



Director's letter

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Welcome to our first Post 16 newsletter of the new academic year, and a warm welcome to our new Year 12 parents and our existing Year 13 parents. The Centre had been incredibly busy since the start of term, and students seem to be making a positive start to their studies.



We are delighted with the fantastic A-level results students of the North Bristol Post 16 Centre have achieved. These results show that we are providing high quality education to the young people of north Bristol and that students are both challenged and supported to achieve their very best. The facilities at both Cotham School and Redland Green have given our students the very best opportunities to study and achieve well. Eight per cent of entries were awarded the new A* grade and 5 students achieved A* grades in three subjects. Two students will be taking up their offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge and three will begin courses in medicine. We want to congratulate all our students and wish them well as they take up their places at university, employment, or begin their gap year. In Applied Art, Dance, Performing Arts, Mathematics, Further Maths, French and Chemistry the results were outstanding with over 70 percent of students getting A*, A and B grades. Mathematics and Science represent one in four of all entries. The results in these subjects, were a real strength of the Centre, as well as reflecting the specialism's of the two schools.

Year 13 have started the final leg of an educational journey that began 9 years ago. Since most students drop their weakest AS subject, with an extra push, they should convert their AS grades into very good final A2 grades. All Year 12 and Year 13 students should have received an academic interview with their personal tutor to agree learning targets for the coming year. For Year 13 students this is very important since students will be reaching decisions about whether they should apply to higher education, take a gap year or to go into full-time employment. If students are applying for higher education, they will need to ensure that they have registered on the UCAS website and also that they have started to complete their personal statement for the UCAS form. We strongly advise all Year 13 students that their applications are completed by 31st October. All Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary applications need to be sent to UCAS by 15th October. A useful website for parents is www.ucas.com/parents, where you can find information regarding higher education and the application process.

Year 12 students obviously want to become independent in many ways. Meeting their own leisure expenses through part-time work is always appealing, but it can sometimes impinge on study time. Research published by Hodgson and Spours, who are based at the London Institute of Education, shows that

- sixth formers who spent more than five hours per week in jobs did less well than expected. Students who work for more than 15 hours were the worst affected, falling from the expected BBB grades to CCD.

We recommend that a maximum of one weekend day or two evenings a week be devoted to paid work. Some students have taken on more than this, to the detriment of their studies. Another factor hindering the performance of students is their desire to attend late night functions during the Centre week. We feel that if this becomes a regular habit it can affect students work. We would like them to keep late nights to weekends in general so that they can come to the Centre ready to learn. Some students will have Modular Examinations in January and must make the most of both study periods and study time at home.

Thank you for all of the support you have given your sons and daughters so far. Some key dates are included in this newsletter but there is a fuller list of upcoming events on our website, which is at www.nbp16c.org.uk. We update this regularly with news items and other key events that are happening at the Centre. We look forward to meeting you throughout the academic year.

Marian Curran



Important Dates

- 28 Sep 11 - Year 13 PSIG Meeting
- 13 Oct 11 - NBP16C Main Open Evening
- 14 Oct 11 - Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science Deadline
- 19 Oct 11 - NBP16C Main Open Evening
- 21 Oct 11 - End of Term 1
- 31 Oct 11 - Beginning of Term 2
- 31 Oct 11 - INSET Day
- 2 Nov 11 - NBP16C Information Evening
- 10 Nov 11 - Learner Review Day (Cotham only)
- 18 Nov 11 - Oxbridge, Medicine Practice Interviews, Cotham
- 23 Nov 11 - Oxbridge Practice Interviews
- 24 Nov 11 - Year 12 PSIG Meeting

Vietnam Trip 2011

A group of Post 16 Redland Green learning community students travelled to Vietnam during July 2011 and stayed in a local village to get involved with a community based project, where they made a real difference to people's lives. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to soak up the culture and customs of the Vietnamese people, as well as helping a remote Vietnamese community in a very practical way. There is a photo gallery on the North Bristol Post 16 Centre website if you would like to see more about their trip!



Working hard on the community project



Trekking



Paralympic Swimmer gives Motivational talk to Students

Earlier in September Redland Green learning community was delighted to welcome Graham Edmunds. An inspirational paralympic swimmer with 2 gold medals from the Athens and Beijing paralympic games, he visited Redland Green learning community to talk to all year groups on Monday, 19 September. Organised by Post 16 student Sadia Rana, Graham was invited to give students an inspirational and motivational talk as part of her extended project.



Graham and Sadia



Graham, Sadia and some Redland Green School students

Student Invited to Talk on Local Community Radio!

In January, the Cotham Learning Community were approached by the Bristol Rotary Club who were keen to sponsor a Year 12 student on a 5-day leadership course based in the Forest of Dean. After a rigorous selection process involving application forms and interviews, Cliona Kelly was invited to attend the course. The week consisted of a variety of events and challenges ranging from fundraising in town centres to night-time orienteering with the focus on leadership skills and team-building. Since completing the course Cliona has addressed the Bristol Rotary Club at one of their lunchtime meetings and has also been invited to talk on Radio BCfm (93.2 fm) on Wednesday, 12 October between 2 - 3 pm. So have a listen to her on the radio then!

Would You Like Your Teen to Read More?

Struggling with how to get your teen to read? This event at the Hooper House Cafe between 4.00pm - 5.30pm on Saturday, 15 October, with G.P. Taylor during the Bristol Festival of Literature (14-23 October) might be just what you need.

The Teens won't read. Or will they?

G.P. Taylor came to fame with the self-published *Shadowmancer*, and is known for straight talking. Hear his recommendations for getting your teens away from the X-box and into books.

The Bristol Festival of Literature is a new kind of festival that celebrates both writing and reading with 35 writers, 25 events for nine days, across eight main venues across the city. If you would like more information on the festival or would like to book tickets go to the website: <http://unputdownable.org/>



Redland Green Learning Community Science News...

Three Post 16 students (Chris, Jo and David) will be attending the University of Bath Chemistry department's introductory lectures in Organic Chemistry. Three students participated in this outreach project last year and were lucky enough to be offered summer lab placements at the University. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to experience University-level study.

Jessica (Year 13) successfully completed a Nuffield Foundation Bursary Scheme summer lab placement and will be presenting her research findings at a Nuffield mini-conference at HP Labs. Students interested in applying for the scheme for next summer should talk to Timna Lyons.

Post 16 Seminar Series

north Bristol post-16 **seminar** series

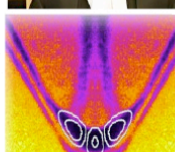
STILYAGI
Russian visual culture c.1950
doctor Birgit Beumers (Bristol)
Tue. 4th Oct. 1.05pm. 3F4



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



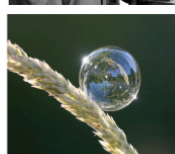
the Philosophy of Parallel Universes
doctor James Ladyman (Bristol)
Tue. 7th Feb. 1.05pm. 3F4



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



The lectures are open to students and parents/carers at both learning communities, and are held at the Redland Green learning community.