



# BEECHWOOD SCHOOL

## Junior Division Journal

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

### ***Head of Division Thoughts:***

It was lovely to finally have a proper Open Day last weekend and thank you so much to the students involved for being such fabulous ambassadors. The school had a real buzz to it. This week has also seen our first enrichment day of the year, where all students were immersed in the world of Space. The work they produced was excellent and there was a real hive of activity.

Apologies I have been off a few days this week! Luckily, I avoided Covid, but a nasty cold knocked me for 6. There are plenty of germs around at the moment, so please reinforce the importance of good hygiene, social distancing and hand washing. If your child is off school and feel well enough to complete work, please direct them to MS Teams and there should be work available on there to complete. However, there is no pressure to be working if your child is unwell.

We are speedily approaching half term, and with the weather turning please can you ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the normal school day (a black or navy coat) and warm clothes for PE and Games. We are experiencing a lot of lost property at the moment and many unnamed items, so please also ensure everything is clearly named so we can return items quickly. As a parent, I know how expensive it is to replace lost uniform.

I look forward to seeing the Year 7 parents next Wednesday at our Tutor evening. I have had some queries as to whether students should attend. This is entirely your decision as a parent. Some parents prefer to talk without their child present, some like for their child to hear what is said, so it is at your discretion.

We have our Year 7 Taster Day next week so, so we will be welcoming in potential students for next year. If you know anyone undecided about Senior School, please tell them to get in touch.

I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing weekend and as always please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Rebecca Smith

### ***Curriculum Notes:***

**English:** **Year 7** began reading their class novel 'Stormbreaker' by Anthony Horowitz. They were making predictions based on chapter titles and the opening pages of the novel; great detective work! **Year 8** have started their study of War of the Worlds

**French:** **Year 7** have been learning the days of the week and the months of the year. **Year 8** have been learning TV programmes and revision of the present tense

**Science:** **Year 7** have been practicing using the information on cells by doing questions and creating mind maps. **Year 8** have been learning about classification of vertebrates and invertebrates then comparing the 5-kingdom classification system with the 3-domain system.

*RE:* **Year 7** had a quick quiz on the history of the school and starting the life of St. Madeleine Sophie **Year 8** have been finishing the timeline of the life of St. Benedict and finding out about the life of St. Francis of Assisi using clips from the film Brother Sun, Sister Moon.

*Maths:* **Year 7:** Set one: Students have been learning about scatter graphs this week. Set 2: have been consolidating their knowledge on averages, charts and tables and comparing data. **Year 8:** Set one: have been consolidating their knowledge of Prime factors, laws of indices and significant figures. Set two: this week students have been learning about powers and roots.

*Art:* **Year 7** have been investigating watercolour and oil pastels looking at mark making and experimenting with materials to create various outcomes. **Year 8** have been investigating watercolour within their still life, creating a colour palette to use when mixing colours and mark making to produce from.

*History:* **Year 7** chose who they believed should become King of England in 1065. They have also been learning about the early threats that Harold Godwinson faced when he became king of England in 1066. Finally, students have investigated the Battle of Fulford and discussed how they would have dealt with the threat of invasion from both North and South England if they were monarch in 1066. **Year 8** have been continuing their study of the causes of the Industrial Revolution. Students have investigated the raw materials in Britain that were vital in the start of the Industrial Revolution and learnt about some of the great minds of key inventors who shaped the Industrial Revolution in Britain.

*Spanish:* **Year 7** have been learning about the present tense in Spanish. **Year 8** have been revisiting the past tense in Spanish.

*Food Technology:* **Year 7** did not have their lesson due to the Enrichment Day. **Year 8** watched a live demonstration on making bourbon biscuits, so they know how to make them next week. They also did a comparison test comparing a homemade bourbon to a bought bourbon biscuit. The results were unanimous in the favour of the homemade biscuit. (much to my relief)

*Design Technology:* **Year 7** did not have their lesson due to the Enrichment Day. **Year 8** were creating designs for acrylic jewellery. They drew their designs in pencil and coloured and shaded them and then annotated them using ACCESS FM.

*Drama:* **Year 7** have continued to work on their key skills in Drama using the FUEL BAGS acronym. **Year 8** were extending their chosen freeze frames to create a scene and looking at the drama skill of cross cutting - I look forward to seeing the results of this work next lesson.

*Music:* **Year 7** have been learning about instruments within the orchestra. **Year 8** did not have music this week as it was the enrichment day.

*Geography:* **Year 7** students continue to develop their geographical skills through the topic of 'The Local Environment'. They annotated a photograph and drew and labelled a mental map and a sketch map of Beechwood school from an Ordnance Survey map. **Year 8** began their investigation of China. They shared interesting facts about the country and drew a map of the key physical features and cities.

*Computer Science:* **Year 7** learned about the internal components of a computer. **Year 8** were introduced to the five Data types we use in Computer Science: characters, String, Integer, Real/Float and Boolean. They were also introduced to variables and learnt the importance of naming variables appropriately.

Each week I speak to students about how they are feeling and what they are enjoying. I also overhear some of their conversations.

**Some of the quotes of the week:**

“Open day was fun.”

“It feels like I have always been at Beechwood.”

“I wish it was sunny again!”

“I really liked making the rockets.”

**Achievements / Extra-Curricular Activities:**

Apologies for the delay in clubs coming out. These will be with you as soon as possible.

You should have all had the clubs list now and students should have signed up. Please remember it is never too late to join a club if your child changes their mind. If your child decides to drop a club, please make sure they let their form tutor know.

We always like to celebrate our students, so if your child is doing anything exciting outside of school, please do let us know.