

# Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities  
during week commencing  
22 February

**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  
(Y9, Y10 & Y11)  
Hockey  
Model United Nations  
Fencing  
Jazz Band

**Friday:**

Band Academy

Study Club will run every day  
except Friday.

## Words from the Acting Headteacher

### Zigi Shipper

"This story is for my children and grandchildren so that they will know where they come from"

This week we were honoured to host a visit from Zigi Shipper, a survivor of the Holocaust. Zigi is now in his mid-eighties and has lived in the UK since arriving in 1947 as a displaced person. His testimony brought home to students and staff that in amongst the overwhelming statistics of the Holocaust, can be found the histories of real people, of children, parents and grandfathers. Further reflections are overleaf.

### Half-Term Sessions

A reminder that we are running GCSE revision workshops during half-term. Letters have been sent home – these are aimed at specific students in Year 11 rather than the whole cohort. Maths is on Tuesday, English on Wednesday, with DT and Science later in the week. We expect students to attend; it offers a valuable opportunity to build towards the exams. In some cases the sessions are being led by experienced examiners from the relevant board.

### Uniform

The holiday is an excellent opportunity to get hold of those items of uniform that might have been outgrown, or are worn out. Blazers are in stock in all sizes at the uniform supplier. I'd also like to add a second reminder regarding black trainers, these are not acceptable and some students are still choosing to wear them to school. Our uniform policy is clear and one of the many important elements that contributes towards an orderly, cohesive school.

**Paul Jones**

Match Results		
Fixture	Score	Player of the match
Y8/Y9 girls' football: BFS vs Henbury	1:1	Martha Haines (voted by the opposition) and Players' Player too

**Dramatics**

Last weekend Riccardo Smith (Y7), along with fellow thespians from The Pauline Quirke Academy performed on stage at Her Majesty's Theatre London. We understand that it was a fantastic show and has been described as "probably the theatre's finest evening performed by so many young, up and coming actors".



**Science Club**

Science Club spent this week's session exploring hovercrafts and the process of convection. We made our very own model hovercrafts from CDs, balloons and plastic bottle caps, and held a race between teams. The hovercraft sped across the finish line in a much quicker time than expected, with the winning design from Lucy Sherwood and Eloise Chown (both Y7). We then moved on to make convection spirals, and saw how convection currents make them spin. All teams put in a great effort, especially with their design and ingenuity.



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**February holiday – Key Dates**  
Please see the calendar at [www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk) for other important dates and the separate attachment with this newsletter.

<b>February</b>	
Monday 15 (holidays)	Y11 Munich trip returns
Tuesday 16 (holidays)	Y11 GCSE Maths revision session, 9.30 – 12.30, by invitation only
Wednesday 17 (holidays)	Y11 GCSE English revision session, 9.30 – 2.30, by invitation only
Thursday 18 (holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y11 Product Design (Textiles and Graphics), Open Workshop, 9.30 – 2.30</li> <li>Y11 GCSE Music Coursework Catch up session, 9.30 – 2.30, by invitation only</li> </ul>
Friday 19 (holidays)	Y11 GCSE Science revision session, 9.30 – 12.30, by invitation only

**Zigi Shipper visit**

This week, Bristol Free School was honoured with a visit from Zigi Shipper, a survivor of the holocaust who devotes his time to visiting schools and sharing his testimony in the hope that greater understanding of such a horrific event will lessen the chances of something similar happening in the future.

The whole of Year 9 were in awed silence for 90 minutes, as Zigi explained his experience of being a young boy when the Nazis invaded his Polish homeland and forced his family to live and work in the Lodz ghetto. Later in the war, Zigi experienced Auschwitz-Birkenau first hand and described to the students how he had managed to survive when so many of his family and friends were lost.

A select group of Year 9 students were also invited to share lunch with Zigi and his wife and ask further questions about his experiences, such as "Did your experience make you question God?" and "why do you think you survived when so many others perished?" Zigi was heartfelt and open with his answers and the impression he left on our students and staff who were lucky enough to meet him was profound.

Student responses to Zigi have included "You are a true inspiration to me and I have a better understanding of the events that took place in Auschwitz", "Your story really moved me" and "meeting you was such a privilege and I feel like a different person. I have realised that life is not about what you want and getting it. It's about being who you are because everyone is equal."

Thanks should go to Mrs Parry for organising such an inspiring event.

