



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 19 February 2018

Monday

Tennis
KS4 Latin
Chamber Choir
Homework Club

Tuesday

Tutor and lunchtime—DofE drop in
Y9 Textiles Club
Y7 Boys Football
Girls Football
School Show Rehearsals
Science Club
Y12 Young Enterprise
Philosophy Club
Spanish Film Club
DofE drop in
Homework Club

Wednesday

Y8&9 Football
Sixth Form Girls Netball
Orchestra
Folk Band
Outdoor Club
Digital Leaders
Flying Start
French Film Club
Homework Club

Thursday

Y10 and up Boys Football
Girls Basketball
Programming
Art Club
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Public Speaking Club
Homework Club

Friday

KS4&5 Composition Workshop

All clubs run from 3:15-4:30pm with the exception of KS4 Latin which finishes at 5:20pm, and Philosophy Club which runs from 3:10-4:00pm

Words from the Headteacher

It is no surprise that the week leading to half term has been a busy one.

On Wednesday, Year Leaders welcomed a number of students to a celebration brunch. These brunches are held to celebrate those students with the very highest attendance levels as well as exemplary behaviour and work records. We are constantly looking for new ways to publically celebrate the many and varied achievements of our students. But these events are scheduled by Heads of Year to heighten awareness of the very clear links between personal organisation, attendance and academic success.

For years 11, 12 and 13, another round of mock exams start on Friday 23 February. This will be the last dry run, the final blank firing exercise before D-Day, where any mistakes can be learnt from without mortal impact. As such, I hope students see the mock exams as incredibly useful learning opportunities, albeit they will undoubtedly find them hard-work! A reminder that there are music, maths (Monday) and English (Thursday) revision sessions on in the half-term break for Year 11. Parents and students should double-check the session(s) at which they are required; and school communications about arrangements. In general, students are advised over half term to decide when to revise and when to rest and exercise. Parents can help (particularly Year 11) students with revision by testing them on what they have learnt; and allowing all manner of quotes/formulae/dates and other key facts to be stuck around bedrooms or on the fridge door!

On our return from the half term break we will also be straight back into the business of GCSE Guided Choices and mock exams. For parents of year 9 students, please remember that the Guided Choices deadline is the 23 February. Steering students on to the appropriate courses at GCSE is a vital element in ensuring their success, so please consider choices carefully. It's not always easy to balance the various factors that push a student towards one subject or another: enjoyment, engagement, success to date and usefulness for future plans (which of course are possibly not yet made), but careful thought will pay off.

Finally, the 'flu' season seems to have passed, however, the mantra now being uttered by our attendance officer is 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. As a scientist I find the various flu viruses incredibly interesting beasts, however, I will be taking her advice on board as have no desire to get to know the Australian, Bird, Swine or Seasonal versions first-hand. I hope that those travelling to Munich do not bring an unknown European flu back with them after their visit next week! We look forward to welcoming all our students back on the 19 February.

Ben Sillince
Acting Headteacher

Focus on... Uniform

A letter was emailed home to all parents this week regarding the uniform expectations at BFS. Most students stick closely to our policy and we are grateful for parental support in this matter. But in case any uncertainty has arisen, the full policy is on our website; www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/uniform. Please read it carefully and ensure you send your child to school each morning meeting these standards. Please pay particular attention to the guidelines on jewellery.



Vacancies

We are looking to appoint a friendly and outgoing Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist to join our busy office team.

More information is available on the school website:

www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/vacancies

DofE Update

Letters with final details of the Silver and Bronze expeditions were sent home this week and kit lists will be given out in tutor trays.

Participants in the Silver award need to make sure they have uploaded details of their voluntary, physical and skill to their eDofE account before the start of Term 4 or they will not be allowed to participate in the expeditions.

If you have any questions come along to a DofE drop in session on Tuesdays in tutor time or after school in ICT1.

Dan Brazil, Y11, Computing Excellence

Dan Brazil, in Year 11, was invited to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford on Sunday 28 January as a finalist in a UK-wide computing competition – The UK BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge.

Reaching the final of the Senior age group is an impressive achievement, as 14,402 students entered the first round of the Senior age group category (14–16). Daniel was among the top 60 highest achieving students invited to the final round in his age group, and was presented with his finalist’s certificate at a prize-giving ceremony at Hertford College.

The UK BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge, supported by Google, is designed to get students excited about computing and computational thinking. It is a problem-solving contest with questions inspired by topics in computer science. In the first round, students have to try and solve as many problems as possible in the allotted time. The highest scoring students from the four oldest age groups (Elite, Senior, Intermediate, and Junior) were then invited to the Department of Computer Science at Oxford for the finals over two weekends in January and February.

We are very proud of Dan and his achievement—well done!

Key dates for next week

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

Monday 19 February 2018	Year 10 Shakespeare workshop Sixth Form Interviews
Tuesday 20 February 2018	U14 & U16 girls football vs Cathedral School, away Y7 boys football Triangular vs Cotham and St Bede’s, away at St Bede’s
Wednesday 21 February 2018	Y12 Photography students to Dark Rooms Community Involvement Project visit St Katherine’s House Lady Taverner’s U15 Cricket Competition, at BGS Sixth Form Interviews
Thursday 22 February 2018	Lady Taverner’s U13 Cricket Competition, at City Academy PERFORM: STEM students project
Friday 23 February 2018	GUIDED CHOICES DEADLINE Sixth Form deadline for UCAS applications

KS3 Latin and Classics Club

If you are interested in learning about the culture and language of the Ancient Romans come along to Latin and Classics Club. We will learn about Roman society and how they lived, including finding out about their houses, towns, baths, theatre and education. We will also make a fun start learning Latin, using songs and games. This will be really useful for anyone considering taking Latin GCSE, but also more generally if you are just interested in the Ancient World, or in finding out about the basis for many modern languages, including English! This club will take place during Monday tutor time and will carry on into the first half of lunch. Speak to Miss Ryan for more details!

Homework

In common with other schools in our Trust we are reviewing our approach to homework. Changes to GCSE in particular, mean that the type and regularity of homework set—and the degree of parental support needed may change. Similarly, we are reviewing the homework approaches which best support our most able students in KS3, so that they achieve grades 7-9 in all their GCSEs. In the week beginning 19th February, we will be launching a parental survey to gather your views. Please find time to fill this in, so we can act on your feedback.

Flying Start Regional Final

11 budding aeronautical engineers took to the skies this week in the Flying Start Challenge regional final at Aerospace Bristol. All teams showed superb commitment over the last 7 weeks designing, developing, manufacturing and testing their glider prototypes. On the day they delivered calm, composed and confident poster presentations, aced the aero quiz and then chucked their gliders the entire width of Concorde (well nearly).

These students were a credit to Bristol Free School. Special congratulations to Sacha Wild, Callum Davies and Sam Day (The Firejets) who came 4th overall and have been invited to the prestigious South West Final at the Fleet Air Arm Museum in March.

