



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 18 September 2017

Monday

Y10 and 11 Basketball
KS4 Latin
Chamber Choir
Homework Club

Tuesday

Y9, 10 and 11 Netball
Y9 Rugby
Classics Club
School Show Rehearsals
Science Club
Y12 Young Enterprise
Philosophy Club
Spanish Film Club
Homework Club

Wednesday

Y7 and 8 Rugby
Y7 Basketball (Term 1)
Orchestra
Folk Band
Outdoor Club
Digital Leaders
French Film Club
Homework Club

Thursday

Y8 & 9 Basketball
Y7 & 8 Netball
Y10 & 11 Rugby
Programming
Jazz Band
Junior Jazz Band
Public Speaking Club
Homework Club

Friday

G&T 5-a-side Football
KS4&5 Composition Workshop

All clubs run from 3:15-4:30pm with the exception of KS4 Latin which finishes at 5:20pm, and Philosophy Club which runs from 3:10-4:00pm

Words from the Headteacher

Attendance

I'm going to lead with attendance this week because it is a priority for the school. One of the interesting statistics from our recent exam results showed that the average grade in English for students at BFS with above 95% attendance (the national average, in fact) was an 'A'. Conversely, the average for a student below 85% was a 3. It provides empirical evidence of the link between good attendance and high attainment. It also seems clear that taking any days off, unless absolutely necessary (i.e. norovirus-esque emissions) compromises future prospects. It is akin to lining up for a 100 meters race when everyone else starts at 80 metres.

The issues we tend to have are minor ailments. We want our young people to be resilient. We know sometimes they are ill. However, we must keep absence from school to an absolute minimum. We will contact you at various points when we have concerns, however small they may seem, and we value your hard work as parents in developing strong and robust young people, able to cope with the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, as well as minor headaches and runny noses.

Concorde Drive and Getting to School

I have been out on Concorde Drive this week at home time. It is great to see the new Year 7s looking so smart and growing into their new roles as students of Bristol Free School, even if it might take them a while to grow into their blazers. If you have any anxieties about school, or simply some unanswered questions, please grab either me or a member of staff and fire away. It is getting gradually quieter at 3pm as more students walk, cycle or scoot to school. I'd urge all parents to consider this and the independence it brings. Not driving to school also reduces congestion, frustration and air pollution, not to mention makes our neighbours and the local community happier.

New Spaces

The new dining hall is working well (apart from a minor ICT meltdown earlier this week which tested my mental arithmetic to the limit). We have been looking carefully at the flow of people and everyone is able to get food in good time. We are limited by space, but the extra tills and food serveries, along with the canopy space (imaginatively called '*The Canopy*') are making a difference.

Reporting

I have met with parents this week regarding our full reports; and in particular the difficulties of the transition from the old levels to our new 1-9 system. We had been discussing this across the Trust recently, in terms of trying to strike a balance between efficiency and detail.

It is clear that with varied targets and a changing flightpath it can be difficult to work out how well your child is doing. We are going to strengthen our full reports by adding in a full teacher comment for each subject. We will also explore grade distributions to indicate where your child sits in comparison to the cohort. It is worth reiterating that we welcome comments from parents; especially when they say how great we are, but also when they say how we can be even better.

Paul Jones



COMING SOON... Microsoft 365 for Students

Soon BFS students will be able to access Microsoft Office programs for **FREE** using their school email address.

When launched, we will inform you via the newsletter, website and Twitter!

Curriculum Information Evenings

Year 10 and 11 Curriculum information evenings are being held on the following dates:

Year 10 - Thursday 21 September

Year 11 - Thursday 28 September

Both evenings will run from 6-7pm and take place in the Sixth Form Common Room.

All parents are encouraged to attend to find out more details of GCSE courses, support you can give as a parent and our expectations as a school.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

A reminder for any Year 9 or 10 students wishing to take part in the DofE Award Scheme that the deadline for the deposit has been extended to Friday 22 September.

If you have any questions please contact to Dr Cooper or Miss Archer via the school's reception.

Medical Appointments

In line with the message on attendance, please ensure that student medical appointments are to be made after school hours and in the holidays rather than during the school day where possible. We appreciate that this is not always possible however we have seen an increase in dentist appointments recently and students are missing vital lesson content.

School Photographs

As this newsletter goes to print, the proofs of the photographs taken on Monday of Year 7, 11 and 12 will be delivered to tutors ready for delivery during tutor time from Monday.

Please follow the instructions should you wish to order any photos from NextGen Photography.

Extra Curricular Clubs Term 1 and 2

Please see the following pages for the full details on the clubs available until Christmas.

The front page of the newsletter will always show clubs for the forthcoming week, but it can vary so please be sure to check for cancellations if your child becomes a regular attender.

Key dates for next week	
Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates	
Monday 18 September 2017	
Tuesday 19 September 2017	Open Day
Wednesday 20 September 2017	Community Involvement Programme visit St Katherine's House CERN Parent Information Evening, 6pm Iceland Parent Information Evening, 6pm
Thursday 21 September 2017	Year 10 Curriculum Information Evening
Friday 22 September 2017	Sixth Form Careers Fair Y7 Parent Activity Evening, TG 5-8, 6pm

Bristol Ideal Award

The pastoral team and the PSHE team have worked hard to meet the standards which we know will make a real impact on promoting healthy relationships and tackling domestic and sexual violence.

You can find out more about the award here; www.bristolideal.org.uk



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TERMS 1 & 2 September 2017, 3:15—4:30pm

Day	Activity	Staff	Room
Monday	Yr 10 & 11 Basketball	Mr Cosgrove	Sports Hall
	Key Stage 4 Latin*	Ms Marriott	D035
	Chamber Choir	Mr Pate	D073
	Homework Club	Various	LRC
Tuesday	Classics Club	Ms Thomas	LRC1
	Yr 9 Rugby	Mr Tolman	Greenway
	Yr 9, 10 & 11 Netball	Ms Wynne-Jones and Ms Hammond	MUGA
	School Show Rehearsals	Mr Pate	D073
	Science Club	Science Team	C126
	Yr 12 Young Enterprise	Mr Mitchell	D009
	Philosophy Club**	Ms Melville	D130
	Spanish Film Club	Ms Pearson and Ms Southall	D033
Wednesday	Homework Club	Various	LRC
	Yr 7 & 8 Rugby	Mr Tolman	Greenway
	Yr 7 Basketball (Term 1)	Mr Cosgrove	Sports Hall
	Indoor Girls Cricket (Term 2)	Ms McInnes	Sports Hall
	Orchestra	Ms Wynne-Jones	D073
	Folk Band	Mr Pate	Music room
	Outdoor Club	Ms Archer and Dr Cooper	C126
	Digital Leaders	Ms Sherman	C041
	French Film Club	Ms Burrell	D032
Homework Club	Various	LRC	
Thursday	Yr 8 & 9 Basketball	Mr Cosgrove	Sports Hall
	Yr 7 & 8 Netball	Ms McInnes, Ms Wynne-Jones, Ms Hammond	Field
	Programming	Ms Sherman	C041
	Yr 10 & 11 Rugby	Mr Tolman and Mr Walker	Greenway
	Art Club	Ms Dawson	D115 Art 2
	Jazz Band	Mr Pate	Music Room
	French Film Club	Ms Burrell	D032
	Junior Jazz Band	Ms Green	Music room
	Public Speaking Club	Ms Proctor	LRC1
	Homework Club	Various	LRC
Friday	G&T 5-a-side football	Mr Truan	Sports Hall
	Key Stage 4 or 5 Composition Workshop	Mr Pate	D073

*Latin Club will run from 15:15-17:20

**Philosophy Club will run from 15:10-16:00

Clubs in red are fortnightly and only happen on red weeks, clubs in blue happen on blue weeks only.



Lunchtime/Tutor

Clubs in red are fortnightly and only happen on red weeks, clubs in blue happen on blue weeks only.

Lunch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Dynamics Choir Music Room Mr Pate	Music Theory Music Room DofE Drop In ICT1 Dr Cooper and Ms Archer LGBT Club Ms Gould Wellbeing room Block C	Recorder Ensemble D072 Ms Huzzey String Ensemble D073 Ms Wynne-Jones Chamber Choir Music Room Mr Pate	Junior Choir D073 Ms Green Samba Band Music Room Mr Pate Ukulele Ensemble Music Room Mr Pate New Pals for Nepal Mr Mitchell C035	Boys Choir Music Room Mr Gillman

Tutor	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Dynamics Choir Music Room Mr Pate	Music Theory Music Room DofE Drop In ICT1 Dr Cooper and Ms Archer	Recorder Ensemble D072 Ms Huzzey String Ensemble D073 Ms Wynne-Jones Chamber Choir Music Room Mr Pate	Junior Choir D073 Ms Green Samba Band Music Room Mr Pate Ukulele Ensemble Music Room Mr Pate New Pals for Nepal Mr Mitchell C035	Boys Choir Music Room Mr Gillman Science Forum Dr Cooper, Mr Maybe and Mr Lewis C126

Club descriptions

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!

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.

Boys Choir: Love Music? Want to be a part of an amazing new boys only ensemble group? Want to sing fun pop and rock songs together in a friendly, supportive group? Then Boys Choir is for you! YOU could be the next Ed Sheeran, Bruno Mars, Shawn Mendes or Drake! We sing songs together in a big group, with opportunities for performances and going on exciting trips. All welcome.

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 philosophy. Follow the quest of heroes like Odysseus whilst learning about the history, geography and religion of the ancient Mediterranean. This club will lead nicely on to Classic Civilisation GCSE.

Cricket: Open to boys 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.

DofE Drop In: Duke of Edinburgh students! We will be available during Tutor AND Lunch to answer DofE questions, help you with any eDofE issues and allow you to log on during your visit. To attend 'DofE Drop in' during tutor time, you will need to register in tutor first, ask permission from your Tutor and be issued a 'DofE pass' (at their discretion).

Digital Leaders: Leading on E-Safety in Bristol Free School and in local primary schools. Open to existing Digital Leaders and new students who are interested in applying!

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.

Folk Band: BFS' exciting new supergroup 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.

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. All students welcome as we watch with subtitles. 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.

Homework Club: Support staff and teachers will be in the LRC to help those who need it to complete their homework. The club runs every day except Friday. You can use our school computers to access Show My Homework.

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!

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.

LGBTQ Club: A fun, safe and supportive group starting at BFS. The group programme includes games, discussions, cooking, creative activities, talks and much, much more! You will have a say in creating the programme, so what we do is really down to you! You will be able to meet other lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer or questioning young people. It's open to anyone; whether you are 'out', you are questioning your sexuality or gender, or if you are an LGBTQ 'ally' – no labels applied!

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.

Netball: For girls 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.

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: Love being outdoors? Want to know how to grow your own veg? Join us in outdoor club and you'll grow food, build insect hotels, learn nature skills and help to look after the school's wildlife.

Philosophy Club: If you like to open your mind to new ideas and ways of thinking and delve into the big unanswered questions of the universe, then Philosophy Club is for you! Year 12 Philosophy students will mediate debates and discuss topics chosen by you.

Public Speaking Club: Enter the Churchill Public Speaking Competition - the largest public speaking competition in the UK. Public speaking is a vital life skill that you will use throughout your academic careers and in your everyday lives. By taking part in this club, you will build confidence and experience in articulating your ideas and sharing them with others.

Programming Club: All welcome. Enhance your programming skills by exploring a range of different programming languages and competitions.

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 boys 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.

Science Forum: A fortnightly forum open to all year 12 and 13 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.

String Ensemble: A small ensemble group for string players only, working on a selection of pieces including classical favourites, film music, musical theatre and more! Speak to Mrs Wynn-Jones about auditioning.

G&T 5-a-side Football: For selected students by invitation, to practise advanced skills.

Spanish Film Club: All welcome as we watch with English subtitles. A new movie shown every week to enjoy fantastic Spanish cinema.

Ukulele Ensemble: Come and play a range of fun ukulele songs together! All experience levels welcome, from beginners to uke-experts. We play pop, folk and other classic ukulele hits, and there are lots of opportunities for members to request new songs for the group. Plenty of performance opportunities available, and even solos for those who want it—or just come and play for fun!

Young Enterprise 6th Form: 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.