcomes at GCSE put us as one of the top performing schools in Bexley and Southeast London and in the “well above average” category (the highest of all categories). Yet again, we also outperformed the national averages for all Grammar Schools in England. And finally, last week Beths was announced as the **fourth best state secondary school in the country for attendance** (for context there are 3,452 state secondary schools in England – and we came fourth!) Whilst our students work very hard, they also are happy to come to school and enjoy being here. It has never been as good to be a Beths students.

We know that our students will be working hard over the Easter break as they begin their preparations for their public exams. Please see attached to this letter a **copy of the presentation** that was shared with parents and carers on the information evening. To summarise just a few key points:

- GCSE Public Examinations begin on **Thursday 8th May**.
- **Public exam timetables** (which include clash sessions) will be issued to students and parents on the first week back after Easter. Students will be given a hard copy of the timetable, and an electronic copy will be emailed to parents (a master copy can be found on the school website – but this will not include clash sessions).
- **MFL public speaking exams** will begin after the half-term break. Students have been told the date and time for their allocated slot.
- Please ensure your child has their **lanyard** for exams. This must include the pass (this will act as photo ID in the exam hall). Please replace this if it is lost or damaged. Students can order a new one from the main school reception at a cost of £5.00

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- Please ensure your child has **the right equipment for all exams** (this includes a scientific calculator and maths sets). Students entitled to the pupil premium funding can speak to Ms Searby if they need any equipment.
- Please ensure that uniform is correct and of an adequate standard for the next term. Too many students are wearing trainers and not bringing blazers to school.

I have also attached to this letter a copy of the “**survival guide for Year 11 students**” which gives you direct links to the **exam specifications and links to past papers**. This is essential reading at this time. This also gives you a detailed breakdown of content for each subject and topics per paper.

In the run up to the public exams your child should be completing the following proactive revision tasks at home;

- ✓ Reading through class notes
- ✓ Creating mind maps and extra revision notes on each chapter of the specification (all exam specifications can be accessed online)
- ✓ Self-assessing confidence against the specification
- ✓ Preparing revision flashcards and mind maps for each chapter of the specification
- ✓ Writing exam answers under timed conditions
- ✓ Reading model answers
- ✓ Rewriting model answers or rewriting marked work to make improvements
- ✓ Using past paper questions and planning answers
- ✓ Listen to online lessons and topic revision videos on YouTube
- ✓ Studying mark schemes or examiners reports (these can be accessed by the exam board website)

This can be a very stressful time for students as we approach exams. “Young Minds” have launched advice for parents about supporting their children. Tips include:

- Encourage your child to take revision breaks and find a balance between studying and doing things they find enjoyable and relaxing.
- Make sure they are eating and drinking at regular intervals.
- Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them no matter what happens.
- Remain positive and hopeful
- Let them know their feelings are valid and normal but also offer support and solutions where possible. Anxiety is often worst at night, and this means it is useful to encourage a good bedtime routine.

Thank you as always for your continued support. I wish you all a great Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr R McBeth

Senior Teacher (Head of Key Stage 4)

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