



Director's Letter

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to our spring newsletter. Our third newsletter of the academic year gives us the opportunity to keep you informed of current news and events at the Centre as well as changes that are happening in post 16 education. There have been a variety of events that have taken place recently over both learning communities, ranging from music and drama productions, as well as the film and media event in London.

Some of our students at the centre have been busy fundraising for their True Adventures summer trip to Ladakh, India. The trip will involve a voluntary project in a local community and the funds they have raised this year will go towards this. Students have raised money by running a number of successful quiz nights, helping to organise a Christmas market, as well as selling refreshments at a number of Centre functions.

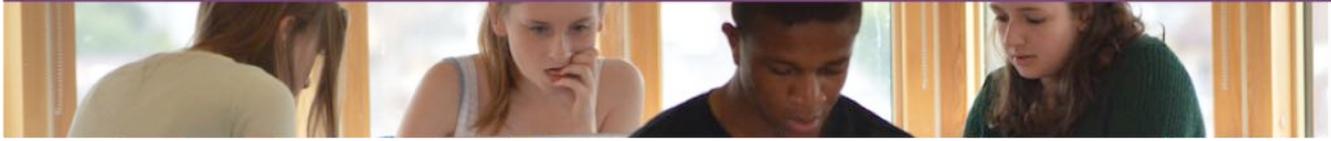
The Centre would also like to congratulate all of their students on their UCAS offers. I am delighted to report that 6 students have been offered places to study at Oxford and Cambridge for the 2015/2016 academic year. This is a new record and our congratulations goes to the students concerned, as well as to staff involved in supporting their applications. Students have also received offers for medicine, law and veterinary science as well as a variety of other competitive courses. We will keep you updated on the successful destinations of our students, which will include securing highly successful apprenticeships, employment opportunities and competitive university places.

The Terms Ahead

Students are now halfway through their AS and A2 courses and following the recent parents' consultation evenings, you should have a clear idea of the progress being made by your daughter/son and strategies for improvement.

After Easter, students will be in the final preparations for their summer examinations. All students should have discussed with their tutor their recent progress grades and strategies to maintain or improve these grades. I am sure students need no reminders that time is running out. Attendance to lessons during this time is vital, as well as prioritising and accessing the extra support that is available. It is essential that attendance at lessons be considered a priority, especially considering the break in learning over Easter. Regular teacher feedback within these sessions can really make the difference in grades.

Over the Easter break, there will be a number of revision classes that are being offered at the learning community where your daughter/son is taught. Further details, with regards to time and location is now on the Centre website. Departments will also communicate the details of their specific revision sessions to their students.



The last day of AS teaching will be on 8 May. Some AS teaching classes will run as normal and students will be informed of these. The last day for A2 teaching will be on 22 May. Both learning communities will be having a farewell assembly for their Year 13 students

Year 12 teaching for A2 subjects will begin on the 15 June. During this term parents will be invited to an introduction to higher education evening and students will start to receive higher education information, guidance and advice specifically designed for AS and vocational students.

Please remember to speak to your teacher about revision sessions that will be taking place over study leave. A list of current revision sessions over the Easter holidays can be found on the North Bristol Post 16 Centre website.

Marian Curran

Key Dates

- 27 Mar 15 - End of Term 4
- 13 Apr 15 - Beginning of Term 5
- 17 Apr 15 - INSET Day (Both Learning Communities)
- 22 Apr 15 - Year 12 PEG - Preparing for Exams 7pm @ Redland Green learning community
- 6 May 15 - Year 13 PEG - Results Day and What to Expect 7pm @ Cotham learning community
- 8 May 15 - Last day of AS teaching
- 22 May 15 - Last day for A2 teaching
- 22 May 15 - End of Term 5
- 1 Jun 15 - Start of Term 6
- 15 Jun 15 - Year 12 teaching for A2 subjects begins
- 29 Jun 15 to 3 Jul 15 - Enrichment Week/Future 18's Week
- 1 Jul 15 - Year 12 PEG Meeting - Introduction to Higher Education
- 17 Jul 15 - End of Term 6 for Students
- 20 Jul 15 - INSET Day (Both Learning Communities)

Senior Maths Challenge Winners!

A team of mathematicians from the Centre recently won a regional competition for further mathematics students for the second year running. The students - Fraser Waters, Basil Langham, Peter Heath and Fred Hunter in Year 13 faced stiff competition from other local schools, eventually finishing in first place ahead of QEH and Backwell. The competition comprised two rounds, one individual round and one group round, with the students working together against the clock on a variety of challenging maths questions.





Science News

Year 12 Trip to Bristol Zoo

Four classes of Year 12 biology students have visited the zoo recently to take part in a workshop about conservation and the role of the zoo including:

- The Importance of conservation and the underpinning biology
- Zoo departments involved in science, including examples of research projects, vet work, and education the zoo is involved with
- Zoo population management, including breeding programmes

Year 13 Biology Olympiad

This year we entered 10 students for the British Biology Olympiad. The British Biology Olympiad challenges and stimulates students with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their talents. In offering a wider syllabus than A-level, it allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and be suitably rewarded and publicly recognised by the award of medals, certificates and other prizes. It is hoped that competing in the Olympiad will encourage students already interested in this valuable, wide-ranging and rewarding subject to continue their study beyond A-level.

Our students were very successful, achieving a range of awards, across both Year 12 and Year 13. All competitors should be congratulated since even completing the paper is a challenge:

Phaidra	Robinson	
Melissa	Ward	Highly Commended
Alice	Bonham-Carter	Silver
Thomas	Cole	
Daniel	Li	Highly Commended
Alfie	Allen	Silver
Jazz	Wynter	Commended
Ruby	Lawrence	Highly Commended
Ella	Thomson	Highly Commended
Josh	Kerry	Commended

RSC Chemistry Olympiad

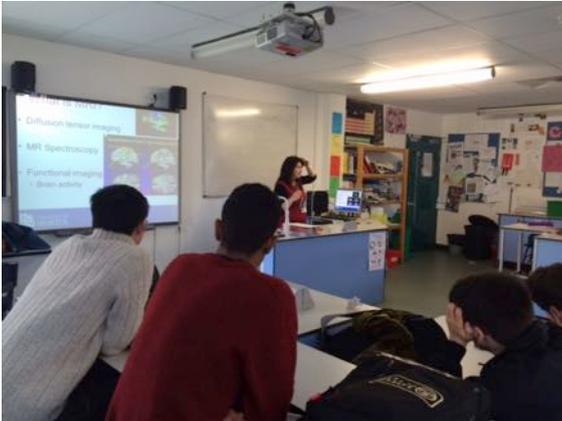
This national competition provides an opportunity to stretch and challenge post 16 students studying chemistry. The competition enables the selection of a team of four students to represent the UK in the International Chemistry Olympiad, offering a fantastic opportunity for students to travel and meet fellow chemistry enthusiasts from all over the world. A number of chemists have been entered and we are awaiting the results.

Year 13 Spirometry Trip to Bristol University

On Wednesday 11 March, Year 13 biology visited Bristol University to take part in a workshop to investigate lung function. This was a highly successful afternoon and allowed students to use the university labs to carry out a range of experimental techniques including Spirometry.



MRI Scan/Lecturer Visit to talk to Students



Post 16 students welcomed Dr Liz Coulthard from Southmead Hospital this term who came to talk to them about MRI scans and research into dementia. The hospital has been using the 3D printer at the learning community to aid this research.

How popular and desirable are you?

Take the test.

1. Are you a North Bristol Post 16 Centre student?
2. Are you taught by Ellis, Hovell or Neville?
3. Can you make DNA in a small tube?
4. Can you identify a mutant fish?
5. Can you measure 0.000002 litres of water accurately?

If you answered 5 out of 5 then you are pretty cool and it is most likely that you are an **Authentic Biologist** and therefore popular and desirable.



The things Authentic Biologists say.....

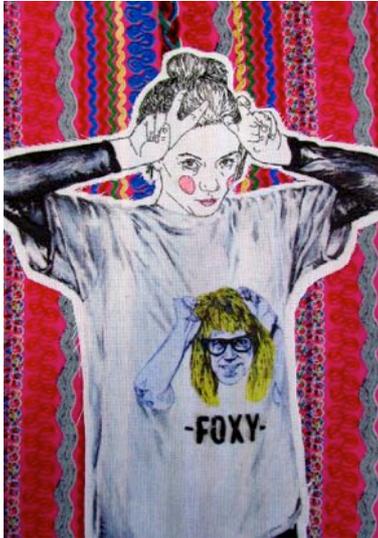
*'This term I've been taking steps to investigate genes that are associated with Osteoarthritis'
'Guess what? I got an offer from Bristol to do medicine'
'Miss, what biscuits have you bought?'*

The project is now in its 3rd year and continues to grow.
We are supported by Bristol University undergraduates, doctors and professors.

If you would like to join the research crew, please send Mrs Lansdowne an email or pop in to the science staff room for a chat.



Senior Schools' Art Exhibition 2015



Congratulations to North Bristol Post 16 Centre students who won awards at the Senior Schools' Art Exhibition 2015

Emma Barlow and Kannika Chaiwas, Year 13 students studying Visual Arts, both received awards at the recent exhibition held at Bristol Cathedral. Bristol's Lady Mayoress at a prize giving event this term presented the awards.

The exhibition is organised by the Bristol Savages, a society founded in 1004 by artists, and included work from 20 Bristol schools. Emma received the best in school award from our entries; and

Kannika Chaiwas' work was commended by the judges.

Congratulations to all students who took part and were selected for display.

Preparing for UCAS Convention @ UWE

Some useful tips to start preparing for the UCAS convention at UWE on 14 April.

- Download the 'Making the most of a UCAS convention guide' (go to Centre website/news)
- Go to www.ucas.com - advice on the entire higher education application process including course search
- Go to www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk - independent guide on which university is best for you, overall and by subject
- Go to www.opendays.com - directory of university and college open days

UCAS Newsletter

UCAS is the organisation that processes all full-time applications to UK universities and colleges. It is there to support you – as well as your son or daughter – through every step of the application process. UCAS sends all applicants a monthly newsletter, full of useful information, reminders, advice and competitions. But did you know you can get information from UCAS too?

You can sign up to monthly parent newsletters quickly and simply online. They're completely FREE and contain timely information and advice about your son or daughter's journey to higher education and what **you** can do to support them.

For further information about the UCAS process, take a look at www.ucas.com or click on the link below to subscribe to the newsletter:

http://www.pages02.net/ucas-charitynek/parents_signup/?spMailingID=7553779&spUserID=OTE2OTYxMzI1NjcS1&spJobID=640303950&spReportId=NjQwMzAzOTUwS0



Film and Media Trip to London



After a two-hour train journey we were finally at our hotel. We had 15-minutes to quickly settle into our rooms and dump our overnight kit. And we were off! First stop the tube station, to either purchase our tube tickets or if you're a true Londoner top up your Oyster card! After a quick 30-minute pit stop in Piccadilly Circus, where it was an accomplishment to get anything other than a ready meal, we headed towards the James Bond museum. This displayed props, storyboards and prototypes from every Bond movie there has been!

Next stop was the massive Imax cinema; we watched Gravity at the same time as admiring the amazing surround sound, the comfy seats and obviously the biggest screen imaginable! After a long day traipsing around London we tucked into a well deserved Pizza Hut rolling buffet.



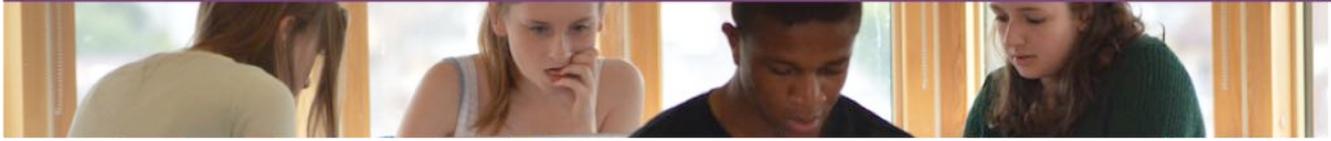
Off we went back to our hotel to prepare for the next day, which consisted of a visit to the London Film Academy and BBC Studios, which was my favourite part of the trip! Here we got to try out our presenting skills and we even saw some famous faces! In

the evening we went to the Electric Cinema, which was an independent cinema and somewhere I think everyone will return! We all got our own comfy armchair, footrest, blanket and side table. There were even beds at the very front of the room!



Day 3 was full of excitement! After an early rise it was straight off to the Harry Potter Studios. Even if you're not an avid Potter follower you will definitely enjoy the experience. I just hope you have a lot of money on you if you're hoping to buy a souvenir!

Tallulah Clark, Film and Media Student



Year 12 Student Wins Presenter Role in Bristol Loves Tides Project

Congratulations to Ben Horsburgh, Year 12 student, who successfully beat 450 other candidates to win one of ten coveted roles as a presenter in the Bristol Loves Tides project. In connection with Bristol Green Capital 2015, Bristol Loves Tides is 'a unique education programme using performance and film to explore water flows, tides and systems – over, under and around the city'.

Ben will be working with other young Bristolians to raise awareness of Bristol's water systems and their impact on the city and its inhabitants. Well done, Ben!

To find out more about Bristol Loves Tides click on the link below:
<http://www.myfuturemychoice.co.uk/secondary/learning-ships.html>

Year 13 Student wins place on 38th Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar



Florence Ralston, Year 13 student, has been successful in her application to the 38th Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar from 20-26 June 2015 at Carroll University, Waukesha, Wisconsin, USA.

The week-long Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar is a unique program for school/college students from around the World, where since 1972 it has provided a forum for over 27,000 future leaders to debate some of the most perplexing global issues and problems in the non-threatening environment of Carroll University, Wisconsin.

This year the topic for the seminar is 'Global Energy - Who's got the Power?' The students will be discussing and debating how to find practical, political and affordable solutions to the World's energy supplies.

Florence applied to the International Rotary Club with a personal statement covering why they should pick her as one of the three candidates they send to the seminar. She undertook two interviews, one of which was with the local Rotary Club and the second was in Gloucester and was a national level interview. After these interviews the Rotary Club called Florence to inform her she was successful in her application.

Florence stated, "I have always been interested in environmental problems and issues. I have gone on marches and I am also a member of the Youth Council, so this is such an exciting opportunity for me."

Florence is studying French, politics and 16th century history A levels and plans to go to university after a gap year. For more information about the Rotary Youth World Affairs Seminar click on the link:
<http://www.worldaffairsseminar.org>



South West Debating Champions!



The Post 16 debating team competed in the regional final of the Institute of Ideas "Debating Matters" competition at Bristol University on Thursday 26 February.

Euan, Alex, James, Peter, Stephi and Arnold took part in debates on freedom of speech, space exploration and UK foreign policy and were crowned overall winners after a very strong performance throughout the day. This puts them among the top 12 teams out of 288 original entrants. They will now take on the other 11 regional champions in the final at the British Library at the end of June in a bid to be crowned national champions.

Student Attends European Green Capital Handover Conference in Copenhagen

Congratulations to Saynab Sharif who recently represented the Centre at the official European Green Capital Handover conference in Copenhagen. Saynab was among a group of Bristol post 16 students who travelled to Copenhagen to debate with peers from Belgium, Sweden and Denmark on how their generation can be engaged in climate change, and help ensure a sustainable future. Well done Saynab.

Spring Newsletter
www.nbp16c.org

Cotham Learning Community:
Charnwood House, 30 Cotham Park, Bristol BS6 6BU
Tel: 0117 919 8100 Email: post16@cotham.bristol.sch.uk

Redland Green Learning Community:
Redland Court Road, Bristol BS6 7EH
Tel: 0117 353 3433 Email: post16@redlandgreen.bristol.sch.uk