Dear Parent and Student,

Happy Christmas

I hope you all enjoy a really good Christmas holiday break and that 2020 will be a great year ahead for you and your families and indeed our school community.

Our bulletin home this week focuses on some recent events and also shares a number of highlights of our academic year together so far. So many of our young people have given us their best and excelled. We are exceptionally proud of them and congratulate them. Their efforts will be rewarded with great achievement and we look forward to celebrating this success. As always the goal is to simply be “the very best that you can be “

Recent Highlights

Our Academic Board students report the following

In December we participated in a learning walk with Mrs Larminie and insited Year 10 classes GCSE option subjects. Our focus was the learning environment.

During our presence in Geography we observed an array of resources to assist in the understanding and development in learning including GCSE level AQA textbooks, various workstations dedicated to answering exam questions and defining key vocabulary providing specific geography dictionaries. Both the smartboard and whiteboards were used for further engagement. Students’ work was organised in folders, assisting with preparations for exams. Classroom displays were vibrant and filled with models and posters made by students.

History not only displayed key information of historical figures and events but also had examples from students’ previous work. All of these factors assisted in creating a productive atmosphere and understanding of learning objectives.

French provided students with higher tier expert structured AQA textbooks, English and French dictionaries and learning mats to engage the students and push them even further. The classroom itself was vibrant and decorated with important key vocabulary. Moreover, there was clear evidence in books for students’ dedicated time for self-reflection.
When we visited media, students were engaged in a ‘do now’ task and the teacher was making sure that every individual understood before moving on. The books had plenty of useful notes accompanied by folders that included the grade boundaries so that students could understand what was required and therefore they could aim accordingly. There was also a detailed revision booklet that ensured the students' confidence on each topic. Students said that there were lessons allocated for dedicated improvement and reflection time which they valued.

All of the subjects we visited showed evidence of an array of resources such as GCSE textbooks specific to the examination boards of that subject and classes adorned with beneficial displays, as well as good communication between staff and students.

By Tia Francis and Ajwa Fayaz.

**Year 10 enjoyed a readiness for University experience in Oxford.**

On Tuesday 10th December, 40 year 10 students attended Oxford Brookes University for a Passport Day.

The day started off with students being put into small groups and working with a Student Ambassador from the University. After students discussed what their current concerns were about going to university and what the benefits of going to university were, the Student Ambassadors took the groups on a campus tour.

After lunch, students were informed of the thousands of courses of study available to them across all universities, the routes and pathways students can follow and we began to research what students needed to do in order to get to the job they aspired to achieve.

Students were then tasked with creating a society where they had to budget, advertise and give a presentation of their thoughts and ideas.

Throughout the days, students worked with their Ambassador and looked into finance for University, coming out of your comfort zone and any other questions our students had.

From the day, students have more of an idea of what university is, what they need to achieve to get there and the options they have available.

**Year 9 Students are excelling in their Computing Challenge “ CyberStart Game “**

This year, members of the Yr 9 Computing cohort participated in the CyberStart Game qualifiers, with 100% of our students who participated reaching the second phase of the contest!

Adam Malik, Connor Cully, Dylan Mroz, Ghulam Mustafa, Haashim Malik, Michael Braisby, Mobeen Mohammed, Tayyib Rahim are now participants. This is where the competition really gets going, and we are expecting great things of our students this year!

The CyberStart Game is a hands-on, interactive computing challenge that covers everything from Linux to Python programming. Students tackle many hours’ worth of challenges, tasks and games across four competitive phases, with the aim of nurturing interest in the cyber security sector, inspiring next generation of programmers, and growing the UK's cyber capable workforce. The Game is run by the SANS Institute, a world leader in cyber security.
All our students have succeeded in progressing to the Third Stage of the competition called Essentials, where a lot of theoretical learning is taking place and we are keen to qualify for the examination Award.

The Beechwood Cyber Club meets every Friday at 15:00 pm and all students are encouraged to participate. It doesn't matter whether students are already coding hobbyists, gamers, or whether this is their first foray into the field of computer science. Everyone is welcome! You never know, it could lead our Beechwood Cyberists to a career spent protecting the UK's cyber capabilities!

**A number of our Key stage 3 Students are excelling in their ‘Unit Award ‘ AQA qualifications.**

We’d like to say well done to the thirty eight students who have studied the Unit Award Schemes through AQA this term to build on skills and knowledge. They have gained around 200 certificates (awaiting arrival from exam board) in a variety of units such as:

- Responding to a film
- Recycling
- Basic Geography of Great Britain
- Money Management
- Creative writing on the First World War
- British Values- democracy
- Safety in the Kitchen
- Art & Design- Colour and pattern
- Christmas Traditions

**The P.E Department Report**

**Physical Education Bulletin**

**Week Commencing - 16/12/19**

**Core PE:**

Year 7, 8, 9 & 10

This has been the final week of the Interclass sports personality competition. The results are as follows:

- 1st Ronaldo
- 2nd Bolt
- 3rd Adams
Well done Ronaldo!

(This is where each year plays within their respective sport personality group; Adams, Bolt or Ronaldo. These groups are set throughout the year and will accumulate points for an overall victory at the end of the academic year).

**Special mention to:**
Brajan Kuczynski - For the utmost enthusiasm and always being first to each lesson.
Bobby Wilson - For always offering to help set up the courts before the lesson!

*Well done to you both!*

**Staff Vs 6th Form Netball**  
11/12/19

The 6th form students have organised a Staff V 6th form game which was playing in the sportshall. The first game ended with a victory to the staff. The second game also ended with a victory to the staff team!

*(A note from the PE team: Please make sure students bring in Beechwood PE kit and boots for lessons as this allows you to participate in the lesson and avoid sanctions)*

**Extra-Curricular**

This is the 2nd week for the new Year 9 Indoor Football club and year 7/8 rugby club for Boys and Girls, a reminder that all abilities are levels welcome. It will be great to see as many pupils their as possible over the next few weeks.

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<td>SPORTS HALL</td>
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<td>Year 7/8 Girls Football</td>
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<td>Year 7/8 (Boys &amp; Girls) Rugby</td>
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<td>Year 9 Indoor Football</td>
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Sixth Form University of Chichester Masterclass Day

An extract from a pupil: University of Chichester - Masterclass day

We were off to an early start at 8:15am where we hopped into the mini bus to begin our one and a half hour journey to the University of Chichester, located near Portsmouth. However, the fog drifting across the land and timing of 9-5 workers hindered our speed and ability to arrive in time; resulting in our late arrival. We may have missed out on the first workshop but we received a tour around the facilities and social areas of the campus. Eventually we were able to make our way to our first workshop with Dave. With Dave, we had a talk about coaching which was mainly centered around ‘random’ and ‘blocked’ practice. For the second half we took our own turns at organising our own coaching sessions. This was after being split into 2 teams to do so where poor Najib was sent away to the ‘strangers’ although he managed well and persevered in working with people whom he had not known prior to that day. We then had an hour lunch where Malik, Jay and Prishen gave themselves the chance to experience the delicacies of the university (mac ‘n cheese/meatballs/chicken wrap). The final workshop involved the splitting of our Beechwood group. Most of our sixth form students attended the biomechanics workshop where they felt they had the closest experience to a lecture. We then took a look at how the height of a performer’s jump can be calculated using pressure plates. After watching an example video of Christiano Ronaldo everyone had a try. This ended in a good laugh!

Finally we met back at the bus and transversed the roads, although this was done with closed eyes as many were asleep. Upon arrival to Beechwood School we all dispersed with the thoughts of the things we gained from that day.

Najib Abubakr (6th form student)

Highlights of the Term

Health and Social Care Students

Had the great experience of working with a visiting professional in the area who was actually a former Beechwood Student.
Work Ready day October 2019 – Yr 10 & 11 students
Throughout the day students had the opportunity to work with O2 Telefonica employees looking at what CVs are, how to prepare and update their own CV and undergo role play - mock job interviews situations. Students learnt about the skills employers looked for in prospective employees. O2 staff commented upon being really impressed with the students..... One remarked ‘future leaders’....

Ways into Mars Wrigley – October 2019 – Yr 10 students
Purpose of the visit was for students’ to gain an understanding of opportunities on offer at Mars Wrigley. Focus of the workshops were an insight into the skills and qualities required for the workforce of tomorrow. Students’ were involved in a series of interactive activities that brought employability skills to life. They also met employees who discussed their route to their particular jobs.

Introduction to Mars Wrigley
The build challenge – teamwork, problem-solving, negotiating, communicating.

Personality profiling

Year 7 Champions.  

KS4 & KS5 Academic Board Members
Year 8 Geography Trip University of Reading

Year 9 Food Bank work

This year the Year 9 Leaders have organized and run two food collections for the Slough Foodbank! In total we have collected 768 items! Beechwood School has once again come together and supported its community with kindness and generosity.
Year 11 Beechwood Fright Night

Very best wishes

Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher