



BEECHEN CLIFF

1st October 2020

Message from Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

We enter the next few weeks with a focus on 'equalities', more than timely as it links with the launch of 'Black History Month' and in the context of the events of summer.

The program of activities and curriculum inputs with 'equalities' as a focus will help develop the character traits of compassion and respect, helping them to recognise and celebrate the differences which make our society what it is.

Jogging Bottoms

Scholars have jogging bottoms in stock and these can be worn by boys who would not be comfortable wearing school trousers over shorts and would like to keep warm in the cold.

Mr A Davies
Headmaster

Calendar

Monday 5th October

Autumn Exam Series until 23rd November

Tuesday 6th October

Gold DofE (Year 12) group meeting Ms Fox outside Humanities office at 12.15pm

Wednesday 7th October

Silver DofE (Year 10) group – meet Ms Fox outside Humanities office at 12.20pm

Bronze DofE (Year 9) group meet Ms Fox 3.20pm–4pm

Tuesday 13th October

Year 10 Parents GCSE Course Information Evening

Saturday 17th October

Sixth Form Open Morning (Virtual)

Tuesday 20th October

Year 11 GCSE Exam Information and Revision Evening 7pm-8pm

Wednesday 21st October

End of Term

Monday 2nd November

Start of Term 2

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCES

It is important that **all absences** from School, including late arrivals and medical appointments should be reported to 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

Sixth Form Students

For a Sixth Form student absence please contact Mrs Jones on **01225 485221** or you can email

Year 7 Virtual Parents Information Evening 2020

The presentation and video for this event is available on the school website:

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/year-7-parents-virtual-information-evening-2020/>

We would be grateful if all Year 7 parents/carers could take the time to watch the video and look at the information provided.

Mr T D Markall
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

Theme of the Week – Pledge of Respect

This week we are introducing new students and reminding students from last year of our principles of equality at Beechen Cliff which are outlined in our Pledge of Respect. Last year Beechen Cliff launched the 'Pledge of Respect.' This is a solemn promise that every member of the school community will uphold our core principles. Our student-led Equalities Team wrote the Pledge, and staff and students were asked for their feedback at the drafting stage.

The core principles of our Pledge are:

A We **ASPIRE** to be a community where everyone is free to be themselves

B We **BALANCE** the rights and needs of every member of our school community

C We treat all people with **COMPASSION**

L We support and protect people's' right to be **INDEPENDENT** in their thoughts and expression

Every student signed the Pledge, and we asked staff to do the same. We invited guests who represented members of the wider community we work with to sign the pledge as well (including parents, local police, Off the Record and Solution Revolution).

This year, we will ask new pupils, students and staff to sign the pledge.

The Pledge and the signatures are displayed on the wall near the nurse's station in the main building.



Our Equalities work is underpinned by the 2010 Equalities Act, which provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all by protecting 9 characteristics - **disability, age, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and marriage and civil partnership.**

The Equalities Team (E Team) are busy planning new campaigns to raise awareness of equalities issues and help to make our school and wider community more inclusive. We're trying to find new ways of working in bubbles, so if you are interested in joining please speak to Miss Netto.

Miss P Netto

PSHE

INTERESTED IN PERFORMING ARTS?

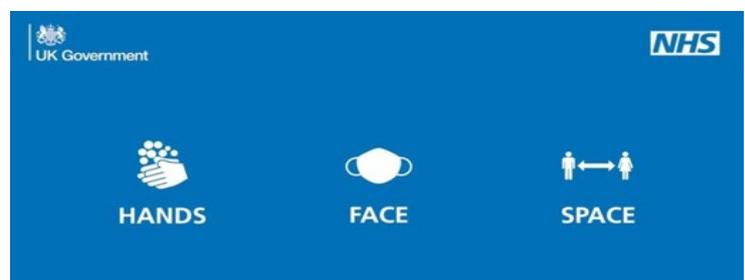


We are looking for enthusiastic pupils who would like to be part of a performance video, which will build on important key life skills such as teamwork, co-ordination, communication and confidence building, whilst developing a range of creative and performing skills in singing, dance and drama. The group will be led by Bath Theatre School and will work on this project every Friday in term two (beginning on 6th November and running for six weeks). The aim will be to produce a performance video and pupils will go through the full creative process, from helping to develop the artistic concept, learning a song and recording vocals, and being taught a choreographed routine. These skills will then enable students to perform as a group for the filming sessions, and the best bit is ... it is completely free of charge to be part of this great opportunity!

Rehearsals will be held in P4 in the Pavilion Building on Fridays 1525-1725, with filming taking place across the Beechen Cliff School site with your creative ideas helping to shape how the final video will look.

To sign up for this exciting opportunity, enrol at: www.baththeatreschool.com/BCS or if you have any specific questions, please contact staff@baththeatreschool.com

See Miss Moorhead for more information



Cycling Safety

Whilst we encourage our pupils/students to cycle to school, safety while cycling is paramount. There have been recent incidents reported where pupils are either not wearing helmets or speeding down the Avenues, Wellsway and Holloway at peak times. These are busy roads and pupils/students using them must moderate their speed for their own and others safety.



Before you decide to let your son/daughter cycle to school, we recommend that you take heed of the following advice from Sustrans Cycling Safety:

- Ensure your son/daughter's bike fits and is road-worthy.
- Wearing a correctly fitted cycle helmet can save a life, we recommend that all pupils/students should wear a helmet.
- Follow the highway code and don't cycle too fast or on the pavement.
- Do not jump red lights or cycle on the pavement unless it is a designated cycle path.
- Signal clearly at all times.
- Ride in a position where you can see and be seen.
- Avoid riding up inside of vehicles, as you might not be seen. If a vehicle is indicating to the left hang back at the junction to reduce the risk of a collision.
- Make eye contact with other road users, especially at junctions, then you know they've seen you.
- When riding in the dark always wear a high viz garment and use a working white front light and red-backlight, plus a red rear reflector - it's the law.
- Use your bell to let others know you are approaching, but don't assume they can hear or see you.
- Give way to others and always be prepared to slow down and stop if necessary.

Please see the advice below and refer to <https://www.think.gov.uk/cycle-safety/>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Listening - The Solution Focused Approach

At Beechen Cliff School, we are taking a whole school approach to Mental Health. We are working collaboratively across the whole of Beechen Cliff to co-create an environment that promotes an open (early) dialogue about mental wellbeing; one where staff, students and parents can be supported.

As you are aware, we are using the Solution Focused Approach (SF), alongside Trauma Informed Practice (TiP), to inform our whole school approach.

The SF Approach is a compassionate approach that truly believes that change is possible. It's a future-focused approach that is underpinned by the assumption that people are experts in their own lives. As SF Practitioners, we ask questions to elicit and amplify peoples' existing strengths and capabilities. However, we don't only ask questions, we listen constructively; some would actually describe SF as a listening approach.

So I would invite you to think about what difference truly listening makes to you, your child, your family and your friends.

'What do you notice people are doing differently when they truly listen to you?'

'What difference does it make to you to be truly heard?'

'What difference does it make to our children when we listen first, instead of talk first?'

'What difference does it make to our family members and our friends when we listen first, instead of talk first?'

I would invite you to consider that listening is intentional and the way we listen can impact the interactions we have with each other.

In these uncertain times, we may not have all the answers and I want to invite you to consider, ***do we need to?*** If we work with what is directly observable, we may have better, more meaningful interactions with each other; where we may be able to co-create a solution.

So, I would invite you to observe how the way we listen impacts the direction of our conversation, and I would invite you to notice the power of listening over having the answers.

Tara Gretton

Tara Gretton is a Solution Focused Practitioner. Tara provides 1:1 and Group SF Support at Beechen Cliff School. Tara also trains our staff body and our Student Mental Health ambassadors in SF techniques and conversations. Trained staff and students wear special lanyards and badges to make them easily identifiable to students who wish to talk.

On behalf of the Mental Health Team

DofE Update

The Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE groups have now been enrolled.

The Bronze group (year 9) have a meeting on Wednesday 7th October 3.20pm - 4pm, meet outside the computer block, rooms C1, C2, C3.

The Silver group (year 10) to meet Ms Fox at the start of lunch time outside the humanities office on Wednesday 7th October.

The Gold group (year 12) to meet Ms Fox outside the humanities office on Tuesday 6th October at 12.15pm. During these meetings we will issue edofe account information and how to use their account.

Year 10 students that signed up to the Bronze Award last year now have until the 31st July 2021 to complete their volunteering, skill and physical skill sections to gain their certificate of achievement. If they go on to do the Silver Award the Silver Practice Expedition will count as the Bronze Qualifying Expedition enabling them to access the full Bronze award.

Thank you for supporting the DofE!

Ms J Fox
DofE Manager

Beechen Cliff Water Bottle

Transparent bottle with Beechen Cliff logo,

Distinctive, semi transparent lid available in house colours, with a removable handle for ease of carrying.



If you wish your child to purchase this item, please top up their lunch account or ensure they have sufficient funds as they will be able to purchase this item in the same way as food purchases at the tills. The water bottles are £5.00

Any profits will go towards future fundraising events.

Beechen Cliff Face Masks



A great alternative to disposal face coverings the Beechen Cliff face mask is available to purchase in School

Branded with Beechen Logo and (with a nose strip If required)

Reusable

Non-surgical

3 layer construction and machine washable

Any profits will go towards future fundraising events.

If you wish your child to purchase this item, please top up their lunch account or ensure they have sufficient funds as they will be able to purchase this item in the same way as food purchases at the tills. The masks are £4.00



Beechen Cliff School- Covid Secure Routes

