

Bulletin Home – 26 June 2020

Dear Parent and Student,



I sincerely hope that you are keeping well. In addition to the information that Ms Doncaster and Mr Goodman have shared below, there are some key points of information I wish to share with you this week. Prior to doing that, however, I would like to encourage you to engage in the community activities that Ms Doncaster and Mr Goodman are outlining. Although we can't all be together at the moment, we are still a strong community and such activities will enable us to keep in contact and celebrate all the really positive elements of school life together. We have incredibly talented young men and women in our school so continuing to show, share and celebrate this is really important. Such is also highly inspirational. As we head towards the end of this academic year and prepare for September we all need to be inspired to aspire. Our school motto and goal of 'trying our best, to do our best, to be the best that we can be' was never more important than right now.

With regards to doing our 'best', I want to congratulate our **Year 10 students** who engaged in their subject sessions this week with in school. The feedback from both students and staff was excellent. It was so lovely to be able to work with our young people in this way again. As I said to students when I met them, we have very much missed them and are looking forward to returning to something more like normality and how we used to work and this will be the case as soon as it is possible to make this our reality. As you know, schools are still awaiting guidance and direction from DfE / Government. With regards to our **Year 10 students**, I just wanted to clarify that the **sessions in school each day conclude at 12.20pm not 12.40pm**. Apologies for any confusion. We ask all students to arrive at school at 8.40am. Thereafter they will be admitted to school following the shared protocols and will have two subject session both lasting one hour and thirty minutes, hence departing at 12.20pm.

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 COURAGIOUS
BE THE IDEA
THAT'S CONTAGIOUS
BE YOURSELF
BE SET FREE

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

With a view to the new academic year and making plans, I have shared that we have been engaged in extensive risk assessment processes. One of these relates to our **Restaurant provision**. Although we are a 'cash less' school with regards to students using money at the point of purchase in the Restaurant, it is now necessary for us to decommission the cash loaders and use only '**Parent Pay**' to add money to students' accounts to enable them to buy food. Currently 88% of our families have Parent Pay accounts, so we encourage all families to consider this and advise all that using the Restaurant or payments for anything else can only be actioned via Parent Pay. No cash will be accepted. For those families not currently signed up or with any concerns about this, I invite you to contact our Finance and Operations' Manager, Ms Michelle Pratt, who will assist you with enquiries and difficulties and help you set up an account. I apologise for the inconvenience this may cause. I appreciate that some families value the option of paying in cash and it suits their personal circumstances better but due to the need to put in place mitigations to reduce risk of infection spread, we need to pursue this approach. We will do all we can to assist if this presents an initial difficulty.

In terms of finance matters, we have been advised that we should be receiving the return of money paid to the Bushcraft Company for the **Year 7 residential trip** on 30th June. This has been pursued throughout the

lockdown period and we were seeking a definite date. As soon as the money has been transferred back to the school Ms Pratt will, in turn, make sure it is re-credited to families' accounts asap. If there is any change to what we are anticipating and have been promised we will let Year 7 parents know.

Finally this week I just want to clarify the position with regards to **free school meals provision over the summer holiday period**. The government will be funding this now as I am sure you are aware thanks to the campaigning of Marcus Rashford and others, including educational professionals. We have been advised that the company providing the vouchers are now open for these orders to be placed by schools and therefore this will be actioned by us. Families can expect to receive £90.00 vouchers for the weeks over the holiday period.

As always, in relation to these matters or any others please do not hesitate to be in contact if you would like further information or advise on anything.

Very best wishes



Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher

Message from Miss Doncaster

Since schools closed on 20 March we have been very busy producing our own news broadcast to help keep our amazing school community connected during this time. All episodes of Beechwood News can be found on the Beechwood News Google Classroom. If you are not a member of the Google Classroom you can join using this code: **wuvjlsk**

Our episodes have interviewed staff and students about important topics - such as the Black Lives Matter movement, Pride, the science behind viruses and a Humanities' analysis of the times we are living through. Our final episode of the year will be a virtual celebration assembly full of fond memories, awards, farewells and a few surprises. We hope all families will join us in viewing the episode, via the Beechwood News Google Classroom, at 11:30am on Friday 17 July.

Message from PE Department

Virtual Sports Day: 29th June - 6th July

As you are all aware, our annual community sports day event will not be taking place due to the current circumstances affecting all of us. In order to continue what Beechwood does best and bring the school community together The PE department will be hosting a 'Virtual' Sports' Day, or more specifically a Virtual Sports' week. All pupils and teachers across the school will have access to a Google Form where they should complete 7 activities and one multiple choice question. Once each activity is completed students will click on one of the 3 options provided and at the end submit their form. Simple.

The students will be able to access their Virtual Sports' Day forms on their Year Group Google Classroom, this can be accessed via a computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone.

It is important to remember that this is about taking part and being active, and more importantly a bit of fun. We would very much like as many students (and staff) to complete the activities between Monday 29th June to Monday 6th July. The forms will go live at 9am on Monday 29th June and close at 12pm on Monday 6th July.

When this event is released on Monday 29th June, a help sheet and some videos will be released in order to help you understand some of the activities, however most of the pupils would have completed these activities within PE lessons already. The PE team will then collate all the completed forms and award winners for each year group competition.

Please encourage and support the pupils at home to take part as much as they can.

Enjoy and stay safe.

Mr Goodman and The PE Team.