Celebrations at Longleat Safari Park

On Friday 22nd April Clifton High School pupils and staff enjoyed a very special whole-school trip to Longleat House and Safari Park to mark the achievement of the inspection. The changeable weather could not dampen spirits and pupils of all ages were awed by the animals and activities arranged for us by the Longleat team, including opportunities to get close to reptiles, fish and feathered friends.

All the children participated with great enjoyment in the drama activities in the main house. The Year 1 and 2 children were thrilled to meet Queen Elizabeth and take on the role of her retinue, determined to stay at Longleat against the wishes of Sir Tynne. Year 1 children were amazed by the antics of the parrots – especially the parrot who filled its trolley with fair trade goods!

Some pupils were given the opportunity to handle the snakes and this was one of the memorable moments that several children included in their letter of thanks to Dr Neill as being their favourite part of the day.

Pupils visited the Jungle Kingdom where they could swing like monkeys, participated in ‘Deadly Challenges’ which pushed them to the limit and cruised through the jungle on an adventure boat. The day was completed by a fantastic safari through the park where pupils were tasked with quizzes and questions.

Head of School, Dr Alison Neill said: “I very much wanted to say thank you to all pupils, staff, both teaching and support and governors for their hard work and commitment in achieving such an excellent inspection report. It was wonderful to spend special time with our children and young people, as well as colleagues and provided a superb opportunity to celebrate together.”

A great day was had by all of the School community.
**“Pupils’ personal development is excellent.”**

The school is highly successful in achieving its aims of enabling pupils to develop attributes and skills that equip them extremely well for the future” - Inspection 2016

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**MPs meet Senior School Students**

In two special visits, two local MPs presented their rival views on BREXIT and faced some tough questions from Clifton High School students. Thangam Debbonaire MP for Bristol West and Jacob Rees-Mogg MP North East Somerset took a break from their busy parliamentary schedules to talk to Clifton High School students about politics.

The Labour MP, who has recently been promoted to Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, raised that young people would be better off if the UK remained in the EU as they could travel widely and study at European universities. Conservative MP Jacob Rees-Mogg argued that a ‘Leave’ vote on 23rd June was a decision about the sovereignty of the UK.

The timely visits were organised by Clifton High School’s History and Politics Society Students. Both MPs were given lively introductions by Deputy Head Girl Jasmine. Year 12 Government and Politics student Holly also interviewed Thangam Debbonaire about her decision to stand for position of MP and the issues of boosting the number of women in politics.

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**Author visit—CJ Skuse**

On Wednesday 18th May, Young Adult fiction author CJ Skuse visited Clifton High School to talk to Year 7–10 pupils about her approach. The contemporary author encouraged students to persevere in their goals, highlighting that some of the most successful authors were initially rejected by publishers. Year 7 students Jack and David commented on the author’s confidence in her work and the general response from students across the age range was that CJ Skuse was very ‘relatable’. Year 10 student Martha felt that the visit will help her in her own creative writing.
**Year 8 Rocket Day**

Working in teams, pupils spent the day designing and constructing their rockets in a number of categories; Marathon (stamina), Eco (using recycled materials) or Fashion. Propelled by a black powder rocket motor (similar to a firework) rockets were launched with great anticipation on the school drive in the afternoon. Pupils displayed great teamwork during the day and the ‘Deadly Glitter Sharks’ made up of Year 8 pupils Alison, Saffron, Josie and Katherine were the overall winners.

**Year 1 Science**

Year 1 visited the Senior School Science Laboratories this term, where pupils were fascinated to get hands-on with a range of animal and human skeletons.

**Year 4 Anderson Shelters**

Year 4 children made some wonderfully creative examples of Anderson Shelters for their homework project as part of their WWII studies this term. Louis Lyall from 4L (left) received a Head of School award for his fine example.

**Year 2 Chef’s Apprentice visit**

On Wednesday 11th May Year 2 children enjoyed a ‘Chef’s Apprentice’ experience at Tyntesfield National Trust house and gardens as part of their topic ‘Fighting Fit’. After learning about kitchen safety, the children made a vegetable stir-fry from scratch using fresh seasonal produce. They also made garlic pesto and mint tea using ingredients they had foraged for earlier. The heavy rain did not dampen their spirits for their afternoon tour around the beautiful walled gardens where they learnt about the vegetables and herbs grown at Tyntesfield. They also had the opportunity to plant a pea to take home.

**Year 7 Taxonomy visit**

On Friday 20th May Year 7 pupils went to Bristol Zoo and had the chance to meet mealworms, a box turtle and a black rat to find out about the amazing adaptations in the animal world. It was also an opportunity to look round the zoo and find out about the animals that live there.
**Brenscombe Residential Visit**

“Finally, and with much excitement, the day of the Year 3 and 4 trip arrived. Children and staff looked excitedly out of the window to check the weather, bags were loaded into the coach hold and before you could ask “Whose room am I in?” we were off to Dorset.

The excellent range of activities on offer included canoeing, ropes courses, orienteering, archery and bushcraft capably led by the Brenscombe staff. The meals were filling and healthy – and we had a choice of packed lunch items each day so did not go hungry. On the first evening we played an age-appropriate Murder Mystery Game and on the second evening we had a campfire with hot chocolate and Brenscombe’s own X Factor provided by our own talented children.

On the final day, after another excellent morning session children were presented with certificates by the instructors. Mr Cleaver, who had organised the trip, was very proud of the children and staff, all of whom had thrown themselves into each of the activities with enthusiasm and determination. Memories were made and a good time had by all before we returned to school to hand tired children back to refreshed parents.”

Mr Lowe, class teacher 4L

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**Mill on the Brue Residential Visit**

Year 5 and 6 recently spent four days in beautiful Bruton, Somerset at the Mill on the Brue Outdoor Activity Centre. With favourable weather over the majority of days, the children threw themselves into a wide range of activities which included climbing, canoeing, grass tobogganing and a slippery water slide, expertly supervised by the Mill on the Brue team. The long zip wire and assault courses proved particularly popular and Mr Cleaver was delighted with the children’s efforts over the week.
Sports Camps at Clifton High School

The Clifton High School Easter Sports Camps for ages 3-8 were a resounding success with children from a variety of age groups and abilities attending both from Clifton High School and other primary schools. During the week, the boys and girls took part in a variety of sports including hockey, football, basketball, netball, parkour, gymnastics, water polo and cricket.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the ‘Diamond Day’; a day of girls’ football and boys’ cricket. The boys and girls enjoyed learning new skills and then putting these into practice in an afternoon tournament. A team tea was then provided and medals presented to everybody that took part in the day. Awards were presented by special guests Jack Batten (Bristol City Professional Footballer) and Lucy Bryan (Great Britain Athlete and former Clifton High School pupil) much to the delight of the children. A special good luck message to Lucy who is hoping to be selected for the GB Athletics squad this year to compete in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.

Gold Award Ceremony—Duke of Edinburgh

On Monday 16th May Mr Shelswell attended a Gold Award Ceremony in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. He was representing the school as a Directly Licensed Centre for the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and received a plaque for the school showing its designation as a Licensed Organisation.

Each year we have around 35 Year 10 pupils working through their Bronze programme and 10 Year 12 pupils working towards achieving the Gold level of the Award, with both years undertaking their expedition in the coming months. Any pupil aged over 14 (Bronze) or 16 (Gold) who has not yet signed up to take part in an award programme should contact Mr Shelswell for an enrolment form.

Under 7 Tag Rugby

The annual tournament saw Clifton High School A meet Clifton College Dragons in a 6-6 drawn final — demonstrating great potential for future teams!

Swimming Success

On 23rd April, six children competed in the Bristol Schools’ Swimming Association Finals. There were excellent swimming skills displayed by all involved and highlights were a silver medal for Liam in the 25m backstroke and silver medals for Sophie, Megan, Phoebe and Maisie in the girls 25m team freestyle.
**Biathlon**

**Miss Woodyatt at Crystal Palace with Megan, Sophie and Tilly**

**My Biathlon Experience by Tilly, 5P**

“Recently I went to the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships that took place at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in London. A Modern Biathlon includes an 800m run and a 50m freestyle swim.

Despite the butterflies in my tummy, when the 800m race started I was determined and won my heat by miles.

I knew the swim was my weaker event – made worse because I was racing a friend from my local football team. Miss Woodyatt helped me with my warm up and calmed my nerves. I came 4th in the swim and felt disappointed although I had done as best as I could on the day (and I had beaten my friend!).

The final results on the web showed that I had come 16th out of 104 competitors from around the UK! I’m glad I did it and want to thank both Mrs Reid and Miss Woodyatt for helping me do as well as I did and building my confidence during and before the event.

**Fundraising**

On Sunday 24th April four Year 10 pupils took part in a sponsored abseil in Western Super Mare. They raised £279 toward their World Challenge trip to Nepal in 2017. The team will be participating in a week’s charity work and visit an Orphanage managed by former Clifton High School pupils.

**Years 7—9 Athletics Meet**

On Thursday 19th May sixteen Clifton High School Pupils took part in the Bristol Schools Athletics meet. All students competed well in their events with highlights including 2nd place in the minor girls’ high jump for Alice; 1st place in the minor girls’ shot putt for Harriet; 1st in the junior girls’ javelin for Lucy and 2nd place in the junior boys shot putt for Oliver. Confirmation of these results will see the top two from each event go through to the next round on Saturday 11th June.

**Senior School Art and Design**

Earlier this term the Food and Nutrition kitchens at Clifton High School underwent a thorough refurbishment giving pupils access to state of the art equipment.

On Wednesday 29th June we are delighted to welcome Telegraph food writer Xanthe Clay to formally open the new room and facilities.

The evening is also a great opportunity to see the final exhibitions of our A level and GCSE students, as well as that of our talented younger pupils in Years 7 to 9.
German Film Evening

On Friday 6th May, a group of Year 10, 12 and 13 German students enjoyed a pizza and film evening in the Rose Theatre with Frau Harris and Frau Balchin. They watched ‘Goodbye Lenin!’ a German tragicomedy set in 1990. To protect his mother from a fatal shock after a long coma, a young man must keep her from learning that her beloved nation of East Germany as she knew it has disappeared.

‘It was fascinating and fun to learn about a serious topic in an enjoyable way!’

Bristol Youth Orchestra Performance

On 11th May Martha Loach, Maria Snell and Isaac Sutton performed at St. George’s Brandon Hill as members of the Bristol Youth Orchestra, playing pieces by Russian composers. It was an excellent performance and all our Clifton High School students were extremely proud of their achievement. The audience was captivated and it was widely considered to be the best performance by the Bristol Youth Orchestra yet.

Well done to all our students involved and we wish them every success in similar performances in the future.

Exam season

In the week of the 2nd May our Year 11 Art pupils spent two days in the Art room sitting their GCSE practical exam. Pupils produced some highly creative and refined outcomes which will be displayed as part of the upcoming Technologies evening on 29th June.

With the exam season now well underway for all of our Year 11 pupils and Sixth Form we wish them all the very best of luck.

Annual Rose Day

As Clifton High School prepares to mark the end of another successful academic year with our annual Rose Day service of Thanksgiving, Commemoration and Prize-giving at Bristol Cathedral, our Year 12 students have been busy organising the annual Rose Ball.

Year 6 Play

On Thursday 12th May Year 6 children performed their version of Malcolm Sircom’s Musical ‘Gel’ to a delighted audience. Pupils worked diligently in preparation for the performance and lifted the roof with beautiful singing and acting. A memorable evening and a superb effort by all.
News from the Parents’ Association

The Parents’ Association held a pizza evening for pupils in Year 7 and 8 this term as well as a Quiz Night for parents, staff and friends of Clifton High School in April. In the summer term the PA welcomes current and prospective students, parents and friends of Clifton high School to the annual Summer Fair.

Contact us:

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Coming up...

Monday 20th June
Nursery and Reception Parents’ Evening

Tuesday 21st June
Nursery—Y6 ‘Move-up’ Day

Thursday 23rd June
Y7 New Pupils Day

Friday 24th June
Fair Donation Day

Saturday 25th June
Rose Day and Rose Ball

Tuesday 28th June
Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day

Wednesday 29th June
Senior Art and Design Technology Evening

Thursday 30th June
House Challenge Day

Friday 1st July
Sports Day

Friday 2nd July
Summer Fair

Monday 4th July
Reserve Sports Day

Wednesday 6th July
Term Ends at 12:30 for all pupils

Monday 5th September
Induction Day Year 7 and Sixth Form

Tuesday 6th September
First day of Autumn term for all pupils