

Weekly Update

Words from the Headteacher

I am pleased to report that having reached the penultimate week of term we have completed our recruitment of additional teaching staff for September 2014. The calibre of teachers applying for posts at Bristol Free School is as high as ever and with over 250 applications for nine new positions, we were spoilt for choice. Together with a substantial number of internal appointments we have established a teaching staff structure which will serve the School well as we grow to full capacity and in anticipation of our sixth form opening in September 2016.

During the summer term we will be recruiting additional support staff to complement our teaching staff structure and these posts will be advertised on our website via Eteach. We welcome applications from parents and people in our community and I look forward to receiving your application if you would like to come and work with us at Bristol Free School, helping to educate our students and develop the School further.

While we were able to remain open to all students during yesterday's industrial action, about a quarter of lessons were affected. The students responded very positively and helped us manage what was an unusual day. With the teaching unions currently engaged with the government in talks, I hope for a speedy resolution to the issues.

The amount of found property 'lost' by our students is growing. We will be attempting to reunite the found items with their owners before Easter but once Friday 4 April arrives any unclaimed property will either be kept for school use or handed over to charity stores. Found property will be available for collection between 3.00pm and 3.30pm every day next week. Please remind your child to collect any missing items before Friday.

Academic monitoring afternoon is the first Wednesday back after the Easter break, 23 April. Students are making appointments with their tutors so that you may attend. The purpose of this meeting is to take stock of the progress made by our students and look at specific areas in which they can make improvements and renew their efforts. I will also be asking parents to complete a questionnaire about Bristol Free School during the afternoon. This questionnaire provides me with vital information about how we are doing and what we need to do keep the School moving forward. I look forward to your contribution to helping Bristol Free School 'rise to the challenge'.



Music Showcase



Dynamics' debut concert



Richard Clutterbuck

Bristol Free School Choir – “Dynamics”

Michael Evans and Angus Snowdon (Y7) report on Dynamics: Dynamics performed at St Paul’s church in Southville and amazed everybody with their vocal talent. They performed “Happy” by Pharell Williams, “One Love” by Bob Marley and “Just the way you are” by Bruno Mars. Riff Raff, an adult choir, then stood up and sang with Dynamics. The crowd then went wild. Riff Raff performed many songs. It is safe to say that Dynamics’ first gig was a huge success.

Mr Pate adds: “I was very proud of all students who performed. Through their enthusiasm, hard work and positive attitude they proved themselves a credit to the School. A big thanks to all of the founding members of Dynamics, as well as Miss Green and Miss Wodnutt for their support.”

Year 8 boys’ football vs St Bede’s

Earlier this term a very strong Bristol Free School football team entered the terrific sporting facilities of St Bede’s. We started off too tentatively and were punished with an early goal. Vincent Harper and Tanaka Madimutsa were linking well and Dan Whetton was pinging good through-balls to the wide men. Eventually, George Bond went through on goal and finished it very well. Our top scorer strikes again! The second half came and we were keeping their danger man quiet. Rain was pouring heavily as the battle continued and our defence was holding up their attack. Sadly, they nicked a goal in the dying minutes after a rare mistake at the back. In the end we lost 2-1 but fought hard and were unlucky to lose. The man of the match was awarded to Jake Britton for his great effort; Mr Sillince gave a special mention to Vincent though because of his skill and leadership throughout the game.

Sports journalist: Dan Whetton

Science STEM day

Thursday 3 April will be a whole school Science STEM day. Students will be undertaking a range of Science based activities throughout the day. If your child has any specific allergies we should be aware of, then please contact the School’s reception to update our records, by phone or email to admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk For example, kiwi fruits will be used in one session and we are aware of some students who are allergic to these.

Music Showcase

On Tuesday 25 March we held a Music Showcase. Over 50 people performed including piano performances, bands, singing, the school orchestra and Dynamics.

Dynamics performed three songs which were ‘One Love’, ‘Happy’ and ‘Just the way you are’. It was a little nerve racking but Dynamics had gained a lot of confidence from its previous performance on Friday with Riff Raff. Everyone performing did a great job. Thanks to Mr Pate who organised the Music Showcase and conducted some of the performances. Report by Lily Barton (Y7)

For more photos from the concert follow the Music Department Twitter account @BFS_Music.

6 degrees of aspiration

Another term closes on a Keynote high, with Dr Russell Haines presenting on the last Monday of term, 31 March. He will be talking about electrical and telecoms engineering as a career, looking beyond first degrees to PhDs, and making engineering sound very exciting. Who better to do this than a wireless research engineer and inventor with 40-odd patents to his name. He is also a Visiting Fellow at Bristol University and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, as well as working for Toshiba Research. There’s something there for everyone, but science and technology enthusiasts in particular, so come and join us back in the Drama Studio 3-4pm. I hope to see you there, Miss Slater.



Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 31 March

Monday:

3.00 – 4.00: 6 degrees of aspiration
keynote speaker: Dr Russell Haines - wireless research engineer and inventor

4.00 – 5.00: Latin for Beginners

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

“Bugsy” rehearsals
Chess Club
Enterprise (6^o of Stationery)
Italian Club
Orchestra
Reading Group (Y7 & Y8)
Science Club (Y8 & Y9)
Basketball

Thursday:

Art Club
Choir
Creative Writing
Eco-club
Food Lab
Girls’ football
Boys’ football (Y9)
Model United Nations

Friday:

Climbing Club (Y7)

Homework Club will run every day except Friday.

Term 4 –Key Dates	
April	
Tuesday 1	8TG5 & 8TG6 DVD viewing after school
Thursday 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole school STEM day • Y7 boys’ football vs Patchway • Full Governing Body meeting with Student Council
Friday 4	End of term 4: 3.00 pm
For further dates see the calendar at < www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk >	