

Weekly Update

Words from the Headteacher

Yesterday Year 9 embraced their 'Pathways Day', another Bristol Free School first. This day was the next step in the guided choices process, to support students in choosing the subjects they will be studying for GCSE. Year 9 is our founding year; these students are our positive role models for younger students, our pioneers. Thursday marked a rite of passage in their journey at Bristol Free School.

The day was planned by Miss Slater who says:

It was a pleasure to work with colleagues from local schools who were happy to lend us some older students for the morning. Eight students from Bristol Cathedral Choir School and six from Colston's Girls' School joined undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as professionals from local engineering companies, for a key component of the day: speed-networking. Our Year 9s circulated amongst our visiting experts, with just three minutes to ask each about their academic and professional career to date. The atmosphere was purposeful and excited. Our visitors seemed to enjoy the experience as much as our students.

Bristol, Bath, UWE and Bath Spa universities provided a carousel of undergraduate ambassador-led sessions covering what skills and experience university admissions teams are looking for beyond the classroom; the differences between university and school; university life in general; the costs and benefits of university; the different tasks required to make a chocolate bar ...

Students learnt a language called 'Fargon' with Dr Rowan Tomlinson. This activity was designed to enhance students' analytical and code-breaking abilities, emphasising the transferability of skills required in language learning, rather than knowledge of a particular language.

Our staff ran a subject fair. The Year 9s were tasked with finding out as much as possible from our subject specialists about expectations at GCSE. They have enjoyed taster sessions over the last two weeks, but this provided opportunity for more detailed discussion.

The day culminated in our students receiving their guided choices booklet. Before these students had even started at BFS, founding staff had determined the characteristics they wanted our students to possess. We asked of them today, in particular, to be adaptable, communicative, inquisitive and open-minded. They did us, and their parents and carers, proud! The next step is Year 9 Parents' Pathways Evening, 5-7pm, on Thursday 13 February.



Richard Clutterbuck

Shakespeare!

Last Thursday the English and Performing Arts faculties joined forces to host an exciting day of theatrical fun. Sky Blue Theatre Company provided a "Shakespeare Rewired" workshop to Year 9. 'Romeo and Juliet', the play currently being studied, was brought to life through a variety of engaging activities. As well as being able to watch a host of mini productions by the team of actors, the students were invited upon stage to act out key scenes of the play, clad in impressive medieval costumes; Max Hedger was quite the picture dressed as the nurse and Matthew Taylor looked every bit the regal prince with his stately crown. A superb day had by all!

Year 9 football vs Red Maids'

We arrived at Red Maids' in good time to meet our rivals. First up, after warming up, was the 'A' team consisting of Beth Coke, Portia Neville, Ellie Mae Tierney, Beth Doel and Corinne Thompson (Y8). Beth D donned the goalie gloves and took up her position. Beth C was left wing, with Ellie on the right wing. Portia was up front and Corinne was defence.

The game got off to a slow paced start, but as the first half of the game progressed we found our feet and Portia took a goal. We were so pleased about it we couldn't quite concentrate which meant Red Maids' took a shot and scored. We had a quick talk before then going back on and changing ends. Changing ends was probably a bad thing because we didn't managed to fit in a goal but at least we played to the best of our standard. In the end we came out losing 3-1 but we were proud. Player of match was Corinne.

Next on was the 'B' team. The team was made up of Megan Lloyd, Charlie Preece, Olivia Stone (Y8), Maia McLurg and Beth Doel (once again). We started off strongly but the question was - were we able to maintain the standard that we started with? Our opposition attacked strongly, so we needed a strong defence. Beth saved loads of goals and then fed the ball back out to Meg and Maia. Olivia then scored a goal which led to massive celebration! Just before half time Olivia managed another goal. Half time came and we were all exhausted. We had a quick talk and decided that we would keep the same positions. Between two goals by Red Maids' Olivia managed to shoot a penalty. Literally just after, the whistle went for time and it was over. Player of match was Beth.

We rushed to the studio where we collected our Kit-Kats (we knew they were coming) and a bottle of refreshing water. We were delighted with the fact we'd played to the

best of our ability and that we actually managed to get a goal in!
Well done girls!
Sports journalist: Corinne Thompson (Y8)

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 27 January

Monday:

6 degrees of aspiration keynote speaker: Ian Corder, Life Cycle Cost Lead (Rolls Royce)

Tuesday:

Band Academy
Bristol Fantasy Stock Exchange
Girls' cricket
Dance Club (Y9)
Duke of Edinburgh (Y9)
Boys' Football (Y7 & Y8)
Textiles Club

Wednesday:

"Bugsy" rehearsals
Chess Club
Enterprise (6^o of Stationery)
Model United Nations
Italian Club
Orchestra
Reading Group (Y7 & Y8)
Science Club (Y8 & Y9)

Thursday:

Art Club
Creative Writing
Eco-club
Food Lab
Girls' football
Boys' football (Y9)

Friday:

"Bugsy" rehearsals

Homework Club will run every day except Friday.

Term 3 –Key Dates in January and early February

January	
Monday 27	Governors' committees
Tuesday 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">U12 girls' 5 a-side regional finals (Paignton)Y7 & Y9 boys' football vs Henbury (away)
Thursday 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Governors' committeesU14s girls' football vs Redland Green School (away)Y8 boys' football vs Henbury (home at Coombe Dingle)
February	
Monday 3	6 degrees of aspiration keynote speaker: Nick Short, international trade through Tudor Rose
Tuesday 4	Swimming gala at Easton
Wednesday 5	The Tenner Challenge
Thursday 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y9 Maths challenge8TG6 DVD viewing after schoolTheatre trip to see "Westside Story"

For further dates see the calendar at <www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk>