

Beths VIP Summer 2025 Edition

BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents, Carers,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer holiday. Last term so much took place it was hard to keep up with everything as we reached the end of term! Here is a bumper-recap of what took place, please do check out our Instagram page where you can see details of our China trip and Year 8 camp.

School will return on Tuesday 2nd September for Years 7 and 12 only, and then on Wednesday 3rd September all scholars return at normal school time.

Please remind your child to ensure they have their lanyard with them when the return.



We have again, had excellent exam results. Which I will share in the next VIP. I am proud of all our scholars and their achievements and look forward to a successful new academic year with you all.

Best wishes,

Richard Blyghton



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday 1st September - Staff training Day - no scholars

Tuesday 2nd September - Years 7 (8:15am) and 12 (10:30am) only

Wednesday 3rd September - All scholars return normal time

Thursday 4th September - 6pm Awards Presentation Evening

Friday 5th September - School Photographs for Years 7, 9, 10 and 12

Monday 8th September - 11+ Testing taking place at school all day

Tuesday 9th September - 11+ Testing taking place at school all day

Wednesday 10th September - 11+ Testing taking place at school all day

Thursday 11th September - 11+ Testing taking place at school all day

Monday 15th September - 6pm-7pm Year 10 Welcome to GCSEs Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 16th September - 6pm-7pm Year 11 Final Push Parents Information Evening

Wednesday 24th September - 6pm-7pm Year 7 Parents Welcome to Beths

Thursday 25th September - 6pm-7pm Welcome to Sixth Form for Year 12 Parents

Friday 3rd October - Staff Training Day, no scholars

Monday 6th October - Year 11 Work Experience Week, Year 6 Open Events commence

Thursday 9th October - 6pm-7pm Year 12 Work Experience Meeting (in person)

Friday 10th October - Barcelona Football Tour departs, Year 9 Battlefields day trip

Monday 13th October - Barcelona Football Tour returns

Wednesday 15th October - 5pm-7pm Apprenticeship Fair Evening

Thursday 16th October - 6pm-7pm Snow Union Ski Trip Parents Information Evening

Friday 17th October - Year 6 Open Events end, Last day of term



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KEY STAGE 4 & 5 ECO CLUB

In April of this year, Eco Club sent a submission to the Bexley Eco Secondary School of the Year Award. The submission contained a full brief of all of Beths' Eco endeavours, this presentation included our tree nursery, new bins to help separate waste and the many other ways we have spread awareness around the school.

Here are some pictures from our presentation:



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KEY STAGE 4 & 5 ECO CLUB

At the end of May/early June we received an email from the competition judges stating:

“I am writing to let you know that Beths Grammar School are:

Bexley Eco Secondary School of the Year 2025

RUNNERS UP!

The judges were delighted with all the entries, so many schools doing wonderful things on this subject! The judges were very impressed with everything you are doing, they loved your tree project and felt this was a fabulous idea to leave such a legacy within school and also for students to take with them. They are also feeling that this is just the beginning for Beths, and we will see more to come! Congratulations and well done!

Thank you for taking the time to enter the awards and being part of the change, we need to see. It's so important children grow up knowing how important this subject is and Beths are doing a fabulous job, you should be very proud, I know I am!”

This award is not just a display of Eco Club's hard work but also shows the progress that Beths as a school has made over the course of the last few years. We hope to continue finding new and better ways to make Beths an even more Eco-Friendly School.

-Aviraj, Fahad and Sam-J of Eco Club



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YEAR 9 DT LESSONS

Students in Year 9 took advantage of the improved weather to learn about upcycling wooden pallets and turning them into planters. One day these planters will hopefully be used to help grow ingredients for the school kitchens or Food Technology lessons.



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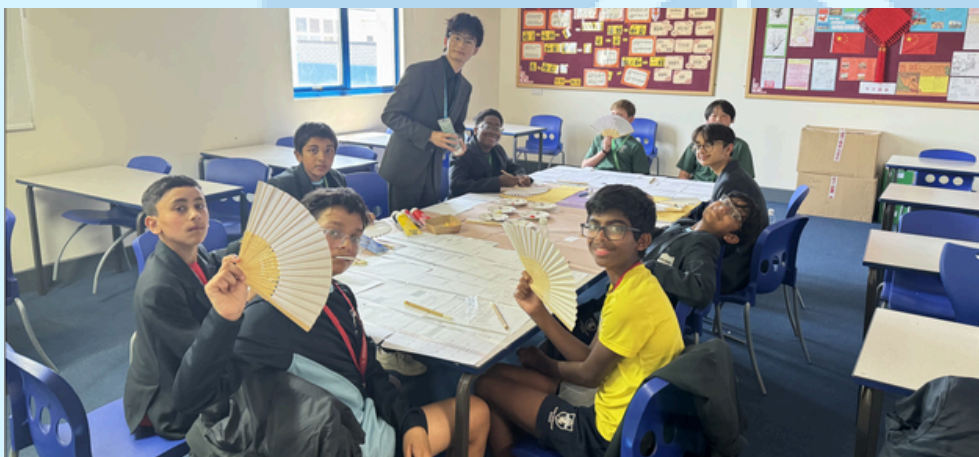
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KS3 CHINESE CLUB

In Chinese Club last term, students learnt about the different types of Chinese fans and their meanings. They created their own unique designs, each reflecting the student's personal style. Chinese folding fans, or shànzi, have been a part of Chinese culture for over a thousand years. Originally used for cooling and as fashion accessories, these fans gradually evolved into symbols of elegance, wisdom, and artistic expression. They were often decorated with calligraphy, poetry, and paintings, making them both functional and beautiful.



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FAREWELL TO YEAR 11

On the 18th June, our Year 11s had their last full examination together, and what better way to treat them for all their hard work, and approaching the end of the examination period, than a refreshing ice-cream! It was also an opportunity to sign of shirts!

We look forward to seeing many of our scholars return to Sixth Form in September.



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BEXLEY MUSIC ANNOUNCES THREE LEAD SCHOOLS FOR MUSIC!

Bexley Music is delighted to announce the appointment of three Lead Schools for Music for the 2025-2026 academic year:

- Beths Grammar School
- Marlborough School
- St Fidelis Catholic Primary School.

Each school demonstrates a clear commitment to providing high-quality music education for all children and young people, and to fostering creativity and inclusion within the Bexley community. Alongside Bexley Music, our lead schools will champion professional development for schools and teachers across the borough.

A commitment to excellence and inclusion

The selection of these three Lead Schools reflects Bexley Music's mission to inspire and empower young people through a diverse programme of music-making.



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BEXLEY MUSIC ANNOUNCES THREE LEAD SCHOOLS FOR MUSIC!

By working closely with schools across the borough, Bexley Music aims to ensure that every child and young person can access high-quality music education, regardless of their background or circumstances. Our Lead Schools will play an important role in co-designing specialised professional development, and championing music-making throughout our communities.

As part of the wider South East London Music Hub, Bexley Music and its Lead Schools will continue to build partnerships, share expertise, and create progression routes for young musicians.

The logo for the South East London Music Hub, featuring the text "South East London Music Hub" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in four lines: "South", "East", "London", and "Music Hub". The logo is set against a white background with a black border, and is placed on a larger, colorful, blurred rectangular background.

**South
East
London
Music
Hub**

We're a Lead
School for
Music in
South East
London
Music Hub



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A THEATRICAL TREAT FROM ONATTI PRODUCTIONS



The Modern Foreign Language department were delighted to welcome the fantastic Onatti Productions back to our school for another exciting visit. The event featured two engaging performances for our Year 7 French and Spanish Language students.

The French play, *Prendre sa revanche*, was a great success. The actors delivered brilliant performances in a humorous story about two antique dealers who try to trick customers by passing off fake artifacts as real—only to end up being the ones fooled! Meanwhile, the Spanish performance, *Primera Cita*, told the amusing story of two Spanish teenagers, María and Carlos, getting ready for that most important first date!

Our students found both performances hilarious while also recognising key vocabulary and verb tenses, they have been learning in class. These live performances offered a wonderful opportunity for students to enhance their language skills in a fun and interactive way.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Parents' Association for generously funding this enriching experience.



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SOUTH EAST MFL DEBATE COMPETITION



On Tuesday 24th June our scholars took part in the South East MFL Debate competition, competing against strong teams at Bexley Grammar School, Dartford Grammar School and Eltham College.

Although the Debate was directed to Yr 12 - A Level students, we took 4 scholars from Year 10 to participate in Spanish and Mandarin alongside with our Year 12 scholars of each subject. This made a huge difference as all the other schools had very strong teams and definitely many more students than us (we had only 4 scholars in each team - 2 Year 12 scholars and 2 Year 10 scholars on both Spanish and Mandarin).

I am delighted to report that Beths won first place in Mandarin in their category, alongside with Spanish!

Huge congratulations to our scholars who participated in this competition and to: Samuel F, Luca S, Justin S and Gabriel C for winning their debates.



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LONDON YOUTH GAMES HOCKEY COMPETITION



During June and July, about 15 hockey players (Years 7-9 boys), had been training for the London Youth Games 2025 Bexley Hockey Team. I was one of the lucky 9 that made the final selection - 4 of us were from Bexley! Rowan M (Y7), Ollie M (Y9), Chris P (Y9) and myself (Sean M Y9). We usually play for Burnt Ash Hockey Club (Bexley) or Bexleyheath and Belvedere Hockey Club. One of the Assistant Coaches was Callum L from Y10, so Bexley was well represented at the event, which took place over the weekend of the 5th and 6th July.

It was an early start to arrive at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre by 9am but it was worth it for the experience and to also be able to play on the famous blue Olympic Pitch which had been relocated to Lee Valley after the London 2012 Olympics.

After the first round of matches (won 2, lost 2) we were told we had narrowly missed out on being part of the Cup competition and instead would be competing for the 'Plate'. Sadly, we did not win, but it was a great day and a fabulous experience. It was also great to be on the same team as those we sometimes play against! Sean M – 9B



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SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENT

In July, Thomas C in Year 9 participated in a dance competition in Blackpool. Competing in the Latin and Ballroom solos and in pairs, unfortunately the finals were not to be, but Thomas's hard work and amazing achievement to get to this stage hasn't gone unnoticed and now the hard work starts again for next year's competition!

Well done Thomas!



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JACK PETCHEY FUNDS

Through the generous funding given to our Jack Petchey winner, Edwin in Year 12, our scholars were fortunate to experience some life saving training.

15 students, including the Head Prefect Team, Sports Captains and members of the Medicine Society attended a First Aid course. *"It was an incredibly enlightening experience, teaching life skills that will be incredibly useful in the future, and exposing students to unique and fascinating opportunities in their pursuit of knowledge."*



Another Jack Petchey winner, Jonah H in Year7, used his funding to have a DJ visit and share his skills with a group of scholars. Learning the art of the decks and mixing, the scholars had a great



experience making music. Thank you again to our scholars for sharing their funding to enrich others lives.



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VISIT FROM AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE



On Tuesday 24th June, British Athlete James Dasaolu, presented to our Year 9 and 10 cohorts on his journey from attending Loughborough University, to the Olympics and his achievements as an athlete.

Our scholars listened to the highs and lows James experience, his determination and resilience and what changes he needed to make in order to be the best he could be. Thank you @jamesdasaolu for your time and for sharing your journey with our scholars.



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BETHS SUMMER FAIR & 80TH BIRTHDAY

As it had been a good few years since our last school fair, we decided to coincide a summer fair with the school's 80th birthday on Saturday 28th June.

The school was founded in 1945 as Erith Technical School, on Holly Hill Road, Erith and moved to its current site in 1961, where the school name changed to Bexley Erith Technical High School for Boys. In 1976 it became Beths Grammar School.

In 2026 we would have been on Hartford Road site for 65 years!! Should we do something to celebrate this?!

We were honoured to have The Worshipful the Mayor of Bexley, Councillor Christine Catterall, former Mayor of Bexley and Councillor, Eileen Pallen and Mr Louie French MP to attend our special event.



The Mayor presented us with an 80th birthday oak plaque, designed and created by our own DT team!

The event was also a wonderful time to share the school with the community, past students, new and prospective students. We were delighted to see past students like Mr Alan Harper (left) who was a student in 1957!!

We would like to thank the small businesses who came to sell their unique handmade crafts and gifts to our visitors. Thanks also to our staff and the PA who made this event possible, we hope everyone that visited had an enjoyable experience and thank you for sharing in our special day.



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BETHS SUMMER FAIR & 80TH BIRTHDAY



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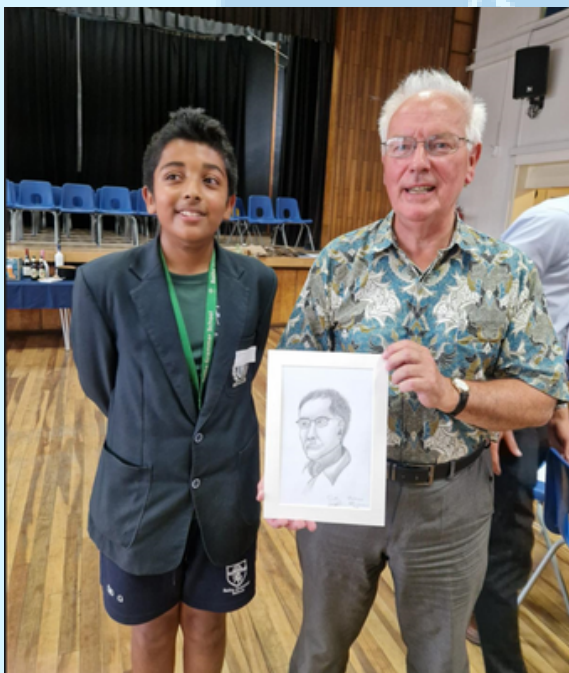


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COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA

On Friday 18th July we held our summer afternoon tea for our local retired community. The theme for this event was Portraits. Our guests were invited to have their portrait drawn by one of our scholars, whilst they enjoyed music from the Big Band and tucked into the delicious afternoon tea food made by our Independent Catering team.

We look forward to welcoming all our guests back for our Christmas Afternoon tea in December!



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MEDICINE SOCIETY

Over the summer months, our Medicine Society here at Beths Grammar School, held a charity initiative: running the largest distance between England and Wales – a whopping 760km in 28 days. They hope to donate the money to Doctors Without Borders, with an initial goal of £1,000.

Doctors Without Borders are an incredible charity that provide life-saving medical care in the most dangerous, conflict and poverty-stricken areas around the world. Every donation will help them improve their resources, response times, and overall ability to save lives.

If you would like to support this cause, please consider donating here:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/beths-medicine-society-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=019



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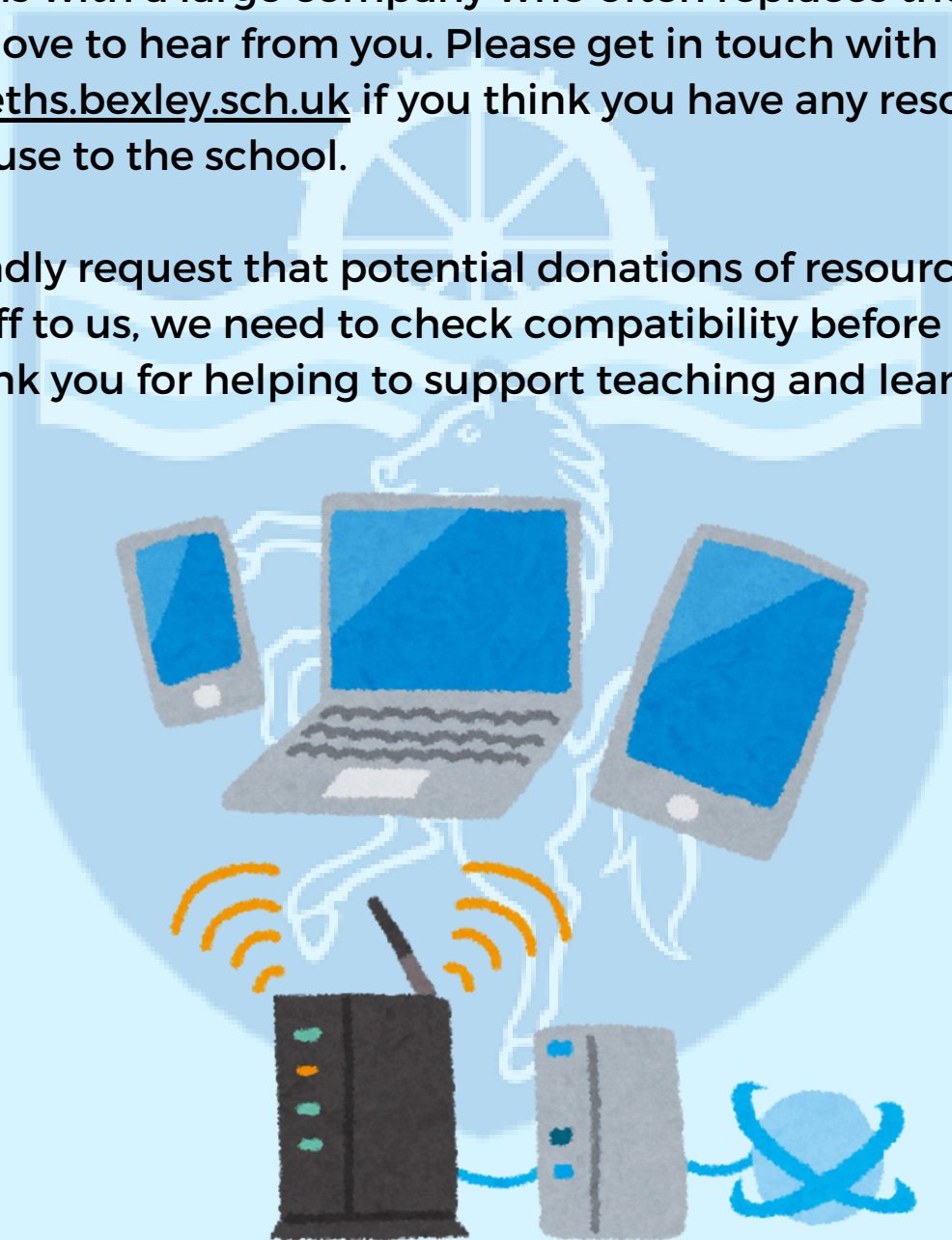
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TECH REQUEST

Dear Beths community,

To support our scholars we are always looking to update our resources in school. If anyone in our wider Beths community works for or has connections with a large company who often replaces their technology, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk if you think you have any resources which may be of use to the school.

Can we kindly request that potential donations of resources are not just dropped off to us, we need to check compatibility before receiving any items. Thank you for helping to support teaching and learning at Beths



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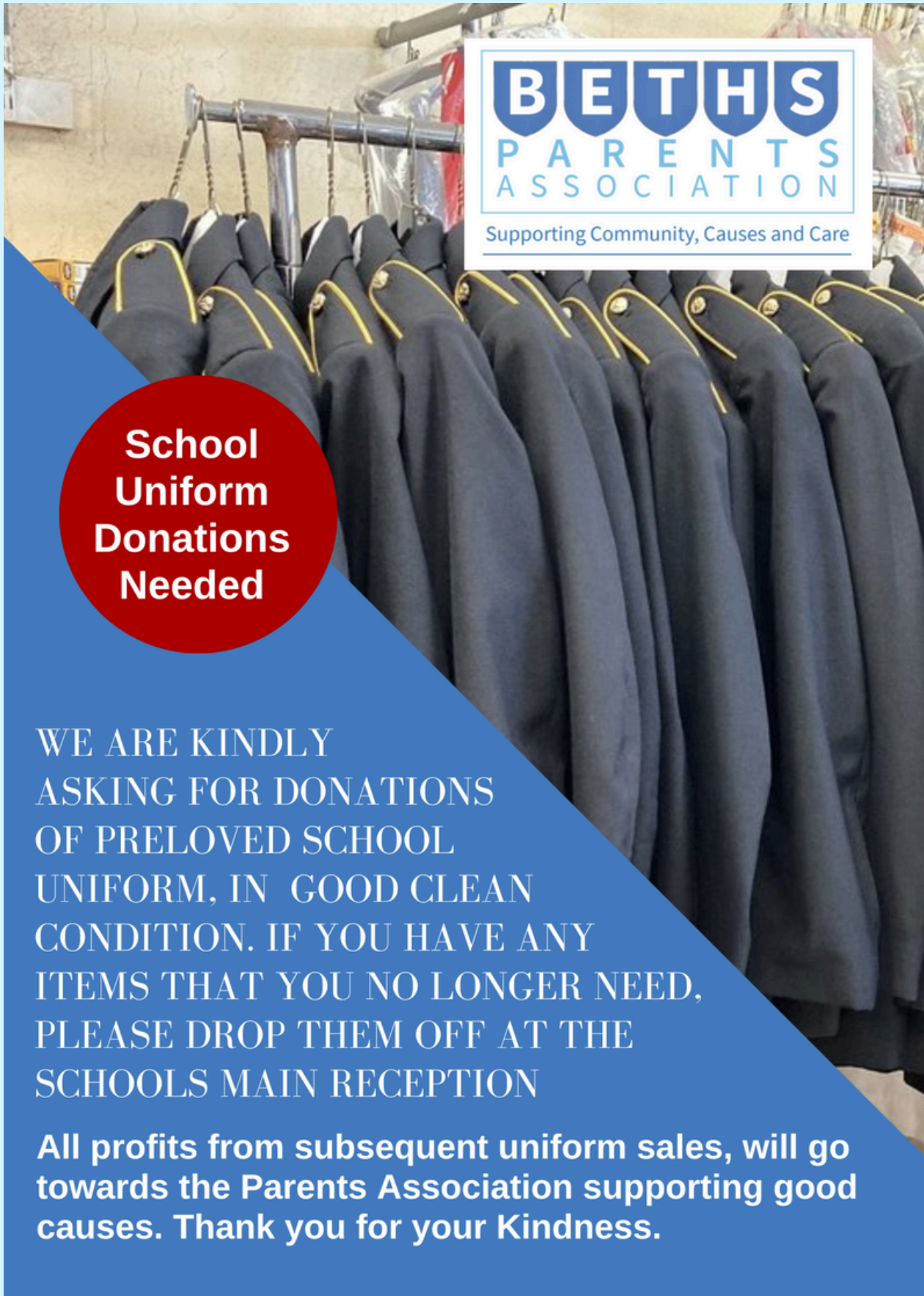


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BETHS PARENTS ASSOCIATION



**School
Uniform
Donations
Needed**

WE ARE KINDLY
ASKING FOR DONATIONS
OF PRELOVED SCHOOL
UNIFORM, IN GOOD CLEAN
CONDITION. IF YOU HAVE ANY
ITEMS THAT YOU NO LONGER NEED,
PLEASE DROP THEM OFF AT THE
SCHOOLS MAIN RECEPTION

**All profits from subsequent uniform sales, will go
towards the Parents Association supporting good
causes. Thank you for your Kindness.**



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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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 6% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA

Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short term, but for those with existing vulnerabilities or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. Many also feel pressured to 'laugh off' violent content to fit in with friends, even when they find it distressing.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Exposure to online violence can lead to fear and avoidance behaviours – such as skipping school or staying indoors. When children see weapons used in videos, it can heighten their perception that the world is unsafe and, in rare cases, increase the likelihood they'll consider carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION

Violent videos often go viral quickly. What begins as an online argument can spill into real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or creating violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

DESENSITISATION

Older teens may become numb to violent content after years of exposure, admitting they're unlikely to report it. Younger children also tend not to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES

Violent content online may overlap with racist, misogynistic or otherwise extremist ideas. These messages can dehumanise others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or notoriety. Over time, this can normalise dangerous behaviours and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including home life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Many children feel adults are too busy or won't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through non-judgemental conversations about what they're seeing. If they don't want to speak to you directly, gently signpost towards trusted services they can turn to for support.

KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL

Some violent content is simply upsetting, while other examples may be criminal or a safeguarding matter that needs reporting. Help children understand the difference by staying informed about online laws and social media reporting procedures. A useful resource is reportharmfulcontent.com.

AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Fear of punishment is a major reason young people stay silent about violent content. Try not to overreact or threaten to take away devices. Instead, reassure children that they can speak openly and that asking for help won't get them into trouble.

UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA

Older children may already know how to block accounts or avoid triggering content. Help younger or more vulnerable children learn these tools and encourage habits that reduce exposure. Just as importantly, teach techniques that help them process distress – building resilience and emotional literacy for both online and offline life.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in digital safety, media law, and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit onlinemedialawuk.com for more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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