



BEECHEN CLIFF

Christmas 2017

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Message from the Headmaster

Christmas approaches and signals the end of the Autumn Term, one filled with a large number of school activities. The warmth of early September is easily forgotten when looking out of the window at the moment! As always, the term included a significant number of sporting, musical and cultural events - many of which will be documented within the newsletter.

The school has committed this year to working with Bath Theatre School to support pupils in learning becoming involved in all areas of theatre life; acting, singing, technical support and backstage "craft". The first production planned as a result of this collaboration will be "Guys and Dolls". I very much hope you will all want to come and support the pupils who have been working hard over the terms to make the show happen. More details will be coming out in the Winter Term. We must thank the Bath Theatre School and the Natural Theatre Company for their work with Beechen Cliff. It has been appreciated by all those involved.

Design and engineering activities have been significant in many ways for the boys of Beechen Cliff in recent years and it's good to see the inspirational results which have seen pupils come together to enter the 8th Annual Design Ventura challenge to design a useful everyday product. Mr Bakker's team of boys designed a very simple, highly effective stand for holding a mobile phone when needed for screen mode/ conferencing. The boys have already received a number of orders for their design and will possibly soon be getting a call from Lord Sugar....

The academic achievements of the pupils continue to be a huge strength of Beechen Cliff. 2017 saw the Year 11 boys achieve exceptional "value added" scores for their GCSEs. The cohort has achieved, on average more than half a grade/level higher in all of their subjects, than their peers across England and Wales. For those with a love of statistics, the details can be found on the Beechen Cliff website! Obviously we appreciate that this is a time when the thoughts of Year 11 boys and Upper Sixth students turn to the challenges of the summer term. We know that parents will be sharing some of the anxieties of this period with their offspring, although you will also know the teachers at Beechen Cliff will be doing all they can to help our pupils achieve their potential. More immediately, we wish our Oxbridge/Medicine Upper Sixth students our best wishes as they go for interviews over the next few weeks.

I am sure that the excitement of the run-up to Christmas will mean the message of hope and peace might be obscured a little, although it will continue to be our aim to promote the value of compassion; asking all our pupils to consider the needs of others and to keep doing all they can to make us and their parents proud of the young adults they are going to be. With this in mind, may I wish all members of our school community, parents, pupils, staff and friends of Beechen Cliff, a very happy and restful Christmas.



Mr A Davies
Headmaster

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 19th December	End of Term Assembly and End of Term
Wednesday 20th December – 3rd January 2018	Holidays
Thursday 4th January 2018	Winter Term Begins. Pupils to be in School for 8.25am
Monday 8th January	Upper Sixth Mock Exams Week
	PTA meeting at 7.00pm
Tuesday 9th January	Future Horizons Programme starts
	Year 9 Options Evening
Friday 12th January	Year 7 Latin groups to Roman Baths
Saturday 13th – Friday 19th January	Austria Ski Trip
Thursday 18th January	Year 10 Parents Evening
Saturday 20th January	Ten Tors training
Wednesday 24th January	Year 9 Parents' Evening

Essential Information

End of Term Arrangements

Tuesday 19th December

Periods 1 and 2 – Normal Lessons

Period 3 – End of Term assembly. Pupils will be dismissed between 12.20 and 1.00pm. No lunches will be served but food will be available during breaks.

Thursday 4th January 2018

All pupils return to school at 8.25am for start of the Winter Term

Changes in Contact Details

Please can parents and carers remember to inform the School in any changes in Contact information (telephone numbers, email address home addresses) as soon as possible.



Please inform the School office or email sue.davies@beechencliff.org.uk with new or updated details

Uniform and Haircuts

Following the Christmas holidays, please ensure that your son returns to School for the Winter Term with correct uniform. May I also remind you that 'extreme' haircuts, i.e. tramlines, shaved head cuts and hair below the collar are not permitted. Unfortunately, we will send pupils home if they present themselves in this manner. For full details on correct uniform and haircuts please refer to the School website.

Mr K Mann

Assistant Headmaster Pastoral

Reporting Absences



Please can parents take note of the contact details below when reporting an absence from School:

Lower School Pupils

To report a Lower School absence please call the Attendance Office direct on **01225 485222**, or you can email attendance@beechencliff.org.uk

Sixth Form Students

For Sixth Form students please contact Mrs Jones on 01225 485221, or you can email allisonjones@beechencliff.org.uk

If the attendance lines are busy, do please leave a message on the answer machines.

Dates for Parents' Evenings

Listed below are dates of Parents' Evenings which will be taking place before Easter:

Year 10	Thursday 18 th January
Year 9	Wednesday 24 th January
Lower Sixth	Thursday 1 st February
Year 7	Wednesday 21 st February
Year 8	Tuesday 27 th February

Your son(s) will be bringing home full details in due course and you will be asked to make appointments to speak with the relevant subject teachers.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headmaster Pastoral

Pick up / drop off issues outside the School main entrance.

Please remember that if you are dropping your son off at school or picking him up at the end of the day you should try to do this on Chaucer Avenue or the Bear Flat to avoid congestion at the top of the Avenues and outside the main entrance to the School. There have been several incidents of parents dropping their son off right outside the School entrance and mounting kerbs in the process. This has put the safety of pupils at risk as well as causing frustration and anger for other drivers caught in the jam.

Avon and Somerset Police from time to time provide a presence outside the school gates. Please be aware that they may issue sanctions against those who park illegally outside school or indeed cause an obstruction that endangers pupil safety.

Please work with us to ensure that all pupils can arrive and leave school in the safest possible manner.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headmaster Pastoral

Free School Meals and 16–19 Bursary

We are aware that in these difficult economic times a family's financial circumstances can change suddenly. You can apply for free school meals at any time, if you meet the eligibility criteria as set out by the Government.

For further details about free school meals, including how to apply, please contact Mrs S Davies, in the Main School Office.

If you are eligible, we urge you to apply. Not only will your child benefit from a healthy and nutritious meal every school day, but also eligibility may open up other areas of financial support for your child at school.

Also available to Sixth Form students is the 16-19 Bursary. This fund is available for payments to help with educational equipment, subject required trips, uniform and travel, where there is evidence of financial need. For further information, including how to apply, please contact Mrs C Jones, Assistant to the Head of Sixth Form.

All information for free school meals and the Bursary Fund are kept in confidential files.

Mr T D Markall
Assistant Headmaster

Immunisation Consent Forms for Year 9

Debi Chalke, Public Health Nurse for the School Nursing Service at Virgin Care requires parents of all **Year 9** pupils to complete Immunisation consents which are being sent home with pupils this week

Year 9 pupils are to have the two immunisations which are boosters from their childhood immunisations. One is Diphtheria Tetanus and Polio and one is Meningitis ACWY.

Please read the information which accompanies the consent forms. All forms need to be completed and returned to School, whether you are consenting or not.

If we do not receive a form we will be calling you to establish verbal consent.

The nurses will be attending School on;

Wednesday 10th January 2018 for the Year 9 Immunisations

All information and contact details accompany the forms.

Mrs D Chalke
School Nursing Service

Reports

Year 9 Full Reports and Year 7 Progress Reports will be available for parents to view on ePortal from 3.30pm on Friday 15th December.

If you have problems accessing these reports please email datarecords@beechencliff.org.uk.

Mr T D Markall
Assistant Headmaster

PSHE

PHSE Lesson

Year 7

Please note that your child will have been given a letter about PSHE lessons, which from January will include Sex and Relationships Education (for one term). This is in accordance with our Sex and Relationships Education Policy, and national guidelines. These lessons will be centred around emotional and physical changes in boys and girls during puberty, and personal hygiene.

If you do not want your child to take part in these lessons, please contact either Mr K Mann or Miss P Netto. We will be happy to provide you with further information if you wish.

Years 8-11

Please note that as part of the on-going PSHE programme for Years 8-11, your child will be timetabled to take part in collapsed timetable lessons across the year which includes elements of Sex and Relationships Education. This is in accordance with our Sex and Relationships Education Policy, and national guidelines.

If you do not want your child to take part in these lessons, please contact either Mr K Mann or Miss P Netto. We will be happy to provide you with further information if you wish.

E-Team – Cake Sale



A big thank you for all the cakes kindly donated and bought on Monday 11th December. The Equalities Team organised and ran the cake competition and sale to raise money for the Rohingya Muslims forced to flee their homes in Myanmar. Thanks to your generosity, we raised a fantastic £253.82!

Well done to those who entered the competition

The standard of cakes was very high, but we have chosen two winners to receive a prize: Congratulations to Ben Moy and Elliot Jackson. Prizes will be presented in the next few days - and a huge thank you to the E Team for their hard work



Miss P Netto
PSHE and E Team Co-ordinator

Beechen Cliff Super Curricular Lecture Series

Beechen Cliff's Super Curricular Lectures are well attended with around 50 students choosing to come each week, with Parents always welcome to attend. These lectures, along with the Super Curricular Bulletin of events Bulletin of events outside school, enable students to take up opportunities to extend their knowledge in any subject.

A selection of the lectures which have taken place this term are illustrated below.



Mrs C Jones
Future Horizons Coordinator and
Assistant to Head of Sixth Form

Year 11 Revision/Coursework Catch-up Class Schedule 2018

In the build-up to GCSE Exams in May/June all Year 11 pupils will be completing coursework and preparing for exams in lessons. Some subjects are running extra sessions to support this process. Details are given below

SUBJECT	REVISION CLASS/COURSEWORK CATCH-UP CLASS TIMES	DATES
Maths	Thursday 3:20-4:20pm in M3/M4/M5 (both Higher and Foundation tiers) Some extra sessions will also be run during the school day during the GCSE Exams period.	Begins Thursday 1st February and runs until May 2018 Dates TBC
Product Design	Workshops open 3:15-5:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday Computer rooms (T5/T6) available every lunchtime	January 2018 until coursework deadline on 2 nd March 2018
Food	Tuesday 3:20-5:00pm in T3/T6	January 2018 until coursework deadline on 2 nd March 2018
Combined Science	Details TBC in January	TBC
Triple Science	Details TBC in January	TBC
French/German/ Spanish/ Italian	Thursday 3:20-4:20pm in L3	March to May 2018
History	Mondays after school 3.30-4.30pm in P7/P8	26 th Feb – 30 th April 2018
English	English Language(Small group sessions): Tuesdays 3:15-4:00pm English Masterclasses (Students aiming for grades 8 and 9): Wednesdays 3:15-4:00pm English Language and Literature revision (Open to all) Thursday 3:15-5-4:00pm Skills session – 2 hour carousel in school time	January-May 2018 January-May 2018 January-May 2018 Early April – date TBC
Geography	Tuesday after school until 4.30pm in P1	Begins w/c 19th February 2018 and runs until May 2018
Art	Tuesday and Wednesday 3:20-5:00pm in the Art rooms (other days possible following a discussion with the teacher)	January-April 2018
Photography	Monday 3.20-4.30pm in the Photography rooms	January-April 2018
Computing	Wednesday after school until 4:30pm with Mrs James in C1 Thursday after school until 4:30pm with Mrs Biggs in C3	January to May 2018

ICT	Thursday after school till 4:30pm with Mrs Biggs in C3	January to May 2018
Music	Every day after school until 4:30pm in the Music centre in discussion with the teacher. These sessions are designed for extra time on coursework.	January-March 2018
	Monday and Thursday after school until 4:30pm. Revision sessions in preparation for the listening exam.	April-May 2018
Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	Thursday after school 3:20-5:00pm	January to May 2018
Study Support	Year 11 Study Support is available every day after school in C2 from 3:13-4:15pm. This room is only available to Year 11 pupils and is always supported by a member of staff. It provides a room for them to complete homework, revision and consolidate learning in a supportive environment.	January to May 2018

We recommend that pupils take advantage of Study Support and these revision sessions as part of their exam preparation over the weeks and months ahead. **For some pupils regular attendance will be essential if they are to achieve their full potential in their GCSEs.**

We appreciate that some pupils may wish to attend sessions that are running at the same time. In these cases we suggest pupils alternate between the sessions from week to week.

Mr T. D. Markall
Assistant Headmaster
Dec 17



PTA 50:50 Club

Thank you so much to all of you who have recently signed up to the Beechen Cliff PTA 50:50 Club. The 50:50 club is operates like a lottery, with members setting up small monthly standing orders (from as little as £1.00) to the Club. Each month half of the income received goes to the PTA to help fund activities and equipment for the School, and the remaining half is given as prizes. Three winners are drawn using a random generator and prizes are typically;

1st prize - £90 2nd prize £60 3rd prize - £30

However due to the recent increase in members it looks as if the December prize is likely to top £100 for the first time ever!

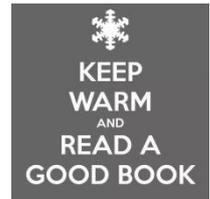
We welcome new members at any time, so if you are interested please contact me for more information and details of how to sign up, sarahj@mitchards.new or telephone 07909962272

Best Wishes and Merry Christmas

Sarah Mitchard
Parent and 50:50 Club Co-ordinator

Literacy

We have had a fantastic couple of terms enjoying our new and improved School Library, with many boys involved in the decision-making process regarding its reorganisation and restock.



Christmas Lists

Looking to buy your son a book for Christmas but keen to make sure it is the correct reading level for him? Accessing www.arbookfinder.co.uk from any computer will help to generate a 'shopping list' for you; follow these stages:

Interest Level = Middle Years
ATOS book level = his ZPD
Select Topics and Sub-Topics from the drop-down menus
Search...

May we also include a shameless plug for our stockists, the unfailingly-knowledgeable Harry and Philip at Oldfield Park Bookshop, 43 Moorland Road, Bath BA2 3PN.

Accelerated Reader – some noteworthy achievements:

Year 7 and Year 8 have embraced the Accelerated Reader scheme again this year, with significant leaps being made in reading ages and ZPD levels as seen by the results of AR STAR Test 2, taken in Library lessons in the past few weeks. Do ask your son for his new ZPD reading range, or see the sticker which will be appearing in his English book in the New Year...

Most-earned AR Points by class:

7a	Joshua Barnett
7c	Otto Goldsmith
7d	George Fletcher
7e	James Clark
7n	Cameron Gregg
7o	Momen Ali
7s	Noah Lavelle
8A3	Tommy Criddle
8AJ	Thomas Hayter
8AP	Mani Baker
8x3	Paul Monschauer
8xJ	Rufus Joy
8xP	William McKim

Most-earned AR Points by House:

BYRON	Max Priest
CHAUCER	Rupert Aldam-Gates
KIPLING	Joshua Barnett
MILTON	Forbes McGlynn
SHAKESPEARE	James Stephens

Millionaires – pupils who have read at least 1,000,000 words on Accelerated Reader so far this year:

Joshua Barnett Noah Lavelle Tommy Criddle

Superb work! There are also at least 8 pupils around the 800,000+ word mark...

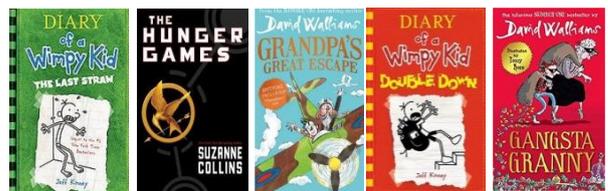
Our favourite books – based on top star ratings after pupils have read the book and taken the AR Quiz:

- 1st The Recruit
- 2nd The Recruit – The Graphic Novel
- 3rd The Hunger Games
- 4th Percy Jackson and the Last Olympian
- 5th Stormbreaker



Our most-Quizzed-on books – the books the most number of boys have chosen to read so far this year:

- 1st Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw
- 2nd The Hunger Games
- 3rd Grandpa's Great Escape
- 4th Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down
- 5th Gangsta Granny



Countdown to Christmas – A Literacy Challenge

This week, pupils, staff, parents and visitors are invited to enter our Literacy Competition, completing any number of up to 25 cross-curricular challenges.

Submit your entries to the Librarian (whose decision is final!); the raffle will be drawn in the end-of-term assembly, with edible prizes to be awarded...

Countdown to Christmas: A Literacy Challenge

Visit the Library this week and complete these challenges. The Librarian will be your witness!

1 challenge completed = 1 entry into the raffle.

1 Find out why gold has the periodic table symbol of Au	2 Write a sentence using commas in a list.	3 Read a match report of a sport you either enjoy OR have never played yourself.	4 Read the entry for artist Kandinsky in an encyclopaedia.	5 In resistant materials, you might work with ash, beech and ply. What are they and where do the words come from?	6 Find a poem about Christmas in French and translate one line.	7 <i>Anger</i> <i>Pavement</i> <i>Mr Brown</i> To which word class do these words belong?
8 Write three sentences summarising the plot of a film of your choice.	9 Find a news report on the weather, and read it out loud.	10 Take a sum from your maths book and write it as a word problem.	11 <i>You could of tried harder</i> / <i>You could have tried harder.</i> Of or Have?	12 Get someone to test you on these spellings: <i>Equation</i> <i>Axis</i> <i>Horizontal</i> <i>Multiply</i>	13 Translate a Christmas joke into another language.	14 Read the poem 'I Would Like to be a Dot in a Painting By Miro' and find a painting by the painter Miro.
15 In RE, what is a religious symbol? How is it similar to a literary symbol?	16 In music, what is the difference between a bass clef and treble clef?	17 Read the top story on the BBC news website and tell someone about what you read.	18 Handwrite a thank you letter for a Christmas gift or treat you have already received or received last year.	19 Say 5 imperative verbs you might find in a cookery recipe	20 Read TS Eliot's 'The Journey of the Magi' and look up five new words you don't recognise.	21 <i>Aloud</i> <i>Allowed</i> What is the difference?
22 Paint colours ochre and magenta describe what colours?	23 Where does the word 'pantomime' come from?	24 Continue this sentence using the subordinate conjunction 'as': <i>Mr Brown's feet hammered at the pavement angrily as...</i>	<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">25</h1> <p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">Work out the total number of gifts given in the song 'The 12 Days of Christmas'</p>			

Word of the Week - **Tableau**

A noun – a tableau

= a striking and vivid representation; a picture

= a picture of a group of people or objects arranged or posed in a scene

= a pause during or at the end of a scene on stage when all the performers briefly freeze in position

- ✓ Do you **know** it?
- ✓ Can you **spell** it?
- ✓ Can you **use** it correctly in your work this week?

Use it:

The **tableau** of the troops crossing the river is one of the most famous paintings in the world.

The tourists marvelled at Gaudi's stone **tableau** of the Nativity on the cathedral's east face.

The curtain closed on a **tableau** of the main characters, as applause rang throughout the theatre.

Spell it:

From the Old French word *table* (slab; writing tablet)
+ the diminutive suffix *eau*

Table au

Mrs L Leonardi
Literacy Co-ordinator

Lower School Musical Theatre Group

September saw the launch of the Lower School Musical Theatre Group and has brought the opportunity to perform as part of school life. Working in partnership with Bath Theatre School the Friday after school group has seen students working on the three core performing disciplines of drama, singing and movement. The boys have gone on to audition and begin rehearsals for the professionally staged production of *Guys & Dolls Jr* to be performed 11th -13th April 2018. The boys have been joined by girls from across Bath who have been especially auditioned to take on the female roles. The production will be staged at the 400 seat Kingswood Theatre and will feature professionally hired set, costumes, lighting and sound. Very few schools offer such opportunities as this and there is still time to be part of this fantastic opportunity.



If pupils are interested, they can sign up at www.baththeatreschool.com/bcs with lessons after school on Fridays in the Music Centre. The production will also need a sizable production team to assist with a variety of tasks, including lighting, sound, costumes, props, back stage, scenery construction, front of house, publicity and much more. If you, and/or your child, are interested in one of these important off stage roles then please contact Ms Smith (Georgia.Smith@beechencliff.org.uk). Tickets for *Guys & Dolls Jr*. will go on sale shortly at www.baththetareschool.com/tickets

Theme of the Week for 11th - 15th December

Theme of the week this week is about People Against Poverty, which is the charity that Beechen Cliff works with in Romania to support communities living in poverty. Some of our Sixth Form students travelled to Romania earlier this term to help with a building project designed to make life for Gypsy communities more sustainable, and to spend time with these communities to see how much of a difference our support makes. People Against Poverty also works on similar projects all around the world, which you can read about on their website <https://peopleagainstopoverty.com/>



This year the donated Christmas Jumper money (Thursday 14th December) will go directly to People Against Poverty, to support the 6th Form project in Romania. Pupils and students have recently had an assembly about this project.

It is a good opportunity to reflect on the importance of supporting charities at Christmas, and to consider why Christmas is considered a particularly good time of year to give to others less fortunate (whether this be in money, time or well wishes).

As a school we continue to support People Against Poverty, and contribute to changing lives by releasing communities from poverty.

Miss P Netto
PSHE Coordinator

Bath/China Partnership - China Trip - October 2017

The annual trip to China was a great success this year. Teaming up with pupils and staff from Writhlington, St Gregory's, the Royal High School and KES we spent 8 days visiting some amazing places and getting some insight into the culture of the country.



The Beechen Cliff boys on the Great wall

Four boys (Sole Graham-Tees and Isaac de Buriatte in Year 11, Ben John and Will Morris in Year 10) were our representatives. The first stop was Beijing - places to see included the Forbidden City, The Great Wall, The Olympic Stadium and The Temple of Heaven, things to do included a Kung-Fu show, a tea ceremony and some bartering in the "fakes" market. This was my third visit to China but my first experience of Beijing - the Great Wall really was a wonderful experience (helped immensely by the weather and the wonderful autumnal colours) and the sheer size of everything is quite remarkable.

An overnight sleeper train took us to Xi'an, one of the ancient capitals of the country. We had just one day there, but managed to visit the Terracotta Warriors and have a wonderful cycle ride around the 14km walls that circle the old city. This was quite invigorating!

A second sleeper train took us to Suzhou - a relatively small city (of approximately 12 million people!) not far to the West of Shanghai. We had several days here, visiting schools that are part of the Bath-China partnership, doing some teaching, taking part in a conference promoting World Heritage Sites and getting some sort of insight into the daily life of a Chinese pupil. Before this we spent a charming afternoon in the water town of Tong-Li.

One of the joys of this trip is the chance that pupils get to share some wonderful experiences with pupils from other schools whom they have only just met. It was really encouraging to see how quickly all the pupils came together to support one another and to try to get as much as they could out of the trip.

For the final night in Suzhou the pupils went their separate ways to stay with a local family - I think the pupils were quite nervous about this but generally it went really well and I know that they will have fond memories of the experience.



Ben and Isaac showing off their new-found calligraphy skills!

With just over a day to go we took a coach to Shanghai. I first visited the city about six years ago and was absolutely blown away but how vibrant and cosmopolitan it feels. In the time since, they have managed to finish the "Shanghai Tower", the world's second tallest building making the skyline even more imposing. Although the weather was not on our side, the visit to the Pearl Tower with its glass-floored viewing platform was memorable. We also took in a truly awesome acrobatic show and had a lovely final evening by the river enjoying the lights of the city.

Then the Maglev train whisked us off to the airport and 24 hours later we were back in Bath, tired but very happy!

We have several pupils already signed up for next year's trip - until we have numbers from the other schools I will not know if there is any space left. If any pupils currently in Years 9 to 12 would like to join the trip please do let me know and I will get back to you in the New Year to confirm whether there are any spaces available.

Mr E Gill
School Coordinator Bath/China Partnership
edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Year 7 PTA Logo Competition Winner

Congratulations to Charlie Pritchard who was the winner of our PTA Logo competition! Thank you to all the Year 7s who entered. The standard of entries was very high and choosing a winner was a difficult choice.



Look out for Charlie's great design on PTA news from January 2018.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headmaster

Vacancies at Beechen Cliff



BEECHEN CLIFF

Kitchen Assistant (Two positions available)

Position 1: 15 hours per week (11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.)/44.6 weeks per year

Position 2: 16 hours per fortnight to be worked one weekend in two. Split shifts between 7am and 7pm on Saturday and Sunday, to provide catering for our Boarding House.

£7.90 per hour.

Required from January 2018, two kitchen assistants to join our busy and hardworking catering department. The catering team provide food for over 1,400 pupils, students and staff each day. This is a physically demanding position and involves working in many areas of the department from washing up to assisting in the preparation of food. Experience of working in a catering environment would be an advantage. Please note that we would be happy to discuss the possibility of one applicant taking both positions.

For further information and an application form please visit the school website, www.beechencliff.org.uk.

Applications should be sent to Mrs Thompson at the school address or via the email address, headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk

Applications should arrive by noon on **Wednesday, 10th January 2018**. Interviews will be held on **Friday 12th January 2018**.



BEECHEN CLIFF

CLEANER

Permanent Part-time position

£7.50 per hour rising to match minimum wage in April 2018

Required as soon as possible, a reliable and enthusiastic cleaner to join our friendly and committed site team. The successful applicants will be able to demonstrate experience of cleaning to ensure that our staff and pupils are provided with a meticulously clean working and learning environment.

The working hours are 11am to 6.30pm, which is 7 hours per day, 35 hours per week. Monday to Friday, 44.2 weeks of the year. In return for an eye to detail and a willingness to work hard, we offer a friendly working environment.

For further details and application form please see the school website (www.beechencliff.org.uk)

or apply to the school on 01225 480466; email: headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk

[Closing date for applications: Noon on 10th January 2018. Interviews to be conducted on 12th January 2018.](#)

House News

Byron House

When deciding what to write here I decided to ask our Year 7s for their reflections on their first term here at Beechen Cliff. From collating their responses I have written an account from the point of view of an imaginary Year 7 boy in Byron. I'm calling him Brian!

I cannot believe how settled I feel, September seems so long ago now. I feel like I have grown up massively if I think back to myself in Year six. Only four months on I feel too big for those little chairs and tables. If I am being honest however, I do miss my peg and my draw in my one and only classroom. Tir-y-Cwm was great and I knew it was going to be from the minute the teacher said that we were going to stop at the services on the motorway – we were never allowed to do that on school trips before. A couple of times when we were there I actually felt like pinching myself. Are we actually going to jump in a bog, clamber up a river, go out for a walk in the middle of the night and be given saws to take down trees to make bows and arrows. Yes we were! I also cannot believe how accustomed I have become to all the new lessons and new teachers. It wasn't until I was explaining to my little cousin about it all last week how different and exciting it all is. My favourites are definitely Tech, ICT and Science, I feel particularly grown up in these subjects. Now, I get to and from school with my friends, this is fun. I am sure the novelty will wear off but I still like getting on the bus. Strangely I even enjoy leaving my house whilst it is still dark

I cannot believe how much I already feel part of Beechen Cliff School

Finally, from me (and Brian!), I wish all Byron boys, tutors and parents a very relaxing and peaceful break, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mrs A Milland
Head of Byron House

Milton House

As the end of a successful term approaches, I want to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the successes and look to the future. I feel very lucky to be the Head of such a wonderful House, full of students and staff that are talented, hardworking and determined.

Our Year 7 students have settled in extremely well due to a well-organised Transition Programme, which incorporated a variety of tasks and activities that allowed them to grow in confidence and feel part of our community, topped with a fantastic trip to Tir-Y-Cwm.

In Milton House we have many causes to be proud of our students. As I reflect back over the academic year so far; it is very easy to give examples that demonstrate this. The area that stands out for me most is the pride and commitment shown when taking part in inter-house competitions, that mindset allowed us to win both Rugby and Cross-country

At this time of year it is always a good idea to reflect on the work we have done; the impact that it has had and consider what our plans for the New Year ahead might be. 2017 has undoubtedly been an incredibly positive year for Milton House, not just in our sporting achievements, but our academic commitments - achieving some very respectable Application to Learning Scores across all year groups. I was also extremely impressed while walking around the Mock Results Day seeing so many good grades, but equally with the attitude of so many of our boys who have a plan to improve on their grades. Whilst I am on the subject of Year 11 - our prefects continue their hard work around the school, which is extremely appreciated. A particular mention goes to Oliver Hendy, Callum Mander and Will Raftery who have battled the hoards of hungry boys to deliver a well-organised and efficient break time service.

Another source of pride goes to Beechen Cliff's E-Team, which consist mainly of Milton boys. Henry Price, Josh Salisbury, Sam Jess, Ed Hays and Ethan Clarke are demonstrating our core value Compassion, by heading up a Fund Raising Event to raise awareness and money for refugees fleeing Myanmar. Well done to those boys and continue the good work!

It has been a real pleasure to work with the fabulous students throughout this autumn term and I am looking forward to 2018 as we continue to make Milton an even better House to be part of. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Mr D Jaggon
Head of Milton House

Shakespeare

Shakespeare House has been involved in a series of interesting activities this year. We have continued to support our local community by sweeping the Autumn leaves from Shakespeare Avenue and our House Assemblies have been an open forum for current affairs with pupils and students taking turns to lead the Assemblies

Our prefects have been magnificent in and around the school and they have been prompt, courteous and compassionate while carrying out their duties. It can be a scrum at first and second break so their help in managing the refectory is really appreciated. Arthur Howard has been an outstanding Lead Prefect and has set up themes for each term for boys in the house.

I would also like to thank the group who are the vast majority of our boys that consistently do the right thing; the boys who have shown our core values, the boys that have gone out of their way to help others. So many of our boys have not been sent to the dreaded work room, been late, disrupted others or had any detentions this term – this is a fantastic achievement and although you are not named here it does not mean that this goes unnoticed.

Lastly, I would like to wish all our tutors, staff members and pupils a relaxing and very enjoyable break. I hope we all come back rested and ready to continue to achieve in all aspects of school life.

Mr L Sumsion
Head of Shakespeare

Departmental News

Art

Art Masterclass with Peter Brown



On Thursday 30th November the Sixth Form Art (and some Year 11) were lucky enough to be part of our first Art Masterclass taken by Pete Brown, renowned Bath artist. Whilst looking out over Bath Pete showed the students how he uses light to help create form when painting.



This was a great opportunity for students to ask a practising artist tips about painting landscapes and portraits as well as questions about being an artist full time. Pete was great fun and really showed his passion for painting which has definitely rubbed off on our students. After a very cold 'plain air' trip everyone went back to the warmer classroom to see Pete paint one of our very own students. Big thanks to Mrs Jones for helping to organise this Art Masterclass and of course to Pete Brown himself!



Artist of the Term

Congratulations to Oscar Pyatt (Year 9) for his fantastic surrealism drawings and other sketchbook work.

The pieces were completed both as classwork and homework as well as Oscar putting in extra effort to improve his work by taking on feedback and other comments suggested.

We think they are a great example of how you can use your skill and imagination to create a piece in a range of simple techniques.



Christmas Card Design



This years fantastic Christmas Card design has been created by year 10 pupil Zeb Goldsmith.

Using similar techniques to those shown in his new GCSE sketchbook he has been able to create a beautiful painting of the circus adding subtle christmas details with snow on the window ledges and a Christmas wreath on the door.

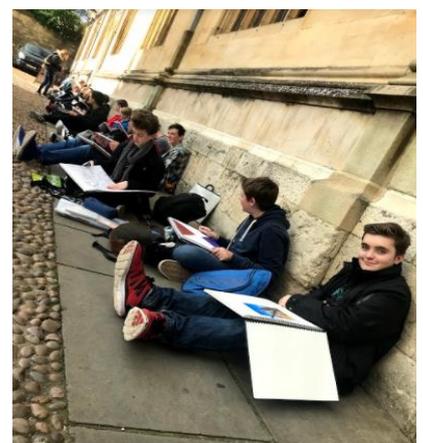
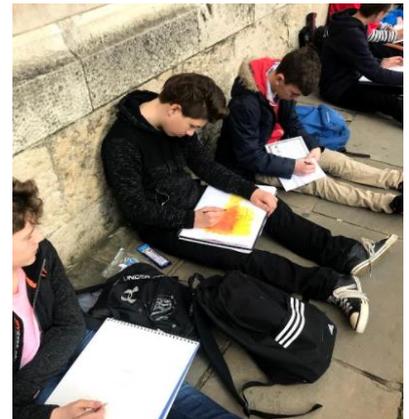
A beautiful design! Well done Zeb.

Oxford Trip

In September we took the entire Year 10 Art group to Oxford to visit the Ashmolean museum and to complete some architectural drawings. We complete a similar trip each year to link in with the Drawing Project that the students start their GCSE course completing. We were very lucky with the weather, which has made for a great environment to really take in the surroundings and show this through their drawings!

The students were given a brief to complete five sketches throughout the afternoon which were completed over the half term break, these were based on perspective, proportion, details and capturing the atmosphere of the city.

The students also took a range of exciting photographs to add to their Drawing books. It was lovely for us to take the students to such a beautiful area and help them to realise the importance of Drawing outside and away from the classroom.



Instagram

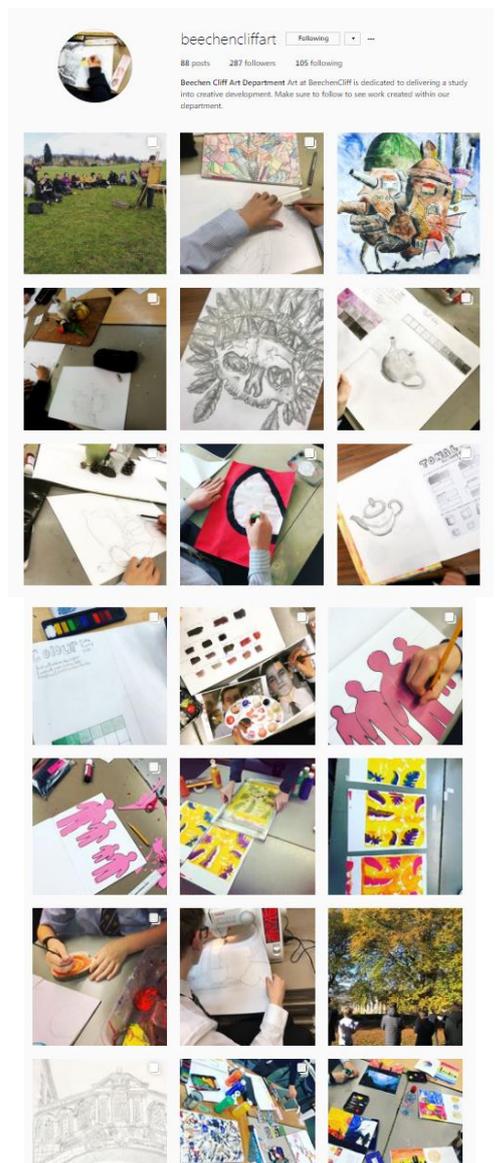
This year we decided to start an Instagram account for the school's art department. We wanted to bring this to the school in a way to boost student moral and excitement for creating work in lessons with the idea of 'the best work' being presented on this social media platform that they students are so familiar with.

So far the Instagram accounts have been shared with parents both at parents' evenings, tours etc. as well as over the parent pay platform.

With a healthy following of students, teachers and parents the work is seen by a large number of people with likes and comments made daily on the new work shown.

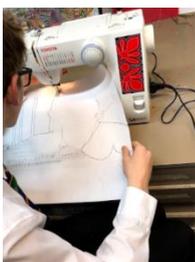
We as a department have worked hard to ensure new images are taken and shared daily so that the account is active and engaging to both members of the school and the wider community.

Not only is this a nice way for students to see their work being praised and presents up also a great way for parents and prospective parents to see what happens daily within art lessons



Art Club

Art Club has been very busy from September. It is lovely to see so many boys coming after school on a Tuesday and Wednesday and completing such an exciting range of work. The boys have been



working on wire models, comic strips, silk screen printing, drawing with nails and string, perspective drawing and learning a little about Photoshop as well as other boys who simply use the art club as an opportunity to complete homeworks and refining ideas.

With all the boys interested in such different techniques it is a really nice environment for exploration of different creative techniques.



GCSE pupils have also taken full advantage of the time offered outside of lesson to add to, improve and catch up on work towards their GCSE grade. Boys have experimented with various skills and techniques taught in class and developed their individual projects with these.

Art club is a great club for boys to join who enjoy Art as a subject and want to come along and try new techniques. The boys have the freedom to decide what they want to work on each week whether that's individually or in a group.

Art club will continue all year, and we hope to see more boys drop in and get creative



Art Block Doors

Alongside the improvements made to art displays around the school we have also worked hard to give the art block a more creative feel by painting the doors in the art department.

The aim of this was to show the artist influence behind the names of the classrooms as well as putting our own stamp on our classroom doors with each of the teachers painting their own door with some student input.

This has already had an effect on the art department as students are a lot more curious about the works completed, the artists who inspired the pieces as well as curious about the fact works were completed by the teachers.



Cardiff Photography Trip

On Wednesday 6th December a group of Year 11, Lower and Upper Sixth students travelled to Cardiff to see the David Hurn 'Swaps' exhibition in the National Museum of Wales. This is an amazing collection of work collected by Hurn over the past 60 years by a variety of some of the world's best known photographers. The Museum also has an extensive collection of art which the students took great interest in seeing. We highly recommend a visit if you take a trip to Cardiff in the near future.



Art Department

Sixth Form Venice Art Trip

On Friday 8th December 10 sixth form students and 2 members of staff, Miss Moorehead and Mrs Judd headed off on a trip to the very beautiful Venice. The weather was forecasted to be a bit of



everything, rain, sun and snow so

the advice was to wrap up warm! Arriving at Bristol airport we boarded the plane and set off, excited to see the city of romance. After a relatively short flight we caught a local bus to the main bus station on the island of Venice. From there we had to catch a water taxi to our hotel. Venice looked beautiful and enticing even in the



darkest views of the city. After eventually finding our hotel we were able to settle into exploring the place.

First stop on Saturday was the magnificent Rialto Bridge. We got to see this from the paths and also the Grand Canal. After this we headed to St Marks Square where everyone enjoyed catching the lift to the top of the tower to get the incredible views over Venice. The Ca' Pesaro was next on our list to see artwork by artists such as Klimt, Chagall, Kandinsky, Klee and Moore. We then explored the San Polo



district taking in the views of the Basilica di S.Maria dei Frari. On Sunday we visited the Galleria dell Accademia and its surrounding area of the Dor'Soduro district capturing the architecture on paper as well as digitally.

A walk over to the Guggenheim museum allowed the students to see more contemporary artworks that some had only seen in books and online.

Our final day meant one last visit to a local museum/Palace, Ca'd'Oro to see more typical Venetian interior design. Then a quick shop in the markets meant everyone could pick up last minute presents and spend a few last valuable moments lost in this beautiful city. A watertaxi back to the main bus terminal allowed us to say goodbye to Venice, thanking it for a truly wonderful stay.



Mrs Judd and Miss Moorhead
Art Department

Careers and Work Related Experience

The Skills Show

On Thursday 16th November 2017 a group of Year 9 pupils attended The Skills Show at the Birmingham NEC.



The Skills Show is the nation's largest skills and careers event and helps to shape the future of a new generation. The show provides hands-on experiences that inspire young people to explore careers and motivates them to find out more about the world of work. They are encouraged to 'have-a-go' at a variety of job related skills.

Mr J Forrest
Careers and Work Related Manager

Computing

The BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge

The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 40 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing.

This is the third year of running this challenge at Beechen Cliff and we find that the students enjoy the puzzles and it can help develop pupils' problem solving skills and resilience. Over two weeks in November over 500 students at Beechen Cliff participated in this challenge which takes the form of a 40 minute on line test.

The results are in. This year we are taking the results and adding points for the top 4 scoring students in each class to calculate points for Rewards week.

TOTAL POINT PER HOUSE

Byron	55	3 rd
Chaucer	41	4 th
Kipling	33	5 th
Milton	64	2 nd
Shakespeare	66	1 st

Well done Shakespeare!

Particular congratulations should go to the top students in each category listed below:

Junior (age 10-12)	Benjamin Pearcy	IT-7s
Intermediate (age 12-14)	Jed Couchman	IT -9A1
Senior (age 14-16) (joint)	Stephen Davey	Co-10D
	Matthew Phillips	Co-10D
Elite (age 16-18)	Patrick Akbar	CO-U6D

Last year a few of the boys scored highly enough nationally to be invited to Oxford University for a day of lectures and Computational Challenges, we shall wait and see if this is the case this year!

Mrs L James
Computing and ICT

Design and Technology

Year 10 Product Designers shortlisted for prestigious design prize.

A group of Year 10 GCSE Product Design pupils have been shortlisted for the prestigious Design Ventura prize, a design and enterprise challenge for secondary school students, supported by industry professionals, the Design Museum and Deutsche Bank. Students are challenged to design a new product for the Design Museum Shop with the winning product manufactured and sold at the shop, and offers young people a chance to develop design thinking, creative and business skills.

All 36 pupils of the Year 10 Product Design GCSE cohort took part in the challenge, working in teams to design and develop their products, with over 14,500 students participating nationwide.



It was the 'Card Hero' product; a credit card size phone holder made from bamboo designed by team members Ethan Clarke, Herbie Callow, Ollie Bobrowski and Rowan Yardley that was submitted to the national



competition after much deliberation from the Design and Technology teaching staff. Then a week later the exciting news came through from the Design Museum that the team had made the top ten shortlist.

The team has just returned from the pitching event at the new Design Museum in Kensington, alongside the other nine shortlisted teams. This

was an exciting event where teams had the opportunity to present their product to the panel of expert judges. The Beechen Cliff product will be exhibited in the museum in the new year, and they will find out in February if they have scooped the top prize at an awards evening in the capital.

"We are really pleased with the quality of design concepts that all of our teams came up with, especially as it was the first project of the GCSE course. It certainly stands the pupils in good stead as they continue to prepare for the controlled assessment, but also making them more aware of real world problems, user focussed design and marketing. The Card Hero product really is an outstanding design concept that shows excellent awareness of its intended user group,



Herbie Callow, Ethan Clarke, Ernst Bakker (Teacher) Rowan Yardley, Ollie Bobrowski

sustainably sourced materials and simplicity of design. We are delighted that it has been recognised and shortlisted, and the team's professionalism and confidence shone through at the pitching event. They are a real credit to the faculty and Beechen Cliff as a whole."

Mr E Bakker
Beechen Cliff Design and Technology Department.

English Department

English Trip

Last week, we took a group of Year 12 students to the annual Sovereign Lectures in Birmingham to spend time furthering their knowledge on *Hamlet*. The group experienced four readings of *Hamlet* ranging from post-modern feminist criticism, to the importance of repeated numbers within the play. This opportunity provided them not only with interesting criticisms to take away for their exams, but an insight into the academic structure of University. They even had time to experience the Bull Ring and get some Christmas shopping done at the beautifully themed Bavarian Market.



Mrs C Davis and Mr O Lloyd

Debating Success

Calvin Oliver and Joe Dunford enjoyed success in the first round of the English Speaking Union Competition this month, proposing the motion, *This House would add e-sports to the Olympic Games*. They won their round and are now looking forward to competing in the next stage of the competition in Salisbury in January. They had great support from the rest of the Debating Team and it was invaluable training for our new debaters!

 Christmas Debate 

'Scrooge is an admirable figurehead in this age of austerity'



Inter-school debate challenge

3:45 pm, Friday 8th December
Main Hall
Beechen Cliff School

Drinks and refreshments will be provided
Christmas jumpers encouraged but optional

Christmas Inter-school Debate

BCS hosted a festive Christmas Debate on the motion, *This House believe Scrooge is an admirable figurehead in this age of austerity*. Ralph Allen and Oldfield School joined us and it was great to see Year 10s, 11s, 12s and 13s, all taking part.

Wera Hobhouse MP came to judge and chair the debate and spent time chatting to students about Parliamentary styles of debating and offering encouragement. The proposition won the motion and prizes were awarded!

Thank you to our own talented satirist, Mr Mark Hackett, for allowing us to use his artwork for our publicity poster.

Mrs C Davis and Mrs L Holly

Food Technology.

It has been another busy term in Food Technology!

Last week we held an after school Christmas cooking event for KS3 boys. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the evening and went home with a selection of savoury and sweet treats. All of the boys were thrilled with the results and are keen to make them again at home.



A huge thank you to Mrs Jones, Mr Solari, and Jodie Cox for their help and enthusiasm during the evening.

Watch out for more events next year.

May we ask you yet again for donations of biscuit, ice-cream containers or sweet tins for us to use in the Department. Any baking, cookery equipment or tea towels that you no longer use are always welcome!

The Food Technology Team

Languages

Montpellier Exchange October 2017

Just before the October half term, a party of Year 10 boys studying GCSE French together with the Year 10 girls from Hayesfield flew out to Montpellier to take part in the French Exchange. We all agreed that it was a very enriching experience, both in regards to language we learnt but also what we learnt about ourselves and our ability to cope with new and challenging situations; To enter someone's house who you barely know, along with having very limited options of how much you can communicate with the language barrier, is at first, a very daunting experience for most, but it's surprising how quickly language barriers are broken down and how you learn to feel so comfortable around new people.

During our week we did a range of different activities including going into Montpellier where we studied at a language school in the morning and then were given activities to complete in the afternoon around the town. We also went on a joint visit with our exchange partner to see famous monuments such as the Pont Du Gard and the Arènes at Nimes.



We spent the weekend with the French family which although could have been difficult ended up being a lot of fun. The families we stayed with were not only willing to accept us into their house, but into their family and many of us were taken to see and do amazing things over the weekend with our exchange partners. I personally believe that I grew as a linguist around such a similar but different culture as well as growing as a human. The way you become accustomed to talking in a foreign language is staggering, although admittedly you don't have much choice, you definitely cannot stay in a shell when you have to communicate basic needs like eating and drinking!

Also during the exchange we spent a day at the French school shadowing our exchange partners in their lessons, learning what their day is like – starting at 7.35am and finishing at 5.00pm we realised how tiring the day was – although they do have Wednesday afternoons off!

We are now all really looking forward to March when we will get the chance to return the amazing hospitality we received in Montpellier. All in all, I believe that anyone who wants to expand their language knowledge, or just wants to immerse themselves in a different culture with great people, should do the exchange.

Mrs J Merret
Head of French

Italian Exchange to Sanremo – October 2017

When the trip was first advertised, I was doubtful whether I wanted to go. In the end I convinced myself to go as I knew I would regret it if I didn't. I'm very glad I made that choice as I enjoyed the trip immensely! As soon as we got there I met my exchange partner and went off to his house, where I met his family and was immediately made to feel at home. My exchange partner spoke great English and all through the week, if I was struggling to communicate, he would help me out, and I didn't feel the language barrier whatsoever. The trip was jam packed with sightseeing visits, historical visits and food tasting, and in the small amount of time we had off, I went with my exchange partner's family to Monaco, adding to the list of the many places I visited.

The constant Italian, whether directed at me or just overhearing it, greatly benefitted my Italian listening skills, to the point that I was understanding most things people were saying by the end of the week – but amongst all the Italian, it was great to spend time just looking around Sanremo and the coast. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone studying Italian, even if you feel a little doubtful like I did – I guarantee it will be a trip you will not forget!



William Reed Year 11

Maths Department

Year 7 and 8 Number Bee – the results

All boys in Years 7 and 8 were asked to make sure that they had some KEY number facts at their fingertips. For Year 7 this was a case of times tables up to 12×12 and finding fractions of given numbers. In addition, Year 8 also had to learn key equivalences between fractions and decimals, as well as some angle facts.

Based on average scores across the year groups the results were:

	<u>Year 7</u>		<u>Year 8</u>
1 st	Byron	1 st	Byron
2 nd	Shakespeare	2 nd	Chaucer
3 rd	Milton	3 rd	Kipling
4 th	Kipling	4 th	Shakespeare
5 th	Chaucer	5 th	Milton

Congratulations to all boys who put the time in to try to learn these important pieces of information.

The new GCSE (first sitting last summer) does place a greater emphasis on memory and knowledge of key formulas (pupils will be provided with far fewer in the exam). It would be great if pupils could try to keep their knowledge of key mathematical facts (especially times tables) as high as possible. Parents – please feel free to keep testing your children on them!

Senior Maths Challenge

19 of our sixth formers recently took part in the Senior National Maths challenge with some exceptional results. Connor Headon and James Morris both qualified for the National Maths Olympiad and Tom Bobrowski, Hugo Davies, Daniel Zhang and Matthew Smithers all qualified for the Senior Kangaroo.

In total our students were awarded 6 Gold medals, 5 Silver and 4 Bronze. Congratulations to all who took part!

Senior Team Challenge

In November the Senior Maths Challenge Team of James Morris, Daniel Zhang, Ruben Wharton and Lucy Lord travelled up to Hardenhuish School in Chippenham to take part in the regional heats of the National competition. This is a really challenging event and the calibre of students attending is exceptional. Our team put in a determined performance, finishing 6th out of 18 teams. They clearly enjoyed the challenge and, given that they are all currently in year 12, did really well.

Cipher Challenge

I have been overwhelmed some weeks by the number of boys who have been taking part this year.

<http://www.cipher.maths.soton.ac.uk/>

With six of the eight challenges complete we have ten teams on the leaderboard, with two joint top. As we get to the later stages these problems do become really challenging – it is a joy to listen to some of the discussions each week as the pupils tried to crack the latest challenge. The challenge finishes in early January – when Codebreaking Club will then take a break but we will be back in September for the 2018 challenge.

Many thanks for Mrs Biggs for looking after the club!

Year 10 Trip to Bath University for “Maths meets Medicine”

On Wednesday 27th September Mr Smith’s Year 10 Maths group ventured to the University of Bath to take part in an event focused on “Maths meets Medicine”. The day was run by PSI, a non-profit organisation promoting statistical insight and we spent the day taking part in mock drug trials using some advanced statistical analysis to find out how mathematicians can help when deciding whether a drug is doing the job it is supposed to. We also looked at how a decision is arrived at as to whether a new drug is brought to market or not, weighing up the potential health benefits against the financial costs of investment.

The boys learnt a lot about the industry and how data is playing an increasingly important part in many businesses, hopefully opening their eyes and minds to some possible career paths and how the maths they will learn at school is used in the real world.

GCSE revision guides

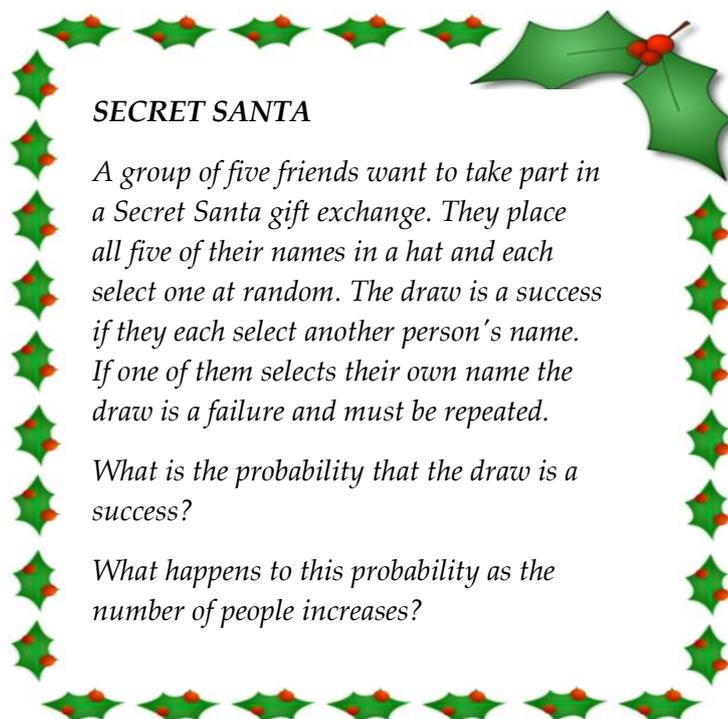
If any pupils in Years 10 and 11 have missed out on opportunities to buy revision guides for their GCSE exam, then you can click here:

HIGHER:https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/178294396X/ref=pd_sbs_14_img_0?ie=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=ZV4S731A7VP6V5FFS4MK

FOUNDATION:https://www.amazon.co.uk/New-GCSE-Maths-Revision-Guide/dp/1782943919/ref=sr_1_4?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1481105999&sr=1-4&keywords=aqa+maths+gcse+revision+guide

There are several others available. So long as a revision guide is for the 9-1 GCSE, AQA exam board and at the correct tier (Higher or Foundation) it will be fine.

And finally....a Christmas teaser...



I will put a full solution in the first weekly newsletter of the New Year!

Happy Christmas everybody!

Mr E R Gill
Head of Maths
edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Chess Club



Under the guidance of local chess teacher Ferdo Dizdarevic, we have been meeting on Tuesday afternoons between 5pm and 6pm.

There is a wonderful atmosphere (friendly and competitive!) and we are looking to arrange some competitions with local schools in the New Year.

Although all the boys currently attending are from Years 7 and 8 it is open to all year groups. If you are interested in coming along please come to see me or drop me an email.

Mr E R Gill
edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Music

Music Lessons

Instrumental lessons continue to provide a range of opportunities for pupils and students, with approximately 100 pupils receiving tuition in school. Information regarding starting lessons can be found on the music page of the school website <http://musicbcs.weebly.com/> May I also remind parents that instrumental timetables are updated each week and can also be found on the website under parent information.

In the classroom all year groups have been getting used to the two new mac suites which appeared over the summer. The ICT department have done a sterling job in setting up all the new hardware and software and all pupils have benefitted greatly from this new technology.

Music Exams

Congratulations to the following who have all passed music exams over the past few months:

Ashley French- Grade I piano, Arthur Mawer- Grade 3 piano with merit, Finlay Ballamy - Grade 3 piano, Forbes McGlynn - Grade II alto saxophone, Sam Nobes - Grade 1 trumpet with merit, George Walker grade 4 trumpet and finally Gavin Colman and Gabriel Barnes who both achieved Grade V guitar with merit. In addition Louis Pain, Rory Akbar and Rory Self all passed grade V theory exams with the last two achieving a merit.

All pupils will be receiving certificates in the end of term assembly.

Performances

At the end of term 1, the school piano concert took place on Wednesday 18th October at St Luke's Church. 32 pupils and sixth form students performed to an appreciative audience who were all impressed by the array of talent. The repertoire ranged from Bach through to Coldplay and all performers enjoyed the experience of playing on a grand piano.



The week before the piano concert, several pianists and the saxophone group performed in various house assemblies. It was an excellent opportunity for the boys to watch their peers in action and hopefully it will have inspired some to begin learning an instrument.

At Presentation evening in November the musical slot was taken by Lea Ford (Deputy Head girl) who played the slow movement of the Violin Sonata in A by Brahms ably accompanied by Mr Sillem on the piano. The acoustics in the Assembly rooms lent themselves well to Lea's fine violin playing.

The end of term also saw the traditional music festivities taking place. On Thursday, 14th December our School Brass Ensemble went 'busking' outside the Abbey to raise money for the Rotary Club's annual Christmas collection. Later that same day the choir, orchestra, brass ensemble and choir performed magnificently in the School Carol Service at Bath Abbey. The carol service is always a highlight of the school year and this was no exception. As usual Year 7 pupils were in attendance and lots of parents fed back that the atmosphere was very 'Christmassy!'



The following day, the school choir performed at the Bear Flat Association Carol Service in Alexandra Park. The service was held on the viewpoint overlooking the city and again made for a wonderfully festive and atmospheric occasion.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank all the music staff for their continued help and dedication to the Department. I would also like to thank William Hegarty (Senior Musician) and Alex Morriss (Deputy Senior Musician), for their help in 'rallying the troops' to attend extra-curricular rehearsals. They have both settled into their respective roles very well and are an enormous help.

On behalf of the entire music department, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr P E Calvert
Head of Music

Outdoor Activities

Tir-Y-Cwm

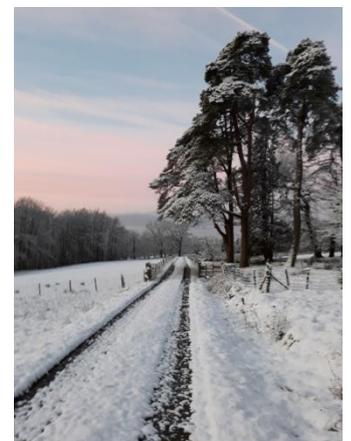
Several staff went up to Tir-Y-Cwm, the school's cottage in mid Wales over last weekend. This of course coincided with the heavy snowfall that occurred, turning the place into a winter wonderland as the photos testify

The purpose of the visit was to undertake some ground work, tidy the place up and carry out a basic survey in order for future plans to be made. In particular, from the New Year there will be a push to increase bookings for the place, from within the schools community of staff and parents as well as other organisations. We will also be looking to the skill base of parents to help maintain the property in the future by volunteering a day or weekend

Should you wish to book the cottage please enquire through the Headmasters P.A, Mrs Thompson.

Finally keep an eye on the school website for news and developments. We hope to have a new website and booking system soon

Mr D Brewer
Head of Humanities



Devon Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge 2017

This year's challenge was certainly the toughest for a number of years. This was due to the incessant rain that continued right up to the moment that our cyclists got off their bikes on Plymouth Hoe, 100 miles after getting on in Ilfracombe, North Devon.

This made the achievement all the greater for the 25 pupils who took on the challenge with a supporting crew of 13 staff. The route connects a number of cycle paths across Devon, from estuaries to moorland fringes. On any other day a ride that is stunningly picturesque. The key was to keep moving to avoid muscles seizing up and stay warm.

With various sugary sweets and the traditional pasty stop in Okehampton we were well energized to keep going, despite a few tumbles, grazes and punctures along the way. Our efforts were not in vain as we were raising money for Dorothy House Hospice. As it stands the monies collected so far amount to £1300 with some cyclists, notably Finn Pike in year 11 raising hundreds of pounds.



The cyclists arrive at a soggy Plymouth Hoe as blue skies finally emerge behind them.

A huge congratulations to all those who participated and of course a huge thanks to staff who ensured everything ran as smoothly as possible in testing conditions.

Mr D Brewer
Head of Humanities

Three Peaks challenge 2018

29TH JUNE TO 2ND JULY 2018



The Beechen Cliff Three Peaks Challenge is one of the many endurance challenges offered to students. It involves the ascent of the three highest mountains in Scotland, Wales and England, without undue stopping for rest or sustenance. It takes place over a three and a half day period that includes: one day travel to the first mountain and half a day from the last mountain to home. In all there are over 1200 miles of driving, over 3000 meters of ascent, and the distance walked will exceed an Olympic marathon.

Whilst it is a challenge that will test the 'metal' of all participants, it is a group activity and team work is vital if the challenge is to be completed in the true spirit of adventure. Beechen Cliff still remains one of the few schools in the United Kingdom to undertake such an arduous challenge. This challenge is as always an awesome and unforgettable adventure.

If you are interested the forms are available from the Duty Boy and also on the Outward Bound Section of the School website, where further details will be available and updated regularly. To secure your place you need to complete the Medical Form and pay the deposit of £85.00 (non-returnable unless the place can be filled by an alternative pupil) via ParentPay or directly to the

Finance Office. There are only 30 places available and the remaining balance of £200 must be paid by 20th April 2018.

Year 11 and Year 13 Challengers will need to check their examination timetables to ascertain any possible clashes of dates and all challengers should check diaries for other personal commitments.

Mr D Brewer and Mr R Stewart
Three Peaks Challenge Organisers

Ten Tors 2018

TEN TORS 2018

The poster features a Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle, labeled 'COMFORT ZONE', contains items like hair gel, Facebook, sofa, T.V, routine, Games console, iPhone, X factor, Material values, Mac Donalds, and Bed. The right circle, labeled 'THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE WORTHWHILE AND INTERESTING', contains Belief, Character, Epic, Pride, Enjoyment, Life skills, Fun, Determination, Team work, Adventure, Achievement, and Elation. The intersection of the two circles is labeled 'Choose Life!'. Below the diagram are three Ten Tors challenge coins.

Open to years 10-13

Meeting for ALL year groups AFTER SCHOOL Monday 8th January in P.1



Sport

AASE League/Senior Rugby Summary – 2017 Season

Beechen Cliff's U18 AASE team had another solid season competing in the RFU's National AASE League. The league, which comprises schools from all over the country who are affiliated to an Aviva Premiership club, is arguably the highest standard of schoolboy rugby available. After 9 gruelling fixtures in the South League, we finished 5th overall. More importantly we lit up the league with our brand of fast attacking rugby, which proved hard to contain in a league which is renowned for its physical, forward-dominated approach.

As a result of our performances we reached the play-offs, where we beat North League counterparts Myerscough College (Sale Sharks AASE) 52-22 at Weston Hornets RFC. We scored 8 fantastic tries, including a pair for stand-in skipper Miles Gilbert.



AASE Squad after win v Filton College (Bristol AASE)

This is only our third season in the league. The tremendous progress made is a testimony to the hard work, commitment and sacrifice made by the squad of players, coaches and support staff. Team spirit has been a key factor under the leadership of co-captains Oliver Cattell and Tom de Glanville. Individuals within the squad have been recognised for their talent and commitment with Connor Beer and Chris Moore representing Ireland U18s and Tom Jeanes and Tom de Glanville in the England U18s squad. All the year 13s involved now move on to the next stage of their rugby careers – playing for Bath in the Academy league after Christmas, with some competing for a much sought after professional contract. Others are enrolling in the major rugby playing Universities for next year. Meanwhile the Year 12s will continue their development programme with the aim of doing even better next year.

Meanwhile our 1st XV, which operates as a development squad, has had a very busy season playing the 1st XV's of the top rugby playing schools in the region. The young squad of players have made huge progress and many have graduated up into the AASE squad during the season or, at the very least, are in a position where they will be challenging for a spot next season. Highlights of the season were great wins against Pates, Downside and QEH and tremendous performances in floodlit local derbies against KES and Kingswood.

The 2nds (although, effectively our 3rd tier) have had a tremendous season under the guidance of Mr Glanville and captaincy of Stan Saunders. A loyal core of players has stuck together through thick and thin, defeating all before them with flowing rugby played in great spirit. On a couple of occasions this year we have also fielded a 4th tier with 90+ sixth formers proudly representing their school at rugby in a single week – testament to the depth of talent and enthusiasm for rugby at Beechen Cliff.



2nds and 3rds after wins v KES

Mr S Turner
AASE

Year 7 Rugby

The latest recruits to the Beechen Cliff rugby program have shown great commitment and endeavour throughout the season. The boys have played against many tough opponents from the private school sector within the Bath and Bristol area - teams that have been together pretty much from the days when they had just finished wearing nappies!

Despite this, the boys have competed admirably every week, demonstrating great resilience and improvement as the weeks have gone on. Such has been the support of the pupils that we have on occasions been able to have three teams representing the school.

We very much look forward to witnessing these players flourish in the future as they aspire to play for the school's AASE team!

In particular, the stand out players this year have been Max Dorrington, Sam Gane and Markos Constantinides, to name just a few.

Congratulations to everyone and good luck for future seasons!

Mr G Hawkins
Head of Physical Education and Sports Science

Year 8 Rugby Report

The Year 8's have enjoyed a successful season both in matches and on the training field. With over 70 boys involved, the interest and popularity of the sport has been fantastic to see. On the training field, the boys have made huge progress. They have listened and acted on advice given and the boys are really started to gel as a squad.

On the field, the way the boys have approached games has reflected their hard work in training. We have some wonderfully gifted players in Year 8 who have really shown their skill and quality in a variety of games this season. Many opposition coaches have complemented us on how we play the game, spreading the ball wide and being resolute in defence.

Notable games for the A team this season have been closely fought victories against QEH and Bishops Wordsworth. The boys needed to show true grit and determination to get over the line which they did with aplomb. James Short has captained the side very well this season, and with the help of Will Dudman, Sam Millward and Harry Delargy, the four have proved to be a formidable threat in the midfield. Ben Stoling, Charlie Davidge, Ollie Smith and Ross Johnson have also had successful campaigns in the forwards.

Notable wins for the B team came against Colstons and Kingswood. Again, two very close victories that the boys worked very hard for. The B team have enjoyed a brilliant season with 8 wins so far with 2 games to play. Many boys have been pushing hard for a spot in the A team and a number of boys have made that step up. Liam Ryan, Gus Disney and Oliver Horn have been the stalwarts of the B team and have shown real leadership qualities this season. Guy Donovan, Fin Holt and Harry Evans have provided us with real flare in attack.

Overall, I am very excited to be working with such a talented crop of players. We have 2 games left this season in which we hope the boys will put everything they have learnt into practice. We then move on into Year 9 when the game moves from 13-a-side to 15-a-side. A challenge both myself and the boys are looking forward to!

Mr M Walker

Year 9 Rugby Report

At the time of printing the accomplishments of this highly talented and committed bunch are:

A team

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
9	8	0	1	305	112	193

B team

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
12	11	0	0	434	89	345

As is clear this group of boys are clearly a team to be reckoned with. All members work hard and train together and there is very little between the 2 teams. The B team have played the majority of their games against A team opposition and to average 29 points per game shows the exciting way they play and their ability to really take the game to the opposition. They are exceptionally enthusiastic and are willing to learn. Every player who represented the A team did so with great skill and did not look out of place. A fantastic effort by all and a fine finish to a very successful season to beat a very well-drilled and strong team from Tommy Rich by playing some excellent structured running rugby.

A team

This season the U14s really got to grips with the demands and challenges brought by the new continuum laws. They worked exceptionally hard at training, committed themselves to what we were trying to achieve and practiced the core skills needed to play the style and pattern we wanted. Talent abounds in this group from 1 to 22. Players embraced the opportunity to try new positions and develop their play. As a result there were some 40 point 'turn arounds from last year: for example reversing a 40 point loss to Pate's into a 39-22 win.

The results bear testament to how well we have progressed as a team but that is only a small part of the success of this team. Our objective was to all improve as players and as part of a team. Furthermore we all wanted to play exciting, attacking rugby. We as coaches feel the players should feel tremendously proud of their achievements this year. They are in a great place to continue the momentum next year in the National Cup.

Thanks to every player who represented the school this year- 54 players played A or B team this year- the parents for being so supportive and understanding (and for offering to make the tea!) and the referees (who fortunately limited Mr Sayers appearances to the benefit of all concerned).

A fantastic, successful and most of all, enjoyable terms rugby.

Mr Sir Clive Jaggon and Mr Aussie Eddie Sayers

U15 Rugby

As I write this report both Under 15 A and B team are unbeaten in what has been a fantastic season to date. The A team have had many impressive wins, punishing team with some outstanding rugby. Two games in particular come to mind the 10-7 win over Marlborough which was a bruising encounter for both teams and the hard fought 36-32 win over QEH; the first win over QEH in four attempts.

Year 10 rugby always bring the excitement of the National competition and going into Christmas the U15s have progressed into the last 16 of the Vase where they will face Backwell for a place in the quarter finals. The team have shown their physical dominance in this competition scoring over 200 points and conceding just 14. The next round will be tough but the team will go in with plenty of confidence.

The B team have also played some fantastic rugby due to their commitment to weekly training. As a result many of the B team players have moved into A team and have cemented a place for the National competition. Impressive wins over Marlborough and King Edwards stand out in a season full of many highlights.

It is great to see so many boys representing the school at Year 10 and good luck to the A team in the National Vase.

Mr P Macdonald
Director of Sport



2nd and 3rd XV Rugby

It was another record breaking season for the 2nd and 3rd XV. With record numbers representing the school and hard fought wins over KES, Colston's and Downside it can only be described as a successful year for the squad. A big thank you to Stan Saunders for being an inspirational and well organised captain, his physical commitment in both attack and defence was emulated by all players in every fixture. In the pack, the Griffiths brothers dominated giving a solid platform for stand out player Bill Holburn to have an exceptional season. Well done to everyone who represented the 2nd and 3rd XV, including Year 11's who helped when we were short on numbers.

We look forward to next year, where even more players will grace the training pitch hoping to represent the school at senior level.

Player of the Season: Stan Saunders

Mr M Glanville
2nd XV Coach

Forthcoming Sports Fixtures - New Term (January)

The details below are correct at the time of publication and may be subject to change. Please check the BCS Sports website for updated information.

Day	Kick off/start	Fixures	Meeting time	Transport	Finish/Return
Friday 5 th Jan 2018	4pm	Hockey 1 st XI v Prior Park College (A)	3pm	MB	6pm

Year 7 Cross Country Club

Each Thursday a group of Year 7 boys brave the elements (which have not been too bad this term to be honest) and go for a brisk jog around the School grounds and Alexandra Park. Regardless of ability all boys are all enjoying it and improving technique, speed and fitness.

A group of 7 boys represented the school in the BANES Cross Country championships. Congratulations to Josh Henly who finished eighth and qualified for the next round, but also to the entire team. We had six finishers in the top twenty and this is a wonderful reflection of the enthusiasm and dedication shown by all.

We will continue to run every Thursday, and it is also lovely to see boys from all Year groups taking part in the Bath Skyline Park run on Saturday mornings.

Mr E R Gill

edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Cricket (Under 12 - Year 7)

Yes, I understand that this does not necessarily figure prominently in mid-Winter, but preparation has to begin early.

In mid-January, the first assessment session will take place for Year 7 boys and I will be asking them to “sign up” to make sure that I know they would be interested in training and playing for the School in the Spring and Summer.

Our commitment remains the same as ever. Any boy who wants to play for the school will do so. We will run a number of teams and there will be a very long fixture list, including matches against the best cricket playing schools in the South West.

Mr A Davies

Headmaster

Football Tour (Corsairs, Deltas and Eagles)

In March we will be taking our young players on a tour which will include matches at St Peter’s in Exeter, Churston Grammar School, Torquay Boys’ Grammar and Paignton College. The tour will see 27 boys invited, generally from the ranks of those who will not be playing regular “league” fixtures in the Spring Term. This short tour (two days) has become rather a nice part of the sporting life of the school and those that have been included have very much enjoyed the experience. Your son might bring you more details in the weeks ahead....

Training General Year 7 football training takes place on a Friday evening (3.30pm - 5.00pm) on the astro. This is overseen by Mr Watts, Mr Sillem, Miss Pratt and Jonty Enright (Year 11). All Year 7 boys are welcome and no particular experience/aptitude is required. Come and enjoy the opportunity to play. We have been entertaining up to sixty boys each week since the beginning of November.

Mr A Davies

Headmaster

Shooting

The pistol and rifle air gun shooting taster sessions have taken place over the terms, allowing more than one hundred and twenty of our new boys to try out the sport. Each session ends with a chance to participate in the Mars bar challenge, which was won by seven boys.

Standings

<u>Pistol Shooting</u>			<u>Rifle Shooting</u>		
1 st	William Healy	131	1 st	Max Rogers	113
2 nd	Jack Kelley	129	2 nd	Joe Davies	112
3 rd	Henry James	116	3 rd	Dylan Harvey	108
4 th	Oliver McCarthy	114	4 th	Hugo Boston	103
5 th	Fabien Perry	112	5 th	Mateo Lobo Fernandez	101

I must take the opportunity to thank our young coaches for their support of the boys. This term Daniel Eggleton, Charlie Case, Ethan Hemmings, James Cullingford and Isaac Cutting have been leading the programme.

There are four further sessions to take place in January.

Mr A Davies
Headmaster



PTA: Raise Funds Whilst Eating Veg!



We have joined Riverford's "Veg Fund" – a new partnership scheme for schools which helps us to raise funds and raise awareness of healthy eating. Riverford's local team (who are parents at Beechen Cliff) will be making a £15 donation to the School for each new or existing customer connected to the School.

Riverford deliver seasonal, organic vegboxes to your door, so it is a really easy way to buy your vegetables. Boxes start at just £10.95 and they can be cheaper than buying the same veg at the supermarket. Delivery is free. There is no minimum commitment and you are in control of what you get and when.

Try a regular vegbox and get the donations rolling in the Beechen Cliff:

- If you are already a Riverford customer, please support the School by letting Alan and Vicki (the local team) know. Just email them at alanandvicki@riverfordhomedelivery.co.uk and quote our School ID code SCH1301
- If you are new to Riverford, go to www.riverford.co.uk/vegfund and choose the box that suits you, or call Alan and Vicki on 01225 437438. Again you will need to quote our School ID code, SCH101, when you check out. Riverford will make the payment at the beginning of the term following your third delivery.

Beechen Cliff PTA