

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 9 November

All after school activities finish at 4.30 pm

Monday:

Latin (Y8)

Tuesday:

Latin (Y10)

Makers Club

Maths and code-breaking Club

Boys' rugby (Y10 & Y11)

Girls' netball (Y9, Y10 & Y11)

Boys' basketball (Y7, Y8 & Y9)

'Oliver' rehearsals

Textiles Club (Y8, Y9 & Y10)

Wednesday:

Orchestra

Latin (Y11)

Craft Club

Science Club

Young Enterprise (Y10)

Boys' rugby (Y7, Y8 & Y9)

Girls' netball (Y7 & Y8)

Boys' basketball (Y10 & Y11)

Jazz and Commercial dance

Thursday:

Art Club

Community Problem Solving Club

Cross-country

Girls' basketball

Warhammer and Sci-fi/Fantasy

Board Gaming

Chess Club

Hip-hop/Street dance

Public Speaking Club (Y10 & Y11)

Fencing

Jazz Band

Friday:

Band Academy

Study Club will run every day except Friday.

Words from the Headteacher

Next Thursday is our Sixth Form Open Evening. This is our formal launch of the Sixth Form to Year 11 students and their parents. The process of joining our Sixth Form begins next week but, in a similar fashion to the process these students went through to select their GCSEs in Year 9, it does not conclude until well in to next year.

The evening will begin in the Drama Hall with a keynote presentation from the 6th form team; the presentation will outline the ethos of the Sixth Form, run through the intricacies of the application process and give a fuller picture of what life will be like in the Sixth Form, from dress code to timetables. Indeed, gone are the days when students turned up, attended their A Level classes and spent the time between lessons (officially study periods but also known as 'frees') drinking coffee! Post-16 courses are funded in such a way that the taught curriculum, while still the core element of a student's studies, is complemented by other elements of directed time. Students will still have study periods on their timetable but significant parts of their week will have directed time toward voluntary work in and out of school, scheduled work experience and courses like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Our students and their parents need to be aware of this as attendance at all of these elements is vital and conditional for students remaining in the 6th form and our courses being funded.

Once the key note presentation has finished everyone will move to the LRC to meet our subject staff who will be leading the post 16 courses in September 2016. Here students and parents will be able to discuss courses and suitability, progression routes and start to form an overview of what their individual Sixth Form programme will look like. Students will also be issued with an application form which is included in our prospectus pack. The most important aspect of the evening is for the students to gather information about the courses they would like to take and to go away from the evening with clear expectations about what they are required to achieve in their GCSEs in order to take their preferred courses.

As I said the Open Evening is the start of the application process. Once Year 11 students have completed their mock exams later this term they will be invited in to school for a Sixth Form taster day. The applications deadline is at the end of March, student interviews will commence in April followed by conditional offer letters in Term 5, a 6th form update evening in May, Induction Day in July and confirmation of offers on Friday 26 August (the day following GCSE results). As you can see it's a lengthy process reflecting the importance of the decisions our students will have to make in order to ensure that they take the right combination of courses.

Proceedings will begin at 6.00pm in the Drama Hall and the whole event is expected to close by 8.00pm.



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Richard Clutterbuck

Residential Trips

Watch out for a letter early next week giving details of a number of forthcoming residential trips which are being planned for the current and next academic years.

Do you read the Bristol Post?

Bristol Free School has entered the Bristol Post's '£10K Science Giveaway' which gives the School a chance to win £10,000 of science equipment. Tokens will be printed in the paper every day until 8 December. The more tokens we send in the more tickets we will have in the draw. If you read the Bristol Post please cut out the tokens and take them to the Science department.

Iceland

During the holiday a group of Year 11 students went on a spectacular geography field trip to Iceland, and we were not disappointed! Within hours of arriving we were all relaxing in the 40° waters of the Blue Lagoon. We took part in activities from lava tube caving to visiting 60ft waterfalls, which with much spray and at -2° were a wet and very cold, yet exciting experience. We got to see many volcanoes, including the famous Eyjafjalljökull, and the damage that they can do with many flood plains and now uninhabited buildings.

Aside from the geological aspect, there was a great atmosphere to the trip, with much good time spent on the coach and visiting three various hotels – 2 in the countryside, and 1 in Reykjavik. On the final night everyone went out for dinner at a restaurant in downtown Reykjavik, which had great food. A dairy farm was also visited and we all stood eating our delicious ice creams in near freezing conditions, which were common all week - gloves with several layers were necessary at all times! The Northern Lights were not seen due to the cloud cover at night - however it did bring about half a foot of soft snow in blizzard conditions! This was nothing like the UK and we all enjoyed it immensely!

It was a great trip to have been on and a big thanks goes out to the teachers that came for organising and running the trip. When should we go back?

James Beggs



Term 2 – Key Dates

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

November	
Tuesday 10	Y8 & Y11 rugby vs St Bede's (home at Coombe Dingle)
Wednesday 11	Sports Academy trip to Mojo Active, 12.40 – 4.00 pm
Thursday 12	Sixth Form open evening, 6.00 – 7.30 pm
Tuesday 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10 rugby vs Henbury School (away) Y9 rugby vs Orchard (away) Y11 GCSE Music performance evening, 7.00 – 8.30 pm Y10 GCSE Drama trip to Bristol Old Vic, 7.00 – 9.50 pm
Wednesday 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10 & Y11 boys' basketball vs St Mary Redcliffe (home) Y9 & Y10 girls' football vs Red Maids' School (home)
Thursday 19	Cross-country at Bristol Grammar School
Friday 20	Bright Sparks visit to Ashton Gate, 8.50 – 11.30
Wednesday 25	Y10 & Y11 boys' basketball vs Oasis Brightstowe (home)
Thursday 26	Y9 Subject Evening
December	
Wednesday 2	Y10 Subject Evening
Thursday 3	Strasbourg trip departs
Friday 4	Enterprise Day
Saturday 5	Dynamics Choir: The Big Sing, 6.30 – 9.00
Monday 7	Strasbourg trip returns
Wednesday 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y11: meningitis vaccinations Y7 & Y8 girls' football vs Red Maid's School (home)
Thursday 10	Full Governing Body meeting, 6.00 – 8.00
Friday 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10: PSHE day Y8 & Y9 Sports Academy coaching at SGS College (afternoon)
Tuesday 15	Y11 Maths Inspiration trip, Cardiff (morning)
Wednesday 16	Christmas Extravaganza (evening)
Thursday 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas lunch Christmas Extravaganza (evening)
Friday 18	End of term 2: 1.45 pm