



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 11 December 2017

Monday

Y10 and 11 Basketball
KS4 Latin
Chamber Choir
Homework Club

Tuesday

Tutor and lunchtime—DofE drop in
Y9, 10 and 11 Netball
Y9 Rugby
Classics Club
School Show Rehearsals
Science Club
Y12 Young Enterprise
Philosophy Club
Spanish Film Club
Homework Club

Wednesday

Y7 and 8 Rugby
Orchestra
Folk Band
Outdoor Club
Digital Leaders
Flying Start Club
Homework Club

Thursday

Y8 & 9 Basketball
Y7 & 8 Netball
Y10 & 11 Rugby
Programming
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Public Speaking Club
Art Club
French Film Club
Homework Club

Friday

No clubs—students dismissed at 1:30pm

All clubs run from 3:15-4:30pm with the exception of KS4 Latin which finishes at 5:20pm, and Philosophy Club which runs from 3:10-4:00pm

Words from the Headteacher

Are we nearly there yet?

I've often wondered whether there is a plot within the nation's nurseries that ensures this question is adopted by all pre-school children for deployment in the tensest of moments. If this is the case, my five year old is most certainly in on the conspiracy. It's also a question that is apt for this time of year.

Are we nearly there yet? For Year 11; sort of. They've come to the end of their mock exams at least. There will have been successes and there will be areas to improve. It is all part of a learning journey that with some hard work and effort, will ultimately lead to success and a set of GCSE results to be proud of.

Are we nearly there yet? For Year 9; no. The Guided Choices process has only just begun with decisions to be made on GCSE subjects by February.

Are we nearly there yet? For us all; Yes! There are only 5 school days left this year.

Are we nearly there yet? We arrived but a moment ago. This week is over and look how much we crammed in! We've enjoyed Christmas Pantos and sing-alongs with Year 7, Dynamics Choir have entertained the masses in the vaulted vestibules of Southmead Hospital, Year 11 Game changers have attended scientific conferences where, I like to imagine, they investigated the festive chemistry of organic compounds and identified the chemicals behind the luminescence of Rudolph's nose. In addition, the Sixth Form have been going Christmas Crackers. Highlights for next week include the Christmas Extravaganza on Monday night and the end of term celebration assemblies. There is a lot to look forward to.

All in all, it is a wonderful time of year. The excitement is building and there is a tangible sense of relief thanks to the pending fortnight of rest for all, except for Years 11 and 13. They've got two weeks of confinement to libraries, bedrooms and generic revision spaces to look forward to for all but the time it takes to eat a turkey dinner! They are under strict instruction to have no fun this holiday lest delicately crafted neural pathways that ensure efficient recall of Pythagoras theory or Shakespeare's sonnets be replaced by synaptic junctions that enable 100% success in Monopoly – it's all about the stations.

What makes the completion of the term all the more rewarding is that the coming holiday is well and truly deserved by all. Whilst the final week will be business as usual, there is still so much progress to be made. We are indeed, almost there.

Ben Sillince
Acting Headteacher





Excellent Christmas Gift...

If you are stuck for ideas on what to get your nearest and dearest for Christmas, look no further! Our fantastic music ensembles have put together a CD which can be purchased from Student Services for a donation of £3.

It features festive numbers from the likes of Dynamics, Treble Bass, Prefect Cadence and many many more, including the Staff Choir!

A sample can be heard here: <http://bit.ly/bfsxmascd>

For information

The Castle School Education Trust have asked all local schools to make parents aware of a consultation on changes to their admissions policy. For more information, please click [here](#).

Dynamics Choir at Southmead Hospital

Wednesday afternoon saw a festive performance lovely enough to make even the Grinch smile.

Dynamics Choir performed in the atrium of Southmead Hospital to help them raise money for their charity, which has become an annual tradition.

We have already helped them raise money for new equipment for the hospital as well as funding Christmas presents for patients and staff, so we look forward to hearing the grand total for this year.



Key dates for next week	
Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates	
Monday 11 December 2017	Sixth Form Pastoral Day Christmas Extravaganza Concert
Tuesday 12 December 2017	
Wednesday 13 December 2017	Christmas Jumper Day Community Involvement Project visit St Katherine's House Sixth Form Christmas Social
Thursday 14 December 2017	Sixth Former for a Day
Friday 15 December 2017	Sixth Form UCAS Applications Deadline Last Day of Term—Students dismissed at 1:30pm

Don't forget our RocketFund pitch!

After taking part in exciting workshops at PyCon UK, we are using Rocket Fund, a crowd funding site set up to enable schools to purchase technology resources, to raise funds to purchase a set of Raspberry Pis, PiTops and additional accessories. The aim is to allow further development of our Programming Club, including the launch of a Coding Club for Girls in the next 6 months, the ability to host coding competitions and hacks within school as well as for local primary schools and community groups. We will also be able to enhance the hands on experience our students have of Computer Science within the curriculum. We have a good number of pledges so far which is excellent but still have a way to go to reach our target. The pitch closes on **Wednesday 13 December** and I would be grateful if you could share with local businesses and organisations who might benefit from working with us should our pitch be successful. Click the link to donate <https://spsr.me/SbjX>

Excellent computational thinking skills

In November, a number of students from Programming Club and GCSE Computer Science took part in the Bebras Computation Thinking Challenge and yet again our students have proved how exceptional they are!

Daniel Brazil in Year 11 (who came first in the WORLD in the Grok Learning challenge in 2016) has been placed in the top 0.4% in the country and has been invited to take part in the next round hosted by The University of Oxford's Department of Computer Science, and Hertford College in January. Three other students, Olly Hullis (Y7), Daniel Biju (Y9) and Fiona Gibbs (Y11), came within the top 10% in their age groups in the country and have also been invited through to another competition based on their results.

Many congratulations to all four students and to everyone else who took part.

Mrs Sherman



Young Enterprise

Our Year 10 entrepreneurs spent a cold and wintery Saturday selling their Christmassy stock at St Nicholas' market. Their handmade decorations sold particularly quickly, with many an innocent bystander being pulled in by Clayton's charm to part with their hard earned cash.

Extra stock will be sold next week, so get your orders in quick!

Sixth Form Update

The last few weeks have been a hive of activity for the Sixth Form. We have truly entered the university and apprenticeship application season, with three of our students having Oxford and Cambridge interviews this week. We hold our breath with anticipation! We also have our Sixth Form Pastoral Day next week, preparing students for their next steps in the educational journey. For some this will mean finalising university applications, and for others this will mean seeking higher level apprenticeships and jobs opportunities. On our Pastoral Day we also welcome external speakers to talk to students regarding mental health, substance abuse and other pastoral issues. The week culminates with our Sixth Form Christmas Social, celebrating two busy terms and the end of our first cycle of mock exams.

We wish everybody a happy and relaxing Christmas.