

Bristol Cathedral Choir School

Newsletter September 2018



From the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers

We look forward to welcoming students back as the Michaelmas term begins. On our Year 12 induction day it was tremendous to see so many of our existing students (already looking significantly older and wiser!) being joined by a large number of new students from all over Bristol. The sixth form has gone from strength to strength in the past few years; students again won places at a wide range of competitive courses including Russell Group and Oxbridge Universities. We wish them well and look forward to keeping in touch with their future successes.

Ambitious improvement works have begun on the site this summer and are detailed in the newsletter. I am extremely grateful for the collaboration between the Cathedral, Local Authority, Skanska and CST that have facilitated these projects on this complex site. They will enhance the school for students significantly, improving social and teaching facilities.

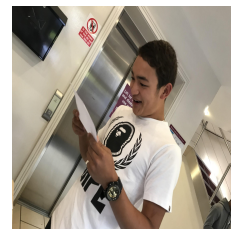
I look forward to meeting you at concerts, touchlines, services, College Square and around school. As well as the usual parent/carers consultation progress meetings, there will be wide a range of other opportunities such as Key Stage 3/4/5 information meetings for us to communicate developments and to hear your feedback during the year.

We are conscious that it can be a nervous time for some students joining a new school. Please do not hesitate to contact your son or daughter's tutor, Head of House or myself if you have any concerns or information that will help us support this key transition.

Kind regards, Paul Atkins

Examination Results

We are delighted that the dedication of students and staff was rewarded with outstanding results. This year saw the challenge of navigating significant specification and grade changes. Most importantly, alongside high attainment figures, analysis shows that students have made very strong progress from their starting points, at both A Level & GCSE.



GCSE

The percentage of students obtaining passes in *both* English and Maths was well above the national average: 85% of students obtained both passes at grade 4 and above, 68% at grade 5 and above. A brilliant 39% of all grades were awarded at 7-9 (equivalent to A*-A). In English 58% of all students obtained a grade 7-9 in either/both Literature or Language. Well over a fifth of all results were the highest 8-9 grades. Marimo Rossiter achieved eight grade 9s, a rare achievement nationally!



A Level

For the second year running students achieved a 100% pass rate. This was our largest BCCS cohort and 86% of all grades were at A*-C, our highest ever result. Well over a quarter of grades were A*-A.

A full list of all our results by subject will be available on the website once remarks have been concluded. Links to the DFE's analysis of our performance and progress will be shared when they are available.

Beginning of Term

Key September Dates (* information to follow by email)

Friday 31st August	Year 12 Induction 1.00pm
Tuesday 4th September	Year 7 Induction 1.00pm
Wednesday 5th September	TERM STARTS for all pupils
Tuesday 11th September	Year 7 BCCS Open Evening
Tuesday 18th September	KS4 Info Evening 6.30pm*
Wednesday 19th September	Y13 UCAS/Post 18 Options*
Thursday 20th September	Photographs Year 7, 10
Monday 24th September	Year 12 Trip Day
Tuesday 25th September	KS3 Info Evening 6.30pm*
Thursday 27th September	Year 12 Info Evening*

Your son or daughter's teachers

Students will be given their timetables with a list of teachers on Wednesday. You can also view student timetables on the VLE, along with the homework timetable.

Key Expectations

One of our key expectations will be punctuality throughout the year. Students should be in tutor rooms at 8.35am ready for a 8.40am formal start of registration. Parents will receive an email to keep you informed if students are late and any sanction that follows. If there are reasons for lateness outside of students' control we will ask them for communication from you.

We value your support on standards of uniform. Guidelines were shared last year by letter, in student House assemblies and in meetings for new parents:

<https://bccs.fireflycloud.net/whole-school/uniform-and-equipment-list-20182019-1/letter-from-the-head-of-school---may-2018>

Please note that all skirts should be knee-length BCCS pleated skirts with a gold band. Skirts are available at Famous School Branches. There has been over a year's lead-in to help implement this change. Shoes should be black, polishable and without logos.

<https://bccs.fireflycloud.net/whole-school/uniform-and-equipment-list-20182019-1>

Please send an email to your son or daughter's tutor if there is a temporary reason why they might not have correct uniform. If you have queries, please contact Mr Maw.

Chorister Tour

In July, 30 choristers toured Belgium and the Netherlands. They visited Noordwijk, Amsterdam, the Hague, Naarden, Delft, Scheveningen, Kortrijk, Bruges, and Ypres, taking part in a moving service at the Menin Gate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QDX2B7io3A>

Duke of Edinburgh Gold

43 students completed their DofE Gold Expedition section with a four day expedition in the Lake District. In July, five teams managed some hot dry weather brilliantly with early starts. Three teams climbed Scafell Pike as part of their trip, one crossing the National Park from west to east (Ennerdale to Shap), and the fifth team exploring waterfalls and lakes, their highlight being the early morning view from Loughrigg over Grasmere. In August the teams enjoyed more typical Lakeland weather, again climbing Scafell Pike as part of the trip. All groups wild camped, and a few enjoyed some wild swimming as well!

Congratulations to all students - we have various instructors and assessors working alongside us, all of whom commented on what a lovely group of students we had, and were keen to keep in touch and work with us again as a school. All credit to the students for completing this challenge, and a thank you to Mr Parfitt, Mr Hogg and Mr Srokosz who supported Mr Davies in running these trips during the holiday.

Cambridge University Residential

This summer also saw the completion of our inaugural HE+ project in partnership with Cambridge University, with a two day residential to Trinity Hall Cambridge (our Link college). The project has been run for the most academically able students in Year 12 across Sixth Forms in the city, with 60 students attending this event to explore applying to Oxbridge. Sessions were run on the application process, including the interviews and admissions test, with a chance to visit some departments and explore the city further. Thank you to Mr Davies and Mr Foster for running this successful project which we will repeat.

Site Developments

As you may have noticed from Anchor Road, the build to provide a new science laboratory, three new classrooms and changing rooms has begun with demolition that has, not unexpectedly, unearthed some fascinating archaeology.



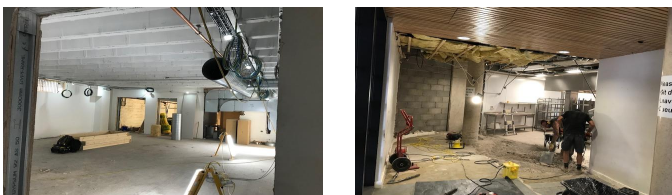
The planned schedule is for completion at Easter:



Our Cresswell kitchens have been extensively refurbished and redesigned to cater for more students. These will be complemented by a new food kiosk and social area on the other side of College Square which should be completed at half term.



Works to complete two new Art and Technology Rooms in the Rectory basement are on track to be completed in the next few weeks. We will update you with more details of another significant refurbishment of Drama facilities in the next newsletter.



Uganda Trip

Uganda (from Miss Helmich)



Mr. Srokosz, Mr. Bailey, and Mrs Davies and I accompanied 20 students to Uganda, exploring the links BCCS has lovingly fostered over 30 years.

Uganda is known as the pearl of Africa; it is one of the most biodiverse countries. The people we met were inspirational, happy and welcoming. We were very lucky to meet so many interesting people who gifted us fantastic hospitality. BCCS students gained a real insight into others' lives as they talked with and learnt alongside their Ugandan partners.

I'm sure our students will agree, the trip was eye opening, awe inspiring and often emotionally draining. The country of Uganda is blessed with a wealth of resources but our visit really made it apparent that so many people are relying on our generosity year after year. The work we do as a school has given hundreds of people life chances that we cannot imagine being without.

I should also mention the adoration expressed towards our ex-employee Peter Bond. He has done so much for the area surrounding Jinja and his name was uttered in thanks throughout the trip. He has commissioned libraries, wells, latrines & dormitories.

Here is a list a number of our connections so those of you who wish to, can further explore our Uganda link.

- St James Secondary School Lakeside Primary School
- African Street Children Organisation
- Sonrise Baby Home
- Bugali Church
- Maria Care School for the Deaf
- RAVO School
- Granny Joyce
- Busoga Trust Wells and Sanitation

Staff News

This year sees us say farewell and enormous thanks to a number of colleagues. We wish them well and hope to keep in touch!

Mrs Jenkinson retires from language teaching after long service; we are delighted that she will continue to play her key role in looking after the choristers. **Mrs Cox** also retires from teaching MFL having served in a number of key roles such as Head of House stretching back to before the academy; we look forward to following her famous educational blogs on “positive teaching”.

Ms Thomas leaves after 14 years of teaching Art and giving students such brilliant, committed support. Whilst on SLT Ms Thomas had a key role in driving standards on “learning to learn”.

Mr Shellard (Music) and **Mr Fitzgerald** (Head of Priors) both move to exciting new promoted positions abroad after contributing so much to BCCS. **Mr Perryman** departs to pursue his career in computing after introducing the subject at BCCS alongside all his expertise in music technology. **Mr Lloyd** leaves to take up a Head of Chemistry position after nearly four years of dedicated teaching in science.

Mrs Bloom (Head of PE) will be missed, departing after the birth of her daughter. **Mr Harlowe**, who covered her maternity post leaves to take up a permanent position in Dorset.

Mrs Askew also leaves us following the birth of her daughter having introduced and taught textiles so successfully since 2013. **Ms Pritchard** who covered Mrs Askew’s maternity departs, having also made a major contribution to the department.

Miss Flanagan, **Miss Brisbane** and **Miss Stockdale** leave the SEND department to further their careers after all giving expert support to our students.

Mr Baynton (PE and Games) will now work at Cathedral Primary School but remain nearby; we look forward to still seeing him on the BCCS touchline! Best wishes go to **Ms Wright** for her maternity leave.

Welcome

There are a significant number of new positions in 2018 to offer additional pastoral and academic support to students, as well as replaced posts.

Mr Campbell & Ms Feiler	Music
Mr Robotham & Miss Brizzi	Science
Miss Breet & Mrs Hogg	MFL
Miss Sweeney	History
Miss Collinswood	RS
Ms Southwick & Mrs Turner	Art
Mr Gilbert	Head of Abbots/English
Mr Welch	Head of PE
Mrs Saunders	Head of Canons
Mrs Smith	Yr 12-13 Pastoral Lead
Miss Hicks-Beresford	Yr 7-11 Pastoral Lead

I am pleased to announce new appointments:

Mr Mann	Subject Lead: Careers & Employability
Miss Berry	Subject Lead: Drama
Mrs Slater	Emotional Literacy Coordinator
Miss Masters	Lead Teacher: Head of Year 12

Senior Leadership Team

Mr Maw joins the senior leadership team as Assistant Principal (Behaviour & Engagement).

Mr Bailey, Principal Designate of Trinity Academy, leaves the BCCS senior leadership team, continuing to work with BCCS as Director of Specialism in 2018-19. **Mr Steward** also leaves his BCCS SLT role to continue as Director of the Teaching School Alliance with CST.

Teaching and Learning

This September we are pleased to launch the new BCCS approach to marking and feedback. We intend for marking and feedback to be meaningful and motivating for your child. Students will no longer receive written acknowledgement of all their notes produced but instead teachers will be focused on high quality verbal feedback during learning and high quality written feedback for best work. We want all students to understand what their next steps are to improve their progress and learning.

We ask parents and carers to support their son or daughters' learning by reminding them to be equipped with books and work so they can make the most for their SIT (Silent Improvement Time) and to complete RaR (read and respond) tasks as part of their ongoing homework.

Tuesday tutor time is SIT time for Deans and Priors, Wednesday for Abbots and Canons; during this time students will work on improving their work. Programmes of Study and Departmental Marking policies will be accessible to parents and carers this year via the VLE.

Please come along to the forthcoming Information Evenings to find out more about this year's developments in Teaching & Learning. The first KS3 information evening is on the 25th September. There will be a range of discussion and information items; more details of this evening will be sent by email.

Miss Messinger

Assistant Principal, Teaching and Learning

Safeguarding

Our first priority as a school is to ensure all students are safe. BCCS and CPS staff work hard everyday day to monitor and supervise students in our unique city centre setting. Please could you support us by not driving into College Square to drop off or collect students. We are working with the Local Authority to improve College Square further.

Supervision

The school canteen is open from 8am for students. The library is also open from 8am and available 4-5pm Monday to Thursday. From 4.15pm any students still on site should be in a supervised activity such as sport, rehearsals, revision sessions or the library.

Cycling

Please can all students wear helmets and use appropriate lights as the days get shorter. We are concerned by the number of students who wear headphones whilst cycling to school through a busy city centre. We have also reminded students that wearing headphones whilst walking home can compromise their personal safety.

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please contact:

Mr Gunn Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



Miss Heaton-Jones Deputy DSL

