



BEECHEN CLIFF

15th October 2020

Message from Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

This Friday the School joins together, as we do each year, to show support for the “Show Racism the Red Card” day, one on which we encourage all staff, pupils and students to wear an item of red to show support for the move to eradicate racism from all areas of society.

We are fortunate enough this week to have a ‘distanced’ visit from our Bath MP and a member of the Bath Council to see the work which is being done in School to recognise Black History Month and to broaden their knowledge of how the curriculum and wider work of school is continuing working against inequality. They will have a chance to ask questions of pupils and of the staff who deliver aspects of the curriculum and our broader equalities training for the school community.

I will write to all parents next week, as the term comes to an end, hopefully summing up the work undertaken and the ‘road ahead’ as it appears at the moment. Thank you, as always for your ongoing support of your children and the School.

Mr A Davies
Headmaster

Wearing Masks in School

A big thank you to all the pupils wearing masks in school as per expectations. However up to 20 pupils a day are still having to purchase a face mask for 50p (deducted from ParentPay) as they have forgotten their mask at home. Please ensure that your son has a re-usable face mask with him every day as part of his uniform.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headteacher
Head of Pastoral Care

Calendar

Friday 16th October

Wear Red -Show Racism the Red Card Day

Saturday 17th October

Sixth Form Open Morning (virtual)

Tuesday 20th October

Year 11 GCSE Exam Information and Revision Evening 7pm–8pm (virtual)

Wednesday 21st October

End of Term 1

Monday 2nd November

Start of Term 2

Wednesday 4th November

U6 Parents Evening - to be confirmed

Thursday 19th November

Year 11 Parents Evening

Sunday 22nd November

Silver DoE Training Day

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](tel:01225485222), or you can email attendance@beechencliff.org.uk

Sixth Form Students

For a Sixth Form student absence please contact Mrs Jones on [01225 485221](tel:01225485221) or you can email

sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk

Virtual Year 11 – Exam and Revision Information Evening

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

The time has come when, despite all of the current uncertainty, your son should start his revision and preparations for his GCSE exams. We have today (at time of writing, 12/10/2020) had an update from the Department for Education announcing that this summer's exams will be delayed by around three weeks, with the majority taking place between the 7th June and the 6th July 2021. Other modifications to this year's exams were announced during the summer break and can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exams-and-assessments-in-2021>.

Usually at this time of year we would invite you into school for a Year 11 Parent Information Evening. Unfortunately we are unable to do this at the current time. Instead, please follow the links below to access a video delivered by Mr Markall (Deputy Head) and myself detailing how best to support your son with his revision and exam preparations, and the accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Next week, your son will be off timetable on Monday afternoon to take part in a revision skills workshop, and we hope that the information we are providing you with via our video will equip you to speak with your son following this and kickstart his revision process.

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/year-11-parents-virtual-information-evening-exams-revision-2020/>

Finally, you may have noticed the 'CGP Study Skills and Revision Planner' appear on your Parent Pay account for £2. If you would like to order one to support your son's revision, please make a payment by Wednesday 21st October, 3:20pm. I hope that you will find these materials useful. Please get in touch if you have any further questions about revision.

Ms S Sullivan

Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning
ssullivan@beechencliff.org.uk

PTA 50:50 Club

Hello everyone and welcome back to the 50:50 club! For those of you who are new to the school, this is a great way to support the PTA (especially at the moment as other forms of fundraising are much more difficult). We run a mini lottery called the 50:50 club - 50% of the funds go to the school via the PTA, and 50% are paid out each month in prizes. Anyone is welcome to join and you can join at any time.

Latest winners

Given the current circumstances, the latest 50:50 club draw took place via Zoom conference call on Thursday 8th October 2020 with four members of the PTA present - Lesley Betts, Marina Beare, Sarah Mitchard and Jane Millington.

Congratulations to the winners for June, July and August 2020 listed below:

JUNE 2020

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| 1 st Prize | £92.50 | No. 106 |
| 2 nd Prize | £61.67 | No. 287 |
| 3 rd Prize | £30.83 | No. 436 |

JULY 2020

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| 1 st Prize | £88.75 | No. 148 |
| 2 nd Prize | £59.17 | No. 177 |
| 3 rd Prize | £29.58 | No. 218 |

AUGUST 2020

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| 1 st Prize | £88.75 | No. 517 |
| 2 nd Prize | £59.17 | No. 83 |
| 3 rd Prize | 29.58 | No. 472 |

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. 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.

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 carry on the 50:50 draws via Zoom/Skype even though there are no face to face PTA meetings. I can sign people up from home and you should be able to set up your standing order without going in to your bank. It is a great way to support the school, especially as so many of the other opportunities for us to raise money have had to be put on hold for now.

Please feel free to contact me with any queries.

Sarah Mitchard (parent and 50:50 co-ordinator)

beeche5050@gmail.com

Tel: 07909962272

Menu for Week Commencing 19th October 2020

Monday: Chicken with Tomato and Olives, Potato, Spring Onion and Cheese Pie (V)

Tuesday: Sausage and Bean Casserole, Spanish Tortilla (V)

Wednesday: Cajun Chicken Burger, Mixed Bean Burger (V)

Mr D Keal
Chef

CCF

On Friday, our Year 9 pupils had a really fun and insightful look into the CCF at Beechen and KES. In teams of four, they led themselves through a series of scenarios (command tasks)

which included rescuing their supplies and ammunition from an island surrounded by a swamp using just a rope and pieces of wood, negotiating an obstacle course with their supplies and jerry cans of water and several other challenging tasks.



They were also shown how to handle various weapons in the indoor firing range; and looked at a range of army rations that they would take on exercise.

CCF training will once again be this Friday 5-7pm at KES. There are a few places still left in the CCF and so if your son does want to join, please go onto ParentPay and pay the kit deposit. If you have any further questions and/or want your son to join please email Captain Greenhough on cgreenhough@beechencliff.org.uk

Finally, we are very proud to report that Joseph D (Chaucer L6) and Daniel (Byron Year 11) have achieved their ILM Level 2 Award for Young Leaders and Toby T S (Byron Year 13), James C (Kipling Year 13) and Johnathan S (Kipling Year 13) their BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Teamwork and Personal Development. They will be awarded their certificates on parade by Mr Davies and Lt Col Gardiner.

Well done boys!"

Captain C Greenhough
cgreenhough@beechencliff.org.uk

Lockdown Treadmill Challenge

During a recent PSHE lesson Declan B (Milton Year 7a) shared that he completed a treadmill challenge during lockdown - 12 hours non-stop (1 loo break - obviously that was a key question from his peers), approximately 30K; The challenge was livestreamed on Facebook and Declan has raised in excess of £500 for NHS charities.

Very Well Done Declan!

Mr D Jaggon
Head of Milton House



Year 7 Code of Conduct Posters

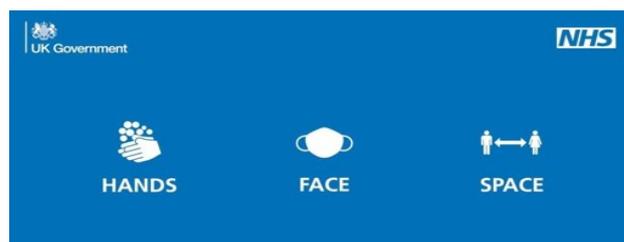
'Be ready, Be Respectful and Get Involved'

Congratulations go to the following boys whose poster designs are being professionally enlarged and reproduced as I write. These are Gus M (Kipling Y7b), Jago P (Milton Y7a), Oliver K (Milton Y7a), Jayden D O (Byron Y7a) and Wasim A (Shakespeare Y7b)

Special mentions must also go to Ethan W, George F, Eli Z, Jasper B B, Jago B, Joshua L, Ben H, Samuel B, Rupert D, Jack H, Zak T M, Charlie R, Ted D, Albert B and Josh M. I will be making all of their designs into a display for everyone to see.

Positives and chocolate to follow!

Ms A Milland
Head of Byron/Teacher of Biology



Theme of the Week



Wear Red Day takes place on **Friday 16th October 2020**, and is organised by **Show Racism the Red Card** – an anti-racism education charity which was established in 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop.

In 1990s Newcastle, Shaka was at a petrol station near St James Park when he was confronted with a group of young people shouting racist abuse at him. After one of the group realised that they had been shouting at Shaka Hislop, the Newcastle United football player, they came over to ask for an autograph. You can hear his story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yd9C46ygmdo>



www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yd9C46ygmdo

It was from this experience that Shaka realised he could harness his status as a professional player to make a difference. Coupled with the power of football and his status as a role model, Shaka thought education could be an effective strategy in challenging racism in society .

To this day SRtRC continues to utilise the high-profile status of football and football players to help tackle racism in society and has also expanded into other sports. The majority of the campaign's work involves the delivery of educational workshops to young people and adults in schools, workplaces and at events held in football stadiums. Across the UK, SRtRC provides educational sessions to more than 50,000 individuals per year

Scotland's footballers send out a powerful message against racism during the SPFL Premiership restart 2020/21



Players from all Premiership clubs have put together a powerful video statement in support of **anti-racism education**. - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaQHFHaoe_0&feature=emb_logo

We spoke with our representatives at all Premiership clubs and they were in agreement that they wanted to show their support for the Black Lives Matters movement. Football and footballers have a powerful voice and our members wanted to use that for the greater good to help spread the vital anti-racism message.

"We are proud sponsors and supporters of Show Racism the Red Card and the fantastic work they do to educate society about how we must stand up to racism in all its forms."

What can I do to stand up to racism?

Choose your **language** carefully

Challenge stereotypes and racist language

Call it out - if you feel comfortable doing so, have a **conversation** with people about **why** racist language and behaviour is unacceptable. You should also **tell** a member of staff if you hear/see anything you don't think is OK

In your **words and actions**, remember to demonstrate Beechen Cliff's core values - including respect, compassion, balance and integrity .

On **Friday 16th October** we invite all students and members of staff to wear something red (a jumper, tie, t-shirt, socks etc!) to support **Wear Red Day**. We are not asking for donations this year, but would like as many members of our school community to show their support to our ongoing work to tackle racism at every level of society. For more information, please visit: <https://www.theredcard.org/wear-red-day>

'It is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist'
Angela Davis.

The latest film from Boys in Mind (Girls Mind Too) – Black Lives Matter – explores the racism and trauma experienced and observed by five young people from the Bath & North East Somerset area . They discuss recent events, in particular the murder of George Floyd, the lasting effects of racism, the importance of the BLM movement and what they feel needs to happen in the future, including in schools and any work environment: <https://boysinmind.co.uk/black-lives-matter/>

Miss P Netto

Mental and PSHE Lead



Mental Health

Last week, we shared with you some excellent reading resources about the Teenage Brain. As parents/carers, it can be really helpful to have this understanding as we welcome our young people into their teenage years, which we all know can be challenging at times.

A book, many of us have read ourselves, as parents, and which gives such insight (with humour) into the challenges we may face, is:

[Get Out of My Life: The bestselling guide to the twenty-first-century teenager: But First Take Me and Alex into Town](#)

Author's Forward: This bestselling survival manual is for parents who find themselves marooned among volatile and incomprehensible aliens on Planet Teen. It looks at all the difficult issues of bringing up teenagers - school, sex, drugs and more. But it's the title of the second chapter, 'What They Do and Why' that best captures the book's spirit and technique, explaining how to translate teenage behaviour into its true, often less complicated meaning.

One key mistake, for instance, is getting in no-win conflicts instead of having the wisdom to shut up when shutting up would be the most effective - albeit least satisfying - thing to do.

The message is clear: parenting adolescents is inherently difficult. Don't judge yourself too harshly!

With a section for parents/carers of teenage girls and boys, we invite you to get a copy as it will make you understand that the challenges we face are not unusual, with brilliant tips on how to handle tricky situations and maintain good, healthy relationships with our offspring as they navigate the teenage world. Our aim, as parents/carers, is always to do our best to help our children with their mental wellbeing and conflict avoidance has a big part to play with this.

This week, we have a focus on our teenage boys. Next week, we will focus on our teenage girls, although many of the tips below apply to all teenagers.

Seven tips for parenting teen boys: 'Nagging them is like shouting into a void'.

Adolescence is the perfect storm for relationships between teen boys and their parents, but they are more vulnerable than they seem. These are the headlines of an article written by the parenting author Maggie Dent in the Guardian last week.

We invite you to read it the following link

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/oct/10/seven-tips-for-parenting-teen-boys-nagging-them-is-like-shouting-into-a-void?fbclid=IwAROFuFz-G5P9aTPaw-trFa14KfWmFhcdriRXvI6zm4eHvKlmX82XGfOobUj8>

Here are Maggie's 7 Top Tips: -

1. Do not shame them

I worked out early in my teaching career and then as a mother of four sons that there was no maliciousness to this behaviour and, while reminding them firmly but warmly of the inappropriate nature of their choices, I refused to shame them. This is a phase and it does pass.

2. Let them know they are not stupid, they are just developing

If you're parenting a boy in this window, it's important to remember this lens through which he is viewing the world. We should talk to our adolescents about the hormonal, brain and physical changes which will be affecting their behaviour and how they experience life. It's liberating for them to know they're not stupid, they're just developing. It can be helpful for them and us to be reminded things will get easier once they're in their 20s

3. Do not forget the loving names

As frustrating and challenging as this phase can be, we can break the cycle of shaming our boys through simple things like remembering the power of using terms of endearment with him and calling him loving names, and reminding him you love him ferociously no matter what

4. Nagging them is like shouting into a void

Over the years I learned with my sons that lecturing and nagging a teenage boy is like shouting into a void. Learning the secrets to effective boy communication by paying attention to building rapport, timing, tone of voice and avoiding direct eye contact are much more effective ways to communicate.

5. Make your home a safe place for friends

My home and heart were always open to their mates. There were firm, loving boundaries, but my sons and their friends knew our home was a safe place. We do not live in tribes any more but our teens still need to be surrounded by good folk and family who care about them and act as "lighthouses" who guide them.

6. Marinate them in stories of good men

They need to be marinated in stories of good men, too, of men who've made mistakes and failed publicly, but who've recovered by taking responsibility and been accountable for their own actions. We need more than just parents to raise boys to healthy manhood.

7. Love them as they are, not for what you think they should be

Every teen boy is yearning to be seen, really heard and loved as he is not as we think he should be. They are way more vulnerable than we have been conditioned to believe. We need to love and respect our sons, especially while they cannot love or respect themselves – yet.

Solution Focused Reflection

We would invite you to consider the following questions. If the above article was to be useful, what difference will it make to your parenting? We would also invite you to think about what difference it may make in your everyday interactions with your children?

Also, we would invite you to ask yourself what do you do already in parenting that pleases you? What difference does that make to you to focus on what you do well?

Important Reminder: We are very excited by the number of parents who have already signed up to join our Solution Focused webinar in November. We can not wait to meet you all. Here is a reminder of how to register:

Time to Talk'. Grab a coffee and join us in this online Open Space especially for Beechen Cliff Parents and Carers.

This is a pilot 'coffee morning', where we hope to share with you our vision for the mental wellbeing support at Beechen Cliff. This **FREE** webinar is on **Saturday 21st November 2020 10.30am-12:00pm** in the hope that at least one parent will be able to attend.

If you would like to have an e-Ticket for this event, please can you sign up using the attached Eventbrite link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beecheen-cliff-school-parents-coffee-morning-time-to-talk-tickets-124148719161>

We will email you all the Zoom link a few days before the event. We are really looking forward to seeing you all there.

The Mental Health Team

tt tennis - October Holiday



**OCTOBER HOLIDAY
COURSES
20TH-29TH OCT**

**TENNIS HEROES 5-8YRS
JUNIORS 9-12YRS
JUNIORS 13-17YRS
SMALL CLASS SIZES
FLEXIBLE BOOKING**

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INTERESTED IN PERFORMING ARTS?



We are looking for enthusiastic Year 7 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