



## BEECHEN CLIFF

17th July 2024

### **Local Governing Body - Summer Letter**

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

As we reach the end of term, the end of 2023/24 academic year, I want to thank you all, on behalf of the School Governors, for your support through the year, and wish you and your families a very happy summer break.

A big thank you goes to our talented teaching and support staff who have dedicated themselves to the development of our students, delivering a fantastic breadth of curriculum and much more beyond. We are grateful for how much of their personal time and energy is given to supporting our students and helping them to grow and develop.

I want to recognise the achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students in reaching this milestone and wish them love and success on results day and in the next stages of their lives, whether at Beechen Cliff or beyond. You will always be part of the Beechen Cliff community.

And what a community that is. It's been quite a year at Beechen Cliff - with highlights too many to mention, from our successful Ofsted visits at the beginning of the year, Westside Story this March, national success in U15 rugby, over 100 boys taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, to the recent record numbers of finishers of the Centurion Challenge, and many many individual achievements. Please know that the Governors watch from the sidelines with huge pride in all of your achievements.

Our job as Governors is to be closely involved in the development of the vision and strategy for the school and hold the leadership team to account in its delivery. We meet as a Board 6 times a year, once each term, and in addition, we regularly meet with the senior leadership members individually, and visit lessons, to see their work in action. For example, we look to understand how they and their teams are delivering learning adapted to each student's needs. We also meet with small groups of students to discuss their experience of the school.

In our board meetings we have spent time discussing the following topics, in no particular order:

- how the school upholds its values and enables a positive culture
- how the school supports our increasing number of students with special educational needs
- how disadvantaged students' needs are met
- How the curriculum is delivered in each faculty, looking at everything from adaptive learning, results and staffing to succession planning.
- Behaviour, and how expectations of conduct are taught. We consider trends in society, how they might impact the school and how we can prepare.

Headteacher: Mr T D Markall

**Kipling Avenue, Bath BA2 4RE**

T: +44(0)1225 480466 E: [headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk) [www.beechencliff.org.uk](http://www.beechencliff.org.uk) Twitter: @BeechenCliff

- Attendance, which is increasingly challenging following the pandemic for us, and for all schools, as well as a priority for the government. Getting children into school is essential for us to be able to give them the learning and development opportunities we seek to deliver.
- Planning for exams and conduct through the exams
- Support for mental health and well being of students and staff
- Health & Safety, including inspections of the premises and meetings with facilities team
- Diversity and inclusion
- Safeguarding - a critical area which we spend time on as a board, and one of our governors spends additional time with the school's safeguarding team.
- Boarding, where we consider all aspects, from compliance to culture.
- Strategic plans of the school, for the year and in the longer term.
- Management accounts comparing budget to actual income and expenditure and understanding variances. We review the school's reserve position.
- Careers support

In addition, I meet each term with the Chairs of Governing Boards of all the Trust's schools, including within Bath, Hayesfield and St Marks. It's very helpful to learn from the experiences of others.

My first year as Chair has been a massive learning curve for me but hugely enjoyable. If you are curious about being a Governor, please do get in touch for a chat.

Thank you, stay safe and see you in September!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Smya'.

Ms S Butters  
Chair of Governors