



## BEECHEN CLIFF

16th September 2021

### Message from the Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

This week we have had our Prospective Parents Evening which was a wonderful opportunity for pupils and their parents to visit the school. I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts to make the event run so smoothly and our pupils and students who helped as tour guides or in department areas. We have received a huge amount of really positive feedback from visitors about our tour guides and how exceptionally they represented the school and we are really proud of them all.

On Wednesday our Year 8 pupils took part in the F1 car challenge, which had to be postponed in the summer. They really enjoyed the competition run by the Technology department, racing the cars they had designed and manufactured and it was great to have that event finally take place.

#### Vaccinations

I am aware that there is a lot of information in the press at the moment about the use of schools as Covid-19 vaccination centres. Alun Williams, the CEO of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership, has written to parents of pupils in all Trust Schools today. Please note that if the school is asked to act as a vaccination centre then all communication about consent will be with the immunisation service and the school will neither promote or discourage vaccinations as this is a decision for parents and their children to make at home.

#### Dropping Off / Collecting Pupils

Currently many parents are bringing their children to school by car and dropping them off and collecting them near the school gates. To ensure the safety of pupils and out of respect to local residents I would be grateful if cars would not stop to drop off in the middle of the road or stop on the zig zag yellow lines outside the school gates. Please park in the marked bays on the side of the avenues or, if you are able to, drop off or lower down the hill or at Bear Flat to avoid traffic congestion outside the school gates.

You may also be aware that there is an unofficial one-way system in place on the avenues with cars driving up Shakespeare Avenue and down Kipling Avenue. We would appreciate it if this is followed.

I wish you all a very enjoyable weekend.

*T. D. Markall*

Mr T. D. Markall  
Headteacher

### Calendar

**Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th September**

Teaching Grp 7XR to Tir-y-Cwm

**Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd September**

Teaching Grp 7XL to Tir-y-Cwm

**Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th September**

Teaching Grp 7AU to Tir-y-Cwm

**Thursday 23rd September**

Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9am - 12pm

Year 7 Parents Information Evening:

Succeeding at Beechen Cliff

**Saturday 25th September**

L6th Parents Welcome Morning

**Monday 27th to Wednesday 29th September**

Teaching Grp 7AM to Tir-y-Cwm

**Wednesday 29th to Friday 1st October**

Teaching Grp 7AP to Tir-y-Cwm

**Monday 4th to Wednesday 6th October**

Teaching Grp 7AH to Tir-y-Cwm

**Tuesday 5th October**

Year 10 GCSE Information Evening

**Tuesday 12th October**

Year 11 GCSE Revision Evening Information Evening

**Monday 25th—Friday 29th October**

Half Term

**15th - 19th November**

Year 11 Mock Examinations

## Key Notices

### 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 School direct on 01225 480466, and select Option1 or you can email [attendance@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:attendance@beechencliff.org.uk).

#### Sixth Form Students

For a Sixth Form student absence please call the School direct on 01225 480466 and select Option 2 or you can email

[sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk)

## Year 7 Parent Information Evening Thursday 23rd September 7pm - 8pm

This information evening will take place in the main Hall. The evening will outline areas where you can help to support your son with school life as well as providing parents with information on assessments and reporting, online safety and the Reading scheme. As it is an evening intended for parents and Carers, pupils do not need to attend. Year 7 pupils will bring home letters this week - please return the attendance slip asap so that we can plan for seating in the Hall. If you cannot attend the evening, the information slides will be available on the school website the following day.

### Follow us on social media!

Keep up to date with school events, activities and general information on [twitter@BeechenCliff](https://twitter.com/BeechenCliff)

### Free School Meals (FSM)

Below is the link to apply for benefit related free school meals, along with a list of qualifying benefits. Please note **that there is no need to reapply if your child is already in receipt of benefit related free school meals at a B&NES school. The online link is the quickest way to apply for benefit related free school meals.**

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (**WITHOUT Working Tax Credit**) and have an annual household income (as assessed by HMRC) below £16,190
- **Run-on Working Tax Credit** which is **only paid for 4 weeks** after you STOP qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

### Payment Cards

This week pupils are being issued with Payment cards to use when purchasing food in the Refectory. These are being issued to replace the using of fingerprints and are part of an upgrade of the catering payment system across all Trust schools. Pupils need to keep these cards safe and replacements will cost £1

Mr D Williams

Network Manager

### Menu for w/c 20th September 2021

**Monday:** Beef Stroganoff (D), Spinach and chickpea tagine

**Tuesday:** Pork steak or Chicken with a peppercorn sauce, Spiced Quorn with Butter beans (D)

**Wednesday:** Roast Chicken, Cheddar and Leek Quiche (G,D)

**Thursday:** Sausage and bean casserole, Pitta bread with roasted vegetables and feta (G,D)

**Friday:** Squid and tomato pasta (G), Lemon and thyme chicken, Tomato pepper and basil pasta (G)

Also can I ask that your accounts are topped up at all times.

(G) = Contains Gluten

(D) = Contains Dairy

Mr D Keal

Chef

## Why you should consider becoming a Parent Governor at Beechen Cliff

All parents/carers should have received an email regarding parent governor elections this week - if you have not received this please contact the school office as you may need to update your contact details. If you would like to stand, please ensure your nomination and application are returned to [bclark@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:bclark@beechencliff.org.uk) by Wednesday 29th September.

I would encourage anyone who wants to support the education of their children to consider becoming a Parent Governor. With 3 boys I knew I was in for a lengthy spell at Beechen Cliff and so rather than standing on the sidelines I wanted to become more involved with the school to see if I could make a positive contribution.

8 years later I'll shortly be stepping down from my second term of being a Parent Governor and looking back I've found it incredibly rewarding on a number of levels. I have learnt so much about the education system and how the school is managed and have got to know so many great people who work in the school across both the support and teaching staff many of whom I would never have spoken to even at parent's evenings. On many occasions whilst on Governor related activities I have been in the fortunate position to witness the dedication, passion, hard work and genuine interest the staff have in ensuring our children turn out to be independent, compassionate and well-rounded individuals.

I have learnt new skills, gained many new experiences, and have dealt with a range of interesting and sometimes challenging situations during my time as a Governor but it has never been dull. There are many ways Governors can positively contribute to ensure the school builds on its current achievements and help shape its future for success in a more demanding world.

So, if you are at all interested in your children's education, I would urge you to consider becoming a Parent Governor and bring the talents and knowledge you possess to make a tangible difference for the pupils, staff and parents of Beechen Cliff today and for the future.

Gavin Lewis

Acting Chair of Governors



BEECHEN CLIFF

Teaching Assistant Position : 16.5 hours per week x 2; Term time only 44.6 weeks per annum  
Salary Grade 2 (Point 4 £18 933 pro rata: actual £7 222 )

A teaching assistant is required to support pupils with specific needs. Working hours are flexible between the hours of 8.25am and 3.25pm and can be discussed with applicants at time of interview.

Applicants should be enthusiastic about working in a friendly SEN department, helping pupils with a variety of special needs, individually and in class, as part of a motivated and professional team.

Good Maths and English and a working knowledge of ICT is essential. All necessary training will be given. The successful candidate will be subject to relevant Pre-Employment checks prior to appointment.

Beechen Cliff School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will need to undertake an enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure & Barring Service.

For further details and to complete an online application please see the Beechen Cliff TES website.

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/teaching-assistants-bath-1492072?preview=1>

For further details please contact 01225 480466 or email: [headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: Noon on Friday 24th September 2021

Interviews to take place on Monday 27th September 2021

## Message from the Deputy Head

### Pledge of Respect

Next week we will be renewing our Pledge of Respect. The Pledge is a document and commitment shaped by pupils for all members of the school community to show respect to others and uphold our duties under the Equality Act 2010. A copy of the Pledge document is attached to this newsletter and I would invite you to (re-)read it.

Each year we mark the annual commitment through a different means. Last year we used photos of the whole school community, with individuals holding up cards saying 'Pledge of Respect' or '#PoR2020'. This included representatives from the Police, Bath Rugby, Southampton FC, governors, the PTA and alumni and the display can be seen in the main building (see below)

This year we will be using photos again, but this time in House groups to signify the House allegiance to the Pledge. These will also be displayed in the main school building for all members of the school community to see and I will share copies in a future newsletter.

A particular focus of the Pledge of Respect this year will be the importance of challenging sexual harassment and violence and reporting incidents. Staff and pupils are being given the following advice and information on where to get support:



- **Challenge it there and then.** It's important to do this to send a clear message that the comment or behaviour isn't acceptable. Don't dismiss or downplay an incident
- **Challenge the behaviour, not the person.** This depersonalises the challenge. For example, "That is sexist language" is a more helpful comment than "You're sexist"
- **Explain what the problem is.** This gives a reason for your challenge and helps people see why their comment or behaviour was problematic
- **Support the victim and show empathy.** Let them know it's not their fault. Consider the incident from their perspective and encourage others to do the same
- **Challenge gender bias and stereotypes.** And be aware of your own biases too. Don't stereotype or make assumptions based on your perceptions of the individuals involved
- **Focus on the perpetrator's behaviour rather than the victim's.** This moves us away from seeing sexual harassment and violence as 'inevitable' and something people should adapt their behaviour to avoid

I would be grateful if you would talk to your son/daughter about the advice above and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have anything we wish to discuss about sexual harassment or violence. Our pastoral team is always available for pupils/students to speak with if they are worried or want more information, and we have a range of links with external organisations to provide support if required.

### Travelling Safely

As the nights draw in and a busy extra-curricular schedule rolls out, we are aware that pupils are travelling home at different times and via different means. Attached to the newsletter this week is some advice for parents and pupils about safer travel. Thank you for talking to your son/daughter about this and we will reinforce the messages in school.

Mr J Oldham  
Deputy Head Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Extra Curricular

### S<sub>1</sub> C<sub>3</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> B<sub>3</sub> B<sub>3</sub> L<sub>1</sub> E<sub>1</sub> Club

Could you please add that Scrabble club will begin next Wednesday (15th), in E5, English block. It will run from 3.30-4.30pm.

Anybody in Year 7 and \* can attend and I would welcome any Year 12 or 13 Students who would like to help out.

I would like to say thank you to Josh Mullins and Harry Daniels (Year 8), Daniel Cooke, Alex Brookes and Sam Nobes (Year 12), for their help and support representing the Scrabble Club during our PPE evening on Tuesday. They were all superb representatives of our school, and the Beechen core values.

Mr T Fieldhouse

## Year 9s CCF Taster Event:

We look forward to welcoming all Year 9s who might be interested in joining the CCF to a taster event at King Edwards School (KES) on Wednesday 22nd September.

You should have received a letter informing you and your son about all the great opportunities the CCF offers and how to register and consent for your son to attend the Taster event. There are also links to a video and presentation about the CCF, as well as the google form to consent to it. In addition, it is worth noting that there are only 30 places available for the current Year 9s and so we highly recommend attending the taster event if you are really serious about joining. Details outlined in the letter.

Boys should meet by the tennis courts at 1530 on Wednesday 22nd in Sports Kit and will walk with our current cadets to KES. They will be ready to be picked up from KES Lower entrance at 1800.

### Open evening:

A sincere thank you to all the Cadets and NCOs who helped at the open evening, not just for sharing their enthusiasm about all things CCF to prospective pupils and parents, but also for stepping in as tour guides when we ran short, due to such great numbers attending.

## Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) sign up 2021

The deadline to sign up to the DofE Award is the 24th September, emails have been sent to Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 parents regarding the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award.

If you would like your son/daughter to sign up to the Award please complete the enrolment forms attached to the email and return to Miss Garland, DofE Administrator and make the first payment via parent pay.

Bronze training sessions will start after the October half term

The Silver group have a training walk on the 17th October  
The Gold group have a training walk on the 11th November.

All groups will be given their edofe account details before the half term break.

**Year 13 Gold DofE group meeting Tuesday 21st September 3.20pm - 4.20pm, meet at the Pavillion**

Ms J Fox  
DofE Co-ordinator

### Latest news:

CCF restarted on Wednesday 15th with the whole contingent undertaking an Escape and Evasion exercise on the National Trust land behind KES. The NCOs were the hunter force and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves tactically running around, avoiding the enemy and moving fast and low to find their friendly agent.

Many of the contingent also had their passing out parade and received their berets and are no longer recruits".

**Events being planned for this term:** Paintballing at Hamburger Hill Sunday 10th October, Remembrance Parade Sunday 14th November and Range firing on Sunday 28th November. Precise details to follow by email in due course.

Captain C R Greenhough

Head of CCF Army Section/Maths Intervention  
Teacher

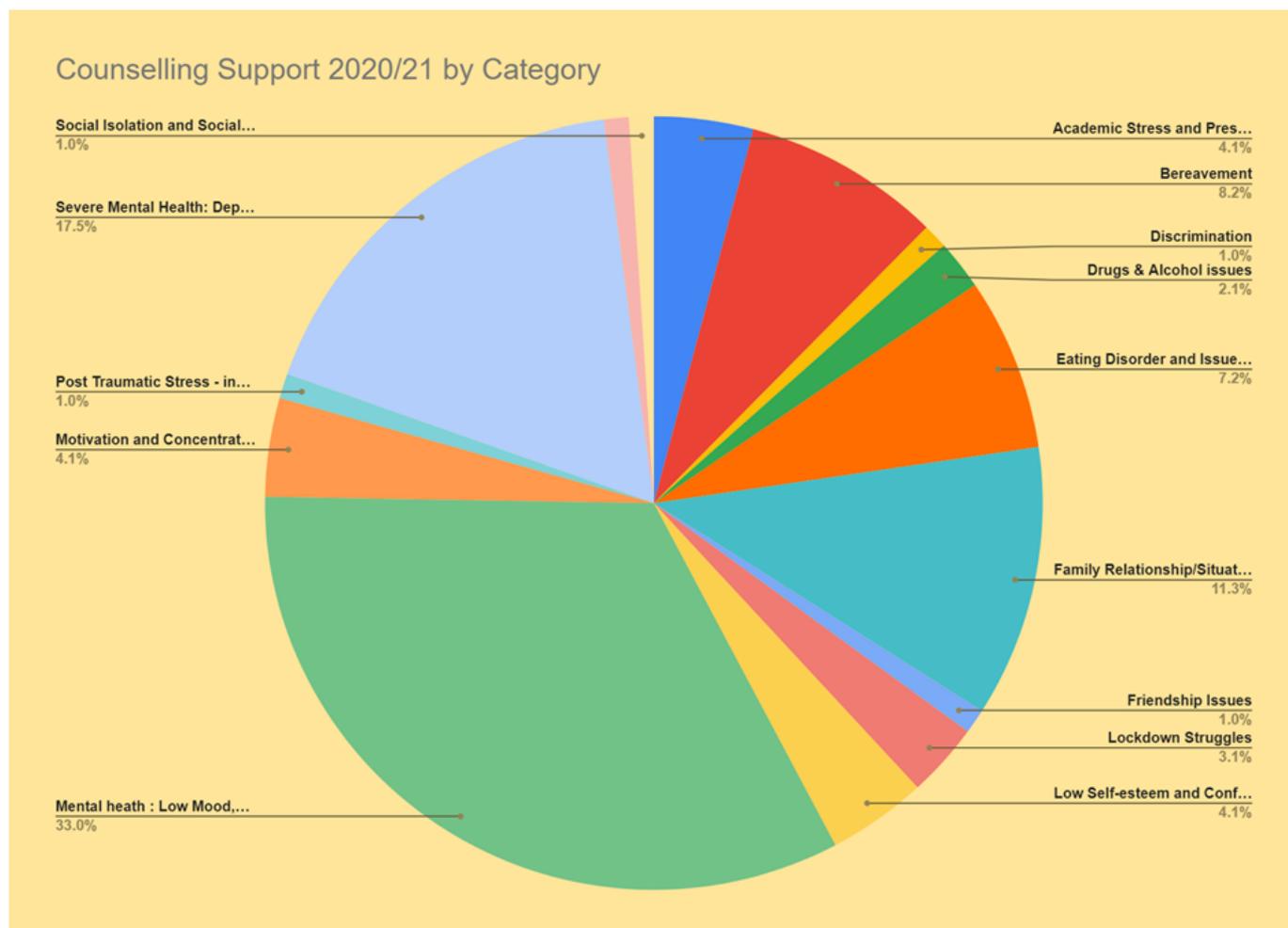


# Mental Health and Wellbeing

## “Mental Health Provision at Beechen Cliff”

Good mental health and well-being are at the heart of the school’s vision for its pupils and students: for young people to lead happy and healthy lives, thrive as individuals and make a positive contribution to society. As such, our mental health and well-being work is one of the school’s key activities, underpinning character development, academic success and becoming a well-rounded person.

For new parents to the school, a very warm welcome and please do take the time to watch this video about our mental health work and our whole school Solution Focused approach: [A Whole School Approach - Boys in Mind](#)  
During the last academic year we were able to provide 1:1 counselling support to 181 individual students covering a range of common themes. This support continued throughout the pandemic and lockdowns.



The school has service level agreements with two local organisations who provide in-house counselling support for pupils and students 4.5 days a week: Tara Gretton, of Solution Revolution, to provide Solution Focused therapy and Off the Record which provides counselling, talking therapy and listening support.

Tara also trains staff and Sixth Form Mental Health student ambassadors and sits as an adviser on the Mental Health Strategy Team. These partnerships enable us to provide support for pupils and students without referring them outside school. Over the past 4 years, [Tara Gretton](#) has trained close to 100 staff volunteers in the Solution Focused approach and trained staff wear easily identifiable lanyards so students and pupils know which staff are trained and happy to talk to them. [Solution Focused Practice \(boysinmind.co.uk\)](#)

We look forward to supporting all pupils and students this year to feel happy and well.

Best wishes.  
The Wellbeing Team

## SPORTS FIXTURES

Please find here the details of next week's fixtures, 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
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> September					
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	U14a and U15a rugby v Malmesbury (a)	15:30	13:30	Coach- 13:45	17:15
	U12a, U12b, U13a & U13b rugby v Malmesbury (h)	15:30	15:00	n/a	16:30
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	1st and 2nd XV rugby v Filton (h)	14:30	13:15	n/a	16:00
	U13 football v Melsham Oak (Lansdown)	16:15	15:15	MB	17:15
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	U15 football v Priory (a)	14:00	12:00	MB	16:45

## Community Links



 **LUCRA**  
MORTGAGES

**Expert. Fee Free. Mortgage Advice.**

We've teamed up with Beechen Cliff School to offer all those connected to the school, an expert, fee free mortgage service, taking away the hassle when getting a new mortgage. We will also pay £50 Cashback to Beechen Cliff for every person that takes a new mortgage out with Lucra Mortgages. You just need to quote 'Beechen Cliff.'

01225 970 830  
hello@lucramortgages.co.uk  
[www.lucramortgages.co.uk](http://www.lucramortgages.co.uk)

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE