Dear Parent and Student,

We have had a busy time across the school.

- Our Year 10 students have experienced an externally facilitated ‘Enterprise STEM Challenge’ day (STEM refers to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
- Our Year 9 students have attended the Aspire Careers’ Event.
- Our more able mathematicians have undertaken the UK Maths Challenge Test.
- The Slough Youth Parliament has declared its results.
- Our Year 7 have begun their ‘First Give’ project.

All the above are exciting opportunities and our young people are congratulated for their positive engagement. We are looking forward to enclosing some student reports on these experiences in our next bulletin home.

Our next bulletin will be marking the fact that we are at the end of another half-term. The academic year is certainly advancing at a pace. After half-term our public exam students will be engaging in ‘Pause’ lessons before they commence their final PPEs, the week beginning 4 March. For some students, however, they will also be in attendance at special ‘booster’ and tuition groups over the half-term holiday period. Due to the commitment of members of staff, there are additional small group academic support sessions taking place on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Students will have received letters asking them to attend at this vitally important time. We wish them well in their endeavours to secure results worthy of them. Their hard work and collaboration with teachers will undoubtedly pay off.

Our bulletin is an opportunity to both acknowledge achievement and share some really important information or provide some updates/reminders. This week, I would like to share some reminders/updates.

Firstly, with regards to our Behaviour Policy. Rewarding achievement and positive community acts is at the centre but there are occasions, where students do not always make the right choices. These occasions have declined considerably overtime, thanks to the great partnership which exists between our young people, staff and families, but for clarity, please see the diagram below which shows consequences for not behaving in a way which is in line with our Beechwood values and our ‘Be Beechwood’ goals.
I am delighted, however, that the very vast majority of our young people secure a significant number of achievement points. The highest totals in each year group for an individual student are as follows.

Year 7 - 168  
Year 8 - 161  
Year 9 - 145  
Year 10 - 114  
Year 11 - 113  

This gives a clear guide as to what can be achieved and a target for all. We will be recognising individual students in our ‘Achievement Assemblies’ and I will share this information about individual achievement in a forthcoming bulletin.
The other reminder this week relates to the **time that our school is open to students.** We welcome students into school from 7.45 am in the morning. They must, however, be supervised/in specifically agreed areas. We encourage all to use the ALC where we also hold our free breakfast club. At the end of the day, students may only be on site in agreed supervised areas/in attendance at agreed activities such as study sessions, clubs and period 7 for our more senior students. The reason we have these guidelines is for health and safety purposes. We therefore ask and expect that all our young people will respect these requirements.

Finally, a date for the diary next week is our **Year 10 Subject Reporting Evening.** All Year 10 students will already have received information regarding the session they need to be in attendance and attendance is required at this vitally important stage in their GCSE studies.

Very best wishes for an excellent week ahead.

Kathleen M Higgins  
Executive Headteacher
**instigate** (verb)

*n-stuh-gayt*

**Definition:** to cause something to happen or begin; to goad or urge forward; to provoke

**Usage:** The fight had been instigated by the team’s captain.

The government have instigated an inquiry into disability rights.

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<tr>
<th>Synonyms</th>
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<td>begin</td>
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<td>plot</td>
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<td>plan</td>
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<td>urge</td>
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**Etymology**
From Latin: *instigatus* meaning ‘to goad on or impel’.

Are you Word Savvy?

**DEFINITION 1:** From nature, not made or caused by humans.
**EXAMPLE:** “The earthquake was a devastating natural disaster.”

**DEFINITION 2:** Having had a minimum of processing or preservative treatment.
**EXAMPLE:** “A child’s diet can be improved by eating natural, unprocessed foods.”

**ROOT:** From the Latin *naturalis*, in turn from *natura* meaning birth or nature

**MATHS:** The counting numbers are also known as the natural numbers.
**Example:** The first numbers a child learns are the natural numbers.

**MUSIC:** A note that is not a sharp or a flat.
**Example:** The violins played B natural instead of B flat.
MATHS: A child often learns the first 10 natural numbers or counting numbers on her fingers. 1, 2, 3, 4,... and so on to infinity.

The natural numbers:

Which numbers are the integers?

The natural numbers and zero and all the negative whole numbers. These stretch to positive and negative infinity.
In a score the natural sign ($b$) is used to show a natural note should be played when a sharp or a flat was previously indicated.

**FUR ELISE** by **BEETHOVEN**

You may be able to see the pianists forth finger playing the D natural in the famous opening bars of Beethoven’s Fur Elise:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wF0zHeU3Zs
Everyone has a natural talent.

What is her natural talent?

As a child Serena Williams showed a natural talent for tennis which she worked hard to turn into a successful career.

What is your natural talent?