

Our Schools in Bath Are Better Together

It's that time of year again where many parents are looking to find the right secondary school for their child in September 2023. Living in our City, you have many choices of schools - both in the state and private sector. But did you know there is a family of secondary schools in Bath that are all committed to working together so that every young person in the City has an opportunity to experience excellent education at their most local school?

Beechen Cliff School, Hayesfield Girls' School and St Mark's School are all proud to be members of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP), a multi-academy trust consisting of approximately 30 schools with over 12,000 pupils on roll. The schools have all chosen to work with this Trust as it celebrates each school's individual character while offering outstanding support and challenge.

Within the Trust, there is the Bath Hub. The Hub enables leaders at Beechen Cliff School, Hayesfield Girls' School and St Mark's School to work closely together. All three schools share best practice so that students have high aspirations and experience personal growth through a high-quality curriculum offer and a wide range of exciting and engaging personal development opportunities. Our common goal is to ensure that every child in the city has an excellent secondary education.



From left to right: Alun Williams, CEO; Emma Yates, Deputy CEO and Bath Hub Lead; Barnaby Ash, Headteacher St Mark's; Philip White, Headteacher Hayesfield and Tim Markall, Headteacher Beechen Cliff

The schools are celebrating the end of their first year of collaboration. As the country emerged from the effects of Covid-induced social isolation in the Autumn, Year 7 students from all three schools enjoyed these new freedoms offered with trips to Legoland, Inter-School Discos and Ice Skating. What better way to keep in touch with old friends from primary school and meet new friends, too?



Students from St Mark's, Hayesfield and Beechen Cliff schools

The schools joined together to celebrate Christmas, enabling students to perform in one of Bath's largest venues, The Forum, to a packed audience. What better way to grow self-confidence and resilience? Other opportunities for students to showcase their musical talents included the annual Piano and Music Showcases, an Arts Fair to showcase future Artists and the biggest mental and physical challenge of them all - the Centurion Challenge, which saw over 100 boys and girls walk 100 miles in 3 days.

School leaders are now looking forward to their second year of collaboration, where the young people in our schools will be given opportunities to interact with each other and engage in intellectual, physical and creative challenges.

Behind the scenes, teachers in the three schools are working together to ensure that no young people are disadvantaged by the effects of the national pandemic. By collaborating, teachers are able to develop and share high quality teaching strategies and resources that meet the needs of all of learners in all three schools. This collegiate support and challenge resulted in St Mark's School achieving an Ofsted 'Good' rating at its most recent inspection in February this year. The report, which stated that pupils can see how much their school has improved, noted that the rise in academic standards in the school is attributed to the additional expertise offered by leaders and other teachers in the Trust.

If you are interested in finding out more about our schools and how we work together, please come to the Open Evening events, as detailed in each school's website. We look forward to meeting you there.