

Weekly Update



Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 19 September

This week is **ClubFest**, our one off launch for the extra curricular programme. It's very exciting. See the attached document with this week's newsletter for the full rundown of amazing opportunities.



Words from the Headteacher

This week heralded our annual visit from the school photographer. It's a ritual enacted in schools everywhere. I stumbled across my school photograph from 1985 recently, and after a few short moments located myself in the middle row. My hair was blonde and I looked happy. It was a moment preserved on photographic paper; bordered in school colours of purple and black (a bit like a bruise, although I don't think that was the intention). I slowly recognised old friends, names emerged from the depths of memories and I wondered what these people were doing now as adults, if they had achieved their hopes and aspirations. I wanted to be a writer, and have managed that, at least in part. I can't say I ever wanted to be a headteacher; some things creep up on you, like the narrowing onset of the early winter nightfall. In the front row of the fading image is Mrs Healey, my English teacher, and I know that in a short period of time, no more than two years at the age of 11, she altered the course of my life profoundly, simply by instilling a love of literature and language which took hold and as yet has not let go.

The school photograph is an unchanged snapshot of a moment in time, a rites of passage experience for everybody; the line-up in height order, the forced smile, the bright reflective lights and newly-tightened tie. Mrs Buckler ran our photography day with military precision and our students, both new and old, looked exceptionally smart. I look forward to their horror when they see the representation of themselves in a few weeks time, but also their nostalgia in the years to come once they are free of uniform and on the path to self-determination, reliving their schooldays and seeing in the image a snapshot of an innocent and insouciant time.

On the topic of smart uniform, I am pleased with the footwear being worn by students. They are increasingly opting for a sturdy shoe with a polishable leather upper and laces. Skate shoes are a thing of the past. However, piercings remain an issue. Our uniform code clearly states that one small, silver or gold stud in the lower ear is acceptable. I am surprised that children are continuing to have piercings in their nose or upper ear, and my expectation is that they take them out. The default option of 'putting tape' on it does not work. They must be removed. After a week where some students have heeded these warnings, others will face a tougher sanction from Monday onwards and a steady escalation of consequence. In choosing Bristol Free School parents and students accept implicitly and explicitly that the expectations and values we uphold are a crucial element of our students' success and the happy, coherent and empathetic atmosphere we work so hard to create. As ever, I value your support in this matter.

Paul Jones

Y11 Curriculum Evening

Our Year 11 curriculum evening takes place on Thursday 22 September. This is an important evening where the grading structure for GCSE examinations will be explained, key dates over the next 10 months (it's not even a year!) along with ways you can support your child throughout this crucial period of study. The event starts at 7pm.

Takeaway recycling

ADCT would be very grateful for donations of clean takeaway tubs with lids for use in Food Technology lessons. Please hand to Miss Nicholas or Mrs Giddings.

Invigilators Wanted!

We are looking for enthusiastic and organised people to join our Exams Invigilator team. You will be employed on a casual basis to supervise students taking mock or actual exams as necessary throughout the year. Hours vary, depending on the exam timetable.

Previous experience of working in a school environment is desirable, but not essential as full training will be provided.

You will need to have:

- Flexibility in working hours
- Good organisational skills
- Reliability and punctuality
- Willingness to work as part of a team
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to relate to students

Rate of pay is £8.04 p/h. DBS (CRB) checks are required. For more information or an application form contact Helen Chim (Exams and Assessment Officer):
h.chim@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

Closing Date: **Monday 10 October**

Consent Forms Reminder!

We are now using a generic consent form. It makes it much easier to process trips and visits. Please ensure you have returned the form, otherwise students will not be able to participate in curriculum trips.

Key dates for the next week

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

September	
Monday 19	Barton Camp Information Evening at 6pm
Tuesday 20	New Year 7 Open Day (<i>for parents of Year 6 students</i>)
Wednesday 21	
Thursday 22	Year 11 Curriculum Evening: 6.30pm <i>in the Sixth Form Building</i>
Friday 23:	Year 7 Parent and Student Activity Evening; tutor groups 3, 4, 7 and 8!

ClubFest

The 2016-17 extra-curricular programme begins next week with a bumper crop of 44 enrichment opportunities awaiting students on the term 1 and 2 schedule, during both lunchtime and after-school. To kick things off, we are celebrating the launch with ClubFest, a one-week-only event featuring a whopping 55 clubs and including a number of super-special, unique events. The challenge is for all students to attend as many of these as they can. Attendance at three clubs gains the students a 'Club Champion Award' and two merits. Attend four, and they become 'Elite Club Champions', get three merits and a certificate in recognition of their commitment. The only difficult bit will be how to choose between the impressive diverse and creative sessions on offer. As well as the usual extensive range of PE and Performing arts, ClubFest will include a one-off dressmaking challenge, as well as an introduction to programming and the popular pop-up club, Comic Book Philosophy.

Brand new clubs for terms 1 and 2 include Geography of Food, an exploration of cooking through other cultures, or is it cultures through cooking? Either way, it should be a feast for the senses. Dr Cooper is going for the youth vote with his new 'Poketeering' Club, a novel way to orienteer with pokeballs at the ready. Model UN, Warhammer Alliance (not at the same time), fencing (with swords), Art, Photography, Italian and Science Clubs are also ready for launch.

Have a good look through the list and descriptions attached to this newsletter: don't miss out!

On the Path to University!

Bristol University were guest speakers in this weeks assembly and were informing our students of 'Access to Bristol' and bespoke 8 week courses in a range of different subject areas which BFS students can apply for.

Sixth Form students will also get the opportunity to visit the university later in the year and experience lectures and full university life in Bristol.

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ClubFest Week: Full List

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd September

3:15 - 4:30pm

Day	Activity	Staff	Room
Monday	KS4 Fitness	Mr Cosgrove	Sports Hall
	Fencing	Bristol Blades	Dining Hall
Tuesday	Boys' rugby (Year 7)	Mr Tolman and Mr Mitchell	Field
	Girls' football (Y9, Y10 & Y11)	Bristol Rovers	Field/MUGA
	Boys' basketball (Y8 & Y9)	Mr Cosgrove	Sports Hall
	Dressmaking Challenge SPECIAL	Ms West	Textiles
	Art Club	Ms Dawson	C025
	Photography club	Ms Marsh	C024
	Geography of Food Club	Ms Davies and Mr Dayment	Food Room
	School Production	Ms Clifton, Mr Pate and Ms Green	Drama Studio
	Comic Book Philosophy SPECIAL	Mr Pate	Music Room
	Poke-teering	Dr Cooper and Ms Nicolas	C127
	Italian Club	Ms DiMartion	C035
	Science Club	Science Team	C148
	Yr 10 Young Enterprise	Mr Aldridge	C105
Wednesday	Boys' basketball (Y10 & Y11)	Mr Cosgrove	Sports Hall
	Boys' rugby (Y8 & Y9)	Mr Tolman and Mr Truan	Field
	Girls' netball (Y7 & Y8)	Ms Exton and Ms McInnes	MUGA
	Orchestra	Ms Collins	Music Room
	Folk Band	Mr Pate	Ensemble room
	Outdoor Club	Dr Cooper, Ms Board and Ms Archer	C127
	Modern Jazz Dance	Ms Freitag	Dining Hall
	Macbeth Rehearsals	Mr Collis	Drama Studio
	French Film Club	Ms Burrell	C041
	Yr 12 Young Enterprise	Mr Mitchell	C140
	Model United Nations	Ms Chim	C034
Thursday	Boys' rugby (Y10 & Y11)	Mr Tolman and Mr Walker	Field
	Boys' basketball (Y7)	Mr Cosgrove	Sports Hall
	Cross Country (All years)	Ms McInnes and Ms Barley	Sports Hall
	Girls' netball (Y9, Y10 & Y11)	Ms Collins, Ms Nicholas and Ms Archer	MUGA
	Hip-hop/Street Dance	Ms Freitag	Drama Studio
	Jazz Band	Mr Pate	Music room
	Junior Jazz Band	Ms Green	Ensemble Room
	Warhammer School Alliance	Mr Fernandes	C139
	Dressmaking (Y9 & Y10)	Ms West	Textiles
	Dressmaking Challenge SPECIAL	Ms West	Textiles
	Programming SPECIAL	Ms Sherman	C040
Craft Club	Ms Camp-Crates	C043	
Friday	Sports Academy	Mr Tolman	Sports Hall



ClubFest 2016: Monday 19th – Friday 23rd Sept

An extravaganza of extra-curricular exploration and adventure

Get involved...

To celebrate the launch of this year's Extra-curricular programme, which is bigger and more diverse than ever before, staff are pulling out all the stops to offer you the most extra-curricular activities ever seen in a single week. There are 45 clubs in total, some of which are **one-off specials**. Get involved by taking up the **BFS ClubFest Challenge**.

Attend 4 clubs this week = Elite Club Champion Award = 3 merits

Attend 3 clubs this week = Club Champion Award = 2 merits

Clubs can be at lunchtime or after school – see the definitive ClubFest list to make your decisions

Get your ClubFest record signed by the member of staff delivering the club and return it to your tutor at the end of the week.

Specials...

Catch these clubs before they're gone. One week only club specials include:

Dressmaking Challenge: learn how to make a fashion garment that fits the body using only recycled materials. In teams you will be giving a design brief and only 1h30mins to design and make your product with prizes awarded to the winning team. If it floats your boat, consider joining the Textiles or Dressmaking clubs.

Programming: Want to be the next big games designer? Find out how they are created and dabble in a little bit of code. See if it whets your appetite for the Grok challenge coming later this term.

And... back by request for one week only...

Comic Book Philosophy: Does Spider-man have a responsibility to be a hero? If Superman can see the future, does he really have free will? Come and debate big questions and learn about philosophical ideas, using comics and graphic novels for inspiration.

Lunchtime activities There are also extra-curricular opportunities taking place at lunchtimes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1 (KS3)		Recorder Ensemble Music Room		Dynamics Choir Music Room	Junior Choir Music Room
Lunch 2 (KS4)		6th Form Choir Music Room	Chamber Choir Music Room	New Pals for Nepal C139	

BFS Clubs and Activities



Art Club: Art club will enable you to try a range of exciting things you might not get a chance to do in lessons such as marbling, clay, and larger scale work. Alternatively, you can work independently on your own creative projects. Come and get your hands dirty!

Band Academy: Form bands and make music with your friends. All welcome!

Basketball: Open to students who want to represent BFS in fixtures and competitions as well as those who want a purposeful and fun physical activity with friends to build skills.

Chamber Choir: A more challenging choir group for KS4 students only singing multi part folk, pop and classical pieces from sheet music. All welcome by audition - ask Mr Pate for details

Classics: Look back at the culture of the ancient Greeks and Romans to discover the origins of modern civilisation and learn a little ancient Latin or Greek. Follow the quest the Odysseus whilst learning about the history, geography and language of the ancient great thinkers. This club will lead on nicely to the Latin or Classics GCSE. Starts early October.

Craft Club: Make cards for every occasion, learn how to make homemade gifts and do a little bit of scrapbooking!

Cross-country: Cross-country will give students the opportunity to challenge themselves in an outdoor environment, aiming to improve and develop their level of fitness through running a number of different courses and tracks.

Dressmaking: Open to year 9 and 10 students; come and learn how to make garments that you can actually wear. You will be able to build on the skills and techniques that you have learnt in your textiles lessons to produce professional looking clothing tailored to your own design ideas

Dynamics Choir: BFS' main school choir is a big group of our elite singers from across the school. We sing pop, rock and gospel songs in fun 3-part harmony. No previous experience necessary but must be an enthusiastic singer! Auditions will take place in the first term.

Fencing: Under the coaching of professionals from Bristol Blades, fencing is one of the safest sports around. Using lightweight, blunted swords, the challenge of hitting your opponent without getting hit yourself is more about mental agility than sheer strength and power. Kit will be provided but places are limited and there is a charge of £4 per session to be paid at the start of each term. Term 1 and 2 will cost £48. Pick up a letter from reception.

Flying start challenge: Flying Start Challenge is an engineering competition in the South West of England run by eight aerospace companies. In groups of 4, you will design, build and test a model glider that you will present at the regional Fly-Off. At the Fly-Off each team will have the chance to fly their glider against schools from the same region.

Folk Band: BFS' exciting new supergroup for 2016 made up of fantastic musicians from across all year groups play folk songs, from traditional Celtic pieces to Mumford and Sons and the like. Ask Mr Pate if you would like to audition.

Football: Open to students who want to represent BFS in fixtures and competitions as well as those who want a purposeful and fun physical activity with friends to build on skills.

French Film Club: Prepare to laugh, cry, feel moved and sometimes pretty weirded out with French film club! Every week an instalment of a fantastic French film. First up is... **Hors de Prix** ('Priceless'). Comedy – Through a set of wacky circumstances, a young gold digger mistakenly flirts with a mild-mannered bartender thinking he's a wealthy suitor. Other films to be screened include... Asterix and Obelix, A cat in Paris and The diving bell

Geography Food Club: Geography and Home Economics are joining forces to allow you to create some of your favourite dishes from around the world! What better way to end the day than by cooking up a storm in Mumbai or whisking up some delights in France? Not only will you get the chance to cook some tasty treats, but there's also an opportunity to learn about the countries and cultures behind them too. We'll look at the origins of recipes and also how the food you eat has made its way to your plate.

Grok Quest Challenge: Grok Code Quest is a friendly five-week competition where thousands of school students come together to learn to code. There are three competitions throughout the year, one with BBC Microbits, one using Blockly (visual programming) and one using Python (text programming). Open to years 7-9. No previous experience required.

Hip-Hop/Street Dance: Breaking, popping and locking like in Step Up. Students will use the knowledge gained to prepare for performances and dance competitions both in and out of school.

Italian Club: Students will have the chance to learn Italian, understand more about Italian culture and art treasures and explore the links to Latin grammar.

Macbeth rehearsals: The cast of Macbeth will be rehearsing for their production in the prestigious Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Tobacco Factory Theatre in late November.

Modern Jazz Dance Club: Inspired by 1930s jitterbug and tap dance, modern jazz dance is the kind of dance you see in films like Chicago. Students will use the knowledge gained to prepare for performances and dance competitions both in and out of school.

Jazz Band: Our Jazz Band "Treble Bass" have performed in many exciting venues around the city, recorded CDs, music videos and more! Made up of incredible musicians playing jazz standards, 2016 will see many more exiting performances from Treble Bass! By invitation only. There are openings available for brass players - see Mr Pate if you play a brass instrument.

Junior Choir: For year 7 students only - come and sing some fun songs together in many different styles. All welcome!

Junior Jazz Band: Have you been wowed by Treble Bass' performances and want to be a part of it? Why not try out for our Junior Jazz Band! See Miss Green about auditioning for a part!

KS4 Fitness: For GCSE PE students and sports teams members. To raise fitness levels required for team sports.

Latin GCSE: Latin offers many rewards to its students such as improved spelling in English and an increased likelihood of success in modern languages. This is open to years 9-11. Talk to your Languages teacher if you are interested in this.

Model United Nations: Learn about the issues which affect your world and develop your powers of leadership and negotiation in this simulation of the United Nations. You'll get the chance to represent different countries at MUN conferences and engage in lively debate with other schools.

Music Theory: For those who want to brush up on their theory skills! Excellent for anyone working towards a formal theory exam, studying (or planning to study) GCSE music, or who just wants to brush up on their theory skills! Takes place during KS3 lunch - KS4 students who wish to attend should speak to Mr Pate. Starts 26 Sept

Netball: Whether you want to represent the School in fixtures or just love the sport, come and take part in a fun and energetic game which is enjoyed by over one million people every week.

New Pals for Nepal: This club is looking to strengthen the current link with our partnership school in Nepal, in Singdi village, which some students have already visited when at Westbury-on-Trym primary school. We want to make sure this is a long term partnership which will become embedded into the curriculum and culture at BFS, so are looking for students who are keen to help shape this happen! Will be aiming to do this by setting up new friendships between students from either school, fundraising ideas and initiatives (pens for poverty and more!), sharing of resources and other initiatives which students might come up with.

Orchestra: BFS' main instrumental group plays fun pieces in a variety of styles including film themes, band pieces, iconic classical tunes and more! Do you play a stringed instrument? What about woodwind, brass or percussion? Then we want you! All players welcome whatever your ability - come and give it a try!

Outdoor Club: Ever wanted to know what food you can safely collect and eat? Want to know how to grow your own veg? Love being outdoors? Join us in outdoor club and you'll grow food, build bee hotels, learn bushcraft skills and help to look after the school's pond and allotment.

Photography is an exciting opportunity to experiment with both digital and alternative photographic processes. You can build your very own pinhole camera, get creative developing your own lumen prints and learn how to create different effects in Photoshop.

Poketeering: Like Pokemon but just haven't quite caught them all? Come along to explore the local area and learn how to use a map to catch those elusive creatures. You will be working in pairs so don't worry if you do not have a phone.

Punk Band: Year 9 punk band newly formed for 2016! By invitation only - ask Mr Pate for more information

Recorder Ensemble: Recorder players wanted of any ability level! Fun multi part songs to play in a group. We even have a bass recorder. It's massive. All welcome!

Rugby: Open to students who want to represent BFS in fixtures and competitions as well as those who want a purposeful and fun physical activity with friends to build on skills.

Science Club: Have you ever wanted to shoot a potato using the explosive power of hairspray? Have you ever turned your phone in to a microscope? Do you want to find out why toast always lands butter side down? Do you want to find out who our wildlife neighbours are? Come along to Science Club for all this fun and more.

School Musical: Rehearsals for this year's school musical. Previous productions have included Oliver! Bugsy Malone and Grease. Auditions coming soon!

Science Forum: A fortnightly forum open to all year 12 students. Each session will focus on a recent development in physics, chemistry or biology and will be a chance to discuss the latest scientific news. We will also have special guests from a range of science based careers to talk about their own experiences.

6th Form Choir: Group singing pop and gospel songs, a enjoyable and relaxing break from studying in the middle of the day! All welcome!

Sports Academy: For selected Year 8 and 9 students by invitation, to practise advanced skills.

Textiles Club: Open to year 7 and 8 students; weather you've never used a sewing machine or are an embroidery guru all are welcome. Come and have a go at making a range of products using new and exciting textiles techniques and materials.

Young Enterprise: You make all the decisions about your company supported by a Business Adviser: raising initial share capital; designing your product or service to selling directly to customers and ultimately winding up the company and paying your taxes. Find out what it's really like to set up and run a business and learn practical skills.

Warhammer School Alliance: Learn to paint and build models. Students who have their own models should bring these with them. We also play all kinds of Sci-fi or fantasy board-games.