



BEECHEN CLIFF

Prospectus







Introduction

Our purpose at Beechen Cliff is to enable our pupils and students to achieve their aspirations and become well-rounded, confident and compassionate individuals who go on to live fulfilled lives and make a positive contribution to society. To help us achieve this our work is based around the School's Core Values: aspiration, compassion, independence and respect.

We aim to provide an environment where our pupils will thrive and benefit from the best possible education both in terms of academic achievement and wider opportunities and experiences.

We are a boy's school of around 900 pupils from Year 7 to 11 with a large mixed Sixth Form of over 400 students.

We are proud of our community and its approach to developing academic potential and character. Although methods of teaching and expectations of society have changed, the essence of a high quality all-round education remains unchanged. It is this ongoing broad provision and commitment to provide the strongest support and guidance for academic success to be achieved that has led to Beechen Cliff's strong reputation.

The school is valued by parents and pupils across the city and the wider area, and the pride that many feel for having been a part of the school is

seen in vast numbers of our alumni.

Attainment is well above national averages with over 80% of GCSE grades at Grade 4 and above and over 80% of pupils achieving Grade 4 and above in both English and maths in any given year. We are incredibly proud of what our students achieve and the destinations they go on to.

Beechen Cliff attracts applications from across Bath and the surrounding areas and is often significantly oversubscribed at both Year 7 and in the Sixth Form, which reflects its popularity.

The school is part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Trust. Within this we are also part of the Bath Hub, where local schools are working in collaboration for the benefit of education across the city.





Character Development

A zest for knowledge and an enquiring mind are important and we expect all boys to achieve the best academic standards they can, but our view of education is embedded in celebrating all aspects of success. We support each boy in developing balance within his life, giving access to such a significant range of opportunities so that all can find activities which will develop other aspects of their personality, attributes and values.

We pride ourselves on our Core Values as a school and believe that forming a strong set of personally meaningful values is an essential aspect of a pupil's personal development.

Our Character Programme is framed around these values of aspiration, compassion, independence and respect, and a taught element is delivered as part of the tutor time programme. Through engaging with this and wide-ranging activities as a part of school life, pupils reflect on their actions, past experiences and hopes for the future in relation to the Core Values. We celebrate pupils' character development throughout their years in the school alongside their academic progress, through our Character Award.

All of our boys are nurtured to become increasingly self-confident without arrogance and to recognise the role that their increasing leadership potential can have on others. From an early point boys are given the chance to lead and to learn the value of themselves. Each year many take part in our Future Leaders Award, act as council reps or anti-bullying ambassadors, and in addition many apply for the sought-after Prefect positions in both Year 11 and the Sixth Form. This chance to lead and to act as role models for younger boys has a very powerful effect across the school.

Many Sixth Form students also act as mentors for younger pupils and organise events and lead initiatives across the school.





Flourishing in an All-Boy Environment

Nationally, boys' performance at GCSE is outstripped by girls. However, at Beechen Cliff boys do significantly better than similar ability boys across the country. This is because we understand the very particular needs of boys. Our pupils are encouraged to be active and make use of our fields, play spaces, library and other facilities. Teachers acknowledge the full range of boys' emotions and vulnerabilities, broadening their spheres. In an age when boys and girls are under pressure to grow up too quickly, an all-boy environment allows the boys to stay as boys for longer. Without the social pressures of a mixed environment, boys in an all-boy school can avoid stereotypes and explore the full range of their personalities and potential.

Aspirations at Beechen Cliff are set through the highest quality of teaching and helping to guide boys towards becoming successful and contented adults through achievement of a number of personal goals; both academic and through extra-curricular participation.

The very strong academic outcomes of the boys at A Level and GCSE demonstrate that Beechen Cliff boys achieve consistently at a much higher level than those nationally

or locally. The high levels of participation in our extra-curricular programme show how popular it is and through it we see boys developing their confidence and character.

An area of the school's work of which we are very proud is our mental health and wellbeing programme to boost the confidence of our young men – something described by Ofsted in 2020 as “remarkable”.





Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Beechen Cliff is a vibrant, dynamic school which places opportunity at its heart. Our boys are encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible and our teachers give of their time very generously to make this happen. The activities available in a typical year include:

F1 Car Racing
Radio Controlled Car Club
Lego Robotics Club
Yu-Gi-Oh! Club
Computer Programming
Science Club
Climbing
Dungeons and Dragons Club
Cricket
Tennis Club
Hockey Club
Shooting
Combined Cadet Force (CCF)
Rugby Club
Christian Union
Scrabble Club
Choir
Music Ensembles: orchestras/jazz/folk groups
Musical Performances: School Concert/Carol
Services/Bands Nights
Maths Club
Art Club
Chess Club
Football
Warhammer Club
Theatre Club with Bath Theatre School
Debating and Public Speaking
Library Helper

The range of educational visits which enrich the curriculum and the lives of our boys is beyond compare. Each year around two hundred visits take place across the school, all aiming to develop the understanding and character of our boys. From the first few weeks in Year 7 all boys visit the school cottage in Wales, Tir-y-Cwm, where they bond together and are challenged to develop their confidence and sense of belonging in our community.

During their time at Beechen Cliff the boys will be offered skiing visits to Europe and the United States, projects in Romania, sporting tours in the UK and Europe, outdoor education visits to Iceland and the Alps, together with language trips to Italy, France, Spain and Germany. These opportunities are supplemented by an array of experiences which boys will remember for many years to come, led by staff who are passionate about the positive effects of such activities.

Beechen Cliff Challenges

As part of our mission to develop character, throughout their time at Beechen Cliff, boys are encouraged to take part in a range of challenges. These are designed to take boys out of their comfort zones into realms that challenge body and mind – where there are no short cuts and no easy ways out. It is on these occasions that the boys discover inner strengths and limits. Annual challenges include:

The Centurion Challenge – a 100 mile walk to Hungerford and back in 48 hours.

Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards; the latter including a mountaineering expedition to the Pyrenees.

Ten Tors Challenge – teams face hikes of up to 55 miles visiting ten Dartmoor tors over two days.

Coast to Coast Cycle Ride – a 100 mile cycle ride in a day from the north Devon Coast, across Dartmoor, to Plymouth.

Three Peaks Challenge – climbing the three highest peaks in England, Wales and Scotland within 24 hours.



Support and Guidance

Pastoral Care and the Houses

Pastoral Care is at the heart of the boy's experience at Beechen Cliff. The pastoral structure includes a year-based system and a cross-year House system running concurrently. There are around 900 boys in the lower school and each boy is placed into one of the four Houses. This enables the boys across the school to get to know each other and feel a sense of belonging within their House Community. Each House is led by a Head of House with responsibility for providing personal development opportunities for pupils in their House.

In addition, each Year group is supervised by a Head of Year, appointed from experienced teachers within the school. Within each year group each boy is placed in a tutor group, led by a tutor and affiliated to their House. The role of the Head of Year and tutor is to provide pastoral and academic support for each boy in their care and to oversee and guide their progress through school.

The school SENDCO, pastoral managers, attendance officers, conduct support officers and school nurse provide additional strands to the pastoral care system and other points of contact for parents.

Parents

We recognise that parents are at the centre of our work in achieving success with our boys. To help parents support their sons we provide clear information on academic performance and potential, guidance on support for reading and information on the curriculum, homework, extra-curricular activities, revision and assessments.

All payments for activities, and the exceptional food in the Refectory, are

made online, helping parents to be clear about what is on offer and how their sons are taking advantage of our provision.

Early in Year 7 parents are invited to an information evening to find out how best they can support their sons in school.

Additional parent information evenings on important topics, such as reading and online safety, also take place during the year.

Reporting to Parents

Throughout the Lower School we will keep parents informed about their son's progress. This will happen in a number of different ways: each year there are two progress reports and one full subject and tutor report. These reports are published on Beechen Cliff's online Parent Portal called INSIGHT. On the portal parents can also access information on pupil timetables, attendance and conduct. In addition there is an annual Parents' Evening for subject teachers and parents to discuss pupil progress.

Homework

At Beechen Cliff we are very clear about the importance of homework. We believe homework has huge benefits – it improves performance in lessons, enables positive reinforcement from teachers, improves attitudes towards lessons and develops pupils' capacity to work independently.

Homework is set rigorously and the school has high expectations of pupils and the quality of the homework handed in to teachers. Homework is set via Google Classroom, an online portal, which pupils have access to via their school network login. Pupils also have a planner where they can record when their homework

is due, the books they are reading and other important information to help them develop their organisational skills and independence. Parents receive weekly summaries of their son's homework via email. There is also an expectation that parents will provide the encouragement,

the resources and the quiet space to allow homework to be completed well.

Beechen Cliff also runs a Homework Club, supervised time after school in the library for pupils to receive additional support to complete homework.



Boarding

There is a small boarding house at Beechen Cliff, catering for up to thirty-four boys. Application for a boarding place in any year group other than Year 7 is by application to the school. For a Year 7 place applicants should use the Common Application Form used by all day-pupil parents for a place at the school via the local authority.

There are a number of reasons why pupils may wish to board, for example:

- parents may have work commitments which demand that they travel some or all of the time
- many Sixth Form students relish the opportunity for a half-way house between school and university
- elite athletes can access the excellent opportunities at local providers, including the university and the Bath Rugby Academy
- family circumstances might mean that a period of boarding would provide stability and continuity in a child's life

- a one-off family commitment might mean that flexi-boarding will offer the ideal way to provide childcare while parents are away.

Fees

Full boarding fees are available on the school website, although bursaries are available for the parents of boys who would clearly benefit from the excellent education at Beechen Cliff.





The First Year at Beechen Cliff

Transition from Primary School

All Year 6 pupils who have been offered a place at Beechen Cliff will be visited in their primary school by one of our transition team. Not only is this an opportunity to meet your son but it is also an opportunity to discuss academic strengths, talents and extra-curricular interests along with areas for development. This helps ensure the smoothest possible transition into Beechen Cliff.

Year 7 Teaching Groups

On a Saturday morning in mid-June, Year 6 pupils are invited to Beechen Cliff to sit Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) and National Group Reading Assessments (NGRAs). The results of these assessments, along with SAT results and information from primary schools, are used to place pupils into teaching groups. The CATs also give us some important information about how each boy learns.

In Year 7 most subjects within the school will be taught in the same teaching group. In English and Mathematics pupils are streamed based on their prior attainment. The purpose of streaming is to ensure work is pitched at the right level from the outset so that the rate of academic progress can be maintained. The streaming is monitored carefully throughout the year and on the occasion where the teachers consider it necessary, a pupil may switch from one stream to another.

The Curriculum and the School Day

Each day starts with a tutor period. In this time there will be a weekly assembly

in the Main Hall and tutor group activities, which includes our character programme, theme of the week, reading opportunities and the weekly quiz. In addition there is the opportunity for the tutor to give out notices and to meet with individual pupils about their progress. Each term assemblies will take place in both Year groups and House groups.

After the tutor period there are five one hour lessons, punctuated by a 25 minute break in which boys are encouraged to be outside to get some fresh air and exercise. There is also a 45 minute lunchtime, during which time boys will have the opportunity to have one of the Beechen Cliff's famous lunches in the Refectory.

In their first year pupils will study English (6 hours per fortnight), Reading (2 hours), Maths (6 hours), Science (6 hours), French (5 hours), Geography (3 hours), History (3 hours), Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (2 hours), Technology (4 hours), Art (2 hours), Music (2 hours), ICT/Computing (2 hours), PSHE (2 hours), PE (2 hours), Games (2 hours) and Drama (1 hour).

For success within school and beyond, boys need to be strong readers. Not only do good literacy skills support learning across the curriculum but allow pleasure to be gained from reading for its own sake. All boys will be regularly assessed for their reading ability and reading time is given on the curriculum to ensure boys are progressing their reading both in terms of quantity and an appropriate level of challenge. Boys are expected to have a reading book with them in school at all times.

The Beechen Cliff Charter and Welcome Service

At the beginning of the academic year all Year 7 boys take part in a Welcome Service. This introduces them into the school community, allows time for new boys to share in the collective pride of being part of Beechen Cliff and gives them the opportunity to sign The Charter, a promise that they will make to uphold our Core Values and give of their best at all times.

The School Cottage Residential

In the first four weeks of starting at Beechen Cliff, all new Year 7 pupils spend three days at Tir-y-Cwm, the school cottage in the centre of a large forest on the south western edge of the Brecon Beacons. Activities include team building tasks, forest walks both during the day and at night along with various adventure activities, such as river walks, orienteering and boulder climbing.

With absolutely no “mod-cons”, no central heating, no cleaners, no catering company and certainly no wi-fi, this is a trip that stays long in the memory of boys.

Sport and the Extra-Curricular

From the outset all boys are encouraged to play rugby, football, cricket and hockey and to represent the school. We offer opportunities for boys to play in any one of our four or five teams per sport from the elite to those first time players. For those not interested in team sports there are many other opportunities – those particularly popular with Year 7 boys include: shooting, tennis, drama, chess, Warhammer, F1 car racing, school choir, music instrumental lessons, orchestras/ jazz band and an assistant librarian role. The expectation at Beechen Cliff is that each boy should participate in the extra-curricular programme.

The Christmas Carol Service at Bath Abbey

A key event on the school annual calendar is the Christmas Carol Service at Bath Abbey. This is a traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service in which all Year 7 boys participate. Parents are also invited.







Beechen Cliff beyond the first year

The experience of Beechen Cliff gives boys an opportunity to thrive. Supported by a well-planned and wide-ranging curriculum, exceptional extra-curricular opportunities, high quality pastoral care and an expectation to be the best you can be, boys thrive and are prepared for the next stages in their lives.

Years 8 to 9

When boys enter Year 8 and Year 9, the curriculum changes in two ways:

Many boys take up a second modern foreign language – a choice of Italian, German or Spanish. Some continue just with French and others are provided with additional literacy and numeracy support as an alternative to a second language.

Boys are placed into subject specific sets for Maths and ICT/Computing, and to some extent in English and languages. Other subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

Years 10 to 11

In the GCSE years, all boys continue to study English (Literature and Language), Maths and Science (both combined and separate sciences) along with core PE and Games. Most boys continue with a language and a humanities subject (Geography, History or RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics)). Other optional subjects include: Art & Design, Computer Science, Interactive Media, Design & Technology, Food & Nutrition, French, Geography, German, History, Italian, Music, Music Technology, Photography, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, Spanish, PE and Sports Studies.

Examination results at GCSE are excellent, as can be seen on the school website.

Boys also get the opportunity to complete an enrichment course in Further Maths.

The Sixth Form

The mixed Sixth Form at Beechen Cliff is large and vibrant – the flagship of the school. The majority of Beechen Cliff boys stay on for the Sixth Form and are joined by over 100 students from other schools.

The Sixth Form offers a high quality academic curriculum of predominantly A Levels with excellent examination results.

In addition Sixth Form students benefit from our exceptional Super-curricular and Future Horizons programs. Most students go on to university – many to the Russell Group including Oxford and Cambridge. Others take up high-level apprenticeships or move directly into employment.



What the boys say

Here are the thoughts of a number of our boys on the experience they have had at Beechen Cliff.

Charlie (Year 7)

"Everybody at Beechen Cliff is so friendly. I've made lots of new friends. In fact I have found I have so many friends I can't fit in seeing them all at break time. I really like my teachers. They are easy to talk to, have a good sense of humour and we get lots of work done. It has been great to be able to do lots of subjects where Beechen Cliff has more equipment than we had at primary school, in particular science, technology, PE and art."

Henry (Year 7)

"I have had a good first year at Beechen Cliff. I have enjoyed sport and taking part in football and tennis fixtures. I have particularly enjoyed lessons in PE, technology and art. I have lots of different groups of friends and do many different after-school clubs. The food available in the refectory at break time and lunch time is also really good!"

Etienne (Year 8)

"So far during my time at Beechen Cliff my progress has been very positive academically. The teachers have been helping us if we have been absent from school and missed lessons with short catch up sessions and work set on Google Classroom."

The sports side of school is also totally amazing. It offers many extra-curricular clubs and fixtures are arranged frequently. I have an enthusiastic set of people around me, both teachers and friends."

William (Year 10)

"I love being outdoors and the Duke of Edinburgh programme has allowed me to really build up my ability to lead others and to get the

best from a team. I have loved working on my GCSEs and I'm really hoping that I will move on to A Levels at Beechen Cliff and then on to take a degree in Geography. I've had some helpful advice from staff at Beechen Cliff and they are working to push me as hard as possible. The work is challenging but I know it's worth trying hard and to keep trying out new things. I would like to take up the chance to be interviewed for a Prefect position at the end of the year."

Josh (Year 11)

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my five years at Beechen Cliff and I am greatly looking forward to continuing in the Sixth Form. Beechen provides you with an incredible amount of extra-curricular options, with my proudest achievements being completing the Centurion Challenge and winning the national hockey finals. The teachers have always inspired me to achieve my best, and I feel well equipped to take on my GCSEs knowing that hard work pays off."

John (Upper Sixth)

"I came to Beechen as one of three boys from my old primary school - so it was quite daunting to start with, but I found the school perfect for who I was then: an enthusiastic boy full of energy. I was stretched academically and relentlessly encouraged to pursue extra-curricular activities; challenges like the Centurion walk exemplify the spirit of the school, and every boy who completes it wears their tie with pride. Further up the school I was encouraged to take on leadership roles, too. The strength of Beechen Cliff is that it understands how to get the best out of boys and as a result I left the school this year proud of my time here and excited for the future!"





How to apply?

A step-by-step guide to the application process for Year 6 into Year 7 entry:

September	Application process published on the Beechen Cliff website Prospective Parents' Evening and Open Morning
31st October	Deadline for receipt of Common Application Form at your Local Authority
1st March	National offer day and Appeals information available via the local authority
End of April	Final date for appeals information

Queries

If you have any queries concerning the application process for Beechen Cliff please contact

Admissions
Tel: 01225 480466
Email: headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk

Admission Criteria: Day Pupils - Year 7

Please see our website for the latest admission policy.
www.beechencliff.org.uk/admissions/lower-school-admissions/

Admission Criteria: Boarding Pupils - Year 7

Please contact the school for current information on the admission process for boarders.



School Uniform

Item	Description	Specific Supplier	Notes for guidance
Blazer	Navy with 1932 crest	Scholars	
Shirt	White with fine blue stripe	Scholars	No alternative acceptable No T-shirts to be worn underneath
Tie	House tie	Scholars	
Jumper	Navy V-neck with 1932 crest	Scholars	No alternative acceptable
Trousers	Mid grey	Any high street retailer	Jeans and casual trousers not acceptable Not black, not charcoal and not light grey
Shoes	Black leather type	Any high street retailer	No trainers, canvas shoes or boots Trainers may only be worn at lunchtime
Socks	Plain grey or black	Any high street retailer	Not white
Top Coat	Plain and standard school style	Any high street retailer	Optional. Please note, hooded tops ("hoodies"), leather/denim jackets or similar are not permitted

Games & PE Kit

Item	Description	Specific Supplier
PE Shirt	Royal blue with school logo	Kukri or PTA
PE Shorts	Royal blue with school logo	Kukri or PTA
PE Socks	White	Any high street retailer
Supportive trainers	No fashion trainers	Any high street retailer
Rugby Jersey	Royal blue with school logo	Kukri or PTA
Rugby Shorts	Royal blue with school logo	Kukri or PTA
Rugby Socks	Royal blue with school logo	Kukri or PTA
Rugby/Football Boots	No bladed boots	Any sports retailer
Gum Shield		Any sports retailer
Shin Pads		Any sports retailer
Shoulder pads and scrum cap	Optional	Any sports retailer

Optional Additional Sports Kit

Pupils can purchase additional items to wear alongside their PE and games kit and to any fixtures or training sessions. Please order direct with Kukri at:

www.kukrisports.co.uk/teamshop/beechncliffschool

School Uniform Policy

Hair: Pupils' hair must be in a style acceptable to the School. It must be sensibly cut, clean and tidy. It must be a single, naturally occurring colour. Extreme hairstyles, tram lines and other sheared patterns or designs are not permitted. Longer hair will need to be tied back in practice subjects eg Technology

Jewellery: Jewellery (including necklaces, rings or bracelets) must not be worn in school. Pupils may only wear a single plain stud earring per ear.

Personal Property: Pupils are advised not to bring items of expensive property to School. Mobile phones may be brought to school but must be switched off during school hours and not used without permission.

If there are any problems with uniform, please contact the school before the start of term. Decisions on what is appropriate in relation to all the above will be at the discretion of the Headteacher.



The Bath Hub

Beechen Cliff School, Hayesfield Girls' School and St Mark's School are all 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 within this Trust as it celebrates each school's individual character while offering outstanding support and challenge.

Within the Trust, there is the Bath Hub which was formed in September 2021. 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. 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.

In addition, the schools have also worked collaboratively to provide additional extra-curricular opportunities and experiences for pupils across the three schools. These have included trips to Legoland, inter-School discos and ice skating, joint musical performances, arts showcases and endurance challenges.

We look forward to continuing to work in collaboration in the future for the benefit of all three schools and education across the city.









BEECHEN CLIFF

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