

# Weekly Bulletin



**26.11.2020**

## Message from the Headteacher.....

Dear Parents/Carers,

This evening marks the first Parents' Evening of the academic year, which is for Year 11. As mentioned in last week's bulletin, this will be taking place via video call. We are planning to have Parents' Evenings for all other year groups over the course of the year and how these will be run will very much depend on the circumstances at the time.

For your information, the planned dates are as follows:

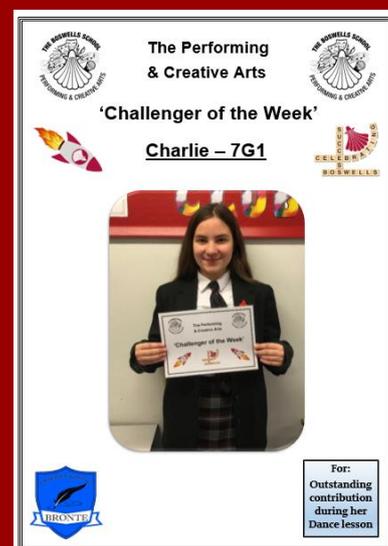
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January – Year 13  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Year 10  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Year 12  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Year 11 (second Parents' Evening)  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Year 9  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Year 8  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Year 7

You will also be receiving termly interim reports to keep you up to date on your child's progress.

There is no doubt that the current circumstances provide a huge challenge for our students, none more so than our Year 11 and Year 13 students who will be facing external examinations at the end of this year. Year 13 students have been completing the first set of their mock examinations recently and it was hugely impressive how focussed they have been towards these. Year 11 mock examinations start on Wednesday next week. We are fully aware of the anxiety these can cause, particularly against the back drop of the second half of last academic year when most of the students were studying from home. If you do have any concerns, please do raise them with Mrs Smyth (Head of Year 11) or Mrs Whitehead (Director of Sixth Form). On the back of the recent Year 12 data drop, I had the pleasure of meeting some of our students that have begun their Sixth Form experience excelling in all of their subjects. Well done to all of them and to all of our students that are rising to the challenge and really extending themselves to achieve their very best.

## The Performing & Creative Arts

This week's Challenger of the Week is....



## Message from the Headteacher.....(continued)

Something that I have mentioned a few times in this column relates to students riding bikes to school. It is hugely important that students are encouraged to do this from a healthy lifestyle perspective, but as it is getting darker later in the morning and earlier at night, it is hugely important that bikes are ridden safely and the students have effective safety clothing and equipment. Please can I ask you to check your child's bike if they bring it to school and that they wear something that is going to make them visible in the dark. Information about what is legal and what is not can be found by clicking this link: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/whats-legal-and-whats-not-your-bike>. We have also had a couple of near misses reported by members of the public of students walking to school and crossing roads without paying clear attention. We are reminding students of travelling to and from school safely in school and if you could reinforce this at home (if you haven't already) it would be hugely appreciated.

Finally, as I am sure you will be aware, tomorrow (27th November) is a non-pupil day. If you need to contact the school on this day, please can you do this by emailing [admin@boswells-school.com](mailto:admin@boswells-school.com)

I hope you have a great weekend.

Best wishes,



Mr Stephen Mansell  
**Headteacher**

# Humanities - Challenger of the Week

## ‘CHALLENGER OF THE WEEK’



**Ben Forsyth 9G1**

Ben challenged himself within his History lessons last week – Huge well done Ben!



# Attendance

Please remember you are required to call The Boswells School absence line every day your child is absent by 8.30am, unless pre-authorized absence or COVID related AND you have informed us you are self-isolating following a positive test OR in quarantine after returning to the UK.

Attendance will need to see evidence of a test result – either to show a child is positive and authorised to be off school and subsequently a negative result to enable them to return to school.

ABSENCE LINE: 01245 264451 Press 1 or via Email: [attendance@boswells-school.com](mailto:attendance@boswells-school.com)



**If your child has:**  
a high temperature  
a new, continuous cough, or  
a loss of, or change in, sense of  
smell or taste

This could be a sign of  
coronavirus

**Book a test**

**If your child has:**  
a runny nose, is sneezing or  
feeling unwell  
**But they don't have:**  
a high temperature  
a new, continuous cough, or  
a loss of, or change in,  
sense of smell or taste

These are  
**not normally symptoms of  
coronavirus**

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial  
111 or see your GP

## Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline is available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling:

Phone: **0800 046 8687**

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm

# Remote Learning Device and Connectivity Survey

As we approach the winter months, there is a possibility that we may be impacted more significantly as a school by students and staff needing to self-isolate.

If it is a case that students need to work from home, it is important that they can access the work set by their teachers and complete it successfully.

Therefore, we are looking to ascertain whether we have any students that do not have a suitable device (e.g. laptop, Chromebook, tablet) on which to access and complete their work or if they would have connectivity issues (e.g. no Wi-Fi or extremely unreliable Wi-Fi).

Please understand that we are unable to commit to providing solutions to these issues at this stage, but it will help us to target support to students who would be most disadvantaged should they be required to access remote learning from home due to the requirement to self-isolate or if there was a partial or full closure of the school.

If you would require this support in these circumstances, please can I ask that you complete a short survey by clicking on the following [link](#): If you have more than one child at the school that would be affected, please complete the survey for each individual child (for all Year Groups 7-13). The survey needs to be completed by **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

# Student Wellbeing

## The Boswells School Pastoral Team

Students completed a survey this week which will help us in our work to support their emotional wellbeing. With Christmas less than a month from now, we'd like to share a few stocking filler ideas with you which we believe will support your child's wellbeing.

Mindfulness – pausing to experience the present moment only – is a great way to stay focused and practice dealing with one feeling at a time. This book offers a toolbox of teen survival skills, quick and easy exercises and powerful words to encourage the strength to face fears in just a few minutes every day.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Mindfulness-Journal-Teens-Prompts-Practices>

Drinking water can be a vital way of reducing symptoms of panic. Not only is it important to stay hydrated, but regular sipping is a good way to keep a steady rhythm to the breath. It can keep the mind alert and the coolness of water helps maintain focus creating a grounding effect. Ensuring that your child has their own water bottle can act as a gentle reminder to keep drinking. Brands such as Chilly's come in a wide range of colours and designs so you can choose their favourite.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Chillys-Water-Bottle-Stainless-Reusable>

People who take time to reflect on things they're thankful for are happier, sleep better, express more compassion and kindness and even have stronger immune systems. This positivity diary, best for older students, can help train the mind to focus on what's truly important.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Start-Gratitude-Journal-Positivity-Happier>

A quick and easy journal for younger students will help them cultivate an attitude of gratitude by focusing on 3 things each day to feel thankful for. This is a self-exploration journal creates a daily habit of recognising what brings joy.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Minute-Gratitude-Journal-Kids-Mindfulness>

# Cycling to School



If your child cycles to school, please make sure that they have a bike lock to secure their bike on the school site in the allocated cycle racks. If your child is unsure where they can park their bike they should ask a member of staff.

Unfortunately, a couple of bikes have been stolen from the front of school in the last two weeks. One bike was secured to the lamppost on the opposite side of the road to Main Reception, and the other was parked outside the Gym fire exit. Neither of these places are allocated school cycle parking areas.

Students should also refrain from parking their bikes on the public footpath, or anywhere they can cause an obstruction to pedestrians or other road users.

Cyclists should be Bike Smart and aware of safe riding behaviours when cycling to and from school, taking time to:

- look – make good and frequent observations. Plan well in advance, anticipate and respond to on-road situations.
- position – choose and maintain the most suitable riding positions.
- communicate – signal intentions clearly to others. Look behind before communicating intentions and changing riding positions.
- prioritise – understand priorities on the road, particularly at junctions. Know when to give way to others and when to take priority assertively.

# The Boswells School House System

## Congratulations to Rowling House – Last Week's Winners

### Week Ending 20<sup>th</sup> November Totals



### Overall House Totals





Chelmsford Foodbank provides emergency food to people in our local community in crisis. If you are struggling or know of others who may struggle, please get in touch with Chelmsford Citizen's Advice on 01245 205579 or the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service 0300 247 0014 who will be able to issue a voucher which can then be exchanged for food.

The Boswells School can also refer you, so if you would like more information about accessing Chelmsford Food Bank e-vouchers please contact your child's Head of Year or Miss Noble [CNE@boswells-school.com](mailto:CNE@boswells-school.com)

Chelmsford Foodbank can be contacted by:

Email: [info@chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk)

Web: [www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.chelmsford.foodbank.org.uk)

Chelmsford Foodbank is overseen by Oasis Chelmsford Ltd, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England number: 7685257. Registered charity number: 1144804.



## Test and Trace self-isolation payments

If your income has been affected by coronavirus and you need help with your rent or paying your Council Tax, we want to provide you with some information to help you at this difficult and uncertain time. You can read more on our [coronavirus updates page](#). You should also be aware of [coronavirus scams](#). For more wide-ranging advice regarding your finances, you may find this [Money Navigator Tool](#) helpful.

If you have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and have been told to self-isolate, you may be entitled to financial support.

### Eligibility

You will be entitled to a lump sum payment of £500 if you:

- have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September 2020, and
- are employed or self-employed, and
- cannot work from home and will lose income as a result, and
- are currently receiving at least one of the following benefits:
  - Universal Credit
  - Working Tax Credit
  - income-related Employment and Support Allowance

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit

If you are not receiving any benefits, you may still be eligible for our discretionary scheme.

### **How to apply**

Before starting the application, you should have your:

- National Insurance number
- 8-character test and trace ID number
- proof of income (such as proof of self-employment and earnings, pay slips or banks statements showing your income)
- most recent bank statement

### **[Apply for self-isolation payment](#)**

### **Evidence**

If you are unable to supply some or all of your evidence with your initial application form, you can also access the separate [evidence upload form](#).

We will also send you a link to the evidence form in your acknowledgement email.