

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities
during week commencing
14 March

Monday:

Latin Improvers (Y8 & Y9)

Tuesday:

Latin (Y10)

Makers Club

Maths & code-breaking Club

Girls' rugby

Parkour & Trampoline (Y10 & Y11)

Textiles Club (Y8, Y9 & Y10)

Wednesday:

Orchestra

Latin (Y11)

Science Club

Young Enterprise (Y10)

Boys' football (Y7, Y8 & Y9)

Girls' football

Handball (Y9, Y10 & Y11)

Jazz & Commercial dance

NewPals for Nepal

Thursday:

Hip-hop/Street dance

Art Club

Community Problem Solving Club

Warhammer & Sci-fi/Fantasy

Board Gaming

Chess Club

Boys' football (Y10 & Y11)

Badminton & Table tennis

(Y9, Y10 & Y11)

Hockey

Model United Nations

Jazz Band

Friday:

Band Academy

Study Club will run every day
except Friday.

Words from the Acting Headteacher

The highlight of the week has been the school production of Oliver! I was completely bowled over by the incredible performances at the Newman Hall this week. The choreography, songs and music were amazing and a testament to the hard work of the students and staff. A full review and pictures will follow next week.

DFE Visit

On Friday 4 March we were delighted to host a visit from Tony Bloxham and Guy Atkinson, representing the Department for Education and the Regional Schools Commission. I'd like to say that they came in because they'd heard great things about us, and whilst there is an element of truth in that – the school's reputation in the wider community is established – I also think they were keen to find out how things are looking ahead of our all-important first set of results, particularly because we were the first Free School to open and are the biggest (and best).

During the day Tony Bloxham met with Kaz Foster, Chair of Governors, Karen Lynch, CEO of the Trust and me, but most importantly with staff and students. I felt proud and humbled as we walked around the School, visiting Year 11 lessons in Maths and English and then popping into each subject area during the course of the day. It was an opportunity to celebrate the fantastic hard work of students and staff, and to reflect on everything that has been established over the past four and half years, both concrete and abstract, from shiny new buildings to a culture and ethos which places the individual at the heart of a fantastic community, both in school and reaching out into Westbury on Trym and beyond.

The microscopic focus was on Year 11 and making sure that they have the best possible chance of exam success, and much of our discussions were centred on these 116 students. In our reflections at the end of the day Tony Bloxham was unambiguous in his praise:

"Students love their lessons, they engage wholeheartedly in obvious and less obvious ways. I love the culture, I love the ethos, it's hard earned. Why wouldn't you want to get out of bed each morning to come to this school? It's a fantastic place."

Fixture of the Week

Not so much a fixture this week, more of a smash 'n' grab raid on the collected might of South Gloucestershire. Our Year 8 girls headed into the badlands north of the city to take part in a basketball tournament at Bradley Stoke School, playing four games in a round robin tournament and putting the opposition royally to the sword, never more so than in a 20 hoop thriller, running out close winners with the score 'delicately' poised at 18-2!

Robyn Frizzell and Bella Leyland unleashed a staggering repertoire of shots, peppering the backboard with dunks and dribbles, heating up and hammering it through the hoops time after time. Celia Castellano set the foundation for a series of foot-to-the-floor attacks; marshalling the blitz defence majestically, a metaphorical zone of death for vague and futile attacks from the 'Shire school shooters. Passes pinged across and back, homing in and out of the hand with subtle sleight of the senses, a dip, a nod, a dummy, and forwards again, driving on.

With the final peep of the referee's whistle, the game was up; to BFS the spoils and the glory, leaving an empty space in the Castle walls and trophy cabinet. A mention in dispatches goes to Leah Russell who stepped up from Year 7 to join the battle-hardened Year 8s, more than holding her own in such exalted company, forming a crucial part of the midfield triumvirate along with Rhianna Hale and Zsuzsanna Munka. Phin Thonglue took home the MVP award; a terrific achievement. Hoop Dreams!

Follow us on twitter: @bristol_free



Paul Jones

Spanish spelling bee

This Tuesday our brilliant Y7 language ambassadors took over assembly for our much-awaited Spanish Spelling Bee. The students in each learning group had competed against one another to find their super-spelling male and female finalist. These were: Ava McNally, Daniel Biju, Annmary Jacob, Riccardo Smith, Izzy Tucker, Callum Phillips, Dontaya Hall, Matthew Timmis, Zena Witherden, Alex Gordon, Millie Dorrington and Jaedyn McGurk. The students battled through three gruelling rounds, contributing well and supporting each other. Teachers were amazed at the level of language produced. While all students performed valiantly, the eventual winner was Millie Dorrington (7LG1).

Flying start challenge – grand final

After three months of effort, perfecting the art of flying, teams Fly Sky High and Sea Eagles made their way to the 'Flying Start' grand final. The students met former pilots and worked with engineers from some of the UK's leading aeronautical companies including Airbus, BAE, Rolls Royce and MBDA, as well as representatives from Engineers without Borders who support projects in developing countries. There was a variety of activities for the teams to complete, including an egg parachute drop (BFS came 1st and 2nd), a wind turbine design (1st and 2nd) and undercarriage manufacture (1st and 3rd). Team work, problem solving, resilience and creativity were all tested to the limit. Congratulations to both teams. For more pictures and videos take a look at @BFS_DT.

Modern Foreign Languages Speaking Competition

Celia Castellano (Y8), Jack Donoghue (Y8) and Julia Mack (Y10) took part in the Routes into Languages Speaking Competition at the Nova Hreod Academy in Swindon. Each student had to deliver a short presentation in their chosen language, competing against students from other schools in the South West. Jack broke the ice, starting the competition with his presentation in Spanish about Messi and Ronaldo, his favourite football players. His pronunciation was extremely accurate and judges were really impressed with his delivery. Julia delivered a speech in French about her favourite holiday destination, Austria. Although German is her first language, her French was spotless (as is her English.) Celia, competing in the near-native

category, talked about her family and the differences between their present life in Bristol and their past life in Madrid. Our students were an asset to the School and also genuinely admired and praised the winners from Highcliffe School and Downe House School. Roll on next year!

Sport Relief on Friday 18 March

Non - uniform options are red clothing or BFS sports kit. Otherwise students should wear normal school uniform. Contributions of £1 for Sport Relief will be collected.

Match Results		
Fixture	Score	Player of the match
Y10 & Y11 boys' football: BFS vs Cotham	6:0	Jamie Mitchell-Cotterell Michael Ebrahimi (Players' player)
Y8 & Y9 boys' football: BFS vs Clifton High	2:2	James Panso Ayman Benarous (Players player)
U16 boys' football: BFS vs Clifton High	2:0	Jamil Khan Elon Kidd (Players' player)
Y7 boys' football: BFS vs Clifton High	2:0	Buster Reed Maxim Courtney (Players' player)

Term 4 – Key Dates	
Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates.	
March	
Saturday 12	MUN conference at Queen's College, Taunton, all day
Tuesday 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7, Y8 & Y9 girls' hockey vs Colston's Girls' (away) Young Enterprise semi-final at St George's, 3.00 – 8.45
Wednesday 16	6 th form update meeting, 6.00
Thursday 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group Bushcraft activity trip, 8.40 – 12.10 U14 boys' hockey vs Katharine Lady Berkeley's School (away) U16 girls' handball vs Orchard School (away) Y8 & Y9 girls' hockey vs Bristol Cathedral Choir School (home at Coombe Dingle)
Friday 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Relief Small group of Y7 at IET Faraday Day, 8.30 – 3.30 Small group visit to Bristol Neuroscience Festival, 8.30 – 1.30 Sports Academy at SGS College, 1.00 – 4.00
Monday 21	Small group of Y9 at University of Bristol Maths Workshop
Tuesday 22	Y10 GCSE Drama performance evening, 6.00 – 7.45
Wednesday 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM day Small group of Y10 at Maths Feast, 8.15 – 12.45
Thursday 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y9 Battlefields trip departs End of term 4: 3.00