



## Beths Grammar School

an 11 – 18 selective school with academy status

Headteacher: Mr R J Blyhton

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers of Students in Year 12,

Friday will mark the end of the first full school term in Sixth Form at Beths Grammar for our year 12 students. The atmosphere around the school signals to us that students have settled in extremely well to life in Sixth Form and seem to be enjoying their time with us so far. This has been a very busy and demanding term for our students. They have now fully immersed themselves into their A-Level courses and over the past number of weeks students have been working hard towards completing their end of term assessments and working with their teachers to get important feedback on how to improve. The year 12 student council met for the first time this half-term and the feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive. You can read their comments on what they feel is going well so far in the final page of this letter. We have already started work on addressing important points they have raised to make their experience even better.

In addition to work inside the classroom, the careers team have now fully rolled out signing every year 12 student up to Unifrog. Please see the careers update below. We have also welcomed in former students and guest speakers in the medical and legal professions to provide inspiration and wise words of advice to our current sixth form students about life in these respective career paths. We will continue to welcome in other visitors from across other different industries over the next year. Our current year 13 students have now completed their applications and mock interviews for Oxbridge, and we wish them well for offers. Now that this has been completed for them, our attention will turn to year 12 once we return after Christmas for those wishing to pursue the Oxbridge dream.

Our list of extra-curricular activities continues to increase in length, and we are incredibly proud of the leadership our students have shown in setting these clubs up. Thank you to Joshua for starting up what is now a very popular badminton club on a Tuesday night, thank you to Nathan for setting up the Law society for our aspiring future lawyers, thank you to Mia for setting up the girls' football team and also to Yong for starting up the crochet club. Our Young Enterprise group have been working hard to raise start-up capital for their business and are now finalising their ideas on how to get the company off the ground. It really is a great to see our young ones take up the many opportunities' life at Beths has to offer.



Applications for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl will go live on MS Teams after Christmas. We will look to shortlist and interview in January for these positions of responsibility. Once we appoint to these positions, we will then look to appoint a wider team of senior prefects and begin the hand over from the current year 13 prefects to our year 12 students.

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Academic reports were issued to parents/carers on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December and the first year 12 parents evening took place virtually last week. We hope you have found this information and opportunity to speak with teachers useful in helping you to support your young person at home with their A-level studies. Please note that ***predicted grades are provisional and not absolute***. They are subject to change. If your child feels they can do better, then they will have another opportunity to influence these grades ahead of the next report. Year 12 will sit formal trial exams across all of their subjects in April 2026. The outcome of these reports will influence their UCAS predicted grades. It is important that they keep on top of their studies now to give them the best chance of success for the end of this academic year.

### **Free School Meals**

For students who were at another school for GCSE, if they had successfully applied for/were eligible for Free School Meals, please be aware that this does not transfer across to Beths Sixth Form and therefore you will **need to reapply on behalf that young person**. Being eligible for FSM can be very important for applying to many of the widening participation activities that external providers such as universities, companies and organisations like the Sutton Trust offer and in many cases, it will be a condition of the application. Secondly it is important evidence for bursary applications.

### **Contacting the school**

All staff email addresses are available on the school website. Please see the link below. If you wish to speak with a teacher regarding progress or any other general subject related queries, then please email the teacher in the first instance. You can ask to arrange a telephone call to discuss anything further.

### **Our Staff - Beths Grammar School**

### **Curriculum Maps**

All subjects issue a curriculum map which gives you as parents/carers the opportunity to know what exactly they are studying in lessons each half-term. Please click on the link below to take you to the school website where you can access each curriculum map for each A-Level subject.

### **Curriculum Maps - Beths Grammar School**

### **Update from the Careers Team**

Most students have now completed our Careers Survey. Their responses have allowed us to discover who is interested in apprenticeships, early entry for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and Oxbridge. Combined with the feedback from the recent Student Council, this has given us an invaluable insight into their concerns, interests and aspirations.

All students can now access the Unifrog careers platform.

Looking ahead, all Year 12 students will be attending the UCAS Discovery event at London ExCel on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, and our Careers Fair on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, giving them the opportunity to speak with universities and employers.

We believe a period of work-related learning gives students the chance to see what a real working environment is like as well as the opportunity to develop key skills that they will need in their

working lives. Work Experience gives students vital evidence for their Personal Statement and CV. All students will be taking part in **work experience for the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June**. In preparation for finding and applying for work experience, this week students have been creating or updating CVs in form time, guided by their tutors and the Careers Team. Information on how to find work experience has also been shared with students in assembly, and the Careers Team will continue to support students. It is the responsibility of the students to secure their own work experience placement. There will be **a virtual presentation will go live on the website on the first week back in January** for students and parents with further information about work experience. The link will be sent to parents/carers in January.

If you have any questions for the Careers Team, please contact us on [careers@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:careers@beths.bexley.sch.uk)

### **EPQ update (Extended Project Qualification)**

The EPQ was launched with Year 12 students on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The Extended Project is part of our enrichment programme and is therefore optional for students. As a qualification, it is the equivalent to an AS level but graded as an A level (i.e. A\*-E). It is important to note that unlike any other school-based qualification, students are effectively on their own, identifying an area of academic research they are interested in, researching it and writing a report or creating an artefact of some kind (for example we have had architectural designs and models as well as guitars being designed and built!). However, they are not allowed to do anything that is covered on the A level courses.

Whilst students will have a teacher supervising them, that role is very 'hands-off'. Supervisors do not chase up students for deadlines. Over several meetings across the length of the course supervisors discuss aspects of the project, asking questions etc, they are not allowed to tell students what to do. This is not us being difficult, but rather compliance with the set instructions of the qualification.

A compulsory part of the course is attending Taught Skills sessions on Week 2 Wednesdays lesson 3. This is where students will be introduced to and guided through the academic skills necessary to produce such a piece of work. As noted, these are not optional and students are required to attend to be able to complete the EPQ, if they already have other activities at this time then they will not be able to do the EPQ.

The EPQ is a lot of work - in fact it amounts to roughly 120 hours of work between January 2026 and early October 2026 and does require students to be able to manage their workloads independently. Throughout the EPQ, there are interim deadlines that students will also be required to meet. These will be confirmed along with the final, October deadline, early next term. Students should think very carefully about the taking on the EPQ, especially if they are currently struggling with their current workload or finding what they are doing at the moment highly challenging, academically. Whilst many universities look favourably on the EPQ, ultimately, they are making offers on three A levels.

For those students considering the EPQ, a task has been set on the Year 12 Teams are to be completed by the end of the second week in January, there will be a further task set before the end of this term as well. Completion of both of these by the deadlines are a requirement to be able to participate in the EPQ.

### **Parent questionnaire**

Please find a link , [Parent Survey December 2025](#), to our parental survey, which takes place in the Winter and Summer terms. We would be most grateful if you could complete the short survey, by 16th January 2026, which provides us with valuable information regarding parental voice, as we strive to provide the best educational opportunities for the young people in our care. Our students will receive a similar questionnaire to complete via Teams.

As always, if you have any questions or queries then please never hesitate to contact us directly. We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued support to the school and I wish you and your family a great Christmas break and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



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**Head of Key Stage 4 and 5**  
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**Mr D Parkes**  
**Head of Year 12**  
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### **Feedback from the Year 12 Student Council meeting**

- Students were very positive about their first half-term in the Sixth Form. Many students feel that Beths was the right decision.
- Students feel that the school is a warm and welcoming environment. They like how the sixth form is a mature place to study, and everyone seems to get on well with each other.
- There was a strong appreciation of the PSHCE lessons and VESPA activities. Students report that they enjoy the discussions during tutor time, and everyone feels comfortable to contribute (even on some sensitive issues).
- External students felt the induction was “seamless” and the school handled the transition very well.
- Students report that they are happy and fully settled in the school. They were nervous when they started as the environment is very new to them. They thanked the school for making them feel very welcome and for treating them like young adults. They report that they speak highly of their teachers and enjoy the relationship they have with them in classes. Many of the external students say that they enjoy lessons without disruption or poor behaviour. The environment is “ambitious” and everyone has mixed well.
- Female students appreciate the “girls club”. They liked how the school had an all-girls assembly in the first few weeks and were clear that Beths is a safe space for girls and young women. They appreciated how the school made it clear how girls can report any issues. This has helped reduce the anxiety of being in a sixth form in an all-boys school.
- They really enjoyed the escape room task in the hall during the second day of the September induction. This helped people to “break the ice” and has formed new friendships quickly.

- Students were in full praise of the school's approach to charities. They appreciate that the school mentions the importance of charity work in assemblies (like breast cancer charities) and that students work together to raise money for these events.
- Students report that staff at Beths are very friendly and treat students with respect and maturity. Many external students enjoy the “refreshing” environment where they are spoken to as young adults rather than treated as lower school “kids”. Teachers know their subjects well and students enjoy their lessons.
- Students reported that they really enjoyed the induction day and taster lessons. They enjoyed the lessons, and this helped to confirm that Beths was what they wanted. This was widely agreed with everyone in the room. Students reported that Beths induction day “hit the right note” and “focused on us as young people and our future rather than scaring us with A-Levels”.
- One student reported that Beths is a welcoming and “judgement free” school. Students are understood and are met with “grace and patience”.
- Students new to the school stated that they love the diversity at Beths and that the school is not afraid to celebrate this. They really enjoyed the International Day of Dress Day and were proud and comfortable to showcase their culture at school.