



Director's letter



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

On behalf of the North Bristol Post 16 Centre team, I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a very happy new year. This is our second newsletter of the academic year and it gives us the opportunity to keep you informed about current news and future developments.

Examinations

Some Year 12 and Year 13 students have examinations in January 2012. If your son/daughter does have an examination they should have received their examination timetable – there is also a copy of this on the North Bristol Post 16 website. Modular examinations begin on Tuesday, 10 January and finish on Thursday, 2 February. There will be no study leave as such during this time, and students are expected to attend all lessons, except morning lessons when they have an examination that afternoon. Students will need to ensure they arrive at least 15 minutes before the examination start time, whilst also factoring in weather conditions. Please note that AS and A2 lessons will be progressing with their syllabuses as normal. Results for these modular examinations are expected on 8 March. The deadline for subsequent re-sits and completion of re-take forms will be 16 March. If you do have any issues relating to January examinations, please contact the exams office directly. Please remind your son or daughter/son that phones are not allowed in the examination room. Over the last few years some students have tended to leave their phones on whilst an examination has been taking place. This could lead to malpractice under examination conditions.

Meetings

There will be a Year 13 parents evening on the 11 January to discuss your son/daughter's progress so far. There will also be a PSIG meeting for Year 13 parents/carers on the 18 January, at Redland Green Learning community at 7.00pm. The talk will be based around Higher Education Finance. Parents/carers of students in Year 12 are welcome to attend if they would like to. We will also be holding a Year 12 PSIG Meeting at the Centre on the 1 February entitled 'Staying on Track'.

Higher Education

Year 13 Higher Education applicants should receive all their decisions via UCAS by the end of April at the latest. Detailed guidance on accepting offers is available at www.ucas.com. Most will receive conditional offers and will be notified of the date by which they must reply. They can accept up to two places; the second choice is known as the 'insurance'. We advise students when making their insurance choice that they are sure they would be happy to study there, and that the insurance offer is a lower asking offer than their first choice.

If students decline all offers made to them, then they are eligible to enter UCAS Extra or Clearing. Year 13 students looking to go straight into employment should have had a Connexions interview and be preparing to apply for jobs or apprenticeships. Those students who are taking a gap year ought to have some constructive and worthwhile activities organised. For further information and support on progression routes please see Sarah Haine or Claire Morris in the first instance.

Student Bursary

If you would like to find out more about the 16-19 Bursary Fund at the North Bristol Post 16 Centre please go to the Centre website: www.nbp16c.org.uk. The bursary information is located in the Student Information menu. The bursary is operated to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education after 16.

Weather

If there are any adverse weather conditions that result in the closure of either Learning Community, we will make sure these are advertised on the North Bristol Post 16 Centre website.

Parent Surgeries

Finally, please remember we now have parent/carer surgeries at both Cotham and Redland Green Learning Communities. Cotham parent/carer surgeries are held on Mondays from 3pm – 5pm and Redland Green parent/carer surgeries are held on Wednesdays from 3pm – 5pm. Please telephone in advance for an appointment.

Marian Curran



Important Dates

- 3 Jan 12 - Beginning of Term 3
- 5 Jan 12 - A2 Results Celebration Evening, BAWA Club, Southmead Road, Filton
- 10 Jan 12 to 2 Feb 12 - AS and A2 Exams
- 11 Jan 12 - Year 13 Parents' Subject Evening (@Cotham, 5.00pm-7.30pm)
- 13 Jan 12 - Deadline for Applications to NBP16C
- 18 Jan 12 - Year 13 PSIG Meeting, Higher Education
- 1 Feb 12 - Year 12 PSIG Meeting, Staying on Track
- 9 Feb 12 - NBP16C Open Afternoon for Year 11
- 10 Feb 12 - End of Term 3
- 20 Feb 12 - Beginning of Term 4
- 21 Feb 12 - Year 12 Subject Evening (@Redland Green)



Science Newsflash!



National Biology Olympiad Coming Up!

This year's Biology Olympiad will be taking place in February. This is a national competition that aims to stretch and challenge talented Biologists. Suitable students are currently being approached to take part. This is an excellent opportunity to show what you can do!

Physics Olympiad A2 Challenge Results...

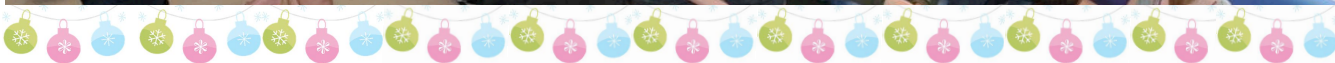
Two students, Callum Court and Sam Baker, achieved a Merit in the Physics Olympiad A2 challenge. More results still to come...

Students Attend University Lectures

Prof. Gareth Williams from the University of Bristol kindly organised for Daniel McKimm (Year 12) to attend two physiology practicals at Bristol University Medical School, run by the excellent Dr. Eugene Lloyd.

Dr. Birgit Beumers, University of Bristol, invited Year 12 history students to attend an undergraduate lecture on Krushchev at the University.

Both opportunities were highly relevant to the student's courses and were a wonderful opportunity to experience study in a university environment.



NBP16C Takes Part in First Civil Service Internship Programme

NBP16C was one of only six post 16 centres across the country contacted to take part in the first civil service internship programme for Year 12 students in their summer holidays.

Ten students from the Centre spent two weeks on an internship (work experience placement) at Whitehall, Westminster, London.

Students were placed in different departments and experienced the type of work and issues that our civil service deals with. We had students placed in the Home Office, Foreign Office, Department of Health and the Department of Work and Pensions.

All the students found this opportunity a great experience. As part of the programme there were careers advice sessions in the evenings, a visit to a West End show and other group activities. This was a real success for these students and we are hoping we will be invited to be part of the scheme again this year.

My Whitehall Internship, By Sadia Rana, Redland Green Learning Community

Earlier this year I was lucky enough to be selected to complete an Internship Programme in the Civil Service in Whitehall, London. All 62 Year 12 students from across England were assigned a government department to work with. I worked in the Cabinet Office in the HM Treasury building.

Throughout the Internship I was invited to take part in meetings with senior civil servants, and I was also given talks by a Parliamentary Clerk, an occupational psychologist, project managers, and a Government Minister.

The civil servants would give me access to confidential restricted information that I would help to edit, and would give me an insight into what it is like to work in the Government's Civil Service. I also was given a personal tour of inside No. 10 Downing Street!

Every evening all the Interns would go to an event or activity that had been organised, such as having a tour of London, a trip to the London Eye, going to see 'Blood Brothers' at the theatre, having celebratory meals and having an interview skills training session in Canary Wharf, before returning to College Halls for the night.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the Internship Programme and would recommend anyone to apply for it. I met some really nice people and took away a lot of positive valuable experience that I will carry with me into the future.

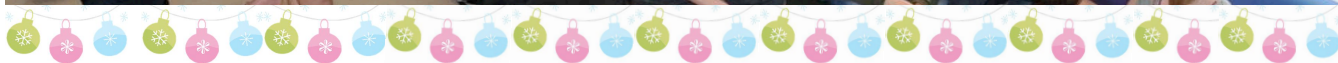
Students Involved in Research Project...

Post 16 students had the opportunity to participate in a research project with the Centre for Child and Adolescent Health (CAAH, Bristol University and UWE), entitled, "Young People, Alcohol and Friendships". The research opportunity will now also be open to lower school students.

We are proud to say that CCAH has now listed us as a 'research friendly' school, so our students should have plenty more opportunities in the future to participate in real research.

The students involved in the Young Persons Advisory Group through CCAH have now submitted their own research project to the project's ethics committee. They will be conducting their research over the coming weeks and will present them at CCAH next calendar year. We look forward to their results!!

To go the CCAH website go to: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/ccah/>



Bright Futures Visit to Excite, Inspire and Educate!

After a brief time allowing our new Year 12 students to settle in, as part of our prolonged Induction, an organisation called Bright Futures came in at the end of September and worked with all Year 12 students across the Centre, spending a full day at each learning community. Students spent half a day working with them where practical and activity-based learning activities were delivered. The intention of the organisation was to “EXCITE, INSPIRE and EDUCATE the students”.

Students learned to work together on fun, dynamic and stimulating challenges; to set goals, and discuss the importance of ‘having a dream; to develop their communication and problem solving skills; to encourage each other and work to reach their team goals; to discover the hidden talents of other team members; to reflect on the challenges and opportunities ahead and to consider their new status in the Centre and their responsibilities towards younger students.

The selected activities centred around the theme of ‘Transition from GCSEs to A Levels’ and events were upbeat and interactive. The sessions were imaginative, fast moving and fun-packed with the intention to build good working habits and practices from the start. Hopefully all of our students came away focused and energised – they certainly appeared to enjoy the challenges set and information given!

We look forward to welcoming Bright Futures back later in the year, where the focus will be on the development of independent learning.

Seminar Series Update

We are fortunate to have a series of interesting and relevant seminars organised for students of both Learning Communities. These lectures are also open to parents/carers, so if you are interested in any of the talks please come along to the Redland Green Learning Community on the relevant date and time.

north Bristol post-16

seminar series

STILYAGI
Russian visual culture c. 1950
doctor Birgit Beumers (Bristol)
Tue. 4th Oct. 1.05pm. 3F4



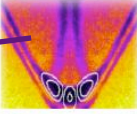



Life in the Law
Bridget Forster, no. 5 chambers
Tue. 8th Nov. 1.05pm. 3F4

Quantum Photonics
professor Jeremy O'Brien (Bristol)
Tue. 6th Dec. 1.05pm. 3F4

the Philosophy of Parallel Universes
doctor James Ladyman (Bristol)
Tue. 7th Feb. 1.05pm. 3F4

Collecting Oral History
ACH Smith (playwright, poet, novelist, author)
Wed. 29th Feb. 2.05pm

7 Wonders of Physics
professor Michael Berry (Bristol)
Tue. 6th Mar. 1.05pm. 3F4

Prof. Jeremy O'Brien gave a talk on the 6 December on his research in Quantum Photonics. He began by explaining the fundamental quantum concepts of superposition and entanglement and went on to talk about applications and research. The lecture was well-attended and excellent questions were asked. Many thanks to Prof. O'Brien and to all the students who participated in this event.

Our next free, open lecture will be by Dr. James Ladyman from the Bristol University Philosophy Department. He will talk about Parallel Universes on 7 February 2012 at 1.05pm in room 3F4 all students are welcome, as are parents/carers.



Envision Working with Post 16 Students on Community Projects

Redland Green Learning Community Students Involved in Knife Crime Project

A group of Year 12 students are working with Envision, a charity that supports students working on projects in the community, and S.T.O.P. campaigner Narraser Gordon on a film for BBC Inside Out West on knife crime and how it affects young people today.

Narraser spent some time with the students, whilst being filmed by the BBC, introducing herself and telling the team about her campaigning against knife crime and her personal experience of being affected by knife crime. She also showed the students a couple of films she has made on the topic and talked to them about filmmaking. The students were also able to ask Narraser some questions they had prepared.

The programme will be broadcast on Monday, 16 January at 7.30pm.



Ben Hawkey Gilder, Jack Whitby, Ben Matthews, Beatrice Freeman and Dan Cooke with Narraser Gordon

Cotham Learning Community Students Involved in Spreading Happiness to Bristol

At the start of the year two teams from Cotham Learning Community also formed to work this year with Envision. One team investigated the idea of focusing on Animal Cruelty and a second group on the subject of Happiness. This term the two teams have decided to merge and to all focus on Happiness. They have planned to cheer up shoppers in Bristol up at the end of January 2012 when they will be giving out free sweets, positive messages and high fives in town. So if you are planning a trip into town then don't forget to look out for them...they may just make you smile!



The Bear Pit, Bristol City Centre

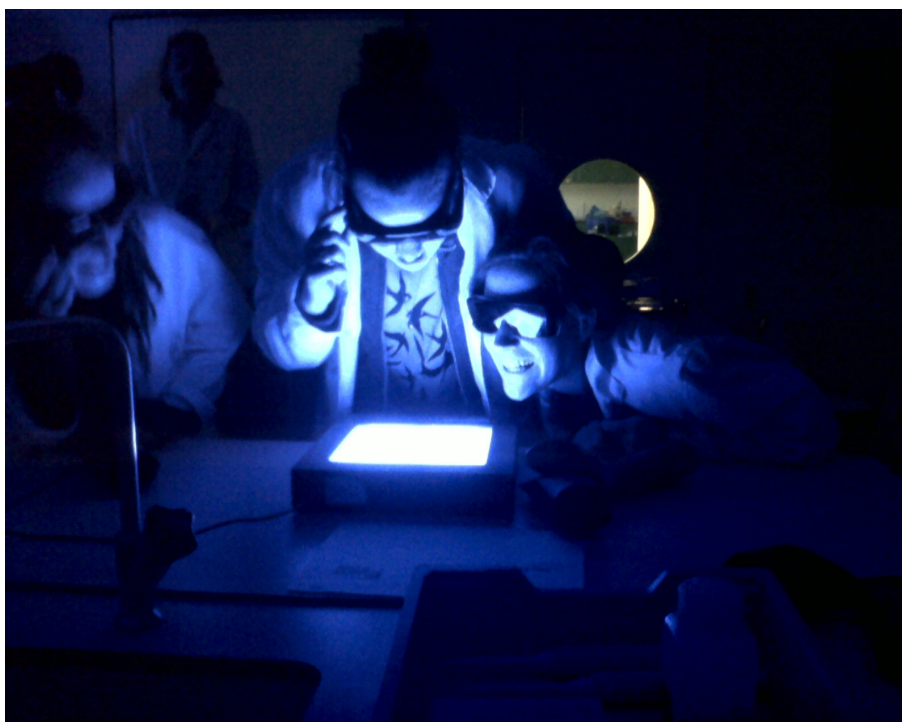
The students have also started planning where to paint a mural and are thinking about what to put on it. The student's intention is to survey as many people as possible to find out what things make them happy and put these on to a painting, which they want to display in the open gallery in the Bear Pit. They also want to do it on canvas so that it can be mobile and eventually can be used again at the Post 16 day of playground games on the Downs.



@Bristol Trip...

During November, 35 Year 13 Biology students enjoyed a day at Explore, @Bristol where they had the opportunity to carry out DNA fingerprinting.

The aim was to find out whether they had the 'bitter tasting' gene. This was extremely successful and the organiser commented on their effective practical skills. He said they were the best results he'd seen in ages! Congratulations to all involved.



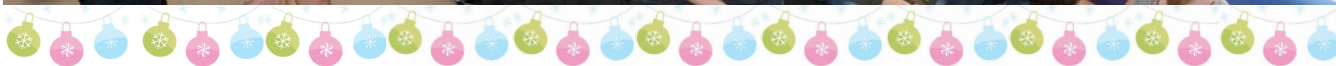
Centre Competes in National Debating Competition

For the second time, the Centre entered the National Debating Competition. This Competition, run by an organisation called Debating Matters seeks to offer a fresh, accessible and engaging format for debating contemporary issues. The competition has been successfully pioneering a format for debate that takes ideas, argument and young people seriously. The focus is on content and substance over style, encouraging young people to engage in an intelligent contest of ideas and holding up their ideas to critical scrutiny.

A Debating Group was set up in September to explore the skills and fun surrounding the art of debating. Cotham Learning Community then hosted the regional competition held on 8 November where a very competent team of Cotham and Redland Green students were faced with the challenge of supporting a debate on the motion: *It is irresponsible to offer IVF to women in their 50's*. Sadly, the team were beaten by a team from St Mary Redcliffe, who then went on to win the regional final by the end of the evening.

Congratulations to all those who spoke, researched or supported the evening, with special thanks to Nina Empringham, Stan Driver, Vicky Howells, Leo McGlynn, Tom Last, Dmitris Zujevs and Abdi Salam for a creditable performance.





India Expedition Update



Students on their training weekend

It's been a busy two terms for the India expedition team. They attended a training weekend in the Quantocks in October, where they learnt survival techniques and how to cook a meal outside. Their fundraising efforts have included a quiz night, cake sales, refreshments at parents' evenings and the Christmas market. All funds raised will be used for the project part of the trip, where students will live and work in a local community.

Congratulations to Finalist in Singing Competition

YouTube

Open Mic UK | Stephanie Jackson | Bristol Regional Final

openmicukofficial Subscribe 710 videos

Want to play at the O2? Click Here NOW!!!

Open Mic UK

0:52 / 3:48 360p

Like Add to Share 305 views

Uploaded by openmicukofficial on Sep 28, 2011
www.openmicuk.co.uk
Bristol Regional Final. Open Mic UK Singing Competition Live Show. Open Mic UK is the Biggest Singing Contest in the UK.

All Comments (3) see all

XPERIA arc S
Same Mobile BRAVIA™ Engine
The same sleek design
Now super fast
Find more info fast >

Exmor R For mobile BE Sony Ericsson mobile solutions

Bristol Regional Final | 18th September 2011 | 33 videos

Open Mic UK | Ella Rothwell | Bristol
by openmicukofficial 444 views 4:24

Open Mic UK | SteveLey | Bristol Regional Final
by openmicukofficial 140 views 4:18

Open Mic UK | Sophie Mendoza | Bristol
by openmicukofficial 288 views 3:49

Stephanie Jackson (Year 13) has got through to the final of Singing Competition Open Mic UK (17-22 age category).

Singing Competition Open Mic UK is the biggest music competition in the UK for singers, songwriters, rappers and solo artists to showcase their music and get signed.

Stephanie is one of 25 competitors who have made it through from an initial 10,000 participants so it's a massive achievement. She will be singing in the final at the O2 Arena in London on 21 January. Good Luck Stephanie!