



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during
week commencing 2 January 2017

Monday

Bank Holiday

Tuesday

Inset Day

Wednesday

Latin GCSE year 1

NO HOMEWORK CLUB

Thursday

NO CLUBS—including homework club

Friday

NO CLUBS—including homework club

Please note that music tutoring
does not commence until the
second week of term.



Words from the Headteacher

The period of time from September to December can sometimes feel like the educational equivalent of the entirety of The Lord of the Rings trilogy. It consists of a bright, optimistic opening in the classic narrative tradition (see [Propp](#) for more information) followed by some sort of crisis, a series of epic battles between the forces of good and evil, then the onset of a darkness, encroaching across the skies in cold, toxic movements, before faint, almost imperceptible beams of light slowly reassert the essential good in the world. There are villains, helpers, prizes, heroes, even a false hero, and lest we forget, the dispatcher who sends people off on their hazardous quests. I'll leave you to determine who each character corresponds to in our cast of conscientious professionals.

The resolution for our hardy adventurers is the end of term assembly. Our new Year 7 have made it in one piece across the treacherous landscape of transition; we have a new Sixth Form populated by pioneers and Year 11 have made it through the mocks, acquitting themselves with dignity and resilience, using every quiet corner of the school for last minute revision and cramming. It's the warm-up for the real thing and the last stop before we enter the actual year of the exams, 2017. The first assembly I will do on their return will be about managing pressure, but for now, it's a time to rest and recuperate. On Monday we welcomed them all in as Sixth Formers for a day. It's a significant moment, adding a sense of reality to the paper application process. We also welcomed a number of students from other schools. It's going to be a bumper year for applications and I'm encouraging all BFS students to get their forms in early and bag their place. Demand is high. It's also worth stating that I am warmly encouraging those who are ready to join the best Sixth Form in Bristol, but will not accept those students who are not showing sufficient maturity and autonomy in their studies and a positive attitude to their peers.

The Christmas Extravaganza took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, featuring a cast of thousands (well, the entirety of year 7) and lots of musical performances, including our new Junior Jazz Band. It was a lovely evening, ably supported by FOBFS, with Shaye Stewart compering with panache and charm. I'm proud of our newest students; the concert brings to a close a long term and marks the end of their transition. They'll come back in January as fully-fledged BFS students, looking smart and taking pride in their school. I am excited by this (but also excited by the break) and would like to wish everyone a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to the work we will continue to do together, the enormous range of disparate endeavours that somehow coalesce to make this school such a fantastic and unique place.

Paul Jones



Festive Busking

On Friday 9 December 2016, BFS Dynamics Choir went to sing at Southmead Hospital. On arrival we saw Santa! He even held the collection bucket throughout the performance.

The experience was amazing, and lots of people walked past to put money in the bucket. The place also had a really high ceiling which meant that our voices were echoey and it sounded lovely! A couple of small groups and soloists sang in a few of our songs, including 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'Once in Royal David's City' and of course, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'; one of my personal favourites.

During the performance, we had lots of viewers and some were taking photos (which you may be able to find on the BFS Twitter/Instagram pages). A little hospital shuttle bus flew past too. After the performance, Santa gave us all little bags of sweets and let us take a selfie with him. *Izzy Tucker, 8TG2*

I was lucky enough to go to the hospital with the choir last week, and seeing the smiles raised by their angelic voices on the faces of the patients and visitors who came to watch was the epitome of Christmas for me. Well done Dynamics! *Miss Holyoake*

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

Monday 2 January	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3 January	INSET Day
Wednesday 4 January	
Thursday 5 January	MFL Speaking Assessments for Year 11
Friday 6 January	



Maths Inspiration 2016

A group of 50 Year 11 and 12 students were treated to a feast of mathematical delights when they travelled to Cardiff for the Maths Inspiration Show.

The speakers this year were the popular author of Maths books Rob Eastaway, Dr Jen Rogers, a statistician from Oxford University and Dr Hugh Hunt of Cambridge University who has worked with motorcycle racer Guy Martin on the Channel 4 series "Speed". As an extra festive treat the presentations included the mathematics of sport, with special guest former Welsh Rugby Captain Ryan Jones.

The session began by looking at the maths of decision making, including popular fairground games, and proposed a statistical analysis of Chris Robshaw's decision whether to go for a penalty kick or a line out at a now infamous rugby match. Continuing the rugby theme, the forward pass rule was analysed using vectors, and the optimum position to take a conversion kick located using circle theorem, with Ryan Jones adding his

perspective to how the theory has to be adapted during matches. Students saw demonstrations of the effect of spin on cycle wheels, balls and gyroscopes which was then linked to Frank Lampard's disallowed goal in the 2010 world cup.

One of our students, Chandler won a mathematical competition, bringing back a rugby ball signed by Ryan Jones. It was a truly inspirational event, illustrating the applications of maths to a wide range of real life situations. *Mrs Conway*

Mental Health First Aid


Pastoral staff at BFS have recently received Mental Health First Aid training for schools and colleges. This informative and high quality training was in response to the growing evidence of poor mental health among young people. Along these lines, one of our own parents is currently involved in 'The Body Image Movement' and is hosting a screening of a powerful documentary film called 'Embrace' in The Odeon cinema in Bristol on 18 January 2017. The film documents a woman and her personal journey towards the acceptance of her body and her realisation that striving for an unattainable ideal is not a useful pursuit.

Here is a [link](#) to the trailer.

Ski Trip

Bristol Free School is delighted to be in a position to offer places for a School Ski trip in Easter 2018. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn a new skill, visit a new country and experience a different culture. Our trip will take place in Clavière, Italy from 23 March – 31 March 2018, and is open to students who will be in years 8-10 during the 2017/18 academic year. If this applies to your child, hopefully you will have received an information letter about this via email, hard copies of letters are available from the PE office. The deadline for reply slips and initial deposit to be received is 13 January 2017. There are limited places so early booking is essential.

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