

Bulletin Home – 8th January 2021

Dear Parent and Student,



We have had an extremely busy week here in School. You will be aware that there has been a great deal to address over the Christmas holiday, last weekend in light of the Government announcements and then since lockdown was announced on Monday evening. I hope, despite it all, that you and your families are doing okay and that you are finding my regular communications useful.

At a time when there is so much uncertainty, it is, I believe, vital that there is good communication. So, for this week I want to share some additional information and to reiterate some of the information that has been shared previously.

1. Remote Teaching and Learning Provision

From Monday 11th January, all our young people are expected to engage in learning activities in line with their usual timetable. In other words, by 9am students should be up and ready to work on subjects which are on their timetable. This forthcoming week, that means that students will be pursuing their Week 1 3 Session 5 subject a day programme. Where students have internet access they are asked to log on. Their teachers will have planned learning for them. They may be asked to attend a live lesson. They may be asked to engage in 'real time' interaction with a member of staff about their learning. They may be asked to look at a recorded lesson or engage in some online web-based learning activity and they will be asked to undertake tasks and, in time, submit the work they have done. Their subject teachers will ensure they have a range of learning opportunities over time. For those students currently without internet access or the necessary device to work on, hard copy work has been posted home and, in the envelope, there is a self-addressed envelope with postage paid which will allow students to return work when the time has been identified by their teachers. We are currently contacting families and working with them to see if there is anything we can do to assist with getting students online and connected if this is currently a major problem.

Earlier this week I sent home information about expectations to do with Remote Learning and also the home-school agreement element. I ask all parents to look at this with their children and ensure that the requirements are understood and are upheld.

Although this week students will be following the timetable they are familiar with so far this academic year, from next Monday, 18th January we will move to a 5 period/subject day. This will give our young people more variety in their day and ensure that a broader number of subjects will be focused upon each week. Students will need to engage in 5 hours learning a day and this will be monitored by their teachers. As we always do, we are looking to reward great engagement and achievement and we will be addressing with the students and parents/carers concerns, if any exist in relation to engagement and progress. Students will receive a new timetable next week in preparation for Monday 18th January. In the meantime, I wish them well in their endeavours next week.

I know members of staff have been working incredibly hard. I also congratulate our Year 11, 12 and 13 exam students who have already been engaged in their Remote Learning Programme this last week.



2. Cancellation of the Public Examinations in the summer

As you already know there will be no public examinations taken in the usual way this summer although all young people will be awarded examination results. The Secretary of State for Education confirmed yesterday that results would be awarded on the basis of teacher assessed grades. We have absolutely no information yet on the detail and process but, as I did previously, I urge our young people in these year groups to work incredibly hard and engage fully in their learning and the work they are being asked to do. Students should not feel despondent. They have every opportunity to get good grades and grades worthy of them but there will need to be evidence of the standard of work they are capable of, whatever the finer detail is that will be shared with us in time, and we need progress, improvement and high quality work produced over the next number of weeks and months. The teachers and members of staff in our school are amazing and, as they did before, they will work tirelessly to ensure that our young people are supported and will get the outcomes they deserve.

3. Testing in schools for Covid-19

For those students and staff who are working in school, we will be rolling out lateral-flow testing for Covid 19 from next week. This is only for those in attendance at school presently. All for whom it is relevant, should receive today (Friday) a letter and various other documentation including a consent form. I ask that this is read carefully and then those wishing to be part of this scheme to sign and return the consent form immediately. I strongly urge all to do this as it is our additional way of protecting us all at this vitally important and difficult time.

4. Free School Meals Provision

I, and our Finance and Operations Manager have had a number of meetings to address the standard of food hampers that the company responsible for providing this food made available this week. We are assured that it will be significantly improved for next week and the hampers will be available from Monday for collection. If it is the case that the government move to a voucher scheme again that we are eligible to access, we will pursue this once more, as I know it will be preferable to choose food according to individual taste. I will keep you posted on this but, for the time being, the hampers will be available and improved and, although this was not something we had control over, I express my deepest regret over the quality of what you received this week.

Finally, as I have said on many occasions, please be in contact if there is anything we can do to help and support and if you have any well-being concerns.

Take really good care.



Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher

Year 7

I would like to wish you all a happy new year and thank you for your questions about how the next few weeks will work.

We want every student to have high quality learning during this difficult time so please keep in touch if you have any questions-we are happy to help at any time.

Teachers will be sharing high quality work student with me this term, and we will reward all work from students who follow our motto: "Be the best that you can be."

Year 7 have all adapted really well since September and this situation is another opportunity for them to show their enthusiasm, initiative and resilience.

Learning

We expect that our students will try their best and log in to live lessons, complete work on time and make good use of this time.

Live Lessons

These will begin next week and follow the usual timetable. Students should log in via Google Classroom and follow the instructions.

If you, or your child, need a copy of your child's timetable so you know what they are supposed to be doing and when next week, please let me know and I will email you one or call.

Games Consoles

PlayStation and X Box can also be used to log into Google Classroom. Follow this link and it is straightforward. <https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/c235e622-45c0-41c3-a589-889e5735e934/using-x-box-or-play-station-to-access-hwb.pdf>

I will also be posting messages for the whole year group through Google Classroom, and will include links to help catch up on the news, stories to read and sharing good work that has been done during lockdown.

Congratulations

Well done to students in 7BHO and 7KRI who won the Attendance and Achievement Point cups during the last full week of term in December. I hope you got my texts home to say well done and thank you.

This is not the start to the new term we thought and I know there is a lot to take in right now. If we can help in any way, at any time, please let us know. p.walker@beechwood.slough.sch.uk

Thank you for your interest and support.

Mr Walker, Year 7 Director of Studies

Year 8

Year 8 Google Classroom

I hope you have all had a good Christmas Holiday. I know that many of you will be disappointed that you cannot return to school yet but it is important that we all stay safe during this new lockdown. In order to keep things as normal as possible I will post Tutor Time activities on the Year 8 google classroom as well as the weekly quiz, notices, etc. You should receive an email in the next few days which will invite you to join the Year 8 classroom. If you don't you can either use the following class code: ez2xrat or email me directly: t.feehan@beechwood.slough.sch.uk

Happier January

This month, the Action Calendar, is encouraging everyone to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for ourselves and others around us - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same. If you wish to download a copy to use at home the website is as follows: www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january

Ms Feehan, Year 8 Director of Studies

ACTION CALENDAR: HAPPIER JANUARY 2021

MONDAY "Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony" - Gandhi

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

1 Find three good things to look forward to this year

2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself

3 Do a kind act for someone else to help to brighten their day

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for in life and why

5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe

7 Learn something new and share it with others

8 Say positive things to the people you meet today

9 Get moving. Do something physically active (ideally outdoors)

10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

11 Switch off all your tech 2 hours before bedtime

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

13 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

14 Take a different route today and see what you notice

15 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

16 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

17 Contribute positively to a good cause or your community

18 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

19 Get back in contact with an old friend you miss

20 Go to bed in good time and give yourself time to recharge

21 Take a small step towards an important goal

22 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

23 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

24 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

26 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently

29 Use one of your personal strengths in a new way

30 Count how many people you can smile at today

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january

Happier · Kinder · Together

Year 9

Please look in the year group classroom as there have been some items added for you to look at and to try. I have also made an announcement in there reminding you that if you need some help with your learning then please either email or send a comment via google classroom to your subject teacher, tutor or myself.

Mrs McEvoy, Year 9 Director of Studies

Year 10

I really hope that everything has gone well this week with completing work on your own at home. I just wanted to say that I know this is a really difficult time and doing work on your own at home and from next week, (Week beginning 11/01/21) logging into live lessons is just not the same as being all together in person, but hopefully you will all be able to make the best of this difficult situation. All of your teachers will be working hard to make sure that your education can continue, albeit remotely.

Please make sure you keep an eye on the Year 10 google classroom where I will be posting any information for you as a Year group. The expectation from next week is that all those who are able, log into google classroom and attend live lessons with your teachers during your timetabled sessions. Next week (Week beginning 11/01/21) is week one on the timetable. Your teachers will be taking registers in these lessons. If you have to miss a lesson for some reason, please email your teacher directly to let them know. If you are someone who is having their work posted to them due to IT issues, this work will arrive with you early next week.

If you are worried about logging into the live lessons, I would urge you to give them a go next week. You can log in without video and you can mute yourself. You can also log in on a phone if a computer is not available. The best possible way to keep up with your education is to attend live lessons during this time, however if next week you have issues with the live lessons, please be in touch with me via email and we can look at arranging alternatives for you.

I really hope you are all looking after yourselves and your families, all the best.

Miss Irvine, Director of Year 10 Studies

Year 11

This week Year 11 students experienced the first week of live lessons where the feedback from staff so far has been positive in terms of their interaction and attendance - so well done Year 11!

You may have seen the announcement this week about GCSE exams being cancelled and results coming from a form of teacher-assessed grades. Therefore, it is more important now more than ever that students attend their live lessons and complete all the work that is being asked. This is also a good time for them to go back and complete any work they may have missed or forgotten to complete as well as go back and improve on any work that they have received feedback for.

In the meantime, a number of students have been asking about predicted grades as they are applying to colleges and 6th forms. The move to remote learning for Year 11 students has meant we have had to cancel our January PPE exams. At this moment it would not be fair to provide predicted grades but these will be available later this term. Students have been told to state on their applications that this is the case and due to the current situation, colleges should understand this but if there are any issues, please let me know. Students are encouraged to keep a close eye and check their Year 11 Google classroom frequently as I will be posting information as and when we have it in regards to exams and remote learning. As always, if you have any concerns, questions or worries please email me on s.hallett@beechwood.slough.sch.uk and I will do my best to answer questions and get back to you as soon as I can.

Many thanks,

Mrs Hallett, Director of Studies for Year 11

Sixth Form

From Friday 15th January Sixth Form Students can join a weekly Kahoot quiz during our lunch break. Keep an eye on our Google Classroom for more information.

Kind regards,

Miss Rebecca Doncaster, Director of 6th Form

Can Mobile Phones Access Remote Learning?

Yes! A smart phone, as long as there is available data or a connection to WIFI, can access our Remote Learning at Beechwood. In order to make sure the experience runs as smoothly as possible the following free apps should be downloaded from the App Store or the Google Play Store (originally android market):

Google Drive

Gmail

Google Classroom

Google Docs

Google Sheets

Once the apps have been downloaded, pupils will need to sign in using their Beechwood email address and password - **do not use a personal account to login as this will not allow access to our online learning platform**.

Pupils should check their emails and follow links from here to access assignment tasks and live lessons. Pupils can then access Google Classroom for up to date curriculum maps and further resources from their individual teachers, including feedback and assessments that have been previously submitted.

It is worth noting that the same process applies to using laptops, desktops and tablets and it is key that the Beechwood email address and logins are used when signing in. If a pupil forgets their login details then they should contact Mr Gaffin or their Director of Study to gain a password reset.

Mr Goodman, Remote Teaching and Learning Development Manager

Be Word Savvy - Part of the new Disciplinary Literacy Strategy- continuing this term.

While working remotely during lockdown, the weekly look at a word and the prefix and suffix that make up the word will continue. This week the word is **century**: prefix 'cent' meaning 'a hundred' and the related prefix 'centi' meaning a hundredth.

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 or 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 4 January
2021



prefix

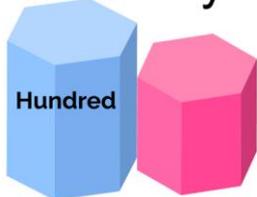
cent Meaning one hundred in Latin

centi Meaning one hundredth in Latin



Example Word

cent ury



Using your understanding of the prefix, what do you think this word means?

Example Word

cent ury



Using your understanding of the prefix, what do you think this word means?

A century is a period of a hundred years.
In History this is written as **C**.
C19th is Nineteenth Century
The 19th (nineteenth) century began on January 1, 1801, and ended on December 31, 1899.



A centimetre is a metric unit of length, equal to one hundredth of a metre.



Guess how many legs a centipede has.

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?

Parent Partnership

I would like to invite parents to a Virtual Parent Partnership meeting on the link below. It will be an opportunity for parents to give feedback on how best we can support them.

Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 10am

<https://meet.google.com/moy-tved-yry?authuser=0>

Mr Gaffin, Assistant Headteacher