



BEESTON HALL SCHOOL



Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Everyone,

EF Schumacher's 1973 classic *Small is Beautiful* is making a resurgence, as the proliferation of essayists and commentators pontificate on the past, present and future, in the face of an interweaving of issues: coronavirus, climate change and economic challenge. Beeston's position as a small and safe – and nimble - school, looking outward, is more attractive than ever, proved by the triumphs of the term.



An end of term newsletter requires some looking back, and some reflection; it could hardly be better symbolised than by Mrs Raison's fabulous photos of Year 3's final visit to the beach in July. There will be many 'final analyses' of the last three spectacular months and, in view of the relative emptiness of the school, the scything through of those many and much-treasured activities of a Beeston summer term, such a celebration of them might seem strange and inappropriate. But, as we know and do our very best to promote



each day, a central element of learning is how one responds to hurdles and roadblocks, failures and changes. And in this, I can say without reservation, the children of Beeston flourished in remarkable and unexpected ways. I really am humbled by what has been achieved, including teachers and parents, too, in this.



We must begin by that most resilient of groups: our Year 8 leavers. All won places to their chosen schools and did so with an amazing tally of 65% winning scholarships or awards. They were resourceful to a fault, even while mourning the loss of those brilliant summer evenings, up on the athletics track, or late swims. They did make it back for a final, socially distanced dinner (see above) but it was not, as I have said, what was meant to be and the photos that follow are a very small way of celebrating and congratulating them for their achievements and forbearance. There is an unashamed emphasis on our leavers, thanking, as well as recognizing, their willingness to 'work with' what they had, diminished as it was.



Our scholars and award winners here (incomplete and mostly just back from surfing!) are all teachers in their own right. The increasing interchangeability of these roles, as we all learn from one another, is inescapable and worthy of discussion elsewhere, but one that – in my view – should be reached towards rather than shrunk from, underpinned by the trust that emanates in every direction in a community like Beeston. What a privilege it is to be here!



Our Year 6 were in the vanguard of the return to school and are the resident experts in social distancing and Covid-19 protocols. Hark back and remember the wonderful French sketches they did last term, or the French song they sang in the winter concert so beautifully? The passage of time - and speed of change – are really something to ruminate on - what an extraordinary contrast to those recent times! How strange this photo would have seemed then!



Another philosophical point which originally came up in, I believe, **Amelia H's** excellent and very relevant leaver's lecture on food waste, was the increasing importance in considering sources: the deluges of undigested information directed towards us. Again and again has this factor reared its head, this year, no more so than now, as I contemplate the terabytes of data accumulated over the lockdown period, all recorded faithfully on Google Classroom.



In these mega files are hundreds of jewels of creativity and activity (see **Isabelle H's** wonderful *Bake Off* confections!) over the summer term which will remain hidden by their

own bulk to all, except those that witnessed the event, presentation or happen-stance. This alone illustrates the importance of real school, on site, with children and staff able to witness daily each other's activities, achievements and explorations.



Year 3 and Year 4 excelled themselves in the final days of the term, practising hard and performing for themselves, really, the ***Pirates and Mermaids*** Production which was the precise blend of learning and entertainment needed. Though the social distancing was not absolutely perfect, the children did perform in their bubbles, with above average joy and abandon (and the vital teamwork of Mr Day, Mrs Davies and Mrs Casey's wonderful encouragements!), alongside the surprise 'crocodile' guest, who was suitable 'masked up'!



It was notable how absent Mr Day was during the performance...?! The energy and good will that sprang from not just *this* undertaking, but every minute of the days back at school; the children became living embodiments of knowing how lucky they are.



As well as the new dining room floor, which was installed over the Easter, you may remember the time-lapse re-painting of the Sports Hall. While it has hardly been seen in the flesh these two important events have been buried in Covid-19 history. Please remember the 'surprise!' factor of the film, which gives me a chance to salute David Lloyd-Peck, whose change in role from boarding housemaster to expert film-maker was, again, was so impressive, so entertaining, so vital. The picture invites me to draw us towards Prize Giving 'still showing at all good Google Classrooms near you!'



Again, a history-making episode as we walked through the live assembly (to year groups bubbles, of course) several times, the inclusion of **Benny W** and **Rex Y** by laptop from Hong Kong was a triumph in itself! Though the prizes were woven together for our final virtual assembly, setting them out separately here gives us a chance to outline for children and parents what teachers consider:

Effort Prizes: In these we are looking especially for children that don't give up when they face new challenges, try their hardest and reflect on the feedback given by their teachers for how to improve. This is measured via the lowest aggregated number of effort grades (1 to 5) in the term's reports.

8	Hollier, Isabelle	3	Pallister, Susannah
7	Barber, India	2	Harry Marsh
6	Barratt, Olivia	1	Joshua Farnell
5	Coghill, Evie	R	Caitlin Farnell
4	Keirle, Astra		

Gladstone Tankard – Olivia Barratt (the winner of these)

Academic merits: Showing progress achieving the targets set by working hard and listening to feedback, for an outstanding piece of work, for demonstrating understanding and mastery of a topic, consistently high standards of presentation and going 'above and beyond' and demonstrating the intrinsic motivation to learn and improve.

8	Milne, Jessica	3	Keirle, Cleo
7	Wong, Benny	2	Lustig-Saunders, Logan
6	Morison, Phoenix	1	Applin, Florence
5	King, Henry	R	Gleave, Rupert
4	Gilman, Isla		

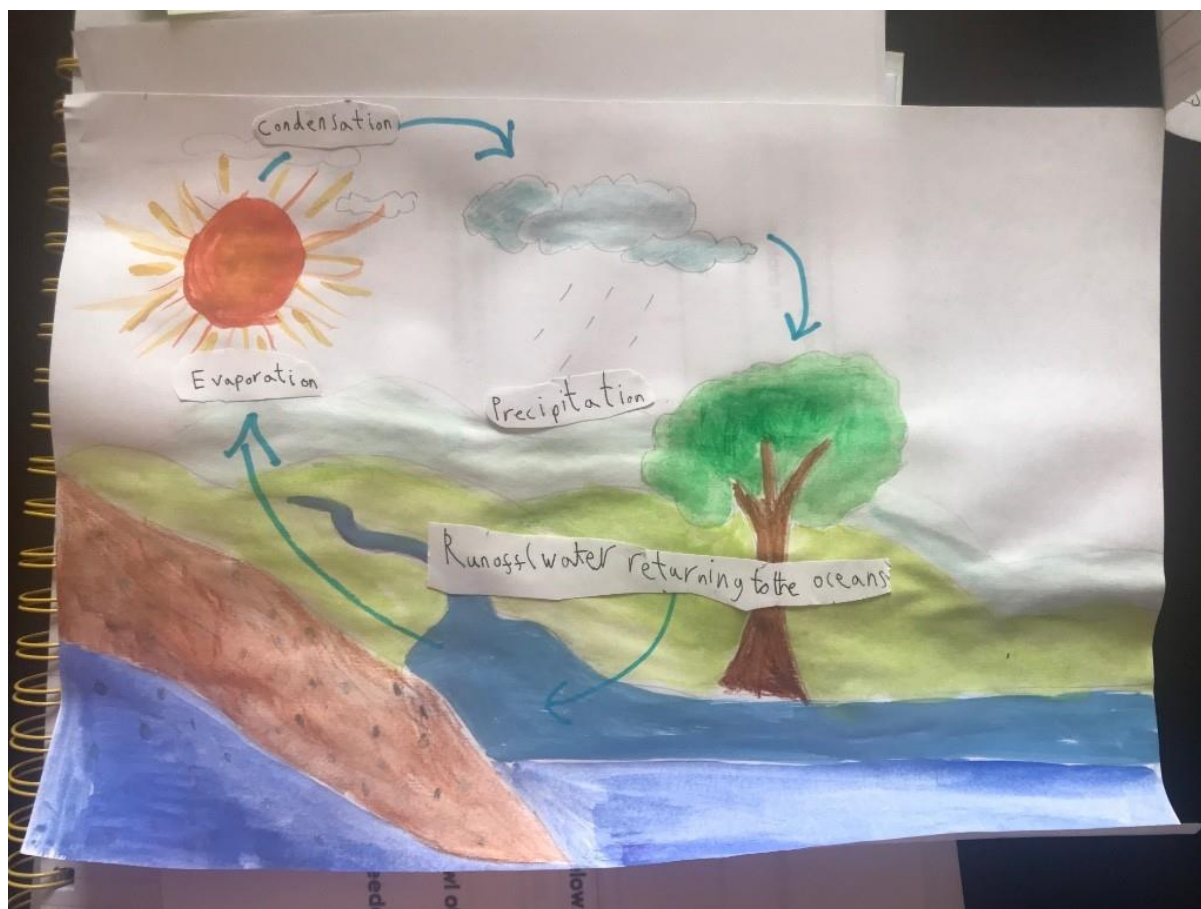
The Riley Smith Bowl - most academic merits in the term: Benny Wong

Batt Cup - most progress in their work in class: William Hickman

Punctuality Prize - most on time to LS lessons: Oliver Gleave

Trawling the fabulous examples of children's efforts over the term makes the business of choice so difficult – and therefore left to the tutors, who know them so well, after a busy year – but a mention has to be made of **Olivia S** (her water cycle piece below) who, when return to school was possible, could be seen each day solemnly 'masking up' for her minibus

journey home. This uncomplaining preparedness to simply find 'work arounds' necessary for the circumstances was impressive in one so young. Well done Olivia!



Tutor awards: Children showing excellent role-modelling and approach to their learning across all areas of school and demonstrating excellent manners and responsibility, dedication and enthusiasm to continue learning during lockdown.

8DG	Sophia Papakonstantinou	8NW	Harry Parker
7SA	Romilly Hammond	7JB	Arabella Williams
6PK	Laurie Withers	6RM	Rosie Gilman
5HL	Flora Barratt	5MW	Charlie Denham
4JD	Marco Newbury	3HD	Humphrey Barratt
2LR	Olivia Symington	1SS	Beatrix Beck
Rec CG	Florence Hume		

Citizenship merits: We are always looking for examples of kindness and courtesy, politeness, respect and responsibility. We notice the children who are including all of their friends in games, tidying up after themselves, organising their learning space and demonstrating perfect table manners at lunch time. Higher up the school it is that empathetic response the world around you that catches the eye of teachers.

8	Sizer, Finnian	3	Beck, Wilfred
7	Yip, Rex	2	Davies, Rose
6	Barratt, Olivia	1	Lloyd-Peck, Leo
5	Barber, George	R	Papakonstantinou, Emily
4	Buchan, Noah		



Music lesson effort prizes – this is awarded to children who have shown real focus and dedication in their lessons: Humphrey Barratt, Ilona MacNicol, Athena Barber, Flora Barratt, Hattie Mace and Buddy Jacques

Concert Band Award - a unique and wonderful prize of engraved drumsticks awarded by Mrs Howard and Mr Addison: Harry Parker

Spice Reading Cup – a new award so to recognise consistent effort with reading: Coco Barton



Grieves Cup – for ambassadorship of our school, throwing yourself into every opportunity available, with creativity and resilience: Florence Applin



Headmaster's Cup – for displaying some of our most core values as a school, bravery, energy, empathy: Henry Hume

As well as the Spice Cup joining Mrs Grieves' Cup, there was formal and heart-felt recognition of our first four 'graduates' of the Pre-Prep: **Harry M, Romeo L, Celeste M** and **Edith M**, who have shared the remarkable journey with friends, parents and teachers, alike. A real sense of history was created, with some touching Forget-Me-Not seeds to send them on their way, from the most outstanding and dedicated teaching team.



A rather strange – but workable - juxtaposition took place with the leavers' combining socially-distanced pottery workshops (see above) with laser tag (less worry there!) that beat any paid-for location, thanks to the generosity of the Lochore family. I salute David Godden in masterminding the Byzantine levels of co-ordination to allow these to happen!



Art Palettes: Hector Hickman, Sophia Papakonstantinou, Cleo Keirle, Joey Mace



These remarkable examples of candle-making (and the brilliant bees above!) came, in fact, from **Edith M's** family schooling programme, which diverged from the usual but is perfect

evidence – if any were needed – of the benefit of flexibility (!) which we tried to sustain, as well as supported exploration and joint projects, which brought forth such brilliant results.



The need to get out and about, together, overtook – when we could and I lost count of the number of classes that took place on the beach in June! Prizes continue...

The Boyd Feather for Drama: Nia Mitchell

Sport: We felt recognition was due to those whose promise was such that colour could legitimately be awarded:

Athletics – Oosha Moondi, Finnian Sizer, George Marsh, Harry Parker

U13 Boys' cricket – Harry Parker

U13 Girls' cricket – Obie Hansell, Felicity Brady, Tara Fox, Lydia Bulwer-Long

Swimming – Tara Fox, Harry Parker, Willem Freeman, George Marsh

Tennis – Tara Fox, Felicity Brady, Lydia B-L, Harry Parker, Ralf Braybrook, Callum Barber

Stowe Cup – (reward for commitment and attitude in games): Benny Wong

Vestey Salver (best all-round girls' cricketer): Obie Hansell

Vestey Plate (most improved girls' cricketer): India Barber

Foulds' Family Sailing Trophy (Best Sailor): Harry Parker (colours awarded also)



Team of the Term (Based on top 2 performers from each house)

Danes = Kit and Susannah Pallister

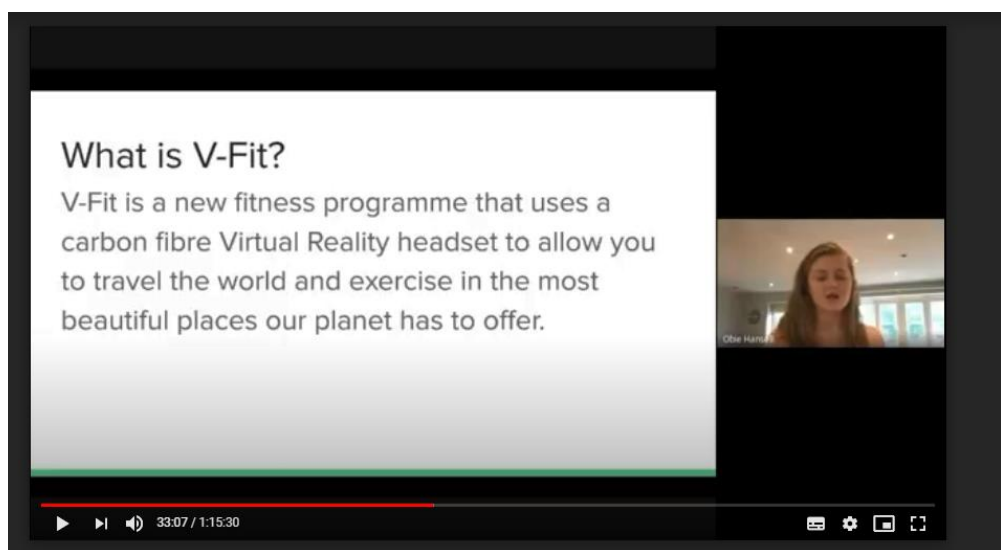
Normans= Henry King and Polly Harrison

Romans = Benny Wong and Rosie Gilman

Vikings = Romilly Hammond and Evie Coghill

Leavers' Awards

Beeston Apprentice Winner: V-Fit (Obie Hansell, Sophia Papaconstantinou, Isabelle Hollier and Nia Mitchell)



Marble Run Winners: Lucio Carey (commended Finn Sizer, Ralf Braybrook and Nia Mitchell)

Bake Off Winners: Finnian Sizer and Obie Hansell

Art Projects: Lucio Cary, Nia Mitchell, Sophia Papakonstantinou, Harry Parker



BBC Reporters: The Marr Team report on the Budgens fire in Holt (Isabelle Holier, Lydia Ford-Dennis, Clement Ostin, Felix Lazell, Willem Freeman)

Dining chez de Falbes: The Ramseys (Tom Lucas, Clement Ostin, Tara Fox and Lydia Bulwer-Long)

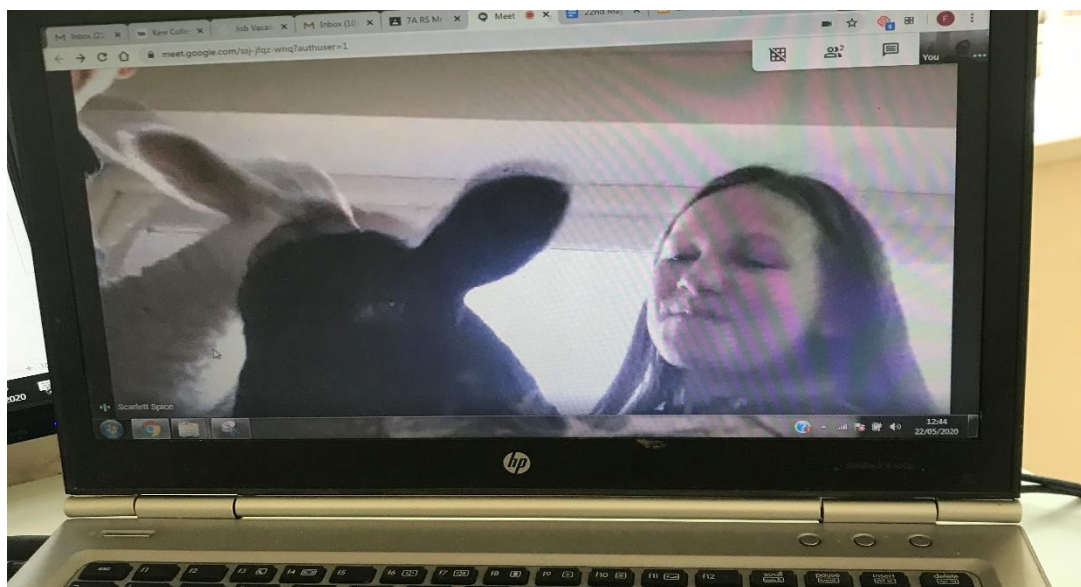


The House Race was restricted in scope, of course, but it's impossible not to note is the brilliant virtual encouragements delivered by Danes in the Google Stream which ensured an emphatic victory as we see here – well done **Kit P** – it'll be a fierce battle next term!

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Lockdown PE Challenges	Danes	Vikings	Normans	Romans
Academic Shield	Danes	Romans	Normans	Vikings
Citizenship Cup	Danes	Normans	Vikings	Romans
Sport	Danes	Vikings	Normans	Romans
Bliss Cup (Overall)	Danes	Normans	Vikings	Romans

Appointments next term

	Captain	Sports/ Vice Captain
Danes	William Hickman	Kit Pallister
Normans	Mia Webster	Finlay Folkard
Romans	Soraya Fleming	Albert Cole
Vikings	Scarlet Spice	India Barber
Boys' Rugby	Albert Cole	Rex Stilwell
Girls' Hockey	Paige Brun	Romilly Hammond



We heard a fair bit about **Rex S's** wonderful *Winston_goosehill* story over the term, of course, but another of the firsts I encountered was a Zoom conversation with **Scarlet S** and the lambs she was rearing during lockdown (a further example of the march of progress!)

Head Chorister	Mia Webster
Leaders of the Orchestra	Rex Yip and Mia Webster
Keeper of the Books	Flora Campbell

And, so, drawing to a close, we have as fine a selection of leaders for the school next year as we could wish for, with role-modelling at the top of my list of qualities to embody. Everyone has their strengths and I look forward very much to seeing them all in action.

Head Boy	Aubrey McCosh
Head Girl	Paige Brun
Prefects	Siena Barber, India Barber, Honor Hambro, Romilly Hammond, Jamie Philippi, Rex Stilwell, Arabella Williams, Benny Wong



This final assembly photo features Johnny Hansell, with his unmistakable grin, giving me the opportunity to wish him, with his sister Isla, the very best of luck as they start their new school chapter at Framlingham. Also departing, I am sad to say, is Grace Littmoden (to Culford) and the Bo and Coco Barton, as their family relocate to Norwich. They have all brought talent, hard work, friendship and charm to Beeston. As with the Year 8 leavers I wish them all the best in the future with a hope that they stay in touch and use documents like this (and increasingly rare printed item!) to help revisit memories and fix them for posterity in what we have to acknowledge is 'living history'.

As I sign off, final thank yous for completing the end of term surveys, for supporting us so completely and to Harry Parker, whose last contribution to the 2.6 Challenge enables me to say, emphatically, and fittingly enough, for this term: ***we did it!*** We certainly did!

Have a lovely, restful summer holiday, with best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fred de Falbe'.

Fred de Falbe
Headmaster