

PARENT BULLETIN



Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

Where has this half term gone? It has been a packed half term for students and staff, with numerous educational trips and reward events, for those students who have demonstrated exceptional attitude to work, maintained good attendance and who have upheld our core values of **Kindness**, **Respect** and **Excellence**. Congratulations to all those students.

Good attendance in school is critical for every child who wishes to achieve their best possible academic results and move on to either higher or further education, apprenticeships or employment, in the future. Being in school every day and ready to learn is important for all students, but especially for those students currently in years 11 and 13, who are preparing for their final examinations this coming summer. I cannot stress enough that **every day counts**.

I would thank every parent/carer who supports us with ensuring their child comes to school, ready to learn and in full school uniform. We have had a clamp down on some items of non-uniform that children are wearing to school. Please remind your children that hoodies and leggings are not part of the school uniform and must not be worn in school.

Finally, can I please remind all parents/carers, that if you need to speak to a member of my staff, that you call ahead to make an appointment, before coming up to the school. Staff are often involved in after school meetings, training or other parent appointments and cannot always be available to see you, if you arrive without an appointment. We appreciate this may be frustrating, but please support us, in ensuring we are able to give you the time you need to discuss any issues or concerns, by making an appointment first.

Have a wonderful Easter holiday. I look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday 13th April.

Kind Regards

Anita Spires - Headteacher

Key Dates

Spring Term 2025 - 2026

13.04.26

Start of Summer Term 1 –
All students

14.04.26

Globe Theatre London Trip

16 – 18.04.26

DofE Yr10 Silver Practice
Expedition

17.04.26

Leavers Grandstand Photos

22.04.26

Rushall Farm Trip

23.04.26

TVLP Years 9*10
Shakespeare Day

27.04.26

Careers – Softcat Skills
Workshop

04.05.26

Bank Holiday – School Closed

CLASS CHARTS: [DOWNLOAD THE APP](#) 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/>

Supporting our students



Every Day Matters

As children move through secondary school, regular attendance becomes more important than ever. Each lesson, builds on the one before it, and being in school every day helps students stay confident, connected and on track with their learning.

Secondary school is about more than academic success. It's where young people develop independence, friendship and important life skills, such as responsibility and resilience. Attending school regularly helps students feel part of the school community and supported by their teachers and peers.

We understand that teenagers face many pressures and there will be times when illness or unavoidable circumstances arise. When this happens, we appreciate open communication, so we can continue to support students in the best possible way.

By working together and encouraging good attendance, we can help our young people make the most of their secondary school experience and prepare them for the future with confidence.

Attendance Officer = Mrs Rehal

Family Liaison Officer – Miss Purchase-Hughes

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Please also remember that **late to school** also counts as an absence for that morning session and will add to each child's days of absence for that term.

In addition, **holidays in term time** will **not** be authorised and any time taken will be recorded as unauthorised on your child's attendance record and count towards their days of absence.

If you are unsure if your child should be in school, please contact the attendance team for advice - attendance@beechwood.slough.sch.uk

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

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 unauthorised 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.

We are a Nut Free School

As you know, nut allergies can be extremely serious and even life-threatening. To prioritise the health and safety of all students, we maintain a nut-free policy at our school.

We kindly ask all parents to ensure that any snacks or lunchbox items brought to school, including those for school trips or sporting events, do not contain nuts. This includes products like peanut butter sandwiches or snacks and sweets containing nuts.

If you choose to use chocolate spread in sandwiches, please double-check the label to confirm it is nut-free. For example, Nutella contains nuts, but other brands may not.

We also ask that parents remind children who purchase snacks on their way to school to choose nut-free options. It's important they understand why this is crucial for everyone's safety.

Each year, between 7% and 14% of children with peanut allergies experience accidental exposure. Many of these exposures can trigger anaphylaxis—a severe and potentially fatal allergic reaction.

Witnessing an anaphylactic reaction can be distressing for everyone, and we want to do everything possible to protect our school community. *Thank you for your continued support and understanding.*

Supporting Your Child's Health and Well-Being at School

At our school, our goal is to support all children, ensuring they can remain in school whenever possible, and to work closely with parents and carers to address any medical needs your child may have. If you have concerns about your child's health or feel they may need additional support, please contact our Medical Lead Coordinator, Mr. Bill Pretty, for assistance.

For students who require pain relief or prescribed medication during the school day, we kindly ask that you visit the school to complete a medication administration consent form. All medications should be handed directly to Mr. Pretty. Please note that students should not carry any medication with them or share medicines (including something as simple as paracetamol) with other students.

We appreciate your support in discussing this policy with your child to help us keep everyone safe.



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Beechwood School's Community Iftar

Beechwood School is proud of its diverse and inclusive community. We celebrate this in many ways, one of which is our annual Iftar event—now in its third year. Open to people of all faiths and none, the Iftar brings together our school community and local partner organisations to join our Muslim families in breaking the fast and sharing a meal together.

It is always a warm, welcoming occasion, made possible by the incredible generosity and dedication of our staff, families, and community groups, who work tirelessly to ensure its success. Everyone is welcome, so when it returns next academic year, we encourage you to mark your calendar and join us for an evening of good food, great company, and community spirit.



ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

We're delighted to share two wonderful spring poems by Roxanne and Patricia (Year 10)

Spring

As the days grow longer and nights retreat,
Wintertime is out of its wits
As springtime overtakes its wings.
Now only sunshine exists, exuding its wonderful bliss.
The pinkish petals of the cherry blossom fall steadily
Onto the smooth lawn
Lavishing the comfort as they move on.
A forage of bees starts to dance around,
Following the scent of freshly blooming plants
Lady bugs and insects join the festivities too
Enjoying the waves as they calmly pass through
A plethora of color posed in every path
Reds and greens attract butterflies
As millions of other ones then come alive.

Roxanne

We Bloomed Whilst The Frost

Petals don't arrive, they remember
how to open.

Light spills sideways,
like it forgot the rules of winter.
The air tastes green, unfinished,
soft as a thought you almost say.

Branches whisper in colours,
not yet names,
just hints of something becoming.

Time loosens its collar.
Even shadows feel warmer.

And somewhere beneath it all,
the earth hums,
not loudly,
just enough
to wake what's been waiting.

Patricia

Year 10 Design and Technology students show off their work



Our fabulous Year 10 Design and Technology students have recently finished their acrylic stands to show off the necklaces they made earlier.

We're sure you'll agree their work shows great creativity and variation.

Keep up the great work!

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

Year 10 Students enjoy a day at Price Waterhouse Cooper, Reading.

My experience in the PwC Trip to Reading By Mehak Singh Year10

On Thursday 19th March, 27 students were chosen by Mrs Ilkova to take part in the PwC trip to Reading.

The journey to Reading was amazing and not boring at all. When we arrived at our destination, I was in awe of the sheer size of the building and its decor. The interior was just as exquisite as the exterior. The volunteers led us all to a large room where we stayed for the majority of our time there. I sat with my friends and the volunteers introduced themselves one by one and spoke about their journey into where they were now. Then they took each table to tour the building. It didn't disappoint at all. My group was asking all types of questions on the building and any question that popped into our minds. The last stop of the tour before we headed back to the room was the terrace. The top floor looked spectacular. The views were gorgeous. I explored the building with my friends. We went back to the room and the next group went for their tour.

During the wait I doodled on the notepads they gave us and talked to the volunteers. After everyone had their tour a volunteer talked a bit more in depth of what they do there and what they wish to do. We then had lunch and just chatted with others. We also made hot chocolate. When lunch was over they talked about the acronym they use. S.T.A.R. It stood for Situation. Task. Action. Result. It was a system they used to solve any problems or difficulties. Then they divided each group in two and swapped them with another group so it was mixing the groups together. Then with the mixed groups we completed a task to use S.T.A.R. to explain any time we've ever had a difficulty. Sadly our trip then came to an end. We all applauded the volunteers for their help and exited the building. While I was there I learned that your choices will impact your career and that help is always available to whoever needs it. It truly was a wonderful experience to meet new people and find out how their choices brought them here. And I hope PwC will partner with Beechwood again so the upcoming year groups can experience what I did. Here is what some of the other students who went on the trip said.



Gurleen kaur: Personally, the environment was incredibly welcoming, I felt safe with the volunteers and it was lovely hearing their own personal experiences and what led them to go to PwC. The trip taught me that it's never to change my career path to something that actually suits me.

Olivia Taylor : My trip was amazing, not only was the staff nice and welcoming they made me feel shielded and comfortable. It taught me that teamwork is a big thing in life and without it you can't get far in your career.

Rhiannon Carville: The trip was outstanding. The tour of the building was brilliant and the terrace view was breathtaking. I was bewildered to find out that Beechwood was the first school to go to their brand new 2 week old office and I hope to go there again.

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

Beechwood hosting a Primary School Tournament

Year 9 Leaders supporting and leading on the Miniballers Basketball tournament for Primary schools years 4-6.

A lovely display of athleticism and a rewarding day for all including some medals for our local primary schools!!!



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In the spirit of International Women's Day, Akszonobel hosted an inspiring career workshop celebrating women's achievements in the creative and business industries.

The event featured empowering talks and networking opportunities, highlighting diverse career paths. Among the attendees was Ria, a self-employed business owner who specialises in painting and wallpapering. Ria shared her journey of building her successful painting business, which she emphasises the importance of determination and creativity.

Another one of the attendees was a digital communications engineer and she shared her hardships and tribulations that she had to overcome to get to where she is today, she originally came from a small town in Turkey where women didn't study abroad or sometimes even go university, but she was the first female in her generation to travel and study abroad.

To hear such an inspirational story and have access to new opportunities and have all these options available was an amazing experience and privilege to be a part of.

Rehma Yousaf - *'Believe in the power of dreams because they might just come true'*



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

Celebrating Roxanne Taodzera's National Literacy Success

Beechwood is delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Roxanne Taodzera, who has been named one of the winners of the **Verse Novel Challenge 2025**, organised by the National Literacy Trust.

For the competition, Roxanne submitted an evocative recording of an extract from *The Crossing*, the critically acclaimed 2021 young adult verse novel by Manjeet Mann. The challenge invited students from across the country to bring powerful verse novels to life through performance, and Roxanne's thoughtful and expressive reading stood out to the judges.

The Crossing tells the moving dual-narrative story of two teenagers whose lives unfold in very different circumstances. Natalie is coping with grief while living in Dover, while Sammy is a refugee fleeing Eritrea in search of safety. Through poetry, the novel explores themes of loss, resilience, hope and the connections that bind people together. Roxanne's recording captured the emotion and depth of the story, demonstrating not only strong reading skills but also empathy and a deep understanding of the text.

Winning a national literacy competition is a tremendous accomplishment, and Roxanne's success is something the whole Beechwood community can be proud of. Her achievement highlights the talent, dedication and creativity of our students, as well as the importance of fostering a love of reading and literature.

As part of the prize, Beechwood has received funding to further develop our ALC. This support will allow us to expand the range of books available so that students can discover new authors, explore different genres and find stories that inspire them.

Roxanne has also been invited to help shape this new collection by selecting three titles that will be added to the ALC shelves for other students to enjoy:

- *Her Good Side* by Rebekah Weatherspoon
- *Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute* by Talia Hibbert
- *Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry* by Joya Goffney

These additions will help ensure that even more students have access to engaging and meaningful literature.

Roxanne first became involved in the Verse Novel Challenge through Beechwood's Global Literature Exploration Club, one of the school's enrichment opportunities that celebrates reading and creative expression. The society meets every Monday at 3:15pm in G7, where students explore a wide range of literature from the UK and around the world, take part in creative writing activities, and submit their work to exciting opportunities such as national competitions.

We warmly invite other students, especially those in KS3, to join the society and discover the same opportunities to read, write and share their voices. Roxanne's success is a wonderful example of what can happen when students engage with literature creatively and confidently.



Congratulations once again to Roxanne for representing Beechwood so brilliantly on a national stage. Her achievement is a powerful reminder of the impact that reading, creativity and student voice can have.

Life at Beechwood

MEET THE TEAM

I am pleased to introduce myself in this instalment of the Parent Bulletin. My name is Christopher Giles (or Chris for short!) and I am the Student Services Administrator. I joined Beechwood School and the Business Team after the Easter Holidays 2025 and I am extremely pleased to be a part of an amazing Team.

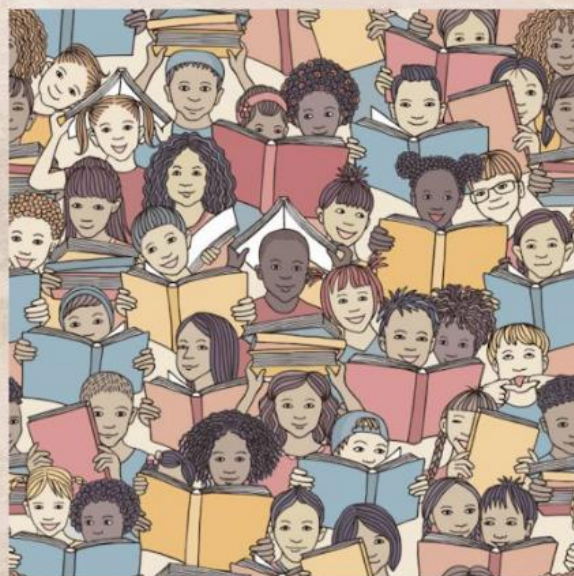
Originally from London, I started my working life in the retail industry working part time for Iceland Frozen Foods before moving onto Tesco and the flagship store in Central London. I started as a checkout operator and shop floor assistant before moving onto pharmacy and finally a promotion to department manager.

However, my career aspirations were to always work within education so I began volunteering at my local primary school. I was offered a permanent role as a Teaching Assistant and throughout my many years working in the same Primary School, I took on a variety of roles, responsibilities and challenges, working with many amazing students, staff and parents, but the time had come for me to seek a new challenge and knowing that I still wanted to remain within education I began my search. From day one at Beechwood, I have counted myself lucky to have joined such a welcoming, friendly and hardworking school community and look forward to each day supporting our amazing students and seeing them thrive.



In 2001 my brother and I spent two months in Australia travelling around New South Wales. We based ourselves in Sydney but travelled out to the Blue Mountains, Canberra and Melbourne. While in Sydney, we visited many fantastic venues including the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

GLOBAL LITERATURE EXPLORATION CLUB



ARE YOU READY TO EXPLORE THE VIBRANT WORLD OF LITERATURE?

Join the Global Literature Exploration Club at Beechwood School this Spring! Discover diverse poetry and short prose, enhance your reading and writing skills, and engage in creative discussions. From writing workshops to open mic sessions, immerse yourself in global perspectives while building a vibrant literary community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MR CABRAAL (OCA).



Learn to write poems and prose, get them published in an e-magazine, and perform your work at an open mic event for the school community!

EVERY MONDAY
FROM 3.15PM -
4.00PM IN G7.



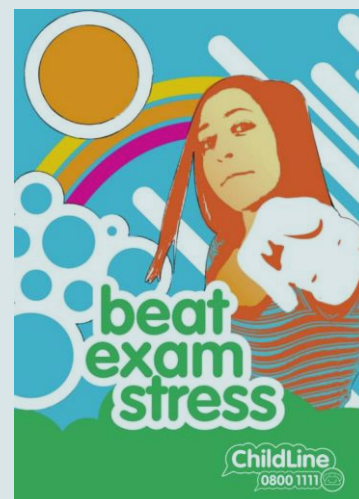
Supporting our students

SUMMER EXAMS – PLAN AHEAD AND BE PREPARED

With important exams just a few weeks away, we're doing all we can to support our students and help them achieve their absolute best in their exams.

It can be a stressful time and your child's Form Tutor and Head of Year are here to support - please reach out if you need support. We also hope that the attached guide to managing exam stress will help.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/school-college-and-work/school-college/exam-stress/>



Inaugural Secondary Gymnastics Competition Results

Congratulations to our students who took part in the very first Slough School Sports Network Secondary Gymnastics Competition at the end of January 2026. They all worked incredibly hard.

Novice (Level 1):

1st place: Charlie B, Charlie C, Tayo, Taylor

2nd place: Dominick and Harmeet

Joint 3rd place: Joseph, Matthew, Martim, Maksym, Elsie, Sehan, Carla, Ellese

Intermediate (Level 2):

1st place: Nancy, Julia S, Keira

2nd place: Rihana, Frankie, Rumesja

3rd place: Sumaiya, Zaina, Maya, Nouvelle

Advanced (Level 3):

1st place: Isla, Kaitlyn, Charlotte, Kaida

2nd place: Langley Academy 4

3rd place: Langley Academy 3



Careers Networking at Beechwood

A day at GE Healthcare – Girls Get Set Programme 2025-2026

By Keira Chitty (8JSU)

In February, we went to the GE HealthCare centre and studied many interesting things.

Firstly, we discussed the elderly with dementia and how we could help them on a daily basis. To get more of an idea we used a roleplay character called Margaret to get the understanding of the elderly with dementia.

Secondly, we got a large piece of paper, and created a poster with many ideas on what we could create to help people like Margaret.

After we had chosen our final idea and topic, which was hygiene related, we had decided to create a clock which goes off loudly every hour, leading whoever is using it to the clock. It then informs them what they have to do, to maintain good hygiene. For example, washing hands, going shower and many other cleaning ideas.

When we had finished with our ideas, we then all as a group split up and spoke to loads of mentors which were helping us understand Margret's situation. We asked them questions about what their first jobs were, what they do know, what they wanted to be, how far they travel and if they like their job.

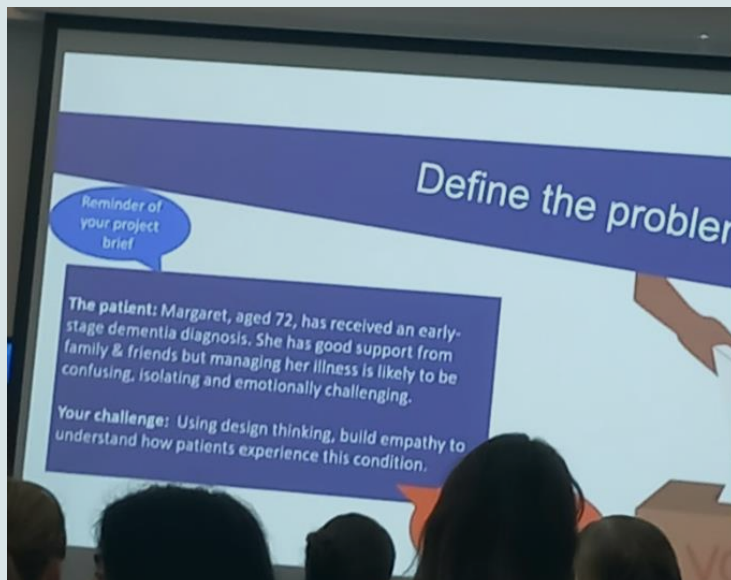
Once we had finished asking about their life, we walked to a cabin style house across from the centre we were in. In this massive place which looked very modern on the inside. It included two main rooms.

The first room included many machines which showed us how they scan babies in the womb and also how they would measure a baby after it had been born using a big toy panda.

After we had finished looking at how they work all of those expensive machines we walked to the next room and discovered a presenting room. In this room all the groups including other schools all sat down and started presenting their ideas one at a time.

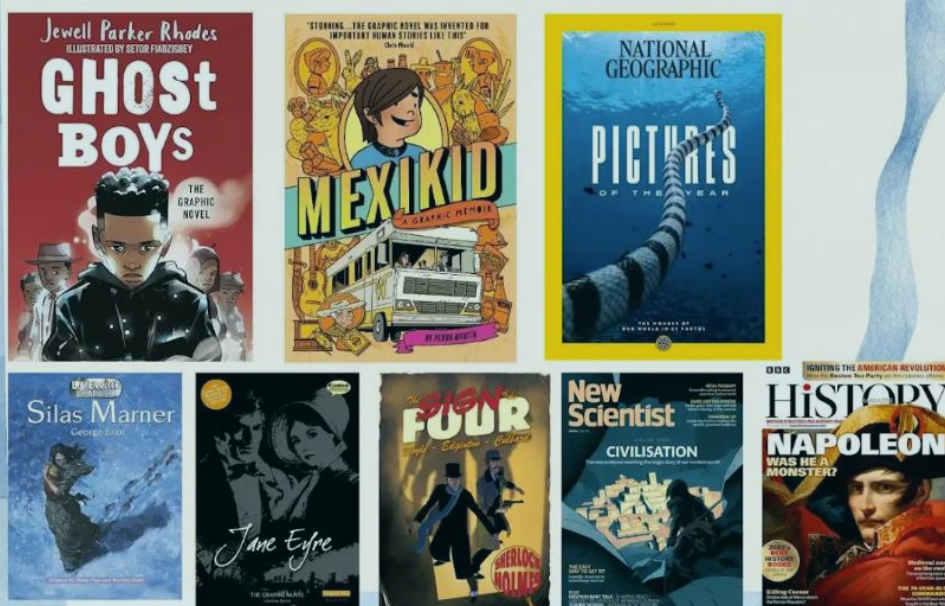
During our time in that room, we went Infront of the judges and presented our dementia clock and how it functions. Around thirty minutes later, every group had finished presenting and all heading back to the main centre and sat back down together. Shortly after the judges came on stage and announced the best ideas and presentation shown to them. First and second place were both awarded to the other school!

Shortly after everyone headed back to their coaches and headed back to their schools.



Supporting our students

Recommended Reads



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

Winners of World Book Day Competitions at Beechwood...

Dressing Up as Book Characters:

1st Prize – Ayla Ali 10WKA

Runners Up – Zuzanna 7PEG, Charley 7PEG, Cindy B6 TFE

Creating a Book Scene in a Box:

1st Prize – Patricia 10SHL

Runner Up – Tariro B6DMA

Bake a Cake:

1st Prize – Sameeha B6DMA

Runner Up: Patricia 10SHL



Building Community

Building Community Bonds

Our School Council were once again invited to join the 'Recycled Teenagers' for lunch at the Britwell Hub on Wednesday 11th March.

Our students represented Beechwood beautifully and engaged in conversations with the more mature residents of our Britwell community.



Karl Nova – Poet, Hip Hop Artist, Author and Podcast Presenter, visits Beechwood School

Thanks to TVLP, we were delighted to welcome poet, hip hop artist, author and podcast presenter Karl Nova to Beechwood earlier this month.

Our Year 8 students had the opportunity to listen to Karl speak about poetry, rap, and the powerful connection between the two. His passion, creativity and storytelling truly captured the students' attention and inspired them to think about language and expression in new ways.

Thank you so much, @karlnova, for joining us at Beechwood School. Your workshop was absolutely fantastic and the engagement with our students was brilliant. We really appreciate you sharing your talent and experience with us. [#BeechwoodSchool](#) [#TVLP](#) [#Poetry](#) [#Rap](#) [#StudentVoice](#) [#CreativeWriting](#)

