



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 16 January 2017

Monday

KS4 Fitness
Classics Club
Fencing

Tuesday

Latin GCSE Year 2
Year 8 Parkour
All years Girls' football
Trampoline
Textiles Club (Y9 & 10)
Art Club
School Musical
Italian Club
Science Club
Flying Start Challenge
Model United Nations
Year 10 Young Enterprise
D of E Drop-In

Wednesday

Latin GCSE year 1
Girls' basketball (Y10 & Y11)
Y7, 8 & 9 Boys' Football
Orchestra
Year 9 Punk Band
Outdoor Club
Commercial Dance
Macbeth Rehearsals
Year 12 Young Enterprise
French Film Club

Thursday

Y10 & 11 Boys' Football
Mixed Hockey
Y9, Y10 & Y11 Badminton & table-tennis
Street and Hiphop Dance
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Dressmaking (Y9 & Y10)
Warhammer School Alliance
Programming Club

Friday

Sports Academy

Words from the Headteacher

The success story of the week has been our Classics curriculum. I popped into the Year 7 and 8 sessions and it was standing room only. We are working with Hannah Walsh, a classics expert who leads the Classics Hub at Bristol University. I am keen to build on this and we have been working with some of our local primary schools to enhance provision in Year 5 and 6; Elmlea and Henleaze are the two early adopters. It is an exciting time and I even snuck some Latin into my assembly this week; *tempus irreparabile fugit*, in order to highlight the nature of time and how the minutes and seconds ceaselessly slip by.

In other news, we are on schedule to open the entirety of Block 2 at the end of April. This will involve some reshaping of accommodation in the school, with some departments moving. The windows are in and the steel frame is up for the extended drama studio space. We have also received confirmation of the final tranche of funding from Bristol City Council which enables us to carry out extension works on the dining hall, put in extra Science labs, create more PE changing and review our landscaping and outdoor spaces. After several years of building works, it seems as though there might be light at the end of the tunnel and we are close to having a completed 11-18 school in physical form.

Next week we are running two significant curriculum events. We have our first wave of Sixth Form interviews; these are happening after school. There has been a glut of recent applications to the school, including lots from external candidates. I would urge students in Year 11 to get their applications in! Numbers are looking very healthy and our expanded curriculum offer is clearly attracting a wide range of students looking for an outstanding post-16 experience. We also have our Year 9 Pathways Day on Thursday 19 January. It is a collapsed day where we provide an opportunity for students to explore the routes they might take through Years 10 and 11. Visiting speakers from several universities and from a range of industries will be on hand to guide, support and advise. In effect, it is the launch pad for our guided choices programme as students hurtle towards Year 10 and their GCSEs. Time flies, irretrievably.

Paul Jones



Year 9 Vaccinations

The Year 9 MenACWY vaccinations are due to take place on 23 January 2017. If you have not yet returned a consent form for your child, please could you do so as soon as possible. Forms need to be returned even if you do not want your child to have the vaccination at the school.

Digital Leader Appointments

Congratulations to our newly appointed Digital Leaders! The 10 students are currently undergoing their training with ChildNet and the first task will be delivering assemblies to the whole school for Safer Internet Day in February. Part of their role is to work with local primary schools and also offering parent workshops focusing on e-safety. Look out for details of workshops in the next few months!

#It All Adds Up – Conference for Y10 girls at Oxford University Mathematical Institute

We were privileged to secure places for a group to attend a conference within the awesome setting of the new Mathematical Institute at Oxford University. The state of the art building steeped in the history of maths provided an auspicious background for an inspiring day.

With the aim of promoting further study and careers in both maths and other STEM subjects, talks included the history of prime numbers and their applications in modern day life such as encryption when making online payments.

Workshops included problem solving challenges and learning about modular arithmetic where the jaw dropping result that 2×3 can equal $1 \pmod{5}$ was demonstrated! We also explored the mathematics of the spread of diseases such as the recent Ebola outbreak and earlier events such as the spread of foot and mouth disease across the country amongst farm animals. Mathematicians were credited with solving the mystery of how the disease spread so rapidly. Students used practical demonstrations to model the spread of disease through analysing patterns. Mathematicians now play a key role in advising medical professionals including regarding 'flu vaccination programmes.

The plenary talk wove together the threads of each aspect of the day when Anne-Marie Imafidon (@stemettes) the youngest girl to secure GCSE maths and computing at age 10 and subsequently a masters degree from Oxford at the age of 20. Now 27 Anne Marie has recently been awarded an MBE for her services to young women and the Stem sector. With great humour she illustrated how studying the Stem subjects leads to a wide range of successful careers that will be of great benefit to society and may prove highly lucrative.

GCSE Maths - Year 11 Update

Following the recent mock exams students have been engaging really well with their QLA (question level analysis) feedback and completing personalised "Pinpoint" booklets either in lessons or for homework. Specific **MathsWatch** clips have been identified and personalised tasks set to address areas for improvement. There will be a second set of maths mocks at the start of term 4 to confirm the progress made and provide students with further detailed feedback and actions.

In preparation for Mock 2 Year 11 have been issued with a six week revision schedule using **MathsWatch** clips. This commenced on 9 January and includes 10 minutes of video clips plus interactive questions each day. The schedule is on "Show My Homework" and a copy has been issued to each student. Parents have an important role to play here in reminding students of the benefits of the "little and often" approach for maths revision. For example insisting upon getting their MathsWatch done before dinner, or before going out. **The only way to revise maths is to do maths.** www.vle.mathswatch.com

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact your child's maths teacher. *The Maths Team*

Key dates for next week

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

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| Monday 16 January 2017 | SGS Trip |
| Tuesday 17 January 2017 | |
| Wednesday 18 January 2017 | Sixth Form Interviews |
| Thursday 19 January 2017 | Year 9 Pathways Day Sixth Form Interviews |
| Friday 20 January 2017 | |

**Digital E-safety for parents**

<http://www.gdst.net/parents/live-my-digital/online-safety-videos-resources>

"Live my digital" is a unique video series to help children to stay safe online and give guidance on how parents can help. It has been created by the Girls' Day School Trust in collaboration with Digital Awareness UK. The videos look at the ways in which the internet and digital technology can be used positively by young people as well as identifying the potential issues they may face. They cover the most critical themes in online safety today including:

- Cyberbullying
- The digital footprint
- Identity and self-esteem
- Relationships and grooming
- Security and privacy
- Sexting

Each film has downloadable fact sheets to accompany them, a useful tool to help you support your children.

Art News

It has been a busy few terms in the Art department. A level students visited 'Emotional Archaeology' at the Arnolfini and the permanent collection in the new Switch wing of the Tate Modern in London.

We would like to share some of the excellent GCSE mock work produced at the end of last term. Students have now started on their final GCSE brief and I am looking forward to seeing their creations which we will display in the summer exhibition. On the front page of this newsletter the painting was done by Courtney Stockham and is entitled 'Fun at the Fair'

We have had some wonderful entries for the Photography competition but would like to offer an extension to Monday 16 January due to the Christmas break.

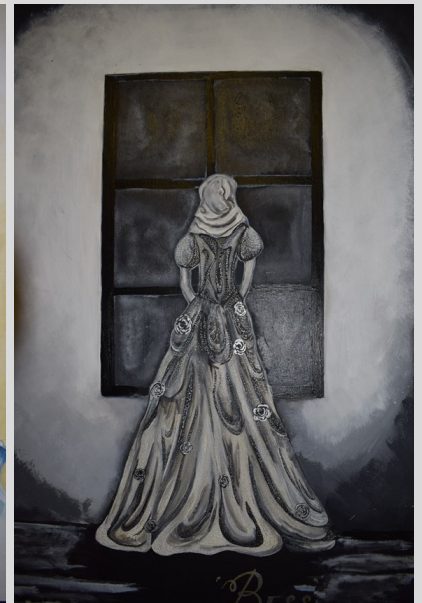
Finally, we would like to issue an equipment reminder – students should have a pencil and a rubber for art lessons. *Miss Dawson and Miss Marsh*



Justine Budenis - Little Red Riding Hood



Evie Morris - Little Red Riding Hood on Lilly



Jessie Neale - The Highwayman



Photo competition entry from Ben Yeates, 7TG3



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