



Weekly Update

**Extra-curricular activities
during week commencing 28
November 2016**

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)
Photography Club
School Musical
Italian Club
Science Club
Model United Nations
Year 10 Young Enterprise
Grok Quest Challenge
DofE drop in

Wednesday

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

Thursday

NO CLUBS ON THURSDAY due to
Year 10 Parent's Evening

Friday

Sports Academy

Words from the Headteacher

This week seems to have been marked by a series of stellar successes; none more so than the performance in the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Tobacco Factory theatre on Monday. One of our founding governors, Dave Hale, was in attendance:

"It was completely mesmerising from the first thunder crack to the last word. The whole cast performed to perfection; they were moody, dark and enthralling. The performances of Lady Macbeth and Macbeth were brilliant and the two individuals (Liam Gardiner and Ellen Corbett, right) should be commended for a stunning performance. The supporting cast were brilliant in every aspect; typified by the threatening performance of the witches. In a word: outstanding."



We were thrilled to be sharing the stage with other local schools, and especially some of our close primaries, Elmlea being one. Their performances were also super and a credit to the staff and students. To my mind, it encapsulates just some of the things that are so important and crucial to BFS; our commitment to the local community, the aspiration for excellence; and the balance between the individual and the group. I'd like to extend my thanks to Mr Collis and Miss Clifton for helping our hard-working students to bring this endeavour to fruition.

Away from the creative arts and towards the dark beauty of mathematical theorems... It's incredibly useful to know that if I ever find myself stuck on an asteroid on a collision course to Earth, and at risk of an impact event that might sting a bit, as long as Dan Brazil and Pippa Stephenson are with me I'll be able to calculate the escape velocity in relation to my mass and height and therefore escape annihilation via a carefully judged leap. Both students attended a two-day maths symposium at Wells Cathedral School this week; Dan's full report is below; read on for details on modulo, Fermat and the violence of cannonballs.

Paul Jones

Maths conference

Pippa Stephenson and I did a two-day maths conference at Wells Cathedral School. We started in a lecture hall with dozens of other year 10s. It began with an 'ice breaker' session where we were put into groups and we got to know each other while solving various mathematical puzzles. In the next lecture, we were calculating the Earth's gravitational pull and the escape velocity.

During lunchtime, we got a chance to talk to the lecturers and ask them any questions, which I thought was great. Afterwards, the day ended with a pirate theme, where we calculated the forces of cannonballs when they hit ships, followed by a demonstration with an actual cannonball.

The next day we were introduced to a new mathematical language which was quite different and challenging. It was like an alphabet but only had two or three letters and every possible combination of letters was counted as a word. The previous day's homework was to figure out the 2016th word in that language when all the words are arranged in a certain order. Only a few students had figured it out as it was very difficult, but I was selected to demonstrate my idea and proof in front of the group, which the lecturer thought was very impressive.

After lunch, we were shown some very complex proofs and concepts of angles in circles and triangles. It was quite confusing and I don't think many people completely understood it, but it was still interesting. Finally, we were shown about modulo and some number patterns that appear when using powers in modulus, based on Fermat's little theorem.

Overall I really enjoyed the conference and talking to the other students, and listening to their ideas. The maths involved was applied but used in different ways to normal which I found very interesting.

Dan Brazil

Bake Sale for Children in Need

Last Friday there was a cake competition for the whole school. The cakes which were judged and then sold for Children in Need. The winner of the competition was Mrs Buckler who made incredible Pudsey cupcakes with icing decorations. Charlotte Lane was a close runner up with brilliant mini-egg spots on her cupcakes. There was also a competition for the person who guessed the number of smarties in a cake. Well done to all who took part and thank you; we raised nearly £70.

Molly Acton and Zoe Gibbs 8TG5

Mrs Lawrence can confirm that the amount raised across the whole school was £690. Well done everyone!

Key dates for next week

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

Monday 28 November	GCSE Mocks
Tuesday 29 November	GCSE Mocks
Wednesday 30 November	GCSE Mocks
Thursday 1 December	GCSE Mocks Y10 subject evening 4:30pm, Sixth Form building
Friday 2 December	GCSE Mocks SRE Day
Saturday 3 December	Young Enterprise Trade Fair, St Nicholas' Market

Duke of Edinburgh Drop In

From Tuesday 29 November there will be a 'DofE Drop in' every Tuesday after school in room C043 for anyone needing help or questions answered about their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Unlike other clubs there is no set finish time and students will be able to leave before 4:30pm if their query has been answered. If your child is planning to attend please ensure that you are aware of what time they will be getting home.

Attendance at Bristol Free School

A reminder for parents as we approach that time of year when children can sometimes be more susceptible to illness – if your child is not able to attend school then you should report the absence by using our link to Studybugs or contact our Attendance Officer. One of the main benefits of Studybugs is that it will automatically update the electronic register so that the school will know almost immediately if you have contacted us to let us know that your child is away with an illness or a medical appointment. This is a much quicker, easier and more efficient way for you to notify the school of absences.

Register online via the Studybugs website: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents> or download the free Studybugs App. Then all you have to do is send us a free text when your child is unwell and unable to attend school.



Macbeth

On Monday 21 November, Bristol Free School made its first entry into the national Shakespeare Schools Festival, with their production of *Macbeth* at the Tobacco Factory. Having spent the last few months working on the production, all aspects came together in unison on the night; the sell-out audience were treated to a stylised spectacle of tension, obsession and stunning performances. The School was given high praise by the Festival founder who told the audience that this was "the best production of Macbeth he had seen for many years". A huge well done to the whole cast for what was an exceptional ensemble piece, and for their hard work and dedication during the rehearsal process. Mr Collis is already planning for next year...



Christmas arrangements

The timetable on Friday 16 December will be reduced down to cover Period 1—3.

There will then be a break followed by an assembly. Students will be dismissed at 1:40pm.



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