

#### BEECHEN CLIFF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 16th October

# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are approaching the end of a busy term and it is amazing we have packed so much in!

The final Year 7 trip to Tir-y-Cwm returns tomorrow and I really hope the boys have enjoyed the activities and the experiences.







This week the Year 8 Rugby team completed a highly successful tour to Kirkham where they returned with a trophy. A fantastic achievement by the whole team and thank you to Mr Morris and Mr Hollis for organising the trip. You can read more about the tour later in this newsletter.





This Saturday we look forward to welcoming our Year 11 pupils and their parents, along with others from across the city and the local area to our Sixth Form Open Morning.

The programme and arrangements for the day are available on the School Website:

#### Sixth Form Open Morning Programme

This evening we have our annual joint Year 8 Disco with Hayesfield which is being held at Hayesfield. I hope the students from both schools have a great time.

Next week we have our Piano Concert at St Luke's Church on Wednesday evening at 7pm and I hope many of you will be able to join us to support our talented pianists and enjoy listening to their performances.

The final day of term for pupils is Thursday 23rd October as we have an INSET Day on Friday 24th where the school will be closed to pupils.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has signed up to support our Year 10 and 11 Employability and Future Horizons Day on 27th November. If you would still like to sign up to support then information is available in last week's newsletter here.

Mr T. D. Markall

T. D. Marball .

Headteacher

# **Key Notices**

# Dates for your Diary

Friday 17th October

Wear Red Day 2025

PTA Quiz Night (Oktoberfest themed) 7-10pm

Saturday 18th October

Sixth Form Open Morning 9am—12.30pm

Wednesday 22nd October

Year 13 Revision Information evening 5.30-6.30pm

Piano Concert - 7pm at St Luke's Church

Thursday 23rd October Last day of Term for pupils

Friday 24th October

**INSET Day** 

End of Term 1

Monday 3rd November

Start of Term 2

NOTE ...

Thursday 27th November

Ignite Day: Employability and Future Horizons

# REPORTING ALL PUPIL

#### **ABSENCES**

All absences from School including late arrivals and medical appointments are to be reported to School promptly. 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.mnsp.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.mnsp.org.uk

#### PLANNED ABSENCES

For planned absences please contact the attendance office - attendance@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk for a copy of the 'absence request form' which can also be found on the school website:



## Spy Dogs

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher. We do not have any of these books on our Library system.

If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site. It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.

We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

Pastoral and Safeguarding Team

#### Year 11 Mock examinations

After completing the first part of their GCSE's over the last year, pupils in Year 11 will be taking their first round of Mock Examinations next term between Monday 10th and Tuesday 18th November. These are a vital step in the process of preparing them to take their formal Examinations in the summer and will provide a useful experience of completing examinations in a formal setting, as well as giving them a timely update on how they are progressing in each subject. These Examinations will take place in the Sports Hall and the Library. Please see the timetable of mock exams.

Year 11 Mock Examination Timetable - 2025

In addition to these, there will be a few listening examinations for the Languages taking place in lessons during the week of 3rd November.

I would kindly ask all pupils and students to show due respect to the Year 11 pupils by moving silently around these areas whilst Examinations are taking place.

In order to support the Year 11 pupils in revising for these Mock Examinations, we provided Year 11 pupils with a GCSE revision workshop on the morning of Tuesday 14th October, and have published a list of Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs) detailing what pupils need to cover and how they can best revise for each paper. This document can be accessed using this link: Year 11 November Mock Examination PLCs

We will hold a GCSE results assembly on Friday 5th December where Year 11 pupils will receive their results. Over the past few years, this has been a valuable and positive experience and I wish the same for the current Year 11 pupils.

Mr A Seal Deputy Headteacher.

# We invite you to wear red clothing to school on FRIDAY 17th of October



We are taking part in Wear Red Day to support Show Racism the Red Card. We would like as many members of our school community to show their support to the ongoing work to tackle racism at every level of society.

Wear one item of red clothing.

Suggested £1 donation via Parent Pay

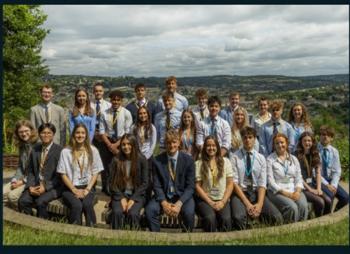






BEECHEN CLIFF

A vibrant, academic mixed Sixth Form



Sixth Form Open Morning Saturday 18th October 9am - 12.30pm

#### Current Vacancies in the School and the Trust

Please follow the link below to view and access all current vacancies from across the MNSP Trust <a href="https://www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/vacancies.htm">https://www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/vacancies.htm</a>

#### **GROW 4 LIFE**

The last few weeks have been all about the apple harvest!

The boys have done an amazing job collecting from the orchard, mashing, and pressing the apples to create over 25 litres of pure, unpasteurized juice.

Alongside the big squeeze, they've also been turning the compost, clearing out the veggie beds and enjoying the dahlias! A very productive start to the term in the garden <a href="mailto:@grow for life @boys.in.mind">@grow for life @boys.in.mind</a>



#### **BOXING IN MIND**

It's about more than just boxing; it's about Boxing in Mind

A massive thank you to <u>@ubxbath</u> for kicking off ten amazing weekly sessions with the boys. They'll be learning new boxing skills, strength training and discovering the power of being part of a team.

The first session was superb! <u>@ubxbath</u> <u>@boys.in.mind</u>





A calm, quiet space to read and work

# Recording Reading in **Planners**

For the next two weeks, I will be checking all KS3 planners during reading lessons to see if they have been filled in reg**ularly.** I will also be checking reading logs. There will be rewards! Regular reading helps you to succeed in school and in life so make sure you celebrate your reading by recording regularly!

If you want any help with reading, please get in touch. My email is: lbridge@beechencliff.mnsp.org.



Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell. Not for the easily spooked! Frozen Charlotte is a fast paced adventure set in a house haunted by ghosts and tiny china dolls. It is chilling and scary, but I couldn't put it down. Recommended for 13+

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon by **Stephen King.** This is widely regarded as the best Stephen King story for beginners. It is scary though, so beware! A girl is lost in the woods and has to survive not just in the wilderness but also the supernatural monster that is pursuing her. Recommended for 12+



Whole School Book Club: HORROR Wednesday October 22nd 3.30-4.30 in the Library.

#### Literacy Around the School

I love this display in the computing corridor showing lots of IT related books. There are nonfiction books helping to develop skills, biographies highlighting some of the amazing computer scientists and their work and some fiction books, speculating what might happen in the future. AI is an especially good source of story ideas for authors! Thanks Ms Javis and Mr Cottell.





# **Library Opening Times**

Open Monday - Thursday before school (from 8am) at break / lunch.

Homework Club every day after school (to 4.30) FOR HOMEWORK AND QUIET READING

Keep Reading! Mrs Bridge



# Are you the next Jamie Oliver? Gordon Ramsay? Big Zuu? If so, this competition is for you...

The MNSP Trust is holding a Young Chef of the Year competition to discover our next big talent in Year 9.

On Monday 10th November, Beechen Cliff are holding our <u>internal heats for the competition</u> in T3 from 3.15-5pm.

The winner from here will go on to compete against other schools in the Trust on the 3rd of March with guest judges at Writhlington School.



The brief is a main course dish to serve 2 people that can be produced in 90 minutes with ingredients costing no more than £15.

#### Ingredients:

To include seasonal and locally sourced ingredients wherever possible. No pre-prepared elements permitted, with the exception of homemade stocks.

Dishes will be judged on the following criteria:

- The creativity of the recipe
- The balance of the ingredients used in the recipe
- The skill required to create the dish
- The use of ingredients produce locally to you or from the wider south west region wherever possible
- Final dish including presentation

If you are in **Year 9** and would like to compete in our internal heats, please email Mrs Gallagher before the 1st November.

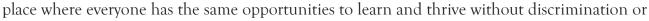




kgallagher@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk

# **EQUALITIES** Update

Hi, I am Livvy, this year's Senior Prefect for Equalities. My aim is to help create a school environment where everyone is respected, celebrated and understood for who they are. It is mportant because school should be a



unfair restrictions. One of the most significant ways we can promote equality is through education and awareness. This is why events like **Black History Month** which we have been celebrating this month in tutor time, lessons and assemblies are so important as they help us recognise and celebrate achievements of people throughout history that have shaped the world we live in today. Below are a few examples...



Angela Davis, a powerful voice in the fight for justice, is known for her activism in civil rights, feminism, and prison abolition movements. She became internationally recognised in the 1970s and continues to inspire change through her scholarship and advocacy. Through her teaching, writing, and public speaking, she has advocated for the rights of black people, women, LGBTQ+ communities, and the working class. One of her most powerful quotes is: "In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist".



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Some may know the name <u>Tyler Offiah</u>, a 19 year old who plays as a winger for Bath Rugby, also playing for England at the U18 and U20 levels. However, you might not know that he is the son of Martin Offiah, the greatest try-scoring English rugby league player ever. Who in a fourteen-year career scored 470 tries at a rate of more than one a game. Offiah is not just a fantastic rugby player but has also spoken publicly about facing racism in his career and advocated for increased representation in rugby league, highlighting the **need to learn from both the good and bad parts** of the sport's history.



Learning about these individuals reminds us that progress can only occur when people stand up for what is right. As Equalities Prefect at Beechen Cliff, I hope to keep these conversations going all year round, not just during Black History Month. I aim



to create a safe space where students feel proud to share their identities and embrace the cultural differences of others.

Livry

#### **Art News**

The Beechen Cliff Art Department is pleased to announce their participation in this Year's Young Bath Artists show, which takes place in the Burdall's Yard Gallery From October 21st until November 1st 2025.

This is a showcase of the amazing 6th Form Art and Photography from Beechen Cliff, and is a rare opportunity to view a collection of work from other Bath Schools at the same time. There is a private view on the 23rd, and students (and parents of students) whose work is in the exhibition are invited to come along that evening.

Mr D Murphy Head of Art and Photography



# CCF Exercise First Chance (October 10th-12th)

The first major exercise of the CCF calendar took place at the weekend, 125 cadets and staff participating in an event which gives the new recruits to the contingent their first taste of contingent life 'in the field'. Burdened with the significant bulk of their bergans (rucksacks), sleeping bags, webbing and associated kit and equipment, the main body of cadets travelled down to Merryfield Airbase near Ilminster to receive a number of lessons designed to give them the basic knowledge of fieldcraft which will underpin their experience of CCF life into the future.

The advance party of senior 'teaching' cadets travelled down to Merryfield the day before the main body, establishing a base camp and making sure all lessons were prepared and tested prior to delivery to the new cadets. This is particularly hard work, particularly as the cadets are assessed on their lesson delivery and effectiveness as part of the routeway to promotion from cadet to NCO within the contingent.

Once the main body of 90 cadets arrived on Saturday morning they were sent straight off to their lessons; ranging from building a basher (palatial field accommodation), cooking in the field, camouflage and concealment, assessing distance, signals, movement in the field and why things are seen. They were all very impressive in terms of their conduct, listening skills and the enthusiasm with which they participated in every session. Each Year 9 section was led by a senior cadet (Section Commander) assisted by a 2nd i/c to provide support and encouragement to their 'flock'. It is this model that allows the new recruits to recognise the senior cadets as role models and also for each of them to see how they can progress to be confident and effective in leading teams and guiding groups towards objectives.

The Saturday night tradition of an Escape and Evasion exercise provided the usual level of excitement and frenetic activity, the cadets having to find their way to a 'secret agent', receive a token and get back to the base (harbour) without being intercepted by ambush teams or the patrolling vehicles, equipped with powerful torches which swept the airfield and woodlands. It was a disappointment to some that the pack of wild dogs which had been booked to assist the search were not available this year. This was a highlight of the exercise for many of the cadets and helped to burn off any remaining energy prior to rolling into sleeping bags and getting some sleep. The senior cadets did not have this luxury, given their











role in providing support 'on stag' - essentially a rota of patrolling support throughout the night.





Sunday was rounded off with activities such as archery, tug of war, seek the cadet in the wood, rabbits and foxes, piggy back battle and signals team competitions.

All members of the contingent arrived back in Bath on Sunday afternoon, tired but with a sense that the event had been a huge success. Captain Jones wanted to pass on his positive impressions of all the cadets and I would like to add my own thanks to the senior cadets for their tireless efforts and the quality of the skills and modelling that they provide to the younger cadets. The Year 9 boys were excellent and I very much hope they feel they pushed themselves and have come back stronger for the experience.

A Davies CCF Liaison

# **Recent Fixture Results**

Date		Result	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	HOCKEY	BCS 1- XI v Downside School (A)	2-5
Tuesday 14 <sup>a</sup> October	RUGBY	BCS U14B v Monkton Combe School U14A (A)	0-0
Wednesday 15 <sup>a</sup> October	1 RUGBY		29-27 26-29 12-35 0-0

# YEAR 8 Beechen Cliff Rugby Tour

#### Kirkham 10's tournament





#### Day 1

We set off from Beechen cliff at 8:30 aiming to reach our training grounds at Wirral Grammar School at 3pm with a few stops along the way. We got to Wirral and immediately started to prepare ourselves for the tournament the next day. After 1 hour and 30 minutes we had finished training and had a warm up touch match against our hosts Wirral Grammar. We played three 8 minute matches to get a feel of the conditions for the next day.

Our team left the grounds and headed off to our accommodation YHA hostel in Liverpool. We were short on time, we had to shower and get changed as we had to walk through town to get to our dinner at an all you can eat buffet called Cosmo's. We had a timed period of an hour and a half to have as much nutritious food for our difficult day ahead of us. We all had lots to eat (probably too much) and were easily stuffed, maybe even for the next day.

We got back to the Hostel at around 8:30pm so we had thirty minutes to get ready for a good night's sleep.

#### Day 2

We had an Early start of 7am to be up and downstairs at 7:30 to eat our much needed breakfast before a challenging afternoon. The Coaches had decided to leave with us at 8:00 to leave us plenty of time to get lunch from a **huge** Tesco. It took around an hour and a half to get to our destination of Kirkham grammar school.

Where we were given our match shirts which were all either a perfect fit or a bit baggy but we didn't let that affect our rugby performance.

We faced up against our first opponents who were a very tough and physical side called Kings but we squeezed by with three tries to one with two from Jack S and one from Keaton A to seal the win.

Our next game was up against a Cheadle Hulme School in Yellow which we nicknamed Australia. We had one try from Jonty H again giving us a 1-0 nil lead our next tries came from Jack S, Bailey C and Jack S giving us our first doughnut game.

Our big semi-final game was coming up against the team we played the day before Wirral Grammar school. We came into this feeling confident because we scored lots of tries on them the day before

but that was only touch so we hadn't realised it would be quite difficult. The first try of that game came from Max B and shortly followed by them scoring in the corner a few minutes after that Jonty H scored two interceptions and one line break from our half. After that there were two tries from Jack B and Jack S take it to 30-5 but then Wirral scored in the last play to make it 30-10.

#### The Final

This was it, the big game, the Final, the biggest game of our season. Playing against the hosts of the tournament Kirkham Grammar. The other



team won the toss and decided to play down the slight hill and we decided to receive Kick-off. We had our huddle and were pumped up for this tough and extremely physical game ahead. We received the kick off and immediately took it down the right wing and won a penalty. Off a scrum we passed it out wide to Eland A-B and he scored the first try in the corner. After that we played it quick and deep through the middle for Ralph M to send a lovely fake and score down the middle. Nearly immediately Ralph made another break and Max B was there to support to finish the try. After another five minutes we battled hard conceding only one try and naming us Kirkham 10's tournament Winners!



Jonty H-Year 8

# SPORTS FIXTURES w/c 20th October (details correct at time of publication)

Details of upcoming sports fixtures, team sheets and meet times are available on the school SOCS website- <a href="https://www.schoolssports.com/school/default.asp?id=374">https://www.schoolssports.com/school/default.asp?id=374</a>

Please check the website for up any changes/updates

Date		Fixture	Start time/kick off	Meet time	Finish/ Return time
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	RUGBY	BCS U14a v Abingdon (H) BCS U14b v Abingdon (H)	14:30	13:45	
Tuesday 21st October	RUGBY	U14a v Kingswood (a) U14b v Kingswood (a)			
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	RUGBY	BCS U15a v Kings of Wessex Academy (A BCS U14 v Clevedon (H)	14:30		

#### **CAREERS**

#### **Beechen Cliff Careers Newsletter**

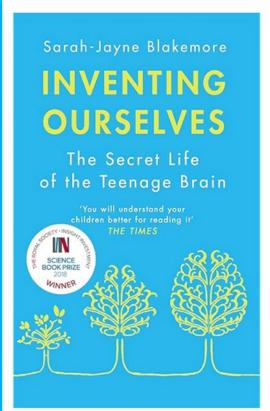
The most recent edition of our Beechen Cliff Future Horizon Careers publication (edition 7 is published alongside this school newsletter.

If you would like any further support or information please let me know <u>careers@beechencliff.org.uk</u>.

Mrs E Pascoe

Head of Careers

# Wellbeing



At Beechen Cliff, we embrace the Solution Focused Approach with our students and pupils. This approach encourages us to have conversations with our young people where we are inviting them to notice their strengths and to build on these, rather than focusing on things that they find problematic.

We would like to invite parents to read a multi-award-winning book which explains how the teenage brain works. "Inventing Ourselves - The Secret Life of the Teenage Brain" by Sarah-Jayne Blakemore won the Royal Society Award for its innovative approach to the teenage brain.

We love this book and feel it is noteworthy that the judges described the book as "totally captivating" and said that "everyone should read it." They emphasized that Blakemore breaks myths about teenagers, inviting to see them not as problematic individuals but as beings in a creative stage full of potential. This is exactly how the solution focused approach works and why we use it at Beechen Cliff with our young people and teenagers.

Professor Blakemore has been awarded several national and international prizes for her research. She is an Honorary Fellow of St John's College, Oxford, and a Fellow of the British Academy, the American Association of Psychological Science, the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Royal Society.

The book offers a radical reshuffling of our understanding of the teenage mind, which explains typically ridiculed behaviours such as risk-taking, emotional instability and greater self-awareness as external signs of great transformation." Source: Society

The book offers a new insight into the teenage brain. What is often interpreted as negative attitudes: risk-taking, emotional instability, or excessive self-awareness, are understood by the author as natural manifestations of a profoundly transformative process.

Blakemore argues that biological adolescence does not end with puberty, as changes in the brain's grey and white matter continue from twenties to even thirties.

In her book, the author also addresses how external factors, such as the education system (e.g. GCSE exams in the UK), exert enormous pressure during an intense neurological development phase. She suggests school schedules should adjust — sleep more and start classes later — because circadian rhythms change during puberty.

We invite you to read her book to gain a better understanding of the teenage brain, if you have, or are soon to have, teenage children.

# **Community Links**

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





# Facility Hire at Beechen Cliff



For clubs, for community groups, for individuals

Floodlight 3G and Astro Pitches





**Indoor Cricket Nets** 

Gym

Classrooms



All available for hire evenings and weekends

All availability and prices, contact Jo Davis - jdavis@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk

#### Free Half Term Activity at Bath Spa University

#### **FUTURES**

A FESTIVAL OF DISCOVERY

#### DOING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE

Bath Spa Locksbrook Road Friday 31st Oct

Bath Spa University would like to welcome you and your pupils to join us at our Locksbrook Campus for a hands-on celebration of creativity and its power to shape changemore information and book

This family-friendly event brings together artists, dancers and designers to explore how imagination and innovation can transform the way we think about urban spaces, habitats, climate change and culture.

Drop in and try a range of interactive workshops, from clay sculpting and recycled papermaking to movement, dance and collaborative installations. Whether you're curious about how habitats can inspire community, keen to get messy with wild and wonderful artefacts, or excited to make your own handmade paper, there's something for all ages and skill levels

The morning also features Curious Artefacts with artist Asha Uberoi, Exploring Habitats with dancer Divija Melally, JUMBLE with Ellie Spink, Working with Paper with Claire Gutsell, and Moving as Place through Body with Bhavana Ram Mohan.

Alongside the workshops, don't miss the inspiring exhibition of Graduate Researchers' work, showcasing sculpture, performance and immersive installations that highlight the future-shaping role of creative research.

Perfect for families, young people and curious adults, this is a half-term opportunity to get hands-on, discover new ideas and see creativity in action.

We hope to see you there!

BSU BATTH SPA

Simone Hesselberg (she/her) Creative Producer: Community Building Porthleven Prize Coordinator



