



BEECHEN CLIFF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Summer Newsletter July 2026

Message from the Headteacher

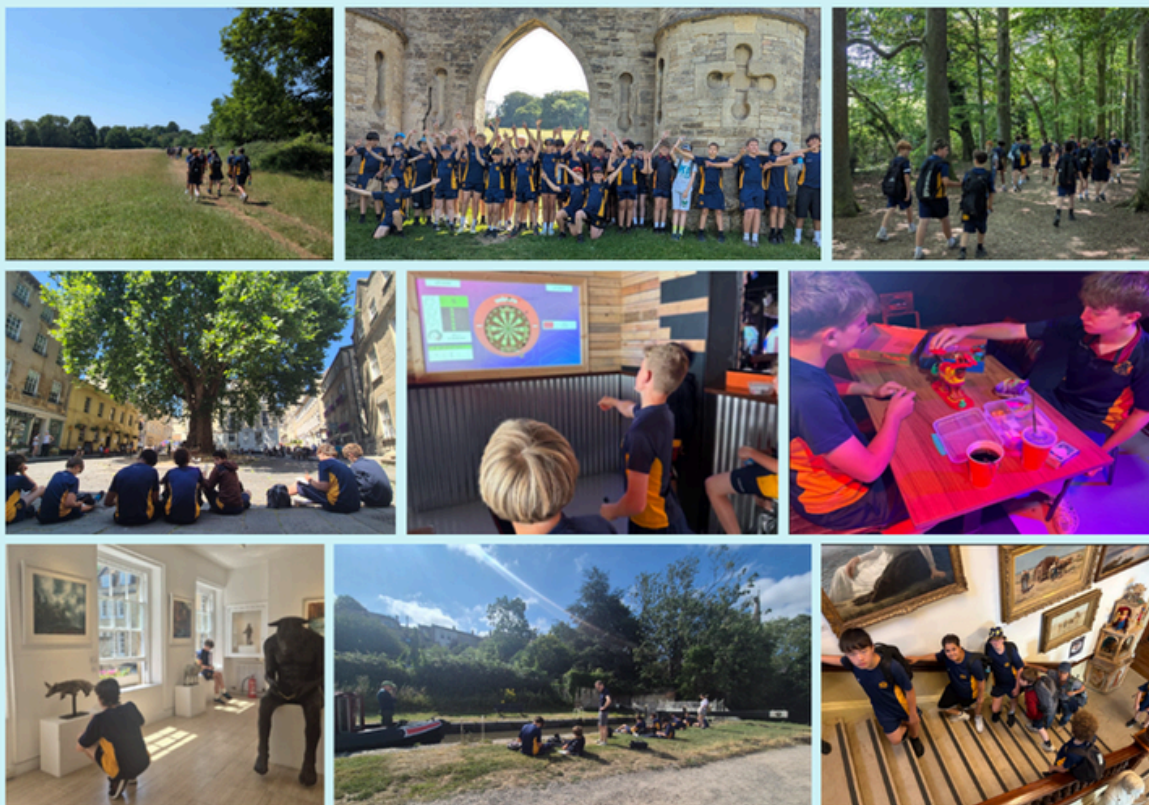
Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the academic year I would like to thank you for your support over the last 12 months.

Our students have achieved a huge amount and I am very grateful for the efforts of staff and the support from parents and carers to help enable this to happen.

In our recent Auction of Promises an amazing £5523 was raised for the PTA to help support the school and I would like to thank all who have donated prizes and to all who bid. Congratulations, also, to our winners!

Over the last week, Year 10 and 12 students have completed Work Experience and those in Years 7-9 have undertaken a variety of activities and trips as part of our activities week. Please see below a selection of photos from the many events that took place.



Aspiration

Compassion

Independence

Respect



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank members of staff who are leaving us this summer. From the learning support team, Miss Cumpson and Ms Lleshi, from the cleaning team, Mr Symonds and from teaching staff, Mr Murphy and Mr Calvert. I should mention that Mr Murphy and Mr Calvert leave us after an incredible combined service of over 65 years! We are very grateful for all they have done for the school over this time and wish them both a long and happy retirement.

The new term in September starts on Monday 7th September for all students. We will write to you later in the summer to confirm the arrangements for the first day of term but in the meantime I wish you all an enjoyable summer break.

T. D. Markall .

Mr T. D. Markall
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Friday 17th July - Last day in School for Pupils

Thursday 13th August - A Level Results Day

Thursday 20th August - GCSE Results Day

Thursday 3rd September - INSET DAY 1

Friday 4th September - INSET DAY 2

Monday 7th September - First day of School for all Pupils

Saturday 12th September - Year 12 Parent Information Morning 10-11am

Thursday 17th September - Prospective Parents Open Evening 6-8pm

Thursday 24th September - Prospective Parents Open Morning 9-11am

Wednesday 21st October - End of Term 1 for pupils

Monday 2nd November - First Day of Term 2

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.

Reports

Dear parents and Carers,

Now that we have reached the end of the academic year, the final report showing how your son/daughter has done in their different subjects has been published. You can view the report either by opening the attachment on the email sent, or by viewing it using the Arbor Parent App.

I'd like to say a huge well done to all of our students for their efforts this year and I wish them all a very good summer holiday.

Kind regards,

Mr A Seal
Deputy Headteacher.

Examination Results - August 2026

Results from public examinations will be available for collection in the Main School Hall at the following times:

A Level

Year 13 (A level and equivalent results) –
Thursday 13th August 2026 from 9.00am until
10.30am in the Main School Hall.

The Sixth Form team will be on hand to help with queries and advice about next steps until 11.30am. Level 3 Sport students who are awaiting results are welcome (and encouraged) to attend.

All A Level results for students in Year 12 will be emailed to students' school email addresses, so there is no need to attend in person – though again, students are more than welcome to come into school to celebrate their results.

GCSE

GCSE and equivalent results (Year 11) –
Thursday 20th August 2026 from 9.30am –
11.00am in the main School Hall.

All other GCSE results for students not in Year 11 will be emailed to students' school email addresses.

There will be support available on next steps from teachers, Mrs Pascoe (Head of Careers) and the Sixth Form Team for those hoping to continue their education at Beechen Cliff into Year 12.

For students who are hoping to enroll in the Sixth Form here, they must complete the online enrolment form on Applicaa by 12.00pm on Results Day.

Results via email

It is recommended that results are collected in person. However, if a student wishes to receive their results by email this must be pre-arranged with the Examinations Office, and the student must make the request for results to be emailed, not a parent or carer. Results will then be emailed to the student's school email address as soon as possible, and before 2.00pm on Results Day. If a student wishes a parent or another adult to collect results on their behalf, the student must send an email to exams@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk or the person collecting must bring a letter on Results Day signed by the student stating the name of the person to collect. This person must bring photo ID on the day.

Enquiries following Results Days

Examinations staff will be available on Results Days for advice and guidance and can be contacted by email to exams@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk with urgent enquiries about results on weekdays from Thursday 13th August. Full details of our Post Results Services can be viewed on our website at

<https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/curriculum-assessment/exams-assessment/exam-board-info/>

Mrs J Cotterell
Examinations Officer

Mobile Phone Pouch Information

Thank you to those who attended the Mobile Phone Pouch Information Evening last week, which built upon the assemblies delivered to every year group over the past few days. The aim of both the evening and the assemblies was to ensure that our whole school community understands the purpose, rationale and practical arrangements of the introduction of Yondr pouches for boys in Years 7–11 from September.



The pouches are being introduced as part of an amendment to our Mobile Phone Policy, ensuring that we meet the Government's requirements for schools to be mobile phone-free by default. On our return in September, every pupil in Years 7–11 will receive a Yondr pouch and name card. Pupils will be required to bring their pouch to school each day and secure their mobile phone and other relevant devices inside it.

The updated policy requires mobile phones and other relevant devices to be switched off and secured in pouches from the time pupils enter the school site until they leave at the end of the day. During tutor time, tutors will check that mobile devices, including smartwatches and headphones, are secured inside pupils' pouches. Spot checks will also take place during the school day.

Pupils arriving late to school, for example following a medical appointment, will be required to secure their phone in their pouch when signing in with the Attendance Officer.

There will be three unlocking stations

- by the Clubhouse, near the Kipling Avenue entrance;
- near the steps to the Top Field for pupils entering via Greenway Lane; and
- at the base of the Pavilion for those entering via Lyncombe Fields.



Mobile phones and other relevant devices must be switched off and secured in pouches by the time pupils reach the bottom step of the corresponding entrance.



During the information evening and assemblies, the consequences of not adhering to the policy were clearly explained to the boys, and it is important that pupils and parents are fully aware of the potential sanctions. In particular, where a phone is confiscated and parental collection is required, only a parent or carer will be permitted to collect it from school after 3.30pm. The slides that formed part of the presentation to parents and pupils are on our website and the Behaviour Policy and Mobile Devices Policy will be published in the same location in readiness for the new academic year.

We appreciate that some pupils may find this change challenging initially. However, we are committed to ensuring that both the introduction of the pouches and the consistent enforcement of the updated policy are as clear and straightforward as possible. Our aim is to create an environment in which all members of the school community can go about their day free from the distractions that mobile phones and other devices can cause.

A key consideration for parents and carers will understandably be how to contact their son during the school day. Should you need to do so, please contact the main school switchboard and we will ensure that he receives any urgent message. Similarly, if a pupil needs to contact home, he may attend the Pastoral Office during break or lunchtime, where staff will support him in communicating with you as appropriate.

Mr K Morris
Assistant Headteacher (Conduct and Character Development)

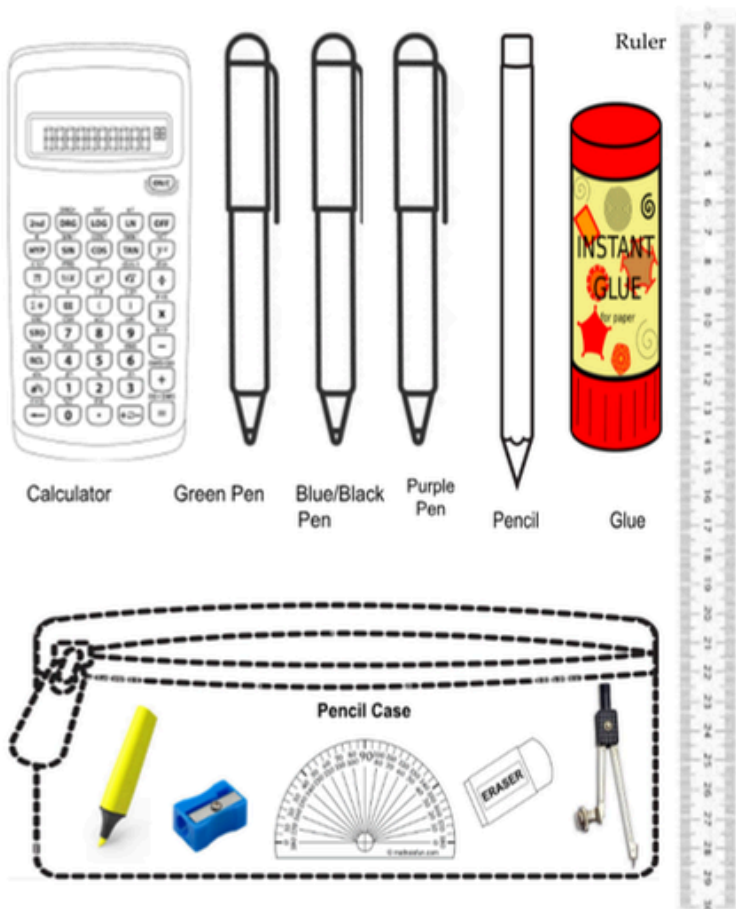
Equipment and Uniform Requirements

The new school year provides a valuable opportunity for a fresh start, and one simple way to help students begin the Autumn term positively is by ensuring they return to school with the correct equipment.

As a reminder, students should return in September 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

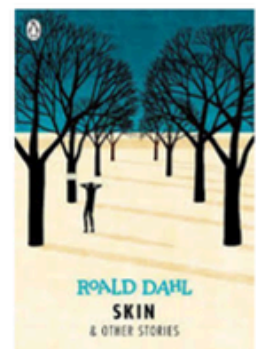
We appreciate that Summer break can be a busy and costly time for families. However, checking and replacing equipment over the holiday break can prevent unnecessary disruption in the new term and helps students develop responsibility and independence.



THANK YOU FOR GETTING YOUR EQUIPMENT OUT FOR CHECKING. LET YOUR TUTOR KNOW NOW IF YOU'RE MISSING ANY EQUIPMENT OR UNIFORM ITEMS

Other items:

Student Handbook, Reading Book and Yondr Pouch



Uniform List

Blazer	Navy with School crest
Shirt	White with fine blue stripe. no t-shirts to be worn underneath
Tie	Beechen Cliff house tie must be worn by all pupils
Jumper	Navy V Neck (optional item - version with the School crest or plain navy (no alternative allowed and no branded jumpers)
Trousers	Mid Grey
Socks	Plain dark grey or black (not white)
Shoes	Black Leather type. No trainers, canvas shoes or boots (see illustration below)

Permitted



Not permitted: (any branded trainer with logo)



Mr K Morris

Assistant Headteacher (Conduct and Character Development)



Beechen Cliff Auction of Promises



Dear Parents, Carers, Teachers and Friends,

We are really excited to share with you that our online Auction of Promises has raised £5,523, which was way beyond our expectations and an incredible amount.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those people who kindly donated so many generous and creative prizes for the Auction, shared the details of the auction and bid on the Auction.

Thank you to our whole community effort, we have raised significant funds towards classroom equipment and to support sport and extra-curricular activities, directly benefitting all our students.

If you would like to support the PTA further in any way, you can find out more information about how to do so on our website - <https://www.beechencliff.org.uk/parents/pta/> and you can make a regular or one off donation on the GoodHub platform link below - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/offerings/pta-beechen-cliff-school-2688/donations/create>

Thank you so much again and have a wonderful Summer break!

Mr C Greenhough
Fundraising Lead and PTA

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, £1550 per Primary pupil and £1100 per Secondary pupil.

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, 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
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Apply online at <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Email the team at freeschoolmeals@bathnes.gov.uk

Or call 01225 477277

Mrs T Layton
BCS Pupil Premium Lead



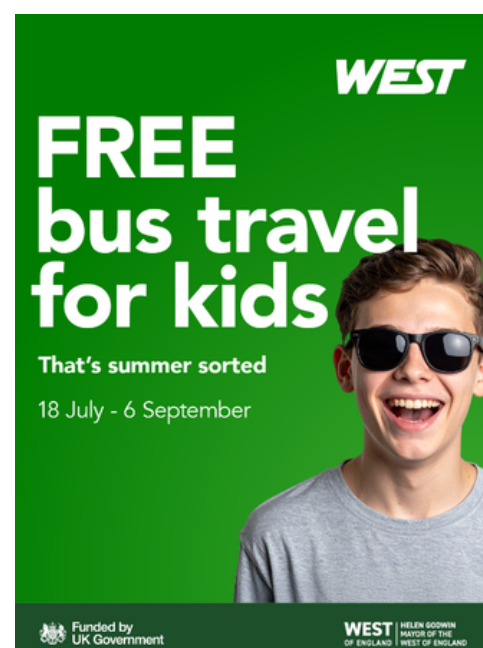
Free bus travel for under-16s this summer

From 18 July to 6 September, kids can again hop on almost all local buses for free. No booking or bus pass required.

The scheme covers all school-age children from 5 to 15, including those in secondary school. And there's no need to travel with a fare-paying adult, perfect for older kids who want to travel independently or with friends.

Free bus travel for under-16s will continue to be available during the summer, Christmas and Easter school holidays until at least 2029, thanks to funding from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.

For more information, please visit travelwest.info



THE LIBRARY NEWS

END OF YEAR ROUND UP 2026!



Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

GO
ALL
IN.

Another Fabulous Year

The National Year of Reading has made our library even busier than usual. Staff training and development in reading has been ongoing and there have been so many activities and opportunities for our students to enjoy.

Literature Across Borders



Some of our boys talked to students from India and The USA as part of the 'literature across borders project' where we learned more about Partition and what happened in 1947 after British Rule ended.

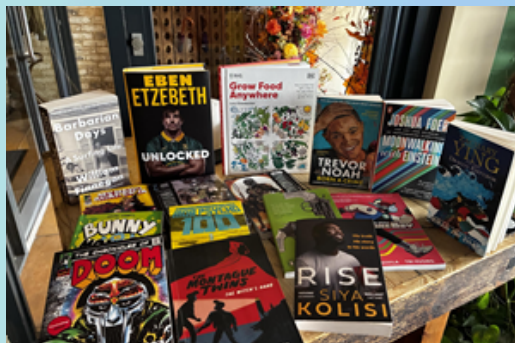
BOOK CLUB

We have had a healthy number of KS3 students attend a book club each month (see below for awards) where each month we shared our recommendations for a different genre. We played games and ate sweets and generally had a lot of fun! Thanks to all the staff members who gave up their time to talk about their favourite genres!



Trips

A group of boys went on a lovely trip to a bookshop in town to help buy books for the school library and another group headed off to Frome for the MNSP Book Awards.



AUTHOR VISITS



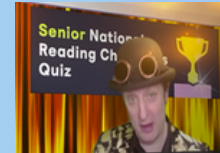
We have had two excellent author visits - legend Tom Palmer to talk about his sport and history books and the excellent Dreadlock Alien who worked with Year 8 on performance poetry.



QUIZ TEAMS

Our quiz teams, both our National Schools Challenge quiz team and our NYR book quiz team did us proud in their competitions.

In addition, nearly 2000 books have been borrowed, countless games of chess completed and much homework has been supported.



Book Club Gold Awards

(6+ sessions this year)

Casper A, Sam B, Eddie C, Edward C, Jake F, Elliot H, Alex H, Sam G, JJ N-B, Charlie P, Matteo R, Elijah O, Ben P



Book Club Silver Awards

(3+ sessions this year)

William C, Rou M-C, Jem H, Toby L, Angus McB, Reuben H, Isaac H, Alex J, Charlie O, Finley O,

Competition Winners!



Well done to John S, the graphic novel winner with his fantastic whole comic book about the world's most useless superheroes! All the entries were great, but John's went above and beyond! We have copies of John's book in the library.

John won a bundle of Jamie Smart goodies

Well done to Angus McB, the short story competition winner. Angus's story was well controlled with an excellent sense of humour and the judges felt Angus really controlled his writing well. Angus won a Book Token and some sweet treats.



Congratulations to our highly commended entries who won some sweet treats and a book bundle: Comics: Gilbert G, Malek B and Angus McB. Short Stories: Ben P and Albert J.

To my library regulars, thank you for making my days brighter. For my occasional visitors, I'd love to see you more next year. And for the people who think the library isn't for them - pop along in September and see what we have to offer!



Keep Reading!
Mrs Bridge, Library Lead

Summer Reading Ideas:

Join Your Local Library

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**
Improving People's Lives

Joining your local library is free. You can borrow books, access free digital resources like eBooks and eAudiobooks, and get help with your driving theory test. There are also various summer workshops and competitions. Find out more and join here: [Join the library network.](#)

Read 'The Day'

Beechen subscribes to the online newspaper 'The Day'. You can access it via the student homepage tile or the QR code. To use accessibility features like different reading levels, dyslexia-friendly fonts, or reading masks, click the stick figure icon on any article.



Read from the Beechen Canon

[Beechen-Cliff-Canon-Reading-List.pdf](#)



Get a head start by reading books from the Beechen Canon over the summer. You can find the list in your planners or on the school website. Read all ten books on your year's list to win a prize!

Listen to podcasts

Listen to free podcasts on BBC Sounds.

Recommended shows:

[The Rest Is History](#)

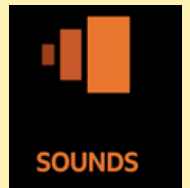
[Open Book](#)

[No Such Thing As A Fish](#)

[Song Exploder](#)

[The Infinite Monkey Cage](#)

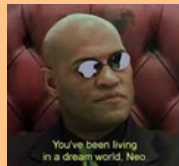
[About the Boys](#)



Listen to Audiobooks



Put on the Subtitles



Go All In with the National Year of Reading Go All In



**BATH
CHILDREN'S
LITERATURE
FESTIVAL**

Have a look at the programme for the [Bath Children's Literature Festival](#) starting in September.



Statutory changes to PSHE from September 26.

Relationship and Sex Education focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships, including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online safety and awareness
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

Relationship and Sex Education complements several other curriculum subjects..

It is important for secondary pupils to know what the law says about certain topics covered in RSE, particularly in relation to the law and young people. This will help pupils identify what is right and wrong, and can provide a foundation of knowledge for deeper discussion. These topics include, but are not limited to:

- Marriage, including forced marriage and civil partnerships
- Consent, including the age of consent
- Domestic abuse, stalking, rape, sexual offences, female genital mutilation (FGM), 'virginity testing' and hymenoplasty
- Sexual abuse, harassment and exploitation, including public sexual harassment and harmful sexual behaviour, and online behaviours
- Online behaviours including image and information sharing (including sexual imagery, youth-produced sexual imagery and including AI-generated sexual imagery and deepfakes). Pupils should understand the law about online sexual harassment and online sexual abuse, including grooming and sextortion
- Pornography
- Abortion
- The protected characteristics
- The age of criminal responsibility

[26/27 RSE Local Procedures.docx](#)

[Relationships – Sex Education \(RSHE\) Policy \(ST\)](#)

[PSHE year plan 26/27.docx](#)

Mrs A Wilmott
PSHE Lead



Year 12 - Hampton Court Palace 2026



At the end of last term, on a very drizzly day, our Year 12 Historians visited Hampton Court Palace where they had the opportunity to connect the past with the place where it happened.

We are very proud of the engagement and enthusiasm shown by the cohort, who would not be put off from exploring by a little bit of rain!

Below are two excellent reflections on the day from Grace M and Henry L.



Reflection from Grace M:

A cold Wednesday turned into an immersive Tudor experience - Hampton Court Palace offered an inquisitive insight into the lives of the Tudor Royalty we have been learning about in class. An extensive tour and an intellectual guide gave us all a wider understanding of the different sorts of lives in Henrician England



Thomas Wolsey, a man of great social stature, humanised by his private life exposed to us through archaic walls and preserved tapestries. Perfect symmetry, an abundance of windows, extravagant portraits. All of these additions amalgamated into what would become the grandiose physical representation of the Tudor Dynasty. Wolsey's palace, but designed to reflect the power of the royal family, allowed us to experience Tudor history in a depth we had not seen before. Wolsey appears to us now as a man highly concerned with his reputation, immortalising his power in stone for us to stand and admire even generations later. He articulated his success through the tangible wealth he owned, as seen in the decorative tapestries in the Great Hall; 500 years old and commissioned to represent the birth of a son, the tapestries of Abraham serve to remind us of the significance of hierarchy and legacy in the Tudor Period, preserved timelessly through history's endless chain.

Wolsey's prowess and iron grip over the court was visualised in the Great Hall, his eavesdroppers hidden silently but impressively in the rafters, always watching, always listening, no privacy. This simple yet brutal display of ineffable power from Wolsey enhanced the immersion.

The reign of Wolsey was absolute, and bordering totalitarian in the time he ruled, and the product of that was envisioned before us in his grand display of why he was deemed *Alter Rex*.

Such a display of dictating control was confounding to witness, and we found ourselves completely submerged in the history of the time.

This, mingled with the sheer enormity of the walls, from the lowest kitchen to the highest spire, created a sense of indisputable authority, left for all who would come after to feel.

The religious aspect of the Palace was no small feat, the Chapel Royal stood proudly as the beating heart of the palace, just one reflection of the significance of religion, but also status in the Tudor Period. Its star speckled ceiling reflected the Heavens and the beliefs of the time, creating an untouchable quality to the room where Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII married. The enigmatic secrets of the Reformation materialised themselves before our very eyes: money, glory, adultery, all of the reasons Henry demolished the Medieval world to make way for a religious Renaissance. History and time crept through each room of the palace: forbidden romance between the rooms of Henry and Anne, the crushing tension hidden in the history of the council room, the silent tragedy of Katherine Howard, all of this swept together to create an imaginative image of what the Tudor Period was really like.

Reflection from Henry L

Visiting Hampton Court definitely gave me a deeper understanding of Tudor England. I think the sheer scale of the place shocked me and how I was walking on the same ground as Henry and his courtiers did. The Great Hall was enormous with its hammer beam roof covered in royal badges and symbols, which clearly showed Henry's power. Henry VIII wanted everyone who entered to feel small compared to him and with such a high roof I think he achieved this. Similarly, the state apartments highlighted this as access became more restricted the closer you were to the King's private rooms. This helped me understand how much proximity to the King played in how much power you had. The Court wasn't just a house, it was a huge political building for the country and its grandeur makes you aware of this.

The palace also changed my impression of Wolsey. He originally built Hampton Court and the ambition behind it is absurd for a man who was technically a servant to the Crown and a churchman. The scale and luxury of Hampton Court showed how he felt he was an equal to the King. Although it was very interesting to me he gifted the palace to Henry to regain his favour. This showed me that in Tudor England no matter how high you were, you could still fall from grace very quickly. Wolsey's story felt quite sad, a place he made his home was now decorated with Henry's name and symbols.



The paintings on display helped me understand the Reformation better, for example "A Protestant Allegory" seeing the Pope crushed made it obvious that the break has to be approved by the people and was not just a political or religious decision. The Palace also showed me how image conscious the Tudor times were. Even the Tudor Kitchens which would have not been seen by many of the upper class in the palace, still was a huge display of wealth and grandeur when it was just somewhere to make food. The "Field of the Cloth of Gold" painting was also interesting as it backed up this idea of performance, a place where instead of political negotiations it was a huge festival. The painting is also interesting as Henry appears many times and almost every time he appears Wolsey is at his side, showing Wolsey's power and influence at the time.

Overall, Hampton Court taught me that power and image were tightly connected and that every room and painting in the palace was there to project authority. I found the visit very thought-provoking.



Ms M Sinclair
Head of History and Politics

<Why is the Computing_Department so obsessed with ducks?>

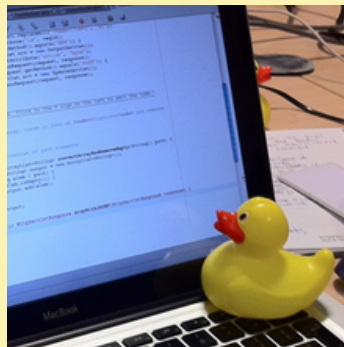
Out in the programming industry there is a software development methodology called “Rubber Duck Debugging” and we think that it’s a great way to build resilience and independence in the Beechen Cliff computing students.

This is summary of what it’s all about from Andy Errington (lists.ethernal.org)

We called it the Rubber Duck method of debugging. It goes like this:

- Beg, borrow, steal, buy, fabricate or otherwise obtain a rubber duck (bathtub variety)
- Place rubber duck on desk and inform it you are just going to go over some code with it, if that's all right.
- Explain to the duck what your code is supposed to do, and then go into detail and explain things line by line
- At some point you will tell the duck what you are doing next and then realise that that is not in fact what you are actually doing. The duck will sit there serenely, happy in the knowledge that it has helped you on your way.

Works every time. Actually, if you don't have a rubber duck you could at a pinch ask a fellow programmer or engineer to sit in.



According to an article on Wikipedia, the name is a reference to an anecdote told in the book *The Pragmatic Programmer* by Andy Hunt and Dave Thomas. The book described rubber ducking as the method of explaining a problem to another party who do not "need to say a word; the simple act of explaining, step by step, what the code is supposed to do often causes the problem to leap off the screen and announce itself."

If you visit the computing department you will see lots of ducks around, because they help us to be better problem solvers!

Ms L Jarvis and Mr A Cottle
Computing Department

BYTE CLUB PRIZES

We've had a lovely year with nearly 80 students taking part in our computing club 'Byte Club'.

Each time a student attended we put their names into a drawer and congratulations to Noah, Darcy and Eduardo on winning a large glitter duck each!

Special mentions to Darcy, Elvis and Henry who all attended over 20 times as well!

Students have had the opportunity to come along and play some retro gaming systems, including an original Box, Xbox 360, BBC Micro and some arcade machines.

We are planning to continue running it next year, so look forward to seeing many of you then!

Mr Cottle and Ms Jarvis.
Computing Department.

LOADING



Music

It has been an exciting, busy and productive term for the music department.

Throughout term 5, 10 pupils (Charlie D, Harrison L, Aubrey B, Marcus C, Rou M-C, Huw P-M, Rafferty L, Joe C, Henry O and Barney W) were involved in workshops and rehearsals for a project involving all secondary schools across the city. This culminated in the pupils composing, rehearsing and performing 4 songs which were performed as part of the opening night of the Bath festival on Friday 15th May at Bath Abbey. This project, once again, brought all the music departments from the various secondary schools together which was a great experience in itself and we look forward to more collaborative projects next year.



Whilst the aforementioned performance was taking place in the Abbey, the Folk Group led by Mr Thompson and Mr Harriman, were simultaneously performing on the WEMA Youth Stage at The Forum. Special thanks must go to Bath Philharmonia and to WEMA for their organisation of the evening's events.

The Folk Group were also invited to perform at the Shoscombe Primary Solstice Festival on Friday 19th June. It was a fantastic afternoon of live music in the sun, with the Folk Group performing a mixed set of both traditional and contemporary folk songs. Thank you to Shoscombe Primary school for having us.



The last few weeks have seen the 2026 Young Musician Competition taking place. After a round of auditions, Mr Thompson and I had the difficult task of selecting pupils to perform in the final. There were lots of brilliant performances and eventually, 25 finalists from across years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were entered:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Jake F Piano	Simeon W Piano	Henry O Accoustic Guitar	Wilfie S Electric Guitar
Sam S Trombone	Levi P Electric Guitar	Jacob M Piano	Louis A Electric Guitar
Eddie C Drum Kit	Ben P Trumpet		Bill G Piano & Melodica
Charlie P Drum Kit	Alec S Drum Kit		Max S Guitar & Voice
Sam G Saxophone	Wilson J Piano		Joe S Piano
Owen T Drum Kit	Rou M-C Piano		Byron M Drum Kit
Haydn S Drum Kit			Jasper C Vocals
Gilad R Trombone			Dom W Electric Guitar
Aubrey B Voice			

The final took place in the school hall on Monday 6th July with pupils, staff and our adjudicator for this year: Miss Zhang (new music teacher from September) in attendance. After a great showing of talent from all pupils involved, the following winners and runners up were announced:



KS3

Winner: Gilad R - Trombone

Runner up: Alec S - Drum Kit

Commendations: Wilson J - Piano and Aubrey B - Voice

KS4

Winner: Max S - Guitar and Voice

Runner up: Bill G - Piano and Melodica

Commendations: Jasper C - Voice and Henry O - Guitar

House points were awarded to all pupils who auditioned and congratulations to the finalists in creating a fantastic afternoon of music. Special thanks must go to Miss Zhang for her informative and inspiring comments.

Following the competition we also had our Summer Bands Night in the main hall. Organised by Mr Harriman, the event featured 6 bands including a special appearance from our very own Beechen Cliff Staff Band! Well done to all for a fantastic evening of live music.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the music staff (both curriculum and instrumental) for their hard work throughout the year, both in class work and in extra curricular opportunities.

As I am sure you are aware, I will be retiring from teaching after 35 years. I have spent my whole career at Beechen Cliff and I couldn't see myself teaching in any other school! I have felt completely at home at Beechen Cliff ever since I first stepped on to the site in 1991 and never had any desire to move elsewhere. I have enjoyed every moment but now feel it is the right time for me to move on. I wish Mr Thompson every success as he takes over the reins from September and I know I am leaving the department in good hands.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer break.

Mr P Calvert
Head of Music



Italian Food Experience



As part of Activities week, some Year 8 pupils opted to take part in an Italian cooking day on Monday where they created Pizza and Pasta dishes, Biscotti and Ice cream.



CCF - Review of the Year

We have had another busy year in the CCF contingent; exercises away being mixed with first aid training, archery sessions, FIBUA (Fighting in a Built Up Area) days, BTEC teaching sessions and a visit to Bovington Tank Museum. The staff team, whilst not large, provides support and expertise to ensure that all the youngsters involved have the very best of opportunities for personal development and leadership within a very strong local and national framework. Our contingent numbers one hundred and ten cadets, drawn from both King Edward's School and Beechen Cliff School. Boys from Beechen Cliff have now had the chance to be part of the contingent for twenty years and this period has seen hundreds of boys progress into leadership roles within the contingent and to move into very interesting careers.

Events of 2025-26

After the first exercise of the year, Exercise First Chance, the contingent visited Bovington tank Museum and were able to find out a little more about the regiment which sponsors our contingent; The King's Royal Hussars. In November the drill lessons were put to good use as the contingent marched as part of the annual Remembrance Day Parade through Bath. This is always a moving and very special occasion; for cadets and parents alike. More than one hundred cadets represented the CCF and the two schools which make up the contingent, all of whom did a wonderful job

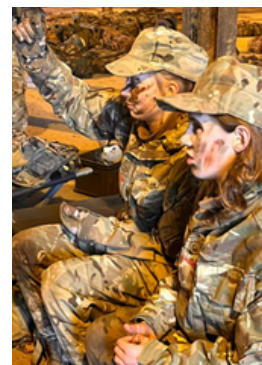


The Annual Dinner (and Ceilidh) was the social highlight of the year and featured the award to the best cadet from the MOI course and the chance for staff and cadets to stomp around the dance floor in the second part of the evening. Our 'sponsor' unit, the KRH (King's Royal Hussars) sent a representative to wish the contingent well and to wish everyone luck in the Biennial Inspection which is due to take place in November of this year.

The Christmas party in December brought the whole contingent together for an evening of games and a chance to present some 'fun' awards to members of the contingent. Captain Jones and the staff ran the much loved (by them, at least) games and wore costumes which would be banned if the 'taste police' had any say in the matter.



In March all the cadets were able to develop their skills or to take on leadership roles in Exercise Next Step. This took place at the Military Battle School training area of Sennybridge in the Brecon Beacons. The Year 9 cadets had recently been trained in the use of the L98 weapon system (rifle, to the uninitiated) and were able to use it 'in the field' for the first time. Section attacks and fighting in a built up area were practised and our boys had a fine time, as you can imagine. The night ambushes were a particularly valued element of the few days away and the experience created the stories that the boys love to take home and share.



At the end of June the senior cadets were due to take up the opportunity to participate in Exercise Warrior Cadet. This 'tactical' exercise has been postponed until October due to a change in army regulations - impacting the very time we were due to be away. Disappointment aside, the boys will be able to look forward to this exciting experience early in the new academic year.

In July the contingent will be sending fifty cadets to the annual Summer Camp arranged for CCF units in the region. It is actually unusual for our contingent to be involved in collective activities but it is hoped that the various competitions involved over the full week away will give our boys the chance to compare themselves with the skills and attributes of cadets from schools around the west.

Awards

Many of our cadets have used the contingent experience to propel them towards achieving Duke of Edinburgh Award goals and they have received their badges in recognition of this achievement. All the BCS cadets who have completed their full academic year in the contingent receive a Certificate of Service - two senior cadets will be receiving their fifth year awards this August.



New Recruits

In June the 'taster' session for the CCF was held at King Edward's School, attracting more than fifty Year 8 boys and as many parents. It was a great opportunity to see the CCF area, speak to staff and cadets and to get involved in some of the stands being run by senior cadets in the contingent. Subsequent recruitment has been very strong and the Beechen Cliff cohort within the contingent has reached record levels. Hopefully the experiences of the next year will give them all the best possible range of opportunities for building confidence and leadership.

Overall

All the cadets should be very proud of their achievements over the year and will be very aware that they are now 'armed' with experiences which will stand them in very good stead when they look forward to interviews and to enhancing their CVs in years to come. It is always impressive to see the cadets of Beechen Cliff and King Edward's work so well together and act as a seamless unit; exactly what we always hope it will be.

Many thanks should go to Captain Jones for providing inspiration to the staff and cadets over the year and to the Head and Governing Body of Beechen Cliff for supporting the contingent and allowing our cadets the opportunity to take up the activities offered.

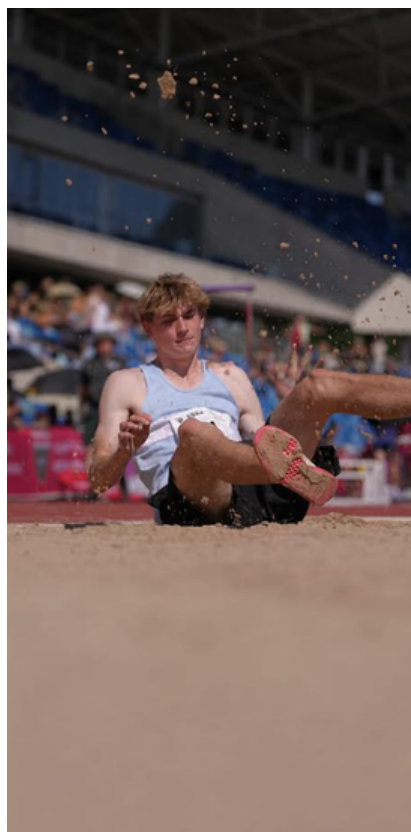
Mr A Davies
Beechen Cliff CCF Lead

SPORTS REPORTS

Championship Success for William, Year 11

William had a successful weekend at the English Schools' Athletic Association Track & Field Championships, held at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham on Saturday.

Representing the Avon Schools' team; he continued his recent progress, setting another PB in the triple jump competition, moving him up to 5th in the ranking for under 17s in England.



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>



U12 Cricket



Year 7 cricket enjoyed an excellent season, with more than 60 students proudly representing the school across 13 fixtures.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the cricket tour to Devon, which provided a fantastic experience both on and off the field and created lasting memories for everyone involved.

It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm for the sport, and we look forward to even more boys getting involved and representing the school next season.

Mr E Hill
Cricket

U13 Cricket

Another enjoyable season for the u13's in 2026. In total over 60 boys represented a team throughout the season, a staggering number!

Results didn't always go our way but everyone had a great time and had the chance to play their part in games which is the main priority. 14 games were played throughout 3 teams in the u13 season, this could have been a few more added but unfortunately we came out on the wrong side of two tight cup matches and some good players.



It was fantastic to see some of our u13's stepping up into the u14's throughout the season and stepping in with contributions, whether it was with the bat or the ball. It's great experience for next season!

Mr S Thompson
Cricket

U14 Cricket Festival



Our u14's enjoyed a fantastic cricket festival over half term. Hosted by Bradfield College the u14's played four games of cricket over three days, two longer format games and two T20's.

Results unfortunately didn't always go our way but that didn't matter because the boys got the chance to play lots of cricket, had a great time and made some new friends along the way in the beautiful weather that we were treated to.

On Wednesday we travelled up to Bradfield College near Reading to play our first game of 40 overs, we did really well setting a total of 222 from our innings. We then headed to their refectory for a filling lunch before getting back on the pitch to bowl. Unfortunately we got chased down with 2 overs to go thanks to a couple of very good performances from our opposition. A great start nonetheless as the majority of our team hadn't ever played a 40 over game before. We then had some dinner again provided by the college before some downtime where the boys got to know some of the other teams.



Thursday was soon upon us, as we woke, Bradfield's breakfast filled us up for the two games we were playing today. In coloured kit we had two T20's where we came away with a great result in one of the games. Restricting our opponents to 85 we chased it down in 17 overs playing the game sensibly not throwing away our wickets. The boys had some more downtime in the evening where we used Bradfield's ASTRO to play some football and throw a rugby ball around.

Friday, the final day. We were due to play another 40 over game but because of the extremely nice weather we were having and the amount of overs that we already had in our legs, everyone was shattered. The game was reduced to 30 overs, we batted first against arguably, the best team at the festival. Unfortunately we didn't set a very big total and it didn't take long for our opponents to knock it off.

A fantastic tour nonetheless which was enjoyed by everyone and I'm glad the boys had such a good time!

Mr S Thompson
Cricket



U15 Cricket

This year has been a really exciting year for the year 10 cricket teams. With plenty of fixtures being played for both the A & B teams and over 30 players representing the teams. There have been a vast number of positives to take from this year including that the boys enjoy playing but also have incredible talent to take them very far.

This year was the introduction of the new Knight–Stokes National State School's competition in which the u15 A team made it to the quarter finals, where they eventually lost to a very strong school from Buckinghamshire. The final if the boys had made it, would have been played at the home of Cricket, Lord's Cricket ground.

Well done to number of the year 10s for their outstanding commitment to the cricket team, struggling through injury after the 100 miles in 48 hour challenge, centurion. But also the performance of many players including Will P, who scored over 500 runs this season which included a century in the first game of the season vs Kingswood School.

Mr R Bowett
U15 Cricket



Ist/2nd XI Cricket

This season proved to be an unusual one, disrupted by both the exam schedule and an extended period of heatwaves. Traditionally, fixtures are lost to rain; this year, however, it was the sun that caused the greatest interruption to our programme.

Despite these challenges, there were several standout moments. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly our victory over Blundell's in the second round of the national competition. In a thrilling finish, needing 17 runs from the final over, Will O produced a remarkable display of hitting, striking three consecutive sixes to secure the win with two balls to spare, a moment that will live long in the memory.

While results did not always fall in our favour, this was a young side that showed great promise and resilience. Performances against strong opposition, including Kingswood and Dauntsey's, demonstrated the team's development and competitive spirit.

Finally, we extend our thanks and best wishes to our Year 13 leavers. Their commitment to Beechen Cliff Cricket over the past seven years has been outstanding, and they leave with our gratitude and pride. We wish them every success in their next chapter.

Mr P Macdonald
Cricket



Summer Tennis Report 2026

This year Beechen Cliff's tennis teams have shown an excellent display of teamwork, determination and resilience throughout all of their fixtures and competitions. As usual the school enters the LTA School's Tennis Championships whereby the winner of the county and regional rounds will play against other teams across the nation.

We have had some great success stories this year, with particular notice to year 7 & 8 Division 1 team who went unbeaten against very strong tennis schools including Collegiate and Clifton College. Having won their group, they now progress to the regional knockout against Ralph Allen School in September. We have also been very impressed with the year 8 tennis cohort, who played an outstanding number of fixtures, but also stepped up to play in some year 10 fixtures when numbers were low.



Thanks to all those who took part, staff who attended fixtures and parents with their unrivalled support.

Mr R Bowett
Tennis



Looking Back, Looking Forward



As another school year draws to a close, summer offers us something we don't often have enough of during term time: space. Space to pause, breathe, reflect and simply be together.

For many families, summer is a time of excitement and freedom. For others, it can bring mixed emotions. Teenagers may be finishing exams, saying goodbye to friends, moving into new year groups, preparing for sixth form, college or university, or simply adjusting to a change in routine. As parents, we naturally want to help make everything okay.

A Solution Focused Approach reminds us that we don't always need to solve every problem immediately. Sometimes the most helpful thing we can do is notice what is already working and build from there.

Notice the Progress

When life moves quickly, it's easy to focus on what still needs improving.

Instead, take a moment to look back over the past year.

Your child has almost certainly grown in ways that aren't measured by grades alone.

Perhaps they have:

- become a little more independent
- shown kindness to someone who needed it
- coped with something they once found difficult
- asked for help when they needed it
- shown courage, resilience or determination
- recovered from disappointment
- laughed more than they did last term
- simply kept going on the hard days.

These small moments matter. They are often where the biggest changes begin.



Summer is an Opportunity, Not a Test

There can sometimes be pressure to make every day memorable

In reality, teenagers often remember the simple things most:

- a walk together
- cooking a meal as a family
- watching a film
- playing cards
- sitting in the garden
- talking in the car
- laughing about absolutely nothing.

Connection doesn't need to be complicated.

The strongest protective factor for a young person's mental wellbeing is often simply knowing there is someone who notices them, believes in them and enjoys spending time with them



Ask Different Questions

Instead of asking: "How was your day?"

which often receives a one-word answer...

Try asking:

- What made you smile today?
- What went slightly better than you expected?
- What are you proud of from this year?
- When have you felt most like yourself recently?
- Who brings out the best in you?
- If next year was just a little easier, what might be different?
- What's one thing you'd love to do more of this summer?

Small questions often lead to meaningful conversations.



Remember That Progress Isn't Linear

Some days will feel easy. Some won't.

Teenagers, like adults, have good days and difficult days. A setback doesn't erase progress.

Confidence isn't about never struggling; it's about discovering that you can cope, recover and move forward.

One of the most powerful Solution Focused questions is simply:

"What helped before?"

Young people often have more strengths and resources than they realise.



Keep the Basics Brilliant

Summer can be wonderfully relaxed, but a little gentle structure can make a huge difference to wellbeing

Encourage

- enough sleep (even if mornings become a little later!)
- time outdoors
- movement that feels enjoyable rather than a chore
- time away from screens
- friendships that leave them feeling valued
- moments of calm and rest.

Small habits repeated consistently often have the biggest impact.



Looking Towards September

Rather than worrying about everything that lies ahead, encourage your child to think about just the next small step.

Not:

“How will I manage the whole year?”

But:

“What’s one thing I can do that helps me get off to a good start?”

Whether that’s packing a bag the night before, meeting a friend on the first day, getting back into a sleep routine or simply remembering that they have overcome challenges before, small actions create momentum.



A Final Thought

As families, we rarely notice change while it is happening.

But when we pause, we often realise just how far we’ve come.

This summer, celebrate effort as much as achievement.

Celebrate kindness as much as success

Celebrate resilience as much as results.

Most importantly, celebrate your child for who they are—not just for what they achieve.

From all of us at school, thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We wish every family a summer filled with rest, laughter, sunshine, connection and moments that remind us what really matters.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed, hopeful and ready for another year of small steps leading to great things.

Have a wonderful, safe and happy summer.

Warm Wishes,

The Wellbeing Team

Careers

Beechen Cliff Careers Newsletter

This week's 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 at emma.pascoe@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk

Mrs E Pascoe
Head of Futures



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 & West UK**
2026 Summer Schedule

Spotters HOCKEY

30 + 31 July - Workshops

0930-11am | 11.15-12.45pm | 1.30-3pm Ages 9-15
Goal Scoring | Elimination/3D skills | Game awareness

3-5 August - Camps

10am- 12pm and 1-3pm - Ages 7-14;
Registration 0930 pick up by 3.20pm

10-14 Aug Workshop Roadshows

10-11.30am | 12 -1.30pm | Ages 9-15
Goal Scoring | Game awareness
Bath, Corsham, Keynsham, Shepton Mallet, Wells

Sponsored by **Performance Camps 18 + 19 Aug**
10am- 3pm - Ages 12-16
Advanced coaching programme included



Sponsored by **High Performer Camp 20 Aug**
10am- 3pm - Ages 13-17 -work at stretch 



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- Monday 13th July – Friday 17th July 2026
- Monday 27th July – Friday 31st July 2026
- Monday 3rd August – Friday 7th August 2026



9.00AM – 3.00PM
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This summer, Bath Mind are running a 5 Ways to Wellbeing Summer Challenge for families across the local community, helping people stay connected, active, and well throughout the school holidays. Running from **July 23rd to the end of the summer** holidays, each week focuses on a different 'way to wellbeing', including how to connect, be active, take notice, keep learning, give, and much more.

Recognising that the summer holidays can be a difficult time, and to help families navigate changes in routine while balancing work, childcare, and the pressures of the rising cost of living, Bath Mind have created a collection of free resources and affordable activities designed to offer practical support.

Families can find out more about the [5 Ways to Wellbeing Summer Challenge](#) in their copy of [The Bath and Wiltshire Parent](#), by checking out the [Bath Mind website](#) or on social media.

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