



Junior Division Information (Y7&8)

Welcome to Junior Division (Yr7 & Yr8) at Beechwood School

Starting senior school can be a very daunting prospect for some and for others it is a time of great excitement and a chance to spread your wings. Here at Beechwood we are committed to ensuring that however you feel about this transition period, it will be as happy and smooth as possible.

We have a dedicated team of tutors in Junior Division who are always on hand to answer any questions you have and help you in any way possible.



At Beechwood we treat all our students as the individuals that you are, and our commitment is to ensure you thrive in our school and achieve to the very best of your ability. Not only do we focus on your academic success, but we strive to ensure you have ample opportunities to take part in extra curricular activities and clubs.

You will find a wide range of activities you can choose from at both lunch times and after school to enhance your experience at Beechwood.

It is important to remember that there is no such thing as a silly question and my door is always open should you ever need any help or advice. My priority is ensuring all the students in Junior Division are happy, healthy and working hard so they can make the smooth transition to Year 9.

We run a Junior Division rewards scheme and look to celebrate the achievements of all the students no matter how small. As a team we really look forward to welcoming you to Junior Division and hope your first few years at Beechwood are full of fun and success.

Mrs Rebecca Smith
Head of Junior Division



On your marks...

At Beechwood we aim to provide a broad, balanced curriculum to allow all pupils to discover their talents and experience a variety of teaching styles.

Pupils will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of thinking skills which they can then use in their further studies at GCSE and beyond. You will acquire practical skills and knowledge which will be useful throughout both work and leisure time.

A curriculum for all pupils

At Beechwood we deliver a curriculum which stretches and challenges the most able of pupils, enabling them to achieve top grades and study for the most academic of GCSE and A levels, whilst also supporting those who find academic study more challenging. The curriculum is supported by a wide variety of activities and clubs within school, in addition to the trips that are run by all departments.

In Years 7 & 8, we provide lessons in creative, practical subjects such as Drama, Art, Design Technology and Music as well as the traditional academic subjects, such as Maths, Science and English. Modern Languages are introduced with French in Year 7, followed by the opportunity to add Spanish or German in Year 8.

You will find some details about each subject studied in the following pages.

Each member of staff ensures that all pupils achieve to the best of their ability and progress is checked on a regular basis. For those with a particular talent or ability, enrichment is offered to ensure that they are nurtured and allowed to flourish.

...Get set!

We have a fortnightly timetable. Each day there are six 50-minute lessons; the table below gives the subjects and the number of 50-minute periods taught per week.

Year 7	
English	4
Mathematics	3.5
Science	3.5
French	2.5
History	1.5
Geography	1.5
RE	1.5
Music	1.5
Art	1.5
Drama	1
Design Technology/ Food Technology/Textiles	1.5
ICT	1.5
PE/Games	3
PSHE	1

Year 8	
English	3.5
Mathematics	3.5
Science	3
French	2.5
German/Spanish	2.5
History	1.5
Geography	1.5
RE	1.5
Music	1
Art	1.5
Drama	1.5
Design Technology/ Food Technology/Textiles	1.5
ICT	1.5
PE/Games	3
PSHE	1



Modern Languages

In Year 7 all pupils learn French. In Year 8, two new languages are introduced: German and Spanish. All pupils have a taste of these options and then choose to study either one or two modern languages: French with either Spanish or German.

Design Technology/Food Technology/Textiles

These three subjects are taught on a carousel system.

Go!

All pupils sit baseline CAT tests on arrival in the Senior School. These help us to discover areas of weakness or strength, enabling us to support or stretch every pupil according to his or her needs. They also give a prediction of future performance against which we can measure our teaching and learning. There are also baseline tests in English and Maths.

Subject teachers set end of topic tests at intervals, as appropriate and at the end of the school year pupils take examinations in most subjects.

Setting

Most subjects are taught in mixed ability groups. Mathematics is an exception; it is taught in sets, according to mathematical ability, which is assessed by NFER tests at the start of each academic year and monitored throughout the year.

Homework

Homework is set by each subject teacher, following a homework timetable. Subject teachers ask pupils to write the homework in their student planners during the subject lesson. The work set will vary and is designed to develop the work completed in lessons or provide opportunities for research or consolidation.

Parents are asked to check the student planner and initial when the homework is done. Subject teachers will report in the planner when homework is not done by the deadline. In the weekly tutor period, tutors check the planners to ensure that they are being used correctly and that homework is being done on time.

Supervised study sessions are available after school. Pupils work in silence in the study

classrooms; computers are available if these are needed for homework purposes.

Amount of homework set per night

	No. of subjects (approximately)	Mins per subject (approximately)
YEAR 7	3 – 4	20
YEAR 8	4	20

Reporting to parents

Each term parents are either invited to attend a consultation evening to meet their child's subject teachers to discuss progress or receive a full school report. In addition to full written reports there are interim reports on attainment and behaviour for learning within the school.

If parents have concerns about any aspect of the school, including academic work, they should firstly contact the Form Tutor. For a more serious issue, they may wish to contact the Head of Division or Deputy Head.

Rewards & Sanctions

Teachers reward good work and effort by awarding house points to the pupils. Outstanding work may merit a commendation, which will be notified to parents, a certificate being presented by the Head of Division. Pupils' behaviour and effort are reported using the school management system. Any issues are followed up by tutors and Heads of Division as appropriate. Departmental detentions are given by subject teachers when poor work or behaviour persists. For further details please see the Behaviour Rewards & Sanctions Policy on the school website.



English

The English Department aims to foster a real enjoyment of literature while providing the students with strategies for exploring and evaluating, writers' methods. You will experiment with different forms of creative writing and develop your skills as effective speakers and listeners. Teaching strategies include both individual and group work and an emphasis is placed throughout on active, differentiated learning.

Year 7

Stormbreaker Novel: *Spy File Writing Unit.*

Complete Introduction to Poetry:

Looking at a range of poetry and identifying literary techniques and effects

Introduction to Shakespeare:

Life in Elizabethan Times, Women, Going to the theatre, The Humours, Imagery in Shakespeare, How to read Shakespeare, Acting Shakespeare using A Midsummers Night's Dream

Animals Unit:

Looking at non-fiction texts, Writing to persuade

Introduction to 19th Century Literature (for KS4):

Context, Belief system, Role of women in society, 19th Century Narratives e.g. Speckled Band, The Unexpected – Kate Chopin

Short stories:

Comprehension and analysis of narratives

Science Fiction stories e.g. The Sound of Thunder

Speaking and listening

Linguistics:

Word classes, Spelling, Sentences, Punctuation, Proof reading, Summary skills, Comprehension

Year 8

Thematic work on the Second World War:

Extracts from The White Rose and the Swastika, Diary of Anne Frank, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

Shakespeare: *Much Ado about Nothing*

Poetry Analysis

Descriptive Writing

Advertising Projects

Linguistics: *Punctuation, Spelling and grammar*

TOP TIP

Try always to have a book 'on the go' – reading for just 15 minutes each evening will help your English.

Mathematics

Maths makes the world go round – it not only gives you the skills often needed in other subjects, it is the universal language that defines logical thought. In Years 7 & 8, our aim is to generate an interest in the underlying structures that surround our everyday lives, so that you learn to appreciate that number crunching is only a small part of Maths – a means to an end.

Throughout KS3, year groups are set into ability bands, allowing you to develop at a pace suited to your mathematical ability, as assessed by NFER testing at the start of each year, and by regular departmental assessments.

The course covers the four strands of Number, Algebra, Geometry, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change and Statistics, carefully interwoven to form a cohesive whole. Each year the strands are further developed so that you will be able to approach your GCSE course with confidence.

Year 7

Number: *Time, Currency, Whole numbers, Factors, Multiples, Directed numbers, Decimals, Fractions, Approximations, Calculating with measurements, BIDMAS*

Algebra: *Patterns, Sequences, Special numbers, Functions, Algebraic notation, Simplification, Formulae, Equations, Coordinates, Graphs*

Geometry: *Length, Perimeter, Area, 2D shapes, 3D shapes, Lines and angles, Coordinates, Constructions, Symmetry, Transformations, Polygons, Tessellation.*

Ratio, proportion and rates of changes: *Percentages, Ratio, Proportion*

Statistics: *Averages, Range, Diagrams, Tally charts, Grouped frequencies, Data collection, Pie charts, Probability*

Year 8

Number: *Powers, Roots, HCF, LCM, Sequences, Fractions, Decimals, Powers of 10, Large numbers, Estimations, Best value, Proportion, Ratio*

Algebra: *Algebraic rules, Simplification, Expanding brackets, Linear functions, Graphs, Co-ordinates, Gradients, Distance-time graphs, Equations, Formulae, Substitution, Real-life graphs*

Geometry: *Parallel and perpendicular lines, Angles, Quadrilaterals, Triangles, Circles, Constructions, Congruence, Combined transformations, Shape and ratio, Plans, Elevations, Scale drawing, Bearings*

Ratio, proportion and rates of changes: *Percentages, Best value, Proportion, Ratio, Scale drawing*

Statistics: *Probability, Stem-and-leaf diagrams, Pie charts, Scatter graphs, Frequency diagrams*

Learn your tables,
play Sudoku

TOP TIPS



Science

Year 7 students will begin with a full introduction to practical skills and lab safety. Over the course of the two years they will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. The content of teaching falls within ten main areas of study:

Subject	Year 7	Year 8
Biology	Building blocks of life Genetics and evolution	Interactions and interdependencies Body functions
Chemistry	Fundamental ideas of Chemistry Basic chemical reactions	Our changing planet New and useful reactions
Physics	Energy Forces and motion	Electricity and magnetism Waves and matter

For each main area of study there are smaller topics which build in complexity over a two year period and these are the building blocks for the big ideas. For example the 'Waves' topics are ordered from simpler more concrete topics of light and sound to the more abstract ones of wave properties and wave effects. Similarly 'Matter' is ordered from separating mixtures and particle theory to elements and a study of the periodic table.

Students will develop their practical skills through a branch of the curriculum called 'Working Scientifically' where students are taught how to see the world analytically, to explain phenomena and make predictions.

In Year 8 the topics are designed to build in complexity on the work completed in Year 7 and lay a strong foundation for the topics studied at GCSE Science level in Year 9.

All schemes of work and resources have been developed by specialist teachers within the department and are tailored to meet the needs of all students to ensure each child progresses within the subject.

TOP TIPS

Visit the Launch pad at the Science Museum, the Natural History Museum & Greenwich Observatory. Use the Internet eg, BBC bitesize, NASA.

History

In History we develop the key skills of source analysis, chronological development and the ideas of cause and effect. Learning about the past helps us to learn through mistakes and perhaps prevent future catastrophes.

Year 7

Medieval history (1066 to 1485)

What is History? Identifying and practising basic historical skills

The Norman Conquest: William I takes the throne and consolidates his power

The power of the church in Medieval England: The Crusades, Henry II and The murder of Becket

The rise of democracy: the reign of King John: Magna Carta, Richard II, Peasants' Revolt

Health and medicine: Causes and consequences of the Black Death

The Hundred Years War and the Wars of the Roses: Causes and consequences

Year 8

The discovery of the New World: The Renaissance, Henry Tudor, The Battle of Bosworth Field

The Catholic Church: The Reformation, Martin Luther, Henry VIII and his wives, Edward and Mary, Elizabeth I and the Spanish Armada

The Spanish Empire: The conquest of the Aztecs

The British Empire: The scramble for Africa

TOP TIPS

Visit historical sites, read some Horrible History Books, and watch the History Channel.



Geography

In Years 7 – 8, the Geography department aims to provide a curriculum that expands your understanding of the world, challenges your viewpoints, increases your awareness of the global dimension and develops your sense of place. Geographical skills, such as, annotating photographs, drawing and interpreting graphs and cartographic skills, will be developed throughout the two years.

Year 7

Human and physical geography of the UK

Settlement and Tonbridge

Rocks

Water and flooding

Coasts and coral reefs

Geographical skills including map skills

Year 8

Human and physical geography of Europe

Migration

Tropical rainforest

Economic activity

Environmental management

Antarctica

Geographical skills

Watch the news and read newspapers to expand your knowledge of current global issues.

Look out for interesting geographical features around you and when on holiday!

TOP TIPS



Religious Education

Our aim is to give pupils an opportunity to gain knowledge, skills and an understanding of religions (appropriate to their age and ability) and to grow spiritually, ethically and theologically. You will be encouraged to develop a sound understanding of the Christian Faith, with specific reference to the Catholic Church's teachings and to nurture an informed and responsible attitude to faith issues.

Year 7

The Sacred Heart Order

Christmas Project

The people of God and my role in the life of the Church

- *God and Revelation (People of God – CAFOD)*
- *Abraham*
- *Moses*

The Life of Christ and the beginnings

of the Christian Church

- *Moral and Social Issues (e.g. poverty, forgiveness, racism)*

The Liturgical Year

Each pupil will be encouraged to develop a confident approach to private and public acts of worship

In some years there is a visit to an outdoor performance of the Life of Christ as performed at Wintershall in Surrey

Year 8

What is the Church?

Vocation and people of God

St Francis and the Pope – *Climate change, The Environment and Animal Rights*

People of faith

- *Mother Teresa*
- *Martin Luther King*
- *Oscar Romero*

Islam – *A basic introduction including links with other monotheistic faiths*

- *Life of Muhammad*
- *5 Pillars*
- *Mosque*
- *Practices*
- *Mosque Visit*

Christian beliefs

- *Who is God?*
- *The Trinity*

The seven sacraments in the Catholic Church

(Visit from Parish Youth Leader to discuss these)

TOP TIPS

Read novels that link to the subjects e.g. Chiam Potok's - *The Chosen* for background information on Judaism.



Modern Foreign Languages

It is our belief that learning a modern foreign language enriches the education of our pupils. It will enhance your learning skills and give you an understanding of the world beyond our own island. We teach using an interactive approach, to inspire confidence and promote independent learning. We aim to make language learning a positive experience for all pupils, regardless of their ability.

In Year 7, all pupils learn French; at the end of the year pupils experience a few weeks of German and Spanish before choosing to continue with French and either German or Spanish in Year 8.

Homework is regularly set in accordance with the Beechwood timetable. Assessment is continuous and is carried out at the end of each module, when all four language skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing are tested.

French Year 7

Greetings, Self and others,
Numbers and alphabet,
Pets, Time, School, Colours,
Countries/nationalities,
Opinions, Sports, Weather forecast,
Where you live, Food

Spanish Year 8

Greetings and alphabet,
Numbers, Dates, Birthdays,
Spanish speaking countries,
Classroom vocabulary, School,
Family, Pets, Home and town,
Daily routine, Telling the time,
Free time activities, Weather

French Year 8

Holidays, TV programmes,
Types of films, Types of books,
The internet, Talking about what you did,
Paris, Means of transport,
Describing a friend,
Daily routine

German Year 8

Greetings, Where you live,
Alphabet, What is in your school bag,
Numbers, Dates, Birthdays,
School and uniform, Telling the time,
Family, Friends, Pets,
Sports, Hobbies and Favourite things,
Home and bedroom,
Town and area, Weather

TOP
TIPS

Practise online using Beechwood's interactive resources. Subscribe to a Modern Foreign Language magazine. Take advantage of having a penpal from another Sacred Heart school around the world.

Computing

You will learn all about how computers work and how to make them work.

Problem solving and coding

Coding makes programs of instructions for computers so that they will obediently do whatever you want them to do at the click of a button. We will teach you how to code using Scratch, Microbits, Lego robots and Python. However, the truth is that the key to successful coding is not so much about learning a programming language as about being able to work out exactly what steps must be followed for that game, or whatever, to work. To learn this 'problem solving' we will develop your 'computational thinking' skills. This is the special type of thinking that is required in order to turn a live process, like playing a game, into a flowchart drawn on paper. Using this as your plan you will then be able to write the code that will work the magic that brings your computer to life.

Computer systems

Computers now do so much, rivalling us for intelligence and surpassing us for speed and accuracy and yet at heart are made from little more than simple on-off switches. You will learn how computers are built and how they are able to do all the things they do just by flicking those switches on and off.

Data and data handling

We are now almost entirely reliant upon the Internet for the communication of the information that we need for work and leisure. You will learn how computer systems are able to store, sort and search data so that they can act as our personal assistants providing us with all that we need – and quite a lot that we don't!

Media

You will learn how to work with images to create complex designs for posters. You will do a range of multimedia tasks, combining image with sound to make presentations, animations, short videos and stop-motion films.

Art

TOP
TIPS

Come to one
of the Art Clubs
after school.

In Years 7 & 8, we aim to develop a wide range of perceptual and practical skills that have a wide relevance and application. Pupils are given an art set at the start of the year. Effort is an important element of the course, where 'areas' or 'quality' are more important than whole outcome. If you wish to develop your existing skills you can attend a lunch or After School club.

Year 7

Colour mixing: Understanding the application of tone with paint

Pencil exercise: With line and tone

Development of observational drawing: Use of oil pastels to blend colours and create structure and form

Using Pablo Picasso as a stimulus: Creation of a cubist self-portrait developed from photographs and then rearranged in a cubist manner

Introduction to Perspective: Creating a small book with reference to art history and themselves

Observation painting: Objects inside and outside of the classroom

Creating a small book: Based on yourself

Year 8

Research into Cezanne: Copying, observational drawing and painting, understanding a colour palette and art history

Introduction to painting with oils: Using this media to produce work from direct observation.

Creation of a still-life mixed media project: Using four different media

Production of a carrier bag (3D) to advertise a gallery: Understanding lettering in design, research into artists, movements and techniques

Mural project: Creating a mural based on a location or a storyboard cross curriculum with English



Design & Technology

In Years 7 & 8, pupils will experience each of the subject areas: **Product Design, Textiles, and Food Technology.**

Product Design

The design of products involving research, evaluating existing products, the impact of a range of products and types of manufacture on the environment, and considering the needs of the potential user. Materials used include wood, plastics, pewter, simple circuits, packaging and graphics.

Year 7

Introduction to the workshop: basic woodworking skills and the importance of working safely and carefully. The importance of planning and finishing work is a key factor, creating practical feasible designs that can be created effectively using the materials and tools available. Typical projects include designing and making a clock.

Year 8

Workshop skills are extended to include the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Manufacture (CAM), with the use of the Roland milling machine. Other materials such as pewter casting are explored, with typical projects being the design and make of a cast pewter key ring or pendant, using the computer to create the mould and vacuum formed blister packaging. The difference between batch and mass production will be introduced and students will be encouraged to work in a more independent way using a variety of materials.

Food Technology and Home Economics

The focus in Year 7 and 8 is Healthy Eating and Food Hygiene making references to the Eat Well Guide and current guidelines. At the same time the practical skills will encompass a whole range of skills whilst making predominately savoury dishes.

Year 7

Using a theme of planning a perfect lunchbox, you will encounter many different cookery skills and think about balancing diets in a healthy way. You will learn to employ key skills safely, planning your work and following recipes and the importance of good hygiene. You are encouraged to try cooking at home, and to evaluate and comment on the food that you produce.

Year 8

You will find out about what foods give energy in the best form. You will investigate the prevalence of snack foods and devise healthier alternatives in your own version of an energy bar. You will also use a wider range of equipment and practise skills learned in Year 7, working more independently.

TOP TIP

Have a go at making something at home. Try taking something to pieces – and then put it back together again!

Textiles

The range of project work encourages all pupils to design and make, using their own paper patterns and the use of the sewing machine. The main aim is that pupils can confidently realise their design ideas into a working 3D piece.

Year 7

For example you will use a woven fabric to make a container, tie-dye the fabric and create a logo to transfer or machine embroider onto the container. Written work will cover dyeing fabric safely through to considering the range of clothes worn for different occasions.

Year 8

For example you will create a fleece hat with an applique logo or make a pot holder using quilted fabric with a bias binding trim. Written work will cover the care of textiles including recycling textiles to help care for the environment.

TOP TIPS

Go to watch a play at a theatre

Drama

The Drama department aims to introduce the students to a range of theatre styles and genres. Key Stage 3 is about experiencing what is possible within the realms of your imagination and exploring issues through drama as well as honing students' acting skills. The work is fun and inclusive and focuses on building key skills, that are integral to progressing through the school, such as communication and teamwork. Drama at Beechwood encourages you to explore different perspective and learn through an experiential process. The following are some examples of the work that we cover within the Drama curriculum:

Year 7

Introduction to Drama structures

Improvisation

Building a role/character

The Oregon train

Melodrama

Puppet theatre

Scripted drama

Year 8

Devising

Non-naturalistic theatre - Brecht

Issue based drama

Physical theatre

Shakespeare

Our Day Out - W. Russell

Scripted drama



Music

We aim to involve and educate students in music through practical music making, listening and appraising. In every topic, students will have the opportunity to listen to and discuss the particular music, learn the key features and facts and compose and perform in that style.

We study music from a wide variety of genres and styles, from all around the world, covering a diverse range of cultural, historical and geographical contexts.

There is also a wide variety of extra-curricular music clubs that students can join to enjoy and support their musical education. We have twelve visiting peripatetic music staff to give music lessons, covering the full range of instruments.

Year 7

- Rhythm & general musicianship**
- Song writing**
- Indonesian music & texture**
- Classical music & structure**

Year 8

- African music**
- Music through the ages**
- Music & the media**
- Jazz & Blues**

Listen to different genres of music. Join the choir.

TOP TIPS

Physical Education

In PE, we teach a wide variety of sports, with emphasis on fun and participation. We aim to enhance the knowledge, skills, fitness and tactical awareness of each pupil in each individual sport. Also covered are health issues, safety aspects and correct warm-up techniques using basic muscle terminology.

In Years 7 – 8, you will have a double games period and a single PE lesson per week. The girls cover traditional sports such as netball, hockey, football, cricket, rounders, athletics and tennis in games, with dance, gymnastics, trampoline, fitness and health and communication skills. The boys study football, rugby, hockey, athletics, cricket and tennis in games; they look at fitness, health and communication skills, body management, gymnastics and trampoline in PE classes.

Both boys and girls also participate in basketball, crosscountry and indoor athletics training during the winter months. We are fortunate to use the astro-pitch at Hawkenbury for hockey; this allows us to deliver an extensive and varied PE curriculum to our pupils.

At lunchtimes and after school, you may opt to take part in extra-curricular activities and practices which are run on a seasonal basis. Talented pupils are encouraged to join clubs and are sent for relevant trials where they can achieve county honours. You will be encouraged to compete in a variety of sports in matches with other schools, and in school through the House system.

Over the course of the year, you may have the opportunity to join the following clubs – football, netball, hockey, rugby, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, outdoor cricket, cricket nets, table tennis, trampoline, athletics, tennis and rounders. In addition, judo, tennis, archery and fencing may be available as paid activities.

PSHCE (Personal Social Health Citizenship Economic Education)

The aim of the programme is to ensure that you become confident and competent citizens with the knowledge to make informed, positive life choices. The sessions are delivered by the Tutor team, with outside speakers as required and topics are revisited throughout Years 7–11 at deepening depths.

PSHCE	Year 7	Year 8
Personal education	Induction Self-esteem Why work? Library	Speaking your mind You and the Media
Grade reviews. Target setting, Study skills, Methods of revision, Time management, Exam preparation, Internet safety, Anti-bullying Spirituality, Radicalisation, Extremism, Terrorism		
Social education	Family and friendship Resolving conflict Anti-bullying	Changing relationships Types of relationships
Health education	Smoking Alcohol Drugs Personal hygiene Exercise Coping with puberty Stress	Drugs and effects Mental health Body image Eating disorders Heterosexual relationships Homosexual relationships
Citizenship education	Our place in school Send my friend to school UK democracy Government	Political parties Views and beliefs Valuing others
Interhouse, Charity events, Community service		
Economic education	Money	Budgeting How do we pay for things



Learning Development

The Learning Development Department supports pupils of all abilities including the able, gifted and talented and those with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia. The Learning Resource Centre provides teachers and pupils with materials to support and extend the curriculum. The aim is to enable them all to achieve their best in secondary education.

Learning Support

Our dedicated team includes trained teachers, specialising in areas such as Dyslexia, Maths, Speech and Language and ASD. Pupils needing support are identified when they enter Beechwood, through screening, or referral by teachers, and an individual programme is put in place. This may include individual lessons or Directed Study and may involve replacing a curriculum subject with time spent in Learning Development. The subject to be replaced is considered on an individual basis, so that we can give the pupils the best curriculum programme to suit their needs. Pupils are screened for extra time and other access arrangements in external examinations. This can include in-school assessment or referral to other professionals such as an Educational Psychologist. We work closely with subject teachers and the Learning Resource Centre to improve pupils' learning experience and skills. All pupils are base-line assessed at the beginning of the school year and these results are used to form reading and spelling booster groups before school and at lunchtimes if necessary. Other support groups are put in place depending on need. For new pupils entering the school, we help to ensure a smooth transition by visiting their previous schools, through taster days at Beechwood and our booklets. We run friendship and social skills groups in Key Stage 3 to enable pupils to integrate successfully into their peer group. We have two welcoming Learning Development rooms for pupils to use at break time and lunch time if they need a retreat.

Learning Resource Centre

The Senior School Library aims to provide books which appeal to pupils of all year groups. The Librarian liaises with teachers to ensure that there are resources to support curriculum topics. National Poetry Day and World Book Day are celebrated with special activities, making the Library a popular venue for our pupils.

And last but not least!

Clubs and Activities

The chief aim of the Beechwood Clubs and Activities Programme is to provide something for everyone. Our activities include Sport, Drama and Music, and we also offer a wide range of craft skills as well as Young Enterprise and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Our clubs cover those things which you do not necessarily need to know but you choose to do them either for fun or to have a new challenge. Clubs also help you to learn how to be a part of a team because winning the match, or putting on the show, depend upon everyone working together. Most of the clubs and activities run either at lunchtime or after school. After school

there are two activity sessions: from 4.15pm to 5pm and from 5pm to 6pm. Most of the activities that we provide are free of charge. Some, such as Speech and Drama, tennis lessons and yoga lessons, have a termly charge, payable directly to the staff running the activity. You may be the star of the show, the captain of the team or you may be the person who tells the best tales in the knitting club. Whatever it is, here is the opportunity to find out just what makes you tick and where you are going. With more than fifty clubs and activities at Beechwood – the choice is yours.

Equipment needed at school

Subject exercise books and a Beechwood student planner are provided to all students. In Years 8 and 9 they also receive a file with one packet of file paper per term. Pupils need to bring their own rough book or notepad, pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners etc, and any additional paper required.

Maths

Pupils should supply a ruler, pair of compasses, and protractor. The Maths Department prefers pupils to purchase their recommended calculators, which they sell at a competitive price – this ensures that all pupils use the same model: one that fulfils their requirements without being unduly sophisticated.

Science

Pupils wear a white lab coat which should be kept in their locker, brought to all Science lessons and returned home to be laundered each half term. The pupil's name should be stitched on to the front pocket.

PE

PE kit as specified on the uniform list should be brought clean to school each week.

Electronic equipment

Mobile phones may be brought in to school but must not be used during the school day. Laptops may be recommended for some pupils by the Learning Development Department. School iPads are available for use in the Library.



