



BEECHWOOD SCHOOL

Junior Division Journal

12th November

Head of Division Thoughts:

This week we, like the rest of country have been remembering our fallen soldiers and had a whole school Remembrance Service, which was very moving. Students were told about the history of the Poppy, and I want to thank Junior Division students for the outstanding behaviour at this service.

Mr Golby and I had the pleasure of taking U13 teams to a Netball and Football tournament this week, where all players represented the school well and although no trophies, they played well and have shown great improvement and resilience – well done to all the players.

Next week is anti-bullying week and students will be doing some workshops in their form time, culminating in our odd socks day on Friday. There is no monetary donation for this, purely and opportunity to celebrate our differences.

Monday is also one of our Enrichment days, so the students will be working on projects all day, run by the English Department. The Science one was a great success, and I am looking forward to seeing what they produce on Monday.

I know a Parent Mail has come out regarding the PTA Christmas fair. It is fabulous we can now run these events again and it is always great fun, so I hope you can attend. I know my own children are already over excited about Christmas!

I am looking forward to seeing the Year 8 parents next week for our first face to face parent's evening in a long time. If you have any questions regarding this, please do get in touch.

Can I please remind you that whilst we allow phones in school, they are not to be seen during the day. If a member of staff sees students with their phone out, they are confiscated for 24 hours. We have had an increase in phone confiscations this week, so please reinforce this message at home.

As always please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Rebecca Smith

Curriculum Notes:

English: Year 7: CG: have been exploring issues in 'Chinese Cinderella', discussing getting lost, celebrating success, and beginning to read about how a child acts and reacts when they are neglected. We have also begun to research childhood literature classic texts ready for the Enrichment Day on Monday. MN: delivered fantastic persuasive speeches for their spy gadgets; some even chose to present them in disguise. Well done to all the class on their effort and presentation skills. I thoroughly enjoy listening to them all!

Science: Year 7 have been moving on from energy transfers last week we are now learning about renewable and non-renewable energy before covering global warming. **Year 8** moved onto the next unit of work which is electricity. We will be making electrical circuits having learnt the difference between series and parallel circuits.

RE: Year 7 have been learning about Abram's journey and God's call to make a chosen people having gone through the assessment on Faith Schools and Madeleine Sophie's life. **Year 8** have started to learn about started the life of Martin Luther King as an example of a person of faith. They have focused on the 'Bus Boycott'.

Maths: **Year 7:** Set one have been revising and completing a test on number skills Set two have been exploring factors, multiples, and primes **Year 8:** Set one have been consolidating their knowledge of Algebra in preparation for an end of unit test. Set two have been learning all about 3D shapes.

Art: **Year 7** are now starting their first major project inspired by Pablo Picasso's weeping woman. This will involve creating a self-portrait in a cubist style. **Year 8** are starting to build their still life sets based on their own themes.

History: **Year 7** students have been investigating and analysing the Bayeux Tapestry and answering the key question: Is the Bayeux Tapestry a reliable historical source? Students have completed analysis of several sources to investigate whether the Bayeux Tapestry was accurate in its depiction of Harold Godwinson's death. **Year 8** have studied the impact of the Industrial Revolution on transport. Students have learnt how the Industrial Revolution transformed long distance journeys for people and allowed the population of Britain to travel to new locations that they had not had the opportunity to before.

Food Technology: **Year 7** worked on the Eat Well Guide looking at the different food groups. They looked at the foods they ate and how they slotted into the Eat Well Guide. **Year 8** evaluated their pizza from last week and looked at designing pizza packaging.

Design Technology: **Year 7** have continued to make their wooden picture frames. **Year 8** have been making a wooden sweet dispenser.

Drama: **Year 7** have been continuing with their pantomime project with a specific focus on stage direction. **Year 8** had some fun with Drama this week playing some drama-based games to improve confidence and speaking out.

Music: **Year 7** have done a variety of listening tests this week, with three different styles of music, then a musical instruments quiz. We have also continued with some theory work on note values and time signatures. **Year 8** students did a Blues listening test on Tuesday, then we watched Elmore James perform 'Dust My Broom' as a classic old Blues number. The students then went into break-out rooms in their Blues groups to continue writing their own songs.

German: **Year 8** have been cracking the code of longer written and spoken texts in German

French: **Year 7** children learned how to describe everything their classroom. **Year 8** have continued our work on French film types and prepared to write a paragraph focusing on our opinions and correctly using present tense verbs.

Geography: **Year 7** geographers completed their study of 'Weathering' by creating and acting out mini dramas of the four weathering processes in groups. They also developed their annotation skills further as they started to investigate 'Coastal erosion' of a headland. **Year 8** have been exploring the topic of 'Migration'. They have created a timeline of historical migrations to the United Kingdom and are developing a broad range of key topic terminology.

Computer Science: **Year 7** are working on the history of computing. They are carrying out research into Dr Grace Hopper. **Year 8** continued with programming in python. They practiced variables, IF statements and spotting logical errors. They learned the importance of BODMAS when programming mathematical equations.

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:

"It was so nice to get out for a sports tournament."

"I am really excited to go to Barcelona on the Sports tour."

"I really enjoyed my science lesson this week."

Achievements / Extra-Curricular Activities:

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.

Another date for your diaries: *The Beechwood Carol Service will take place on Monday 13 December at 6.30pm in the Old Chapel.*

Year 7 and 8 having been rehearsing 'Angels Carol' by John Rutter for this service and we would like all the students to attend, to perform this beautiful piece please.

Nearer the time a parent mail will come out inviting you all to join us, with mince pies and mulled wine.

It is a wonderful festive event; please put it in your diaries.

Please note that the week beginning 29th November students will rotate their technology subject. Product design will go to Food Technology. Food Technology will go to Textiles Technology and Textiles Technology will go to Product design! Please make sure you have an apron and container for Food Tech.

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