



Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyghton

3rd April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you all for the support you have offered to your young people in Year 12 as they started to deal with the loss of Alex Cardoza last week. The school has been a somber place since we learned of Alex's passing, but it has been heartwarming to see his friends consoling each other and being cared for by the whole sixth form community. To try to support our community with the tragic news we have offered students a chance to speak to our in-school counsellor, we have set up a condolences book in a quiet reflection classroom in school and we have had several visits from Reverend Trevor Wyatt, from Christchurch in Bexleyheath who has spoken in assemblies and to individuals. Students have made some excellent suggestions about various ways they wish to remember and celebrate Alex's life, and we will continue to work with his family to decide on the most appropriate ways to do so. Alex's funeral is tomorrow, Friday 4th April. Details of the arrangements have been sent to year 12s via their Teams page. The family have extended the invitation to the funeral to anyone who would like to attend.

If any Year 12 scholars are struggling and would like to seek help, we have encouraged them to make use of the Talk Grief service, which is specifically for young people experiencing loss. www.talkgrief.org

Other useful links for young people are:

- [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#) - our website is full of [advice and information](#) to give young people the tools to look after their mental health.
- [Home - Kooth](#) - **Whatever you're feeling, we're here to help** Get free, safe and anonymous support.
- [Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen](#) - I have attached a leaflet from Samaritans to this email for further information

There are some key messages on other matters that I do need to pass on to you at this point in the year.

Work experience

The deadline for work experience placements details to be uploaded on Unifrog was 3rd March. The week of work experience is 12th-16th May 2025. There are still some scholars who are yet to find placements, so please do support them in trying to find a placement. If you work in a business or company who can offer a placement to a scholar from Beths, we would very much like to hear from you. Please do email the careers team if you are able to give one of our scholar an opportunity. If scholars do not have a placement, they will be in school all week.

Hartford Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1NE

Tel: 01322 556538 Fax: 01322 621212

Email: admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk Website: www.beths.bexley.sch.uk

Registered Company Number 7379768

Trial exams

As you are aware the trial exams begin on Monday 28th April 2025, the second week back after the Easter holidays. Scholars have been issued a personal timetable detailing the dates and time of their exams. There will be no study leave for trial exams, and students will be in school studying between examinations, which is in line with new government guidance. To ensure that the trial exams are a true representation of the actual exams, we will be applying official JCQ examination rules throughout the trial exam period. In summary, that means the following:

- No back-up papers. This means if you are absent, you will not be able to take the examination.
- No extra time given if you are late.
- Acts of defiance, such as incorrect uniform or not following instructions, will result in not being able to take the exam.
- Any form of cheating, such as notes, failure to hand in phones, writing on the hand etc. will result in expulsion from the hall and a zero on that paper, which, depending on the nature of the cheating, can result in a zero for all papers.
- If a student is absent due to illness, a doctor's certificate is the only way that the student will be allowed another opportunity to take the assessment.

Once the students have taken their assessments, there are two extremely valuable outcomes to be aware of. Firstly, the feedback from their teachers. This feedback will allow each student to make further progress in each of their subjects. Therefore, being present and punctual for all lessons for the rest of this academic year is exceptionally important. Secondly, their outcomes will provide teachers and the sixth form team with valid data for predicted grades. These grades will be used for UCAS (university application) predicted grades, and predictions for apprenticeship and job applications. The trial exam results will give students up to date information on their attainment allowing them to make informed decisions about which university courses/apprenticeships to consider and which universities to visit. To support revision for these assessments, please see the summary table of topics attached to my previous email regarding trial exams, as well as the link below which will take you to our curriculum maps on our school website.

[Curriculum Maps - Beths Grammar School](#)

Year 12 students are encouraged to think about what drives them, whether that is a career aspiration, a life goal or something else. The year group attended the UCAS Discovery event on Tuesday 25th March and had the opportunity to speak to universities and degree apprenticeship providers. Focusing on their longer-term goals can be an excellent motivator. Students are also reminded to look after themselves and keep a healthy balance between their studies and time to rest. Anxiety as a normal human emotion when working towards exams, which can help us achieve well. Students have been encouraged to discuss any more challenging mental health concerns with trusted adults who will be able to offer strategies and support to help ease them through this important period.

UCAS Launch event

We would like to invite you all into school for our UCAS Launch event on Tuesday 20th May, 6-7pm. This event will introduce you and your young person to the UCAS process, which is changing slightly for 2026 university entry. More information about the structure of the event will follow in due course. If you would like to start looking into the process before then, please visit the UCAS website links below for further information.

[UCAS dates and deadlines for the 2026 cycle | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)
[Personal statements for 2026 entry onwards | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)

Sixth Form updates:

Takeaway food

As of Monday 2nd June 2025, scholars will not be allowed to bring takeaway food onto the school site. The student council have been working with the external caterers to make sure that the lunchtime provision matches their preferences, and scholars are still able to bring a packed lunch. The volume of takeaways brought onto the school site is generating waste which we have to pay to get removed. As a school we are working on ways to reduce waste and to be more sustainable. Since September, every scholar in Years 7 and 8 has planted a sapling tree which they will look after until they leave the school. We have also installed more recycling points around the school site and have switched to sustainable stationary providers. Please support us in this initiative by explaining the reasons for this change to your young person.

Uniform reminder

Please refer to our uniform policy on the school website. Year 12 scholars are aware that they cannot wear trainers, leather jackets or Ugg boots to school. They must always wear a school pin/tie a smart blazer/suit jacket, their school lanyard and formal shoes.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any further questions regarding subject content for trial exams, please contact your young person's teachers. For any other questions, please contact your young person's form tutor in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Foley
Assistant Headteacher
Key Stage 5 Manager – Year 12