



# Weekly Update

## Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 27 February 2017

### Monday

KS4 Fitness  
Classics Club

### Tuesday

Latin GCSE Year 2  
Year 9 and 10 Parkour  
All years Girls' football  
Trampoline  
Textiles Club (Y9&10)  
Photography Club  
Geography of Food Club  
School Musical  
Italian Club  
Science Club  
Flying Start Challenge  
Model United Nations  
Year 10 Young Enterprise  
D of E Drop-In

### Wednesday

Latin GCSE year 1  
Girls' basketball (Y10 & Y11)  
Y7, 8 & 9 Boys' Football  
Orchestra  
Folk Band  
Geography of Food Club  
Outdoor Club  
Commercial Dance  
A Level & GCSE Drama Rehearsals  
Year 12 Young Enterprise  
Warhammer School Alliance

### Thursday

Y10 & 11 Boys' Football  
Mixed Hockey  
Y7 & 8 Badminton & table-tennis  
Street and Hiphop Dance  
Jazz Band  
Junior Jazz Band  
Dressmaking (Y9 & Y10)  
Programming Club

### Friday

Sports Academy

## Words from the Headteacher

We are now resolutely into the second half of the school year. Like most things related to time, I'm not sure where it goes and I'm trying really hard not to fall into the teacherly trap of wishing my life away. Either way, [time flies like an arrow](#); [fruit flies like a banana](#). There are ten weeks until the first GCSE exams, it creeps up in minutes and seconds, each one passing imperceptibly in either a missed opportunity or a seized moment.

We are now fully rolling out our new assessment system. Each student is assessed on a 1 to 9 scale in every subject. It is very straightforward. I have attached a short explanation of how this works and encourage you to get in touch via the usual channels if you have any queries. We were discussing the new assessment system with Year 7 parents yesterday and the response was positive. I think it is the clearest way of measuring progress and attainment in this brave new world of educational confusion, where what we don't know is more certain than what we do know. What I do know is that it answers with clarity the most important questions for parents, students and teachers: what grades are they getting and are they making progress?

**Paul Jones**

## Fixture of the Week

Our Year 7 football team headed into the linear wilderness of Long Cross to take on the papal might of St Bede's. They opted to use a smaller pitch, no doubt to counter the threat of beautifully expansive football from a creative and expressive team. It required some adjustment and St Bede's took the lead from a punt-to-nothing early in the first half. A concerted effort brought us back into the match. Harvey Tierney took command of the midfield, conducting the orchestra with a swish of the maestro's baton and everyone playing the perfect pitch and tune. A firm foundation was laid by Cameron Horseman at centre back; an impenetrable wall upon which the feckless attackers threw themselves in futile desperation. Anything that crept through the barricades was repelled instantly by Luke Phillips in goal, a picture of agility and strength.

At the end of the half a series of interlocking passes, geometric in their accuracy, forged on a model drawn in Mrs Conway's maths lesson, saw the ball zero in on the boot of Tom Hale. A drop of the shoulder, a turn, a feint, and the ball arrowed into the net, through the flailing arms of the prone Bedean keeper. The second half saw more of the same, our supremacy not reflected by the even score line; salvos of shots rained down upon their goal, but an opening proved elusive. After tireless support on the wing; hurtling up and down the line like a comet through the firmament, Hugh Cockerill weaved inside for one last attack; a slaloming run past static defenders, crowned with an unstoppable rocket, rippling the net. The game was won.



**Hiring Now!**

We are still recruiting for Exam Invigilators to support our students during their exams. More information can be found on our website. Closing date 10 March.

**Young Chef of the Year**

Charlotte Lane in Year 7 is due to take part in the District Finals of the Young Chef Competition on Saturday 25 February. The finals are hosted by The Cotswold School in Bourton on the Water. Good luck Charlotte!

**World Book Day**

World Book Day is rapidly approaching! The English department are knee deep in cardboard, poster paint and fabric making their costumes ready for the literary extravaganza on Thursday 2 March. We hope you are equally prepared and look forward to viewing the creative efforts.

On the day you can collect your book token, participate in the treasure hunt or have a blast at the poetry slam! There will be opportunities to write your own book as well as other literary themed Activities.

We are all getting ready to 'do something booky' for World Book Day 2017.

**The Prince's Trust @Bristol**

On Wednesday 22 February our Y10 Pathway 3 students enjoyed a day of science workshops and shows at @Bristol. They participated enthusiastically, working in teams and even volunteering to take part in demonstrations in front of their peers and students from other colleges. Thierry Grant defying gravity as Yuri Gagarin and Harvey Sealey lifted Miss Burton up with two fingers was a particular highlight. All of this will go towards their Achieve Award from The Prince's Trust. Well done team! *Mrs Collis*



Key dates for next week	
Please see the calendar at <a href="http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk">www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk</a> for other important dates	
<b>Monday 27 February</b>	
<b>Tuesday 28 February</b>	Bristol City Museum trip
<b>Wednesday 1 March</b>	ICAEW Base Competition, UWE UKMT Team Challenge, St Katherine's School
<b>Thursday 2 March</b>	World Book Day Y12 Subject Evening, 4:30pm—7:00pm
<b>Friday 3 March</b>	Y11 History Revision Workshop, Cardiff Castle

**Art Exhibition**

Well done to Olivia Clapp who was awarded 'Best in School' for her Virginia Woolf triptych at the senior schools art exhibition held at Bristol Cathedral. We are looking forward to taking part next year; showcasing more of KS4 and KS5s fabulous work. *Miss Dawson*



**Spanish Exchange**

Y10 students, along with Miss Ryan and Miss di Martino, are really looking forward to their upcoming visit to Figueres, Spain, to launch the BFS SCHOOL EXCHANGE 2017 with the Institut Cendrassos de Figueres.

Figueres, Catalan for "fig trees", is situated in the province of Girona, Catalonia, Spain. The town is the birthplace of artist Salvador Dalí, and houses the Teatre-Museu Gala Salvador Dalí, a large museum designed by Dalí himself which attracts many visitors.

The students will fly to Spain on 12 March from Bristol to Barcelona, and return on 19 March. Spanish students will be visiting BFS from 7 to 14 May.

This is a very exciting time for the MFL department, as it marks the start of a new international collaboration.

**We're off to see the Wizard**

Wizard of Oz tickets will be on sale from Monday for the whole week at the student ambassador desk during lunchtimes. The performances are Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 March; 7pm at the Newman Hall.

Ticket cost: £3/£2 concessions; please bring correct money as change cannot be provided.

We need some props to help aid the performance. If you are able to provide any of the below please bring them to Miss Clifton:

- |                            |                        |                                     |            |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Cuddly toy Toto            | Large wooden egg timer | Metal bucket                        | Hay bales  |
| Fishing rod                | Pin on medal           | Plastic heart shaped clock on chain |            |
| Large plastic crystal ball | Wooden wheel barrow    | Oil can for Tin Man                 | Broomstick |

**Sixth Form RAG Week**

Before the half term break the Sixth Form held it's first RAG week to raise funds for the Jessie May Children's Hospice. The week involved lots of silliness and fun (see the front page) including a pool tournament, a cake sale, leg waxing and the dreaded Custard Vote where students and staff paid to vote for to cover the member of staff with the most votes in a bucket of custard.

With a late flurry of votes from Mr Truan, Mr Walker was the winner (or loser)! It was a great week that raised just over £200 for a great charity and demonstrated what a great community we are building in the Sixth Form.

**Coping with self-harm**

A guide for parents and carers of young people who self-harm has been released for free download. The guide, produced by researchers and clinicians at the University of Oxford is valuable for parents and contains information on topics such as understanding self-harm and sources of help and support. It can be downloaded here: <https://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/news/new-guide-for-parents-who-are-coping-with-their-child2019s-self-harm-2018you-are-not-alone2019>

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Instagram: @bristol\_free\_school

## Assessment: 1-9



Our new assessment system uses 1-9 grades across all years. It answers two key questions:

*What is my child's current attainment?*

*Are they making progress?*

Every subject has a separate target. The targets are calculated from their scaled scores at the end of Year 6 (out of 120 in English and Maths). We then adjust them in foundation subjects to take into account different aptitudes. This provides a flightpath. We can track progress against this across the years. We expect students to make two subgrades of progress per year. This is very similar to our previous model of assessment.

KS2 Scaled Score	<93	93	95	98	100	103	105	108	110	113	115	116+
Target	Bronze	Silver	Gold	1-	1	1+	2-	2	2+	3-	3	3+

Y7	Y8	Y9
Target	Target	Target
4-	4+	5
3+	4	5-
3	4-	4+
3-	3+	4
2+	3	4-
2	3-	3+
2-	2+	3
1+	2	3-
1	2-	2+
1-	1+	2
G/S/B	1	2-

The table on the left shows how targets increase year on year to take into account our expectations of progress at Bristol Free School.

As you can see, it involves adding two sub-grades each year. If a student consistently exceeds their targets then we will carefully review whether this target is appropriate and moderate it upwards.

The current GCSE targets are set using old levels because students didn't have scaled scores; they were using the old national curriculum levels.

### Key Points

- It's very simple and effective. We know that the interim measures we have used in English have been difficult for parents to decipher. This solves these issues. A student has a target based on what they achieved in primary school and they are measured against this.
- It is transparent for students, teachers, staff and parents.
- It links to the new GCSE criteria and specifications and reflects the demands of the new curriculum.
- Students achieving a grade 3 in Year 7 are doing very well in terms of attainment. A grade 4 is roughly equivalent to a C at GCSE. Beyond that it's about *progress*. Are they on track?
- The outcome of the GCSE exams this summer will lead to some minor changes as we become aware of precisely what a grade 4 or 5 means in year 11. Any changes we make will be around our understanding of what the grades mean: the system will stay exactly the same.

**QUIZ**  
**FRIDAY**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**7-9.30<sup>PM</sup>**  
**IN THE SIXTH FORM**  
**COMMON ROOM**

Teams of up to 6 people which can include family and friends\*

Cost is **£15** for up to 6 people  
**£5** a couple

\*Children welcome to come and participate

**TO BOOK TICKETS**  
Please complete the booking form  
[www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/fobfs.php](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/fobfs.php)  
and return to the School Office,  
with **£15** for a team booking  
and **£5** per couple booking.

**FOOD AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON THE NIGHT**  
**FACTS, FUN and FRIENDS**

Please send bookings form and monies/cheque in a sealed envelope, clearly labeled

**FOBFS QUIZ NIGHT**

to the School Office

Name of Young Person.....Tutor Group.....

Name of team or nominated person.....

Contact telephone number.....

I require .....( number ) of team tickets and enclose £..... (£15 per team entry)

Please state expected number of Adults in your team .....  
Participating Young people.....

***If you would like to join a team on the night please purchase a couples ticket.***

I require .....( number ) ticket for a couple and enclose £..... (£5 per couple)

A bar and light refreshments will be available during the evening

Please make cheques payable to "Friends of Bristol Free School" Tickets will be sent home via your child or if too close to the day, confirmation via telephone.