

# Weekly Update

## Words from the Headteacher

Welcome to the start of Bristol Free School's fourth year. It was a pleasure to greet our returning students and to welcome formally our new Year 7 students to BFS on Wednesday. Prior to the students' arrival the staff were in on Monday and Tuesday. We now have over 70 members of staff making the total number of people at BFS just over 620. That's quite a change from September 2011 with 80 students and 12 staff!

On to school business:

### Photographs

The school photographer is coming to take portrait and tutor group photographs on Wednesday, and on Friday we have another photographer in taking shots for this year's prospectus.

### 6 Degrees of Aspiration

Monday sees the start of our 6 Degrees of Aspiration programme with a much anticipated keynote presentation from a celebrated lawyer. Any students interested in English, the Humanities, rights and responsibilities or just arguing should go to the Drama Studio at 3.15 pm. Take questions along or just listen and learn.

### Extra-curricular programme

The full range of extra-curricular clubs and activities will start on Monday 15 September. Students will receive a copy of the timetable next week. In the meantime, study club will begin on Monday 8 in the LRC from 3.00 pm. Study club provides students with an opportunity to complete homework working alongside other students from across the School and staff.

### Lockers

We will be issuing locker keys and padlocks next week to those students who wish to take up the offer. More details are included in this newsletter

### Student Drop Off

If you bring your child to School by car please remember that the main student gates are on Concorde Drive. We wish to maintain good relations with our neighbours along Concorde Drive and you can help – please do not turn your car anywhere in Concorde Drive and certainly do not use residents' drives or park in front of these. If you drive to the end of Concorde Drive in a westward direction you will reach the junction with Charlton Road. Turning left on to Charlton Road will take you back to the junction with Passage Road, having looped around the perimeter of the School. This avoids the need to turn around on Concorde Drive and is a much easier junction for joining Passage Road if you are heading in to the city. If you are waiting to collect your child at the end of the school day, then please park at the far drop off point on the school side of the road on Concorde Drive. Please do not park in any of the residents' drives or parking spaces. If you have little option but to drive your child to school, I would ask that you drop them off 5 minutes' walk away from the site. This will reduce congestion and encourage the students to be more independent.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Finally I am pleased to inform you that the DfE have approved our business case to create a 6<sup>th</sup> form. We are now putting in place plans for the next phase of the School's growth with the aim of opening the 6<sup>th</sup> form in September 2016. Many thanks to all of you who responded to the consultation and have supported us in our wish to become an 11 – 19 school.

**Richard Clutterbuck**



## School uniform

The School has a uniform to mark the formality of being educated here and to reinforce a sense of shared membership and pride in the School.

A handful of students have returned after the holidays not wearing full uniform. In particular we would like to remind you that:

- girls may wear skirts which must be pleated, mid grey with a deep yoke and side zip and knee length;
- trousers must be standard school style and charcoal grey (not black);
- earrings are to be plain silver or gold studs no more than 5mm diameter, one earring per earlobe;
- there should be no extremes in hair dye or style (this includes dip-dyeing and unnatural colouring);
- ties should be worn appropriately.

If students do not adhere to the uniform policy then they will receive appropriate sanctions. School uniform is available from 'famous school branches' at 190 Henleaze Road. All items are in stock.

## Student Lockers

School padlocks for student lockers will be issued against payment of a £10 deposit. This deposit will be returned at the end of the school year if both padlock and key are returned when requested.

The deposit may be paid in cash or by cheque payable to Bristol Free School and dated 1 July 2015.

If any locker is found with a non-standard padlock, the padlock will be removed and the locker emptied.

Padlocks will be issued on a 'first come first served' basis and will be available at morning break, during tutor time and at lunch time

- on Monday 8 September for Year 7 students
- on Tuesday 9 September for Year 8 students
- on Thursday 11 September for Year 9 students
- on Friday 12 September for Year 10 students

If lockers remain available after these times Reception will be able to help.

Students were issued with a form today which needs to be returned with the deposit.

## Free support for you and your 'teen'!

Are you reaching for an instruction manual for your child's behaviour? Do you feel that they are not listening? Or that they are pushing the boundaries to the limit?

You are not alone and support is available to you. The Parenting Plus Adolescents programme is a 9 week course starting here at Bristol Free School. The course looks at the implementing rules, discipline, positive communication, dealing with conflict and helping to motivate your teenager, and will bring together parents who are facing similar challenges. The course is aimed at parents who have students in secondary school and will run on Wednesday evenings starting in October.

For more information please contact reception and ask to speak to Miss Young.

## End of Year Summary Reports

At the end of each year we publish a set of reports which summarise student attainment over the course of the year. They contain information from the previous three reports and also include exam data. In August these were uploaded to our virtual learning environment for students and parents to access and download. Unfortunately, a change in our web filtering software meant that these were not visible on the website. Our ICT support team is working to fix this, and the reports will be available to access from the middle of next week. We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

## Term 1 – Key Dates

September	
Monday 8	6 degrees keynote speaker after school: David Regan – Barrister, St John's Chambers
Wednesday 10	School photographer (individual & tutor group photos)
Monday 15	6 degrees keynote speaker after school: Lorrin White – Total Ltd telecommunications
Friday 19	Y7 parent & student activity evening with FoBFS (7TG1, 7TG2, 7TG3)
Tuesday 23	Open Day
Thursday 25	Full Governing Body meeting
Friday 26	Y7 parent & student activity evening with FoBFS (7TG4, 7TG5, 7TG6)
October	
Wednesday 1	Open Day & evening
Thursday 2	Y10 curriculum evening, 6.00 – 7.30 pm
Friday 3	6 degrees business brunch
Wednesday 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• British Interactive Media Association (BIMA) D-day event</li><li>• FoBFS AGM</li></ul>
Thursday 9	Open Day & evening
Friday 10	World War 1 trip departure
Monday 13	World War 1 trip return
Thursday 16	Y7 parents: Transition Meetings, 4.30 – 7.00 pm
Friday 24	End of term 1: 3.00 pm

Please see the calendar at [www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk) for other important dates.