

Junior Division Journal

20th November 2020

***Head of Division Thoughts:***

I had a moment of concern and worry this week when suddenly the Junior Division area of the school was overrun with spies. Luckily, no serious event had happened, but the Year 7 really demonstrated some excellent active learning in their English lessons this week presenting about their spy gadgets. Well done Year 7. I love hearing about students' lessons and learning experiences. Hearing students talk passionately about things they are learning is why teachers carry on doing the job we love. I was delighted to hear about some Year 8 students this week who have been making some awesome progress in their maths work. Things like this fill me with joy! At Beechwood we are fortunate that being a small school we are all in regular communication with each other and staff are quick to let me know about the fantastic things students are doing. The crystals trees made in Science club last week were amazing. Please encourage your child to attend this club – they are planning some great experiments over the coming weeks.

I have reminded the students this week about my random acts of kindness rewards, so I am looking forward to hearing about all the wonderful things that our students are doing to support each other.

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** delivered fantastic speeches persuading their fellow peers to invest in their spy gadget inventions. The students were unrecognisable in their spy disguises. A great effort by all students - well done! The students were also issued with a 'Reading passport' with a range of activities to complete once a week based on a fiction book they are reading at home. **Year 8** received feedback for their reading and writing assessments this week. Students focused on their areas of success as well as their targets.

*French:* **Year 7** have been describing a classroom with the reinforcement of nouns/articles and gender. They have practiced 'there is' and 'there is not'. They have also had an introduction to the topic of sports. **Year 8** have completed their end of module tests and revised present tense of 'RE' verbs.

*History:* **Year 7** completed a class test on the Battle of Hastings. Then they continued to learn about castles. **Year 8** have learnt about Edward VI the boy king and 8B have learnt about Bloody Mary.

*Science:* **Year 7** have been working on the periodic table looking at the different groups and why elements are given the symbols they are. We are also look at a more detailed structure of an atom including protons, neutrons and electrons. **Year 8** are learning about the causes and effects of global warming. They have also looked at electricity, magnetism and completed a space test this week.

*RE:* **Year 7** have been completing their learning about the life of Abraham and doing a test. **Year 8** have been completing the DVD of Mother Teresa and written work around this topic.

*Maths:* **Year 7:** Set one have been learning about fractions. Set two are working on expressions and brackets. **Year 8:** Set one are working on volume of prisms and circles. Set two have been learning how to interpret data from tables. They have also learned to design and use two-way tables.

*Geography:* **Year 7** explored four marine erosion processes and began to examine the landforms created at the Dorset coast whilst developing key terminology. **Year 8** will be considering if they were to emigrate where they would like to go and then collating this data as a class and developing their graphical skills by presenting it as a (hopefully!) accurate pie chart.

*Drama:* **Year 7** will be looking at a basic script for Cinderella and will work together to add in the various pantomime features which we have examined so far. The objective is to act out these scenes at the end of term. Oh yes, they will! **Year 8** have begun looking at, and developing, their pantomimes. They are working on a well-known Panto script but will be adding their own pantomime conventions in the coming weeks.

*German:* **Year 7** have been taking their Kapitel 1 Listening, Reading & Writing Assessments. **Year 8** have sat their Kapitel 5 Listening, Reading & Writing Assessments.

*Art:* **Year 7** are constructing their fact files on Pablo Picasso working in pairs to create an informative outcome. **Year 8** are working on visual models of their photos taken around the school to understand how perspective works in greater depth.

*DT:* **Year 7 and 8** have been completing their picture frames ready for the end of this Technology rotation. They are looking good.

*Food Technology:* **Year 7** did a science experiment making shortbread to work out the function of ingredients. They discovered that even when you halve the amount of sugar the shortbread still tastes good- if not better than the original. They were not so impressed with the crumbly mixture made with half the amount of butter. All the biscuits were of course eaten. **Year 8** had their last practical making Leek and bacon risotto. They have made a lot of progress and are more familiar with the cooking techniques, equipment and utensils involved in preparing healthy meals and snacks.

*Music:* **Year 7** have discussed and written out treble clef and bass clef notes on staves and have started to use the software Musition and Aurelia for aural and theory training. **Year 8** have discussed scales and chords this week; the use of scales to create melodies, and the use of chords to accompany. We have also discussed major and minor chords, and block and broken chords. The students are finalising and editing their drum tracks on the advert music compositions and some have moved on to their piano parts (chords followed by melody).

*Spanish:* **Year 7** have been learning how to say what they do in their spare time. They are learning present tense verbs in 'ar' and expressions of frequency. They have looked at saying 'what do you when it is raining?' and talking about the weather using 'cuando'. **Year 8** have been learning to describe what is in their town or city. They are using 'a', 'some' and 'many'. They have been learning to describe what they do in their town and using the verb 'ir'.

*Computer Science:* **Year 7** are working on improving their skills using Word. **Year 8** have been learning about artificial intelligence, machine learning, testing and programming.

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 much fun dressing up as spies and presenting out gadgets for English this week."

"I am really proud of my Maths work this week."

“Netball is actually quite fun.” (Male pupil)

Achievements / Extra-Curricular Activities:

Every year we create shoeboxes to give as gifts to people in need at Christmas. We are starting to prepare for these now. Could you please send your child into school with a shoe box, wrapping paper and Sellotape before Monday 14th December. These can be stored in my office in a named bag. Details about what will be needed to fill the shoe box will come home soon, but items such as toiletries, puzzle books, sweets/chocolate, gloves, hats etc are all suitable items to be included if you wanted to start adding a few items to your shopping trolleys. These shoe boxes are well received every year and we have great fun putting them together on our community service day.

Please remember your money to buy ‘Ice bucket’ raffle tickets. We have plenty of willing staff volunteers.