

BEECHEN CLIFF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 6th November

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the start of this term students have had access to our refurbished Bolton Languages building for lessons for the first time. The facilities have significantly improved provision for Languages with more spacious classrooms upstairs, bespoke rooms for Languages speaking, improved heating, lighting and air conditioning and new furniture throughout. In addition, the counselling suite used by our Solution Focussed practitioners when meeting with students have also been refurbished. We hope students (and staff) enjoy the use of the new facilities.



Yesterday the first of four music workshops for Year 7 took place with a focus on woodwind. Pupils got to listen to music, learn about the different instruments and ask questions. The workshops, of which there are three more to come, are taking place in many schools within the Trust over the next few weeks with different instruments at each one.



There has also been lots of sporting success this week, including for both the rugby and football first teams, with some photos and results later in this newsletter.

T. D. Madall .

T. D. Markall

Headteacher

Term Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027

Beechen Cliff term dates are set in line with all Schools within the Midsomer Norton School Partnership (MNSP). The dates for 2026/2027 are available on the Beechen Cliff website at https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/parents/term-dates/

Key Notices

REPORTING <u>ALL</u> PUPIL ABSENCES



<u>All absences</u> 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: MNSP Absence Request Form.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday

Monday 10th November

Year 11 Mock Examinations commence

Thursday 20th November

PTA AGM-6pm at The Bear Inn

Thursday 27th November

Ignite Day: Employability and Future-Horizions

Friday 28th November

Year 13 Mock Examinations commence

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas Lunch Santa Run

Carol Service @ Bath Abbey

Friday 19th December

End of Term 2

Menu for week commencing Monday 10th November

Monday: 5 spice and soy pork, Sweet and Sour Vegetables Tuesday: Chicken Tagine, Sweet Potato and Bean Chilli

Wednesday: Roast Ham, Pepper and Goats Cheese Frittata (D)

Thursday: Pasta Bolognese (W,GF), Mushroom and Parmesan Risotto (D)

Friday: Sausages in Onion Gravy, Quorn Sausages with Onion Gravy

(W) = Contains Wheat Products

(D) = Contains Dairy Products

(G) = Gluten Free Option

Can I please ask that all accounts are topped up at all times to avoid disappointment.

Thank you

Mr D Keal Head Chef

Parents' and Carers' Safety and Wellbeing event - Thursday 13th November

As part of our collaborative work with the other schools in the MNSP Bath Hub, I would like to draw your attention to a Parents' and Carers' Safety and Wellbeing event that is taking place next week at Hayesfield Upper Oldfield Park Campus on Thursday 13th November between 5.45pm-7.15pm.

The evening is designed to help all parents and carers from Hayesfield, Beechen Cliff School and St Mark's School with any issues or questions they may have regarding all aspects of their child's safety and wellbeing, both inside and outside of school.

The event is being hosted by Hayesfield's Pastoral Team, who will be joined by a range of knowledgeable external experts, including local police and specialist officers from exploitation units. Some key topics that will be covered include:

- How to ensure your children are safe online, including a discussion of the topics addressed in the recent TV drama 'Adolescence'.
- How to pre-empt and support issues around exploitation.
- How to support your children with anxiety and emotional health.
- How to keep children safe when they are socialising in public spaces.

Following initial presentations, there will be a panel discussion with the experts, and parents are invited to join this opportunity to speak with some of our guests regarding further advice. Refreshments will be provided..

If you would like to attend this informative event, please sign up using the link below by Monday 10th November 2025 Safety and Wellbeing Evening

If you have any further questions or queries about this event, please do not hesitate to contact Hayesfield via information@hayesfield.com

Many thanks

Mr K Morris

Assistant Headteacher (Conduct and Character Development)

Community Governor wanted.

Please share the notice below with your network or if you know of anyone that may be interested



Community Governor

We are looking for a Community Governor to join the Local Governing Body. This is a rewarding opportunity to support the school in developing our young people.

Community Governors bring breadth of external experience and perspective to the school. They are not current parents of Beechen Cliff pupils.

The Governors play a crucial role in ensuring high standards and providing accountability for school leadership. For more information on the role and what is expected of Governors, please click here.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in the role or would like to find out more information, please contact Mr Tim Markall, Headteacher at headteacher@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk or the Chair of Governors, Mrs Sonya Butters at sonya.butters@msnpartnership.com

Published alongside this newsletter is additional information 'Are you thinking about becoming a school Governor'



WHAT IS ODD SOCKS DAY?

Odd Socks Day is part of Anti-Bullying
Week! To celebrate that we are all unique,

we ask that children wear odd socks to school on Monday 10th November. Andy Day (CBeebies/CBBC) and his band Andy and the Odd Socks are partnering with the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help bring Odd Socks Day to life again this year. Have a listen to the brilliant song they have recorded especially for Anti-Bullying Week, 'Power for Good'.

WHY IS ODD SOCKS DAY IMPORTANT?

The day sends an important message that we should all be allowed to be ourselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.



MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

It's so easy! @ Here's what you do:

Make sure your child wears odd socks to school.

Donate £1 (or whatever you can afford) to help the Anti-Bullying Alliance carry on important work.

If you want to, you can share a photo or video online and feel free to add the 'Power for Good' audio to your posts! Don't forget to tag us using #OddSocksDay #AntiBullyingWeek and tag @ABAonline on X. Or @AntiBullyingAlliance and @AndyandtheOddSocks on Instagram.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Every penny goes to the Anti-Bullying
Alliance to help continue all their work.
We can't wait to see all the odd socks
on Monday 10th November ... If you have
any questions please ask:









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Mrs A Wilmot

THE LIBRARY NEWS

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A calm, quiet space to read and work

Brilliant Book Shop Trip

On the last day of last term, Mrs Jones and I took a group of Year 8 and Year 9 boys into town for a bookshop trip. We went to Mr B's which is on John Street and were met by one of their booksellers, Ed. Ed talked to the boys about how he hadn't been a big reader as a teenager but that he had come to love reading as he got older due to finding books that were on subjects that were of interest to him.

The boys all got to choose two books from the shop for the school library and they made some fantastic choices. We then went to Hall and Woodhouse where we had a nice drink and plates of chips - delicious - while we talked about the books we had all chosen. There were some great sports books, biographies, graphic novels, a crime novel and a fantasy story.

I want to thank the boys for their excellent behaviour and engagement on the trip and for choosing wonderful books to enhance our school library.



READING TOP TIP:

Get a friend to recommend

Why not come to the library and pick one of the brilliant books chosen by the bookshop trip boys last term?

Or, have a look at the recommendations that the students who came to horror book club suggested.

There are some great choices!



Library During Exams

During school exams in November, February and the summer, the library is used as a small exam centre.

At this time, we run a micro-library in the ensemble room in the music block which is open at breaks and lunchtimes as usual.

Reading lessons will be moved-see Google Classroom Homework club will take place in C3.

Keep Reading! Mrs Bridge



Reading Opportunities

Please see Mrs Bridge if you are interested



LITERATURE **ACROSS** BORDERS



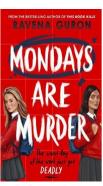
Talk to students in India and America about the same books!

Literature Across Borders brings students from the UK, the USA and India together to talk about books. Selected students will read one or two books on a theme, do some activities with Mrs Bridge and spend time on video calls with the other schools.

There are two themes this year: The Partition of India (a very important historical event) and Young People fighting for rights. The books are mainly suited to Y7 and Y8 but anyone is welcome to participate. Please see LBR for more information.

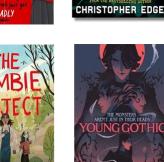
Parents - if anyone has any expertise about Indian Partition - please get in touch!













We are looking for a group of 14 students to take to the awards ceremony in Frome College in April. Last year this was a fun afternoon out of school. We met some of the shortlisted authors and listened to them talk about how they write their books. We also learned about how books are published.

If you are interested in being part of this group, you need to read at least two of the books on the shortlist.

Let Mrs Bridge know if you want to get involved.



Inspired by the horror genre book club, Ben in Year 8 has written this superbly spooky short story. Read it if you dare!

The night is warm and dim. A thin sheet of lazy clouds drift under a pearly white moon. The day was wet, and so shallow puddles glint in the headlights of an occasional car. I pass under a railway bridge, then take a left into a narrow passageway. What little light the streetlamps gave is gone, and I wait for my eyes to adjust. Precious time lost. The passage now opens into a vast green, empty of light. I don't have a watch, but I place the time at 1 AM. I shiver; the leaves rustle.

A breeze.

Dogs barking shields the sound of a second pair of footsteps.

I quicken my pace, and the wind picks up. Nature is mocking me.

He is running and so am I. The wind howls, the trees crack. I am too late. Cloud covers the moon and all is silent.

Ben P-Year 8

Year 10 RPE Students visit Shepton Mallet Prison

At the end of last term, Year 10 RPE GCSE students visited Shepton Mallet historic prison to further their study of the criminal justice system and the history of capital punishment in the UK. Students



learned about the history of the site which was opened in 1625 (and was a working prison up until 2013), had a tour of the cells and execution chamber, engaged in a debate about the purpose of punishment and worked in teams to beat the clock in escape rooms! Prison staff were impressed that Beechen Cliff is the only school group

in the last few years that have successfully managed to get every team out of the escape rooms within the time limit! Students spent some time exploring different parts of the prison, including rooms where paranormal activity is said to be rife...no sightings of ghosts were reported by Year 10!



Ms P Netto Head RPE

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 https://www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/vacancies.htm

Beechen Cliff Super Curricular Lecture Series

This week's Super Curricular Lecture was held by Mr Higgins, who explored the fight for superpower status between the US, China, and Russia.

In this thought-provoking talk, Mr Higgins examined how these major world powers compete for influence on the global stage, and their political, economic, and military strategies shape international relations. The lecture aimed to deepen students' understanding of modern geo-politics and encourage critical thinking beyond the classroom.



Our Super Curricular Lecture series provides students with opportunities to broaden their horizons and engage with complex global issues.

If any parents or members of our school community would like to contribute to the series by delivering a lecture in their own field of expertise, please contact jdavies@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk. We'd love to hear from you!

Miss J Davies Teacher of English

Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

From the 10th - 21st of November all KS3 students and Computer Science/Interactive Media students at KS4 and KS5 will take part in the annual Bebras International Computational Thinking Challenge.



All the students who take part will get a certificate for participation, merit or distinction.

Students who achieve a score in the top 10% of the UK will also receive a Gold certificate.

Prepare for the UK Bebras challenge

The best way to prepare for the Bebras challenge is by attempting to solve previous tasks. Tasks from previous challenges are available for practice, without the need for registration or logging in, on the <u>challenges page</u> of the Bebras website.

The tasks are designed to allow every student the opportunity to showcase their potential, whether they excel in maths or computing, or not.

We hope that everyone who takes part will have fun and enjoy the experience.

Ms L Jarvis and Mr A Cottle

Computing Department

Support Movember - Let's Make a Difference Together!

As we embrace the month of November, we're excited to support *Movember*, a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness for men's health issues, including mental health, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer.

This month, several members of Beechen Cliff staff are participating by growing moustaches to raise funds for this important cause. We kindly ask for your generous support in helping us reach our fundraising goal. Every donation, big or small, can make a real impact in improving the lives of men around the world.

To donate, please visit https://uk.movember.com/ mospace/15393095 and show your support. Together, we can help raise awareness and fund life-saving research!

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Mr Hill & Mr Bowett





Activities Week-Year 8 Spanish Trip

There are two spaces left on the Year 8 Spanish Trip during Activities Week (July 2026).

Please contact Mr Macdonald if you would like more details

Mr P Macdonald Head of Year 10



FOOTBALL TRAINING SESSIONS

Year 7 football training-

Starts Tuesday 11th November on the astro 3:15-4:30pm

Year 8 football training-

Starts Monday 10th November on the astro 3:15-4:30pm

Cricket winter nets (all years) will start in January, more information will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Thanks

Mr P Macdonald Head of Year 10

Food Technology

Year 9 Food students completed their Great British Bake Off project with these sweet treats this week. Made over 2 lessons, they have shown some fantastic creativity as seen in these images.



Year 8 finished their FakeAway TakeAway project this week and had to independently produce a dish suitable to be served as a TakeAway. One student (Ralph) brought in some packaging to go alongside his FakeAway dish. All of the dishes produced looked fantastic and really showcased the talent in Year 8.

Mrs K Gallagher Food Lead



Bovington Tank Museum Visit - Friday 24th October

Whilst their peers took the first opportunity to have a lie in at the end of the half term a number of the boys of the CCF contingent took up the offer to visit the Tank Museum in Bovington. This has become an annual 'fixture' on the CCF calendar and the combination of very good weather, speedy coach and an opportunity to visit the tank restoration centre on the site added to the appeal of the visit.

The close connection between the King Edward's CCF and the KRH (A cavalry regiment) makes the site of the visit perhaps a little more 'fitting' than any other; being guided through the development of the tank from the twilight period of horses employed on a battlefield to the first lurching, unreliable and unbearably noisy creations which came out of Lincoln during the midst of the 'Great War'. The cadets were taken around the main exhibits by a knowledgeable guide and were then given access in small teams to the Chieftain tank which resides in the Cold War area of the vast museum space. The vounger cadets had the chance to compete for ice creams and gifts through the completion of a resource pack, the older members of the group taking the time to hone their skills on the 'World of Tanks' simulators which seemed to be able to accommodate large numbers of youngsters at one time.

The inclusion of a new exhibition dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine was a rather sobering place to stroll and the cadets were struck by the inclusion of artefacts and images which brought home the plight of civilian populations in the war which is still being waged in eastern Europe. The image of a Russian tank turret, blown from the hull of the vehicle, was one which conveyed something of the horror of the conflict. It is attached to this report.

We took the opportunity to take the whole group over to the vehicle restoration centre near the museum and were all amazed by the vast number of fascinating vehicles packed into the hangar-like space put aside to receive the collection. All questions asked by staff and cadets of the expert guides were answered and we returned to Bath having been provided with a very worthwhile experience.











The next key event on the CCF calendar is Remembrance Sunday and all efforts are now focused on ensuring that we give a good account of ourselves as we honour those who have lost their lives in conflict over the last century.

Mr A Davies
BCS CCF Lead



Annual General Meeting

and

Parent / Teacher Social

Whether you have or have not volunteered for the PTA please join us at

The Bear Inn 8 Wellsway, Bath BA2 3AQ

6.00pm Thursday 20th November 2025

to discuss fund raising activities and donations.

If you have any items for the agenda, please submit them to the PTA Secretary via email secretary@beechenpta.org

Beechen Cliff School Parent Teacher Association Registered charity no. 1079431

Trustees: Mr Tim Markall Mr Andy Seal Mr Paul Fleming (Treasurer) Secretary: Mrs Jane Gibbons

Recent Fixture Results

Date		Fixture	Result	
Tuesday 4 th November	FOOTBALL	BCS 1st XI v Millfield (OD)	4-1	
		BCS U13 v Millfield Prep (A)	6-0	
	RUGBY	BCS U12b v St Gregory's Catholic College (A)	6-1	
Wednesday 5 th November	RUGBY	BCS 1st XV v Hartpury (H)	15-5	

Sporting News

First Team Football Team Progress In The National Cup

Congratulations to the 1st XI football team on reaching the last 32 of the National Cup with a 4-1 victory over Millfield. Excellent work rate and effort from all the team who were a credit to themselves and the school.

Mr L Mann
PE Department



Marathon success

During the half term, George C (Year 11) ran a marathon distance, 26.2 miles/42.22km, to raise money for Zac Smith, a Bath City player, who is in need of surgery.

An incredible achievement! Congratulations George!

There is still time to donate - https://gofund.me/34b6210b1

Mr A Firth Head of Year 11



U18 ACE Rugby







Yesterday the U18 ACE Rugby team had an excellent victory over Hartpury in the ACE League. As one of our local rivals and fellow challengers to try and win the league, this was a great result in front of home supporters. The team competed really well, overturning a 0-5 deficit with a relentless performance to win 17-5. Congratulations to all involved and thank you for the outstanding home support.



Mr A Hall Head of Rugby

(Thank you to Ollie Rhodes for the photography)





SPORTS FIXTURES w/c 10th November (details correct at time of publication)

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

Please check the website for up any changes/updates

DATE	Fixture		Start time/kick off	Meet time	Transport	Finish/ Return time
Monday 10 th November	FOOTBALL	Year 8 football training	15:15	15:15		
Tuesday 11 th November	FOOTBALL	U14 football v St Bedes (a)	14:30	13:00		
		Year 7 football training	15:15	15:15		
Wednesday 12 th November	RUGBY	U13a v Millfield Prep (a)	13:15			
		U13b v Millfield Prep (a)	13:15			
		U13c v Millfield Prep (a)	13:15			
		U12a,v Millfield Prep (a)	13:15			
		U12b v Millfield Prep (a)	13:15			
		U12c v Millfield Prep (a)				
		1st XV v Oaklands (h)	14:30	12:45		
		2nd XV rugby v Oaklands (h)	14:30	12:45		
Thursday 13 th November	RUGBY	U15a rugby v Bishops (h)	14:30	13:30		_
	HOCKEY	1st XI girls hockey v Kingswood (a)	14:30	13:30		
	TENNIS	1st Tennis v Collegiate (h)	14:30			

Wellbeing

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all had a restful half term and that everyone is enjoying being back at school this week.

Invitation to a Parent and Carer Session

We would like to invite you to a session about the Solution-Focused Approach — the approach we use in our counselling service and across the school.

Date: Thursday 27th November

■ Time: 6:00pm

Location: Zoom (please see the link below)

This approach is all about supporting students' wellbeing, helping them find coping strategies for everyday life, giving them space to think about what they're hoping for, and noticing what they already do well.

The session will be a chance to find out more about how we use this approach to help students build confidence, resilience, and a sense of direction. We would love you to join us.

Supporting Students Ahead of GCSE Mocks

As GCSE mocks begin next week, we wanted to share a few Solution Focused questions that might be useful in conversations about revision at home. These questions can help open up positive and encouraging discussions about effort, motivation, and progress.

With best wishes,

The Wellbeing Team

- What would be useful for me to ask you or say to you about your revision, so that we can have a good conversation about it?
- What are your best hopes for the next week?
- Imagining that, at the end of the mocks, you felt satisfied — what would you have done between now and then to make that possible?
- As these are your first mocks, what would be a "good enough" grade that would show you're on track to achieve the results you're hoping for in your final exams?

We hope these questions provide gentle and constructive ways to reflect and plan together during this busy time.

Tara Gretton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Solution Focused Beechen Parent Session

Time: Nov 27, 2025 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88141358613? pwd=tNXa7IAUW0hYxheg0YwrsS6Zgq6Jip

Meeting ID: 881 4135 8613

Passcode: 584850

Careers

Beechen Cliff Careers Newsletter

The most recent edition (8) of our Beechen Cliff Future Horizon Careers publication 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

GCHQ Christmas Challenge - Registration is open

Last year, over 1,000 schools across the UK took part in the GCHQ Christmas challenge. This December it's back – with even more bonus puzzles – and we'd love your school to take part.



Created by GCHQ's own team of puzzlers, the Challenge is a series of fiendish brainteasers designed to inspire pupils aged 11-18 to:

- Work together
- Solve problems under pressure
- Use their STEM skills
- Discover skills they might need to become a spy.

These puzzles aren't meant to be solved alone and each student will bring something different to the challenge. Just like at GCHQ, we believe the right mix of minds enables us to solve seemingly impossible problems.

Register now

Register now to secure your spot and make sure your school gets early access to the Challenge.

Website: https://www.gchq.gov.uk/news/get-ready-for-the-gchq-christmas-challenge-2025 Registration Form: GCHQ Christmas Challenge - Schools Registration Form - Fill in form

Good luck!

The GCHQ Christmas Elves

About GCHQ

GCHQ is one of the three UK Intelligence and Security Agencies, along with MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6). GCHQ protects the UK and its citizens from individuals, groups and countries who wish to do us harm, or damage us financially. Find out more about our mission: https://www.gchq.gov.uk/section/mission/overview



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

NEED HELP AT HOME?

I'm a self employed gardener with many years experience of general garden maintenance with long term clients as well as one off, seasonal clients. This follows a career, in Travel and Administration.



Through my close connection with clients, I have also helped some on an ad hoc basis, particularly admin support - paperwork/ bills, Decluttering and general sorting. Also home support, light housework, bed changing, food shopping, as well as companionship.





If you feel I can help you or a close relative or friend, either as a one-off, more permanent help, or at some point in the future, please contact me and we can chat. I am based in the Moorland Road area but have a car and can travel. I am insured for public liability and DBS checked. Please note that I do not cover personal care.



Please contact Trudy at tdhealey50@gmail.com or 07732 626986



