

Dear Parent and Student,

Welcome back to the new academic year and a very warm welcome to all new members of the Beechwood community as well. I sincerely hope that you all enjoyed an excellent summer holiday.

It was a delight to welcome Year 7 and our Sixth Form students on Tuesday and all other year groups on Wednesday. In my opening assemblies of the new academic year I was able to share **fantastic news**.

- **Our Year 11 students** of last year gained the **best ever GCSE results** enjoyed by a Beechwood year group. This is massively impressive particularly as we now have the 'new style' and 'tougher' GCSEs. What is also massively impressive is the fact that so many students met or exceeded their targets and we had students achieving the highest of grades, indeed one Year 11 student gained Grade 9 in all subjects taken. This is truly exceptional performance - of the thousands of students who took exams, only 700 young people nationally secured this outcome.
- **Our Year 13 students** similarly did themselves great justice. **Top grades** of A* and A and also Distinctions were secured by some students in some subjects. Targets were met or exceeded for most and all who wanted to progress to University have been able to do so.

I am very proud of our Beechwood young men and women. They achieved great things because they deserved to. They worked exceptionally hard overall and reaped the rewards.

I am also pleased with the start that all **current students** have made to the new academic year. We have seen real positivity and excitement, and some very good **transition projects** coming in - clearly the summer has been well used.

'Being the best'

In light of our **summer of success** and also the young people who currently make up our Beechwood community, I have confidently set the goal for us all of **'Be the best'** this academic year. We're not settling for being 'good', only 'great' will be good enough. Again, in my **start of term assemblies** I shared this goal and set this challenge for all students. It is clear from last academic year that this goal is realistic and achievable so we need to set our sights on this from the outset. I therefore ask now for **parents and families to support us** on this journey this academic year and to reinforce this message wherever possible. To assist, I think it helpful to share some of the specific details that were shared with students on Wednesday. I told them about our theme/project this year of **'Mind to be Kind'** which focuses on rights and responsibilities and how this can/will enable personal growth, happiness and academic success to be the reality. Related to this, all were reminded of what it means to be part of the Beechwood community and **what is expected of each and every single student** - the powerpoint slide below details what students were reminded of in this regard.

BE RESPECTFUL
BE RESPECTED
BE ADMIRED
BE CONNECTED
BE THE CHEERY FACE OF WELCOME
BE THE FRIEND YOU
CAN DEPEND ON
BE DYNAMIC
BE INSPIRED
BE EXCITED
BE ADMIRED
BE THE PERSON YOU
ASPIRE TO BE
BE AN ACADEMIC
SUCCESS STORY
BE A HERO
BE A LEADER
BE A WINNER
BE A DREAMER
BE A CREDIT TO THE SCHOOL
BE THE ONE WHO'S EXCEPTIONAL
BE DEMANDING
BE COURAGEOUS
BE THE IDEA
THAT'S CONTAGIOUS
BE YOURSELF
BE SET FREE

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

Characteristics of a Beechwood Person



- Frequent acts of kindness.
 - Stands up for what is right.
 - Doesn't see self as more important than anyone else.
 - Believes everyone is worthy.
 - Puts in the effort - they believe they are worth it.
 - Doesn't compromise on what really matters.
 - Accepts responsibility.
 - Enjoys making a positive difference.
 - Happy, proud and fulfilled.
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Other expectations were also shared/clarified. All year groups were told about the bar being raised and even more being expected of them because they were capable and worthy of these expectations. Again, see below the powerpoint slide which was shared with our young people.



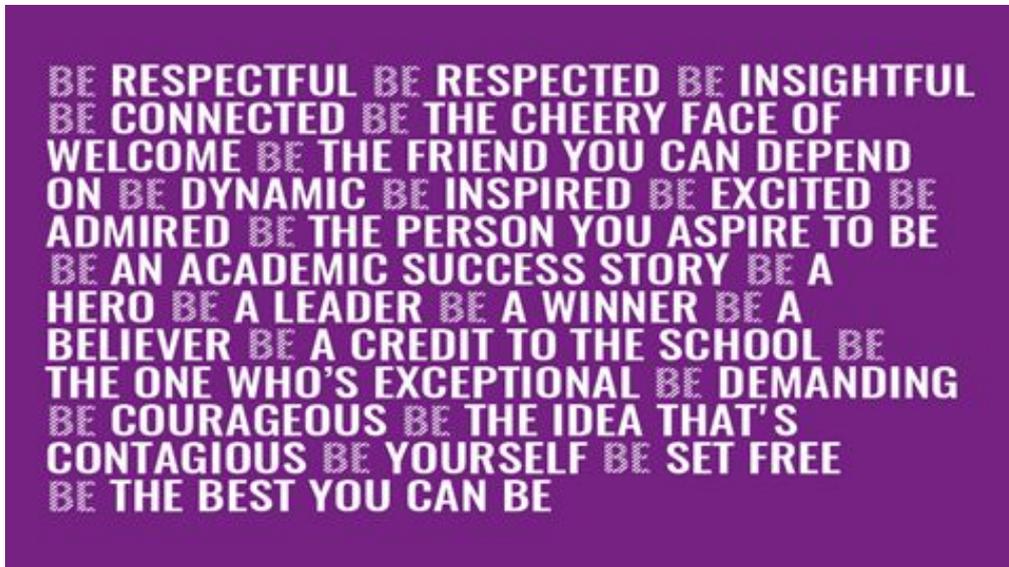
So what can you expect this year?

- Start of lessons to be a little different.
 - Expectations re. how you engage in work, being properly equipped, being properly dressed and undertaking all learning tasks in school and at home being even higher.
 - Developing your oracy being given even higher priority.
 - More participation in community/enrichment/extra curricular activities.
 - Everyone being given a fresh start BUT going forward zero tolerance for those who are disrespectful. **NO COMPROMISE ON WHAT IS RIGHT**
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Finally our school values of:

- We value all.
- We respect all.
- We believe in all.
- We see the good and potential in all.
- We have a strong sense of all having an entitlement to experience excellence and success.
- We are all determined to do our best and to be the best that we can be.

were revisited as was our 'Be Beechwood' statement which provides some really clear guidance.



With such high expectations and standards and such clarity and support, I know that students will thrive, I know they will have every opportunity to make excellent progress and achieve great things and in my further bulletins home, I look forward to sharing and acknowledging their successes.

Very best wishes for a great year ahead. 2018 to 2019 will be our best one yet!

Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher

Uniform Reminder

Skirts should be knee length, and not be a stretch fabric.

Jewellery

One stud in each ear lobe. No nose piercing, no cartilage piercing. Clear studs are not permitted in the nose or as a second earring.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB	 STUDY Club	 CHESS CLUB ALC Supporters Club	 STUDY Club	 Origami Club
	 Debate Club	 ALC Supporters Club	 Project Rainbow	 The Knitting Club

LUNCH TIME CLUBS

<p>Year 7 & 8 Film Club With Ms Healy G17</p>	<p>Year 9 & 10 Social With Ms Foster G2</p>	<p>Year 11 Social & Revision With Ms Hill & Mr Kewell Achievement Centre</p>
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All Welcome
Bring your Lunch!

