

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 13 January

Monday:

6 degrees of aspiration
keynote speaker: Sophie
Jarzebowski, architect

Tuesday:

Band Academy
Bristol Fantasy Stock
Exchange
Girls' cricket
Dance Club (Y9)
Duke of Edinburgh (Y9)
Boys' Football (Y7 & Y8)
Textiles Club

Wednesday:

"Bugsy" rehearsals
Chess Club
Enterprise (6^o of Stationery)
Model United Nations
Italian Club
Orchestra
Reading Group (Y7 & Y8)
Science Club (Y8 & Y9)

Thursday:

Art Club
Choir
Creative Writing
Eco-club
Food Lab
Girls' football
Boys' football (Y9)

Friday:

Climbing Club
"Bugsy" rehearsals

Homework Club will run
every day except Friday.

Words from the Headteacher

Welcome back; I hope you enjoyed a suitably festive break.

While students were completing their festive break on Monday 6 January, Bristol Free School staff, alongside colleagues from our local primary schools, were busy preparing for the new term, sharing and transferring best practice between teachers and support staff. We hosted around 40 primary school staff at BFS working on a range of teaching and learning pedagogy including behaviour for learning and primary and secondary Maths and Science transition work. Thank you to everyone involved - the School was certainly buzzing with the sound of fellow professionals developing their own and others' practice. I must single out for thanks Mr Sillince, who planned the whole event and helped our Middle Leaders to host many of the sessions. He didn't thank me for giving him this task which meant he was working on it up to, and I'm sure, through the Christmas break but I am very grateful for his effort and expertise because Monday was an extremely valuable day. Our next Inset day is Tuesday 22 April.

Year 9 students have begun this term with a series of GCSE taster lessons across all of their subjects. The purpose of these sessions is to give the students a sense of what they can expect when they start GCSE courses next year. Our students will be choosing a number of GCSEs to sit alongside the core subjects which will form their Key Stage 4 curriculum. What is a rite of passage for Year 9 students across the country at this time of the school year has a special resonance at Bristol Free School as our Year 9s, the founding students, are the first at BFS to move in to Key Stage 4. The School's aim is for each student to follow a curriculum which allows them to succeed in line with their academic targets, prior attainment, progress and future aspirations as well as to keep career paths open and to provide two years of study which have breadth, depth and enrichment.

Achieving this is no small matter and our staff, headed up by Miss Slater through our 6 degrees of aspiration programme, have put together a series of events which will help our students make the right choices. Over the course of this term Year 9 students will be meeting undergraduates and staff from our local universities, as well as Year 10 students and A Level students from Bristol schools to help them understand how to make the right choice of curriculum for next year. Along with the GCSE taster sessions I mentioned earlier, they will have a whole day dedicated to Key Stage 4 pathways, interviews with the Senior Team as well as a Guided Choices Evening (attended with parents/carers). This is a significant amount of investment in the students' decision making process and reflects the importance we place on this point in their education. With competition for university places greater than it has ever been and the employment market looking for the very best candidates, we want our students to have the knowledge, understanding and skill to make the right choices.

Richard Clutterbuck

Year 8 basketball tournament

Last term the Bristol Free School Year 8 basketball team went into this friendly tournament with six very strong and thriving players.

Our first match was against Patchway which we dominated and were rewarded with four baskets including a very skilful dribble by our captain Zac Ahmed.

Next up, was Bradley Stoke 'white'. They weren't a very tall team so we won every thing in the air and under the hoop. But despite this, they were tricky to tackle on the ground so the game was tight all the way through and we ended up winning 6-4.

Bradley Stoke 'red' were our upcoming opponents and we started off slowly, going 5-2 down, but thanks to Josh Blackman's very nice swish and George Airs's excellence under the rim, we pulled it back 6-5 and nicked the win. Our final match was against Bradley Stoke 'green' which, thanks to our previous results, we went into very confidently. We started the game off nicely with some good moves from James Stewart and Harry Donaldson. It was nearing the end of the game and they were just ahead, until Dan Whetton, completed a driving run down the outside of the court and finished it off with a lay-up despite being fouled. The scores were now even so he had to convert this free throw to get one point; it was nerve racking but he shot it perfectly through the hoop and we had won the tournament!

I would like to give a special mention to Zac who led our team through the tournament and played to a very high standard.

Well done team!

Sports journalist: Dan Whetton



Vacancy at Bristol Free School

CATERING ASSISTANT

Initially 10 hours a week / Monday to Friday / term time only

For further information please contact Kevin Humphrys on 07787 196683

6 Degrees of Aspiration

The new year for 6 Degrees of Aspiration is already well under way with the Year 9 students enjoying their 2 week GCSE taster programme. They will be off timetable on Thursday 23 January for their "pathways day" when they will be working with staff and students from the universities of Bristol, Bath, West of England and Bath Spa as well as our subject specialists.

We are pleased to announce the answer to our first Keynote Speaker Brainteaser set last term:

First weighing:

1. Put 3 balls on each side of the scales, leaving 2 aside.
2. If both sides weigh the same, move to step 3. If the sides weigh differently, move to step 4.

Second weighing:

3. Take the six balls off and put on the two which were left aside (one on each side of the scales). Now you can see which ball is lighter.
4. Keep the side with the three lighter balls and discard the others. Put one of the remaining balls on either side, keeping one aside. From this you can tell which ball is lighter. Unless they weigh the same, then it is the third ball of this group.

Well done to Daniel Brazil who was our winner, and Thomas Covill, our runner up. More along these lines will come from our keynote speaker sessions which start again on Monday 13 January.

There are still slots available in the programme of keynote speakers. If any parent or contact is interested in leading one from Monday 12 May please get in touch with the School.



Term 3 –Key Dates in January	
January	
Monday 13	Full Governing Board meeting, 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y9 Shakespeare Workshop • Y9 girls' football vs Red Maids' (away)
Monday 20	6 degrees of aspiration keynote speaker: Miles Beacon, Management Accountant (Lloyds TSB)
Tuesday 21	Y7 & Y8 boys' football vs Patchway (away)
Thursday 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7 & Y8 girls' football vs Red Maids' (home) • Y9 boys' football vs Patchway (away)
Monday 27	6 degrees of aspiration keynote speaker: Ian Corder, Life Cycle Cost Lead (Rolls Royce)
Tuesday 28	U12 girls' 5 a-side regional finals (Paignton)
Thursday 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors' committees • U14s girls' football vs Redland Green School (away)
For further dates see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk	