



Christmas Newsletter 2020

A Message from Mr Andy Gowell

The Covid-19 pandemic continues its march but so do we at Bristol Gateway! As I mentioned in my summer newsletter, we continue with a sense of calm and normality. Our school is a safe place to learn and all our staff and pupils have shown extraordinary resilience and adaptability in making this happen.

Despite these challenging circumstances our students have shown an incredible worth ethic. Many of our students have achieved personal bests in all subjects. Our subject leads have worked hard in designing and implementing what is now a sector leading curriculum for our students to achieve well which will improve the life chances of all our students. For example, our students in year 9, 10 and 11 have been preparing for the next stage of their lives through careers education; they have discussed course entry requirements, career pathways and job aspirations with college providers and external agencies.

I encourage all our families to have these discussions at home. It's vital that together through the home school partnership we encourage aspirations and expectations for the future. The earlier we start these discussions the better. I want us all to be encouraged and excited by the future even if that's difficult in the current climate.

It's been hard for everyone, but a special mention of support and encouragement must go to our year 11s as they are working hard in preparing for their mocks after Christmas. With uncertainty around awarding grades, mock examination is a useful indicator for teachers and awarding bodies to predict grades, so they must give this their best effort. Remember our amazing teachers and support staff are there to support them every step of the way.

You will have all received a letter from Kaye Palmer-Green regarding our opportunity to become an academy trust. We are very pleased to inform you that all the necessary agreements are now in place and so this will definitely be happening from 1st January 2021. A great start to the year for us. The new board of trustees will then be meeting to discuss logos and branding for the trust, so thank you to all of you who took part in the survey about this. Your comments will all be passed on to them for consideration.

That just leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Andy Gowell



Dates for your Diary

16 December

Christmas Lunch

18 December

End of Term

4 January

Inset Day

5 January

Start of Term

11 January

Mock Exam Week

3 February

KS3 Parents Evening

4 February

KS4 Parents Evening

15-19 February

Half Term



Key Stage 3 News from Rachel Lynch

Dear Parents, Carers and Students.

As we approach the end of term two, we have a lot to celebrate in Key Stage Three. Our year seven students, who joined us in September, have made a successful transition to Bristol Gateway and quickly become part of our extended school family.



In the past two terms, we have managed to get up to lots of exciting things, despite the current situation. We have set up our new student council and they have met a number of times, even meeting with our Woodstock council over zoom!. We have taken part in a number of key assemblies and shared our views on British Values, stress management, mental health and fitness. The school council also led the charge on organising a cake sale and sponsored non-uniform day for the whole school to raise money for Children in Need. Staff and Students also found ingenious ways to celebrate Halloween in socially distanced ways and were busy carving pumpkins and making decorations to brighten up our classrooms.

Moving forward, there will be some changes across the key stages with Mr Dickins (former Head of Key Stage Four) taking over from me as Key Stage Three Lead, while I will be stepping into his shoes in Key Stage Four. We are both excited for the new opportunities that this change provides and are keen to get to know you all in our new key stages even better. We remain working closely together however, so please feel free to contact either of us through the usual channels.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a restful break and I look forward to welcoming you all back for term three in the New Year.

Rachel Lynch

Head of Key Stage 3 (now 4).



Key Stage 4 news from Rob Dickins

Although these are two of the longest terms of the year the time has certainly flown by and I can't believe we have nearly arrived at Christmas!

This term has seen the transitional annual reviews take place for the year 11s. The time is quickly slipping away for our Year 11 students who now have less than 20 weeks of teaching left with us before they take their exams and move onto their post 16 provision. Their preparation will start with a mock exam week next term, where some pupils will be taking exams that will count towards their qualification. I am really hoping this will give them the realisation that it is time to really get their heads down and focus on their qualifications.



Year 10's have now had two terms to settle into their GCSE, vocational and core subjects. The addition of GCSE History and Business Studies has been successful and added some extra depth to our options for students who are accessing the level 2 (GCSE) pathway.

This now means that students should leave with a minimum of seven qualifications, with the opportunity to leave with nine.

9LK make up the rest of the key stage and on the whole their transition from KS3 has been a successful one with them being the highest attending tutor group in the key stage and now have all eight seats filled on a regular basis.

The current pandemic has been very restricting and has meant that we are not able to do the trips and enrichment that we would like to do. As a school we have had to adapt to a different way of working as have most of the world. One example of this is the majority of our meetings being via zoom or Microsoft teams.

Although all of our places are filled in KS4, the building can seem very empty at times with attendance being very sporadic from many of our pupils. I cannot stress the negative impact poor attendance has on a pupil's academic progress and therefore their future, especially in their important years of their education so far.

This will be my last newsletter as Head of Key Stage 4 as a change of role has happened midway through this term. Miss Lynch and I have made a swap which means I will now be Head of Key Stage 3 and Miss Lynch Key Stage 4. I am still very involved in the key stage through teaching and my role of careers lead, so they can't get rid of me completely!

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Mr Rob Dickins

Head of key Stage 4 (now 3)



Whole School Information

We are delighted to share that our student council have got off to a great start this year. We have met as a Gateway council and as a federated council in the past couple of months and have been working on lots of different aspects of school improvement. The school council have set up a system of reparation to enable all students to 'pay back' the school community for any damage to the facilities. They have also successfully challenged the menu options available in the canteen. The student council have also been instrumental in planning and organising our first big whole school fundraiser this year; Children in Need. A big thanks to the councillors and all those who contributed to our meetings so far this year!



This year, for Children in Need, our student council arranged and coordinated a non-uniform day where students were encouraged to make a donation to Children in Need and wear something spotty or yellow. They also arranged for cake sales in both key stages to take place on Friday the 13th to raise money for the cause. The day proved to be a great success and thanks to the hard work of the student council, the donation of cakes by both students and staff and the generosity of everyone involved, we have raised £62.40 for Children in Need this year. Well

Year 7 Carving Pumpkins!!!



Dungeons & Dragons Adventurer's Club



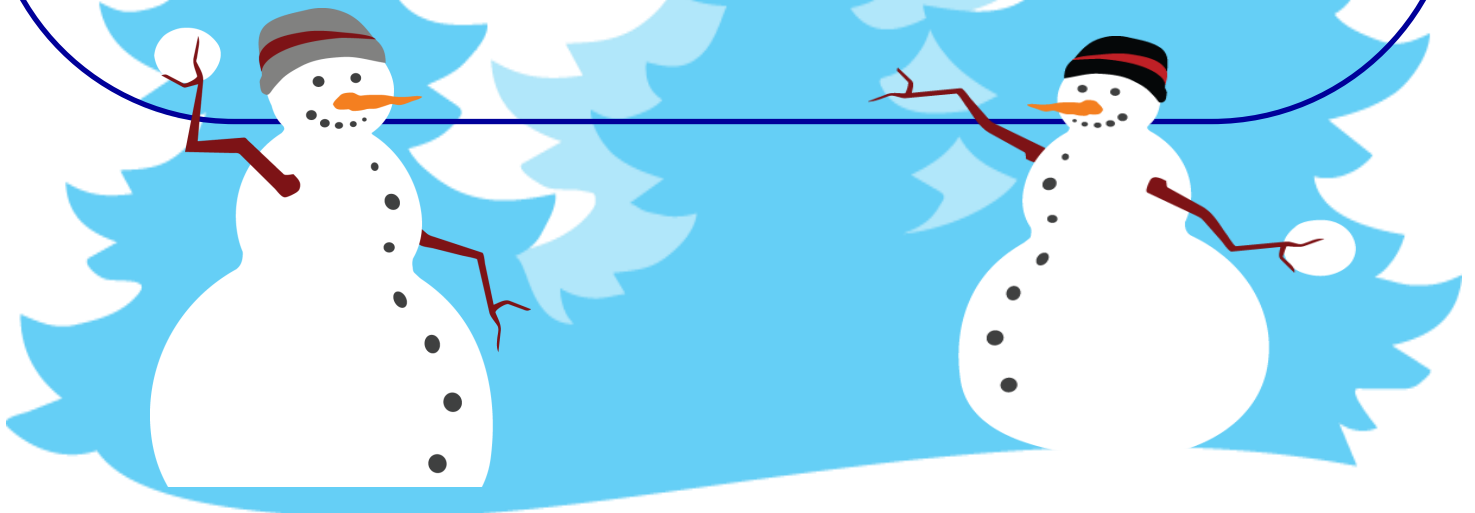
The Bristol Gateway School Dungeons and Dragons Guild of Adventurers have had an exceptionally busy term fighting orcs, ogres, and all types of odd sorts.

Every week since the start of September, the motley crew of adventurers from both Key Stages have collaboratively created an exciting story of much derring-do. There have been instances of heroism, displays of cunning guile, and it must be said, occasional abject failures.

The group have successfully cleared Wyvern Tor of its Orc infestation, exhibiting terrific team work, superlative speech craft, and wisdom beyond their years. They now look towards defeating the mysterious Glasstaff and relieving the inhabitants of Phandalin from the pain of having their belongings routinely ransacked by the rampaging Redbrand Ruffians.

Stand out moments from the campaign thus far include: Harley's animal-loving druid Nexil coolly extinguishing a mighty orc with a deftly deployed thorn whip right through the heart; Louie's kindly elf Dimitri's well-timed bone-crunching battle axe blow to an animated skeleton that was defending decaying sarcophagi; Syler's tiefling pirate Ambrose cajoling Nexil back into the group after his wolf was released; Luke's roguish lightfoot Halfling, The Blue Rose, slickly escaping a bridge collapse with some beautifully executed parkour moves.

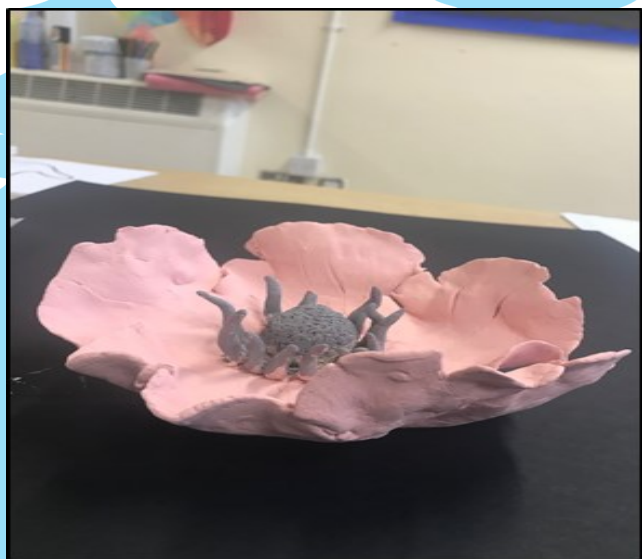
By Mr R Casey



Art Department

Key Stage 3

Art and design key stage three have developed their knowledge on elements of art though exploring materials processes and techniques inspired by famous artists such as O'Keefe and Vincent van Gogh. This has resulted in beautiful watercolour landscapes inspired by Van Goughs starry night and textured collages inspired by O'Keefe . Students have also explored colour theory in depth through sensory play producing beautiful colour wheels and experimenting with tie dye .



Key Stage 4

GCSE art and design key stage four have explored the topic of natural form. Researching crafts people inspired by nature to create a variety of final responses along with research boards and student observations in a variety of medias such as water colour, pencil and acrylic . Students are refining and developing skills in a variety of art processes and techniques such as print collage and silk painting producing amazing responses to previous research .



By Miss F Gabb - Art Teacher

Catering



Year 10 BTEC and NCFE Food and Cookery, have made an excellent start to their courses. The students have been learning about a variety of dishes as well as starting to cook more independently. Here is a selection of some of the dishes they have cooked and which you may, or may not, have had the opportunity to try!

By Mrs D Hawkes



Accessing work from home

The current pandemic has hit everybody hard and it is extremely important that our children can continue to access their education. This is something that we have worked hard on at Bristol Gateway School to enable our learners to access their learning in the event that they have to self isolate. In the event that your child has to self isolate, schemes of work have been developed to run alongside the current curriculum that they would be engaging with at school. But where and how can this be accessed? Every child at Bristol Gateway has a Google login (pupils know this as their Chromebook login). This is usually in the format:

Year of entry **First Initial** Surname@bristolgateway.uk

For example : 18tmarsh@bristolgateway.uk

As the learner signs into google, they will notice **9 dots** in the top right hand corner of the google web page. Clicking this will bring up a **dropdown menu**. Here is where you **click classroom** (you can also search "Google Classroom" into google).

Once inside 'The Classroom', you will see the **classes** that have been set up. **Click the name of the group** to enter. When the class has loaded, **click classwork**, here is the work that has been set.

All work will have instructions and guidance on how to complete. The great thing with google classroom is that you can upload work that has been completed and your teacher can mark it and give you feedback.

How do you upload work? Any work that is set will be able to be opened in google docs, slides or sheets. These are **automatically saved** too so you don't need to worry about saving your work. Once this work is completed, visit the '**stream**'. Here you can add a comment. This is where we would like you to upload work, you can **add attachments** (the work you have completed, located in your 'drive'.) Once you have uploaded your work, click '**post**'. This will upload your work to the 'stream'.

If you have done work on paper, yes, you can still upload your work. The best way this can be done is to **download the google classroom app** on your phone from the google play store or app store. By logging into your account on your phone, you are able to upload pictures of the work you have been completing.

If you have any questions about google classroom please do not hesitate to contact me and I will try my best to help you.

tom.marsh@woodwayfederation.co.uk



Important Reminders

School Dinners

The cost of school dinners is £2.45 per day and needs to be paid promptly to the office.

Uniform

A quick reminder that the uniform consists of

- Plain white long sleeved shirt or plain white polo shirt or White BGS Polo Shirt
- Black BGS Jumper
- Black Trousers or Black Skirt
- Black shoes.
- Jewellery – a wristwatch and a single stud in each ear are permitted.
- Facial piercings are not permitted.
- Hair must be of standard school style with no extremes in colour, cut or styling.

Trainers are not permitted as part of school uniform

Uniform can be purchased from the office at the cost of £12.50 for a Jumper and £8.50 for a Polo Shirt.

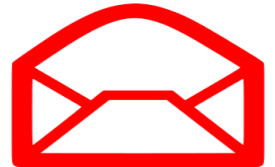
PE T-shirts are available from the office at the cost of £7.

Christmas Lunch

Our amazing Christmas Lunch will be held on Wednesday 16h December, If you are not entitled to free school meals the cost for this will be £2.45. Please give your money to the office.

ACTION

Our main way of communicating with you will now



be via **email**. This will ensure that you get information quickly and means we reduce our carbon footprint as a school.

If we do not yet have your email address please email the school with your Child's full name.

If you need support creating a free email address please contact the school office.

Safeguarding

In order to keep your children safe at all times we must be able to reach you so we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of keeping your details up to date with the school office. Please inform us of any changes as soon as they occur so that we can update our contact systems. We are especially in need of your email address as we will now be sending more communications electronically. All contact details are stored confidentially and will not be shared.

Office information

Phone number: 0117 377 2275

Email: bristol.gateway.school@woodwayfederation.co.uk

A reminder of the importance of any forms that are sent home to be filled in and returned to school as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the office, who will be more than happy to help.