

PARENT BULLETIN



Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

It has been a really positive start to the school year. Students have started, or started back, ready to learn and up for the academic challenges ahead. Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting this. It is you that really makes the difference.

The biggest thing that you can do today to support your child is to ensure you have the ClassCharts app downloaded and activated. If you need help with setting this up, please contact us through the enquiries line.

This means you will be able to see all of the achievement points and behaviour points and any detentions in the moment. It is also a way to contact us regarding any non-attendance.

On this subject, the other absolutely key things that you can do is ensure that your child is in school every day that they are able. Research shows clearly that GCSE and A Level results are directly impacted by attendance.

Our morning roll call has ensured students start the day in the right way and enter the school in an orderly manner. We still have a small number of students arriving after 8.40am. They are late and will be marked as such. This means they will have a detention after school that day. Please support us with this.

The digital detox is also a success with students taking the time across the school to talk with each other now that they do not have phones to get lost in. Seeing this every day reminds me why we have made this change.

There are also a whole host of clubs at lunch and after school that students can also access. This week I have seen choir, netball, football, Humanities club; homework club; cheerleading and football to name but a few. These are free and open to all so please come along. All are signposted across the school.

I hope that you will enjoy reading a bit more about the school and what it is like "on the inside". Our aim is to provide a stimulating learning environment both within and outside of the classroom.

Anita Spires
Headteacher

Key Dates

Autumn Term Date 23 – 24

Tuesday 3rd October

Yr11 Geography Field Trip

Monday 9th October

Final Open Morning –
Prospective Year 7s 2024

Thursday 12th October

School Photograph Day

Thursday 19th October

Yr7 Meet the Tutor Evening

Thursday 19th October

Thorpe Park Reward Trip
(Years 11, 12 & 13)

Mon 23rd to Fri 27th October

School closed – Half Term
Holiday

Tuesday 31st October

Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 Halloween
Disco

Thursday 9th November

Sixth Form Open Evening

CLASS CHARTS: [DOWNLOAD THE APP](https://www.classcharts.com/) TO FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S ACHIEVEMENT AND BEHAVIOUR POINTS IN SCHOOL.
CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY DIFFICULTY LOGGING IN.

<https://www.classcharts.com/>

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 Jodie Cain.***

I am pleased to introduce myself in this week's issue of the Parent Bulletin. My name is Jodie Cain and I am now the Head of PE at Beechwood School.

I have been teaching for 7 years and have worked as a sports coach since the age of 14 in Gymnastics, Trampolining, Cheerleading and multi-sports. I grew up locally in Maidenhead and have been an avid athlete since I was at primary school moving through the ranks through secondary school and then later University.

For the past 6 years, I have worked at another school in Slough and love the sense of community that has been set up by the many Slough PE teachers. The friendships and life skills built upon in these cross-community fixtures and events across the borough are wonderful to see and an area we would like to further develop this year.

When I am not in school you can find me playing rugby or netball, at the cinema with friends or spending time with my family and godson.

My fun fact is that I can still do a back somersault now even after giving up gymnastics over 10 years ago.

Listed below are some of the fantastic extra-curricular activities offered by the PE Department this term. **Why not come along and try something new!**



PE Extra Curricular Activities

Autumn 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7 & 8 Boys Football JPO	Year 10 & 11 *Basketball JCA	Year 10 & 11 Football SMH	Year 12 & 13 Volleyball JPO	Year 10 & 11 Badminton IPR
Year 9,10 & 11 Netball SBH/ TCH	Year 9,10,11 Girls Football JPO	KS4/5 Fitness SBH	KS3 Basketball SMH	
Year 7 & 8 Girls Football Sixth Formers	Year 9 Football FLE/AHR	Year 7 & 8 Netball JCA		
		KS3/4 Cheerleading KHA, CCE		

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Twice every half term, our parent bulletin goes out to parents/carers. It is packed full of information about what is going on in school and what things we are looking forward to. I hope you enjoy reading this edition.

My name is Suzie Brench and I am a Teacher of PE and the Director of Studies for Year 7.

I grew up and attended school in Southampton, where I fell in love with sport at college and began playing netball. I then attended the University of Chichester where I studied Physical Education And Teaching and then began working at Beechwood school in 2012. I was then successfully appointed as a Director of Studies in 2017 and have been the Director of Studies for Year 11 for the past three years.

As someone who didn't actually enjoy school, I was later diagnosed with dyslexia, which made sense to myself and my family as I struggled to read and take in information. I have always had a love for learning, I just needed some extra time and support. Now I take up any opportunity to further develop my career and improve my understanding of teaching as well as finding new ways in supporting those that struggle with school and studying.

I have a deep love for sport and take every opportunity to watch sport live including netball, rugby, cricket as well as actively taking part in exercise. I truly believe that sport and exercise is key for everyone as a motivator for positive health and well-being.

Attendance Matters

Please read our 'Attendance Matter' page in this bulletin. Year 7's attendance so far is 97%

Classcharts

If you haven't already downloaded the ClassCharts App, we strongly encourage you to. There is a page all about ClassCharts within this bulletin. Please take a moment to read it and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Student Shout Outs

Every Friday during form time, tutors celebrate shouts for students, which have come through from their teachers throughout the week. These shout outs can be from anything – from showing acts of kindness around school, working well each week in lesson and promoting our school values of Respect, Excellence and Kindness. Each week, these students will have a text message sent home sharing the shout out and then be entered in a prize draw at the end of the term.

So far year 7 students who have received a shout are:

Lucas Cawley – from Mrs Brench, **Arif Naz Abu Baka** - from Ms Sterling
Tori-Allen Clark and **Henry Hood** - from Mr Scott, **Rayan Sign** and
Lily Portsmouth – from Mrs Brench, **Maahi Thakka** - from Mis Rigelhof
Finely Merryweather - from Miss Sterling, **Taylor Pritchard** and
Cairo Bramble Carty - from Mr Scott and **Cameron Scaife** - from Mrs Audi-Jana



This is me with Ashley Johnson, who used to play for Wasps Rugby

A STUDENT VIEW

My first two weeks at Beechwood School have been great, all the staff are extremely kind and the students are helpful and respectful. Furthermore, the classes I have attended have been informative, helpful and easy to understand. I would like to highlight Miss Cain (PE), Mr John (Philosophy and Ethics) and Mr Levy (Maths) for going above and beyond to help me in my work. Although the school is massive, the amount of signs have helped me get to class on time. Overall, the school is excellent and I would recommend it to anyone I could.

Cameron Scaife 7CA1

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS

Year 7 After School Clubs

Day	Subject	Location	Staff
Monday	Girls Football	PE Dept	Sixth Form Students
	Boys Football	PE Dept	JPO
Tuesday	Study/Homework Club	P8	SBH
	Humanities Club	G14	KHT
Wednesday	Netball Club	Front Courts	JCA
Thursday			
Friday			
Everyday	Homework Support Club	ALC	TLAs

Parent Top Tips - Homework

Students are given full responsibility for ensuring they know what homework to do, completing it by the correct day and submitting it on time. Homework tasks will be put online via Google Classroom and they will be notified in their Gmail account. Parents can have access to their own App which will allow them to view homework tasks.

Top Tips:

- Agree a routine for homework with your child. Life can become a constant 'nag' if you don't start this from the beginning. Homework becomes an increasingly important part of the curriculum as your child goes through school - what he or she starts off doing is what they will do until they leave!
- Using the ideas in 'organising books and equipment' will help enormously - make sure your child has a comfortable place to work, with as few distractions as possible and all the resources they need.
- A good time for homework is after a short break when your child returns from school. This gets it out of the way early, leaving the rest of the evening free - who wants to start work at 7.00 p.m.?
- It is a good idea to agree with your child from the beginning that TV, phone time etc. will only be possible after homework is done. A social media blocker installed on your child's phone can be very useful for 'homework time'.
- Many children will say that listening to music helps them concentrate and do their work. Agree whether this is allowed.
- Be prepared to invest time at first - for example be available for a set time each day to help with homework until the routine is established - it will be time well spent.
- If your child finds it tricky to motivate themselves, get them off to a good start by setting up a reward system.

Use stickers or points which build up to a 'menu' of rewards which are agreed with them.

- Small rewards that are quickly earned are more effective than offering something big - but at the end of the month or term - they will easily lose heart.
- Don't have a set period within which the child has to achieve so many stickers or points. Just keep counting until the required number of stickers or points have been earned, however long it takes!
- Never take stickers or points away - they have been earned even if your child has done something dreadful since!
- And remember, rewards don't have to be material things - staying up late or special time with Mum or Dad or shopping with friends can be just as motivating.

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

OPEN EVENING SUCCESS

We opened our doors for our annual, Year 7 Open Evening event, on Tuesday 19th September.

Our Headteacher couldn't be prouder of our Student President, Vice-President and Prefects, who, along with other amazing students, presented on the night.

Our students also took great pride in showing prospective parents around the school, so they could enjoy the activities planned in the various departments.

Here are just some of the comments from our visitors on the night:

"It was a brilliant evening"

"A great experience"

"Everything was well presented. Every question I asked was answered. Very satisfied – absolutely fantastic 😊".



TIMETABLES

Fresh timetables have been provided to all students this week, along with a small plastic wallet for them to keep them in. Students should have their timetables with them at all times. The new plastic wallet fits easily into a blazer pocket, so they'll always know where they are!

FOOD PARCELS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Many families are struggling in the current cost of living crisis.

If you feel like you need some support and a food parcel may help you, please pop along to our main reception on a Wednesday evening, between 3.30pm and 5pm.

You will be able to collect food and hygiene products.

There is no need to book an appointment, just come along and a member of our staff will help you.



ELECTRIC SCOOTERS



There has been a steady rise in the number of young people using electric scooters (Personal Light Electric Vehicles - PLEVs) and electric skateboards. Currently the law states that you cannot ride PLVEs on UK public roads or pavements, if you do you will be committing an offence.

Please see the news article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48106617>

With immediate effect, no student is to ride or bring a PLEV or electric skateboard to school. If they are brought onto the school site they will be confiscated and a parent or carer will need to come and collect it from Beechwood School.

Thank you for your support.

Supporting our students

OUR ALC

At Beechwood we encourage our students to have breakfast, as it's the best way to kick-start their day and has been shown to help with general well-being and concentration in class.

We run a **Breakfast Club** every morning in our ALC. It is open to all students and the best part; it's free!

Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am to 8.30am each morning, with last orders for food taken at 8.15am. Children can enjoy cereal, toast and a selection of juices.

But Breakfast Club isn't just for grabbing breakfast before class, it's also an opportunity for students to socialise and perhaps even catch up with their homework.

Mrs Brown, Mrs Ward and Mrs Foster, who run the Breakfast Club, have all been at Beechwood for over 25 years and are very passionate about supporting all our students.

Here are some of the comments, students have made about their experiences of Breakfast Club:

"Breakfast Club is so much fun and I love coming". Sam year 10



"I love Breakfast Club because I get to eat breakfast and be with my friends". Jacob year 10

"I go to the Breakfast Club because it is fun and the teachers are so lovely". Sam year 10

"I like going to the breakfast club as it is free and Mrs Ward and Mrs Brown are always fun to be with" Ajmal Year 9

"Breakfast club is not just a club where you can get free breakfast, you can also chill with friends and with access to the computers, you can complete some homework. From the friendly nature of the staff to the delicious toast and drink, Breakfast club is a wonderful place to be". Francisca and Veronica Year 9



Home Study Club
Every day after school, ALC
From 3-3.30pm

Staff will be available to help you with your homework!



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

What's on in the ALC?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school	Breakfast club 8-8:20am	Breakfast club 8-8:20am	Breakfast club 8-8:20am	Breakfast club 8-8:20am	Breakfast club 8-8:20am
Break	Craft club/Games	Craft club/Games	Craft club/Games	Craft club/Games	Craft club/Games
Lunch	Chess club	Board games	Craft club	Craft club Community group	Craft club/ Mindful coloring
After school (squash and biscuits provided)	Homework support club (DJK) 3:00-4:00pm	Homework support club (DJK) 3:00-4:00pm	Homework support club (DJK) 3:00-4:00pm	Homework support club (DJK) 3:00-4:00pm	Homework support club (DJK) 3:00-3:30pm

As well as enjoying the Breakfast Club and getting support at the Homework Club, the ALC is a central point for charity work, activities and of course, the place to go for a really good book.

Do you want to help organise food bank collections, bake sales and other activities/events for our Local community? If you do, **come along to the ALC on a Thursday lunchtime and join in with our Community Group.** Everyone is welcome!



SLOUGH FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

We are continuing to collect for the Slough foodbank.

Please continue to drop donations up to the ALC. We will next deliver **Friday 20th October.**

Cake sale

Last Friday of every term.

50p a cake.

All proceeds go to local charities.

Supporting Parents and 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.

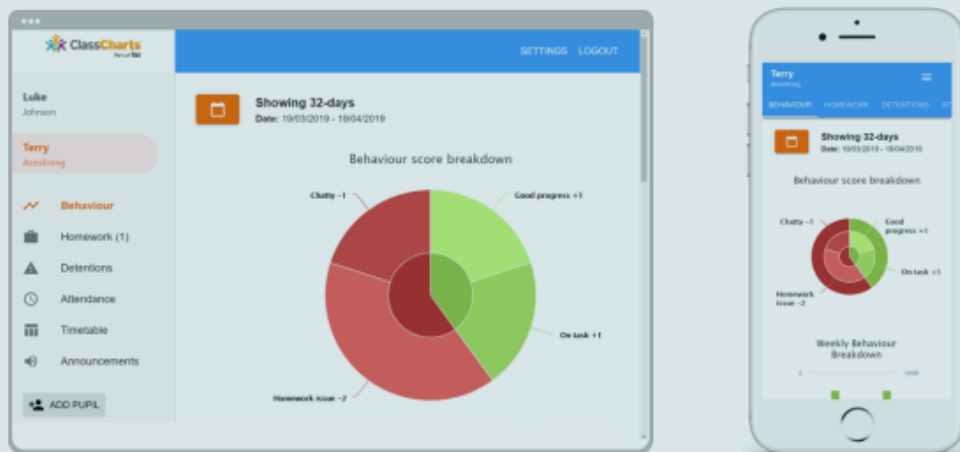
The App gives every parent/carer access to the ratio between positive and negative behaviour as well as being notified if a student receives an after school detention, including the reason, length of the detention and the name of the member of staff who set the detention. **If you haven't already downloaded 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](#)

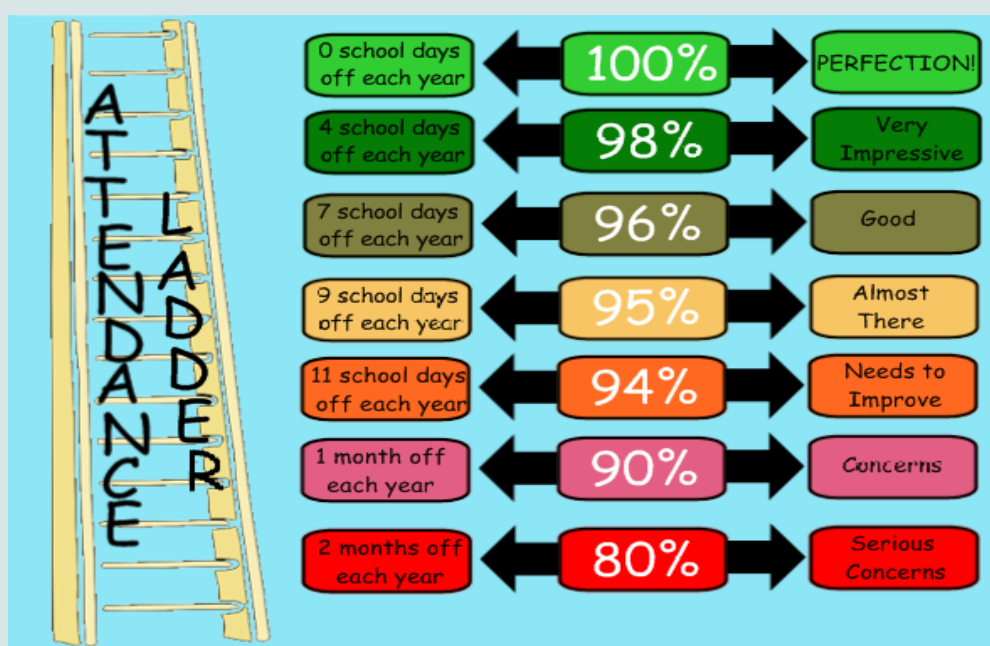
To provide an exceptional educational experience for all where potential is nurtured and responsible citizens created.



Attendance remains a national issue and we are tightening down, as are all schools across the country, on our measures to help improve it.

The Headteacher will be unable to authorise any holiday requests during term time, unless there are extenuating circumstances and evidence is provided.

Please remember if you take your child out of school for a period of 5 or more days, without permission from the Headteacher, we are duty bound to report your child's absence to Slough Borough Council and they may issue you a fine.



Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. Research has found that students who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well. **Please help us, help your child to reach their full potential, by ensuring they attend school each day.**

A reminder: If your child is too unwell to be in school, please ensure you report your child's absence every day of the absence period, by calling the **attendance line on 01756 787293** and leaving a message, **text to 07786 201170** or email attendance@beechwood.slough.sch.uk.

Please note that an appointment does not necessarily require a full day off school. Your child must attend school, before and after an appointment, if it is during the middle of the school day. We encourage appointments to be made at the very start or very end of the school day, to minimise disruption.

Please encourage your child to be at school on time. Punctuality matters and students should be ready for roll call at 08:40am. Registration closes at 9am and a child arriving after this time, without medical proof, will receive an authorised mark for the morning session. Attendance is also important for each lesson throughout the day and all students should attend their lessons on time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Supporting our students

MEDICAL SUPPORT IN SCHOOL

Our Lead Medical Needs Coordinator, Natalie Thurston, is always on hand to support students who may be feeling unwell, or need help managing known health conditions.



Can we please ask parents to support Natalie by ensuring their children have appropriate medication on site?

If your child needs paracetamol, or any other over the counter medication during the school day, it is essential that this is brought to Main Reception by an adult, in its original packaging, and clearly labelled with your child's name. You will be asked to complete a 'consent to administer medication' form. **Students are not permitted to carry medication on them, unless it is for a serious medical condition and been pre-agreed.**

Should your child have an underlying health condition, can we please ask for your support in ensuring appropriate medication is held on-site to support them during the school day:

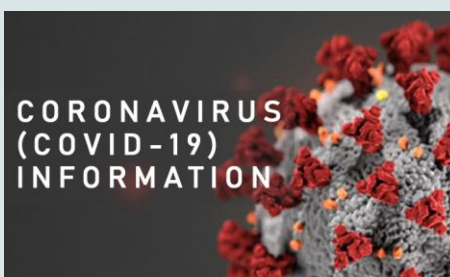
Asthma: If your child uses an inhaler, they must carry it with them at all times. Parents are required to provide a spare inhaler, in its original packaging and clearly labelled with your child's name. This will be stored safely in the medical room, should your child need it during the day. Natalie will contact you should your child's spare inhaler need to be replaced.

Severe Allergies: If your child has been prescribed an epi-pen, a spare must be provided in case of emergencies.

Diabetes: If your child needs to take insulin, we need to ensure appropriate, spare medication is kept by Natalie in case of emergency.

Any medication that needs to be refrigerated, will be stored securely in our medical fridge.

If you have any concerns, or wish to speak to our Lead Medical Needs Coordinator, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Thurston at n.thurston@beechwood.slough.sch.uk, or by calling the main switchboard on 01753 520473



The latest Government advice on Covid, is that for the vast majority of people, it is a mild illness.

Covid presents a low risk to children and young people. This, combined with high vaccination rates in the population, means there are no longer specific rules relating to Covid-19 in schools.

If your child is exhibiting Covid symptoms, has a positive test result and if feeling unwell, the advice is to try and stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. If your child feels able to study during this time, online work will be provided. Your child should then return to school, when they are well enough to do so.

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

We expect our students to present themselves smartly and be wearing full school uniform. Uniform can be purchased directly through School Days Direct. Please contact them for any of your school uniform needs.

Students may continue to wear the purple school jumper, but have the choice to wear either a round neck, or V-neck black sweater too.

Please note, School Days Direct do not currently supply our PE kit. PE Kit should continue to be purchased through the link on our website.

 SCHOOL DAYS DIRECT The Uniform Specialist			
 BEECHWOOD SCHOOL UNIFORM PRICE LIST 2023 			
MAIN UNIFORM PRICES FROM			
Black Eco Blazer - <i>Embroidered with School Badge</i>	£28.50	White Shirts/Blouses	£13.95
* V-Neck Classic Sweatshirt - <i>Embroidered with School Badge</i>	£11.50	Black School Trousers	£15.95
OR		Black Knee-Length School Skirt	£16.99
* Crew Neck Classic Sweatshirt - <i>Embroidered with School Badge</i>	£11.50	Black or White Socks (Pack of 5)	£7.50
Multi-Striped School Tie	£5.50	Iron-On Name Tapes	£3.95
   			
 Optional Items			

Some of our female students are unfortunately wearing skirts that do not conform to school uniform rules. Skirts should not be of a stretch fabric and must be an appropriate length – on or just above the knee. We have managed to source a very affordable school skirt from Amazon and include the link below, in case any parent/carers wishes to take a look.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0BCZQYCVK?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details

If you are struggling financially and purchasing uniform items is a concern, then please get in touch with your child's Director of Studies. We may be able to help you.

We also have quite a few 'pre-loved' items, that are in very good condition and can be gifted to students. Please get in touch with Miss Whitrod in Student Services, if you'd like more information.



Kids First Rugby

Sundays at **Slough Rugby Club**
Training starts at 10 am

- ✓ Kids First Rugby with RFU trained coaches
- ✓ Boys and Girls
- ✓ School Yrs 1 - 11
- ✓ Food and Refreshments
- ✓ No Experience required
- ✓ Free Taster Sessions
- ✓ email: kidsfirst@sloughrfc.com
- ✓ Give Rugby A Try

Teamwork **Respect** **Enjoyment**
Discipline **Sportsmanship**

SLOUGH RUGBY CLUB
UPTON COURT PARK SL3 7LT

WWW.SLOUGHRFC.COM



@SLOUGHRFC

