

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

## Head Teacher Message

It is the end of another busy term. I am sure students will be ready for their half-term break and hopefully some sunshine.

I want to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students who are in the middle of GCSE and A Level exams. Their attitude and maturity so far has been fantastic!



Next term we look forward to the end of exams and the celebration of the end of their school year.

### **Wed 26 June**

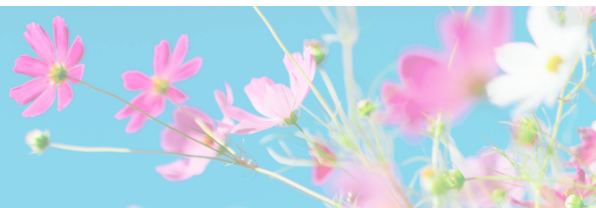
Year 11 Leavers assembly and Prom

### **Monday 1 July**

Year 13 Leavers assembly and Prom



SUMMER  
is  
coming



On Tuesday, Westbury-on-Trym Academy held their annual sports day and our BFS Sports Leaders supported the event. The Headteacher has posted a lovely video on Instagram (shared on our account @bristol\_free) and had lots of praise for our amazing students!

Next term we will be employing some sports coaches from the company SHINE who will organise some sport activities and mini competitions during lunchtimes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Students can bring trainers to wear during these activities and change back into school shoes ready for their afternoon lessons. We hope this will be good fun and that more students can use the sports spaces.

Year 9 students will move to later break and lunch now Year 11 are on study leave, this will give more space for Year 7 and Year 8.

We have two members of staff who will be leaving BFS this week. Mrs Steele, Head of RE and PSHE, is leaving to take up a promoted position and Mr Bower, a teaching assistant and ex student, will be going travelling and then on to University.

We wish them the very best and thank them for their contribution to the school.



*Wishing you all a great half-term break.*



**MRS S KING**

# KEY DATES

## Monday 27 - Friday 31 May

Half term - School closed

## Monday 3 June

Start of Term 6

Y7 and Y12 EOY assessments start

## Tuesday 4 June

River Holford/Bristol Harbourside Field Trip

## Wednesday 5 June

River Holford/Bristol Harbourside Field Trip

Y9 Reading Buddies at Badock's Wood Academy

## Thursday 6 June

River Holford/Bristol Harbourside Field Trip

## Friday 7 June

-

We are  
**HIRING**

Head of Chemistry

Teacher of Science

Teacher of Music

## HOLIDAYS

Holidays in term time are highly discouraged and are likely to result in a penalty notice (£60 per child, per parent) or prosecution (up to £2500 and/or 3 months imprisonment).

Please do not book holidays during term time as they are highly disruptive to a student's education.

## NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY

The UK-wide celebration of all teaching and support staff is back. National Thank a Teacher Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 19 June! As always, we will be celebrating all the amazing teaching and support staff at BFS - from the reception staff to the classroom assistants and librarians. They deserve the spotlight for everything they do to keep things running smoothly.

Want to make someone's day? If you know a special teacher, dedicated support staff member or even a whole school team, let them know how grateful you are by sending a free e-card at [www.thankateacher.co.uk](http://www.thankateacher.co.uk) or email your message to [newsletter@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) to have say a public thank you in the newsletter!



The poster features a starburst logo with 'NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY' and a 'Thank a Teacher' grid. The main text reads 'NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY' and 'THANK YOU' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'TO ALL TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF IN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND EARLY YEARS ACROSS THE UK!'. At the bottom, there are logos for The Teaching Awards Trust, Department for Education, MAYS, and NGA, along with an illustration of diverse people. A pink banner at the bottom says 'SEND YOUR FREE E-CARD AT WWW.THANKATEACHER.CO.UK'.

## NEW LUNCH MENUS

[Dining Hall Menu](#)

[Sixth Form Cafe Menu](#)



## CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Rosie, Year 10, who competed in the Irish National Girls Amateur Golf Open in Belfast.

She had rounds of +2, +6 and +6 for a gross score of +14 for 54 holes which made her tied 29 (out of 75) in the Under 18 and 10th in the Under 16s. She also won the Net prize with a score of -1.



well done!

### Menu

- Battered Fish, Chips & Peas
- Fish Fingers, Chips & Peas
- Salmon Fishcake, Chips & Peas
- Pea Fritter & Chips
- Cajun Chicken Loaded Fries
- Chips & Curry Sauce
- Chips & Gravy

### Sides/Sauces

- Onion Rings with Chipotle Mayo Dip
- Battered Sausage
- Homemade Pickle Eggs
- Chip Shop Curry Sauce

Thursday 6 June

## WATER BOTTLES

It is important to ensure that your child has a refillable water bottle with them in school at all times.

We are seeing more and more students presenting themselves to Student Services complaining of headaches only to establish that they have not had a drink since breakfast and that they do not have a water bottle with them.

Please do remind them of the need and benefits of drinking water regularly throughout the day in order to function properly and perform to their full potential.

## LOST A BOTTLE?



We have many water bottles in Student Services waiting to be reclaimed!

**Back to school information  
now available at:**

**MONKHOUSE.COM**

**Your official  
uniform supplier**



**NEW SEASON  
SAVINGS**



**SCHOOL UNIFORM  
UPDATES**



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NEWS**

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# What has been happening in...

# PE?



**MISS SLATER**

Term 5 in PE, and we finally have some sunshine! It's been a very wet year so far, with many lessons collapsed to accommodate the poor weather, so it has been great to be outside, taking part in a variety of striking and fielding activities, athletics and tennis across the year groups! We now have the track at Greenway meaning that relays, long and short distance runs and hurdles can take place, with the top field hosting various throwing and jumping events.

Some Year 9 and 10 groups have experienced the mix of tennis-cricket-rounders, the ultimate mash up of striking and fielding that is inclusive and engaging for all, and it has been great to not only have tennis on the curriculum this year but to have signed up to the LTA for Schools and attend various fixtures across Bath and Bristol to meet the BFS Promise and provide students with the opportunity to compete in school tennis, something that has not happened before!

We have ample clubs running this term with fixtures to match and we would love to see as many of you there as possible! Mondays see Year 9 and 10 cricket and track athletics. Wednesdays give scope for Year 7 and 8 cricket and all year groups rounders. Thursdays provide a chance for all budding athletes to meet, practise and train in all field and track events of their choice. We also have Year 7 and 8 dance running for the rest of the year as they will be showcasing their talents in Term 6 at the Summer Showcase! Our first dance club and our first performance for BFS - it will be a showstopper that's for sure!

With the summer term in full swing, it would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible attending athletics after school clubs. Athletics is on Thursday after school and a track specific session is held on Monday after school. The students that have been attending so far have been working really hard on their pacing, looking at achieving negative splits, as well as practising sprint finishes. All age groups and abilities are welcome.



**MRS WYNNE-JONES**



**MRS BALLARD**

Girls football has had another extremely successful year. Both our U14 and U16 teams reached the final stages of both the Bristol and Gloucester Schools competitions - winning each group stage - all unbeaten! #Superstars

Teaching Year 7, 9 and 10 athletes this term has been a pleasure because of their enthusiasm and willingness to try new things. During our recent PE lessons, we focused on various track and field events, including long jump, hurdles and relay races. It was amazing to see the students push themselves and showcase their athletic abilities. They displayed great teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the activities. It is truly rewarding to witness their progress and growth in these disciples. Keep up the great work!



**MR LANGEVELDT**



**MR TOLMAN**

In our recent PE lessons, students have been immersing themselves in the exciting world of cricket. This engaging sport, known for its rich history and strategic gameplay, offers our students a unique combination of physical exercise and mental challenge. Through various drills and matches, students are developing key skills such as hand-eye coordination, teamwork, and strategic thinking. Additionally, learning cricket is fostering a sense of sportsmanship and camaraderie among participants. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by our young cricketers has been remarkable, making cricket a highlight of our PE curriculum this term.

# BFS SPORT



MISS SLATER

## Y8 Rounders

On Thursday, Year 8 went to Blaise High School to play a rounders match. There were two innings in each - we batted and fielded. In the first innings, everyone kept the fielding tight and at the end we were only winning by half a rounder. In the second innings, our batting was on point, leaving no room for error. So at the end we waited for the result and we had won 8.5 - 7!! Bethan got fielder of the match and Jess got batter. Another win for BFS! Well done to everyone.



Elsa, Y8

## PE Parents - We Need You!

Team PE want to expand their provision for the next academic year, but we cannot do it without the help of volunteers. If you are able to come and help us, we would be really appreciative of the support so that we can run clubs all year long as well as fixtures!



We are also interested in hearing from you about national fixtures and which ones you would like your students to take part in. National fixtures will need to be facilitated by parents, especially if they are in an evening, past 5pm, or on a Saturday. But we would like to be able to increase this provision also.

If you are able to help, please email your expression of interest to Mrs Ballard or Miss Slater and we will be in touch. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you in the coming year!

Do you have a coaching qualification in any of the following sports? Netball, rugby (level 2 or above), football, hockey, cricket. Do you have any experience and/or qualifications in dance or table tennis?

Are you available on weekdays from 3.15-4.15pm next academic year?

## Avon Schools Athletics Championships

On Saturday 8 June, BFS would like to enter selected students into the Avon Schools Athletics Championships at Yate Athletics Track. To be entered into this competition you must have times or distances.

We will select two athletes per event, per age group:

Year 8 competition: 10 - 11.30am

Year 9 competition: 11.30am - 12.45pm

Year 10 competition: 1 - 2.15pm



If you are interested in attending this meet, email Miss Slater with the following details:

- Student name
- Student's events and their times and/or distances

The student with the fastest time or best distance will be entered for the event.

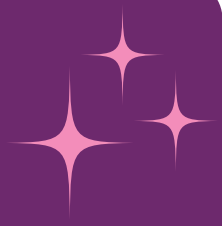


# HOUSE NEWS



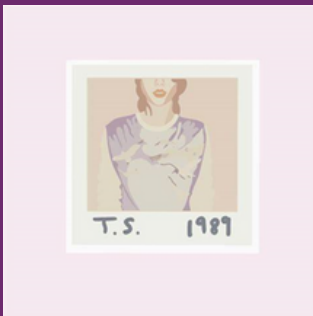
## STEM House Competition

As we all know, Taylor Swift's Eras Tour is the cultural event of the year! As she is about to embark on the UK part of the tour, what better way to celebrate than with a STEM and Taylor themed house competition! Simply email your answers to Ms Board [k.board@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:k.board@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) or write them down and bring to CF15 by Friday 7 June. House points for all entries, with extras for those completing the bonus activity!



### Quick Fire Quiz

1. Which element has the atomic number 22?
2. Fans at the Seattle show really did 'Shake It Off', by generating seismic activity. What measure on the Richter scale did this 'Swiftquake' measure?
3. Audience members at the Eras Tour are given LED bracelets. These emit green, blue, yellow, red, pink and white light. Which of Taylor's eras do these colours represent?



### Bonus activities (ten extra house points for each)

Taylor was famously born in 1989 and named her fifth album after this year. Some notable STEM events from 1989 include the invention of the world wide web and Voyager 2 proving the existence of Neptune's rings.

1. Write about the STEM discoveries, inventions and events that happened in your birth year.
2. Write some science lyrics to the tune of a Taylor song!

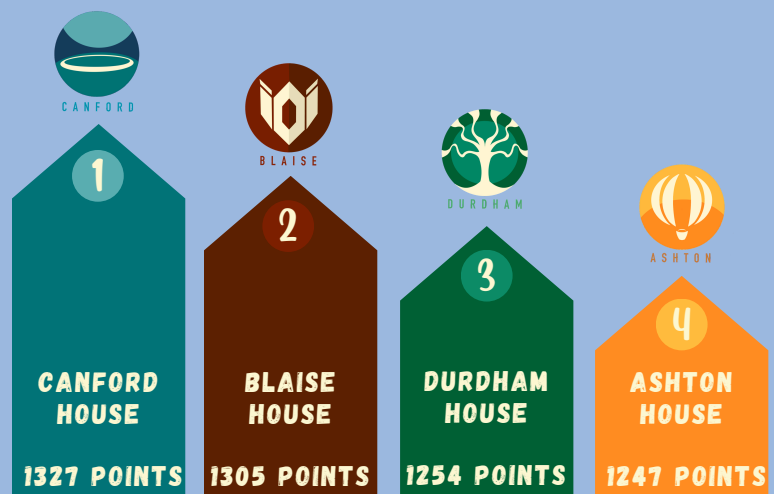


## House Points

Well done to Canford House who were awarded the most house points this week!

**DON'T FORGET**

You can take part in the Taylor Swift competition (above), write a book review or enter the Brilliant Poetry competition to earn more house points!



## Move A Mile

Today, we welcomed Nick Wilson, Community Fundraiser for St Peter's Hospice. Nick was incredibly impressed with the amount raised by the BFS community, a whopping £3,576, expressing that it was one of the biggest donations they had ever received from a school! Nick spoke to House Parliament representatives about the impact such a donation will make and what St Peter's Hospice does. Nick then presented us with a cheque and a massive thank you from everyone at St Peter's Hospice!

Thanks to your donations, St Peter's Hospice are able to provide the following: 170 therapy sessions for bereaved families and children, keep their 24-hour advice line open for 10 days, provide the cost of caring for three patients in their homes.



MR BOWER

# THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

## My Journey to a Gold Award



From mountains....

On 10 May, I was invited to Buckingham Palace for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Celebration Event. It was a great event, with tea and cake for all in attendance, capped off with a speech from the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward, and a handful of inspirational speakers throughout the afternoon. Standing on the pristine lawn in front of the palace, I thought back to when I was in Year 9, lining up with my group to start our first practice. Since then, lots has changed. Student to member of staff; hiking boots and large bag to smart shoes and a lanyard. In the years that followed, I completed Bronze, Silver and Gold. This amounted to 12 months of working on skills, 21 months of volunteering, 21 months of completing my physical section, and a week-long residential.

The expeditions totalled 9 days of walking and 6 nights in tents. Across this period, I learnt the importance of good teamwork, communication, and resilience. These skills have been invaluable throughout my time as a student at BFS, through my GCSEs and A levels, and as a member of staff this year. Most importantly, all the expeditions were great fun, even if it did not feel that way when we were soaked through at the top of a mountain in Wales! I would encourage anyone who is considering signing up to any of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award levels for next year to go for it and see where it can take you!

**#BFSAmbition #BFSOpportunity**



...to palaces!



MISS MCMURDO

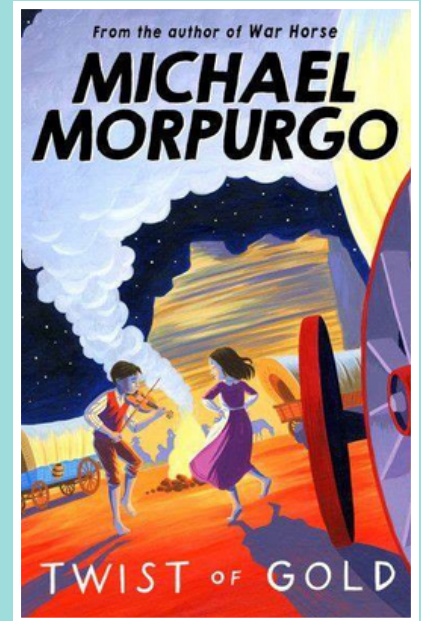
# BFS ENGLISH Review

10 House Points!

## Twist of Gold by Michael Morpurgo Review by Rory, Year 7

How would you feel if your country was being torn apart by hunger and plague? Well, that's what Annie and Sean, two Irish children living through the potato famine, have to experience. Their father left a couple of years ago to find a better home in America, so Annie and Sean must leave their ill mother behind to find him. But it won't be an easy journey: they have nothing but each other and a golden torc, which is the heart of their family. They survive a shipwreck but have to face many more dangers in America, all while protecting the precious torc.

Can they find their father, or will they perish along the way? I would recommend this book to anyone who likes the Michael Morpurgo novels.



MISS EVANS

# BFS FOOD TECH

## Cupcake Masterclass

Year 10 took part in a cupcake masterclass with Mrs Day sharing her cupcake icing expertise. Students made their own cakes, icing, extra chocolate decorations, and presented their three most successful cupcakes to be judged. Olivia and Tadiwa were the overall winners – well done to them for their creativity, piping skills and finesse! Thank you to Mrs Day and to Olivia H for demonstrating her rose icing technique also.







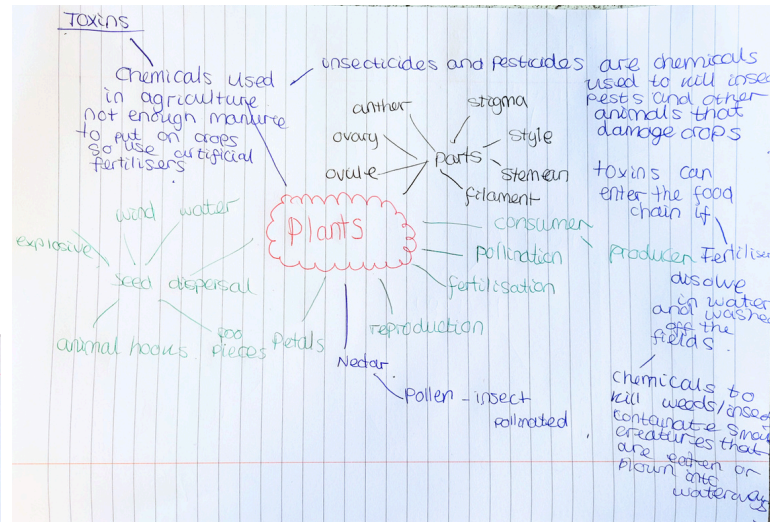
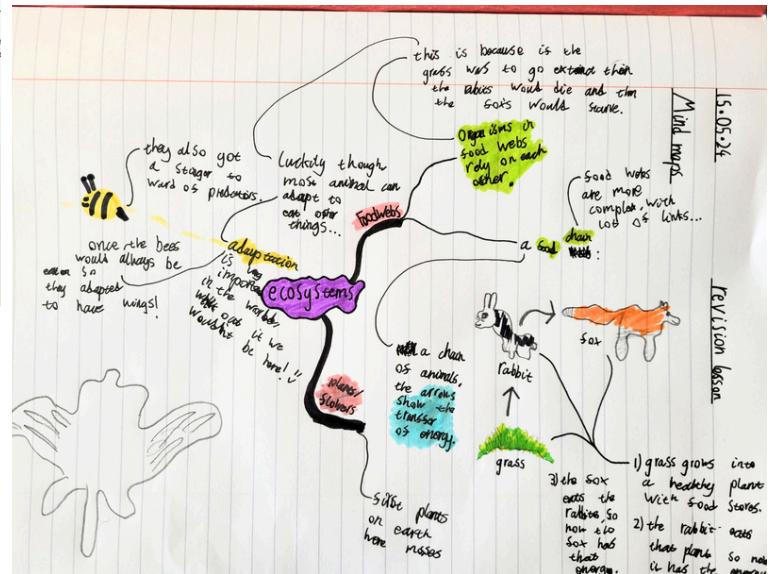
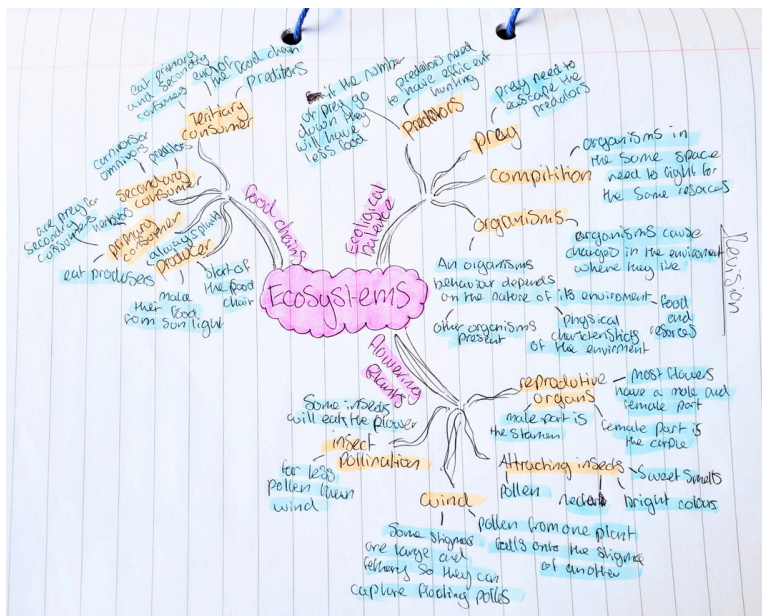
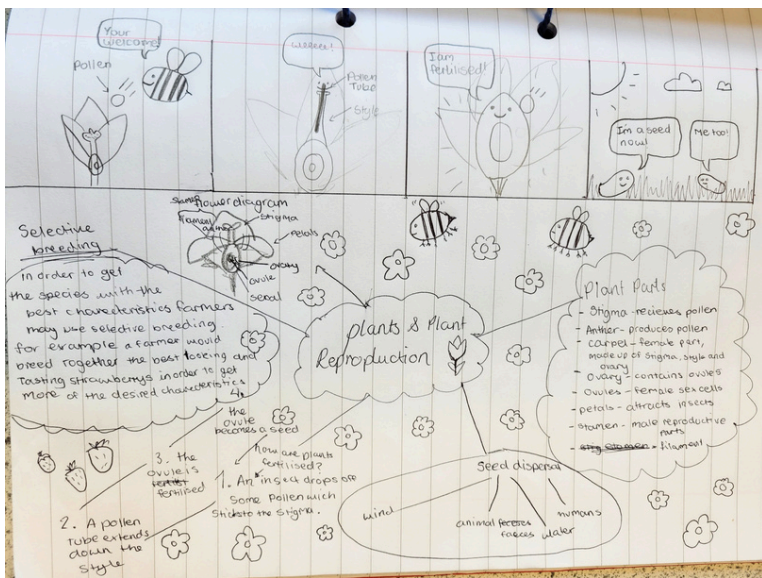
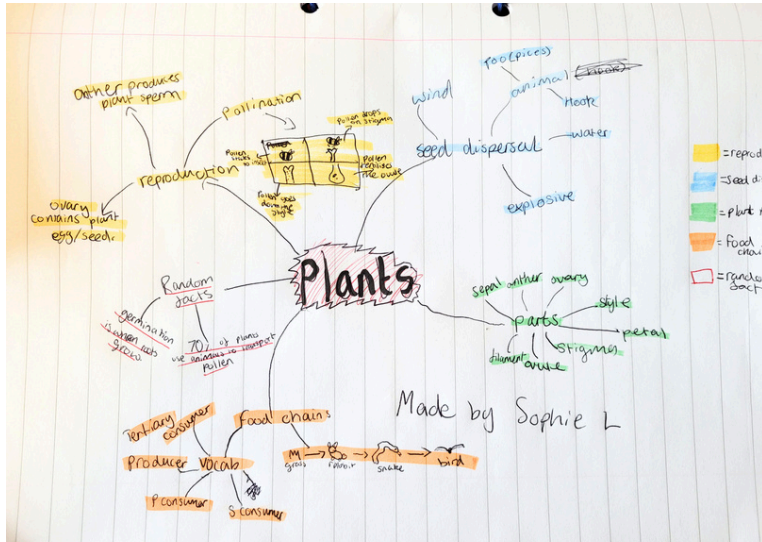
# BFS SCIENCE



MISS HAWES

## Year 7 Mind Maps

Year 7 have been working hard on revision strategies for their End of Year exams. These are some of the excellent mind maps they have produced. We have spoken about the importance of linking topics and highlighting key information.





# BFS DRAMA



MRS JEROME

## Year 10 Drama



Year 10 Drama students have had a busy few weeks. They went on a trip to University of Bristol's Department of Theatre, which included a tour of the department, two drama workshops, and watching a technical rehearsal of 'An Enemy of the People'.

We were then joined at BFS by Kylie Perry, the Co-Director of the acclaimed theatre company The Paper Birds, who led Year 10 and 12 Drama students through a devising workshop.

Finally, along with Year 10 Music students, they saw Hamilton at Bristol Hippodrome on Wednesday, an amazing and inspiring production.

Stay tuned for the music, drama and dance Summer Showcase, coming to the BFS stage in July!



The Paper Birds



Year 10 Drama Workshop by The Paper Birds Theatre Company

# EXTRA CURRICULAR

## Jacari Club



MRS ROBBINS

On Wednesday 15 May, the 'English as an Addition Language' (EAL)/Jacari club had a lovely celebration event to acknowledge the achievements and commitment of all students involved. We had a fantastic drama and team building session delivered by Hester Welch and then celebrated with some well-deserved snacks and certificates! Everyone visibly had a lovely time.

Our EAL/Jacari sessions have been running weekly since the start of the academic year and have provided opportunities for students developing English proficiency to develop advanced linguistic skills and it has also enabled students to settle in more at BFS and develop an additional sense of community. It has provided Sixth Form students with valuable volunteering experience and an opportunity to support younger students and give back to the BFS community.

We are extremely proud of our Year 7-11 students for attending weekly with such enthusiasm and our wonderful Sixth Form volunteers for showing such kindness and support to younger students. All students listed below have been so committed for the entirety of the programme and it has been brilliant to see such positive relationships form.

A huge thank you to our external agency, Jacari, for providing us with support, resources and training for all involved. We are especially grateful to Aggie Kaziszyn for her support with developing this offer at BFS.

A huge well done to all students involved!



### Well Done

**YEAR 7:** Maynee, Shai, Dmytro, Mona and Ashley

**Year 8:** Luka, Idan and Ben

**Year 9:** Shenice, Liza, Angie and Aseel

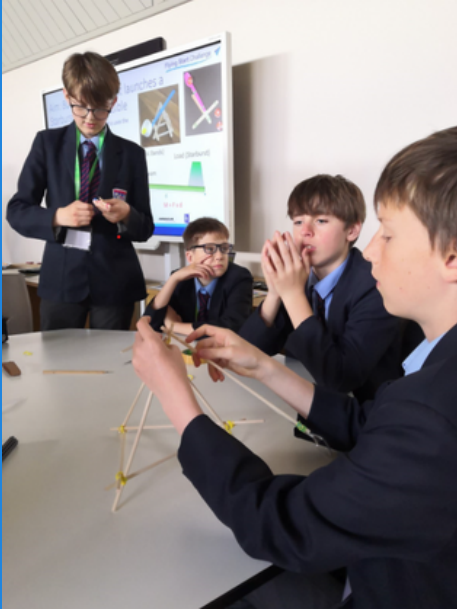
**Year 11:** Roman, Stanislav and Yan

### Thank You Year 12 Volunteers

Ella, Stephen, Megan, Fizza, Jia Hao, Beyonce, Elshba, Jack, Corinne, Kesia, Duan and Hodan

# EXTRA CURRICULAR

## Flying Start Challenge



The Flying Start Challenge is a renowned engineering competition, established to develop key skills and increase awareness of the careers available within the engineering industry. Its aim is for teams of four students to collaborate on the design, build and test of a model glider in order to compete in a regional schools' 'Fly-Off'. Mentored by leading advisers in the aerospace industry, including the main sponsor, Leonardo UK, school teams fly their glider and are judged on the distance flown alongside a poster presentation detailing their design decisions.

Year 8s, Andrew, Joseph, Hayden and Dexter, formed team Case O'Clan and qualified for the Grand Final, held at Aerospace Bristol last Friday. The team spent the day competing with twenty other schools on STEM tasks to score points. Activities included building the tallest structure using straws, devising the best method in launching a missile (starburst sweet), and designing a vehicle that could harness wind power for propulsion. To show their aeronautical learning they made a poster and gave a presentation to a panel of judges.

“

*They discussed extremely competently, and the judges were impressed by their ability to talk about and answer questions on complex principles - it is clear they put in a lot of time and effort, and they scored the highest in the poster competition because of this.*

Judges' feedback

”

During the day, the team launched their gliders in the hangar where the one of the Concorde aeroplanes rests. It was a tough competition and the team performed well. They took away with them the opportunity to meet like-minded engineering students and young graduates from many of the aeronautical industries in Bristol.



well done

## Clubs Terms 6

BFS offer a range of fantastic extra-curricular clubs that run at lunchtime and after school.

[See our clubs booklet for more information](#)



# BFS Fund



Staff and Governors at BFS are determined to ensure that every student at our school has access to an enriched education with inspiring curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Through our BFS Promise, we offer a huge range of additional opportunities for all our students as they progress through the school.

Funding in schools has been under increasing pressure for several years now and we work tirelessly, with less resources, to provide the best possible experiences for your children. It is increasingly challenging to continue to deliver and improve on the additional experiences and opportunities we offer.



With this in mind, we are re-launching the BFS Fund to help us provide some of those extras that make all the difference to school life, that we otherwise may not afford. BFS fund will go towards improving our school environment and sustaining our wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities.

Initiatives include:

- Improvement of social spaces e.g. landscaping and outdoor furniture and equipment for social times
- Grounds development projects such as sports spaces and outside environmental classroom/garden
- Collapsed curriculum days and visiting agencies
- Special visitors/speakers/authors
- Performing arts workshops and visiting theatre groups
- Additional/specialist arts, crafts & technology materials
- Resources for extra-curricular clubs and activities such as gardening club
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities



**DONATE**



## **What do we ask parents to contribute?**

We suggest £10 a month as a voluntary contribution but if you would like to pay more (or less), we are very happy to receive any amount that parents can afford, and think is appropriate. We are also very pleased to receive one-off donations. Any donation will be much appreciated and will make a difference.



# COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GLoucestershire COUNTY CRICKET CLUB**

## BRISTOL CHELTENHAM

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**England Rugby**

## TRAINING SESSION AND Q&A WITH AMBER REED

COME GIVE RUGBY A TRY  
GIRLS AGED 10, 11 & 12 YEARS OLD

**FRIDAY 24TH MAY**  
6:00-7:30PM  
**NORTH BRISTOL RFC**

PLEASE CONTACT LIZ EDWARDS TO BOOK YOUR FREE SPACE  
[LIZ.EDWARDS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK](mailto:liz.edwards@hotmail.co.uk)  
07977414945




## Free event for bilingual families!

**15 June 10.30am**

- Do you have a bilingual family?
- Are you raising your kids in more than one language?
- Do you need practical tips?


**Ask the expert!**

**EOWYN CRISFIELD**, bilingual family expert, answers your questions!



**BILINGUAL FAMILIES**  
A Practical Language Planning Guide  
*Eowyn Crisfield*

**Windmill Hill Community Centre**

Sign up free here! 

[www.multilingual-matters.com/events](http://www.multilingual-matters.com/events)



**Life Cycle**

**Bristol**  
May half term  
Bikeability  
Levels 2 and 3  
Year 7 - 9

## Bikeability Holiday Courses

Unlock your child's cycling potential!

Cycling confidence, road safety, and planning skills – taught by Life Cycle's qualified, DBS-checked instructors.

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