

PARENT BULLETIN



Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

I would like to thank our GCSE and A-Level/BTEC students for their hard work and continued commitment towards their summer exams.

We have already completed over two weeks of examinations and these continue through to the end of June. It is so important that our students continue their revision during the half term holiday, but also take time to relax and enjoy, what will hopefully be, a warm and sunny break. They will then be able to come back refreshed and ready to work hard to achieve their absolute best.

Good attendance and punctuality for all students is essential and it is important to be aware of the impact on a child's chances of gaining good GCSEs and GCEs should they miss days at school during term time. It has been documented by the DfE that with every extra day missed there is an association with a lower chance of achieving 5 or more good GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* to C, including English and Mathematics.

We understand that a child will occasionally be too unwell to attend school, however I have recently received a few requests for leave of absence for family holidays. Can I please remind you that I am not able to authorise a leave of absence for a student, unless there are exceptional circumstances attached to the request. I will always carefully consider my response to a request, however if leave is taken without authorisation, it is recorded as unauthorised on your child's attendance records and I have a duty to report this to Slough Borough Council. Slough Borough may then issue a penalty notice.

Can I please ask for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school and on time each day. Those students with 95%+ attendance for this summer term will be invited to Thorpe Park in July.

We have a lot to look forward to next term, not least a number of exciting trips and rewards for students who have consistently applied themselves to their studies and shown their commitment to our three values of Kindness, Respect and Excellence.

With best wishes for a restful half-term holiday.

Anita Spires - Headteacher

Key Dates

Summer Term 2022 - 23

Start of Summer Term 2

Mon 5th June

Year 12 into 13 Information Evening

Thurs 8th June

Year 7 Reports to Parents

Wed 21st June

Year 7 Parent Evening

Thurs 22nd June

Year 11 Prom

Thurs 29th June

Multicultural Day

Fri 7th July

Sports Day

Monday 10th July

DofE Expedition

(Bronze Award)

Sat 15th / Sun 16th July

End of Summer Term

Wed 19th July (Half Day)

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

MEET OUR TEAM ... We hope to introduce a member of our school community through each issue of our Parent Bulletin. ***This week we introduce Hannah Brooks***

It is a pleasure to finally introduce myself. My name is Dr Hannah Brooks and I have been working as a qualified Educational Psychologist for eight years, after completing my doctoral training at the Institute of Education / UCL. Prior to this role I worked in schools as a teacher. I had a number of roles over this time, including working in a specialist Autistic school, teaching Science and running an alternative provision for those at risk of school exclusion.

In my role as a school based Educational Psychologist within the Shelwood Trust, I am involved in supporting a number of individual cases including those at risk of emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), those impacted by social, emotional and mental health needs and trauma, Neurodiverse learners and those impacted by specific, mild and moderate learning difficulties. My aim is to work as systemically as possible, ensuring that staff are equipped to support young people to learn within their classrooms.

I have carried out a number of pieces of training during the course of my work this year including; supporting Autistic learners, emotion coaching, and managing self-harm and have run a number of staff reflective spaces, considering individual young people and how best to develop their package of support and build their resilience. I have also run a number of person-centred planning meetings using the tools of MAPS and PATH, that place the voice of the young person at the centre of the work.

It has been a pleasure to work within the Shelwood community and both staff and parents alike have demonstrated flexible, curious and open mindsets with regards to the implementation of support for our most vulnerable learners. I look forward to the year ahead and the ongoing development of our practices and approaches.



PRECIOUS HELPS RAISE £60.00 FOR SLOUGH FOOD BANK

Akosung Precious in Year 11 organised a Charity Football match earlier this month and his efforts (and those of all the participants), helped raise an amazing £60 for the Slough Food Bank.

Thank you Precious, for always striving towards our values of **KINDNESS**, **RESPECT** and **EXCELLENCE**.



Celebrating Excellence

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AT MALTA'S OPEN 2023 CHAMPIONSHIPS

CONGRATULATIONS to Beloslava

We couldn't be prouder of Belo, who after winning many medals through her karate club – Eagle Institute, competed in Malta's Open 2023 Championships.

"The experience was extraordinary and out of one's mind. This wasn't my first competition, but it was my largest and most challenging one so far.

It made me feel all kinds of different emotions. The adrenaline from having so many other competitors affected my performance, but in the end, I still reached my goal of receiving a medal".

Belo



YEAR 13 LEAVERS' CELEBRATION



This half term we said goodbye to our fantastic Year 13 students with a Leavers' celebration.

Students and staff reminisced about their time together at Beechwood - some of them have been part of the Beechwood community for 7 years!

Our Year 13 students have consistently demonstrated our Beechwood values of **Kindness**, **Respect** and **Excellence** and we couldn't be prouder of them!

Ms Rebecca Doncaster
Director of Sixth Form Studies

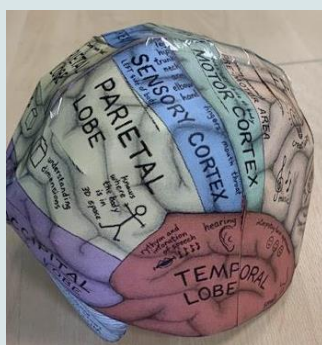
To provide an exceptional educational experience for all where potential is nurtured and responsible citizens created.

GirlsGetSET Healthcare & Emotional Intelligence Workshop

During Mental Health Awareness Week, a group of Year 8 girls participated in a workshop on Healthcare and emotional intelligence. It was a packed agenda, with discussions and activities, where they learned about the brain and stages of neuronal development.

Well done to all the girls that took part in this latest GirlsGetSET opportunity.

1. Francisca Somide
2. Veronika Sominde
3. Julia Kalmuk
4. Kornelia Zygmunt
5. Amelia Bandiera Kisielewicz
6. Kornelia Pietka
7. Demi Angell
8. Narin Armandzadeh
9. Maja Karbowska
10. Amilia Moon
11. Alexandra Zygmunt
12. Selina Malik
13. Amelia -Maria Bucko



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

During mental health awareness week, students participated in themed assemblies and during tutor time, had an opportunity to talk about the importance of good mental health, as well as enjoy quizzes and activities.

On Thursday 18th May, staff and students wore **GREEN** to support mental health awareness.



Embracing New Opportunities

STAFF vs STUDENT VOLLEYBALL!



A big thank you to Mr Powell for setting up the recent staff v student volleyball match and for all the staff who came along to play and support.

The staff team were victorious!

CELEBRATING COMMITMENT

Miss Spires welcomed a group of students to a special tea party on Thursday 25th May, to celebrate their commitment to school and their 100% attendance.



Behind the tea party's chatter, food tasting challenges and time chilling with friends, there was an important message. **Attendance Matters!**



100% Attendance



HELPING KEEP OUT COMMUNITY SAFE

Knife amnesty bins rolled out across Slough

Thames Valley Police has worked closely with the Safer Slough Partnership to launch knife amnesty bins across Slough.

The bins, which were installed ahead of Operation Sceptre, the national week of action to tackle knife crime, provide opportunity to dispose of knives and bladed articles in a safe and legal way.

There are three locations for the amnesty bins:

- Arbour Park Stadium, Stoke Road
- Wexham Park Hospital, outside the Emergency Department
- Langley Library, Trelawney Avenue

A further amnesty bin is located at Slough police station, as well as at several stations across the Thames Valley. Those using the scheme are asked that all knives are safely wrapped in tape and newspaper before placing in the bins.

The secure amnesty bins, which are bolted to walls and concrete flooring, have a letter box design to allow knife deposits whilst stopping people reaching inside the bins. They are being closely monitored for any signs of tampering and are regularly emptied with the contents carefully disposed of.

More information on amnesty bins can be found on the [Thames Valley Police website](#).



are seeking to appoint a **SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR**

The TVLP is an equal partnership of state and independent secondary aged schools in Berkshire. They believe that educational experience is improved by meaningful and repeated interactions between schools of different types.

Beechwood has been a member of the TVLP partnership for some time and our students have enjoyed many exceptional opportunities, thanks to TVLP's continued commitment.

The TVLP is currently looking to recruit a TVLP School Coordinator. The deadline for applications is 31st May 2023. This part-time, state term-time only role will commence in September 2023.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please follow the link below:

<http://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/thames-valley-learning-partnership-co-ordinator-windsor-and-maidenhead-1854050>.

To provide an exceptional educational experience for all where potential is nurtured and responsible citizens created.

ROWING ON THE RIVER THAMES

Year 10 Summer Term Rowing at Eton Excelsior Rowing Club:

With the Summer term now upon us, it means the start of our extended curriculum offer to some of our year 10 students.

We have continued our link with Eton Excelsior Rowing club again this year and that gives another cohort of pupils an opportunity to get out of their comfort zone and start to develop and learn new skills on the water.

The pupils have continued to enjoy sessions this term, starting with a land based rowing session, where they learnt key terminology and techniques that they took to the water the following weeks.

The pupils found out that rowing is a tough sport as it doesn't just involve physical ability, but it also requires attention to detail, with rewards to maintaining a sequence with your teammates in a boat - if you can't keep a rhyme with your teammates, you go nowhere fast!

The pupils have really enjoyed the experience and next half term, another group of year 10s, will get the same opportunity.

Well done to all the students who took part this half term and a massive thank you to the coaches and volunteers at Eton Excelsior Rowing club for allowing this to happen.

Mr Goodman and the PE department.



Supporting our Students

CLASSCHARTS in School

CLASSCHARTS is widely used in school and allows teachers and parents/carers to track positive and negative behaviour of students in school.

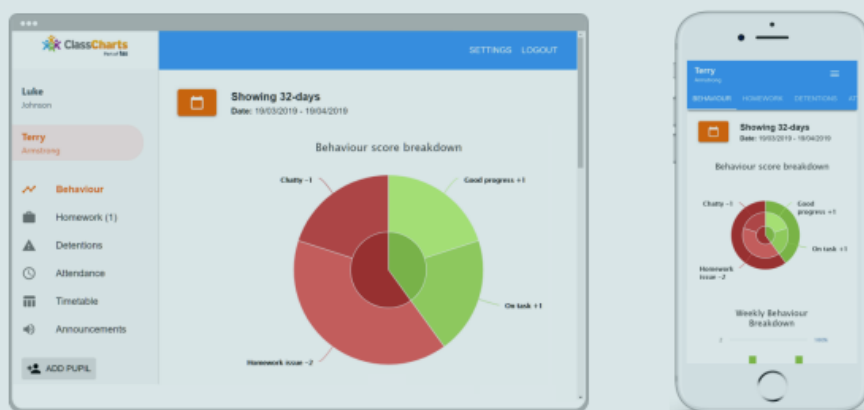
The App gives every parent/carer access to the ratio between positive and negative behaviour as well as being notified if a student receives an after school detention, including the reason, length of the detention and the name of the member of staff who set the detention. **If you haven't already downloaded the Parents App, we actively encourage you to do so. If you require any support with this, please contact your child's Director of Studies or Form Tutor.**

What is Class Charts for parents?

Depending on how your school has set up our system, you will be able to use Class Charts to keep track of your child's [behaviour](#), view [attendance](#) records, access their weekly [timetable](#), view assigned [homework](#) tasks, track scheduled [detentions](#), create [wellbeing](#) submissions and view announcements from their school.

If you have more than one child, you can access Class Charts information about your children from a single, centralised parent account.

Class Charts for parents can be accessed via our [website](#), or through our [iOS](#) and [Android](#) apps.



You should have received a [Parent code](#) from your school, which will look similar to the example code shown on the right.

This code is used to set up your [Class Charts parent account](#), which is covered on the next page.

ABC123

For more information, please visit the [Parent Information guide](#)

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

Mobile Phones and Earphones

We understand that students may need their mobile phone and earphones on their journey to and from school, however once on site, mobile phones must be put on silent or switched off and put away in their school bag or blazer pocket, along with their earphones.

Most students are following these rules; however, a small number are not. We have therefore, made the decision, that from Monday 5th June, any student seen wearing earphones around school, will have them confiscated until the end of the school day. This includes break and lunchtime.

Can we please ask that you remind your child about the use of mobile phones and earphones in school, so that we can avoid having to take these items from them. **Thank you**



Uniform Expectations

Can we please remind you to send your child to school, wearing the correct school uniform.

Uniform expectations are clearly outlined on our website at <https://www.beechwood.slough.sch.uk/parents-and-pupils/uniform/> but are also listed below:

Black blazer with school logo

Optional - V-neck purple jumper with school logo, or plain black round or V-neck jumper.

(Please note hoodies are not permitted).

White Blouse/Shirt, buttoned to neck

School Tie

Black **Business** Trousers with plain black belt

(no patch pockets, stretch fabric or logos)

or

Black **Knee length** skirt **(not stretch fabric and no logos)**

Nails of an acceptable length and natural colour

Black shoes of a leather type (not boots or trainers)

Socks – White or Black

Wearing the correct school uniform is school policy; it also creates an identity for school and is an important part of being a school student.

At Beechwood, we, as do all other secondary schools in the authority, insist on children wearing the correct uniform for a number of reasons. Uniforms create a sense of belonging to a particular school and an identity for the school in the community.

We have some barely worn school blazers, trousers and skirts if any families are struggling – these are available free of charge. Please contact your child's Form Tutor or Director of Studies if you need any support and we will do all we can to support you.

Thank you for your understanding and support in ensuring school policies are followed and making sure your child is dressed appropriately for school each day.



To provide an exceptional educational experience for all where potential is nurtured and responsible citizens created.



Attending school regularly is important. Sometimes as a parent/carer, it can be confusing when we're informed about our child's attendance percentage.

In a test, many of us would be pleased with a score of 85%, but in attendance terms, this is not a good level of attendance for your child.

Often, when a child is absent in small amounts, it can be hard to see or understand the impact. However, when all these days are added together, it can often be shocking how much it can total.

At 85% attendance or below, using the table below, you can see how much impact this would have in giving your child the chance to learn at the same rate as their peers.

ATTENDANCE %	Days missed in a year	Impact	Learning Missed in Secondary School
100%	0 days	Gives your child the best chance of success	0 days
95%	9 days 1 week and 4 days	Gives your child the best chance of success	47.5 days 9 weeks
90%	19 days 3 weeks and 4 days	Makes it harder for your child to progress	95 days 1 term and 7 weeks
85%	27 days 5 weeks and 3 days	Serious impact on learning and progress	142.5 days 2 terms and 4 weeks
80%	36 days 7 weeks and 3 days	Serious impact on learning and progress	190 days 1 school year
75%	45 days 9 weeks and 1 day	Serious implications around learning	237.5 days 1 school year and 9 weeks

Punctuality

As you know, school starts promptly at 8.40am.

Pupils should be in class and ready for registration at this time. Children who are not in class by 8.40am, but arrive whilst registration is open (8.40am to 9am) will receive a late mark on the register. Pupils arriving once registration is closed - after 9am, will receive a 'U' mark which means that they arrived once registration was closed. The 'U' mark records an unauthorised absence mark for your child, for the morning session.

Please be aware that if a child receives more than 10 'U' or 'O' marks, which represent 10 sessions or 5 full days, within a 12-week period, Slough Borough Council may issue you with a warning period which can then result in the Council fining you.

If you have any questions/queries regarding the information above, please email attendance@beechwood.slough.sch.uk and someone will get back to you regarding your query. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Attendance Team

Supporting our Students and Wider Community



Household Support Fund (HSF) applications open

Applications for support through the Household Support Fund (HSF) can now be made up until the fund closes on 31 March 2024.

The council has been awarded £2,355,383 by the Department for Work and Pensions to help families, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people, who may be struggling to pay for basic living costs.

The grant covers costs such as energy, food, water bills and essential goods, with most of the award given in goods or services by online vouchers. The Fund will also consider supporting households who are struggling to afford wider essentials, including housing costs where existing housing support does not meet this need.

A lot of the HSF funding will be used:

- to provide £15 food vouchers, per week per child, to households in receipt of Free School Meals during all school holidays, April 2023 – March 2024
- for the direct provision of support to care leavers and other vulnerable families.

The remaining funding, which runs until 31 March, or until all the funding is spent, will be provided through an application-based scheme to support families and individuals if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Applications are particularly welcomed from groups who didn't receive any other government support packages.

Andy Jeffs, interim head of transactions, revenues, benefits and charges, said: "This funding is essential in supporting those most in need in the town. Last year we made 1,662 awards, which highlights the struggle for families during the cost-of-living crisis. The money is there to help people who have exhausted all other means of support for these basic needs."

Criteria for the application-based scheme includes being over 16, having a settled residence in Slough, having a reduction in income, and not having savings that could be used.

[Please check the criteria for the application scheme.](#)

For more information and to find the online application form, [visit the HSF webpage.](#)

Applications close on 31 March 2024 or when all the funding is spent.



To order your **Beechwood School**
Leavers Hoodie
simply scroll and click on the link below

www.boomedsales.com/product/beechnood-school/401

The leavers **hoodies** are **£28.75** – Front embroidery of the school logo and back print design and with the option of a Nickname (Max 13 Letters) at an additional **£4**
orders must be received by the 9th June 2023

Any queries please contact Ms S Brench

By email
s.brench@beechnood.slough.sch.uk

Please note that the hoodies will be delivered directly to the school who will notify you when they are ready for collection.

After the closing date **No** orders can be taken either by the school or by Boomerang directly



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