

Weekly Update

Words from the Headteacher

In the last 24 hours you will have become aware of prosecutions following Operation Brooke. This is a police investigation in to child sexual exploitation in Bristol. It is an operation which has been running for over a year and has involved a number of agencies across Bristol. It is an ongoing operation. I am attaching a joint letter from Chief Superintendent Julian Moss of Avon and Somerset Police and John Redman, Strategic Director of People, Bristol City Council together with a statement from the Somali community about the Brooke case.

These are terrible crimes and whilst the criminals involved are being brought to justice, the crimes they have committed against the children have shocked the city. At present Operation Brooke has not directly affected our school community. However, it has affected a number of our schools in the city. As the case is ongoing, further victims and crimes against them may well come to light. My thoughts are with the victims and their families at this most difficult of times.

Preying on some of the most vulnerable members of our community is at the core of these terrible crimes and we must do all we can to support the police and multi-agencies in protecting those who are most vulnerable. On the 14 November I wrote about stranger danger; since that date we have had an incident affecting one of our students. The student is fine but shaken by what happened.

We informed the students today about the incident which took place at the hospice end of Concorde Drive on Thursday 20 November. A white man in his 50s driving a silver car approached a female student in KS3 and offered her a lift. The girl declined and headed back in to school. Unfortunately she did not tell a member of staff and we were only made aware of this yesterday after school (27 November) by her parent. The advice given to the students today is included below and I urge all of you to read it through with your children when they return home from school today. I would also like parents to go to the Esafety page on our [website](#) and invest some time in exploring the parental resources on the "Know It All for parents" pages of the Childnet website <http://www.childnet.com/resources/kia/>. In this modern age the internet and digital media are tools which criminals are using to gain access to the vulnerable. If you have concerns or suspicions relating to any of what I have written please do not hesitate to contact the police, social services or Bristol Free School for support and advice.

Copy of advice given to BFS students today:

"Here is a reminder of the common sense guidance which I would like all students to follow:

- Avoid travelling to and from school and elsewhere on your own
- Travel in well-lit areas
- Let your parents know where you are going and what time you expect to arrive
- If someone approaches you who you don't know, return to school or head straight home. If you don't feel safe doing either head in to a shop or public building. Tell the adults in the shop or building
- Report it to your parents and teachers immediately, they will call the police
- If possible try and remember details about the stranger and the vehicle (if they're in one) to help give a description
- You must tell a trusted adult if this happens".

Richard Clutterbuck



The Christmas lunch this year will be served on Wednesday 17 December. To assist the catering team tickets for the lunch need to be bought in advance. On that day the only food available at lunch time will be the Christmas menu which is on display in the Dining Hall.

We are managing Christmas lunch outside the cashless catering system. Tickets costing £2.50 will be on sale at the School's Reception for the next two weeks, at break and lunch times.

BAE Systems – ‘Road to Rio’

Year 7 was treated to a fantastic interactive show by BAE Systems on Tuesday. The ‘Road to Rio’ show explained to the students how engineers at BAE Systems are helping to prepare our athletes for the 2016 Olympic Games. The students had the chance to be involved in demonstrations to show the effect of different forces and how engineers use that knowledge, for example to build planes such as the Harrier fighter jet. Towards the end of the show the students were shown a Tesla coil, an electrical resonant transformer circuit. The students were very impressed that the coil was used to play a piece of music performed by Tasha Harris, 7TG1. A few students even stayed behind to see where they could get hold of this impressive bit of kit, but at some £10,000 it won't be appearing on anyone's Christmas list!

Student absence

Please note the phone number of the School's dedicated student absence line. It is 01179508157. Parents/carers should call this number every day when a student is absent.

Medicines

No prescription or over-the-counter medicine should be kept by students. If these are needed during the school day they must be handed in to Reception, clearly named, and with written instructions on dosage and timings and the dates for which the instructions apply.

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 1 December

All after school activities finish at 4.30 pm unless otherwise noted.

Monday:

3 – 4 pm: 6 Degrees of Aspiration keynote speaker: Jonathan Snary, BPP Professional Education

4 – 5 pm: Introduction to Latin Fitness (Y10)

Tuesday:

Basketball (Y9)
Book Club (Y7 & Y8)
Games Club
Makers Club
Netball (Y7 & Y8 girls)
Orchestra
Philosophy Club
Rugby (Y7, Y8 & Y9 boys)
Textiles Club (Y8, Y9 & Y10)

Wednesday:

Dance Club (Y7 & Y8)

No other clubs due to Y10 subject evening

Thursday:

Art Club
Basketball (Y7)
Comic Book Philosophy
Dance Club (Y9 & Y10)
International Film Club
Musical Theatre
Netball (Y9 & Y10 girls)
Rugby (Y10 boys)
Student Newspaper
Warhammer Club
Chess Club

Friday:

‘Band Academy’

Study Club will run every day except Wednesday and Friday.

Term 2 – Key Dates in December

Tuesday 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10 basketball vs Patchway (away) U14 girls' basketball vs Cotham (home at Coombe Dingle)
Wednesday 3	Y10 subject evening
Thursday 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U14 basketball vs Colston's Girls' School (home) Y7 girls' football vs Bristol Met (away) Auditions for 'Grease'
Friday 5	Cross curricular Enterprise Day
Monday 8	6 Degrees of Aspiration keynote speaker: Heather Franklin, midwife
Tuesday 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10 rugby vs BTE Academy (away) Y8 basketball vs Patchway (home)
Wednesday 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir performance at Katherine House U14 basketball vs City Academy Bristol and Oasis Academy Brightstowe (away at CAB)
Thursday 11	Y10 art and textiles trip to Royal Academy, London
Friday 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas jumper day in support of Save the Children FoBFS Christmas disco for Y7, Y8 & Y9 Full Governing Body meeting
Monday 15	Choir performance at Temple Meads
Tuesday 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-tutor group sports competition Y10 basketball vs Bradley Stoke Community School (away) Y7 (LG1, 2 & 3) Christmas Extravaganza
Wednesday 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas lunch Y7 (LG4, 5 & 6) Christmas Extravaganza
Friday 19	End of term 2: school finishes at 1.45 pm
Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates.	

Friends of Bristol Free School need your help with manning the Disco on Friday 12th December. Please follow the link below to give your name and email address.

Many thanks in advance.

<http://doodle.com/caswfqgw2w8upn65>