



BEECHEN CLIFF

Christmas 2016

Articles in this week's letter. If you're viewing online please click on the item below:

Message from the Headmaster.....	5
Dates for your Diary	6
Essential Information.....	6
Reporting Absences	6
Changes in Contact Details.....	6
Extra Curricular Activities.....	6
Immunisation Consent Forms for Year 9 and Year 11 Pupils.....	7
Pick up / drop off issues outside the School main entrance.....	7
Year 9 Full Reports.....	7
Free School Meals and 16–19 Bursary	8
Message from Chef	8
Beechen Cliff Super Curricular Lecture Series.....	9
Upper Sixth/Lower Sixth Mock Exams	9
Year 11 Revision/Coursework Catch-up Class Schedule 2017	10
House News.....	11
Byron House	11
Milton House	12
Shakespeare.....	13
Theme of the Week	13
Departmental News.....	14
Art.....	14
Bristol Art Trip	14
Wellow and Midford Art Trip.....	14
Art Club.....	14
Artist of the term	15
Sebastião Salgado Exhibition.....	15
GCSE Art Club.....	15
RUH Exhibition	15
Year 10 Art Trip to Oxford.....	15
Christmas Card.....	16
Classics.....	16
Latin	16
Classics.....	16

Computing	17
Programming Club	17
History	17
Year 7 recreate The Battle of Hastings in Alexandra Park	17
Geography.....	18
Geographers in Iceland	18
Year 12 Geographers on Tour in Devon	19
Devon Coast to Coast 2016	20
Year 9 Cornwall Surf Trip.....	22
Ten Tors.....	22
Food Technology.....	23
Library, Literacy and Accelerated Reader:.....	23
Word of the Week -Grateful	23
Library News	24
English Department.....	25
English A Level News	25
Debating and Public Speaking	25
School Production December 2016 - Journey's End	26
Maths Department.....	26
Year 7 and 8 Number Bee – the results	26
Senior Team Challenge.....	27
Cipher Challenge.....	27
Year 11 GCSE revision guides	27
Senior Maths December 2016	28
Chess Club	28
Music.....	28
Music Exams.....	29
Languages	30
Spanish Exchange 2016.....	30
Spanish Exchange: Accommodation needed	30
Le marché de Noël!	30
Physics Department.....	31
New summer camp for high-school students at CERN	31
PSHE	32

E-Team.....	32
Stonewall Guest Speaker.....	32
Sport.....	33
AASE League.....	33
Year 7 Rugby.....	34
Year 8 Rugby 2016.....	34
U14 Rugby.....	35
U15 Rugby.....	36
Year 11 Rugby.....	36
2 nd and 3 rd XV Rugby	37
Year 7 Cross Country Club	37
Shooting (Air Gun).....	38
Clay Pigeon.....	38
Rifle shooting Competition.....	38
Coming up next term.....	39
U13A Tennis Team.....	39
Winter Senior Students Tennis Competition.....	40
U13C/U15B Tennis Teams	40
Netball	41
Sports Results for Week Commencing Monday 5 th December.....	41
Prayer Meetings.....	41

Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers,

The longest term of the school year comes to a close and everyone associated with Beechen Cliff can anticipate the holiday ahead.

Much has been fitted into the fifteen weeks of the term and it will have acted to create the foundation upon which Year 11 boys and the Upper Sixth students will build to face the summer examinations. Our new Year 7 boys will hopefully be looking forward to the Christmas break secure in the knowledge that they have worked hard and managed to establish themselves within their school. I have certainly been impressed by their enthusiasm and desire to take up all offers of opportunity to enrich their experience.

The pages at the back of this newsletter will outline the sporting triumphs and disappointments of a very busy term, although special mention should be made of the Beechen Cliff AASE team, playing national league rugby proving themselves to be one of the best in the Country. Mr Turner and the Coaching Team within the School and Bath Rugby are to be congratulated on their achievements this term.

The School production of Journey's End proved to be a very impressive vehicle in demonstrating the qualities of a number of young actors together with a team that has proved itself capable of preparing the staging and lighting at a level which is to be admired. Mr West, giving many hours of his time and making the production come to life, is to be congratulated for his work.

Many of you will have been audience members at one or more of the Super-curricular lectures which have taken place over the course of the term ranging from 'The Biochemistry of Light' to the 'Ethics of the Like Button' and 'Inside Cancer: How Genes Influence Cancer Development' the talks being given by experts in the fields and have been significant in influencing the future direction of many of those who have seen them.

As always, the aim of the School is to enrich the experiences of our pupils and students, developing in them an appreciation that working to live by the values of compassion, aspiration, independence and balance they will become stronger and more confident.

To those who provide the experiences I say thank you. To all our parents, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for your continual support of Beechen Cliff and its aims.

Happy Christmas

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Davies', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr A Davies
Headmaster

Dates for your Diary

Friday 16 th December 2016	End of Term Assembly
	School finishes at approximately 1.00pm
Tuesday 3rd January 2017	Winter Term begins at 8.25am
Tuesday 3rd January – Friday 6th January 2017	Sixth Form Mock Exam week
Thursday 5 th January	Year 9 Options Evening session 6.30pm (Non-Linguists)
	Year 9 Options Evening session 7.30pm (Linguists)
Tuesday 10 th January	Lower Sixth Future Horizons Programme starts
Thursday 12 th January	Lower Sixth 'Why go to University?' collapsed timetable day
Saturday 14 th – Friday 20 th January	Austria Ski Trip
Thursday 19 th January	Year 10 Parents' Evening

Essential Information

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.

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

Extra Curricular Activities

We have a variety of after school clubs for pupils to attend. Details of these are displayed around the School and on the website at <http://www.beechencliff.org.uk/school-life/extra-curricular/>

Immunisation Consent Forms for Year 9 and Year 11 Pupils

Can parents of Year 9 and Year 11 pupils who have not already returned the completed consent forms for the January 2017 scheduled immunisation sessions detailed below, please do so as soon as.

- **Year 9 Immunisations on Thursday 12th January 2017** – *boosters from their childhood immunisations. (Diphtheria/Tetanus/ Polio and Meningitis ACWY)*
- **Year 11 Immunisations on Thursday 19th January 2017** for *new Meningitis ACWY*

Mrs K Lothgren
School Health Co-ordinator

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 lately 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.

We have informed Avon and Somerset Police who will from time to time provide 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

Year 9 Full Reports

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

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

Mr T D Markall
Assistant Headmaster

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

Message from Chef



Can I take this opportunity to thank all the students for using the refectory so regularly (and to all the parents for funding them!). It has made it a very busy and vibrant place to work for myself and all the kitchen staff.

So far this academic year we have catered for over 80,000 people which I am sure you will agree is quite a few and is fantastic for the School, and I hope it is used as much and more in the future.

Also if your children have any ideas for the menu or have a request I am always open to them and would try to put them on future menus.

Could I also ask that all accounts are topped up over the Christmas break to avoid any disappointment when they get back in January. Have a great Christmas and a happy New Year.

Thanks

Chef Dan Keal

Beechen Cliff Super Curricular Lecture Series

Our Super Curricular Lecture series continues in the New Year on Wednesdays at 3.30pm in the Main Hall.

January 18th - Prof Nigel Harris from Bath University and RUH Medical Engineering - Designability
January 25th - Dr Ceri M Brenner, MA (Oxon), MInstP High powered Lasers and careers in physics - Ogden trust event

Students and Parents welcome, and refreshments will be provided.

Clare Jones
Assistant to Head of Sixth Form

Upper Sixth/Lower Sixth Mock Exams

Sixth Form students will be taking Mock Exams during the first week after the Christmas holidays (Tuesday 3rd - Friday 6th January). Timetables for these exams have been emailed to students and exam arrangements have been explained to students in assemblies. The timetable is also available on the School Website.

During this week students will have study leave and will only be expected to attend school for exams.

The one exception to this is Level 3 Sport where lessons will continue as normal during this exam week.

Exams will take place in formal Exam Halls and invigilated by external invigilators. Students will be expected to arrive at the Exam Hall at least 15 minutes before the start of exams and the usual Sixth Form dress code will be strictly enforced.

The results of the Mock Examinations will be given to students in the weeks following the exams and will be published to parents on ePortal on 23rd January.

If students or parents have any queries about the exams they should contact the Exams Officer, Mrs K Davison, on exams@beechencliff.org.uk.

Mr T D Markall
Assistant Headmaster

Year 11 Revision/Coursework Catch-up Class Schedule 2017

In the build-up to GCSE Exams in May/June all 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 3.30-4.30pm 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 2 nd February and runs until May 2017 Dates TBC
Product Design	Workshops open 3.30-5pm on Tuesday and Thursday Computer rooms (T5/T6) available every lunchtime 1.15-2pm	January 2017 until coursework deadline on 3 rd March 2017
Food	Tuesday 3.30-5pm in T3/T6	January 2017 until coursework deadline on 3 rd March 2017
Core Science	Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30pm in S5	January to June 2017
Additional Science	Wednesday 3:30-4:30 in S5 and in S7	January to May 2017
Triple Science	Biology: Wednesday 3:30-4:30 in S1 Chemistry: Monday 3:30-4:30 in S6 Physics: Thursday 3:30-4:30 in S4	March – May 2017 March – May 2017 March May 2017
French/German/ Spanish/ Italian	Thursday 3.30-4.30pm in the Languages rooms Controlled Assessment Catch-up by teacher invitation at various times.	January to May 2017
History	Every day after school 3.30-4.30pm in B1/B2	Wed 26 th April to Friday 5 th May 2017
English	English Language: Tuesdays 3.30-4.15pm - skills for 'Directed', descriptive and narrative writing English Literature: Wednesdays 3.30-4.15pm - revision and essay writing skills Skills session – 2 hour carousel in school time	January-March 2017 January-March 2017 Early April – date TBC
Geography	Tuesday 3.30-4.40pm in B4/B5	Begins w/c 20 th February and runs until May 2017
Art	Monday 3.30-5pm in the Art rooms (other days possible following a discussion with the teacher)	January-April 2017
Photography	Monday 3.30-4.30pm in the Photography rooms	January-April 2017
Computing	Tuesday/Thursday lunchtimes 1.30-2.15pm in C1	January to May 2017
ICT	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes 1.30-2.15pm in C1/C2	January to May 2017
Music	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes 1.15-2pm in MUS2 Every day after school 3.30-4.30pm in MUS1 (following discussion with the teacher)	January to May 2017
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	Monday/Wednesday after school 3.30-5pm	January to May 2017
Study Support	Year 11 Study Support is available every day after school in C2. 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 2017

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.**

Mr T. D. Markall
Assistant Headmaster

House News

Byron House

Welcome to the Byron Report.



I have three groups of House members that deserve a special mention in this newsletter entry. The first is our now well established and settled in Year 7s. They have amazed me with the speed with which they settled and I get great pleasure from going around the tutor rooms and observing the way in which they have already become an integral part of our Byron community. They are an extremely bright and interesting collection of young men with bags of character; I hope you will agree from looking at their photographs above. These were taken in their first week and now have pride of place on my office wall. I am already looking forward to recreating these when they are in year 11!

The second group to highlight are our Year 11 prefects. So far, I can say with confidence that they are the best clutch of Byron Prefects that I have ever had. Their interviews at the end of Year 10 were seriously impressive and their dedication to duties on Mondays is outstanding. Special mention must go to the ones that help out at both break times and rule the food queue with iron fists – you know who you are!



The third and final group 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.

Mrs A Milland
Head of Byron House

Milton House

This term has, as always, been very busy and productive in Milton House. It encapsulates what is best about the House community showing off the great sense of camaraderie and the supportive, friendly atmosphere – whether it was competing in inter-house events or participating in the Great Walk.

Our bright, enthusiastic Year 7s have also taken to life at Beechen Cliff with aplomb. Many enjoyed our annual trip to Tir-Y-Cwn and all have settled into school life well.

I would like to thank our prefect team, who carry out a vital role in the day to day life of the school. Their work across the school is very much appreciated, both by the younger pupils and the staff. In addition to their main responsibilities at lunch time the prefects also act as good role models for the younger pupils..

It was also a pleasure to welcome back our Year 11 leavers for Presentation Evening. As always, an extremely positive and rewarding occasion for all involved. I wish every one of them success in their future careers.

Pleasingly, there have been many highlights this term. For me, the one that stands out the most was the Christmas Shoebox appeal. Each tutor group pulled together to either raise money or donate gifts for less fortunate children around the world. We managed to gift twenty shoeboxes filled with toys and supplies to help make Christmas more enjoyable



at this special time of year. A massive thank you to the tutor team and boys of Milton House in making this success in such a short space of time! A special mention goes to Mr Glanville and ML1 who managed to fill five shoeboxes full of goodies, well done ML1

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the boys who have shown an interest in the Milton at the Movies trip – unfortunately, I was unable to strike a cost-effective deal so close to Christmas, so we will look at running the trip in the new year.

As this term comes to an end I would like to offer my most cheerful festive wishes and thank all those associated to Milton House. Have a fantastic Christmas.

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.

Oliver Knight is looking to get more involved in the New Year as Shakespeare House Captain. He intends to increase the profile of Shakespeare Sixth Formers by inviting them to help out their old tutor group in the lower school and also provide in class support where it may be required. Some interesting and exciting times await.

On the sporting front it was great to see Shakespeare Sixth Form girls win the Netball this term and the Sixth Form boys win the rugby. In the lower school we had a fantastic amount of support in the Cross Country and rugby wherev although we were not victorious, we applied ourselves with determination and team spirit.

Mr L Sumsion
Head of Shakespeare

Theme of the Week

Theme of the week this week is focusing on Christmas traditions around the world.



Please follow the links provided about how and why Christmas is celebrated in so many countries and there is also a link to Christmas games which might be a nice way to end the term.

<http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/uk.shtml>

<http://www.whychristmas.com/fun/quiz.shtml>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da2Q2wQBiCA>



I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break,

Miss A Holloway
PHSE Co-ordinator

Departmental News

Art

Bristol Art Trip

In September we were lucky enough to go to Bristol to visit the MShed and the Arnolfini. We took the whole of the Upper Sixth Art group and we were also joined by four members of Lower Sixth Art. The exhibition by Daphne Wright at the Arnolfini was fantastic. The students not only got to see the most comprehensive presentation of the Bristol based artists work, but saw it the first day that it opened. The Mshed is also like a treasure trove for inspiration for the young artists. The students were asked to not only photograph anything that inspired them from the afternoon, but also to complete a range of observational drawings.

It was an incredibly successful trip and I would highly recommend a visit to the Arnolfini to see the incredibly thought provoking exhibition before it finishes.

Wellow and Midford Art Trip



In September we took the entire Lower Sixth Art group to Southstoke and walked back through the two tunnels from Midford. We arrange a similar trip each year to link in with the Drawing Project as the students start completing their AS course. We were very lucky with the weather, which has made a change from the last couple of years!



The students were given a brief to complete ten sketches throughout the afternoon, these were based on perspective, proportion, details and capturing the atmosphere of the landscape.



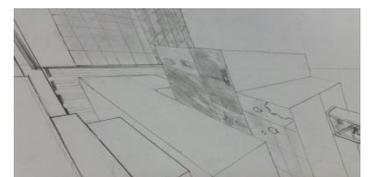
The students also took a range of exciting photographs to add to their Drawing books. It was lovely for us to take the students to such a beautiful area of Bath and help them to realise the importance of Drawing outside and away from the classroom.

Art Club



Art has been very busy from September. It is lovely to see so many boys coming after school on a Wednesday and completing such an exciting range of work. The boys have been working on clay models, comic strips, perspective drawing and learning a little about Photoshop.

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



Artist of the term

Congratulations to Oliver Hall (Year 7) for his stunning fantasy drawings he did in his sketchbook. They weren't done as part of a lesson or homework, but we thought they are a great example of how you can use your skill and imagination to create a piece in something as simple as pencil.



Sebastião Salgado Exhibition

The Photography students had a rare opportunity to see prints by the renowned documentary Photographer Sebastião Salgado in November. A collective of Photographers known as Photo Bath had a small collection of Platinum prints from Salgado's world famous 'Genesis' project on display in the Bath Royal Literary Scientific Institution. The prints were stunning and have formed the basis of research for a number of the students.



GCSE Art Club

GCSE pupils have 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.

RUH Exhibition



Hopefully some of you were able to see the display we had up in the RUH over the summer. The exhibition received many compliments and one print was sold. We would like to thank Tony Smith at the RUH for his support and help with displaying the work. Some of the prints and painting are now on display in the Sixth Form Centre at the school.

Year 10 Art Trip to Oxford

In October we took the Year 10 to Oxford as part of their GCSE art drawing project. The aim and focus was for them to record the many beautiful architectural buildings whilst exploring the area. They were asked to take photos and show skill whilst drawing from direct observation with the intention of showing their understanding of tone, linear working and perspective. It was great having such a focussed group of pupils who produced some really excellent pieces of work!



Christmas Card

Many thanks to Jake Elton in Year 11 for his work on this year's Christmas card design. A number of students submitted work to be used, and Jake's was selected. It is a mixed media image of the Abbey using oil pastel, paint, ink and watercolour. It proved to be very popular and sold out within two weeks!



Next term is where the real work starts for the A level and GCSE students as we approach the exam period.

Have a well earned break, we will see you in the New Year. Merry Christmas!

BCS Art Department

Classics

Latin

Our Year 8 and 9 Latin students have continued to bring their mad humour to each and every session. We remain on course to begin a GCSE course next September and I have been particularly impressed by their recent Latin vocabulary binge.

If any Year 7s would like to have a go in the New Year, please mention this to me during your library lesson.

Classics

Year 12 students Joe Dunford and Calvin Oliver are in the final weeks of a Greek and Roman Mythology course with the University of Pennsylvania. This course focuses on the myths of ancient Greece and Rome, as a way of exploring the nature of myth and the function it plays for individuals, societies, and nations. They remain on track to pass with a distinction.

Some bold members of Year 12 are planning their responses for the St John's College, Oxford essay competition 2016-2017. It is not too late to register your interest and you will be supported throughout the process. The titles are:

1. 'A big book is a big evil' (Callimachus). Does your reading of Greek and/or Latin literature bear this out?
2. 'Like ants or frogs around a pond' (Plato). Was the sea central to Graeco-Roman history?
3. Is Socrates right that it is better to suffer an injustice than to commit one (even if one is never caught)?
4. Should it be illegal to purchase ancient artefacts?

Each student may submit one essay (only) of up to 2,000 words.

2017 will be a big year for Classics in the school, with the launch of Classical Civilisation at A-Level. Be prepared for a bumper report this time next year!

Mr Crow
English

Computing

Programming Club

This term has had record attendance at the weekly Programming Club on Fridays after school. The club regularly sees over 30 boys come along to tinker with programming languages, share ideas and, most importantly, have fun.

Students from Year 7 and 8 have been learning to code their own custom “emojis” using HTML, SVG and Javascript and a few keen coders have been working on their projects at home to create stunning results. Students from other years have been working on a variety of projects such as Scratch games, Python Turtle graphics, interactive web pages, Flash animations and tools to help break cryptographic ciphers.



During November, many students took the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge – a national competition to test pupils' problem solving abilities. We are very pleased to report that four of our pupils have achieved exceptional scores and will be appearing on the Bebras National Hall of Fame. Those boys are: Alex Hills, William Conroy, James Morris and Ethan Wood. This is a wonderful achievement and we are proud of their efforts.

As you are no doubt aware there is currently a massive computing skills shortage in the UK, so we are encouraging more Sixth Formers, especially girls, to come along to the club to develop their programming skills, even if they are not studying Computing at A Level.

As ever, we would like to extend our gratitude to Mr John Reeves (@teachprogramming_uk) who helps run the club with the teachers.



Mrs L James,
Head of Computing and ICT

History

Year 7 recreate The Battle of Hastings in Alexandra Park

Year 7 students brought the Norman Conquest to life in their own inimitable way with some fantastic weaponry [a big thank you to supportive parents, grandparents and helpful gofers] and enthusiastic axe-wielding, swordsmanship and shield-wall defences in the recent autumn sunshine.



Although the students' excitement made the sequence of events in the park unrepresentative of the actual battle 950 years ago, the hollering and energy were all too realistic! Unlike the actual battle, the hills did not run with blood and no arrows found their mark ... although this was a close-run thing; these photographs give you some idea of the energy and engagement shown by the students.



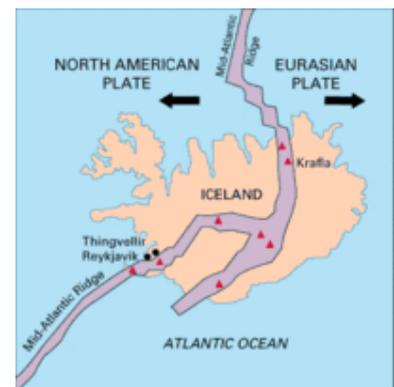
Mr R Tobin
Head of History

Geography

Geographers in Iceland

The Geography department ventured forth yet again mid-way through October, returning to Iceland for the third time. Mr Clark, Mr Brewer and our token Geographer for the week, Miss Mather, accompanied 28 Beechen Cliff students on a five day trip to the 'Land of Ice and Fire'.

We landed at Keflavik airport in the tail end of hurricane Mathew and after staggering to the coach, set off for the famous Blue Lagoon. The geothermal waters were a most welcome way to end a day of travelling, having started our journey at Bear Flat that morning, some 10 hours previous.



On our second day we woke early and breakfasted on fermented herring, (other options were available), before departing our hotel for a day jam packed with stops along Iceland's Atlantic south coast. Reykjavik's geothermal power station was the first stop where it was explained to us why Icelanders have some of the lowest energy prices in the world, thanks to their location above the tectonically active Mid-Atlantic Ridge. After this, spectacular waterfalls plummeting off volcanic cliffs provided some outstanding photo opportunities, before we donned crampons and grasped ice axes, which facilitated our climbing on the Sólheimajökull glacier. The day culminated in a final stop at the famous volcanic 'black beach' where basalt columns rise from the sea and powerful Atlantic waves crashed against them.

The following day we embarked on a monster coach drive towards Iceland's south east. Our destination was the fabled glacial lagoon. On arrival we swapped our conventional transport for amphibious boats and launched into the lagoon, where a freshly calved iceberg loomed overhead. After hacking off the odd chunk of berg and sampling thousand year old ice, (pretty tasty), we clambered back on the coach and began the long journey back to a truly excellent hotel, where the outdoor hot tub was appreciated by all, as was the excellent food.



On our final full day we went on the 'golden circle' tour. A circular route which links three of Iceland's most famous tourist attractions: Geysir, Gullfoss and Thingvellir. These three locations are understandably the most popular attractions in the country. The anticipation of waiting for each Geysir eruption approximately every 10 minutes, coupled with the elation of capturing the perfect picture, kept all entertained for some time at the first of these locations. At Gullfoss, (a spectacular double waterfall,) it was the challenge of taking a decent photo without drenching your camera that kept people busy. Finally Thingvellir; the Eurasian/North American plate boundary, (and regular Game of Thrones filming location,) provided a spectacular culmination to the 'golden circle' tour.

We spent our last night in Reykjavik, a capital city unlike any other, where we walked into the city centre along the ocean road. Dinner at the Italian restaurant *Rossopomodoro* is becoming something of a tradition, where we dined on copious amounts of pizza and pasta, before staggering back to our hotel.

The following morning a quick dip in the local geothermal pool, followed by some retail therapy back in Reykjavik made for a leisurely final day in Iceland.

All students were an asset to the school and I would encourage anyone considering going in the future to watch the video of our trip on our YouTube channel.

The department plans to return to Iceland in 2018.

Mr D Brewer
Head of Humanities

Year 12 Geographers on Tour in Devon

Lower Sixth Geographers recently spent three superb days in South Devon completing their AS level residential field trip; 63 students and five staff travelled down to Elberry Cove on the south coast of Devon on day one to study the physical processes acting upon that beach, sketching the key landforms and testing their arm at some stone throwing for good measure.





of which I cannot repeat in this publication!

Day two involved a study into the regeneration and re branding of Plymouth, Britain's 'Ocean City'. The students were presented with a fascinating talk from a local guru about the changes and some of their impacts before they were sent off to gather data at a range of different locations concerning the impact the re-branding has had upon the city. The students enjoyed the independent study and gathered some excellent, varied opinions from locals on the recent developments, although many

The highlight of day two for the staff was watching how well the students tackled the challenge of presenting their data to other groups, combining theory from the class with primary data collection from the day out to produce some insightful and intellectual works. The final day involved a trip to Dawlish Warren to examine the impacts coastal defences have had on the area; despite a small oversight by one member of staff resulting in minimal beach to study, the students were able to prove long shore drift was present and to evaluate the impacts of the different flood defences.



The trip was made all the more comfortable thanks to the excellent accommodation and food provided. The students were an absolute credit to the School, applying themselves to each and every task thrown at them by the department.

Many thanks to Miss Netto and Mr Quintin for helping with the trip and putting up with the Geography team for three days.

Mr T Moat
Geography

Devon Coast to Coast 2016

As ever this challenge proved as popular as ever this year with initially 45 people interested in 26 places. Eventually a good mix of Years 10, 11,12 and 13 attempted this on a clear and dry autumn day which really showed off the Devon countryside at its best.

The route starts in Ilfracombe and finishes in Plymouth, 100 miles later. The challenge is to complete this in a day riding as a peleton. Devon's rolling hills also enter this equation! All participants were raising money for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, a service which provides essential cover to a wide region and certainly saved the life of a friend of Mr. Brewer's over the summer. As it stands we have currently raised over £1400.00 which we hope to hand over in the New Year.

With bikes checked and in good order the peleton started at 7.15am in dawns half light and wound up the hill out of Ilfracombe to pick up the Tarka trail around the large estuaries of North Devon. The group made good time from the outset and surprised the support teams in the three mini-buses, a van and a car which provided essential support along the route, picking up those with punctures and supplying food and water.



Lining up at the start next to Ilfracombe Harbour at 7:10am five minutes before the off!



On the level, a section of the Tarka trail once the head winds of the estuary have been left behind.

The hard miles start after leaving the Tarka

trail, 30 miles in at Great Torrington. Here the hills start and the group fragments as the going gets tough. The peleton regrouped several times before a pasty stop in Okehampton, 60 miles down. The toughest sections of the route are in the bag by this point. However cramps and niggles start so much replenishment was needed.

With conditions dry under the tyres and no headwind to sap energy the peleton were cycling an hour ahead of schedule against previous years. Time then to enjoy views into Cornwall across the Tamar valley as Dartmoor was skirted to the west via the Granite trail. On this section is Brent Hill the last energy sapping climb. The reward from here is a swooping descent into Tavistock and the gaining of the Drakes trail which leads into Plymouth.



Rocking the shirts through the villages of North Devon.

As the group arrived on Plymouth Hoe, much attention was gained from the public, especially as the shirts gave us a smart and professional look. It was also nice to see incredulous looks and hear congratulations from people once they find out where we started the day.

The challenge will run again next year. Do we dare hope for such benign conditions again? As always many thanks to the staff that drove/cycled in support of this event and well done to all those who completed the challenge.



The peleton arrive triumphant on Plymouth Hoe, an hour ahead of schedule. Well done to all!!

Mr D Brewer
Head of Humanities

Year 9 Cornwall Surf Trip

During a glorious weekend in early October Beechen Cliff ventured 160 miles down to Treyarnon Bay in Cornwall.

During the three day excursion pupils took part in Surfing lessons on the legendary Harlyn Bay, kayaking, coastering and stand up paddle boarding(SUP). Staying at the well-presented Treyarnon YHA we were only a stone's throw from the beach and a short drive to the famous Padstow.



Charlie James, ML1, catches a wave



The washing machine spins, knocks and turns people around

Conditions were perfect for learning, while the larger sets coming in provided a real challenge for even the best amongst us. A real highlight was coastering at the end of the trip. I am certain everyone will look back on the "washing machine" section as one of the most thrilling experiences of their lives. By the end of the weekend everyone had stood up on their boards and some were even starting to put in some professional looking turns.

This was the first year Beechen Cliff has run such a trip and was a resounding success. Plans are already under way for a repeat next

year, so current Year 8s should keep an eye out!



The crew

Mr Glanville

Ten Tors

TEN TORS 2017



Choose Life!

Dates:
Mendips- Saturday 21st January
Black Mountains- Saturday 4th February
Dartmoor 1- Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th February
Dartmoor 2- Saturday 25th and 26th March
Dartmoor 3- Saturday 22 and 24 April
Ten Tors Event- Friday 5th, Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th May

Open to years 10-13

See Mr. Brewer or Mr. Stewart for details

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, Miss Isaac, Miss Gadd and Miss Moorhead, for their help and enthusiasm during the evening.

Watch out for more events next year.

Next week the Year 10 Food students will take part in the school heats of the BaNES Young Chef Competition. Finalists will then attend Bath College in January 2017 to compete against other schools in the area.

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!



Lisa Roberts, Sara Hayes and Lesley Jones
The Food Technology Team

Library, Literacy and Accelerated Reader:

Word of the Week -Grateful

An adjective = feeling or showing an appreciation for something done or received

- ✓ Do you **know** it?
- ✓ Can you **spell** it?

Use it:

After the hot day I was **grateful** for some shade.

The charitable donation was **gratefully** received and put to good use.

*"Don't be so **ungrateful!**"*

Christmas is an appropriate time to pause and show **gratitude** to those around you.

Spell it:

Grateful (not greatful)

'Grateful' comes from the from Latin word *gratus*, meaning 'thankful, pleasing'

Remember it as **grate + ful**

Mrs L Leonardi

Library News

The Year 7s have been on a frantic reading binge since the half-term break. Some are motivated by the pure and noble pursuit of knowledge, understanding and self-improvement; others may be spurred on by the possibility of pizza. Onwards Year 7! For fun! For intelligence! For melted cheese!

Remember to check our themed displays to get some recommendations. At the moment we have some Christmas and snowy books, as well as some American Literature for the Sixth Form Literature students.

Our most popular books since September are:

- 1st *The Recruit* by Robert Muchamore
- 2nd *Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver
- 3rd *Class A* by Robert Muchamore
- 4th *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* by Patrick Ness
- 5th *The Enemy* by Charlie Higson



Well done to our READERS OF THE WEEK this half term. The following have been rewarded for a variety of reasons, from sheer bookish enthusiasm through to some impressive quizzing

- Ted Platten
- Harley Askew
- Matthew Webb-Peploe
- Otto Posth
- Asa Priest
- Paul Monschauer
- Mani Baker

Josh Henly is our first word multi-millionaire but his lead at the top is shrinking. We also have fifteen people who are about one book away from joining our illustrious list.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Joshua Henley: 2,652,406 | 6. Luca Williamson: 1,335,922 |
| 2. Oliver Hayer: 1,803,136 | 7. Daniel Eggleton: 1,134,115 |
| 3. Daniel Abbey: 1,799,739 | 8. Thomas Criddle: 1,129,893 |
| 4. Thomas Hayter; 1,636,722 | 9. Tam Behradmehr: 1,001,823 |
| 5. Kieran Winstanley: 1,394, 956 | |

We have had some fun with our lunchtime reading challenges. If you have not yet participated, the rules are simple: read the question of the day – use the library books to find the answer – show the librarian your discovery –receive eternal glory and a positive. Questions in recent weeks have included:

- ‘Who wrote Barnaby Rudge?’
- ‘In Norse Mythology, Naglfar is a ship made from an unusual material. What is it?’
- ‘What type of mammal could theoretically make custard from its own produce?’

A new book order will be placed in January – please give us suggestions if you read anything great over Christmas.

Mr Crow and The Library Team

English Department

English A Level News

On 2nd December, Year 12 English Literature students travelled to Exeter to hear lectures on their exam text, *Hamlet*. We have taken students to these lecture days many times over the years and they always provide an excellent opportunity for students to hear different interpretations of the text from speakers who are usually University Lecturers. This year, we enjoyed the additional benefit of hearing advice from an Examiner and managed to squeeze in a quick lunchtime shop around the Christmas markets in Exeter!



The English Department have continued our tradition of offering Master Classes to all A Level students as a means to encourage all students to extend their reading beyond the requirements of the curriculum. Last term the classes included: The Life and Works of W B Yeats and Revenge Tragedy.

These classes take place intermittently throughout the year during lunchtime and all are welcome to attend. A new programme will be published in the New Year.

Mrs C Davis
A Level English Co-ordinator

Debating and Public Speaking

We have a very vibrant debating community this year; the KS3 and 4 Debating Club meets every Tuesday during lunchtime and have tackled a number of wide ranging issues from whether emblems should be displayed at sporting fixtures to whether Donald Trump should be President. The Sixth Form Debating Club has also been very busy having already participated in The English Speaking Union Mace Competition at Stonar School on 24th November. On 28th November six members of the Club attended a workshop at Oldfield School to help prepare for the first round of the Oxford University Debating Competition which will take place early next term and also benefitted from a talk about how to apply to Oxford University. In addition, three teams will be travelling to Bishop Wordsworth School in Salisbury in January to take part in the first round of the Cambridge University Debating Competition. This is a challenging competition during which teams are given four unseen Motions during the day and they have to face different opponents for each one. We hope we can build on the successes enjoyed last year by our star Public Speakers: Joseph Dunford and Calvin Oliver.

Mrs Davis and Mr Newell
English

School Production December 2016 - Journey's End

The trenches of the First World War were brought to life last week in the Beechen Cliff Arts production of Journey's End by R C Sherriff. After hours of work by boys involved in the production, the audience were wowed by an atmospheric set and lighting design by Harvey Green, an intense soundscape provided by Alex Hills and Tom Clark, and an outstanding array of performances of this poignant and very challenging play.



Joe Dunford starred as the damaged Stanhope - an officer marred by three years of war, struggling to come to terms with the death of his comrade in arms, Osborne, played by Connor Beckles. Stanhope also encounters his old school friend, Raleigh, played by Toby Temple-Smith, who also has to cope with the trauma of war in his own way.

With spectacular special effects, and some very moving unaccompanied singing from the cast to close the production, with music arranged by Mrs Nourse, the audience commented on the profound impression the play left on them. Mr West, directing the play, said that it was "one of the most challenging shows we have done in my time at Beechen, but also one of the most rewarding. Kat Cooper, assistant director, commented that the boys had learnt a lot from the process. It was, overall a huge team effort from the cast, and they are to be congratulated on pulling off such an impressive dramatic feat.

Mr T West

Assistant Headmaster/English and Performing Arts Co-ordinator

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 simply a case of times tables up to 12 x 12. 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:

Year 7

1st Kipling
2nd Byron
3rd Shakespeare
4th Chaucer
5th Milton

Year 8

1st Chaucer (13.3)
2nd Milton (13.2)
3rd Kipling (12.8)
4th Shakespeare (12.7)
5th Byron (12.1)

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

The new GCSE (first sitting next 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 Team Challenge

In November the Senior Maths Challenge Team of Connor Headen, Patrick Akbar, Tom Bobrowski and Jack Wood 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 8th 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 six teams lying in joint first on the leaderboard.

As we get to the later stages these problems do become really challenging – it was a joy to watch some of the discussions last week as the pupils tried to crack challenge 7.

The challenge finishes in early January – Codebreaking Club will then take a break but we'll be back in September for the 2017 challenge.

Year 11 GCSE revision guides

Pupils have been asking about purchasing revision guides for the new GCSE.

There are several on the market – these are as good as any:

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

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.

Happy Christmas everybody!

Mr E R Gill

Head of Maths and Computing

edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Senior Maths December 2016

Talented Sixth Form students received certificates in the Senior Maths Challenge this week. Beechen Cliff students have a long tradition of success in this competition and this year was no exception. Of the 26 students who took part; 5 gold, 11 silver and 8 bronze awards were achieved.

Over 82,000 Maths students from around the UK took part this year and only the top 4,000 of these are invited to the next round of the competition. After gaining a stupendous 100% in the Challenge,



Wesley Downing, (front row and centre), qualified and took part in the British Olympiad Round. This is a three and a half hour exam which challenges students to mathematics of an extremely demanding level of complexity, well beyond A level.

Tom Bobrowski, (second row, second from right), Connor Headen, (second row, second from left), Patrick Akbar, (front row, first from left) and Jack Wood, (third row, second from left) also scored highly and were entered into the European Maths Competition.

Further details about Maths Challenges for all age groups are available on the Maths website:

<http://beechencliffmaths.weebly.com/>

Congratulations to all participants:

Mr J Henly
Maths Teacher

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
Head of Maths
edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Music

Term 2 has been another busy term for the music department.

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.

Music Exams

Congratulations to Jonah Brosnan (BY1), and Michael Penny (BY4) who both passed grade 3 guitar with a distinction and merit respectively.

Wesley Downing (Senior Musician - trumpeter) has been heavily involved in practical performances this term. He made it through to the final of the 'Bath Young Musician of the Year', held on Tuesday, 8th November at the Pump Room. Although Wesley didn't win he was highly commended for his performance and we were very proud to have one of our students in the final. Following on from this prestigious event, Wesley performed admirably at Presentation Evening in the Assembly Rooms accompanied by Mr Sillem. They performed a range of light hearted background music before the event and two classical pieces (Pie Jesu by Faure and Let the Bright Seraphim by Handel) during the formal part of the evening. Further to this they played in House assemblies last week.



The choir, brass ensemble and guitar group have been practising hard in preparation for the annual Carol Service, Thursday, 15th December at Bath Abbey. We hope many parents, pupils and friends of the school will be able to join us for this special occasion which begins at 7.00pm

Prior to the Carol Service on the 15th the brass ensemble will be 'busking' outside the Abbey from 1.30-3.00pm to assist the Rotary Club in raising money for their annual Christmas collection.

In previous years the school choir has performed at the Bear Flat Association Carol Service in Alexandra Park. The date for this year's event is Friday, 16th December beginning at 6.00pm. Unfortunately as term has ended by then, the choir are unable to perform but there is an open invitation to all friends of the School. The service is held on the viewpoint overlooking the city; it makes for a wonderfully festive and atmospheric occasion. If you would like to attend, please just go along-no tickets are required. The school choir hopes to be able to be involved again next year.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank all the music staff for their continued help and dedication to the music department. I would also like to thank Wesley Downing (Senior Musician) and Corben Lamb (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

Languages

Spanish Exchange 2016

In October, we participated in an exchange with IES Medina Azahara, a school in Córdoba in the region of Andalucía in Spain. We spent a week with our partners, learning about Spanish culture and experiencing their way of life. We began by spending the weekend with our families, meeting up in the evenings to spend time in town and getting to know one another.

We then spent the following week going on trips to various regional attractions such as the 10th Century ruins near the town and the historic city of Sevilla. We finished with a day on the beach in Málaga followed by a flight home.

This was honestly one of the best things I have ever convinced myself into doing, and I would highly recommend it to anyone who is serious about furthering their Spanish.

Year 11 Exchange student



Spanish Exchange: Accommodation needed

Due to unforeseen circumstances we are looking for an extra family to host a 16 year old Spanish boy from 30th March to 6th April 2017.



If you are able to help, please contact katemarshall@beechencliff.org.uk for more details.

Mrs K Marshall
Head of Spanish

Le marché de Noel!

This year's Christmas Market Trip for Year 8 and Year 9 was, as always, three days of visits and new experiences.

Nausicca Aquarium in Boulogne gave pupils a chance to learn some aquatic French vocabulary and also allowed Mr Forrest to show off his extensive aquatic knowledge!

Becasuc sweet factory showed us the chemistry behind making sweets which of course we then sampled. Delicious! A visit to Chocolaterie Nicolas showed the boys how the local speciality of Macarons are made with great passion for the art of pâtisserie.

Amiens Christmas market provided the perfect place for pupils to discover the huge variety of hand-made produce of which France is rightly proud. A few boys even bought gifts for lucky family members and everyone indulged in une gauffre au chocolat!





A visit to the home of Jules Verne, author of *Around the World in 80 Days* amongst many other adventure stories, really showed the boys how fiction can transcend generations and be enjoyed now as much as when they were first published.



Lunch in a typical restaurant in Boulogne's fortified old town bought an end to the gastronomic delights. Our final visit was to La Coupole, a second world war bunker complex near Calais, which reminded us all of the humbling losses and sacrifices made by so many during WWII.



A thoroughly enjoyable trip was had by all and the pupils were exemplary. Many thanks to Mr Forrest and Mr Shaw.

Mrs S Westlake
Languages

Physics Department

New summer camp for high-school students at CERN



S'Cool LAB Summer CAMP is an opportunity for 22 high-school students (aged 16-19) from all around the world to spend two weeks exploring the fascinating world of particle physics. The first S'Cool LAB Summer CAMP will take place from 23rd July to 5th August 2017.

If you know students who want to spend their summer at S'Cool LAB, CERN's hands-on particle physics learning laboratory, for an epic programme of lectures and tutorials, team research projects and visits of CERN's research installations, please direct them to the [S'Cool LAB website to learn more about the camp, and how to apply](#).

Applications close on 20th January 2017.

Mr M Little
Head of Physics

PSHE

This term has been an incredibly busy one for PSHE. From September we have tried to highlight the importance of PSHE as a subject and have aimed to raise awareness of PSHE within the school. PSHE has changed this year in the fact that the boys will receive a larger amount of PSHE sessions and we are inviting a large range of guest speakers to deliver assemblies and get involved with teaching the boys valuable life lessons.

This year the students will be covering the following topics:

Year 7 will continue to have their weekly PSHE lessons based on Friendship, Bullying, Puberty, Staying Safe, and Healthy Lifestyles.

Year 8 will cover Mental Health, Body Image, Equality and Gender.

Year 9 will be looking at Contraception, Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Emotions.

Year 10 complete sessions on Homophobia, Stress and Anxiety, Drug and Alcohol Awareness.

Year 11 have workshops on Healthy Relationships, Body Image, Equality and Mindfulness.

Year 12 also have a number of guest speakers visiting throughout the year and have different awareness months .

So far they have covered, Mental Health, Healthy Living and Finance.

E-Team

We are launching an Equalities team this year and it has already been a great success. The boys involved have delivered an outstanding assembly and asked all students in the school to complete a survey to highlight what their first campaign should be based on. The E-Teams aims are to make the school a more equal place, and they want to ensure that students all have the same opportunities and are treated fairly. The campaign that they are going to launch in January is based on the fact (from the survey), almost 50% of the school have witnessed forms of bullying on a regular basis.

Miss Netto and myself and are helping the boys to put their plans in action and hopefully see a huge improvement over the next term.

Stonewall Guest Speaker

As a Stonewall Champion School we are entitled to a role model to visit us once a year. We were incredibly lucky to have Steven Jewitt-Fleet spend the day with us and he managed to talk to over 750 students from Year 9 – Year 13. Steven gave a very honest account of his life, including his work for the Foreign office, his time travelling the world and living as an openly gay married man with a child. The students were engaged throughout all his talks and asked some really inspiring questions. We were very proud of how well the boys responded to our work with Stonewall and our aim to raise awareness of LGBT+ issues.

Miss Holloway
PSHE Coordinator.

Sport

AASE League

Beechen Cliff's U18 team had a very successful 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 ten gruelling fixtures in the South League, we finished 3rd overall with a record of seven wins. 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 Worcester 46-10 at Loughborough University. We scored eight fantastic tries, including a hat-trick for young hooker Ollie Bailey.

Highlight of the season was taking the biggest scalp in this season's AASE League with a brilliant 34-26 victory over Hartpury College, denying the Gloucester affiliated outfit AASE League glory for the first time ever. To make the win even more special, it was on Hartpury soil, ending a four year unbeaten record - a quite stunning achievement. Hartpury were the favourites to qualify for the final from the South, they were unbeaten and had a lead in their division. Plus they had the weight of history behind them, having won all seven previous seasons of the AASE league and only losing and handful of games since its inception

This is only our second season in the league, having come 14th last year. 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 skipper Ned Newman. 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.



Mr S Turner
Head of Rugby

Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 rugby season has unfortunately now come to an end!

During these fifteen weeks, it has been fantastic to work with the boys and observe how they have developed and competed with the local state and private schools, showing excellent commitment, vigor and determination.

With 46 boys having represented the School's A team; 82 boys having represented the B team and 30 boys having competed with the C team, it has highlighted the strength and depth that we are fortunate to have amongst our Year 7 pupils, and it is very reassuring to see that the future of Beechen Cliff rugby is in good hands for the years to come.

Next year the boys can look forward to cup competitions and further hone their skills as they take their next step on their rugby journey.

Thank you to Mr T Davies, Mr Mabey, Mr Quintin and Mr Smith, who have all contributed throughout the season, helping with fixtures and training sessions.

Mr G Hawkins
Head of Physical Education

Year 8 Rugby 2016

Year 8 rugby in 2016 has comprised of two teams, a squad of over 30 players and 24 competitive fixtures to fulfil. After a few early training sessions, the players were certainly excited to begin the season.

The opening fixture is historically a difficult one, Pate's Grammar School. The two teams had contrasting fortunes on the day; with the A team losing heavily, the B team managed a convincing win (40-0). As the National Cup was the next game for Year 8, this fixture was certainly a learning curve for coaches and players alike.

Bishops Wordsworth visited Bath a week later to compete in the National Cup. A school with superb rugby pedigree, Beechen knew they would need to be at their best to win this one. With Jon O'Connell-Wozniak being a menace in attack, Captain Rhys Davies pulling the strings at fly half and Harvey Matthews and Finn Johnson putting in huge defensive shifts, the boys eventually ran out 35-0 winners. An outstanding result, nothing less than what the players deserved and we moved into the next round!

It was the B team who were in action next and the fixtures were thick and fast! With players still finding their feet in new specialist positions, the team came up short against Chew Valley (17-29) and Prior Park (10-20), however they did manage to produce an outstanding performance against Oldfield winning 50-0. Learning from their mistakes in previous games, the players really pulled together and demonstrated what they can achieve.

The next key fixture for Year 8 would be Colstons away. Another school with a formidable rugby tradition, the players were certainly excited for their first big away day. The B team enjoyed an enthralling match, which ended 5-5. Captain Charley Taylor was the only try scorer for the away side in a game that could have gone either way. The A team however suffered another heavy defeat (55-5).

Colstons were well drilled and had too much pace and power for the inexperienced Beechen side. The result was overshadowed by a nasty injury to influential scrumhalf Callum Neate who was stretched from the field of play.

In the weeks that followed, the A team suffered a narrow defeat to Kingswood (15-20) and a heavy defeat to St Peters School in the National Cup (15-60). The Gloucester side were too good on the day although Beechen certainly played much better than the score line suggests. Wins against Sexey's School and Sheldon followed before defeats to Monkton, King Edwards and QEH. The A team have certainly pitched themselves against some very difficult teams this season, and many of the results have not reflected their performances. Player of the season has been awarded to Benjamin Morcom who has been outstanding. Other players of note for their superb performances are William Porter, Jon O'Connell-Wozniak, Rhys Davies and Harvey Matthews.

In contrast, the B team has been on an unbelievable run of seven games unbeaten. They brushed aside Kingswood (40-15), Monkton (30-0), King Edwards (35-0) and QEH (35-20) to add to wins at a local BANES tournament. The boys have played some superb rugby and proven they are a formidable team. Max Perrier, Charey Taylor, Thomas Allen have all been outstanding performers for the team, along with Fin Henderson who, more recently, is emerging to be a real asset to the team.

As a group of players they have all improved tremendously over the course of the season. The boys have one tough game left against Sir Thomas Rich's School but they will be hoping to finish on a high. Although the results have been somewhat up and down, everyone who has represented the school should be very proud of their efforts. We are certainly excited to work with this group of players next year to hopefully improve and develop even further.

Mr M Walker

U14 Rugby

This term has been another very successful rugby season for this group of boys, with some fantastic rugby being played and over 60 different boys representing the school. The season started with an away trip to Pate's in Gloucester where both sides came away with convincing victories but more importantly showed excellent ambition to play which would definitely bode well for the rest of the season. The next game of the season saw the B team take on local rivals Prior Park. We took a huge squad of over 30 boys and narrowly lost 17-14. The game was fast paced and physical and the B team should be very proud of coming so close to beating an A team. The A team then came up against a very strong Bishops Wordsworth team. They narrowly lost 12-7, but this was a hugely positive performance and they most definitely had their chances to win, but just fell short due to a lack of accuracy in the oppositions 22. After this close result the A team began a four match winning streak with wins over some very tough opponents, including Marlborough College and King Edwards. The victory over King Edwards was a particularly pleasing performance as the boys went into the half time break drawing but scored 28 unanswered points in the second half to record a comprehensive 40-12 victory. The B team also ended the season strongly with comprehensive victories over Marlborough College, Kingswood and King Edwards. This has been another fantastic rugby season for this hugely talented year group. Their commitment and work ethic should be commended and I encourage all who represented the school this season to carry on playing next year. The A team are still in the county cup and can hopefully successfully defend their title, as well as build on the immensely successful introduction they had to sevens last year. A special mention must go to Archie Robertson who was awarded player of the season.

Mr S Knights

U15 Rugby

A tough season for the Year 10 rugby team which has seen more defeats than victories but big progress made by individuals and the team.

As with every U15 team the focus for the season was on the Natwest Cup and with its new format Beechen were hoping to have a good run in the Plate competition. The first round of the plate saw the best team performance of the season as Beechen put 50 points past last year's county champions, a fantastic achievement seeing as this team didn't make the final last year. This victory meant a tough home draw against Canford, a school which has ended the Twickenham dream for many in recent years including our current Upper Sixth. Beechen once again showed glimpses of what they are capable of but weren't able to convert possession into points going down 17-7.

Other highlights included the comeback against QEH with a very weak team and the first half of the season back in September against a strong Pate's team. Thanks and well done to all the boys that have played this season, in particular Issac de Buriatte, Sonny Burbidge, Iyul Gargello, Arthur Howard and Ben Laughton for their commitment to school rugby.

Mr Macdonald and Mr Sumsion

Year 11 Rugby

It has been a very successful year for the Year 11 rugby with some excellent individual and team performances. Over the course of the season the boys have developed an expansive style of running rugby. The boys have shown the ability to run and move the ball into space through either evasive running with the threatening outside backs of William Abel, Gabriel Hamer-Webb and Owen Dudman, or through the accurate passing and game management of George Worbys and Reuben Moxham. We started the season with a comfortable win against Pates Grammar, showing impressive physicality against boys 1-2 years our senior with some notable defensive displays from back row trio of Cameron Taylor, Thomas Wells and William Hendy who at times appear totally fearless.

Next up were Prior Park who proved to be a real challenge. The front row trio of Joshua Marsh, James 'Rhino' Robson and Max Jose proved too much for the Prior Park Pack, with their dominant set piece play and strong ball carrying. This built a strong platform to unleash our pacey backline who scored some outstanding tries leading to a 31-19 win. A special mention must go to our football convert Fintan Coyle, whose pace and footwork led him to score two outstanding tries. Midway through the season it proved difficult to keep momentum with several cancelled fixtures, but regained momentum with a strong win in the Somerset Cup against Ralph Allen and another against Kingswood School. Another special mention must also go to the second row partnership of Alfie Kale and Thomas Griffiths whose bone crunching tackles and carrying ability were instrumental in so many of our performances.

The B team also enjoyed a successful season winning all but one of their fixtures. Led by captain James Catt, the B team had two notable performances against Sexey's and local rival King Edwards. It has been an excellent season for the Year 11s and I am confident many of this group will progress to become regular senior players next year.

Mr J Norton

2nd and 3rd XV Rugby

Beechen Cliff 2nd and 3rd XV maintained their strong reputation throughout the region once again as the team to beat this year. Captained by Luke McDonald, Beechen Cliff never once dropped their heads despite a score line against them. Consistently keeping their cool and showing their class was a regular factor in achieving so much this year. Notable praise should go to Oliver Knight for his cross field kick enthusiasm, Stanley Saunders for his machine like approach to tackling and Lewis Taylor-Smith for his exceptional kicking. New members of the team either provided the battering ram needed or the fast silky skills to outfox even the smartest inside centre.



Luke is lifted to victory against Prior Park.

Notable games include the hard fought battle against KES resulting in a draw and the superb display of skill in a romp against Clifton College. It was fantastic to see so many boys out for training on a regular basis, more so than we have ever seen before. I am immensely proud to be working at a school where we can comfortably put out a 3rd XV and compete against the best schools in the South West. This is thanks to the boys and the effort they have put in over the season. I am certain that they have learned valuable lessons, particularly around building a decent work-life balance. An important life-skill to master.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
6	4	1	1	129	51	78

Mr M Glanville

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 seven boys represented the school in the BANES Cross Country championships. Congratulations to Joshua 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 Parkrun on Saturday mornings.

Mr E R Gill

edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Shooting (Air Gun)

The air pistol and rifle session have now finished and we have been able to identify a number of rather gifted young shooters. More than one hundred and twenty year 7 boys have now participated supported by a number of year 10 coaches. I am very grateful for their support, giving our boys an opportunity to try out the sport.

Final positions in the air rifle shooting;-

Individual

1st Daniel Eggleton
Oliver Hall
3rd Rhys Taylor
4th Gregory Elmes
5th Sonny Hammond

Houses

1st Byron
2nd Chaucer
3rd Kipling
4th Shakespeare
5th Milton

Clay Pigeon

There is still one more session to take place this term. More than one hundred Year 7 boys having signed up for the afternoons at Mendip Shooting Ground. Using 410 and 20 bore shotguns for boys set some fairly challenging targets. The coaches have been very impressed by their efforts and the previous higher score (25 from 25), set in 2009, was equalled this year.

Year 7

1st Charlie Stevens
Ted Platten
3rd Lucas Williamson
4th Harrison Brooks
Harry Lewis
Gus Disney

Our senior clay pigeon team participated in a major schools competition in early November, taking on Harrow, Eton, Millfield, Sherbourne and Repton School amongst others. Our boys did not disgrace themselves, finishing a creditable tenth from fourteen rather experienced teams. We will be back stronger next year.

Rifle shooting Competition

We have had two matches against Dauntsey School this term. Each of the matches has involved an A and B team being displayed, five pupils in each team. As it stands, the honours are even. The A, team won two and the B team have lost two. The mixed year group teams captained by Xavier Tobin, have been impeccable in their approach and I have been very proud to take them and see them in action.

Coming up next term

We will soon be offering clay pigeon sessions for each year group above Year 7, together with the much anticipated Potterne rifle shooting evenings. Another two matches against Daunstey will also be on the cards, new recruits from the lower years being chosen to fill out 'B' teams at to give newer boys experience of competitions.

Mr A Davies
Headmaster

U13A Tennis Team

After winning the U13 Bristol and Bath County League last summer the Beechen Cliff U13A tennis team progressed to the regional playoffs this autumn.

In the last 64 of this national competition they defeated Cleeve School from Cheltenham, who had won the Gloucestershire League, by 6 matches to 0 in September.

In October they competed against the South Wales winners Bishopston School from Swansea and narrowly won 7-6 to reach the Regional Finals at Exeter University in November.

This was one of four Regional Finals taking place around the country involving the top 16 schools nationally. At stake was a chance to win the South West Regional finals and earn a place in the National Finals in Bolton in December where the top four school teams in the country compete for the title.



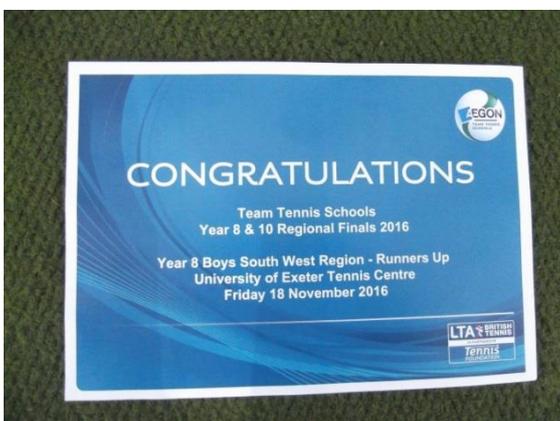
U13 Regional Finalists and National Quarter Finalists

In the semi-finals at Exeter University the team was drawn against Bishop Wordsworth School from Salisbury.

In a very close encounter the team of James Reid, Joe Milton, Will Tucker, Yuji Westmacott and John Hetherington won two out of the four singles matches to leave the match finally balanced moving in to the doubles. However, in the doubles Reid and Milton, and Tucker and Hetherington took control of their matches with two excellent performances. This led to two comfortable 6-1 victories to take the team through to the Regional Final.

In the final Beechen Cliff came across an outstanding Bournemouth Collegiate School team including several national and international standard junior players and serious contenders for the national title.

Despite the team's effort they were defeated comfortably by Bournemouth but this should take nothing away from the fantastic achievement of reaching the last 8 of a national competition. I am really proud of the team both in terms of their effort and success.



Winter Senior Students Tennis Competition

Beechen Cliff entered two teams into the Senior Students competition this year.

The Year 11 team of Benjamin Millet, Joseph Blethyn, Cameron Ward and Kai White defeated Colstons and Clifton College both in very close 7-6 victories and look forward to the next round against Millfield in January.

The Sixth Form Team of Oscar Vellacott, Stefan Rees, Charlie Quarren-Evans and Anthony Harwood defeated Monmouth 6-0 and Writhlington 4-2 and also look forward to the next round in January where they will play Stanwell from Cardiff.

U13C/U15B Tennis Teams

Last summer the Beechen Cliff U13C and U15B tennis teams both won the Division 2 Avon County leagues for their respective age groups.

Following this success they progressed to the South West Division 2 Regional finals held at Taunton Tennis Centre on Friday, 23rd September.

The U13C team of Zachary Hale, Samuel Meharg, Gabriel Ward and Thomas Rorison lost two tough fixtures to Dauntseys and Ivybridge. Despite the losses the boys competed well and it was a good experience particularly as the team were all a year young and will be able to compete in the same competition again next year.



U13 Division 2 Regional Finalists



U15 Division 2 Regional Finals Runners Up

The U15B team of Joseph Blethyn, Kai White, Stuart Blair and Nirmal Falzoni performed really well at the finals. They began with a confident 10-2 victory over Cullompton from Devon followed by a close 8-4 victory over St Joseph's from Cornwall. In the final, despite a spirited performance, they were defeated 2-10 by Cathedral School, Cardiff.

It was a really good performance and a lovely culmination of an excellent summer's tennis.

I was really proud of the effort all the boys put in and the spirit in which they represented their school.

This caps off another excellent year for Beechen Cliff tennis and we look forward to continued enjoyment and success in 2017.

Mr T D Markall
i/c tennis

Netball

The netball season begins in January with a series of fixtures against several local schools. We are looking forward to fielding a competitive 1st and 2nd team as the girls have been busy training with Team Bath coach Hari on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We finished the term with a friendly mixed INTERHOUSE tournament.

Congratulations to the winners – Shakespeare!

Mrs Y de Glanville



Sports Results for Week Commencing Monday 5th December

Date	Fixture	Type	Result	Score
Tues 6 th Dec	U14 Football v LEAF	ESFA	Lost	0-4
Weds 7 th Dec	U12 Football v Ivybridge	ESFA	Lost	2-3 (on pens)
	U17 Rugby v Filton	Friendly	Won	41-10
	U15 Rugby v Ralph Allen	Area Cup	Won	54-5
	U18 mixed Hockey v St Gregs	Friendly	Won	4-2
Thurs 8 th Dec	Year 7 and 8 Sportshall Athletics	Area meet	See match report	
	U16 Rugby v Wellsway	Area Cup	Won	75-0
	U14 Basketball v Bristol Met	South West league	Lost	10-63
Sat 10 th Dec	U14a Rugby v Sir Thomas Rich	Friendly	Lost	0-15
	U14b Rugby v Sir Thomas Rich	Friendly	Won	40-10
	U13a Rugby v Sir Thomas Rich	Friendly	Lost	15-20
	U13b Rugby v Sir Thomas Rich	Friendly	Lost	10-25
	U12a Rugby v Sir Thomas Rich	Friendly	Draw	5-5
	U12b Rugby v Sir Thomas Rich	Friendly	Lost	5-10
	U12c Rugby v Sir Thomas Rich	Friendly	Lost	10-20

Mr P Macdonald
Director of Sport

Prayer Meetings

A number of Christian parents from various churches across Bath meet termly to pray for the Hayesfield and Beechen Cliff School communities.

Dates for the coming year are: 9th January, 27th February, 8th May and 12th June 2017.

Please contact Jenny Croxford on 01225 338328, email jenny@croxford4.wanadoo.co.uk for further details or just come along!"