

Bulletin Home – 15 January 2021

Dear Parent and Student,

I want to begin this week by saying a huge congratulations to all our young people who are engaging so well in their work, both at home and in school. We have had an excellent first week of everyone engaging in this way. Of course, our examination students and our critical worker/in-school learners have been able to build upon their successes of last week and, overall, are going from strength to strength. Well done everyone and keep up the hard work.

As I have shared in my last communication to you, from Monday 18th January we are all moving to a 5 period/subject day and the timetables of students working in school and at home will be harmonised.

What this means is that our students in school will be following the same timetable as their classmates who are working at home and will be undertaking all of the work set by their regular teacher – this includes going on line for live lessons, real-time interaction and doing the independent learning tasks that are set by their teachers.

As you know from the previous communications I have sent home and the guide as to the range of remote learning activities students will be asked to do, this independent work may include engaging in recorded lessons, online activities and assessments or working on tasks and assignments.

The timetables for all students from Monday can be accessed via each Student's Google Calendar. Again, as explained, it is required that every day our young people are ready for learning from 9am at the latest and follow their full school-day timetable. Breaks are included, but our young people should expect to spend 5 hours a day on their school work.

For those students who have particular learning needs and work with our Learning Support Department, Mrs Toms and the team of staff she works with are ensuring that they are providing additional support and resources so all can access their learning and make progress. If any student is finding engaging in their learning and understanding what to do particularly difficult, we ask that you let us know and we will respond with advice and guidance. We fully understand that working at home can be a challenge but with online support and in-person telephone advice and guidance where online access is a problem, we know that we can overcome the challenges and enable learning to progress.

All families whose children receive free school meals should have received a separate communication from me about this provision going forward and enclosed is a voucher to enable meals to be purchased by families. This voucher is for the period from 18th January to February half-term. We will be in contact thereafter about future provision. If a families' circumstances change, it may be that they become entitled to free school meals. Please apply if you are eligible. If you are not sure, get in contact and we will be able to share information and point you in the right direction. It is only right that families get the support they need and deserve, so I urge you to do this.



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

I know our Public Examination Students will be keen to have some certainty about how their grades will be awarded. We are still awaiting information on this and so as soon as we know, I will be in contact. Please don't worry just, continue to work hard on the assignments teachers have set.

Finally, a final reminder to the parents of our students who are working in school at present. To reduce risk of virus transmission in school we ask that you sign the consent form for weekly lateral flow testing. This is an important additional health and safety measure intended to pick up asymptomatic cases. Not only does this testing reduce in-school transmission but it also ensures reduced community transmission. Infection control is about implementing a range of 'mitigations'/actions/processes and I thank all for their support with this.

I hope you all have a good week ahead. I continue to urge you to get in contact if you need us. We will also be contacting all our families over the coming days and weeks.

Take really good care.

My very best wishes to you all



Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher

A Message from the NHS we have been asked to share

The main flu season occurs in the first 3 months of the year, so now more than ever, it is important that children are protected from flu. Vaccinating your child not only protects them, but also protects the wider population as children are known to be the main spreader of the flu virus. Most children will receive the nasal flu vaccination, but for some children, this can be given as a small injection in the arm.

As you can appreciate during the Covid pandemic, it is now even more important to have your child vaccinated, to maintain the health of the population, reduce the pressure on the NHS system and reduce hospital admissions. We are pleased to be able to continue our school-aged immunisation service, even if your child is not attending school during the current lockdown. We are working closely with our colleagues in education to provide clinics in schools where possible, otherwise the service will be provided in alternative local venues. Details will be published on our webpage (link below).

We are pleased to be able to offer various locations in the Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough and Bracknell areas. Our service offers the nasal flu or injectable flu vaccination (for those children who are unable to have the nasal flu vaccination due to the porcine gelatin).

What to do now?

If your child missed their flu vaccination and you would like to arrange for your child to be vaccinated, please contact us on [0300 365 0077](tel:03003650077) option 1 to arrange an appointment. Alternatively, you can contact us via email SchoolImmunisationTeam@berkshire.nhs.uk

Please check our Immunisation Website for up to date information about School Aged Immunisations and clinics which will be taking place from now until the 5th February 2021.

<https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/public-health-nursing-health-visiting-school-nursing-immunisation/immunisation-team/>

Kind Regards,

The School Aged Immunisation Team

Tel: 0300 365 0077

www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk, www.berkshirecommunityhealthservices.nhs.uk

Year Group Headings

Year 7

Thank you for your support and understanding this week, we have had a strong response from Year 7 to Remote Learning with excellent attendance at Live Lessons, quality work being submitted and lots of students continuing to ask questions when they need more help.

Learning

In Ms Sandhu's Science lesson this week she was "overwhelmed" with the level of participation and French have told me that over 90% of students have been active in their on-line platforms.

Ms Davis has also shared some sophisticated creative writing and I know that in my English lessons, I have been impressed with just how quickly students have grasped how to make live lessons work for them and then follow up by completing work independently-it's really heartening to see our students adapt and working with us like this.

Several other teachers have also told me how impressed they have been with the sensible and serious approach towards this new Remote Learning and we all appreciate how much you have encouraged and helped in different practical ways to make this successful-thank you.

Please note that we record all our Live lessons and they are then put onto Google Classroom, so if someone can't attend live, they do not miss out.

Keeping up this engagement and interest is very important, so if there is anything else we can help with, please let us know.

Curriculum

Even though learning is different this term, I wanted to continue with each subject outlining what is being taught this half term and we start with Science.

This term, Year 7 will be studying ***Why Chemical Reactions Happen*** followed by ***Acids and Bases***. Students normally find both topics fun and exciting, especially Acids and Bases. As we explore ***Why Chemical Reactions Happen***, students will learn how to identify whether or not a chemical reaction has occurred. They will be taught the key observations that indicate that a chemical reaction has taken place. We will also be looking at different types of reactions and how to name compounds that are involved in these reactions. One specific type of reaction that we will focus on is Neutralisation. That is, a reaction between special chemicals known as acids and bases. This topic never disappoints!

Kind regards,

Shennane Watson, s.watson@beechwood.slough.sch.uk

Mr Walker, Director of Studies for Year 7

Year 8

Year 8 Google Classroom

Can I remind you that you can access notices, the tutor schedule and the weekly quiz on the Year 8 google classroom. You should have received an email inviting you to join the classroom – if you haven't please email me. The link to the quiz is on there and the winners will receive achievement points. Well done to those of you who have already completed this week's quiz – I will announce the winner in the newsletter next week.

Online Learning

You have been accessing a range of either live, recorded or online lessons this week. I hope you are all getting on well with these. If there are any problems with accessing work can you please let me or your teachers know

Keep up the good work

Ms Feehan, Director of Studies for Year 8

Year 9

I hope you are all safe and well and that you have been able to engage in your studies this week, whether it has been online via google classroom, maybe even in some 'live' lessons or recorded lessons, or if it has been through work which has been posted home. I know this is very fluid and changes may happen daily but please continue to do your best and email your subject teachers, tutors or myself if there are any questions or concerns.

Remember from next week, (as referenced in the bulletin from Ms Higgins last week), we will be moving to a 5 lesson a day timetable. This will mean 1-hour lessons, or equivalent if you are working on paper copies. I will put a reminder of this into our google classroom. Registers are taken for all live lessons and a report of the length of time you were present is recorded by google and emailed to your teachers at the conclusion of each lesson. Where independent work is set, it is important that you 'turn' it in for marking and/or feedback, (most of you prefer to do this by taking pictures, which is fine).

Please remember to take breaks, especially when they are scheduled but if you can at other times as well, you must be mindful of the amount of time you are in front of the screen.

Many thanks

Mrs McEvoy, Director of Studies for Year 9

Year 10

I hope everyone's first live lessons this week have gone well! I have had lots of positive feedback from Year 10 teachers about the engagement in lessons.

If anyone is having any tech issues at home please email me.

Remember it is a 5-lesson week next week so check your google calendar for your lessons. The timings of the day will be as follows:

Period 1 - 9:00 – 10:00 Period 2 -10:00 – 11:00 Break 1 - 11:00 – 11:20 Period 3 - 11:20 – 12:20 Period 4 - 12:20 – 13:20 Break 2 - 13:20 – 13:50 Period 5 - 13:50 – 14:50

Miss Irvine, Director of Studies for Year 10

Year 11

Year 11 Google Classroom

Please make sure you are checking the Year 11 Google classroom frequently as this is where key messages are shared as well as information about career opportunities for you to look into and apply for. As always, if you have any questions, just ask. Please see below messages that have been shared this week:

Sixth Form

Next week Miss Doncaster will be in touch with you on the Y11 classroom to provide further information for those of you who have applied to our Sixth Form. We will be looking to host a google meet for you to get the answers to some questions you may have. If you have not yet applied, please do so!

Calling all Aspiring Medical students Topic: What are the medical school interviews really like? On Wednesday 13th January 2021, there was an opportunity to attend a free webinar at 7pm. In this webinar, it will give you a chance to hear from a 5th year medical student about their experience with medical school interviews and what they would do differently if they were to have the interview now. This topic is a very timely one since medical schools are in the middle of the interview season. If interested, the registration link can be found on the Google Classroom. Don't worry if you didn't make it this time, the webinar is available to

watch on-demand on the YouTube shared on the same post.

To those interested in Apprenticeships Mars Wrigley - Slough - are now recruiting Apprentices to start in September 2021. They have 3 Engineering and 8 Manufacturing roles available. If interested see link that has been shared on our Google classroom. Applications are now open until 8th February 2021.

Miss Hallett, Director of Studies, for Year 11

Sixth Form

A reminder that Year 11 students have until 23rd February to apply to join our Sixth Form this September. All resources can be found on our [Virtual Open Evening](#) which can be accessed via our [school website](#).

If you require any support with your application, or have a question/query please email me at r.doncaster@beechwood.slough.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Miss Rebecca Doncaster, Director of 6th Form

For Parents

Parent Partnership

Thank you to the parents who joined the Parent Partnership meeting on Tuesday morning. Your feedback about the online learning and communication with the School was really helpful. I am planning another meeting on Thursday 21st January at 5:00pm. Please use the link below to join the meeting:

<https://meet.google.com/cho-hszz-jgt?hs=122&authuser=0>

Mike Gaffin, Assistant Headteacher

Using a Xbox or Playstation to access remote learning

Classroom can be opened on Xbox and Playstation. There isn't an app that the pupils can add to their consoles. Instead, they are going to have to use the built-in browsers that come on the two devices. On Xbox, it is Microsoft Edge. On Playstation, it is the "www" browser. Pupils will probably know how to find the browsers on their consoles, but if not, each one has a search function they can access on the home screen.

Once the browser has been opened:

1. Type in classroom.google.com in the URL bar.
2. A prompt for a Google account will appear.
3. Type in your school district email and password – it doesn't end in google.com and that is ok, it should end in beechwood.slough.sch.uk
4. The Classroom home screen will open up.

If pupils have a keyboard they can plug in, they will have a much easier time of navigation. Otherwise, they will have to use their controllers to click on the classroom tiles, open up assignments and type. Pupils can then open up assignments, interact with video and written instruction. They can also open Docs and Slides and type on them! It isn't easy with a controller, but at least content can be accessed this way. Plus, pupils may be better with the controller anyway!

I hope this helps.

Mr Goodman, Remote Teaching and Learning Development Lead

A Letter from Mr Goodman for all families

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I hope this letter finds you all well. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as Remote Teaching and Learning development Manager, and my role is simple to make sure all have a good Remote learning experience. It is a very strange time at the moment for the education sector, but here at Beechwood School we are continuing to develop and implement new strategies and techniques to ensure our teaching and learning of all pupils within our school community continues to be a good standard and that students can make the academic progress they deserve.

Both the staff and students have been using our online learning platform - Google Workspace (formally Google Apps for Education) within our everyday teaching for a while now. Pupils have had their own individual learning experiences by having their own unique login credentials that can be accessed both in school and from home via a number of different devices. These devices include the following: laptops, desktops, tablets, smartphones and even games consoles; such as Playstation and Xbox. Although this has been in place, we have not used it to its full capacity until now. Pupils can now access live Remote Lessons, complete electronic assignments, interact through Google Classroom and gain access to full curriculum maps and presentations for all subjects.

Now we have moved to remote learning up until at least February half term, I personally wanted to let you know that the pupils are in an ideal situation to continue their education remotely under the guidance of the Beechwood staff and functionality of Google Workspace.

With this in mind it gives me great pleasure to inform you of two opportunities to support remote learning for some pupils within the Beechwood community. Please be advised that these opportunities are not unlimited and therefore specific considerations will need to be factored in before allocating the following options. These will include, but not limited to Year group, PP/FSM, Shared devices, and only phone access.

1.School Hire Purchase Scheme:

We have been working with a company to help provide families with Chromebooks. A hire purchase scheme is a great way of spreading the costs on a device that can support students with their learning needs and requirements. One of the best things about a hire purchase scheme is that it includes accidental damage and theft insurance within the overall price. The total cost of a Chrome book and case would be £210+ vat, which can be spread over a 2year or 3year period, however it is important to note that this price would be if we received and made 150 orders. This would be a great option which could cost as little as £15.21pm (2year option) or £12.76pm (3year option).

2.Government Data Allowance:

There is also the opportunity to access the government's pilot scheme for increasing data allowances on mobile phones. This process has a few more details and criteria that need to be met. Please see the information below:

Who can get help

This scheme is open to children and young people who:

- don't have access to a fixed broadband connection
- cannot afford the additional data needed to access educational resources or social care services
- have access to a mobile device that uses a participating network
- are facing disruption to their face-to-face education, or have been advised not to attend school

What information you'll need to collect

To request extra mobile data, you will need to collect the following information:

- the account holder's name
- their mobile number (a number beginning with '07')
- their mobile network
- whether they pay monthly or pay as they go

Should you take up this offer, you will need to make yourself familiar with the following privacy statement.

Privacy statement

1. For the purposes of data protection, I need to let you know that the Department for Education (DfE) is running the Mobile Network Offer through schools and their trusts or local authorities.
2. If the offer is taken up by an adult account holder, the school or social care team will share the account holder's name and mobile phone details with the DfE, who will share these with the relevant mobile network operator.
3. The mobile network operator will use that information to increase the data available for the account holder's mobile device, as long as they qualify for the offer.
4. The adult account holder's personal data is only shared with their mobile network operator for the purposes of the offer. No names of children or other adults, other than adult account holder, are shared with the DfE or the mobile network operator.
5. No personal information will be shared with the DfE if you do not want to take up the offer.
6. If you want to know more about how your personal information will be used before you take up the offer, we can send that to you first.
7. If you decide to take up the offer, you'll get a text message from the Department for Education with more information about your data protection rights.

Lots of information and opportunities no matter your circumstances. To see the Remote Learning Expectations please visit the school website, or click the following link:

<https://www.beechwood.slough.sch.uk/COVID-19/Advice-to-Parents-Documents>. This will continue to be regularly updated, alongside our usual communications that we send home each week.

We look forward to continuing to educate the pupils of Beechwood School and hope that you will be supportive of our approach and understanding that sometimes technical issues can occur. If you experience any issues then please ask the pupils to notify the subject teacher during the remote lesson for isolated incidents or contact the Director of Study for any further support or concerns. If you are interested in either of the options within this letter please contact the following email; enquiries@beechwood.slough.sch.uk or telephone the main school number and leave a message at reception.

We hope that this continues to help pupils Be the Best that they can BE.

Thanks,

Mr Goodman, Remote Teaching and Learning Development Manager

Great Literacy

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 **deforestation**, the cutting down of trees which is particularly a threat to the tropical rainforests when it happens on a large scale: prefix 'de' meaning to remove or opposite and suffix 'tion' meaning action.

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 11 January 2021

Read the slides: learn the meaning of the word and the prefix and suffix.
Are there are other words that have the same prefix or suffix?

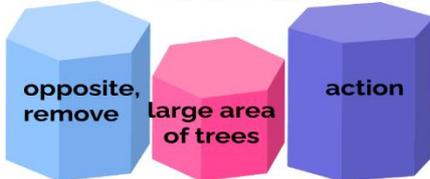


What is deforestation??



Example Word

de foresta tion



Using your understanding of the prefix, stem, and suffix, what do you think this means?

prefix
de

Meaning opposite or remove



suffix
tion

Meaning action



Deforestation - cutting down of trees often on a large scale. This is a threat to tropical rainforests.



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



- **de**commission - withdraw from service
- **de**code - translate code so message can be read
- **de**rail - a train leaves its tracks