

Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

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<u>English</u>	<u>Careers</u>
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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

In this week's newsletter, I am delighted to share some fantastic recent successes that highlight the impact of our ongoing work over the past three years to develop students' oracy skills. Through our partnership with Voice 21 and Bristol Education Partnership (a collaboration of state and independent schools across the city), we have been embedding oracy into our curriculum. I have always believed that strong oral communication not only builds confidence but also plays a crucial role in supporting social mobility, making this an essential focus for our school.



7 February 2025

MRS KING

Earlier this year, Darren Jones MP described public speaking as a "superpower" when addressing our students, and I could not agree more. At BFS, our teachers have been implementing strategies to break down and explicitly teach oracy skills, ensuring students develop the ability to communicate effectively in a range of settings. To support this, our Oracy Framework (view here) is displayed in all classrooms as a valuable reference for students during oracy-based activities.

Over the past term, we have seen many inspiring examples of students showcasing their oracy skills, and we could not be prouder of the standard.

- Our school production was a triumph, featuring one of the youngest casts we have ever seen at BFS. Their clarity, expression and confidence in delivering their lines were truly commendable.
- Two weeks ago, Emily, Mark, and Ellie (Year 11) represented BFS in the English Speaking Union regional competition. Facing strong competition from local independent schools, they performed exceptionally well and secured a place in the next round. This is an outstanding achievement and a fantastic inspiration for younger students.
- Over the past fortnight, our Year 13 students have been presenting their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) research through 15-minute presentations, followed by questions from the audience. The quality of their talks, the depth of their knowledge, and their ability to respond thoughtfully to challenging questions were impressive. Mr Smith, Head of Sixth Form, described this year's presentations as the strongest we have ever seen at BFS, a testament to our school's sustained focus on developing oracy skills.

These successes highlight the power of spoken communication and the confidence it instils in our students. I hope you enjoy reading more about these events in this week's newsletter.





HOLIDAYS

New Government law means that we cannot authorise term time holidays. Please do not book holidays in term time - they are highly disruptive to your child's education. We work with Bristol City Council to issue Penalty Notice Fines and prosecutions to families who take term-time holidays.

The penalty is £80 payable (per parent, per child - e.g. 3 siblings absent for leave during term time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines) within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 22 and 28 days. Failure to pay will result in prosecution. If a second Penalty Notice is issued within a rolling 3-year period, the penalty is £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. There will be no option to pay a lower amount. A third fine cannot be issued within a rolling 3-year period, so alternative measures such as prosecution will be taken. Prosecution can lead to fines of up to £2,500 and imprisonment. Parents prosecuted also receive a criminal record.

75% attendance



Studybugs 👽



SPRING SIGHTINGS

This spring, the Woodland Trust is asking us to help check the health of nature by logging our sightings of the three vital signs of spring: frogspawn, a singing song thrush or flowering blackthorn. To take part, add your record at <u>here</u> by 31 March.



HOUSE NEWS





Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Esme P	Charlie S	lvy L, Africa-Gene M	Charlie P
Year 8	Tiana M	Siena M, Dmytro D	Matthew S, Sophie L	James M
Year 9	Sophie L	Jasmine K	Amelia B, Florence P, Noah LK	Tia L, Alice T
Year 10	Heidi T, Lilia B-L, Nilah M	Nina-Mae L	Chloe D, Georgina D	Finlay F, Zakaria N
Year 11	Emily M	Madison W	Harley F, Jayden S	Jemimah H
Year 12	Jacob C	Amelie F	Elsie C	ls'haq l
Year 13	Megan T	Phoebe H-J	Nushanti D	William L, Toby B

Valentine's Day BIG Bake Sale

The Big Bake Sale is back and we need you to help make this House charity fundraising event a success.



MRS GARDINER

On Friday 14 February, bring in homemade or shop-bought bakes for the sale. Bakes should be taken to CG03/4 in the morning in named containers. Please ensure bakes do not contain nuts or sesame. Containers can be collected at the end of the day from CG03.

Bakes will be sold during lunchtime from the Avenue Shelter. Please come along with cash and support the House charities.

There will be prizes for the best Valentine-themed bakes from KS3 and KS4.

MRS KINNERSLEY

YEAR

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YEAR



Our Year 7 students have been channelling their inner Kandinsky, exploring the world of abstract art through an exciting cross-media project. In lessons, they have experimented with colour and composition using viewfinders to create dynamic drawings. Their creativity has extended beyond the classroom with homework sculptures inspired by their abstract explorations. Great work, Year 7!



Year 8 students have been exploring Steampunk art by creating mechanical drawings of butterfly wings. Their detailed drawings have been cut into wing shapes that turn over in their books, creating a dynamic effect. The results are truly stunning. Well done, Year 8!







MRS DAY

MRS STOKES



Ballard. Drawing from natural forms and seed pods, they have carefully crafted sculptures that beautifully reflect her organic style. Stunning work, Year 10!







Year 10 have also been busy in our printmaking workshops, experimenting with drypoint etching, monoprinting and cyanotype photography. These techniques have allowed students to create bold and expressive prints with fantastic results.



YEAR 10, CONT.











Year 12 A Level artists have been exploring the creative process with clay, drawing inspiration from the works of Grayson Perry. Here are some of their "Kiln Gods" – unique figures crafted to protect their artwork during the firing process in the kiln!











Photography students have been exploring portraiture and distortion. These mixed-media pieces showcase their creative exploration, featuring techniques such as

paper weaving and sellotape transfers.



























ENGLISH

In January, the English Department were excited to launch this year's RET Creative Writing Competition. This year's theme was song lyrics. Students were given a list of song lyrics (everything from Adele to Eminem) and were challenged to incorporate one of them into their creative writing. The quality of submissions was incredibly high, and the judges had a very difficult time selecting the winners. These have been submitted to the Trust, who will consider them alongside entries from the other RET schools. The ultimate winners will be published in a book later this year!

Winners:

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9): Amy O and Sophie L [Honourable mentions: Emily C and Lottie W]

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11): Mark B and Madison W

Key Stage 5 (Years 12-13): Jacob C and Nushanti D





SOPHIE, Y8

I want to set the world to right, but you know, I don't know where to start by Sophie L

Somewhere right now gunshots echo, Somewhere right now hearts are hollow. I want to set the world to rights, but you know, I don't know where to start.

From our eyes we see just another war From their eyes they see so much more... The raging fire in the distance, The tears of a parents that used to be strong, Seeing the smoke in the sky that was blue, Watching as people try to hide out of view, Staring at the wreckage of a home that once shone, Longing for that life, the life that's now gone. I want to set the world to rights, but you know, I don't know where to start.

Extract from **The Lost Jungle** by Amy O

I feel like I may have been here before. Though, obviously, I can't be sure. However, my memories send me into visions of life and love, colours vividly dashing in and out of my vision. I remember this dry, dusty riverbed gushing with water, spraying in my face. I remember the red dust that now settles around me being lush green ferns, with insects chirping and hopping in and out of the brambles, and the tall trees, stretching gorgeously into the sunlight. But here there is no sunlight; the only signs of life are dead shrubs, but even they are rare.

I seem unable to leave the endless sea of barren misery. On and on I travel, never stopping to rest, even though my legs feel torn in half from tiredness, even though my throat is as dry as this desert I am in. Even though I think I am going half-mad.

A little further, I spot a stone. This pebble is more than a stone. It's a brick. I look up from my sore feet. I knew it. I have been here before. Ahead of me lies a ruined temple. A temple that jolts my memory. I stood at the foot of a proud, majestic temple. My brother went here. His name was Sakuru.

When I stepped foot in the great temple, even taller than the most ancient trees, I came face to face with Sakuru. His face was filled with horror and shock, mixed with guilt and pity.

"Go, Mika. You have to go. He'll use you. He'll put you under his control, like he did to me. It's barely possible to break his spell over you. Now, go!" Sakuru yelled ferociously at me.

The next thing I knew was nothingness. The only sign of my life was the confusion in my brain, the horrific meddling, and I know it was too late. Sakuru's fear was true. This memory changes everything. I do know this familiar place. I came here when I was still with Sakuru, and he could still be here. My memories are true. I know they are.





Friends

of BFS

BFS is delighted to have received two additional table tennis tables for the Year 7 courtyard in C Block. Year 7 can use these at break times and both Year 7 and 8 can use them together at lunch times. These were funded through your donations to the BFS Fund, and fundraising events held by FoBFS. Thank you to everyone who contributed and made this possible. To find out more about how you can donate to the BFS Fund, click <u>here</u>.



School of Rock

Thank you to everyone who bought refreshments at the school production last week, and to FoBFS for organising and running the bar.

An incredible £575 was raised!





BFS FUND

ENRICHING OUR STUDENTS' EDUCATION

English Speaking Union

Last week our Year 11 team performed superbly in their latest round of the English Speaking Union Churchill Public Speaking Competition. We visited Badminton School to compete against teams from as far afield as Yeovil. Emily was one of the first speakers, delivering a powerful speech drawing analogies between The Doomsday Clock and mental health awareness. She held the audience spellbound, before confidently responding to all questions, even injecting some humour with her ad libs. She made a lasting impression as several other speakers referenced her presentation as the evening unfolded. Mark and Ellie were then tasked with chairing and questions for a rival speaker. Mark performed consummately, managing proceedings with aplomb and providing a powerful closing speech. Ellie was in her element,



asking thought-provoking questions to unpick the finer points of their allocated speaker, nimbly adapting her direction based on responses given. Every single one of them outshone their excellent rehearsals: a very professional and polished performance all round! Clearly the judges agreed, as we are one of the two teams progressing to the South West Regional Finals in March. Congratulations to all involved, especially Awura for all her support in rehearsals, helping to simulate the pressure of the questions from the audience.

Model UN Conference

Congratulations to our team of students who did themselves proud at the annual Model United Nations Conference on 2 February at Bristol Grammar School. BFS sent two delegations, representing Dominican Republic and Zimbabwe, and examined a host of geopolitical issues both past and present, in a range of committees. Putting their skills in diplomacy, negotiation and debate to the test, both delegations sought to achieve resolutions to some of the world's most complex challenges. They covered issues such as the Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa, the collapse of Yugoslavia in the 1990s and current challenges such as carbon sequestration and international approaches towards conduct in outer space. Students also had to deal with a fictional emergency crisis, involving disruption to global trade caused by cyber terrorism. Well done Emily, Alp, Elshba and Mia who represented Zimbabwe and Flo, Daisy, Isabel and Matilda (for your preparation and planning), who represented Dominican Republic. You all did yourselves proud!





MR HARRIS

Youth Talks Opportunity

Over the last couple of weeks, students in Years 9 and 12 have been invited to apply for this year's Youth Talks event. The deadline to apply is Friday 14 February. Students can apply by completing this <u>form</u>.

What is it? Youth Talks is an opportunity to research a topic you are interested in. You will be trained on how to deliver a speech about this topic and then take part in the BFS Youth Talks event, similar to TED Talks. Two finalists from the BFS Youth Talks event will then go on to present at the Bristol-wide event taking place at Bristol Grammar School.

How does it work? You will need to apply, using the link above, by Friday 14 February. Spaces are limited so take your time to consider your topic of choice carefully. Successful applicants will then receive a training workshop, run by Ignited Presenting, on how to deliver an effective speech. The BFS Youth Talks event will take place at school in Term 6 and the Bristol-Wide event will take place in November 2025.

What can I present on? Almost anything! Last year's presentations included: "The Future of Nuclear Energy", "The Power of Journaling", "Tortured Poets", "Queercoding in the Media" and "AI". The only rules are that it cannot be offensive, and it cannot be overly political. Contact <u>Mr Lally</u> if you have any questions.



Cupcakes

Year 9 made cupcakes this week, practicing their piping skills for excellent presentation, and understanding the science behind protein coagulation when working with eggs. The star chef was Alivia for her amazing icing work.



MS SLATER MS URCH

River And

The Year 7 Girls' Football Team played their first competitive fixture against Orchard School this week. BFS started strong and retained most of the possession, but we did not take our chances. Orchard School had two chances and scored both. We went into half time at 2-0 down.

After a change of formation, we came out strong in the second half. Lots of the play remained in the centre of the pitch and despite hitting the crossbar, the game finished 3-0 to Orchard. Brilliant first game, well done girls!

Player of the match - Hattie



MR HOWARD

MRS BALLARD

at the set of the set of

S SPORTS

<u>S TeamPE</u>

YEAR 7 BOYS

BOYS

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NOTICES

G R L

YEAR



In a thrilling encounter, the Year 7 Boys' Football Team showcased their dominance with a resounding 9-2 victory over Bristol Cathedral Choir School. From the outset, Year 7 displayed exceptional teamwork and skill, with standout performances from their forwards who consistently found the back of the net. The defence held strong, limiting Cathedral's chances and ensuring a comfortable win. This impressive result highlights the team's potential as they continue to develop their game.

Well done!

The Year 8 Boys' Football Team delivered a commanding performance, securing a 4-0 victory against Bristol Cathedral Choir School. With a solid defensive display and quick counterattacks, Year 8 controlled the match from start to finish. Their midfielders orchestrated play brilliantly, creating numerous scoring opportunities. The forwards capitalised on these chances, demonstrating clinical finishing. This win boosts their confidence after a loss last week.



GCSE Dance Taster Session

Miss Slater will be holding a GCSE Dance taster session after school in CG08 on Monday 10 February. This will be part of dance club time but will be finished by 3.30pm.

Secondary School Sprint Gala

We are looking for parent helpers to run, and help at, the Secondary School Sprint Gala. Last year we had a parent that organised this as a team manager. This event is being held at Easton Leisure Centre (BS5 0SW) on Thursday 20 March, 5-9pm. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Ballard. Our U14 and U16 Boys' Basketball Teams were in action this week, playing on both Wednesday and Thursday.

On Wednesday, they faced St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School and on Thursday they played St Bede's Catholic College. The U14s put on outstanding performances, bringing their A-game with solid defence and smart attacking play. They worked hard to find gaps in the key, scoring several layups and two-pointers but narrowly missed out on a win by just one point and, on the following day, winning 22-21.

The U16s continue to make fantastic progress, taking on feedback and improving their teamwork. Their hard work is paying off as they build confidence and develop some great gameplay.

Well done to both teams - keep up the amazing effort! The Sixth Form coaches and referees were incredible. Thank you for your help!



They started strong with a 1-0 victory over Deer Park School, followed by a hard-fought 1-1 draw against The Crypt School. Facing tough opposition in Cleeve School and Chipping Sodbury School, the team battled but fell short in both matches. Determined to finish on a high, they delivered an impressive 2-1 win against Five Acres High School in their final game.

Although they did not progress to the final, the team showed great resilience and fought until the very end. A huge well done to the entire squad! Player of the Tournament: Molly (3 goals)



Piercings

If you have recently had your ears pierced, you can wear tape in PE lessons for the first six weeks. However, we must have consent from your responsible adult at home. If you do not, then you will be given a non-practical role for the lessons. Please email this consent to <u>admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk</u>, and they will pass onto the appropriate teacher.

UPCOMING FIXTURES				
Monday 10 Feb	U12, U14 & U16 Girls' Football vs Bristol Cathedral Choir School	Failand Sports Ground		
Monday 10 Feb	Y7, Y8 & Y9 Boys' Football vs Redland Green School	RGS (Kellaway Ave)		
Tuesday 11 Feb	U12 Girls' Football Finals	Gloucestershire FA		
Wednesday 12 Feb	U14 & U16 Girls' Football vs Blaise High School	Blaise High School		
Wednesday 12 Feb	Y10 Boys' Football vs Cotham School	Shine Sports Ground		
Thursday 13 Feb	Y10 & Y11 Boys' Football vs Redland Green School	RGS (Kellaway Ave)		

U16 GIRLS



CAREERS



Connect With Us

Connect with us on LinkedIn! @Bristol Free School. Join in the conversation and help us if you can. **Work Experience Employer Talks Careers Day**



This week's Employer Talk was by global aerospace business, Airbus. Head of Accounting for the UK, Natasha Ison, and degree apprentice, Matthew Barber, explained to students how Airbus is much more than an engineering business. There are opportunities to work around the world (Airbus has 148,000 employees working across 35 countries) and it is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services, turning over €65bn in 2023. An Airbus aircraft takes off or lands somewhere in the world every two seconds, it is the world's number one helicopter manufacturer, as well as producing range of satellite products for use in earth observation (think Google Maps), space exploration, and



telecommunications. So, lots for students to get excited about, particularly as Airbus invests heavily in early careers, with local opportunities in craft apprenticeships (post-16), degree apprenticeships (post-18), industry placements for university students, and a global graduate programme.

Natasha and Matthew explained to students that there are many areas to work in at Airbus. Students can apply for early careers roles in engineering, procurement, project/business management, manufacturing, finance, human resources, digital/cyber security and PR and communications.

As well as the wide range of opportunities available, students also heard other reasons for choosing to work for Airbus: as a global organisation there are opportunities across the UK and transnationally, it is a market leader and pioneer for the future of the industry, investing heavily in decarbonisation and digitalisation, and there is a strong emphasis on personal development, with a large early careers population. Many thanks to Natasha and Matthew for taking the time to open our eyes about all the career possibilities open to students at Airbus.

So many areas to work in! There's something for everyone...



Engineering Physics, DT, Maths, Chemistry



Procurement / supply chain Business Studies, Economics, Finance, Geography



Finance Business Studies, Economics, Maths, Finance, Accounting



Human Resources Psychology, Politics, History, Sociology



Project / Business Management Business Studies, Economics, Geography, Finance



Digital / Cyber Security ICT, Maths



Manufacturing + support DT, hands on preference



PR & communications English, History, Media, Marketing, Sociology, Politics

COMING UP...

28 February: Corporate Finance

7 March: Pharmacy

14 March: Criminal Law

21 March: Human Resources

Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, Unifrog is hosting a virtual fair where you can learn all about the world of apprenticeships. Explore the latest apprenticeship opportunities, attend live sessions with top employers, and network one-on-one with professional experts to get top tips on how to find and apply for your dream apprenticeship.

Wednesday 12 February, 4–6pm. Join here

Skanska Apprenticeship Info Session

Join an online 4-hour experience at a Skanska Insight Day on Thursday 20 February (during half-term), 10am–2pm. Discover the apprenticeships on offer in Civil Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Environmental Sustainability, and more. No need to sign up, just join on the day at 10am using this link: Join the meeting now (Meeting ID: 364 655 984 584, Passcode: YH34ug7U)

Rolls Royce Level 3 Apprenticeships

Applications for Rolls Royce's Advanced Level 3 Apprenticeships are now live. A great opportunity to learn on the job, gain valuable skills and begin your career journey at Rolls-Royce. The vacancy in Bristol is a four-year Advanced Engineering Apprenticeship, starting in September 2025. If you are in Y11 and considering an engineering apprenticeship after your GCSEs, you can find out more <u>here.</u> For help with your application see the really useful <u>Rolls Royce assessment guide.</u>

Accountancy Apprenticeships

Wealth management and professional services company, Evelyn Partners (with offices in Bristol) are about to open their apprenticeship application window. They have roles open for September 2025 across multiple departments, including tax and audit. They involve studying for a Level 7 Apprenticeship qualification (equivalent to a master's degree). Evelyn Partners will cover the cost for all college tuition and exam sittings. <u>Find out more</u> about the roles. <u>Sign up</u> to be notified when applications are open.

Interested in the future of music?

Bristol's dBs Institute is holding an industry event, Driven by Sound: Sonic Identities, on Saturday 15 February, with talks and interactive workshops on how music shapes who we are. Topics include AI and emotion, immersive sound, and DJing for wellbeing. Free admission. Book your spot <u>here.</u>

Interested in a career in hairdressing or barbering?

Reflections Training Academy will be opening their doors on Thursday 20 February, during half-term week to help you get your hair and beauty career kick-started. <u>Register here.</u>

Calling aspiring documentary film makers.

The *Grierson DocLab: New Entrants* is for UKbased 18-25 year olds with a passion for documentary and factual TV who are new entrants to the industry. The programme aims to equip up to 12 successful trainees with the knowledge, connections and work experience to launch their documentary careers. Find out more here.

Interested in finance, business or technology?

This evening webinar is hosted by finance and consulting giant **EY**. Tuesday 4 February 2025, 6.30-7.30pm. Find out how you can earn a competitive salary, professional qualifications, and gain experience at a global company, through EY's apprenticeship programmes across Audit, Tax, and Technology. Speak to current apprentices to gain an insight into working life at EY. Get application support and guidance from the actual team that will be hiring you. Register <u>here</u>.

Can you offer work experience?

Every July, our Year 12 students do three days' work experience with an employer in the local area. It is an important and exciting part of their personal development and can be instrumental in inspiring them to explore a particular career path. If you are a business owner or work for an organisation who would be willing to host one or more of our students for work experience, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch by emailing <u>careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.</u>



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PPORTUNITI

HELP?

CAN YOU





expressed

humour, irony & mimicry

COMMUNITY NOTICES



OUR EXCITING INITIATIVE FOR 14 TO 18 YEAR OLDS.

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🗊 SCAN ME



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HOMERTON **COLLEGE ESSAY** PROGRAMME



• Year 12 (England/Wales),

Year 13 (NI), S5 (Scotland) (or equivalent)

his was the first ever essay enjoyed and actually completed. orientated the programme made it less intimidating."

> Scan for more information

> > Apply by 9am 22nd April 2025

Follow our socials @homerton_outreach

What is it?

Craft & write an essay on a topic

related to this year's theme 'Building a Sustainable and Healthy World'

Prizes and awards for the most

our in-person Sustainability **Student Conference in August**

You could be chosen to join us for

virtual workshops

impressive entries

@homertonslo



Open To Netballers Year 7 - 11 Who Want To Improve Their Fitness

Friday 21st February 10:00 - 13:00 Bradley Stoke Community School (BS32) £15 Per Child

Book your place at MyShine.co.uk

Open To Girls Who Want To

Improve Their Skills

Monday 17th Feb | Years 1 - 3 | 9 - 12pm

Wednesday 19th Feb | Years 4 & 5 | 9 - 12pm

Wednesday 19th Feb | Years 8 & 9 | 12:30 - 3:30pm Friday 21st Feb | Years 6 & 7 | 9 - 12pm

Book your place at MyShine.co.uk





" Think Thin

Teenagers, young adults and anyone who has missed their MMR vaccination can get measles.

Symptoms such as:

- high fever
- rash sometimes starting around the ears
- sore red eyes
- cough
- aching and feeling unwell

Remember, if it could be measles – they need to be in an area where they cannot pass the infection to vulnerable patients such as the immunocompromised and pregnant women.

For more information go to www.nhs.uk/vaccinations



Helping to protect everyone, at every age