

15th October 2021

Head of Division Thoughts:

We have made it through term one! I wanted to thank you and your children for your patience, resilience and support in what is always a very busy term. Change can be stressful, but also refreshing. As I move around the school, the new layout and systems are effective and working well. There is a good buzz in lessons and at break times and I have seen some excellent examples of work.

I am sure the students (like the staff) are ready for our two-week break. As you know the run up to Christmas is always busy, but also lots of fun. Kicking off the festivities next term is the PA fireworks event, which is always an outstanding display. I am excited to see the return of the Christmas Fayre and there will be plenty more events.

I apologise that I did not send these out earlier, but some parents have made me aware they do not have the email address for the tutors:

Mr Golby – c.golby@beechwood.org.uk

Mrs Newton – m.newton@beechwood.org.uk

Mrs Hobbs – h.hobbs@beechwood.org.uk

All staff emails follow the same format – initial – dot – surname @beechwood.org.uk

It has been a busy term and I am sure you are all ready for a good rest. I hope you are all able to enjoy the half term break and I look forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks.

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

Rebecca Smith

Curriculum Notes:

English: **Year 7** are studying the process of Photosynthesis and the adaptations of the leaf to carry out the process. **Year 8** are exploring how the writer creates tension in War of the Worlds.

Science: **Year 7** have completed the test and we are going through it together highlighting any areas for development and celebrating areas of success. We are then moving onto studying different types of Energy. **Year 8** are studying the process of Photosynthesis and the adaptations of the leaf to carry out the process.

RE: **Year 7** completed an assessment on St. Madeleine Sophie and faith schools. **Year 8** have been learning about a day in the life of a medieval monk

Maths: **Year 7:** Set one: have been focusing on number skills this week. Set two: have been exploring different strategies to effectively and accurately use methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. **Year 8:** Set one: have been exploring algebra, learning how to simplify expressions and to expand and factorise algebraic expressions. Set two: have been focusing on multiples and factors this week.

Art: Year 7 are completing their front covers to tie up all the work they have produced this term. **Year 8** are looking at tone with reference to creating form on a subject leading to their next project

History: Year 7 students have completed further studies on the Battle of Hastings, developing their chronology skills through the study of key events in the battle. Year 7 have then made their own judgements on why the Duke of Normandy defeated King Harold in the battle. **Year 8** students have continued their study of the work of Richard Arkwright and his new carding machine. Students have also evaluated Arkwright's impact on the Industrial Revolution and his great contribution - the mill and its use of steam engines.

Spanish: Year 7 have been learning how to say when their birthday is and asking others when theirs is. **Year 8** have been consolidating Module 2 'free time' in preparation for their assessment.

Food Technology: Year 7 have made their pasta bake following their cheese sauce recipe which they wrote last week. **Year 8** did a lesson on sensory evaluation, and they tasted healthy snack food.

Design Technology: Year 7 completed their pop-up cards and peer assessed and graded their work after completing their evaluation. **Year 8** created Cubeecraft characters and Bottle monsters.

Drama: Year 7 have continued to rehearse for their self and peer-assessments, using the title 'At the Beach' or 'At Dinner', with performance and analysis focussing on their use of the FUELBAGS acronym. **Year 8** performed their devising pieces this week for assessment. There was a wide variety of topics and a successful use of drama skills within all the groups. They worked very hard and produced work they should be pleased with. Well done!

Music: Year 7 and **Year 8** have both been learning about note values, rhythms and time signatures.

German: In preparation for their assessment, the **Year 8** have learned this week how to make writing about their hometown more interesting.

Geography: Year 7 enjoyed classifying a range of different rocks in Geography before focusing on sedimentary rocks, to explain how they formed using key topic terminology. **Year 8** geographers explored what living in China's fastest growing city, Chongqing is like and the push and pull factors which led them there. They also began to consider aspects of 'Sustainable living' and began to design their own sustainable town.

Computer Science: Year 7 have been learning about the internal components of a computer. **Year 8** had an assessment this week. The paper covered variables; data types; describe and spot syntax and logical errors; assignment and comparison; types of programming languages and writing an algorithm to satisfy the requirements of a given scenario.

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:

"I am really looking forward to half term." (Me too!)

"Fixtures have been really fun."

"I cannot believe we have finished a term already."

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.

The girls have a netball match on the first day back – they should know who they are, so please ensure you bring kit into school on Monday.

Oscar Sargeant in Year 8 is currently in a Spinnin Records remix competition, and he is now up to 45 on the charts (this is yesterday's position) which is amazing - this is one of the biggest labels. He has done this all on his own and any support would be amazing. In the competition they only receive the vocal and he has written and produced the song from scratch. He is up against all professional producers with fan bases. You can check out his track here: <https://spinninrecords.com/talentpool/artist/oscarsargent/track/2021-09-rise-up-vanai-feat-vamero-oscar-sargent-remix>

Well done Oscar!

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