

Weekly Update

Words from the Headteacher

Striking the balance between delivering the curriculum through high quality teaching and ensuring that students and staff feel festive is a fine art and I am always inclined to err on the side of 'Bah Humbug'. However, activities taking place in and around Bristol Free School this week have ensured that it is **beginning to feel a lot like Christmas**. Last Tuesday and Wednesday Mr Pate, ably assisted by students and staff across the School, put on the annual Christmas Extravaganza starring our Year 7 students. The Extravaganza is an opportunity for students who have rarely, or never, performed to take to the stage and celebrate Christmas alongside more seasoned performers in our now well-established tradition. Music and drama performances of a festive theme took centre stage and with FoBFS providing vital refreshments we have certainly entered the Christmas Spirit. Nevertheless, assessments are still underway and while walking around the site during lessons yesterday I heard students busy practising their Spanish and French dialogue before their MFL listening assessments. So all in all there is a healthy balance of festive cheer and focused study.

On Monday I met the Dynamics Choir at Bristol Temple Meads. Mr Pate, our Head of Music, had arranged for the choir to sing to commuters as they arrived and departed from the train station. It was bitterly cold but our hardy singers, led by Mr Pate and assisted by Miss Ryan and Miss Green, sang their hearts out to the passing commuters. Many stopped and listened to a range of carols and Christmas melodies, the highlights being a soulful 'Silent Night' and a raucous '12 Days of Christmas' with the 5th day of Christmas startling one or two passers-by who were not expecting such a committed response to the receipt of 5 gold rings from their true-love! The students performed brilliantly bringing Christmas cheer to all at the station; not even the overly loud station tannoy system or the diesel trucks and rollers pulling in and out were able to quash our Christmas cheer.

The first day back after the Christmas break is an INSET day so school will be closed to all students. Normal service resumes on Tuesday 6 January, a 'blue' week. Study club will run from Tuesday 6 and Latin is the only other extra-curricular club in the first week back. Our new spring term extra-curricular programme will be published during the first week of term and the full programme of clubs will start on Monday 12 January.

It remains for me to thank our students, staff, governors and parents for all they have done this academic year to keep the School moving in the right direction and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Richard Clutterbuck

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 5 January

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

Study Club will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



Bristol Rugby Academy

Earlier this week Ksawery O'Donovan (Y10) made his debut for Bristol Rugby Academy U15 team. He played impressively and stood out against a huge representative side from Rhondda. He was a credit to BFS.

Year 7 girls' 5-a-side football

Well done to the Year 7 girls who won the group stages of the English Schools' 5-a-side football competition, reaching the county final. They overcame tough competition from Redland Green and St Mary Redcliffe with some great strikes from Elisa Saunders and Millie Chaplin. The girls were then faced with National Academy players amongst their opposition in the finals and unfortunately did not progress to the South West Finals. Well done to all the girls involved.

U14 girls' basketball match vs City Academy Bristol

A group of eight girls set off to challenge City Academy in the final basketball match of the year! We warmed up swiftly and got straight into the game. We had an advantage of a strong start and we were 12-2 up after the first quarter. Although we were pleased with the result we had to keep concentration. In the next quarter the opposition swapped on a more experienced team to give BFS a challenge. We rose to their standard: making some very good interceptions and regaining possession to make a quick break towards our goal. Hannah Warren and Lauren Monaghan stayed back at defence battling away any rebounds. Holly Neville had really good wing play and Zoe Toye was goal hanging – to our advantage. The final score was 34-14 which we should be really proud about! The player of the match went to Zoe Toye because of her excellent shooting.

Sports journalist – Corinne Thompson

Several reminders

- Students who wish to attend extra-curricular football training next term must have boots and shin pads. Without these items they will not be able to participate.
- All students in Year 9 and girls in Year 8 have had information about the vaccinations which are available for them. The reply form needs to be returned to school whether opting in or out of the vaccination scheme.
- Please remember to top up your child's catering account before 6 January. It is easier for your child, the operational arrangements in the Dining Hall and for the catering team if you top up using the online payment system. If you need information as to how to set up an online account please contact the School.
- If your child suffers from asthma please notify the School by email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk Please do so even if you think the School already holds this information.



Term 3 – Key Dates

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January	
Monday 5	INSET day: school closed to students
Tuesday 6	School starts at normal time
Wednesday 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y9: meningitis C vaccination • Y8 girls: HPV vaccination
Friday 9	Student Council meeting
Thursday 15	U14 basketball vs St Bede's and Redland Green (away at St Bede's)
Monday 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8: "Tenner Challenge" • 6 degrees keynote speaker after school: Eleanor Collins, Vox PR
Wednesday 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10 GCSE PE: trip to University of Gloucestershire • Y9: Sky Blue Theatre: Shakespeare Re-wired
Thursday 22	Y9: Pathways Day
Tuesday 27	'Philosothon' competition after school at King's College School, Taunton
Friday 30	FoBFS pizza and cinema evening
February	
Monday 2	GCSE Music: performance evening
Thursday 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y10: Sex and Relationships Education day • Y9: guided choices evening
Friday 13	End of term 3: school finishes at 3.00 pm

Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

MOVIE NIGHT

WITH PIZZA!

Friday 30th Jan 2015