

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 11 January

Monday:

Latin Improvers (Y8 & Y9)

Tuesday:

Latin (Y10)

Makers Club

Maths and code-breaking Club

Girls' rugby

Parkour and Trampolining

(Y10 & Y11)

Textiles Club (Y8, Y9 & Y10)

'Oliver' rehearsals

Wednesday:

Orchestra

Latin (Y11)

Science Club

Young Enterprise (Y10)

Boys' football (Y7, Y8 & Y9)

Girls' football

Handball (Y9, Y10 & Y11)

Jazz and Commercial dance

NewPals for Nepal

Thursday:

Art Club

Community Problem Solving
Club

Warhammer and Sci-fi/Fantasy

Board Gaming

Chess Club

Hip-hop/Street dance

Boys' football (Y10 & Y11)

Badminton and Table Tennis
(Y7 & Y8)

Hockey

Model United Nations

Fencing

Jazz Band

Friday:

Band Academy

Study Club will run every day
except Friday.

Words from the Acting Headteacher

This week has seemed somehow busier than last. We are hurtling along with our Sixth Form planning; the architects have been in and the old white block is now conspicuous by its absence. Students and staff have enjoyed watching the diggers destroy things. Seeing things take shape and ideas and plans become a reality is very exciting.

Our focus on Year 11 continues. In my recent assembly to the year group I spoke with them about pressure and there is no doubt that they are under a degree of pressure. It is worth remembering that pressure is a force for good and bad. I'm reminded of a comment made by Alain De Botton; "The feeling one has no time to get anything done provides the pressure that guarantees one does get some things done", but also, in a timely manner, a lyric from David Bowie; "This is our last dance, this is ourselves... under pressure".

One of the ways we are helping with the pressure is by providing lots of structured and timely support for individual students. A letter has gone home with students today outlining our Period 7 support programme beginning on Monday. This follows our previous programme for Year 11 students, with a renewed focus on exam technique. In many cases we are leaning on the support of subject specialists from RET, including Carolyn Thomas-White in her capacity as senior adviser for WJEC – the exam board students follow in school. The primary difference in our new timetable of after-school study is that it has undergone a subtle rebrand, called Period 7, linking it to our Sixth Form programme of enrichment. There is also a clear expectation that students must attend at least two sessions per week. The best approach is for all Year 11s to see the school day as finishing at 4.45. The extra study support and opportunities contained within the additional structured study per day are significant and will make a difference. It's worth noting that even with the additional sessions your child will still be home in time for Blue Peter at 5pm.

During the school day we are also running a range of additional English and Maths sessions to make absolutely sure students achieve their potential. The desire for students to ensure that they are solidly above a grade C is driven by the knowledge that the counting measure for our Sixth Form, for colleges and for further education and employment, is a grade C in English, along with 4 other subjects at grade C or above. Students may well get 5 A-C, but without English among them their progress post-16 is stymied. Some of this support means students may miss one other lesson across a fortnight; with their subject teachers ensuring that all work is caught up on.

During the February and Easter holidays we will be running a programme of intensive revision activities aimed at improving students' chances of exam success in English and Maths. Students will be invited to attend by letter, with attendance being expected. As with all things, we value your support and the strong relationship between home and school.

Guided Choices

Also looming on the horizon is our Guided Choices process for Year 9. It is a vital year for these students as they narrow down their courses and make their guided choices for GCSEs. Pathways day is next Thursday, providing students with the opportunity to work with KS4 students, representatives from universities and volunteers from industry regarding their future choices. The next key date is our Guided Choices evening on Thursday 4 February. Parents and students are able to speak with teaching staff about the specifics of GCSE specifications and your child's suitability for the course. Subject staff will be on hand throughout to eulogise about why everyone must study their subject.

Paul Jones

Y8 Football vs Bradley Stoke

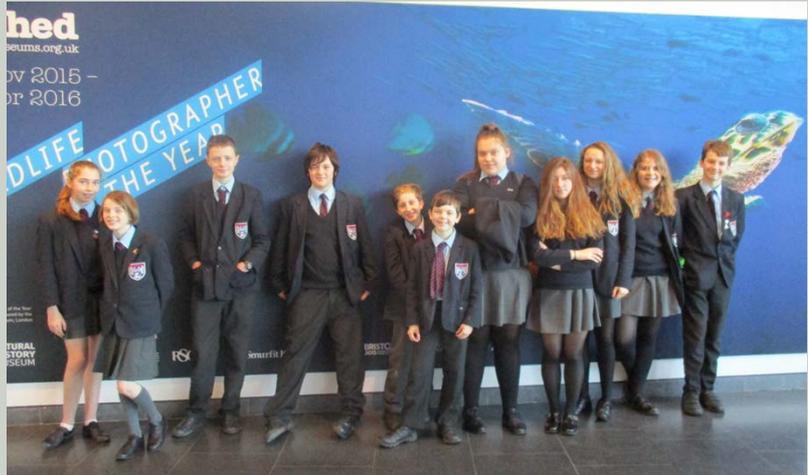
Our Year 8 boys' football team played extremely well together and defeated Bradley Stoke 6-1. Outstanding build up play through Ayman Benarous and Tom Isaac resulted in a barrage of goal mouth action which was twice exploited by Callum Whittaker. Player of the match, Lucas Morgan, scored a superb hat trick. Ayman scored the final goal late on. Our defence was extremely solid throughout. Congratulations to everyone involved in this perfect start to 2016.

Match Results		
Fixture	Score	Player of the match
Y8 boys' football : Bradley Stoke vs BFS	1:6	Lucas Morgan
Y10 & Y11 boys' basketball: Abbeywood vs BFS	47: 56	Harry Donaldson Daniel Manikum-Owen (Players' Player)
Y9 boys' football: St Mary Redcliffe vs BFS	1:2	George Fowler

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

A small group of students went to the M Shed earlier this week to see an exhibition of award-winning images from the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

Constantine Campbell-Jones (Y7) reports: "I really enjoyed going on the trip because I learnt that a lot of the finalists were my age nearly. I also enjoyed the variety of what you could see; perhaps you're looking at a bird, then an insect. I also enjoyed it because I learnt it sometimes takes one week to get the perfect shot."



Term 3 – Key Dates

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

January	
Monday 18	Y11 boys' football vs Henbury (away)
Wednesday 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Top of the bench' chemistry competition, 9.15 – 3.30 Y7, Y8 7 Y9 boys' football vs Patchway School (away)
Thursday 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y9: Pathways Day Y10 & Y11 boys' football vs Patchway School (away) Y10 GCSE Music performance evening
Tuesday 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y9: Sky Blue Theatre Company – Shakespeare Re-wired workshop Small group trip to attend "Interconnecting Communities" event
Wednesday 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y11 small group trip to 'Using your languages' event at University of Bath Philosothon at King's College Taunton, 4.00 – 9.45
Sunday 31	MUN Conference at Bristol Grammar School
February	
Thursday 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Y9: Choices Evening
Tuesday 9	Y9: Holocaust education day
Friday 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y8 & Y9 Sports Academy coaching at SGS college, pm Trip to Munich departs End of term 3: 3.00 pm

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February holiday dates – reminder

Our holiday dates are different to many Bristol schools. We are breaking a week later in order to maximise teaching time and avoid disruption caused to the curriculum by a very short term.