



BEECHEN CLIFF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last week of term has seen enjoyable Christmas festivities.



Christmas lunch, Christmas jumpers and the Year 7-9 Santa Run raising funds for the PTA have been a lot of fun and our amazing catering team cooked over 650 Christmas dinners!



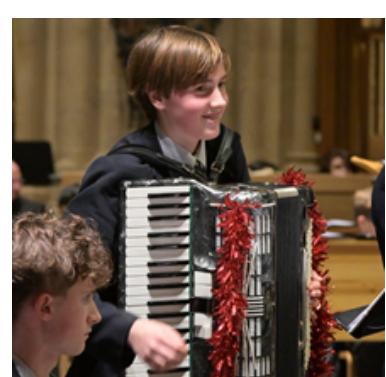
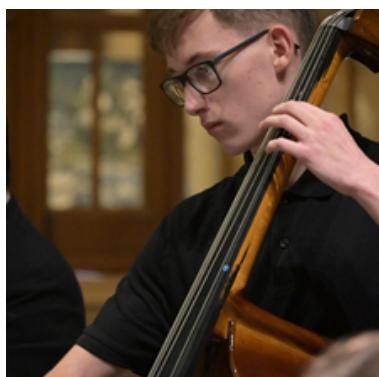
Aspiration

Compassion

Independence

Respect

The carol service at Bath Abbey was, as ever, an amazing and fitting end to the term. I would like to thank all the staff involved for making the event happen, the Abbey staff for allowing us to use the Bath Abbey and our amazing students for incredible music, through the choir and instrumental ensembles, and wonderful readings. Also a big thank you to all parents and students for attending the evening and I hope you enjoyed the service.



Finally, a big thank you for supporting our Christmas raffle and ticket auction.
Mr Greenhough will be contacting the lucky winners.

Thank you for all your support for your children and for the school over the last year and I would like to wish you an enjoyable Christmas break.

We look forward to students returning to school on Tuesday 6th January.

T. D. Markall .

T. D. Markall
Headteacher



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: [MNSP Absence Request Form](#).



Monday 5th January 2026
Inset Day

Tuesday 6th January
First day of Term for pupils

Tuesday 13th January
Year 9 Options Parent Information Evening 6-7.30pm

Wednesday 14th January
Year 11 Parents Evening

Thursday 22nd January
Year 9 Parents Evening

Year 9 and Year 11 Progress Reports

Dear Parents,

Progress report for Years 9 and 11 will be available to view on the Arbor Parent App from Friday 19th December and will also be sent via email. Reports for all other year groups will be sent early in the new year.

Kind regards

Mr A Seal
Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum and Assessment

Ready for the New Year: Equipment Matters

As we approach the end of the Christmas term at Beechen Cliff, we would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support throughout the Autumn. The new year provides a valuable opportunity for a fresh start, and one simple way to help students begin the Spring Term positively is by ensuring they return to school with the correct equipment.

As a reminder, students should return in January with:

- A suitable school bag
- Pens (black/blue, green and purple), pencils and a ruler
- A calculator
- Protractor, compass, highlighters, pencil sharpener and rubber
- A reading book
- Their planner
- Full and correct PE kit on PE days

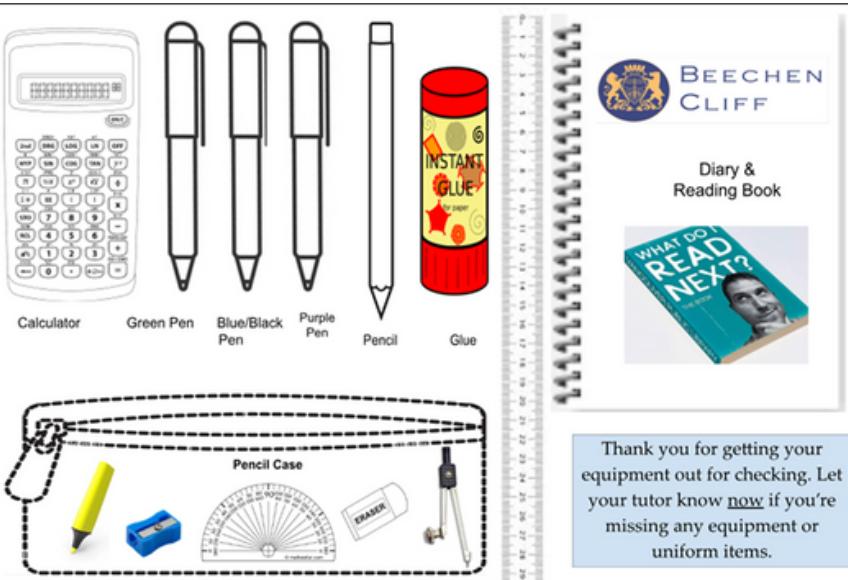
We appreciate that the Christmas period can be a busy and costly time for families. However, checking and replacing equipment over the holiday break can prevent unnecessary disruption in the new term and helps students develop responsibility and independence.

If there are any concerns regarding access to equipment, we encourage parents to contact the school in confidence so that we can offer support where possible.

We wish all our families a restful and enjoyable Christmas and look forward to welcoming students back in the new year, ready to learn and succeed.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Mr K Morris
Assistant Headteacher - Conduct and Character Development



Energy Drinks in School

In the last few weeks we have seen an increase in pupils bringing energy drinks into school - please could I remind you that such drinks are banned in school and ask that alternative drinks are brought in.

Research has shown that energy drinks typically contain high levels of caffeine, sugar and other stimulants such as guarana, taurine, and ginseng. This means that there is an increased risk of the following health issues, particularly for younger people:

- Heart Problems
- Sleep Disruption
- Mental Health Effects
- Dependency and Tolerance
- Sugar Overload and Obesity Risks
- Risky Behaviours



Mr C Hall

Assistant Headteacher, Attendance and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Holiday Bus Travel

FREE bus travel for kids

...is back for the holidays

20 December – 4 January



This festive season, under 16's can travel for free on most buses starting in the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, of B&NES, South Gloucestershire, and Bristol from the 20th of December to the 4th of January. For more information: <https://travelwest.info/bus/kids-go-free/>

PSHE



Mrs A Wilmot
Head of PSHE

Our Year 11 prefects are working with Hayesfield Tutor reps to produce a piece of work to share with Year 8 and 9 students at both schools in the form of an assembly.

Last week was their first meeting and they all worked incredibly well together. They have decided to look at what Influences Young people and will focus on areas such as Social Media, Relationships, AI and Positive Mindset. The next meeting will take place in January and the assemblies will be after their mocks in February. I am sure this project will be a great success and the students should all be very proud of the work they are doing.



PSHE Topics next term:

- Year 7 - SRE - Puberty**
- Year 8 - Gender and Equality**
- Year 9 - Careers**
- Year 10 - Drugs and Alcohol**
- Year 11 - RPE**
- Year 12 - Finance**
- Year 13 - RPE**





CCF Christmas Parade

The 2025 Combined Cadet Force year ended with the traditional Christmas Parade party at King Edward's School, bringing together the cadets and staff to participate in traditional Christmas games and to consume hot dogs, chocolate and crisps in fairly significant quantities. The cadets parade up to the Refectory from the parade ground wearing fancy dress, accompanied by staff similarly attired. Captain Jones was unusually low key with his choice this year, opting for a tight fitting Christmas jumper and MTP trousers. A number of cadets had really gone the extra mile and there were some impressive costumes on show - the best (in my view) being the full Christmas cracker, constructed around a cadet. He is possibly still attempting to extricate himself from the costume as I write.

As is expected within the CCF it was the senior cadets who took on the responsibility for running activities to entertain their younger brethren; porridge diving (fairly unpleasant for the volunteers, it must be said), apple bobbing, Christmas Quiz, blow football and 'cup grabbing' games competing with activities which required the players to cover themselves in flour.



Great fun was had by all and the final send off from Captain Jones promised them all a full and challenging schedule of events in the remainder of the academic year. Once the junior cadets had departed the seniors were thanked by Captain Jones before the final 'clear up' and lights out.

Many thanks must be extended to the team at King Edward's for the work they do to provide some great opportunities for the boys of Beechen Cliff School and I would like to join in sending my gratitude to them and to Mr Markall for supporting the CCF throughout the year - despite the inconvenience in terms of absence requests which often arise from the numerous cadet activities.

May I wish all cadets, parents and fellow staff a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mr A Davies
CCF Liaison



Brebas Computational Thinking Challenge



Congratulations to all the KS3 pupils and Computer Science/Interactive Media students at KS4 and KS5 and year 10 Business students who took part in the Bebras International Computational Thinking Challenge. Everyone who took part will receive a certificate for participation, merit or distinction.

This year you can access your certificate from the Bebras website when you check your results. The login details are under “Quick Links” on your computing/business Google Classroom stream, once logged in, click on Challenges and User Score.

The following students achieved a score in the top 10% of the UK for their age range, so will also receive a Gold certificate. If those students would like to visit the computing office they can collect a duck.

Year 7
John B-S
Tobin L
Sam B
Iggy D
Henry T
Logan C
Frank T
Dylan P
Ben W
Patryk P
Stanley F
Austin C
Isaac M
Xavier D
Frank G
Patrick W

Daniel Ford
Grey H-J
Samuel L
Joshua B
Edward C
Jake F
Charlie P
Edward C
John S
Year 8
Raff T
Ben P
Harry B
Ralph S
Zak W
Lucas A
Woodrow Y
Harry P
Tianchen C

Year 9
Hugo M-R
Oskar C
Jaeyoon L
Samuel C
Samuel H
Thomas G
Theo R
Rocco B
Nasko T
Noah W
Zachary O
Samuel H
Quentin R-H
Ash M
Benoit H
Joe C
Isaac W
Alex B

Year 10
Eddie J
Adam B
Stanley R
Tomas A

Year 11
Elias M
Lucas W
Felix D
Yarden R
Josh B

Year 12
Sam J

Well done everyone!

Ms L Jarvis and Mr Cottle
Computing Leads

UKMT Senior Math Challenge

Following on from their success in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge in October, four students were invited to participate in the UKMT Senior Kangaroo, follow on round.

Upper and Lower 6th Further Maths students receiving their Bronze, Silver & Gold certificates in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge this term. Congratulations to all those who participated.

Further details of the SMC can be found at:

<https://ukmt.org.uk/senior-challenges>



In case you missed it last year! Year 7 and 8 mathematicians receiving their Bronze, Silver & Gold certificates in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge from Mr Burnby. Huw received a Bronze certificate in the UKMT Junior Kangaroo from Mr Henly, whilst Ralph received a Gold Medal from Mr Markall in the prestigious British Maths Olympiad.

Further details of all the Junior competitions can be found at:
<https://ukmt.org.uk/junior-challenges>



Years 10 and 11 Intermediate Challenge will be on 28th Jan, whereas the Year 7 and 8 Junior Challenge will be on 29th April. Congratulations to all involved.

Mr J Henly
Maths Challenge Co-ordinator



Photography



One of the subjects that has the steepest learning curve since September is Photography.

Since the start, boys have learned a huge range of skills, learning how to use a DSLR camera from scratch, learning the professional settings, shooting at night and Photoshop, as well as having to learn how to record their learning journey electronically.



A particular well done to those who joined me in Alexandra Park to do a night shoot in November, it was a great success!



I am always impressed by the enthusiasm and confidence the boys gain in such a short space of time. To showcase some of their talents, I have included some examples of their work to see here. Have a great Christmas break to you all.



Have a great Christmas break to you all.

Mr D Murphy
Head of Art and Photography

Art

Our Sixth Form Art and Photography students had a very successful trip to Oxford last week. Despite the constant rain the students had a walking tour of some of the beautiful architecture, visited the Ashmolean Museum, Covered market and the Museum of Oxford. The students gained inspiration for their upcoming projects.

All coursework is due in after Christmas for Year 11 and 13. The exams groups have been working incredibly hard, and produced an outstanding collection of final pieces.



Mrs A Wilmot
Art





Food and Hospitality

This week, Year 11s are developing their piping skills with a festive spin. In their lessons they had to independently follow a gingerbread recipe then use piping bags made from triangles of baking paper to decorate them.



This week our Year 10s have been continuing with their presentation and skills development project by making Festive Roulades.



Mrs K Gallagher
Food Lead



Music



Instrumental lessons continue to provide a fantastic 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 as well as the notices board in the foyer of the music department.

Exams

Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved success in external practical exams:

Huw P-M Year 8 Grade 4 Piano

Joe S Year 10 Grade 7 Piano with Merit

Jack W Year 11 Grade 4 Piano with Distinction

Performances

At the end of term 1, our annual school piano concert took place at St Luke's Church with pupils also joining us from Hayesfield. There was a great range of repertoire on show from Chopin through to Katy Perry! All 19 performers enjoyed the experience of playing on the church's grand piano and the concert was well received by the appreciative audience.



On Monday December 15th, several schools within the Midsomer Norton academy trust took part in Hayesfield's Christmas concert at The Forum. The school Folk group, led by Mr Thompson played The Babe of Bethlehem and Holly and The Ivy (arranged by Mr Harriman) before joining the massed ensembles to perform an arrangement of Sleigh Ride.



The end of term saw the traditional Carol Service taking place on December 17th at Bath Abbey. The school Choir, Brass Ensemble and Folk Group were all involved in the service which was delivered to a full house in the Abbey. We were also joined by the Bristol Brass Consort who performed fanfares and descants in the congregational carols as well as arrangements of Ding Dong Merrily on High and Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day. The choir was in good voice and there was some fine solo singing from Hugo D (Year 11) and Josh Lam (Year 13). The Folk Group also had their second seasonal performance and the whole evening was enjoyed by all.



Carol Service

The Carol Service is always a highlight in the school calendar and this year was no exception.



Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all the music staff including our instrumental teachers 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

THE LIBRARY NEWS

Christmas Round-Up

CHRISTMAS NEWS
Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

[https://
www.g
ollin.or
g.uk/](https://www.gollin.org.uk/)

GO
ALL
IN.



Reading Rewards: I am delighted to let you know that the following tutor groups won the awards for best reading records for this term:

- Year 7: Milton 7b with Mrs Cook
- Year 8: Milton 8 with Mr Simmons
- Year 9: Shakespeare 9 with Ms Davies

Across all year groups, the winning house was Shakespeare, with Milton as very close runners up. Both teams get points towards the end of term treat. Come on Byron and Kipling!

The winning tutor groups received a chocolate treat for their hard work. This year, we are awarding certificates for the number of books recorded in planners or borrowed from the library. Keep yours up-to-date for a chance to win!

Our top readers so far this year are:

Year 7: Harry P (ByB) 16, Eddie H (ByA) 14 books, Elliott D (ByB) 12 books, JJ N-B (MiA) 12 books, Lux SS (MiB) 10 books.

Year 8: Ben P (KpB) 19 books, Albert J, (ShB) 12 books, Shunran Yuan (MiA) 10 books.

Year 9: Hugo M-R, Freddie K, Rexon P (all MiB).

All these boys have received reading ambassador badges and certificates and a further 36 boys have been rewarded for borrowing or logging more than 5 books since September. We will be issuing more rewards before Easter!

A big shout out to Daniel R (Kp11) for reading all the Beechen Canon books!

Messages:

Have a lovely break. I hope you find time to curl up with a good book this holiday! I am looking forward to the National Year of Reading in 2026!





Some of our fabulous Winners



Here are some of our KS3 students who have been logging their reading in their planners or borrowing books from the library.



Well done to JJ in Y7 and Daniel in Year 11 who were the first to read all ten books on the Beechen Canon for their year. Find out more: <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Beechen-Cliff-Canon-Reading-List.pdf>



Extra Curricular Activities



A major strength of our school is our phenomenal extra curricular offering that the staff put so much effort into and the students gain so much from.

Beechen Cliff's Extra Curricular Clubs and Activities list for Term 3 and Term 4 is now available on the School website at <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Extra-Curricular-for-Terms-3-4-2026-Terms-3-4.pdf>

The majority of activities will commence first week of term, however please check the website for see where this is not the case.

Monday			
Club/Activity	Time	Venue	Staff Lead
Cricket training- year 8 (sign up via Arbor)	7:15am - 8:15am	Sports barn	External
Homework Club	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Library	Ms Cumpson & Miss Barker
Cricket training - year 7 (sign up via Arbor)	3:20pm - 4:20pm	Sports barn	External
Tuesday			
Club/Activity	Time	Venue	Staff Lead
Debate Club (Years 7-9)	12:30-1:15	P6	Ms Sullivan
Bridge Club (KS4/KS5)	1:30-2:15	Y6	Laura Bridge
Language Club (KS4) Spanish	3:20pm - 4:30pm	BL2	Mrs Costa - term 4 onwards
Language Club (KS4) French, German & Italian	3:20pm - 4:30pm	BL3 / BL4 / BL1	Mrs Westlake/Mrs Hall/Miss Pavone
Music - Concert Band	3:20-4:10pm	Recital Room	Mr Calvert
Rugby Training U14 7s - Year 9	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Rugby pitches	Mr Thompson & Mr Morris
Strength and Conditioning - Year 10 & 11 (sign up via Arbor)	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Fitness Suite	External Personal Trainer
Warhammer Club	3:20pm - 4:30pm	E4	Mr Saunders
Homework Club	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Library	Ms Cumpson & Miss Barker
D&T GCSE NEA	3:20pm - 4:30pm	T5	Mr Bakker, Mr Kelly & PSimmons
Cricket training- year 7 (sign up via Arbor)	3:20pm - 4:20pm	Sports barn	External
Climbing Club - Y10-Y13	3:20pm - 4:45pm	Back of Sports Barn	Mr Murphy
Schools Challenge Quiz Club (all years)	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Library	Laura Bridge
Year 9, 10 & 11 Hockey club	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Astro	Mr Boyle
Wednesday			
Club/Activity	Time	Venue	Staff Lead
Music Swing Band	1:30pm - 2:15pm	Music Centre	Mr Daniels
Science Club Year 7 & 8	12:40 - 1:15	S7	Mr Hollis
Cricket training- year 9 (sign up via Arbor)	7:15am - 8:15am	Sports barn	External
Library Club (inc. pupil librarian training; book activities, crafts)	3:20pm - 4:20pm	Library	Mrs Bridge
D&T GCSE NEA	3:20pm - 4:30pm	T5	Mr Bakker, Mr Kelly & PSimmons
Christian Union	3:20pm - 4:30pm	M5	Mrs Hearle (led by Y13)
Homework Club	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Library	Ms Cumpson & Miss Barker
Combined Cadet Force (CCF) (Y9-13) at King Edward's School	4:15pm - 6:15pm	KES Parade	Mr A Davies
Senior Girls Netball Club	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Sports barn	Mr R Bowett
Hospitality & Catering Level 1/2	3:20pm - 4:30pm	T6	Mrs Gallagher
Wildlife Film Club	12:35 - 1:10	P1	Mrs Cook
Thursday			
Club/Activity	Time	Venue	Staff Lead
Music Year 7 Ensemble	12:30-12:55	Band Room	Mr Calvert
Debate Club Years 10-13)	1:30 - 2:15	Y9	Ms Sullivan
Rowing Club (Minverva Rowing club) Yr 12 & Yr 13 ONLY	2:15pm - 5:00pm	Minerva Rowing Club	Ms Netto and Miss Mather
Music - Concert Band	3:20-4:10pm	Music Centre	Mr Diver
Music - Guitar Ensemble (grade 1 and above)	3:20pm - 4:10pm	Recital Room	Mr Thompson
Byte Club (all years) - Computing, cyber and retro gaming	3:20pm - 4:30pm	C1	Ms Jarvis / Mr Cottle
D&T GCSE NEA	3:20pm - 4:30pm	T5	Mr Bakker, Mr Kelly & PSimmons
Business NEA Catch up	3:20pm - 4:30pm	C2	Mr King
Homework Club	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Library	Ms Cumpson & Miss Barker
Strength and Conditioning - Year 10 & 11 (sign up via Arbor)	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Fitness Suite	External Personal Trainer
Year 7 & 8 Hockey Club	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Astro	Mr E Hill
Friday			
Club/Activity	Time	Venue	Staff Lead
Homework Club	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Library	Ms Cumpson & Miss Barker
Cricket training- year 10-13	7:15am - 8:15am	Sports barn	External
ETeam/Anti Bullying Ambassadors	12:35pm - 1:10pm	Art block	Mrs Wilmot
Film Club Year 10-11	1:30pm-2:15pm	E2	Mr Dodsworth-James
Rugby Training U14 7s - Year 9	3:20pm - 4:30pm	Rugby pitches	Mr Thompson & Mr Morris
Theatre/Drama Group with Bath Theatre School (all year groups) £ (sign up via Arbor)	3:45pm - 5:45pm	Music Centre/Pavilion	Bath Theatre School (External)

Climbing Club - Terms 1 and 2

The climbing wall has (literally) risen from the ashes after the old wall that was built in 2008 had to be taken down to allow builders access to the Sports Hall roof following the fire some years ago.

The original wall was built after fundraising events organised by Mr Murphy raised £18,000 allow him to build the wall with help from Emery construction. Fortunately we have been able to rebuild the wall using Kong Climbers and the project was completed over the Summer.

The Climbing Club started again in September, and has proved to be hugely popular. So much so, that we have had to split participation into separate year groups. For the past two terms, Year 7 have enjoyed learning to climb, belay and understand the principles of climbing methods and the buddy system.

They will now take a break and the wall will be open to the participants who have paid from Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form starting in January until Easter.



Then Years 8 & 9 will be the lucky ones to enjoy the wall in the last two terms in Summer.

Well done to all those in Year 7 who have taken part, keep it up using the walls in Bristol and Chippenham if you can, and if there is room later in 2026, you can return!

Mr D Murphy
Climbing Club





Sports Reports



British Schools South West Regional Qualifier

Congratulations to Year 8 pupil, Freddie J, who finished in second place in the British Schools South West Region Gymnastics Competition, on the weekend of 6 and 7 December 2025. As a result, Freddie has qualified for the next selection round.

Mr G Hawkins
Head of PE



Under 12 Rugby - End of Season Report

Due to Beechen Cliff's reputation for sport the Year 7's only get the opportunity to play against one other state school, in which our B team plays against their A team. For all other fixtures we are competing against the private sector, with their preparatory schools, and hence we have been playing against teams which have already accumulated two to three years of experience in playing together. For this reason, our boys have had a real challenge on their hands to compete, with many of our boys never having picked up an oval ball before arriving at Beechen Cliff. Despite this, our Year 7s have performed admirably and have shown great determination and progress as the season has unfolded. Arguably, the best performances occurred during the final matches of the season with our A and B teams taking on Collegiate School, Bristol.

With this introductory year under our belt, we are already looking towards next season with the invitation to 'Early Bird' rugby training, and to further develop our positional play and formations, which will enable us to not only compete but start to outperform our friendly rivals.

Thank you to all the boys for their commitment this year, and thank you to Miss Willaims, Mr Hill and Mr Thompson who have assisted with training sessions and/or fixtures this year.



Mr G Hawkins
U12 Rugby

Under 13 Rugby - End of Season Report

This has been a hugely positive year for the U13's at Beechen Cliff. More than 85 boys in total attended training, which meant we were able to stretch and challenge players of all abilities while still creating strong competition for places.

Being our last season before stepping up to a full pitch and a starting XV, the boys were able to demonstrate and dominate in key aspects of the game. A number of pupils had the added experience of travelling on tour to Liverpool, where they represented the school in the Kirkham Grammar School tournament, coming home as the winners



Finally, the success of the school's 1st XV, who won the ACE League for the first time, has not gone unnoticed by the boys. Many of them watched those matches closely and are already imagining themselves competing at that level in years to come. Thank you to the parents for their early mornings, lifts, touchline support and patience, and to the staff who gave up so many weekends to make these opportunities possible.



Across the season we were able to field three competitive teams. Between midweek games and regular Saturday fixtures, we managed to arrange 19 matches. The A team finished the season undefeated. The B and C teams also recorded strong performances throughout the term. To top it all off, a Year 8 school trip to the Allianz stadium (Twickenham) to watch England v Argentina in the Autumn internationals solidified a brilliant rugby season.



Mr J Utton
U13 Rugby

Under 14 Rugby - End of Season Report

Another successful and enjoyable season for the u14's in their first year of 15-a-side rugby. A season that is still in progress!

It's been fantastic to have over 50 boys training throughout the year. Everyone who has trained, has worked hard which is shown in the development of them all with their skills improving but also results to go alongside this.

At the time of writing this, the u14's have got a record of 12 games with 9 wins, 1 draw and only 2 losses. There have been some fantastic matches, like having over 36 boys play whilst hosting Abingdon on their u14 tour and some tough matches like Marlborough and in particular Millfield.

Marlborough to kick off the season was a real test for us, showing the big difference between u13 and u14 rugby. The game showed the importance of structured, tactical rugby, in place of straight up physicality and playing your own game. Saying that though, we fought hard meaning the A Team came away with a 14-7 victory and the B team played a triangular, winning both matches, a successful start to u14 rugby!



Moving later into the season we knew the scale of the Millfield game, how tough it was going to be, and it was. A fast, physical game showing the grit needed to play. Millfield had a well drilled side which put us through our paces. But we stayed tough, some fantastic defending, and hard carrying put them on the back foot at times. We thought we couldn't do anymore, with 5 minutes left on the clock, 5 points down and defending our line. We stood strong, time up and the clock now in the red we got a penalty, up the pitch we go. Line out, a couple of phases, another penalty, further up the pitch. We were now on the front foot, all we needed to do was keep the ball,

turnover, Millfield won it at the ruck, but we won it back in the same ruck! The clock now 8 minutes in the red, unbelievably the same thing happens again, turnover but we win it back, on their line. TRY, driven over with a strong carry, we're level, all on the kick. Missing from the same spot not long before it wasn't an easy one, Jacob L stepped up, took a deep breath, and slotted, the boys went crazy, 29-27 winners over Millfield. True heart was shown all the way through never letting them get away from us. An outstanding performance that was worthy of the result.

Now what's next for the u14's? Not many teams play rugby after christmas but for the u14's there's a lot to look forward to! We are in the Somerset Cup which means 15-a-side rugby will be continuing, giving us a trophy to play for, more experience for next season and preparation for the National Cup in u15's. It's not just 15's rugby that will be played after Christmas for this group of boys, 7's season kicks off as soon as we get back. An exciting opportunity leading towards the largest school rugby tournament in the world! A different dynamic to union, that will only improve the boy's skills, alongside playing in tournaments and gaining new experiences.

A final mention needs to go out to Theo R and Joel R who both made their debuts for the u15's this year. Unbelievable feat and well deserved after dominating for us in the u14's. They both made a real difference when they played, so much that they were both selected to play in the National Cup, Joel playing the full game and Theo coming on at half time! The u15's won that game which takes them into the quarter finals after Christmas.

It has been another enjoyable year, and I'm looking forward to continuing it with them all after Christmas.



Mr S Thompson
U14 Rugby

Under 15 Rugby - End of Season Rugby Report



As we conclude a an excellent term of rugby for Year 10, it is with great pride that we reflect on our achievements and the dedication displayed by every member of the squad. This year has been nothing short of extraordinary, marked by significant milestones and outstanding performances

Our success has been built on a solid foundation of hard work and commitment. This season, we saw an impressive turnout at both the early bird and after-school training sessions. This dedication to training not only improved individual skills but fostered a strong team spirit that was evident on the pitch.

One of the many highlights of the season has been our journey in the National Cup. Competing against some of the best teams in the country, we have demonstrated resilience and teamwork, ultimately making it to the quarter finals which will take place after the Christmas break. This achievement speaks volumes about our players' talent and determination, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts to represent our school.



Not less impressive have been performances in local fixtures often in adverse weather conditions and showing great determinaton including a hard fought home victory against Frome. In addition to the National Cup we also look forward to sevens events in the new year.

Mr R Bowett
U15 Rugby

Under 16 Rugby- End of Term Report

The U16 team had another successful season only losing one game to local rivals Millfield. The team started off strongly away at Marlborough College and backed up this win with further success against KES, QEH and Sir Thomas Rich among others. They are also still in the Somerset cup with further games in the latter knock out stage to come after Christmas

Mr A Hall

Head of Rugby



1st XV Rugby - End of Term Report

The 1st XV had an outstanding season, emerging as winners of the RFU ACE league, winning 9 out of 10 games along the way. The team won 4 out of 5 games in stage 1, defeating Gordon's, Truro College, Bishop Wand and Newman College with the only defeat being a narrow 2 point loss to local rivals Hartpury.



The team continued the momentum into stage 2 where they avenged their 1st defeat to Hartpury with a 15-5 win at home. This set the platform for a chance at the title. Coping enormously well with the pressure, the boys laid down some outstanding performances with notable away wins against Gosforth and Gordon's. The title decider came in the last game at home to Loughborough. The stage was set, NextGen, the rugby livestream provider was broadcasting the game and the team needed 1 point to secure the trophy. After a stunning 1st half performance, Beechen Cliff came out 54-14 winners to claim their first ACE trophy win.

The season was capped with a trophy presentation in school by the RFU, with medals presented by Bath Rugby Head Coach, Johann Van Graan

Mr A Hall

Head of Rugby

Development Squad Rugby

The Development squad also had an extremely successful season with both the 2nd XV and 3rd XV picking up excellent wins against ACE college opposition and on the local independent school circuit. A couple of key results were hard fought contests against Truro and local rivals KES Bath 1st team while the 3rd XV gained victories over Marlborough College and Millfield. Their hard work and dedication to training also played a massive part in the success of the 1st XV. Without these players challenging every week we wouldn't have been as successful as a whole squad this year



Mr A Hall

Head of Rugby

WELLBEING

Young People - Looking after your Mental Wellbeing



Among all the fun and festivities, Christmas can be an overwhelming time for young people. Read on to find out one young person, Calli's advice for looking after your mental health over the holidays.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-at-christmas/>

Just because it's Christmas, it doesn't mean caring for your mental health has to be put on hold.

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" is what I hear constantly at Christmas. Whether it's on the radio, the telly or out in public, we are constantly told that Christmas is a time to be happy.

But what if you're not happy?

The reality for many of us, including myself, is that when Christmas comes around, there's constant pressure on those with mental health problems to be happy all the time. But of course, that's easier said than done.

Here's my advice on things you can do to ensure you still enjoy the festive period this year, but also look after your mental health.

Take time out for yourself

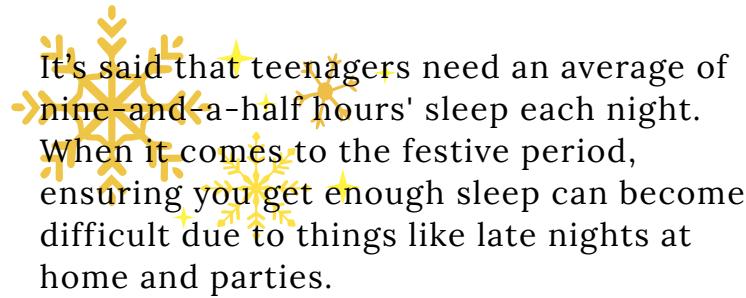
It's so important to take time out every day, not just in the festive period. If you feel yourself getting a bit overwhelmed or upset, take five to ten minutes away from everyone on Christmas Day. Just have a bit of time to yourself.

Usually I will go into my bedroom to watch something on television, and this year I started running, so will absolutely take some time out on Christmas Day to go for a run. Christmas Day can be quite an overwhelming day, so allow yourself time to recharge.

If you feel yourself getting a bit overwhelmed or upset, take five to ten minutes away from everyone on Christmas Day.

Get back into your sleep routine

A good night's sleep is so important when it comes to looking after your mental health.

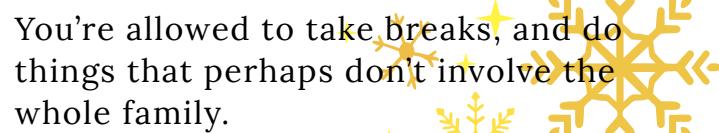


It's said that teenagers need an average of nine-and-a-half hours' sleep each night. When it comes to the festive period, ensuring you get enough sleep can become difficult due to things like late nights at home and parties.

To make sure you get back into your normal sleeping routine easily, try going to bed at normal times as the festive period draws to a close. This'll make getting up for school a lot easier and, in turn, will help your mental health a lot.

Exercise for your wellbeing

Physical activity releases a chemical called endorphins, which makes you feel good, so if you're feeling a bit overwhelmed or low at Christmas, why not go out for a walk? You could go on your own or with someone else, or go for a bike ride or even a run.



You're allowed to take breaks, and do things that perhaps don't involve the whole family.

Try to relax

It's easy for me to say "Christmas is fun - just relax", but the reality is that relaxing can be tricky. Try doing things like yoga, breathing exercises or meditation to help you calm down if you're feeling a bit stressed over the festive period.

Just because it's Christmas, it doesn't mean caring for your mental health has to be put on hold. You're allowed to take breaks, and do things that perhaps don't involve the whole family. Mental health and physical health are equally important. If you fell over and grazed your knee on Christmas Day, you'd put a plaster on it. So if your mental health needs a plaster, you're allowed to do something about it.

May we both take this opportunity to wish all our Beechen Cliff families a truly restful Christmas.

The Wellbeing Team

Money Worries: Information for Parents and Carers

At Beechen Cliff School we understand that the cost of supporting your children through school can put pressure on your household budgets. Rises in the cost-of-living have seen increases in the costs of essentials like food, fuel and housing.

We want all our students to feel comfortable and confident in school and to be able to participate in everything that is on offer. We want to do all we can to make every school day affordable for all our families and to help you find the support you might need if you have money concerns. Local support services is included in this document and details of who you can contact at Beechen Cliff School follows

Getting help

It can be difficult to talk about money worries. People finding it hard to make ends meet often hang on and try and sort things out themselves; not seeking help until the situation has become very difficult. Whatever the issues you are facing we would encourage you to ask for support before things get that way. There is no shame in seeking support when you need it and both the school and the help organisations listed below will help with sensitivity and confidentiality.

Please talk to us about your concerns so that we can work together to support you child.

If you are...

...entitled to Free School meals, contact
- tlayton@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk
...KS3 and not entitled to Free School meals,
contact - mfitzpatrick@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk
...KS4 and not entitled to Free School meals,
contact - hrogers@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk

There are also many sources of support from both local and national organisations. Here are some key agencies that we recommend:

Local support

[B&NES Community Wellbeing Hub](#): 0300 247 0050 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. The team can link you up with organisations such as B&NES Citizen's Advice that help with money, housing, employment, and health issues. One call can get you in touch with a range of services, all under one roof, including several in the list below.

[B&NES Welfare Support](#) offers short-term emergency help with living, travel or housing costs through vouchers or direct purchase. The team also offer help with Council Tax and Discretionary Housing Payments, clothing for

interviews and costs of moving home. All available for people in crisis and living on low incomes.

[St John's Crisis Fund](#) provides support to people who are struggling financially and funds essential practical items like beds, white goods, furniture, carpets, counselling, debt support and basic employment skills and training. You do need to be referred by a professional like a health visitor or housing association support worker.

[B&NES Citizen's Advice](#):

FREEPHONE 0808 02787897 Mon-Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm. Free expert advice from an independent and trusted charity. Citizens Advice can also help with complex problems, where you might feel really stuck or overwhelmed including debt, benefits, housing, family issues, discrimination, and immigration.

[Clean Slate Quids In weekly emails](#): Free sign-up for weekly email full of ways to help increase income and savings and manage on a low income. No distracting adverts for credit cards or loans, just straightforward, solid guidance on how to make the most of the money you have and how to maximise your income. Clean Slate also have local advisers in B&NES that you can speak to or see face-to-face.

B&NES [Livewell B&NES](#) links to many services for local families including childcare, health, money, learning and skills, social and leisure resources and more. Enter what you are looking for in the search box.

[Debt Free South West](#) provides help and advice to people in B&NES on matters such as rent arrears, council tax, utility bills, credit cards and loans.

Free clothing and uniform

B&NES School Kit Project SKiP provides new school related items such as uniforms and bags to local schoolchildren whose families, whether they are currently in work or not, are experiencing financial hardship. You need to be referred to SKiP by the school, so talk to us and we can help you access this support.

Action Pantry Clothesline offers free clothing for children aged 5-15 from good quality donated goods. Some school uniform items available. You can visit and choose from the clothes rails or ask for a bundle of age-suitable clothing to be made up for you.

The Nest Project provides free clothing and equipment for children aged 0-5 from good quality donated goods. They run drop-in toddler groups with a friendly welcome, a listening ear, and a cup of tea too

The Uniform Cupboard free, good quality donated school uniform for B&NES Schools. Situation on Lower Bristol Road, Bath
Affordable Food

B&NES Food Finder local listings for B&NES

affordable food projects including foodbanks, food clubs, pantries, and community cafes. The food clubs and pantries offer a range of fresh and store-cupboard food at very discounted prices so you can make your food budget stretch much further. They are also, increasingly, hosting teams who offer money advice for example from Citizen's Advice and Clean Slate. National advice and information

Money Helper Government website offering comprehensive guidance on all aspects of money, benefits, debt and investments. Includes a 'Couch to Financial Fitness' tool to help you get back on track.

Entitled To is a website that helps you work out if your family is entitled to any benefits. You might be surprised !

Money Box on Radio4 There are lots of money-related tips in this programme on BBC iPlayer. You can listen any time. Topics have included surviving debt, tips for rented housing, coping with cost of living rises, avoiding scams and fraud calls, applying for benefits and much more.

Benefit Related Free School Meals—All School Years

If you receive any of the benefits listed below, and your child attends a Bath and North East Somerset academy or maintained school, please register for benefit related free school meals.

Registration could attract Pupil Premium funding for your child's school, £1515 per Primary pupil and £1075 per Secondary pupil.

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (WITHOUT Working Tax Credit) and have an annual household income (as assessed by HRMC) below £16,190
- Working Tax Credit Run-on which is only paid for 4 weeks after you STOP qualifying for Working Tax Credit.
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

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.

Bath City Youth



BATH CITY YOUTH

U14 Players Wanted
(Current school year 9)



Scan the QR code to register
your interest.

Training Fridays: 6.45pm
Match Days: 2pm Sunday

WE DEVELOP

We desire that all players are happy, enthusiastic and dedicated and no matter where their football journey takes them are better equipped for their life journey through their association with us.

Bath City Youth FC is a 'grassroots', community football club. Our purpose is to provide good quality, enjoyable opportunities in football.

www.bathcityyouthfc.com

Your paragraph text

Bath Rugby Residential Camps

An advertisement for Bath Rugby Easter Residential Camps. It features the Bath Rugby logo at the top. Below it, the text "BATH RUGBY" is in large white letters, "Easter Residential Camps" is in yellow, and "Boys U12-U16" is in white. The background is dark blue with a large white checkmark shape. The advertisement is divided into two main sections: "Walhampton School" and "Prior Park". Each section has a photo, the camp dates, and a QR code. "Walhampton School" shows a red brick building and the text "30 March – 3 April School Ln, Lymington". "Prior Park" shows a classical building and the text "13 – 17 April Ralph Allen Dr, Bath".

Walhampton School

30 March – 3 April
School Ln, Lymington

Prior Park

13 – 17 April
Ralph Allen Dr, Bath

Facility Hire at Beechen Cliff



For clubs, for community groups, for individuals

Floodlight 3G and Astro Pitches



Sports Hall



Indoor Cricket Nets

Gym



Classrooms

All available for hire evenings and weekends

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

THE UNIFORM CUPBOARD

Giving away good quality
second hand school uniform
& coats



Sunday 26th October 2025

Sunday 22nd February 2026

Sunday 28th June 2026

2PM - 4PM

**Freedom House, Lower Bristol Road,
Bath, BA2 1EP**

Email us for enquiries

thecupboard@soundchurch.co.uk

Find us on Facebook: [/soundchurchcupboard](https://www.facebook.com/soundchurchcupboard)

soundchurch.co.uk/thecupboard



***tennis for all
ages + abilities***

**Blue Sky
TENNIS**