

## Communication to Parents/Carers - 30th September 2022

### Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

With the world and our news agenda continuing to be shaped by such uncertainty, both domestically and internationally, it is hard not to feel anxious. I know that in such moments of stress, I default to behaviours that I am not always proud of, becoming easily frustrated and impatient. It is in such moments that we need the true kindness of the people around us to show us compassion and honesty in helping us retain perspective. In some sense this is what schools do. The rhythm and routine of school life helps to provide certainty and knowledge that students are on learning journeys towards measured in years gives much needed context to daily highs and lows. In many respects our young people have shown remarkable resilience in living through the turbulence of recent years, but the certainty of our consistent provision and care, as well as the knowledge that we retain a 'big picture' perspective, remain a vital part of our provision at BCCS.

This week at school those rhythms and routines have included welcoming parents and carers to our Year 12 Information Evening. The two years of 6th Form fly by for students, so it was great to hear so many people exploring how they could support their children with preparation for success at A Level and beyond. This is a journey that often leads to university and teachers here are currently hard at work writing UCAS references to support the application process for over 200 Year 13 students. Making such decisions may feel a remote prospect for Year 7 students, but experiences inside and beyond the classroom are the building blocks for unlocking passion that will eventually inform personal statements and job applications. Today we have had local trips (see detail about such trips below), including to the SS Great Britain, providing just such richness. It has also been joyful to see the pride with which so many of our students are investing in their learning this year. Yesterday we looked at books and portfolios from across Year 11 and I was incredibly impressed by the quality of care and depth of thought evident in much of the work. Where that was not yet the case, it is worth remembering that there is no time like the present to address this. In my experience, for some young people, getting beyond the 'mañana' mantra of prevarication is the biggest barrier. They know what to do, they often want the sense of satisfaction that would accompany doing it, but there is a gap between what they say and do. Our assembly this morning focused on this theme, that of 'Deeds, not words'. We are what we repeatedly do - taking action matters. This is the next step in our messaging from the ideas of duty and service presented at the beginning of the year.

In the spirit of successful action, congratulations to our 1st XV Rugby Team who beat Collegiate College convincingly earlier this week and also to Caesar Tam in Year 7. Caesar performed a beautiful piece on the piano for all of us during our Cathedral assembly today - terrific courage to do so in front of 800 people

Here's looking forward to next week, the start of our Interhouse Music Competition and the certainty of days full of rich learning.

With Kindness, Courage and Hope.



Mr Thurston

**Headteacher**

## **BCCS Local School Visits**

We are keen to promote learning outside the classroom and being located in the City Centre, this offers many opportunities to enrich the learning experience.

As part of an active, healthy lifestyle these trips will be focussed on encouraging exercise and wellbeing in addition to learning opportunities. The trips will be part of their timetabled on site provision, with travel being on foot and according to our high safety expectations. Trips will vary in time, ranging from 30 minutes to 5 hours.

Examples of venues are: Bristol Museum, Bristol Old Vic, Castle Park, Brandon Hill, Bristol Beacon, Bristol Central Library, M Shed, We the Curious, Tobacco Factory Royal West of England Academy, SS Great Britain Quayside.

We will continue to inform you of the nature and details of trips before they take place but will not ask for consent, thus providing a further opportunity for parents/carers to object to their child attending.

This will support a reduction in the administration required by our staff so they no longer need to await a permission slip from you when they plan their sessions for these places.

The safety of your child is the primary concern; if you would like to contact the school prior to a local visit or curriculum trip, so that you have the opportunity to update the school of specific medical reasons, please email [info@bristolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:info@bristolcathedral.org.uk) or the lead trip organiser via their email with any updated information.

We will write to you for permission for any trip outside the local area.

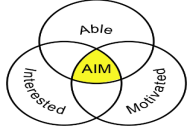
Finally, we will only ask you to complete this [BCCS Permission Not Given for Local Trips Form](#) if you **do not** wish to provide permission for your child and would prefer to seek approval for every trip.

Yours sincerely,



**David Bugler**  
**Deputy Headteacher**  
EVC Coordinator

## Whole School Messages

<b>Music</b>	<p>Thank you to all the students who have entered the Inter House Music Competition <a href="#">Inter House 2022 Timetable</a> Please remind students to arrive promptly for their slot, the green room will be available for them to warm up.</p> <p>Here is a reminder of the <a href="#">peri timetables</a>, for peri music lessons to run smoothly students need to arrive punctual and prepared. They also need to go back to lessons straight after the music lesson finishes.</p> <p>We have lots of exciting <a href="#">concerts and events</a> coming up. In particular year 7 and 8 parents please put the 13th December in your diary as all year 7 and 8 students will be involved in a spectacular musical performance as part of this concert.</p> <p>We encourage all students to be involved in a music ensemble or choir, you can find a full list of what we have on offer <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>Debate Club</b>  <b>All years</b>	<p><b>As shown in Co-curricular notices below, Debate Club kicks off next week. Attendees in the first week will help shape how Debate Club will run, what topics we will debate, and may have the opportunity to visit the M-Shed exhibition "Think Global:Act Bristol" the following week. Come and argue for the things you believe in, and be</b></p> 

# Reminder: OUR CO-CURRICULAR OFFER 2022-23

📖 [Co-curricular at BCCS - 2022/23 Michaelmas Term](#)



The PTA is on the lookout for new members!

We run a vibrant bar at school events to provide vital sustenance (!) and to raise money for a whole raft of things at the school. It's a great way to make new friends, and have a say in where the money goes.

If you're interested in being involved, drop us a line at [pta@bristolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:pta@bristolcathedral.org.uk)

Or come along to our first meeting of the academic year on Tuesday, 4th October 2022 at 6.00pm @ the school's Main Reception. No pressure but you may have to drink a cup of tea and have a biscuit.....

# Futures

Yr 7/8/9	As part of the 'Futures' careers programme we would like to encourage KS3 parents/carers to participate in the <b>'Take your child to work'</b> days which will run during upcoming inset days on <b>31st Oct &amp; 1st Nov 2022</b> . A communication regarding this activity will be sent to parents/carers next week however full details including the Take Your Child to Work Learning Journal can be found on the KS3 'Futures' google classroom.
Yr 9	Please find attached a recent school communication regarding <a href="#">University Technical College/Studio School Admissions for Year 10 2023</a> . The original letter, sent in early September, from Bristol City Council can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
Yr 10/12	As part of the Futures Careers Programme all Yr 12 and Yr 10 students are expected to complete a <b>Work Experience (WEX)</b> placement. Yr 12 will complete this in <b>May (2nd-5th)</b> and Yr 10 in <b>June (26-30th)</b> (a parental communication will follow student assemblies later this term). If your son/daughter is in Yr 10 or Yr 12 please give early consideration to supporting them in securing a WEX placement.
Yr 11	Please ensure your son/daughter has signed up for <a href="#">Careerpilot</a> - next week all Yr 11 students will complete the Pathway Planner Quiz which will support them both in their careers personal guidance meeting as well as their next step decisions.
Yr 11	Year 11 personal guidance meetings start next week on <b>Friday 30th September</b> . Please see the attached <a href="#">letter</a> (sent out earlier this week) and take this opportunity to talk to your child about their future plans. Please contact me if you have any questions. <a href="mailto:careersadvisor@bristolcathedral.org.uk">careersadvisor@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a> . I will be available in school on Thursdays and Fridays term time.
Yr 11	On <b>Wednesday 19th October</b> BCCS will host an 'External Education Providers' event. All Yr 11 students will have the opportunity to speak with Post 16 providers and engage in meaningful conversations about their next steps. Please look at the full list of <a href="#">Bristol providers</a> including entry requirements and open events as well as the <a href="#">Bristol Post 16</a> directory so your son/daughter is fully prepared.
All year groups	Here is this week's <a href="#">Careers Bulletin</a> . Any questions please contact Roz Keir <a href="mailto:careersadvisor@bristolcathedral.org.uk">careersadvisor@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a> .

## BCCS Community Hardship Fund

During the first lockdown we set up a hardship fund to help support people within our school community who experienced sudden financial hardship. This fund is reliant on financial donations from parents, carers and staff and has helped fund food vouchers, uniforms, equipment and much more.

If you would like to make a donation please head to parentpay where you will be able to make a donation to the hardship fund.

If you would benefit from assistance from the fund please complete this form [BCCS Hardship Fund Request](#)

## Upcoming Dates

**\*\*Please continue to check the [Parent/Carers calendar](#) for any changes.  
Term Dates [2022/2023](#)**

**Please note these events are all subject to change should circumstances require it. Please continue to check the parent/carers calendar for a COMPLETE list of events. Not all may have been added to the list below as times keep changing. Many thanks**

Monday, 3rd - 4th October	Inter House Music Competition
Tuesday, 4th October	PTA Meeting (6.00pm) - ALL WELCOME
Sunday, 9th October	Cathedralian Golf Day ( <a href="mailto:IPearse@bristolcathedral.org.uk">IPearse@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a> to sign up)
Monday, 10th October	Year 7 Meet the Tutor & Evensong (*change of date)
Wednesday, 19th October	Last day of Term 1
Thursday, 20th - 21st October	DofE Gold Training Expedition - Brecon Beacons
Monday, 31st October	WHOLE OF CST INSET DAY 4
Tuesday, 1st November	CST Secondary Schools INSET DAY 5
Tuesday, 13th December	BCCS Christmas Concert (tickets will be made available in due course)

## Year 7 Camp Dates are now Confirmed Monday, 3rd - Friday, 7th July 2023

If you would like to speak to a specific member of staff, please take a look at our [Staff List](#) on our main website.



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