

September 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year I hope that both you and your son/daughter have managed to have a relaxing holiday over the summer.

By now your son/daughter will be getting to know both their new tutor and myself as Head of Year. I am very much looking forward to working with the year group as they progress up the school to Year 11. I will be ably assisted by the tutor team who are as follows:

8L: Mr Whyman and Mrs Lloyd

8E: Miss Snelson

8A: Miss May

8R: Mrs Mitchell

8N: Mrs Masters

8S: Mrs Grace

Year 8 is, like all one's time at school, an important year. Now that your son/daughter has been at Beaumont for a year, they will be well used to the school and the subjects they are studying and should now be fully focussed on achieving their full potential both academically, personally and on an extra-curricular level. While Year 9 and the thought of key stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) options may seem like a long way off, it is important that your son/daughter approaches all subjects with the correct attitude and in order to make the best progress possible.

Both in and outside of school, there are a wealth of activities and opportunities to explore and be part of and I believe it is essential that as well as working hard towards academic success, pupils have a balanced lifestyle. To this end, I would encourage everyone to try and become involved in something new over the course of this year, be it on a sporting level, involvement in music and drama or any of the other many clubs, societies on offer.

This year we are also focussing on developing students as independent learners and will be organising both special events in CED and tutor activities to support this. We are calling this programme "Skills for Success" and the first CED day next week will be devoted to developing some of these essential learning skills – please ask your son/daughter all about it.

Student Planners

One key to success is being organised and with this in mind we will be placing greater emphasis on the daily use of the student planner. As parents/carers we would ask you to make a weekly check of your son's/daughter's planner to ensure they are recording extended learning that should be completed and the date which it is due in. If your son/daughter is frequently saying they have no homework this is unlikely to be the case. Also, as parents please sign the planner each week by Wednesday as Form Tutors will be checking the planner on Thursday.

If you have general concerns over the progress of your son/daughter, lack of understanding or deadlines to be met, please contact the Form Tutor in the first instance. If you have a query related to a particular subject then please contact your son's/daughter's subject teacher and/or the Head of Subject.

You can contact subject teachers via admin@beaumont.herts.sch.uk or by telephone on 01727 854726.

Extended Learning

At Beaumont, how extended learning tasks are set is dependent on the subject and the nature of the topic being covered. Some subjects, such as Maths or Languages, may set small tasks to be completed on a weekly basis. Other subjects such as History, Geography and Religious Studies may set project work to be completed over the course of a half term.

Please check the website for further clarification on this matter.

Well Being, uniform and behaviour

In an ideal world, we would hope that all students progress through the school without any difficulties. Hopefully there will be few, if any, events that cause concerns. However, should your son/daughter experience any excess anxiety or your family experiences events that will directly impact upon your son/daughter please do contact their Form Tutor in the first instance.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that we as a school hold very high standards and expectations of uniform and behaviour. While we will be absolute in our approach to maintaining these standards, we also hope to work successfully in partnership with pupils and parents/carers alike in ensuring that these two areas are upheld. A pupil's attitude towards both uniform and behaviour can often be reflective of their outlook on school as a whole and, with this in mind, your son's/daughter's form tutor(s) and I will be consistent and work tirelessly to maintain both.

Targets, Parent-Teacher Consultation and Reports

At the start of term your son/daughter will have set themselves three targets which they will aim to achieve during this term. These targets are based upon the feedback offered by staff in last summer's report and can be found in their planner. Please discuss their progress towards these targets with them as the term unfolds.

The next official opportunity for you to meet the teachers and discuss the progress your son/daughter is making, is **Thursday 22 March 2012**. As usual each student is responsible for establishing their appointments for this evening. Please contact their Form Tutor if you feel that there may be an issue with this. Students are expected to attend these meetings. Subject teachers will also comment on progress through the snapshot reports in December and March.

I wish all the students well for the forthcoming year and look forward to meeting you as parents over the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mr D. Sievewright
Head of Year 8