



BEECHEN CLIFF

29th April 2021

Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

I must commend the Upper Sixth and Year 11 pupils for their approach to the assessments that they are currently undertaking. It will be a challenge to keep working to the highest level in terms of their academic studies but I have been very impressed by their diligence and obvious resilience in meeting the challenges set. We can try and offset the constant 'pain' of assessment through the promise of the holiday which will follow - hopefully one which will give them some of the traditional opportunities for social interaction!

Equipment

Can I ask parents to check with their sons and to confirm that they are bring in all necessary equipment for learning. The full list is

- Glue, pens, pencil, ruler,
- green pen,
- Coloured pencils,
- sharpener, rubber,
- highlighter
- scientific calculator
- compass and protractor

Having all of these items each day given the boys the chance to enhance their work and to be able to work independently.

Thank you for your support in this.

Mr A Davies
Headmaster

Calendar

Monday 3rd May

Bank Holiday

Thursday 20th May

Year 10 Potterne Shooting (4pm-10pm)

Monday 24th May

Year 7 Exam week

Thursday 27th May

Year 11 Graduation 2pm - 4pm

Friday 28th May

End of Spring Term 5

Thursday 3rd June

Year 13 Potterne Shooting (4pm - 10pm)

Monday 7th June

Start of Summer Term 6

Year 8 Exam week

Monday 14th June

Year 9 Exam week

Tuesday 15th June

Year 8 - HPV vaccinations

Monday 21st June

Year 10 and L6th Exam week

Monday 28th June

INSET Day

Monday 19th July –Friday 23rd July

Activities Week–All pupils

Friday 23rd July

End of Term

INSET Day 28th June

Please note 28th June has been confirmed as our final INSET Day of this academic year. Pupils and students are not expected to attend school that day.

Mr T Markall
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

Summer Exams for Pupils in Years 7-10

As parents with boys in older year groups will know, we usually run a series of formal end of year exams for pupils in years 7-10 during the Spring and Summer terms. The aim of this process is to embed the good practice of reviewing over past work, to provide pupils with the opportunity to practice and hone their revision and time management skills and to best prepare pupils for the more 'high stakes', external exams that they will sit in year 11. The exams also provide a really important assessment point to allow for teacher assessment of pupil progress, which informs future planning and targeted intervention where needed. This is very important this year, owing to the disruption pupils have faced to their education.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer exams did not run in the usual way last year, so we appreciate that this will be a new process for our year 7 and 8 students alike. Pupils in all year groups will have an exams assembly during which the whole process will be explained and advice given about how to revise. I will be writing to parents of all of these year groups in due course to provide further detail about the exams and some resources to help you support your son's revision efforts at home.

The exams are taking place in the following weeks:

W/C 24th May - Year 7

W/C 7th June - Year 8

W/C 14th June - Year 9

W/C 21st June - Year 10

All pupils will be set specific revision tasks for homework in the two weeks leading up to their exams, and no homework will be set during their exams week, to allow for rest and continued revision.

Please look out for my letter over the coming weeks for more detailed information and guidance about the Summer Exams process.

Mrs S Sullivan,
Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning

Closure of Cleveland Bridge, Bath

Cleveland Bridge which takes traffic from London Road past Bath Fire Station on Bathwick Street will be closing next month for 3 months. It is likely that this will have a major impact on journey times for those people coming from the North and East of the City.

PSHE Update

This term pupils will be studying the following in their PSHE lessons:

Year 7 - smoking and healthy lifestyles (continued from last term); finance, budgeting and careers

Year 8 - finance, gambling and social media

Year 9 - finance, gambling and social media

Year 10 - mindfulness; finance

Year 11 will have PSHE sessions once their assessments have been completed.

Year 12 will have PSHE sessions delivered via their tutors. Topics include

Next Term Years 7-10 will have their Sex and Relationships curriculum delivered in PSHE lessons - further details will follow, but our policy and statement of provision can be found on the school website.

COVID 19 - Latest information

Our local Public Health team has provided the following information:

What to do if a positive test result is entered for a LFD by mistake – a change of procedure

Since last term the guidance has changed if someone enters their LFD test result online as positive by mistake. From now on if a lateral flow test result is negative but the pupil/student or staff member has entered the result as positive by mistake, NHS Test and Trace advise that the person takes a second lateral flow test straight away and enters the results for the second test on the NHS T&T system. As a result of having entered the first test as positive, the person will receive notification from NHS Test and Trace to isolate and have a follow-on PCR test. This advice though will be over-ridden by the second negative test **if taken on the same day**. You do not need to phone 119 as they will not be able to override the first test result.

INFORMATION REGARDING TESTING FOR EVERYONE

Please click the link below for information regarding access to Lateral Flow tests for all.

Pupils/students and staff can continue to collect test kits from the School.

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-everyone>

Young Carers

We wanted to draw your attention to the BANES Young Carers' Centre and the additional support, activities and breaks programme they can offer your son or daughter. In addition, Beechen Cliff would also like to launch an in school support group to include termly activities. The Carers' Centre give the following eligibility criteria for a young carer aged between 5-17 years of age:



A young person having caring responsibilities for a family member who has;

- A long term physical illness or disability
- Mental health issues, learning disabilities or additional needs
- Alcohol or substance issues

Caring responsibilities include:

- Helping with chores at home, maybe shopping, cleaning or other household tasks due to a parents illness or disability or because the illness or disability of another member of the household significantly reduces the parents ability to do day to day household tasks.
- Helping to support the person emotionally
- Helping the person physically, when out and about or at home
- Helping the person by overseeing daily tasks such as taking medicine
- Supporting other family members due to the person's health needs
- Being heavily emotionally affected by the needs of the cared-for

If you believe that your son or daughter would be considered as a young carer or if you have any questions about this you can contact the school via Mrs Hilary Rogers, Pastoral Administrator on hrogers@beechencliff.org.uk.

In addition, you will be able to make a referral to BANES Young Carers. You can either:

- a. Refer for support via the school. This is something we can do for you confidentially or
- b. Self-Refer using the secure web link on the BANES Carers' Centre website.

Pastoral Team

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

Year 11/U6th Assessments

I would like to congratulate our Year 11 and U6th students on their efforts towards their assessments so far and encourage them as the process continues this term. We will provide more information about the arrangements post assessment in due course. Please note the date for results days this year.

U6th: 10th August

Year 11: 12th August

Mr T.D. Markall

Deputy Head (Curriculum)

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

Covid Lateral Flow Testing - Reminder

Thank you for your continued support in participating in the lateral flow testing at home. It is important that we all continue to take these tests twice weekly, to ensure the continued success in reducing the number of Covid cases in our local area. It is important that testing continues even during times when there seem to be a very low number of active cases in our local area. Our pupils and students have been supplied with a new set of tests this week.

The link to report tests to the school is now on the front page of the school website and the link to report test results to the NHS Covid testing site is <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Please report the results for both your Sunday and Wednesday night tests as soon as possible.

Theme of the Week

Dear Parents,

Our focus for the Lower School assembly and Theme of the Week this week built on previous assemblies, tutor time discussions and wider work in the school on gender and transgender equality and respect. As a reminder for parents, our vision is that all Beechen Cliff pupils and students grow up as respectful individuals, which we define this as follows:

“Showing an understanding of the feelings, wishes and rights of others through words and actions.”

The assembly drew on the recent media attention on sexual harassment and sexual violence towards girls and women and ‘rape culture’ in schools. We referred back to assemblies earlier in the year by the Headmaster and myself hearing about ‘lived experiences’, that is, hearing the voices of those who experience hurtful and potentially criminal behaviour.

Given the nature of the topic under discussion in the assembly and tutor time, we differentiated the content for Years 7 and 8, and Year 9, 10 and 11. This tied in with the age below which consent for sexual activity can never be given legally, which is 13 years old. Terms such as those below were explored age-appropriately with pupils. The atmosphere in these sessions was excellent and mirrored similar mature discussions in PSHE lessons.

- **Sexual harassment** - any sexual behaviour without consent including sexual comments, physical behaviour, online sexual harassment and upskirting;
- **Sexual violence** - this is defined in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as rape, assault by penetration or sexual assault;
- **Sexting** - when a child sends or receives nude or semi-nude imagery.
- **Consent** - consent is if someone agrees to make the choice to sexual activity.

We would be very grateful if you would talk to your son about his learning from these sessions this week, including the following points

We encouraged all pupils to reflect upon how they:

- Show respect through words and actions;
- Discuss respectful relationships;
- ‘Call out’ disrespectful behaviour by others;
- Deal with inappropriate material seen online or sent to them;

- Tell an adult if something is not right;
- Understand consent (age-appropriate);
- Ask questions, and
- Reflect on how we can work together to create a more respectful and equal society

Attached to this newsletter you will find guidance on how to install parental controls to limit age inappropriate content on android and iPhones, which may be helpful.



Furthermore, as you will be aware, Beechen Cliff is a lead school for Boys in Mind (Girls Mind Too), and we have been involved with a number of video projects in the last couple of years. In a recent film, four young women and three young men (including current or ex Beechen students) discuss the sexism they have experienced and observed, the effect this has had and what men can do to support women. Again, it is a useful trigger for discussion. It is 8 minutes long and can be found here:

<https://boysinmind.co.uk/film-challenging-sexism/>

The following link may have some relevant information for you:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-sexual-abuse/>

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr J Oldham, Deputy Head

Miss P Netto, Head of PSHE

MENU w/c Tuesday 4th May

Tuesday: Chicken Goulash, Pea Asparagus spinach and parmesan risotto

Wednesday: Spiced Turkey with Chickpeas, Quorn Sausage and bean casserole

Thursday: Chicken Tikka wrap with minted yogurt, Smoked Cheddar and red onion quiche

Friday: Breaded Cod, Tomato red onion and mozzarella tart

Mr D Keal

Chef

Stationery/essential equipment

Please ensure that your son has the essentials ready for learning- pens, pencil, ruler, maths equipment, calculator. Pre-prepared pencil cases will shortly be available for purchase in the library with the cost deducted from your son's Parentpay account.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance rate remains high, currently at 96.6%. Please continue to work with us to inform us promptly of any absence so that it can be recorded appropriately. Punctuality is just as important and I urge you to ensure that your son leaves home at an appropriate time to arrive for 8.25am registration. We continue to monitor lates and are issuing detentions for 2 or more lates in a week. This will become even more important as work on Cleveland Bridge commences shortly and bus routes are re routed through the city centre. Please make appropriate travel plans to deal with these works. Thank you.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headteacher
Head of Pastoral Care

PTA 50:50 Club

The 50:50 Club is a mini lottery run by the PTA - 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. It is a great way to support the school, especially at the moment when other fundraising opportunities are so limited!

Latest winners

The latest 50:50 club draw took place via Teams conference call on Thursday 22nd April 2021 with the following members of the PTA present - Lesley Betts, Marina Beare, Jane Millington and Geri Best.

Congratulations to the winners for January, February and March 2021 listed below:

JANUARY 2021

£90.50	337
£60.33	365
£30.17	472

FEBRUARY 2021

£89.75	59
£59.83	559
£29.92	24

MARCH 2021

£95.50	170
£63.67	199
£31.83	8

Winners are contacted via the details supplied when signing up so do keep us up to date of any changes via the email below. Please also feel free to contact us 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 us letting us know how many numbers you would like (£1 each) and we will give you details of how to set up the standing order.

We will still carry on the 50:50 draws via Zoom/Skype/Teams even though there are no face to face PTA meetings. We 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 us with any queries.

Best wishes,

Sarah Mitchard and Jane Millington

beecheen5050@gmail.com

Tel: 07528 074960

Mental Health and Wellbeing

'Promoting Self-Efficacy'

Following a challenging time, we are working in a Solution Focused way to help bring our school back together with a focus on community recovery. Over the next 4 weeks, we will focus on four themes (self-efficacy, hope, gratitude and connectedness), with each drawing upon some of the factors that underpin wellbeing and positive psychology. As Solution Focused practitioners, we invite staff and students to focus on these key themes to help promote emotional wellbeing, resilience and recovery.

Self-Efficacy

While it is natural to have feelings of helplessness and uncertainty, especially during the current crisis, it is important for young people to feel that what they say and do matters and that their actions can make a difference. Self-efficacy is the belief that we can make a difference and have strengths we can draw on in times of challenge. It is also a core belief underpinning motivation, and emotional wellbeing.

Good mental well-being includes having the belief that we have strengths we can draw on in times of challenge, which can reduce feelings of helplessness. Having self-belief and recognising our strengths can help situations feel less stressful, and more manageable. We believe that Self-efficacy is the belief in your own abilities to deal with various situations. Our belief in our own ability to succeed plays a role in how we think, how we act, and how we feel about our place in the world.

Our Solution-Focused questions help promote our young peoples' self-efficacy.

We invite our young people to think about what obstacles they have had to overcome in order to maintain their self-belief? We invite our young people to notice their strengths and resources which personally helped them to cope and get through.

Self-belief does not always mean being immediately successful, but having self-belief can give us the opportunity to think about the things that are under our control, to take one step at a time and work towards our goals. Recently lots of things may have felt out of our control, such as:

- The instructions from the government e.g. to close schools
- The need to physically distance, to study from home
- How the virus has spread
- How other people behaved

This can make us feel emotions like helplessness, fear and anxiety. At such times it is important to remember the things that we can control, and the strengths and the skills we can draw on to make a difference.

During the past few years we have seen people make a difference by:

- Volunteering and helping others
- Using their skills to do different things such as making equipment, delivering food etc.
- Thinking about their own behaviour and using the time to make the most of their skills and develop new ones.

One way to strengthen self-belief is to pay attention to those difficult thoughts and feelings which might make young people feel less sure about their ability to cope and manage. Looking for ways to notice and manage difficult thoughts and feelings can help them feel more confident about working through the situation.

With our whole school solution-focused approach to good mental health, we remind students that a sense of self-efficacy and self-belief is important for wellbeing.

Thank you

Last Saturday, we were delighted to welcome so many parents to our 3rd Coffee Morning to learn about having Solution Focused conversations with your children. Tara Gretton and Susie Ingram would like to thank everyone who joined them, despite the temptation to enjoy the glorious weather. Due to the popularity and success of these events, we are planning to run a 4th. We will notify you about our next Coffee Morning in due course.

The Mental Health Team

Beekeeping Club



Our bees have made it through the Winter and Spring is in the air! I will be starting up Beechen Cliff's Beekeeping Club in a couple of weeks.

Where we will be looking at hives, anatomy of the Apis (our western honeybees), the functions of a hive/practical observations of the hive and of course beekeeping husbandry.

If you are in Year 8 and interested, please come and see me at break time on Friday 30th April in E6. Rest assured Beekeeping Club will be opening up to all years as the summer progresses.

Mr M Newell

Sports Fixtures w/c Tuesday 4th May

Positive news! Sporting fixtures are commencing after the Bank holiday.

Below are details of next week's fixtures which are correct at the time of publication. However please refer to the School Sports Fixtures at <http://www.schoolsports.com/school/default.asp?id=374> for the most up to date information.

Day	Fixture	Start time/ kick off	Meet time	Transport	Finish/ Return time
Tuesday 4 th May	U18 tennis v Colstons (a) TBC	14:30	13:00	MB	17:30
Wednesday 5 th May	U12a&b and U13a cricket v QEH (a)	14:15	12:45	MB	18:00
Thursday 6 th May	2nd XI cricket v Kingswood (Glasshouse)	14:45	13:45	MB (drop)	17:30
	U18 tennis v Kingswood (h)	14:45	14:15	n/a	16:45
	U12a & U14a cricket v BGS	14:30	12:45	MB	18:00