

September 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **Novel Study Learning Extension Tasks**

At Beech Academy we believe that it is important for pupils to undertake some academic study at home. Completing homework or learning extension tasks supports pupils in many ways; it supports their learning in school, helps young people to develop positive study skills and habits for the future and develops pupils' independence. We also know that many of our pupils like to complete creative tasks with those at home!

The learning extension tasks set each term for pupils focuses on supporting the study of the respective novels for each year group. The novels being studied in the spring term are listed below:

**Year 7:** The Great Kapok Tree – Lynne Cherry and A Midsummer Night's Dream – William Shakespeare

**Year 8:** When The Mountains Roared – Jess Butterworth

**Year 9:** Shackleton's Journey – William Grill and The Tempest – William Shakespeare

**Nurture 1:** The Magic Paintbrush – Julia Donaldson and Malala's Magic Pencil – Malala Yousafzai

**Nurture 2:** Owen and the Soldier – Lisa Thompson

**Nurture 3:** The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe – C.S Lewis

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the learning extension tasks for pupils for the Autumn term. You will see that for each year group or class there are a range of tasks for pupils to choose from; the tasks cater for a range of interests and learning styles and cover a range of academic subjects. Ideally, pupils need to complete at least two tasks; one should be brought in to school prior to October half term and the other prior to the Christmas break. Some pupils will choose to complete more projects than two and that is to be celebrated.

### **Times Tables Rock Stars**

To support learning in Maths we would encourage pupils to use the online platform 'Times Tables Rock Stars' at home. Fluency in times tables is particularly crucial in understanding fractions, decimals and percentages, which forms a large part of the KS3 and KS4 curriculum. To facilitate effective learning, we are encouraging students at school to 'play' on Times Tables Rock Stars a minimum of 3 times a week for 5 minutes at a time. Ideally, we recommend practicing 4 or 5 times per week to ensure steady progress; practicing at home can really support progress. This regular engagement will significantly contribute to the development of fluent recall of times tables. The interactive nature of the programme makes learning fun and helps students build confidence in their mathematical abilities. Pupils use this platform in school and so are aware of how to log on to Times Tables Rock Stars.

I would like to thank you in advance for supporting your child to complete their learning extension tasks this term. Should you have any further questions or require any support with this then please do not hesitate to contact your child's Tutor Team in the first instance.



**Beech  
Academy**

## **Beech Academy**

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I look forward, very much, to seeing your child's learning extension tasks this term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Katy Craig

Head of School