

PARENT BULLETIN



Key Dates Spring Term 2022

Friday 21 January
Year 11 Reports to Parents

Monday 24 January
Covid Immunisations
(Information to follow)

Tuesday 25 January
Year 13 Reports to Parents

Wednesday 26 January
Year 12 Reports to Parents

Thursday 27 January
Year 12 and Year 13 Parent
Evenings (Virtual)

Thursday 10 February
Year 11 Parent Evening
(School Cloud)

End of Spring Term 1
Friday 18 February 2022

Start of Spring Term 2
Monday 28 February 2022

Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

It has been genuinely lovely to be back with the Beechwood community in 2022. It was not the start of term that we wanted, but once again the staff and students stepped up to the requirements of the testing routine and did themselves, you and us proud. Thank you for your continued support.

After two full weeks of term, it does feel like we have not been away as everything is running as it should. We have internal football fixtures and external visits happening. Some of our Year 10 students have started the Bronze Industrial Cadets Award; there is a Year 7 trip to Winchester Science Centre planned; and our Duke of Edinburgh Awards will be starting back up very soon.

The Year 13 and Year 11 Pre-Public Exams (mocks) took place before Christmas and our Year 12s have recently finished theirs. As a staff, we have been talking amongst ourselves and with our Yr 13 and 11 students about having "six months to make a difference" - or as we are shortening it: **#6MTMAD**.

However, **#6MTMAD** should apply to everything that we do across the school, not just to our examination classes. As the nation - hopefully - starts to emerge from the latest phase of the pandemic at the end of this month, we will have half a year left to really ensure all of us make that difference. As Beechwood's mission statement makes clear, an exceptional education experience for all is our aim and we will be pushing towards that with gusto.

Best wishes

Miss A Spires – Headteacher

Zero Tolerance of Abusive Behaviour

Sadly, we have heard a couple of parents address our staff in an unreasonable manner recently. Can we remind everyone that **all** members of the school community should be treated with respect and therefore, we must all set a good example in our own speech and behaviour.

To provide an exceptional educational experience for all where potential is nurtured and responsible citizens created.

MEET OUR TEAM

*We hope to introduce a member of our school community through each issue of our Parent Bulletin. **This week we introduce Sam Meredith – our PE Teacher and new Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Manager.***

My name is Sam, I have been in education for 6 years now having completed my teacher training in a school in Farnham, Surrey 3 years ago. Before I began my teacher training I attended Cardiff Metropolitan University in Wales where I studied Sport and Exercise Science.

I have really enjoyed working in the PE department at Beechwood for the past three years, developing students' enjoyment, passion and performance in physical activity.

Originally I grew up in a town called Newbury and commuted to Slough but have since moved to Maidenhead, giving myself more time in the evenings. On a weekend you can find me playing sports, mountain biking, enjoying photography, hiking and spending time in nature.

I have recently taken on the role of Duke of Edinburgh Manager here at Beechwood School.

Having taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at school and been responsible for supervising expeditions in the past, I have experienced first-hand the transformation and impact that The Duke of Edinburgh scheme can have on students, in helping them achieve their full potential.

Developing essential life skills such as organisation, planning and teamwork is so important! Not to mention the effect it can have on pupils' confidence and independence. I'm really looking forward to getting a cohort together and embarking on this journey of togetherness, laughter and memories.



We are delighted to announce that our Director of Careers, Ms Ilkova has been awarded with the Pathway CTM Teacher of the Month Award for January 2022.

Ms Ilkova works tirelessly to provide exceptional support, guidance and opportunities for our students and it is her fantastic engagement and response to the PwC New World New Skills programme during the Autumn and Spring term series, that has led to this recognition.

Ms Ilkova has been invited to engage in further Pathway CTM programmes, which she is very keen to do. This will all be for the benefit of our students, who have been so engaged and enthusiastic about the opportunities provided so far.

Congratulations Ms Ilkova



Celebrating Excellence

CONGRATULATIONS to Ilham – Year 12 - for being selected to take part in a lecture series at King's College London, to give her an insight of life in the Science/Medical field.

Ilham is working so hard this year and her commitment and efforts are definitely paying off!



Another of our Year 12 students, Caitlin took time out of her busy day to interview Ilham....

1. What course did you apply to?

I had applied for a place on the Kings College London medicine and dentistry lecture series, which will count as valuable work experience, further giving me an opportunity to study with a highly regarded university.

2. What inspired you to do the course?

I would like to study something related to the human body but I haven't completely decided on whether I would want to do a medicine or dentistry course at university. I believe that this work experience lecture series would give me a better understanding of whether I would like to pursue either in my future education.

3. How do you hope to benefit from the course?

I hope to gain a better understanding of what a day to day life of someone in the health care sector in a hospital or a dentist looks like, and this course would allow me to do that.

4. Do you think you would want to pursue a career in this sector?

Yes, I believe that a career in the health sector is most suited for me as I enjoy learning about the human body and helping others. The last two years have shown me that the health care sector, and the NHS in particular, are vital for society and how large the impact they have is, regarding the vaccines and the general study of Covid-19.

5. Would you recommend the course to others and why?

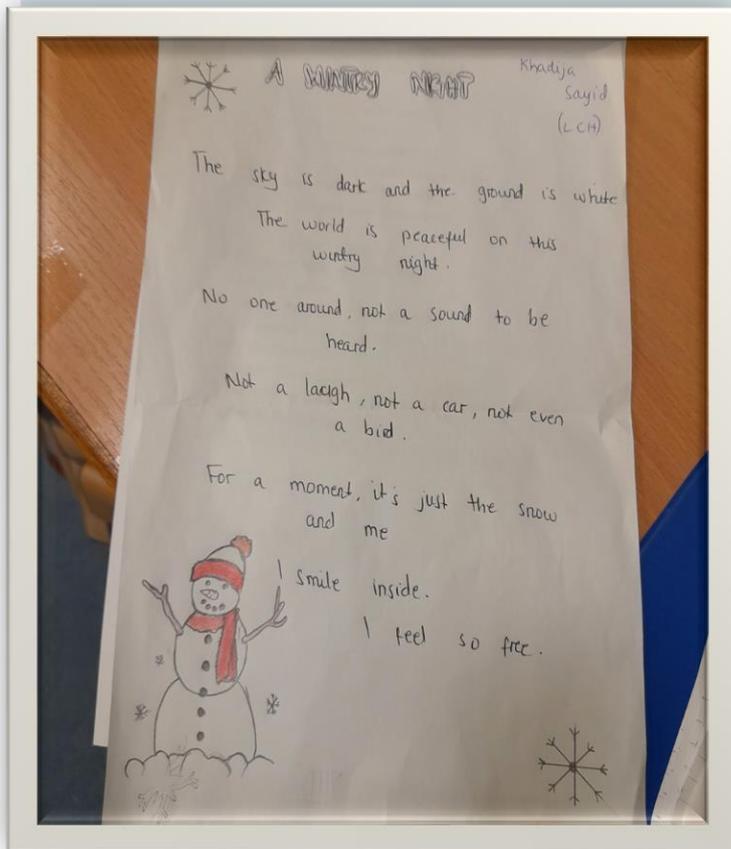
I would definitely recommend this type of course to other people if they have an interest in science and the human body, because not only does it count as work experience but further develops pre-existing knowledge before going to study a degree at a university level.



<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Be wowed by your local wildlife. Big Garden Birdwatch is for everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or a birding expert. Simply count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 28 and 30 January 2022.

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS



CONGRATULATIONS to Khadija 8LCH for winning the ALC's December competition with her beautifully written and illustrated poem.



Under 15 Girls Football

After qualifying for the cup competition last week in fantastic style – they won 5 out of 5 games and only conceded 1 goal - our U15 girls team returned to Powerleague and continued their amazing form.

We remain undefeated and **WON THE COMPETITION OUTRIGHT!** Excellent job girls! Huge congratulations to the team; Kamile (GK), Charlette (CB), Leah (CB), Sian (CB), Ataviah (RW), Alex (LW), Maime (LW). **We are extremely proud of you all!**

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

What's happening in the ALC during January?

We are creating a 'positive pledge' tree for 2022!
We would like you to draw round your hand and write inside with a positive pledge; something positive you are going to do in 2022!
You can either make your own and drop it to the ALC, or pop in at lunch time and make one.



BREAKFAST CLUB

7.30-8.30 in the ALC.

Toast, butter, jam and a drink.

All free and served with a smile!

New Year

Creative Writing Competition!

Why not enter this month's competition?
Write a poem or speech on the them of 'change'
All entries need to be submitted in the ALC entry box
by Wednesday 16 February

SLOUGH FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

The ALC are continuing to collect for the Slough foodbank.

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated last month. We filled a car!

Please continue to drop donations up to the ALC. We will next deliver February half term.

Creative Writing Club

Tuesday Lunchtimes in the ALC
1.25 - 1.55pm

Relax and write! Enter competitions!
Lose yourself with your words!



Debating Society

Every Monday after school in the ALC
3.15 – 4.15pm

Monday 17th January's debate was:

This house believes Gender is constructed by the norms and values of society.

Supporting our Students and Wider Community



WATER BOTTLES

Can you please ensure your child(ren) come into school with a refillable water bottle.

Due to Covid, our drinking fountains are out of use at the moment and we need to ensure students are keeping hydrated during the day.

COVID-19 – An update on measures in place at school

- **Face Coverings**
We are continuing to following Slough Borough and East Berkshire's Public Health advice regarding the wearing of face coverings.
Due to the continued high number of Covid-19 cases in our area we have been advised to continue wearing them in school and in lessons.
We are taking this approach to continue to support the health and wellbeing of all our students, staff and wider school community. We would ask for your support and cooperation with this.
- Staggered breaktimes / lunchtimes in the restaurant
- No year group gatherings, such as assemblies
- Frequent hand washing/sanitising and keeping distance from others.
- If testing positive with a LFT, there is no requirement for a follow-up PCR test, but you must continue to isolate immediately for a minimum of 5 days on receipt of the LFT positive result and report your result to school immediately via Test Register, or by calling the attendance line. If you test negative on day 5 and again on day 6 (now being called 'release day', you are then able to return to school on that day (day 6).
Please note, we count on from the day of the positive LFT, so as an example, if you tested positive on the 1st February, the 2nd is the first of your 5 days, meaning you can return to school at the earliest on the 7th (if you can demonstrate a negative LFT on the 6th and 7th of the month).

How the 5 day isolation rule works:

0		Symptoms begin or test taken
1		Begin counting self-isolation days
2		
3		
4		
5		Begin home testing (LFT)
6		Self-isolation can end when two negative test results are achieved.
7		These must be taken at least a day apart.
8		
9		
10		Isolation ends - no test required
11		May return to school

If an individual receives a negative LFT on the 5th day of isolation and tests again 24 hours later on the 6th day, their isolation finishes on the 6th day and they may return to school.

If the 2nd LFT test on the 6th day is positive, then the individual must continue to test every day up to and including day 10. They must receive 2 LFT negative results, 24 hours apart, before they are able to exit isolation.

If an individual is still testing but has not achieved 2 negative LFTs, 24 hours apart by day 10 of isolation. Isolation will automatically end. This is because their viral load should be negligible by this time.

Isolation and therefore, return to school, will not be permitted if the individual remains symptomatic with a high temperature. They should seek their GP's advice.

Have a question or need support? Please email enquiries@beechwood.slough.sch.uk

Good attendance at school is not just valuable, it's essential.

Going to school is directly linked to improved exam performance which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects in the future.

As well as this, going to school helps to develop:

- Friendships
- Social Skills
- Team Values
- Life Skills
- Cultural awareness and tolerance
- Career pathways

Thank you to all parents who continue to support us by ensuring their child(ren) arrive punctually and attend school every day.

We understand that sometimes a child may be too unwell to attend and on these occasions, we ask that a parent/carer contact the absence line first thing on each day of absence.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



CONSULTATION BEECHWOOD'S ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

As you will be aware from our last Parent Bulletin, we are required to consult regarding our Admissions Policy 2022-2023.

The policy is available to view on our school website at www.beechwood.slough.sch.uk.

The consultation period will run for a period of 6 weeks from Monday 6 December 2021 and close at midday on 31 January 2022.

You are invited to look at our Admissions Policy and submit any comments by midday on the 31 January 2022. Please send your comments to headsqa@beechwood.slough.sch.uk.

All comments received by the deadline will be recorded and considered in the final, formal agreement process. The Admissions Policy will then be submitted to the Local Authority for publication.

Thank you