



BEECHEN CLIFF

Christmas 2018

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Message from the Headmaster

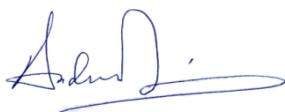
We will not pretend that 2018 will be reflected upon by many within the school as positively as those which preceded it. Having said that, there have been many bright moments, and it can be all too easy to fail to put things into perspective; The wonderful achievements of our Under 15 rugby team (National Vase winners in March) and the 1st XV (AASE) squad (National Finalists) gave us a great lift and demonstrated the impact of tenacity and the value of strong teamwork. We have all benefitted in some way from the lessons of their success.

Much of our work over the terms has been driven by the need to demonstrate our core strengths in teaching and learning, extra-curricular provision and our continuing aspiration to develop the core values of the school. These fundamental elements continue to remain at the heart of our work and I hope, as parents that you recognise the efforts undertaken by a very skilled staff team at Beechen Cliff. The results (in academic terms) in 2018 would indicate that the school continues to help pupils and students produce outcomes of which they can be proud and which also represent the commitment of parents, teachers and support staff, and which reflect the students' efforts. We know that the vagaries of the "league table" system will again give an inaccurate picture of our achievements in this area, which we know (rather more importantly) that you know the reality.

The coming months will see the move into a Multi Academy Trust and we anticipate that this will bring a number of benefits to the school – even if we had not anticipated making a move at this time last year! The board members of the Trust, in the form of CEO Alun Williams and Deputy CEO Mark Thompson, have been able to share their knowledge of external inspection frameworks and to bring together staff from various schools to help share ideas and develop the quality of our offering at Beechen Cliff. Obviously, as a high achieving school, we hope that we will have plenty to offer across the partnership of schools and my own experience has been that the willingness to be open and work for the mutual benefit of the member schools has been refreshing. In February, we anticipate being a new member of Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP) and, whilst rather "out on a limb" in geographical terms, we know that we will become close in many ways in the years ahead.

We must not forget the season which we are entering and I hope that as many as possible of you will join us to celebrate in the Abbey for the Annual Carol Service. This is always a wonderful way to bring the year to a close and I know that the quality of music from our choir and orchestra will help create "festive spirit" that might not yet have been engendered by the Christmas Market in the city or maybe because of it.....

The final address in Friday's End of Term Assembly explores the theme of the message of Christmas and will be delivered by Mr Watts. You may well be interested in reading the text for yourselves.



Mr A Davies
Headmaster

Christmas Assembly

Like explaining the rules of cricket to the uninitiated, having to explain Christmas to someone from another planet would be challenging.

It would go something like this we take a day to remember a baby born in the middle east by a teenage virgin mother who is on the run because of a census of the occupying imperial power there are some donkeys, angels and shepherds (with tea-towels on their heads?) and a group kings (or wise men?) following a star ... then 1000s of years later people open presents, eat too much, decorate trees and wear terrible knitted jumpers with grinning reindeers on them!

For all the stories and traditions to have endured – this one is seriously cranky.

The events surrounding the birth of Jesus are recorded independently in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Historically we know quite a bit of what was going on at this time. We know the marital age of girls was typically 13-14 and for boys it was 18-19. Life expectancy was 40 and the taxation rate was 90%! Mary and Joseph were from a small tribe in the Nazareth area.

We know that the Romans were the foreign power who controlled this part of the world. Cesar was the self-appointed saviour of the earth who brought peace to the world and he did this by moving his military machine around the world and crushing everything in its path. Resist and you died. Rebel and you'd be crucified. It was certainly one way of creating peace!

In Luke's biblical account of the birth of Jesus, when Mary is told she is pregnant with Jesus, she sings a song (called the Magnificat) which is popularly viewed as the charming and poetic response of a young peasant girl's simple faith in God. It starts with: "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God...." and it starts off all very lovely as she expresses the privilege of giving birth to the promised Messiah (as you would).

However, the second part is really interesting. It's interesting because it is very different because it's got a bit edge to it: "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty! ". Mary is singing about the prospect of the coming Messiah raising the poor and the powerless from their oppression and sending the rich away empty handed. It is surprising abrasive language from "meek and mild" Mary. It is the language of a revolutionary. This is the language of someone shaking their fist at the system intent on overthrowing the Roman masters – fed up with the years of being trampled on.

The modern Christmas story has had these edges filed off - it has become sanitised, cosy and romanticised – a bit dreamy and soft focus; chestnuts by the open fire as Frank Sinatra sings "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Silent Night Holy Night". As lovely as all this is – it is missing the point.

The Christmas story is more about a rage against the machine - a kicking-back against the system. A resistance movement that says, "No, it's not good enough", a refusal to accept people being left out and trampled on. It is an insistence that we can do better.

The Christmas story was about revolution – but this revolution was the message of unconditional love. Throughout his life, Jesus immersed himself with the marginalised - the poor, the ill, the hated and the ostracised - the roman tax collectors, prostitutes. This revolution was the head-scratching message of loving enemies, praying for those who persecute us, standing-up for equality and the voiceless. At the time, Jesus must have disappointed many who wanted a more conventional rebellion. Instead Jesus was unequivocal in his insistence on non-violence. It was radical and provocative - this new brand of revolution did not involving Molotov cocktails and hand-grenades.

Twentieth century leaders Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Ghandi all understood that you can't solve a problem with the same consciousness that created it ie. violence can never be the solution.

What's really interesting about the Christmas story is that history is generally told by the victors – they record their great feats in battle, they record how they crushed their opponents. This story however is told by the early Christians with the boot of empire on their necks. It's an upside down reading of history – of Jesus, born to a peasant girl who sat at the bottom of the socio-economic pile, without wealth, a palace or privilege. It is a revolt against the prevailing way of the world. It is a story that turns things on its head – told by an underdog – and against all the odds it has endured because it kind of resonates with us at some level – we know it's right. This funny, cranky Christmas story is still with us today because something totally new was born. The story is not about a triumphant king (or president!) whose power is transitory – whose power and influence comes and goes - but we are talking about a whole new way of being human and one that lives on 2000 years after Jesus' death.

Jesus' work with those kicked out to the edges, the oppressed, the refugees, the migrants, the single mother, the poor, the lonely, the homeless has maybe left us a little disappointed with the some aspects of the established Christian religions – but we need to look beyond their failure. Our challenge this Christmas is to raise our awareness of those in need then go and sit with them - join them – serve them. So far as Jesus was concerned - this was where the action happened.

You will have heard about the sixth form trip over half term working in a Transylvanian Gypsy community – some of the 21st century's poorest, most despised and oppressed people. What was interesting was how the students viewed the trip as one of their best experiences of their lives – rewarding, humbling and an extraordinary experience whilst being pushed out of their cosy Bath comfort zone. The point here is that personal sacrifice for the benefit of others, whether in the form of time and/or money, doesn't have to be a chore or drudge but rather, as demonstrated by these students, can be a real joy. Personal sacrifice for the benefit of others doesn't have to be seen as a sacrifice at all but an opportunity to become more alive and revitalised.

I hope you all have a fabulous Christmas filled with joy - maybe seeing it as an opportunity for revolution in your life – where a new awareness and consideration of others is developed – both to those close to you and those on the margins.

Mr P Watts
Deputy Headmaster

Dates for your Diary

Friday 21st December	End of Term Assembly and End of Term
21st December 2018 – 6th January 2019	Christmas Holidays
Monday 7th January	Winter Term Begins. Pupils to be in School for 8.25am
Thursday 10th January	Year 9 GCSE Options Evening Flexible
Saturday 12th January	Austria Ski Trip (Jan 12 th – Jan 18 th)
Wednesday 16th January	Year 11 PSHE
Thursday 17th January	Year 10 Parents Evening
Saturday 19th January	Sixth Form Careers Showcase
Wednesday 23rd January	Year 9 Parents Evening
Thursday 31st January	Lower Sixth Parents Evening

Essential Information

End of Term Arrangements

Friday 21st December 2018

Periods 1 and 2 – Lessons as normal

Period 3 – End of Terms Assembly Students are free to leave school at 12:30pm for the Christmas Holidays.

Winter Term Arrangements

Monday 7th January 2019

All pupils are to return to school at 8.25am on Monday 7th January for the start of the Winter Term.

Changes in Contact Details

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



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

Uniform and Haircuts

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

Mr K Mann

Assistant Headmaster Pastoral



Reporting Absences

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

Lower School Pupils

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

Sixth Form Students

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

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

Dates for Parents' Evenings

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

Year 10	Thursday 17 th January 2019
Year 9	Wednesday 23 rd January 2019
Lower Sixth	Thursday 31 st January 2019
Year 7	Wednesday 27 th February 2019
Year 8	Tuesday 5 th March 2019

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

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headmaster Pastoral

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

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

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

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

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headmaster Pastoral

Free School Meals and 16–19 Bursary

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

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

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

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

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

Mr T D Markall
Assistant Headmaster

Reports

Year 9 Full Reports and Year 7 Progress Reports will be available for parents to view on ePortal from 3.30pm on Thursday 20th December.

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

Mr T D Markall
Assistant Headmaster

Future Horizons



BEECHEN
CLIFF

FUTURE HORIZONS



THE TIMES
TOP 100
GRADUATE EMPLOYERS

The definitive guide to the leading employers
recruiting graduates during 2016-2017.

Graduate Careers Showcase

Saturday 19th January 2019
9 – 12.30 pm

Chaired by **Martin Birchall**,
Managing Director of High Fliers,
The UK Graduate Careers Survey

The event will include a review of the current job
market for graduates and insightful interviews
with graduates from leading employers.

All Lower Sixth students are expected to attend
Parents are welcome attend by booking a place
email Super@BeechenCliff.org.uk by
Tuesday 8th January

Message from the PTA - New Year's Resolutions

- Clear out the cupboards! Bring uniform that's too small /unwanted into parents' evening
- Be Greener (and save money) -buy 2nd hand uniform at parents' evening
- Sign up to 50:50 Club - Monthly draw that gives a chance of winning one of three cash prizes, from £20-£100 - join with as little as £1 monthly donations beechen5050@gmail.com
- Support the PTA – next meeting Mon 14th Jan 7pm -in the diary!
- Eat more fruit and veg! Riverford make it easy with home box delivery and will donate £25 to the PTA for every new customer – alanandvicki@riverfordhomedelivery.co.uk quote our school ID code, SCH1301.
- Raise funds for school while shopping on-line: search 'Give As You Live' Beechen Cliff
- Give beautiful, special gifts.. 'Beechen Cliff In the Snow' Print – see ParentPay
- Get behind the school's biggest fundraiser of 2019: Auction of Promises March 8th – Save the date, think of a promise to donate and send to traceyskehoe@gmail.com
- Keep up to date with PTA news (and details on all of the above) on the PTA page of the School Website and by following us on twitter <https://twitter.com/BeechenPTA>

Thanks so much for everyone's help and support this year!
Happy Christmas Kate and Annie

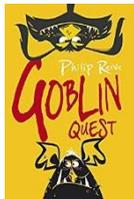
Literacy

Reader of the week

Well done to **Thomas (7CH5)** who has just reached over *half a million words* by reading and quizzing on **8 books** (passing them all!) and claiming **68** house points for Kipling. Keep reading over the Christmas holidays Thomas - you'll be a word millionaire in the new year before you know it! Thomas has recently read:



Goblin Quest by Philip Reeve



The third in the fantastically exciting trilogy set in a land of magic from the award-winning Philip Reeve. The heroes of GOBLINS and GOBLINS VS DWARVES continue their adventures outside the walls of Clovenstone castle. Awaiting Skarper and Henwyn are powerful dark forces that must be vanquished, monstrous creatures to be fought, and astonishing mysteries to be solved!

Term 2 House Totals

Great reading this term boys! Over **450 AR quizzes** were taken, totalling well over **20 million words!**



The word count results therefore are as follows;

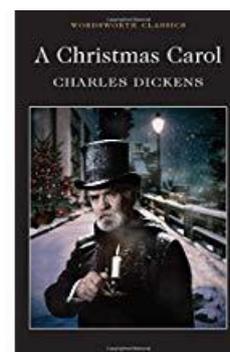
1 st Milton	8,338,459 words
2 nd Chaucer	5,014,613 words
3 rd Byron	3,250,708 words
4 th Shakespeare	2,721,558 words
5 th Kipling	1,400,601 words

Accelerated Reader Top Readers (by House)

Oscar (7ML6)
Finley (7CH3)
Tobias (7BY5)
Amos (7SH6)
James (7KP4)

Years 7 & 8 Favourite Books this Term

1. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** by J.K. Rowling
2. **The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again** by J.R.R Tolkien
3. **Eagle Strike** by Anthony Horowitz
4. **Snakehead** by Anthony Horowitz
5. **Man vs. Beast** by Robert Muchamore
6. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway** by Jeff Kinney
7. **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** by J.K. Rowling
8. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul** by Jeff Kinney
9. **Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz
10. **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** by J.K. Rowling



And finally, don't forget to pop into the library and choose a book to read over the festive season! We have plenty to choose from, and a librarian is always on hand to help you if you require a recommendation!

Mrs Dunn

Accelerated Reader Literacy Coordinator

Word of the Week

Perpetual

An adjective to describe

= never-ending or changing

= continuing forever

= occurring repeatedly, so frequent as to seem endless and uninterrupted

✓ Do you know it?

✓ Can you spell it?

✓ Can you use it correctly in your work this week?

Use it:

The caves were in **perpetual** darkness.

The country is in a **perpetual** war, with no end in sight.

The club seemed to have **perpetual** money worries.

Pronounce it

Per pet you al

Mrs L Leonardi

Literacy Co-ordinator

Theme of the Week

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

Please follow the links provided to aid discussions with your tutor group about how and why Christmas is celebrated in so many countries.

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

<https://parenting.firstcry.com/articles/20-interesting-facts-and-information-about-christmas-for-kids/>

Please be mindful that although Christmas is a fantastic time full of fun, family and presents for the majority of people, there are students who won't have the Christmas we would want for them. It can be one of the hardest times of the year for families.

Thank you all for your help in delivering Theme of The Week this term,

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break,

Mrs A Wilmot

Head of PSHE

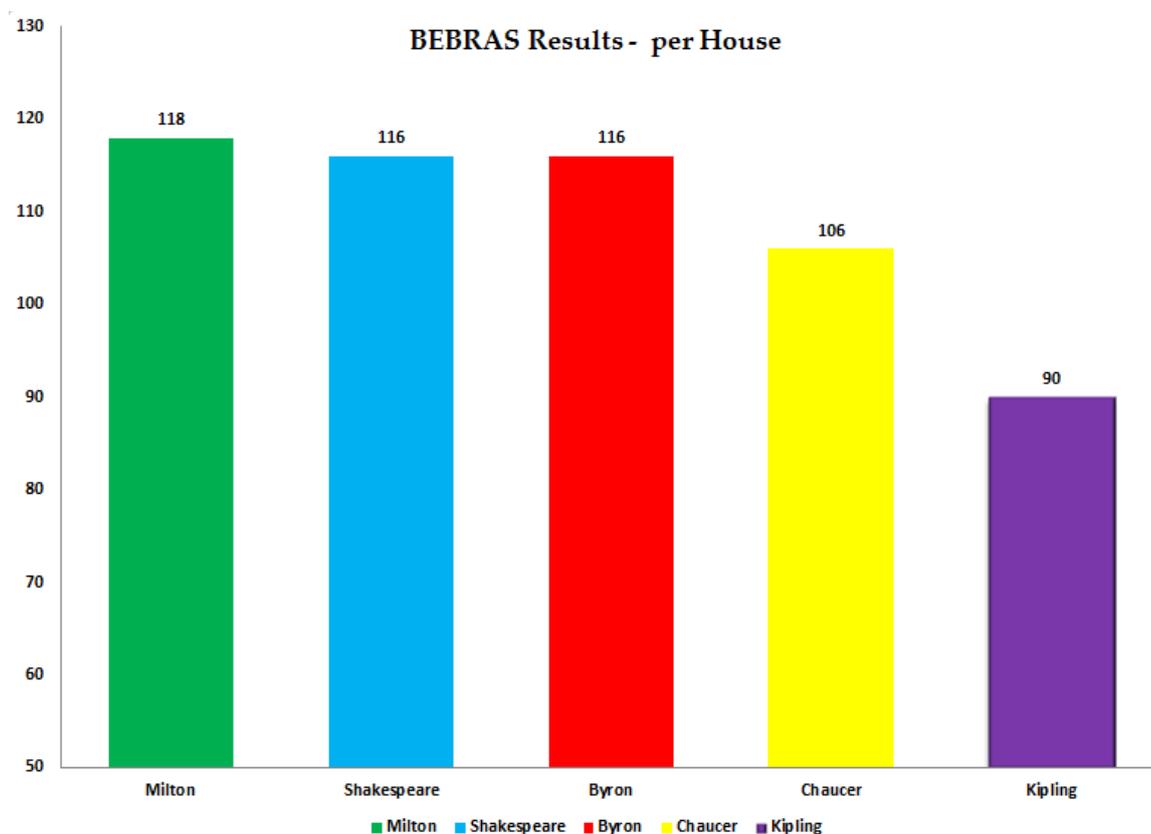
The BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge



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

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

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



Well done Milton!

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

Junior (age 10-12)	Noah.N	IT-7a
Intermediate (age 12-14)	Benjamin.P	IT-8A1
Senior (age 14-16) (joint)	Matthew.P	Co-11D
Elite (age 16-18)	William K.M	CO-L6D

The results in full details are in the attached spread sheet. You may like to go through this with the boys during tutor time, using the filters to filter by name/class.

If they can remember their logins they can log back in to the challenge website and see which ones they got right. Alternatively you can take a look at some of the Practice Challenges here:

<https://challenge.bebas.uk>

Two of the boys scored highly enough nationally to be invited to Oxford University for a day of lectures and Computational Challenges. Congratulations to **Benjamin Pearcey & Matthew Phillips** for the prestigious achievement of being in the top 5% scorers in the UK!

RNIB Charity Appeal

We are collecting used stamps in School for RNIB this Christmas and make a real difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people across the UK.

For people who still like to send and receive letters and parcels through the post, there's a way of supporting RNIB that won't cost you a penny!

Just collect used stamps from your cards and parcels and we will recycle them into much-needed funds. They will help even more people with sight loss access the information, support and advice they need.

Stamps can be dropped off to the main office.

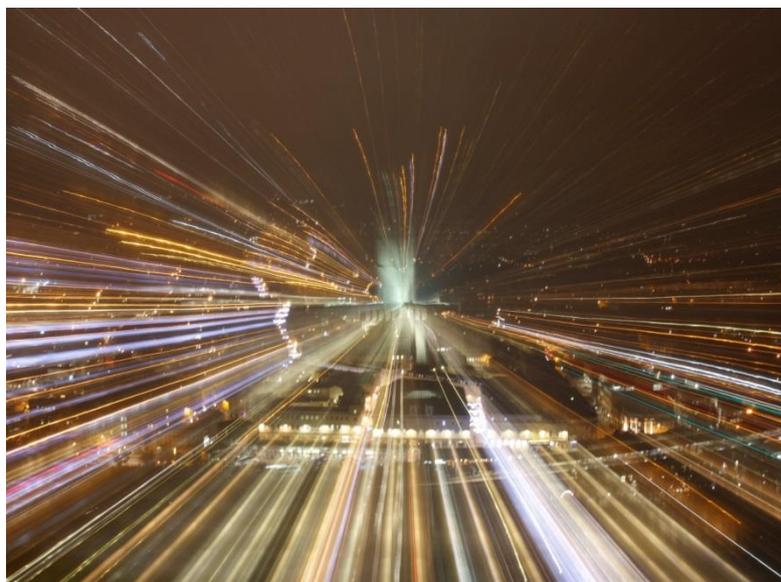
<https://www.rnib.org.uk/donations-and-fundraising/fundraising-your-community/stamps-appeal?>

Departmental News

Art

Photo shoot – Alexandra Park

In November a group of Year 10 photography pupils met in the park next to the school to learn advanced skills with their cameras shooting at night. This involved tricks such as using a strobe bike light and also igniting steel wool to create sparks whilst shooting overlooking the viewpoint. Well done to all the lads on some fantastic results!



Christmas Card Design

This year's fantastic Christmas card design has been created by Upper Sixth student Sibella. There is still a chance to buy some!



Holburne Museum

Sixth Form Life Drawing at the Holburne Museum on Monday 12th November our sixth form artists headed to the Holburne Museum to take part in a life drawing class centred around the work of Rodin. After being shown the exhibition the students then began their class by thinking about ways to capture parts of the model rather than the entire figure. Students were encouraged to work through their mistakes as time didn't allow them to start again over and over again. This helped them to create exciting, expressive pieces showing a confidence that some were unaware they had. All work created will be added to their personal projects and portfolios allowing them to show development and progression in this area later on in their personal projects or exam work.

November our sixth form artists



Sixth Form Trip To Amsterdam

On Wednesday 5th December 15 sixth form students and 3 members of staff, Mrs Judd, Miss Moorehead and Mr Jamieson headed off on a trip to the very beautiful city of Amsterdam. The weather was forecasted to pretty wet but that didn't dampen the mood for us all, neither did the delay at the airport!

After the extra hour to wonder about the shops we boarded the plane and set off,

excited to arrive. After a very short flight we caught a local train to the main station and then a tram to our Hostel where everyone ordered pizza before finally collapsing into bed at gone 1am. Thursday started off very early and a bit blurry eyed from the late night before but the rain held off

and we headed over to Anne Frank's house in the west of the city. This was a very moving exhibit of photographs and recreations of the house she and her family hid in for 2 years before finally being captured. After this we explored some of Amsterdams cannals and streets before having lunch. The Van Gogh Museum was next on our busy list of things to see and it didn't disappoint. Students came face to face with his 'Sunflowers' and his many diferent self portraits reflecting the various periods in his 10 years of painting before he died. A long walk back to the hostel came next with dinner inbetween. Friday morning gave us a rare opportunity to have a lie in- we met at 0800 for breakfast then headed over to central station and took a free water taxi to an area called NDSM. This is a big ex industrial ship building yard which houses a huge amount of street art and artists

studios. Thankfully no-one was blown overboard as the gusts of wind were pretty strong! We then split into 3 groups heading to 3 different galleries- Moco, Rembrandt's House and Foam. All students found these museums to be inspiring and very interesting and will hopefully be evident within their research for future projects. Once we were all together again we went into the Rijks Museum which is a Dutch national museum dedicated to arts

and history in Amsterdam before heading back out in to the pouring rain. Dinner was had out whilst enjoying the Christmas lights and a final goodbye to Amsterdam. A very early start was had on Saturday in order to catch our plane home....however it would have been nice to know that we'd be treated to another 2 hour delay at the airport so we could have had a little bit more sleep! A huge thank you to all the sixth form who made this trip so special and enjoyable as well as to Miss Moorhead and Mr Jamieson who did wonders with their support and 'Google' map reading skills!

Mrs Judd
Art Department



Sixth Form Bath Drawing Day

On Monday 17th September the lower sixth and myself ventured into the centre to start our recording project. Due to the wonderful British weather our plans to record the landscape and structures within the city were scuppered so instead we ran for shelter and sat in the relaxed stillness and quietness of the Abbey to begin our drawings. Once the rain had slowed down we worked outside capturing the hustle and bustle of the streets and the striking architecture against the blue/purple skies above. Again, when the heavens opened up we kept ourselves dry inside the indoor market and began to record the spaces that were cluttered with stacked books, sweets and knitting equipment. The students created some very exciting work showing their ability to work quickly but to still provide evidence of skill and technique.



Visiting Speaker

Steve Evans, an old boy of the school who left after his GCSEs 17 years ago came to visit the school on December 12th to deliver an inspiring lecture about his experiences since leaving school as a photo journalist. He graduated with a 1st class degree in Photography and recently completed an MA, and has documented political and social stories including the UKIP campaign prior to the EU referendum (he was at pains to point out he is not a UKIP supporter!), and showed some powerful images taken at the Calais port before the so called 'Jungle' was bulldozed. The students benefitted enormously from hearing how it is possible to apply skills learnt at school into industry. Many thanks for his wise words!



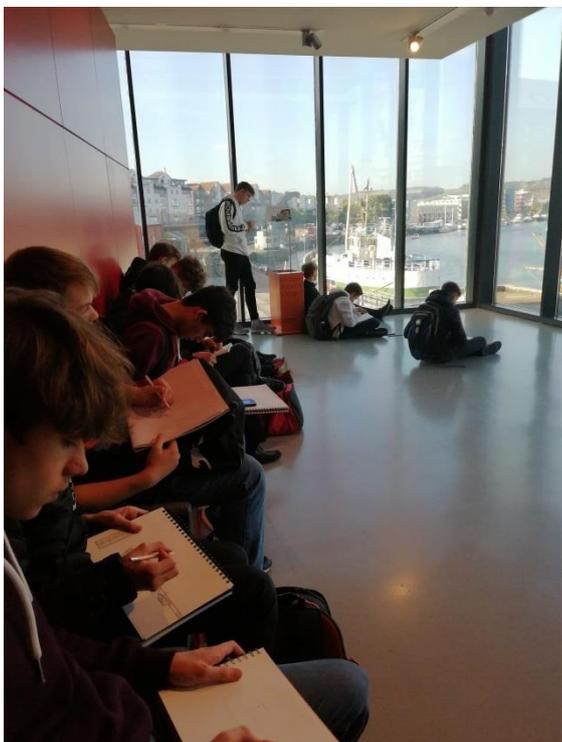
Mr Murphy

Head of Art & Photography

Year 10 Art trip to Bristol

On the 18th of October Mrs Judd and Mrs Wilmot took the Yr 10 Art students to Bristol to complete a range of observational drawings. We started our day by visiting the Mshed which is an amazing museum dedicated to Bristol. The boys completed a range of drawings of objects that interested them. We walked around the Harbourside for the boys to complete drawings and sketches outside, before moving on to Millennium Square to work on drawing in perspective and focusing on the details of the range of architecture.

The boys worked incredibly well and all have a fantastic range of work for their GCSE project.



Art Department

English Department

Year 7 Poetry Winner

A magical Christmas Eve

By Johnathon A

Snow is falling from the sky,
Children are longing for a mince pie,
Christmas lights illuminate the town,
There is not one person seen with a frown.
Father Christmas is enjoying his flight,
Rudolph is thinking this is going to be long night,
Angels singing up above,
Mistletoe hanging encouraging love.
Stockings waiting to be filled,
In the hope that you'll be thrilled.
Goodnight. . .

Year 7 Poetry Runner up

By Hamish W

Frosted land
Iced with winter chill,
Christmas breath blows through the air,
As the time for snow starts...

In the towns the streets are lit
There's songs all around,
The Christmas feel fills up the town
With laughter, smiles and joy.

Shimmering paper hide gifts
From wishful eyes,
The firelight
flickers fondly
to light up
the Christmas dawn.

[Year 8 Poetry Winner](#)

The Boy & His Lamb

By Josh R

I'm going to miss that sheep,
it was my favourite.
He was a runt like me,
always getting shoved around.

My father is giving the lamb to the baby,
Jesus, I think it is.
I don't really see the point,
he's just another baby,
and we have enough of those already.
What's a baby going to do with a lamb?

But now father said "do you want to come and see Jesus with us?"
I was surprised he asked,
But at least I can be with the lamb.

When we arrived at town we searched the manger.
The one with the baby in
was filled with golden light.
And the baby was wrapped in swaddling cloths.

Now I have seen him,
I know he isn't just any baby.
I won't have any trouble giving him the lamb.

[Year 8 Runner up](#)

The Boy Who Melts Snow

By Jack L

Yeah Barry he's a bully, he loves to steal
he takes a big bite from everyone's meal.

As the evenings get darker, so does he
he's gonna steal presents from you and me.

Barry stopped writing letters at 8 years old
because Santa always got him a box of coal.

Barry's true Christmas wish, little did they know
was to play with his friends in 6 feet of snow.

On Christmas Eve it started to fall

by Christmas morning it had covered all.

Barry ran out the house, sleigh under his arm

but his feet melted the snow to his alarm.

He ran back inside, found a letter on his bed

opened it up "It's from Santa!" he said.

'You can't just be naughty, you need to be nice

then you will have all the snow and the ice.'

From that moment on Barry changed his ways

being kind and thoughtful day after day.

More snow fell in the following weeks

and less and less snow melted under his feet.

As his thoughts for others continued to grow

we finally got to playing in the snow.

Thank you to Mr B's Emporium Book shop for kindly donating prizes for this event.

Mrs S O'Higgins
Head of English

Maths Department

[Maths Report](#)

Senior Team Challenge

In November the Senior Maths Challenge Team 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 3rd out of 18 teams. They clearly enjoyed the challenge and did really well.

Cipher Challenge

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

<https://www.cipherchallenge.org/>

There is no overall leaderboard this year – instead each of the 16 challenges so far has had its own hall of fame. Eight of our teams have appeared in joint first at some stage, and three teams achieved this on challenges 8A and 8B – the hardest so far!

As we get to the later stages these problems do become really challenging – I know this is where some of the pupils really rise to the challenge!

The challenge finishes in early January – Codebreaking Club will then take a break but we'll be back in September for the 2019 challenge.

Many thanks for Mrs Biggs and Mrs James for looking after the club!

GCSE Revision Guides

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

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

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

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

Scientific Calculators

If any pupils are worried that they don't have a suitable scientific calculator then they can ask Santa to look here (for years 7 – 11):

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Casio-FX-83GTPLUS-S-UH-FX-83GTPLUS-Scientific-Calculator/dp/B001O3IF9U/ref=sr_1_2?s=officeproduct&ie=UTF8&qid=1544625023&sr=1-2&keywords=casio+scientific+calculators

or here for sixth formers studying A level maths:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Casio-FX-991EX-Scientific-Calculator-Battery/dp/B00ZZ93346/ref=sr_1_6?s=officeproduct&ie=UTF8&qid=1544625023&sr=1-6&keywords=casio+scientific+calculators

Happy Christmas everybody!

Mr E R Gill

Head of Maths

edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Chess Club



Under the guidance of local chess teacher Ferdo Dizdarevic, we have been meeting on Thursday afternoons between 3.20 and 4.15pm

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

It is open to all year groups, and there is a small charge per term to cover Ferdo's costs. If you are interested in coming along please come to see me or drop me an email.

edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Music

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

Joel R (Upper sixth) Grade 6 jazz saxophone with distinction, David J (Yr 11) Grade 5 saxophone with distinction, Robbie L, (L6) Grade 5 with merit, Sam B (Yr 10) Grade 4 saxophone with merit, Fergal M (Yr 9) grade 4 piano with merit, Gabriel B T (Yr 9) Grade 3 Jazz saxophone with merit, James C (Yr 8) Grade 3 cornet with merit, Hamish P (Yr 10) Grade 3 guitar with merit, Oskar R (Yr 9) grade 1 trumpet with merit, James S (Yr 8) Grade 1 clarinet with merit.

In addition Millie S (upper sixth) and Tom C (yr 11) passed Grade V theory with a merit and Emma C (upper sixth) passed with a distinction.

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

Performances

At the end of term 1, the school piano concert took place on Thursday 25th October at St Luke's Church. 33 pupils and sixth form students performed to an appreciative audience who were all impressed by the array of talent. The repertoire ranged from Handel through to Chris Isaak and several pupils performed their own compositions. All performers enjoyed the experience of playing on a grand piano and two sixth form students accompanied themselves whilst singing!

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

At Presentation evening in November the sixth form chamber choir under the direction of Mr Sillem sang a wonderful rendition of Stanford's Beati Quorum Via. The performance was very well received by all in attendance and the sound of the chamber choir filled the acoustics of the Assembly rooms perfectly. Prior to the evening commencing, Freja M performed some solo violin repertoire again accompanied by Mr Sillem.

The end of term also saw the traditional music festivities taking place. On December 20th the school brass ensemble went 'busking' outside the Abbey to raise money for the Rotary Club's annual Christmas collection. Later that same day the choir folk group, brass ensemble and guitar ensemble performed magnificently in the School Carol Service at Bath Abbey. The carol service is always a highlight of the school year and this was no exception. As usual year 7 pupils were in attendance and the lots of parents fed back that the atmosphere was very 'Christmassy!'

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank all the music staff for their continued help and dedication to the department. I would also like to thank Leo Plain (Senior Musician) and Tom Horobin and Gabe Winbolt (Deputy Senior Musicians), for their help in 'rallying the troops' to attend extra-curricular rehearsals. They have all settled into their respective roles well and are an enormous help.

On behalf of the entire music department, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr P.E. Calvert
Head of Music



The Rock Project

Spaces are now available to join The Rock Project Bath, lessons in Singing, Guitar, Bass or Drums, AND play as part of a band! The Rock Project are currently recruiting 7-11 and 12-18 year olds to join their two-hour weekly sessions in Bath. Spaces are limited so get in touch now to secure your place. Would you like to be playing or singing on stage at our big summer gig? Come along for a trial session, Monday evenings in Bath. All abilities welcome from beginners to experienced.

To book a space, or for more information, visit www.therockproject.com or email bath@therockproject.com, also check out our Facebook page, The Rock Project Bath and Trowbridge.

Grease – The Musical 2019

After the great success of *Guys & Dolls* last year which saw c1000 audience members enjoy the school's first large scale musical, which went onto win a regional award, the Musical Theatre Group have now started preparations to perform the smash hit musical *Grease*. Working in partnership with Bath Theatre School the Friday after school group has seen students working on the three core performing disciplines of drama, singing and movement. The boys have gone on to audition and begin rehearsals for *Grease* which is being performed 10-12th Apr 2019. The boys have been joined by girls from across Bath who have been especially auditioned to take on the female roles. The production will be staged at the 400 seat Kingswood Theatre and will feature professionally hired set, costumes, lighting and sound. Very few schools offer such opportunities as this and there is still time to be part of this fantastic show. If students are interested, they can sign up at www.baththeatreschool.com/bcs with lessons after school on Fridays in the Music Centre. The production will also need a sizable production team to assist with a variety of tasks, including lighting, sound, costumes, props, back stage, scenery construction, front of house, publicity and much more. If you are interested in one of these important off-stage roles then please contact Miss Smith (Georgia.Smith@beechencliff.org.uk). Tickets for *Grease* will go on sale early in the New Year at www.baththetareschool.com/tickets , £12 for adults, £10 for under 18s and £1 for Beechen Cliff students.



Trips

China Trip - October 2018

The annual trip to China was a great success this year. Teaming up with pupils and staff from The Royal High School Mr Stewart and 10 pupils spent 8 days visiting some amazing places and getting some insight into the culture of the country.

Based around four cities (Beijing, Xi'an, Suzhou and Shanghai) and involving visits to schools, a one-night homestay with a Chinese family as well as trips to the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Terracotta Warriors and many other places it proved to be a fascinating experience for all.



Entering the Forbidden



On the Great Wall



The Terracotta Warriors



Shanghai by night

We have several pupils already signed up for next year's trip – and there are still places available. If any pupils currently in years 9 to 12 would like to join the trip please do let me know and I will get back to you in the New Year.

Mr E Gill

School coordinator Bath/China Partnership
edwardgill@beechencliff.org.uk

Winter Mountaineering Trip 2018

It was a cold and icy trip up to North Wales in the last weekend of November. 15 students and 3 members of staff made their way at the crack of dawn on Saturday November 24th to experience scrambling and hill walking in Snowdonia. Although there was some snow earlier in the week, the hills were mainly clear, but conditions were still treacherous underfoot, especially on the Sunday when the group made it to the top of the Glyders. Ice means that progress is slowed significantly, and it also meant that with a forecast for strong winds and further cold conditions, we decided not to attempt the intended Crib Goch route on the Snowdon Horseshoe. Despite this, the group had a fantastic taste of what it is like to experience winter climbing in the UK, and all of the students handled themselves admirably, showing confidence, camaraderie and good humour throughout the weekend. Many thanks to Mr Brewer and Miss Mather for their hard work and assistance on the trip.

Mr Murphy



Geography Expedition to Iceland, 19th – 23rd October 2018

On a damp October morning, 57 Yr 12 and 13 students embarked on what is becoming a rite of passage for many Beechen Cliff A'Level students. A trip to the land of fire and snow is a must for any Geographer at some point in their life time as nowhere else can you walk around a living textbook quite like you can in Iceland.

After a long day's travelling our students were rewarded with a soak in the Blue Lagoon, the iconic Iceland landmark that attracts visitors from all over the world. It did not disappoint. There is something magical about soaking in the hot bright blue water, shrouded in mist, knowing that its source is a mantle plume deep down below. This super-heated column of molten rock is in fact the source of all Iceland's tectonic activity and creates the main purpose of the trip – to complement the tectonic hazards unit studied in A'Level Geography. Once thoroughly relaxed it was off to Hotel Viking for a fish and chip supper. We had well and truly arrived in the land of fire and snow.

On day two we visited Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station to discover how the majority of Iceland's hot water, heating and electricity come from geothermal power. In 2008 this power station was rocked by a magnitude 6 earthquake, something students got to experience first-hand after a visit to the Hveragerdi Earthquake simulator..



In the afternoon we visited the Seljalandsfoss waterfall. This is an example of a 'nick' point and towers over what were once sea cliffs. When the last ice age ended 10,000 years ago, Iceland started isostatically rebounding once the weight of the huge ice cap above was lifted. What's really great about this waterfall, however, is the fact you can walk behind it. After a hot dog

lunch (surprisingly the national dish of Iceland) it was on to the Skogafoss waterfall which, despite standing several metres away left students soaking wet from the spray. This was only a warm up to the real highlight of the day – a three hour glacier hike! The Solheimajokull glacier is retreating rapidly due to global warming but it has lost none of its beauty. The thrill of wearing crampons and carrying an ice axe was an experience many will never forget. The day ended with a visit to the basalt columns at Reynishverfi , akin to the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland.

The afternoon involved a trip to the pumice fields (that's right, the same as you have in your bathroom) of Mt Hekla. Once everyone had taken a piece of pumice home with them (incredibly light



due to all the air bubbles created in an explosive eruption) it was on to the town of Hveragerdi where the power of Iceland's underground heat source became even more tangible after getting up close and personal with boiling mud and hot flowing rivers. Then, after a long day what better way to unwind than with a soak in the hotel's outdoor hot tubs!

Day 4 was like being an extra in a National Geographic Documentary. Everywhere we went was geological wonder after geological wonder. First stop was Kerid, a dramatic volcanic crater lake (caldera), originally believed to be formed by a huge volcanic explosion. Then it was on to Gullfoss or 'the Golden Waterfall' whose double falls drop around 33m then plunge into a mile-long gorge. A trip to Iceland wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Geysir geothermal park where you can see hot water bubbling out of the

ground and watch 'Strokkur' erupt reaching a height of around 30m. Lastly we wandered through Thingvellir, a national park where Iceland's parliament was established in 930AD. It is also scoured by the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and rift valleys are clearly visible where the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates pull apart at around 2cm a year. It really gives the impression you are walking through a crack between two plates.

As Iceland gets all of its hot water from geothermal energy it seemed rude to not visit another of the outdoor geothermally heating swimming pools on the last night. Soaking in the outdoor hot tubs and hurtling down the northern lights inspired flumes was a fitting end to what had been a fantastic trip. The next morning was spent on a sightseeing tour of Reyjvaik before heading out for one last geological gem – the Reykjanes peninsula. Here we walked through sulphurous clouds and saw fumeroles and solfataras first hand.

From the Reykjanes peninsula it was off to Keflavik airport and the three hour flight back to London. For most of us it had been a fantastic trip with too many highlights to narrow down to one.



Mr Anstey
Head of Geography

Supported by minibuses the peloton unwound through North Devon without incident reaching the long estuary path from Barnstable to Great Torrington. Even in the wet this is a stunning part of the route offering the easiest cycling of the day. From Torrington however the rolling hills of Devon start to impose their presence and the cycling is tougher. 30 miles are also in the legs at this point and the strain started to show as the peloton was split apart on short climbs.

Hot chocolate was available at Hatherleigh which was an hour short of Okehampton where hot pasties awaited for lunch. These went down extremely well, with even the rain finding time to reduce to a drizzle.

Okehampton is around 60 miles into the route and Dartmoor remains to be skirted along its western edge. The high point of the route, Brent Tor at 1000ft above sea level is passed here. The nature of going coast to coast of course means that the finish is at sea level. From Yelverton the route is gently downhill for the last 20 miles to Plymouth. This is along the spectacular Plym valley and Drakes trail.

On a windy Plymouth Hoe the Peleton arrived at 6.10pm, 11 hours after departing Ilfracombe. A bemused but impressed public looked on as the riders gathered below the famous Smeaton's Tower light house on the Hoe.

This year was a hugely impressive effort in adverse conditions and the group responded positively and with a good deal of determination. This is reflected in the way the ride was relatively incident free (apart from one staff member who fell off and will remain anonymous). Congratulations to all.

Once again a big thank you goes out to the twelve staff, who gave up their weekend to cycle and drive mini buses to allow the challenge to take place.

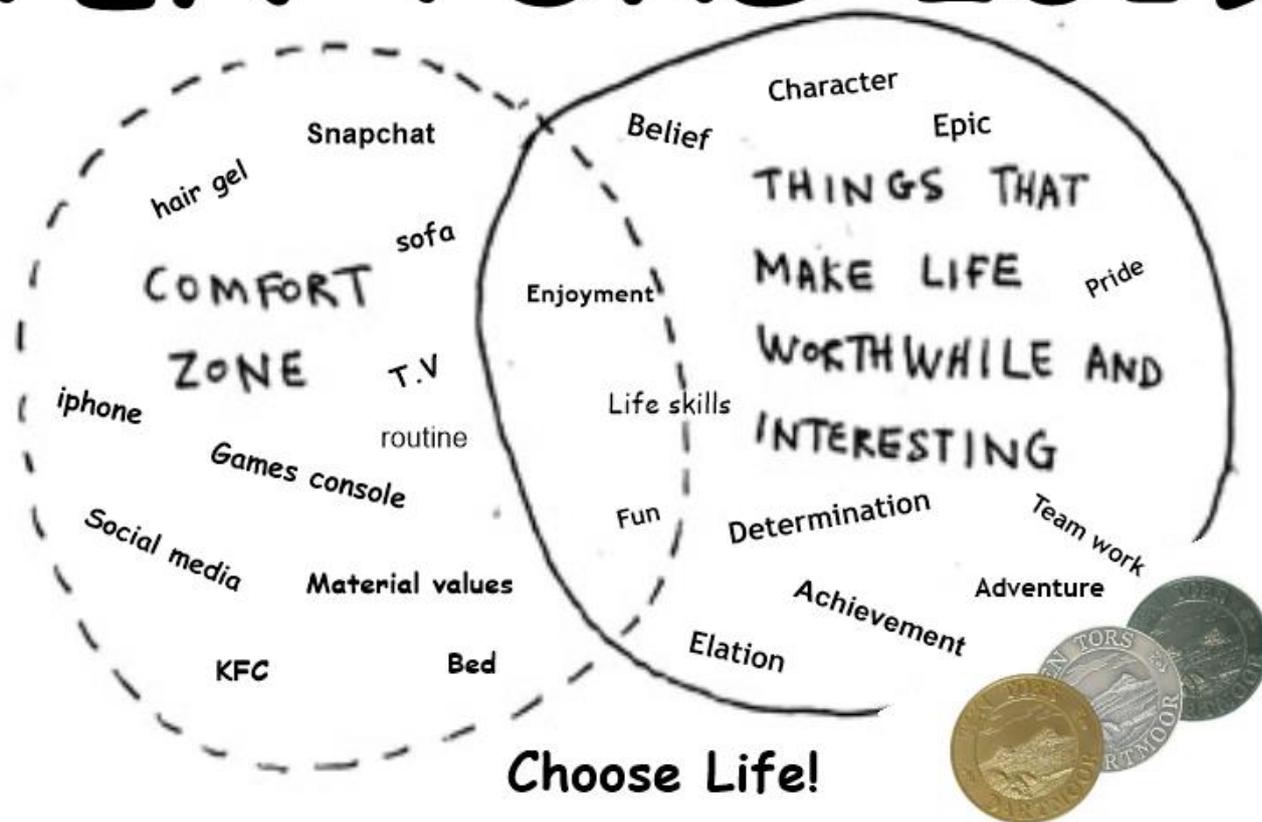
Should you wish to see photos and video please look at:

<https://www.instagram.com/beechencliffoutdoor/>

Maybe it will be dry and sunny next year...

Mr D Brewer
Head of Humanities

TEN TORS 2019



Launching in January

See Mr. Brewer or Mr. Stewart
for details

Dates 2019

Saturday January 26th January – MENDIPS
Saturday 9th February – BLACK MOUNTAINS
Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March – DARTMOOR
Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st March – DARTMOOR
Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April – DARTMOOR
Friday 10th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May – TEN TORS EVENT, DARTMOOR

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form welcomed back over 60 alumni on Monday afternoon to collect their A level certificates and enjoy refreshments with the Sixth Form Team. This was a great opportunity to catch up with ex-students and celebrate their achievements. Alumni that were unable to come on Monday can collect their certificates at a mutually convenient time by emailing Exams@Beechencliff.org.uk.

Winter Ball

On Monday 17th December, the Sixth Form Social Secretaries and Senior Prefect Team put on a very successful Winter Ball in conjunction with The Apex Hotel. 220 students attended the black-tie event, enjoying some well-deserved time off after a busy term of hard work and throwing themselves into Sixth Form life. Mr Oldham would like to congratulate the Sixth Formers who organised the event entirely themselves: Laura P, Henry H, Declan M, Joel R and Ophelia S.

Mr J Oldham

Head of Sixth Form/Safeguarding Lead



Sport

1st XV



Beechen Cliff 1st XV broke new ground by completing an unbeaten season in the RFU National U18 AASE League, with 9 victories out of 9, each victory accompanied by a bonus point for scoring for 4 tries or more – an achievement never before accomplished in the league’s 10 year history. As a result, the team reached the AASE Final against Hartpury College at Allianz Park in early December. Sadly, the team just fell short of lifting the trophy, losing 20-26 to Hartpury in a pulsating game in awful conditions. Nevertheless, the boys should be proud of their season, the effort and commitment they gave to training, the quality of rugby they produced in matches and their indomitable team spirit.

The AASE League, which comprises schools and colleges from all over the country who are each affiliated to a Premiership club, is arguably the highest standard of schoolboy rugby available. Although a relative newcomer to this established competition, the Bath Rugby partnership with Beechen Cliff school is showing signs in only its 4th season of its long-term potential to develop some of the region’s best young players.

The programme, co-ordinated by Beechen Cliff’s Director of Rugby Sean Turner with coaching from Bath Rugby’s top young coaches Ryan Davis and Mark Lilley, with support from Alan Murdoch (S&C), Conor Farrell (physiotherapy) and Rowan O’Brien (Analyst) is focused on developing game understanding alongside their technical, tactical and physical development.

A number of players have gained international recognition for their outstanding performances; Orlando C, Gabriel H.W and Nahum M have been included in the England U18 Development squad, with only injury preventing John Stewart from attending too. In addition, Diego P is in the Spain U18 squad. A number of players in the squad will now turn their attention to representing Bath Rugby Academy U18s in the upcoming academy season.

2nd XV



Many of those players who played in the AASE Final recently earned their spurs last year playing for the 2nd XV. The 2nds serves as a crucial development side where young players can improve their game skills and understanding to the point where they are deemed capable of stepping up into the 1^{sts}. The 2nd XV fixture list has therefore to be very challenging in order to extend the players. They play the 1st XV's of all the good rugby playing schools in the region and do more than hold their own. Great wins against Prior Park, KES, QEH and Bryanston were clearly highlights, but narrow defeats to Downside, Kingswood and Marlborough were just as beneficial as learning experiences. Coaches Adam Jamieson and Geraint Lewis have been pleased with the commitment shown and progress made, with Isaac D.B, Bradley L, Will R and Victor W showing particular promise for next year. In recent weeks a number of U16s have stepped up a year to make their debuts and they too have been impressive.

3rd XV

The 3rd XV sounds like it should be low level, recreational rugby. Not a bit of it!! The 3rds contains some high quality players and commitment on the field is as high as any 1^{sts} or 2^{nds} game. Furthermore, these lads really do enjoy their rugby, playing with freedom and spontaneity (even a coach can accept that sometimes teams can be over-coached!) This XV also serves as a development XV with many players using it as a platform to climb up through the teams. They have notched up many high quality scalps this year, playing the 2nd XV's of excellent rugby schools – highlights being wins against Prior Park, Downside, Marlborough and Colstons.

End of Term Report U14 Rugby

The U14b Team have had a very good season this year, with seven games being played, winning five and losing two, in total the team scored 168 points with only 72 points being scored against. The team started off with a comfortable 22-5 win away against Clifton High School. This set the bar for the rest of the season with the expectations set out for what we as a group wanted to achieve, this strong start was backed up with another convincing win against Colton's (48-0) followed by the first real test against Kingswood. Kingswood came with a strong side and put the team under a fair amount of sustained pressure, the defence stood the test and our attacking flair came out to give a fantastic come back and second half performance coming out eventual winners with another deserved 24-12 win.

Another game saw us playing away vs KES Bath, the team started off in the dominant way we have played our rugby all term, with the team working well and linking together to score some well worked and orchestrated tries. The second half was much the same with some great linking play allowing us to come through to another convincing and comfortable 41-0 win. The half term break came in the wrong place for us with the momentum taken away after a couple of weeks off we faced a tough trip to Marlborough College, with a well drilled and high performing side this was going to be our toughest test to date. With the game getting underway we seemed to struggle to get ourselves firing as we had done throughout the season. Marlborough were soon putting us under pressure and with a few missed tackles soon had us under pressure and behind on the scoreboard. The second half started and we played some of the best rugby of the term, putting Marlborough under sustained pressure and moving forward well. Unfortunately a few untimely mistakes meant that we were unable to get on the scoreboard with the final score being 0-36.

Another long trip away to Bryanston saw us getting back to our winning ways, with a complete performance from all 18 boys in the squad. Playing the rugby that we are able to from the start Bryanston were under pressure, resulting in yet another convincing 26-5 win. The final (and only second home) game of the season, much like the first was played in appalling weather, with standing water on the pitch. The boys performed well, but small mistakes led to the big runners of Sir Thomas Rich running through the defence. A spirited second half fight back showed our talent and how well we can play rugby, despite the conditions unfortunately resulted in a tough 7-12 loss.

Throughout the term the team played some lovely rugby, moving the ball well and focusing on what they were required to do, ably led by Guy at 10 and backed up by Ned the team have been a delight to coach this term and thoroughly deserved their 7-5-3 record.

Mr T L Davies
PE Department

Year 7 Rugby

The year 7 rugby teams have had a fantastic start to their secondary school life at Beechen Cliff. A whopping 74 boys attended training and played in fixtures. We started the season on a high with wins in some exhilarating games of rugby, against historic rugby schools. With the knowledge of facing schools with strong rugby sides looming in the boys' minds, training was intense, fighting for places on the team sheet week in, week out. The boys then came up against some very strong teams losing only a handful of the 24 fixtures in the calendar. However, as the boys matured in their school colours, Beechen Cliff played some fierce tackling, offloading and expansive strong running rugby lead by the talisman in the midfield. Having excelled throughout the year in their rugby campaign, it will be an exciting few years for these exceptionally talented boys.

Mr G Hawkins
Head of Physical Education and Sports Science

Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 rugby teams have had a very challenging season in which the results often did not reflect the effort and commitment shown by the boys. The 'B' team frequently found themselves facing the other local state schools' main team, whilst our 'A' team had the challenge of competing against the private schools which had boys who had been playing together since joining their attached Preparatory School.

Despite this, the boys consistently played with great enthusiasm and passion. Led by Max D the best A-team performances came against Queen Elizabeth's Hospital and Bishop Wordsworth's School, in which the team's tenacious defence forced errors and put the accomplished teams on their back foot allowing Beechen to finish with two very well-deserved wins. The 'B' team, with influential leaders such as, James B, Thomas T and Finley P produced excellent displays against King Edward's, Kingswood, Monkton Combe and QEH, therefore illustrating our excellence player depth.

The player of the season this year has been awarded to Ben S. Despite playing the majority of his matches whilst representing the 'B' team, Ben's consistency and ability to tackle saw him move into the 'A' team side where he added strength to the centre partnership.

Many thanks to both Mr. Mortimore and Mr. Gill, for their support throughout the season.

Mr G Hawkins
Head of Physical Education & Sports Science

Year 9 Rugby

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
9	8	0	1	277	85	192

Numbers alone suggest a very good season for the year 9 A team but more importantly was the improvement over the season both as individuals and as a team. Over 30 boys represented the A team over the 9 games showing the depth across the year group and as a result competition for places.

The team weren't tested until the third game against Kingswood after two comfortable wins over Backwell and Colstons. Beechen were trailing 14-0 with 7 minutes to go. Three tries in those 7 minutes turned the game on its head and the year 9s had their first win over Kingswood in 3 games. Another local derby against KES followed which resulted in a win but not such a good performance. A tough trip to Marlborough saw the only defeat of the season (19-24) but the team showed what they were capable of with an impressive 29-5 away at Bryanston. A weakened team worked hard in the awful conditions at QEH but it was the last two games where the team showed their progress.

In awful conditions away at Bishops Wordsworth the team achieved their biggest win of the season 59-0. The score line suggests an easy game but the performance was fantastic and didn't give the opposition a chance. The team left their best performance until the last game of the season where they faced Sir Thomas Rich where they lost 75-5 last year. An early penalty from Tommies was the only score for the away team as Beechen came out 10-3 winners showing quality in both attack and defence.

A fantastic season and everyone looks forward to next year.



Year 10 Rugby

A TEAM

They say 74.8% of statistics are made up on the spot and can be used to prove and disprove the same thing at any time. However the stats of this team make remarkable reading:

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
10	9	0	1	385	97	288

This tells only part of the story. The team played with a verve and vigour that proved irrepressible: running the ball from anywhere with a total belief that they would score. In the first year of lifting in the lineout the boys have worked hard to quickly develop an effective rolling maul and a number of methods to stop the opposition. Consequently the boys 'upfront' consistently won collisions, made the gain line and provided the right sort of possession that was exploited by the backs.

The stats point to an extremely successful season but only show part of the success of this group. Clearly they are all extremely talented players who will undoubtedly grace the rugby fields in the future but their spirit, determination and drive are perhaps the most notable and commendable elements of this team. They have not only developed skills, but demonstrate all the best attributes of rugby: teamwork, support, enjoyment and respect for each other, the opposition and the game itself. They always play with a smile on their faces and clearly love the game. The best example of their character was the 3rd round of the National Cup against Bishop's Wordsworth away in Salisbury. Having taken an early lead they were pegged back. A penalty close to the posts would have given us a slender lead going into the last 7 minutes. No challenge for Rhys Davies. However, we declined the easy points, went for the corner, drove the maul and kicked the conversion to put the game out of reach. I love the way the boys back themselves and each other. A fantastic result.

After 3 years with this team I have seen them grow into superb young men. We wish them every success in the future and will watch their progress with pride.

Thank you to all the boys who played and trained so hard and made training and match days so enjoyable. Thanks also to the parents who supported, gave lifts, encouragement and washed the kits (and who tolerated my refereeing).

Well done boys – best of luck in the future and thanks.

Darrell Sayers
Assistant Headmaster

Year 11 Rugby

The u16s have had a fantastic season this year, only losing 1 game out of 10. The year 11s A and B team have showed some impressive performances, through an exciting style of rugby.

35 different players have played for the A team this season, showing the level of talent within the year group, while boys have also stepped up to represent the senior teams at Beechen Cliff. The B team have also played some fantastic rugby, with a brilliant result against King Edwards winning 67-10.

The performances have showed the progression the u16s have made this season and they will be a huge part of the success within senior rugby next year. The boys hunger to want to improve and learn has shown encouragement that they are developing into well rounded young men, to take into the sixth form environment next year.

Thanks to every player who has represented the school this year and parents for being supportive. I look forward to working and watching the boys represent the school in future years.

Mr A Jamieson

Senior Tennis

Congratulations to the Year 11 Tennis Team who have made it through to the regional playoffs in the winter senior student's competition after victories over Writhlington School and Beechen Cliff Sixth Form Tennis Team.

Well done to John, Yuji, Will, Jac, Sam Toby and Xavi. We look forward to the next round in January.

Mr T. D. Markall

Assistant Headmaster / Head of Tennis

Shooting

The pistol and rifle “taster” sessions for Year 7 boys have taken place across the term, giving the chance for potential talents to “come to the fore”. Hopefully, all the participants have enjoyed the experience and some may even want to consider taking up the sport in a more “professional” form than we offer.

The Mars bar challenge proved particularly difficult this year, with only three boys achieving the goal of shooting a die from the top of a pencil whilst standing blindfolded with a pistol or rifle. The force really does need to be with you for this particular challenge.

Standings

PISTOL		RIFLE	
1 st	James V	1 st	Barnaby R
2 nd	Evan L-G	2 nd	Rufus R
3 rd	Thomas F	3 rd	Alistair H
4 th	Alfie S Rory V	4 th	George C Tobias C Harley J Frederick C
6 th	Thomas B Oliver F Luke F		
9 th	Finley K-D Arthur P		

Girls U18 Hockey 2018

This season we have had brilliant numbers at both after school training and lunchtime training sessions with girls from Hayesfield and Ralph Allen also joining us, enabling us to run two teams! The girls 1st XI have played 6 matches with results of P6 W2 D1 L3, with a goal difference of +9. They have played one Indoor hockey match which we won 5-4. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to



play indoor hockey and it is something that we are looking to promote again next year. The 2nd XI were only able to have one match due to unforeseen circumstances, but they certainly enjoyed some social hockey along the way. Through the hard work of Captain Katie M and Vice-Captain Kiki S there is some real enthusiasm around girl’s hockey this year. The girls have been a credit to themselves and have driven the success of the season. They have been an absolute pleasure to coach and I very much look forward to what next year will bring!

Mr J Mortimore
Head of Hockey and
Physical Education

Forthcoming Sports Fixtures - New Term (January)

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

Day	Kick off/start	Fixures	Meeting time	Transport	Finish/Return
Monday 7 th January 2019	14:00	1st XI hockey vs Monkton (a)	12:45	MB	16:00
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	15:45	Indoor Athletics (@ Wellsways)	15:10	MB	18:00
Wednesday 9 th January 2019	16:00	U14 basketball vs St Gregs (h)	15:20	N/A	17:30
Wednesday 9 th January 2019	14:00	U14 football vs Taunton Academy (h)	13:00	N/A	15:30

Sporting Results

Week commencing 11th December 2018

Date	Fixture	Type	Result	Score
11 th Dec	U18 basketball vs Prior Park	Friendly	Won	100-47
12 th Dec	U12b rugby vs Ralph Allen	Friendly	Lost	60-0
13 th Dec	1 st XI football vs Sexey's School	Somerset Cup 2 nd Round	Won	5-0
13 th Dec	U16a football vs Sexeys School	Somerset Cup Round 2	Won	9-0
14 th Dec	U13a football vs Hugh Sexey School	Somerset Cup Round 2	Lost	6-1
14 th Dec	U12a rugby vs Sir Thomas Rich's	Friendly	Draw	30-30
14 th Dec	U12b rugby vs Sir Thomas Rich's	Friendly	Lost	45-15

Mr M Walker
Fixtures Co-ordinator