



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 15 May 2017

Monday

KS4 Fitness
Classics Club
Fencing

Tuesday

Latin GCSE Year 2
Boys Cricket (Years 7&8)
Girls Rounders (Years 7&8)
Textiles: Year 10 Open Workshop
Italian Club
Science Club
Flying Start Challenge
Year 10 Young Enterprise

Wednesday

Latin GCSE Year 1
Athletics
Orchestra
Folk Band
Outdoor Club
Warhammer School Alliance
Commercial Dance
Shakespeare Production
French Film Club
Year 12 Young Enterprise

Thursday

Boys Cricket (Years 9&10)
Girls Rounders
Street and Hiphop Dance
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Doc-Soc
Textiles Club (KS3)
Programming Club
Book Club

Friday

Sports Academy

Words from the Headteacher

This week we have been continuing with a wave of appointments as the school grows and expands. We will have lots more students joining next year, along with more courses, and more opportunities. One day we will come to the end of this cycle of expansion, but I am not sure when. I am grateful to Karen Foster, our chair of governors, who has sat on every interview panel and been an integral part of the decision-making process for the past five and a half years. On Thursday, we interviewed candidates for the role of Assistant Headteacher. Our current Head of Science, James Fernandes, was successful and I am delighted to welcome him to the senior leadership team. James has been responsible for the timetable and some aspects of academic management. He takes up the post formally from September with an expanded role and responsibilities.

On the topic of expansion, it is worth mentioning the unsung work done by people connected with the school and the Trust. We have worked incredibly hard to get the capital projects and school expansion off the ground, delivered on time and within the budgets set by the Education Funding Agency and by the Local Education Partnership. It has been complicated at the best of times, but I can safely say that it would have been almost impossible had it not been for the work of Fran Stewart. Fran is responsible for capital projects and school expansion across the Trust. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of the process and her clear-sighted approach to problem solving, aligned with an understanding of how large funding agencies tend to work (according to byzantine rules, bureaucracy and smoke and mirrors is the consensus) has made all the difference. I speak with Fran regularly, but wanted to take this opportunity to thank her publically for the work she has done, and continues to do.

Another key member of the Trust who has had a significant effect on student outcomes and worked tirelessly to support staff is Anthony Easton. Chances are if you are a parent of a Year 11 you will have heard his name mentioned, possibly in connection with donuts and pizza. Mr Easton works alongside the senior team, Mr Collis and Year 11 staff to ensure that students have the best possible chance of success. He is a force of nature, with a vast reservoir of motivational analogies linked to arcane US sports.

And on to Year 11, the point at which every student who comes here in Year 7 ends up. On Monday they begin their exams. They have been revising furiously. They must continue to do so. Our revision timetable is a carefully calibrated programme linked to the immediate upcoming exams. In 6 weeks' time they will have finished, at which point a long, sprawling summer beckons. Each day will be empty of work, filled instead with the sounds of friendship and the joyous feeling of being a young adult on the cusp of self-determination. What better way to mark the transition to maturity than picking up a set of amazing results... heads down: short-term sacrifice, long-term reward.

To borrow a phrase from George Harrison, 'all things must pass'. Our fantastic Year 9 football team met their match in the regional final. After a phenomenal run they were edged out in a thrilling encounter at Frys FC by a crack Marling School outfit. We are intensely proud of their efforts. They have set the standard for sporting excellence. The latest team to follow in their footsteps is our Girls Year 8/9 Rugby outfit. They are currently trampling the opposition underfoot on their way to a string of crushing victories. Crouch! Bind! Set!



Family BBQ Friday 7 July

Plans are well under way for this popular event organised by Friends of Bristol Free School but as ever we rely on volunteers and donations to make it a success. If you can help with any of the following please get in touch via email to fobfs@bristolfreeschool.org.uk

- Graphic design / artistic skills for posters/advertising
- Loan/hire of PA system
- Loan/hire of large gazebo/marquee
- Donation of raffle prizes in return for advertising of your business



Thank you!
FoBFS

Amended food practical dates for Term 5

Due to staff absence there will be no practical food technology lessons for the remaining two weeks of this term, unless you are taught by Mr Keen. Please ignore any practical dates you have been previously given, or any that are currently on Show my Homework. Where possible we will try to reschedule lessons after half term to ensure all students are given the same opportunities to cook.

Uniform

The vast majority of our students uphold our high uniform standards and wear their BFS outfit with pride. However, there are some nagging issues, and it is worth reminding parents of these and the way we approach such issues.

1. Blazers must be worn up until the end of half-term. Term 6 is the only term where the English weather is deemed sufficiently tropical to allow a ritual shedding of the garment.
2. It is recommended that students have more than one pair of trousers or skirt. Should one rip or require an emergency wash, jeans are in no way an acceptable replacement. Students will be sent home at the gate to change. If this is not feasible they will not be allowed out at social time because I do not accept students walking around the site in jeans; it implies that such attire is acceptable and it is the thin end of a very thick wedge.
3. Trainers are not school shoes. In all instances (except clear medical need accompanied by a doctor's note), regardless of the reason, students are expected to change into our regulation daps. Refusal to do so leads to withdrawal of social time.

All other uniform expectations are in the planner. The recurring theme is trust; we uphold these values because they are one small component of the standards and expectations that make Bristol Free School such a great place to be and that you as parents expect. With that, comes a hefty dollop of 'no excuses'. It builds resilience and it prepares students for the way the world works, and how to cope and succeed in the wider environment.

Key dates for next week

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

Monday 15 May 2017	GCSE; RE (am)
Tuesday 16 May 2017	A Level; Arabic (am) GCSE; French (am) GCSE; Biology/Science (pm) Macbeth Workshop—Year 10s U13 Boy's Cricket Festival Music Showcase, 6pm
Wednesday 17 May 2017	AS Level; Mathematics (am) GCSE; ICT (am) GCSE; Latin (am) STEM Day Winners Trip Y7&8 Boy's Cricket vs Redland Green, away Y7-9 Girl's Rounders vs Henbury, home at Greenway
Thursday 18 May 2017	GCSE; Chemistry/Science (am) GCSE; Drama (pm)
Friday 19 May 2017	GCSE; Spanish (am) GCSE; Latin (pm)

Free Tennis for Everyone

Henleaze Tennis Club is hosting a Great British Tennis weekend on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 May. FREE tennis opportunities for all the family. Free coaching mini, junior, teens + teenage coach and hit on Saturday. Free play and family sessions on Saturday and Sunday. Book online at www.lta.org.uk/GBTW and search for Henleaze. Plus free tea and cakes for all!



Follow us on Twitter: @bristol_free



Instagram: @bristol_free_school