

# Weekly Update

## Words from the Headteacher

### Bristol Free School and ICT

At Bristol Free School we have a well-established and up-to-date Microsoft Network which is managed for us by JosKos IT Solutions who work with all RET schools. Below is an outline of the ICT infrastructure at Bristol Free School.

Every student has their own username and password providing them with access to the school network: filtered internet; a private file store; and shared file repositories. The internet connection is filtered to ensure that students are able only to access suitable material. It is monitored closely and is supported by "Smoothwall" which applies updates to the restrictions. Students are also supplied with an email address consisting of their username e.g. a.person14 followed by @bristolfreeschool.org.uk. This email service is provided by "Google for Education". Students can take advantage of single sign-on for the VLE and their email by visiting the School's website, clicking on VLE and using their network username and password.

For staff it is important that we have access to timely information which aids us in supporting students through school. Tutors use "The Tracker" which allows them to monitor attendance, achievements and behaviour points. During weekly tutorials tutors can use this information to generate targets for the forthcoming week. All teachers use "Class Charts" to generate seating plans and to ensure constructive and positive relationships are encouraged during lessons. Finally, teachers are able to use "Impero" to monitor student ICT equipment during lessons making sure that these are being used appropriately for the purposes of learning.

At Bristol Free School we value the contribution which parents are able to make to support our students in their learning. Every parent has (or will receive) a parent link login for the VLE. This provides access to attendance, progress reports, achievements and behaviour points. Parents and students have (or will receive) logins for "Show My Homework". This programme provides the school with an alternative method for communicating work to be done, resources required and grading of homework. We hope you find this service particularly useful – we do. "Show My Homework" has a very useful app and we encourage all students and parents to install it on their smart devices. It provides timely notifications and reminders of homework which is due for completion.

The School has an online payment system which may be used to load funds onto your child's catering account as well as for making payments for most residential and day trips your child goes on. We feel this is a safer and more secure way of making payments than students walking around with cash. We recommend that you create an account for online payments. Please email [admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) if you need a code to set up an account.

Links for both the VLE and "Show My Homework" are available on our school website at [www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk). For parents of our Year 7 students, logins will be issued shortly and there will be an opportunity to find out more about these ICT tools at the Year 7 Transition Evening on Thursday 15 October.

**Richard Clutterbuck**



Follow Bristol Free School on twitter @bristol\_free



**Duke of Edinburgh's award**

Last weekend six teams of Year 11 students spent two exhausting days walking in the Mendips on their practice expedition for their bronze award of the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. They had to carry all their camping and cooking equipment with them.

All the students displayed a tremendous amount of determination and resilience throughout the entire weekend. The front page has a selection of pictures from the weekend.

Bring on the assessed expedition later in the month!

**Well done Amy!**

We were very pleased to hear of the success of Amy Leather (Y7) during the summer holidays when she won two tennis competitions: Under 12 Avon County closed championship as well as the Torbay Open.

**School Photographer**

We were proud to receive compliments from our photographer regarding the behaviour and appearance of our students on Wednesday. All students who were in school had individual pictures taken, and photos were taken of all tutor groups. All students should have brought home the photo proofs and photographer's order form already. Order forms and payment come straight back to the School's reception. These must be returned by 8.30 am on Friday 18 September.

**Extra-curricular timetable**

The extra-curricular timetable for terms 1 and 2 is being circulated with this newsletter. All students are encouraged to participate as fully as possible in the activities available.

**Lucky Josh!**

Josh Godfrey (Y8) was thrilled to get so close to the rugby world cup trophy. Let's hope the England team will get even closer on 31 October!



**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](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk) for other important dates.

| September    |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 14    | Y11 GCSE Geography field trip Bristol Harbourside                                                                                                                     |
| Tuesday 15   | 1 <sup>st</sup> 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, 7TG4 & 7TG6)                                                                                                |
| 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 (7TG2, 7TG3 & 7TG5)                                                                                                |
| 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  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y9: meningitis immunisations</li> <li>• Y7 parents' Transition Evening</li> </ul>                                            |
| 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"> <li>• Y7 Barton Camp (part year)</li> <li>• Y11 trip to Iceland departs</li> <li>• INSET day: school closed to students</li> </ul> |