

Weekly Update



Words from the Headteacher

Welcome back to all of our students in Years 8 to 11 and a very warm welcome to our newest cohort in Year 7. With five year groups occupying the site the School feels very grown up and there is a different feel in the air to previous years. Having our founding students established as bona fide Year 11 students is a contributing factor. They will always be our founding cohort but they now carry the mantle of Year 11 in their final year of compulsory schooling (not education, I hasten to add, as the vast majority of our students will be moving in to our 6th form). The Year 11 students will complete their GCSEs this academic year but I do want to mention some GCSE results from the summer just passed. I am not in favour of early entry GCSEs unless the students being considered for early entry are ready to sit the exams and by that I expect them to be able to achieve the highest grade they possibly can and waiting one more year will make little difference to the outcome. This summer we had eight students from Year 10 sit their GCSE in Maths, four students their French (two from Year 10 and two from Year 9) and 1 student from Year 10 sit Portuguese. The results are as follows:

- Maths 7 A*s and 1 A
- French 3A*s and 1 A
- Portuguese 1A*.

These are pretty spectacular results and I am extremely proud of the students who achieved them as well as the staff who taught them. The bar has been set extremely high for next year but I am confident that Year 11 will also produce some spectacular results and BFS will secure high attainment and outstanding progress.

The calendar overleaf will give you an over view of what is happening this term but I would like to draw your attention to a few key dates. The photographer is here next Wednesday to take portrait and tutor group shots of the students. Friday 18 and 25 September are our Year 7 parent and student activity evenings - more details will follow shortly. Year 11 students must set their alarm for an early start on Saturday 26 September to participate in the Bristol Challenge. This is to launch our 6th form and whilst the exact nature of the challenge is, for the moment, being kept under wraps, it will be fun, unusual and give me health and safety nightmares. Nonetheless, it promises to generate a real buzz about our new 6th form and involve the students in the design of the building as well as establishing its ethos.

Finally, our extra-curricular programme will start on Monday 14 September but study club will be up and running from Monday 7 September.

Richard Clutterbuck



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Reports

Over the course of the year we issue three reports for each student; two interim or grade sheets and one full written report. In the past we have issued an end of year summary report, but no longer do this. The information is held on the VLE at the end of July and then again from September onwards. In addition, the VLE holds data from all six terms, giving a more detailed picture of progress. Our VLE is currently being updated at the start of the new school year. Assessment data disappears briefly whilst we update our student records and assessment data to take into account a student's new year group and other changes. Full details will again be available to view within the next two weeks. The next interim report for all students will be issued immediately after the October break.

Active Holiday!

You may have picked up news coverage of Y8 student Laurence Chandler's achievement during the holidays when he realised his ambition of riding from John O'Groats to Land's End (JOGLE) by bicycle. He has become the youngest person to ride JOGLE solo.

Expressed in figures Laurence:
 Rode: 882.2 miles (84 miles on the last day)
 Hours in the saddle: 74 hours 58 minutes
 Days cycled: 20

Lockers

Student lockers will be available from Monday. Priority is given to students in Year 7 who have been issued with a letter today explaining the deposit system we use and when padlocks will be available. Students in other years will have their letter at the start of next week with padlocks being available for them from Thursday.

Term dates 2015/2016

- Term 1: 1 September 2015 – 23 October 2015
- Term 2: 2 November 2015 – 18 December 2015
- Term 3: 4 January 2016 – 12 February 2016
- Term 4: 22 February 2016 – 24 March 2016
- Term 5: 11 April 2016 – 27 May 2016
- Term 6: 6 June 2016 – 20 July 2016

INSET days when the School is closed to students

- Friday 23 October 2015
- Monday 4 January 2016
- Monday 11 April 2016
- Monday 6 June 2016
- Friday 1 July 2016

Term 1 – Key Dates

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

September	
Saturday 5	DofE bronze award practice expedition
Sunday 6	DofE bronze award practice expedition
Monday 14	Y11 GCSE Geography field trip Bristol Harbourside
Wednesday 9	School photographer
Tuesday 15	1 st team rugby vs Clifton High School (home at Coombe Dingle)
Thursday 17	Full Governing Body meeting
Friday 18	Y7 parents and student activity evening with FoBFS (7TG1, 7TG2 & 7TG3)
Saturday 19	DofE bronze award assessed expedition
Sunday 20	DofE bronze award assessed expedition
Tuesday 22	Open Day
Friday 25	Y7 parents and student activity evening with FoBFS (7TG4, 7TG5 & 7TG6)
Saturday 26	Bristol Challenge: Y11 only
Tuesday 29	Y7, Y8 & Y9 rugby vs Clifton High School (home at Coombe Dingle)
Wednesday 30	Open Day and Open Evening
October	
Thursday 1	Y10 Curriculum Evening, 6.00 – 7.00pm
Thursday 8	Open Day
Thursday 15	Y9: meningitis immunisations
Friday 16	Y7 parents' Transition Evening
Monday 19	Y7 Barton Camp (part year)
Tuesday 20	Y7 Barton Camp (part year)
Wednesday 21	Y7 Barton Camp (part year)
Thursday 22	Y7 Barton Camp (part year)
Friday 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7 Barton Camp (part year) • Y11 trip to Iceland departs • INSET day: school closed to students

