



Of interest in this issue...

- Welcome from our new Director, Marian Curran
- Oxbridge offers this year!
- Enrichment Week...it's going to be great fun and a real challenge, with a focus on personal development!
- Surgery in Schools Evening, reviewed by one of our students
- And lots more!

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Director's Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the Post 16 team, may I wish you all a Happy Easter. Our second newsletter of the academic year gives us the opportunity to keep you informed of current news and future developments.

For those I haven't yet met or spoken to, this is the first opportunity I have had to formally introduce myself as the New Director of the Post 16 Centre, replacing Karen Cornick. You may be pleased to hear that Karen has recently given birth to a baby boy, Douglas Henry Morgan Cornick 8lb 13oz. Both are doing well. Under Karen's leadership the centre has developed in many ways earning the well deserved reputation as a centre with an ethos of academic excellence. It is my intention to continue this and it is a pleasure to be able to come in new and lead the dedicated, caring and profes-

sional post 16 team, which comprises our teaching staff, support staff, tutors and importantly, our students. I have been deeply impressed by the learning communities on both sites and I believe that our role at the centre is to ensure our young people are offered a variety of opportunities, learning and guidance to help them towards the next step in their career, whether this be higher education or other post -18 options.

There have been a variety of events that have taken place recently over both learning communities, ranging from music and drama productions, to visits to Rome and Paris, as well as the film and media event in London. Students at the centre have also been busy fundraising for a variety of events, either for The World Challenge Project to Nicaragua or for the True Adventure Easter trip to Nepal or the summer trip to



Marian Curran

Vietnam. All trips involve a voluntary project and the funds they have raised will go towards this. Another cause that students raised money for was the Haiti appeal, either through selling cakes or by donating money, raising awareness about the impact of the Haiti earthquake.

The centre would also like to congratulate students on their recent modular results, and to also wish them well in the forth coming examinations. Thank you for all of the support that you have given your son/daughter so far, and for that final push towards the summer examinations.

M Curran

The Terms Ahead

After Easter students will be in the final preparations for their summer examinations. All students should have had a learner review appointment with their tutor and will know the targets that they are working towards. I am sure that students need no reminders that time is running

out before **study leave begins in May**. It is essential that attendance at lessons is a priority. Regular teacher feedback within these sessions can really make the difference in grades.

The last day of AS teaching will on **14 May** and

the last day for A2 teaching will be on **28 May**. For Year 13 students there will be a Year 13 leavers ball where we celebrate their time at the centre and wish them well for the future. Year 12 teaching for A2 subjects will begin on **14 June**.

Enrichment Week



Enrichment Week is taking place on 28 June—2 July

The week of **28 June to 2 July** will be the centre's enrichment week, where the focus will be higher education and other post 18 option choices. We are planning on inviting a number of universities to the centre to run workshops on various issues ranging from "How to write a Personal Statement" to "Completing the UCAS form". We are also planning to visit Birmingham University for a Higher Education Fair, as well as providing information on alternative post 18 routes. The week will also provide students

with an opportunity to do some work experience or voluntary work within their school or local community.

Throughout this week we are also going to be offering a **post 16 trip** which is open to both learning communities. The trip is to the **Blue Peris Mountain Centre** and revolves around personal development for the students and will involve a variety of activities ranging from gorge scrambling, kayaking, climbing, sea cliff traversing and mountain walk-

ing. There will also be an element of voluntary work, possibly working with the Forestry Commission doing 'Rhododendron bashing' or with working with the National Trust carrying out beach clean ups. The total cost of the trip including return coach transport, accommodation, food and all activities will be £290 and it is advisable that students book as soon as possible or pick up a letter from Ms Morris at Cotham or Ms Haine at Redland Green.

London Calling!

...we explored British music through the ages and teachers and students alike showed off their skills on the microphone...

A-Level Film and Media students hit London recently to soak up the sights and sounds of the nation's capital. Our first stop was the London Film Museum, where we saw props, sets and costumes from some of the biggest films of our time. Then it was on to the IMAX, where we saw (literally!) the biggest film of our time: Tim Burton's Alice in Wonderland, in 3D and on a massive 20 by 26 metre cinema screen. On the second

day, we took a VIP trip around BBC Television Centre, where we saw, amongst other things, news teams preparing their bulletins and the studios made famous by a host of great shows we've all grown up with. We then visited the BBFC, learning how and why films are classified and saw top-secret and exclusive clips from a variety of films that didn't quite make the cut. Our evening was spent in the Apollo Victoria Theatre,

where we were treated to the emerald green spectacle, otherwise known as Wicked. Our final day was spent in The O2's British Music Experience, where we explored British music through the ages and teachers and students alike showed off their skills on the microphone and on the dance floor! Thanks to all staff and students at Cotham and Redland Green learning communities for making it such a great trip.

North Bristol Post 16 Centre Website



The centre now has a website which contains information that is useful to parents and also students.

More importantly it contains information on the achievements of the students at the centre, and is updated regularly. The web address is as follows:

www.nbp16c.org.uk/



Surgery in Schools Evening

On Tuesday, 23 March a handful of students were lucky enough to attend a 'Surgery in Schools' evening event at Clifton College. This was run by medical students and doctors who wanted to talk to prospective medical students about working as a surgeon. The evening was a great success. When we arrived we listened to a talk about life as a medical student, with all the things they don't tell you at university open days! Then we got to watch a video of open heart surgery, an appendix being

removed and a kidney operation. Whilst watching, the 1st year trainee surgeon was talking us through what was happening and answering any questions we had. After that, we got to try our hand at a bit of operating! We were taught how to suture wounds (for those who don't know, it's sewing people up!). We had rubber arms to practice on and by the end all of us had managed pretty well, although it didn't come to close to the work surgeons do on a beating heart or through camera

images in key hole surgery.

The evening finished off with tea and cake and a chance for us to grill the medical students on whatever we wanted - mainly tips on getting into medical school. The evening was an absolutely fantastic opportunity and gave a real insight into the life of surgeons; it certainly made me think about how surgery may play a role in my future career!

Holly Baker 12WAE



The Surgery in Schools evening was run by medical students and doctors

The Young Person's Arts Award

Find out what inspires you, share your talents, and you could walk away with a qualification that makes a real difference in the world of work and the arts.

What is an Arts Award?

- A way to explore creative skills, enjoy the arts and develop leadership skills.
- A nationally recognised qualification offered at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Whatever art form you're interested in, whatever your ability, Arts Award fits you.

You can do an Arts Award in any area of the arts from fashion to poetry, rapping to dancing, sculpture to film. You can be the creator or performer of your own work, or develop your skills in marketing or stage management. Students at Cotham are currently pursuing their interests in dance, music, fashion, lighting & sound, creative writing and visual art.

Flexible, valuable, and awarded at Bronze, Sil-

ver or Gold levels Arts Award fits around your other commitments. You can do your Arts Award wherever arts is happening with young people, including youth clubs, arts centres, schools, colleges, theatres or community groups.

You'll end up with a portfolio that shows off your creativity and gives you a recognised national qualification to put on your CV.

You'll need to:

- Set yourself an **arts challenge**.
- Go to live **arts events**.
- Research **arts careers** and see how people get started.
- **Share** your arts skills with others.
- **Organise** your own projects.
- Put together a **portfolio** in your own choice of format.

I'm already really busy, why should I do it?

Arts Award is run by Arts Council England and Trinity Guildhall, both respected organisations. Employers and colleges recognise it as proof of your skills and commitment.

Trinity Guildhall is in the process of application for the Gold Arts Award to be recognised on the UCAS tariff system. There will be an announcement on the outcome of this by July 2010.

How to get involved

Post-16 Arts Award students meet together at the Cotham site on Wednesday afternoons, supported by a trained Arts Award Adviser.

More details on how to join can be obtained from Kath Sadler, Arts Award Adviser for Cotham school. E-mail: sadlerk@cotham.bristol.sch.uk.

For more information go to:
www.artsaward.org.uk.

An Arts Award is a way to explore creative skills, enjoy the arts and develop leadership skills and gain a nationally recognised qualification...



Creative work at the post 16 centre

Spring Newsletter

Cotham Learning Community:
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Bristol BS6 6BU
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Email: info@nbp16c.org.uk

Redland Green Learning Community:
Redland Court Road, Bristol
BS6 7EH
Tel: 0117 3533433
Email:
post16@redlandgreen.bristol.sch.uk



PE Update

The Post 16 netball team came second in the Bristol Post 16 netball tournament held at RGS on Wednesday, 17 March. They played teams from Ashton park, St Mary Redcliffe and St Brendan's. This was the first time they had played together as a team, therefore this result was a huge achievement!

Geography News

In February 2010, the Geography students of NBP16 centre at Redland Green School visited Slapton, South Devon, for a 3 day Geography fieldtrip.

The students were taken out to view local coastal areas that are under pressure from erosion and human activity. The students took part in active field study, where they learnt how to use GIS mapping and interviewed local people to attain their views on the re-branding of Torquay, as the English Riviera.



All 20 students worked incredibly hard and were a credit to the centre.

Check out our newly designed website for more news on the post 16 centre and our students...

www.nbp16c.org.uk

Oxbridge Offers for Nine Students

Nine students from the North Bristol Post 16 Centre have received prestigious Oxbridge offers, six students from the Cotham Learning Community and three from the Redland Green Learning Community.

The subjects and colleges they have been offered:

- Mathematics, St Peter's College, Oxford
- History, Jesus College, Oxford
- Chemistry, St Catherine's College, Oxford
- English, Cambridge

- French & Persian, Wadham College, Oxford
- Maths & Computing, St Catherine's College, Oxford
- Medicine, Brasenose College, Oxford
- Medicine, New College, Cambridge
- Natural Sciences, Girton College, Cambridge

The post 16 centre are delighted with the number of offers and with the wide range of subjects in which our students gained offers, in what is a highly competitive process. Con-

gratulations to all our students who received Oxbridge offers!

The Post 16 team completed 313 university applications for our present and past Post 16 students before the UCAS deadline of 22 January. All the hard work now begins!



Cambridge University



Oxford University