Dear Parent and Student,

We held the bulletin until today so that we could share the outcome of the amazing ‘First Give’ Awards’ Ceremony which took place this morning. I have shared with you previously what our Year 8 students have been involved in over a period of time and today I had the privilege of being one of the judges at this truly impressive event.

I was joined on the judging panel by Lynette Richardson-Small from ‘Elevate Slough’ and three of our Year 11 students – Tyler Lee, Head Boy, Harman Ghataoura, Deputy Head Girl and Rohail Abdul, Deputy Head Boy. Unfortunately our local councillor, Cllr Pavita Mann, was unavailable at the last minute, but we appreciate her willingness to support us on this occasion and look forward to welcoming Cllr Mann on another occasion.

The judging criteria were vigorous and it was a very hard decision. We had to consider the quality of presentation and the extent of impact with regards to social action. At stake was £1,000 to be donated/won for the charity being supported by each group each Tutor Group made an impassioned pitch for the money taking so authentically about what they and their peers had done to raise awareness of the issues and raise funds for the charitable organisation they were supporting. The excellent causes being supported were:

- Crohn’s and Colitis UK 8RCH
- Slough Homeless Our concern 8BMT
- Sport in Mind 8MMC & VDA
- Thames Hospice 8CHO
- Home Start 8JBS
- Turning Point 8CCE

The winner was ‘Turning Point’ but all teams and charities were triumphant in this excellent project and hard fought final. Slough ‘Turning Point’ provides a wide range of health and well-being services to enable people to overcome significant barriers which adversely affect their ability to thrive. Local people with drug and alcohol issues, mental health concerns or disabilities are all assisted via this organisation/agency and therefore our young people shared a determination to improve the lives of others in their very local community. This is the focus of ‘First Give’. The goal of this organisation is to enable a generation of young people to give their time and talent to improving their community. Sophie Standring, our ‘First Give’ project co-ordinator, inspired our students to excel as did Mr Hanson and all the Year 8 Form Tutors. I was a very proud Headteacher. We have very talented and gifted young men and women in our school and Year 8 showed that this applies to all, as does the ability to ‘be the very best that you can be’. Our Beechwood values and our ‘Be Beechwood’ were seen to be so alive and relevant in this Year 8 initiative. Next, our Year 7 students are embarking on the project, so we look forward to sharing with you their achievements and success over this term.

With regards to achievement and success, today we also held the hustings for our ‘Slough Youth Parliament’ nominees. Our nominees this year are:

- Fifi El Sayad Yr 12 V1KDE
- Maria Gaafar Yr 12 MMW
- Bilal Hussain Yr 12 V1 IAL
- Emaan Fatimah Yr 7 JFR
- Ghulam Mustafa Yr 8 JBS

The voting takes place on Thursday, 24th January 2019 and all students are invited to cast their vote. Slough Youth Parliament was established to ensure that young people in Slough are able to influence and be involved in decision making in the town. It is made up of 11 to 19 year olds from across Slough and the representatives engage with
other local youth parliamentarians from across the country to have a national as well as local voice. A great initiative to be involved in. We really want our young people to engage with their local and national communities to have a voice and plan for their futures.

With regards to planning for the future, a reminder that on **Tuesday, 22nd January 2019** we hold our ‘**Sixth Form Information Evening**’. This is an opportunity for Year 11 students to explore what their options are post GCSE. We look forward to welcoming students and their parents at 5.30pm.

Other key dates for your diaries prior to half term are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 28th January 2019</td>
<td>The <strong>Parent Partnership</strong> workshop on promoting good mental health and knowing where to go for support when there exists challenge and difficulty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 7th February, 2019</td>
<td>The <strong>Maths Challenge Event</strong> and the results of the Youth Parliament Election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th February 2019</td>
<td>The Sixth Formers’ Social Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 14th February 2019</td>
<td>The Year 10 Subject Reporting Evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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We break for half-term at the end of the day on Friday 15th February and return on Monday 25th February 2019

I hope these reminders of key forthcoming dates is useful.

Very best wishes for a great week ahead.

Kathleen M Higgins
Executive Headteacher

**Word of the Week**

**harbinger (noun)**

*har-bin-ger*

**Definition:**
- a person who goes ahead and makes known the approach of another.
- anything that foreshadows a future event; omen; sign

**Usage:**
- The dark grey clouds were a harbinger of the approaching storm.
- The fainting episode, a potential harbinger of heart trouble, is definitely something you should get looked into.

**Synonyms:** forerunner, messenger, signal

**Etymology:** From the German, *hören*, meaning shelter

**Root of the Week**

**ROOT:** From the Latin *'ordo'* meaning row, series or rank

**Definition 1:** The arrangement of people or things according to a particular sequence or pattern.
**Example:** “The names are listed in alphabetical order on the class register.”

**Definition 2:** An authoritative command or instruction.
**Example:** “When the General gave an order everyone was quick to obey.”

**Maths:** To put numbers into ascending or descending value.
**Example:** To find the median average first put the numbers in order.

**Religion:** A society of monks or nuns living together and devoting themselves to their religion.
**Example:** “The Franciscans are a Christian religious order founded in the early 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi.”