



BEECHEN CLIFF

Year 7 Character Journal

2019-20



BEECHEN CLIFF

Name

Tutor Group

Tutor



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Foreword

Your first year at Beechen Cliff will introduce you to many exciting opportunities and challenges. Our aim is to begin your journey through Beechen Cliff by introducing you to the values which we hold dear and which we believe will help you develop your character in a way which will help you in later life.

During Year 7 you will hear a great deal from me about what we mean by character development and you will also spend time with your House Tutor and parents seeing how the opportunities provided at school have helped to prepare you for later life and started your thinking about character – essentially, who you are and what makes you a stronger, more confident young man who knows how to understand his strengths and those areas on which he needs to work.

All of this will be happening in your first year. You will keep evidence of your actions and achievements during the year and we will come together at the end of Year 7 to celebrate your success in reaching the goals we have set you.

I hope that in years to come you will look back on this small booklet as an important starting point in helping you recognise how you developed the values which helped direct your life and how you became an adult with integrity and a real empathy for others.

A. Davies, Headmaster



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“If you don't stick to your values when they are being tested,
they're not values: they're hobbies.”

—Jon Stewart, Writer and Director



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The Beechen Cliff Values

Aspiration

Working hard and trying my best at all times,
both in and beyond the classroom

Balance

Taking up a range of opportunities to develop myself,
both in and beyond the school

Compassion

Improving the lives of those around me,
especially those less fortunate

Independence

Organising and taking responsibility for myself

Integrity

Doing the right thing, even when no-one is looking

Respect

Showing an understanding of the feelings, wishes and
rights of others through words and actions



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“I have learned that as long as I hold fast to my beliefs and values
- and follow my own moral compass - then the only expectations I
need to live up to are my own.”

—Michelle Obama,
Lawyer, Author and Wife of former
American President Barack Obama



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Roles & Responsibilities

Pupil

We expect you to reflect on your experiences this year and to record evidence of when you have demonstrated each value on the following pages. Try to record examples that show you have understood how the values are evident in your behaviours and actions in different contexts e.g. inside and outside school. If you need help finding evidence, ask your Tutor for help. Please share with your parents how you are progressing and ask them for ideas, photos or feedback on what you have done.

Parent

We ask that you to talk to your son about our values and discuss how he is demonstrating each of them. We will invite you to attend a meeting with your son's tutor in October to introduce this journal and the character development programme; we then encourage you to keep in touch with the Tutor throughout the year. In the summer, we will be providing a report on your son's character development and will ask you to write your reflections on his first year at Beechen Cliff. Throughout the year, you may like to encourage your son to look for examples of people upholding values and discuss what they are and how they demonstrate them.

Tutor

Year 7 Tutors will meet parents in October to discuss how pupils are settling into life at Beechen Cliff and introduce the character development programme. Throughout the year, Tutors will ensure pupils reflect on our values and record evidence of meeting them. They will provide help and challenge where needed and share amongst the pupils their collective learning. Tutors are available to be contacted about your son's progress at any time and will provide a report in the summer about their first year at Beechen Cliff.



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Evidence Record: Aspiration

Working hard and trying my best at all times, both in and beyond the classroom

Evidence #1

Evidence #2

Evidence #3



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Notes/Photos



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How Beechen Cliff Developed My Character: **Sir Richard Roberts, Nobel Prize Winner**

I was a student at Beechen Cliff School (then CBBS) from 1954 to 1962 and learned many things – including some that were not taught as part of the intended curriculum.

For instance, I discovered that I was basically a rebel at heart and that if one spoke convincingly enough anything was possible.

I hated the traditional sports – rugby especially – but thanks to a teacher called Mike Baker, I was able to establish caving as an acceptable “sport”.

Not only did he enable it, being a caver himself, he actively encouraged it.

We have kept in touch ever since.





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How Beechen Cliff Developed My Character: **Maddison Wordon, Head Girl 2018-19**

The last two years I've spent at Beechen Cliff have been the best of my school career, and I leave not only with my A-levels, but as a more compassionate well-rounded individual.

I was encouraged to not only excel in areas in which I was initially strong, but to grow in the areas I wasn't. Being surrounded by staff and students that were so hard working, ambitious, and supportive meant that I was constantly challenged to better myself and look for ways that I could evolve both academically and personally.

The teachers were always there to celebrate my victories with me, and taught me that there is no such thing as failure, but rather that they were opportunities for learning





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Evidence Record: Balance

Taking up a range of opportunities to develop myself, both in and beyond the school

Evidence #1

Evidence #2

Evidence #3



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Notes/Photos



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“If efforts to do social work are couched in selfish motives, then they will die a premature death. Why would my efforts get politicised? I have values I inherited from my father. He helped many. Anyone, even a postman knocking on our door would get a glass of water and some sweets.”

—Sachin Tendulkar, Former Captain of the Indian National Cricket Team



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Aspiration - Balance - Compassion - Independence - Integrity - Respect



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Evidence Record: Compassion

Improving the lives of those around me, especially those less fortunate

Evidence #1

Evidence #2

Evidence #3



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Notes/Photos



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How Beechen Cliff Developed My Character:
Erika Rackley, Professor of Law, University of Kent and the School's first Head Girl.

When I joined the sixth form in the early 1990s, girls were a novelty: there were eight of us in my year. Our presence excited a heady mix of intrigue, paternalism, chauvinism and indifference.

Almost 30 years later, having coincidentally spent my life working in and writing about male-dominated institutions, I know now what I experienced during my time at Beechen Cliff to be true: that deliberately and effectively making room for difference – whether around the pool table in the sixth-form common room or on the UK Supreme Court – makes for better conversations, better outcomes and truly transformative friendships.





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How Beechen Cliff Developed My Character **Stuart Blair, Head Boy, 2018-19**

I was encouraged to have high aspirations at Beechen Cliff and to develop myself to meet them. This has allowed me to have dreams about the future and not feel fearful in pursuing them. Whether this was joining up to the rugby team in Year 7, working hard to do the best I could at exams or putting myself forward to be the Head Boy in my final year, I was always encouraged to be my own person and develop confidence in myself.

Make the most of the opportunities you have at Beechen Cliff, look after each other and enjoy it.





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Evidence Record: Independence
Organising and taking responsibility for myself

Evidence #1

Evidence #2

Evidence #3



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Notes/Photos



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"Most people say that it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong: it is character."

— Albert Einstein , German Theoretical Physicist



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Aspiration - Balance - Compassion - Independence - Integrity - Respect



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Evidence Record: Integrity

Doing the right thing, even when no one is looking

Evidence #1

Evidence #2

Evidence #3



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Notes/Photos



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How Beechen Cliff Developed My Character: **Jason Gardner MBE, Olympic Gold Medallist**

Beechen Cliff School provided an excellent platform to further my character.

I have much to thank the school and particularly my PE & Games teachers who provided many opportunities for us to develop and be the best that we could be.

I have great memories representing our school particularly on the rugby and football field and of course the athletics team, developing camaraderie and essential life skills that supported my development to become an Olympic Champion and succeed in life.





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How Beechen Cliff Developed My Character: **Head of Communications at Venturelab Ltd**

Teamwork and the value of cooperation. Mr Angus Ross' enthusiasm helped turn a dozen Year 7 boys holding hockey sticks for the first time in their lives from a squad suffering painfully high defeats, into the 6th form "team" beating all the private schools on their own pitches by 2001. Angus' motivational aspiration, helping us bond and improve continuously, and enjoy a particularly sweet victory over Millfield's internationals sends a shiver down my spine as I type.

Prosocial leadership. Important gestures such as Headmaster Roy Ludlow picking-up litter have stuck with me. I now understand the sociological importance of leading by example.





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Evidence Record: Respect

Showing an understanding of the feelings, wishes and rights of others through words and actions

Evidence #1

Evidence #2

Evidence #3



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Notes/Photos



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“Our shared values define us more than our differences. And acknowledging those shared values can see us through our challenges today if we have the wisdom to trust in them again.”

—John McCain, Politician and Military Officer



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Aspiration - Balance - Compassion - Independence - Integrity - Respect



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End of Year Reflections

Pupil

Tutor

Parents



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Notes/Photos



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Aspiration - Balance - Compassion - Independence - Integrity - Respect