



BEECHEN CLIFF

Easter 2020

Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

All sense of normality and school routine has obviously disappeared in the last fortnight. For those of you at home this has meant a completely new experience, one which was obviously not planned and which, I suspect, is not entirely welcome!

From hearing of the outbreak in Wuhan to finding it impacting on the lives of every individual in the United Kingdom has been a period to hold in the collective memory; a story for later generations which might seem like a work of fiction. Obviously any words written at the moment are penned in the context where many have suffered huge economic hardship as a result of the drastic changes imposed on everyday life, many concerned for loved ones, particularly those elderly or vulnerable within our families and amongst our friends. What has been remarkable, however, is the obvious determination of everyone to embrace the reality of the situation and work to see things through. We all look forward to being on the 'other side' but probably recognise that it will change our perspective on many things and people that we took for granted in the past.

I can only pass on my best wishes and hopes to your families, rather entrapped as you are, from every member of the Beechen Cliff community. It is very probable that, upon return, our pupils and students are a great deal more enthusiastic about the school experience than they ever were before.

I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Easter Holiday

Staff will not necessarily be setting work for pupils/students over the Easter break. It is possible that some project work, broader activity or consolidation work might be set but we are conscious that this period should be considered a 'normal break' for pupils.

School will continue to provide childcare for key/critical workers over the Easter holidays, although we would remind all parents that if you can care for your children, the Government guidelines remind us that we should "Stay safe, stay at home". If you do need provision for your child, please use the keyworker@beechencliff.org.uk email to book sessions.

Guidance from Ofqual (the examination authority) has today been published for schools and after Easter we will be working within school to begin the process of awarding centre grades for Year 11 and year 13 students. Details of the process which is to be followed will be communicated with parents, and I can confirm that we will be following government guidance. The finalising of this process and final submission will take place at the beginning of June. A letter from Ofqual for Year 11 and year 13 candidates is attached to this newsletter and should be brought to the attention of your son/daughter.



Mr A Davies
Headmaster

The school has received a newsletter from Government which included this warning.

Scam Alerts

We have been informed that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'.

We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official. We urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately.

Essential Information

Reporting Pupil Absences

Please can parents take note of the contact details below when reporting any absences from School, including late arrivals and medical appointments

IMPORTANT

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 sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk.

Changes in Contact Details

Please can parents and carer 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 your new or updated details to sdavies@beechencliff.org.uk

Phones on site

A reminder.



Please remember that mobile phones should not be seen once your son is on site and until 3.20pm unless a member of staff has given specific permission for pupils to use them.

If phones are seen, they will be confiscated for up to 48 hours. If your son has his bus pass on his phone, alternative arrangements will have to be made for him to get home.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headmaster

Uniform

Please ensure that your son has the correct uniform on returning to school.

Blazer

Tie

School shirt

Trousers

Black shoes

Grey/black socks

In the case that your son is wearing trainers, without a valid reason, he will be required to wear the daps that we provide.

Mr K Mann

Assistant Headmaster

Pupil Equipment Checks

Over the past few weeks tutors have been undertaking regular checks of 'essentials' that pupils should have for lessons. These items include the following:

- Pen(s) – blue, black and green
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Calculator
- Compass
- Highlighter pens
- Protractor

Ideally your son should have these items in a named pencil case. Please check to ensure that he has these items on a daily basis. With the exam season approaching we shall be doing further checks and tutors will be contacting you after the Easter holidays if your son is not equipped and prepared for lessons. It will also be noted on 'SLEUTH' and should a pattern emerge, we would expect your co-operation to replenish these items. They are also available to purchase in the school Library.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headmaster

Letter to all Parents and Carers from the Local Governing Body

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

In these uncertain times it is important that we stay in touch and try to carry on with normal activities. I am enjoying having time with my family that seems so scarce in these days of rushing about, although I recognise that it is early days. In my attempt to maintain normality, I am writing to you with updates about the work of the governing body.

Our thanks must go to the staff and MNSP for their clear communications regarding the challenges posed by COVID19. We must recognise the huge amount of work which has taken place to ensure that our children are receiving education remotely, that they remain focussed and the children who are still attending school are being kept busy and inspired. I would also like to thank the dedicated staff who will give up time with their own families to continue to care for the boarders who are unable to return home for Easter.

I must say a word for the children who are missing out during this time on trips they were looking forward to, exams that they have worked so hard for and events such as the school show of Joseph. I am so sorry for the disappointment that they must all be feeling and hope that when this time passes, the opportunities will arise again.

The governing body has been focused on monitoring the work being done towards fulfilling the school improvement plan for this year. The school has received a variety of visits from external experts covering the following subject areas: health and safety, pastoral care and safeguarding and the governing body is pleased to note that the evidence is that good progress is being made towards objectives and that the systems and processes in place are judged to be effective. We are particularly pleased with the improvements within the English department. Our most recent visit was from OfSTED who were inspecting our boarding provision. They were extremely complimentary about both our staff pupils and we look forward to reading their report when published.

This term has once again seen changes on the Governing Body. We are pleased to welcome James Lea and Alex Elmes as our new parent governors – they are working hard to get to grips with all the acronyms. Sadly we have said farewell to Chris Brace, who as an MNSP Trustee has stepped back from our Governing Body now that we are established within the Trust and also to Nigel Stevens to whom we all owe a huge debt of thanks to for taking on the role of Chair at a key time in the life of the school and overseeing our transition into the trust. Their contributions will be much missed and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Our Future Horizons careers programme has been busy this term in supporting our students in their careers choices, and we pass our congratulations to all those in the upper sixth who have received offers for apprenticeships and degrees to go on to when they leave Beechen Cliff. We are pleased that there has been a large number of applications to join our sixth form and year 7 in September and are already starting to look forward and make plans for that.

My last thank you in this letter is to thank the parents of Beechen Cliff who are key workers and frontline workers in the NHS. We appreciate the battle that you are fighting and that you are risking your lives daily caring for people and carrying out your roles. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Lastly, I wish you all a healthy and safe Easter and hope that when I write next time, the pandemic has passed and we have returned to our normal lives.



Helen Eastwood
Chair of the Local Governing Body
helen.eastwood@msnpartnership.com

(This letter has also been emailed to all Parents and Carers via ParentPay)

Keeping Fit with Joe Wicks

During the partial closure of the school, children of key workers who have been coming into school have been enjoying 'PE with Joe' live on YouTube every morning at 9am. Students and teachers alike have been put through their paces in our temporary gym; the school hall. We would highly recommend starting your day with this half an hour workout whilst you are working from home. Keep those brains and bodies working, even while you're not in school!

You can access the live workout videos Monday-Friday at 9am here: <https://www.youtube.com/thebodycoachtv>

Mrs S Sullivan
Assistant Head



Staying Positive with Boys in Mind, Girls Mind Too

As we enter lockdown for the second week, I wanted to share the most recent video from our very own Upper Sixth student, Will, who is a 'Boys in Mind' Youth Advisor. Will shares how he is coping with the challenge of staying at home and how he is remaining positive.

Everyday, new videos are being posted by young people from all over the city and beyond. If you haven't already, I hope you will consider joining the 'Boys in Mind' Facebook group to be able to watch these blogs and keep yourselves and your own children going. There are videos on here from primary school children too talking about how they are coping at home.

Here's the link to the video page.

I have shared with our Sixth Form students.

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/boysinmind/videos/>

Keep safe. Keep mentally and physically active. Be positive.

Mrs S Ingram
Sixth Form Pastoral Manager



www.boysinmind.co.uk working in partnership with the
info@boysinmind.co.uk Charlie Waller Memorial Trust

Haven

Haven is a social group that meets in the library every Wednesday lunchtime and has gone from strength to strength this term. Established and run by Sixth Form students and member of the school-wide Equalities Team, its main focus is to provide a place where students can come together to overcome social obstacles, build confidence and meet new people. Starting early this academic year the group has grown in size and had fantastic feedback from its members, with one year 7 saying it was 'the best thing about school'. Haven has an atmosphere of inclusivity and equality and has provided an open and welcoming lunchtime space for pupils. It is open to all years at both lunchtime slots on Wednesdays and for pupils to have a chat and play some board games with a new crowd. We are always welcome to new members, all you need to do is drop in!

Wil K-M, Sixth Form Senior Prefect for Equalities

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your year 8 child is now due the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine, this is currently due to be delivered by the Virgin Care School Aged Immunisation Team of Nurse's at Beechen Cliff on **Tuesday 5th May 2020**.

For more information and to enable your child to receive this important vaccine it is **ESSENTIAL** that you complete the online consent following the link below before **Tuesday 21st April 2020**.

If you do **NOT** want you child to receive the vaccine then please also complete a form stating that you do not want them to receive the vaccine, this means we will not chase further.

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/hpv/2019/banes>

If the link is not working for you please try to copy and paste it into your internet address bar. If it continues not to work **OR** you are having any other problems then please contact our designated team on **0300 247 0082** and they will be able to help.

Tiff Ferris

Professional Lead 5 - 19 Public Health Nursing and Immunisations, Virgin Care Services Limited

School Age Immunisations Team

Virgin Care Services Limited

Telephone: 0300 247 0082

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Even though the School is closed and some parts of the award are on hold students can still participate and contribute to other sections of their award. There are nearly 400 students enrolled on the award in the school and the majority at Bronze level from the 2018 and 2019 intakes.



We acknowledge the disappointment at not being able to complete training and qualifying expeditions particularly at Gold level for Year 13 but we are looking at how we can proceed once the situation returns to a degree of normality.

Training for expeditions commenced in January but now they are postponed and the DofE newsletter circulated last week (via ParentPay email) contains more detail, plus answers to some pertinent questions.

For the moment we are recommending that students update their eDofE records with evidence of their activity and assessor reports and participate where and when they can. There will, of course be many activities that cannot be pursued.

Try your best, but we acknowledge that some sections will have to be extended. Here is the ability to change subjects if you are in difficulty and a few ideas are mentioned in our newsletter.

If you are a community volunteer or helping neighbours in this time of crisis, be reminded that this work can be counted for the award.

Mr P Carroll
DofE Manager

Beechen Cliff Food Newsletter April 2020

Please find published on the Beechen Cliff website alongside this Easter Newsletter, Issue 1 of the Beechen Cliff Food Newsletter, containing tasty recipes, news, ideas and thoughts on food.



(A copy of the Food Newsletter has also been sent to all parents via ParentPay)

Words of the Week

These are the scheduled words for the past 2 weeks and Easter.

Enlighten

(verb and adjective)



Definition:

1. Give someone greater knowledge or understanding
2. Reasonable, tolerant and well informed

I felt enlightened on particle theory after my science lesson.

Synonym: illuminate, updated, wise, notified

Exuberant

(adjective)



Definition:
full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness

Coming through the school gates were a noisy bunch of exuberant youngsters

Synonym: cheerful, in high spirits, high-spirited, exhilarated, elated, euphoric, jubilant, vivacious, enthusiastic, energetic, full of life, lively, zestful

Empower

(Verb)



Definition:

- Give (someone) the authority or power to do something
- Make (someone) stronger and more confident

Students are empowered to take responsibility for their own learning.

Synonym: Permit, entitle, authorise, set free

Confound

(verb)



Definition:

1. To surprise or bewilder
2. Prove a theory wrong

He was confounded by the results.

Synonym: amazed, stun, mystify, perplex

Mental Health Assemblies

In February, a group of Sixth Formers led a series of assemblies to the lower school on mental health and the problems associated with it. These assemblies were inspired after a Lower Sixth assembly in which Alex P, Senior Perfect for Mental Health, gave his own personal mental health testimony, an incredibly brave and powerful story. Alex is a youth adviser for the local strategic alliance of Boys in Mind (Girls Mind too) with of which Beechen Cliff is a lead school. In the lower school assemblies we tried to recreate and adapt this assembly for all year groups. To achieve this, we had a team of sixth formers, a representative from the Boys in Mind charity, and three brave year 7s who had done work previously in their primary schools with the alliance; we wanted to show that mental health affected all ages. Both anonymous and personal testimonies were read in order to give real stories, allowing the pupils to have a grounded sense of relation to their own stories.

We also included a discussion about what mental health was and why we need to be conscious of it. A quiz with some powerful statistics opened much discussion in the audience and helped make pupils aware of their own relationship with mental health as well as society's relationship with it. The assembly finished with a showing where pupils could get help if they needed it. We would like to thank all those who participated in the assemblies and that pupils are who attended for listening and engaging well.



Stephen D, Lower Sixth

Letter from Mrs Sullivan - Setting student work after Easter

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Setting student work after the Easter break

We hope that you and your family are well and are coping as well as possible with the current situation. We trust that your son or daughter has been able to access the work they have been set on Show My Homework and hope that they have been able to make good progress despite the school closure.

As you will be aware, school closed somewhat suddenly on Friday 20th March, and setting work using Show My Homework was our short-term plan for the last two weeks of term. As it is now clear that school will remain closed after the Easter break, we would like to inform you of the plan for setting, viewing and providing feedback on student work starting from Monday 20th April.

- Work will continue to be set on Show My Homework so that you as parents can view the tasks being set
- So that we are able to monitor the work being completed by students, we will also be using Google Classroom

Your child's class teachers will set up a Google Classroom for them to join and will post a class code onto Show My Homework, which your child can enter on Google Classroom to join that class. If you or your child are unsure how to join a Google Classroom please watch the video tutorial on the school website, here: <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/google-classroom-tutorials/>

The tasks set on the Google Classroom will be the same tasks set on Show My Homework, but Google Classroom will allow students to open individualised Google Docs, Slides or Sheets where they can complete the tasks set and submit them to their teachers. If you or your child are unsure how to do this, please watch the video tutorial on the school website, here: <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/google-classroom-tutorials/>

Please see the relevant section below, depending on the year group your child/children are in:

Years 7-9

- Teachers will acknowledge completed work using your son's school email address on a weekly basis

- Your son's teachers will also be setting him an assessment task next term, to see how well he is progressing with his home learning. This will be set on Show My Homework and Google Classroom and once submitted your son's teachers will provide him with feedback and return the work to him electronically using Google Classroom.

We would expect pupils to take notice of and respond to this feedback as they would in school. Where the assessment task is not completed, teachers will contact your son via his school email address in the first instance, and will then contact you via the email address we have for you on the school system

- For some subjects, such as Music, Art, Technology or Maths, teachers may ask your son to photograph his work and insert the pictures into their Google Doc on the Google Classroom

We fully acknowledge that this is a challenging time for everyone; some families may have limited technology, you as parents may be trying to work from home at the same time as supporting your child's learning, and children work at different rates so some may be finding it stressful trying to complete all of the work set. We understand all of these issues and simply ask your son to try his best in the given circumstances. If your son is finding it particularly challenging to complete all of the tasks set, we advise that he times himself on each task and only spends as much time on them as has been allocated on Show My Homework.

Year 10

- Teachers will acknowledge completed work using your son's school email address on a weekly basis. Where work has not been completed, teachers will contact your son via his school email address in the first instance, and will then contact you via the email address we have for you on the school system

Your son's teachers will also be setting two assessed pieces of work for which they will provide feedback next term. This work will be set on Show My Homework and Google Classroom, and submitted via Google Classroom. Teachers will provide feedback on these pieces of work and we would

expect pupils to respond to this feedback as they do in school. Again, teachers will chase this work first using your son's school email, and will then contact you via email if it is still not completed

- For some subjects, such as Music, Art, Technology or Maths, teachers may ask your son to photograph their work and insert the pictures into their Google Doc on the Google Classroom

We plan to set Year 10 students formal written exams for all of their subjects soon after we return to school (whenever that may be), so they should continue to work hard at home.

Lower Sixth

- Teachers will acknowledge completed work using students' school email addresses on a weekly basis. Where work has not been completed, teachers will contact students via their school email address in the first instance, and will then contact you via the email address we have for you on the school system

Teachers will set an assessed piece of work in Week 1 of next term Show My Homework and Google Classroom, which will need to be submitted and for which they will provide feedback using the Google Classroom

- During the week commencing 4th May, teachers will set an assessment designed to assess students' learning across the academic year. This won't be an in the same format as an end of year exam (which had been scheduled to take place next term) but will include examination style questions. Students will submit their work and receive feedback electronically via the Google Classroom. We would expect students to take notice of and respond to this feedback.

We plan to set Lower Sixth students formal written exams for all of their subjects soon after we return to school (whenever that may be), so they should continue to work hard at home.

Year 11 and Upper Sixth

- We are still awaiting further guidance from the Department of Education about when and how to submit final grades for Year 11 and Upper Sixth students

In the meantime, teachers will continue to set work and respond to any individual queries from students or parents

Please do not hesitate to contact me on ssullivan@beechencliffschool.org.uk if you have any further queries about the setting and monitoring of student work.

With very best wishes to you and your families,

Sophie Sullivan

Assistant Head Teacher - Teaching and Learning

(this letter has also been sent to Parents via ParentPay)

Oxford Computing Challenge 2020

All pupils in KS3 took part in the Bebras Challenge back in November. Depending on scores some pupils were then invited to take part in the first round of the Oxford Computing Challenge. This took place on 4th March with nine Beechen Cliff pupils taking part.

Hugh T (Year 9 BY5) and Ben P (Year 9 ML5) did really well and were invited to take part in the final round of the challenge which they completed at home on the 25th March.

We have just received the results and Ben was placed in 8th in his age group nationally! So very happy for him.

Both Ben and Hugh will receive a certificate and prize from the organisers and all who took part in the first round will also receive a certificate.

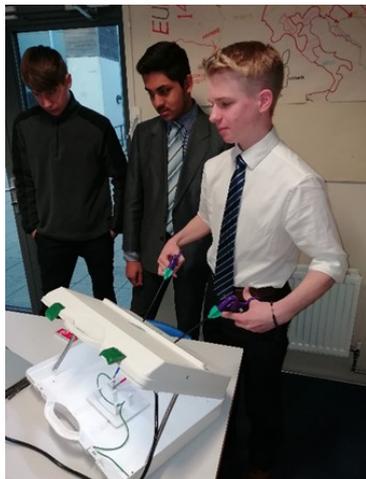
Miss J Wright

ICT



MedSoc

Throughout the past term, members of the student-led Lower Sixth MedSoc have had access to a range of lectures and activities to further our knowledge of the healthcare profession and give us insight into the field of medicine. This included an opportunity for us to experience some basic skills needed for a career in medicine with the Surgical Outreach Programme for Schools. In our session we learnt about surgical knots in sutures, surgery preparation for doctors and we had the chance to experience a simulated laparoscopic procedure. Along with getting the chance to speak to a foundation doctor and a medical student about university and life after a medical degree, this really was an eye opening opportunity for us to learn more whilst having fun!



Later in the term we met with the experienced chiropractor, Peter Dixon, who shared with us his views on the importance of all varieties of medicine, whether chemical, emotional or physical, and gave us a history of chiropractic practice and its status in the medical community. We also heard from the genetics expert, Professor Laurence Hurst, in a fascinating after school lecture covering evolutionary genetics and all the things we still do not understand.



Recently, we were set the task to write a 2000 word essay on one of three given questions to be reviewed by an ex-Beechen Cliff pupil and current Oxford medical student, Alex Grassam-Rowe - a great opportunity to develop our scientific writing skills and research abilities. These are just a small sample of activities we have done with MedSoc. During our lunchtime sessions run by our current Head of MedSoc, Nadia Ford, we have presented individual research projects on topics of our choosing, debated issues and problems such as money division in the NHS and talked through the process of applying for medical school.

MedSoc is open to all Sixth Form students and is growing in breadth and depths each year. We would welcome any parent or other reader of this newsletter who like to make a contribution to the programme. Please contact Mr Oldham on headofsixth@beechencliff.org.uk

Isobel T, Lower Sixth

School Public Health Nurse

DROP IN SESSIONS

Every Tuesday (during School) 11am - 2pm in the Pastoral Meeting Room

For appointments outside this time please see Mrs Rogers or Mrs Lothgren or you can text Debbie Chalke on 07899994593

Please be advised that both Parents and Pupils may contact Debbie direct.

BEECHEN CLIFF

2ND HAND UNIFORM

SHOP PRICES

House Colours:

BYRON - red **CHAUCER** - purple **KIPLING** - yellow
MILTON - green **SHAKESPEARE** - blue

General Uniform:

Blazers: £12
Shirts: £3
Trousers: £3
Pullovers: £6
Ties: £2

Games Kit:

Rugby Shirt: £7
Rugby Short: £5
Rugby Socks: £2
Shin Pads: £2
Rugby/Football/
Trainers/Boots: £4

PE Kit:

PE Shirt: £4
PE Shorts: £4

Coats:

Lightweight/summer: £5
Padded/winter: £8-10

Cricket Whites:

Cricket Shirts: £3
Cricket Trousers: £3
Cricket Jumpers: £5



Postponed—Beechen Cliff School
Production of Joseph



Unsurprisingly, the decision has been made to postpone the School Show this April.

The revised dates are 18th -23rd October 2020. This will take us into a new academic year, but we hope that the timing will enable all cast members to still be involved. In the meantime, pupils and students will be able to continue to practice their lines. Recap rehearsals commence in September so that we will be show ready in October.

We will transfer all ticket bookings to the respective new dates (1st April >21st October; 2nd April >22nd October; 3rd April >23rd October) – if you are unable to make these new performance dates, please advise us and we can move your tickets to another performance.

Miss G Smith
Beechen Cliff Theatre Group

PTA 50:50 Club Update March 2020

Latest winners

Given the current circumstances and the need to cancel PTA meetings, the latest 50:50 club draw took place via Zoom conference call on Tuesday 31st March with three members of the PTA present – Sarah Mitchard, Emma Ford and Jo Masani. Congratulations to the winners for January and February 2020 listed below:

JANUARY 2020		
1 st Prize	£108.00	Number 453
2 nd Prize	£72.00	Number 205
3 rd Prize	£36.00	Number 19
FEBRUARY 2020		
1 st Prize	£107.50	Number 118
2 nd Prize	£71.67	Number 574
3 rd Prize	£35.83	Number 408

Winners are contacted via the details supplied when signing up so do keep me up to date of any changes via the email below. Please also feel free to contact me if you just want to check what your numbers are! (All of the above winners have been contacted.)

How to sign up

The 50:50 club operates like a lottery, with members signing up to a small standing order each month (most people donate between £1 and £5) which buys numbers in the draw. We use a random number generator to select the numbers at our PTA meetings. The prize fund is 50% of the donations and is divided into first, second and third prizes. The other 50% goes to the PTA to help fund activities, equipment and opportunities for the students. Each year, the 50:50 club raises over £2000 for the school. You can cancel your membership at any time, simply by cancelling your standing order.

As you can see, the monthly first prize is now over £100! If you would like to join in, **new members are welcome anytime and it is very simple to set up.** Please just contact me letting me know how many numbers you would like (£1 each) and I will give you details of how to set up the standing order.

We will still aim to carry on the 50:50 draws via Zoom/Skype during this period of school closure. I can sign people up from home and you should be able to set up your standing order without going in to your bank. So, if you have thought about joining before but not got around to it, now might be a good time to sign up and support the PTA while other fundraising events have been postponed.

Sarah Mitchard (parent and 50:50 co-ordinator)
beecheen5050@gmail.com Tel: 07909962272

Theme(s) of The Week

The #StayatHomechallenge – 23rd March – 27th March

Football has been cancelled in the UK until at least the end of April as the country tries to stop the spread of the coronavirus by postponing large public gatherings.

Training grounds have been closed and many footballers and fans are staying at home to stop the disease spreading.

But in an effort to keep their skills sharp, some of the game's leading players have started a new online trend involving one of the hardest items to come by at the moment - toilet roll.

The aim of the #StayAtHomechallenge also known as the #CoronaVirusChallenge is to juggle a toilet roll in the air with your feet as you would a football and everyone is encouraged to have a go.



Premier League stars including Jamie Carragher, Peter Crouch, Benjamin Mendy, Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial have been taking on the challenge from the comfort of their own homes, with varying success.

It would seem that toilet roll is much harder to keep control of than a football.

Hopefully the boys will enjoy this challenge and it's a good way to keep active indoors.

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/video/2020/mar/20/toilet-roll-keepie-uppies-sports-stars-coronavirus-lockdown-challenge-video>



Mindful Colouring – 30th March -3rd April

Theme of the week this week is focusing on Mindful colouring.

The info and link to online colouring activities below will be shared with tutor group via Show My Homework (SMHW).

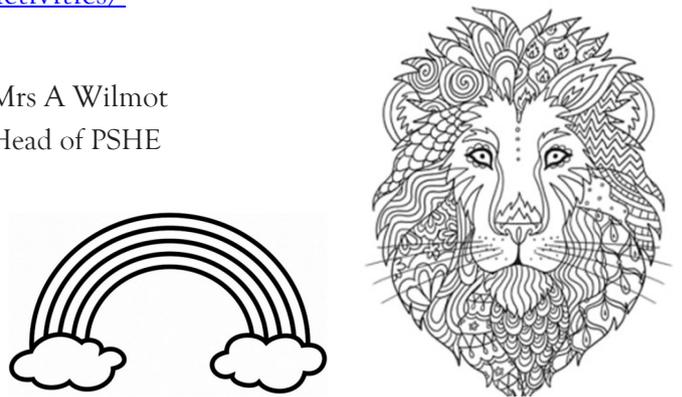
Mindful Colouring asks us to focus on how we choose and apply colour in a design to bring our awareness to the present moment. This process is similar to meditation, we let go of any thoughts about tomorrow or yesterday, or what we are going to do when we finish.

We need to let go of judging whether the colouring in is good or bad, amazing or terrible and whether we are good at it or not. There is no right or wrong way to colour in, it is a form of self-expression.

Mindfulness can improve our overall sense of well-being. We feel more relaxed by paying attention to the present moment. We are also practicing training our minds to focus which can help in our study and work.

<https://www.mombooks.com/mom/online-activities/>

Mrs A Wilmot
Head of PSHE



GEOGRAPHY A'LEVEL RESIDENTIAL 2020

In mid-March, fifty year 12 geographers undertook a three day residential visit to Colehayes, near Bovey Tracy, South Devon. The purpose of the visit is to prepare for their coursework which is worth 20% of their final grade.

Some pupils were using the opportunity to collect data for their coursework or carrying out pilot studies for future data collection. All this whilst in locations that support studies of processes, places or theory done in class.



First stop was Elberry Cove along the Torbay Coast. It is a pebble beach prone to seasonal changes in profile and other morpho-dynamic factors, some of which were being investigated by pupils. An afternoon was spent here before heading off to the centre at Colehayes in its splendid landscaped, country estate setting. Pupils were worked hard that evening either writing up the days findings or preparing to visit Plymouth, a case study of urban rebranding as well as the coursework focus of a number of pupils.

Pupils were dropped at the Barbican in Plymouth the following morning, an area along with Drakes circus that has undergone a good deal of urban re-development in recent years. Plymouth is also used as a significant case study in class so it was good to visit and contextualise this knowledge.

There was no escape on the Thursday evening with pupils stuck in the same building as their geography teachers who were happy to talk geography up nine o'clock and past. Some were also preparing notes for data collection at Dawlish Warren, a classic spit formation across the Exe estuary.

This destination once again has a number of strengths to aid class studies, such as landforms and the rationale behind different coastal management schemes.

The impact of some of our severe winter storms such as Kiera and Dennis were very evident with chunks of the dune system missing. This was a good starter for a fascinating lecture

from staff about sediment budgets and equilibrium. (I am sure that 'fascinating' was the word I heard used from pupils).

From here it was two hours on the coach, back up the M5 to Bath.

I would like to thank the year 12 geographers for their fantastic efforts and attitude throughout the visit. We hope to see some excellent coursework emerge over the next few months.

Mr D Brewer.

Head of Humanities



TEN TORS 2020 – The One that got Away

So it was, that our visit to Dartmoor for Ten Tors training on Saturday, 29th February and Sunday, 1st March was to be our only visit to the moor this year. The country wide isolation measures due to the Covid 19 outbreak ushered the cancellation of the Ten Tors event in May.

We had 30 pupils training for this over a variety of distances and they had already tested their mettle on the Mendips and Black mountains. We went down to Dartmoor knowing that previous storms Kiara, Dennis (and overnight, storm Jorges) had dropped plenty of rain. Our forecast was for squally showers of hail and snow, dispersed with bright sunshine. So it proved as the photos from the weekend testify.

A large staff team also deployed onto the moor on the Saturday morning, and found as the pupils did, that distinguishing between bog, streams and solid ground was often difficult. This was also compounded by intermittent savage blizzard conditions between sunny spells.

Routes were adapted to cross rivers upstream close to their source or by detouring to bridging points in other locations. Our teams did really well navigating the moor and completed their respective routes to arrive at camp in good time.



Thankfully the sun shone for a few hours, whilst setting up camp and cooking tea. This qualifies as a drought in Devon. Sure enough huge clouds could be seen mustering over Cornwall and advancing over the Tamar valley towards us bringing an end to such abnormal conditions. The overnight forecast was for rain and gales.

The teams hunkered down in their tents and saw out the storm. They rose for breakfast at 5.30am with every intention of completing their walk across the moor. There was an unusual mix of breakfast food being prepared including a chile and chicken tikka masala! What's wrong with porridge?

A quick inspection of river levels on the moor led to a significant shortening of the day and amendment of routes by the staff. Under

clear blue skies the teams finished at the Meldon Dam on the north moor. Unbeknown to all was the fact that within weeks the event and all trainings would be off and Beechen Cliff's Ten Tors adventure for 2020 was sadly over.

Ten Tors is a well-established test piece of endurance, character and teamwork and is a challenge never to take on lightly. Despite the disappointment of its cancellation this year I would like to thank those pupils who came forward from years 10, 12 and 13 this year. This alone indicates an element of aspiration and strength of character and I hope you enjoyed the days out that you had and learnt new skills and gained knowledge about your own capabilities. Above all, stay hungry for Ten Tors 2021! Your disappointment is of course shared by the huge staff team who were behind your training and were looking forward to seeing you through the challenge in May.

Dartmoor is going nowhere and will await us next year.

Mr D Brewer.

Head of Humanities and Ten Tors Co-ordinator



Maths

Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge was taken by the top sets in years 10 and 11, plus three year 9 pupils by invitation. The school achieved 11 gold, 23 silver and 19 bronze awards.

Congratulations to all those who took part, with special mention going to the following pupils who achieved gold awards:

Alex T (Year11 BY6), Theo D-B (Year11 SH1), Will N (Year11 ML6), Kael H (Year11 CH6), Patrick L (Year11 KP4) Joe M (Year11 SH8), Jack H (Year11 KP4), Ollie H (Year10 BY8) Ned C (Year10 ML1), Ben P (Year9 ML5), and Yuvraj K (Year9 CH6).

These pupils qualified for the follow on European Kangaroo rounds. However, Beechen pupils did not sit the exams due to difficulties arising from the Coronavirus outbreak.

Report on Year 10 Maths Feast

On 6th March 2020, eight Year 10 students made their way to Saint Gregory's Catholic College as two teams of four to compete in the Maths Feast.

Dan E (BY6)
Ruben R (BY7)
Hassan H (SH1)
Josh H (ML4)
Eden C (CH6)
Kieran W (ML7)
Edward MP (ML3)
Sam V (KP3)

There were several rounds to the Maths Feast, each with a different structure, all of which tested the boys' mathematical skills as well as their ability to work together as a team. Teachers were to sit with teams not from their school to provide guidance and mark their work after each round.

Beechen made an excellent start as they were awarded a certificate for the highest score in round 1. By the end of the event, Beechen were within the top few with their total score. We were also awarded a certificate for great teamwork throughout the event. A great effort from the boys.

Here's to hoping we can push on and win it next year!

Mr J Mayor

Maths

Senior British Maths Olympiad

Congratulations must also go to Ben T of the Upper Sixth (CH9), who achieved a Merit award in the Senior Olympiad, (which is taken by the top 1000 students in the UK).

Mr J Henly
Maths

Netcraft Cyber Security Evening

For many years now our pupils have been taking part in the annual Cipher Challenge, an online codebreaking competition organised by the University of Southampton. In recent years Netcraft, a local Cyber Security company have been sponsoring the challenge and inviting successful pupils to an online security event. This year was no different and in January a group of pupils from Years 10 and 12 joined myself and Mrs Jarvis at the Netcraft offices in Bath to learn more about online scams that steal personal credit card details, and in particular how to combat this crime.

If you'd like to take part in the Cipher Challenge next year then come along to the codebreaking club in September...

Edward Gill
Head of Maths
egill@beechencliff.org.uk



The University of Southampton have just started a new (or rather a new version of an old) challenge – anyone interested in having a go can visit:
<https://www.cipherchallenge.org/>



MUSIC

The department has seen another busy term both in and out of the classroom with lots of practical coursework being recorded and preparing for public performances. In January we welcomed Mr J Wildridge to the department who has joined us on a part time basis working on Thursdays and Fridays. Mr Wildridge is an experienced classroom teacher as well as a practising musician and freelance composer. He has settled in well to his role and we look forward to the skills and high level of experience he will bring to the department

Annual Bands Night

Following on from the inaugural Junior Bands Night in December, the traditional annual bands night took place on Friday 7th February in the main school hall. This popular evening involved 7 bands from year 8 through to the sixth form playing a range of music from Pixies to The Arctic Monkeys, including plenty of original songs written by the bands. The names and members of the bands were:

The Hive - Alex J (Yr8 CH8), Ambrose J (Yr8 KP1) Joe H (Yr8 SH5) Isaac W (Yr8 BY8)

Disorientation - Dillan G (Y9 ML8), Jonty G (Y9 SH8) Archie M (Yr9 ML1), Oliver H (Yr9 KP4), Luke P (Yr9 SH3)

Nocturn - George W (Yr12 SH10), Joshua C (Yr 12 CH9), Fynn H (Yr12 CH9)

Distortion - Henry P (Yr12 ML9) Benji M (Yr12 ML9) ,Corey M (*ex pupil* CH1)

Raw Toast - Finn W (Yr12 KP9), Ethan PC C (Yr 12 ML9), Rex N (*ex pupil* BY5)

Ghostlight- Freddie B (Yr13 KP9), Dom B (Yr13 ML8) , Robbie L (Yr 13 ML10), Arthur M (Yr 13 ML10) Roland A (Yr 13 KP10)

There was also a last minute addition featuring Alex P (Yr13 SH9) who performed with some of Ghostlight as a separate item.

Thanks must go to all who helped with event: the PTA for running the bar and for sixth formers Tom Clarke and Joe Ainsworth who helped out with the sound equipment on the night. Special thanks though must go to Mr D Huntriss (music technician) who planned, organised and ran the whole evening which was a great success and raised money for the sixth form trip to Romania later in the year. We look forward to many future bands nights under his direction.



Annual School Concert

The Annual School Concert was due to take place on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th of March, but sadly had to be cancelled. The pupils and students had been working hard and the concert was shaping up to be a successful event with some fine performances from all the ensembles involved. We look to the future and the opportunity to restage the event again within the fine acoustics of St Luke's Church. In the absence of the concert please find a copy of the programme over which will give an idea of the range of music that was due to be performed.

Programme

Beechen Cliff Annual Music Concert at St Luke's Church March 18th and 19th March 2020

Programme

Concert Band

Puttin' On The Ritz - Berlin arr. Nowak

Year 7 Ensemble

Eleanor Rigby - Lennon / McCartney arr. Frazer

Tequila - arr. Calvert

String Ensemble

Basse-Danse (Capriol Suite) - Warlock

Jig (St. Paul's Suite) - Holst

Saxophone Ensemble

Subway - Street

Crazy Rhythm - Meyer / Kahn

Choir

Rhythm of Life - arr. Barnes

Sky Above - Collier arr. Clark

Folk Group

A Waltz for Dad - arr. Helen Watt

Lev's Freilachs - trad. Klezmer arr. by performers

Percussion Ensemble

The Incredible Journeys of Mr. Victor Seven-ate - Brian

Interval - Approximately 20 minutes long

Guitar Ensemble

Allemande & Nachttanz - Susato

Gavotte - Van der Staak

Smoke on The Water - Deep Purple arr. Clark

Swing Band

In Deep - Frisell

Killer Joe - Golson arr. Blair

Nutville - Silver

Senior Musician's Item

In Case You Don't Live Forever - Platt arr. by performers

Concert Band

Highlights from Walt Disney's *Aladdin* - Arr. Michael Sweeney
'*Pirates of The Caribbean*' Soundtrack Highlights - Badelt arr. Ricketts

Music Department

Concert Band, Year 7 Orchestra

Mr P E Calvert
(Head of Music)

Folk Group, String Group, Choir

Mrs A P Nourse

Guitar Ensemble

Mr T Clark

Swing Band

Mr M J Daniels

Percussion Ensemble

Mr R Brian

Saxophone Group

Mrs E Bolton

Senior Musician

Will Reed

Deputy Senior Musicians

George Downing
Freya Madeley

Percussion Ensemble

Joshua Barnett
Joshua Compton
Rory Self
Jeff Tribe
Tom Tribe

Year 7 Ensemble

Reuben Barnett
Callum Bruce
Matthew Clark
Oliver Williams

Choir

Finlay Anderson
Joel Atkinson
Kirsty Bain
Verity Brewerton
Honor C-Chauveau
Tom Clark
Ben Elliott
Isaac Elliott
Thomas Hewson
Toby Kingston
Freja Madeley
Luke Peroo
Will Reed
Catherine Tait
Anna Varzhapetyan

Strings/Folk Band

Rory Akbar
Roland Alexander
Kirsty Bain
Verity Brewerton
Josh Dong
Thomas Hewson
Freja Madeley
Isaac Pearcey
Will Reed
Amy Richards
Arbel Rix
Rory Self

Senior Musician's Group

Piano
Vocals

Will Reed
Kirsty Bain
Tom Clark

Saxophone Group

Theo Bacchiocchi
Sam Batstone
Gabriel Bonner-Thomas
Rory McDonald
Oliver Richards

Swing Band

Roland Alexander
Sam Batstone
George Downing
Harry Lewis
Louis Pain
Will Reed
George Walker
Ben Kirby Woollett

Guitar Ensemble

Isaac Finer
Rory Gallagher
Kieran Norris
William Pain
Alex Somerville
Sam Talbot
Ben Weldon

Concert Band

Clarinets

Oliver Eggleton
Finley Richards
James Stephens

Flutes

Kirsty Bain
Verity Brewerton
Matthew Clark
Sam Lindsley
Ben Pearcey
Will Reed

Drums

Alex James

Percussion

Joshua Compton

Bass

George Waters

Saxophones

Theo Bacchiocchi
Sam Batstone
Gabriel Bonner-Thomas
Daniel Eggleton
Rory McDonald
Oliver Richards

Trombones

George Downing
Oliver Tooley
Ben Kirby Woollett

Trumpets

James Clark
Harry Lewis
James Smith
Anna Varzhapetyan
George Walker

Horn

Tom Blethyn

Bassoon

Olly Scully

Exam Results

Congratulations to the following pupils who have all achieved success in practical exams this term:

Rory S (Y13 ML10) - Grade 8 Drums with merit (on top of achieving Grade 8 violin with merit last term)

Thomas C (Y12 ML9) - Grade 6 piano with merit

George W (Y10 ML1) - Grade 5 trumpet

Theo B (Yr 9 ML4) - Grade 2 saxophone with merit

Rory M (Yr8 CH4) - Grade 1 Jazz saxophone with merit

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Nourse, Mr Wildridge and all the Peripatetic Music Staff for their dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank Will R (Senior Musician), and George D and Freja M (deputy senior musicians) and all the sixth form team for their help and support with extra-curricular activities over this last term.

Mr P E Calvert
Head of Music



SPORTS

Easter Tennis Report

Amongst the difficulties of the last few weeks the senior tennis team had a notable success.

Over the winter months the team had qualified for the Year 11-13 Regional Finals at Exeter University. This took place on Thursday 12th March.

In the finals they competed against Peter Symonds College, Exeter College and Whitchurch High School.

The team of Joe, John, Will and Yuji defeated Peter Symonds and Whitchurch 4-2 and then lost 0-6 to Exeter College.

This meant the team finished runners up in the South West Region, which is a fantastic achievement.

Well done to all the team members on a great winter season.

Mr T D Markall
i/c tennis



Year 7 Football 2019/20 Campaign

U12 A's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goals Difference
4	3	0	1	22	7	15

U12 B's

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goals Difference
5	3	2	0	19	8	11

A positive first season of football for the new cohort. Training has been incredibly well attended with more than 70 pupils taking part at some point, with often more than 50 each week.

There are some truly talented individuals in this year group and they made a good start in learning to play classy football the Guardiola, Beechen way. In their first games together both the A and B team squads gave a good account of themselves, remaining undefeated in competitive games against other local schools. Only the A-team registered any defeat in a friendly at Bristol Grammar School in truly atrocious conditions which would have called off any horse racing meet.

Unfortunately the season was halted just before the grudge-match between the A and B teams was to be played which would have surely decided the title on our side of the draw, with the B-team and their coach fancying themselves to upturn the notional squad names. We look forward to many a successful year in future though with this group of players, starting with their debut in the National Cup Competition next year.

Meanwhile, the Corsairs, Deltas and Eagles, inspired by their coach were looking forward to glorious victories on the field in Devon, feasting away from it and a dose of culture in the form of a visit to Totnes. Alas, this was not to be. Mr Davies is determined to arrange the tour at another time, even if the daily temperatures at the time would make an Australian wilt. We will not be denied our time to shine.

Dr W Wilkinson

Year 7 Football (and Deputy Head of Science)

Year 8 Football

A team - The boys have been superb this season! They have all shown great commitment to training and fixtures. We started off winning a lot of matches then had 1 loss against a strong QEH team. After that we bounced back and continued with strong form. We have a great run in the county cup with a semi final waiting to be played. Fingers crossed the match will be played at a later date and we can reach the final.

B team - Having a lot of boys representing Beechen this season all the boys have done extremely well. Having been unbeaten all season this has shown how hard they have worked to get these results. Towards the end of the season there were a few fixtures postponed due to weather which the boys were gutted about. Overall a great season.

Mr M Walker Jones
PE and Sport

U15 Football

The year 10 football season fizzled out after a promising run in the National Cup before Christmas. The first three rounds against Hardenhuish, All Saints and Wydean, the team scored 20 goals without conceding. We came up against Ivybridge in the last 64 which was similar to watching Manchester City v Newcastle, unfortunately we were Newcastle with 10 bodies behind the ball and very little possession. We stuck to our game plan very well throughout the 70 minutes and it almost paid off going down 2-1. Ivybridge thoroughly deserved the win and have gone on to reach the semi-finals.

Our attention turned to the Somerset Cup following our exit from the Nationals and after winning it the last two years, the team had high hopes. Wins over Hans Price and Clevedon led to a quarter final against Castle School but this was to be the first defeat for this team in 3 seasons, going down 3-1 to a very good team.

The Banes league was cancelled for obvious reasons before it could get going. The team has a lot of potential and they have one more shot at the National Cup next year.

Mr P Macdonald
PE and Head of Shakespeare

Senior Football 2019/20 Campaign

1st XI

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goals Difference
7	6	0	1	13	3	10

2nd XI

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Goals Difference
3	3	0	0	10	5	5

Overall a positive season for the senior boys football. We have had huge numbers of 6th form pupils representing the school in what has been an unsettled season. Combating terrible weather conditions and other extenuating circumstances that has affected us all, the football season has unfortunately suffered with many game cancellations.

The 1st XI were unfortunate to be knocked out of the National Cup in the 1st round to a strong Sheldon side. However went unbeaten for the remainder of the season and reached the County Cup final with a stunning win over Millfield School. We hope the final will be rearranged.

The 2nd XI have unfortunately has many game cancellations due to the weather. However the games they did complete were very competitive and played in great spirit, with many pupils pushing for a 1st team place.

We wish our Year 13 pupils all the best as they move on from Beechen Cliff and hope they continue to play football for many years to come. There is a lot of talent within this group and I wish them every success.

Mr M Walker-Jones
PE and Sport

Hockey 2020 Report

Hockey has come on leaps and bounds at Beechen Cliff since 2019 and all teams have enjoyed more success than in their previous season. We have been able to run a very successful lunchtime hockey club, which has been very well attended and allowed the boys some extra training time. We have had two quality coaches from Team Bath Buccs joining us and they have led our after school Hockey Clubs for years 7-11. With new investment we have also been able to purchase some new 1st XI kit and new goalkeeper kit too.

The U18's had a very successful season, reaching the Tier 4 regional competition and narrowly losing in the semi-final.

All other teams have also shown remarkable improvements in both scores and attendance to training and matches. Our new U12s in particular are ones to watch, lifting the Booker Plate trophy at their final tournament at Bristol Grammar School.

Well done to all who have been involved in hockey at Beechen Cliff this year.

Mr J Mortimore
Head of Hockey and Physical Education Teacher



Under 18 Regionals



Under 12s Booker Plate Winners