

Bristol Cathedral Choir School

Newsletter October 2018



From the Executive Principal of CST

Dear Parents and Carers

It is a pleasure to be able to fill in for Mr Atkins for a few weeks.

The works to the school buildings which began over the summer holidays continue. However, the classrooms in the basement of the Rectory Building are complete and now in use. We are delighted with the finished result providing much needed bespoke Art and DT accommodation. The project efficiently reuses the space to gain two new large classrooms with additional storage. The new catering unit below Abbey House is also nearly complete and the new lunch and break time service will begin later this term.

Unfortunately the main build adjacent to Anchor Road had been delayed. The ruins of the ancient Augustinian Monastery dating from around 1140AD were discovered under the foundations. The archaeologists are enjoying the opportunity to discover more about the cellars and latrines but this does mean that the building may have to be redesigned. We are still hopeful that this project will be completed before September 2019.

It has been wonderful to welcome a new cohort of students in year seven and year twelve. There are now four hundred sixth form students on site and over 1000 students combined. We have, of course, welcomed many new staff this term who have quickly become an important part of our community. Co-curricular activities have begun in earnest and we are all very much looking forward to the musical *Les Misérables* which will be performed in February. The analysis of last year's GCSE and A-level results demonstrate significant value added and very high levels of attainment. BCCS continues to be one of the highest performing schools within the region. Many congratulations to all our students and staff. The school performance tables will be released by the DfE sometime before Christmas.

It has been a busy start of term and a lot of news accordingly. Please see details of recent events and events to come.

Best wishes

Neil Blundell

Executive Principal

Cathedral Schools Trust



WisePay no more!

We now operate an online payment system called Parent Pay. This works in the same way WisePay did.



ParentPay enables the school to continue to be a cashless school and give parents the ability to pay by debit card for school meals, trips, and other items.

The Finance Office sent log in details and instructions for use over the summer for use. If you have not received your log on, please email finance@cathedralschoolstrust.org.uk.

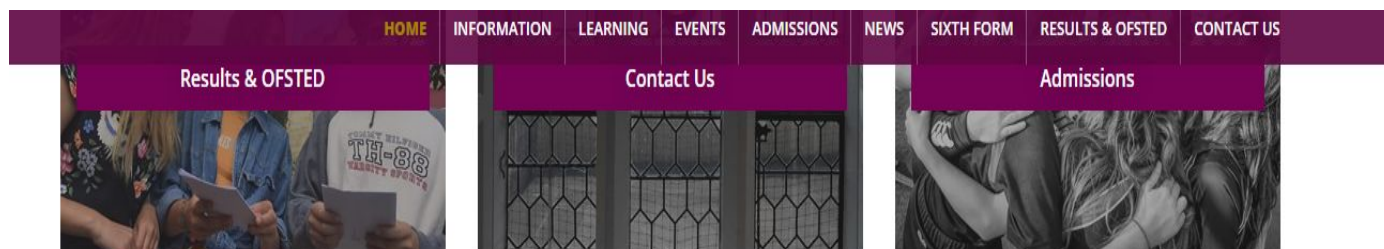
When you log on to your child's account, you may find a list of charges available. I.e. lanyard, art portfolio etc. These may not be applicable to your child at this stage, please do not feel obliged to purchase these options unless your child needs them.

If you have more than one child, you can merge your children's account (i.e. then only requiring one log on).

Parent Pay can be used on computers, tablets and on mobiles.

A link can be found on the front page of our website (see below).

Or simply go to www.parentpay.com



News & Announcements



Newsletter - September 2018



Homelessness in Bristol: it's not going away.



Newsletter - Premium Partners April 2018

Events & Dates



Parents and Carers Calendar



Term Dates



Sixth Form Open Evening October 16th

Useful Services



Parent Portal



Parent Payments



Key Dates 2018 Coming Up

1- 4 October - Interhouse Music Competition
 8 October - Yr7 Parent/Carers and Students Evening & Evensong 4.00pm onwards
 11 October - Music Competition: Winners Concert
 16 October - Yr 12 Open Evening 5.30 -8.00pm
 17 October - Yr 9 to SGS for Ambitions event
 18 October - Year 11 Subject Parent Evening
 18 October - Parent Internet Safety Talk 6.30pm
 22 October - Yr 12/ 13 Theatre Studies- Twelfth Night trip
 24 October - Prizegiving/ Term Ends
 25/26 October - DofE Gold

5 November - Inset Day

6 November - TERM BEGINS

8 November - New Year 12 Open Evening
 13 November - Senior Ensemble Concert 7.30pm
 15 November - BPM Masterclass - Nick Carpenter, Clarinet (Head of Woodwind, RWCMD)
 22 November - Year 8 Subject Parents Evening
 22 November- Junior Ensembles Concert 7.30pm
 December (TBC) - CST Singing event with Gospel and Boys Choir
 5 December - Yr12 Subject Parents Evening
 7 December 2018 - Carol Concert, Cathedral 7.30pm
 13 December 2018 - Last Day of Term

Safeguarding

Parents are invited to an Online Safety Evening given by Alan Earl, a former police officer who now works for the South West Grid for Learning. This will take place in the Cresswell Theatre on the **18th October 2018 at 6.30pm**. This is highly recommended to all parents who have any concerns over their child's online use. If you are able to attend, please could you tick the attached question? [Internet Safety Talk](#)

Many parents use technology widely today but still worry about what their children do online. Most children will manage their online lives well and build their own coping mechanisms just as they do with real life threats. They do however use the technology often in different ways to adults and this can bring its own problems. This session provides parents with a window into the current popular technologies and how young people utilise them. Demonstrating the massive positives and potential pitfalls, the interactive presentation provides parents with advice, coping strategies and resources to help them understand and engage with their child's online lives. Duration 90 mins

Visiting Central Library

As part of the induction process we will also take all year 7s to Central Library for a tour. Please make sure you have completed a Bristol libraries form for your child. The year 7 classes are all going to central library with me and their English teacher on the following dates:

Thursday 4th October 1.10 - 2.15 (Wk A 7D English Ms French)

Thursday 11th October 10.30 - 11.30 (Wk B 7P English Ms Masters)

Thursday 18th October 1.10- 2.10 (Wk A 7C Mr Maw)

Thursday 8 th November 1.10 - 2.10 (Wk A 7B English Ms Boyland)

Thursday 15th November 10.30 -11.30 (WK B 7A English Mr Taylor)

Sixth Form Admissions Year 12 for 2019

Open events will take place on:

Tuesday 16th October 2018 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Thursday 8th November 2018 5.30pm - 8.00pm

There will be a presentation from the Head of Sixth Form and you will be offered a tour and chance to meet faculty staff and students. There is no requirement to book for an open event. Please note there is no parking on the school site.

The online application will open in mid-October on the school website.

Parent Information Evenings

We have now held parent information evenings for

- Key Stage 3 (years 7,8 & 9)
- Key Stage 4 (years 10 & 11)
- Year 12

Thank you to those who were able to attend the recent parent information evenings. We hope you found them helpful.

If you would like to view the presentations from those evenings, please go to " Whole School " on the VLE (Parent Portal).



History

Leon Castell (9D), Evie Smith-Hayes (9C) and Mrs Davies are looking forward to spending 4-days and 3-nights immersing ourselves in the Ypres Salient and Somme regions of the Western Front. As part of a government initiative to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, we will be visiting places such as Tyne Cot Cemetery, the In Flanders Fields Museum and will even be taking part in an evening event at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium where the Last Post is played and poppy wreaths are laid in memory. We look forward to updating you about our trip upon our return!

Bristol Plays Music Masterclass series 2018/19

The Bristol Plays Music Masterclass series 2018/19 was launched last week (displayed in music and emailed home). Some of the best musicians in the country will be coming to the Cresswell Theatre to perform for and coach our students.

Bristol Schools Rugby

We are proud to announce that Joseph Bennett, Thomas Hedges, Dominic Santamaria were selected to play in the Gloucestershire Schools RFU District tournament representing Bristol Schools. These students have been working with the Bristol Rugby Academy, Bristol Schools and the RFU. Well done!

Drama



Les Misérables (School Edition) -

Auditions took place this month for pupils year 9+ and we look forward to bringing this production to the school community from 27th February - 2nd March.

Help Please! - If there are any parents/carers who have an interest or can offer their skillset to this production, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our Head of Drama, Naomi Berry - nberry@bristolcathedral.org.uk

Rowing Challenge

In late June, BCCS was confirmed as an entrant to the Go Row Indoor Power8 Sprints School Challenge, and at very short notice we asked our students to take part on Sports Day. Set up by British Rowing to encourage as many people as possible to try Indoor Rowing, the Challenge took place across Bristol and the surrounding area, with 27 schools attempting to have the highest number of students row 350m on rowing machines.

Our students responded with great enthusiasm and 164 took part - many using a rowing machine for the first time. Some students even had 5 or 6 attempts and only stepped away from the machines if there was someone else waiting!

With 9 more rowers than any other school, BCCS won the Challenge, and Mr A Steward and Billy Steward (a member of the school Rowing Club) were presented with the trophy at the Power8 Sprints Regatta during the Harbour Festival by Max Gotrel, a Team GB Olympic Gold Medal winner.



Although the focus was on participation, notable mentions must go to Kathryn Burton and Evie Smith-Hayes, who both produced the best times (equal to a tenth of a second) by any girls in the school while in Year 8; Kean Biggs, who was the fastest Year 9 in the whole of the Challenge; and Lewis Antwis, the fastest Year 10 in the Challenge and the fastest student in school.



Enrichment Activities 2018/2019

Below are some of the ones we currently offer. Details of current enrichment activities available can be found on the VLE - <https://bccs.fireflycloud.net/societies-and-clubs> as well.

Sport	Music	Departmental	Other
GSCE Trampolining Netball Running Club Girl's Football Climbing/ Bouldering Rowing Club Basketball Club	Girl's Choir Percussion Ensemble Snr Flute Ensemble Jnr Flute Ensemble Concert Band Boy's Choir Brass Ensemble Band Academy String Orchestra Big Band Jazz Jazz Jammers Gospel Choir Sinfonia The Noise DJ Club	KS4 Graphics GCSE Art Support Yr11 DT Catch-Up Science Club French Film Club Drama Club Yr 7&8 Coding Club Page Turners	Chess Club Equalities Group Student Librarians Card Games Film Appreciation Society Equalities Group Board Games Club Student Voice Meditation and Mindfulness (KS4 & 6th Form)



Pupil Premium

The government introduced 'Pupil Premium' funding to raise achievement in schools.

In brief, this funding supports students from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure they benefit from the same opportunities as students from less disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Young people in care
- Young people adopted from care,
- Young people in receipt of free school meals
- Those who have claimed free school meals in the past six years or whose parents are actively serving in the Armed Forces.

At BCCS we pride ourselves on utilising the Pupil Premium to support our students with Maths and Literacy, Transition at all key stages, Engagement and Attendance. More information is at the end of this newsletter. If you have any queries, please contact Pcallaghan@bristolcathedral.org.uk

STEM Help

Does your job involve STEM (Science, technology, engineering and Maths)? Would you like to help us get students excited about STEM careers? The BCCS science department would like to make more of the expertise of our parents and carers. We are hoping to compile a database of people who might be able to help with future events such as science clubs, lectures and careers fairs. If you would like to get involved please complete [this very short google form](#) about what you do and how you might be able to help us. Any suggestions or offers of help will be gratefully received.

If you have any questions please contact Mike Davies,
Deputy Head of Science on
mdavies@bristolcathedral.org.uk



Careers at BCCS

There has never been a time when Careers Education has been as important for young people as it is today. The landscape of education, training and employment opportunities that students need to navigate is complex and challenging.

The BCCS Careers Programme is being designed to support our students be knowledgeable about career pathways and how to make best choices. At Bristol Cathedral Choir School we aim to get students thinking about Careers and Employability as soon as they arrive in Year 7. This is achieved via careers lessons, enterprise initiatives, employer challenges and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) projects.

We also provide information and support at times when students are required to make decisions about their future; in Year 9 when they choose their options, Year 11 when they make Post 16 choices and in Yr 12/13 for Post 18 decisions.

A vital part of Careers Guidance is Experience of Work (WEX). The formal WEX programme will run this academic year during 24th June and 5th July 2019. The programme will be launched to Year 11 students during an assembly this term and full details on the WEX process will be provided. WEX offers an amazing insight into the world of work and can support students to develop vital soft skills as well as influencing career choices. As such it is the expectation that all Year 11 students will take place in WEX.

WEX will also be available for Post 16 students however there will be flexibility on when students can complete a WEX placement. Full details of the WEX programme will be available on the school website soon.

We are always looking for interesting and varied experience of work opportunities for our students. If you are a business owner and/or decision maker and are able to offer a Work Experience placement please contact Paul Mann, Careers & Employability Lead on 0117 353 500 or email: pmann@bristolcathedral.org.uk.

Former Pupil News

Former Pupil Luke Spiller and his band the Struts (have opened for the Rolling Stones / Foo Fighters) are playing Bristol SWX on Feb 22nd. Will be a great show. See

Go to <https://thestruts.com/>



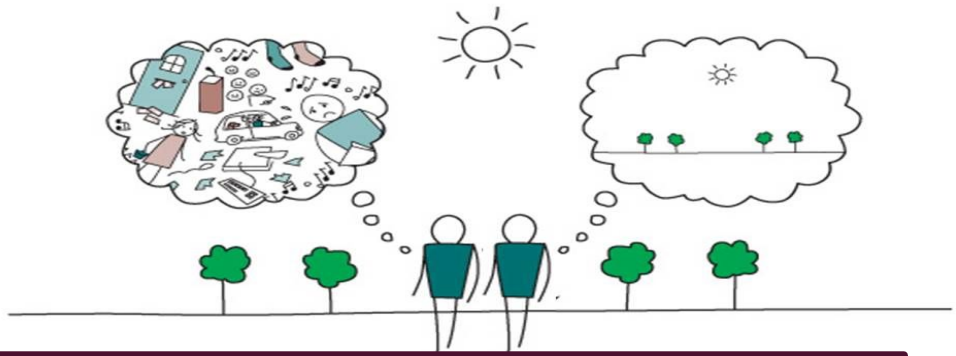
GI ASCO

On Tuesday 25th September Mrs Davies and Miss Helmich spoke at a fundraiser for GI ASCO, one of the causes that BCCS support in Uganda. The evening was a roaring success with **over £14,500** being raised for the charity.

GI ASCO was founded by Chris and Anne Mitchell in 2010, after they visited their daughter Jennie who was on a gap year with Bristol Cathedral School. They set out to tackle the problem of homelessness of young boys in Jinja.



When BCCS visited in July 2018, we met over 20 boys who now live at the residential house and are in education thanks to the charity. GI ASCO needs as much financial and practical support as possible. To find out more about the cause visit <http://gitrust.org.uk/>



Mindfulness at BCCS

Mind Full, or Mindful?

Have you ever driven your car somewhere and arrived at your destination only to realise you remember nothing about your journey? Or started eating a packet of chips and then suddenly noticed all you had left in your hands was an empty packet?

These are some common examples of 'mind/lessness' – also known as being on 'autopilot'.

In this busy, hyper connected world we live in it's all too easy to lose ourselves in autopilot for much of the day....every day. Living this way we often fail to hear what our bodies are telling us and we all too often become stuck in ways of thinking and living that may be harmful to ourselves or others. We may also become vulnerable to anxiety, stress, depression and reactivity.

Research shows, in fact, that the more our minds wander, the less happy we are (mrsmindfulness.com).

How can mindfulness help young people?

The benefits of mindfulness for adults has been well documented, but what about the benefits for young people? A new study in *Developmental Science* found an 8-week training programme improved emotion processing in 16-18-year-olds. In theory, this might reduce their vulnerability to depression (Sanger et al., 2018).

In another study, secondary school students who followed an in-class mindfulness programme reported reduced indications of depression, anxiety and stress up to six months later. Moreover, these students were less likely to develop pronounced depression-like symptoms (Raes, 2018).

What to know more?

Ms Hawthorn has trained with the Mindfulness in Schools Project (MiSP) who deliver high quality training in mindfulness for young people. She is running a mindfulness drop in every Monday and Wednesday lunchtime in M009 from 12:45-1:00. This is open to all students.

For more information about Mindfulness please head to the Mindfulness in Schools Project website <https://mindfulnessinschools.org/>



What is the Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is additional funding that the government gives to schools for each pupil on roll where they are deemed to be disadvantaged. The money must be spent on that pupil to support their education, but it is for the school to determine how it is spent.

The Department of Education website is a good source of additional information:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium>

Why is the Government providing the Pupil Premium?

Poverty or low income is the single most important factor in predicting a child's future life chances, with many pupils having low attainment by the time they leave school at age 16. The Government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address these underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

Who receives the Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium is allocated to the pupils in school year groups from Reception to Year 11 from low income families who are registered for FSM, or who have been registered for FSM at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6'), together with children that have been in care continuously for 6 months or more.

How do I apply for the Pupil Premium?

You can use this link to apply <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/free-school-meals>

If you do not have access to a computer telephone Bristol City Council Free School Meals on
0117 903 7990

If you require further help or assistance you can contact Patrick Callaghan tel. 3535000 or
pcallaghan@bristolcathedral.org.uk

What is the Service Premium?

The Service Premium grant is for pupils who have a parent serving in the armed services. Unlike the Pupil Premium, this grant is not solely for raising attainment for providing additional (mainly pastoral) support.

Who receives the Service Premium?

Pupils with a parent currently serving in the armed services and supporting their family, pupils who have a parent who died in action and those whose parents have left the service since April 2011 for other reasons, including injury. To be eligible, the parent must be supporting their family, so where they are separated or divorced a pupil will not be eligible. How do parents register their child's entitlement for Pupil Premium? Parents must apply for free school meals via the County Council or their child's school, this is a quick and simple process. Telephone 0845 155 1019 with your National Insurance Number, date of birth, name and child's details and an eligibility check can be carried out using the Department for Education's Eligibility Checking System, this will confirm if details have been matched or not. It will not tell us what benefits you are in receipt of, dates when a benefit was awarded or say how much you receive. Confirmation will be sent to you and school within 5-10 working days.

Pupils do not have to take up their entitlement to a free meal but Local Authorities and schools recommend that they do.

The government is made aware of each pupil claiming FSMs each term via the school census so they have up-to-date information on those eligible.

How much are the Pupil Premium Grants worth?

The Pupil Premium for the financial year 2018-19 is £935. This is significant additional money for schools to spend on supporting disadvantaged pupils and schools are very keen to ensure that all eligible pupils are 'signed up'. Grants are based on those pupils included in the January schools' census. Pupil Premium Plus for 2018-19 is £2,300. This is for pupils that are currently in care or have at some point been a child in care. Please contact Mr Callaghan if you seek further information regarding this.

How will schools spend the grant?

Schools must spend the grant for the educational benefit of their eligible pupils. The grant can be spent on services that benefit pupils at the school or their families, in the locality in which the school is situated. Pupil Premium grants can be carried forward to the next financial year if all the money is not spent in the year in which it is allocated.

What is the role of the local authority?

Local authorities are responsible for passing on the Pupil or Service Premium to maintained schools and for managing its distribution in respect of 'Looked After' children. The Education Funding Agency, not the local authority, allocates the grant to the Academy Schools but the eligibility criteria is exactly the same. However, neither organisation is responsible for how schools spend the Pupil Premium, except for pupils in care, where the Local Authority has responsibility for their wellbeing.

What obligations are placed on the school?

Schools will need to monitor the impact of their selected approaches to improve provision for pupils entitled to Pupil or Service Premium. The Pupil and Service Premium is not ring-fenced and schools are free to spend it as they wish to improve pupils' attainment.

How are parents informed about the use of the Pupil Premium grants?

The school's governing body must publish information on the school-website every year on the Pupil and Service Premium expenditure. For those parents that are not able to access the internet, a paper copy of this information can be provided. It should detail the funding received for the current academic year, as well as details of how it will be spent; there will also be details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent.

Please contact Patrick Callaghan pcallaghan@bristolcathedral.org.uk for more details about registering with the school for Pupil Premium.