

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 18 May

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

Monday:

4 – 5 pm: Introduction to Latin

Tuesday:

Animal Club
Boys' cricket (Y7 & Y8)
Girls' rounders (Y7 & Y8)
International Games Club
LitSoc (Y10)
Makers Club
Orchestra
Textiles Club (Y8, Y9 & Y10)

Wednesday:

All Years Mixed Athletics
Composition workshop (Y10)
Film Club
Science Club
Young Enterprise (Y10)

Thursday:

Art Club
Boys' cricket (Y9 & Y10)
Chess Club
Football Fan Forum
Games Club
Gardening Club
Girls' rounders (Y9 & Y10)
International Film Club
Maths Club
Student Newspaper
Technology Open Workshops
(Y10)
Warhammer Club

Friday:

'Band Academy'

Study Club will run every day
except Friday.

Aspiration Week – please
read the letter students should
have brought home or see the
separate attachment to this
newsletter.

Words from the Headteacher

We will be introducing a new homework system next term. Where student planners are currently used to record homework instead we will be using an electronic system called "Show My Homework" to set homework, monitor the amount and quality. This will have a number of advantages over the current system such as being able to give more detailed and specific instructions about how a homework is to be completed, being able to include a range of resources to support the tasks, as well as allowing staff to differentiate homework according to the needs of the student. At the moment we rely on the student planners for recording homework and although these are handy organisational tools they are limited in their effectiveness as support for homework. A significant change, and one which I know parents will welcome as much as staff, is the transparent nature of the "Show My Homework" system. All homework set by teachers at BFS will be available for all to see including who has set the homework, which year group and class has to complete it, when it was set and when it is due in. This is all in the public domain but parents and students will also be able to login to the system and access a personal homework area. Students will see homework which is specific to them with parents able to see the same information as their children. Alerts can be set up for when homework is due and reports are available to see how much homework is set by teachers and what has and hasn't been completed by the students. It is not a magic bullet to address all of the issues surrounding homework but its transparency and ease of access by all will ensure that parents, staff and students are able to have much more meaningful communications about the provision, completion and quality of homework at BFS. Term 6 is our trial period of the system and assuming that it operates as we hope, it will roll out formally in September. During term 6 we will be looking at how our homework grids stand up to this new system and if we need to change anything we will, however, our principles and expectations of homework (all available on the homework page of the website) will not change. Equally, all students will still be issued with a new planner in September as they do serve a purpose as a useful organisational tool. Nonetheless, students will no longer be required to record their homework in their planner although some may still choose to do so. Any students who are unable to access the internet outside of school to view "Show My Homework" will have plenty of opportunities to check their homework on line in school by making use of our after school study club. More details about accessing the new system will be issued to students and parents next term.

Following last week's information about revision I am reminding parents as well as students about exam arrangements next term. The week beginning Monday 8 June, Years 7 – 9 will be sitting exams in English, Maths and Science in the Sports Hall under formal conditions. These exams will feed in to the students' end of year assessments which will be sent out in the end of year reports. Foundation subjects will be setting exams within their lesson allocation according to each subject's curriculum requirements across term 6. The week beginning Monday 22 June Year 10 students will be sitting exams in the Sports Hall across a range of subjects. While these will not be a full range of GCSE style exams (unlike Year 11 mock exams), they will provide a useful exercise across a number of subjects for the students to see how they cope with GCSE questions under formal conditions. Subjects not featuring during the formal Year 10 exam week will be completing their assessments across term 6. As for Years 7 – 9, the results of the Year 10 exams will feed in to the students' end of year reports. With these dates in mind time is of the essence and all students must start revising (see last week's newsletter for how); we are three weeks away from the KS3 core exams and five weeks away from the Year 10 exams.

Richard Clutterbuck

Young Enterprise Team - Regional Finalists

After eight months of hard grafting, BFS's Young Enterprise team wowed the judges and the other contestants at the West of England regional finals last Thursday. After five gruelling hours of questioning from six judges, the 'Mamma's Secret Recipes' team gave an impressive presentation in front of 150 people.

"I am so pleased with the outcome of the cookbook, and couldn't be more proud of my young enterprise team" said Mr Harkin, silent partner, continuing "the 14 strong team, led by Sahara Shafi, have put together a wonderful product which each partner is proud to put their name to."

Last Saturday the team demonstrated their marketing and sales skills as they set up shop at Westbury-on-Trym's annual Community Fair. The team kept up with the roaring trade as they sold cookbooks to the general public. As the competition is over and it is time for Mamma's secret to close up their business, a limited number of specially signed Mamma's Secret Recipe books will be available to purchase from the School's reception for a promotional price of £7.99 while stocks last.



Young

Enterprise

Term 5 – Key Dates

Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates.

May	
Monday 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dove Project research visit (Y8 & Y9) • Trip to Battlefields 2015, information meeting, 6.30 pm • Full Governing Body meeting
Tuesday 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7 & Y9 girls' rounders vs Henbury (home) • Music Showcase Concert
Wednesday 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Day • Bristol Schools' Athletics Association trials • New Y7 parent information evening, 6.30 pm, by invitation only
Thursday 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8 & Y10 girls' rounders vs Henbury (away) • 6th form parental consultation evening, 6.30 pm
Friday 22	End of term 5

