



BEECHEN CLIFF

8th July 2021

Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

Closure of School to pupils – Friday 9th and Monday 12th July

You will be aware that the Covid infections rates in the City of Bath have been rising in the last fortnight. The impact upon schools has been dramatic and many staff and pupils are now obliged to isolate as a result of direct positive results or through close contact 'track and trace' notifications.

At Beechen Cliff the current situation is that we have significant numbers of staff unavailable to be in the school, together with over one hundred pupils obliged to isolate.

I have taken the decision to close the school to pupils on Friday 9th July and Monday 12th July. The pupils will receive their learning 'live' as has been the case in the recent past, hopefully ensuring there will be continuity in teaching and learning.

Within school a deep clean will take place on Monday and by Tuesday we hope to see the majority of staff back with us. The four days away from school also act as a 'fire break' in terms of limiting potential contacts in the event of any confirmed cases.

You will understand that my aim is always to keep the school open but in the current situation, this has become increasingly problematic and I very much hope that this action will help us provide a good level of learning and broader experience until 23rd July.

Mr A Davies

Headmaster

Calendar

Friday 9th and Monday 12th July
School closed to pupils

Friday 9th–10th July

CCF Exercise First Chance, Monkton Combe

Wednesday 14th July–Thursday 15th July

Gold DofE Training Dartmoor

Friday 16th–19th July

CCF Exercise Summer Breeze, Brecon Beacons

Monday 19th July –Wednesday 21st July

Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition–Malborough Downs

Friday 23rd July

End of Term for all pupils and staff. **School will finish at 12.15pm**

Tuesday 10th August

A Level Results

Thursday 12th August

GCSE Results

Thursday 2nd–Friday 3rd September

INSET DAYS

Monday 6th September

Start of the Autumn Term for all pupils

Activities Week Update

During the week of 19th-23rd July we had planned a week of enrichment activities designed to give pupils/students broader educational experiences during the final week of term. In light of the circumstances we have had to adjust the format of the week.

All pupils will take part in a sports day during the week with a focus on full participation across a range of sporting events. More details will be provided next week.

The remainder of the week will follow the normal timetable of lessons, although school will finish at 12.15pm on Friday 23rd July.

Mr O Abbott

Head of Boarding

Teaching & Learning Arrangements for the Next Few Days

On Friday 9th and Monday 12th July tutor time and all lessons will take place live via Google Meet. Pupils/students will follow their normal timetable beginning at 8.25am and are expected to attend all the virtual lessons. Registers will be taken and absences followed up.

From Tuesday 13th July lessons will take place in school for pupils/students in Years 7, 9, 10 and L6th. For pupils/students in these year groups who are self-isolating work will be set on Google Classroom as per the normal timetable.

For pupils in Year 8, live tutor time and lessons will continue on Google Meet up to and including Friday 16th July. Pupils will return to school on Monday 19th July.

Mr T D Markall
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

TED^x Event



BEECHEN CLIFF

Dear parents, carers, staff and students,

We had hoped that our TEDx event this year would be impacted by Covid-19 as little as possible, however we have recently realised that this is not the case.

Unfortunately, during the course of the weekend, a member of our team was told they have to isolate and we further discovered that one of our speakers has tested positive. Due to us having worked very closely together as a team for the organisation of TEDxBeechenCliffSchool 2021, several more members of our group are at risk of having to go into isolation as well.

Our main priority, both as a team and as a school, is to keep ourselves, our fellow students and all members of our school community as safe as we can. With this in mind, we have taken the decision to postpone our event, with the revised date to be announced soon.

We have had donations from several members of our school community for which we are very grateful. Due to it being difficult to foresee if we will encounter similar problems regarding Covid in the future, we have decided to refund all donations with the intention of restarting the scheme when we have more information about the revised event.

This has been a hard decision for all of us in the Beechen Cliff TEDx team as we were extremely excited for the event on Thursday and are incredibly proud of our efforts so far. We have every ambition to run a TEDx event at Beechen Cliff before we leave at the end of Year 13 next year and have every intention to do so.

This latest development has once again highlighted how present Covid-19 is within the local area and we encourage everyone reading this to adhere to the government guidelines in order to keep our community safe.

We really hope that we will be able to bring you TEDxBeechenCliffSchool in the near future, hopefully with you all being able to attend as a live audience, and we hope that everyone stays safe and enjoys the summer.

Thank you.

Beechen Cliff TEDx Team

TED^x
BeechenCliffSchool
x = independently organized TED event

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@beechncliff.org.uk.

Sixth Form Students

For a Sixth Form student absence please contact Mrs Jones on **01225 485221** or you can email

Fortnightly Rewards- House and Tutor results

- 21st June- 2nd July 2021

House results-

| | House | Points |
|-----|-------------|--------|
| 1st | Chaucer | 1041 |
| 2nd | Byron | 973 |
| 3rd | Kipling | 958 |
| 4th | Shakespeare | 933 |
| 5th | Milton | 880 |

Update re testing from Public Health BANES

As you will be aware we have seen a rise in the number of cases of Covid-19 across the country, specifically cases of the Delta variant. We therefore ask that staff, pupils and families remember the key points below and be advised that there has been no change in the national guidance issued around testing, tracing and containment in schools

- * All staff and secondary / college students - please continue to undertake Lateral Flow Device (LFT) testing at least twice a week
- * All adults in families / households with children aged under 11 - please continue to undertake LFT testing at least twice a week
- * In the event of a positive LFT or the onset of COVID symptoms, a PCR test must be taken to confirm the case, and the individual and their contacts **MUST** self-isolate straightaway
- * Contacts of a positive case are now also encouraged to take a PCR test, even without symptoms, to quickly detect secondary cases. Please remind contacts that if their PCR test is negative they must still continue to isolate for the remainder of their isolation period as they could still be incubating the virus

Please also note; **PHE recommend that children with non-COVID specific symptoms of acute respiratory infection don't go into school if they are unwell as a general rule, and get tested if they (or their families) progress to COVID 19 symptoms whilst unwell.**

Mrs C Thompson
Administration Manager

Tutor Winners-

| Year | Tutor | Average Points |
|------|-------|----------------|
| Yr7 | KP7a | 11.5 |
| Yr8 | CH8a | 11.1 |
| Yr9 | BY9a | 7.0 |
| Yr10 | ML10a | 4.3 |

Sports stats since April

A few stats related to Lower School sporting participation since April. Three sports, ten after school clubs, seventy fixtures and 285 pupils represented the school. A great effort post-lockdown!

- 3 sports
- 10 after school clubs
- 70 fixtures
- 285 pupils represented school

Result of Sports Fixtures w/c 5th July

Result of last week sporting fixtures can be found on the School Sports Fixtures website at <http://www.schoolssports.com/school/default.asp?id=374> .

Mr P MacDonald
Head of PE

Theme of the Week

This week students reflected on and discussed ways of staying safe as they look forward to the summer holidays. They discussed the importance of sun safety, road safety, physical and mental health, Covid rules, water safety and keeping safe near railway lines.

Rail safety - newspaper headlines:

Lockdown 2020: Over 8,700 people died on railway tracks during the year

The number of teenagers taking risks on railway tracks has jumped by 80% in the last five years, new figures suggest.

Rail safety data shows the number of young risk-takers doubles during the summer compared with winter months.

Network Rail say a record number of young people have lost their life on railway tracks this year.

Students watched a short film produced by Network Rail to help them reflect on the importance of staying safe near railway lines:

<https://youvstrain.co.uk/asset/you-vs-train-interactive-film.mp4> pause to answer the questions

Discuss 'no harm done, right?': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZlj06ewZ0&t=17s>

You vs. 25,000 volts

The power running through overhead railway lines is 100 times stronger than your supply at home. Electricity is easily the most dangerous factor in stepping on the track – it's always switched on and nine out of ten people die when they're struck by it.

Others are left with life-changing injuries, including burns and amputations; and that's not to mention the emotional scars that will be left behind. Electricity is easily underestimated. People don't realise it can jump – so you don't even need to touch a cable to be seriously injured.

You vs. 150 tonnes of train

You can't outrun a train. And even if you could, you wouldn't hear it coming, as today's trains almost silently reach speeds of 125mph. And they run 24 hours a day. So even if you think it's a 'quiet time', you can be hit by thousand tonne freight trains that run all night.

Don't think that keeping to one side of the track will keep you safe. Trains are all wider than the rails. You're just as likely to trip over the train equipment and be dragged on to the track.

You vs. the electrified third rail

The third rail is probably the hardest danger to see. It looks just like an ordinary rail, but it carries 750 volts – easily enough to kill you.

It's designed to send power to the train, but you are 70 per cent water and the perfect conductor for this electricity. If you touch the rail, you will "stick" to it. The DC current that flows through it will pull you in and not let go until the emergency services are able to switch the power off.

Nearly half of the UK rail network is now electrified – and more than 30 per cent uses a third rail to power the train. The only way to avoid stepping on this hidden danger is not to step on the track.

Source: www.youvstrain.co.uk

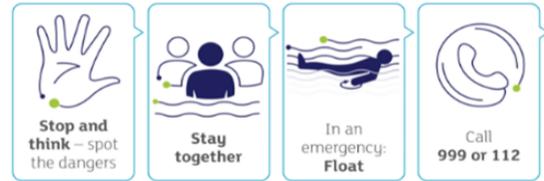
Water safety

On average, 18 under 18s drown every year in the UK

What are the dangers of being in/around water in summer?



Water Safety Code



There are many dangers with water, which can include:

- It can be very cold (even in summer)
- There may be hidden currents
- It can be difficult to get out (steep slippery banks)
- It can be deep
- There may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass
- There may be no lifeguards there
- It is difficult to estimate depth
- It may be polluted and may make you ill

Stay together

- It is always better to go to the water with a friend or family member
- Children should always go near water with an adult
- An adult can point out dangers or help if somebody gets into trouble.

Float

If you fall into the water unexpectedly – float until you can control your breathing. Then call for help or swim to safety.

Call 999

You may be able to help yourself and others if you know what to do in an emergency.

If you see someone in difficulty, tell somebody, preferably a Lifeguard if there is one nearby, or go to the nearest telephone, dial 999, ask for the Fire Service at inland water sites and the Coastguard at the beach.

Miss P Netto

PSHE

Dear Parent/Guardian

Free School Meals during Summer Holidays 2021

As you may be aware the Bath and North East Somerset Council provided funding to support benefit related free school meals during the Christmas, February Half Term, Easter holidays by issuing vouchers to parents. The Local Authority is looking to provide similar support during the summer holidays.

In previous holiday periods we have been able to support a voucher scheme with a value of £20 per pupil per week by topping up government grants, we are however unable to afford to top up the government grants for the summer holidays and therefore the voucher value will be £15 per pupil per week, in line with most other Local Authorities.

It is also anticipated following guidance received from the government that the funding for this type of voucher will stop after the summer holidays as the country moves out of the pandemic lockdowns and back to the normal processes. This means that it is likely that vouchers issued during this period will be the last unless new schemes are developed on a national basis.

For those parents / guardians who received a voucher at May half term they will automatically be sent an [e-mail](#) that will ask if they wish to receive a voucher for their eligible children by clicking a hyperlink. This will generate a further e-mail which will contain the links to the voucher portal where they can select the supermarket in the same way as happened previously. Parents/ Guardians will not need to reapply.

Please do not make an additional application if you received a voucher during the May half Term.

For the summer holiday period we intend to issue the vouchers in 2 weekly tranches

Parents and Guardians should receive an e-mail approximately Thursday 22nd July. If you have not received this e-mail by the 24th July, please check in your Spam folder before contacting [the Benefits team on 01225 477777](tel:01225477777).

Further e-mails will be sent approximately 5th August and 19th August. With the same procedures to access the vouchers.

The Voucher value will be for £15 per child per week.

For parents / Guardians who are eligible for free school meals but did not claim a voucher previously, you can make a claim through the council's web portal which will open **approximately 22nd July**, at around 4pm.

The web link below will request you to submit an e-mail address and some details about yourself and your child /children including your National Insurance number. From this information we will cross check with the entitled to benefit related free school meals register and issue a voucher link back to your e-mail address. This may take a few days to complete.

Web Link <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-and-advice/help-parents-and-carers>

Once you have the electronic link you will be able to claim a voucher from a range of supermarkets including Tesco, Sainsburys and Morrisons. Please ensure you are happy with your choice of supermarket **before** you click on the relevant store option, as this **cannot be changed** once it has been picked. **It is also very important that upon receiving your voucher for your chosen supermarket that you download and save it to your smartphone or computer, as replacements will not be issued.** The voucher may be used in-store or on-line for some supermarkets and can also be printed off before taking it to the supermarket. The voucher must be re-deemed in full in one transaction and change will not be given.

If you do not have electronic means of contacting us, then please phone the Benefits team on 01225 477777. where you will be asked to provide the same data and a voucher will be made available to you via alternative means depending on your circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Solution Focused Parenting



'Noticing Family Strengths and Capabilities'

Solution Focused Parenting moves the parents from what is wrong onto what is right. It creates a conversation around the strengths and capabilities the family already has and places the parents and children as the experts in their own family lives. This gives the family the responsibility together to create their 'Hopes' for the future.

Solution Focused Parenting focuses on solutions driven by what is present and leads to more meaningful interactions versus what is missing or causing problems. Solution Focused Parenting changes the language from the way you think about the 'problem' into how you focus on what's working well already and what's wanted in the future.

This week we would like to invite you to explore your own family's strengths and capabilities. When working with young people using the solution-focused approach, we regularly use strength cards to invite young people to notice what they already do well. Attached is a printable set of blank strengths cards.



Click here to print: [Your Family Strengths Cards.pdf](#)

We would like to invite you to use these cards to notice what strengths and capabilities your family members have already, however small. This can be a really interesting exercise as a family to do after dinner or on a family walk, which promotes a positive conversation about the strengths you all notice about one another.

There are many ways that you can use these strengths cards depending on how likely your family members are to participate.

First we invite you to print these strength cards off and cut them out.

Invite your family members, either individually or together to write down the strengths they notice about themselves or others in the family

If your child does not want to participate, there are lots of ways that you could use the cards yourself to notice one or more of their strengths. For example, pop a strength card on their pillow or in their cereal bowl in the morning before school.

You can also use these cards to notice your own personal strengths. We rarely spend time thinking about what we are good at and this can be a really interesting exercise, especially when others also tell us what they notice about our own strengths and capabilities.

You may equally just like to have conversation with your family about the strengths and capabilities they would say they notice about each other. This is very healthy, especially when sometimes young people and parents unknowingly can spend more time noticing perceived weaknesses in one another.

We do hope that you find this exercise useful in whatever format you choose that works for you and your family members.

As always, if you are worried about your child and think that they need some support, please do let our pastoral team know in school.

Best wishes.

The Wellbeing Team

Menu for week commencing 12th July

Monday: Braised Beef with smoked bacon, Cheesy Courgette and potato bake

Tuesday: Sweet and sour Chicken, Spinach and chickpea tagine

Wednesday: Beef meatball with a tomato and basil sauce, Spiced quorn mince with peppers

Thursday: Spiced Chicken breast with roasted peppers and tomatoes, Bruschetta

Friday: Pulled pork bap, Leek potato and cheddar frittata

Mr D Keal
Chef