Dear Parent and Student,

Following on from last week’s bulletin where we focused on how to be the most effective type of learner, on this bulletin home I want to start by sharing the invitation that was shared with all our young people this week inviting expressions of interest in joining our new ‘Academic Board’.

The purpose of this group is to enable students and staff to come together and have a real discussion on regular occasions in order to share perspectives on what will best support student engagement in their learning and to make recommendations about developments that it would be good to pursue. Students are asked to speak with their Directors of Studies, Mrs Larminie or me about this if they would like to be part of this or would like to find out more. We ask parents/carers to encourage participation of this nature.

In terms of our young people leading the way and making a difference to their community our Year 11 young men and women are organising a social event for Years 7, 8 and 9 – please see the letter below.
Dear Parent/Carer

We are excited to announce a Beechwood community event to celebrate together and raise some money for charity and our Year 11 Prom. The Student Prefects, along with staff support, have organised a ‘Halloween Party: Fright Night’ here at school on Wednesday 16th October 2019, in the school hall from 4pm - 6:30pm. We will be inviting anyone from Years 7, 8 or 9 to attend. Tickets are limited and will cost £5. This will include finger food and juice and all of the entertainment for the evening including music and dancing.

To encourage early sales, until Monday 7th of October, tickets will cost only £4. Free tickets will be given to those students in Year 7, 8 or 9 who gain the most amount of achievement points over the next two weeks with the top student in each year gaining a free ticket. If you have already secured your child’s ticket and paid, this will be refunded to you.

The theme is ‘Fright Night’ and students are encouraged to dress up, prizes will be given to those students in the best fancy dress.

If your child is wanting to attend, please ask them to bring in their money and slips to school and Prefects will be around in form time and in G7 at break times for your child to pay and secure a ticket.

Thank you for all of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Irvine  
Director of Studies

Alannagh Micallef  
Head of Social Committee

Jamal Douglas  
Head of Fundraising Committee

Year 11 Committee

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**Beechwood's Fright Night**

I give permission for __________________________ of form ________________________ to attend ‘Beechwood's Fright Night’ on Wednesday 16 October 2019.

- I confirm that payment has been enclosed with this slip

______________________________ will be getting home at 6:30pm by_________________

Signed: _______________________________
This promises to be a fantastic occasion so I hope our young people in those year groups will buy their tickets and enjoy this special event.

With regard to special opportunities, I wanted to highlight again the **Year 7 Residential Trip** which is planned for May but the booking of places needs to happen now. The key information is contained in the letter below.

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**26 September 2019**

**Dear Parent/Carer**

We are delighted to announce that we are organising a fantastic 3 day residential adventure with The Bushcraft Company. We will be attending their Blenheim site in Oxfordshire from Wednesday 20 May to Friday 22 May 2020.

For those of you who have not heard of The Bushcraft Company, our adventure will be set in some of the most beautiful privately-owned UK woodlands. We will have exclusive use of a woodland safari style camp and be guided by a highly qualified and responsible team. This is an exciting opportunity for students to learn through adventure in a safe, yet challenging, environment. The adventure activities are designed to develop leadership skills and resilience, demanding resourcefulness, decision-making and practical thinking from students. We will be sleeping in tented accommodation, and have all our food and snacks provided.

The total cost of this adventure is £180 per student and includes:
- return coach travel;
- full board accommodation;
- a packed itinerary of adventure activities with instruction, supervision and equipment;
- a hoodie to wear during the trip;
- food and snacks throughout the trip.

To confirm our booking, an initial non-refundable deposit of **£10** will be required by **15 October through Parent Pay, as well as a permission slip (attached)**.

Following, payments will be due as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>£30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>£30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January</td>
<td>£30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>£30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>£30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>£20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We understand that this is a financial commitment, and we hope that the extended time to make payments will help with this. We will also be holding fundraisers throughout this year, which will allow us to keep the cost as it is. We understand that financial situations can change throughout the year, but to make sure other students are not affected we will only offer refunds as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>£30 refunded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>£70 refunded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>£90 refunded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After March 1</td>
<td>No money will be refunded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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We would love to have 100% of our Year 7 students participating in this exceptional experience, but we want to ensure that all feel safe and able to participate. Therefore, we will only be taking students who have shown their commitment to being a respectful member of our school community. Any student whose behaviour leading up to this trip has caused harm or put the health and safety of others or themselves at risk will not be permitted to attend.

Closer to the adventure we will of course arrange a parents’ information evening, where you can find out more about The Bushcraft Company, activities, food, accommodation and our planned adventure. In the meantime, if you do wish to find out more about The Bushcraft Company, please do visit www.thebushcraftcompany.com.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Bethany Bayliss
Year 7 Director of Studies

Name of student………………………………………………………………….

Form Group………………………………

For Parent/Carer:

I give my permission to allow my child to attend the residential trip with the Bushcraft Company.

I do not give my permission to allow my child to attend the residential trip with the Bushcraft Company.

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

For Year 7 Student:

I understand my commitment to being a positive member of the Beechwood community and how it could affect my ability to attend the residential trip with the Bushcraft Company.

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

Permission slip and first deposit due by 15 October 2019 to secure placement on the trip.

If any further information is needed please contact Mrs Bayliss and Mr Gaffin.

A little sooner than next May, and a special opportunity for parents, is our forthcoming Parent Partnership Evening on Thursday 17 October.

This is a chance to experience what students study in Art. A hands on experience taking place in our Art rooms from 6:00pm. Please meet in Main Reception. The evening will last for approximately one hour.
Key Dates
Before we know it we will be at the half-term holiday, so as we advance towards this, please note the following key dates from now until the Christmas Holiday.

Wednesday 16 October - Halloween Party Year 7, 8 and 9 – Fundraising – 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Thursday 17 October - Parent Partnership - Art Event – 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Friday 25 October Fright Night – Year 11/12/13 - 3:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Half-term – Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November 2019
Inset Day – 4 November 2019
5 November – 8 November – Yr 8/9 PPEs
11 November – 15 November – Year 13 PPEs
Thursday 14 November – Parent Teacher Consultation - – 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
25 November – 28 November – Year 11 PPEs
Friday 29 November – School Closure
2 December – 6 December – Year 11 PPEs
Thursday 5 December – Year 12/13 Parent Teacher Consultation – 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Wednesday 18 December – Student Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19 December – Sixth Form Christmas Lunch and Theatre
End of Term – Friday 20 December 2019

Have an excellent week.

Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher
Word of the Week

trans*gender* (adj)

trans-gen-der

Definition:
- A term used to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or who do not identify with, the sex they were assigned at birth.

Usage:
- There are many documentaries worth watching which expose the difficult physical and emotional road many transgender people have to travel to become the person they always knew they were.

Trans pronouns

Some trans people are happy to be addressed with the pronouns which relate to their preferred gender. However, some prefer ‘they’ or ‘them’ which are gender neutral.