



BEECHEN CLIFF

Christmas 2023

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a celebratory week with subject effort and progress awards given out in year group assemblies in Years 7-11. In addition Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch and the Santa run have taken place and I would like to commend our pupils on their charity fundraising.



Our boarders have had their Christmas party too making the most of a second Christmas dinner and a Secret Santa with a fantastic array of presents.



Year 13 students have been working hard and completing their mock exams showing effort and dedication that will no doubt pay dividends as the preparation for A Levels continues.



Year 11 pupils received their mock exam results last Friday and, following parents' evening this week, they should have a good understanding of where they are in their different subjects and what is required over the months ahead to ensure they are prepared for their GCSEs in the summer.

Last night we had our annual Carol Service at Bath Abbey. It was a wonderful service with some fabulous music and I would like to congratulate all pupils and staff on brilliant performances, having worked so hard to prepare for the evening. Thank you to all who came to support and I hope you enjoyed the event.

In addition, from Tuesday to Thursday this week we have had an OFSTED inspection of our boarding provision. Two Social Care Inspectors visited us at school, met with staff and boarding pupils and reviewed our provision, systems and processes. Whilst the report is not due to be published until January, I can say that we received some very positive verbal feedback and I look forward to sharing the report with you in due course.

Finally, as we move into the last few days of term may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and all the very best for the year ahead.



Mr T D Markall  
Headteacher



## Key Notices

### End of Term Arrangements -Tuesday 19th December

School will finish at 12.30pm on Tuesday 19th December for the Christmas break. Please note that food will only be available in the Refectory for the two breaks.

School will reopen for pupils on Thursday 4th January at 8.25am.

Kant Mann  
Assistant Headteacher

### **REPORTING ALL PUPIL ABSENCES**

Parents and Carers, please take note of the following correct direct contact details.

#### Lower School Pupils

To report a Lower School absence please call the School **direct** on 01225 485222 OR email the lower school attendance at [attendance@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:attendance@beechencliff.org.uk).

#### Sixth Form Students

For a Sixth Form student absence please call the School **direct** on 01225 485221 OR you can email Sixth Form attendance at [sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:sixthattendance@beechencliff.org.uk)

ANY absence from School including late arrivals and medical appointments are to be reported to School promptly.

### **PLANNED ABSENCES**

For planned absences please complete an [absence request form](#) found on the school website and return it to the attendance office or to [attendance@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:attendance@beechencliff.org.uk)

## Calendar

**Friday 15th - 21st December**

Austria Ski Trip

**Sunday 17th—21st December**

Year 11 Berlin Trip

**Tuesday 19th December**

End of Term - School finishes at 12.30pm

**Tuesday 2nd/Wednesday 3rd January 24**

INSET Day

**Wednesday 3rd - Monday 8th January 24**

Iceland Trip

**Thursday 4th January 24**

Start of Winter Term (Term 3)

Year 7 Pantomime visit

A Level Certificate collection

**Saturday 13th January 24**

Ten Tors—Mendips

**Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th January**

Mendip Dry Ski (for USA)

**Wednesday 17th - Thursday 18th  
January**

Geography Bristol Harbourside Trip

**Tuesday 30th January**

Oxford Ashmolean Trip (Classics)

**Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th February**

Ten Tors—Black Mountains/Tir Y Cwm

**Thursday 8th— Friday 16th February**

USA Ski Trip

**PLEASE READ**



## Happy Christmas and looking ahead to the new year

Dear Parents and Carers,

I just want to say a huge well done to all of our pupils and students for their efforts so far this year, especially to those in Year 11 and 13 who have recently completed Mock Examinations, and to all of our new starters for making a good start to life at Beechen Cliff. Well done. I wish you all a very good break over the festive period.

Looking ahead to the new year, I'd like to remind everyone that we have published what is covered in each term in each subject in our Curriculum Booklets which can be accessed using the links below.

[Key Stage 3-4 Subject Curriculum information](#)

[Key Stage 5 Subject Curriculum Information](#)

I will also be writing to all parents in the coming days to share the content which will be delivered during Terms 3 and 4, so that you can take a look at what is coming up. I trust that these will help with preparing for the terms ahead.

If you have any questions about the curriculum, please do contact me using the email address [headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk)

Kind regards,

Andrew Seal

Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessment.

### Santa Run, Christmas Jumper Day, Food Bank Collection

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in the above events over the last few days. It certainly brought the flavour of Christmas a little closer!

A huge effort and the results are below:

**Santa Run** - raised £1350 with the top fundraisers Patrick M, Monty B and Harry D (all BY7b). They will receive their prize from Mr Markall before the end of term

**Christmas Jumper Day** - £550 will go to our nominated Charities for this term

And a huge thank you to everyone that brought an item of food in for the Bath Foodbank over the last couple of weeks. We will be taking the items to them early next week.



Mr Kant Mann  
Assistant Headteacher



# LIBRARY NEWS

## Millionaire Readers!

I am delighted to announce that we have had our first five millionaire readers. These boys have been reading and quizzing on Accelerated Reader and have managed to read an amazing one million words. This is approximately equivalent to 12 full novels. Seven more boys are hot on their heels with more than half a million words read. Twenty-seven boys have read 250,000 words and thirty-two boys have read more than 100,000 words. Across the whole of Y7 and Y8 boys have read a whopping 27,637,299 words between them. What an achievement!



Oscar O'B    Quentin R-H    Tomas A    Barney W    Nasko T

## Overdue Books



Please look out for emails from Libresoft, our school library system, and encourage your children to return their books as soon as possible. We currently have over one hundred overdue books worth around £800. We do not issue fines for overdue books but we do need to know if the book is damaged or lost so we can replace the popular titles. Thank you.

## Nonfiction Competition



We had a good response for our non fiction writing competition. At the time of writing, the competition is in the judging stages and the winner will be announced before the end of term.

## Changes in the Library from January

We are planning exciting changes in the library from January.

We hope these changes mean that more pupils will be able to engage with activities in the library. For more information, please see the letter sent 11th December.

Please be aware that pupils will not be able to complete homework activities at lunchtime. We believe they need a break from work and allows us to run a wider range of activities.

Homework can still be completed before school (from 8 am), during break and after school.

Day	Before School and Breaks	First Lunch Year 7, 8 and 9	Second Lunch Year 10 and 11	After School
	NO GAMES	NO COMPUTERS	NO COMPUTERS	NO GAMES
Mon	Homework and Reading	Chess and Scrabble	Chess and Scrabble	Homework Club 3.15-4.30
Tue	Homework and Reading	Games/Puzzles	Puzzles and Art (wk2 only)	Homework Club 3.15-4.30
Wed	Homework and Reading	Pupil Librarians Only	GCSE Essay Work-shops	Homework Club 3.15-4.30
Thu	Homework and Reading	Quiz (wk1) /Bingo (wk2)	Quiz (wk1) /Bingo (wk2)	Homework Club 3.15-4.30
Fri	Homework and Reading	Creative Day	No Session (Library Lesson)	Homework Club 3.15- 4.00 <b>Earlier Finish</b>

Silent, independent reading and swapping books is always allowed.

## Homework Club

Homework club will continue to run after school 3.15-4.30 every day (until 4pm on Friday).

Please note, this is a club for pupils who need a quiet space and time to access computers or receive help with their homework. Pupils should only be completing homework activities (including reading homework), otherwise they will be asked to leave.

### Encouraging boys to read.

#### A Book for Christmas

A book, or book token, may not be the most exciting gift for some on Christmas morning, but it could start a new habit that will last a lifetime. Check out your local charity shops for great nearly-new books from as little as £1! There are many bargains to be had. Your local bookshop will be able to supply national book tokens which can be spent in most bookshops nationwide.



The Library is for everyone.

Have a good break—time to ...

*Keep Reading!*

Laura Bridge, Library Lead

([lbridge@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:lbridge@beechencliff.org.uk))







## Christmas Card Making In the Library





## Music

Instrumental lessons continue to provide a range of opportunities for pupils and students. 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 be found on the website under parent information.

### Performances

On Thursday 5th October, three of our pupils: Wilson Y (year 11), Ollie R (year 12) and Arthur F (year 12) 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.



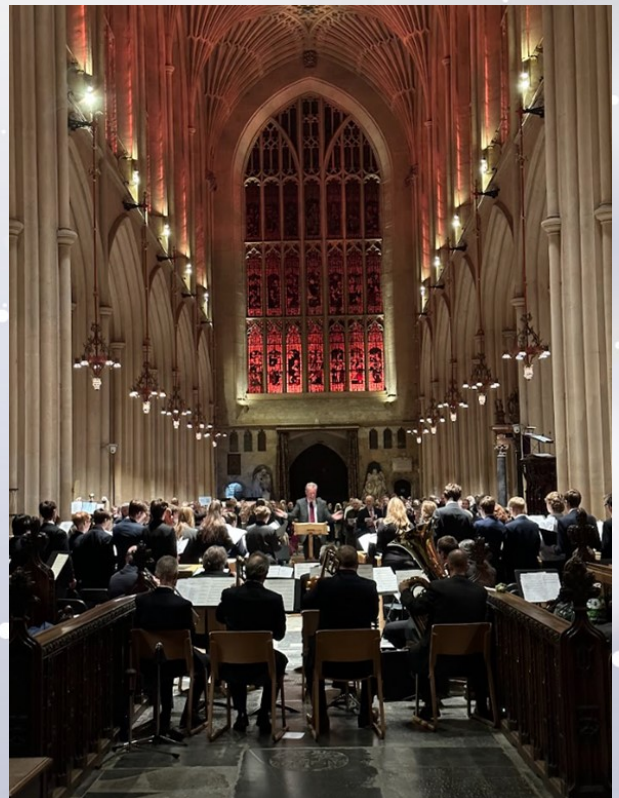
At the end of term 1, our school piano concert took place at St Luke's Church and we welcomed two performers from Hayesfield. In total, 25 pupils and Sixth Form students performed to an appreciative audience who were all impressed by the array of talent. The repertoire was a varied mix of classical and popular music and all performers enjoyed the experience of playing on a grand piano.



On Thursday 2nd November Hayesfield school hosted the annual primary school day. The event involved various ensembles from across the secondary schools in the city playing to younger pupils in an attempt to inspire them to learn an instrument. Three performances took place throughout the day to different Primary schools and all were a success, with the Folk Group performing a medley of a traditional Irish tune leading into an Eastern European folk song. The finale of each performance combined all the secondary schools to form an orchestra to accompany the primary pupils singing,

as well as performing a medley of songs from 'West Side Story'. Well done to all who were involved and we look forward to similar events in the future.

The end of term saw the traditional Carol Service taking place on December 14<sup>th</sup> at Bath Abbey. The school Choir, Brass Ensemble, guitar ensemble and folk group were all involved in the service which was delivered to a packed Abbey. We were also joined by the Bristol Brass Consort who performed fanfares and decants in the congregational carols: Hark the herald Angels sing, O come all ye faithful, The first noel, and God rest ye merry, gentlemen. In addition they performed a rousing rendition of Gaudete. The choir were in good voice and the whole evening was enjoyed by all. The Carol Service is always a highlight in the school calendar and this year was no exception.





On Monday December 18th, several schools within the Midsomer Norton academy trust are taking part in Hayesfield's Christmas concert at The forum. The school swing band directed by our trumpet teacher (Mr M J Daniels) are performing three pieces: Walk Tall - Cannonball Adderley, Night in Tunisia - Gillespie, Paparelli arr Holmes and Doxy - Rollins arr Murtha.

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 Mr S J Thompson and Mr J Harriman (music technician) for their help on a daily basis.

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

## Beechen's Got Talent

The second Annual Beechen's Got Talent show took place on Wednesday 29th November in aid of Children in Need.

Nine acts competed for the title of 'Beechen's Got Talent Winner 2023' with performances ranging from magic to music and entertained a captive audience.

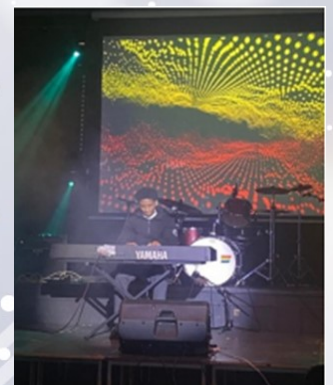
Congratulations to Jackson and Archie the 'Tyrants' who took the crown. It was great to see students from across all years getting involved.

A special thank you to the wonderful teachers who stepped in as our Judges. Mr Henley, Ms Sullivan, Miss Mather and, of course Mr Markall.

Beechen's Got Talent will return the same time next year. Perhaps next year you could take to the stage and get involved raising money for a good cause.

In the meantime we look forward to giving students the chance to perform again at our cross band night at the start of the year, details to follow in the new year.

Mr J Harriman.  
Music Technician



## The Senior Maths Challenge – 2023

Twenty-two of the most able sixth form mathematicians, plus two talented year 11 students, took part in this year's National Competition.

**Bronze Awards** went to:

Matthew C (year 11), Oscar D (year 12), Treya C (year 12) George J (year 13)  
Alex L-W (year 12), Rory G (year 12), James V (year 12), Julian N (year 12)  
Nancy P (year 12)

**Silver Awards** went to:

Toby M (year 12), Brian L (year 13) Luke P (year 13) Max B (year 12)  
Alex G (year 12) James S (year 12), Jack J (year 12), Alex Cole (year 12 )  
Toby O (year 12)

Whilst the following six students achieved **Gold Awards** as well as qualifying for the next stage of the competition:

Ben P (year 13) Wilson Y (year 11), Rory V (year 12)  
Seth W (year 12) Harry P (year 12), Josh N (year 13).

In the **European (Kangaroo) Round**, Rory V achieved a **Merit Award**, with everyone else passing.

Whereas, Ben P, the highest achieving student in the school, went on to take part in the prestigious **British Maths Olympiad**. This is a three hour exam, where only the top 1000 students in the UK are invited.

*Currently we are still waiting on the results but we wish Ben the very best of luck.*

Congratulations to all those who took part in these mathematical challenges.

Next term, invitations will go out to high performing mathematicians at KS4, to take part in the **Intermediate Maths Challenge**, which will be on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

The **Junior Maths Challenge**, for Years 7 and 8, will be later on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

For more information and practice questions go to: [UKMT Maths Challenges](#)

Mr J Henly  
Maths Challenge Coordinator



## PSHE – Beechen Cliff and Hayesfield Forum



The Year 11 prefects at Beechen Cliff and the Year 11 tutor Reps at Hayesfield have been working together to create an assembly that will be delivered next year.

The group has worked incredibly well together and have come up with ideas based around Stereotyping.

They will be completing assemblies at both Beechen and Hayesfield after Christmas. These assemblies will be for students in years 8 and 9.

They want to talk to the younger years about issues such as Mental Health, Vaping and Knife Crime. The project has been a great success so far and myself and Dr Sheppard at Hayesfield have been incredibly impressed with all the students.



Mrs Wilmot  
Head of PSHE

## Hospitality and Catering

Year 10 Hospitality and Catering class made Christmas Roulade over 2 lessons.



K Gallagher  
Design and Technology



## Former Pupil Visit to Beechen Cliff School

On Wednesday 22nd November the Languages department were visited by former pupil Joseph Heaven. Joe was a pupil in year 10 when I first joined the school in 1997! Mr Hall and Mr Mann also taught Joe during his time at Beechen Cliff.

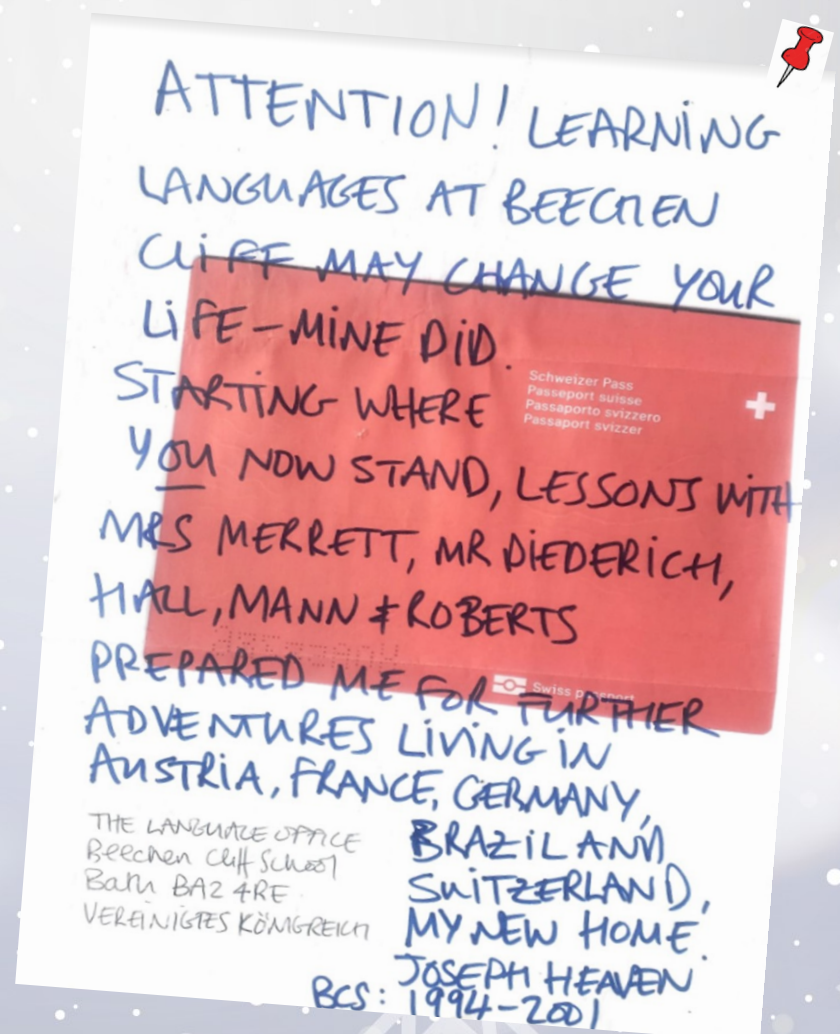
Joe wrote to the school over the summer as he wanted to give something back to the Languages department in recognition of the importance learning languages has been for him. Joe has kindly offered to fund a pupil to go on the Montpellier language school trip each year as well as a prize for creative use of languages.

Joe studied French and German at GCSE and went on to study French at A level. He then studied law at university.

Joe is now a resident of Switzerland and uses both his German and French language skills daily in his job in a bank. It was wonderful to have Joe in school and during the day Joe visited many of the classes, talking to the pupils about how learning languages had shaped his life. He told the boys about his other jobs in media in Paris and his travels around the world inspiring our year 10 and 11 pupils with their language learning.

He also left us with a poster to display in Languages.

Mrs J Merrett  
Head of Languages





# SPORTS

## Year 7 Rugby

What huge success the Year 7 Rugby squad has had this season. The introductory session at the start of the term saw well over 80 pupils take part demonstrating their range of knowledge and ability.

Due to the depth of talent we were able to field 3 teams from the year group, players participated in 23 games over the course of the season against opposition across the wider area. As coaches we have been so proud of the determination and commitment on show against some strong and well established schools, irrespective of the result.

The 'A' team won a total of 8 games, the standout being beating Millfield at their own ground. The 'B' team won a total of 6 games with the standout being the convincing win achieved against Wells Cathedral School.

The 'C' team had a fantastic 45-20 victory against KES.

The personal and skill development that has taken place over the last 14 or so weeks has been so impressive and the boys have shown a complete willingness and determination to improve at every session. The commitment from the players to training was highlighted by the large numbers at each session, and as the season drew to a climax boys took on leadership roles around warming up, as well as supporters being able to witness all the boys had learned being put into practice against our opponents.



We would like to offer a huge thank you to all the players for their efforts, the parents and carers for their support and staff for their help this season. We have no doubt about the talent and ability within the year group and are excited to help this squad improve and move forward next season!



Team	Player 1/Player of the season	Position	Player 2	Position	Player 3	Position
U12a	Xavier	Centre	Otis	Prop	Jacob	Back
U12b	Ellis	Scrum Half	Patrick	Wing	George	Prop

Mr Thompson and Mr Hill



## Year 8 Rugby

It has been a very successful year for the year 8 rugby squad starting off with a very positive and popular training session for over 50 boys. Throughout the season every single pupil has shown progression with their skills and game awareness and applied this into every match played. The enthusiasm in training has helped the pupils maintain a want to play rugby with their peers and represent their school. From start to finish the Year 8's have shown eagerness to get involved in fixtures and consistently ask when the next training session will be. Throughout the season, the year 8 rugby squad have shown some fantastic rugby and have won a number of fixtures, with particular focus on the amazing wins against Kingswood, KES and Collegiate to name a few. As their last year of playing limited numbers rugby, we are looking forward to our first season of 15-a-side rugby in year 9. As coaching staff we are looking forward to seeing this group of players develop more and more over the next few years. I would like to thank the pupils and parents for their continued support at fixtures and commitment in some pretty horrid weather



Mr Morris, Mr Hollis and Mr Bowett

Year 8 Rugby

## Year 9 Rugby

It has been a very frustrating rugby season this year for our Year 9s, with many matches being cancelled due to reasons beyond our control. As a consequence, the year group has progressed through to the third round of the area cup, without even playing a single cup match, where their reputation for being a talented year group has clearly preceded them, causing opposition to withdraw.

Despite these setbacks, matches have taken place with our boys accumulating a total of 220 points and have conceded just 71, with the toughest opposition coming from Clifton College, which we only just sneaked a victory following a last gasp try and conversion to win 21-17.

Clearly the boys have benefited from the Early Bird rugby sessions, which many of them have taken advantage of, and we look forward to hearing of further success when hopefully, the delayed cup matches resume after the Christmas break with a spell of improved weather.

Mr G Hawkins  
Head of Physical Education



## Year 10 Rugby

The u15's Rugby squad had an almighty 15 fixtures organised this season so far. The campaign kicked off with a pre-season tournament in Southampton. Keen to improve upon last year's promising results, we finished strong, coming 3rd overall and a good reflection of what is required to move up to the next gear.

Structure has been a key focus this year. Working on shape and pod structures has been the basis to their success so far. Forwards and Backs have developed a strong game awareness in an attempt to become more intelligent rugby players reacting to what they see in front of them on the field. This has produced some fantastic free-flowing, running rugby with the piano shifters trucking up in the midfield and providing good ball for the piano players out wide.

Despite many teams cancelling on us this year, opportunities have arisen for all players that attended training sessions. Notable fixtures include away wins at Sexey's school (45-10), Monkton Combe (50-20) and QEH (50-0). An additional fixture was added to play under the lights against Chippenham RFC. This was a humbling experience which provided the squad with motivation of the level that we want to be playing at.

Earning the right to continue to play after Christmas was a shared team goal this season. Having progressed to round 5 of the national cup and through to the semi-final of the Somerset Cup with planned fixtures to commence in the New Year, the team have averaged 46 points per match and conceded 0 in all cup competitions. A fantastic season from the u15's and a season that is still going strong!



Mr J Utton  
U15 Rugby

## **Year 11/Second/Third Team Rugby**

The team played four fixtures this season, winning two. Unfortunately a few fixtures had to be cancelled but when they played they demonstrated how hard they had worked in training in anticipation of and in preparation for matches. The highlight was victory in a match against local rivals KES and there was also a narrow victory over a strong Collegiate team.

The players of the season were Full Back: Sam, Fly Half: Max and No. 8: James

The team is now looking forward to the Somerset Cup after Christmas and rugby sevens after the February half term.

### **Second Team**

The team had a rocky start to the season but as always the development team accelerates their improvement throughout September. They then went on a really successful run going 4 games unbeaten but unfortunately couldn't maintain this form all the way up to Christmas with a narrow last minute defeat against Richard Huish College last week.

Overall the team played 11 fixtures, winning 5 and losing 6. Highlights were victories over Hartpury, Clifton and Prior Park.

The players of the season were Centre: Roy, Flanker: Fin and Fly Half: Rufus

The team is very much looking forward to more development friendly games after Christmas and then the sevens season later in 2024.

### **Third Team**

The third team have had three fixtures this season giving other students the opportunity to represent the school. The team had a good victory against Monkton Combe and narrow defeats against Gordons and KES.

It has been a pleasure to work with all the players this year and we look forward to more rugby after the Christmas break.

Mr Cattell and Mr Hall



## 1st XV Season Review



The season started slowly with the team coming out on the wrong side of two very tight games, including a last minute loss to eventual champions, Hartpury College. The squad was also hit with early injury/illness problems which saw several new players make their ACE debuts. The team did well to bounce back from these early defeats to earn victories over Bishop Wand, Exeter College, and our local rivals, SGS, securing try bonus points in each. This saw us finish in the top 4 of the South League to ensure a place in the top tier of Phase 2.

Our first game in phase 2 saw us play Gosforth Academy who had been unbeaten in their 6 North league games. The best performance of the season ended in a resounding 36-14 victory. Another defeat by Hartpury and a victory in Leicester over Brooksby Melton saw us into the 3rd/4th place play off game on ACE Finals day. Another highly competitive and relatively successful season ended with a 4th place finish in the ACE League after a narrow final's day loss to Harlequins linked Gordon's School from Surrey. A balanced squad of 11 year 13s and 11 year 12s stands us in good stead for next season. Individual players were also rewarded with Connor Treacey, Henry Bartlett and Julian Nunn all being invited to the England U18 development camp. Thank you to all players, parents and staff for their commitment and dedication to the Rugby program.

Mr A Hall  
Head of Rugby



## Football Autumn 2023

It has been a fantastically busy term for Beechen's footballers since September. Taking into account that our fixture list starts in earnest in January, the Somerset and ESFA cups have been the main focus for our players and coaches.

Our U13s had a highly successful start to their ESFA National Cup run beating Millfield on penalties before bowing out in the next round to Hanham Woods.

The U14s team got through to the last 32 in the country by getting to the 5th round of the National Cup, beating Sheldon, Bristol Brunel and Five Acres along the way before an extra time away defeat to St Peters Gloucester.

Another positive being that George M from that team gained International Honours in representing Ireland and even pulling off a penalty shootout save to secure the win

Our U15s continue to go from strength to strength; unbeaten and through to the 5th Round with Millfield waiting after Christmas. Good luck in the next round.



The Year 11 team don't do things by half! They have won 2 games 5-1 and one game 6-1, their only reverse being 1-6, never a dull moment and we are sure that they will have success with their tough fixture list after the Christmas break.



Our 1st XI have been very busy with their fixtures, victorious against Sir Benard Lovell, Backwell and Millfield in the National Cup before a hard fought away loss to Torquay Boys Grammar School. The Somerset Cup is still a major aim with the team having progressed by already beating local rivals and fellow MNSP Trust School Norton Hill.







There is much to be positive about and we look forward to an even longer report at the end of the season at Easter; many thanks to all of those that have played already and good luck to all of the boys for after Christmas.

Mr K Morris

Assistant Headteacher

## 6th Form Girls Hockey

What a great season for the 6th form girls hockey team. I have been very impressed with their positive attitude and want to represent their school. Throughout the season, the girls have shown their knowledge of the game and how to overcome difficult situations. I can only praise the girls hockey and this is shown from some fantastic wins against some very strong schools - a fantastic 2-2 draw vs Monkton Combe School and an exciting win in the last game of the season vs Stonar school. It is a shame a couple of fixtures had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, however this never dampened the spirit of the girls hockey team. I would like to thank all of the girls and parents for their continued support throughout the hockey season.

Mr R Bowett

PE and Sport





## CCF Christmas Term Review

It has been an incredibly busy few months for the cadets within the Combined Cadet Force; Exercise First Chance, Remembrance events, Dinner Night, Laser tag shooting and a range of skills to master, ranging from weapon handling and first aid. Our happy band ( all one hundred plus ) have exceeded expectations in every respect and it is heartening to see the contingent looking so healthy after being ravaged ( like all CCFs ) by covid restrictions in 2020-21. A great batch of young leaders ( NCOs) have taken the qualifications to run lessons for the new recruits and are discharging their responsibilities exceptionally well.



*New recruits at Merryfield Naval Air Base, participating in Exercise First Chance, September*

Exercise First Chance took place at the end of September and, as the name suggests, gives the new recruits an immediate opportunity to go away on camp and to learn a range of skills which will allow them to set up their basha ( tent), to cook army rations and bond as sections in the field. A number of exciting additional elements are thrown in to make the event memorable and the boys appreciate the opportunity to try out all the new kit for the first time. For the seniors it is a chance to use the teaching qualification they gained in August and to see how planning and execution of a good lesson makes a huge difference to the cadets in their care.



*Recruits are introduced to the art of sling fitting on the L98 rifle*

## Remembrance Day

The contingent supported the activities within the city and the boys made us very proud of their attitude and clear understanding of its importance. There should be a special level of recognition for the NCOs who took on the role of looking out for 'fainting' cadets at the Cenotaph service. Very impressive work.





### Dinner Night

This is a very special annual event and gives cadets and staff a chance to have a formal meal, respond to the traditional toasts ( The King, The Regiment KRH, The School etc.) and to enjoy each other's company. The evening ended with the ( also traditional ) Ceilidh, the spelling of which became a test for many of the boys. More than one hundred and twenty members of the contingent, together with the Headmaster of King Edward's School and honoured regimental guests attended the event and enjoyed the experience of a 'Mess' setting.





## The Staff Team

The staff team at King Edward's consists of the Contingent Commander, Captain Jones, assisted by six other members of staff. The liaison role between Beechen Cliff and King Edward's School falls to myself and I am the main point of contact for all areas 'Beechen Cliff cadet' related. One of the members of staff was himself a Beechen Cliff cadet and, whilst now working in the area, remains connected to the contingent and brings his expertise to support the syllabus delivered.



*Members of the staff team at Remembrance Day events last year.*

## Year 8 New Recruits 2024

Parents and boys have been asking about the process for joining the CCF so it might be worth a quick explanation.

In March the boys in Year 8 will attend an assembly taken by the cadets themselves. This will explain the workings of the contingent and give them an idea of what is involved, the level of commitment and the benefits/responsibilities of being a member.

Following the assembly a 'google form' is sent out to all parents. When completed by parents the boy is invited to the CCF induction sessions at KES, beginning after the Easter break.

The boys then attend a number of 'taster' induction sessions, giving them a mixture of skill acquisition and some fun activities, hopefully giving them a sense of what it is like to be part of the CCF family.

At the end of June a 'joining form' is sent to parents of the attendees and we ask that this is completed and returned if the boy wishes to be considered for a place in the contingent.

Immediately after the deadline the parent is informed of the outcome and we order the uniform and equipment for the new recruits.

The first session as a new CCF recruit takes place on September 4th, one in which he will receive his new uniform and extensive kit.



*A damp task during the induction process!*



*A new recruit with some of his newly issued kit.*







*The CCF band leads the way on parade.*



*'O Captain! my Captain!'  
Apologies to Whitman.*



Very best Christmas and New Year wishes to all cadets, parents and all other members of the Beechen Cliff School community

Mr A Davies  
Beechen Cliff CCF Co-ordinator



BEECHEN CLIFF

# Beechen Cliff Outdoor Education

## Events and Dates 2024



JANUARY		
Sat 13th		Ten Tors - Mendips
FEBRUARY		
Fri 2nd	Sun 4th	Ten Tors - Black Mountain/Tir Y Cwm
Fri 23rd	Sat 24th	Ten Tors - Dartmoor 1
MARCH		
Fri 22nd	Sun 24th	Ten Tors - Dartmoor 2
APRIL		
Fri 19th	Sun 21st	Ten Tors - Dartmoor 3
Fri 26th	Sat 27th	DoE - Bronze (Chelwood)
MAY		
Fri 10th	Sun 12th	Ten Tors - <b>EVENT</b>
JUNE		
Fri 7th	Sat 8th	DoE - Bronze (Marshfield area)
Fri 14th	Sun 16th	DoE Gold - Dartmoor or Brecon Beacons
Fri 28th	Sun 30th	DoE - Silver (Marlborough Downs)
Fri 28th	Mon 1st Jul	Three Peaks Challenge
JULY		
Fri 5th	Sun 7th	Centurion
Mon 15th	Thurs 19th	DoE - Gold Venue T.B.C
SEPTEMBER		
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Fri 28th	Year 7 Tir Y Cwn Visits
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Sun 22nd	DoE Silver – Brecon Beacons
OCTOBER		
Sat 5th		Devon Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge

Mr D Brewer  
Outdoor Education



## Season's Greetings from the Solution-Focused Wellbeing Team



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the holiday season approaches, the Wellbeing Team extends warm wishes to you and your families. In the spirit of positivity and growth, we want to share some reflections, tips, and resources to enhance your wellbeing during this festive time.

### Embracing a Solution-Focused Approach

This year, amidst challenges and triumphs, our Solution-Focused Wellbeing Team has been inspired by the resilience and adaptability of our students. We believe in fostering a positive and solution-oriented mindset, encouraging everyone to focus on strengths, small wins, and potential solutions.

### Solution-Focused Tips for the Holidays

1. **Celebrate Achievements:** Take time to celebrate the achievements, big and small, that you and your child have accomplished throughout the year.
2. **Set Positive Intentions:** Encourage your family to set positive intentions for the holiday season. What experiences or connections would you like to cultivate?
3. **Reflect on Strengths:** Reflect on the strengths and resources within your family. How can these strengths contribute to a joyful and harmonious holiday season?
4. **Solution-Focused Conversations:** Engage in solution-focused conversations with your child. Ask questions like, "What worked well this year?" and "What positive changes can we make for the upcoming year?"
5. **Mindful Moments:** Incorporate mindful moments into your holiday activities. Encourage your family to be present and appreciate the simple joys of the season.

### Gratitude for Solutions

We express our gratitude for your collaborative spirit in fostering a positive and solution-focused school environment. Your involvement is instrumental in creating a culture where challenges are viewed as opportunities for growth.



## **Solution-Focused Resources**

As a reminder, we provide resources rooted in a solution-focused approach on our website. If you seek guidance or support, please reach out to a member of the Pastoral Team.

Also, we have attached a Free Resource from The Blossoming Family. It's a Holiday Book that can be completed leading up to Christmas –

[The Holidays Family Book Beechen.pdf](#)

## **Looking Forward with Solutions**

As we step into the new year, the Solution-Focused Wellbeing Team is committed to promoting a positive and solution-oriented mindset. We look forward to working together to build on the strengths within our school community.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with joy, gratitude, and a focus on the solutions that bring positivity into your lives.

Warm regards,

**Wellbeing Team**



## E - SCOOTERS AND THE LAW

Dear Parents/Carers

As we go into the festive period, we would like to remind you about the law regarding electric scooters. It has become apparent that some of you people have already acquired are in the process of acquiring electric scooters for their own use.

The only electric scooters that can be used on public roads are those that are hired as part of the government-backed trials. We would also remind you that to use these trial scooters you must be at least 18 years old and hold a full or provisional driving licence. Private e-scooters can only be used on private land (with the landowners permission) and not on public roads, cycle lanes or pavements.

Electric scooters are classed as powered transporters and fall within the legal definition of a motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act 1998. This means that the same rules apply to motor vehicles, apply to e-scooters. This includes, but isn't limited to:

- Driving with a licence
- Driving/riding with insurance
- Driving/riding other than on a road

It is not currently possible to get appropriate insurance for privately owned e-scooters meaning that it is illegal to use them on roads or public spaces. If a child or adult is found riding a private e-scooter on a public road or land the scooter may be seized, and the person, including children could be liable for prosecution for driving with insurance. If the child or adult doesn't hold a provisional or full licence and is stopped riding an e-scooter, they could be prosecuted for driving other than issued where a licence isn't held. These points would take effect when the person or child applies for a driving licence.

Our aim is to keep children safe and out of the criminal justice systems. We want to keep you informed so that we can work together to do this.

If you need to report an incident involving an electric scooter you can call 101 or report online: [Report anti-social driving | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

If you need to know any more information please contact your local neighbourhood policing team:

[Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)



Larisa Hunt

Chief Inspector

Early Intervention, Crime Prevention and Licensing



**Avon and Somerset Police**  
**ROADS POLICING**

### E-SCOOTERS AND THE LAW

**It is against the law to ride a privately-owned electric scooter (e-scooter) on a public road or pavement.**

We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can buy them from many popular retailers.

#### Current law

**You can buy an e-scooter, but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement.** The only place those e-scooters can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission.

#### Further information

Further details can be found on the following government website: **Powered transporters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

#### What happens if I'm stopped by the police?

The police will advise you of the current law on using an e-scooter legally and have the powers to seize it. Alongside this you could face a fine and/or points on your driving licence as anyone riding an e-scooter, must adhere to the normal traffic laws when on the road. Once seized the e-scooter is destroyed.





## B&NES Holiday and Food Provision (HAF)

Dear All,

**A reminder:** Please help us promote the **B&NES Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** provision running from **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**. The Winter HAF Brochure can be found [here](#).

In the last week we have had some **exciting new activities** added:

- **Ice Skating** teenage evening Session in Bath
- **Glow Golf** teenage evening session in Bath
- **Trampolining** at Bath Leisure Centre
- **Junior Gym** at both Dragonfly sports centre sites in Somer Valley
- **Inflatables** session at Keynsham Leisure Centre
- **Family bowling** (voucher is for up to 4 including 1 or 2 adults)

Additional **SEND support** is available at some HAF sessions (subject to staff availability), please email [haf@we-activate.co.uk](mailto:haf@we-activate.co.uk) to request.

### Eligibility

Each child and young person in **receipt of benefit related free school meals (FSM)**. will receive **4 credits** which can be used across any of the activities. Each HAF sessions also include a **free meal for the child or young person attending**.

**OR** we have some availability for those who **may not be in receipt of free school meals but would benefit from the programme**. Examples include:

- young carers
- children looked- after children with an EHC (education, health, and care) plan
- children who have low attendance rates at school or who are at risk of exclusion
- Children living in areas of high deprivation or from low-income households who are not in receipt of free school meal
- children assessed by professional as being in need, at risk or vulnerable

**To refer families, you feel would benefit from HAF**, please email [haf@we-activate.co.uk](mailto:haf@we-activate.co.uk) to arrange a HAF pass.

Thank you gain for your support.

Kind regards

**Lucy Hanney**

Health Improvement Officer  
Public Health & Prevention  
People and Communities  
Bath and North East Somerset Council  
[Lucy\\_hanney@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy_hanney@bathnes.gov.uk)

[www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk)

[www.twitter.com/bathnes](https://www.twitter.com/bathnes)

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives





## Community Links

*We are happy to promote local businesses and community events. Please note these are not the responsibility of Beechen Cliff School.*

Ex Beechen pupil Harry M has had success performing in the National Theatre's Peter Pan and Lion Witch and the Wardrobe. He has worked in various local projects and orchestras and now debuts as Musical Director and Composer plus Actor and Musician in 'The Stolen Winter Light' at the Rondo Theatre.

Definitely a production to see this holiday season!



## Facility Hire at Beechen Cliff

For clubs, for community groups, for individuals

*Floodlight 3G and Astro Pitches*

*Sports Hall*

*Indoor Cricket Nets*

*Gym*

*School Hall*

*Classrooms*

All available for hire evenings and weekends

For availability and prices, contact Jo Davis – [jdavis@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:jdavis@beechencliff.org.uk)





# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Here's what is happening in your Library this month

You can also visit our blog to find out more about what's happening this month in libraries <https://bathneslibraries.wordpress.com/monthly-events-calendars/>

Thanks,  
Claire

### B&NES Libraries Events & Activities

#### Lego Lab

Get creative with Lego

Monday - Saturday

Bath Central Library

#### An Audience with Liz Lawler

International bestselling thriller writer

Saturday 9 December

2.00 - 4.00pm

Bath Central Library

#### Community Quilting Group

Creating quilts for the community.  
All abilities welcome.

First Saturday of the month

11.00 - 1.00pm

Bath Central Library

#### Sensory Space

For young adults with sensory needs.  
\*Book online.

Monday - Saturday

Bath, Keynsham &

Midsomer Norton Libraries

#### Board Game Saturdays

Drop in and play with our great  
selection of games

Monday - Saturday

Bath, Keynsham &

Midsomer Norton Libraries

Bath & North East  
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Improving People's Lives



## FREE DIGITAL AUDIOBOOKS



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To join the Library and  
start borrowing visit  
[LibrariesWest.org.uk](http://LibrariesWest.org.uk)





Beechen Cliff school community would like to thank Francis DIY on Moorland Road for their help and generosity in supplying lights and Christmas decorations for our School Christmas tree – which is proudly situated in our foyer.

**FRANCIS**  
DIY & HARDWARE



**Relate – the UK’s most trusted provider of relationship support.**

We know that parenting can put a strain on adult relationships. We’re here to help. Whether you’re facing difficulties, looking to strengthen your relationship, or want help talking things through.

Whatever your circumstances, whatever your background, no matter how big or small the issues. Whether you’re in a relationship, straight or gay, young or old.

Relate Avon offers face-to-face and online adult relationship counselling in Bath.

[www.relate-avon.org.uk](http://www.relate-avon.org.uk)  
[enquiries@relate-avon.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@relate-avon.org.uk)  
21 Milsom Street, Bath, tel 01225 465593



Festive & celebratory songs

**BRING IN THE HOLLY!**

Songways Choir

Special guest  
Emma Hooper



Saturday 16 December 7:30pm  
St Luke’s Church, BATH BA2 2BD

[songways.co.uk](http://songways.co.uk)  
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Jordan Logan on Unsplash

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LEARN - PLAY - GIG



**UP & UNDER SPORTS**

**Open to boys and girls aged 6 -16  
AVAILABLE IN BATH AND BRISTOL AREA**

**INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE COACHING 1 TO 1**

Our Individual Performance course offers personalised training sessions for all skill levels. Each session is tailored to the individual's specific goals and needs, whether they are looking to improve their technical skills or physical conditioning. From beginners starting out on their footballing path, to players who want to improve specific aspects of their game taking their performances to the next level.

**GROUP SESSIONS GROUPS OF 4, 6 OR 8**

Our small group sessions are fantastic for players who prefer to train with friends & team mates. Training with other players brings intensity and competition creating a match environment.

**Sessions with: LEWIS DIXON**  
 - FA Level 2 qualified & DBS checked  
 - Current Larkhall player & former Bath City Academy player

To book a session or for more information please contact Lewis on 07870993631 or email lewis@upandundersports.co.uk

<b>COSTS</b> per session	1-1 Coaching Session £25	4-1 Group Session £60
	2-1 Coaching Session £40	6-1 Group Session £60

Sessions will cover: basic passing, dribbling, control, shooting etc.  
**Progressing onto more advanced training:** movement, positioning, fitness & tactics progressing the individual to their highest potential.

# The Ace Way

By Megan Butterworth

New and exciting tennis opportunities for children of all ages to learn and play tennis together.

We offer groups, private and joint lessons for all ages and abilities and cater to any additional needs.

**Junior Group Times:**

- 4 – 8 years olds Thursdays at 4:30pm – 5:30pm
- 9 – 10 year olds Thursdays at 5:30pm – 6:30pm
- 11 – 14 year olds Thursdays at 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- Tots Tennis (under 4s) Fridays at 9:30am – 10:30am
- Junior Club Evening Fridays at 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- Tots Tennis (under 4s) Saturdays at 9:30am – 10:30am
- 4 – 8 years olds Saturdays at 10:30am – 11:30am
- 9 – 10 year olds Saturdays at 11:30am – 12:30pm
- 11 – 14 year olds Saturdays at 12:30pm – 1:30pm
- Junior Club Afternoon Saturdays at 3:30pm – 5:30pm

For more info and to sign up please don't hesitate to contact Megan:

- 07779535580
- Megan-Butterworth@hotmail.co.uk
- theaceway2022

## PLAYERS WANTED

From ages 5-15

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 Est. 1957

Are you the next Harry Kane or Lucy Bronze ?

We are looking to boost existing teams for the coming season.

For more information call or text Chris on 07738741477 or email on [chris.birleson@dentons.net](mailto:chris.birleson@dentons.net)

For more details and timings for each age group please get in touch.

Browns Field, Abbey lane, Freshford  
 Rode Playing Field, Omeage Close, Rode

[www.freshfordutdfc.com](http://www.freshfordutdfc.com)

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