



Dear Parent/Carer

As you will know, Tir y Cwm (TYC) - <https://www.tirycwm.co.uk/> - is our 'very own outdoor adventure cottage in the heart of the Brecon Beacons' and plays a key role in the induction and development of every pupil in their first few weeks at Beechen Cliff.

The three days the Year 7s spend there lays the foundation for how we wish them to behave and approach life, with a 'give it a go' attitude and in keeping with the BCS values.

Once a farmstead, we bought it from the Forestry Commission in the 1970s and placed it in trust, overseen by a small group of BCS staff members who volunteer their free time and expertise to manage and maintain the cottage.

TYC is in regular use by BCS throughout the year for other activities such as Duke of Edinburgh, sports leadership development and Ten Tors training and is the perfect base for other schools, Scouts, Guides and Duke of Edinburgh Award teams who know about it.

By hiring-out the cottage, we achieve two simple goals: to expand the number of young people experiencing life changing learning; and reinvesting that small income to continually improve the building and available activities.

Last year we reviewed our pricing and ramped up our fundraising efforts (raising in excess of £12,000) to provide some much needed care and attention to the maintenance and upkeep of the cottage, including a new fire escape, log burners and mattresses, upgraded fire safety facilities, and not to mention the ongoing annual servicing and safety checks required to keep it safe and compliant.

In 2020 we are aiming to raise £50,000 to make further important improvements, but also to set the foundation for a more sustainable future for TYC, our aspiration being to completely refurbish the main cottage and convert the outbuildings to provide an ever more sustainable venue for these life-changing activities and to broaden our ability to rent and promote the facilities to a wider audience.

Planned developments include:

- His and hers dormitories, toilets and showers
- Separate staff quarters/accommodation
- Drying room and kit store
- Fully equipped field centre / teaching space
- Landscaping for improved camping facilities
- Safer and more secure generator room, workshop, outhouses and maintenance areas

The aim, though, is not to turn this into a luxury outward bound centre, but to preserve its austerity, supported by the simple and safe values so treasured by the trustees.

We have an incredible parent, carer, friend and alumni network at Beechen Cliff and believe there are willing volunteers, professionals, experts and business owners amongst you whose energies can be marshalled and organised to deliver a TYC transformation over the next 3 to 5 years.

To do this we need help, and wish to enrol a working committee to lead and manage a campaign to raise funds and set about the work in a phased approach. If you are interested in being involved, in whatever capacity, we would welcome your thoughts and input at a meeting to be held at the school from 7-8pm on Wed 15 Jan 20.

More details will be sent nearer the time, but for now please put the date in your diaries ready to join us - we look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely

The Trustees

TYC Trust