

Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities
during week commencing
4 July

Monday:

Latin Improvers (Y8 & Y9)

Tuesday:

Study Club is the only after
school activity

Wednesday:

Orchestra
Science Club
Athletics
Jazz & Commercial dance
NewPals for Nepal
Gardening Club

Thursday:

Art Club
Fencing
Community Problem Solving
Club
Warhammer & 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

Study Club will run every day
except Friday.

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@bristol_free



Words from the Headteacher

This week saw the last of our GCSE exams. It's a momentous occasion; after 6 weeks of intense study and revision, our Year 11 cohort are now free to relax and enjoy the balmy days of summer (when or if these balmy days ever arrive). I cannot speak highly enough of their conduct and approach to the challenge. They have closed out their time in the main school in the same way they began in 2011, with impeccable manners, kindness and diligence. I am proud to have been a part of the journey and hope that August brings a just reward to each student. One of the reasons the exam season has been successful and seemingly stress-free, at least from my perspective, is because of the unceasing efforts and professionalism of our exams team, led by Helen Chim and Marta Arriazu. They have ensured that students are able to focus on the thing that matters most: doing their best, free of unnecessary distractions. They have been ably supported by a team of elite invigilators; with Beatriz Mendez doing a super job as Lead Invigilator. It's easy to think that teachers are the key to success for students, but it is a collegiate effort and I am under no illusions and indebted to our colleagues who do so much, often behind the scenes.

On a point of information, I have been informed by the NUT that they will be taking industrial action in the form of a strike on Tuesday 5 July 2016. This action is not against the School itself but is part of national industrial action organised by this trade union about cuts in funding, issues of workload, pay and other conditions. Our main concern with regard to colleagues taking strike action is the safety of our students. In light of this we will be undertaking a 'partial closure': the school will open to Years 9 and 10 only. There may be some disruption to these lessons, depending on the numbers of staff taking action. Years 7 and 8 will NOT be in school. We must all hope that the issues over which the industrial action has arisen are resolved as soon as possible.

Paul Jones

Election for Parent Governor

By the deadline at 12.00pm yesterday 30 June, there were two nominations for the vacancy, for Paul Airs and Sarah Rupprecht.

However, Russell Education Trust (RET) has made the decision to ask the existing parent governor, Andrew McWhan, to become an RET nominated governor of the School, which he has accepted. Therefore, both Paul and Sarah can now be accepted onto the Local Governing Body (LGB) without the need for an election. They will therefore be your Parent Governors for the next four academic years, 2016 – 2020.

I hope this is good news for everyone – thanks to Paul and Sarah for their interest in the role. RET and all Local Governors are looking forward to working with them in the next four years.

Elizabeth Bogle
RET clerk to the Governing Body

Science Discovery Prize

You are warmly invited to attend the grand final of this year's annual Science Discovery Prize. The prize is open to students in Years 7 and 8 and seeks to promote independent enquiry skills in Science. The Year 7 grand final will be held in the LRC between 3 and 4.30pm on Monday 4 July and the one for Year 8 will be between 3 and 4.30pm on Thursday 7 July in the Dining Hall. (Please note that this is a change of date.)

Teenagers and Alcohol: Bristol Public Health Campaign

Do you sometimes wonder how to talk to your children about alcohol? As a parent or carer you are in the best position to help your child stay healthy and safe. Public Health Bristol has added a new section to the 4YP for Parents website providing information, advice and activities for you to share with your children. You can find it at <https://www.4ypbristol.co.uk/for-parents/for-parents/alcohol/>

Sports Day

This year's Sports day for students in Years 7 to 10 will take place next Friday. Students should go straight to Coombe Dingle Sports Complex ready for a start at 9.00 am. Students can look forward to a sports carousel in the morning in which they will take part in a range of both athletics activities (including track, jumps and javelin) and alternative activities (including welly toss, tug of war, dodgeball and invasion games) with the main focus of the morning being on having fun and earning participation points for their tutor groups. In contrast, the afternoon will follow a more traditional format with competitive whole school track finals.

Pens for Poverty

After winning this year's Enterprise Day competition, the Pens for Poverty group has been going from strength to strength. So far they have managed to raise £101.35 for our partner school in Nepal and have made sure that many of our Year 11s had all the correct equipment for their GCSE exams! They topped off an excellent year with a stall at last week's Summer BBQ.



30 Days of Wild

In June the Wildlife Trust has been running a campaign called 30 Days Wild. As part of this some of our Year 7 students were invited to take part in a range of activities to test their geographical skills and to gain a much wider context to the investigative skills they have been using in class. Students completed a series of mapping activities and nature walks in Royal Victoria Park, identifying a range of wild flowers along their route and clearing litter, before heading to the area of woodland behind Repton Hall. Here they cleared an overgrown area of woodland to reveal a path and set of long neglected steps. The group cleared rubble from the path and make the area safer and more accessible for dog walkers and residents of the area. A local resident has been in touch to thank our students for their efforts, as she has previously found access to this section particularly tricky and is now delighted to be able to walk down the stairs without fear of slipping. We are grateful to ZigZag Education for their help in co-ordinating this activity.

I am immensely proud of the students involved and their contribution to the local community, and they are looking to lobby their MP to ensure this area of woodland is protected in the future. The students involved were: Nathan Adams, Allegra Beasley, Ellie Brotherton, Sam Carling, Dontaya Hall, Claudia Short, Deeksha Subramanya, Matthew Timmis and Zach Treharne. To see more photos and a time lapse video of the event, please visit:

<http://zigzageducation.co.uk/Geography/30dayswild/27.html>

Mr Williams

Key dates for the next week

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

| July | |
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| Monday 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y7 & Y8 boys' cricket vs Ashton Park (away) Science Discovery Prize event (Y7) |
| Tuesday 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed to students in Years 7 & 8 Peer mentor visit to Coexist UK, 8.30 – 3.30 |
| Wednesday 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Leaders at Bath University summer games Murder Mystery event for a group from WoT Primary (pm) Y10 GCSE Drama performance evening |
| Thursday 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year 7 induction day New Year 7 parent information meeting, 6.30 pm Science Discovery Prize event (Y8) |
| Friday 8 | Sports Day |

