

Weekly Update

Words from the Headteacher

As we go in to the Easter break a letter is being sent home with the students today clarifying our expectations about the correct types of shoe which may be worn at BFS. The letter includes clear examples of what may and may not be worn. Please read it through and ensure that your child's shoes comply. At the moment a small number of students are wearing black shoes which do not match our uniform policy. Indeed, some of these shoes were branded as school shoes by the shops they were purchased from. However, they are not appropriate, being more akin to hybrid trainers. If in doubt use our policy or ask here at the School to avoid buying something which does not comply. We will be checking that the students are wearing the correct shoes when they return after the Easter holiday.

Thank you to those parents who have already sent in voluntary contributions for aspiration week. Please can I ask that any further contributions are sent in as soon after Easter as possible so that we can secure the high quality experiences for the students which we are planning to run?

Congratulations to our Young Enterprise team from Year 10. They competed in the area finals and are now one of eight teams through to the regional finals. In spite of not having a product ready for the judges to examine (Mamma's Secret Recipe Book is with the printers), their pitch and presentation stand was enough to convince the judging panel that they are genuine contenders. I look forward to following their progress in the regional finals and have pre-ordered my copy of the cookbook.

Further congratulations to Portia Neville, Rhys Mathias and Daniel Manikum-Cole who are our first recipients of the BFS Sports Tie. This is an award for senior students in recognition of their commitment to school sports. They should be very proud.

Thank you to all of the students and staff for their enthusiastic approach to our annual STEM day. They suspended their disbelief long enough to embrace the theme of the day, a fictional post-apocalyptic world (please don't ask) and carried out some high quality science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Particular thanks must go to Ms Huzzey for organising the whole event.

Have a restful break; school resumes on 'red' Tuesday 14 April, the first lesson starting at 8.30 am.

Richard Clutterbuck

GREASE

Rehearsal for all cast on
Saturday 11 April from
9.00 until 3.00

GREASE



Young Enterprise team pictures from the area finals. Watch out for the cookbook early next term!



Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise team participated in this year's area finals and have succeeded in reaching the regional finals in May. This was even more impressive given that the BFS team was the only team not to have their product on show (due to printing issues). The teams were assessed both on a verbal 'pitch', where Leban Mohamud, Sahara Shafi and Taariq Fry did an amazing job, and on the presentation of their stand where the judges spent eight minutes assessing the stall and asking questions to the group. The Young Enterprise product, a cookbook will be on sale straight after Easter.

'Routes in Languages' speaking competition

Last Friday Taariq Fry and Joel Grimmer from Year 10 took part in this competition. Each student had to deliver a short presentation in their chosen modern foreign language. Taariq spoke in Spanish about a past holiday and future plans to visit Australia, even though sharks are his biggest fear. His performance was confident and humorous. Joel delivered a speech in French about his favourite hobbies and sports, pointing out differences between his childhood spent in New Zealand and his teenage years in Bristol. His pronunciation was extremely accurate and the judges were impressed with his delivery.

Both students were an asset to our school and were genuine in their admiration and praise for the ultimate winners. Taariq said "I definitely want to do it again next year and now I know I have to push myself much harder in order to win the competition". Miss Di Martino



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Team Competition

Mr Aldridge took a team of four of us, Fiona Gibbs (Y8), Hannah Warren (Y8), Dan Brazil (Y8) and Izzy Phillips (Y9), to the UKMT Challenge at St Katherine's School. The first challenge was the group round, where we had 45 minutes to answer 10 questions. Inevitably, they were particularly tough and consequently we answered 7 - we got 5 correct. Next, after a tricky start, we moved onto the 'cross number' round. We split into pairs

when 2 of us had the 'across' questions and the other 2 had the 'down'. If you were in the 'across' pair you could only give the 'across' answers. We did well and answered most of them; with a brilliant correct answer within the last couple of seconds from Fiona!

After lunch, we did the 'shuttle round'! Still in pairs, we had 4 rounds of 4 questions. The first pair would be given A1 and A3 and the second pair would have A2 and A4. To begin with, the A1 pair would answer their question and then pass on the answer to pair 2. The answer of A1 would be needed to answer A2. This system would continue throughout the 4 questions.

However, the answers are only marked at the end of the round, so if A1 was wrong, the rest would be incorrect too! We did fairly well on this round.

Finally, was the relay round! Still in pairs, every team was split up around the room. The first pair would run up to their teacher, take a question, run back to their partner and answer it. When they are certain of the correct answer, they would run back, get it marked (you were allowed a maximum of 2 tries to successfully figure out the right answer). Then, they would take the next question for the other pair in the team. They would answer it, check it, have it marked and take the next question for the first pair to answer etcetera...

Even though this round was tiring, we didn't give up and answered 27 questions between us. Dan was also adventurous and experimented with daring slides to gain time!

Over all, Bristol Free School came 17th out of 27 schools - we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves!

Reported by Izzy Phillips (Y9)



U16 girls' football vs Patchway

A team of thirteen girls set out on a glorious day for their final football match of the season. We arrived, warmed up and started quickly, choosing (to our advantage) to shoot with our backs to the sun. However, we needed to continue to push up and attack more as our game play was mainly in defence. We had a few opportunities to shoot, although not enough of our players were pushing up, leading to us losing possession. At half time, we had a quick talk and we changed our positions around. This time we had the disadvantage of facing the sun to shoot. Some good goal kicks from Olivia Stone went to Beth Coke who controlled the ball to attack, but their defence was too strong and the opposition stormed down the pitch and attempted to score. Nevertheless, we used our players to put pressure on the shooter who missed. After a tough (but fairly even) game, the score was 0-0 and the player of the match went to Phoebe Neville.

Sports journalist Corinne Thompson

Gardening Club

Next term will offer green fingered students the opportunity to participate in an extra-curricular gardening club. In preparation for this Miss Artus is asking for donations of any un-wanted gardening equipment, such as hand tools, gardening gloves, small pots, trays or modules. Any donations will be gratefully accepted. Please put these into carrier bags and hand to the School's reception.

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 13 April

All after school activities finish at 4.30 pm unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday:
Dance Club (Y7 & Y8)

Thursday:
'Grease' rehearsal (all cast)
Dance Club (Y9 & Y10)

Study Club will run every day except Monday and Friday.