



## BEECHEN CLIFF

6th February 2020

### Message from Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

This week the Headmaster's assemblies have focused on the idea of 'British Values' and the essence of what makes our country special. This, of course, is open to a wide number of interpretations and for the sake of some clarity the discussion has ranged around the areas of democracy, the role of the law in protecting our rights, individual liberty and mutual respect.

The aim has been to show pupils that these features have not been arrived at suddenly but are rather a point which has been reached after much debate, protest and even the shedding of blood. Whilst easy to be rather cynical about the features of our society and governance it is perhaps always helpful to demonstrate the contexts in which many people exist when deprived of these things which have been taken for granted.

The final aim has been to establish a view, different for every individual, as to how they connect the values we admire in our school and those in your families with those considered to be 'British'. I hope you have had some interesting discussions at home.

We have seen growing excitement amongst staff of a certain age within the school at the thought of 'seventies school lunches'. Whilst I know that the food will be wonderful, my own memories are rather more of cold food on grim plastic plates and the constant threat of being consigned to the 'slow' table if the semolina was not eaten. I'm glad to say that this will not be the experience for our pupils.

Mr A Davies  
Headmaster

### Calendar

#### Friday 7th February

Bands Night 19.00–22.00

#### Saturday 8th February

Ten Tors Training–Black Mountains

#### Tuesday 11th February

Super Curricular Lecture Main Hall 15.30 -16.30

#### Friday 14th February

End of Winter Term

#### Monday 24th February

Start of Easter Term

### Menu for wc 10th February

We are going back to the 70s with the menu for this week, celebrating the good old days of school dinners.



**Monday:** Beef and Vegetable Stew, Faggots with Gravy (G), Cheese, Onion and Potato Pie (G,D)

Dessert: Sweet Macaroni (G,D)

**Tuesday:** Stuffed Beef Olive, Chicken Pie (G), Cauliflower Cheese (G,D)

Dessert: Steamed Chocolate Pudding with Mint Custard (G,D)

**Wednesday:** Roast Pork with Apple Sauce, Chicken and Bacon Casserole, Cheddar and Tomato Quiche (G,D)

Dessert: Semolina with Prunes (G,D)

**Thursday:** Mince Potato and Onion Pie, Toad in the Hole with Gravy (D,G), Mac and Cheese (G,D)

Dessert: Jam Sponge with Pink Custard (G,D)

**Friday:** To be confirmed. Dessert: Iced Buns (G)

Mr D Keal  
Chef

(D) = Contains Dairy  
(G) = Contains Gluten

## Benefits of school attendance

Good attendance at school is not just beneficial, it's essential. As parents, you are legally responsible for ensuring that your child attends school regularly. Attending school is directly linked to improved exam performance which should in turn lead to further learning opportunities and better job prospects. As well as this, going to school helps to develop:

- \* Friendships
- \* Social skills
- \* Team values
- \* Life skills
- \* Cultural awareness
- \* Career pathways

## Absence from school

If your child is going to be absent from school, (e.g. for an unavoidable appointment) then you should let the school know as soon as possible. If your child has been absent due to an unexpected event such as bereavement or illness then you must also let the school know on the first day of absence in accordance with the school's attendance policy.

If you fail to notify the school as to why your child has not been present then the school may record that period of absence as being unauthorised. **Any 10 unauthorised sessions out of a 100 may result in a Penalty Fine of £120 per parent per child**

The Children Missing Education Service (CMES) has access to all attendance information for each pupil and if your child is missing school without good reason, schools and the CMES have the authority to find out why.

## Attendance in figures

Achieving 90 per cent in an exam or test is a fantastic result but if your child is at school for only 90 per cent of the school year then they will have missed 19 days - almost four whole weeks of school, 100 hours of teaching! As a school, we aim for 96% as a whole school target. Currently we are at 94.9% and need your help in ensuring that your child attends school regularly.

## Your legal responsibilities as a parent

By law, you are legally responsible for making sure your child attends regularly.

## How to prevent your child from missing school

You can help prevent your child missing school by:

- \* having a routine and sticking to it
- \* making sure your child understands the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- \* making sure they understand the possible implications for themselves and you as a parent if they don't attend
- \* taking an interest in their education - ask about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- \* discussing any problems they may have at school and letting their tutor or Head of House know about anything that is causing concern
- \* not letting them take time off school for minor ailments or holidays during term time

To avoid disrupting your child's education, you should arrange (as far as possible), appointments and outings:

- \* after school hours
- \* at weekends
- \* during school holidays

## Term time holidays

You should make every effort to ensure that your child does not miss school due to holiday plans. We are not obliged to agree to you taking your child on holiday during term time and as such, these absences will be recorded as unauthorised absence and may lead to a Penalty Notice as mentioned above.

## Problems affecting school attendance

If there are problems with:

- \* bullying
- \* housing or care arrangements
- \* transport to and from school
- \* work and money
- \* other problems within the home environment

Please let us know and we will try to help.

## Support for parents

Please contact us to discuss any attendance problems. We will try to agree a plan with you to improve your child's attendance.

## Action on school absenteeism

A child at a school can legally miss school when:

- \* they're too ill to go to school and you have let us know
- \* we have authorised the absence beforehand, e.g. for religious observance or medical appointments. (We have the right to request medical evidence for such absences)

If your child is missing school without good reason, we may refer to the CMES and they will follow a process to ensure your child attends regularly.

The EWS also works with other agencies (e.g. Social Services) to identify and deal with any complex needs that a family has.

Prosecutions against parents are used as a last resort where parents fail to engage with the service and continue to ignore their child's educational and welfare needs.

## Fines

The CMES can apply to the courts to fine parents of children who aren't attending school regularly. In a magistrate's court, a parent could be fined up to £1,000 for each child who misses school.

Mr K Mann  
Assistant Headteacher  
Head of Pastoral Care

## Word of the Week

LATIN: over, above		<b>Subjects:</b>
<b>superlative</b> (adjective) of the highest quality		<b>Sport:</b> Adama Traore was recognized for his <b>superlative</b> performance with a hat-trick of awards.
<b>Synonyms:</b> outstanding, unequalled, prodigious	 superlatif  superlativo	<b>Science:</b> The <b>superlative</b> shrew has the ability to shrink their head in winter to reduce heat loss.
		<b>English:</b> A <b>superlative</b> adjective typically ends in <b>-est</b> .

## Mental Health and Wellbeing



At Beechen Cliff we are working to train as many staff and students in the **Solution Focused Approach** as possible, in order to support students with their mental health and wellbeing.

We have chosen to use the Solution Focused Approach as it is endorsed by many mental health practitioners, and **Boys In Mind (Girls Mind Too)**; it is a compassionate, powerful, hopeful and effective approach to support people to identify their own solutions to issues in their lives. It works with people to enable them to have a clear vision of how they want their life to be, how they would like things to be different, what their best hopes are for the future and focusing on the presence of what's wanted rather than the absence of what's not wanted. The approach also pays attention to what's working already, about confirming it and building on it, and not about focusing on the problem. Some of the questions which guide our solution focused conversations might be:

1. **What have you noticed that has gone well today?**
2. **Have you faced a challenge today? If so, how did you manage it?**
3. **On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate today?**
4. **Why is your score not lower? [NB. 10 is not 'perfect']**
5. **If tomorrow was to be slightly better than today, what would be happening that would be different?**

We encourage tutor groups to use these questions to have Solution Focused conversations regularly.

So far, we have trained over 40 staff who volunteered for the training last year, and have another 20 or more signed up for this year's training. In addition, we have trained some of our **Sixth Form Mental Health Ambassador Team** in the approach, and all those trained are putting their new knowledge into practice to support members of our community with their mental health. Practitioner **Tara Gretton** has provided our training, and writes a blog (found on her website **Solution Revolution**) which covers everything from

great resource for parents looking to better understand how to support their child's mental health and wellbeing:

<https://www.solutionrevolution.co.uk/blog>

Although our students know they can approach any member of staff for help or support, those trained in the Solution Focused Approach (or similar training, such as Mental Health First Aid) are now wearing staff lanyards with green writing and a green ribbon, to show the students they are keen to talk about mental health and know how to help.

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Our Sixth Form Mental Health Team are also wearing green ribbon pin badges to indicate that they too are happy to talk about mental health, and have some tools to support their peers. It is our hope that as more staff and students begin to wear the green ribbon, the stigma surrounding talking about mental health will be reduced and all members of our community feel able to seek support when they need it, and empowered to support others as well.

Miss P Netto  
Mental Health Lead

## Theme of The Week

Theme of the week this week is focusing on World Number Day, which falls on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) wants us to help celebrate our digits: aside from giving us the answers to formulas, maths has given us insights into science and the natural world.

The NSPCC are an incredibly important charity: they work to stop cruelty to children and have made a huge amount of progress so far. Since they were established in the 1880's they have helped over 10 million children in the UK.

It can be difficult to motivate children when it comes to maths. Why? Because maths itself is often very difficult. There is no middle ground when it comes to calculations, and getting there can take a few calculations. Your answer is either right or wrong – and many mathematicians say it's the conciseness that is the beauty of maths.

Attached to this weeks newsletter is a copy of a PowerPoint kindly put together by Mr Gill which tutors will be going through with their tutees.

Mrs A Wilmott  
Head of PSHE

## Mobile Phones

A reminder - mobile phones should be switched off and not be seen once pupils are on the school site and until 3.20pm. Please remind your son that if the phone is seen it may be confiscated for up to 48 hours. In this respect, please ensure that he has alternative means of access to his bus pass if it is on his phone.



The only two exceptions to this is are:

1. If there is a wet lunch, pupils are allowed access to their phones in the main hall only.
2. If a teacher (on a rare occasion) specifically asks pupils in a class to access their phones.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Mr K Mann  
Assistant Headteacher  
Head of Pastoral Care

## Austria Ski Trip—Schladming 9th -15th January 2021

Letters have been made available by Mr Mann for this trip. The trip is open to current year 9 pupils and year 11 pupil who will be staying on in the 6th Form.

Numbers are strictly limited to 30 current year 9 pupils and 30 6th form places – some of which will be made available for new 6th form students in September. Please note that to secure a place on the trip, attendance must be over 93% and attitude to learning or behaviour in school will be taken into consideration. It will not be available on ParentPay until places are allocated taking into consideration these factors.

Mr K Mann  
Assistant Headteacher  
Head of Pastoral Care

## REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCES

It is imperative that **all absences** from School, including late arrivals and medical appointments are reported to the School promptly. Please can parents and carers take note of the following correct contact details.

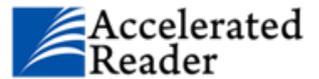
### Lower School Pupils

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

### Sixth Form Students

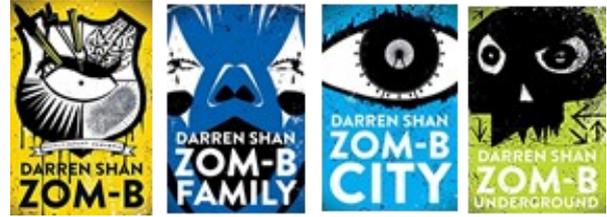
For a Sixth Form student absence please contact Mrs Jones on **01225 485221** or you can email [sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk)

## Library News



### Reader of the week

Harvey S (7ML7) is our Reader of the Week having taken 20 book quizzes and reading a total of nearly 350,000 words. Most recently, Harvey has enjoyed the Zom-B series by Darren Shan. Great job!



### Library Book Recommendation

The Land of Neverendings

By Kate Saunders

Book Level: 5.4 •

Emily watched, in a trance of astonishment, as the bear opened the picnic basket, took out a tartan rug and spread it on Holly's bed.

And then the penguin spoke.

Actually spoke.

'What's going on? This isn't Pointed End!'

The bear said, 'It looks like a human bedroom. We must've come through the wrong door.'

'But there aren't any doors to the hard world in Deep Smockeroon! And we don't have a human bedroom any more. We're in a box in the attic.'

What if there exists a world powered by imagination?

A world of silliness, where humans and their toys live on long after they've left the Hard World . . . and what if the door between that world and this one was broken?

Welcome to the Land of Neverendings.

Mrs H Dunn  
Accelerated Reader Coordinator



# SPORTS FIXTURES

## Week commencing 10th February 2020

Details correct at time of publication. Please refer to Beechen Cliff Sports website for any updates

Day	Fixture	Meet	Transport	Start	Finish/Return
Tuesday 11th February	U13 Indoor Cricket @ St Katherines	14:15	MB	15:30	18:00
	1st XI/U15a Football vs Clevedon (h)	13:45	n/a	14:30	16:30
	U13a Football vs Millfield Prep School (a)	13:00	MB	14:30	17:30
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	U13a/U12a Hockey vs Prior (a)	14:05	MB x2	15:00	16:30
	U13b Hockey vs Prior (h)	13:15	n/a	14:00	15:30
	U12b Hockey vs Prior (h)	15:10	n/a	15:45	17:00
	U17 Rugby vs Millfield (a)	12:15	Coach	14:30	18:00
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	1st/2nd Football vs Marlborough College (h)	13:45	n/a	14:30	16:30
	U16a/U15a Football vs Marlborough College (a)	12:30	MB x2	14:30	18:30
	Kingswood Road Race	14:00	MB	15:00	16:30
	Table Tennis vs KES (h)	14:05	n/a	14:30	16:00
	1st XI Hockey vs Kingswood (a)	13:30	MB	14:45	17:00
	U14a Hockey vs Kingswood (a)	15:20	9 seater	16:45	19:00

## Sports Results

Please see Beechen Cliff Sports website.

Mr M Walker Jones

Fixtures Co-ordinator

## Spotters Holiday Hockey

Enjoyable & fun!  
Great EH Player  
Pathway Preparation

**Spotters HOLIDAY HOCKEY CAMPS**

Places from only £22.50

17 & 18 February 2020  
6 & 7, 16 & 17 April 2020  
Camp - 9am - 2pm

Small group coaching also available 2-3.30pm; 8.30am drop off by arrangement. Please ask for details

**BEECHEN CLIFF SCHOOL**

10% off! Book by 30 January (Feb Camp) 28 Feb (Easter Camps)  
Main Camp 1 day £27.50  
2 Days £50  
2 days with early booking discount only cash

FOR MORE INFORMATION & BOOKINGS  
spotterahockey@yahoo.co.uk

Qualified and DBS cleared coaches

**EMAIL TO BOOK QUICK AND EASY!**

**Includes**  
Kookaburra  
Hookay prize!

Sponsored by

**COACHES**  
Sally Potter – England Hockey Level 2 Coach, BS(C)(Hons) Sports Performance  
Harry Skinner – TB Buccs 1<sup>st</sup> XI & GB U21  
Harry Brooking – Cardiff Met 1<sup>st</sup> XI Level  
Adele Pryor – EH Seasonal Coach  
Fraser Smellie – TB Buccs 1<sup>st</sup> team player

**SPECIALISED EFFECTIVE COACHING**

**HIGH QUALITY, FUN AND ENJOYABLE! COACHING TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE FOR ALL ABILITIES**

**GIRLS & BOYS 7 to 15 yrs\***

- ✓ 1 v 1 Skills
- ✓ Goal Scoring
- ✓ Performance Coaching
- ✓ Games and tactics
- ✓ Competitions and prizes both days

\*we are flexible, please ask.

Players at JAC level aged 13+ may also attend the High Performance Camp which will run concurrently from 10am – 1pm for no additional charge

Camp Director - Sally Potter, England Hockey Level 2, BS(C)(Hons) Sports Performance

## Hayesfield GIRLS' SCHOOL MIXED SIXTH BEECHEN CLIFF



## Exciting Hosting Opportunity

Do you have a spare room?

We are looking for caring and welcoming Hayesfield and Beechen Cliff families to host our Chinese students for the duration of the Summer Term 2020.

The group is a mix of boys and girls who are looking for accommodation within Bath and easy access to the school whilst they study here to experience British culture and improve their English. The students will be attending Beechen Cliff and Hayesfield in Year 7 and 8 lessons.

The students would be hosted within a home from home environment, which provides daily home cooked meals and a bedroom with a study area. Ideally with an en-suite so they have their own privacy and space but not essential if you can accommodate an extra person/s in your home.

If you can accommodate, to cover all living expenses including transport to and from school, we provide an allowance of £170 per person per week.

If you would like an application form or would like to find out more information, then please contact Fiona Harrison via the Sixth Form Office at Hayesfield Girls' School, or email [international@hayesfield.com](mailto:international@hayesfield.com).

All placements are subject to a home visit and DBS check.