

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 3 November

All after school activities finish at
4.30 pm unless otherwise noted.

Monday:

4 – 5 pm: Introduction to Latin

Tuesday:

Basketball (Y7)
Book Club (Y7 & Y8)
Games Club
Makers Club
Netball (Y7 & Y8 girls)
Philosophy Club
Rugby (Y7, Y8 & Y9 boys)
Textiles Club (Y8, Y9 & Y10)

Wednesday:

Badminton and Table Tennis
(Y7 & Y8)
Cross-country
Dance Club (Y7 & Y8)
Film Club (Y9 & Y10)
Music Technology Club
Science Club
Young Enterprise (Y10)

Thursday:

Art Club
Basketball (Y9)
Comic Book Philosophy
Dance Club (Y9 & Y10)
International Film Club
Musical Theatre
Netball (Y9 & Y10 girls)
Rugby (Y10 boys)
Student Newspaper
Warhammer Club

Friday:

'Band Academy'

Study Club will run every day
except Friday.

Words from the Headteacher

As we go to press, Year 7 students are battling it out across their English groups for the title of BFS Poetry Champions 2014. This is the fourth year that our Year 7s have performed in a competition in order to showcase their term's work on poetry. There have been some unforgettable performances this year and the build up to today's event has seen plenty of hard work, constant rehearsal together with some unusual antics by members of staff to try and gain an edge over their fellow competitors. I do not wish to name names but Mr Jones' 'direction' and 'production' of his group's poem has been sent to the International Court of Arbitration, following a report from fellow competitors that he has used props and stanzas which are on the International Poetry Performers' banned list. Thank you to all the students and staff involved in today's performances and to Mrs Hyde, Miss McInnes and Mr Sillince for taking on the tough task of judging.

Attached to this newsletter is information relating to an additional Inset Day at Bristol Free School. This has been approved by our governors and the Russell Education Trust. The Inset Day will take place on the 21 November 2014. The reason for the extra day is due to the significant and substantial changes to the maths curriculum in England. These are the most significant changes in maths since the national curriculum was introduced for examination in 1988. BFS needs to ensure that our teachers are equipped to deliver a high quality curriculum and we have moved quickly to ensure that our maths teachers are in the best position to do so in the light of Ofqual's recent publication of the new maths curriculum. The new curriculum requires changes to way maths is taught as well as the revamped content hence the need to gather all of the maths teacher together in RET. These changes not only affect our Year 9s, 8s and 7s, but will have a significant impact on students in primary schools. The more secure and confident children are with their maths at an early stage the easier they will find these new challenges in maths.

Finally, thank you to all students, staff and parents for all of the work and support which has gone in to making this first term a success. We have had so many positives to reflect upon during these last eight weeks but the fact that over 250 students helped with our Open Days and Evenings typifies the BFS spirit. Have a restful half-term and school starts at the normal time on Monday 3 November – a 'red' Monday.

Richard Clutterbuck

Interim Reports

All students will have received their interim reports yesterday, together with a covering letter. For students in Year 10, there was an additional enclosure for Year 10. If you have not yet seen the report please contact the School to request a copy. As part of our roll-out of the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment), reports are available online for students in Years 7 and 10. These can be accessed by parents using the login credentials issued at the Year 7 tutor evening and the Year 10 curriculum evening. If you are the parent of a child in Year 7 or Year 10 and do not have your VLE login details please contact Mr Davies. Students can log in to the VLE using their standard network credentials. We will be rolling out login credentials for Year 8 at our next subject evening and for Year 9 shortly after.

Save the date!

FoBFS will be organising a disco for students
in Years 7, 8 and 9 on Friday 12 December.

Teen Tech West

Ten students took part in "Teen Tech" West, an interactive day of science, investigation and challenge aimed at Year 8 students. This was an amazing opportunity for them to see the real-life applications of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and talk to engineers.

Hosted by Maggie Philbin, presenter of TV's "Tomorrow's World", the aim was to give students an insight into different opportunities available in STEM subjects and develop their 'tech' talents. Each school attending was paired with a delegate from a cutting edge company to give students an insight into the latest technological advances. BFS's delegate was from Airbus. The students explored the Innovation Zone, Insight Exhibition and Challenge Zone. They saw how Airbus design wings to cope with turbulence and played with mini versions of National Grid's robots which fix power lines and enjoyed other hands-on activities arranged by Renishaw, JVC and Active Robot. The students met two app developers and had the opportunity to develop and present their own phone app. BFS's app was "infinity" which involved taking a photo of any unknown object which the app would then identify after searching the internet. The day inspired the students to consider more positively careers in engineering and science.



Residential trip opportunities 2014-16

Last year many of our students were able to enjoy residential trips from which they gained new friendships, experiences and self-confidence; skiing in the Italian Alps, outdoor pursuits in Devon and cultural enrichment in Paris. As the School grows and pathways through the curriculum develop we are delighted to be able to offer even more opportunities over the coming years. We appreciate that not every child will want to participate in one of these trips and that they require a considerable financial commitment from you. These were launched to students

this week during assemblies and many of them have already asked for letters to secure their places (they may well have asked you for signatures and money already!). To ensure you can discuss all trips with your child and decide which will be the most appropriate for them you will find attached an outline of the trips available to your child 2014-16 and further details on them. We look forward to hearing from you.

GKN: Introduction to manufacturing

On 14 October I went with a few other students on the GKN Trip to look at engineering. It was very interesting looking at different parts, designs, and the laser cutter, I even got a tiny little bike the laser cutter cut out! We watched a drilling machine create an inscribed bit of metal using at least 7 different drill pieces. After the tour we had some excellent food and got to create a small plane with plastic, screws, metals and carbon fibre. It was a great experience and I have learned a lot about engineering.

Thomas Hill (10TG4)



Science Club

This week saw a special Hallowe'en edition of Science Club, our now annual 'Spooktacular'! Our creepy activities included making spooky slime and fake blood, as well as a glow in the dark painting session. We carved out some pumpkins into some ghoulish designs, and watched Dr Cooper in a particularly exciting demonstration using dry ice and some pyrotechnics, which truly lit up our pumpkins!



Bristol Schools' Cross-Country

Thirty-four students made their way to Brislington Enterprise College to compete in the first cross-country event of the year. The rain held off; however the cold wind meant that a thorough warm-up was needed to prepare physically for the challenge ahead. The first race was the Y10/11 category, with boys and girls setting off at the same time. Emily Yates was the first BFS girl to finish the 4km course, in 6th place, closely followed by Megan Lloyd, Ellie Broderick and Celeste Silcox. All four runners finished in the top 12 meaning BFS came 2nd place overall - a fantastic achievement! The boys were equally as committed, with Max Hedger leading the way throughout their 5km course. Ollie Foster, Leban Mohamud and Archie Crew-Gee worked as a group to push each other to achieve three strong performances.

The Y8/9 category was next, with a 3.5km course for our finely tuned athletes. The girls set off first and it wasn't long before Phoebe Neville and Corinne Thompson were sprinting down the final straight to beat each other to the finish line! Deago Bailey, Dan Whetton and Jacob Neville all ran well in the boys' race for Team BFS. Finally the youngest members of the squad had their chance to shine. Jacob Wright finished an impressive 4th with Bryn Ruck not far behind in 12th place. The seven girls in this team all pushed themselves to the limit, with Rhianna Hale and Poppy Glasson setting the pace.

The afternoon was a great success, with all performers demonstrating their growth mind set attitude by facing up to the cross-country challenge and then walking away with smiles on their faces!

Cross-country: Team BFS