

Bulletin Home – 4 September 2020

Dear Parent and Student,

Firstly, I want to say a huge congratulations to all our young people for the really positive way they have returned to school and re-engaged with members of staff and their learning. We know that there would have been a mixture of emotions at the start of term – excitement and being pleased to be back to some normality with regards to regular attendance at school, but also some anxiety about changes, getting back into routines and staying safe.

All, however, appear to be adjusting incredibly well and I am impressed.

I have sent home a number of communications so far this week. One relating to some small tweaks to end of day timings and asking for support with regards to arrival times of students in the morning and picking up and dropping off. All of these tweaks come into operation from Monday and I thank you again for your support.

The other really vital communication was about the confirmed case of Covid 19 in our school community.

To reiterate in relation to and in light of some enquiries I have had, the student had only been in school on one day. This was the first day back for their year group after the holiday. On this day Monday 7th September – Year 7 and Sixth Form were the only other year groups in school and during the school day, because of the measures we have put in place, these year groups had no interactions and no opportunity for any contact/close contact. The only students who need to be away from school at present are those who have been identified as having had close contact themselves. The need for these students to isolate is a precaution.

The Local Health Protection Team were clear when I interacted with them that associates of those isolating as a precaution, including their siblings and family/household members, do not need to isolate. The isolation is for those with direct close contact only. This is the clear expert advice from the Health Protection Team. If, however, anyone would appreciate discussing this further, then please contact me.

With regards to communication this week, I thought it would be really helpful for Director of Studies to have an opportunity to share with you. Director of Studies are vitally important members of staff in terms of having an oversight of how young people in their year groups are thriving personally, socially and academically.

They are key points of contact for parent and students. They lead teams of Form Tutors and they liaise with subject teachers, so please see below a brief message from each of our Directors of Studies.

Year 7 have made a tremendous start and all staff are impressed with their attitude and approach to learning. We know there is a lot to take in when starting a new school, but our Year 7 have responded to everything with a sensible and considerate approach. Lots of Achievement Points have been awarded already and we would like to thank our students for making the start of term so rewarding for all of us.

I hope you got my text message on Tuesday thanking you for your support and to let you know about this positive start.

Some have already been keen to share this:

Beechwood 

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

" Beechwood is lovely and the teachers make you believe that you can achieve your goals if you work hard and follow the motto " Be the best you can be." Amy

"The motto has inspired me and that is what I will follow. There is hope for me to achieve my goal and succeed." Matthew.

" Teachers are really helpful and kind. I love the range of lessons and chance to try something new." Autaum

We are looking forward to a highly successful year.

Mr Walker

Welcome Back Year 8

Year 8 returned on Tuesday and have made a very positive start to the new academic year. They have adjusted well to their new "bubble" and procedures. Some students have produced fantastic transition work and it is great to see how much effort has gone into this. As their new Director of Studies, I have been very impressed with them and I am looking forward to working with them and helping them to achieve their goals. Miss Feehan

Year 9

Hello, my name is Mrs McEvoy and I am currently taking on the role as Director of Studies for **Year 9**. I have been at Beechwood for 6 years now and have worked both in Curriculum and Pastoral Leadership roles, as a part of my role as Associate to the Headteacher.

It was really good to see Year 9 back in school this week and adapting readily to the changes that have been made. I am looking forward to supporting and developing the year group as we progress through the academic year.

Year 10

Welcome to a new year and welcome back to all of our Year 10 students! It was an incredibly different school year last year with many hurdles for us all to cross. But it has been amazing to see students over the last two weeks and it was my pleasure to welcome Year 10s back to school on the 9th.

My name is Amanda Irvine and I will be the new Director of Studies for Year 10 this year. I have loved working with many different year groups throughout my time at Beechwood and I know working with this fantastic group of young people will be no different. Even with all of the COVID restrictions and the very different way we will be working, there is still so much to look forward to. I hope that Year 10 are ready to take on the challenge of their second year of GCSE study and to grab the opportunity to be in school, in lessons having precious time with their teachers with both hands. I look forward to sharing their success with you in the years to come.

Year 11

Welcome to the new year, I am Miss Hallett and I am the Director of Studies for year 11. As you may be aware, I have worked with the year group since year 8, so I am really looking forward to seeing them through and supporting them in this important year. Soon we will be starting the process for students to apply for prefects, head boy and head girl as we were unable to do this before summer so please keep an eye as more information will follow shortly. At Beechwood, we are all here to help, support and prepare our students ready for them to sit their exams next year, so if there are any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

6th Form

DoS introduction

Welcome to the new school year! I am Miss Doncaster and I have been a Drama and Media teacher at Beechwood school for 11 years. I have the amazing job of being the Director of Studies for our incredible Sixth

Form. Each year our Sixth Form students get better and better, last year it was announced that Beechwood Sixth Form is the number 1 Sixth Form/college in Slough for student progress! I look forward to celebrating more success with our current Sixth Form students, and I look forward to welcoming our younger students into our Sixth Form when they complete the GCSE studies. Have a great year everyone!

In addition to this introduction and welcome from of our Director of Studies, this week we wanted to tell you about our developments with regards to supporting excellent literacy development for all students at all key stages. Mrs Bowker therefore shares the following.

Disciplinary Literacy – Launch of a new Literacy Strategy September 2020 We have launched a new academic strategy this September in collaboration with other schools in Slough that focuses on the progression of the academic literacy of students. Disciplinary Literacy ensures every teacher focuses on explicitly teaching the literacy skills required to be successful in their subject. As part of this strategy, we have launched a whole school project entitled 'Be Word Savvy'. Each week all students will be introduced to a prefix (for example 'sub') and a suffix (for example 'tion'). This will be introduced in form time and then reinforced in subject lessons during the week with subject related words appropriate for their academic year. Examples: subtraction, related words: subway, subterranean, substitute, subsequent, contraction, 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 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 7 September 2020

prefix
sub

under, beneath

suffix
tion

act, process or result

Example Word

sub **trac** **tion**

under,
beneath

pull

act,
process
or result

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

subtraction-
to subtract

• What other words can you think of with this prefix and suffix?

act, process or result

under,
beneath

pull

act,
process
or result

subtraction-
to subtract
to take away
 $10-6=4$

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

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!

To conclude next week our Year Teams will be sharing with our young people the information that is being published by the Government – their Winter Campaign ‘Hands. Face. Space’.

All families can access this advice on infection control via the Government website. You may find it very useful to do so as a family, hence why I share this with you now.

Very best wishes for a really good week ahead.

My very best wishes to you all

Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher