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**Key Dates**

**17 Dec 2010** - End of Term 2

**4 Jan 2011** - Beginning of Term 3

**14 Jan 2011** - Deadline for Applications to NBP16C

**19 Jan 2011** - Year 13 PSIG Meeting

**9 Feb 2011** - Year 13 Parents'/Carers' Evening

**16 Feb 2011** - Year 12 PSIG Meeting

**18 Feb 2011** - End of Term 3

Cotham Learning Community:  
Charnwood House, 30 Cotham Park,  
Bristol BS6 6BU  
Tel: 0117 919 8100  
Email: info@nbp16c.org.uk

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

**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.



Many, but not all, Year 12 and Year 13 students have examinations in January 2011. 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 Monday, 10 January and finish on Thursday, 4 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 by 10 March. The deadline for subsequent re-sits and completion of re-take forms will be 17 March. If you do have any issues relating to January examinations, please contact the exams office directly.

There will be a PSIG meeting for Year 13 parents/carers on the 19 January, at Cotham 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



Marian Curran

be forewarned, especially with current changes that will affect student tuition fees and student finance. We will also be holding a Year 13 parents'/carers' evening at the centre on the 9 February, which this year will be hosted by Cotham Learning community.

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](http://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.

*Cont. overleaf...*



## Director's Letter Cont.

If students decline all offers made to them, then they are eligible to enter UCAS Extra or Clearing; however given the increase in Higher Education Applications this year and therefore the level of competition for places, we would not necessarily advocate this course of action. Our recent letter home to Year 13 parents/carers explained the implications of taking a gap year with regards to the increase in tuition fees. 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 and who are aware of the increase in tuition fees for 2012 applications 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.

You may also be aware of the changes that are taking place with regards to EMA. Unfortunately, no newly EMA registered students can be accepted after the end of December. We will keep you informed on future financial support arrangements for students.

Finally, 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.

Please remember we now have parent/carer surgeries at both Redland Green and Cotham Learning Communities. Redland Green parent/carer surgeries are held on Wednesdays from 3pm – 5pm and Cotham parent/carer surgeries are held on Mondays from 3pm – 5pm.



Please telephone in advance for an appointment.

**Marian Curran**

## Congratulations to our Winning 'Youth Speakers'

Well done to the Post 16 Centre Team that participated in the Clifton Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' Competition at QEH School. The Year 12 team, made up of Rawan, Hugo and Shana, entered the public speaking competition and were victorious against teams from QEH School, Badminton School, Colston's Girls' School and Brislington Enterprise College.

'Youth Speaks' is a public speaking competition for young people, organised by the Rotary Club. The objective is to give young people experience in speaking on a public platform, to encourage them to formulate their ideas on specific topics and to present them concisely in a limited time.

Rawan gave a wonderful speech on the nature of leadership; full of insightful observations and scholarly references to the likes of Nelson Mandela, Gandhi, Churchill and Martin Luther King, to name but a few. The team was fluent and



articulate in their delivery throughout their presentation and Rawan answered questions from the floor with confidence and guile. The students' parents were inspired, impressed and proud of their children. Overall, a great evening was enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to all three students on their success in winning the event! The team now qualify to take part in the District Finals which will be held in the New Year.



## Culture Bite: Media, Drama, Film, Journalism & Cultural Studies Taster Day

### *St. Matthias Campus, UWE*

I wasn't really sure what to expect on a Taster Day as I've never had the opportunity to attend one before. I wanted to get a better insight into courses relating to Journalism and Media as that is what I planned to do at University, so I thought it would be a good idea to get more information and some hands-on experience of what University will be like.

At first we were given a tour of the St. Matthias Campus, which was quite a lovely little campus with a very friendly atmosphere. The students then told us about their personal experiences about University life, which was very useful. It was good to know how other people handled the whole process; some moving to a city they had never even visited and

then some who stayed at home. They talked about finance, accommodation and Fresher's Week, among lots of other stories. I found that this was more beneficial coming from actual University students because it was all real and it gave me a better idea of what to expect when living in student halls.

We then had a longer talk about courses such as Drama, Creative Writing, Journalism etc., which involved the staff telling us information about the course and course requirements. But the bit I was looking forward to most was actually doing a taster of the courses that I had signed up to (Journalism and Media and Cultural Studies).

In the first taster course (Journalism) we looked at the

course content and what we'd actually be studying. Then we were shown video clips and pictures where we had to write down the differences between the videos and what came into our head when we saw pictures related to war.

In the Media and Cultural Studies taster session we had to watch an advert and analyse it, then create our own fictional advert for a boring product, which was really fun!

Overall, I thought the day was very enjoyable and the information I received about University life and the course itself was incredibly valuable. It would be great if more Universities offered taster days like these for various different courses as I found it extremely useful.

**Aliya, Year 13**

## Science: Not Just for Geeks

We have been extremely privileged this term to have a weekly science lecture. The speakers have come from a diverse range of disciplines; those who attended all the sessions have been afforded fascinating insights into the world-class research going on in Bristol. Footage of surgery on a beating heart was particularly inspiring, but our future aeronautical engineers were delighted to see unmanned spy drones homing in on a target and we've also had wonderful lectures about, for example, cystic fibrosis and romantic jealousy in men and women. Next academic year, we hope to be able to offer an evening lecture once a month. We hope that parents and carers will also want to join us for a glass of wine and a short

lecture, and that these events will become part of the cultural life of the Centre.

Next term we also have a series

of arts lectures available for students and parents/carers. Check out the NBP16C website for more info!

### arts talks

02-03-11

**Prof. Tim Ibell**  
architecture and civil engineering (Bath)  
title to be confirmed

09-09-11

**Doug Gill**  
co-founder of studio upstairs, art therapy space  
"The value of making art for adult mental health"

16-03-11

**Simon Attfield**  
design director, bluemarin product design  
title to be confirmed

23-03-11

**Julia Carver**  
lead curator at Bristol museum  
title to be confirmed

30-03-11

**Dr. Birgit Beumers**  
lecturer in Russian visual culture (Bristol)  
title to be confirmed