



BEECHEN CLIFF

Christmas 2021

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of the Christmas Term it is a good opportunity to reflect on the school year so far.

At the start of the academic year I set out the school vision with the staff, pupils and students. This is to enable our pupils and students to achieve their aspirations and become well-rounded, confident and compassionate individuals who go on to live a fulfilled life and make a positive contribution to society. We also re-launched the school's Core Values of aspiration, compassion, independence and respect which underpin so much of our work.

As we have worked towards our vision for our pupils I'm sure you would agree that they have accomplished a huge amount this year in terms of academic progress, commitment to studies, extra-curricular participation, sporting and musical successes and character development to name just a few.

Over 22,000 'positives' have been awarded across the school over the last two terms connected with the school's Core Values. In addition many other achievements have been recognised. It has been lovely to present postcards and letters of congratulations to pupils to celebrate their success.

This week the Upper Sixth have completed their mock exams, which whilst no doubt it has been a pressurised week for them, will hopefully have given them useful experience of formal examination arrangements and a good insight into their current standard of work. In the new year there will be the opportunity to build on this as they work towards the end of their A level or Level 3 courses next summer.

I hope pupils have enjoyed the Christmas activities this week including Christmas lunch and the Santa Run. Thank you for all the donations to local charities, which have now been passed on. The generosity has been quite amazing. The carol service last night was a wonderful occasion to conclude the term and I must pay testament to Mr Calvert, Mrs Nourse, the music team and all pupils involved for such a fantastic event.

Before concluding this newsletter piece I must mention all the staff at Beechen Cliff. We are still in the grip of a global pandemic and circumstances are not easy but the commitment and efforts of teachers and support staff alike to provide the best possible education for our pupils and students has been fantastic. I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking them all for everything they do.

In the new year we return with a slightly staggered start due to INSET days and covid testing but we will look forward to welcoming all pupils and students back to school after the Christmas break. In the meantime I hope that you enjoy reading our Christmas newsletter and I wish you and your families a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and all the very best for the new year.

T. D. Markall

Mr T D Markall

Headteacher

Calendar

Friday 17th December

End of Christmas Term 12.20pm

Thursday 6th January

Start of the Winter Term for pupils -
**staggered return due to testing - details
on page 2**

Saturday 8th January

Austria Ski Trip for Years 10/12 (TBC)

Tuesday 11th January

Year 9 Parents Options Evening

Wednesday 19th January

Year 9 Parents Evening

Tuesday 27th January

Lower Sixth Parents Evening

Key Notices



Start of Winter Term Arrangements/Covid Testing in January

Tuesday 4th January: INSET Day

Wednesday 5th January: INSET Day

Wednesday 5th January: Boarders return for testing at 3pm

On Thursday 6th and Friday 7th January there will be a staggered start to allow for covid testing as part of the return to school. Pupils should report to school at the times/venues given below. Pupils will return to their normal timetable of lessons once testing has been completed. Pupils who are not being tested should also report to school at the times/venues given below.

Day	Time	Year Group	Testing Venue	Meeting point
Thursday 6th January	8.25am	U6th	Hall	East Yard
	8.25am	Year 11	Gym	West Yard
	12.00pm	Year 7	Hall	East Yard
	12.00pm	Year 8	Gym	West Yard
Friday 7th January	8.25am	Year 9	Hall	East Yard
	8.25am	Year 10	Gym	West Yard
	10.00am	L6th	Gym/Hall	West Yard

We will require your consent for your child to be tested, or if you are a pupil/student over the age of 16 you can provide your own consent. Please note that anyone who has tested positive with a confirmed PCR result since October 7th is exempt from this testing process. Please provide consent using the link below:

[Covid onsite testing consent Jan 2022](#)

The privacy notice for this can be found at the link below.

[Midsomer Norton Schools' Partership-COVID-19 Testing Privacy Statement](#)

The deadline for completion of the consent is 12 Noon on Wednesday 5th January.

Please note that testing is highly recommended but not compulsory and no pupil or student will be denied access to school if not tested as part of this process.

We thank you for your continued support.

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 the lower school attendance 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 6th Form attendance sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk





Equipment and Uniform



Equipment

Thank you to parents for ensuring that pupils have the following equipment ready for school in January as a minimum:

- black/blue, purple and green pens
- pencil and rubber
- Ruler
- Calculator
- glue stick
- full PE and games kit

Also, pupils should bring a **scientific calculator**; (mobile phones cannot be used as a calculator substitute in lessons or examinations). *For years 7 to 11, the Maths department recommends the CASIOfx-85GTX although many other makes and models are equally suitable.*

Uniform

Thank you to parents for ensuring that pupils have the correct uniform ready for school in January. For Year 11 parents, please note we require pupils to wear full school uniform until the end of the exam season in June.

Tutors will be checking equipment and uniform when pupils return in January.

Mr J Oldham
Deputy Head Pastoral and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Curriculum

We have recently updated our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 (Year 7-11) Curriculum information on our website. This has been reorganised to enable parents to be more informed about the curriculum, to make it easier to find information about what is covered in each subject in each term and to provide information on how parents can support with learning.

Please see below a link to the new Curriculum Subjects Webpage: <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/subject-curriculum-information/>

Curriculum intent, implementation and programmes of study are available for the majority most subjects and the remaining subjects will be added as soon as possible.

In addition, a separate Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form) Curriculum page is under development and will be available by the end of January.



Community and Extra Curricular Round up!



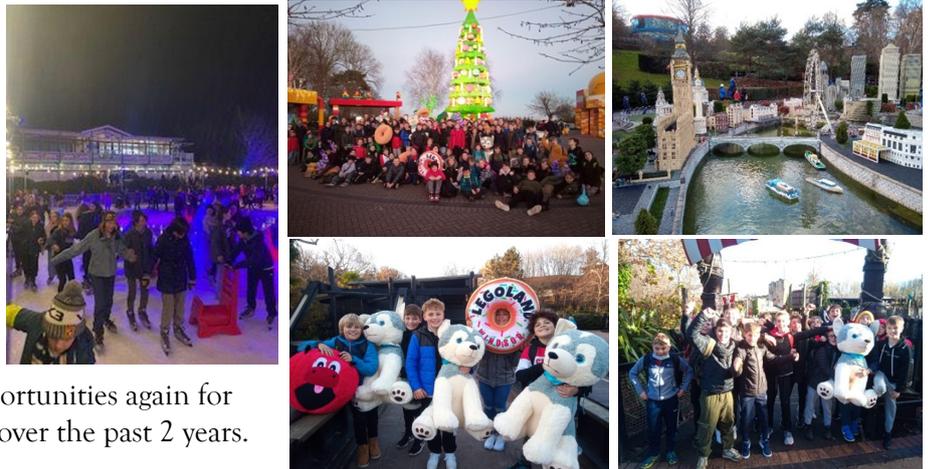
A busy 2 terms comes to an end with some significant contributions to our chosen charities in the spirit of our school values. A massive and heartfelt thank you to every pupil and family who has either provided items for The Bath Foodbank and/or sent in a Shoe box for the Help Bristol's Homeless Charity. The response has been overwhelming and really moving in terms of the compassion that our pupils and families have displayed for the less fortunate in our communities.



At the time of writing this article, pupils in Years 7-9 are about to undertake the inaugural Santa Run around Alexandra Park to raise funds for the MNSP Schools chosen charity this year - The Stephen Lawrence Foundation and to raise funds towards our own extra curricular activities - The Climbing Wall and Lego Robotics. I can report that over £3000 has already been raised via the InvestMyCommunity portal! This will remain open until January. Incredible effort from our pupils in only a week! Huge thanks to our PTA for this initiative and putting up a £50 prize for the pupil who raises the most money.



On the extra curricular side, we have had over 34 activities on offer over the two terms with a high uptake across the board. On the trips front, it has been brilliant to team up with the other Bath Hub Schools to organise trips for year 7 to Legoland (350 pupils and 7 coaches!) and year 8 pupils to Bath On Ice (250 pupils!). It's great to resume some normality and provide the opportunities again for our pupils who have desperately missed out over the past 2 years.



This term Beechen Cliff held its first variety show in many years. It was great to see all the performances and the confidence displayed on stage. Thanks you to the Sixth Form prefect team who organized the event, the pupils who worked as technicians in the background and Mr Harriman for all his support.



Well done to everyone who took part - never easy to get up on stage!

Hon the sporting front here is a stat that many schools in the country would not be able to match - We have had 112 fixtures over 5 sports with over 400 pupils and students representing the school. Phenomenal commitment from our pupils, students and staff!

Have a brilliant, restful and safe holiday and watch this space for more events in the New Year!

Best wishes

Mr K. Mann

Assistant Headteacher

Extra—Curricular Clubs and Activities

Clay Pigeon Shooting competition.

On Thursday November 4th, 4 Year 11 boys took part in a clay pigeon shooting competition organised by Millfield school. The event took place at the Mendip Shooting ground, and the lads taking part only got the chance to have one practice before the event. As a result they had a battle to compete against the considerably more experienced pupils from the private schools in the area! Suffice to say we didn't win, but nor did we come last! Well done to Luke C-V, Luke C, Jonty G and Elliot J for giving it their best shot. Pun entirely intended :)

Mr D Murphy



S, C, R, A, B, B, L, E, Club

Scrabble Club was founded in February 2020, and since then it has grown steadily in numbers and in meaning (just like a robust scrabble score)! Many of the founder members still attend weekly, and the club has been joined by many others, so that at its busiest, there are over twenty members. The 'Scrabblers' have successfully navigated the frustrations of two lockdowns, playing games in year bubbles, and even the dreaded *occasional missing tile crisis*, and come out all the stronger for these experiences.

Since its inception (a word, incidentally, that scores 17, *without* any bonus squares), it has been a delight to watch the friendly camaraderie that the club has created. We listen to music, and from 3.30-4.30 every Wednesday, we play scrabble.

The doors of our venue, English Block 5 or 6, are always open to new members, weekly attendees, or folks who want to come and play whenever they can. The club is very relaxed and informal, and all players are welcoming, regardless of whether they are in years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13.

I am always available throughout the session, and this term we have been lucky enough to have the support of two sterling PGCE student colleagues, Miss Davies and Mr Pritchard. I very much look forward to future games, and the good-natured and friendly competition that makes this such a special club.

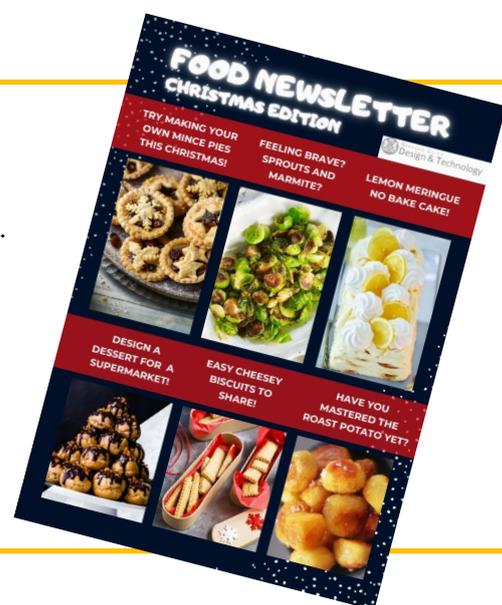
Scrabble Club is held every Wednesday, from 3.30-4.30, upstairs in the English block. Everybody is welcome.

Mr T Fieldhouse

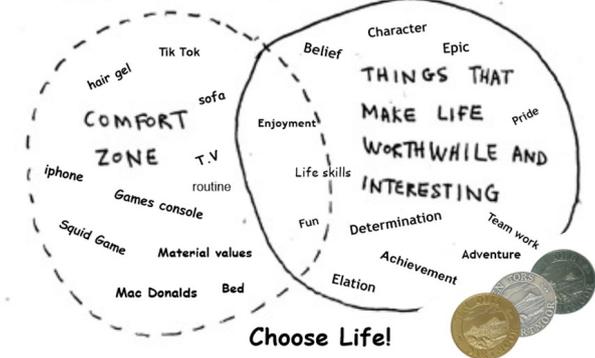
Beechen Cliff Christmas Food Newsletter

A festive edition of Food and Technology's Food Newsletter is published alongside this newsletter, which is full of mouth-watering recipes and ideas.

Food Technology Team



TEN TORS 2022



Open to years 10-13

Launching first week back in 2022, Listen out for meeting times when you return in the New Year.



CCF

As a busy term of CCF training draws to an end, we finished with an excellent Field Craft Training day on the National Trust land next to KES and a superb talk from a former KES pupil who is currently a fast jet instructor.

Next term we look forward to another busy term of events including a Corps of drums course, Range days, a Fieldcraft training weekend, Formal dinner night, Visit to King's Royal Hussars barracks for familiarisation with armoured vehicles, gunnery simulators and mess tours, Cadet Cambrian Patrol and Cadet Music Camp.

I would like to thank the cadets and NCOs for all their efforts in the CCF this term and their parents for their continued support. It is sincerely appreciated, by myself and the Beechen/KES CCF team.

Captain C R Greenhough

School Production: Little Shop of Horrors

So far this school year the drama club, in collaboration with Bath Theatre School, have been working really hard on their upcoming professional production of Little Shop of Horrors. Boys from Beechen, alongside girls from Hayesfield and Bath Theatre School have already started setting the show in preparation for April 2022.

They have been demonstrating their skills in musical theatre by learning choreography, setting scenes, learning lyrics and singing. Rehearsals have been going well and all the students are looking forward to the show days.

Shows are scheduled to take place 6th-8th April 2022 at Kingswood Theatre. Tickets will be available in the new year and we hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Miss J Wright
IT/Computing Teacher and Drama Club Volunteer

BEECHEN CLIFF SCHOOL
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BATH THEATRE SCHOOL

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APR 2022

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bcs@baththeatreschool.com
01225 640046

End of Term Rewards Results

Date- 10th December 2021

Below are the results for Terms 1 and 2. Well done to MILTON- who as a reward were first into the refectory on Monday 13th December and enjoyed a mufti day on Friday 17th December.

House results

	House	Points	Inter-House Rugby	Inter-House X/C	Total
1st	Milton	5558	150	200	5908
2nd	Shakespeare	5410	75	150	5635
3rd	Byron	5437	75	100	5612
4th	Kipling	5112	200	50	5362

Year Group

	Year group	Points
1st	8	5542
2nd	7	5301
3rd	9	4033
4th	10	3766
5th	11	2856

Tutor results

Year	Tutor group	Average Points
7	Shakespeare 7a	116
8	Byron 8a	125
9	Shakespeare 9a	85
10	Milton 10b	83
11	Kipling 11a	71

Mr P Macdonald

Head of Shakespeare

SPORTS

Football Report

Although this has traditionally been a rugby term, football is alive and kicking with the National and County Cup fixtures. This has been an unprecedented start to the season with 4 of our teams currently in the 6th round of the English Schools Cup - that's the last 16 in most cases. I have had the privilege to coach or officiate all of these teams at some point in their cup journeys.....

The U/13's have impressed with their quality of passing football and high press in the opposition half. Wasim and Etienne providing the creativity, Hugo the shot stopper and Wyatt the finisher. They will play their 6th round fixture in the new year.

U/14's - A real team with strength in every department. Korbyn, George, Lewis, Harry and Dexter providing the base to taking some excellent scalps on their journey. Kit in goal has been impressive and protected well with a solid rearguard.

U/15's - There is huge potential in this side when they are all available. They have grafted to reach the 6th round and this is testament to their sheer determination and desire to win. Fin, Niall and Angelo have been in impressive form.

First XI - An incredible run in the County and National Cup. There were times when we were heading for stalemate and extra time but the goals from Oscar, Joe and Alfie (goalkeeper, free kick specialist!) have turned ties around in the space of 10 mins. Notable scalps - Torquay Grammar, Taunton Boys, Nailsea School, Backwell School. The 6th round pips us against Oxford City School on home turf at Beechen Cliff School at 2pm on the 6th January. Special mentions for our 3 keepers - Alfie, Joel and Dom; our dogged defence - Matt, Max, Kane and our engine room of Kier, Harvey, Jacob and Sam.

On a development note, we offer our warmest congratulations to the following Year 11 boys for being offered scholarships with their respective clubs:

William M (SH11b) - Southampton FC

Reggie E (SH11b) - Southampton FC

Dante M (SH11a) - Bristol Rovers FC

In the words of the late Jimmy Greaves, it's a funny old game!

Mr K Mann

Assistant Headteacher



Year 7—Rugby Report

After a very challenging 18-months, the Year 7's have finally been able to complete an interrupted rugby season, comprising of sixteen fixtures!

Despite not always getting the desired scoreline, it has been amazing to witness the progression, commitment, enthusiasm and simple enjoyment shown by the boys over the past two terms. For some boys who had never played before, the rate at which they have developed their skills and knowledge has been fantastic, and they have not looked out of place despite playing against some very accomplished teams, including King Edward's, Kingswood and Sir Thomas Rich etc. As a result, the foundations have definitely been set on which to build next year, and hence we are very confident that the results will follow.

On behalf of the boys, thanks need to go to Mr Mathias, Mr Mortimore and students Paul S, Joshua M and Oliver L, who have all helped with the training sessions and fixtures.

Player of the season: **Tom J S (ML7b)**



Mr G Hawkins
Head of Physical Education

U13s Rugby Report

An incredibly successful season for the U13's. A huge turnout for training sessions with over 60 boys attending weekly. Commitment levels have been outstanding and a real team spirit has grown and developed over a short period of time. As a whole squad, our aim this year was to play free flowing and exciting rugby. Working to edges and focusing on our decision making in attack and defence. Reflecting on this season, it is clear to see our progress and strength that we have in all positions for both the A and B teams.

U13 A's

The U13 'A' team are the most successful team at Beechen Cliff this year. An early tournament at Millfield showed us the level we want to play at, beating Millfield and narrowly missing out against the touring team Mount Kelly. Since then, we have remained undefeated this year. Notable games include the 30-0 win against KES, winning every game at the BANES tournament and an outstanding performance against Sir Thomas Richard school winning 40-20. Since September we have scored 68 tries and conceded only 15 with one game against Colston's school still to play.



With the ability of this squad, we have introduced more structure to the game. In training we have been focusing on a pod structure offering two options from a breakdown, a tip to the forwards or behind to the backs. This is often implemented with older year groups, however, by starting now this will give us an advantage in the coming years to remain competitive and play exciting, free flowing Rugby as the pitch gets larger and more players are added to the team. It is also a huge credit to those who have persistently worked hard in training and fixtures to push themselves for a place in the competitive A team.



This year group has so much potential and it is very exciting to see how far we will go over the coming years.

Player of the season: **Will S (ML8b)**

Mr J Utton

U13 B's

It's been a great season for the U13 'B' team playing 7 games so far with one still to play against Colston's School and also participating in a triangular tournament at Millfield school. Out of those 7 games so far they have won 6 with some stand out performances against KES winning 14 tries to 0 and Sir Thomas Rich's and Westonbirt both winning 12 tries to 2. It has also been really good to see some of the team earning their way to being promoted to the 'A' team and being a part of that side. As an U13's squad they have recently started to bring in a bit of structure to how they play and it is fantastic to have them implementing that in their matches.



Player of the season: **Declan B (ML8b)**

Mr S Thompson



U14 Season Report

The U14's have really seen a lot of progression this season. After a season without rugby in an important time for them to start thinking about how they structure their game, it was going to be tough for them to get their heads around a whole new concept. But since the start of the season you could really see how advanced they are now by



bringing in new parts of the game they probably hadn't thought about before. The backs have bought in moves to use throughout the game with multiple options so if they see a gap in the defensive line they can attack it. The forwards are now a lot more creative around the pitch, not just getting the ball and carrying it, they give more options by looking for those gaps in defence and giving short little tip passes to put their fellow forwards through or getting the ball to the backs to let them run their moves as another option.

In a season where injuries have unfortunately halted a lot of boys from playing, it is fantastic to have had over 35 boys be able to get game time and were able to get an 'A' and a 'B' team out against Kingswood in one of their last games of the season. In total the U14's have played 11 games with their National Cup run still to go at the time of writing this. Out of the 11 games they won 5 and drew 2!

Player of the season: **James A (KP9a)**

Mr S Thompson

U15 season report

A team with great ambition and a style of play matched only by the likes of the world's most entertaining teams, the under 15s this year had a promising start to the season with a near undefeated run at the King Edwards Southampton tournament. They followed this up with a comfortable win in round 1 of the National schools cup competition, of which the final was a huge goal for lads this season. Unfortunately, after some ups and downs with regards to results, the year 10s were knocked out of the cup by Marlborough school in the third round. Amongst the game's leading up to the heart-breaking cup match loss, they managed to grind out a win against fierce local rivals King Edward's School Bath which was a personal highlight for many members of the squad. To round up the season, a win against another local team, Ralph Allen, at home meant that the players could end the calendar year on a high. Amongst a rugby season with highs and lows the under 15s stayed true to their team ethos. It has to be said that with all the talent Beechen Cliff has to offer, this team will be one to watch next year.



Player of the Season: **Harrison B (SH10b)**



U16 rugby season report

The U16s have had an incredible season, winning some very tough fixtures showing the resilience to come back at the depth when down by only a couple of points. The u16s have shown the want to develop as a team with many new faces asking to join and represent the school. The year 11s have picked up some very good results this season, with particular notice to a close win against Queen Elizabeth Hospital and some strong wins versus some established sporting schools. I have been extremely proud of the boys this season and the school are looking forward to seeing them go through to the next stage of their education, continuing to have rugby in their lives. Many thanks to the players, parents and coaches that have helped this team become the rugby players they are today.



Player of the season: **Finley P (KP11a)**

SENIOR RUGBY SUMMARY - 2021 SEASON

Beechen Cliff's 1st XV had another high quality season competing in the RFU's National ACE League. The league, which comprises the best 16 schools or colleges from all over the country who are affiliated, like we are, to a Premiership club, is arguably the highest standard of schoolboy rugby available. After a gruelling set of fixtures in the League, which sends us all around the South of England, we qualified for the ACE Finals in a play-off for 9th place overall. In our early fixtures we were a little disappointing, having had a Covid-disrupted pre-season, but we got better game by game, recording excellent wins against Exeter and Gordon's (Harlequins ACE), twice. We then managed to overcome a very powerful Stourport HS team (Worcester Warriors ACE) team 41-33 at Stourbridge Stadium in our play-off. More importantly, we finally established our own brand of fast attacking rugby, which proved hard to contain in a league which is renowned for its physical, forward-dominated approach. Other highlights were a narrow 1 point loss away against eventual champions Hartpury College (Gloucester ACE) and a tightly-contested draw against Bishop Wand (London Irish ACE). Touchline support for the boys has been phenomenal all season, both home and away; we thank everyone for their loyal support.



2021 1st XV Squad after their ACE 41-33 Play-off victory against Stourport



The tremendous progress made this year, having lost an entire season to Covid, is testimony to the hard work, dedication and sacrifice made by the squad of players, coaches, medical staff and the huge commitment to the programme made by Bath Rugby. We are now established as one of the strongest teams in the league and a match for anyone on our day. Team spirit has been a key factor under the leadership of co-captains Harvey Matthews and Max Ashton. All the year 13s involved now move on to the next stage of their rugby careers – playing for Bath Rugby in the Academy League after Christmas, with some competing for a much sought after professional contract. Others are enrolling in the major rugby playing Universities for next year. Meanwhile the year 12s will continue their post-Christmas development programme with the aim of doing even better next year. We would like to thank our sponsors: CXC Consulting, Lucra Mortgages, Mando Solutions and UpandUnder Sports, for their generous support for the lads.

Meanwhile our 2nd XV, which operates as a development squad, has had a very busy season playing the 1st XV's of the top rugby playing schools in the region. The young squad of players have made huge progress under coaches Geraint Lewis and Oliver Cattell, with strong leadership from Skipper Sam James. Some have graduated up into the 1st XV/ACE squad during the season or, at the very least, are in a position where they will be challenging for a spot next season. Highlights of the season were great wins against Bryanston, Downside Monkton 1st XV's and a tremendous performance in the floodlit local derby against KES at Bath University (a hard-fought draw!) and a good win against rugby powerhouse SGS Filton.



2021 2nd XV Squad after a wet and wind victory against Bryanston

The 3rds have had a fantastic season too. A loyal core of players has stuck together through thick and thin, defeating 2nd XV opposition from strong rugby schools such as KES, Bryanston and Downside with flowing rugby played in great spirit. The quality of the 3rds is a testament to the depth of talent and enthusiasm for rugby at Beechen Cliff.

In total across the 1st, 2nd and 3rd XV's, we played 25 games, winning 14 and drawing 2. More importantly, nearly 80 6th formers have represented their school at rugby this season with great pride.



Beechen Cliff Rugby Team of the Year 2021

1 Oliver C (u16)

2 Tommy M (1st)

3 Max C (2nd)

4 James A (u14)

5 Will J © (1st)

6 Finley P (u16)

7 Kenny T-A (u12)

8 Liam W (2nd)

9 Tom J S (u12)

10 Will S (u13)

11 Horatio O'B (u12)

12 Sam G (u16)

13 Charlie G (u13)

14 Charlie S (u13)

15 Gus M (u13)

16 James B (u16)

17 Theo L-Z (u13)

18 Alfie W (u12)

19 Declan B (u13)

20 Harry A (u14)

21 Olly L (u14)

22 Ben S (u16)

23 Rufus R (u15)

Replacements



Art

Not unsurprisingly, the Covid pandemic has sadly disrupted our normal routine somewhat since September. Normally we would be reporting on trips to Europe and local trips but we have had to be more cautious until things become a little more settled next year (hopefully!)

Despite this, we have still been able to squeeze one trip out to the Arnolfini in Bristol before the October half term with the Sixth Form students. Watch this space for future announcements for trips when we feel it will be safe to do so next year.

Annual Photoshoot in Alexandra Park.

It has become something of a tradition to teach the Year 10 Photography pupils some advanced skills in photography. This took place this year in early November when Mr Murphy met with pupils on two occasions in the park as night fell to show them how to use their cameras on long exposure to create more advanced lighting effects. The boys are still quite new to Photography at this stage, but despite this, got some stunning results with their cameras.

Some examples can be seen below:



Harry P (ML10b)



Macklin C (BY10a)



Saxon B (KP10b)

Artist of the Term

Each term we award one pupil in Year 7-9 an award for outstanding achievement in Art. This goes to a pupil who has shown skill and commitment to the subject and who has produced what we consider to be the most impressive portfolio of work over the term. In term 1, the award went to Matthew B in Year 8. In term 2, the award went to Ned H in Year 9. Congratulations to you both! Examples of their work can be seen below:



Ned H - From the Year 9 Surrealism Project



Matthew B - From the Year 8 Day of the Dead project.

Visiting Lectures

Recently we have been very fortunate to have had two guest speakers come to the school to talk to our Sixth Form Students about their experiences and work. The first visitor was Hamish Kale. He was a Photography student at Beechen who left in 2016 to go and study Marine Photography at Falmouth University and recently graduated with a 2.1 BA (hons) degree. He gave a fascinating talk about his experiences as a photographer and student since leaving Beechen Cliff, including travelling in Europe, Canada and Africa.



The second visitor was Holly Warburton. Holly was a student of Art at Beechen Cliff until 2014. On completing her A levels, she went to study Illustration at Kingston University. She is now a Professional illustrator and animator, and we were very honoured to have her back at the school for an afternoon to do a talk and workshop with the Sixth Form students who gained a genuine insight into the work and methods of a professional artist. Her work can be seen here: <https://hollywarbs.com/>



We are deeply grateful to both Holly and Hamish for giving up their time to speak to our students.

Art Club

Art has been very busy since September. It is lovely to see so many boys coming after school at the end of the day and completing such an exciting range of work. The boys have been working on clay models, comic strips, perspective drawing and learning a little about Photoshop.

Art club is a great club for boys who enjoy Art as a subject and want to come along and try new techniques. The boys have the freedom to decide what they want to work on each week whether that's individually or in a group. Art club will continue all year, and we hope to see more boys drop in and get creative.

There is also a **Photography club** after school on Wednesdays.



For more regular updates on what is happening in the Art department, don't forget to check our instagram account [@beechncliffart](https://www.instagram.com/beechncliffart)

It's been a tough year yet again, here's to hoping next year will bring a new start and a change of fortunes! Have a well earned break, we'll see you in the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

BCS Art Department

Music

Instrumental lessons continue to provide a range of opportunities for pupils and students, with approximately 100 pupils receiving tuition in school. Information regarding starting lessons can be found on the music page of the school website: <http://musicbcs.weebly.com/music-contract-and-music-application-form.html>

May I also remind parents that instrumental timetables are updated each week and can also be found on the website under parent information.

Performances

After the last eighteen months it has been wonderful to return to live performing.

On Monday 27th September, three of our pupils: Ollie P (year 13), Arthur F (year 10) and Edward R (year 8) all took up an open offer from Hayesfield to perform at their annual Piano Concert. All three performed admirably and enjoyed the experience of performing at The Roper Theatre.

At the end of term 1, our school piano concert took place at St Luke's Church. Twenty five pupils and sixth form students performed to an appreciative audience who were all impressed by the array of talent. The repertoire ranged from Purcell through to Adele with all performers enjoying the experience of playing on a grand piano.

In keeping with celebrating the return of live music, the sixth form team organised a variety show which took place after school on Monday 6th December. The show was hugely popular with lots of pupils getting involved and we hope to see more events of this type in the future.

On Monday December 13th, several schools within the Bath Hub took part in a Christmas concert at The Forum. Two ensembles from Beechen Cliff were involved with the event. The Salt Lakes (Dillan G, Mack H, Jonty G and Archie M) performed Supersonic by Oasis, and the newly formed jazz quartet (Arthur F, Oliver R, Finlay M and Barnaby D) played an arrangement of Canteloupe Island by Herbie Hancock. Both groups were also involved in the massed finale of 'Merry Xmas everyone'. The boys performed really well in what was a very special event.

The end of term saw the traditional music festivities taking place. On December 17^h the school brass ensemble went 'busking' outside the Abbey to raise money for the Rotary Club's annual Christmas collection. Later the same day, the school choir, folk group, brass ensemble and guitar ensemble performed magnificently in the annual carol service at Bath Abbey. The carol service is always a highlight in the school calendar and this year was no exception. The Abbey is currently hosting 'Museum of the Moon', an artwork by Luke Jerram which added an extra dimension to proceedings, allowing several pupils to perform 'under the moon'!



Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all the music staff for their continued help and dedication to the department. Particular thanks must go to Mrs A Nourse and Mr J Harriman (music technician) for their help with all the extra curricular activities.

On behalf of the entire music department, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr P.E. Calvert

Head of Music

Languages



On Monday 6th December students in the sixth form attended a French carol service at St. Bartholomew's Church, Oldfield Park.

This gave the students opportunities to hear French spoken, including a 'micro trottoir' filmed in Bath and to join in singing carols in French.

The highlight of the evening was our own brave student Lexie C-B giving a reading in French. Lexie read beautifully at the service and her ability to speak in a foreign language after just 3 months of A level, clearly impressed the audience. Also present at the service was Roy Ludlow, former Head of Beechen Cliff School (1990 - 2005), who also told a very entertaining story in French.

This academic year has seen the launch of our MFL club for pupils in year 7, 8 and 9. Each week we meet and play games associated with one of our languages at Beechen Cliff. Activities so far include boules in Alexandre Park, monopoly in French, German compound word challenge with biscuits, cultural letters games, drama and geography. New pupils are always welcome – the club takes place every Thursday 3.25 till 4pm.

Modern Foreign Languages Club

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Mrs J Merrett
Head of MFL



Maths Puzzle

Santa has 100 reindeer in stalls numbered 1-100. He picks reindeer by the following system:

Initially all the stall doors are closed.

An elf opens every door, then another elf goes to every other door (i.e. multiples of 2) and changes its state (open to closed or vice versa).

Another elf does this for every multiple of 3 door and so on until the final elf does this for door 100.

On Christmas Eve Santa chooses the reindeer in stalls with open doors. Which reindeer does Santa choose?



Answer: The reindeer in stalls 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81 and 100 will be chosen. Each door is opened or closed by each of its factors. If it has an even number of factors then it will remain closed, so the open doors will be the ones that have an odd amount of factors. The only numbers with an odd amount of factors are the square numbers, since their square root appears as a single factor and not in a pair.

PSHE

This term in PSHE we have covered Relationships and Sex education. The boys have been fantastic when talking about puberty, what a relationship is, types of relationships and safe sex. We have been lucky to have our school nurse offer advice on STI's and Safe Sex to Year 10, and she will be doing the same for Year 9 and 11 in the new year.

Next term in PSHE Year 7 and will be focusing on Friendships and Bullying, Year 8 will be looking at issues around Gender and Equality, Year 9 will be completing their Careers and Internet safety lesson and Year 10 will be discussing Respect and Equality.

We are taking part in a two day workshop with Tender who will be working with a group of Year 9 students talking about healthy relationships and domestic violence. The students will then do an assembly for the whole year group where they will feedback the information they have gathered over the two days.

We also have Alice Hoyle spending a day with us in January where she will be talking to Years 11, 12 and 13 about Healthy Relationships and Consent. Alice will also be doing workshops with Year 10 discussing the same topics. We feel really pleased to be able to offer the students advice and information from outside agencies to further their knowledge and understanding on such important topics.

We have covered so much during our tutor time activities and focuses for Theme of The Week. This last term the tutors have have discussed the following themes with their tutor groups; Solution Focused Reflection, Remembrance Day, Anti-Bullying Week, Disability Equality, Volunteering, Vaping and of course this week we have been discussing Christmas.

This Christmas we may be feeling a little tired, a little excited, relieved, anxious, sad, happy ... all the feelings. No matter how you feel about the upcoming holidays, make sure to take extra good care of yourself and those around you. Remember that while some people may love Christmas others find this time of year very challenging.

Make sure you are active, get outside and enjoy the cold and crisp fresh air. Who thinks we might get some snow?

Take time to relax and rest. We have had such a busy start to the school year, everyone deserves a break.

Spend time with people you care about. This can be family, friends, neighbours or pets! Christmas should be about enjoying yourself and having fun with people.

Try to not eat an entire box of Celebrations for breakfast! While Christmas comes with all sorts of delicious food make sure you try to be a little healthy. Enjoy the sprouts.

Help. There is always lots to do over Christmas, weather its tidying up, cleaning, wrapping presents, cooking or taking the dog out. Everyone deserves to be able to put their feet up over the holidays so make sure you help when you can.

Mrs A Wilmot
PSHE



What to look out for in your pupils

A guide for school staff

For some of the children in your school, Christmas may be associated with difficult times and emotions. We will see this distress in their behaviour.

Consider the factors below. Which of your students are affected by these? We often feel unable to change these issues in a child's life, but acknowledging why children may be feeling and behaving this way, and finding ways to show we care is a start for those children who are struggling.



Careers

The GCHQ Christmas Challenge has been designed for school children this year and Sir Jeremy Fleming, Director of GCHQ has recorded a special good luck message for schools.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uLKw-rFEpdc&t=122s>

You can download the GCHQ Christmas Challenge below. If you enjoy it, take a look at [the role problem-solving plays in our important work and take on some of our other puzzles](#).

<https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/christmas-card-2021>

Keep an eye on our [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) channels for the solution.

Mrs E Pascoe
Head of Careers

Solve the puzzles, which increase in difficulty. Link each answer to the glowing node on the tree that best matches the question or answer. Once complete, discover the hidden message, reading from top to bottom. Good luck!

11-12 years

Clue here: reading initials spells this message's answer. Simple!

12-13 years

Enter your four-letter answers in the grid.

1. This is the word you want
2. Noise made by owl
3. US state with capital Des Moines
4. Adult male deer

1	2	3	4

13-14 years

What completes the sequence: GRYFFINDOR, UFFLEPUF, VENCL, ???

14-15 years

Within the grid are a number of hidden mines. The numbers indicate how many mines are in the squares adjacent to each number. Locate the mines to reveal a four-letter word

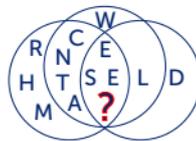
1	2	1		2		2	
			1				
3	4	3	2		4	4	4
			2				
2	1		2	2		3	2

15-16 years

Do Kindly Place Cover On Fresh Green Spring Vegetables is a mnemonic meant to help you remember a list of scientific words. Which word does Kindly help you remember?

16-17 years

What six-letter word does the ? represent in this Venn diagram?

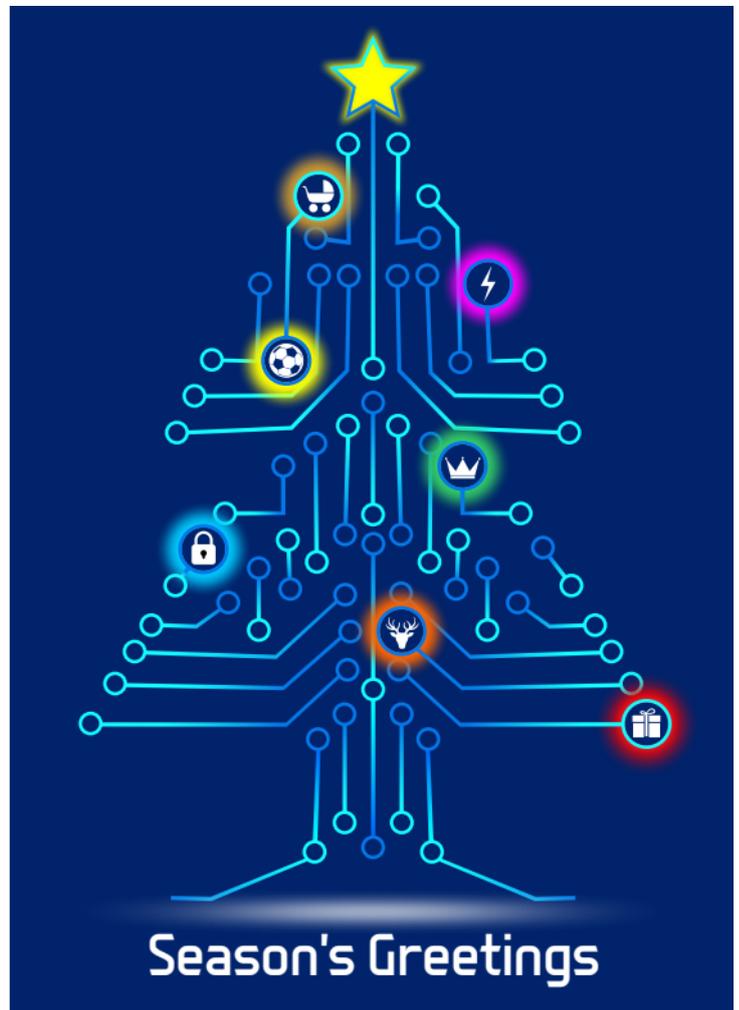


17-18 years

Solve the code; answer the question; encode the answer:
Cwog og cwi 7"ahigcoet: xiexui kent kicziiit toticiit lencj gov stf toticiit govj lehn sni yeppetuj dtezt sg kskj zwsc?

#GCHQChristmasChallenge

Follow @GCHQ - GCHQ to find the answers soon



Spotters Hockey Coaching Camps



20 and 21 December

Beginners and Improvers Coaching for those aged 7 and upwards.

High Performance Camp for those aged 12-16 looking to get ahead on the England Hockey Player pathway.

Performance Coaching Sessions for 2022 to provide athlete mentoring and management

#SpottersHockey #SpecialisedEffectiveCoaching #LoveHockey

spottershockey@yahoo.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/spottershockeyacademy/> <https://www.instagram.com/spottershockeyacademy/>



We love hockey and are passionate about providing a specialised and effective coaching experience to impart the love of the game and provide a great learning environment.

Spotters Hockey Camp Sessions run as follows:

10am-12pm and 1-3pm

Registration from 0930 and free supervision over lunch if staying for morning and afternoons. Lansdown area of Bath

£24 for 1 session, £45 for 2, and £79 for all four – coaching from under £20 per session! Simple to book – follow this link <https://form.jotform.com/210805551045346>

Sponsors: Kookaburra Hockey UK and JMS Bath

Spotters Hockey Academy Director:
Sally Potter,
EFL Level 2 coach,
BSc (Hons) Sports Performance



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

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

HAVE YOU GOT A TALENT?

Can you play, sing, dance, be funny, be clever, do tricks or anything you think is a talent?

We are holding a competition to give you the chance to shine and win a great prize!

THE MIDSOMER NORTON AND RADSTOCK ROTARY TALENT SHOW 2021

Date : Saturday 19th March 2022

For details of auditions, dates and venues contact us by:
Calling Ian 07811147535 or John 07592393420
Email: rotarymsn@gmail.com