

# Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities  
during week commencing  
18 April

**Monday:**

Latin Improvers (Y8 & Y9)

**Tuesday:**

Latin (Y10)  
Makers Club  
Maths and code-breaking Club  
Girls' rounders (Y7 & Y8)  
Boys' cricket (Y7 & Y8)  
Beatles Band  
Textiles Club (Y9)

**Wednesday:**

Orchestra  
Latin (Y11)  
Science Club  
Young Enterprise (Y10)  
Athletics  
Jazz and Commercial dance  
NewPals for Nepal  
Gardening Club

**Thursday:**

Art Club  
Community Problem Solving  
Club  
Warhammer and Sci-fi/Fantasy  
Board Gaming  
Chess Club  
Hip-hop/Street dance  
Boys' cricket (Y9, Y10 & Y11)  
Girls' rounders (Y9, Y10, Y11)  
Model United Nations  
Fencing  
Jazz Band

**Friday:**

Band Academy

Study Club will run every day  
except Friday.



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## Words from the Acting Headteacher

I started the staff inset session this week by referring to “squeaky bum time”, a phrase coined by Sir Alex Ferguson to describe the final few games of a particularly close game or season. For obvious reasons, I don't want to labour this metaphor, but for staff and students of Bristol Free School it's very much squeaky bum time. We have four weeks to go until the first GCSE exam. As I reminded my English class today, they have 16 lessons left. Even though things might be tense, I am also acutely aware that the results gained by our students in the summer will be the product of five years (and more) hard work, not the last 16 lessons. Any squeaking of bums can be kept to a minimum by the knowledge that each individual is fully prepared for the run of exams, through careful preparation and the accumulation of hard work, hard-won knowledge and finely-developed skills.

Whilst one group prepare to exit stage left, hopefully not pursued by a bear, another group prepare to make their entrance. I met with parents of our new Year 7 cohort this week to welcome them to the School and begin the process of transition. The School is getting bigger; our building works are imminent and we have even more students joining us whilst our first ever cohort prepare to move on. It is an exciting time each year, knowing the fundamental rites of passage which await as students prepare to move up to 'big' school.

### Fixture of the Week:

U14 Girls Football vs St Mary Redcliffe

A balmy spring afternoon saw a thunderous clash between two titans of teenage football in the semi-finals of the city-wide league. The knockout phase brings unique pressure and a proverbial pressure-cooker atmosphere.

The girls played superbly well, each player committed to the cause, the team, and the pursuit of glory. Polly Garton controlled the defence, marshalled the troops and repelled the Redcliffian hordes as they flung themselves into the breach. When an unstoppable force meets an immovable object, Polly wins. Hannah Warren manned the barricades; covering any incursion with an unkempt savagery of response; playing the ball and leaving the opposition scrabbling in the turf, bereft of hope, dazed and confused. Holly Neville added attacking brio at the other end of the park, a Cruyff turn here and a step-over there flummoxing the baffled defenders and remapping the terrain. Nowhere was safe, a thirty-yard bullet rifled through the air in a spiralling vortex, the 'keeper just getting a fingernail on the projectile and tipping it over the bar. Holly Freke defied the laws of physics to be everywhere at once, an artist painting in vivid colours with the football as paintbrush and pitch as palette.

The impasse deepened, with neither team able to eke out the decisive score. Tension escalated as the minutes and seconds slipped past, every player aware that one moment of indecision or decision could prove decisive, but it was not forthcoming and the final shrill peep of the referee's whistle heralded the onset of the dreaded penalty shootout: a capricious way to separate two armies locked in mortal combat. Despite confident goalkeeping and some well-placed shots, St Mary Redcliffe prevailed and booked their place in the final.

**Paul Jones**

**Sports Academy**

Our Sports Academy students spent a day this week with Craig Figes, water polo captain for Team GB. As part of the Sky Sports Living for Sport initiative, Craig has been assigned as the athlete mentor to teach our students about the 'Six Keys to Success'. These are the top six life-skills athletes identified as enabling them to achieve success in sport and everyday life. Craig led a practical session with the Sports Academy students involving activities which challenged their mental toughness and resilience and followed this with a presentation on his experiences as an elite athlete. During this term Sports Academy students will be completing a project which will develop their leadership skills and embrace the 'Six Keys to Success'.



**Bushcraft**

Before Easter a small group of Year 9 students went on a 'bushcraft' trip. Students learnt many new skills including creating fire from a single spark, building a waterproof shelter in the woods, and how to roast the perfect marshmallow! It was girls vs boys in the shelter building, and both groups worked hard to ensure that theirs was the winning shelter. Once the shelters were done, each group sat inside and water was thrown onto it to test the integrity of the build. There was no clear winning team, as both shelters held up against the liquid onslaught, although the boys came out looking a little worse for wear...



**World War 1 battlefields**

Fifty-two Year 9 historians went to the WWI battlefields at the start of the holidays. The first stop was at the site of a British army hospital on the Ypres salient. Students learned what happened to injured soldiers as well as how to read the grave stones of soldiers in the adjoining cemetery. The group went to Ypres to visit the impressive 'In Flanders Fields' museum where students engaged with a range of original WWI material. That evening the group witnessed the remembrance ceremony at the Menin Gate where Kaitlin Lloyd and George Levy laid a wreath on behalf of BFS. The following day was spent on the Somme, at Vimy Ridge, Newfoundland Park, Lochnagar Crater, Thiepval and the Devonshire Cemetery. Students were struck by the vast numbers of casualties in the war as well as learning how the surrounding terrain impacted on the tactics deployed by commanding officers during the war. On the final day the group returned to the Ypres salient to visit the grave of Ellen Corbett's great great grandfather. This was a poignant moment emphasising the personal and individual impact each death during the war had. Visits to Langemarck, Tynecott and Sanctuary Wood followed. Thanks to Mr Bishop, Mr MacBlain, Mr Green, Miss West, Miss Young, Mrs Chown and Miss Ryan who accompanied the trip.





**Save the date for the Summer BBQ @ BFS - 24th June 2016**

Put the date in your diary and make sure you join us for a great evening of BBQ, music, games and more.