



Dear Parents

As you read this, I am in Hong Kong, attending an event to encourage recruitment of more international students, to join the two young men that we currently have. In school this week, amongst other things, we have heard a fascinating first-hand account of life in North Korea from defector, Sungju Lee; inspirational talks from 3 senior female medics at the 'Girls in Stem' seminar and thoughtful discussions from Year 11 Philosophy and Ethics students, who considered a series of challenging scenarios during their conference with girls from Badminton School. Next week, we look forward to Prize Giving, the opening of the new Science and Art Building and half term!

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Half Term Assessments

Member of staff are writing assessments for all boys this week and these will be available on the Parent Portal from 4pm on Monday 24 October. If you have any problems accessing the portal, please contact the school office.

Mr J Martin
Deputy Head (Academic)

Year 7 PSHE

7Z & Y – Started a digital awareness workshop on digital footprints and the importance of sensible and safe behaviour online.

7X – Explored the three roles in bullying that many young people will at some point experience; the person being bullied, the bystander and the bully or perpetrator (and perhaps another – the 'hanger on' who does not initiate or lead the bullying but joins in the subsequent behaviour). We also discussed how the bully themselves is often very unhappy and in need of support in order to recognise that their behaviour is wrong. This led on to a discussion about importance of resilience and strength of character in the face of bullying.

Ms J Sharrock
Deputy Head (Pastoral)

RAF Careers Interviews

Flt Lt Ash Grey-Smart will be visiting the school on Monday 7 November. Students in Year 9 – 13 who are interested in a career in the RAF should make an appointment at the Office.

Year 9 Parents' Information Evening

The Year 9 Parents' Information Evening is on Monday 17 October at 7pm in the QEH Theatre. Guest speakers will talk about the way we approach pastoral issues such as Sexual Health and Relationships, raising Digital Footprint awareness, Emergency First Aid to cope in a crisis and Drugs and Alcohol Awareness. These issues will be on the schedule for the Year 9 Workshop Day in February, so this is a chance for parents to hear about what their sons will be discussing in advance. Refreshments will be available in the interval and the evening should finish by 9pm. If you haven't yet sent a reply slip to Mrs Conquest and would like to attend, please email her on econquest@qehbristol.co.uk as soon as possible.

Mrs E Conquest
Head of Year 9

MUFTI Day

As you know our recent MUFTI day on behalf of the Children's Pilgrimage Trust raised an impressive £814.77. We have received a lovely letter from the charity, thanking us for the donation and letting us know that these funds are being used to send Freddie, an extremely unwell 10 year old boy, on an Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes. I wanted to pass this on, as it is all due to your generosity.

Mr W Ellis
Assistant Head (Operations)

Girls in STEM Seminars

Our first seminar was very well attended by young women from schools all over Bristol. They were treated to an inspirational evening, as three very different senior female medics talked about their fascinating careers to date and the role of women in medicine today. Next Tuesday, we will be hosting the second seminar, with an Engineering theme. In November, we plan to hold the third seminar in the series, which will cover a variety of STEM topics.

Year 9 Scholarship Programme Retreat Day in the Black Mountains, Wales

Year 9 Scholarship Programme boys participated in a retreat day last week in the Llanthony Valley, Wales. Upon arrival in the Brecon Beacons National Park, we started our exploration of the day's theme of human civilisation with a walk along the ridge above the Llanthony Valley, marvelling at the rugged beauty of the Black Mountains and admiring the splendid isolation of the setting of the ruined monastery in the valley below. We also imagined the challenges that the Augustinian monks who lived and studied there 900 years ago might have faced, both from the harsh climate and from periodic raids from the Welsh chieftains. After enjoying a break of QEH hot chocolate and biscuits, we explored the ruins of Llanthony Priory itself (in the gorgeous

morning sunshine), learning a little about ecclesiastical architecture as we filled in the remains of the monastery's ancient buildings in our imaginations. The historic site provided us with an introduction to the day's theme of human civilisation, allowing us to exchange views about the role of stories, myths and religion in preserving human traditions. Fortified intellectually and nutritionally, we returned to the twenty-first century at the conference centre at the Kings Arms Hotel in Abergavenny. After a lunch of enormous steak sandwiches and home-made burgers (not to forget the chocolate brownies for dessert), we participated in an afternoon session which included our own reflections about the ways in which traditional twentieth-century practices in education might (or might not) prepare us for contributing to human civilisation in the twenty-first century. We referred to various thinkers from Mark Twain ("never let your schooling interfere with your education") to Yuval Noah Harari ("we have absolutely no idea what the world will look like in twenty years") and reflected on how we might each contribute to the ever-changing culture in which we live. Food for thought--and food with thought!

Dr M Dutton



New Zealand 2018 Trip Payment

If your son is taking part in this adventure, can I please remind you that the next payment of £750 is due by 14 October. I would be very grateful if you could make this payment at your earliest convenience. Thank you so much.

Mrs M Dimes

North Korean Defector Visit, Tuesday 11 October

Sungju Lee, a debut author and North Korean defector spoke to a packed Sixth Form audience in the library, during

the afternoon on Tuesday 11 October. He spoke with passion and conviction but without anger, about his life in North Korea when it changed dramatically when he was twelve. He described the family fall from grace due to a political comment made by his father, which meant their expulsion from the Capital. One or two challenging questions were asked by some of the Sixth Form audience and Sungju asked pupils to really consider what the word Liberty meant to them. His overriding message to the boys was "That hope is never lost" a message which he signed in copies of his book *Every Falling Star*, for those who purchased the book after the event. Sungju is currently studying a Masters in International Relations at Warwick University and it was an inspiring experience to hear an account of life in a country so isolated from the West.

Mrs A Robbins
Librarian



NUT FREE!

Can I please remind all parents and pupils that due to the high number of pupils with a potentially life risking allergy to nuts, we are a "nut free" school. Obviously the food we provide in the school is all nut free, however we have noticed that boys are bringing in snacks into school that contain nuts. Even close contact to nuts can bring on a severe reaction to some, so we ask you to consider the safety of these students and request that you do not provide your son with such items that may cause harm.

Thank you.

Mrs N Burns, Ms J Escrit
Health Centre Team

Meningitis ACWY

Last Friday the majority of our **Year 11** pupils had their Meningitis ACWY immunisation at school. All those who had their immunisation should have brought back a slip of paper with details for you to update their medical notes at home. Once again the NHS nurse team commended our boys for their behaviour and well manners.... So thank you boys you did us proud!

The next year group to be offered the MenACWY via the School Nurse team will be **Year 9**. This will be held on Friday 18 November 2016 in school. Therefore, please look out for the relevant literature and consent form that will be sent to all Year 9 parents over the coming weeks. We ask that you complete and return the consent form as soon as possible, even if you decide that you do not wish for your son to receive this immunisation.

After this, the NHS will continue to visit the school on an annual basis to immunise all year 9 pupils. Please note that those in **Year 13** have missed out on this scheme therefore, we highly recommend that you contact your GP practice to request this.

For more details on Meningitis ACWY please read the following link

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>

Mrs N Burns, Ms J Escrit
Health Centre Team

Fireworks at Failand



Failand never fails to deliver a fantastic display!

This year will be no exception. Please don't wait to pay on the gate – it does help us plan ahead for catering and you save yourself nearly 30% too!

You can buy the whole family (friends and relatives as well) their tickets for our big pyrotechnic show on

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER at 7pm.

Tickets are priced at £4.50 per person (increasing to £6 on the gate).

- Freshly cooked BBQ food
- Well stocked bar
- Mulled wine
- Live music
- Sweets, hot chocolate and brownies

Chew Magna Bus

As a reminder, the Avon Minibus from Chew Magna will not be running on Monday 17 October for 2 weeks. Service will re-commence on Monday 31 October, in line with our school term dates.

Bristol Family Cycling Centre

There is a range of classes and activities taking place at the Bristol Families Cycling Centre during the October half term. Please see the details below.



Time	Saturday 22/10	Monday 24/10	Tuesday 25/10	Wednesday 26/10	Thursday 27/10	Friday 28/10	Saturday 29/10
10-11	Open session Adults E5 Children E3 Drop in	Balance bikes and Learn to Ride Children E3 Drop in		Bike Club bike fun Children E3 Drop in			Open session Adults E5 Children E3 Drop in
11-12	PLUS: Wacky bikes with the APE Project; Children's bike exchange/sale; Playbus; and a chance to learn BMX tricks with Matti Hemmings		Open Session Adults E5 Children E3 Drop in	Play cycling games and improve your cycling skills	Open Session Adults E5 Children E3 Drop in		Family pumpkin treasure hunt and spooky games.
12-1			Have fun and improve your cycling skills on our traffic-free track		Have fun and improve cycling skills on our traffic-free track		Come in Halloween costume for a cycling prize!
1-2		Bike Club bike fun Children E3 Drop in		Open Session Adults E5, Children E3 Drop in		Back to Biking Adults E5 Drop in	
2-3		Play cycling games and improve your cycling skills	Bikeability level 1 course Children age 7-10 E5 Book in advance at road.safety@bristol.gov.uk	Have fun and improve your cycling skills on our traffic-free track.	Balance bikes and Learn to Ride Children E3 Drop in PLUS: Bikeability Fix bike maintenance for 8-10-year-olds (10am-5pm). Drop in. Free	PLUS: Halloween cycling fun and bike decorating with the APE Project; and Children's bike exchange/sale. Drop in. Free	
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