



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during
week commencing 16 April 2018

Monday

Tennis
KS4 Latin
Chamber Choir
Homework Club

Tuesday

Tutor and lunchtime—DofE drop in
Y9 Textiles Club
Y7/8 Boys Cricket
Y7/8 Girls Rounders
School Show Rehearsals
Science Club
Y12 Young Enterprise
Philosophy Club
Spanish Film Club
Homework Club

Wednesday

Y9/10 Boys Cricket
Orchestra
Y7/8 Girls Rounders
Folk Band
KS3 Art Club (limited spaces)
Digital Leaders
Flying Start
French Film Club
Homework Club

Thursday

All Years Mixed Athletics
Programming Club
Art Club
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Public Speaking Club
Homework Club

Friday

KS4&5 Composition Workshop

*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*

A letter from the Chair of Governors and CEO of RET

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Susan King has been appointed Headteacher of Bristol Free School. The two day appointment process was highly competitive, but at the end of it Mrs King was the unanimous choice of the governing body and trust. Mrs King is currently the deputy headteacher at Frome College, a large secondary school in Somerset. She shares both our appreciation of BFS and our ambitions for the school's future; as you can see from her introduction on this page.

Mrs King takes up post on 1 September 2018, but will be attending some events before that time including the New Year 7 Parents' Evening(s). We look forward to working with Mrs King and feel sure that you will make her very welcome.

With best wishes,

Karen Foster Karen Lynch
Chair of Governors CEO, Russell Education Trust

An introduction from Mrs Susan King, Headteacher Designate

I would like to introduce myself to the families and community of Bristol Free School and share my sense of pride and excitement about being the school's new Headteacher. Right from my first visit to the school I was impressed by the well-mannered articulate students, dedicated staff and beautiful environment. During my interview it became clear the Bristol Free School is a vibrant learning community which is ambitious for all its students. I relish the prospect of leading this wonderful school; in what is the one of the UK's most progressive and innovative cities.

I have been a teacher throughout my working career and right from my first teaching experience I knew being involved in the education of young people was my vocation in life. As a senior manager I have always known that a safe, orderly and highly organised school with inspiring teaching and the clearest expectations, is every child's entitlement. But as a parent I realise that the individual character of a school also matters. For my family when selecting schools we were looking a combination of factors which included high academic standards, a rich extra-curricular offer, strong pastoral care and in our case the opportunity to play in the school's football teams! We all want the very best for our children, so they are able to flourish and reach their full potential. I relish the opportunity to work with both you and my colleagues and achieve this for every student at BFS.

I am outward looking in my philosophy and believe it is very important for people to have passions, interests and experiences that enrich and develop their characters. My own hobbies and interests include walking, cycling and I enjoy a wide range of cultural events such as the Edinburgh festival, which I visit every year. My son and I recently completed a gruelling coast to coast cycle ride in the north of England, which I found a challenging and highly rewarding experience. As I understand that BFS has one of the highest numbers of Duke of Edinburgh Award participants of any state school in the South West, I think I am going to feel very much at home!

My vision for Bristol Free School very much matches that of the governors and the Trust. I want us to celebrate the school's many gifts and strengths; then to consolidate the school and Trust's reputation for subject expertise and for good and outstanding teaching, for every child, every day. I feel strongly that my skills, experience and educational values are well matched to the next stage of Bristol Free School's development; and I am delighted to have been appointed to the role of Headteacher.

I am keen to work closely with our local community to further develop parental involvement in the school. Staff and governors have made me very welcome, and I am looking forward to meeting parents and students over the coming weeks and months, and then when I take up post in September.

Susan King
Headteacher Designate



DofE Update

A reminder that next Wednesday (18 April) is the training day for all students in Year 9 who are participating in the DofE scheme.

Students will be off timetable all day learning how to safely navigate and survive in the wilderness of the Mendip hills.

They will not need to bring anything for the day and should be in uniform as usual.

Magnetic Ball Bearings

We have noticed that a few students have brought these magnetic balls to school. As you can see from the article below, these balls are not safe and, apart from the distraction they generate, they could cause serious harm. If found in school they will be confiscated immediately in the interest of students' health and safety. If you have young children or pets at home they may pose a risk there too.

<https://goo.gl/eDd1S9>



Flamingo Spotted!

In the Art Special before the Easter holidays we mentioned the flamingo trail around Bristol.

Well done Ollie in Year 7, who spotted our design while out and about during the break!

Key dates for next week

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

Monday 16 April 2018	Pathways 3 Community Project Farm Visit
Tuesday 17 April 2018	
Wednesday 18 April 2018	DofE training Community Involvement Programme visit St Katherine's House A StreetCar Named Desire Trip
Thursday 19 April 2018	Spring Games Wesport U14 Girls Football Competition
Friday 20 April 2018	
Saturday 21 April 2018	Treble Bass at The Old Duke, 4—5:30pm

Words from the Headteacher

Time continues to tick on. With under 5 weeks left for Year 11 we are down to the finest of details! Lessons have been broken down by exam question and revision focus, homework tasks planned to the minute. In spite of the rattling lid on the pressure cooker it is a time of optimism and positive feelings. A focused and concerted effort, a case of getting the hard work done over the coming months. It can make a huge difference, by a number of grades and I took great pleasure in sharing my own story of last minute progress (in chemistry) with a Year 11 pupil recently. Confidence and self-belief are key.

All of our students, regardless of whether they believe it or not are capable of making excellent progress. The issue of belief is really important of course, with it comes a resilience to that occasional 'I'm going to fail' thought. With it, it's easier to dig deeper into the reserves of motivation that are required when the pressure is really on. Whilst grades and levels matter, pride is more important. My message to our students is simply this. Work hard, do yourself proud!

Ben Sillince
Acting Headteacher

Ski report

At the end of the last day of term the world's longest coach journey began for our intrepid skiers. During the course of their trip, they experienced every type of winter the weather could throw at them, including blizzard like conditions on the last day.

A lot of pasta was eaten (twice a day, every day), and none of the party came back with injuries. Well, none of the students, anyway!

Thank you to all who attended, for a fantastic trip.

