

Weekly Update

Words from the Headteacher

This morning we welcomed over 30 local business leaders to Bristol Free School for a 6 Degrees of Aspiration brunch. The purpose of the meeting was to forge links between local businesses and the School, predominantly to support the students through our 6 Degrees programme. The timing could not have been more apt as yesterday afternoon I attended a feedback meeting from Ofsted following their review of 14 – 19 provision across the city. One of the areas of focus of the review was the city's provision for careers education, information and guidance (CEIAG), an area which, nationally, Ofsted has reviewed as requiring improvement. Involving businesses in the education of the young people of Bristol is vitally important not only for the young people but for our city which was why the brunch meeting here this morning is a key part of our 6 Degrees Programme. Being able to lean heavily on our local business leaders for mentoring, work experience, sharing of their expertise and crucially being able to tell us which skills our students will need to enhance their employability will ensure that Bristol Free School students will not only receive a high quality curriculum but one which prepares them for life beyond school.

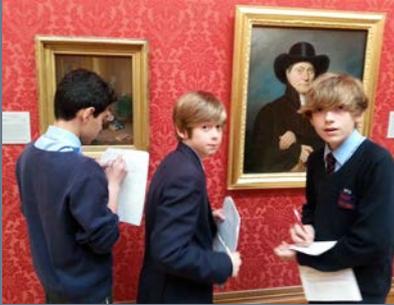
I am very proud of Year 8 as they were brilliant ambassadors of the School during their visit to the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery as part of the cross-curricular visit between our Art and English departments yesterday. Thank you to the staff for organising the trip and ensuring that the students received an enriching curriculum experience.

While I am thanking members of our School, I would like to share my appreciation with you for the members of our student council who took on the role of guides during the first of our two May open mornings. The mornings are aimed at parents with children who are in Year 5 or below and follow the same pattern as our autumn term open mornings. All of our guests were extremely complimentary about the School, from the atmosphere in the classrooms, to the way in which our guides spoke with genuine affection about Bristol Free School. Yet again, the young people of BFS and our staff are the School's greatest assets and long may this continue.

The question of our admissions policy was a constant feature of the conversations I had with parents during the open morning. We have a complicated policy so that we can ensure that the School is able to honour the principles and reasons for which it was set up: to be a high achieving, non-selective secondary school serving the neighbourhood partnerships of Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury-on-Trym. To that end I am sharing the link to the relevant page on our website <http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/admissionscriteria.php>. Here you will find our policy on admissions and a map of our APA (admissions priority area). Please look over these pages if you want to know more about our admissions arrangements and if you would like further clarification please contact the School so you can speak to someone who can provide answers to any questions you may have.

With two weeks of school left until the May holiday, preparations for our first whole school musical "Bugsy Malone" are well under way. Tickets are on sale from reception for what promises to be a treat; the splurge guns are being loaded and hypo-allergenic custard pie mix is being developed in our science labs to give the performances authenticity. I look forward to seeing you at one of the shows.

Richard Clutterbuck



Year 8's cross-curricular visit to the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery



World Dance Day

The School celebrated World Dance Day on 29 April with a whole school flash mob. It was great to see so many people enjoying and celebrating dance. The students and staff learnt the routine during assemblies over two days and then performed at lunchtime. It was a huge success and wonderful to see everyone coming together to celebrate such a wonderful art form. Thank you for all your enthusiasm and energy.
Miss Rose

Residential trips

A large number of our students will be taking part in residential trips in July, either travelling to Paris or going on the PGL activity trip to North Devon. However, we are concerned that parents/carers are behind on the payments due. Please check that payments for your child are up to date. If you are having difficulties making the payments on time please contact the School admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk or phone 01179597200 so that we can adjust your payment plan. We encourage you to use the School's online payment facility to make such payments. If you need information on setting up an online account please contact the School using the contact details above.

"Bugsy Malone"

Tickets are selling fast so make sure you secure yours. They are available at break and lunch times from the School's Reception. The rehearsals are going well. All cast members are reminded that there is a rehearsal this Saturday from 9.30 am to 4 pm. School will be open at 9.15 am and students must bring all snacks, lunch and drinks with them as they will not be allowed to leave the school site during the day. We will be running the rehearsal in costumes so cast members need to bring all costume items to change into. (As it is a Saturday there is no need to arrive in school uniform!)

Year 8 reports

Students in Year 8 will shortly be receiving their reports. These include comments from teachers and will provide a useful reference point for the Year 8 subject evening next term. We expect that the students will act upon the guidance given to help them improve not only in term 6, but through in to Year 9 too.

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 12 May

Monday:

- 3.00 – 4.00:** 6 degrees of aspiration keynote speaker: Andrew McWhan, nuclear radiation testing
- 4.00 – 5.00:** Latin for Beginners

Tuesday:

- Bristol University Philosophy Club
- Cricket (Y7 & Y8 boys)
- Duke of Edinburgh (Y9)
- Orchestra
- Textiles Club
- Yoga Club

Thursday:

- Art Club
- Dynamics Choir
- Creative Writing
- Dance Club
- Rounders (all girls)
- Cricket (Y9 boys)
- Model United Nations

Wednesday:

- Athletics
- Book Club
- "Bugsy" rehearsals
- Computer Game Design
- Enterprise (6^o of Stationery)
- Science Club

Friday:

- "Bugsy" rehearsals

Homework Club will run every day except Friday.

Term 5 –Key Dates	
May	
Saturday 10	"Bugsy" rehearsal, from 10.00 am
Tuesday 13	Y7 & Y8 parent information meeting about body image, 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Thursday 15	Y9 boys' cricket vs Cotham School (home at Coombe Dingle)
Monday 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 degrees of aspiration keynote speaker: Rachel McTaggart, Senior Product Manager IMDb • "Bugsy" performance
Tuesday 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7 & Y8 boys' cricket vs Cotham School (home at Coombe Dingle) • Y7, Y8 & Y9 rounders vs St Bede's (away) • "Bugsy" performance
Wednesday 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Morning • "Think Big" trip • "Bugsy" performance
Thursday 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls' cricket competition at Frenchay Cricket Club • "Bugsy" performance
Friday 23	End of term 5: 3.00 pm
For further dates see the calendar at <www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk>	

Friends of BFS at Westbury Community Fair: Saturday 10 May 11 am to 3.30 pm

We hope to see you at Westbury Community Fair on Saturday where FoBFS and students will be running a bottle stall to raise money for school projects and to be part of the WoT community.