



BEECHEN CLIFF

1st April 2021

## Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

We approach the Easter break without the usual flurry of reports related to the different events of the Winter Term or the sports reports which would normally dominate our parental communications at this time.

Everyone is looking forward now to the changes which will be heralded by the gradual lifting of restrictions and I for one am ecstatic that there will be an opportunity for a haircut during the holiday. Looking at some of the boys I imagine that they will be equally grateful for the opportunity as well... I must congratulate the heroic efforts of some parents in taking on the barber role, however. We have very much enjoyed seeing the fruits of your labour.

The overriding and powerful message of Easter resonates with greater strength this year than in any other recent period. The fact is that many families have suffered loss over the last year; not only of loved ones but also of jobs, freedoms and the joy of normal human interaction. Resilience has been built but the message of hope for the future is one which needs to be recognised and it is that which will be conveyed to the school community in our final assembly. Our hope is that we have been able to act as a point of stability for our children. We have been heartened by the enthusiasm of the pupils and students on return to school and I have found it energising to get back to the routine of lunch queue quizzes and being able to engage in the day to day conversations with youngsters that help to build an understanding of our community. As parents you have played a pivotal role in making sure that your children have maintained that positive energy and we hope that the Summer Term will give us a chance to harness some of it in the extra-curricular offer which you will have seen is expanding with each week that passes.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that a new Head has been appointed to take on the role from September 2021. Mr Markall, known to most of you already, will take on the leadership of a school for which he has a huge level of passion and proven commitment. He is an outstanding individual and I know you will all give him your support in the years to come. He will be writing to you after Easter to tell you a little more about his plans and aspirations for the Beechen Cliff community.

## Calendar

**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

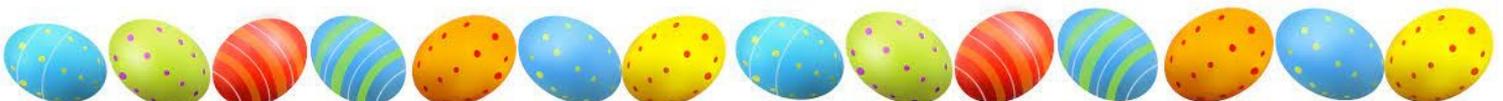
## Bath Hub

Over the last two terms we have worked with Hayesfield and St Marks on joint projects to support remote learning and preparation for Year 11 English and Maths assessments. Hayesfield are joining the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership today and we are looking forward to working more in collaboration in the future across the Bath Hub to provide the best possible opportunities and outcomes for our students and for students across all three schools.

Mr T Markall  
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

I imagine that the final newsletter in the summer will be packed with the events of an enriched term but, at this time, it is best to sign off and wish you and your families a very positive break.

Mr A Davies  
Headmaster



## 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)

### 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](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)

## Uniform Expectations

Following the Easter holiday, pupils will be expected to be in full school uniform including black shoes and school blazer. Scholars is open to the public should you require any items of school uniform. Shoes remain available to buy online or in the shops from April 12th. Please note that trainers will not be allowed and pupils will be given a pair of black daps to wear for the day should they arrive to school in trainers.

The arrangements for PE and Games will continue in terms of uniform as below:

Years 7-9 can wear school PE and Games kit on the days that they have those lessons.

Year 10 and 11 - Can wear school Games kit on days they have Games (no hoodies) and must wear full uniform for days that they have PE as they will be able to use the changing rooms to change into their PE kit.

Please support us by ensuring that your son has the correct uniform and leaves home in the morning dressed as per our expectation.

Mr K. Mann

Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)

## Clarks Stores are Opening again soon! Skip the Queue and Book an In-store Appointment.

With lockdown rules changing, Clarks will be opening our doors again on the 12th April 2021.

We are expecting this to be a busy time, particularly for our kids department, and wanted to share with parents/carers our in store fitting appointment service. This has actually been offered for some years now and is well used, receiving great feedback from consumers.

In order to prevent families from waiting unnecessarily, we are keen to inform as many parents/carers as possible on how they can use this service. With that in mind, we attach our 'Skip the Queue' poster (full size version attached to this newsletter)

'Quiet time' appointments are also available for children who would benefit from this. During these times we ensure that the store is quiet, not too bright and free from crowds.

We understand this item email may seem a little odd, but we are working in odd times and doing our best to help get our children into shoes that fit in a safe and enjoyable fashion.

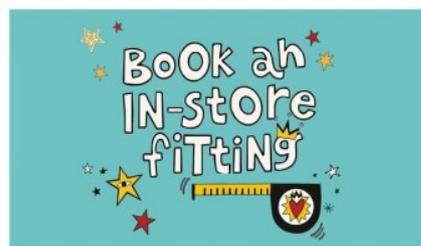
Lauren  
Sales and Service manager at Clarks Bath  
01225 462632.



### WHY NOT BOOK A SLOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERT FITTING ADVICE?



From their very first crawling shoes to robust and stylish school shoes or shoes for those big weekend adventures, our kids in-store fitting experts will help you find the perfect fit for their growing feet. Plus, we have a personal shopping and fitting service for adults, too. With hundreds of Clarks stores to choose from, skip the queues and book a 15-minute measure and fit appointment at a time that suits you.



Clarks combine almost 200 years of expert shoemaking with everything they know about caring for growing feet to provide unbeatable all-day comfort. Their shoes pass up to 60 tough tests, from flexing leather 500,000 times to pulling laces to destruction. The result? The best shoes ever, keeping little feet happy all day long.

To book your in-store fitting appointment visit [www.clarks.co.uk](http://www.clarks.co.uk) or contact your local store

### IN-STORE FITTING

Avoid the queues and book your in-store measure and fit appointment online now at [www.clarks.co.uk](http://www.clarks.co.uk)

Choose Clarks Bath and a time slot that suits you. Plus, take along your child's most recent pair of Clarks shoes, and they'll check if they're still a good fit.

### QUIET IN STORE FITTING?

Shoe shopping can be overwhelming for some children. If you think a shopping experience without crowds, noise and bright lights would be better, then book a Quiet Time appointment.

To do this, contact Clarks Bath on 01225 462632

Or call the Customer Care team on 01458 899053

Opening hours, Monday to Saturday 9.30am-5.30pm, Sunday 10.30am-5.00pm

Clarks



## Theme of the Week

For Theme of the Week this week students have been discussing Autism Awareness Week (29th March - 4th April).



### What is autism?

- Autism or ASC/ASD (Autism Spectrum Condition/ Disorder) is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation.
- ASD can affect people in different ways and to varying degrees (A spectrum).
- There is no known cause for autism, and around 1 in 100 people have the condition - that's around 700,000 people in the UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-CRo&t=21s> - Alexander's film gives an uplifting introduction to autism for young non-autistic audiences, aiming to raise awareness, understanding and tolerance in future generations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk4qs8jGN4U> - 16% of autistic people and their families think the public understand autism in a meaningful way. The National Autistic Society want to change this and create a society that works for autistic people. This is one of their films, 'What is autism?', narrated by ambassador, Alan Gardner.

### What is it like having autism?

- ⇒ Every person with autism is different and completely unique, just like people who don't have autism
- ⇒ Some people with autism struggle to socialise, whereas others have many friends
- ⇒ Some people with autism are sensitive to the senses and can have sensory overloads. The video below shows what it could be like for someone with autism doing a basic thing like go to the shops.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1pONE9SmDY> - Autistic Hollyoaks star, Talia Grant, introduces this powerful film about Alex who is autistic and some of the challenges he faces on a daily basis.

## Stereotypes

"People with autism are stupid" ❌

Lots of people who have ASD are extremely intelligent. People like Sir Isaac Newton, Mozart and Charles Darwin were thought to be on the autism spectrum. Anne Hegerty from The Chase has autism and is currently the 44th best quizzer in the world!

"People with autism can't empathise" ❌

People with autism can sometimes struggle to show emotion and can sometimes struggle with social communication, however every human has the ability to empathise!

"Only boys have autism" ❌

More boys are diagnosed with autism than girls, this could be because more boys display the diagnosing criterias than girls. This does not mean that only boys have autism.

## Problems people with autism face

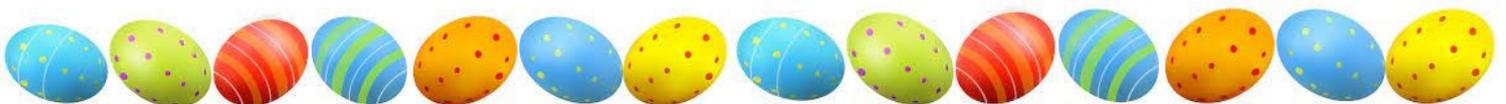
- ⇒ 80% of people with autism admit to have been the subject of bullying.
- ⇒ These people have been bullied for something they were born with and can't control
- ⇒ People with ASD struggle with social communication. This means that they struggle to make friends easily. 79% of Autistic people have admitted to feeling socially isolated and lonely.

## What can I do to support someone with autism?

- ⇒ Be Patient
- ⇒ Get to know them
- ⇒ Involve them
- ⇒ Empathise

**We are all different and unique. Let's celebrate diversity.**

*Thank you to Mr King for putting Theme of the Week together for us this week.*



## 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

## Year 11 Graduation

All students in Year 11 are given the opportunity to attend a graduation ceremony in the last week of next term. This is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 pupils to celebrate their time in the lower school and getting through the challenges of the past two years. Students will be invited to attend this graduation following the completion of their Graduation Reflection which has been set on their Google Classroom.

The Graduation Reflection is a reflective piece that encourages them to consider their values and experiences during their time at the school and should form the basis of their first personal statement. The deadline for this piece of work is Thursday 22nd April; your support with this reflective piece of work over the Easter break is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Mr O Abbott  
Head of Boarding  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Beechen Cliff Design and Technology Food Newsletter Easter Edition

Please take the time to read the Easter edition of our popular Food Newsletter created by Design and Technology.

In this Easter edition there are delicious recipes for you to try out.

You can view the newsletter by clicking on the newsletter image

Food Technology Team



## 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.

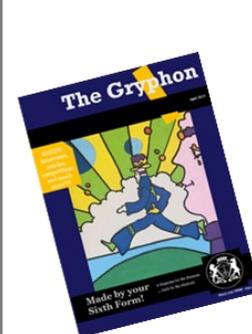
<https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/dtp/2020/banes>

Thank you  
Immunisation Team.

## Year 7,8,9 and 10 Progress Reports

Year 7,8,9 and 10 Progress Reports are now available for parents to view on INSIGHT.

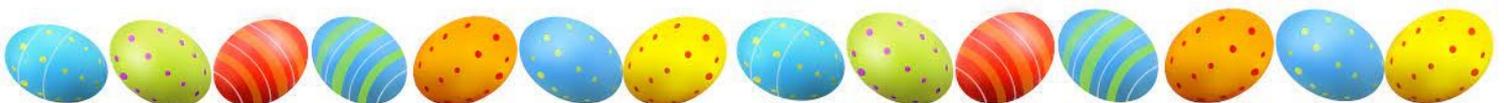
Mr A Seal  
Assistant Headmaster



## The Gryphon

Please follow this link to view Beechen Cliff's Sixth Form magazine 'The Gryphon'.

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/sixth-form/gryphon-magazine/>



## Mental Health and Wellbeing

### 'What's been better?'

As we head for the Easter holidays, this may seem like an unlikely question at this time. How can we ask 'What's better?' at such a difficult time. When so many people are struggling after the latest lockdown.

This is what we ask in every follow up Solution Focused conversation. We believe as SF practitioners that no problem happens all of the time, that people are not defined by their problems and that change is happening all of the time.

So much change has already happened in the past 4 weeks since we have been back at school. Students that told us they were struggling and worried about social interaction are already telling us that small change has happened and that being back at school is getting easier.

Perhaps if we had not asked, 'What's been better?' we might not have elicited this small useful change that will most likely lead to more change.

And we feel hopeful that the students that are coming forward now for support will see useful change also.

When we are worried about the people we care for we often want to ask 'why' to try and fix the issue. This is understandable. However this is not always useful. However when we invite people to notice how they have coped and managed (whilst also giving time to acknowledge how they feel), we invite people to have hope and to believe that they are not defined by their problems and their problems do not happen all of the time.

We would like to invite you and your families to consider the following SF questions -

- \* What difference does it make when you invite yourself to notice how you have coped and managed during the pandemic, no matter how small?
- \* What difference does it make to our interactions with our children and our families when we see them in their strengths and resources (how they have coped and managed, no matter how small)?

Tara Gretton

Solution Focused Trainer and Practitioner

Beechen Cliff's 3rd FREE Coffee Morning on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 10.00 – 11.30

If you would like to join Tara Gretton and Susie Ingram to learn more about having SF conversations with your children then we warmly invite you to join our third online Coffee Morning webinar. Exclusively for Beechen Cliff parents, this school funded event has always been very well. It is our hope to support you as much as possible during this Pandemic and beyond, and we hope to do this by sharing more of the Solution Focused Approach with you. This session will be looking at 'what's worked so far'; so an opportunity for you to share your own stories, and to ask questions to a solution focused practitioner panel.

Please book your free ticket using the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beecheen-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.

Best Wishes, The Mental Health Team

**Second Hand Uniform**  
will be on sale at

**Mercy in Action**  
**Charity shop**

21 Wellsway Bath BA2 4RR

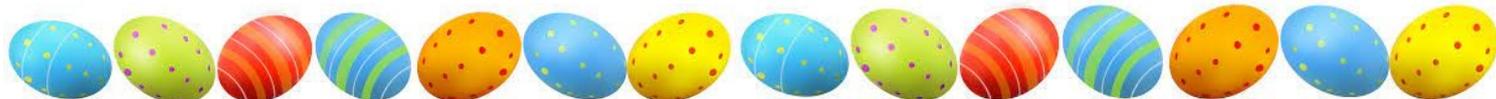
from

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 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!**





# BRING A FRIEND FOR FREE! BLOOMFIELD TENNIS CLUB

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For more information  
email: [info@tt-tennis.co.uk](mailto:info@tt-tennis.co.uk)