



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 1 May 2017

Monday

No clubs—Bank Holiday

Tuesday

Latin GCSE Year 2
Boys Cricket (Years 7&8)
Girls Rounders (Years 7&8)
Textiles: Year 10 Open Workshop
Italian Club
Science Club
Flying Start Challenge
Year 10 Young Enterprise

Wednesday

Latin GCSE Year 1
Athletics
Orchestra
Folk Band
Outdoor Club
Warhammer School Alliance
Commercial Dance
Shakespeare Production
French Film Club
Year 12 Young Enterprise

Thursday

Boys Cricket (Years 9&10)
Girls Rounders
Street and Hiphop Dance
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Doc-Soc
Textiles Club (KS3)
Programming Club

Friday

Sports Academy

Clubs for Term 5 and 6 have been updated on the [website](#).

Technology warning

The Blue Whale app has been linked to incidents of self-harm and even suicide. We would advise parents to research it online and ensure that your child does not download or access it.

Words from the Headteacher

Staff and students returned this week to find the footprint of the school in teaching terms has doubled in size *overnight*. It's an odd feeling, akin to an early Christmas and an unexpectedly whopping present. The building is shiny and great, with that new building smell. It is being rapidly replaced by the smell of excited students, keen to learn.

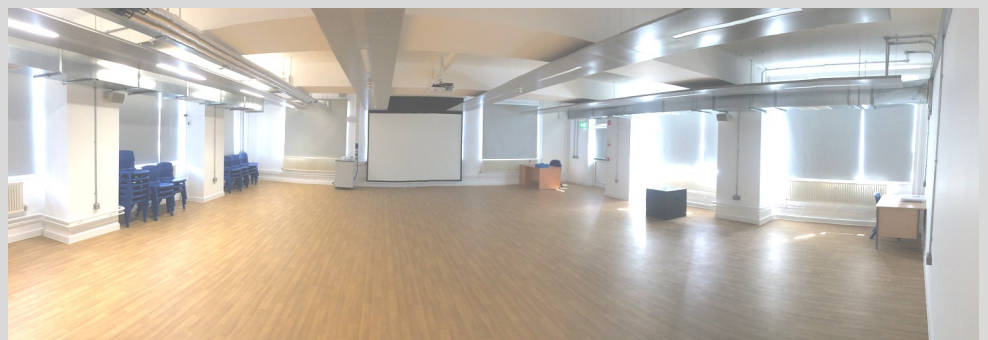
There are some knock-on effects which we are particularly pleased about. There is a greater sense of dispersal and quietude, students and staff have a far bigger area to occupy. It leads to tranquillity. The rearrangement of the gates has also made it much easier for me to welcome all students in the morning, like we used to way back in the dark ages of 2011. Students are thrilled that we are taking such a keen interest in their uniform, especially shoes and blazers, and the improvement this week has been fantastic.



My assemblies this week were on the theme of journeys. I had an abstract idea rattling around in my brain after I cycled back from my Dad's house over three days. He lives in Withernsea – or, as no-one has ever described it, the *Saint Tropez of Holderness* – and it was a 270 mile trek. I shared this with students to slightly puzzled, but then engaged expressions. I discussed how journeys are important both metaphorically and literally. They are an opportunity to reflect on things, the chance to make a thousand small decisions that each have an accumulated effect on the outcome, or as Robert Frost put it, “way leads onto way”. Some students, Year 11 most obviously, are nearing the end of the journey, but there is still time to make things better, to expedite things, and to change the outcome. They have to make the right decisions, every minute of every day, both in school, and at home when they are chipping away at revision. In this they have our full support, and every member of staff is determined to give them every single opportunity to succeed. This message also held a timely significance for Year 9: next week we will be confirming subject choices for GCSEs; it is a significant turning point for them. Look out for letters of confirmation via email.

On the topic of opportunity, information about claiming Free School meals can be found [here](#). Please check through if you have any doubts about FSM and pupil premium funding. It is sometimes left unclaimed, despite being really good for students and for the school; it attracts more money from central government, meaning we can then direct our efforts more precisely and provide greater individual support. Forms are available from reception and our staff are happy to talk you through the process.

Paul Jones





Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

During the Easter holiday 15 intrepid Year 10 and 11 students completed their Silver DofE practice expedition. Each team undertook intense navigational training during the first day. This was followed by 3 days in the Forest of Dean covering around 14 km each day. One group deserves a special mention for calling the RSPCA to give them a grid reference of a deer that was stuck in a fence. Well done everyone!

STEM Day

To follow last year’s award winning STEM Day, we needed to go bigger and better. This year, we needed to join Mr Jones on Mars. The Science team put on an incredible paleontological dig, complete with Martian fossils. DT crafted hydroponic cells, enabling us to grow our own vegetation on the red planet, plus encouraged us all to have a taste of some crunchy critters as a source of protein. Maths worked out the budgetary constraints of building a new space station, with the day ending with a code breaking, team building finale. Well done to group 8 who were our winners and will be going on a STEM trip as their prize!

Community Involvement

Last term saw the start of the fifth Community Involvement Project and it is looking to be a great success already. The project involves taking a small number of students to Katherine House Care Home to take part in activities with the residents. The Home has been fantastic at coordinating the activities and we are very grateful for their facilitation of this project. In a world where a sense of community is decreasing we feel it is really important to encourage cross-generational interaction and learning. The students have taken along the schools iPads and enjoyed taking on the role of teacher with some of the less tech aware residents. A particular star was Charlie Manikum Owen who has continued to be a positive role model to younger students in his engagement with the residents.



Key dates for next week

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

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| Monday 1 May 2017 | Bank Holiday |
| Tuesday 2 May 2017 | Open Day Industrial Cadets to Airbus, 8:30am—1pm |
| Wednesday 3 May 2017 | Open Day Young Enterprise Regional Final, Kings Weston House |
| Thursday 4 May 2017 | GCSE Exam—Art Summer Sevens Rugby, St Bart’s Rugby Club 12-3pm |
| Friday 5 May 2017 | GCSE Exam—Art |

Bristol Rugby

Well done to Deago Bailey (pictured fifth from the left) and his Bristol Academy Rugby team for coming second out of 24 teams in the Rugby Youth Festival in Portugal during the Easter holidays.



LRC News

The LRC is experiencing a real buzz with many of our year 11 students keen to come in and work away on their past papers and read supporting texts.

As well as providing academic resources and support, the LRC also stocks a plethora of information regarding ‘Your Next Step’, including university and college prospectus’, careers advise manuals and information on working and studying abroad. If you want to discover how to enter a career in marketing, or what jobs are available to someone with a talent for chemistry, then the LRC holds the answer.



As part of a charity initiative the LRC has been given a selection of books designed to help teenagers experiencing a range of mental health difficulties such as a lack of confidence, anxiety or body image issues.

If you are finding the pressure of school life, exams or friendship difficult to cope with then pop in and check out the ‘SHELF HELP’ range. We welcome all feedback in relation to the shelf help books.