

# Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities  
during week commencing  
9 May

**Monday:**

Latin Improvers (Y8 & Y9)

**Tuesday:**

Latin (Y10)

Makers Club

Maths & code-breaking Club

Textiles Club (Y9)

Girls' rounders (Y7 & Y8)

Boys' cricket (Y7 & Y8)

Folk Band

**Wednesday:**

Orchestra

Latin (Y11)

Science Club

Young Enterprise (Y10)

Jazz & Commercial dance

NewPals for Nepal

Athletics

Craft Club

**Thursday:**

Hip-hop/Street dance

Art Club

Community Problem Solving  
Club

Warhammer & Sci-fi/Fantasy

Board Gaming

Chess Club

Model United Nations

Fencing

Boys' cricket (Y9, Y10 & Y11)

Girls' rounders (Y9, Y10 &  
Y11)

**Friday:**

Band Academy

Study Club will run every day  
except Friday.

## Words from the Acting Headteacher

There is one week to go until the first GCSE examination. We then shift seamlessly into our revision and exams timetable, designed to support students and help them focus their efforts on the relevant subject at the right time.

There are some important elements to consider during the exams period, the main one being spelling and grammar (SPAG). It's a key part of *all* exams, with significant numbers of marks available. Students must ensure that they have nailed down those tricky spellings, especially key words across subjects. It could easily be the difference between grades. I have emailed a document home to Year 11 in this regard: put it on the fridge and test them at every opportunity. I have no qualms in resorting to 'motivational tactics': offer a chocolate biscuit for every 10 spellings corrected; or make it piece-work (we can overlook the national living wage for this one) perhaps 10p per correct word. Be warned: students say they have checked a written response when in reality nothing has changed and it is still riven with errors. They have to be rigorous and look more deeply at their writing. These are 'free marks', or 'easy wins', and it pains me to see points go begging through inaction.

This week we held the first of our Open Days, looking ahead to 2017 and the next cohort of students to join our fantastic school. We have also started our detailed transition planning, with Miss Nowak lining up visits for each student in their current school. It was a pleasure to welcome parents and students from our primary feeder schools and we look forward to helping them make the big leap into secondary. We have a repeat meeting planned, and parents will receive information about this.

## Fixture of the Week

Our sporting endeavours are not limited to school fixtures; a number of our students line up for teams across the region in a range of disciplines. Last Saturday was just such an occasion, with Alice Russell, Phoebe Neville, Rhianna Hale, Holly Neville, Olivia Manikum-Cole and Sydney-Mae Browne representing two teams from the Bristol Ladies Union FC in the Gloucestershire Regional Futsal Tournament. The two teams won their respective groups, showing full control of the surface and this refined form of the game; putting their rivals to the sword with a cutting-edge display of creativity, improvisation and technique. They scored a whopping 22 goals between them. The teams now head to South Devon for the regional finals in Paignton at the end of the month, the next hurdle en route to the National Finals in Birmingham.

Mentioned in dispatches this week is the combined Years 7 and 8 boys' cricket team which took on Cotham School in the first league fixture of the season. The aptly named Angus Fraser lived up to his namesake with a metronomic, suffocating final over to ensure BFS won by two runs. Krish Manesh and Joe Warren hit double figures with the bat and wickets were shared amongst the pack, with Tom Pope and Ben Beggs sending the stumps crashing.

**Paul Jones**

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**Young Enterprise**

After eight months of hard work the Young Enterprise team, 'EmojiBags', was one of the teams to reach yesterday's Area Final. The team's presentation was excellent, starting off with a jingle (written and produced by Matthew Ghosh and Christopher McWhan). The MD, Kieran Waters, supported by Thomas Covill, Jack Payne and Ollie Pope led the presentation of their work in a comical but serious way, finishing with a song. I was shaking with nerves before they started but smiling with joy and pride once they finished.

While the team did not win an award themselves, their business advisor, Chris Green, who has been coming in each week to help the team with his knowledge and experience, won the Business Advisor award.

Well done to 'Emojibags' - an amazing group of students!

Mr Harkin



**Steven-Johnson Syndrome (SJS)**

Lily Barton (Y9) gave an inspirational assembly to Year 9 students on Wednesday. The assembly was on SJS, a rare life threatening disease which unfortunately affects her younger brother, a student in our Year 7. Lily talked confidently about the disease, raising awareness and saying how people can help. One of the many things Lily will be doing is holding a cake sale next Thursday, 12 May, to raise funds for the SJS awareness charity, <http://www.sjsawareness.org.uk/>. Student support would be appreciated.

**Shakespeare at Bristol Free School**

Bristol Free School's Year 10 had an exciting opportunity to take part in a Macbeth Shakespeare workshop this week. The Drama Hall was transformed into a scene straight from Scotland with colourful set, royal robes and dramatic music, while four actors from Sky Blue Theatre Company, led by John Mitton, brought the play to life. Students watched the banquet scene and Macbeth's sanity quickly deteriorate as well as learning how a Shakespearean audience would have perceived the witches; two alternative scenes of the witches initially led to laughter at their green wigs and comic behaviour, then shock as their second staging involved hooded cloaks and muted voices before they leapt forward to frighten the audience. The highlight of the day however, was when a selection of our students eagerly donned costumes to re-enact the plot of Macbeth, making it a day to remember.

**Trip to Barcelona**

The sunnier days have, finally, arrived generating excitement for our students and staff heading out to Barcelona on this summer's trip. There is an information evening for all students going, and their families, on Thursday 12 May at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Key dates for the coming week**

Please see the calendar at [www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk) for other important dates.

May	
Saturday 7	Y9 bronze DofE practice expedition
Sunday 8	Y9 bronze DofE practice expedition
Tuesday 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water sports for small group of Y8, 12.30 – 4.00</li> <li>Y8 girls' rounders vs Red Maids' School 9away</li> <li>Y7 &amp; Y8 boys' cricket vs Fairfield (away)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community involvement project at Westbury Fields care home, 2.20 – 4.00</li> <li>Y7 – Y9 girls' basketball vs Patchway (away)</li> </ul>
Thursday 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y7 &amp; Y9 girls' rounders vs St Bede's (home)</li> <li>Y7 &amp; Y8 boys' cricket vs Redland Green School (home at Coombe Dingle)</li> <li>Y9 &amp; Y10 boys' cricket vs Redland Green School (away)</li> <li>Barcelona trip meeting for parents/carers, 6.00</li> </ul>
Friday 13	Sports Academy at SGS college, 1.00 – 4.00
Saturday 14	Jazz Band performing at The Old Duke, 4.00 – 5.30