



## BEECHEN CLIFF

8th October 2020

### Message from Headmaster

Dear Parent and Carers

Despite the many obvious restrictions caused by the covid measures in school we continue see the development of some core activities which aim to build skills and character traits amongst our pupils.

The year 7 have been in receipt of the opportunity to attend football and rugby training, whilst Bath Theatre School has expanded the option for Year 7 boys to participate in the unique Beechen Cliff partnership provision on Friday evenings. In addition the CCF has begun to meet again and you will find details within this newsletter. Coming Soon will be the 'virtual' Sixth Form Open Morning, an opportunity to experience life through the eyes of current students, Sixth Form courses and the subject staff taking the various courses on offer. Details will be made available on the website and I know that many of our Year 11 boys and their parents will be taking a particular interest. We will send more on the information and format of events, as it will help us make sure you get everything you need in the absence of our usual 'face to face' experience.

Mr A Davies  
Headmaster

### Year 10 and Year 11 Parent Information Evenings 2020

On the school calendar we have Year 10 and Year 11 Parent Information Evenings scheduled over the next few weeks. Unfortunately we will not be able to run these in school this year so we will be recording videos instead. These will be emailed to parents/carers and uploaded to the school website over the next few weeks.

Mr T D Markall  
Deputy Head  
Curriculum

### Calendar

#### Tuesday 13th October

Year 10 Parents GCSE Course Information Evening (virtual)

#### 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

#### Monday 2nd November

Start of Term 2

#### Wednesday 4th November

U6 Parents Evening

#### Thursday 19th November

Year 11 Parents Evening

### 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](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)

## Equalities Update from Mr Oldham

Last week, pupils were reminded of - or in the case of Year 7s, introduced to - Beechen Cliff's Pledge of Respect in their tutor time and assemblies. A photo of the Pledge was shared with you in the newsletter and, at the start of Black History Month, we wish to make clear again our commitment to all areas of equalities across the school.

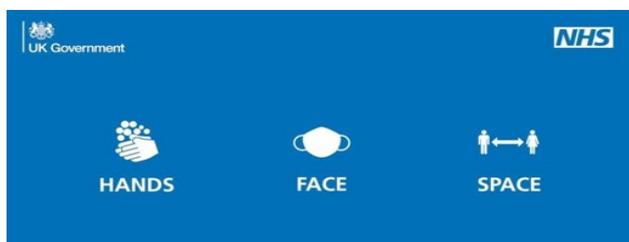
Our now revamped website contains a page on our equalities work, which you can find at <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/key-information/equalities>. I would encourage you to have a look at this, and related pages on safeguarding and mental health, to set the above in context. This term our focus is on race and religion, whilst next term we will be exploring gender equality; over the course of the academic year all 9 protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 will be covered.

One way in which we annually make a statement about our values, expectations and beliefs is by inviting all pupils, students and staff to wear red to 'Show Racism the Red Card'. This event is taking place on Friday 16th October and on this day, pupils are invited to wear one item of red clothing. We look forward to taking a stand together on this day alongside organisations across the UK.

I would also like to take this opportunity to re-assert our zero tolerance approach to language and behaviours that are offensive, hurtful and intolerant. Any discriminatory incidents relating to a protected characteristic under the Equality Act are dealt with swiftly and with serious consequences. As well as disciplinary steps, we also seek to educate pupils and to undertake restorative work, in partnership with external organisations such as the Local Authority and Police. Pupils in Year 11 will be aware that this was the case for one of their peers this week and he is no longer part of the school community. We were particularly impressed with the response of pupils in Year 11 to this matter, in both bringing it to our attention and supporting our actions.

Our vision for Beechen Cliff pupils and students is to be happy, healthy young people who thrive as individuals and make a positive contribution to society. Our work on equalities sits at the heart of realising this vision and we thank parents for their partnership in this. If you ever have any questions, ideas or feedback on our equalities work, we would be very pleased to hear it.

Mr J Oldham  
Deputy Head/Head of Sixth Form



## Online safety

This term, online safety assemblies will be delivered to Years 7-11 to explore many key issues that our pupils and students face online. This term will focus on the use of apps and privacy, online identity (acting with integrity online) and screen time. As a school, we urge students to allow open dialogue with parents regarding their use of electronics and for them to help you to better understand the evolving world within which they live. The following links provide some useful tips and guidance for supporting your son online:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-matters-Parent-Age-Guides-11-13.pdf>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Internet-matters-Parent-Age-Guides-14.pdf>

Mr O Abbott  
Head of Boarding

## Remote Learning Contingency Planning

Please can parents and carers consider whether they have any issues accessing broadband or 4G and whether their sons or daughters have access to tablets or laptops etc. should they be required to study remotely for a period of time.

We will be contacting parents of all pupils eligible for the Pupils Premium directly to ensure they have access to the required resources. If there are any other pupils or students where access to technology could be a barrier to learning we would urge you to contact the school asap so we can endeavour to provide support in the event of remote learning taking place.

Mr T D Markall  
Deputy Head (Curriculum)  
Beechen Cliff School

## Show Racism the Red Card – Wear Red Day



Each October Show Racism the Red Card holds its annual **Wear Red Day!**

We will be supporting The 6th Annual Wear Red Day at Beechen Cliff on **Friday 16th October 2020**. Pupils can wear an item of red clothing to support this event - a tie, socks, jumper would be ideal.

Wear Red Day is a national day of action which helps to raise awareness of anti-racism for young people and adults across the UK.

Mr K Mann  
Assistant Headteacher



## Theme of the Week



Theme of the Week is a focus on Black History Month, which is observed in October every year.

The beginnings of Black History Month go back to 1926 when Black historian **Carter G. Woodson** began what he called “Negro History Week” in the USA. In 1969, the week’s celebration was expanded to a month and in 1976, Black History Month was endorsed by the US government. In the United Kingdom, Black History Month has been celebrated every October since 1987. Carter Woodson’s original goal was to educate everyone about the cultural backgrounds and achievements of people of African descent.

The Black community has used this month to share with the rest of the world the contribution that Black people have made to human development. It is a time to demonstrate **pride** in, and respect for, the **creativity, intellectual achievements** and **sporting prowess** of Black people; and a time to **celebrate** the various **cultural identities** of people with African, Caribbean or other Black roots.

*“In years gone by, October has been the only time of year when the UK talks about the achievements of Black people in Britain,”* says **Catherine Ross** guest editor of Black History Month 2020.

### 2020 - An historic year

This year has seen demonstrations in Britain and around the world in response to the death of **George Floyd**, a Black man who died while being stopped by police in America.

*2020 has held a mirror up to the world and forced many to see the reality of racism,”* says Catherine Ross.

In the UK, **Black Lives Matter** demonstrations have called for an end to **systemic racism**, where people aren't treated fairly because they are Black.

Premier League footballers have **taken the knee** in solidarity with the movement, while there have been calls to remove statues of white people who contributed to Britain's role in the **transatlantic slave trade** - a time where Black people were traded for goods and sold into slavery to work. It lasted for more than 400 years.

*“Black Lives Matter protests around the world sparked a commitment among many individuals and organisations to educate themselves about Black history, heritage and culture - as part of understanding racism and standing in solidarity against it,”* Ross said.

[Why Black Lives Matter NOW | Ellis Fearon | TEDxYouth](#) - watch some/all of this talk and discuss why Black History Month is important, especially in light of events this year.

*“Hopefully, the events of 2020 will be a catalyst for Black history to be shared much more widely - in museums, galleries, schools, universities, public spaces and communities.”*

Black people have been in Britain for a lot longer than previously thought - one of the oldest skeletons ever found was that of the **Cheddar Man** who had dark skin. Archaeologists think that he was alive during the stone age.

<https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/> - have a look at the A-Z list of 100 Great Black Britons - how many do you know? What different achievements are recognised on this list?

Students and pupils have been informed to look out around school for posters of Black global icons, poets and writers, sporting icons and movers and shakers.

They could also look through the Black History timeline at the back of this newsletter.

### Black History Month in the UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49883230> - there are a variety of videos on this site that help us to understand the importance of marking Black History Month. These include:

- \* Why is Black History Month important?
- \* Newsround bulletin about racism in the UK
- \* Young people talk about their experiences of racism
- \* The forgotten history of Black people in the UK

Miss P Netto

PSHE and Mental Health Lead

### CCF Army 2020-21

It is great to see there has been a lot of interest in joining the CCF, but can I remind Year 9 parents that they need to go onto ParentPay ASAP and pay the £100 kit deposit to secure their place. Once again, there are only 30 places available and so if you are not successful in gaining a place, please email me and I will put your son on the waiting list.

Finally, please remind your son that the CCF can count towards half of his DofE i.e. the physical and skill section.

If you would like any further information about the CCF please do not hesitate to contact me

Cpt. Greenhough  
Head of CCF Army  
[cgreenhough@beechncliff.org.uk](mailto:cgreenhough@beechncliff.org.uk)

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

**An exciting opportunity for all Parents and Carers in November 2020.**

During the last term of lockdown, you will remember that we ran a pilot where we invited parents, staff, students and pupils in Year 10 to try out some Solution Focused (SF) questions with their families. Tara Gretton is our in-school SF Practitioner providing support to students across the school and she has trained our staff and now some of our students in the SF approach. Following the SF pilot, staff, students and parents/carers kindly completed a feedback questionnaire. From our parent/carer responses, 80% said that they would welcome some training on SF to learn more about how to have SF conversations with their children.

At Beechen Cliff, it is our hope to work collaboratively across our school community to continue to build on creating a supportive environment for all. And that very much includes you, our parents and carers.

We are delighted that Tara Gretton has agreed to host a webinar next term for 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.

We have chosen to host this **FREE** webinar on **Saturday 21st November 2020 10.30am-12:00pm** in the hope that at least one parent will be able to attend.

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

During the 'Time to Talk' webinar, we would like to share more information about the Solution Focused Approach. As well, we would like to give you all time in break out rooms to talk about your recent experiences of parenting and what your hopes are for the future.

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/beechen-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.

As it's **World Mental Health Day** on Saturday 10th October, this Mental wellbeing opportunity could not have come at a better time.



## The benefits of SF from a Student and Staff perspective

Why we would encourage you to join this exciting webinar to become part of our whole school Solution Focused approach to mental wellbeing:

**From an SF trained student and :** I have been both on the receiving end and trained in SF, and the impact it had on me has been immeasurable. Being on the receiving end, it gave me a space to visualise my best hope of coming out as gay, and make little manageable steps towards that until I felt confident to come out and so I knew it was such a powerful tool. Because of this, I felt empowered, and educated to help others when I was trained, and personally it's made me feel that I've become better at genuinely listening and being present.

**Will - Year 2019/20**

**From an SF trained staff member:** When I completed my Level 3 Certificate in Solution Focused practice back in April 2019, I must confess that initially, the approach felt alien to me. I was used to helping students with their issues, but typically I would find it was me who would be advising students with what I thought they should do to try to improve things for their mental wellbeing. As a parent myself too, I guess we often do try to help 'fix' things for our children and we can be in danger of not taking the time to listen properly.

What I quickly learned, and why I am now such a passionate advocate of SF, is that this approach assumes the child is the expert, and I have learned the skills to ask the right questions to invite students to notice their own strengths and resources and, most of all, to witness the incredible impact on our young people when they feel truly listened to. The impact on their mental wellbeing and also the speed with which I am able to see positive change, is why I encourage you all to join us for this SF event in November where you will start to learn that SF is about:

- Asking questions, rather than 'selling' answers
- Listening for and reinforcing evidence of the strengths, resources and competence of people.
- Working with what people can do, not what they can't.
- Finding out what people are already doing that is helpful and exploring ways to amplify their strategies.
- Focusing on the details of the solutions not the problems.

We very much hope to see you there.

**Susie Ingram -**

**Sixth Form Pastoral Manager and Mental Health Champion**

# BHM

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

## KEY MOMENTS IN BLACK BRITISH HISTORY

**1833**

**Slavery outlawed**  
Britain passed an act officially outlawing the institution of slavery. In the space of just 25 years, the British government outlawed the slave trade and went on to abolish the practice of slavery throughout the colonies.



**1881**

**Mary Seacole's death**  
Mary Seacole's reputation after the Crimean War (1853-1856) rivalled Florence Nightingale's. She got herself out to the war by her own efforts and at her own expense and risked her life to bring comfort to the wounded and dying soldiers.

**1913**

**John Archer first black mayor**  
John Archer became Britain's first Black mayor of Battersea. He was also the first Black person to hold civic office in Britain as councillor, alderman and then mayor.

**1917**

**Walter Tull dies**  
Walter Tull dies as the Battle of the Somme. He recommended a military cross for his bravery.

**1948**

**Windrush arrives**  
The Empire Windrush arrives in Tilbury Dock carrying 492 first generation post-war Caribbean settlers to Britain. Most onboard only intended to stay in England for five years but many stayed.

**1958**

**First black newspaper**  
Claudia Jones (born in Trinidad) founded the first major black post-war newspaper "The West Indian Gazette". Claudia was also a political activist and community leader. The Gazette was created in her fight for equal opportunities.

**1959**

**First "Notting Hill" Carnival**  
The first carnival was actually not held in Notting Hill. It was small, indoor showcased for Caribbean talent held in St Pancras Town Hall in England in 1950. In 2001 VS Naipaul was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize for Literature.

**1961**

**VS Naipaul VS Naipaul**  
VS Naipaul wins the Somerset Maugham Award for his novel about growing up in the West Indies. Born in Trinidad in 1932 of Indian heritage, he moved to England in 1950. In 2001 VS Naipaul was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize for Literature.

**1965**

**Cy Grant plays Othello**  
Cy Grant stars as Othello at Leicester's Phoenix Theatre. He was one of the first black presenters on TV and in the late 50s he sang caribbean versions of the news on BBC Tonight!

**1966**

**Caribbean Artists Movement**  
Caribbean Artists Movement founded in London. It protects the literary, academic and performance skills of Caribbean writers and artists and provides them with a forum.

**1968**

**First black head teacher**  
Dr. Beryl Gilroy became London's first black headmaster of Beckford Primary in West Hampstead. She later became a successful novelist, writing stories for and about her students, including literature that could "tear".

**1968**

**Clyde Best signs to West Ham**  
Clyde Best signs for West Ham United. The Bermudan plays 186 games and scores 47 goals in 7 seasons. He was a role model for many black youngsters during the 70s.

**1971**

**New Immigration Bill**  
Britain's home secretary Reginald Maudling announces that Commonwealth citizens lose their automatic right to remain in the UK under the government's new immigration bill.

**1973**

**First black news reporter**  
Trevor McDonald joins the BBC World Service and becomes Britain's first black news reporter. Trevor rose through the ranks and joined the news at 16. He received an OBE in 1992 and a knighthood in 1999.

**1975**

**Lenny Henry's TV debut**  
Lenny Henry makes his television debut winning the New Faces talent competition by doing stand-up comedy and improvisations. Lenny is now one of Britain's best-known comedians.

**1978**

**Viv Anderson plays for England**  
Viv Anderson became the first black British footballer to play for England in an international tournament against Czechoslovakia. In 1994 Vivie was named Best Female Television Personality by the Black Journalists' Association.

**1981**

**First black woman newsreader**  
Moira Stuart has presented almost every news programme on the BBC, including News After Noon and the News at 6. Moira was named Best Female Television Personality by the Black Journalists' Association.

**1982**

**The Voice published**  
The Voice published the first black weekly newspaper. The newspaper went on to become the mouthpiece of Britain's black community and made him a multimillionaire.

**1984**

**Thompson wins Olympic gold**  
Daley Thompson became only the second competitor in history to win the decathlon at two Olympic Games, winning gold medals in 1980 and 1984. He was awarded the MBE in 1982, OBE in 2000 and BBC Sports Personality of 1982.

**1985**

**Broadwater Farm riots**  
Rioters broke out in the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, triggered by the death of Cynthia Jarrett. She collapsed after four policemen burst into her home on a raid. PC Blakelock was murdered during the riot.

**1987**

**UK's first black MPs**  
Bernie Grant and Diane Abbott won seats for Labour in the 87 General Election. Grant made his mark by wearing a traditional Ghanaian robe. Diane Abbott was active in many political areas. She's still MP for Hackney North & State Newington.

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**1987**

**Paul Gilroy**  
Paul Gilroy released his book 'There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack'. The book looks at racial politics in England. Gilroy accuses British intellectuals and politicians on both sides of the political divide of refusing to take race seriously.

**1988**

**Naomi Campbell**  
At age 18 Naomi Campbell became the first black female to grace the cover of French Vogue. It helped catapult her to supermodel status.

**1989**

**First director of education**  
Gos. John becomes Britain's first black director of education of a local authority - London Borough of Hackney.

**1990**

**Benji wins WBO Middleweight**  
Nigel Benn beats American Doug DeWitt in Atlantic City. Benn is the first Briton to win the title since Alan Minter in 1980 but he loses it later this year to Chris Eubank.

**1991**

**Bill Morris is elected**  
Bill Morris is elected the first black leader of a British trade union. Morris takes up the post the night after 100m gold medal at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

**1992**

**Lindford Christie Olympic gold**  
Lindford Christie (illustrated below) wins the 100m sprint after 100m gold medal at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

**1992**

**Baroness Valerie Amos**  
Valerie Amos became the first black leader of the House of Lords.

**2001**

**Mike Fuller Deputy Assistant Commissioner**  
Mike Fuller is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest rank in the Metropolitan Police. Fuller said: "The perception of the glass ceiling is finally being broken." He was then made the first black Chief Constable in 2004.

**2003**

**Rageh Omar**  
Rageh Omar Africa and Iraq war correspondent wins the prestigious ENMA for the Best TV news Journalist.

**2004**

**Linda Dobbs**  
Linda Dobbs becomes the first black OIC to be appointed as a judge for the British High Courts of justice.

**2004**

**Private Bahary**  
Johnson Bahary (born in Grenada) is awarded the Victoria Cross, the most prestigious award for a soldier, when his unit were ambushed twice. He risked injury to rescue others. He needed brain surgery for head injuries.

**2005**

**Olympic Gold's**  
Kelly became the nation's sweetheart when she won the 800m & 1500m at the Olympics in Athens. After the Olympics 40,000 people lined the streets of her home town of Tombridge for a parade. She was also made Dame Kelly.

**2005**

**Bronno wins WBC Heavyweight title**  
Frank Bruno won the WBC Heavyweight title. He defeats American Oliver McCull at Wembley. It's a welcome return to form after he'd lost to Lennox Lewis in '93 at Cardiff Arms Park that had been the first all-black World Heavyweight title fight.

**2008**

**Lewis Hamilton**  
Lewis Hamilton wins his first World Championship in 2008 before moving to Mercedes, where he won back-to-back titles in 2014 and 2015.

**2008**

**Doreen Lawrence**  
Doreen Lawrence British Jamaican campaigner and the mother of Stephen Lawrence, who was murdered in a racist attack in South East London in 1993, created a Life Peer in 2013. In January 2016, she was unveiled as the new Chancellor of the Marlborough University.

**2013**

**Record of BAME MP's**  
The general election of 2017 saw the "Famous Four" of BAME MP's, Diane Abbott, Bonnie Gault, Keith Vaz and Paul Boateng elected into Parliament. Paul Boateng set a new record of 52 BAME MP's years and the 2017 General Election results has seen a new record of 52 BAME MP's elected. **DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!**

**2017**

**Zadie Smith's White Teeth**  
Zadie's first novel, White Teeth - a story of multicultural London, told through three ethnic families is published to much acclaim. It wins five awards including the Commonwealth Writers Prize for first novel.

**2020**

**Lawrence Report**  
After a long campaign by Doreen & Verle Lawrence, a report by Sir William Macpherson is published. It looks at the police handling of Stephen's murder and contains racist attitudes within the Metropolitan Police force.

**2020**

**Justin Fashanu dies**  
Footballer Justin Fashanu dies. The elder brother of John, he was one of the first British sportsmen to openly gay. In the '80s he was the first black player transferred for a career fall apart.

**2020**

**Stephen Lawrence**  
A-level student Stephen Lawrence is murdered by a group of white men while waiting for a bus in Edinham, South-East London. Failure to capture his killers provoked his parents to begin a campaign to shame the authorities. Norone has been convicted.

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