

Weekly Update

Words from the Headteacher

Nick Short - parent and one of the founders of Bristol Free School

Nick's funeral took place last week. It was a sad occasion but full of warmth and love for Nick and his family. Nick was instrumental in establishing Bristol Free School as well as being a caring family man and a very successful business man. He was passionate about education and had a strong sense of moral purpose. As well as being very sharp and witty, he took a huge interest in the people he met. His most recent involvement with the School (other than being a father to Ted in Year 7) was working with Miss Slater in developing our 6 Degrees of Aspiration programme: he was one of the dragons during our Enterprise Day and, before he fell ill, had been setting up a business mentoring programme for the School.

I first met Nick in February 2011; he was chair of the interview panel for the headship of Bristol Free School. Aside from giving me a pretty tough time during the interview process, he welcomed me warmly in to what is now the family of Bristol Free School. The rest of this piece is an extract taken from Nick's eulogy which was read at his funeral. The words are not mine but belong to someone who had the fortune to know Nick for a longer time than I did.

"Nick joined the campaign to set up Bristol Free School in the autumn of 2009, a few months after the campaign had started, but immediately made a huge impact on the rest of the group.

Nick was not only committed but he advanced the cause and made the whole group and campaign evaluate what it was doing and why. Perhaps more than anyone he wanted to ensure not only his own children but the whole community would benefit from having a highly academic school to provide children with a real opportunity to develop and reach their potential.

Although founding a school is very serious and considered work, Nick's humour and mischievous side would regularly surface. His opinions and views were regularly read in the discussion pages of the Bristol Evening Post, always under various pseudonyms. Claire of WoT, being one his more opinionated alter-egos. His ability to liven up meetings by making statements and comments that could bait and provoke, or as he put it 'lighting the fuse and watching the fireworks', would always entertain.

The School opened successfully and I remember being in School on the opening day and meeting Nick and showing him around the School. With tears of joy and pride in his eyes he said how proud he was to have played a small part in founding the School.

But on this occasion he was wrong. He played a huge part in opening the School. And today the School's ethos, to provide the best opportunity for its students, lives proudly in everyone associated with Bristol Free School.

A developing school, striving to serve the local community is the best tribute I can think of for a remarkably dedicated, influential and selfless man.
Nick is sorely missed but so fondly remembered."

Richard Clutterbuck



The Big Bang

BRISTOL FREE SCHOOL PRESENTS

MUSIC SHOWCASE CONCERT



Tuesday 25 March 2014 - Drama Studio
Doors: 18:30 Start: 19:00 End: 20:30

A concert for students to showcase music they have been playing or composing both in and out of school.
Featuring BFS' new choir: DYNAMICS as well as many other performers!

Tickets available from reception
Adults: £2.50, Student/OAP: £2, U10s: free (with ticket)



'Second Time Around' Uniform Store (run by the Friends of BFS)

Still some life in outgrown uniform?

It may be useful to someone...

Please bring any unwanted items to the School Office especially items with school logo – blazers/jumpers/sports shirts (but no everyday shirts please)

fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

The Big Bang, UK Young Scientists' & Engineers' Fair

Robin Kirk (Y7) reports:

On Thursday 13 March, a group of students from all year groups travelled to the NEC Birmingham to go to the Big Bang Fair. After a three hour journey all the students and teachers were excited to get inside and explore all the activities, shows and exhibits on offer which ranged from Digital (discovering how designers are transforming the technology we use) to Farm to Fork (finding out how nature, science and technology work together to bring us the food we eat) to help inspire us in Maths and Science.

It was a great day out for all and I'm sure everyone would recommend it for next year!

Under 14 girls' football tournament

We started off playing a team from Cotham School which we'd never played before – a little uncertain. We had the advantage taking kick-off and quickly drove up the wing to create an early shooting opportunity, but soon lost possession. After some good pressure we managed to regain possession, Ellie Haines dribbled nicely around the defenders before shooting the ball into the corner. Soon after Anna Fraser took a shot at goal and Holly Freke was on hand to finish neatly. The second half came and we made some early substitutions. Cotham came out fighting and were more aggressive, getting past our strong, diamond defence and struck the ball straight into the back of the net, out of reach of Beth Doel. We were determined to win, raised our game and Anna performed a power shot right into the top, far corner – celebrations were led by Olivia Stone! We had to be careful not to lose our concentration. We managed and scored a further two goals. The final score was 5-1 and the player of the match, nominated by the BFS team, was Holly.

The next match was against Colston's Girls' School. It was a very even game with equal possession. However in the first few minutes Anna managed to chip the ball in to make the score 1-0. In the second half we had slightly more possession in the attack but didn't manage any more goals. The game remained 1-0 to BFS with the player of the match being awarded to Portia Neville for her excellent defending.

Sports journalist: Corinne Thompson

Y8 football match vs Oasis

It was the last match of the group stages and a win was essential. We had butterflies in our tummies as the match started, but Tanaka Madimutsa scored a terrific turning volley and settled all our nerves. Oasis were

looking inexperienced at the back and big holes of space were everywhere. As a result, we scored three in a short space of time by Adrian Thompson (x2) and Dan Whetton. Chances flew by and we knew it wasn't a matter of *if* we were going to win, but how many goals we were going to score. In the second half we started off strongly with a good passing move by George Bond and George Airs and the finish from Dan Whetton. The defence was looking as strong as ever so we consequently moved the positions around a bit to give everyone a chance further forward. The game ended with a great goal by Jamie Mitchell-Cotterell which was hit into the top corner and everyone was pleased.

Over all, we finished second in our group and are moving on to the knock-out stages.

Mr Truan awarded man of the match to Tanaka for his consistency throughout! Our battle has just begun...
Sports journalist: Daniel Whetton

Words of warning on two matters!

Firstly, we are concerned by the number of "near misses" as students are dropped off along Concorde Drive. Our neighbours along Concorde Drive, as well as other road users, are commenting on parents parking on the zig-zag lines, in front of house driveways, drivers reversing and students crossing the road without looking.

Secondly, the local neighbourhood policing team has informed us that recently there has been an increase in vehicles being broken into, especially between 3pm and 4pm. Even if you are leaving your car for just a few minutes please ensure you lock it.

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 24 March

Monday:

3.00 – 4.00: 6 degrees of aspiration
keynote speaker: Amah Shah, optician in C126

4.00 – 5.00: Latin for Beginners

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

"Bugsy" rehearsals
Enterprise (6^o of Stationery)
Italian Club
Orchestra
Reading Group (Y9)
Science Club (Y7)
Basketball

Thursday:

Art Club
Craft Club
Creative Writing
Food Lab
Girls' football
Boys' football (Y9)
Fundraising Club
Model United Nations

Friday:

"Bugsy" rehearsals

Homework Club will run every day

Term 4 –Key Dates

Term 4 –Key Dates	
March	
Monday 24	Y8 boys' football vs Redland Green School (away)
Tuesday 25	Music Showcase
Thursday 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routes into Languages – speaking competition Y7 & Y8 hockey vs Red Maids' (away) New Y7 parent information meeting (evening) Y7 boys' football vs City Academy Bristol (home at Coombe Dingle)
April	
Tuesday 1	8TG5 & 8TG6 DVD viewing after school
Thursday 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School STEM day Full Governing Body meeting with Student Council
Friday 4	End of term 4: 3.00 pm

For further dates see the calendar at <www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk>