

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 6 January "blue week"

Our extra-curricular programme starts in full on Tuesday 7 January. Please refer to the separate attachment to this newsletter and encourage students to attend this exciting range of activities to inspire, develop and support their learning.



Words from the Headteacher

I am proud of everything which we have achieved these last two terms especially as the second term has been an emotional challenge for us all. Losing Miss Furness-Smith is hard but the spirit of Bristol Free School has carried us all through. Before I hand over the rest of this page to Mr Truan's account of a marvellous sports festival which ran last Friday, I would like us all to spare a thought for absent friends.

Legacy Leaders' Sports Festival

In spite of the date being Friday 13, no one at BFS was unduly concerned about the significance of the day; in fact all you could hear from our sports hall during the afternoon was laughter and excitement. The source of this enjoyment was our first Primary Sports Festival, which had 44 participants from Year 5 Elmlea Junior School.

On arrival our guests walked slowly and wide-eyed in to our sports hall, which still feels very fresh and new since its completion during last summer. They were greeted by Mr Truan, Subject Coordinator for PE and Mr Clutterbuck, the Headteacher, before being handed over to our Year 9 students, Emily Whiteway-Wilkinson, Max Hedger, Portia Neville, Rhys Mathias, Allana King and Dan Manikum-Cole, for the rest of the afternoon.

The students set up and ran the festival after attending the 'Get Set to Make a Change' roadshow in Cardiff. The roadshow was part of Britain's Olympic Legacy, and our six students have the honour and responsibility of being 'Legacy Leaders'. Their role is to inspire the next generation of students to engage in physical activity and lead active, healthy lifestyles. Judging by the range of activities and the gusto shown by the Year 5 students our Legacy Leaders have certainly achieved this mandate.

During the afternoon the Year 5s played basketball and bench-ball in a round-robin tournament marshalled by our Year 9s. Their enthusiasm and effort was overwhelming and, had the Year 9s not insisted that the visitors stop for refreshments, the Year 5s would have continued long in to the evening without a pause for breath. At the close of the festival there was just enough time for a few photos to try to capture the unforgettable atmosphere. This is the first of many sporting festivals which we hope to share with local primary schools. The feedback from the Elmlea students, staff and parents was extremely positive and for that I would like to thank our Legacy Leaders, who should be very proud, not only as Legacy Leaders, but as ambassadors for the School too. Many thanks to Elmlea and our Year 9s for making Friday 13 December such a memorable day.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Richard Clutterbuck



Term 3 –Key Dates in January

January	
Monday 6	Start of term. School closed to students
Tuesday 7	Students return to School
Thursday 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y9 Shakespeare Workshop Y9 girls' football vs Red Maids' (away)
Thursday 23	Y7 & Y8 girls' football vs Red Maids' (away)
Thursday 30	Governors' committees
February	
Friday 14	End of term 2: 3.00 pm

See the calendar at <www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk>

6 Degrees of Aspiration

Over the last few weeks students have welcomed a range of Keynote Speakers through 6 Degrees of Aspiration. They saw and asked questions about a wonderfully creative collection of art from Laura Cramer (local artist). Our flute-playing - if you saw the Christmas Extravaganza - Ms Case on her time in Madrid, Maths and how origami can save your life, which the students enjoyed practising. This Monday Phil and Alex joined us from the Institute of Physics and were amazed by the intellect, problem-solving and curiosity of our budding scientists. They have set the first of our Keynote Brainteasers, below:



Keynote Speaker Brainteaser from the Institute of Physics
There are 8 balls. They look identical, but one of them weighs less than the other 7. Using a set of weighing scales, only twice, how can you identify which is the lighter ball?

Answers in writing to Miss Slater on the front gate by 3:15pm Tuesday 7 January.

The programme continues after the break as follows:

January 13	Sophie Jarzebowski - architect
January 20	Miles Beacon - management accountant, Lloyds TSB
January 27	Ian Corder - Rolls-Royce post-Cambridge
February 3	Tristan Pate - actor and musician
February 10	Damien Lavis – software engineer, HP

Finally, we have some exciting news. As a result of the work we are undertaking, we are officially now committed to achieving our Employability Chartermark and we'll keep you updated with our progress!

Have a lovely break and any 6 Degrees suggestions which spring to mind, do let me know, Miss Slater.
r.slater@bristolfreeschool.org.uk



Christmas Extravaganza

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the Christmas Extravaganza this week. Both evenings were fantastic and a true celebration of the work from the students so far this academic year. The audience enjoyed a selection of music, dance and drama as well as having their chance to participate. All of this took place in our brand new studio space which was enjoyed and admired by audience and performers alike. Students and staff worked extremely hard towards the show and these efforts certainly paid off. Thank you to everyone for their support.

Watch this space for the next performance opportunities.

Miss Rose.

Boys' PE

After the Christmas break, all boys PE groups will be doing football for their first lesson in the two- week timetable. Therefore students must bring their rugby shirt, navy shorts, long navy socks, football/rugby boots and shin pads. If students do not wear shin pads they will be unable to play in any games for health and safety reasons.

As with all items of school uniform, PE kit should be clearly named.

Mr Truan

Year 7 girls' 5-a-side football

After winning the qualifying rounds the previous week, the Year 7 girls 5 a-side football team went up against the winners from the other Bristol and South Gloucestershire pools at Winterbourne Academy for the local finals.

For their first game, the girls faced 'Red Maids' in what turned out to be a nail-bitingly tense 8 minutes, with 80% possession from BFS and numerous near misses on goal, while back in defence, the keeper, Holly Neville only had two touches on the ball the entire game. The game finished with a 0-0 draw.

The team then went on to play a second back-to-back game, this time against Winterbourne. This game saw many challenges to regain possession of the ball, excellent team work with precise passing creating many opportunities for powerful strikes on target, narrowly saved by the keeper and finally a well-deserved goal by Anna Fraser, culminating in a 1-0 win to BFS. This was the only win of the tournament, therefore earning BFS a place in the regional finals in the New Year.

The girls then went on to show that they were the strongest team and deserved their place in the final by winning the next two games in the 'friendly' round of the tournament. In the first, Alice Russell had her debut performances in goal, with Holly Neville (the teams usual GK) playing outfield and scoring twice, the second with her left foot! This was preceded by Anna Fraser scoring another two goals, resulting in a 4-0 win at full time. Bobbi Thomas then donned the keeper gloves in the second friendly, which saw Anna kick-start the game with a long distance goal from the half-way line, followed by a deposit into the far corner by Alice and a final goal from Anna, closing the game on a 3-0 win.

Miss McInnes's player of the match goes to Holly Neville for her versatility on the pitch!

Stocking filler ideas

All students are expected to have

- a pencil case containing pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, ruler and crayons;
- a calculator and maths set including a pair of compasses and protractor;
- a wide-necked water bottle.

If your child is missing some of this essential equipment then perhaps now is the time of year to remedy this!

Shoes

From the start of next term any student who arrives at school with inappropriate footwear, including black trainers, will be asked to exchange them for a pair of temporary school shoes of their size. Students will be able to collect back their own shoes at the end of the day before returning home.