



BEECHEN CLIFF

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to all members of the School Community. I very much hope that Christmas brought you some peace and time together with loved ones – although I suspect the former might not have been quite as easy to achieve...

Although we face a short half term you will notice that there are a number of activities which fill the diary pages and make sure that the energies of all members of the School can be directed towards worthwhile goals. The Upper Sixth are currently sitting their mock A Levels and the Year 11 being asked to take up offers for revision sessions and to prepare materials for the forthcoming GCSE examinations.

We know only too well how quickly the weeks will slip past us before we know it the Summer Examinations will be upon us. You can rest assured that the teachers will be doing everything they can to make the next few months as productive as possible for every boy and student

Mr A Davies  
Headmaster

## Prep Update

As of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January we shall be changing the format of Prep. In Short, if a pupil misses a homework, they will be issued with a H2 and expected to complete the homework after School on that day.

Please note that voluntary prep will still be available every day. Please see below for details

- If a pupil misses a homework, a 24 hour window will be given by the teacher (if deemed appropriate) to produce the homework. If the homework is not handed in, a H2 will be recorded on CPOMS and the teacher will tell the pupil that he will attend Prep on that day to complete the homework for up to an hour.
- If the pupil has a C2 on that day too, the C2 will take precedence and the H2 will follow the C2 20mins.
- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays – Prep also available for Year 11 revision in Room C2

Mr K Mann  
Assistant Headmaster Pastoral

## CALENDAR

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Year 9 Immunisations

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Year 7 Latin groups to Roman Baths

EPQ Lower Sixth trip to Southampton University

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Austria Ski trip

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Year 9 Immunisation mop ups

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Ten Tors Training on Mendips

## 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. **Please see attached to this newsletter the revision schedule/timetable.**

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 Markall  
Assistant Headmaster

## Reporting Pupil Absences

**IMPORTANT**

Please can parents take note of the contact details below when reporting any absences from School, including late arrivals and medical appointments:

### 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](mailto:attendance@beechencliff.org.uk)

Sixth Form Students For Sixth Form students please contact Mrs Jones on 01225 485221.

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

## Theme of the Week – New Years Resolutions

The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honour of the New Year – though for them the year began not in January but in mid-March, when the crops were planted. During a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their gods would bestow favour on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favour.

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after the emperor Julius Caesar changed the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the New Year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had special significance for the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the New Year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, the English clergyman John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the New Year. This video tells you a bit about when New Year has been celebrated over time, and different ways in which it is celebrated around the world: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA1OObaFVvLc>

Action for Happiness is a movement to help people take action for a happier and more caring world. Their vision is a happier world, with fewer people suffering with mental health problems and more people feeling good, functioning well and helping others. They have created a New Year calendar which challenges you to do something every day throughout January to increase your happiness and wellbeing – have a look at the **calendar below** and think about which challenges you could take on, and if there are any you would adapt. January can be a difficult time for some, with many people suffering from seasonal affective disorder (SAD) and post-holiday blues. Typically, January blues manifest itself as feelings of low mood and sadness, low energy, lack of motivation and anxiety. It can also sometimes show itself through sickness, like a cold or flu. There are also a few simple steps that can help minimise the risk of mental health issues arising this January. These include a healthy diet and regular exercise, but also a positive mind-set, and setting yourself achievable targets to increase your overall happiness and wellbeing (for

example, using the Happy New Year calendar). There are lots of organisations offering help and support if you find yourself struggling in January (as well as support at home and in school):

- Time to Talk - [www.time-to-change.org.uk](http://www.time-to-change.org.uk)
- Heads Together [www.headstogether.org.uk/about-heads-together](http://www.headstogether.org.uk/about-heads-together)
- Young Minds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/>
- Kooth- <https://kooth.com/>



Miss Polly Netto  
PHSE Co-ordinator

## PTA Welcome Evening for Year 7 Parents

With the Christmas and New Year festivities over and the gloom of January setting in, we are sure you will be delighted to have another social event to look forward to; the belated 'Welcome Evening' for Year 7 Parents in the form of a Cheese, Wine and Beer evening on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January.

The event will run from 7.30-9.30pm in the School Refectory. Tickets for the event are now available on ParentPay priced at £5 per person to include a welcome drink with cheese and nibbles plus musical entertainment from some of the talented Beechen Cliff Students featuring the Saxophone Quartet.

A paying bar will also be available for wine, soft drinks and Electric Bear Beer. Any profit from the evening will be added to the PTA fundraising account.

We hope as many of you as possible will join us for this opportunity to other meet other Year 7 parents and to undoubtedly find out more about what goes on in your son's new life at Beechen Cliff as there may be a few things they will have forgotten to mention!

If you have any questions, please contact the year 7 PTA reps via e-mail [yr7bcspta@gmail.com](mailto:yr7bcspta@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you on the 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Jacqueline Lewis, Vicki Mowat and Caroline Roofe

## Quiz and Curry Night – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

A date for your diaries/calendars. The School are organising another Quiz and Curry Night on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March in the Refectory – it will include a selection of curries, live music and a raffle. Details to follow. Come along with family/friends in teams of 4-6.

All proceeds from the event will go to support the Sixth Form charity project work in Transylvania with People Against Poverty.



Mr P Watts  
Deputy Headmaster

## Bands Night 2018 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Back for the third year – the Sixth Form and Beechen Cliff Arts are organising the now famous (infamous?) Bands Night. This previously ‘sell out’ event is back on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. This year we are expecting more bands/solo acts than ever before and are expecting standards to be raised yet again.

Bands Night is an opportunity for bands/solo acts to perform from all year groups and we would encourage any budding Ed Sherans or a fledgling Foo Fighters to leave contact details at the Main Office and we will be in touch.



Tickets (£1 in advance) for this event will be available from mid-January for pupils, students and parents. Tickets will also be available to buy via parent pay. On the door, entrance will be £2. Be warned, in previous years this event has been sold out so get your ticket early. For parents there will be a bar.

All proceeds from Bands Night go to support the Sixth Form charity project work in Transylvania with People Against Poverty.

Will Hegarty and Tegan Rush (Sixth Form students)

## Bath Strings Academy – Spring Workshops 2018

Please find attached to this newsletter information about Bath Strings Academy and their forthcoming January Workshops. These workshops are suitable for absolute beginners who may have had only a few lessons on their violin, viola or cello, to advanced players

For more information see the flyer attached to this newsletter or visit [www.bathstringsacademy.org](http://www.bathstringsacademy.org)

Michelle Falcon  
Bath Strings Academy

## Word of the Week - Ostentatious

### Adjective:

- = pretentious or showy
- = designed to impress
- = too obviously showing off, particularly with possessions, décor or knowledge, in order to influence other people
- = behaving in an exaggerated way to attract attention

### Use it

The **ostentatious** lifestyle of the party leaders was heavily criticised.

He had plenty of money but was generous with its use without being **ostentatious**.

She stopped outside the shop and **ostentatiously** began inspecting the contents of her bag.

### Spell it

ost not aus  
tious not cious or sious  
OsTentaTious

Mrs L Leonardi  
Literacy Co-ordinator

## Tennis



BEECHEN CLIFF

### Beechen Cliff Tennis Programme January – March 2018

TENNIS ‘SQUAD’ – Wednesdays 3.30pm – 4.30pm  
Years 7 – 10

17<sup>th</sup> January – 14<sup>th</sup> March £40 (8 sessions)

The Squad is split into a beginner class and intermediate class. Groups are sorted by ability and age. The course covers:

- Basis technique – correct grips and swings, footwork patterns and ball characteristics
- Basis singles and doubles tactics
- Rules and matchplay

TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT  
[www.tt-tennis.co.uk/beechencliff](http://www.tt-tennis.co.uk/beechencliff)

For more information please email [info@tt-tennis.co.uk](mailto:info@tt-tennis.co.uk)

Mr T Markall  
Tennis



BEECHEN CLIFF

**Kitchen Assistant (Two positions available)**

Position 1: 15 hours per week (11.30 am 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](http://www.beechencliff.org.uk).

Applications should be sent to Mrs Thompson at the school address or via the email address, [headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk)

Interviews will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.beechencliff.org.uk) or apply to the school on 01225 480466; email: [headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk)

Interviews to be conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**SPORTS****Sporting Fixtures**

*The details below are correct at the time of publication. Please check the BCS Sports website for updated information.*

<u>Day</u>	<u>Kick-off/Start time</u>	<u>Fixture</u>	<u>Meeting Time</u>	<u>Transport</u>	<u>Finish/Return</u>
<b>Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	4.30pm	Football U12A, U12 Athletico v Bristol Grammar (A)	3.00pm	MB	6.00pm
	2.00pm	Football U13A v St Peters Exeter (A)	11.00am	MB	5.45pm
<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	2.45pm	Hockey U15A v Kingswood (A)	2.00pm	MB	4.15pm
	4.00pm	Hockey U13A v Kingswood Prep (A)	3.05pm	MB	5.30pm
	4.30pm	Hockey U12A v Kingswood (A)	3.15pm	MB	5.30pm
<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	2.45pm	Hockey U14A v Kingswood (A)	1.45pm	MB	4.15pm
	3.30pm	Cricket Sixes U15A v Area Tournament (A)	2.45pm	MB	6.00pm
	4.00pm	Basketball U14A v Writhlington School (H)	3.15pm	n/a	5.30pm
<b>Weds 17<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	2.00pm	Football U12A, U12 Atletico v Clifton College (A)	12.30pm	Coach 12.45pm	4.30pm
	2.30pm	Football U16A, U15A, U15B, U14A, U14B v Millfield (A)	12.45pm	Coach 1.00pm	5.15pm
	3.45pm	Hockey U16A v B&NES Tournament @ Chew Valley (A)	14.45pm	MB	6.00pm
	5.00pm	Hockey 1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Kingswood School (A)	4.00pm	MB	6.15pm

Mr P MacDonald  
Director of Sport