

PARENT BULLETIN



Key Dates

Autumn Term 2021

Flu Immunisations

Yrs 7-11

Tuesday 12th October

Covid-19 Immunisations

Yrs 8-11

Tuesday 12th October

Year 7 Reports Home

Wednesday 13th October

Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

Thursday 14th October

School Photos

Thursday 14th October

End of Autumn Term 1

Friday 22nd October

Start Autumn Term 2

Monday 1st November

Extra Bank Holiday (School Closed)

Friday 26th November

Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

This week saw World Teacher Day and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the amazing staff at Beechwood for their continual efforts to ensure our children receive our best educational offer.

Now my definition of 'educational offer' includes all learning experiences: from the minute we wake up until the moment we close our eyes at the end of a day, we are all learning. It is what we see around us and experience in the moments outside of the classroom that are as important as the academic content taught.

By that definition of 'education', everyone involved in each child's daily life is, therefore, also a 'teacher'. So I'd like to extend my thanks to all of you - parents, grandparents and carers - on the week of World Teacher Day. To quote the well-known African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child"; we are extremely grateful to all who are part of our Beechwood teaching community.

We have a number of important dates coming up in our school calendar over the next week, but I would like to highlight our **Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening next Thursday, 14th October**. I would encourage all parents/carers of our amazing Year 7 students to attend, as it will provide you with a wonderful insight into school life and an opportunity to meet some key individuals working with your child/ren. I do hope as many of you as possible can come on the night. Information about the evening will be coming out separately to our Year 7 parents.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Miss A Spires
Headteacher

Our Governing Body

We are delighted to announce the appointment of a new Staff Governor to our hardworking Governing Body.

Karen Goodwin – Head of Mathematics - has been appointed to this post. She will join fellow governors in ensuring key academic and social objectives continue to be met, so we can provide the best learning experiences for our school community.

Three Key Roles of the Governing Body

Provide a Strategic View Act as a critical friend Ensure accountability

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

MEET OUR TEAM ... We hope to introduce a member of our school community through each issue of our Parent Bulletin. **This week we introduce Mr K Samad**



My name is Kamran Samad and I am the SENDCo at Beechwood School. This stands for Special Education Needs and Disabilities Coordinator. Whilst this may sound like a lot, the role of a SENDCo in a school is varied, sometimes challenging but ultimately very rewarding. I have a real passion for this field of education and I am working towards achieving a goal, which is: 'to provide the best individual academic opportunities for all pupils with SEND'.

Prior to working at Beechwood School, I have worked as a Primary Teacher at a local Special Needs School as well as in the capacity of a Deputy Headteacher at an all through Special Needs School. My core training is in Primary Education with a SEND specialism.

Over the last eight years, I also worked as a respite Foster Carer, looking after children with Autism and physical disabilities and continue to do so in my spare time. I am a true advocate for inclusion and try to ensure that this is embedded in all the places I work in. Last year, in recognition of my commitment to SEND, I was awarded an accolade from the Chartered College of Teaching and now hold Fellowship status.

Outside of school, I am dad to two teenagers and spend a lot of time with them. I love exploring and travelling. I have toured lots of places in the UK and abroad including: The Lake District, The Peak District, Edinburgh, Swanage, Cornwall, Dubai, Kuwait, Pakistan, Switzerland, Italy, France and many more. I like to spend a lot of time outdoors when I am not working and love walking. It helps me freshen my mind and relax. Along with travelling, my hobbies include: cooking and interior design. I am not a huge sports fan but do play and watch when there is something interesting on.

IMPORTANT DATES

School Photographer: As you will see from our Key Dates section, we have the school photographer coming in on **Thursday, 14th October**.

Can we please ask for your support in ensuring your child/ren come to school looking smart in their full school uniform or smart business wear, if they attend our 6th Form.

Flu and Covid-19 Vaccinations: If you have registered your consent for your child to receive one or both vaccines, this is timetabled to take place on **Tuesday 12th October** during the school day. (Years 8 to 11 only are eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine – Year 7 will be receiving just the flu nasal spray vaccine).

The consent booking system has now closed for both the flu and Covid-19 sessions on Tuesday 12th October.

If you haven't given consent and now wish to, there will be an opportunity to book into one of the NHS Flu catch up clinics off school site. Parents wishing to pursue this, will be able to follow the guidance given in our original letter and register consent when the online booking system reopens on Wednesday 13th October.

Any parents that have missed the deadline to consent for Covid-19 vaccination will need to wait until further national guidance is released, as the NHS school immunisation team do not currently have any catch up clinics planned.

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

Congratulations to our Year 10 boys' football team who are through to the next round of the District Cup with a penalty shootout victory over Wexham. Another confident goalkeeping display from Leighton R secured the win!



It was a huge opportunity to play against this calibre of opposition and even better to get the victory. Well done boys!

The Year 8 boys won their first game 4-0 against Khalsa on Monday 27th September, with Danny C being named man of the match!

Everyone at Beechwood is incredibly proud – keep up the great work!

The Under 15 girls team won their first match 3-0 against Khalsa.
The player of the match was Charlette B-J.
Amazing work girls!

Our Year 9 boys' football team also claimed a win, beating the Slough District U13 side 3-2 with a last minute screamer from Ethan P.



STUDENT WELFARE - ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Punctuality: Please ensure that your child arrives at school promptly, no later than 8:35am in order to start the school day at 8:40am.

Attendance: In a test 90% would seem like a good score, however an attendance figure of 90% would actually mean that your child had missed 19 days or almost 4 weeks of school. Going to school regularly is vital for your child's education and future success.

By helping your child to understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality you are providing them with an important life skill.

Wherever possible please arrange appointments after school/ at the weekend/ during the holidays. If this is not possible please ensure that your child attends school either before/after their appointment. It is not acceptable to miss an entire day of school.

Absence: If your child will be absent from school, please notify us at your earliest convenience on 01753 787293. We would appreciate it if you would call for each day of absence for safeguarding purposes.

We are not able to authorise holidays during term time unless the circumstances are exceptional and whilst we appreciate the value of family holidays, it is important to note that the school holidays provide 13 weeks in which to take them.

In case of sickness/ diarrhoea: If your child has been vomiting or experienced an upset stomach, please ensure they remain at home for 24 hours following their last bout of sickness. This will help reduce the spread of any potential viruses as we enter the winter season.

Supporting our Students and Wider Community



World Mental Health Day 2021

At Beechwood School, we recognise the importance of supporting every student to achieve and maintain good mental health. We do this through a number of different measures – for example through PSHE, tutor time, buddying systems and focused pastoral support.

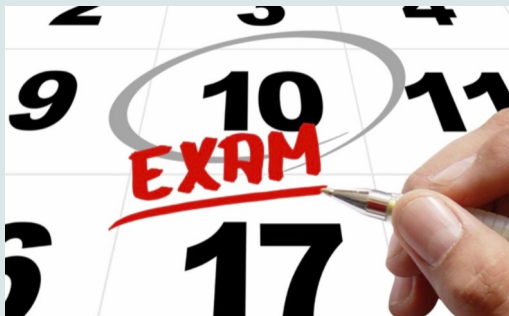
There are many organisations that can support with mental health. If you'd like to find out more, why not visit <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work>

Exam Invigilation

To support our students and ensure the smooth-running of our exams, we will soon be advertising for a number of Exam Invigilators to join our Beechwood community.

Do keep an eye on our website for more information about this role and how to apply.

If you have any general questions or would like to be sent more information on this job opportunity, please contact enquiries@beechwood.slough.sch.uk



adviza
BRIGHTER FUTURES

Parent/Carer Webinar: Options after GCSEs



Presented by qualified Careers Advisers,
Tara Latter & Nik Dean

Wednesday 17th November 2021
6 - 7PM

Please book via the Adviza Portal under 'Events'
Cost: FREE | Suitable for all ages



For more information please email
careersguidance@adviza.org.uk

0118 402 7050 | www.adviza.org.uk

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

The Advanced Learning Centre – Library is open after school on Tuesdays to Fridays inclusive from 3pm to 3.45pm. Students can come and complete homework, use the computers to work on Bedrock, or just come and read. This is a supervised facility – a member of staff will be present throughout.



RHS Garden Wisley Trip

As you may well know Beechwood is part of the Thames Valley Learning Partnership (TVLP), which is made up of 8 separate state and public schools. Together we work together to further enrich the curriculum offer to all our students.

This week there has been 2 trips that we have participated in. 4 of our students went to Dorney Lake to participate in a range of teamwork and leadership activities, including raft building. On Tuesday, a group of year 10 Geographers visited Wisley as part of an environmental project.

They all represented the school extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed these opportunities.



Dorney Lake, Eton

KS3 Computing Club

Why not join the Computer Science Club every Wednesday after school in Room P1, for the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award known as iDEA?



This is an international award winning programme that helps you develop digital, enterprise and employability skills for life and the world of work.

Through a series of challenges, you can win career-enhancing badges, unlock new opportunities and ultimately gain industry recognised awards that help you stand out from the crowd.

The club will meet at 3pm until 4pm every Wednesday.

Parent consent will be required for safeguarding purposes. A consent form is available [here](#). If you would like a hard copy of this form, your child(ren) can collect one from Student Services.

Keeping informed about Covid-19 in Berkshire

As we come close to the end of our first half term this academic year, we are very aware that Covid-19 remains a real threat to health for our whole school and wider community.

As you know we continue to do everything asked of us by local government to keep your child and our staff safe at school and hopefully with the uptake of Covid-19 vaccines and boosters, the impact on our lives will start to lessen.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with the Berkshire's public health Covid-19 information service, please visit www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/information-centre/berkshire-covid-19-weekly-briefing or by visiting www.slough.gov.uk/coronavirus.