

Weekly Update

Welcome to a special edition of the newsletter focusing on last week's Curriculum Enrichment activities

Curriculum Enrichment Week 2016 proved to be as fun, diverse and challenging as anticipated after last year's extravaganza. This year, Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a wide range of activities including a science trip to the zoo, a day of performing arts culminating in a performance for an audience of Year 6 students, a day-long Tech or Art project, a trek across the Mendips, a geographical field study of streams in the Blaise Castle estate, a series of workshops from various local agencies about safety and citizenship, a visit from Tracy Alexander, author of teenage dystopian fiction, aspirational trips to four Higher Education institutions and an exciting decision making exercise based on a Chilean humanitarian crisis. This was an exciting itinerary for Key Stage 3 which students thoroughly invested in, discovering new interests and rising to new challenges. We have received numerous compliments from external providers on the enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour displayed by BFS students throughout.

Lincoln College,
Oxford



At the zoo

**CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT
SPECIAL**

Mendip Trek

Sir Edmund Hillary said "People do not become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things". Last week Year 8 proved his point when they took part in a gruelling 8km trek which included scaling Beacon Batch, which at a staggering elevation of 325m is the highest point in the Mendips. As well as walking and learning the basics of navigation students completed a nature study of the area which included finding a palmate newt! Well done everyone for accomplishing something truly extraordinary!



Decision making

Year 9 students completed a complex decision making exercise requiring dedicated concentration. In groups, they researched Chile through differing perspectives to gain an understanding of its social dynamics. Shortly after, a 'disaster' was staged and the group scrambled to translate a news report from Spanish to English. Further effort was invested to complete another decision making exercise where students justified choices based on the differing perspectives they had researched. The groups worked seamlessly and diplomatically to reach conclusions about how Chile should react to the disaster and then reported their findings in presentations. The quality of empathy and discussion was extremely high displaying commitment and engagement in the task.

Art Workshops

Year 7 students participated in exciting art workshops using the medium of photography and solar fast to create unique compositions to explore their identity.



Author Visit

Year 9 had the opportunity to meet Tracy Alexander, author of the novels 'Hacked' and 'Alias'. Tracy spoke about the writing process, how she became a published author and shared some great tips for enthusiastic young writers. Tracy concluded her session with some audience participation as she spoke to students about how they too can become writers. The students then divided in to small groups to create their own Dystopian piece of fiction, culminating in a pitch to a movie production team. We were amazed by the professional nature of some of these pitches, the artistic costume design and the skilfully shot movie trailers. We are sure there are a few Spielbergs in the making!

