

# Bulletin Home – 6 November 2020

Dear Parent and Student,

It has been a busy first week back after half-term. I congratulate our young people who have settled well into further new routines in light of Slough's Tier 2 status and now, of course, the national lockdown context we are in. The habit of wearing face masks in indoor communal areas is certainly taking root and I am impressed with how sensible and mature our young people have been overall in responding to this need. I urge all to remember a mask and a spare each day. We check as students arrive at school and for this week have been issuing disposable masks to those who have forgotten or who have a difficulty with their mask – e.g. sometimes they are broken – but I know everyone will appreciate that we will not be able to continue to issue masks daily and I thank you for your understanding and support with this.

In terms of understanding. I have had a few enquiries about when a young person would be asked to isolate and stay away from school when they do not have a positive Covid 19 test result. If we have a case of a member of our community testing positive – thankfully we have had relatively very few to date – we undertake track and trace. This is a thorough process where we adopt a very cautious approach. We identify all close contacts of the person with the Covid 19 positive test result. Close contacts are defined as follows:

- being less than 2 metres from someone for 15 minutes or more;
- being with someone at a metre or less distance for a minute or more;
- having touch contact;
- having close face-to-face interaction with someone – i.e. speaking up close to someone else's face.

When a close contact is identified they are required to stay at home, not go out and continue their regular social interactions, for a period of 14 days from their last contact with the person who has the virus. Students and staff who have to isolate – whether it is because of a close contact via school or a close contact out of school – continue to work at home as long as they are well. Staff keep on with their teaching, learning and assessment professional duties and students are expected to follow their regular timetable and complete the work set by their teachers. Where we know IT access is a problem, we will send hard copy work home. To clarify one misconception, if someone is a close contact of a close contact, there is no need for them to isolate. In other words a young person may have to isolate as a close contact but the rest of their family and friends do not. This would only change if the young person isolating as a close contact becomes unwell with Covid symptoms. They would then need to get a test immediately. Clearly if they test positive, then their close contacts would need to isolate for the 14-day period. Those who have a positive test result generally can return to normality in terms of not having to isolate 10 days after their test which proved positive. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further information/explanation. I fully appreciate that with so much information out there, things can become incredibly confusing and we are here to help if we can. Also, we need to know if any member of our school community or any member of their family test positive for the virus and I thank you for keeping us up to date immediately.



**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**

Moving on from our Covid context, this week I am delighted to share that our **Beechwood News Programme** reflecting on our first-half term of the academic year has returned. It is an excellent episode, sharing reflections on what has happened so far this year. It has a special focus on our community's response to the work we did together during Black History Month and it also features what it is like to be a new member of the Beechwood Community. With regards to the latter, we share the perspectives of Year 7 students, new 6<sup>th</sup> Form Students and new Members of staff. Please watch the episode.

This episode also shares what we will be focusing upon together to make a positive difference. Inspired by Marcus Rashford and the whole national debate over free school meals, we are going to be **taking action to address food poverty**. There will be much more to be shared on this over the forthcoming weeks.

Finally, I want to congratulate our Head Girl, Caitlin Watt, for introducing our 'Purple Tie' focus – please look at what Caitlin has to say in this week's bulletin home.

Have a really good week ahead.

My very best wishes to you all



**Kathleen M Higgins**  
**Executive Headteacher**

### **Year 7**

Year 7 have had a good first week back and coped well with the new expectations around face coverings.

We are introducing new clubs at lunchtime and will be starting a Games Club and one offering sewing and art. All students will have the opportunity to join in. We have also provided more balls and skipping ropes as students asked us for these to help them enjoy break times.

Social time is an important part of school and we expect everyone to keep their usual high standards of behaviour when joining in. As it is currently very difficult to offer trips outside school, we will keep trying to add to our range of clubs and activities.

### **Learning**

Visiting lessons this week, I enjoyed seeing students starting early for Christmas in Drama! There were thoughtful and knowledgeable answers about 'A Christmas Carol' and Charles Dickens.

### **I was pleased to receive this email from Ms Audi about how her students are getting on:**

*Amazing effort from my lovely year 7 students in French lessons! Enthusiastic, hardworking and keen to learn and expand their knowledge. In two months only, they can now say full sentences in French! Vous êtes fantastique!!*

### **Awards**

Well done to students in 7DRT and 7LCH for winning the Attendance and Achievement Point cups this week-I hope you all got my usual text to let you know this good news.

Finally, it was also pleasing to see everyone looking smart and tutors telling me that their students have the correct equipment. Achievement points are always given each week for this.

## Curriculum

This half term, subjects will share with you what is being taught and it is the turn of Music this week:

Music is running very differently this year that the students would have ever experienced. The Government guidelines surrounding shared equipment, singing and playing instruments make it challenging for us to do practical work. Despite not being able to sing, the students are learning about how to read and write music. It is a slow process at first, but I am certain that the students will soon be writing their own music like they are Mozart!

Be on the lookout for homework with a program called "Focus on Sound" that we have linked with our Google Classrooms for the students to easily complete their music homework. If you have any questions regarding the music curriculum or the music homework, please feel free to send me an email at [r.blanchette@beechwood.slough.sch.uk](mailto:r.blanchette@beechwood.slough.sch.uk) and I would be more than happy to answer your questions.

Thank you for your interest and support.

**Mr Walker, Director for Year 7 studies**

## Year 8 News

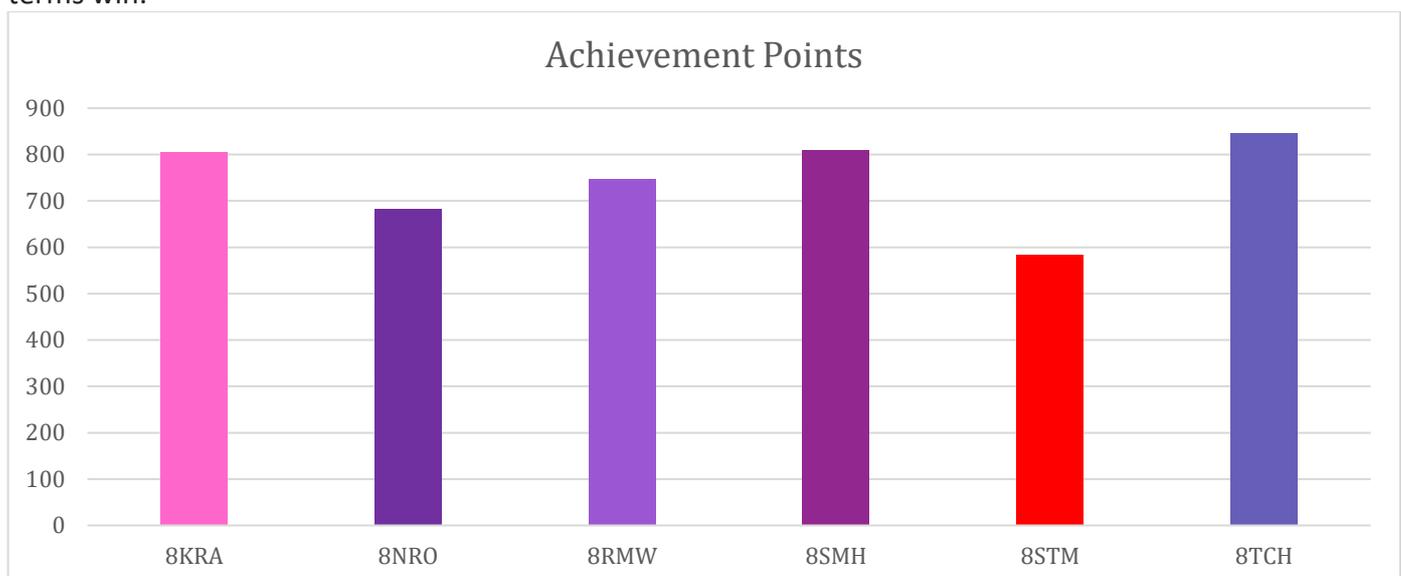
### Star of the Week

This week's Star of the Week is Mustafa Arshaad 8STM. He has consistently demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning and engagement in lessons – well done.



Year 8 Achievement Points – Leader Board

Which Year 8 form will win this half terms prize? 8TCH have made an excellent start, capitalizing on last half terms win.



**Ms Feehan, Director for Year 8**

## Year 9

Welcome back to Year 9 who I hope have had a good half term. Now that we are settled to some new routines and expectations it is time to embrace even further change; particularly with respect to the wearing of face masks - please could I ask that parent/carers support with this by ensuring all students have a mask, (and preferably a spare for emergencies), as I do not want this to be a negative we have to deal with daily. As we move forward through the school year we should be really focussing on doing our best by ensuring our learning is a top priority.

**Ms McEvoy, Director for Year 9 studies**

### **Year 10**

In PSHCE over the next half term we will be participating in workshops designed to help with Careers' work. It is never too early to start to think about next steps. The first workshop will be next week and will focus on all of those financial questions young people have like 'Exactly how much does University cost?' This workshop usually is undertaken in school with presenters coming into the building to run a workshop with the students. Due to COVID, we have had to change this for this year. Instead we will be having our first virtual workshop in Year 10 where students will interact with a live presenter who will be offsite and beamed into the form class. Teachers are there to facilitate this workshop with their forms too. In the past this workshop has been very well received by students, so I am hoping that this year is no different. There will hopefully be some time for questions so if there are any questions you have for this lesson to do with Finances after school, please bring them along to ask.

**Miss Irvine, Director for Year 10 studies**

### **Year 11**

Between now and Christmas, all Year 11 students will be looking at ways of studying and how to best revise for their upcoming PPEs. Through November and December students will be completing tasks in a variety of study methods, looking at life after Year 11 and the process of application writing.

Now is a great time to start thinking about which open day events students would like to visit and information about when local 6th forms and colleges open day events will be (with most being virtual). Advice will be given to students about what questions to ask and what courses they can enquire about during our PSHCE lesson next week.

### **The Purple Tie**

Hello and welcome to the first ever section of the Purple Tie!

As the term has commenced, the senior leaders have decided to start a new section in the bulletin called the Purple Tie, from the Prefects voicing important news and events coming up in the following months around school. This has been created to get all Prefects involved, so there will be a rota system ensuring everyone has a chance at writing an article.

Next week, the article will be about the coronavirus and how it has impacted people in different ways written by another senior leader.

Caitlin Watt Head Girl

**Miss Hallett, Director for Year 11 studies**

### **Sixth Form**

Following the completion of our first half term, I would like to congratulate the following Sixth Form students for having the most amount of Achievement Points - Well done all!

1. Brad Brown
2. Brian Visaho
3. Jamal Douglas
4. Eryk Lezon
5. Dominic Jakima
6. Madelyn Hughes
7. Emmanuel Bonsu  
Nikodem Burakowski  
Umar Nasib  
Harnish Salhotra
8. Rachel Annan  
Agnesa Beka  
Arslan Mahmood
9. Rachel Adeyemi

As you may know, there is a clear correlation between good attendance and punctuality, and academic attainment. Therefore, I would like to congratulate the following Sixth Form students for having exemplary punctuality and attendance during our first half term of this academic year. Well done Sixth Form!

- Siyad Abdi Mohamed
- Isaac Abib
- Rachel Adeyemi
- Syeda Nashat Ajaz
- Rachel Annan
- Agnesa Beka
- Brad Brown
- Varun Dutta
- Shanise Fernandez-Clark
- Hamid Gaafar
- Mohammed Hussain
- Dagmara Kulesza
- Tyler Lee
- Nicholas Linford
- Abaid Ullah Muhammad Bibi
- Umar Nasib
- Trenyce Omani-Mensah
- Mateusz Pankowski
- Milan Patel
- Brian Visaho
- Daniel Wilton

**Miss Rebecca Doncaster, Director of 6th Form**

### **Be Word Savvy - Part of the new Disciplinary Literacy Strategy**

This week the word is **insoluble**: prefix 'in' meaning 'not' and suffix 'ble' meaning can be done.

Please do ask your son/ daughter each week about the week's 'Be Word Savvy' focus and encourage them to spot the week's prefix and suffix in other words. The aim is for the students to become more aware of how words are related and built up so that when they come across words they are unfamiliar with they can work

out the meanings themselves. In this way, pupils gain the knowledge of not just a single word each week but a strategy of how to approach new words they are presented with.

For more information and any queries please contact Mrs Bowker

Be Word Savvy  
Week of 2 November  
2020



prefix  
in

Meaning not



suffix  
ble

Meaning can be done

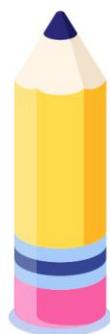


insoluble-  
unable to be  
dissolved or a  
problem not able  
to be solved



Throughout this week,  
your teachers will be  
focusing on this prefix  
and suffix in lessons  
using vocabulary from  
the subject.

Show them what you  
learned this morning  
when they ask you what  
they mean!



- What other words can you think of with this prefix and suffix?
- What do they mean?
- What subjects do you use them in?