

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every year schools in the UK celebrate Black History Month during October. The recognition for this event came originally from America following the dedication of Carter G Woodson who had devoted his life to promoting Black history within schools. This was adopted into the UK in 1987 following work by Ghanaian born Akyaba Addai-Sebo who had seen the impact in America and wanted similar for the UK.

People from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries, but campaigners believe their contributions have often been overlooked and Black History Month seeks to raise awareness, whilst promoting and celebrating this contribution.

Each year Black History Month takes a different focus and this year the focus is **Reclaiming Narratives**. The history of Black communities has been told through lenses that often misrepresent, oversimplify, or entirely overlook the rich and diverse experiences of those who lived it. This year's focus is a call to action for story tellers, historians and custodians to highlight the breadth of this culture. Next week's assemblies will be on this topic.

Students are being invited to contribute towards the assemblies – in content or active participation. They are also being asked to enter a House competition where they can submit an essay, poem or artwork about someone well known or known personally to them.

One of the core priorities for the School is to fully embed our value of *mutual respect* with every student feeling that their voice and story can be heard within the community. Our focus during Black History Month is part of that but should not be a standalone event – instead Black history is being considered across all areas of the curriculum and school life on an ongoing basis. Students will be shown in assemblies how the School is doing this throughout the curriculum every year.



NOTICES AND EVENTS



KEY DATES

Monday 14 October

Y7 (TG4 & 5) Team Building Day at Clifton College
Y11 GCSE PE Athletics Day
Y13 Geography NEA Residential (all week)

Tuesday 15 October

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Wednesday 16 October

Headteacher's Virtual Update to Parents - 5.30pm
Y9 House Spelling Bee (11.50am DG01)

Thursday 17 October

Dr Bike visiting BFS

Friday 18 October

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QUICK LINKS

[Lunch Menu](#)
[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)
[Term Dates](#)
[Student/Parent Handbook](#)
[Past Newsletters](#)

MUSTARD/PEANUT CROSS CONTAMINATION

Our caterers, Innovate, have confirmed that their products **are not affected** by the recent concerns around mustard/peanut cross contamination.

LATE ARRIVALS

Students are expected to arrive at school at 8.25am, to be in tutor groups for 8.30am. Those arriving between 8.30am and 9am will be given a late mark and a detention.

DR BIKE AT BFS

Dr Bike is an experienced mechanic who will be coming into School on Thursday 17 October.

Dr Bike will check over bikes and make simple repairs or adjustments to ensure they are in good working order.

Students and staff are all welcome, however places are limited so please sign up via this [form](#).



We are
HIRING

[Teacher of Maths](#)

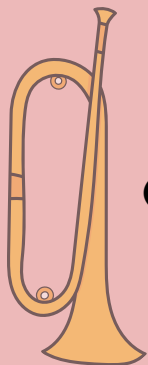
[Deputy Head of Maths](#)

[Exam Invigilators](#)

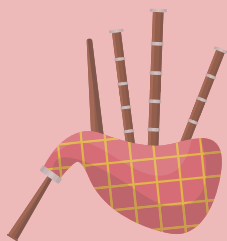
REMEMBRANCE DAY

We will be holding our Remembrance Day event on Monday 11 November at 11am. We are looking for parents/carers, or people from the wider community, to help support this important event.

Can you help with the Last Post ceremony?



Can you play the bugle?



Do you play the bagpipes?

Please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk if you can help. Thank you.



DINING HALL ART MURAL

Are you an artist, graphic designer or have an eye for large scale artwork?

We are looking to refresh our Dining Hall wall art with a series of House-inspired murals and need your help. We have a group of enthusiastic and talented students, led by Year 13 art student Phoebe, ready to design, organise and paint our walls. However, we need the skills and expertise of our wider community to help make this happen.

Please get in touch if you, or someone you know, would be able to help us launch this exciting new project. Please email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.



ASHTON



CANFORD



BLAISE



DURDHAM

HOLIDAYS

New attendance law does not allow schools to authorise family holidays. Please do not book holidays in term time. They are highly disruptive to your child's education. As a school, we work with Bristol City Council to issue PCN fines and prosecutions to parents who take their children on holiday during term time.

A Penalty Notice can be issued for unauthorised absences once there are a minimum of 10 session (5 days) within a 10-week period. The Penalty Notice can be issued per parent, per child. The Penalty Notice amount is £160 if paid within 28 days. However, this will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

For a second Penalty Notice issued within a 3-year rolling period to the same parent in respect of the same child, the Penalty Notice is £160 if paid within 28 days. There is no option for this second offence to be reduced to the lower rate of £80.

If a Penalty Notice remains unpaid after 28 days, then the parent may be prosecuted for failing to secure regular school attendance.

A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period. Should the parent continue to incur further unauthorised absences then alternative action will be considered, which could include a prosecution for failing to secure regular school attendance.

Please note that parents who repeatedly take unauthorised absences below the threshold of 5 days will also be considered for penalty notices.



What has been happening in...

Sociology?



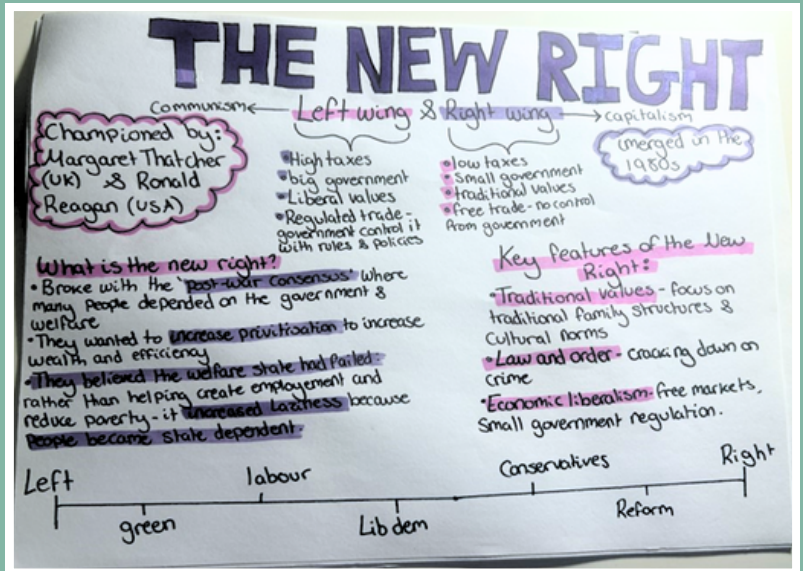
MS TOVEY

YEAR 12

We have welcomed a bunch of very enthusiastic Year 12 students to Sociology this term!

With Ms Tovey, they have learned about the fundamentals of the key sociological perspectives that we continually revisit throughout the course: functionalism, Marxism, feminism and the New Right.

With Ms Norton, they have started to explore the role of education in society according to these perspectives - whether it truly teaches us to be an upstanding member of society or if it simply prepares us to be a mere cog in the capitalist machine.



See the fantastic summary poster (above) for the New Right created by Keira for homework.

As part of an independent learning project, students have also been reading a book from the Social Science Library to deepen their understanding and explore an area of interest. I am looking forward to seeing the academic posters they produce on these after half term!

See some of the options for Sociology in our Social Science Library.



YEAR 13

Year 13 have impressed us since coming back, getting right into the swing of revision for the upcoming set of mock exams. They have explored some difficult theoretical elements of Sociology, such as the extent to which we can call Sociology a science and grappled with concepts such as 'falsification' and 'verificationism' with determination. They have also continued studying different methods of research in Sociology and how they might apply them to studying education. Finally, they have started their big, optional Year 2 topic: The Media. They have conducted a content analysis of the news, tallying how many stories are 'serious journalism' compared to 'pop culture' and the reasons why media organisations may embed so much of this pop culture. It has been amazing to see them come to life reflecting on their own media consumption and usage! We wish them luck in their upcoming mocks.





HOUSE NEWS



House Points



Well done to Canford for earning the most House points this week.

There are lots of opportunities to earn extra House points this week. Why not write a book review or enter the history competition?

#BFSCommunity

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Lottie	Bella	Izzy C	Ada-Sophia
Year 8	Sam S	Naomi	Cerys	Edward
Year 9	Florence B	Ella	Carla	Alice
Year 10	Amelie	Fiona	Yoli	Andrés
Year 11	Emlyn	Ruby W-C	Charlotte M	Charlie D
Year 12	Layla	Lorraine	Grace F	Mila
Year 13	Megan T	Ellie	Paris	Hodan

Book Review Challenge

We are asking students from all year groups to complete a book review to be featured in the newsletter.

What? A book review of a recent book you enjoyed.

How long? 200 - 250 words.

How to submit? Email or hand it in to Miss McMurdo, DG08.

Why? Miss McMurdo is choosing submissions to go in the newsletter, and you will get 5 house points for handing it in (10 house points if it is chosen to be in the newsletter). It is also a great way to share book recommendations!

We look forward to reading your reviews!



Black History Month Competition



RECLAIMING NARRATIVES

To enter this competition, research one of the people that has been assigned to your House (below) or the story of someone you personally know.

You can write an essay, poem or create a piece of art. In no more than one side of A4, explain:

- What is special about their story?
- Why are they inspiring to you?

Entries should be handed in/emailed to Mr Dignan by Monday 4 November. House points for all entries and special prizes for the best entry from each House.

Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
<p>James Peters (rugby player) More Information</p> <p>Matthew Henson (explorer) More Information</p> <p>Diane Abbott (politician) More Information</p>	<p>Ignacius Sancho (writer, abolitionist) More Information</p> <p>Barbara Walker (artist) More Information</p> <p>Otis Boykin (inventor) More Information</p>	<p>Dr Shirley Jackson (physicist) More Information</p> <p>Lapido Solanke (activist) More Information</p> <p>Walter Tull (footballer) More Information</p>	<p>Lord Kitchener (musician) More Information</p> <p>Harriet Tubman (abolitionist) More Information</p> <p>Bayard Rustin (civil rights activist) More Information</p>

Year 7 Design Technology House Competition

Recycle, Rethink, Reuse



What: Use recycled resources that you have at home to design and make something interesting

Who: This project is open to all Year 7s

When: Submit your project by Friday 8 November

Where: At home and in the DT workshops. There will be 2 open workshop sessions on Friday 11 and 18 October, 3.05-4.05pm.

Finished projects will be displayed in DT and then judged by the DT teaching team and KS4/5 DT leaders.

Design Specification: The project must be safe. The project must be no bigger than a shoe box (approximately 30cm long x 20cm wide x 12cm high). The project can use new materials but must include at least 1 recycled element. It is a solo project.

Christmas Card Competition



BFS is looking for a Christmas card design. Something that will get us all in the Christmas spirit, which will fill everyone's heart with sparkle, fun and joy.

We need you to design a Christmas card with anything you want on it. Holly, presents, snowflakes, you decide - just no glitter, sorry!

Write your name, tutor group and House clearly on the back and hand it in to the Art Department before Friday 8 November.

All entries will get House points.



ACHIEVEMENTS

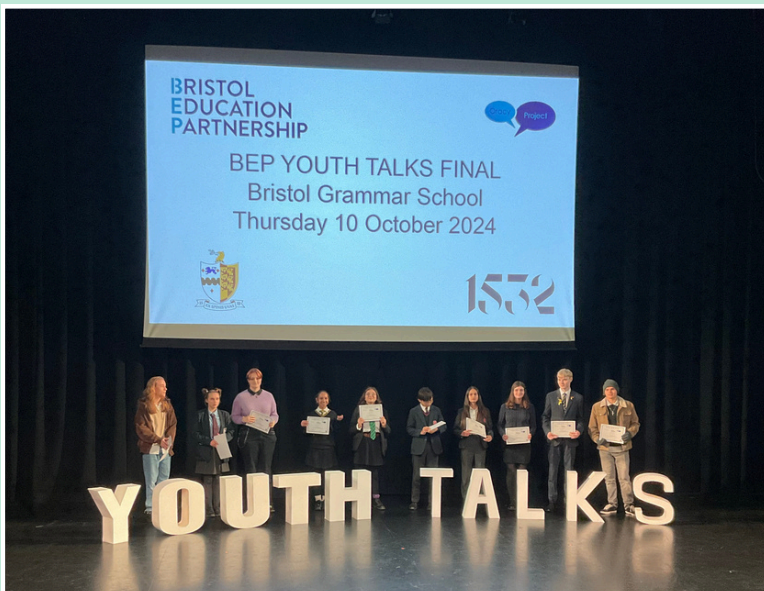


BEP Youth Talks Final

Beneath the bright lights of the Bristol Grammar School Theatre, Jemie D and Chloe G shone brightly as they presented their speeches, in TED Talks style, on "Feminism and Other Learned Skills" and "Nuclear Fusion". During the last year, a group of BFS students were involved in a Bristol Education Partnership/BFS Oracy project, involving an external coach, and supported by Ms Corrigan and Mr Lally, to research a theme of their choice and prepare a speech. After a preliminary round at BFS where a number of students presented inspirational talks, Jemi and Chloe were selected to represent BFS at the final. At the final, their research, delivery and composure when presenting before a distinguished audience were impressive and a tribute to the skills they have developed. I was so proud of the way they represented both themselves and BFS. Well done, and thank you to all the staff who supported this project.



MRS CONWAY





Year 8 Semi-Finals

This week it was the turn of Year 8. Once again, the Drama Studio was filled with spectators eager to cheer on their friends. The competition was even tougher than the Year 7 semi-final, as the spellers battled it out over words from 'satellite' to 'gimmick'.



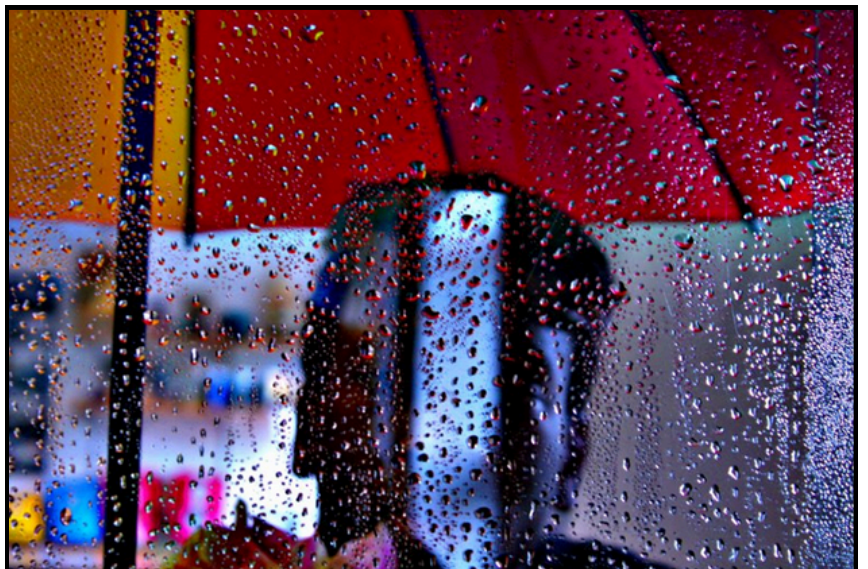
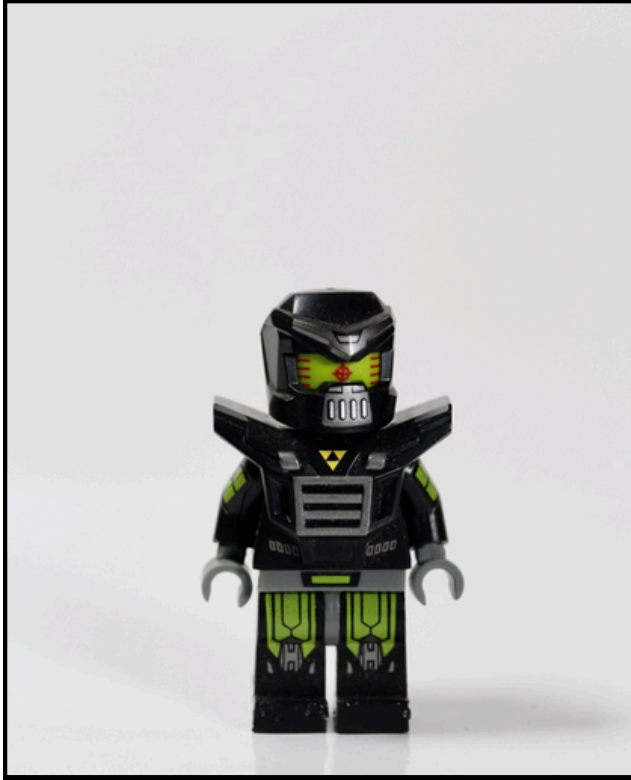
After a closely fought head-to-head against Bella, ultimately it was Krystal who took the title and will now advance to the Grand Final.

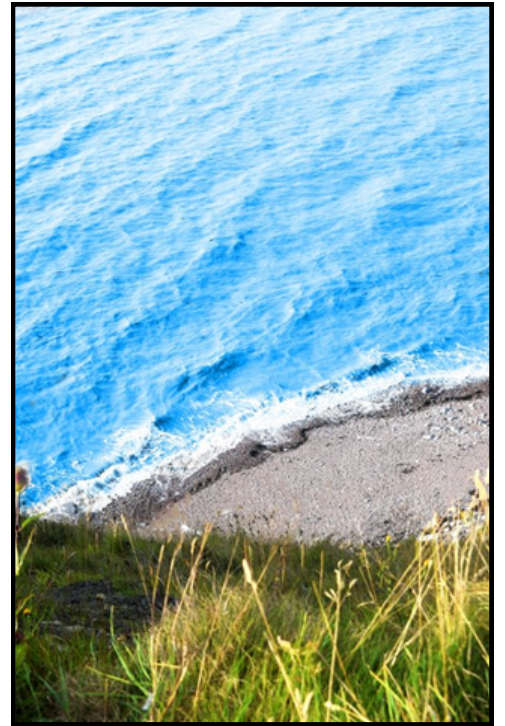
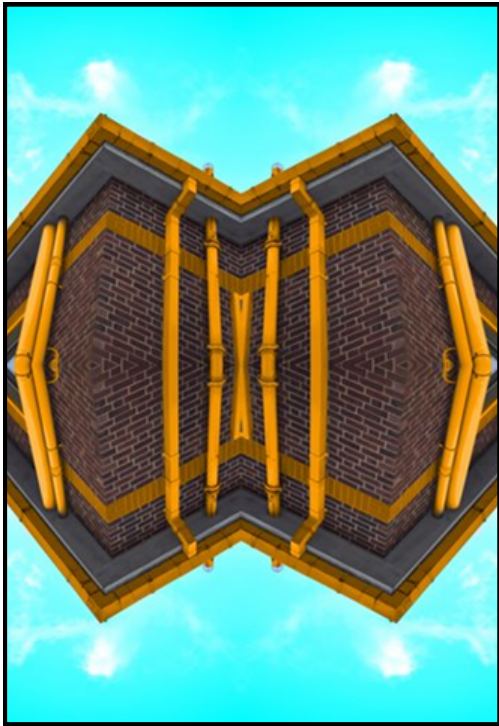


ART + PHOTOGRAPHY

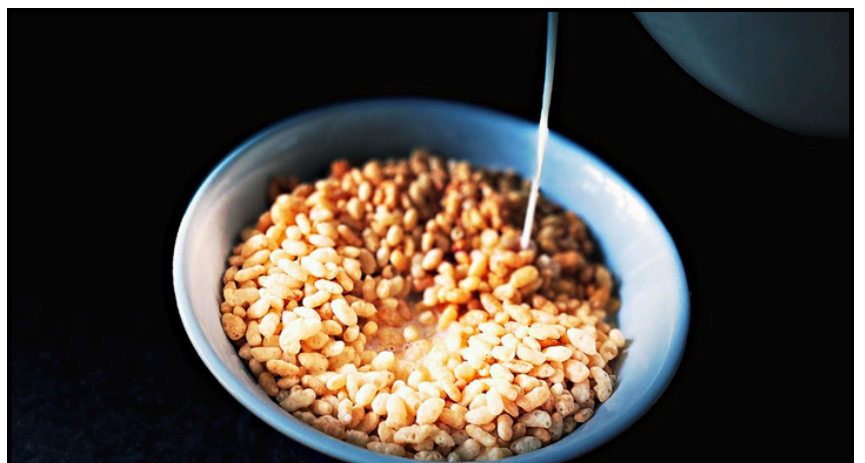
A Level Photography

We have some amazing talent coming through in the photography studio and we wanted to celebrate our Year 13 photography students this week.



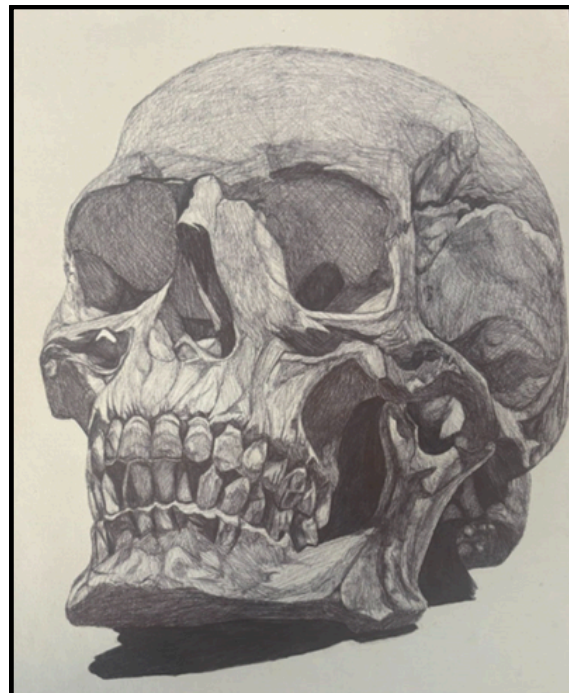


Here we can see a wonderful mix of styles. Most students have been exploring studio photography and mastering the use of light and controlling the camera entirely by themselves (no auto). Others have started to develop some awesome Photoshop skills that show off creativity and storytelling. If you are keen to learn more about the course, come and find us during the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 24 October in DF14.



A Level Art

The art studio is a hive of creativity right now. We have a total of 12 Fine Art students, who have set up their very own art spaces and the work coming through is a delight to see.

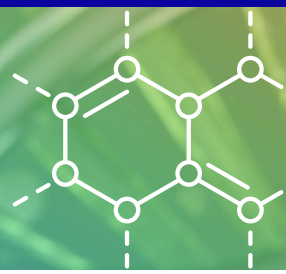


Still life and portraiture paintings are appearing from Year 12. There are also some outstanding outcomes from Year 13 who are putting in lots of energy to create their own developed ideas. This work will be worth 60% of their final grade and we are very proud of the work they have created so far. The talent is evident with these students, and they have created such an inclusive space for everyone who works here. If you are keen to find out more about studying A Level Art, then do come and find us at the Sixth Form Open Evening. Well done Artists!





SCIENCE



National Biology Week House Competition

We have received some fantastic entries for the BioCraft Competition to celebrate National Biology Week. Although the House competition is now over, there is still time to enter the national competition to create a biology-inspired 3D artwork. Submit a photo of your entry by clicking on this [link](#) by 4 November.



1



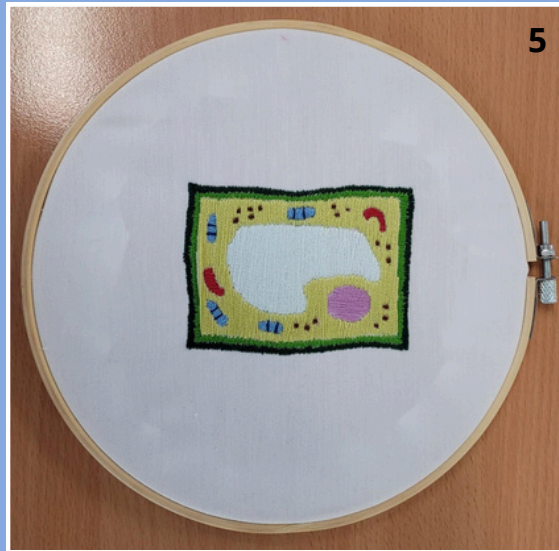
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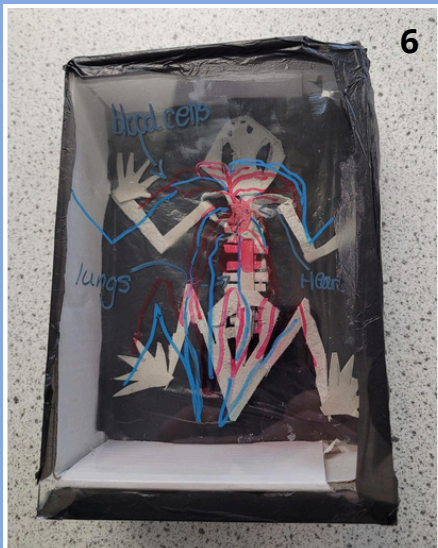
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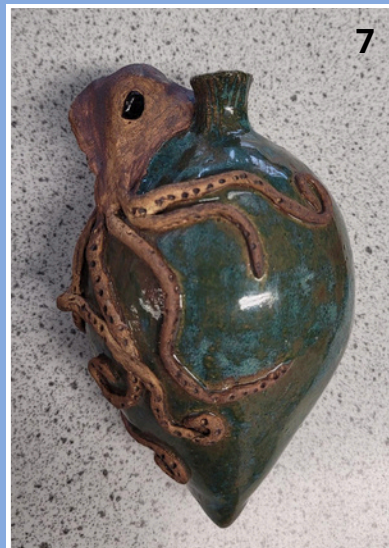
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5



6



7

1. Miss Coleman - amoeba
2. Y12 Elizabeth, Mila and Yan - kiwi DNA
3. Y8 Leila - plant cell
4. Ms Kelly - bones
5. Y10 Holly D - plant cell embroidered with French knots
6. Y7 Leila - frog
7. Mrs Day - octopus





MRS CORRIGAN

FOOD TECH

Year 10 Food Tech



Mrs Day has been running sessions with our Year 10 Food classes, teaching them one of the highest skills - portioning a chicken. Well done to all students who took part in this and acted maturely and safely throughout. Practising this skill enables students to access higher grades in their NEA in Year 11, but importantly, this is a great life skill. We also spoke about the financial reasons why buying a whole chicken may be cheaper than smaller packets of different parts of a chicken. Thank you to Mrs Day and Mrs Monelle for supporting these sessions.





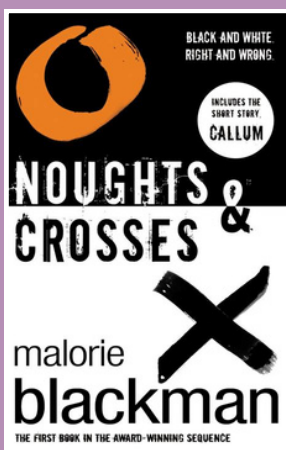
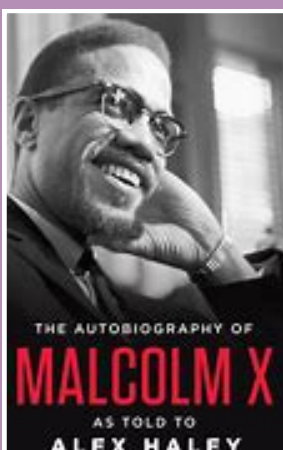
MS GRIFFITHS

LIBRARY & READING

Black History Month 2024

The Library is celebrating Black History Month this year through the theme, *Reclaiming Narratives*. Our Library has a diverse range of fiction and non-fiction texts which celebrate and recognise the lives and the stories of Black history and culture.

Come to the Library and get to know John Agard's poem 'Checking Out Me History', then check out a biography of Malcolm X or Michelle Obama. Or, take a step into a fictional exploration with Benjamin Zephaniah's 'Windrush Child', or celebrate the stories of Jewell Parker Rhodes, Malorie Blackman and the poetry of Kwame Alexander. These **and many more** are available to borrow and read in our Library.

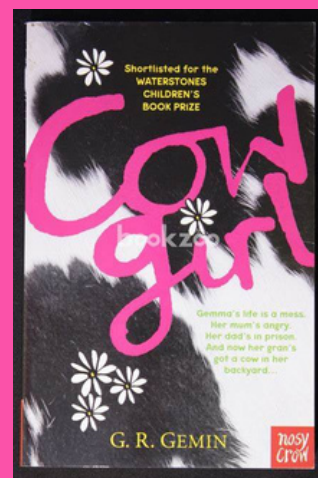


What will you discover?

Books and Babble News

The Library's book club, 'Books and Babble' are having a great time every Tuesday after school reading 'Cowgirl' by G.R. Gemin. This multi-award nominated novel has something for everyone with its gently humorous style while telling the dramatic, yet sometimes ordinary, story of Gemma who has a dad in jail, a brother dabbling in petty crime and her gran has a cow in her backyard.

*It's never too late to join
Tuesdays at 3pm.*



Term 1 Clubs

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

[See our Clubs Booklet for more information](#)

BFS SPORT



MISS SLATER



Year 7-11 Netball

All year groups attended Ashton Park School on Monday this week to play in the Bristol Schools Competitive League.

All students who attended were fabulous and it was great to see the talent all the way up through the School! Year 9 played with Year 10 and 11, and rose to the challenge.

Each year group walked away with a win! It was a great start to the netball season. Well done everyone!



U16 County Football



MRS BALLARD

Congratulations to Lexi in Year 10 who was successfully selected to play for the U16 Football County Trials. She played her first game last week away to Stafford and won 3-1.

CONGRATULATIONS

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Wednesday 16 October	Y7, 8 & 9 Netball vs Fairfield High School	Fairfield High School
Thursday 17 October	Y9 & 10 Rugby vs Ashton Park School	Ashton Park School
Monday 21 October	U14 & U15 Boys Rugby Cup	Mangotsfield School
Monday 21 October	Y7 & 8 Rugby	Oasis Academy Brightstowe
Wednesday 23 October	Cross Country	Ashton Park School

Year 8 and 10 Netball

On Wednesday, our Year 8 and Year 10 teams took the long trip to St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School to play in a Netball triangular against Montpellier High School and St Bernadette CSS. We came away winning 3 out of 4 games, having played some outstanding performances across all positions.

BFS Y8 vs Montpellier: BFS lost 11-10
Player of the match - Charlotte

BFS Y8 vs St Bernadette CSS: BFS won 15 - 7
Player of the match - Iris



BFS Y10 vs St Bernadette CSS
BFS won, 18-3
Player of the match - Lilia

BFS Y10 vs Montpellier High School
BFS won 22-0
Player of the match - Lilia



MRS BALLARD

U14 Netball

Our U14 Netball team travelled to Sir Bernard Lovell Academy on Thursday to play in the next round of the SISTERS n SPORT National Cup. They found their flow very quickly and were up 7-1 after the first quarter. They continued to dominate and finished 35-12. The whole team were fantastic throughout and even the opposition's said how brilliant they played. Player of the match was Elsie. Congratulations girls.



MRS BALLARD

CAREERS



Meet Mr Brunker

Our new careers advisor, Mr Brunker, has been with us since the beginning of term. He is available for students to drop in and see for careers guidance in Room DF29. He covers topics such as post-16 choices, university decisions, apprenticeship applications, getting ready for job interviews and CV preparation. All students in Year 11 and Year 13 will have a 1-2-1 guidance meeting by the end of the academic year.



MR BRUNKER

Employer Talks

Do you have an interesting job to talk to our students about?

Every Friday between 8.30am and 9am, we invite a local person to come in and talk about the job they do. These Employer Talks are designed to inform, and inspire, our students about the world of work. If you, or someone you know, would like to come into school and give a short talk (about 15 minutes, with time for questions), please get in touch by emailing careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.



Upcoming Events

College Open Days

Both City of Bristol College and South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS) are running open days for students who are thinking of studying there in September 2025. They are a great opportunity to have a look at the facilities, learn more about the wide range of courses on offer, and speak to tutors and students.

The next open days are:

SGS: Saturday 12 October, Saturday 23 November, Saturday 25 January and Thursday 1 May.

See [Latest College Open Days & Shows \(sgscol.ac.uk\)](https://sgscol.ac.uk) for more details.

City of Bristol: Wednesday 23 October (A levels event), Thursday 21 November (all courses), Saturday 18 January, Wednesday 12 March, Saturday 14 June. See [Events - City of Bristol College](#) for more details.

Calling all Construction Apprentices

For anyone considering an apprenticeship in the construction industry, this online open evening could be useful. On Site Bristol offer Apprenticeship Training Programmes in 7 key construction trades – Electrical, Carpentry, Bench Joinery, Plastering, Gas Engineering (inc. Plumbing), Bricklaying and Painting & Decorating. Date: Tuesday 26 November, 5pm to 7.30pm. More details: [Open Evening - On Site Bristol](#).

Allied Health Professionals Fair

A fair showcasing the AHP professions as well as educational options available to young people considering a career as an AHP (a healthcare professional who is not a doctor, dentist or nurse e.g. paramedic, dietician, radiographer etc). Date: Saturday 12 October. [Book here](#).

Upcoming Local University Open Days

Bath Spa University – 19 October, 6 November, 30 November. [Book here](#).

University of Bath – Virtual Open day 31 October. [Book here](#).

University of Bristol – 26 October. [Book here](#).

University of the West of England (UWE) – 12 October, 2 November, 16 November. [Book here](#).

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 24 October 4.30pm - 7.30pm

To sign up for this event and for further information please visit
www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk



We look forward to welcoming you

RE: UPDATE Nationwide Allergy Warning on behalf of the Food Standards Agency

Further to our communication on the 23rd September advising of the potential peanut contamination of food containing or may containing mustard; Impact Food Group can confirm that we have reviewed all of our products and suppliers and are now satisfied that none of our products have been affected by this notice.

We will be advising our teams to remove notices and to relax all additional controls that we implemented during this period. Impact Food Group will always put food safety and the safety of our customers at the forefront of everything we do, and we thank you for your cooperation.

Should you have any queries regarding food allergens in our restaurants, please contact safety@impactfood.co.uk

Yours faithfully,



Bryan Lygate
Managing Director
Impact Food Group

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Cycle Training for Schools



Bristol City Council Bikeability Programme offers schools and youth groups cycle training and activities for all ages and abilities.

Bikeability cycle training for schools & youth groups

- Balance – balance bike training for ages 3-5 builds confidence and balance on 2 wheels at Bristol Family cycling Centre using imagination games. £5.50 per rider.
- Learn to Ride – teaching children to ride without stabilisers. All Ages. £5.50 per rider.
- Level 1 - for ages 7-9 (Year 3 & 4) introduces basic cycling skills through fun activities in the playground. £5.50 per rider.
- Level 2 – for ages 9-11 (year 5 & 6) teaches “on-road” skills to enable children to make local cycle journeys. £11 per rider.
- Level 3 – for ages 11+ (Year 7-13) develops advanced road-riding techniques to enable riders to cope in all road conditions. £11 per rider.

Free cycle hire available for those without bikes to take part – booking essential.

These courses can also be delivered at Bristol Family Cycling Centre with free bikes and helmets hire included.

Watch our short video about Bikeability https://youtu.be/c1_16Mr1lOI

Inclusive Bikeability at Bristol Family Cycling Centre

Inclusive cycling sessions are designed to make cycling accessible to all, whatever their age, abilities or needs, by providing a range of specialist cycles, dedicated support and training at a purpose built cycle centre with a 400m athletics track and traffic free paths on site.

<http://www.betterbybike.info/start-cycling/get-confidence/family-cycling-centre-hengrove>



**For enquiries and bookings
Please contact Emma Downey**
emma.downey@bristol.gov.uk

