



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 30 January 2017

Monday

KS4 Fitness
Classics Club
Fencing

Tuesday

Latin GCSE Year 2
Year 8 Parkour
All years Girls' football
Trampoline
Textiles Club (Y9 & 10)
Art Club
School Musical
Italian Club
Science Club
Flying Start Challenge
Model United Nations
Year 10 Young Enterprise
D of E Drop-In

Wednesday

Latin GSCE year 1
Girls' basketball (Y10 & Y11)
Y7, 8 & 9 Boys' Football
Orchestra
Year 9 Punk Band
Outdoor Club
Commercial Dance
A Level & GCSE Drama Rehearsals
Year 12 Young Enterprise
French Film Club
Warhammer School Alliance

Thursday

Y10 & 11 Boys' Football
Mixed Hockey
Y9, Y10 & Y11 Badminton & table-tennis
Street and Hiphop Dance
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Dressmaking (Y9 & Y10)
Programming Club

Friday

Sports Academy

Words from the Headteacher

I sometimes feel as though I should preface every newsletter with the simple announcement; "It's been a busy week". It is a challenge to keep up with the array of things happening at any given time in and around the school. We've had visitors in across the week, including Radio Bristol catching up with our Young Carers and Vernon Samuels, an Olympic Triple Jumper, coming in from the Sky Sports Academy to meet with our Sports Leaders, taking sessions and exploring ideas of motivation and achievement. He demonstrated to an enthralled group of students just how far an Olympic triple jump is, as well as an 8 metre long jump. They found it hard to comprehend that anyone could soar that far through the air. It was an impressive demonstration of the heights (and lengths) of human achievement.

This time last year I used a particular phrase, after Alex Ferguson, referencing the sound made by a football spectator's bottom moving around in a plastic seat while squirming under pressure. It caused some mirth, but also some consternation, so I won't use the phrase again. Maybe '[Fergie time](#)' is a better indication of where we are. In short, it's never too late to score an injury time winner, to claw back a goal or to change the complexion of a match. This theory of time applies to our Year 11s. Having watched the film 'Arrival' recently it made me think that sometimes teachers invariably know the outcome of, for example, inactivity or refusal to complete a particular practice paper. They can see that it leads inexorably to a point in the distance where the outcome is realised. However, that future outcome also exists in the present; the result is crystallised at the moment of refusal or opt-out. The crushing certainty of the outcome of a bad choice is one of the frustrations of being a teacher and working with young people. Nevertheless, there are opportunities to change the outcome right up until the final few moments prior to the exam. At 15 weeks to go (including holidays), there are 110 days left to prepare. If ever time needed to be well spent, it is now. Every opportunity to improve that is spurned is accompanied by the sound of a door closing which can no longer be opened. It is the narrowing of opportunity, the tapering of a future that should be expansive.

On the topic of time and space, several hardy existential voyagers made the journey to King's College, Taunton, for their annual Philosophon, accompanied by Miss Melville and Mrs Anderton. It's fantastic to see young people engaging with abstract thought and attempting to deconstruct the nature of the lived world, where nothing is real apart from the reality of our own thoughts and existence. The only downside I can think of is the challenging questions I get hit with on their return. On visiting a drama lesson I found myself embroiled in a conversation about whether drama tasks are any more or less real than physics controlled assessments, and whether in reality nothing really matters because we're all just elements of Harry or Max's imagination. Something to ponder perhaps.

Paul Jones



Year 9 data collection forms

Data collection forms for Year 9 students have been issued with their reports this week. To ensure that our information is up to date, please check your child's form carefully, make any necessary changes and return the signed form (even if no changes have been made) to the Main Office by Friday 3 January.

Parenting a modern child

To understand how young people's lives are changing, the Association for Young People's Health (AYPH) has gathered and published a collection of statistics about young people's health. It provides a fascinating picture of their lives. Data shows that smoking, drinking and drug use are now at their lowest rates since the 1990s yet there is growing evidence of rising levels of anxiety, depression and stress. See more at: <http://bit.ly/2k9Oq7p>

Key dates for next week	
Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates	
Sunday 29 January 2017	Model United Nations Conference
Monday 30 January 2017	SGS trip Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Evening
Tuesday 31 January 2017	Peter Vardy lecture trip for A Level RE students
Wednesday 1 February 2017	Y10 GCSE Music performance evening
Thursday 1 February 2017	Young Carers Awareness bake sale, lunchtime Y11 Subject Evening, Sixth Form block
Friday 1 February 2017	Y12 Bristol University Taster Day

Young Carers Awareness Day

This Thursday (26 January) was the national Young Carers Awareness Day. In support of this, Bristol Free School showed a short film made by the Bristol Young Carers' Voice in tutor time, which features two of our students; Clayton Mushore in Year 9 and Lily Barton in Year 10. The video can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIHpsYRhChA>

In addition, BBC Radio Bristol interviewed Clayton and Lily live on the radio during Thursday morning (photos on the front page of this newsletter edition). Both spoke articulately and clearly about their experiences of being a Young Carer and their future aspirations. Next week we will be holding a Bake Sale to raise money for the Young Carers centre. This will take place on Thursday lunchtime; please bring in your donations to C123 and don't forget to bring some money on the day!



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet is on Tuesday 7 February. Are you safe on the internet? Do you know what your child is doing on the internet? Do you know how to support your child on the internet? Would you like some advice and guidance about internet safety? Visit <http://bit.ly/2kanwed> for advice and guidance and look out for our Parent Workshops over the next few terms for more support.

Young Chef Competition

Charlotte Lane in Year 7 is due to compete in the regional rounds of the Young Chef Competition tomorrow. The competition is at St Katherine's School and she will be competing with the winners of the competitions held all around Bristol previously. It's a huge challenge, she now has to cook 2 starters, 2 mains and 2 desserts all in an hour and staggered for presentation.

On the right is a picture of Mr Dayment and Charlotte tasting her starter during a trial on Thursday afternoon; Smoked Salmon Tartlets with a Beetroot Dressing. Top marks from Mr Dayment! Good luck Charlotte.



Philosothon

On Tuesday this week a group of 10 students took part in the annual Philosothon, at Kings College, Taunton. The evening was filled with philosophical questioning and ethical reasoning. I am extremely proud of the Bristol Free School team, who held their own against much more experienced, well-practised and in some cases older teams. Congratulations to Dan Brazil, who was awarded Junior Philosopher. If anyone would like to get involved, Philosophy club is every blue Monday. *Miss Melville.*