

## Junior Division Journal

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### *Head of Division Thoughts:*

It gives me great pleasure to be able to write these journals again now we are all back at school 'normally'. It has been a busy week not only with the usual start of term arrangements but also getting used to the new systems we have in place to ensure we are all safe. It has been a delight to get to know the new Year 7 better as well as greeting the returning Year 8 students who nearly all seem to have grown taller than me over the past few months. Time for some higher heels, I think!

It is lovely to see the children still coming into school smiling. By Monday, the novelty and early mornings had certainly worn off with my youngest. I am sure many of you can empathise with battling a small person into uniform!

I have been really impressed with the resilience and cooperation of all the students in complying with our one-way systems and new ways of working. Resilience is something we talk about a lot at Beechwood and a personal trait we encourage in all our students.

I would also like to apologise for some timetable confusion this week. Our system had a glitch (I know the feeling) and I am wholeheartedly sorry for the issues this caused some of the students. I hope these have now all been resolved, but if not, please let me know as soon as possible.

Please can I take this opportunity to reiterate that I always welcome any emails or calls from yourselves if you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss. Where possible I will be at the front of the school most mornings from 7.45am until 8.30, and again from 4pm to 4.15pm so this is always a good time to catch me if you need to talk about anything as well.

Please find a summary below of what the students have been covering in their lessons this week. I hope this provides you with some talking points at home. Homework will have started this week and please remember it is 20 minutes per subject each evening. Please let me or the subject teacher know if there are any problems with the homework.

I wish you all a warm and peaceful weekend. I am looking forward to this 'mini-heatwave' we have been promised.

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** have started to learn how to analyse texts in English using Point, Evidence, Explanation (P.E.E). They have also produced some creative writing based on aliens invading their school! Next week, they will be delivering short presentations to the class which are all about themselves. **Year 8** are currently working on a piece of reflective writing entitled 'Lines from Lockdown'. They are reflecting on Lockdown and writing about experience pupils had. Some funny, some sad, but all thinking about what changes we have been through. We are aiming to write an interesting account of how the world got turned upside down.

**French:** **Year 7** have been looking at how to be organised in French lessons. **Year 8** have been organising their work and talking about their holidays.

*History:* **Year 7** have been introduced to History and discussed what we study, how and why. They have looked at timelines and their homework is to create a "Timeline of my life". **Year 8** have looked at the current royal family and their origin and learnt about Henry VII becoming king in 1485. We learnt about life in 1485 and the homework is to create a comparison chart comparing 1485 and present day.

*Science:* **Year 7 and Year 8** have been learning about chemical reactions and electric currents. They have looked at how to test for hydrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide.

*RE:* **Year 7** have been looking at the different groups we belong to and importance of belonging including religion. **Year 8** have been discussing our understanding of what/who God is and the importance within our lives.

*Maths:*

*Geography:* **Year 8** have started their study of Europe in Geography by looking at the location of rivers and mountain ranges.

*Drama:*

*German:* **Year 7** have been learning about numbers and greetings. **Year 8** have been looking at greetings, places in town & the accusative case.

*Art:* **Year 7** are having an introduction to Art exploring various media and techniques. **Year 8** are currently focusing on still life investigating Impressionist and Expressionist artist, words and techniques.

*DT:* **Year 7** had a baseline assessment this week. **Year 8** have started to design acrylic jewellery.

*Food Technology:* **Year 7** have been doing some work on Health and Safety and an introduction to Food Technology. **Year 8** have made apple crumble muffins this week!

### ***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:

*"It is so exciting starting a new school and making new friends."*

*"I am so glad to have some routine again, but the early mornings take some getting used to."*

*"I have really loved seeing all my friends again."*

*"I can't wait to do cookery.....it always smells really nice walking past."*

*"I thought it would be really scary starting senior school, but everyone has been really friendly."*

### ***Achievements / Extra-Curricular Activities:***

We are reviewing the clubs and activities regularly and hope to have some running as soon as possible. If you are interested in Speech and Drama, please make sure you contact Mrs Truman if you have not done so already. If your child has hobbies/clubs/activities out of school and takes part in competitions etc please let me know as we love to celebrate all success in and out of school.

### ***Important Dates:***

- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Our virtual open day. If you have friends looking for nursery, Prep or Senior School places please direct them to our website for registration for this event.

There will usually be more activities to share in this section, but as you can appreciate things are a little different at the moment. I will share more information each week.