

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 20 January

Monday:

6 degrees of aspiration
keynote speaker: Miles
Beacon, Management
Accountant (Lloyds TSB)

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

Art Club
Craft Club
Creative Writing
Food Lab
Girls' football
Fundraising Club

Friday:

Climbing Club
"Bugsy" rehearsals

Homework Club will run
every day except Friday.

Words from the Headteacher

Homework is an integral part of all students' learning. It is work undertaken independently by a student and it may include research, learning from a text, a written task, drawings, reading and much more besides. The aim of students completing homework is to progress their learning, enrich their classroom experience, encourage independent study and facilitate a love of learning. We also want students to extend their knowledge and understanding of a subject. Staff at Bristol Free School set homework and we expect students to complete the work. We provide a homework club for students at the end of the school day and it is, as ever, very popular. However, we want to ensure that our homework provision is high quality and crucially, parents are not only aware of when homework is being set, but what is being set. Indeed, as homework is designed to be carried out by students independently, we don't want to limit the amount or scope of what students can do. Parents and carers can and do play a crucial role in the monitoring of homework and providing encouragement for the students to complete such work. However, we would like to make the whole process easier for parents and carers to access, more transparent and deliver more high quality challenges to the students. You may have heard the phrase 'homework grids' being spoken of by your child/ren this term. We are now using homework grids across the School to improve our homework provision. In all subjects, at the start of a new term or topic, students will be given a variety of homework tasks in the form of a grid. How the grids work is explained later in this newsletter. Suffice to say that we would like all parents and carers to be able to view these grids and know that all students will have at least 9 homework tasks available to them in every subject, in every term and for every topic. We will be putting all of the grids on to the School website; this will allow parents and carers, students and staff to see what activities and tasks are on offer and allow students to challenge themselves by completing as many of them as they can. Each subject area will set homework tasks from the grids during lesson time as well as supplementing them with other tasks as appropriate. However, as the grids will be on the website and in students' books we hope that parents and carers will be able to engage with their children's learning more easily and readily. The tasks are designed in order that students can access them at a range of levels of challenge and staff will steer students towards those tasks which set student realistic challenges. This is a new approach to homework at Bristol Free School and we would like some feedback from parents and carers as well as from our students as to how effectively the new system achieves the aims which I have outlined above; I will be seeking feedback at our next round of Academic Monitoring meetings on 23 April. In the meantime, please take a look at the grids - you may even see a task or challenge which you wish to complete and when your son or daughter arrives home to say that they have no homework you can remind them of the grids!

Richard Clutterbuck

Bristol Free School Choir

Next Friday, 24 January, we will be relaunching the BFS choir, with rehearsals initially taking place during tutor time each Friday. The choir promises to be bigger and better than ever with trips, competitions and many other exciting opportunities planned for the coming months. Auditions will take place during tutor time on 24 January, and are open to all year groups. We are looking for soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers to join Mr Pate and other staff for what promises to be an exciting whole school singing opportunity. Get those voices warmed up ready for Friday!

6 Degrees of Aspiration

The Year 9 students have now finished their two week GCSE taster programme and can look forward eagerly to their Pathways Day next Thursday. They will be encouraged to question our visiting academics, students from Years 10 and 12 from Bristol Cathedral School, postgraduate and undergraduate students and other professional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) ambassadors to help them inform their GCSE choices.

Our first Keynote Speaker Brainteaser of 2014 is from Sophie Jarzebowski, part 2 architecture student, who presented last Monday.

She has challenged students to be as creative as possible, designing an **Ice Cream Stall**.

Think about...

- Who are you designing for? How does this affect the design?
- How high is it? Small? Big?
- What is it made of?
- How/where do you buy the ice cream?
- Where do you go to eat the ice cream? Is there seating included?
- Location? Can it move about?

Designs should be with Miss Slater by the end of Tuesday 21 January.

Homework Grids

All subjects in School are now using homework grids. The homework tasks are set out in advance on the grid which is stuck into the student's book. There are up to 9 homeworks per grid and the specified task will be written in the student's planner. There is no limit to the number of tasks completed; if you sense that your son or daughter does not seem to be doing homework please challenge them to tackle another task of their choice from the grid!



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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

Term 3 –Key Dates in January and early February	
January	
Tuesday 21	Y7 & Y8 boys' football vs Patchway (away)
Wednesday 22	After school trip to Royal west of England Academy
Thursday 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y9: Pathways Day • Y7 & Y8 girls' football vs Red Maids' (home) • Y7 & Y8 boys' football vs Patchway (away)
Monday 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors' committees • 6 degrees of aspiration keynote speaker: Ian Corder, Life Cycle Cost Lead (Rolls Royce)
Tuesday 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U12 girls' 5 a-side regional finals (Paignton) • Y7 & Y9 boys' football vs Henbury (away)
Thursday 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governors' committees • U14s girls' football vs Redland Green School (away) • Y8 boys' football vs Henbury (home at Coombe Dingle)
February	
Monday 3	6 degrees of aspiration keynote speaker: Tristan Pate, actor and musician
Tuesday 4	Swimming gala at Easton
Wednesday 5	The Tenner Challenge
Thursday 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y9 Maths challenge • 8TG6 DVD viewing after school • Theatre trip to see "Westside Story"
For further dates see the calendar at < www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk >	

