



BEECHEN CLIFF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

23rd April 2026

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had time for some rest and relaxation over the Easter break and that your children are enjoying being back at school this week. The sunny weather certainly helps and let's hope it continues!

We are now moving into exam season with not just GCSE and A Levels taking place but also end of year exams in all year groups over the months ahead.

For Year 11 and 13 students, Language speaking exams are already underway. Art and Photography begin next week and written exams shortly afterwards. We wish all our students all the best during this busy time.

This week we have already enjoyed a visit from author, Tom Palmer, who spoke to pupils in Year 7 and Year 8. We have also had golf and tennis fixtures and pupils attending the MNSP book awards at Frome College

In addition, this evening, we have our Year 13 Awards Evening that we are really looking forward to.

Finally, this Friday and Saturday our Year 9 pupils are taking part in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition and we wish them all an enjoyable and successful experience

Mr T D Markall
Headteacher

KEY NOTICES

*** Updated Information below ***

Reporting all Absences

All absences from School including late arrivals and medical appointments are to be reported to School promptly. Please take note of the following contact details.

Lower School Pupils

To report a Lower School absence please call the Main School direct on 01225 480466 (**OPTION 1**) 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 01225480466 (**OPTION 2**) 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 the Diary

Wednesday 22nd April

Year 12 Parents Evening (in person)
4.30-8pm

Thursday 23rd April

Year 13 Presentation Evening 6-8pm

Tuesday 28th April

PTA Committee Meeting - 6pm School Staff Room

Thursday 30th April

Year 8 Parents Evening (Remote)
4.30 -8pm

Monday 4th May

Early May Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd May

End of Term 5

Monday 1st June

Start of Term 6

Monday 13th - Friday 17th July

Activities Week and Year 10 & 12 Work Experience Week.

MENU - W/C 27TH APRIL

Monday: Beef Stroganoff, Mixed Bean Chilli

Tuesday: Chicken and Pesto Pasta (W,GF), Mozzarella Red Onion and Tomato Tart (W,D)

Wednesday: Roast Pork, Potato Feta and Spinach Filo Parcel (W,D)

Thursday: Thai Green Chicken Curry, Squash and Lentil Tagine

Friday: Pork Steak with Peppercorns and Mushroom Gravy, Cheesy Aubergine and Courgette Bake (D)

(W) = Contains Wheat Products

(D) = Contains Dairy Products

(GF) = Gluten Free Option

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

Mr D Keal
Chef

Term 5

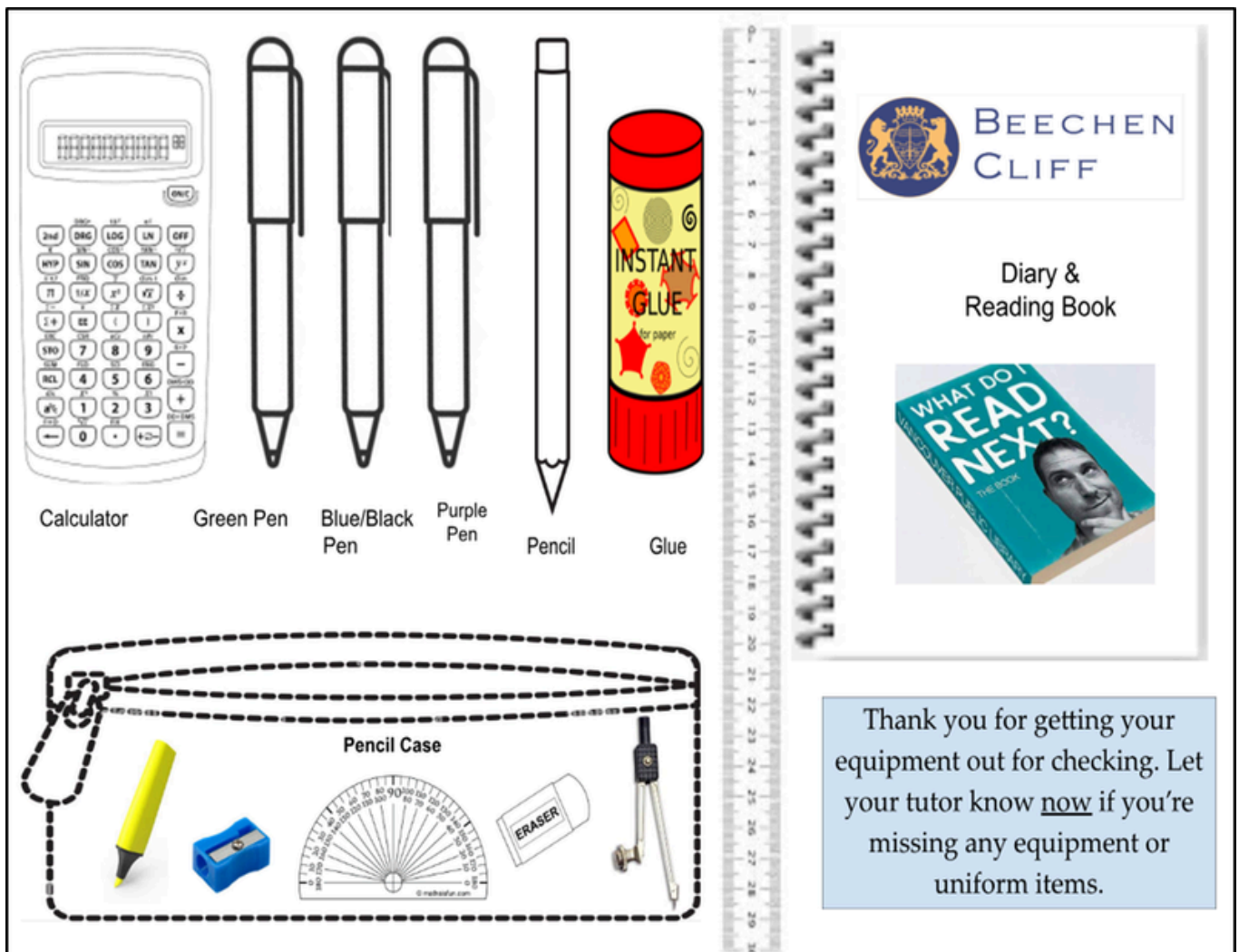
Welcome back—we hope you all had a lovely Easter break.

As we begin Term 5 and look ahead to the summer term (and upcoming exams), it has been a pleasure to welcome the students back and hear about their holiday experiences. We've already enjoyed hearing about trips to Devon, Jersey, Switzerland and Naples.

- keep the area litter-free
- remain mindful of lessons taking place on the fields
- maintain correct uniform when leaving the field
- arrive punctually to lessons

Please note that rough or overly physical play is not permitted and will be addressed in line with our behaviour policy, as it can lead to accidents, injuries, or conflict between students.

As we start the new term, please could you check that your son has all the required equipment for school (listed in the planner and below):



Thank you for getting your equipment out for checking. Let your tutor know now if you're missing any equipment or uniform items.

In addition, we would appreciate your support in ensuring that:

- shirts fit properly around the neck
- ties are worn correctly
- school shoes are worn (trainers are not permitted)
- blazers still fit and are worn daily, regardless of the weather

Full uniform expectations can be found on our website here: [Uniform Expectations](#)

Our PTA continues to do fantastic work and is always keen to welcome new members. They also run regular, highly successful second-hand uniform sales. For more information, please visit: <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/parents/pta/>

For second-hand uniform enquiries, please contact Ellie Thomas at secondhanduniformBC@gmail.com.

Beechen Cliff is a fantastic school with wonderful students and highly supportive families. We remain committed to helping every student achieve their best. Being organised, well-equipped, and smartly dressed plays an important role in supporting learning by reducing distractions and maximising opportunities for success.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mr K Morris
Assistant Headteacher - Conduct and Character Development

EXAMINATIONS

All parents should now have received an individual timetable for this summer's externally timetabled exams, and all clashes are resolved on these timetables.

The standard timetables are below.

[Year 11 Externally Timetabled Exams 2026](#)

[Sixth Form Externally Timetabled Exams 2026](#)

GCSE Modern Foreign Language students will sit a listening exam followed by a reading exam on the same day. Only the listening exam is shown as seated on individual timetables. The reading exam will take place straight after this and is shown as TBC on individual timetables.

For some examinations students will take two or more exams together. Only one exam is shown as seated on an individual timetable, the other(s) are shown as TBC, the total duration is shown.

Mrs J Cotterell
Examinations Officer

Beechen Cliff PTA Committee Meeting

Dear Parents and Volunteers,

We hope you're doing well!

We'd love for you to join us at the next Beechen Cliff Parents & Teachers Committee meeting, taking place on Tuesday 28th April at 6pm in the school staff room.

It's a great chance to hear how the funds raised so far are being used, as well as what exciting events we have planned for the future.

If you've got ideas for fundraising or events, we'd really enjoy hearing them—please do come along and share!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Warm wishes,

Benedict Doonan
Chair BCS-PTA

SPANISH Baking Competition



Ms M Nunez
Spanish Teacher

Current Vacancies in the School and the Trust

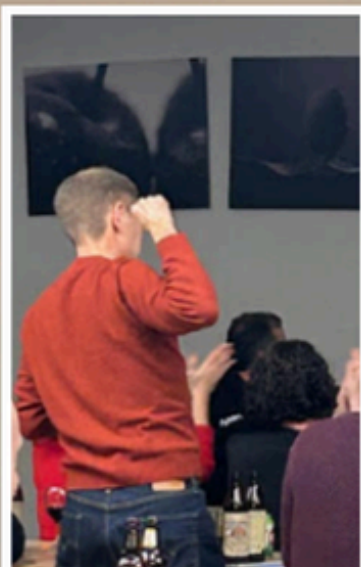
Please follow the link below to view and access all current vacancies from across the MNSP Trust
<https://www.midsomernortonschoolpartnership.com/vacancies.htm>



Beechen Cliff - PTA Race Night

Beechen Cliff Race Night took place on 27th March. It was a fun social evening and everyone enjoyed a flutter and curry !

Thank you to those that attended, the total profit was £1100 All proceeds go to the PTA and will be put to good use for our school.



A calm, quiet space to read and work

National Year of Reading

Tom Palmer Author Visit

Tom Palmer is a children's author of over 60 books with 16 of these written for the dyslexic friendly company, Barrington Stoke.

<https://tompalmer.co.uk/>

On Wednesday 22nd April, Tom visited Beechen Cliff as part of a tour of MNSP Trust schools.

Tom talked about his passions of football and his journey from reluctant reader to children's author. He was honest about his own lack of confidence and explained that it took him time and patience to start to believe in his own abilities. He also shocked the students when he said his first drafts are pretty rubbish but that he has stopped worrying about it because he knows he can make it better when he edits later. There was an exciting book/sport quiz and the students who got questions correct were invited to take part in a penalty shoot out to win a signed book. Well done to Charlie M (Year 8) and Ellis J (Year 7) for being the book-penalty-quiz champions!



Here is what the students said about his visit

"You have inspired me to find the thing I love and go for it!"



"Tom's talk was enjoyable and funny. It was interactive and interesting and an amazing experience."

"I've found a new author and genre to start reading. I never thought I'd want to read a book about history."

"You've inspired me to write and read more books."

"I think your message was that before you give something up, you should remember why you started it."



Year 8 and Year 7 book-penalty-quizzers!



Keep Reading! Mrs Bridge



Theme of the Week - **STRESS**

Theme of the week this week is focused on stress due to all the up coming exams. 'Stress' can mean lots of things to different people and affects everyone differently. Things like change, exam pressure and challenges can cause us to feel 'stressed'. A situation may be stressful for us, but a situation could also be made stressful because of other factors.

- Everyday stress is normal and useful and part of being mentally healthy. It signals that we need to do something differently.
- Many stressors cause us short-term distress or problems but this is to be expected and is a common experience that can, ultimately, lead to learning, adaptation and success.

Lots of different things can help us to feel better when we feel stressed. Think about what might make you feel better.

Draw a heart in the middle of a piece of paper or board if you are happy to complete as a group. Write or draw all the things that make you happy or makes you feel relaxed.

Some examples are:

- hugging someone
- dancing or exercising
- singing or listening to music
- talking to friends



★ **Change Your Mind(set)** ★

-Don't think of STRESS as

- a threat
- a demoralizer
- pressure
- overwhelming
- debilitating

-Don't focus on problems

-Don't fight stress

★ **Change Your Mind(set)** ★

+Do think of STRESS as

- a challenge
- a motivator
- an opportunity
- manageable
- energizing

+Do focus on possibilities

+Do embrace stress



Centurion Challenge 2026



Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th July 202

100 miles in 48 hours

YEARS 9, 10, 11 and the Sixth Form

The Challenge

To leave the main doors of Beechen Cliff at 16:00 on Friday 3rd July, follow the time-honoured route to the Kennet & Avon Canal and walk to Devizes on the tow path, camp overnight, then continue to the Parish Church at Hungerford, return to Devizes and on Sunday 5th July make your way finally back to Beechen Cliff School by 16:00 to claim to be a Beechen Cliff Centurion.

Why?

The Centurion Challenge has been an honourable tradition of Beechen Cliff School. Each year the challenge raises money for charities chosen by the challengers. Last years challenge raised over £10,500 with monies donated to Cancer Research Association, Teenage Cancer Trust, Cancer Research UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, Bath Cats and Dogs Home, Julian House Homeless Charity, Alzheimer's UK, Dementia UK, Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance, Boys in Mind and many more. There were over 50 charities that benefited directly as well as the funding of the support of mental health of the pupils in the school. We also donate monies to the Canals and River Trust and St Lawrence Church, Hungerford as a thank you for the support given to the challengers as they reach the halfway point. Also some of the funds raised will be used to assist the purchase of equipment and clothing for the provision of Extra Curricular Activities at Beechen Cliff.

What you must do to take part . .

Complete the online ENTRY / MEDICAL FORM

Use this link to gain access <https://forms.gle/Lhv6bihKNkmwG8xU9> or alternatively scan the QR code.

Following this, the Finance Office will grant access to the centurion payment item on Arbor. Only at this point will you be able to pay your the ENTRANCE FEE : £100, and finally secure your place. We would like you to raise Sponsorship in addition to this, but this is up to you. Details on how to pay this in online or directly to the school in cash should you wish , will follow. Entry to this challenge will close 4 weeks before the event on Monday 1st of June and will be capped at 100.

All the Centurion Challengers will receive a Centurion Challengers 'T' Shirt, but only the finishers – the legionnaires that complete the challenge by 16:00 hours on the Sunday will receive a Centurion Challengers Tie. The names of the first three challengers to return will be immortalised on the Centurion Challengers roll of honour!

The Centurion Challenge 2026 briefing is on Wednesday 3rd June 7pm in the Refectory

Mr Richard Steward
Centurion Challenge Co-ordinator



WELLBEING



Supporting your child's wellbeing this spring using the Solution Focused approach

Welcome back after the Easter break, we do hope that you managed to have plenty of time to rest and to restore batteries.

As we move through the spring months, there is a natural focus on young people's mental health, particularly during Stress Awareness Month in April and Mental Health Awareness Week in May. This can be a busy and sometimes demanding time for many children and young people, especially with exams and changing routines on the horizon.

A solution-focused approach invites us to look not only at difficulties, but at what is already helping and how we can build on that. Even during stressful periods, young people are often using strengths and strategies—sometimes without realising it

You might notice moments when your child is coping well, even in small ways. Perhaps they completed a piece of work they were worried about, took a break when they needed one, or spoke to someone they trust. Noticing and gently highlighting these moments can help them recognise their own resilience. Comments such as, "I noticed how you kept going with that, even though it was tricky," can be powerful in building confidence.

Conversations at home can also be shaped by curiosity about progress and possibility. Questions like, "What helped things go a little better today?" or "When things feel easier, what's different?" can support your child to reflect on what works for them, rather than focusing only on what feels difficult.

It can also be helpful to think together about small, realistic steps forward. Rather than trying to solve everything at once, you might ask, "What's one small thing that could make tomorrow feel a bit easier?" These small steps often lead to meaningful change over time.

Maintaining routines that include rest, movement, and time to relax can support wellbeing, but it's equally important to be guided by what you know works best for your child. Every young person is different, and your understanding of them is key.

If your child is experiencing challenges, please remember that support is available at Beechen Cliff School. Working together, we can build on strengths and help young people feel more confident in managing whatever comes their way

If you think your child would benefit from seeing one of our in-school solution focused therapists, then please do contact your child's Pastoral Lead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and wishing all our young people the very best term ahead.

The Wellbeing Team

Sporting Achievements

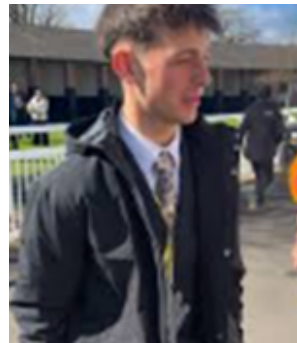
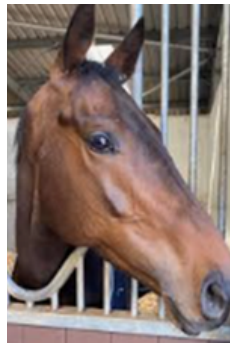
Beechen Cliff Alumini races in the 2026 Grand National

Beechen Cliff ex pupil Beau M rode "Twig" in the Grand National on Saturday 11th April.



Twig and Beau successfully completed the historic and very challenging course - arriving safely over the finish line in 15th place

What an achievement!
Congratulations!



Avon Golf Competition 2026

This year we had 8 boys represent the school's golf team at the Avon Golf Competition at Filton Golf club.

The team faced a tough challenge of a long and narrow golf course in some very windy conditions. Some par 4 holes played 460 yards and due to the wind this was a very tough task. Despite the conditions, all players showed excellent skill and resilience to perform very well. There has been an outstanding number of Beechen Cliff pupils wanting to play for the school's golf team, with some very competitive handicaps, which made team selection a tricky job.

I look forward to the rest of the golf season, with the Beechen Cliff Golf Society day later in the year.



Mr R Bowett
PE Department

SPORTS FIXTURES for wc 27th April 2026

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>

Below details were correct at the time of publication, however please check the website for up any changes/updates

		Fixture	Start / kick off	Meet time	Transport
Monday 27th April	CRICKET	BCS U12a v KES (a)	16:15	15:15	MB x 3
		BCS U12b v KES (a)	16:15	15:15	
		BCS U12c v KES (a)	16:15	15:15	
		BCS U15 v KW (a)	14:30	13:45	MB
Tuesday 28th April	CRICKET	BCS U13 v Downend (h)	14:30	14:15	Coach
		BCS U14a v QEH (a)	14:15	12:30	
		BCS U14b v QEH (a)	14:15	12:30	
		BCS U15a v QEH (a)	14:15	12:30	
		BCS U15b v QEH (a)	14:15	12:30	
	CLUB	Year 7 tennis club	15:15	15:15	
Wednesday 29th April	CRICKET	BCS U12a v Prior Park (h)	14:30	13:45	n/a
		BCS U12b v Prior Park (a)	14:30	13:30	MB
		BCS U13a v Prior Park (a)	14:30	13:30	MB
		BCS U13b v Prior Park (a)	14:30	13:30	MB
		BCS1st XI v Kingswood (a)	16:30	15:15	MB
	CLUB	Year 8 & 9 tennis club	15:15	15:15	n/a
Thursday 30th April	CRICKET	BCS 1st XI v Dauntseys (a)	14:00	12:00	MB
	TAG RUGBY	Level 3 Tag Rugby @ Odd Down	08:30	08:00	MB
	FOOTBALL	BCS U14 v Gordano/Churchill @ Bridgwater College	14:30	11:30	MB
	CLUB	Year 10 tennis club	15:15	15:15	n/a

Careers

Beechen Cliff Careers Newsletter

Due to the recent Easter break, we have two editions of Beechen Cliff Future Horizon Careers publication (edition 27 and 28) published alongside this school newsletter.

If you would like any further support or information please let me know at epascoe@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk

In addition further information about upcoming careers opportunities are available on the next few pages.

Mrs E Pascoe
Head of Futures



Year 10 Careers Guidance Meetings

Following the letter sent home earlier this week, we are pleased to confirm that careers guidance meetings for Year 10 students will be taking place over the next few weeks, organised by tutor group.

Where: Careers Office Y7 in the Sixth Form Building - the room can be accessed via the playground entrance through the glass doors.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure your son is well prepared for his future pathway.

Mrs E Pascoe
Head of Futures & Level 6 Careers Adviser



RCPSYCH
ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PSYCHIATRISTS



Severn Summer School of Psychiatry

for 6th Formers - Zoom
Webinar

3 July 2026 | 9:30am - 2:45pm



**3 JULY
2026**

Event highlights:

- ✓ **Service user** experience
- ✓ **Work** experience
- ✓ **Application** to medical school
- ✓ **Life as a medical student**
- ✓ **Careers in psychiatry**
- ✓ **Psychiatric sub specialties** including forensic psychiatry and perinatal psychiatry

To register your interest, please contact your school's careers supervisor, who can submit your details to southwest@rcpsych.ac.uk on your behalf.



Severn Summer School of Psychiatry

Virtual event via Zoom

Friday 3 July 2026 | 9.30am – 2.45pm

Time	Presentation
9.15am	Registration
9.30am	Introduction and welcome Dr Cameron Holloway, Core Resident Doctor <i>Severn Choose Psychiatry Organising Committee</i> South West Division Royal College of Psychiatrists
9.35am	What is mental health? Dr Alice Appleton, Core Resident Doctor
10.05am	Service user experience Speaker TBC
10.45am	Break
11am	Life as a medical student Lucy Spiers, 4 th Year Medical Student
11.30am	Life as a foundation doctor Dr Avikalp Kishore, Foundation Year Doctor
12pm	How to apply to medical school and the UKCAT Dr Nicola Taylor, Consultant Psychiatrist
12.45pm	Work experience Discussion led by Dr Cameron Holloway, Dr Apple Chow and Dr Alice Appleton, Core Resident Doctors <i>Severn Choose Psychiatry Organising Committee</i>
1pm	Lunch
1.35pm	Psychiatric sub specialties: (10 minutes each) Introduction to sub specialties, including training pathway Dr Apple Chow and Dr Alice Appleton Intellectual Disability Speaker TBC Child and Adolescent Dr Liz Emmett, Core Resident Doctor Old Age Dr Liz Emmett, Core Resident Doctor General Adult Dr Christine Cadman, Core Resident Doctor
	Forensic Dr Lucy Goble, Higher Resident Doctor Dr Dominique Calilung, Higher Resident Doctor Perinatal Speaker TBC
2.45pm	Close

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.

THE UNIFORM CUPBOARD

Giving away good quality
second hand school uniform
& coats

FREE
SCHOOL
UNIFORM



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: [/soundchurcheupboard](https://www.facebook.com/soundchurcheupboard)



FROME YOUNG WRITER COMPETITION 2026

Write a story of between 150 & 2,000 words

Story
theme: **THE SPARK**

Could you be the next Rick Riordan

or Katherine Rundell?

or Alice Oseman?

free entry

To enter or more information email:
fromewriterscollective@gmail.com

Judge: Joffre White

Sponsor: Kerry Wilkinson

Deadline: 31 May

PRIZES

7-11
YRS

12-18
YRS



WORDS AT
FROME
FESTIVAL



BEECHEN CLIFF FACILITY HIRE

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

YOUTH
GEEK
CAFE

BRINGING GEEKS TOGETHER AND TO GOD

WARHAMMER
LEGO
VIDEO GAMES
BOARD GAMES
STAR WARS
MARVEL

GRACE CHURCH KIDS & YOUTH

SUNDAYS 9:30AM-11:30AM
AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, BA31DD
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-18
A FREE SPACE TO MEET LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE, GEEK OUT
AND EXPLORE SOME OF THE BIG QUESTIONS OF LIFE
TO SIGN UP SCAN THE QR CODE, OR GET IN TOUCH



childrenandyouth@gracechurchbath.org 07446492515