



BEECHEN CLIFF

Wednesday 4th October 2017

CALENDAR

Message from the Headmaster


Dear Parent/Carer

The days are now drawing in and the air is becoming distinctly chilly in the morning. This does not deter the boys of course and they seem impervious to the wet and cold. I would ask, however, that parents encourage their offspring to wear a coat and to make sure it is labelled with their son's name. We have gained a number of unnamed coats in lost property at the moment. On the subject of cooler autumnal days, can I refer to the arrangements for Beechen Cliff 'winter time' timetabling which begins after the Half Term break, found later in the newsletter.

Each year I meet with every Year 11 boy individually to look at his time in the Lower School and to consider his next stage in education. I would ask parents of Year 11 boys to look at the form which will need to be completed and brought along to the meeting. I want to make sure that the right guidance and support is in place to make sure the future programme of study or training has been considered carefully.

Year 7 Journals

The boys will be working on their Journals during one period on Thursday October 19th. The aim will be to give students their books and to begin the process of building it into a document of which they can be proud and which charts their progress through Beechen Cliff. If your son has any material at home which would be a good addition to the Journal, I would ask you to encourage him to bring it in. We want to include information which shows activities beyond school and reflect all areas of life which help to develop an individual. I will hope your son will find the activity rewarding.


Mr A. Davies
Headmaster

Sixth Form Open Morning

The prospective Sixth Form Open morning is taking place on Saturday, 14th October 2017.

There is no need to book in advance to attend the Open Morning. Additional information about this event can be found on the Beechen Cliff website.

Parking is available in Greenway Lane. The event will finish by 1.00pm.

Sixth Form Office

Wednesday 4th – Thursday 5th October

Upper Sixth Biology field Trip

Friday 6th – Saturday 7th October

Coast to Coast ride (leaving School at 3.35pm on Friday)

Saturday 7th – Saturday 14th October

San Remo Italian Exchange

Tuesday 10th October

Upper Sixth Geography Trip to Three Cliffs Bay

Year 11 GCSE Revision and Information Meeting – 7pm
Main Hall

Wednesday 11th October

Super curricular Lecture Series – 'Life as a Journalist' by Mr Will Saunders, 3.30pm – 4.15pm in the Main Hall

Wednesday 11th – Wednesday 18th October

Year 11 Spanish Exchange

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th October

Year 9 Surf Trip

Saturday 14th October

Sixth Form Open Morning

Tuesday 17th October

Iceland Information Evening – Main Hall

Wednesday 18th October

Annual Piano concert at St Luke's Church

Friday 20th October

Year 10 Art Trip to Oxford

Friday 20th – Monday 30th October

China Trip

Friday 20th October

Term 1 finishes

Thursday 2nd November

Term 2 starts

Winter Adjusted School Hours begin

Nut Allergies

As we have several boys with mild and severe nut allergies, please avoid sending food items into school with your son that contain nuts.

Please also encourage your son not to buy sweets and food from the local shops that contain nuts.

Thank you for your anticipated help with this matter.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Head Pastoral

Parent Governor Elections

Please find attached to this newsletter a letter from the Chair of Governors regarding the election of two parent governors. The letter has also been sent out to all parents via your son/daughter.

Clerk to Governors

Examination Results and School Performance Tables

You will have read about the exceptional GCSE results achieved by our Year 11 pupils this summer. 85% achieved at least a standard pass (previously grade C, now a grade 4) in both English and Mathematics. Further, 51% achieved the English Baccalaureate. Both these are well in excess of the national average, particularly for boys, and are testament to the hard work of pupils and teaching staff alike.

DfE School Performance Tables will soon be published but these will not reflect our results. This is due to the fact that, like many prestigious schools, we enter pupils for international GCSEs in English. From 2017 international GCSEs will no longer be included in Performance Tables.

At all times we make decisions on courses based on the best interests of our pupils rather than our position in the Performance Tables. 90% of our Year 11 pupils achieved a standard pass (grade C/grade 4) or above in English and we are delighted with their success.

More information on our examination results and links to School Performance Tables are available on our website.

Mr T D Markall
Assistant Headmaster

Literacy

All of Years 7 and 8 now well underway with the Accelerated Reader reading scheme – most now have their ZPD reading range and have made a start on a new book, having had plenty of support from their class teacher and the Library Team. Many have also taken their first AR Quiz, including **Cameron Gregg**, who is this week's **Reader of the Week** – Cameron read *The Spook's Sacrifice*, totalling 64,520 words and gaining him – and his House – 10 AR Points. He also passed the Quiz with 100%, earning him one of Mr Hackett's coveted bookmarks! Well done, Cameron, and keep up the good work.



Please note that your son will have written his ZPD reading range in his English Book or Rough Book, and that it will be issued more formally to him in due course. Please do ask him what his ZPD range means (!) and ask him to show you around the online database: www.arbookfinder.co.uk.

A huge thank you to the Library Team who have been working tirelessly to get the new Library space up and running. Watch this space for more information about our Library Launch Event, coming soon...

Mrs L Leonardi
Literacy Co-ordinator

Winter-Adjusted School Day to start after October Half Term

As you know Beechen Cliff has one of the most glorious aspects in Bath and during the warmer and drier months most of the boys enjoy make use of the upper and lower fields during breaks and lunchtimes. However in the wetter and colder months the boys are limited to small hard standing play areas and restricted inside spaces – both becoming crowded during lunchtimes. As a consequence many of the boys and staff have felt that during the winter our lunchtime is too long.

After consulting with stakeholders last year, we will introduce an adjusted school day during the winter to reduce the length of lunchtime. This will start after the October half term. Period 4 will become an hour and a half long to include a half hour lunch break. Different year groups will take the half hour lunch break at different times. The table below shows how this would work. This is a fairly common arrangement in other schools.

The end of the school day would therefore be brought forward by 20 minutes and finish at 3:05pm. The additional benefit of the earlier finish would allow for increased opportunity for after school sports training using natural light. **There is no change to the start of the school day.**

Our intention is to switch to the winter school day between the October half term and the February half term and then revert back to our existing day. Towards the end of the winter we will evaluate the effectiveness of this new arrangement.

School Day for Terms 1, 4, 5 and 6		Adjusted Winter School Day for Terms 2 and 3	
08:25	AM Registration	08:25	AM Registration
08:45	Period 1	08:45	Period 1
09:45	Break 1	09:45	Break 1
10:00	Period 2	10:00	Period 2
11:00	Break 2	11:00	Break 2
11:15	Period 3	11:15	Period 3
12:15	Transition	12:15	Transition
		12:20	Period 4a (Lunch for Sixth Form and Year 7)
12:20	Period 4a (Lunch for Sixth Form and Year 7)	12:50	Period 4b (Lunch for Years 8 and 11)
13:15	Period 4b (Lunch for Years 8-11)	13:20	Period 4c (Lunch for Years 9 and 10)
		13:50	Transition
14:15	Period 5	13:55	Period 5
15:15	PM Registration	14:55	PM Registration
15:25	Finish School Day	15:05	Finish School Day

Mr P Watts
Deputy Headmaster

Word of the Week: Prerogative

Prerogative (Noun)

= an exclusive right, privilege etc., exercised by virtue of rank or office.

= a right, privilege, etc., limited to a specific person or persons of a particular category.

= something that certain people are able or allowed to do or have, but is not possible or allowed for everyone.

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

Use it:

Alex makes the major decisions – that's his **prerogative** as company director.

Skiing used to be the **prerogative** of the rich, but now a far wider range of people enjoy it.

It was the teacher's **prerogative** to stop the discussion.

The Royal **Prerogative** = the special rights of the ruling king or queen.

Spell it:

Remember the prefix **pre**, meaning *before* or *in front of*
Prerogative

(not *per* rogative)

From the Latin

prae (before) + *rogare* (to ask)

Mrs L Leonardi

Literacy co-ordinator

Vacancy Morning Caretaker/Grounds Person

Morning Caretaker/Grounds Person NJC points 15–16 (16,781 – 17,419)

Full-time to include some weekend working on a rota basis.

Required as soon as possible, a hardworking, practical person who takes pride in their work and is able to work as part of a team. General Caretaking duties and the ability to undertake some minor maintenance/gardening work. Some weekend working will be required.

Further details and application form are available on www.beechencliff.org.uk

Theme of the Week – Jewish Festival of Sukkot

The focus of Theme of the Week this week is the Jewish festival of Sukkot, or Feast of Tabernacles. It is a time for Jews to remember the time spent in the desert during the journey to the Promised Land. People build huts outside (either to live in or just to eat in) to commemorate this time, and as it is a Harvest festival it is important for Jews to give thanks for having enough food.



You may find the two links below interesting; people preparing for the Festival of Sukkot in London and some interesting photos

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2010/sep/29/jewish-festival-sukkot-east-london>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2013/sep/18/jewish-festival-sukkot-in-pictures>

Miss P Netto

PSHE Co-ordinator

Annual Piano Concert



The School will be holding its annual Piano Concert on Wednesday, 18th October 2017, 7.00pm at St Luke's Church, Hatfield Road, Bath (opposite the Devonshire Arms).

All parents, pupils, students and friends of the School are most warmly invited. The Concert will feature pupils and students from Year 7 through to the Sixth Form. There is no charge for this event.

If you do wish your son/daughter to be involved in the Concert, please email; music@beechencliff.org.uk. All abilities are accepted and pupils are free to play any repertoire they wish including own compositions.

We hope you can join us for what promises to be an enjoyable event.

Mr P E Calvert

Head of Music

St Phillips and St James Drama Group

St Phillips and St James Drama Group are celebrating our 60th Anniversary next year and we are looking to contact as many past members to join us over the weekend of 8th – 10th June 2018.



If you, family members or friends have been connected to the drama group in anyway over the past 60 years, please contact geoff.heather@talktalk.net.

Jane Hudson

Sports

Sports Fixtures

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

Days	Fixture	Meeting time	Kick off/Start time	Transport	Finish/Return time
Thurs 5 th Oct	Rugby Union U16A v King Edward's, Bath (H)	1.00pm	2.15pm	n/a	4.00pm
	Hockey 1 st XI v Parior Park college (A)	2.00pm	2.45pm	MB	4.15pm
	Football U15A v Oldfield School (H)	2.15pm	3.30pm	MB	4.45pm
	Rugby Union U14B,U13B v Writhlington School (H)	3.25pm	4.00pm	n/a	5.00pm
Fri 6 th Oct	Football U13A v Selwood Academy (H)	1.15pm	2.00pm	MB	3.45pm
Mon 9 th Oct	Football U14A v Chew Valley School (H)	3.25pm	4.15pm	MB	6.00pm
Tue 10 th Oct	Rugby Union U14B, U13B v Chew Valley School (A)	2.30pm	3.45pm	Coach 2.45pm	6.00pm
Weds 11 th Oct	Rugby Union U14B, U13B, U12A v Sexey's School (A)	12.45pm	2.30pm	Coach 1.00pm	5.30pm
	Rugby Union U18A AASE XV v Truro & Penwith College (H)	1.15pm	2.45pm	n/a	5.00pm

Sports Results for Week Commencing 25th September

Date	Fixture	Type	Result	Score
Mon 25 th Sept	U14 Football v Gillingham	ESFA round 1	Won	2-0
Tues 26 th Sept	U12b Rugby v Wellsway	Friendly	Won	20-5
	U13b Rugby v Wellsway	Friendly	Lost	10-25
	U14b Rugby v Wellsway	Friendly	Won	35-5
Weds 27 th Sept	AASE Rugby v Hartpury	League	Lost	7-22
Thurs 28 th Sept	1st XV Rugby v Melksham Oak	Friendly	Won	45-5
	2nd XV Rugby v Downside	Friendly	Won	27-0
	1st XI Football v Churchill	Somerset Cup	Won	4-0
Fri 30 th Sept	U12a Rugby v Bishops	Friendly	Lost	10-30
	U12b Rugby v Bishops	Friendly	Lost	5-20
	U13a Rugby v Bishops	Friendly	Won	25-5
	U14a Rugby v Bishops	Friendly	Won	32-7

Mr P Macdonald
Director of Sport

Spotters Hockey October 2017 Camp



Spotters Hockey Half Term Camp will be running 9am -2pm on 23rd and 24th October 2017 at Beechen Cliff School for hockey players aged 7 -15 years old. The camp provides high quality, fun and enjoyable coaching with skilled based sessions designed to improve your child's hockey skills whatever their ability. The

camp utilises proven, research based techniques and treats your child as an individual, increasing their knowledge of hockey and boosting game awareness. Also running is the Spotters High Performance camp, attendance at which is free when booking on the main camp

These camps are normally very popular, there is a discount if you book before 7th October 2017, with the discounted cost just £24.75 for the day or £45 for both; there are limited spaces on this occasion, so please book early to secure a place for your child. For more details or to book your child's place please email spottershockey@yahoo.co.uk or see Mr Norton for further details

Sally Potter
Spotters Hockey Academy Director