

Weekly Update



Words from the Headteacher

Industrial Action: 17 October 2013

Parents and carers should have received a letter from the School about the planned industrial action by two of the teaching unions, the NUT and the NASUWT, due to take place on Thursday 17 October. Once I have a clear picture as to which members of staff will be taking industrial action and striking on the 17 October I will let students, parents and carers know the implications for the School.

Blooming Marvellous: a reminder

A reminder about the bulb planting, being organised by the FOBFS for Monday 14 October at 3:30pm; with over 1000 daffodil bulbs needing to be planted to ready our campus for spring, volunteers are most welcome. If you have a trowel (*and pads for your knees*) please meet at the School and check in with a member of the FOBFS team who will load you up with bulbs and point you in the direction of the flower beds.

BFS 6th Form consultation

When the idea of setting up a new school was first conceived by the parents' action group, Parents' Voice, some four years ago, the intention was to set up and start an 11-19 school with a sixth form as an integral part. When a new government and the introduction of the 'Free Schools' programme made this possible it was decided, given the complexities of being a trail blazer, to focus on establishing an excellent 11 – 16 school and then to add a sixth form at a later date. The time to begin the process of adding the sixth form has arrived.

Bristol Free School has been a resounding success and we have just taken in our third group of students and moved into our purpose built accommodation. We were one of a small number of secondary schools in Bristol which was over-subscribed with first choice applicants for entry this September and we recently had our first excellent Ofsted inspection. Year 9, our first year group of students will take their GCSE examinations in the summer of 2016 and we believe that many students and their parents will want to have the opportunity to continue their education in the School's own sixth form. It is worth noting that when the Trust leased our school site from the Department for Education (DfE), the large empty block alongside the main school building was included in the lease to provide a cost effective solution to adding a sixth form.

We will be consulting the parents of students currently at Bristol Free School, parents with children at local primary schools and other interested parties, including the Local Authority, secondary schools and colleges about this proposal. If after consultation the governing trust decides to pursue this option, they will make a formal application to the DfE and seek the capital funding to equip the necessary additional accommodation.

The formal consultation process has begun. Please go to the School website or follow this link for further details: <http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/consultation.php>

Richard Clutterbuck

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 14 October

Tuesday:

Basketball
Comic Book Philosophy
Dance Club (Y7 & Y8)
Film Club
Games Club
German Club

Wednesday:

Book Club
Choir
Italian Club
Science Club
Arts Award
Netball
Rugby (Y7 & Y8)

Thursday:

Creative Writing
Dance Club (Y9)
Duke of Edinburgh (Y9)
Model United Nations
Orchestra
Eco-Club
Mixed sport
Rugby (Y9)

Friday:

Band Academy

Homework Club will run every day except Friday.

National Poetry Day 2013

The School celebrated National Poetry Day with a range of activities hosted by the English Faculty. Students were frantically running around the site trying to be the first to complete treasure hunts and poetry quizzes whilst building origami boats; this year's theme was water. Teams of up to four hurtled round the site looking for clues, demanding to know whether Miss Hogg was indeed the Frost fan, or if Miss Di Martino had been the one to bring in the Italian poem after all. The winners were Jamie Hall and Amana Parsons with Amica Sharp, Laura Buckland and Sasha Prosser coming in second place. Well done to every single student and member of staff who helped make National Poetry Day a roaring success. Remember to take part in The Hunger Games competition as well as The Power of Poetry competition. See Miss Hogg for further details.

Drama Workshop

Miss Rose is excited about next week's Drama workshop. Students were informed of this amazing opportunity on Monday morning and before the end of the day all 30 available spaces had been taken. This promises to be a fantastic workshop and a great opportunity for the students to work with a different drama practitioner. Students who are participating need to check the details on the poster in the Sports Hall.



Cashless Catering

You should have received a letter earlier in the week about our intended implementation of a cashless catering system which will be based on biometric data. Please ensure that you sign and return the consent form to allow the School to capture this data. If you need a duplicate copy of the letter please contact the School's Reception or email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

Found Property

If your child has lost any clothes or equipment this term please suggest to them that they check the School's "found property" box, which is currently overflowing!

Bikeability Level 2 during Oct ½ Term 2013

Top up your cycle training with a fun 3-day Bikeability Level 2 course to get your on road cycling up to speed. Open to Year 5, 6 & 7 pupils:

- Tues 29th, Wed 30th & Thurs 31st Oct 2013
- AM course 10am-12noon each day
- Only £15 per child

Course held at:
Clifton High School,
College Rd,
Clifton BS8 3JD

Book online at:
www.lifecycleuk.org.uk

Life Cycle UK
start cycling • keep cycling • save cycling

Friends of BFS Inaugural Annual General Meeting 20:00 Wed 16 Oct in the BFS Learning Resource Centre

All are invited to attend and please remember that previous experience is not compulsory.

If you wish to join the committee or stand for any position and help *make a real difference to the life of the school*, please email fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.

For a draft copy of the proposed constitution, please email fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

Further details on FoFBS activities for the year at <http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/fobfs.php>

Blooming Marvellous

Your help is needed to plant 1000 daffodil bulbs on Monday 14th October from 3.30 pm onwards at the School.

See the "Words from the Head" section.

Friends of Bristol Free School

Term 1 – Key Dates

October	
Monday 14	Y9 rugby league tournament at Bradley Stoke Community School
Tuesday 15	Y7, 8 & 9 netball vs Redland Green School (home)
Wednesday 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM of FoBFS • Y7 rugby tournament at Oasis
Friday 18	Drama Workshop
Monday 21	Cross country event
Thursday 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y8 rugby tournament at Henbury School • Y9 theatre trip to Bristol Old Vic
Friday 25	End of Term 1: 3.00 pm