

Weekly Update

Words from the Headteacher

Last Friday's Enterprise Day was a great success with the whole school, staff as well as students, involved in some aspect of enterprise. Last year's focus was promoting our 6 Degrees of Aspiration programme and this year's theme went one step further. The students spent the day shaping our future 6th form. Students worked in mixed-age groups on the vision, logo and brand, website and floor plans of what will be our 6th form in 2016. Many of the ideas coming out of the day are worthy of the very best branding and design agencies and I will be sharing them with our governors. Not only did our students experience a rich day of enterprise but they have helped Bristol Free School realise our future 6th form. The winners of the Enterprise Day will be announced on the last day of term during our whole school assembly.

On the theme of enterprise our Year 10 Young Enterprise group spent last Saturday at St Nicholas market running a stall selling their handmade artisan candles. I am pleased and proud to say that they sold over £250 worth of candles. Well done to all of the team and to Mr Harkin for running the group.

Assistant Headteacher Mrs Collis began her maternity leave last Friday. From January we have added to our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with three secondments not only to cover Mrs Collis but to build capacity. These secondments also provide vital opportunities for our middle leaders to develop professionally. Mr Collis will be Assistant Headteacher and Mr Truan and Ms Huzzey will be Senior Teachers. All three secondments will run until the end of the academic year. Congratulations to all three staff and welcome to the team.

Over 100 students auditioned for a part in 'Grease' last week. The Performing Arts team now have the unenviable task of casting the show from what amounts to a fifth of the School. With so much interest and enthusiasm from the students, 'Greased Lightning' is likely to be a double decker bus rather than a 'hot rod'!

Tuesday and Wednesday of next week are our Christmas Extravaganza shows. There is no entry charge but tickets must be acquired from the School in advance. You will also be able to get hold of a copy of the BFS Christmas Album in exchange for a donation to BandAid30. This album is the School's first and is full of festive music by Bristol Free School students.

Our annual Christmas Lunch is next Wednesday. Final numbers have been notified to the catering team. As in previous years no other food will be available during the lunch service.

Friday 19 December is the last day of term and we will close the year and term with a whole school assembly. There will be a brunch service before the assembly and school will finish by 1.45 pm.

Richard Clutterbuck



Young Enterprise group at St Nicholas market

Science Club

For the last three weeks Science Club teams have been working hard on a boat building project in collaboration with the SS Great Britain! The ship's education team sent us a trunk of equipment to work with and a pop up water tank to test our designs. Points were awarded for the speed of the craft, how well it travelled in a straight line, and of course the all-important style category. The victors were Smashing Mexicans, joint second place were G-Force and PBJ Time followed by Insert Team Name Here!. Every participant was rewarded with a badge and a certificate apparently signed by Brunel himself!

Dynamics Choir visit Katherine House

On Wednesday Bristol Free School's Dynamics Choir went to Katherine House care home to perform for the residents. Choir member Georgie Slade said: "It was really cool to be representing the School. All the residents and staff at Katherine House were very friendly. They were all smiling and even singing along. Everyone had a great afternoon. The staff told us they had never had so many residents choose to take part in an activity. They have invited us to go back – I hope I can go again."

Friends of Bristol Free School will be serving refreshments at the Christmas Extravaganza next week and need some parent helpers for both nights (6 people per night).

If you can help please follow the link below to give your availability and include your name and email address.

<https://doodle.com/3gedt3pq7eavy5gv>

Active Travel Challenge 2015

Over two weeks in October many of our students took part in a Bristol-wide, Active Travel challenge, designed to encourage secondary school students to travel actively to school and log their journeys. Many students reaped the personal benefits of this competition by replacing car commutes with travel by scooter, bike or two legs. In addition, several students won awards in the daily prize draw. Well done to Adrian Thompson, who won a cinema voucher for two, Dan Whetton, who won a £20 shopping voucher and to Amaan Rashid who became the lucky receiver of one of the top prizes on offer, a Kindle.



Active Travel Challenge award winners



Dynamics Choir with Katherine House resident, Irene Tompkins

Vaccinations

Girls in Year 8 and all students in Year 9 will have brought home information about the vaccinations which are available for them. All students need to bring back the form, whether opting in or out of the vaccination scheme.

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 15 December

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

Monday:
4 – 5 pm: Introduction to Latin

Study Club will run every day except Friday.

Term 2 – Key Dates in December

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
Thursday 18	Y10 viewing 'Of Mice and Men' (after school)
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.