



BEECHEN CLIFF

Christmas 2022 Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last week has been a busy one with a focus on volunteering, charity work and Christmas celebrations in addition to the usual curriculum. In assemblies and tutor time sessions we have been thinking about the Christmas story and Christmas Traditions around the world.

Pupils have also fully embraced the festive activities over the last few days.

Boarders Christmas Party

The boarders had a wonderful Christmas party with Secret Santa and a fantastic Christmas meal.



Santa Run

All pupils in Years 7-9 took part in the Santa Run around Alexandra Park. Bracing the chilly weather and wearing amazing Christmas jumpers and hats over £1200 was raised for the PTA.



Christmas Market

The PTA did an amazing job in organising the market for our Year 7 pupils. We are so grateful for all the donations, over £750 was raised and the pupils really enjoyed it. Hopefully they have brought home some exciting gifts for family and friends.



Christmas Lunch

Yesterday our catering team prepared over 1000 Christmas lunches for pupils and staff. It was an amazing feat and the food was amazing. There was a lovely atmosphere in the refectory with Christmas music in the background. I would like to thank all the team who make this possible including the extra colleagues who helped with serving so many people.



Christmas Jumpers

Such a great variety of Christmas jumpers were on display yesterday raising extra money for charity and providing an extra layer of insulation in the cold weather!



Foodbank donations

A big thank you to everyone who was able to donate to our Bath Foodbank appeal over the last week. Yesterday we delivered the donations, which we know will make a real difference to people this Christmas.



Carol Service

The Music department and many students have been working really hard over the last week to prepare for our Carol Service this evening at Bath Abbey. It promises to be a wonderful event at the end of term and I hope many pupils and parents will be able to join us this evening.

Mock Exams

I would like to congratulate our Upper Sixth Students on the completion of their mock examinations (the last exam is tomorrow morning). They have approached the assessments in a really positive way and I am confident this will act as a spring board for success next year. Now they fully deserve a rest over the Christmas holidays.

And finally...

This week has not been without challenge with high levels of absence of staff and pupils due to illness. We have, however, managed to complete all our planned Christmas activities over the last two days and I do wish all who are unwell a speedy recovery.

At the end of a busy term I would like to congratulate all our pupils and students on their successes of the past two terms. Much of this is celebrated both in this newsletter and previous newsletters this term. There is so much to be proud of and I hope that they will look back with a sense of pride over what they have accomplished this year.

I would also like to thank all staff at Beechen Cliff for their hard work and commitment this year and all parents and carers for their support of the school.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members of our community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

T. D. Markall

T.D. Markall

Headteacher

Key Notices

End of Term Arrangements

On Friday 16th December school will finish at 12.30pm.

No food will be available at lunchtime due to the early closure but food will be available for pupils at break times.

Term 3 Start of Term Arrangements

Just a reminder that Monday 2nd January is a bank holiday and Tuesday 3rd January is an INSET day.

Term 3 for pupils begins on Tuesday 4th January.

Mr K Mann
Assistant Headteacher

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 at 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 at sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk

Inclement Weather Arrangements

In the case of snow and information about school opening, in the first instance, please go to the school website and Twitter for up to date information.

Kant Mann
Assistant Headteacher

Cost of Living information on Live Well B&NES

BANES have created a helpful compilation of a range of local information from their Cost of Living section that may be of interest including Benefits, Energy costs, Food, Debt advice, Childcare costs, Help if you're experiencing illness or disability, Careers, Help with prescription and dental treatment charges and Money and Mental Health.

[Cost of Living information on Live Well B&NES](#)

Cold Water Safety



Given the recent tragic news of the deaths of the three young children who fell through the ice whilst playing on a pond, the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS) has produced some excellent guidance regarding Cold Water Safety which you can find attached to this newsletter

Gary Burn AMOEAP
Outdoor Education Adviser

Term Dates

Term Dates for 2023/2024 are now listed on our website

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/parents/term-dates/>

Message from the Trust : Email Scam Warning



Tis the season to be jolly" - and to be scammed!



A reminder to be extra vigilant at this time of year with emails and text messages with links. The current big hitter in terms of scams is an email or text that looks like it is from a "loved one" requesting that you buy vouchers online (Google pay etc).

If you get this kind of message and it looks legitimate, contact the person involved directly and check. Do not email as it could be that the email account is compromised, certainly do not reply to the email thinking it is from your loved one. (The email name displayed may not be the real email address).

Mr Michael Ambrose

Deputy Headteacher

Safety over the Christmas period

Online Safety

No doubt some of our students will have asked for some form of technology that links to the internet for Christmas, be it a new smartphone, tablet or games console.

While their device will provide them with hours of entertainment, it can also present new risks. Here are 4 steps you can take to make sure that young people are safer online over the Christmas period and beyond.

1. Remember to set up parental controls

Parental controls can be a great tool to help protect young people online, and should be installed on any new device that they use. Find out more [here](#).

2. Start a conversation about communicating safely online

A new device enables young people to gain access to new communities through online gaming and social media. Make time to start a conversation with young people about how they use online technology and what it means to them. You can use this as a way to remind them of some key strategies for safer internet use, for example:

- Be careful with what they share, including images, videos and personal information.
- Take control of who sees what they post by using privacy settings.
- Be mindful of who they are chatting to and gaming with – do they really know and trust them? If not, don't share personal details or agree to meet them in other online spaces.

3. Remind young people how to report anything worrying - we recommend reporting to [CEOP](#)

Location Sharing

If you're wanting to keep tabs on where your child is, there are several phone apps that will help, including Life360, Apple's 'Find my' and 'Find my kids' on Android.

Water Safety

Given the recent tragic news of the deaths of the three young children who fell through the ice whilst playing on a pond, the RLSS has produced some excellent guidance regarding Cold Water Safety which we are attaching for you to share with your children.

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas break!

Mr Michael Ambrose

Deputy Headteacher

Curriculum information for the New Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

Looking ahead to the new year, for students in years 7-11 you can see what your son will be studying in each subject in each term using the link below.

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/curriculum-assessment/overview/subject-curriculum-information/>

For students in years 7, 8 and 9, we have also broken this down by year group so that you can see what your son will be studying in all of his subjects in each term.

To access the Year 7 Curriculum Booklet, please click [here](#)

To access the Year 8 Curriculum Booklet, please click [here](#)

To access the Year 9 Curriculum Booklet, please click [here](#)

Finally, I would just like to say that in the run up to Christmas, well done to all of our students for all of their hard work for this year. I hope all have a well deserved rest and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Andrew Seal

Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessment

School contacts

Contact details for senior members of staff are available on the contact page of the school website.

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/website-contact-Nov-21.pdf>

If you wish to get in touch or have a concern please contact the relevant member of staff or your son's tutor. Alternatively please email headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk and the message will be passed on to the appropriate person to respond.

Beechen Cliff Vacancies



BEECHEN CLIFF

Data Officer

<https://www.eteach.com/job/data-officer-1292924>

Closing date: Wednesday 4th January

Invigilators

<https://www.eteach.com/job/invigilators-1293062>

Closing date: Wednesday 4th January

Social Media



Follow us on twitter - [@beechencliff](https://twitter.com/beechencliff) and Insta - beechencliff1

A Gothic Ballad

By Toby Scully

A blanket of mist cloaked the house smothering the lights from within, only a feeble glow left showing. As I edged closer, the screams began. A glow from the lantern dangling in the clearing beyond. Cracked bricks coerced the wall each telling their own horrifying story. A small ground level window casting the light of the moon into the basement lurking below. Approaching I looked through, my heart clenched, my brain turning and unable to breath. The screaming stopped and the shouting began.

“Run, run” the crashing of steps grew closer. Huge red eyes filled the window. There was a smash as great claws went through the window with ease ripping the skin clean from my chest. Blood was flowing from my stomach and my heartbeat slowed and then all there was a howl, the beast baying to the gods beyond. The light was fading and the paw reached through the gash in the wall dragging me down to the carnage below. With my last few moments of light I saw jars with, I think, human limbs. All that was left to me was blackness.



My dreams held place to the realms of hell filling my heart with dread. A light wind blew against my cheek. As I opened my eyes, the sight of shaking hanging lights and shelves covered with jars and blood, blood everywhere, on my face, a pool on the floor. An echoed silence other than the solitary drip of blood. There was a streak of blood coming from what looked like a handprint and the scratches from nails clawing for freedom.

It felt like I was sitting in a puddle, looking over to my right the ravaged corpse of a man lying dead next to me. He had a missing hand, leg and foot, the flesh, bone and blood all showing. Our liquid of life forming the puddle on the floor. Looking down towards the arching pain from my stomach I saw the deep gashes that injured me so, the only thing showing was the blood and the white of my intestines.

The thudding of feet started but not clawed feet. They sounded more human than beast. Listening more closely it sounded like two sets of steps. Looking around I noticed the door to the right of the room. Interrupting the silence, the abrupt “bang” of the door brought me back to earth. It was two of them, one with a face full of madness the other full of glee. I spoke in desperation gasping for air with each word that left me. I spoke to the mad one “please, let me go i won't tell anyone. I probably won't even make it out of the forest”. “He can't talk, he's crazy” said the gleeful one, “he is my little killing machine”. They must have been psychotic. “You know too much to leave though” the gleeful one said again “go on, KILL HIM”.

Right in front of me the man transformed, every bone grew, his eyes became bigger and the claws, they were sharp as knives. The whimpering from the creature began. Before I knew it I was screaming, claws slashing at my legs slowly lifting me to the teeth covered mouth, I clawed at anything I could and found something and held to it. But it didn't stop me from being dragged. I looked at what I was holding and it was the dead man's intestine. I felt my legs torn from me and there was blackness.

Christmas LIBRARY NEWS

PLEASE CHECK FOR OVERDUE BOOKS!



We've had a busy term in the library, with two author visits, a big reading competition, £500 of new non-fiction books, new display boards, sixth formers helping out their reading buddies and lots of pupils discovering exciting things to read. Lots more bookish developments to come in 2023!

INSET DAY (3rd January) HELP REQUIRED (or other dates in January)

Are you able to spare an hour or two between to help update the new online library catalogue and sort the books into genres, please contact: lbridge@beechencliff.org.uk. Thanks!

Reading Around the World Cup Competition

We had 256 entries to the competition!

Fantastic reading from all the entrants.

The team results are as follows:

- ◆ 1st Kipling (200 points)
- ◆ 2nd Byron (150 points)
- ◆ 3rd Shakespeare (100 points)
- ◆ 4th Milton (50 points)



These points were added to the end of term totals. Well done everyone who took part!

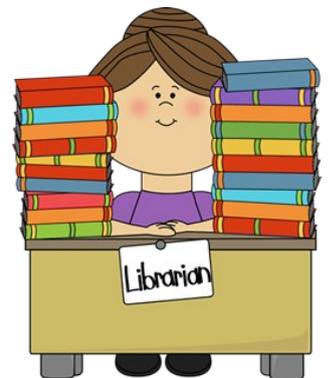
The results of the individual prizes will be announced at the end of term assembly on Friday.

PUPIL LIBRARIANS

In January we will be looking to recruit some pupil librarians to help run the library.

The sort of jobs you may be asked to do include:

- Doing shifts in the library at break or lunch to scan books in and out on the system
- Shelving books in the right place and keeping shelves tidy
- Recommending books to pupils either by talking or writing reviews or making displays
- Helping to keep the library computer system up to date.



There will be more opportunities for helping with events and activities as the role develops. Look out for information next term.

That's all for now! Keep Reading!

Laura Bridge
Library Lead

Literacy - Building a reading culture at Beechen Cliff...

A couple of hundred years ago they used to light beacons on the hilltops to send truly momentous news across the country, and if that practice still held then the dark of our most recent winter nights would have been lit from one end of Bath to the other this term after our numerous reading challenges, author visits and competitions. The efforts of our pupils has melded the magnificent with the merciless. Oh yes!

This term has ignited the fire for reading and our pupils have really invested time and effort to improve all their reading skills. As one of our year 8 pupils put it, 'Books have the power to transport us to new worlds and different times and I love that!'

Our mission

We want to instill a love of reading for all our pupils at Beechen Cliff and instill a 'can do' attitude when it comes to reading any book.

Reading in curriculum time

All our classes in KS3 (7,8,9) have been given a class reader. In Years 7, 8 and 9 reading is timetabled as part of the curriculum. In Year 7 pupils have two hours of reading per fortnight and in Year 8 and 9 pupils have one hour of reading per fortnight. In addition for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 a weekly reading homework is part of the homework timetable.

Across both KS3 and KS4 vocabulary is focused on in every lesson with key words displayed and referred to as part of the whole school teaching policy. Teaching reading and developing vocabulary is seen as part of the responsibility of all teaching staff.

Accelerated Reader Quizzes

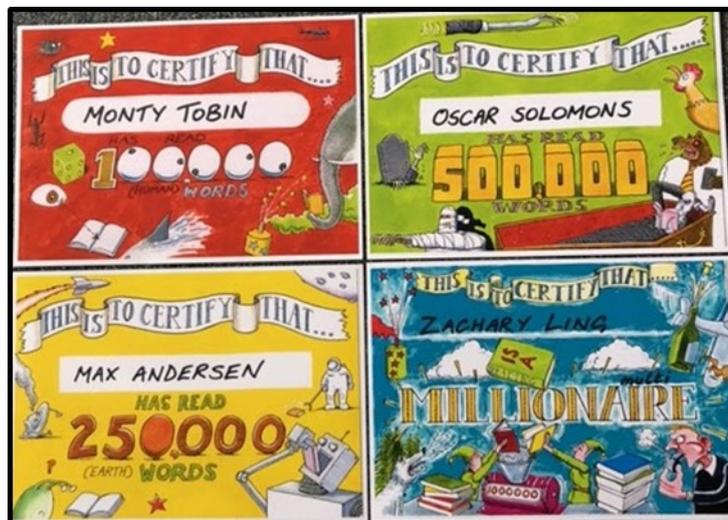
AR quizzes are now available to complete for all Y7/Y8 pupils. In short, once a book has been read they can take the quiz on our Accelerated Reader programme, pass the quiz and the number of words are added to your profile. Reach 100,000 words or more and you will receive a beautiful print of one of Mr Hacketts excellent hand drawn certificates (see below) with your name on it! You will also receive a prize if you are in the top three at the end of this term! Get reading as you have until Christmas to participate!

'Take Charge of Your Reading' bookmarks - if you would like a helpful guide to help you with your reading homework/comprehension, then please see Mr Newell for a bookmark. These have proven to be very helpful when keeping track of your reading.(see below)

'Sixth Form Reading Buddies' - Our wonderful sixth formers have finished a term of reading with our KS3 pupils in reading lessons. This has proven to be a very successful programme in the past and one that continues to flourish at Beechen Cliff.

M Newell

Literacy Lead



Take Charge of Your Reading



- Can you predict what might happen?
What clues are there in the text?
Can you justify your prediction?
I think... because...
I predict... because...
I expect... because...
- Can you question what is happening?
Who?
What?
Where?
When?
Why?
How?
What if?
- Can you clarify the meaning of words?
Can you sound out the word?
Can you read around the word?
What other word might make sense?
- Can you summarise what has happened?
Can you recount the main ideas
Can you ask students to 'sum up' what has happened?
Can you sequence what has happened?
Can you explain what has happened in your own words?

 **BEECHEN CLIFF**

Languages

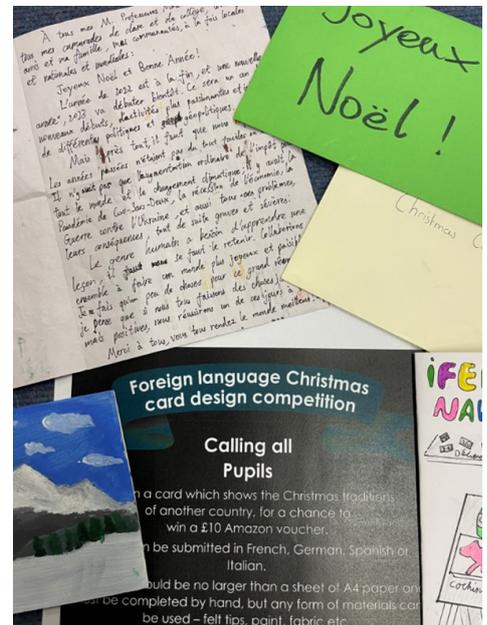
In the Languages department we have been very busy celebrating various cultural events since September. First of all we celebrated the European Day of Languages at the end of September. This year we invited all our staff to share with us their experiences of learning or using a foreign language and put all their responses together to make a quiz for the pupils. We were overwhelmed by the entries and it certainly served to remind our pupils how useful languages will be in their lives.

During the same week our senior linguists Stirling Smith and Vita Wall presented a special assembly to all the pupils to celebrate the importance of Languages which was well received by the pupils.

In November, we launched a Foreign Languages Christmas Card Design Competition. Again we were overwhelmed by the entries we received from both KS3 and 4 pupils. It was such a hard decision to choose from such lovely contributions but the winner of the competition is Olly B in Year 8 and a special mention to Wilson Y, Yarden R, Gabe B and Dylan R who came runners up. Great effort boys and such a pleasure to see all your lovely contributions.

Joyeux Noel, Feliz Navidad, Fröhliche Weihnachten, Buon Natale.

Jo Merrett
Head of Modern Foreign Languages



PSHE

This term the students have had a significant amount of PSHE input. We have been lucky enough for BANES Police to visit us, Year 9 completed the Tender Workshop and Year 11 continued their work with Hayesfield on Sexual Harassment. In tutor times and assemblies we have spent time discussing Remembrance Day, Self Reflection, Anti Bullying Week, Careers, Disability Awareness, Volunteering and this week the focus on celebrating Christmas.

POLICE POP UP

The police came into school in October, and are going to visit us again in Spring. The Pop Up event takes place in the refectory and it gives the students a chance to talk to the police, build positive relationships and ask any questions that they may have. We are also arranging a talk for Year 11 students in March that will explain all the different routes into the Police, and job opportunities with them. There is always such positive feedback from the students after these events.

TENDER WORKSHOP

Tender is a charity that we have been working with for the last few years. They came into school in December and ran a two day workshop with 20 Year 9's. This workshop focused on the key ingredients to a positive and healthy relationship. The students learnt to recognise different situations where a relationship might be causing more harm than good, this addressed issues of domestic violence and abuse in relationships. The boys that took part should be incredibly proud of the work that they did and especially performing to their entire year group as an end of workshop assembly.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT FORUM

This term we continued our work with Hayesfield completing the Sexual Harassment Forum. Our Year 11 prefects met again with their tutor reps to discuss ideas for the assembly they are preparing for next term. This assembly the students will deliver to Year 8 and 9 students in both schools. The students ideas, opinions and creativity have been outstanding. We have been blown away with how engaged they are with what is such an important subject.



NEXT TERM LESSONS

YEAR 7 - RSE - PUBERTY

YEAR 8 - GENDER AND EQUALITIES

YEAR 9 - CAREERS

YEAR 10 - DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

YEAR 11 - RPE INPUT

If you have any questions about what will be covered in the lessons then please contact awilmot@beechencliff.org.uk

Extra Curricular highlights Terms 1 and 2

It has been a busy two terms with a vast array of events taking place after school and on weekends.

Here's a taste of just the sport for term 2 - 6 sports, 21 different teams and 115 fixtures that have taken place! That's an amazing effort from both pupils and staff and testimony to our belief of getting as many pupils as possible involved in as many different activities as possible. 4 football teams remain in the last 32 of the English Schools Cup and our ACE rugby team were narrowly defeated in the final of the ACE league by Hartpury.

In addition nearly all Year 7 pupils have visited Tir-y-Cwm, and Duke of Edinburgh Award participation numbers are high with 90 currently completing Bronze, 30 Silver and 15 Gold. Also, 30 pupils took part in our piano concert last term and we had a really successful variety show, Beechen Cliff's Got Talent a few weeks ago with 20 students involved in production, staging and performance. In Computer Science over 350 pupils completed the Bebras Challenge.

Add to this the 350 Year 7 pupils that have taken part in the Bath Hub trip to Legoland, 100 Year 10 pupils who have been to Thorpe Park, nearly 900 Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 pupils who have been ice skating as a Bath Hub group and you get a taste of the participation levels....and we have only just completed 2 terms!

To cap this term off, we have 59 Year 10 and Year 12 students off to the slopes for the annual Austria ski trip.

Looking ahead to term 3, we are straight back into it with 90 Year 7 pupils continuing in the Christmas spirit with a visit to the panto at the Theatre Royal.

A list of all clubs and societies will be available at the start of term 3. In the meantime, it's a good time to catch our breath! A heartfelt thanks to all the staff who have made these opportunities available and a massive well done to all the pupils who have taken advantage of these opportunities to enrich their experience of school life.

Kant Mann

Assistant Headteacher

Extra Curricular Clubs

For information on after school clubs, please see the [Extra Curricular page on our website](#) which is regularly updated as next clubs are announced. New clubs and activities for next term will be published early in the new year on our return to school.

Kant Mann

Assistant Headteacher

U12 Rugby - End of Season Report

What a huge success the year 7 rugby squad has had this season. The boys have shown great spirit, enthusiasm and want to develop throughout the term. It has been great to see so many new pupils at Beechen Cliff School throw themselves into rugby. I hope this continues throughout their time at Beechen Cliff in all activities that we have to offer. The introduction session at the start of the term, 118 year 7 pupils took part in training with a huge range of knowledge and ability. Many of the boys expressed a want to play and some were happy to train and develop their knowledge and enjoyment of rugby. As the season progressed **113 pupils** across **3 teams** played in **20 rugby fixtures** against a variety of schools around the area. The boys showed amazing heart and determination against some strong and well established schools, coming out on both sides of the score sheet. The biggest focus across the teams has been on enjoyment and participation. It is clear that many of the boys have taken this and ran with it. So many of the pupils came to ask if they could play in a match if someone had pulled out and this shows the want to play rugby at Beechen Cliff School.



I would like to thank all the pupils, parents and staff that helped make this season a success.

No matter the result we finish with **1, 2, 3, BC!!!**

Ryan Bowett

U12 Rugby Lead

U14 Rugby - End of Season Report

The U14's have played expansive rugby this season focusing on big ball carries and offloads with supporting players either side ready to out-sprint the defence and even making the referees struggle to keep up. The defensive work can't be forgotten either. To date, the A's have only **conceded 26 points** all season and **scored 175 points** in the 7 games played currently undefeated this season.



This season has seen **61** Year 9 boys represent Beechen Cliff. Our B team recorded excellent wins against KES (29-0) and Byranston School (40-7). The strength and depth of the U14 rugby squad provides strong competition internally, with boys continuously improving and pushing each other to be the best they can be.

Our success in the national cup has got us to the last 32 in England. With a fixture against Stowe School yet to be played to progress further in the competition. An impressive win over a strong Reading Blue Coat team in poor weather epitomised the character and strength that this group of boys poses.

We have been very fortunate to have Mr. Greenhough who has run extra training sessions alongside the one we provide at school enabling the U14's to be one of fittest and well drilled sides around. The success we have achieved this year is down to the commitment of the players and support from parents. It's exciting to think what this group of boys can achieve in years to come.



Jack Utton

U14 Rugby Lead

U15 Rugby - End of Season Report

The u15's have played some excellent rugby this year learning new things and adding advanced skills into their game as well as being thinking more when they play. The rugby has been played with aggression and speed which helped them open up teams with silky offloading, acceleration into gaps and tough fronting up when it's been needed. This has shown in a lot of their results this season **winning 6** of their 10 games played and scoring an outstanding **272 points**. Along with the 10 fixtures they played this year, it could have been more after 4 got cancelled, one of these being a pre-season tournament which was a shame for the squad.

This season has seen a fantastic **31 players** training and playing a part in matches, with the best results coming against Bryanston School (43-12) and Monkton Combe (54-7).

The u15's have had some tough injuries and illness come at crucial times in the season, after losing 6 players all within 24 hours before their National Cup match, everyone knew that they had to step up a notch. Unfortunately they came up against a well drilled Oratory School losing narrowly 7-5. It was good to see they left everything on the pitch, putting they're bodies on the line and showing amazing heart right from the first whistle to the last.

It's not all bad news though, the aim of the season for the u15's was to play rugby after Christmas, and they've done it! After beating Wellsway (34-7) in the regional cup earlier in the season, it was planned that they play Heathfield School in what turned out to be the quarter final. The match didn't go ahead, but Heathfield gave them a walkover which means they are **through to the semi-final after Christmas!**

A fantastic season from the u15's and a season that is still going strong!

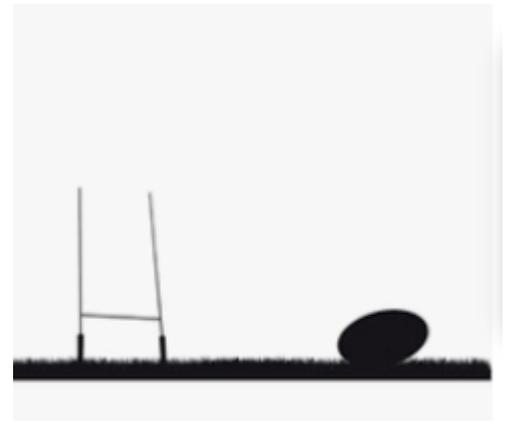
Sol Thompson

U15 Rugby Lead



U16 Rugby - End of Season Report

The U16 rugby team were hoping to build on a strong season in 2021/22 . With no national cup fixtures for year 11, the students wanted to snake their mark with a winning record and they got off to a strong start. The free flowing, fast paced style of play that has been the trademark of the group helped secure a 32-19 victory over Malmesbury school in September. This was followed up with a hard fought win against rivals Bryanston. The 17-12 scoreline reflected the competitiveness that both sides showed.



After some success against teams further afield, the uU16s were not so fortunate against local schools. Defeats to Bath schools King Edwards and Kingswood left the team hurting but most certainly hungry for another win.

They showed this determination in a county cup game against another local rival Ralph Allen. A draw saw the away side qualify.

After a short break in the fixture list, the U16s took QEH away and had a first half to forget. However, the positivity and heart that the team showed during the second half was amazing and no one could ask more of them.

Another loss meant the players were more eager than ever to end the season on a high against Collegiate, Bristol. The team was positive, well disciplined, and stayed true to the ethos of the squad as they moved the ball like never before to score 46 points at home.

While many will stay to pursue A Levels in the sixth form, some will surely leave so this was a great way to finish their time together at Beechen Cliff. This U16 rugby squad has made immense progress over their time at the school and I have no doubt they will continue to do great things wherever they play their rugby beyond secondary school.

Ollie Cattell

U16 Rugby Lead

SENIOR RUGBY SUMMARY – 2022 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 14 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 challenging set of fixtures in the League, which sends us all around England, we qualified for the ACE Final. Sadly we fell at this final hurdle losing out to reigning champions Hartpury (Match report separate)



2022 1st Squad after their ACE Victory against Stourport at The Rec

In our early fixtures we got off to a great start (thanks to a very productive but gruelling pre-season training camp at Tir y Cwm), recording excellent wins against Filton College (Bristol Bears ACE), Truro College (Exeter Chiefs ACE) and Gordon's School (Harlequins ACE). At this point, the incredible physicality of the League took its toll and an injury ravaged squad lost the next two games, before a hard-earned home win against Exeter College which secured our spot in the Top Tier of teams for Stage 2 of the competition

In Stage 2 managed to overcome a very powerful Stourport HS team (Worcester Warriors ACE) team on The Rec - a great occasion, then wins against Bishop Wand (London Irish) and Brooksby Melton College (Leicester Tigers).

More importantly, we 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. Touchline support for the boys has been phenomenal all season, both home and away; we thank everyone for their loyal support.



2022 2nd XV Squad versus Truro College

The tremendous achievements made this year, 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 James Short and Jack Haythornethwaite. 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.

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, Kingswood and Colston's 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 27 games, winning 18. More importantly, nearly 90 6th formers have represented their school at rugby this season with great pride



A happy 3rd XV after their victory against KES 2nds

Sean Turner

Head of Rugby

ACE Rugby Report

Beechen Cliff came up just short in their season-long campaign to be crowned 2022 ACE League Champions. In a tight game against reigning champions Hartpury College, the Bath Rugby partner school lost 24-12 at Cheltenham Tigers RFC. The RFU ACE League pits the partner state schools or colleges of all the Premiership clubs against each other in a National League. Hartpury College are affiliated to Gloucester Rugby.

Beechen Cliff started very slowly and in the first 20 minutes were totally dominated by their physical opponents. Hartpury identified and exploited a weakness in Beechen Cliff's defensive organisation around the fringes of the breakdown and made repeated line-breaks through this area. They scored three unanswered tries in this opening period and all early signs indicated that Beechen Cliff were heading for an embarrassingly heavy defeat.

To their huge credit, Beechen Cliff resolved their problems, tightened up their defence and ramped up their physicality. Slowly they fought their way back into the game and were rewarded with a great team try, finished off by winger Henry Bartlett in the right corner.

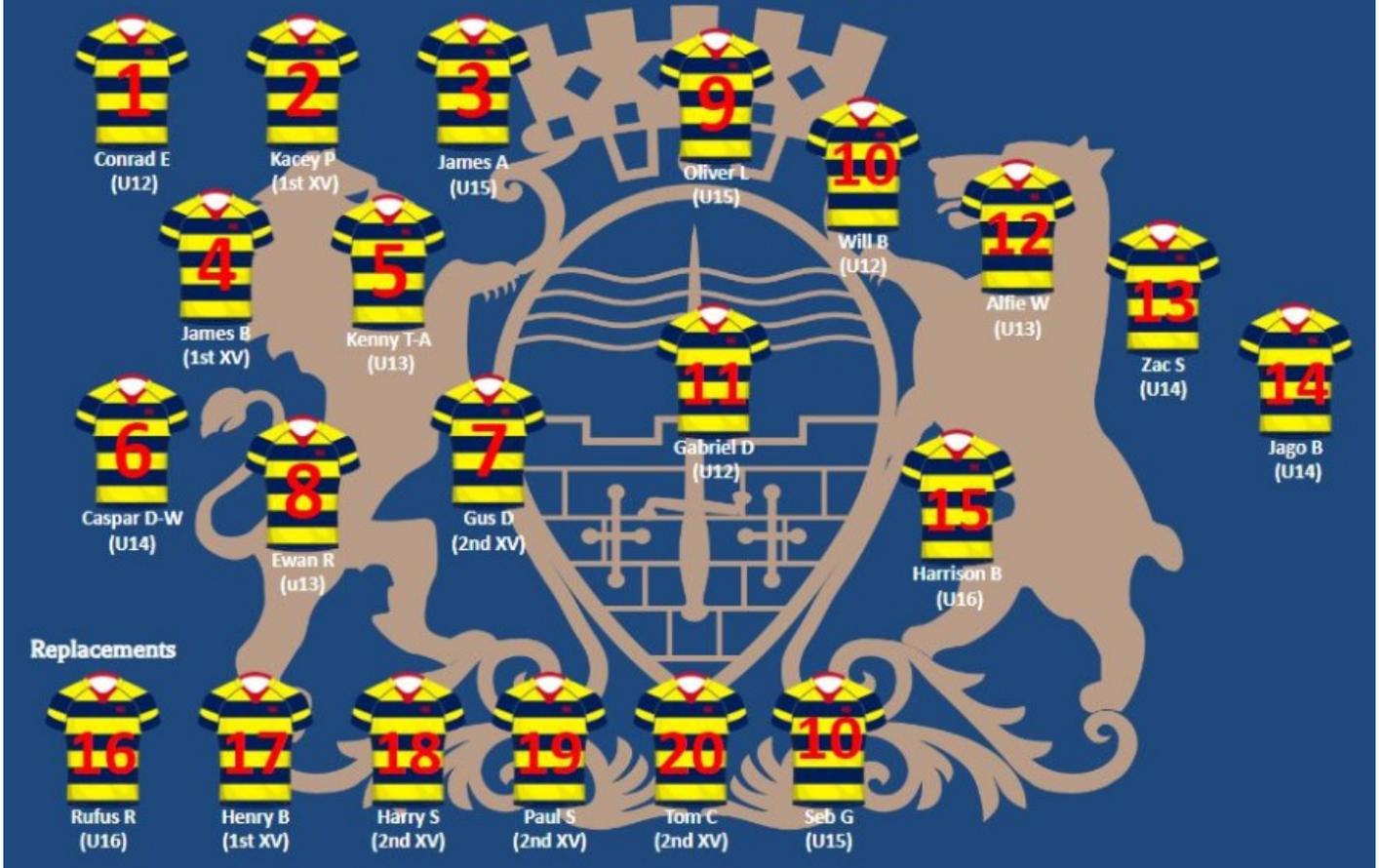
In the second half Beechen Cliff continued to exert pressure and create chances, playing the same brand of exciting attacking rugby that had earned them their spot in the Final. From one such attack, Connor Treacey scored under the posts, having chased a clever kick from his back-row colleague Kacey Pike. Raff Weston converted. At 19-12, Beechen Cliff threw everything at the Hartpury defence and were so close on a number of occasions, but the defence held firm. Frustratingly, Hartpury scored themselves in the dying minutes of the game to extend their lead to 24-12.



At the final whistle the Beechen team were understandably devastated. Having won the final 60 minutes of the game 12-5, there was huge frustration at having underperformed in the opening quarter, giving Hartpury what proved to be a match winning lead. But the team, and wider squad of players, can be rightly proud of their achievement this season, finishing second in a tough League of 14 teams of exceptional quality. Many of the squad are U17s, and so will get another opportunity next year. The U18s will move on to the next stage of their rugby journey, most likely University BUCS Super League rugby, in the knowledge that they have had the best possible preparation. The school would like to thank them for their incredible commitment and service to the school - we are very proud of them.

Sean Turner
Head of Rugby

Beechen Cliff Rugby Team of the Year 2022



Girls Hockey 2022

The girls hockey team had a very successful season scoring lots of goals, winning matches and having a great laugh along the way, with 21 girls having represented the school! A great feat considering they didn't know each other three months ago.

After 4 matches we managed to score 20 goals and walk away with 3 wins, only losing our first game which wasn't a surprise having had no playing time together. From the second game onward the girls played with great confidence and looked unbeatable at times.

They worked incredibly hard, showed great commitment and made progress from game to game.

Special shout outs go to Jemima Read, who rallied the troops for every game and organised the house hockey competition; the girls have a lot to thank her for! And to Kate Stephens, co-captain of the team and an outstanding hockey player to come through the ranks at Beechen.

Well done all!!

Mr J Mortimore

Hockey Lead



Mental Wellbeing

Young People – Looking after your Mental Wellbeing at Christmas



Among all the fun and festivities, Christmas can be an overwhelming time for young people. Read on to find out one young person, Calli's advice for looking after your mental health over the holidays.

Source: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-at-christmas/>

Just because it's Christmas, it doesn't mean caring for your mental health has to be put on hold.

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" is what I hear constantly at Christmas. Whether it's on the radio, the telly or out in public, we are constantly told that Christmas is a time to be happy.

But what if you're not happy?

The reality for many of us, including myself, is that when Christmas comes around, there's constant pressure on those with mental health problems to be happy all the time. But of course, that's easier said than done.

Here's my advice on things you can do to ensure you still enjoy the festive period this year, but also look after your mental health.

Take time out for yourself

It's so important to take time out every day, not just in the festive period. If you feel yourself getting a bit overwhelmed or upset, take five to ten minutes away from everyone on Christmas Day. Just have a bit of time to yourself.

Usually I will go into my bedroom to watch something on television, and this year I started running, so will absolutely take some time out on Christmas Day to go for a run. Christmas Day can be quite an overwhelming day, so allow yourself time to recharge.

If you feel yourself getting a bit overwhelmed or upset, take five to ten minutes away from everyone on Christmas Day.

Get back into your sleep routine

A good night's [sleep](#) is so important when it comes to looking after your mental health. It's said that teenagers need an average of nine-and-a-half hours' sleep each night. When it comes to the festive period, ensuring you get enough sleep can become difficult due to things like late nights at home and parties.

To make sure you get back into your normal sleeping routine easily, try going to bed at normal times as the festive period draws to a close. This'll make getting up for school a lot easier and, in turn, will help your mental health a lot.

Exercise for your wellbeing

Physical activity releases a chemical called endorphins, which makes you feel good, so if you're feeling a bit overwhelmed or low at Christmas, why not go out for a walk? You could go on your own or with someone else, or go for a bike ride or even a run.

You're allowed to take breaks, and do things that perhaps don't involve the whole family.

Try to relax

It's easy for me to say "Christmas is fun - just relax", but the reality is that relaxing can be tricky. Try doing things like yoga, breathing exercises or meditation to help you calm down if you're feeling a bit stressed over the festive period.

Just because it's Christmas, it doesn't mean caring for your mental health has to be put on hold. You're allowed to take breaks, and do things that perhaps don't involve the whole family. Mental health and physical health are equally important.

If you fell over and grazed your knee on Christmas Day, you'd put a plaster on it. So if you're mental health needs a plaster, you're allowed to do something about it.

Parent Solution Focused Training - Reminder

A few weeks ago, we sent out a Parent Questionnaire asking you if you would be interested in receiving some free Solution Focused Training for how to have conversations with your own children. We are delighted to have had responses from over 100 families. Most families have said that their preferred time for the training would be in the evening. We are so excited to be able to offer this training to any Beechen Cliff parents and carers on Thursday 12th January 2023 from 6.00pm until 7.00pm.

If you would like to attend, please can you book your place using the Eventbrite link below. You will then receive further details and the Zoom link to join us closer to the time.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/beechen-cliff-parent-solution-focused-information-evening-tickets-469035948147>

We very much look forward to meeting you all.

May we both take this opportunity to wish all our Beechen Cliff families a truly restful Christmas.

Susie Ingram and Tara Gretton



Royal United Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust

RUH Evening Careers event

Thursday 9th March 2023, 5 – 7:30pm

This event offers a fantastic opportunity for students in **Year 10 or above** who **live or study in the RUH catchment area** (shorturl.at/oyBZ6) to meet various staff members and talk about different careers in the NHS.

Booking now open

To book a time slot (5-6pm or 6:30-7:30pm) visit Eventbrite: bit.ly/3Vlka23 or see QR code below.

This booking is open until 10th Feb 2023 but may close earlier if places are all filled before this date.

If you have any queries please contact:

ruh-tr.careersengage@nhs.net

Or call on 01225 826041



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Insight Webinars in January: bp, CBRE and National Audit Office

Register Now!



CBRE



We are pleased to announce our new series of webinars for the new year to help you to learn about apprenticeship opportunities across the UK's leading companies, hear from current apprentices and ask questions directly to recruiting managers.

Apprenticeship opportunities with bp

Explore careers within Software Development, Cyber Security, HR, Trading, Shipping and more! These opportunities are available only for students studying in Greater London.

On: 18th January 2023 at 6.30 - 7.30 pm

For: Students and parents of those in years 10 to 13. Career leaders and teachers are encouraged to join.



[Book your place today](#)

Real Estate apprenticeships with CBRE

CBRE has opportunities for everyone and so come and find out what is available at the world's largest Commercial Real Estate firm and help shape the future of the real estate.

On: 24th January 2023 at 6.30 - 7.30 pm

For: Students and parents of those in years 10 to 13. Career leaders and teachers are encouraged to join.

CBRE

[Book your place today](#)

Accountancy apprenticeships with the National Audit Office



Find out about their successful Chartered Accountancy training scheme open to school leavers and gain a professional qualification combined with real work experience.

On: 31st January 2023 at 6.30 - 7.30 pm

For: Students and parents of those in years 10 to 13. Career leaders and teachers are encouraged to join.

[Book your place today](#)

Upcoming webinars (details to be shared soon):

- Rolls-Royce (February 2023)
- Jaguar Land Rover (February 2023)
- Deloitte (February 2023)
- EDF Energy (February 2023)
- Zurich Insurance (February 2023)

GCHQ Christmas Challenge

Every year, GCHQ publishes a Christmas Card on behalf of GCHQ Director, Sir Jeremy Fleming. The card traditionally includes a puzzle, as a bit of festive fun, and as a nod to our work, which famously revolves around codes, ciphers and communications. In 2021, for the first time, the Christmas card was designed specifically for children aged 11-18yrs old and became the GCHQ Christmas Challenge. It was so successful that we're bringing it back for 2022.

Once again, the Challenge is packed full of puzzles for 11 to 18-year-olds. The brainteasers are based on the seven disciplines of languages, engineering, codebreaking, analysis, maths, coding and cyber security - all key skills needed at GCHQ to help keep the country safe. But this year's challenge comes with a twist...once they solve all seven puzzles, your students will need to think outside the box, using the design on the front of the card to assemble the answers, forming three separate What3Words locations. Joining the three placenames together will reveal a hidden seasonal message.

From Wednesday 14 December, your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to crack all the puzzles to uncover the hidden festive message.

<https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/schoolsxmaschallenge2022?redirectOrigin=christmaschallenge>

Emma Pascoe
Head of Careers



Win a **£75 prize** & help save the planet!

SCHOOLS POSTER COMPETITION



COMPETITION RULES

1. Pick **1 ACTION** to **SAVE ENERGY**

"SHOW YOU CARE,
PUT ON A LAYER"

"KEEP DOORS AND
WINDOWS SHUT. MAKE
YOUR BILLS CUT"

"TURN OFF THE
HEAT WHEN YOU
LEAVE YOUR SEAT"

Choose any of these actions or come up with your own!

2. **CREATE A POSTER**

to convince people in Widcombe to do it
Portrait or landscape
Any medium

Categories

Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4, 6th form & adults

Submit

Digital image that looks great in A4
to <https://forms.gle/MSzxiMZpmevkYsq39> or scan QR

Deadline: January 30th 2023

Scan our QR code to learn more & to submit

Winning posters will be displayed in schools, homes & community centres in Widcombe and beyond



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