



# BEECHEN CLIFF

2026 PROSPECTUS



ASPIRATION COMPASSION INDEPENDENCE RESPECT







## 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 boys' school of around 850 pupils from Year 7 to 11 with a large mixed Sixth Form of 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

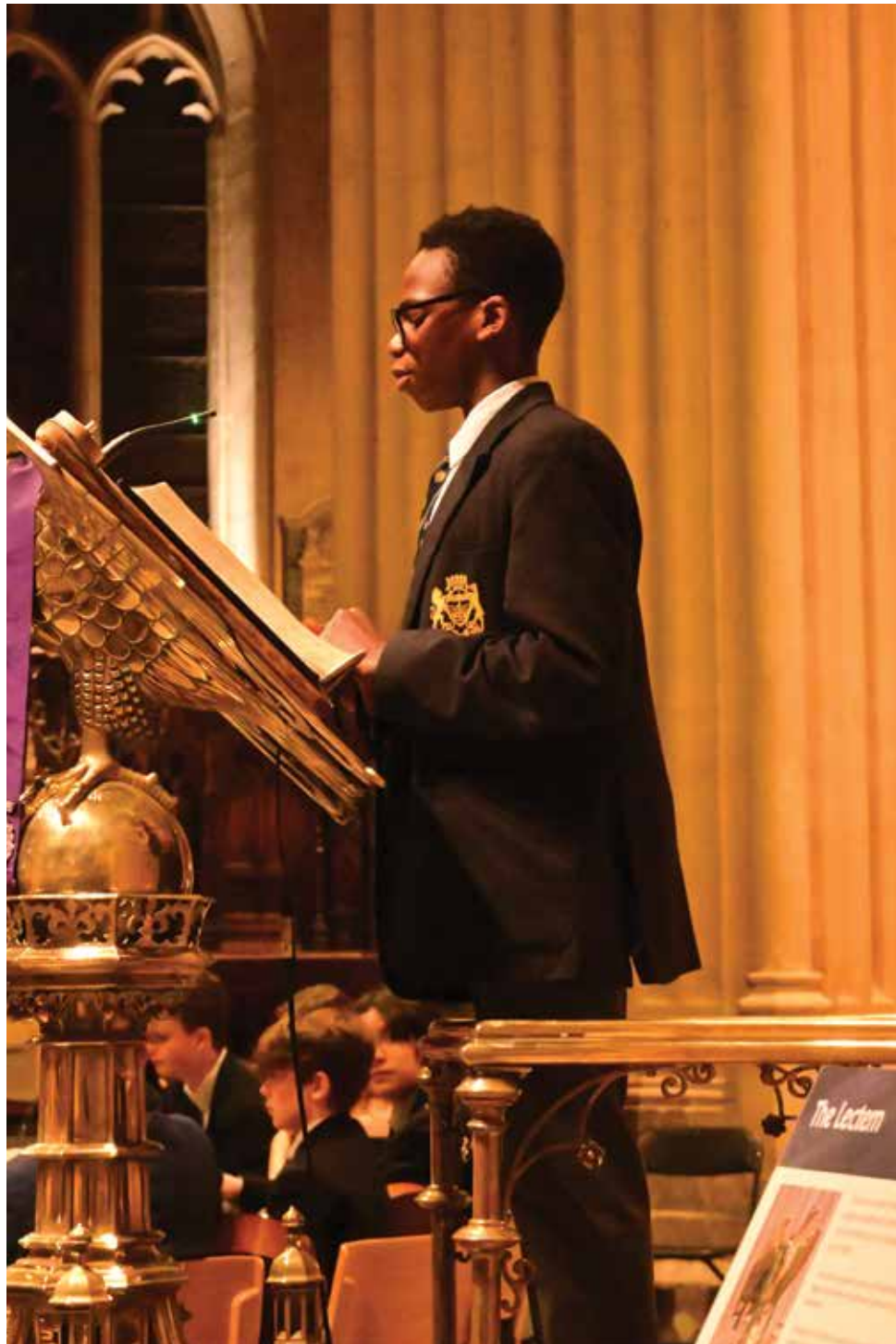
80% of GCSE grades at Grade 4 and above and over 80% of pupils achieving Grade 4 and above in both English and maths in any given year. Progress is consistently above the national average too with pupils of all ability levels making strong progress. We are incredibly proud of what our students achieve 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, 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 their life, giving access to such a significant range of opportunities so that every pupil 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 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 are set high at Beechen Cliff through pupils following "an ambitious and demanding curriculum" (Ofsted 2023). We work towards achieving these 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 both GCSE and A Level 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 where we work closely with a number of organisations including Boys in Mind.







## 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:

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

The range of educational visits which enrich the curriculum and the lives of our boys is beyond comparison. 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 curriculum trips around the UK, skiing visits to Europe and the United States, projects in Romania, World Team Challenge Expeditions, sporting tours in the UK, Music tours to Europe, outdoor education visits to Dartmoor, Snowdonia, the Lake District and Iceland, together with languages trips to 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.

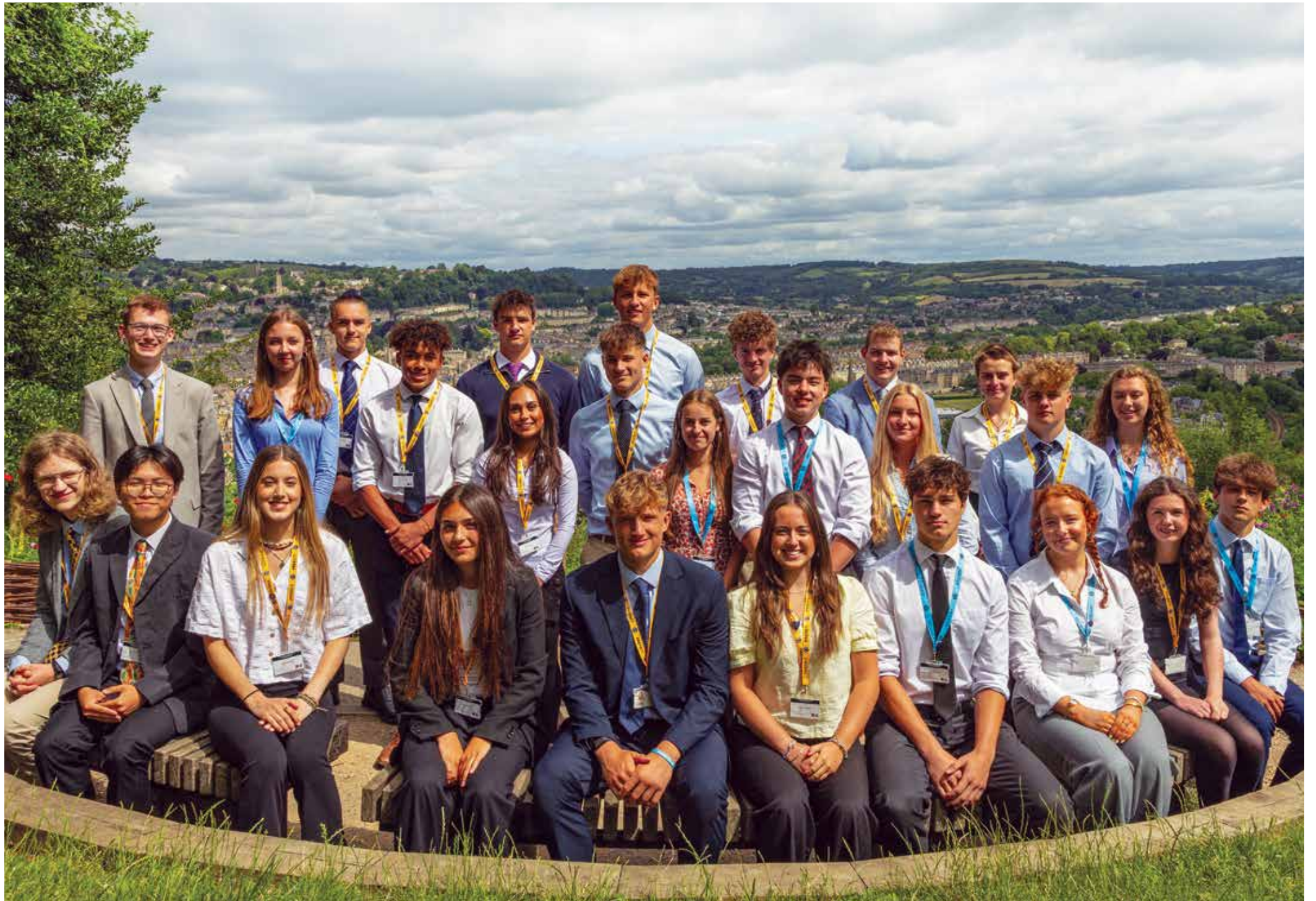
**Duke of Edinburgh** – Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards; the latter including a mountaineering expedition to the Pyrenees.

**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 boys' experience at Beechen Cliff. The pastoral structure includes a year-based system and a cross-year House system running concurrently. There are around 850 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 officer, conduct support officer 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, online safety and well-being 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 also published on Beechen Cliff's online Parent App. On the App 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 of Bath 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.

### Aims

The aim of our boarding provision is to provide boarding students with a stimulating environment where they can flourish academically, build lifelong friendships and feel safe in a place they call home. In 2023 our boarding provision was inspected was OFSTED and graded 'Good' in all categories with no recommendations for improvement.

### Fees

Full boarding fees are available on the school website and the boarding administrator can be contacted for further information.









## 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 Reading Assessments. 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 occasions 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 include 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 to discuss 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 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 term after 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

The expectation at Beechen Cliff is that each boy should participate in the extra-curricular programme in their areas of interest.

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 many 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: tennis, drama, chess,

Warhammer, F1 car racing, school choir, film club, table tennis, card games, music instrumental lessons, orchestras/ jazz band and an assistant librarian role. There are also opportunities to go on trips, including to Legoland and to Normandy.

### 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 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 there is some streaming Science, 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 Religion, Philosophy and Ethics). Other optional subjects include: Art & Design, Business Studies, Computer Science, Design & Technology, French, Geography, German, History, Hospitality & Catering, Interactive Media, Music, Music Technology, Photography, PE, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics and Spanish.

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.

### Jem (Year 7)

*"I have had an amazing first year at Beechen Cliff. I have been able to access so many different opportunities. I got involved with the Science Fair and got through to compete against other schools. I have really enjoyed History lessons and learning about the past, including some gruesome stories. I have played lots of sports for the school and I really enjoyed the cricket tour to Devon. The school has helped me explore what I like and what I don't like and is helping me on the path to becoming a grown up person."*

### Eland (Year 7)

*"I have really enjoyed my time this year and all the facilities around opportunities at the school. I have enjoyed science experiments with bunsen burners - they are educational but also with an excitement and a thrill too! The school trips are great. Going to Tir-y-Cwm was really good and I'm looking forward to going to Normandy soon. I have learned lots of new things e.g. rugby, badminton and tennis skills. I am really looking forward to the new rugby season in Year 8 and representing the school again."*

### Henry (Year 9)

*"I have had a good three years at Beechen Cliff. I have lots of different friendship groups and I have enjoyed sport and taking part in football, tennis and table tennis fixtures. I have recently completed my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and hope to do the Silver Award next year. I am also looking forward to the Mountaineering trip this summer. I have particularly enjoyed lessons in Design and Technology and look forward to taking this subject for GCSE next year. The food in the refectory is also really good!"*

### Orran (Year 10)

*"Beechen Cliff has shaped me into the young man I am today, giving me an environment to grow and opportunities that have allowed me to advance socially and academically. The teachers here provide support and guidance for the students, forming a trusting relationship between them and building confidence."*

*This has allowed me to gain life skills that open doors to new possibilities such as a position I have gained at a law firm for my Year 10 work experience."*

### Daniel (Year 10)

*"I am really happy at Beechen Cliff and have made really good progress in my academic studies. After my GCSEs next year I want to join the Sixth Form and then go on to university. I think the best part about Beechen Cliff is the amount of clubs, trips and events you have the opportunity to try and take part in. This has allowed me to find new hobbies and test myself with different challenges including Ten Tors and the Duke of Edinburgh Award."*

### Max (Year 12)

*"I have been at Beechen cliff since Year 7. During this time I have been able to experience an array of wonderful opportunities such as the Centurion Challenge, Duke of Edinburgh and sports which have made my Beechen Cliff experience truly special. I have also been lucky to receive a top quality education which has provided me with a great platform to go through GCSEs and into the Sixth Form. I truly believe the opportunities at Beechen Cliff School are second to none and I hope that when you come here you will enjoy the experience as much as I have."*

### Hamish (Year 12)

*"From my very first days at Beechen, I could really feel a strong community which, for a small, soft spoken eleven year old was what I can best describe as enabling. The rich and varied environment that Beechen cultivates is a core part of what has made my experience at this school so valuable. I've always been encouraged to fulfill my academic potential, pursue extra curricular activities and step up and into leadership roles. Some of my personal highlights include the annual school production, the carol service, bands nights, Beechen's Got Talent and becoming Head Boy. Leaving the school this year inspires me to reflect on my personal growth and I will carry a bit of Beechen with me into 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 the 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

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### Queries

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

#### Admissions

**Tel:** 01225 480466

**Email:** [headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@beechencliff.org.uk)

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### Admission Criteria: Day Pupils - Year 7

Please see our website for the latest admission policy.

[www.beechencliff.org.uk/admissions/lower-school-admissions/](http://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 or any online retailer | Plain shirt not acceptable   |
| Tie      | House tie                       | Scholars                        |  |
| Jumper   | Navy V-neck with 1932 crest     | Scholars (optional item)        | No alternative acceptable  |
| Trousers | Mid grey                        | Any high street retailer        | Jeans and casual trousers not acceptable<br>Not black, and not light grey                          |
| Shoes    | Black leather type              | Any high street retailer        | No trainers, canvas shoes or boots   |
| 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                    | Navy blue with school crest  | Kukri                        |
| PE Shorts                   | Navy blue (Optional – Beechen Cliff Rugby shorts can also be worn) | Kukri or any sports retailer |
| PE Socks                    | White socks from any high street retailer                          | Any high street retailer     |
| Supportive trainers         | Any brand (but not fashion trainers)                               | Any high street retailer     |
| Rugby Jersey                | Navy blue with school crest  | Kukri                        |
| Rugby Shorts                | Navy blue with school crest  | Kukri or any sports retailer |
| Rugby Socks                 | Navy blue  | Kukri or any sports retailer |
| Rugby/Football Boots        | Any brand (Bladed boots are not permitted)                         | Any sports retailer          |
| Gum Shield                  |  | Any sports retailer          |
| Shin Pads                   |  | Any sports retailer          |
| Shoulder pads and scrum cap | Optional   | Any sports retailer          |

### Pre-loved uniform

The PTA runs regular 'pre-loved' uniform sales throughout the year of both Beechen Cliff school uniform and Games & PE kit.

### 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/beechencliffschool](http://www.kukrisports.co.uk/teamshop/beechencliffschool)

### 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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