



BEECHEN CLIFF

23rd September 2021

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we have had our Open Morning with prospective parents and pupils given the opportunity to see around the school on a normal working day. Once again I have been so impressed with our Year 7 and 8 Tour Guides and the Sixth Form helpers around the site.

Throughout the week around the school it has been great to see pupils working hard in lessons and taking pride in their learning. Pupils have also been making the most of the sunny weather at break and lunchtimes.

It has also been a busy week for clubs and extra-curricular activities. Lots of rugby fixtures have taken place from Year 7 all the way through to the first team and Tir-y-Cwm visits have continued. The theatre group are preparing for auditions for this year's production of Little Shop of Horrors and there is still the chance to join in and take part.

I must also congratulate all those involved with the Silver Duke Edinburgh Award who completed their expedition last weekend, after it had to be postponed last year. Looking forward, it is also great to see lots signing up for Duke of Edinburgh this year at all levels.

Mr Mann has referred to the updated list of clubs and activities on our website later in this newsletter and I would encourage everyone to get involved.

In relation to Covid vaccinations, you will have received a letter today from the immunisation team providing information for parents. Please read this carefully. All communication about consent will be with the immunisation team and they will hold the records for consent or not, rather than the school.

Let's hope the good weather continues into the weekend.

T. D. Marshall

Mr Tim Markall
Headteacher

Calendar

Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th September

Teaching Grp 7AU to Tir-y-Cwm

Thursday 23rd September

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

Dropping Off / Collecting Pupils

To ensure the safety of pupils and out of respect to local residents we would be grateful if parents driving to the school 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 collect at Bear Flat or lower down the hill 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.

Bus issues - D2 and Number 3 service

We are aware of capacity issues on both of these bus services and how this is impacting pupils arriving at school and leaving at the end of the day. We are in contact with Banes Transport Services and First Bus trying to resolve the issue. For information, our case reference with First Bus is CC21091192 should you wish to contact them too.

Bicycle Security Marking

Avon and Somerset Police will be in school on Friday 1st October at 2.30pm to undertake security marking on bikes. If you would like your son/daughter to take advantage of this service please email kmann@beechencliff.org.uk and we will arrange for this to take place.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headteacher

Menu for w/c 27th September

Monday: Chicken Curry, Lentil and Spinach Curry

Tuesday: Beef Goulash (D), Pepper and Mushroom Risotto

Wednesday: Roast Pork with Apple sauce, Goats Cheese and Red onion Filo Parcel (D)(G)

Thursday: Chicken and Chorizo Casserole (G), Creamy Leek Courgette and Cheddar pasta bake (G) (D)

Friday: Pasta Puttanesca (G), Potato Cheese and Onion Bake (D)

Mr D Keal

(G) = Contains Glute

(D) = Contains Dairy

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 **Option 1** or you can email 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

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

Why you should consider becoming a Parent Governor at Beechen Cliff (Part 2)

All parents and carers should have received an email regarding parent governor elections last week and some of you may be wondering what governors actually do and why there are elections for them.

Governors sit on the Local Governing Body (LGB) and are responsible for overseeing the management of the school and help set the strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing together with the Headteacher and the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Trust. They support the school to run as effectively as possible, whilst holding it to account for maintaining and improving standards for all pupils across key areas of the school such as pastoral care and safeguarding, academic attainment and progress, curriculum, health and safety and financial probity.

The Beechen Cliff LGB has different types of governors; some who are independent of the school and have specific skill sets and knowledge, staff governors and elected parent governors who ensure the perspective of pupils and parents are taken into account by the governing board. We currently have two vacancies for parent governors which we are looking to fill.

Being a school governor is a chance to experience leadership at board level at any point in one's career. Governors have input into balancing the school's budget, hiring the headteacher, helping set policies and making strategic decisions. The role provides individuals with the opportunity to develop and hone skills such as negotiation, influencing and teamwork. The role requires dedicated people who care about improving education, but they do not need prior board or education experience. It makes the perfect role for anyone who wants to give back to society and enhance children's futures

The governors are also a resource for the Headteacher to share some of the emotional load and to round out their thinking with regards to strategic decisions. The LGB are the guardians of the ethos of the school, and are there to ensure that there is not 'mission drift' in the day to day pressures of keeping the show on the road. Ultimately, however, it is vital to understand all that goes into delivering education day in and day out, and building those supportive relationships with staff at all levels to truly know the school and be able to advocate for it and bring out the best in the talented and dedicated staff team who actually make things happen.

So if you appreciate the power of a great question, enjoy thinking strategically and would be interested to know the school better we'd love to hear from you. Should you wish to chat further about the role, please email me on gavin.lewis@msnpartnership.com

If you would like to stand as a parent governor, please ensure your nomination and application are returned to bclark@beechencliff.org.uk by Wednesday 29th September.

If you have not received the emails about the parent governor elections from the school please contact the school office via headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk as you may need to update your contact details.

Mr Gavin Lewis

Acting Chair of Governors

Message from the Deputy Head

Equalities surveys for pupils and parents

Our focus in tutor time next week is citizenship and will build on assemblies, theme of the week and character sessions this week on the Pledge of Respect. As part of being a citizen, pupils and students will all be asked to complete a questionnaire next week, sent via their emails, about their experiences of equality and discrimination in school and in the community.

This anonymous survey (with the option to ask for help if desired) will help inform our equalities action plan for the academic year ahead and provide an opportunity for pupils to use their voices as citizens of Beechen Cliff and the wider community. We will also be sending you a short survey as parents about equalities and we are grateful for you taking the time to complete this, again to inform our work in the year ahead.

Historic equalities action plans and other information about equalities work can be found on our website page: <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/key-information/equalities>

Phone safety

Attached to the newsletter this week are two posters about how to set up parental controls on phones; one for iPhones and one for Android. We strongly advise parents to oversee and, where they see fit, control their children's use of their phones. We regularly deal with issues between pupils that are initiated or propagated on mobile phones and we will be addressing this in anti-bullying week later this term. As devices for accessing the internet, mobile phones present risks alongside the many benefits and the NSPCC website has a particularly useful and accessible page to which we refer parents: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



Mr J Oldham
Deputy Head Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead



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

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

Interviews to take place on Monday 27th September 2021

Extra Curricular

Clubs and Societies

The list of all Clubs and Societies is now available on the school website on the link below:

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/extra-curricular/clubs-and-activities/>

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headteacher

Music

Peripatetic Music lessons

All Instrumental lessons are now up and running (including drums which will commence on Wednesday 29th September). Please check the timetables which are updated weekly and can be found under the parents tab on the website.

Extra Curricular activities

Please encourage your son/daughter to participate. Details can be found on the clubs/societies page. Whole school ensembles include choir on Tuesday from 3.25-4.15 and Concert Band (wind and brass players) on Thursday from 3.25-4.15. Both take place in the Recital room.

Music Exams

Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved success:

Ted D (Year 8) grade I trumpet
Peter C (Year 8) grade III cornet.
Izaak F (Year 8) grade III with merit
Daniel H (Year 8) grade III classical guitar with distinction
George R (Year 11) grade III classical guitar with distinction
Harry L (Year 12) grade V theory with merit.

Piano Concert

We will be holding our annual piano concert at St Luke's Church on Wednesday 20th October at 7.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to perform on a grand piano. Several pupils and students have already put themselves forward to play which is wonderful to see. If you would like your son/daughter to participate, please could you email me (music@beechencliff.org.uk)

Further details regarding the concert will follow in due course.

Mr P E Calvert
Head of Music



Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Qualifying Expedition, Marlborough Downs

Well done to the Silver DofE group who successfully completed their Qualifying expedition last weekend. The group walked South from Marlborough and then West to finish at Devizes over the course of the 3 days.



The boys showed excellent levels of independence and responsibility and were a pleasure to be away with.

A huge thank you to Ms Jarvis who came to support the expedition over the weekend.

Ms J Fox
DofE Co-ordinator

DofE sign up 2021-22

The deadline to sign up to the Bronze (Year 9), Silver (Year 10) and Gold Award (Year 12) is the 24th September.

Please contact Ms Fox for further details.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

“The new ‘normal’ in school”



It has been so refreshing to welcome all of our existing and new pupils and students back to school. The feeling of excitement to be back together again in a new ‘normal’ way is almost palpable. To witness our students (and staff) finally being able to mix outside of ‘bubbles’ is simply fantastic and we can start to enjoy the sense of family and community that is Beechen Cliff.

We are all too aware, however, that the back-to-school jitters have taken on a whole new meaning this year. For some students returning to the classroom, managing in-person socializing, academic expectations and changing COVID-19 guidance has given rise to anxiety and other mental health challenges.

This is uncharted territory for a lot of adults, let alone young people. None of us have lived through a pandemic. Our counsellors in school have noticed that some young people we have worked with before the pandemic did well with virtual schooling. At the same time, some who’d previously thrived in school became anxious or depressed during the pandemic, while they were isolated from classmates and teachers. Experts are suggesting that we’re going to see the pendulum swing back the other way now.

At Beechen Cliff, now that our pupils and students have returned to school, our counsellors, teachers and other school staff members are focusing on building relationships and a sense of community. The mental wellbeing of our students is at the forefront of everything that we do. With almost 100 staff trained in the Solution Focused Approach, this might mean that staff members can identify and assist students who might be struggling and signpost them for support in school if needed.

If your child is expressing any concerns following their return to school, please make sure that you let their tutor know so that we can offer support at this early stage to prevent things building up.

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/	Meet	Transport	Finish /
Mon 27 th September	1st XI football v Sheldon (Lansdown)	15:30	14:30	MB	17:15
Tues 28 th September	U16 rugby v Ralph Allen (h)	16:00	15:20	n/a	17:15
Weds 29 th September	1st XV rugby v Truro (a)	14:00	7:45	Coach 8:00	20:00
	U13a & U13b rugby tournament @ Millfield Prep	14:00	12:45	Coach 13:00	17:15
Thurs 30 th September	2nd XV, 3rd XV, U16a, U15a & U14a rugby v Bryanston (a)	14:30	12:00	Coach & MB	17:45
	U14 football v Sheldon (a)	15.45	14.30	MB	17.30
Sat 1 st October	U13a, U13b, U12a & U12b rugby v KW (a)	10.30	9.45	n/a	11.45

PTA

Come and join
the PTA meeting on
Wednesday 6th October
at **7pm** in the school **Library**
It's your PTA.....

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

The PTA would like all donations of good quality second hand school uniform please.

We would like; blazers, shirts, ties, PE and games kits, cricket whites, foot wear, shin pads etc. By donating these to the PTA we can sell it on to raise much needed funds for the school.

Please drop off your unwanted school uniform into the blue plastic container by reception, at anytime.

We are hoping to have a sale at the Club House between 10-12pm on Saturday 16th Oct 2021.

Thank you for your continued support....

Community Links

Platform 8 productions presents



Abigail's Party

By Mike Leigh

The Mission Theatre
32 Corn St Bath BA1 1UF
Weds Nov 10th to Sat Nov 13th

Platform 8, a Bath based theatre company, are delighted to return to the Mission Theatre. We promise you a night of shameless 1970's nostalgia combined with acutely observed character based comedy. Warning - this show does contain pineapple and cheese on sticks!!

Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/platform-8

Bathboxoffice.org.uk 01225 463362 All tickets are priced £13



Welcome (back) to Combe Down Rugby Club
Open to all Girls and Boys from school reception upwards

Tuesday's 7-8pm

Mixed girls and boys U10—U11

Boys U12's— U14s
Girls U13, U15s

Club House Open from 6.30

Sunday's 10 – 11am

Mixed Girls and boys minis (Aged 4 to 11 years);
Junior boys U12's— U 14's

Matches held Sunday mornings

Girls Matches—also on Sundays (normally pm)

Club House Open on Sundays for food and refreshments



Never played before—just come along to see if you like it before you join the club

Any Questions?
Call Mark 07799338405

Combe Down Rugby Club,
Bramble Way, North Road,
Combe Down, Bath
BA2 5DE



Enquiries:
Email: cdrfcjuniors@gmail.com
Tel: 077 99 33 8405



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.'

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