



# Weekly Update

## Extra-curricular activities during week commencing 15 January 2018

### Monday

Badminton/Table Tennis  
KS4 Latin  
Chamber Choir  
Homework Club

### Tuesday

*Tutor and lunchtime—DofE drop in*  
Y9 Textiles Club  
Y7 Boys Football  
Girls Football  
School Show Rehearsals  
Science Club  
Y12 Young Enterprise  
Philosophy Club  
Spanish Film Club  
Homework Club

### Wednesday

Y8&9 Football  
Sixth Form Girls Netball  
Indoor Girls Cricket  
Orchestra  
Folk Band  
Digital Leaders  
Flying Start  
French Film Club  
Homework Club

### Thursday

Y10 and up Boys Football  
Girls Basketball  
Programming  
Art Club  
Jazz Band  
Junior Jazz Band  
Public Speaking Club  
Homework Club

### Friday

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

In this modern age there is often lots of talk about 'journeys'. A single episode of the X-Factor or the Voice is full to the brim of 'journey' and I suppose it is to make the moment where someone finally reaches the destination all the more satisfying. Whilst I, in the educational sense, value the journey as much as the destination, I am going to focus on destinations in this newsletter.

I imagine that most students begin school not knowing their destination. I certainly didn't aspire at the tender age of 11 to be sitting in the Headteacher's chair penning this message to you. I'm also aware that not knowing where you're heading is often quite daunting; whilst I love a map, my Sat-Nav is my comfort blanket on any drive these days. I wonder if this could be an explanation for why the teenage years are widely regarded as incredibly challenging? Things do seem to become easier once we've worked out where we really want to be; and have spent some time considering how we're going to get there.

Whilst they are not quite there yet, many of our Year 13s are now aware of their intended destinations. To give you a flavour of the varied ends to which they will travel once the hard work is done: James, will hope to take up Oxford University's offer of a place to study Classics. Ollie will study Business at the University West of England. Jahmai, Ken, Daniyal and Jeevan, have offers to study Engineering courses from at least one of Exeter, Southampton, USW, Bristol, UWE or UCL. Portia will study Sports and Exercise Science somewhere between Nottingham and Exeter; Rhys, Law at Cardiff or Exeter. Ben has offers for Languages and Economics at Warwick or Birmingham; Kirsti for Radiography; Taariq for Politics; Lianne for Medical Sciences or Biology; Sam for Computer Science and Alan for Maths. Others will head into the Armed Forces and some to the world of work. This is some time before the UCAS process is complete, so we're waiting excitedly, with our Sixth Formers, for the remaining offers. The common thread to the success? Not just gifts or talents but determination, hard work and resilience.

To close the circle; we saw a former student return this week. Jack left to study beyond the Bristol city limits back in 2016 and has joined us as part of his Post-16 course, carrying out work experience with our PE department. We formally welcomed him at our staff briefing this week. He was incredibly nervous about being in the staffroom (I confess to the same fear when I did the same on my journey to becoming a teacher) however I hope that he sensed the pride we all felt in seeing one of our own students 'all grown up'. There are many good reasons to be a teacher and seeing young people mature into confident, articulate and respectable young adults is certainly one of them.

**Ben Sillince**  
Acting Headteacher



**Free School Meals reminder**

From 1 January 2018, Free School Meals eligibility checks for our school have been carried out by Bristol City Council. This was done previously on myfreeschoolmeals.com

Communication was sent before Christmas asking parents to re-register for Free School Meals on the Bristol City Council system over the school holiday in order that there is no interruption to your child's entitlement.

If this is still outstanding, please follow this link [Bristol City Council Free School Meals application](http://www.bristolcitycouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals) and complete your registration. Alternatively this can be accessed from our school's website homepage.

**Codebreaking Club**

The Alan Turing Cryptography Competition starts next week. If you are interested in code breaking or solving puzzles and want to win cash prizes, come to see Mr Aldridge in C105 during Tuesday lunch times. Groups welcome!

**CyberDiscovery Challenge**

KS5 and KS4 Computer Scientists are eagerly waiting to find out if they have made it through to the next round of the ground-breaking Cyber Discovery programme, a key part of the Government's [CyberFirst](http://www.cyberfirst.gov.uk) initiative. 20,000 students across the UK have registered for the initiative delivered for the Government by a consortium of the [SANS Institute](http://www.sans.org), [BT](http://www.bt.com), [Cyber Security Challenge UK](http://www.cybersecuritychallenge.co.uk) and [FutureLearn](http://www.futurelearn.com), the programme aims to interest and inspire more young people aged 14-18 in cyber security. One of the aims of the scheme is to inspire more women to take an interest in the cyber security industry and female students accounted for more than a quarter of the initial sign-ups. Hundreds of those who have completed the series of fun challenges in the assessment stage look like they may have the necessary talent to take them onto the next stage of Cyber Discovery. They have excelled in a series of difficult online scenarios and will shortly be put forward to take part in the second stage, CyberStart Game, which will provide hundreds of hours of further challenges and teaching to help train the country's potential young cyber security experts. There are four stages in total, with the final stage consisting of a live round of cybersecurity challenges in London. Look out for the results on 21 January on our Twitter page @BFS\_CS.

**Art Club**

KS3 Art club has moved to Red Thursday for the rest of the year. So far students have had the opportunity to use a variety of techniques and materials such as ink release, clay and working on large scale pieces which isn't always possible in class. We are also fortunate to have Mrs Day on hand to offer her skills and expertise.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday!

**New Bike for Christmas?**

An opportunity has opened up for students in years 7, 8 and 9 to be taught how to safely ride their bicycles on roads. The lessons form a Bikeability Level 3 course and will be taught for an hour after school and so will begin in the summer months to ensure adequate lighting. There will be no charge to complete the course and if you're interested or would like more information please contact the school or visit [www.bikeability.org.uk](http://www.bikeability.org.uk)

**Munich Trip**

There is an information evening for parents of students visiting Munich at the end of term. It will take place on Tuesday 16 January at 6:30pm in the Sixth Form Common Room. We look forward to seeing you.

Key dates for next week	
Please see the calendar at <a href="http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk">www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk</a> for other important dates	
<b>Monday 15 January 2018</b>	GCSE Biology resit, PM
<b>Tuesday 16 January 2018</b>	Year 10 and 12 Art students to Pit Rivers Gallery, Oxford Year 10 Young Enterprise Workshop Year 9&10 boys football vs St Bede's, away Munich Trip Parent Information Evening, 6:30pm in Common Room
<b>Wednesday 17 January 2018</b>	GCSE Biology resit, AM BTEC Business Exam, PM Community Involvement Project Visiting St Katherine's House Year 8&11 boys football vs St Bede's, away Sixth Form University Aspirations Evening
<b>Thursday 18 January 2018</b>	GCSE Chemistry resit, AM
<b>Friday 19 January 2018</b>	Year 9 Pathways Day

**Deadline fast approaching!**

Help us enhance our Computer Science opportunities! We are still raising funds to purchase Raspberry Pis and PiTop for use in school and for the wider community - please support us.

Thank you so much to all the people who have already pledged but unfortunately we are a long way off our target! We would love to be able to offer Hackathons and Programming Jams to our own students as well as local primary schools. Click the link to donate <https://spsr.me/SbjX>  
**FINAL DEADLINE 14 JANUARY.**

