

# Weekly Update



## Words from the Headteacher

I have been asked many questions about 'free schools' by many people since I've been Headteacher of BFS. The people asking have ranged from parents to politicians, journalists to academics, family to friends. Each has had a perspective they have brought to their questions and a few have had agendas, some worthy others not so. To all questions I consider my answers carefully, however, I am most often asked are "What is a Free School?" and "How are you different from other schools?"

The answer I tend to give involves an analogy: the United States of (and in) America are united by a common currency, the dollar, and ultimately answerable to the White House, but beyond this each state is vastly different from the next; from California to Georgia to New England. Does this comparison stretch to Free Schools in England? Perhaps: we are a Free School and very different from the many which opened in 2011 and those which have opened since. However, like all state schools we are ultimately answerable to the Department for Education, but what is our common currency? In other words, what is it that truly matters? The answer to this question extends beyond Free Schools and applies to all schools. We have Free Schools, Academies, Maintained Schools, University Technical Colleges, Studio Schools. We have a new curriculum, exam reforms, and new Ofsted frameworks. We have industrial action alongside changes to work and pensions. All in all we are in fairly turbulent times when it comes to the matter of education. So *what* is it that truly matters? What is the currency which unites all schools and prevails through every educational epoch? Sometimes this is not always clear and with so much shift and upheaval in our education system at present one fears the answer to the question "What is it that truly matters?" is in danger of being lost or forgotten.

Fear not! What matters and has always mattered is the quality of the experience each child has at school. Teaching matters and at BFS we want our teachers to be the best they can be; not for Ofsted, not for the Department for Education, not for our governors, nor for you our parents, or for me, but for the simple fact that children will succeed if they have great teachers. So perhaps my analogy with the USA is not sufficient. The common currency which ought to unite Free Schools should also be that which unites all schools, state and private: great teachers for great students.

In what has been a testing week in testing times, what truly matters is all of us at BFS striving to be the best we can be, staff and students alike.

**Richard Clutterbuck**

## Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 21 October

### Tuesday:

Basketball  
Comic Book Philosophy  
Dance Club (Y7 & Y8)  
Film Club  
Games Club  
German Club

### Wednesday:

Book Club  
Choir  
Italian Club  
Science Club  
Arts Award  
Netball  
Rugby (Y7 & Y8)  
Dance Club (Y7 & Y8)

### Thursday:

Duke of Edinburgh (Y9)  
Model United Nations  
Orchestra  
Eco-Club  
Mixed sport  
Rugby (Y9)

### Friday:

Band Academy

Homework Club will run every day except Friday.

Students from all year groups were very active at a one-off workshop lead by Liesel Freitag. The dancers worked up a sweat in the hour long class, popping, locking and tutting their way to produce a dance performance at the end of the session. It was a joy to see so many BFS students joining together and enjoying an hour of dance in our brand new studio. A big thank you to Liesel from Dance Works for her time and enthusiasm; the students thoroughly enjoyed the class and are looking forward to a repeat in the future.

Miss Rose has some flyers if any student is interested in attending hip hop classes outside of school Miss Rose has a flyer which may be of interest.

**Community Rugby**

Last weekend Southmead played Keynsham at rugby. BFS students Ryleigh Jefferies and Charlie Stokes gave sterling performances in the back line.

The Sunday weather was a hindrance for the attractive aspects of ball handling, but Charlie and Ryleigh's tackling was determined and tenacious.

We hope that they will bring this rugby form and enthusiasm to the School's games in the coming weeks.

**Bikeability Level 2 during Oct ½ Term 2013**

Top up your cycle training with a fun 3-day Bikeability Level 2 course to get your on road cycling up to speed. Open to Year 5, 6 & 7 pupils:

- Tues 29th, Wed 30th & Thurs 31st Oct 2013
- AM course 10am-12noon each day
- Only £15 per child

Course held at:  
Clifton High School,  
College Rd,  
Clifton BS8 3JD



Book online at:  
[www.lifecycleuk.org.uk](http://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk)

**Life Cycle UK**  
start cycling • keep cycling • save cycles

**Found Property**

If your child has lost any clothes or equipment this term please suggest to them that they check the School's "found property" box, which is currently overflowing! Items remaining as found property at the end of next week will be handed to local charity shops.



<b>Term 1 – Key Dates</b>	
<b>October</b>	
Monday 21	Cross country event
Wednesday 23	Y9 rugby vs City Academy (home)
Thursday 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y8 rugby tournament at Henbury School</li> <li>• Y9 theatre trip to Bristol Old Vic</li> <li>• Governor meeting</li> </ul>
Friday 25	End of Term 1: 3.00 pm

**Friends of Bristol Free School**

**End of Term Cake Sale**

**From 3pm on Fri 25 Oct**

*All cake donations welcome: Cup cakes - Fruit cakes or even your Hallowe'en Specials*

**Please bring to school gates between 0800-0830 Wed 23 or Fri 25 Oct**

*Proceeds to support FoBFS*