

Weekly Update



Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 25 November

Tuesday:

Comic Book Philosophy
Dance Club (Y7 & Y8)
Games Club
German Club
Basketball (Y7 & 8)

Wednesday:

Book Club
Choir
Italian Club
Science Club
Netball

Friday:

'Band Academy'

Homework Club will not run on Thursday and Friday.

6 DEGREES OF ASPIRATION



Words from the Headteacher

We have a huge array of after school clubs taking place at Bristol Free School catering for a wide range of interests. They are a true and worthwhile extension of the School's curriculum run by staff and attended by students on a voluntary basis. Students and staff recognise the benefit of such activities which epitomise all we are trying to achieve at BFS. Normally I would not single out any particular activity or club but I would like to share my experiences of BFS's Model United Nations club (MUN) as I feel it represents what is great about our extra-curricular programme.

I drove the School minibus to Churchill Academy in North Somerset yesterday so that Elliot Smith, Charlie Symons, Jack Payne, Dan Whetton, Omar Khecha, Nathan John, Martin Kiss, James Beggs, Joel Grimmer and Celeste Silcox could, under the guidance of Miss Huzzey, participate in their first MUN conference. Our students had been learning debating techniques and the role of the United Nations during their MUN sessions. However, they had not, until yesterday, participated in a formal MUN conference. A typical conference requires students to employ a variety of communication and critical thinking skills in order to represent the policies of their country. These skills include public speaking, group communication, research, policy analysis, active listening, negotiating, conflict resolution, note taking, and technical writing. I am not sure what our students were expecting but our intrepid band of debaters found themselves in the company of 10 Churchill Academy 6th form students (most of whom are applying to Oxbridge). The 6th formers led them through a number of UN resolutions considering women's rights and a crisis resolution in response to a pandemic in the Middle East. To say that our ten held their own is an understatement; I am extremely proud of our students who not only engaged in the various debates but were fine ambassadors for the School. What I witnessed yesterday is typical of all which is taking place across the range of after school clubs on offer at BFS.

I know that our students were inspired by their experience. However, the two hours we spent at Churchill Academy, entirely in the hands of people under the age of 19, proved beyond doubt that our young people (be they part of BFS or Churchill Academy) are doing us proud, as they are in basketball, comic book philosophy, study club, science club – and the list goes on. So thank you to staff and students for all the time and effort put in to rich experiences inside and outside the taught curriculum; long may this continue.

Richard Clutterbuck

6 Degrees of Aspiration

Monday 18 November saw another group of students welcome Richard Deverson as our keynote speaker for the week. The mixed audience were enthralled by his experiences of military life, as well as his unorthodox use of School props - an office swivel chair to demonstrate how to fly a helicopter for example. Ibrahim Ibrahim, an aspirant pilot in Year 9, found the talk compelling, further reinforcing his determination to pursue this career. Next Monday, 25 November, Dr David Sillince will be joining us to share valuable insights into his medical career of 40 years, 32 of which as a GP. Any students with interests in becoming a GP, medicine more widely, sciences, health care and the health system, or practical jobs which are not office-based should come along: 3-4pm in the Drama Studio.

For future planning, our keynote speaker on Monday 2 December will be Laura Cramer, local artist.

We have been consulting on our proposal to extend the School to include a Sixth Form. The Bristol Post ran an article on our proposal earlier this week and when I spoke to the Post's journalist I told him that the comments so far have been overwhelmingly in favour of creating a Sixth Form here at BFS. The consultation will run until 30 November. If you haven't commented on the proposal, please visit <http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/consultation.php> and let us know your views.

Two wonderful shots from range proved to be decisive with Bradley Stoke deservedly winning the tournament. Well done to all players who should be proud of their increasingly impressive performances.

Sports journalist: Ollie Pope



Cashless Catering

We are pleased to announce that we plan to start using our cashless catering system on Monday 9 December. Until the end of this term we will run our existing cash-based system in parallel. This will give us a chance to iron out any issues which arise with our intention being that when School resumes in January cash payment will no longer be available.

During the first week in December we will be sending out detailed instruction as to how you will be able to pay money into your child's account. Please make sure that you check with your child that you have been handed anything relating to this.

We are grateful to those parents who have given permission for their child's biometric data to be processed. Consent forms for this are available at the School's Reception if you have mislaid the original.

Thank you for your support as we take this step to improve the daily experience of our students.

Year 7 basketball

On Monday the Year 7 team played in our first ever home basketball fixture at Bristol Free School. With a fantastic new sports hall to match the occasion all players were excited to participate in this tournament between Bristol Free School, Bradley Stoke Community School and Patchway School. Our 'A team' started in fine form with a convincing win over Patchway, with some excellent dribbling skills from Richie Hathway and some precise shooting from Michael Evans. Next up were our 'B team' who worked hard for each other moving quickly around the court, only to be defeated by Bradley Stoke with some impressive play. During the next 'B team' game the players' confidence grew, with Robin Kirk and Ben Cross taking control of the game which led to victory. The final game was between Bristol Free School 'A team' and Bradley Stoke 'A team' with the winner being crowned champions. In this hard fought game the difference between winning and losing was going to be down to fine margins which proved to be the case.

Boys' PE

Please encourage your sons to be mindful of the weather for PE lessons. Navy blue tracksuit bottoms are permitted items of PE kit, and layers may be worn underneath rugby shirts for extra warmth. Suitable plain dark coloured hats and gloves may also be worn.

Mr Truan

Oversubscribed for the second year running

We have just had confirmation from Bristol City Council Admissions that we are oversubscribed on first preferences for the second year running. This is extremely good news for the School and testament to hard work from students, staff, parents and governors.

Term 2 –Key Dates	
November	
Monday 25	Sports Leaders course
Tuesday 26	Y9 rugby vs City Academy Bristol (at Coombe Dingle)
Wednesday 27	Y7, 8 & 9 boys' and girls' Bristol Schools' cross-country championship at Failand
Thursday 28	Y9 subject evening
Friday 29	U13s girls' football tournament at Golden Hill
December	
Monday 2	Y9 boys' basketball tournament at Bradley Stoke Community College
Wednesday 4	Royal West of England Academy art trip
Thursday 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7 girl's 5-a-side football competition at Bristol Metropolitan Academy 8TG3 bowling trip after school
Friday 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross curricular enterprise day FoBFS disco for Y7 & Y8
See the calendar at < www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk >	