

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities
during week commencing
11 April

Tuesday:
Latin (Y10)

Wednesday:
Latin (Y11)

Study Club will not run this
week.

Match Result

U14 girls' football
Redland Green School vs BFS
0:4

Words from the Acting Headteacher

A better singer than me once remarked; "Is there life on Mars?" Little did I know that one day my physical presence would provide a compelling answer to that question. Excitement has been building all week across the School with the knowledge that each passing minute brought us one step closer to STEM day 2016. On Wednesday morning students were stunned to receive a morning briefing live from the surface of the red planet: Mars. Shock turned to enthusiasm, with a series of challenges aimed at deciphering some of the big questions of our time: the nature and cost of scientific discovery, survival and existence, and the physical problems posed by the eternal void of space. It was a spectacular day, culminating in a series of rocket launches from the MUGA and an explosive finale: Mr Cooper launching an enormous ballistic water missile high into the stratosphere.

Our Sixth Form application process has now closed and we've had a huge number of students submit their forms. It's genuinely exciting and there is no doubt that GCSE students across the city have faith in our capacity to provide an outstanding Sixth Form. Building work begins on 11 April and our student council is currently choosing charities to support for RAG week. We will begin the interview process immediately after Easter. This will entail having conversations with all applicants to help with their options and find out more about their hobbies and passions as we prepare to welcome them into Year 12.

Fixture of the week

The dying embers of the season were kindled alight by a fiery cup Year 10 quarter final against the footballing wunderkinds of Fairfield. The game was tight; players were caged within the physicality of the football; mano e mano. No quarter was asked and none given; across the pitch every inch of turf and each blade of grass was contested in the bitter and unyielding struggle for supremacy. A gifted quartet of Year 9s graced the team, with Harvey Sealey, Jacob Neville and Hachim Muhamed showing wisdom and intuition beyond their years, blending into the line-up with skill and subtlety. Vincent Harper marshalled the defence, repelling the Fairfield hordes with timing and grace. A stroke of luck and a benign bounce finally eluded the team; Fairfield edged ahead. The team fought on, pressing up the pitch, looking for a gap in the citadel walls, but the opposition held firm. Dan Whetton, Michael Ebrahimi and Jacob Neville explored the angles, tackled back, edged forwards but failed to find the finishing touch. A narrow defeat, but with dignity intact.

Paul Jones

Easter Holidays and 1st week of Term 5 – Key Dates

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

March	
Saturday 26 (holiday)	Y9 battlefields trip returns
April	
Monday 4 (holiday)	Y11 DT Open workshop, 9.30 – 2.30
Tuesday 5 (holiday)	Y11 GCSE English Language revision session, 9.30 – 1.30
Wednesday 6 (holiday)	Y11 GCSE English Literature revision session, 9.30 – 1.30
Thursday 7 (holiday)	Y11 GCSE Science revision session, 9.30 – 1.30
Monday 11	School closed to students unless invited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Y11 GCSE Latin revision session, 9.30 – 1.30 ○ Y11 GCSE Maths revision session, 9.30 – 12.30
Tuesday 12	Visit by Craig Figes of Sky sports to Sports Academy students
Wednesday 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7 girls' basketball tournament at Bradley Stoke • Parent/carer meeting for parents of new Year 7, 6.30

STEM day

Yesterday saw our annual STEM Day take place, and with last year's award-winning effort, this year had to step up to the mark! The theme this year was Space exploration, and all STEM subjects were full of boundless enthusiasm for the topic, delivering sessions on astronaut training, the value of space exploration, survival in space and rocket building. The day ended in a spectacular rocket launch finale, and a giant rocket being launched on the field by Dr Cooper.



National Science Week

Last week a range of science themed starters were carried out across all subject areas. These ranged from optical illusions to the creation of strange sounds with nothing more than a cup, some string, a cloth and of course, science.

Maths Feast 2016

Four of our Year 10 students represented BFS at a "Maths Feast" event for the Bristol region. Our students "feasted" on a variety of mathematical challenges and problems, including complex numbers which is part of the Further Maths A level curriculum. Although not a competition, certificates were awarded for high scores in particular rounds and wider skills. We were delighted that BFS received an award for "demonstrating great teamwork".



Follow us on twitter: @bristol_free



Faraday Challenge

Last week five students from Year 7 took up the 'Faraday Challenge' at the University of Bristol. The aim of the day was to code and create two new pieces of technology to help in everyday lives. The team competed against six others, including a teachers' team. Each team was given a BBC Micro:bit which is a small programmable computer. After a morning of coding, it was finally time to be judged. Each group had to make a pitch to 'sell' its invention to the 'Dragons'. Fifteen agonising minutes later the results were announced. BFS won! The students had a fantastic, memorable day and learnt a lot.

If you are interested in this, then there will soon be a Micro:bit club starting where you will have the chance to have your very own micro:bit and enjoy regular coding.



STEM day