

Bristol Cathedral Choir School

Newsletter End of Michaelmas Term 2018



From the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be back in school after an unexpected illness; thank you for all your kind messages. The end of term was as busy and exciting as usual with concerts, celebration assemblies and examinations.

Thank you to all who have replied to the **consultation on the proposed 2020-21 admission arrangements**. These include changes to the order of priority for over subscription criteria. The consultation period has been extended from 12th November to 31st January. Please see page 3 in this newsletter for further details & links.



With the Colston Hall being refurbished, the music department had the impossible task of finding a large enough venue for the Christmas Concert. I must congratulate everyone involved for ambitiously overcoming all the logistics and delivering two brilliant concerts in the Cathedral and Victoria Rooms.



I have been particularly impressed by the way the Year 11 have purposefully engaged with their mock examinations. Year 9 also have an important term ahead as they discuss their option subjects for Year 10. Some key dates for parent & carer events are included in this newsletter.

We say goodbye to some staff. Mr Bretherton retires after extraordinary service of 35 years in a variety of roles including Head of Chemistry and Examinations Officer. Ms Wisener departs after contributing so much to the busy music department as their administrator. Mr Wiltshire leaves as we welcome Miss Haddad back following her maternity leave.

It is great to see students (and staff) enjoying the new food kiosk and social area. The building work visible from Anchor Road will get into full swing now that archaeology investigations have been completed. The sporting and cultural side of the school continues to flourish and this will continue in the Lent Term, not least with the production of Les Miserables.

I wish Year 13 good luck with their exams and university applications. BCCS 2018 key performance measures released by the DFE confirm that our students produced outstanding results; indeed these were our strongest progress scores at both GCSE and A Level since becoming an academy. Whilst schools should not be crudely defined by statistics alone, it is good to see the dedication of students and staff recognised publically in these measures. Links will be updated on our website <http://bccs.bristol.sch.uk/results-ofsted/examination-results/>.

It remains to for me to thank you for your support; I wish everyone in the BCCS community a peaceful holiday.

Best wishes,

Paul Atkins



Key Dates Coming Up

Lent Term 2019

Jan 4th	INSET (School closed to pupils)
Jan 7th	Lent term begins for pupils Year 9 Assessments begin
Jan 9th	A Christmas Carol - Year 10&11 Drama
Jan 10th	BPM Masterclass - Cerys Jones 5pm
Jan 16th	Year 9 Options Evening 4.30 - 6.30pm
Jan 17th	BPM Masterclass - Tom Blomfield 5pm
Jan 24th	Year 9 Subject Parents Evening 4pm BPM Masterclass - Sarah Newbold 5pm ABRSM Exams
Jan 25th	ABRSM Exams
Feb 1st	Training Day 5 (School closed to pupils)
Feb 13th	Year 13 Parents Evening 4.00pm
Feb 18-22	Half term
Feb 27-Mar 2	Les Miserables Performance
April 5th	Last day of term

Trinity Term 2019

April 23rd	Term begins for pupils
May 6th	May Day Holiday (School closed)
May 27th - 31st	Half term
July 10th	Term ends



BCCS Les Mis comes to the stage after February half term and the cast and crew have been hard at work on what looks to be an exceptional production. We also wish lots of luck to the students taking Associated Board exams in January.

Safeguarding

You may be aware that in October, we had Alan Earl, a former police officer, speak to our parents about online safety at an information evening. Please use the link below in respect of Online Safety Guidance for Parents.

[Online Safety Guidance for Parents](#)

New Staff

We are very pleased to welcome Ms Lopez and Ms Howard Jones as Learning Support Assistants to the SEND team this term.



Miss Macbryde joins us as examinations officer.
(kmacbryde@bristolcathedral.org.uk)

Morning Punctuality. Brilliant!

Following our drive on punctuality, there have been 40% fewer late arrivals. A much better start to the day for everyone. Thanks for your support!



Consultation on BCCS 2020/21 Admission Arrangements



Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) is now consulting on the proposed admission arrangements for the academic year 2020/21. The consultation process will run from **12th November 2018 to 31st January 2019**.

Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) 11-16 provision

A number of changes have been proposed to the admission arrangements as follows:

To increase the published admission number (PAN) for entry to year 7 to 150. The need for secondary school places in Bristol is becoming increasingly critical and by 2022 there is a projected shortage of 684 places across the city. BCCS has had an intake of 150 students for year 7 for 2017 and 2018 entry and therefore the PAN needs to be adjusted accordingly.

To name Cathedral Primary School (CPS) as a feeder school for BCCS. As CPS is legally a separate school from BCCS it is necessary to name CPS as a feeder school in the admission arrangements for BCCS to achieve this.

To remove year 12 as a qualifying sibling. Whilst we recognise that parents will want their children to attend the same school, it is accepted that this is more significant for younger children and that it is reasonable to apply this criterion for Year 7 to Year 11 at secondary school.

To reduce the postcodes of the catchment area or area of prime responsibility to BS1 to BS16. This is to better support the needs of Bristol children seeking school places in Bristol schools. Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide the remainder of the places from any of the Bristol postcode areas from BS1 to BS16. In the event of any places still available these will be allocated by random allocation to those applicants living outside of the BS1 to BS16 postcode areas.

The order of priority for over subscription criteria has also changed. A number of other changes have been made to the wording of the policy to improve clarity and ensure it is compliant with applicable legislation. Full details of the changes can be viewed by reading the draft admission arrangements attached.

BCCS draft admission arrangements 2020/21 can be viewed [here](#)

Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) Post 16 Provision

A number of changes have been proposed to the admission arrangements for Post 16 provision, as follows:

To remove Year 12 as a qualifying sibling. Whilst we recognise that parents will want their children to attend the same school, it is accepted that this is more significant for younger children and that it is reasonable to apply this criterion for Year 7 to Year 11 at secondary school.

To reduce the postcodes of the catchment area or area of prime responsibility to BS1 to BS16. This is to better support the needs of Bristol children seeking school places in Bristol schools. Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide the remainder of the places from any of the Bristol postcode areas from BS1 to BS16. In the event of any places still available these will be allocated by random allocation to those applicants living outside of the BS1 to BS16 postcode areas.

The order of priority for over subscription criteria has also changed. A number of other changes have been made to the wording of the policy to improve clarity and ensure it is compliant with applicable legislation. Full details of the changes can be viewed by reading the draft admission arrangements attached.

BCCS 6th Form draft admission arrangements 2020/21 can be viewed [here](#)

The consultation for BCCS is open until **31st January 2019**. If you would like to comment on the proposed admission arrangements or have any queries please put them in writing, stating which school your response is regarding. **Send to Mrs J Turner - Admissions Officer, Cathedral Schools Trust, College Square, Bristol, BS1 5TS** or email: consultation@cathedralschoolstrust.org



Reward Thursday

Reward Thursday was implemented to recognise those students who go above and beyond. It looks to recognise those who show genuine effort within their attitude and exhibit responsibility within various areas of school life.

Being a relatively new programme, we have been delighted to have over 350 students names put forward already.

Ms Hicks painstakingly placed all names into a hat, on the premise that the more postcards a student receives the more times their name went into the hat. Winners were announced in our celebration assembly. Thank you to all who continue to contribute positively to school life in multiple ways. We are hoping for double the amount of names next term!

Biology Field Trip

This term saw the Biology team take their largest ever cohort of students to Osmington bay for the Biology field trip.

Fifty two students journeyed to Dorset to study how the type of plants growing on sand dunes varies as conditions change getting further from the sea. The students remained enthusiastic in spite of some inclement weather and their conduct on the trip was exemplary. The instructors on the site went out of their way to praise the way that our students worked and contributed.



PTA

BCCS would like to thank the PTA who ran a wonderful raffle at the beginning of December. Prizes should be collected from school main reception. All winners have been notified.

The PTA have continued to support the school and regularly provide refreshments at function. providing drinks/nibbles etc at many of our events.

The PTA are always looking for more parents to get involved. Accordingly, if you have some time to contribute to helping raise money to assist our children with their learning and development of the school in general. Please get in touch with the pta via pta@bristolcathedral.org.uk to find out more.



Thank you to all who contributed to our spotty dress down day for Children in Need.

You raised £353.50 for disadvantaged and young people across the UK.

Caring in Bristol

Some wonderful visions of festive cheer were to be seen on Wednesday 12th December at our Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to all who were able to contribute. A payment of £405.00 was made to Caring In Bristol.

With this donation from you, this enabled Caring in Bristol to help ten individuals for five days, to have access to a warm bed each night, hot meals, a shower and fresh clothes, a warm welcome and good company, wellbeing and social activities, emotional and medical support.

Thank you so much!





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.

Work Experience (WEX)

A vital part of Careers Guidance is Experience of Work (WEX). The formal WEX programme will run this academic year between **24th June and 5th July 2019**. The programme has now been launched to Year 11 students and full details, as well as all support documents for both students and parents, can be found on the school website under [Information/Careers/Work Experience](#).

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 5000/pmann@bristolcathedral.org.uk.

Careers Independent Personal Guidance



The Gatsby Benchmarks (measures of an effective careers programme) recommends that every student should have at least one opportunity for an Independent Personal Guidance interview by the age of 16 and a further interview by the age of 18.

At BCCS, we aim to meet this expectation by offering both year 11 & 12 students a one-to-one interview with a qualified Careers Adviser. All year 11 & 12 students have now received an invitation to attend a meeting with the schools Careers Adviser and have been asked to complete an initial Personal Guidance Meeting questionnaire to support this process. The programme of appointments can be found on the school VLE [here](#).

Further information about Personal Guidance meetings can also be found on the school website under [Information/Careers/Independent Personal Guidance](#).

CAREERS ZONE

We are delighted to announce that a new careers zone has been built within the schools library. The far corner of the library has been converted to offer a space where students can access a wealth of careers information as well as the main location for meeting with our Careers advisers Lisa Parkinson and Karen Middleton. The space is currently being furnished and new resources added, we hope to have a formal launch in the near future - watch this space. We are very grateful to the Old Cathedralians Society for the financial and practical support they offer to BCCS careers.





KS5/Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form has grown this year to almost 400 students - over a third of the school! Amongst those 400, we have welcomed nearly 300 students from schools across Bristol in the last two years.

The diversity of our cohort of students is a huge strength, but also a large challenge: how can we get so many students to integrate, get to know each other and work together? Fortunately, we have an incredibly impressive group of Year 12s who have bought into the culture and community what we have here and are already contributing to the Sixth Form. Special mention must go to the students who have already made major contributions to the community:

Such as those acknowledged in our celebration assembly on Tuesday, 11 December) involved in the **Young Enterprise Group** - there are 16 pupils running a business whilst they also manage their studies. These students have attended the Young Enterprise fair, selling their products, organised cake sales and driven their company forward. They are doing a fantastic job and are sure to run an extremely successful business!

One of students started a **Debating Society**, despite having joined us only a few weeks beforehand. It is going brilliantly!

Sixth formers have helped start our first **girls rugby team** at BCCS. We also had our first **basketball** win in 876 years!



And there are over forty **student mentors** for academic and pastoral issues. These pupils immediately started helping students from other year groups across the school to succeed.

Year 13 are on course to achieve great things and we are very proud of the progress they have made. Special mention must go to the **Student Leadership Team** who are an amazing support to the Sixth Form Staff - thank you!



Congratulations to the many students who are already receiving offers from universities all over the UK: they are very well deserved!

Congratulations and good luck to the several students who applied for, and are currently attending interviews for Oxford and Cambridge universities.

A brilliant term in the Sixth Form - well done to all!

Mr Fuller, Head of Sixth Form





Music

It has been a tremendously busy term in the music department as always and it kicked off with the annual Inter House Music competition. 150 students took the time to come and perform for us and it was enormously difficult to decide the winners.

Congratulations to all those who took part and especially to the well deserved winners. The Open Final was a tremendous event and was hotly contested. We were lucky to welcome Nick Carpenter from The Royal Welsh College the overall winner. Many of you will have seen this student perform at Prize giving and we believe you will agree she was an outstanding and worthy winner.

We were excited to host a clarinet masterclass with Nick Carpenter this term. The students were treated to a fantastic performance and then played for him; they received some excellent tips on how to progress in their studies.

The Year 13 musicians have been working especially hard - at the same time as their studies many have been applying to Conservatoire. Congratulations to those who have received offers so far! The students have also been participating in the New Music South West project for composition, composing music to be played by professional musicians. The results of this will be seen next year.

Some congratulations are in order for several individuals this term: Anna Li and Faith Stonehewer have both been awarded the prestigious 'City Waits' award.



The small ensembles concert saw a range of brilliant items including our horn ensemble and bassoon ensemble. The chamber concert featured a wonderful performance from the string orchestra. The Carol concert in the Cathedral really captured the festive season and the Year 7 & 8 songs were a real triumph of composition, energy and enthusiasm. The choristers did a fantastic job of leading the descants in the carols and putting us all in the mood for the holidays. The Christmas concert in the Victoria Rooms saw a new venue for the department and this concert was a huge success with the boys' and girls' choirs showing their musical skills along with the school concert band and big band.

Congratulations to all the students who took part in any of the musical events this year. The hard work and practice plus commitment to rehearsals really make this department an exciting place to be at this time of year.

Choristers



The Head Choristers this year are Pierre Jones, Felix Grace, Emily Turner and Lily Suddes. Phoebe de Silva has returned this year as a Foundation chorister, and the other medal holders are Daisy Bates, Niamh Swallow, Thomas Brander and Ewan Tredget. The original CPS probationers have now become full choristers. This term is always the busiest of the year for the Choristers and has included the annual trebles only Eucharist, giving the chance to learn new repertoire, and a live broadcast of Choral Evensong on Radio 3 at the start of December. The choristers hope to see staff and pupils at the some of the many Christmas services and concerts.



The Cathedralians Society

ANNUAL TRAVEL AWARDS



Introduction

The Cathedralians Society sponsors two annual travel awards of £500 each. They are the subject of a competition open to all members of Years 11, 12 and 13 of Bristol Cathedral Choir School. Since their introduction in May 2000, students have been supported in trips to Fiji, Australia, Costa Rica, Morocco, Zambia, Kenya, Peru and Nepal and a bike ride from Lands End to John O'Groats.

Aim

The Travel Awards are intended to encourage the personal development of the successful pupils through an opportunity to experience new challenges in a new environment whether in the United Kingdom or abroad. There should be a clear purpose to the project, which may have a vocational, community, charitable or representational objective.

Applications

Applications in writing are invited from members of Years 11, 12 and 13, to be submitted to the Head of School. The applications should provide the following information:

- Description of the project to include the intended objective and how it would be accomplished.
- Detailed itinerary, to include research outcomes, contacts at the venue and how they would be relevant to the project.
- Timescale, travel and accommodation arrangements throughout the project – all related to successfully completing the project optimising time, cost, and other resources.
- A detailed specification of costs for the complete project.
- A description of the way in which the project would be recorded, written up and/or presented for subsequent publication.
- The applicant's CV to include all background relevant to the project.

The closing date for applications for the Awards is **Friday 15th February 2019**.

Successful applicants are expected to provide a written report of their travels for The Cathedralians Society for publication on the Society website and elsewhere, on their return.

Processing applications

A panel, comprising the Head of Sixth Form, the Chairman of Council, and the President of the Society, or agreed deputies, will be convened to consider applications. Following examination of the written applications a short-list will be drawn up.

The date of the interviews will be confirmed nearer the time. Presentation will be made at the Cathedralians' Dinner on *Saturday 23rd March 2019*.

Post Travel

Successful applicants will agree to report back on their project in writing and, ideally, in person at the Reunion Dinner.