



Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 30 October 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
Indoor Girls Cricket
Orchestra
Folk Band
Outdoor Club
Digital Leaders
Homework Club

Thursday

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

Half-term is here and a well-earned break for all and sundry. People are tired. If it's any consolation, no-one is as tired as my daughter who has started primary school and after 8 weeks has reached defcon 4 in the hierarchy of exhausted reception-age tantrums. Tea-time has been fun lately. It makes me realise how tiring the transition is for young people, both at primary, but also at secondary, where the stresses of forming new attachments, friendships, navigating a huge site, learning new topics and coping with the everyday aspects of school, accumulate and take a hefty toll. Which makes it all the more impressive how they have coped. They deserve praise for doing so well, at least a biscuit, maybe even two, or one sandwich biscuit, which is arguably two biscuits so therefore be careful and consistent with this kind of reward. The poetry performances this afternoon are the final element of this, a moment of intense pride for all staff, students and parents.

Half-term is an opportunity to take stock, reflect on how things are going, and take another look at our uniform code. If I could draw your attention to the section on trousers: *charcoal grey, standard school style*. Lately it has been evident that lots of students have been wearing black trousers, and the cut is not of 'school style'. Whilst I accept that 'school style' is arguably an oxymoron to go with 'virtual reality' or 'jumbo shrimp', I still don't accept black trousers. Please take the opportunity to follow our code and our expectations; as Mr Sillince often says, the small things are vitally important. We will be having a crackdown after half-term. Please take note.

Our Year 11 students have been working exceptionally hard this term and I'm really pleased with their maturity, progress and attitude. Period 7 is full to the brim, and things are going well. They are setting a great example as role models and their cohesion and positive attitude is a joy to see. There will be times of stress; the mock exams being the looming iceberg on the starboard bow, but with their current equanimity they will cope, and will make another great leap forwards towards exam success.

Have a lovely half-term. There is a biology cake.

Paul Jones



New club!

After half term, Craft Club will be starting on Red Thursdays in the art department. It will be for Years 7 & 8 and by invitation only.

If you're feeling creative and would like to join please talk to Ms McCague in the AEN department.

Scientific Creations

This week saw 7LG6 create some amazing (and delicious) Science homework.

Everyone was asked to create a model of a plant or animal cell using whichever medium they prefer. We had a spectacular Lego model, an incredible 3D cell plus a very impressive model as seen from under an electron microscope - the detail was astounding! There was also an option to make your cell out of everyone's favourite material; cake!

There was a coffee flavoured plant cell and a chocolate animal cell all with brilliant labelling (see front page) and creative use of sweets and fondant for decoration.

Well done Year 7!

Miss Board



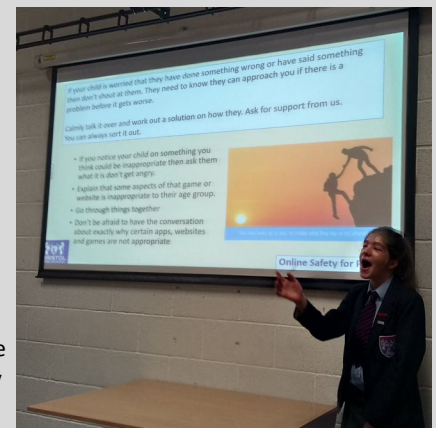
Key dates for next week	
Please see the calendar at www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk for other important dates	
Monday 30 October 2017	Inset day—school closed to students
Tuesday 31 October 2017	Y11 Netball Festival at Redland Green School Girls Swimming Gala E-Safety Information Evening for Parents
Wednesday 1 November 2017	Community Involvement Programme visit St Katherine's Exam resits
Thursday 2 November 2017	Exam resits
Friday 3 November 2017	Exam resits

Digital Leader update and Online Safety Information Evenings for Parents

Understanding online safety is the main focus for BFS Digital Leaders this year and as well as updating displays and resources for delivering lessons, we have supported Mrs Sherman delivering two successful Online Safety for Parents evenings. The aims for the session is to give parents knowledge and skills of online safety as well as the confidence to support and communicate with their children when using technology. Feedback from parents has been very positive so far and we are looking forward to the final sessions on Tuesday 31 October (4:45pm and 5:30pm)

If you are interested in attending, please contact Reception to register. Please also visit the E-Safety section of our website (under Safeguarding and Wellbeing) for useful documents about online safety in the home.

"Thank you for the informative presentation yesterday evening. I like to think I know a fair bit about internet safety however last night provided some insights and further learnings that are invaluable. I would encourage all parents to come and listen to your presentation as it is very informative and can only benefit our relationship with our children and the ongoing battle to keep them safe online."
Year 8 parent.



Opportunity for Year 11 Students

This week the National Citizen Service (NCS) came in to see our Year 11 students to talk about an amazing opportunity to gain skills that universities, employers and apprenticeship providers are looking for. NCS is a 4 week enrichment programme that 15-17 year olds can take part in during the summer holidays. It involves 2 residentials - at an outdoor activity centre and at a university halls of residence, then 2 weeks based locally taking part in a community project.

The programme is government funded and looks great on CVs and UCAS applications. The programme costs £50 but an 'Early Bird Discount' of 50% is available if the students sign up by Wednesday 1 November. Students all have a sign up pack they can complete and bring in to school, or they can sign up online at www.ncswest.co.uk.

Safeguarding alert

We receive quite a lot of alerts about various trends or scams online, and some we know to now be genuine. Every now and then we are made aware of something which appears genuine but later is disproved, as per the 'Blue Whale' story. We have been made aware of the 'missing challenge' on Facebook. This seems to be a genuine story and as we have no reason to doubt the information we are sharing with parents to make them aware.

The aim of the 'challenge' is for children to vanish without a word to families. Children as young as 14 are taking part in the game, also known as the 48-hour challenge, and mothers and fathers have been urged to be cautious. The aim of the 'challenge' is for children to vanish without a word to families and they often go 'missing' in pairs or small groups. The 48-Hour Challenge has a horrible twist, with every mention of the missing person on social media increasing their score. Meaning seriously worried parents asking for help on Facebook or Twitter in search of their child are simply 'adding to the game'.

Link for further information:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/48-hour-challenge-game-facebook-children-go-missing-for-days-hide-parents-warning-social-media-a8004851.html>