



# Weekly Update

Extra-curricular activities  
during week commencing  
1 January 2017

**Monday**

Bank Holiday

**Tuesday**

Inset Day

**Wednesday**

NO CLUBS—including 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

In the words of a boys' choir - "It's Christmas!" Sadly, I lost my voice this week and as such, am unable to do my best Noddy Holder impression. Staff Choir (who performed at our end of term celebration assembly) and students were universally relieved.

We promised last week that it would be business as usual in the run up to the holiday. We kept our word! The Christmas Extravaganza on Monday was a joyous event. The standard of performance by our students never ceases to amaze. All involved deserve a hearty thanks for putting on such a fantastic show. The "Sixth Former for a Day" event gave our Year 11s a taste of what comes post-GCSE. They experienced and enjoyed A-Level lessons in a variety of subjects and are hopefully now better placed to make informed decisions about their next steps. In other news, I believe that earlier in the week a weather warning for ice and snow was issued. However, Mr Murphy and Mr Ashley were on hand with salt and spreaders to quash the snow-induced fun of slip-sliding and snowball fighting. Bah Humbug!

I do enjoy this time of year. As mentioned above, the term finishes with a celebration of all that has been good over the last three and a half months. We acknowledge the achievements of our students, their resilience, efforts, consideration, commitment and the improvements that they've made. We also reflect on the year to date: in spite of Norovirus' best efforts, absence from school is down (thank you) and students have attended more lessons across September, October, November and December than ever before. Millions of words have been written, marks accrued and positive increments in knowledge made, fixtures have been won and lost, Oxbridge interviews endured (Good luck James, Jeevan and Daniyal), music made, bread raised, paintings done, quizzes won, friendships found, sustained and even (as is natural) lost: the rich tapestry of life reflected in our own little microcosm.

As the nights reach their longest we must look forward to momentarily pausing, and enjoying time with those closest to us. As a science teacher I have been known to lecture: the long nights are simply a quirk of a tilted Earth and, contrary to the magic of the season, jolly old St Nick would have to travel at the speed of light to deliver lumps of coal to just a fraction of the world's naughtiest children... I now have to remind myself that for my five year old son, Santa is real. I will then perpetuate the myth and place my logical and scientific brain to one side for a time. Considering that my boy met him this week and gave him a very different list to the one that he proactively prepared back in October, I will also be busy for a few days. So (after shopping) a rest it will be. I would encourage students to do the same. Even Year 11. Find time to step away from revision notes for a while and enjoy a well deserved break. Look forward to the lengthening days and the unrestrained potential of the new year. Come the first week of January it will be straight back into it with a "mock, mock results day"!

Finally, I would like to thank departing staff for their hard work and commitment whilst at BFS. Within their ranks are a duo of founding staff who have been with us for close to 7 years: Mr Jones of course (to whom we send our best wishes) and Ms McInnes. We will miss them and wish them the very best in their future endeavours. They have left such big shoes to fill. However, I'm confident that their replacements will carry on where they left off, maintaining the high standards that they have set.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



Ben Sillince  
Acting Headteacher



**Lost Property**

Due to the volume of lost property gathered this term (enough to make into a Christmas tree...), we will be taking what's left on week 2 of next term to the charity shop/homeless shelter.

That leaves 1 full week for students to gather their belongings, name them and then use them for the rest of the year. If items are named we return them via the tutor of the student, but there are many, *many* items that come in un-named meaning we cannot reunite them with their owner.



**Reminder - Year 11 Subject Evening**

A letter has gone home this week regarding the subject evening for Year 11 students.

It will take place on Thursday 11 January and the appointment sheets will be provided to students on Wednesday 3 January.

**Christmas Extravaganza**

Such a fantastic Christmas Extravaganza concert was held this week. Well done all for a wonderful variety of performances. Mr Pate was very proud of all our amazing ensemble groups, and was so enthralled in the evening he didn't take many photos...



**Key dates for next week**

Please see the calendar at [www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk) for other important dates

<b>Monday 1 January 2018</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Tuesday 2 January 2018</b>	INSET Day
<b>Wednesday 3 January 2018</b>	
<b>Thursday 4 January 2018</b>	Year 13 Subject Evening
<b>Friday 5 January 2018</b>	

**Brightsparks**

On Thursday our students on the Brightsparks initiative were taken to Ashton Gate for a tour. The students were impeccably behaved and the tour was a great experience for them. It culminated in students being asked to represent BFS and Brightsparks on Friday at Bristol's game vs Leinster, helping to chaperone younger students around the pitch at half time. They were a credit to the school.



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