

Head of Division Thoughts:

With just one week left of this half term, I would like to take this opportunity to praise all the students in Junior Division. They have demonstrated excellent resilience and adaptability this term and have been working hard. Kindness is one of the most important things in life. We will be talking a lot over the coming weeks about kindness how we can all improve in this area. I believe there is no such thing as a small act of kindness; they can all change someone's day for the better. I am going to be introducing a reward system for acts of kindness within the Division and I hope this will continue to enhance and develop the community we are in. I read once "Do things for people, not because of who they are or what they may do in return, but because of who you are."

With the weather rapidly turning, can you please ensure your child has waterproofs for PE/Games lessons and they have a dark blue or black coat for school. We have also had several mislaid items this term, so over the coming week can you please check your child's bags and belongings for anything not belonging to them and make sure everything is named.

I wish you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

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

Rebecca Smith

Curriculum Notes:

Here are some highlights from some of their subjects:

English: **Year 7** are continuing to read their class novel 'Stormbreaker'. They have been continuing to develop their understanding of how to write about specific language choices an author makes to create a particular effect. They also produced some fantastic letters of application for homework. **Year 8** continue to read their class novel. They have been developing their skills of finding evidence in the text and writing about why the author has chosen specific language techniques. They have had some interesting discussions surrounding social status and class in the novel.

French: **Year 7** have done more practice on numbers, saying how old you are and practising days and months. **Year 8** have had vocabulary test on TV programmes, expressing opinions and likes and dislikes.

History: **Year 7** have been looking at contenders for the throne in 1066 and presenting their findings to the Witan. **Year 8** have been learning about Henry VIII's break with Rome and analysing sources about his character and accomplishments.

Science: **Year 7** have started their second module on 'The basics of Chemistry', looking at states of matter, changes of state and the history of the atom. On a linked note I was pleased with the 'Cells' test results for the class, especially those that got over 90%, and have been impressed with the whole classes attitude toward learning. **Year 8** have been investigating the solar system, our galaxy and the universe. They have also made observations about different rock types.

RE: **Year 7** have been completing work on St. Madeleine Sophie Barat for a test on Friday and preparing for our assessment **Year 8** have been learning about a Monastery plan and having a Zoom call with a Friar - please can I encourage you to take your son/daughter to a religious ruin or working abbey again as it will really add to their understanding of this topic.

Maths: **Year 7:** Set one have been learning about powers, roots and calculations. Set two are calculating using the four operation in particular long multiplication and division. **Year 8:** Set one are working on expanding brackets and factorising. Set two have been learning how to calculate the area of a triangle, parallelogram and trapezium.

Geography: **Year 7** have begun to explore the 'Rocks' topic in Geography and have described and explained how we use rocks in our daily lives. **Year 8** have enjoyed investigating the causes of rapid urban growth in Chinese cities such as Chongqing and the impacts of urbanisation.

Drama: **Year 7** completed their work on the Commedia Dell'Arte and we focused on the following emotions: grief, anger, joy, laughter, fear, surprise and love. The students watched a video clip from a workshop by the National Theatre and then put what they had learnt into practice, miming the different emotions for their peers. **Year 8** studied the main features of Elizabethan Theatre. They watched a short video about the Globe Theatre and compared it to present day theatres. They then looked at the language used by Shakespeare and we discussed Shakespearian phrases still in use today.

German: **Year 7** have been reinforcing the German alphabet and learning how to describe people's characteristics. **Year 8** have been looking at longer texts in the future tense and answering questions in German.

Art: **Year 7** have created their colour wheel and looking at gradient tone in painting. The next level will be mark making with charcoal. **Year 8** have taken their photos and will now start to construct their theme based on the work of Anthony Green, Cubism and Esher.

DT: This week **Year 7** completed the manufacture of their pop-up cards and **Year 8** have been making picture frames.

Food Technology: **Year 7** have worked on the Eat Well Guide this week and **Year 8** have made Jammie Dodgers.

Music: **Year 7** have done more revision on note values and rhythms; the students are writing their own rhythm grids with notation and body percussion, working individually this week with a view to paired and then group work next week. **Year 8** students have re-familiarised themselves with Musition and Aurelia (the theory and aural training programmes) on our computers. They have also reacquainted themselves with Cubase, ready for the Advert Composition project.

Spanish: **Year 7** have been consolidating the verb tener and talking about how many brothers and sisters do you have? They have had a vocabulary test and writing task are planned this week to recap all we have learnt so far. **Year 8** have been consolidating describing your hair and eyes. They have used the verbs 'to use', 'to have' and 'to be'. They have been learning about what other people look like and had a vocabulary test and writing tasks.

Computer Science: **Year 7** are discovering how to use powerpoint effectively and the students will be working in pairs on a presentation on cyber bullying. **Year 8** have been studying the components of a computer looking at storage, memory and processing. We will be moving on to input and output devices and networking. The following key words this week: Program, instructions, data, hardware, processor, memory, storage, communication, input and output, operating system.

Student thoughts:

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 so excited to play Mario Kart next week.”

“I hope I score a goal against Mr Golby.”

“I really enjoyed my Geography lessons this week.”

“I really do feel like I have been at Beechwood forever. Everyone is really friendly.”

Achievements / Extra-Curricular Activities:

It has been lovely to see many JD students taking part in our clubs and activities. It is never too late to join though, so please encourage your children to sign up to what is on offer. Art club has now started on a Wednesday lunch time at 1.30pm. There is also table-top gaming on a Monday after school.

Next week is Inter-House competition week. Students are looking forward to Mario Kart, a Netball Shoot out and Beat the ‘Golb-keeper’. (Mr Golby is dusting off his gloves). These activities will take place in lessons and at lunch time and will give students opportunities to earn points for their house.

I was sent some examples of Year 8 English work this week. It was homework that children chose from their menu of homework. I was really impressed with the quality of the work. Well done 8HB.

Maths – A reminder that the Maths Department sell scientific calculators for £7 should your child need one. This is cheaper than most high street shops.