



BEECHEN CLIFF

4th March 2021

Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

At last we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel!

We should congratulate our boys and students on what they have achieved in the lockdown period and now look forward to what we can all do to make the return to school as positive and enriching as possible.

Hopefully the return to school will give our pupils the chance to meet up with friends and enjoy the social interactions which are so important for children, as well as reacquaint themselves with classroom equilibrium and the opportunities that will again be presented in those group settings where interactions are rather easier than when they are in a remote home.

I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone back together and I ask you in advance for your support and for reading carefully the information sent out last week. Hopefully it will be a chance to look forward with optimism to the summer ahead.

Mr A Davies
Headmaster

Calendar

Thursday 4th March

World Book Day

Wednesday 10th March

Year 8 Parents' Evening (virtual)

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

Year 9 - HPV vaccinations

Thursday 1st April

End of Easter Term 4

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

Arrangements for GCSE and A Level Assessments

Following the publication from Ofqual last week on how GCSE and A Level grades will be determined we have reviewed the guidance both internally and within the Trust.

I have written to all Year 11 and Upper Sixth students and their parents/carers to outline the process for the weeks ahead.

I hope the outline will provide some certainty about the assessments to come in the weeks ahead and additional details will be provided in due course.

The letter is available here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19YGPjUyjTdhuVQStkwaJiQj3MOY81OvM/view?usp=sharing>

Mr T D Markall
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

End of Laptop Loan Agreements.

Laptop Loan Agreements have now come to an end as pupils are returning to school from March 8th onwards. If you have been provided with a laptop in the past few months, this will have to be returned to the Learning Support Office on the day your child returns. We want to take this opportunity to thank all parents and pupils for their support with this. We will clear and clean the laptops and ensure they are available again should any students need to self-isolate.

Anxious about coming back to school?

If your child is eligible for the Pupil Premium or on the SEND register and is experiencing any anxiety regarding their return to school next week, please do contact us as we are making arrangements to support vulnerable learners prior to their first week back where needed.

rbarros@beechencliff.org.uk /
jwall@beechencliff.org.uk

Mr R Cabarcas-Barros and Mr J Wall

Menu Week Commencing 8th March

Monday: Beef stroganoff, Roasted Pepper and Mozzarella Quesadilla

Tuesday: Hoisin Duck Wrap, Spicy Chickpea Burger

Wednesday: Chicken Curry, Sweet Potato and Spinach Curry

Thursday: Pork Sausage and Mixed Bean Casserole, Veggie Chilli

Friday: Breaded Cod, Potato Cheddar and Leek Filo Parcel

Mr D Keal
Chef

School Nurse Routine Vaccination Programme

Please see below the confirmed dates on which the School Nurse team will be on site to provide vaccinations to pupils.

23rd March 2021 - Year 9 - HPV vaccinations

22nd April 2021 - Year 9 - Meningitis ACWY and DPT vaccinations

15th June 2021 - Year 8 - HPV vaccinations

All Covid mitigations will be followed as per the guidelines in place at the time.

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCES

Please note that all absence from online learning should be reported in the same manner to the attendance offices because we do record the pupils levels of engagement!

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

'POP UP SALE'
Second Hand Uniform

at

**Beechen Cliff School
Club House**

on

Saturday 6th M

FULLY BOOKED

and restrictions will apply.
Please wear your masks.

**Payments to be made
By card preferably!**

Bring up your uniform donations....

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

Pledge of Respect and Race Equality Film

With pupils and students returning to school next week, we are proud to unveil our Pledge of Respect display, which can be seen next to the Headmaster's Study. The frames you can see in the picture below include photos of members across the school community showing their commitment to the Pledge, ranging from pupils to a Nobel Prize winning alumnus, and from the PTA to Avon & Somerset Police.

As a reminder to parents, the Pledge of Respect is encapsulated in the statement below:

“At Beechen Cliff we define respect as ‘showing an understanding of the feelings, wishes and rights of others through words and actions’ and we:

- ASPIRE to be a community where everyone is free to be themselves;
- BALANCE the rights and needs of every member of our school community;
- Treat all people with COMPASSION; and
- Support and protect people’s right to be INDEPENDENT in their thoughts and expression.

We believe in the importance of promoting equality, preventing discrimination and bullying, and fulfilling our duties under the Equalities Act 2010. We thank all our parents, partners and friends of the school for sharing this commitment.”

We are also pleased to inform you that Beechen Cliff students feature in a video released on Wednesday 3rd March by Boys in Mind (Girls Mind Too) about Race Equality. The film was made by young people and showcases the projects they have been working on to tackle Race discrimination and make their schools more inclusive for everyone. The film was launched at an event hosted by Councillor Dine Romero, Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council, and was led by some of the young people who helped to run the project or who took part in the film. You can watch the film here:

<https://boysinmind.co.uk/race-equality-in-schools/>

Mr J Oldham

Deputy Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Beechen Cliff Hot Topic 17—Eating Disorders

Recent statistics show that eating disorders have increased significantly during lockdown. Please see attached to this bulletin one of Beechen Cliff's weekly safeguarding Hot Topics which are circulated to staff. The Safeguarding Team felt that this would be a useful resource for parents to read. If you need any support or advice about eating disorders, the website <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/> is very helpful. You can also speak to your GP or ask advice from a member of the pastoral or safeguarding teams in school.

Mr J Oldham

Deputy Head & Designated & Safeguarding Lead.

Theme of the Week

In tutor time this week pupils have been talking about reading to celebrate World Book Day on 4th March.

“World Book Day is about **creating readers for the future, by igniting a love of books and reading in children and young people.** It’s about encouraging them to visit their local bookshop and empowering them to make their own choices about the kinds of books they want to read”. *World Book Day Director, Kirsten Grant*



Students in the UK spend 5.18 hours per week reading, in comparison to 10.42 in India, 8.00 in China and 7.36 in the Philippines. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child’s future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents’ educational background or their income. We want to see more children with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them; reading and sharing stories for just 10 minutes a day can make a difference. Designated by UNESCO in 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, World Book Day is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

Pupils took this quiz in tutor time on Tuesday - can you guess the book from its opening line? Answers at the bottom.

- 1."The sun did not shine, it was too wet to play, so we sat in the house all that cold, cold wet day. I sat there with Sally. We sat here we two and we said 'How we wish we had something to do.'"
- 2."Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice 'without pictures or conversation?'"
- 3."All children, except one, grow up."
- 4."The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home."
- 5."Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmond, and Lucy."
- 6."These two very old people are the father and mother of Mr. Bucket."

- 7."One sunny Sunday, the caterpillar was hatched out of a tiny egg. He was very hungry."
- 8."Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much."
- 9."A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood. A fox saw the mouse and the mouse looked good. "Where are you going to, little brown mouse? Come and have lunch in my underground house.'"
- 10."My name is _____. I am 10 years 2 months old. My birthday is on May 8. It's not fair, because that dopey Peter Ingham has his birthday then too, so we just got the one cake between us. And we had to hold the knife to cut the cake together. Which meant we only had half a wish each. Wishing is for babies anyway. Wishes don't come true."

This week students have been talking to their tutors about their favourite books, and teachers will be reading sections of their chosen books in lessons on Thursday - some of them may even be dressed as their favourite book characters! There is a wide range of books available in the school library, and you can check out some recommended books here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/>

Answers

1. The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
2. Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
3. Peter Pan by JM Barrie
4. The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
5. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis
6. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
7. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
8. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by JK Rowling
9. The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
10. Tracy Beaker by Jacqueline Wilson

Miss P Netto

PSHE

Mental Health and Wellbeing



Self Care

As we complete our preparations to welcome all pupils and students back to school, we wanted to say a big thank you to all of our parents and carers. Over the past year, and throughout each challenging lockdown, we have invited you to focus on your interactions with your children, using the solution-focused approach shared by Tara Gretton (our in-school SF Practitioner and trainer). We have been truly inspired by the commitment and engagement you have made with what we have shared with you.

Due to the popularity of our first two Parent/Carer Solution-Focused Coffee mornings, we are delighted to be setting another date for our next one, which we will share with you next week. You do not have to have attended the previous sessions to be able to join us next time.

As parents and carers, we are acutely aware of how hard it has been to juggle jobs and home schooling for so many months of the past year. With this in mind, this week we would like to invite you to consider your own self care. We invite you all to notice what you are doing to support yourselves, no matter how small and how you hope to support yourselves more and in the future.

Solution Focused Guided Breathwork - with 'Breathing Solutions'

As part of our hope that you will take some time for your own self care, we would like to invite you to join a guided breathing session. This session is hosted by our ex-Beechen Cliff student Will Reid, guided by the talented Breathworker Jacqui Storm and supported with a Solution Focused conversation guided by our Solution Focused Practitioner, Tara Gretton.

We hope that you will take this opportunity for you to focus on yourselves for 1 hour in your busy week, in the privacy of your own home.

'Breathing Solutions' offer a monthly Solution Focused Breathwork session on the first Thursday of every month. We will publicise the April date, with booking invite, later this month, but below is a recording of a YouTube session that you can use when you have an hour to relax. Please note, these Breathwork sessions are free and we are extremely grateful to 'Breathing Solutions' for offering these so that everyone can experience the power of breathwork.

[Breathing Solutions - February 2021 Recorded Session](#)

We would like to invite all parents, carers, staff, students and pupils to take some time for themselves with self-care this month; and moving forward.

On behalf of all staff, the Mental Health Team would like to congratulate all pupils, students, parents on 'surviving' the most recent lockdown. We acknowledge that the last nine weeks have been tough for many, particularly those most directly affected by the pandemic, and we extend our thoughts to those who have lost loved ones.

Equally, we would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the resilience, commitment and compassion demonstrated by all in our school community during this - for our children - unprecedented set of challenging circumstances. Whilst in some quarters, children are being considered as 'damaged' or 'behind' as a result of Covid, we feel this is neither helpful, nor entirely true; over recent weeks, we have been deeply impressed by the way in which so many have adapted and developed, and even in some cases embraced lockdown. We have engaged in dialogue with them around their wellbeing beyond even that which we did before the pandemic; we have heard of coping strategies they have employed which will serve them for the rest of their lives; and we have been inspired by young people bringing about positive change in their own lives, in spite of difficulties that have challenged us as adults.

All of this, of course, is rooted in our whole-hearted belief in a Solution Focused approach, which considers us as experts in our own lives, agents of our change and full of our own strengths. Solution Focused is also a hopeful approach which aligns with our optimism as a school for young people's futures. We look forward enormously to seeing them in person again next week to continuing playing our part in realising their aspirations and helping them become well-rounded individuals who thrive throughout their lives.

Our focus in tutor time and PSHE over the next fortnight will naturally be coping with the return to school and continuing our discussions about the best possible wellbeing in, and now out, of lockdown. Should your son or daughter require any specific help with transition back to school, please do not hesitate to contact their tutor, Head of House, SENDCo or Head of Sixth Form.

The Mental Health Team

Beechen Cliff Three Peaks Challenge



FRIDAY JULY 2ND TO
MONDAY 5TH JULY 2021



The Three Peaks Challenge is just one of the many endurance challenges offered to students at Beechen Cliff. It involves the ascent of the three highest mountains in Scotland, Wales and England, without undue stopping for rest or sustenance. It takes place over a three and a half day period which includes one-day travel to our Youth Hostel in Glasgow, travelling early in the morning to the first mountain, an overnight stay after our last mountain and finally half a day's travel to home. In all, there are over 1200 miles of driving, over 3000 metres of ascent, and the distance walked will exceed an Olympic marathon.

Whilst it is a challenge that will test the 'mettle' of all participants, it is a group activity and teamwork is vital if the challenge is to be completed in the true spirit of adventure. We adhere to a 'no person left behind' policy and it is the expectation that all participants will climb all three mountains no matter how long that takes. Beechen Cliff remains one of the few schools in the United Kingdom to undertake such an arduous challenge. This challenge is as always an awesome and unforgettable adventure. So what do you need to do to take part?

If you are interested, please make an application as soon as you can by completing the essential Medical Form available from both **Mr Stewart** (in the Science Faculty) or **Mr Brewer** (in the Humanities Faculty), who will apply for a place. There are only 28 places available. Those successful students will be advised to secure their place by paying their £85 deposit after 19th April dependant on guidance from the Government.

The £280 balance will then be due from 21st June 2021, as we are required to pay for all accommodation in full before the event (in alignment with Step 4, the government Road Map). We will of course comply with any COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Should the challenge not be able to be undertaken due to COVID restrictions then please be advised that deposits will be returned in full. .

Mr D Brewer and Mr R Stewart

Three Peaks Challenge Organisers 2021

MASKS

With regards to face coverings: when to wear one etc please see link below to the relevant pages of the Government's own covid policy website,

[Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-exemptions-and-how-to-make-your-own)