



BEECHEN CLIFF

25th March 2021

Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

You will note that the end of term assembly will be later than usual and details can be found below. I hope that this will not impact on plans for families, although I suspect that there is not a good deal to plan for at this point...

I would draw your attention to the offer being made by Mrs Ingram and Mrs Gretton as part of our package of support to parents in working with their children. The training on offer has been incredibly well received and in light of the recent tragedy involving a youngster in the city it is clear that we must work in every way that we can to help develop communication with our children and to make sure they feel able to talk about how they feel.

I would wish you to take some time to look at the section on punctuality in the newsletter. Getting back into a routine which includes being punctual in the morning and for every lesson is exceptionally important and I would ask that you support us in impressing this upon your son and daughter if the need arises.

Mr A Davies
Headmaster

End of Term Arrangements

The arrangements this year will be slightly different

On Thursday 1st April the school day will operate as normal and conclude with an assembly in the afternoon. There will then be a staggered departure from school with pupils dismissed **from 3pm**

Mr T D Markall
Deputy Head (curriculum)

Calendar

Wednesday 31st March

Year 12 Gold training walk (on-site) - 1pm

Thursday 1st April

End of Easter Term 4 – pupils dismissed from 3pm

Monday 19th April

Start of Spring Term 5

Thursday 22nd April 2021

Year 9 - Meningitis and DPT vaccinations

Monday 3rd May

Bank Holiday

Friday 28th May

End of Spring Term 5

Monday 7th June

Start of Summer Term 6

Tuesday 15th June

Year 8 - HPV vaccinations

Year 9 Vaccinations

The Year 9 vaccinations Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio (DTP) and Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) are taking place at school on Thursday 22nd April but not all consents have been received as yet.

To consent for your child to have this vaccination please follow the link below, please read the consent form carefully. This link also contains a frequently asked questions element, please take time to read this and also discuss the vaccinations with your child to ensure fully informed consent.

If you have any problems or queries or do not have access to the internet please do not hesitate to contact us on: 0300 247 0082.

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/dtp/2020/banes>

Thank you
Immunisation Team.

Attendance and Punctuality

Students are expected to attend school every day that the school is open unless they are unable to do so due to illness or unavoidable cause. Good attendance is recognised through positive comments from teachers, support staff, tutors and is recognised at the end of each term.

Attending school regularly and being punctual is of the utmost importance at Beechen Cliff. Good attendance ensures that pupils take full advantage of all the educational, and extra-curricular opportunities that are on offer.

Attendance

Outstanding Attendance = Outstanding Results

Attendance during one school year	Equals – days absent	Which is approximately weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	340 lessons

Pupils need to attend regularly and on time. Persistent Absences undermines the educational process and will lead to educational disadvantage.

Parent/Carers must call the school before 8.25am to report a pupil absence. Absence during term time will not be authorised unless there are very exceptional circumstances and never at the following times:

- Year 9 Assessments;
- KS4 due to examination preparations;
- if the pupil should be taking external examinations including GCSE module examinations;
- if attendance is under 96%;
- if there would be more than 10 days absence in any academic year.

If absences are not authorised, and they are still taken, the matter will be referred to the Children Missing Education Service and a Penalty Notice may be issued. If unauthorised holiday is taken no further absences will be authorised without medical evidence.

Any medical appointments, where possible, should be made before and after school.

Punctuality

Punctuality is an important part of self-discipline and is essential to good time management and preparation for adult life. Being late will disturb other pupils' learning and could result in missing vital information. Being late means that your son is missing important information in assemblies and in the tutor time well being and theme of the week sessions.

Awards are given for excellent attendance at the end of each term and all pupils should be aiming to receive these. As parents, you can check on your son's attendance via Insight.

If students are late for any reason they must sign in before going to lesson. Persistent lateness will result in detentions and parental meetings.

5 minutes late every day = 3 days lost each year.

15 minutes late every day = 2 weeks lost a year.

Term 5 post Easter - Punctuality

Now that we are back into the routine of school life, punctuality to tutor time will be closely monitored on a weekly basis. The following system will apply:

2 lates in a week = 1 hour detention, parent informed.

Persistent pattern of lateness = parental meeting with pupil targets for punctuality.

We acknowledge that some of our pupils travel from beyond Bath - please ensure that an appropriate means of transport is taken in order to arrive for tutor time at 8.25am.

If parents have any concerns about attendance or lateness please do not hesitate to contact the Attendance Officer, Chloe Robinson or your son's Tutor. We are here to help!

Mr K. Mann

Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)

Forgotten Kit/Equipment

Please note that if your son has forgotten any kit or equipment that it cannot be dropped off as parents/visitors are currently not allowed on site and we continue to operate within bubbles and locked offices.

Mr K Mann

Assistant Headmaster

Parental WhatsApp groups

For several years there have been parents and carers of pupils in different year groups who have found it extremely useful to set up a WhatsApp group to enable them to keep on top of information, arrange lifts and so forth. There are several staff here who are part of such groups and really value the contact with other parents and carers. Following recent events this week, we were contacted by parents who wished to express their distress at some of the content posted on some of these WhatsApp groups. We would like to reassure you that, in any given circumstance, we always pass on as much information to pupils, students and parents as we feel is appropriate and relevant. As such, we would encourage parents to avoid speculation on social media; with children at the centre of our thoughts, our concern is misinterpretation of speculative messages which then subjects children to undue upset or worry if passed on by another parent. Thank you for your partnership in this matter.

Protocol for informing parents of COVID-19 Close Contact Isolation

Over the past two weeks, we have been required to identify and request close contact isolation for several pupils. It is the responsibility of the school to send home pupils who are on site and identified as a close contact as safely and quickly as possible.

The school will contact parents of pupils directly, using the contact numbers you have provided to inform you of any situation in which your child may need to be sent home. We would ask parents not to call the main school office if you have heard from your child that there have been pupils removed from class to isolate. Only children who have been identified as close contacts will be identified by designated school staff. Parents/carers of those children are our priority in the first 90 minutes. We will call to confirm the situation and to ask parents whether they will be collecting their child or whether they can be allowed to walk home. In these situations the guidance states that public transport must not be used.

If you receive a call from your child and they are in a group that has been removed from class, **please await our call**. We will be in the process of making contact with you.

All parents of pupils who have not been identified as a close contact will receive a letter confirming that this is the case but notifying that there has been a positive case in the school setting. If you have any concerns in these situations please email headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Mr J Oldham

Head of Sixth Form and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- ♦ they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- ♦ they are employed or self-employed
- ♦ they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- ♦ they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

That their child or young person:

- ♦ is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- ♦ has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Year 11/U6th Assessments

Now that these are underway we will continue to support our pupils and students through the process and wish them every success.

The assessment timeline and other information are on our website and further information will be added as soon as it is available

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/teacher-assessed-grades-2021/>

Mr T D Markall
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

PSHE update

Year 7 have one PSHE lesson per week. In their lessons for the next few weeks they will be continuing their work on healthy lifestyles, which was started in lock down. These lessons include work on healthy diet, exercise and leisure time.

Years 8, 9 and 10 have one PSHE lesson per fortnight. Year 8 will have two lessons on respect, equality and gender; Year 9 will have one lesson on alcohol and one lesson on drugs, and Year 10 will have two lessons on drugs (continuing on from the lessons they did on alcohol before lock down).

Year 7-10 students continued their PSHE lessons during lock down, including lessons on mental health and wellbeing, careers, British values, healthy lifestyles and a Solution Focused reflection.

Miss P Netto

PSHE

Clubs and Activities

The update clubs and activities list now available on the school website, under extracurricular activities or click on the link below.

[Clubs and Activities](#)

Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays for schools and colleges

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term.

- ♦ test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- ♦ report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- ♦ continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- ♦ test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

Families and households can also access [home test kits](#) for adults.

Year 7 Reading Book

Year 7 pupils are expected to have a reading book with them at all times. Pupils must have their current reading book in their bags for every lesson. This book can be one from home or a book loaned from our fantastic library.

Part of our push for a 'Love of Reading' at Beechen Cliff is embedded in the need for all our boys to read for pleasure as often as they can. With this in mind, we are now adopting the 'Book in bag' approach in order to raise literacy across the school.'

Thank you for your support.

Mr Newell

English teacher and Literacy Coordinator

Menu for week commencing 29th March

Monday: Braised Beef with a mushroom gravy, Leek and smoked Cheddar Tart

Tuesday: Creamy Tarragon Chicken, Bruschetta

Wednesday: Minted Lamb and Vegetable casserole, Spinach Pea and Parmesan Risotto

Thursday: To be confirmed

Mr D Keal
Chef

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Many young people will experience situations which they find difficult and sometimes they will need some help to see that there is a way to get past this. In our solution-focused training, we are encouraged to invite our young people to notice that no problem exists all of the time. Whilst it is important to listen and give validation that young people do have problems that can, at times, seem insurmountable, when we invite them to notice times (rare as these may seem) when the problem is not presenting, young people are more able to notice the times when things are better. We can help them notice times where they use their own strengths and resources to overcome things; by noticing 'What works' the young person is more likely to try to repeat their own coping strategies and to develop a personal toolkit to help them overcome their problems.

At Beechen Cliff School, we are delighted that we are able to offer our parents/carers the opportunity to receive training on how to have Solution-Focused conversations with their children. This complements the training on SF techniques that staff have received and use with your children in school on a daily basis.

Mrs S Ingram

Sixth Form Pastoral Manager

Second Hand Uniform
will be on sale at

Mercy in Action
Charity shop

21 Wellsway Bath BA2 4RR

from

Monday 12th April 2021

All Covid restrictions will apply.
Please wear your masks.

There will be a selection of
uniform sizes and stocks will be
replenished regularly

Payments to be made
By card preferably!

An invitation to our THIRD Coffee Morning to learn about having Solution Focused conversation with your children

If you would like to join Tara Gretton and Susie Ingram (Sixth Form Pastoral Manager and Accredited Solution Focused Practitioner) to learn more about having SF conversations, then we warmly invite you to join our third FREE online Coffee Morning webinar on **Saturday 24th April 2021 at 10am.**

Exclusively for Beechen Cliff parents, this school funded event has always been very well attended, but please do join us even if you have not been to one before.

Please book your free ticket using the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beechen-cliff-school-parent-coffee-morning-time-to-talk-tickets-145042609349>

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

Theme of the Week

In the light of recent events, students discussed the importance of personal safety in tutor time this week, and shared ideas about how to keep themselves and others safe.

They firstly discussed their journeys to and from school, and thought about what their plan B route would be if they could not get home in the usual way

What can we do to keep ourselves safe? A few ideas...

1. Travel with someone
2. Tell someone when you leave and when you arrive
3. Make sure you know your address and your phone number by heart
4. Fully charge your phone before leaving the house
5. Set your phone with an emergency contact
6. Make sure you have all your contact numbers saved
7. Cross the road in a sensible place
8. Never to accept a lift from someone you do not know
9. If approached by someone who makes you feel uncomfortable, have a 'stock phrase' e.g. 'no thank you' and keep walking



If you feel unsafe or uncomfortable at any time, call a parent or other trusted adult, or the Police if you feel in danger

Can you think of any others?

Students discussed how mobile phones can be used to make SOS calls, with advice from National Online Safety (this information was shared last week).

Students reflected on their own experiences: have you ever felt uncomfortable when travelling to or from school? What about when you were out in the community? What are *your* lived experiences?



Then students discussed the importance of listening to others' lived experiences - what can we learn from others' lived experiences?

What can we do to keep others safe and feeling comfortable?

Ask them what would make them feel safe e.g. offer to travel with them or ask them to tell you when they leave and when they arrive

As part of the Pledge of Respect, "showing an understanding of the feelings, wishes and rights of others through words and actions..."

- ...Be respectful e.g. smile and nod, don't stare, make space
- ...If you see someone being made to feel unsafe or uncomfortable, call it out (either yourself or tell a trusted adult).

Miss P Netto

PSHE

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCES

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

sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk



Teaching and Learning - Pupils/Students who are required to self-isolate

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If your child is required to self-isolate, they should adopt the same routines as they did during the most recent lockdown period. This includes:

- Joining a live Google Meet session with their tutor from 08:25-08:45am (years 7-11). They should join this session using the Google Meet link at the top of their tutor Google classroom.
- Following their normal school time table, and logging on to each Google Classroom at the start of their lessons. Some lessons will involve working through lesson material independently, whilst for other lessons pupils/students will be invited to join the live lesson going on in school using the Google Meet link at the top of the Google Classroom. Therefore it's really important that the pupils/students log on at the start of each lesson.
- Trying their best to complete work independently, but using the comment function on Google Classroom to ask their teachers for help if needed

One key difference to the lockdown period is that, unless otherwise stated by their class teachers, pupils/students should complete all work into their exercise books and/or folders. Pupils/students should also keep hydrated throughout the day, take regular breaks from their computer screens and take some daily exercise.

A reminder that pupil/student timetables can be viewed on INSIGHT. The current school day timings are:

Year 7, 10 and 6th Form:

Tutor Time	8:25 - 8:45am
Period 1	8:45 - 9:45am
Break	9:45 - 10:10am
Period 2	10:10 - 11:10am
Period 3	11:15am - 12:15pm
Lunch	12:20 - 1:05pm
Period 4	1:05 - 2:05pm
Period 5	2:10 - 3:10pm
Dismissal from Period 5	3:15pm (Year 10) / 3:25pm (Year 7)

Year 8, 9 and 11:

Tutor Time	8:25 - 8:45am
Period 1	8:45 - 9:45am
Period 2	9:50 - 10:50am
Break	10:50 - 11:10am
Period 3	11:15am - 12:15pm
Period 4	12:20 - 1:20pm
Lunch	1:20 - 2:05pm
Period 5	2:10 - 3:10pm
Tutor Time	3:15pm (Year 11) / 3:20pm (Year 8 and 9)

Ms S Sullivan

Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning

