

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing

5 October

*All after school activities finish
at 4.30 pm*

Tuesday:

Latin (Y10)
Makers Club
Maths and code-breaking Club
Boys' rugby (Y10 & Y11)
Girls' netball (Y9, Y10 & Y11)
Boys' basketball (Y7, Y8 & Y9)
Musical Theatre Club/School Show

Wednesday:

Orchestra
Latin (Y11)
Craft Club
Science Club
Young Enterprise (Y10)
Boys' rugby (Y7, Y8 & Y9)
Girls' netball (Y7 & Y8)
Boys' basketball (Y10 & Y11)
Jazz and Commercial dance
Jazz Band

Thursday:

Art Club
Community Problem Solving Club
Cross-country
Girls' basketball
Warhammer and Sci-fi/Fantasy
Board Gaming
Chess Club
Hip-hop/Street dance
Public Speaking Club (Y10 & Y11)

Friday:

Band Academy

Study Club will run every day
except Friday.

Words from the Headteacher

Congratulations to all of our Year 11 students who took part in last Saturday's 'Bristol Challenge' which launched our 6th form. Teams of students raced around Bristol trying to visit twelve sites before 2.00 pm. They set off at around 8.30 am having stocked up on bacon rolls. The first team back, and eventual winners, visited all twelve sites in 4 ½ hours. The team trailing in last took seven hours mainly due to being on the wrong buses! All of the students were fed and watered when they returned to school and the staff who ran the event enjoyed bumping in to our future 6th formers in Bristol as they made their way around the city. The sites they had to visit were, in no particular order: The Suspension Bridge, Red Lodge, Queen's Square Horse and Rider, Edmund Burke Statue, Bill and Bob Swimming Dogs, the plaque outside the studio of early cinema pioneer William Friese-Greene, Cabot Tower, St Mary's Church Redcliffe, the Keep in Castle Park, The Matthew, Aardman Animations HQ, the giant disco ball in Millennium Square.

Our 6th form Open Evening is on Thursday 12 November. This will be a slightly more serious affair including the launch of our curriculum offer, website and an opportunity to speak to the staff who will be running the A Level and Level 3 courses. The evening is open to Year 11 students and their parents from BFS and other schools.

With the introduction of the new GCSE in Mathematics, the expected standard for the mathematical attainment of our students has been raised significantly. Students will be required to have a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts, be familiar with the connections and links between these concepts and be able to apply their knowledge to solve multistep, and often unfamiliar, problems.

Parents frequently ask how they can support their children in mathematics. Next week each student will receive a consistent methods booklet for mathematics. I would like students to bring the booklet home to give to you. We are sharing this booklet with you so that you are aware of the mathematical approaches and methods we promote at Bristol Free School; many of which may be different from the way you were taught at school.

By exposing students to consistent mathematical methods throughout their school journey they will be better prepared to retain and build on their prior knowledge. Consequently students will be well equipped to enjoy exploring and applying mathematical concepts, enabling them to develop greater mathematical confidence and deeper understanding.

This booklet arose from the Russell Education Trust's Maths network and research undertaken by the Trust's lead Adviser for Mathematics, Teresa Robinson. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Cousins, Head of Mathematics.

Richard Clutterbuck



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Exam Invigilators

We are looking for invigilators to join our team. Further details are available at www.eteach.com.

Year 7 rugby vs Clifton High

The Y7 rugby team had its first fixture on Tuesday against an experienced Clifton High team. Clifton High won, 28-14, but the BFS boys put in an incredible performance. This was the first time the boys had played together as a team and for some of them it was the first game of rugby they had ever played. There were some outstanding individual performances notably Bailey Turner in the backs and Kyle Widger in the forwards and Paddy Pearce who scored and converted both tries. What stood out most, however, was the way the boys performed as a team, supporting and playing for each other and showing brilliant sportsmanship. Well done to the Year 7 rugby team.

Zombie Apocalypse STEM day

In the spring we ran a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) day for the whole school on a 'Zombie Apocalypse' theme. Activities were run by Science, ADCT, Humanities and Maths departments and were enjoyed by all, investigating diverse topics including infection and disease control, wearable technology to detect the threat and onset of the zombie virus and the ethical questions surrounding testing vaccinations.

This week some of our staff were presented with an award on behalf of the School for the "Best STEM Activity of the Year". Graphic Science, the Bristol, Bath and Somerset co-ordinators for STEMNET, applauded our "total commitment" to the activity, including the zombie lockdown, range of STEM activities delivered, and particularly the ethical debate.



Bright Night

Last Friday we had the opportunity to take a group of Year 9 girls to the Bristol Bright Night Schools' Day held at @Bristol. We were able to walk around the university researchers' fair, finding out about topics as diverse as particle physics, programming, air pollution, social media and even glowing plants. Highlights involved a tent filled with glow in the dark bacteria and building a giant foam bridge which you could (hopefully) walk across! After the fair, we were treated to some bitesize talks from different people in STEM industries, including video and virtual reality and also met the people who test the strength of the Clifton Suspension Bridge. We all had a great time and look forward to visiting again next year.



Term 1 – Key Dates

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

October	
Tuesday 6	Y10 rugby vs Cotham School (home at Coombe Dingle)
Wednesday 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7 & Y8 netball vs St Bede's (away) Information meeting about Barton Camp, 6.00 pm Y11 GCSE Drama trip to the Tobacco Factory Theatre (evening)
Thursday 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Day Y10 rugby vs Cathedral School (away) Y9, Y10 & Y11 netball vs St Bede's (away)
Monday 12	Wessex Watermark Presentation
Tuesday 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y9 rugby vs Oasis Brightstowe (away) Y9, Y10 & Y11 netball vs Orchard School (away)
Wednesday 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7 rugby festival at St Bede's (away) Y7 & Y8 netball vs Orchard School (home)
Thursday 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y9: meningitis immunisations Y10 RE GCSE students – Explore RE Conference Y7 parents' Transition Evening
Friday 16	Y8 & Y9 Sports Academy coaching at SGS College (pm)
Monday 19	Y7 Barton Camp (part year)
Tuesday 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7 Barton Camp (part year) Cross country at Oasis Brislington, 1.30 – 4.00
Wednesday 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7 Barton Camp (part year) FoBFS AGM, 8.00 pm, location to be confirmed
Thursday 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7 Barton Camp (part year) Y11 rugby vs St Bede's (away)
Friday 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7 Barton Camp (part year) Y11 trip to Iceland departs INSET day: school closed to students