



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 21 November

Monday

KS4 Fitness
Classics
Fencing

Tuesday

Latin GCSE year 2
Boys' rugby (Year 7)
Girl's football (Y9, 10 & 11)
Boys' basketball (Y8 & 9)
Dressmaking (Y9 & 10)
Art Club
Geography of Food Club
School Musical
Italian Club
Science Club
Model United Nations
Year 10 Young Enterprise
Grok Quest Challenge
Poketeering

Wednesday

Latin GCSE year 1
Boys' basketball (Y10 & 11)
Boys' rugby (Y8 & 9)
Girl's netball (Y7 & 8)
Orchestra
Year 9 Punk Band
Outdoor Club
Commercial Dance
Macbeth Rehearsals
French Film Club
Year 12 Young Enterprise

Thursday

Boys' rugby (Y10 & 11)
Boys' basketball (Y7)
Cross Country (All Years)
Girls' netball (Y9, 10 & 11)
Textiles Club (Y7 & 8)
Street and Hiphop Dance
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Craft Club
Warhammer School Alliance
Flying Start Challenge
Wellbeing Club

Friday

Sports Academy

Words from the Headteacher

The weather has turned again. I know this because as I peer omnisciently out from my Headteacher's panopticon I see young people running in the howling wind and rain with no coats. I take a crumb of comfort from the knowledge that sturdy shoes are now very much *de rigueur*, and even though shivering and soaked, at least their feet are toasty. Call me old-fashioned, but I would like it if they wore coats: parents please support our unceasing quest to prevent damp students from causing condensation in the classroom.

In Computer Science a number of our students have taken up the Grok challenge. It sounds like something out of *Dungeon and Dragons*, a virtual battle with a vile snotling calculated on hit points and the roll of a 38 sided dice, but in reality it's a national Code Quest challenge. In the junior age group Finnley Klinkenberg and James McCarthy have been tearing it up the leaderboard with some advanced code and computer language. In the intermediate group Daniel Brazil and Fiona Gibbs are currently at the top of the standings, *in the whole country*. This is quite an achievement and I am excited and unnerved by their computer skills. Things have come a long way since my BBC B computer with 16k and the 9 days it took me to type out the code for a very rubbish game. Later in the newsletter is a full report.

Earlier this week I posted a snapshot of Lesson 6 on the school's Instagram account. Sometimes it's seen as the end of the day, a last hurdle to be cleared before a rapid scoot home, an assault on the fridge and an episode of *Byker Grove*. However, it is a hive of activity with an incredible range of practical and academic activities going on. You can see similar updates from [@bristol_free_school](#) as we dip a toe into the murky water of social media. Mr Dayment's food blog is a particular hit.

Fixture of the Week: Whiff-Whaff

The BFS Whiff-Whaff army made their way to Hanham Woods Academy on Wednesday for the first ever competitive table-tennis tournament for the school. Ethan Alker, Tom Pope, Harri Bolt and Owen Paddock have been putting in the hard yards on the practice court; hours and hours of mesmeric back and forth between the bats, the tapping sound of camphor and nitrocellulose on plywood; a hollow and yet crisp impact, with each stroke imparting spin, bounce and craft.

Hanham Woods were trounced 7-1 in the opening game. Ethan's powerful forehand top-spin smash left them swiping in sound and fury, disturbing only air. The match against Bristol Met was an altogether sharper affair. Tom's lightning reactions forced his opponents out to the edges of the table, teasing the tramlines with tantalising placement, first left then right, beguiling and bewitching in equal measure, the BFS sorcerer-at-arms. It ended honours even. Our final game was against the eventual winners, QEH, and we ended up on the wrong side of an 8 hoop thriller. Harri's superb defensive slice kept us in the game and Owen's deadly backhand repelled the Hospitallers, but in the end the high-grade weaponry of the QEH troops, all carbon fibre bats and nanotechnology, just about edged it. Thanks go to Mr Truan for his support and coaching, but more than this, a huge vote of thanks to FOBFS for buying our two outdoor practice tables and kick-starting the Whiff-Whaff revolution!

Iceland Special

Iceland. Arguably the most dramatic landscape in the world. Merely 5 minutes off the plane and you are driving through an expansive field of solidified lava.....

What became instantly clear from initial experiences was how the processes driving changes within the earth operate over such overwhelmingly large scales and timeframes. Thingvellir below is the location where the North American plate and Eurasian plate are moving apart at approximately 3cm per year. Standing between these two plates conjured a sense of pure wonder as you contemplated your place in the world.

On our first night, under the advice of a local hotelier, we took a short walk to a spot where we were assured that we might be able to catch a glimpse of the northern lights. Immediately, we were met with an eerie dancing light in the sky which travelled from right to left. However, this light was rhythmic and would repeat itself every 12 seconds. It turns out we were experiencing the gaze of a northern lighthouse and not the northern lights. Fast forward 24 hours and we found ourselves standing in the open countryside, necks craned, cameras glued to faces in awe of the finest spectacle we could ever ask for. The Northern Lights were, without question the single most incredible thing I have experienced in my life and all students were blown away at the sheer beauty of the dancing emerald and ruby gas formations. An experienced re-lived through reviewing reels of pictures worthy of the National Geographic.

One of the stand out moments of the trip was standing in the 38^o turquoise waters of the blue lagoon, against the contrast of a sinister coal black lava field and experiencing the sun filtering through the escaping steam. It then became clear why Iceland is said to be a wonder of the world.

Another key experience was coming face to face with mother nature in an earthquake simulator (or a shed in a shopping mall). The overdramatic shrieking of several students was met with tears of laughter from students, peers and Icelandic shoppers. The behaviour and conduct of all pupils during the trip was exemplary. This was cemented by positive comments from all guides and the Icelandic staff which we came into contact with.

Mr Green



Grok Code Quest

We are halfway through the Grok Code Quest competition and a number of our students are performing outstandingly well of the international leaderboard. Year 10 students Daniel Brazil and Fiona Gibbs are both Joint 1st in the Beginners competition and the Intermediate competition for the Senior age group whilst Year 7 Students Finnley Klinkenberg and James McCarthy are in the top 50 in the Beginners competition in the Junior age group. Simply amazing achievements given the number of schools competing! Grok Code Quest sees students from all over the world with countries like Australia, Slovakia, USA as well as the UK.completing 6-8 coding challenges each week over a 5 week period clocking up points for each correctly solved challenge.

Interested in joining in the next competition? February 27th is the launch of the next competition so come along to programming club in January to prepare!
Mrs Sherman

Senior Maths Team Challenge at UWE - Tuesday 15 November.

Our fledgling Year 12 Maths team fought through the rush hour traffic at 5pm to join Mathletes from 20 other schools from the wider Bristol area competing in the Team Challenge competition at UWE. Layla, Daniyal, James and Max faced a variety of challenges set at a very high standard, particularly since teams would usually include two Year 13 students. Working in pairs at a Cross Number task and Relay Shuttle, team work, communication and problems solving skills were very much to the fore.

The BFS6th team acquitted themselves very well in each of the rounds, achieving scores comparable with far larger sixth form institutions in some rounds. We were not placed in the top 3 this year but will be back!
Mrs Conway



Key dates for next week	
Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates	
Monday 21 November 2016	Macbeth performance at Tobacco Factory Global Social Leaders Society launch—Y12
Tuesday 22 November 2016	
Wednesday 23 November 2016	7TG3 at Laser Combat Arena, Avonmouth. 6:20pm. A Level art group to RWA, Arnolfini.
Thursday 24 November 2016	Sixth Form Meet the Tutor evening. 6:30pm
Friday 25 November 2016	

Operation Christmas Child

On the 18th of October 9TG1 delivered an assembly on Operation Christmas Child. This is a charity that provides children in Africa a chance to unwrap and discover their presents. It is simple, all you have to do is pack a shoebox full of useful equipment and toys for a specific age and gender. These boxes will then be sent off to Africa and when Christmas comes there will be a chance for the kids to open them. They bring smiles of joy to the children so any effort in providing them is great. From all over the school people have been bringing them in and we have managed to raise 123 shoeboxes! Thank you to everyone for getting involved, *Elisa Saunders 9TG1*



Volunteer Trip to Nepal

This Easter three Sixth Form students are planning to visit our partner school in Nepal, Singdi School. This will hopefully be the first of many BFS trips to the school, aiming to improve and strengthen the bonds between our schools, so that further fundraising and help can be provided in the future.

Due to time-constraints this particular trip has been self-organised. In order to help pay for the trip, the students have set up a GoFundMe page in addition to offering babysitting or dog walking and other efforts.

If you would like to help or just find out more, please take look at: <https://www.gofundme.com/83-volunteer-trip-to-nepal> or email them at mjmnepal2017@gmail.com

Christmas at BFS

The elves are busy getting everything ready to wind down the term in the most festive of fashions. The final page of this week's newsletter contains the Christmas lunch menu for the Dining Hall, and arrangements about the last day of term will be communicated in due course.

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CHRISTMAS ON THE BARBIE

Tuesday 13th December

**Piri Piri Chicken Burger
or
Outback Beef Burgers
or
Brisbane Veggie Burger**

Very Merry Spicy Slaw

**Melbourne Chocolate Brownie
or Tropical Fruit Boats**

£2.50



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HONESTLY GOOD FOOD