

PARENT BULLETIN



Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

This term has passed in a flash and I cannot believe that it is now time for me to wish you a happy winter break.

The students and staff have worked hard right to the last moment, with the Yr 11 and 13 PPE (mock) exams in November and December. We hope that this will begin to reflect the commitment the students have shown to their studies. There are still six months to make a difference [#6M2MAD] and we will be there to support and guide throughout.

One of the key ways - and this applies to all year groups - is through the home study available on the various platforms and the work on GoogleClassrooms. Please ensure all students have a proper break and enjoy this season, but when they are bored of turkey and Christmas movies, it is there for them too.

Looking forward, we have a few things planned to cheer up a potentially, dreary January. The first is our KS3 "New Year Party" at the end of January. This is open to all students in KS3 who keep their attendance above 95% from their return on the 3rd January. This means that everyone can qualify - as we reset all attendance to 100% from this date (for internal purposes only).

We are also going to host the local older generations for a tea party. If you have any elderly relatives who would be interested in this event, please let us know via the enquiries email line.

It is only left for me to wish you a wonderful and safe holiday. We will see you all in 2024!

Anita Spires
Headteacher



Key Dates

Spring Term 2023 – 2024

Friday 15th December

End of Aut 2 Term – Half Day

Wednesday 3rd January 24

All year groups return to school

Tuesday 16th January 24

Year 11 Reports to Parents

Thursday 18th January 24

Year 11 Parent's Evening

Wednesday 24th January 24

Year 12/13 Reports to Parents

Thursday 25th January 24

KS3 Reward New Year Party

Thursday 8th February 24

Year 12/13 Parent's Evening

Friday 9th February 24

Last day of Spring 1 Term

Monday 19th February 24

All years return to school

RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

YOUNG LADIES DOING THEMSELVES AND BEECHWOOD PROUD

SEGRO Year 9 Challenge Grand Final:

On Thursday 7th December, 6 hard-working year 9 students (Ghadeer Al Jammali, Amira Archour, Lexi O'Neill, Chloe Squelch, Ruby Warner and Maariya Hussain) visited SEGRO HQ on the Slough Trading Estate.

Earlier in the term, they went up against the rest of year 9 at Beechwood with a sustainable business plan and won, allowing them to enter the grand final against Eden Girl's School and Herschel Grammar. At the final, they worked with a business mentor to complete their mood board and pitch idea for a launch party, before presenting it three times for the judges. The girls did extremely well and represented Beechwood with **Respect**, **Excellence** and **Kindness**. Well done!

"It helps with your self-confidence and speaking in front of people. It improved our presentation and creativity. It allowed us to have a clear view of businesses and marketing." - Ruby and Maariya



RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

CONGRATULATIONS TO LACEY SHARPE

Lacey is definitely a keen and extremely gifted darts player.

Lacey, who plays for Tithe Farm Middlesex County Darts, won the 'Lady of the Match' on the 19th November, scoring an average of 15.30.

She also achieved a 180 during another tournament and we share a couple of photos below.

Congratulations Lacey – we're super proud of you and wish you every success in future games and tournaments.



EVERY DAY MATTERS - A NOTE FROM YEAR 11 DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

The week of the PPEs, year 11 attendance was at 98%, but sadly their attendance has dropped below national expectation. If they are in school, they are not learning, if they are not learning, they are not GCSE ready.

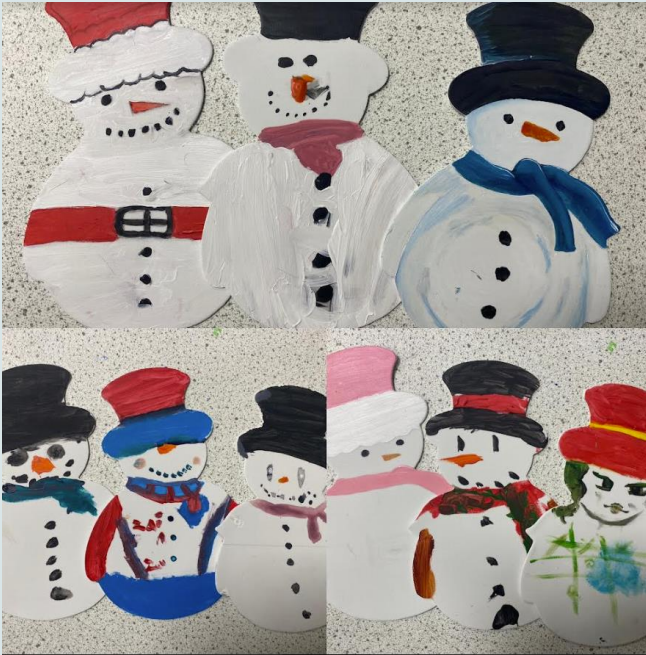
A huge **well done** to all those students that continuously strive for 100% attendance.

Please take a moment to read the Attendance Matters article later on in this bulletin. Excellent attendance really does provide a student with the best possible outcomes in their GCSEs, BTECs and A Levels.



RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ENJOYING ART CLUB



Here are some examples of the lovely Christmas artwork some students have created.

EXPLORE CLASS HAVE EMBRACED EVERYTHING CHRISTMASSY

Students in Explore have been embracing the Christmas spirit by adding Christmas themed, drawings, stories, poems and Christmas cracker jokes to our **WOW!** wall.

This has brought many a smile for visitors to our room .

Knock, Knock!
Who's There?
Snow.
Snow who?
Snow time to waste.
It's almost Christmas!

How did the two rival Christmas trees get along?
They signed a peace tree-ty!

What was Santa's favourite subject in school?
Chemis-tree!



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

FESTIVE DECORATIONS ABOUND!



Horizon has been getting into the festive spirit, making snowmen, colouring and making wreaths.

Horizon would like to wish you all a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. We will look forward to seeing you all

in January 2024



ENJOY A REWARD TRIP

Students, across all year groups, who had demonstrated excellent attendance and attitude to learning this term, were rewarded with a trip to Hollywood Bowl in High Wycombe last week. They had a fantastic time and the accompanying staff commented on how well behaved they all were. **Well done** to everyone that qualified for this outing. There will be a 'reset' for attendance on the 3rd January, so watch out for the next reward event – maybe you'll be able to attend!

Here are just a few of our amazing students, who have not only maintained excellent attendance, but have consistently upheld our values of Kindness, Respect and Excellence. Be super proud of yourselves – we're proud of you all!



Supporting our students

VOLLEYBALL WINNERS!

We are very proud to announce that the 6th formers AWAY match at St Bernard's was a success and we came out on top as **WINNERS**.

The Score was 2 - 1 to Beechwood, with 3 sets up to 20 being played.

Thank you to our Headteacher for dropping us off last Friday evening!



SUPER PERFORMANCE IN SPELLING BEE GRAND FINAL

Veronica Somide and Narin Armandzadeh are to be congratulated for their phenomenal performance in the final of the French Spelling Bee last month.

Both Veronica and Narin did brilliantly, with Veronica being placed 2nd across the whole competition and just narrowly missing out on 1st place to a Herschel Grammar student.

A massive **WELL DONE** to both Veronica and Narin. We are so super proud of you both.



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GIRLSGETSET CAREER SPOTLIGHT

On 6th of December, 11 girls from Year 8 were granted the opportunity to meet five women from Baker Hughes, who each have different journeys and stories to tell.

The girls were introduced to workers from GE Vernova, a company which creates medical technology.

The GirlsGetSET programme is delivered in collaboration with GE Vernova and Baker Hughes, to offer students and insight into varying STEM careers across the healthcare, renewable energy, and energy technology industries.

Their focus is to educate and demonstrate to students that careers within these subjects are exciting and challenging, and enable them to be creative and to use their imagination. This year's project will challenge the students to audit their school's carbon footprint and develop solutions to reduce it.

The GGS programme has been amazingly successful over the last 3 years reaching over 11,000 girls.

Their website can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/view/girlsgetset/home>

This is what a student had to say about their experience:

"We were introduced to workers from GE Healthcare, a company which creates medical technology. They had informed us about the technology they have created, the different work sectors of the company and what they specialise in".

Well done to Michelle Adofo, Courtney Allsop-Sowden, Zuzanna Baldyga, Ariana Maria Gheorghe, Sanya Iqbal, Amleena Kaur, Patricia Kijek, Elma Krasnigi, Nicola Lichon, Emily - Paige Walker and Annie Wilson.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK – GIRLS FOOTBALL

Despite a great game of football, fantastic team effort and giving 100% on and off the pitch, luck was not on our side in a recent game against Wexham.

Our girls team lost 4 – 2, with Patricia in Year 8 and Lilly in Year 10 scoring. We are so proud of the whole team. They played absolutely amazingly as a team and should have won!

The weather was against us too but we walked away heads held high.

We'll get them next time!

Well Done girls



RESPECT • EXCELLENCE • KINDNESS

AN EXCITING EVENT

My name is Henry and I am 12 years old and in year 7. I am also a member of the 1st Britwell's Scouts.

A couple of weeks ago, 20 Scouts, including myself, received an invitation from Buckingham Palace, to attend a Christmas Carol Concert at Westminster Abbey on Friday 8th December.

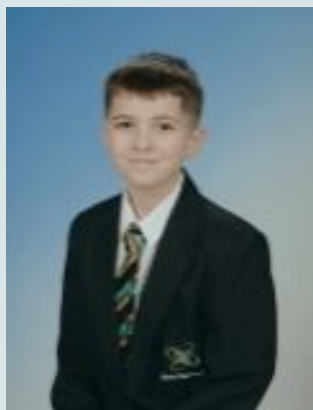
I felt honoured to go. I left school at 12pm and travelled to London. When I arrived, I was amazed of how beautiful it looked. The architecture was amazing. The inside was decorated with Christmas trees and a Nativity scene, where Mary was holding baby Jesus with Joseph by her side.

It was the scouts job to walk down the line and light everyone's candles. When the candles were lit, the Abbey looked amazing.

Emma Willis from The Voice came and asked where we were from. I responded '1st Britwell Scouts', after that she replied 'WOW'. Then Catherine, the Princess of Wales came along the line and she asked all of us where we were from and I answered 'the 1st Britwell Scouts, it's an honour to meet you'. Then she answered 'it's such a pleasure to meet you too'. With a huge smile.

I can't believe I met royalty!!!!

By Henry Hood 7SST



TVLP Design a Book Cover Competition

Some students recently took part in a TVLP run competition to design a book cover. The beautiful designs were initially exhibited at the Windsor Art Fair and then moved to Windsor Library for everyone to enjoy. Well Done to all our students for some exceptional artwork.

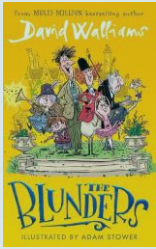


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Recommended Reads for December

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 9)

The Blunders by David Walliams



Million-copy bestseller David Walliams' funniest book yet – a laugh-out-loud tale of the most blundering and lovable family in history

Meet the Blunders: Bertie, Betsy, their children, Brutus and Bunny, along with their beloved grandma Old Lady Blunder, and their pet ostrich, Cedric. An ostrich is not a sensible pet, but then the Blunders are not sensible people.

This family of upper-class twits lives in a crumbling country house named Blunder Hall. When their home comes under threat, they must embark on a series of comic misadventures to save it.

Absurd and hilarious, *The Blunders* is David Walliams' funniest book yet. A laugh-out-loud tale of the most blundering and lovable family in history.

David Walliams was most recently Children's number **one** bestseller with *The World's Worst Monsters* (TCM Chart, 22 August 2023).

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 – 11)

Medea by Rosie Hewlett



Medea, Greek Mēdeia, tragedy by Euripides, performed in 431 BCE. One of Euripides' most powerful and best-known plays, *Medea* is a remarkable study of injustice and ruthless revenge.

In Euripides' retelling of the legend, the Colchian princess Medea has married the hero Jason. They have lived happily for some years at Corinth and have produced two sons. As the play's action begins, Jason has decided to cast off Medea and to marry the daughter of Creon, king of Corinth.

After a dreadful struggle between her passionate sense of injury and her love for her children, Medea determines that she will punish Jason by murdering not only her own sons but also the Corinthian princess, leaving Jason to grow old with neither wife nor child. She carries out the murders and escapes in the chariot of her grandfather, the sun-god Helios. Despite the monstrosity of Medea's deeds, Euripides succeeds in evoking sympathy for her.

The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson



Sitting quietly in his room in an old people's home, Allan Karlsson is waiting for a party he doesn't want to begin. His one-hundredth birthday party to be precise. The Mayor will be there. The press will be there.

But, as it turns out, Allan will not . . .

Escaping (in his slippers) through his bedroom window, into the flowerbed, Allan makes his getaway. And so begins his picaresque and unlikely journey involving criminals, several murders, a suitcase full of cash, and incompetent police.

As his escapades unfold, Allan's earlier life is revealed. A life in which - remarkably - he played a key role behind the scenes in some of the momentous events of the twentieth century



Embracing New Opportunities

ORANGE YEAR 10 INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION by S.Watson – Year 10 DOS

On November 28th, a group of 6, year 10 students, visited the Orange Business Headquarters in Slough, to participate in the annual Orange Recycling Challenge.

At Orange Business, they strongly believe that every technological advance must be useful to man, society and the planet. They consistently support an ethical, responsible and inclusive vision of digital technology. As such, our young people were tasked with coming up with their own business idea that would use technology to address the climate crisis, all while ensuring that the values of Orange were at the heart of their operations.

I could not have been prouder as I watched the incredible display of teamwork from our students. Each student brought a variety of skills to the table, at times, even surprising themselves, and impressing the judges. It was incredibly mature how the students took the lead on this project, carrying out research on how climate change is currently being tackled in the areas of oceans, nature, world, climate and air. They also exhibited such cohesiveness as they went on to select their focus area, that is, tackling the impact that climate change has on nature.

Our team of students pitched a brilliant business plan of utilising reverse vending machines to encourage students in our local schools to recycle. Not only did they prepare an excellent PowerPoint presentation, but they created a beautiful poster that highlighted the vision of their company. I must add that their level of creativity was absolutely fantastic!

The highlight of the trip would most certainly be their presentation. Their courage, clarity of speech and resilience were beyond my expectations. The team had to do the presentation three times, to three different judges, and with every presentation, they only shone brighter and brighter.

At the end of the competition, we had a brief chance to sit together and reflect. I will never forget the comment from one particular student. *She said, "I can see myself working in an office like this"*. This was indeed the cherry on top for me. It's all about affording our young people the opportunity to explore the plethora of opportunities available for them, and equipping them with the knowledge required to access these opportunities.

There were a total 8 schools present, and while Churchmead School was the judges pick, in my eyes, each and every single member of our team were the ultimate winners.



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YEAR 13 STUDENTS ENJOY AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP WITH MARS

Students got to attend an exciting interactive workshop with Mars this week

The programme with Mars is about unlocking careers in the business, but also helping students with their growth and development so they can succeed in their future career with Mars, or another employer.

The programme involves:

An interactive workshop with our students who are actively exploring apprenticeships, giving them detailed insight into the world of Mars and the apprenticeships available. Students will then be invited to apply to the programme.

Successful applicants will be invited to an Insight & Assessment Day at Mars UK Head Office in Slough, where they will get a deeper dive into Mars, with the chance to show their skills and potential to people across the business.

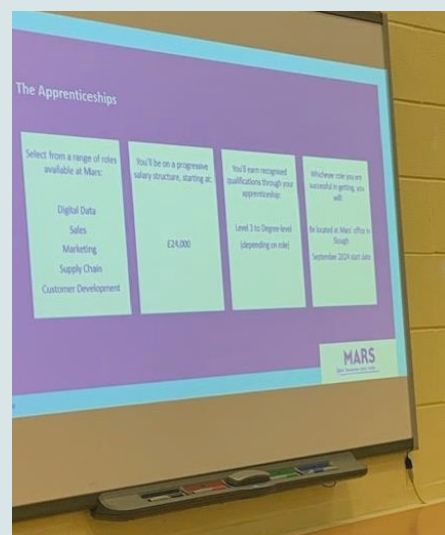


After this, students chosen from the Insight & Assessment Day will be invited to tailored skills workshops, supporting their development and growth, ready for a career with Mars or another employer.

Students will then take part in interviews and assessments for apprenticeships being offered with Mars starting September 2024.

Mars are a global food and drink company producing brands including Uncle Ben's, M&M's and Dolmio, who are looking for 25 apprentices to join the business across marketing, sales, and digital data in September 2024.

The roles all have recognised qualifications, with apprenticeships up to degree level available with a starting salary of £24,000.



Embracing New Opportunities

EXCITING ROCK CLIMBING OPPORTUNITY

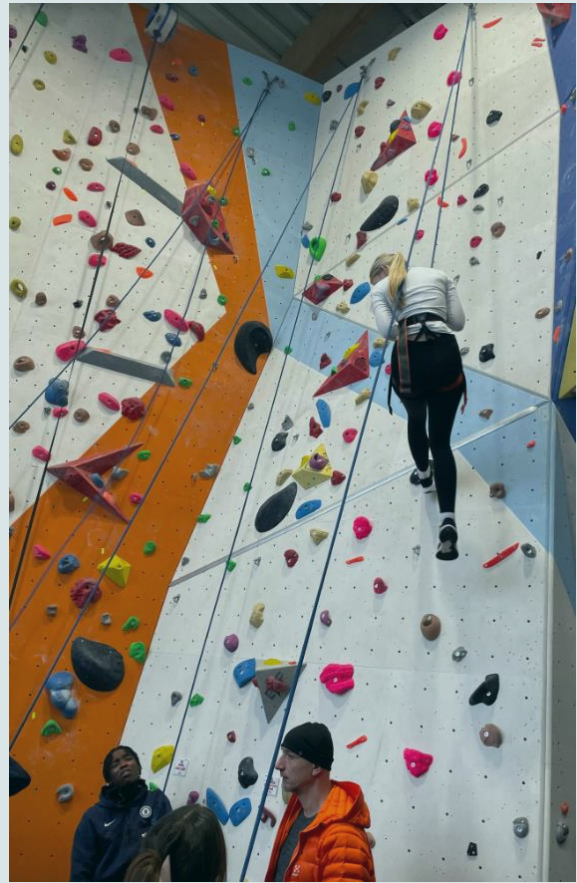
At the beginning of December we took 30 of our year 11 GCSE PE students to an indoor rock climbing wall, to learn how to rock climb for their NEA practical element of their GCSE. The behaviour of everyone involved was fantastic and we managed to get some amazing footage and grades for this sport!

They should all be very proud of themselves!

Next up will be our year 10 GCSE PE cohort in January!



Embracing New Opportunities



Supporting our students

STUDENTS HAVE ENJOYED A PLETHORA OF ACTIVITIES IN THE ALC



LAUNCH OF A NEW PE KIT



We will be launching a new PE kit for boys and girls towards the end of Spring Term 2024. Our new supplier will be School Days Direct – the same supplier for our main school uniform items.

We WILL NOT be expecting parents to purchase new kit, unless your child has grown out of an item. The kit will be phased in gradually and students will be able to wear either kit for the time being.

We're delighted to share a couple of images of some of the new kit. Thank you to Ethan Payne and Danny Chaplin for modelling it for us. We're sure you'll agree, they look incredibly smart.

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.

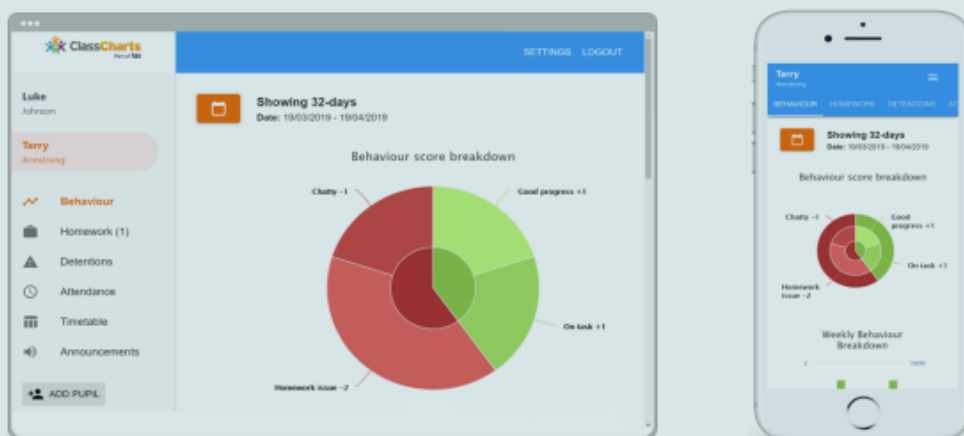
The App gives every parent/carer access to the ratio between positive and negative behaviour as well as being notified if a student receives an after school detention, including the reason, length of the detention and the name of the member of staff who set the detention. **If you haven't already downloaded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

Celebrating Multilingualism

We have been celebrating languages and encouraging students to understand the value of learning another language.

There have been quizzes, form time activities and a competition, with students being wished 'Good Luck' in many different languages. Students and staff were also encouraged to wear a badge saying what additional languages they speak to really encourage conversation. We have such an amazing,



Congratulations to our competition winners and thank you to Mrs Audi-Jana for organising the amazing celebration of languages.



Great Team Effort



Keep up the great work boys!

The year 8 boys football team have continued to demonstrate Beechwood's core values of Kindness, Respect and Excellence.

The team, run by Mr Powell, has brought together a wide range of students with different skill based levels. to represent Beechwood School.

They have shown determination every Monday, turning up for training and always giving 100% during match games.

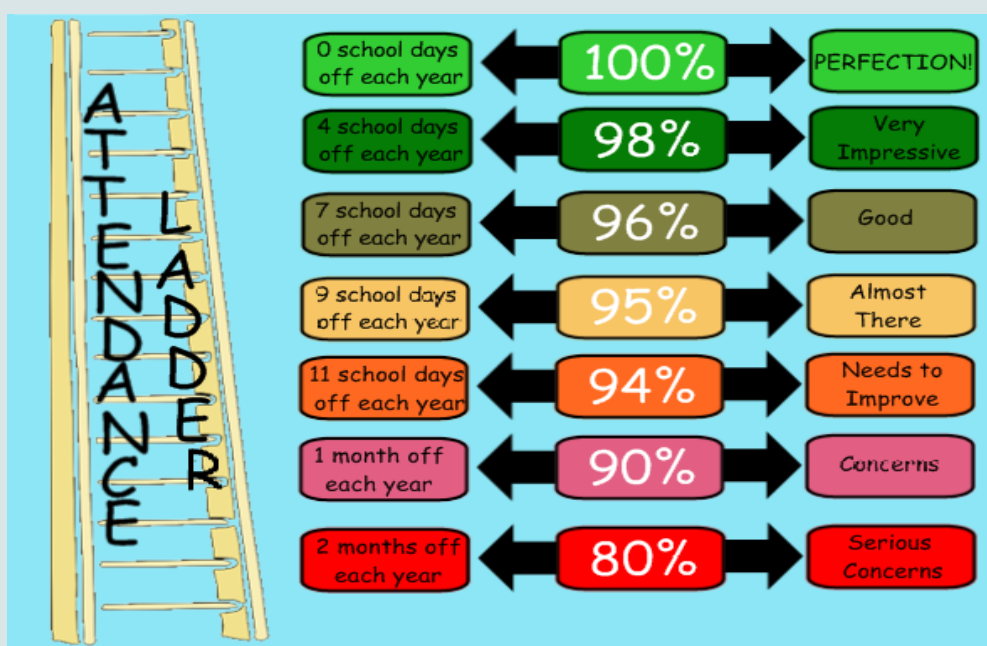
To provide an exceptional educational experience for all where potential is nurtured and responsible citizens created.



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.

REWARDING EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE AND ATTITUDE TO WORK

ITS ALL ABOUT MAKING GOOD CHOICES

Our students can continue to be rewarded for excellent attendance and positive attitude to work and school life.

After our recent Reward Bowling Trip, we're looking ahead to rewarding students further, with a KS3 New Year Party on the 25th January. There will also be another opportunity for all students to qualify for another reward trip later in the Spring term – keep an eye out for information nearer the time!

All students have the opportunity to qualify for these rewards. There will be a reset on attendance from the 3rd January 2024, for everyone to have a chance to qualify.





EFFECTIVE STUDY HABITS



Successful students have learned how to study smarter, not harder.



CHOOSE SPECIFIC TIMES TO STUDY

Work when it's best for you! A routine helps to mentally prepare you.



PLAN YOUR TIME & STICK TO IT

Delaying a study session because of a difficult task is procrastinating and can mean misunderstood/sloppy work later.



GET, THEN STAY, ORGANISED

Create a revision timetable/schedule to help you remain on track.



TACKLE WEAKER AREAS FIRST

Your mental energies are highest at the beginning of study sessions



SET SPECIFIC GOALS

For each Study Sessions, day & week. This helps you remain focused so it is easy to evaluate your progress.



ASK FOR HELP

When it is needed phone a friend or ask your teacher/s.



TAKE SHORT BREAKS

It is productive to take a break and refresh your energy



MAINTAIN A HEALTHY DIET

Good nutrition should be part of your study plan. The better the fuel your brain gets, the better you'll study.



DRINK WATER

Drinking water improves sleep, short term memory & concentration.



MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Thinking negatively can drag down our moods, actions & health. Learning how to stay positive is invaluable in leading a happy life.

If you aren't willing to work for it, don't complain about not having it!

Did you know?



Berkshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

1 in 4 teenagers will experience mental health difficulties

If you're feeling **low** or **anxious**, the **Slough Mental Health Support Team** could help



The Slough mental health support team (MHST) works in your school to support you before things get too difficult.



We meet with people who are feeling low or anxious to help them understand and learn how to manage these feelings.



We'll come into school to help you, your teachers and your parents/carers to understand more about mental health.

Ask for help

If you'd like some **support with your mental health**, you can speak to any **member of staff at school** who will put you in touch with us. You can also email:



CAMHSGettingHelpEast@berkshire.nhs.uk

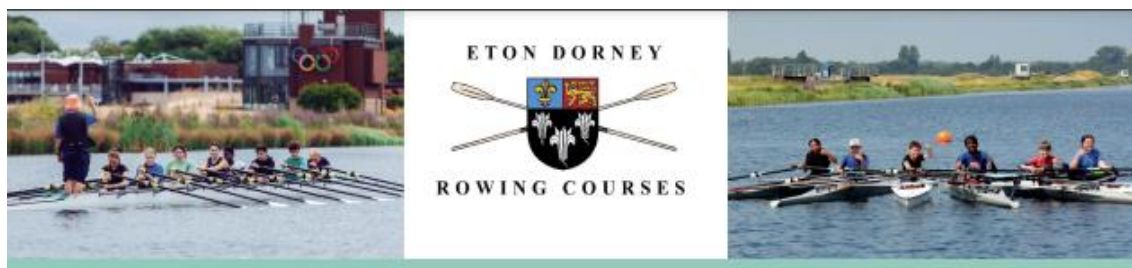


cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/mhst

An opportunity to learn how to ROW - this is FREE to our students if they would be interested. All you need to be able to do is tread water for 2 minutes & swim 50m. It is open to children aged 12-16 years.

The sessions are during the summer but interest needs to be logged as soon as possible, by emailing h.vines@dorneylake.co.uk

This is an amazing opportunity, particularly for Year 10 students who are taking GCSE PE, as they could use it as one of their sports!



ETON DORNEY ROWING COURSES 2024



Course 1

22 July 2024 - 26 July 2024

Course 2

29 July 2024 - 2 August 2024

Price per course £390.

The Eton Dorney Rowing Courses are non-residential courses based at Dorney Lake for 12 - 16 year olds. Rowers of all abilities welcome, no experience necessary.

Free places available for students attending UK state schools.



63% of students attended from UK state schools.

Bookings open on our website on Tuesday 20 February 2024.



Telephone: 01753 370546
Email: Etonrowingcourses@etoncollege.org.uk

www.etoncollege.com/rowingcourses



Football Tournaments

Winter Junior 5 a side



20, 21, 27, 28 December



10:30am-2:30pm

11-16 years old

Powerleague, Ragstone Road, Slough, SL1 2PU

5 A SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

BOYS & GIRLS ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

It's all about getting involved.

To register for FREE with a HAF Code: <https://sloughhaf.org.uk/>

No HAF Code, register and pay: <https://www.sportsinc.org.uk/#5>

£3 per day or £10 paid in advance for 4 days

Healthy Hot Lunch and snacks available each day.

Make sure to use your HAF number if you have one.



Join the **Free** holiday activities and food programme **this winter break**

4 days of fun during the holidays!
Including arts and crafts, circus-based activities, fencing, gymnastics, music, nutrition education, and a wide range of sports. All free for kids eligible for benefits related free school meals with HAF codes (you can also pay to join in the fun if you aren't eligible).

**VARIOUS
DATES
BETWEEN
18 DEC
& 3 JAN**

For more
info and
to book:



www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
Borough Council

 **Slough**
Holiday Activities
and Food Programme

Funded by


**Department
for Education**

CC-6885_Christmas 2023/04-10-23



LET'S CELEBRATE WITH CIRCUS THRILLS -
THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS TREAT!



WHO: Kids 6-12 y/o

WHEN: Tue-Fri
19th-22nd Dec
12 pm - 4 pm

WHERE: Singh Sabha
Sports Centre,
Stoke Poges

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Aerial Silks, Hoop, Rope and Trapeze
- Juggling
- Acrobatics
- Hula hooping
- Dance and MORE!

LEO'S CIRCUS

KIDS CHRISTMAS CIRCUS CAMP in Slough

SECURE YOUR CHILD'S SPOT NOW AND LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN

leoscircus.co.uk (+44) 7395 338 476 leos.circus.slough@gmail.com

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season. Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Mindy Atwell designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate research in youth and digital. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – helpfully without borders and with the knowledge and tools to shape their digital landscape. Mindy is committed to the mental health of pupils and personal is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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