

# Newsletter



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## A NOTE FROM MR SMITH

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a time of fasting, prayer, charity, reflection, and community.

Beyond fasting, Ramadan encourages increased acts of worship, including daily prayers, Quran recitation, and the Taraweeh prayers. Charity (zakat and sadaqah) is also emphasised, reinforcing the values of generosity and social responsibility. The month concludes with Eid al-Fitr, a joyous festival celebrating spiritual renewal and gratitude. Ramadan is more than a time of abstinence; it is a transformative period of self-discipline, compassion, and faith, reminding Muslims of the importance of humility, kindness, and devotion.

As part of our commitment to celebrate the diversity of the BFS family, we are pleased to provide Muslim students and staff with a space for prayer during Key Stage 4 lunch and afterschool during the month of Ramadan.

Innovate, our catering partner, is also offering takeaway Ramadan Grab Bags. These are designed to support students in breaking their fast at Iftar with a delicious and convenient meal. The packs will be available every school day from the first day of Ramadan until Eid Al Fitr.

All students at BFS will also have information through their tutor programme which discusses Ramadan and its importance to Muslims.

We wish all members of our school community a peaceful and blessed Ramadan.



*Ramadan Kareem*



MR SMITH



# NOTICE BOARD



[BFS Bristol](#)



[BFS Enrichment](#)

## NEXT WEEK AT BFS

### Monday 3 - Friday 7 March

Y11 & Y13 Mock 2 Exams

### Monday 3 March

Y8 HPV Vaccinations

### Tuesday 4 March

Y10 Maths Competition at John Cabot Academy (1pm)  
Y10 BEP Student Leadership Training

### Wednesday 5 March

Y8 Babcock Festival of Engineering  
Y8 Science Explorers Day Trip  
Y9/10 UWE Girls in Tech Trip

### Thursday 6 March

Y13 Pastoral Day - Life After School

### Friday 7 March

Y12 Women in STEM Trip

## QUICK LINKS



[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

## Planned Absences

For planned absences, such as funerals or participation in elite sport, please fill in an [Absence Request Form](#).

With Eid approaching in March, this form should also be used for religious observances but please note that we can only authorise one day of absence per religious observance.

Please submit the form at least two weeks in advance of the planned absence. Thank you for your cooperation.

## FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS

Free Period Products are available to those who need them.

Just look for the **Pink Boxes** in the following locations:

- Student Services
- Sixth Form Admin Office
- PE Changing Rooms
- Mrs Gardiner's Room
- Behaviour Office
- Main Reception
- SEND Office
- Mental Health & Safeguarding Room
- Head of Year Offices
- Behaviour Room



## 75% attendance



is like ordering a pizza that's missing two slices

Studybugs

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# TERM 4 KEY DATES

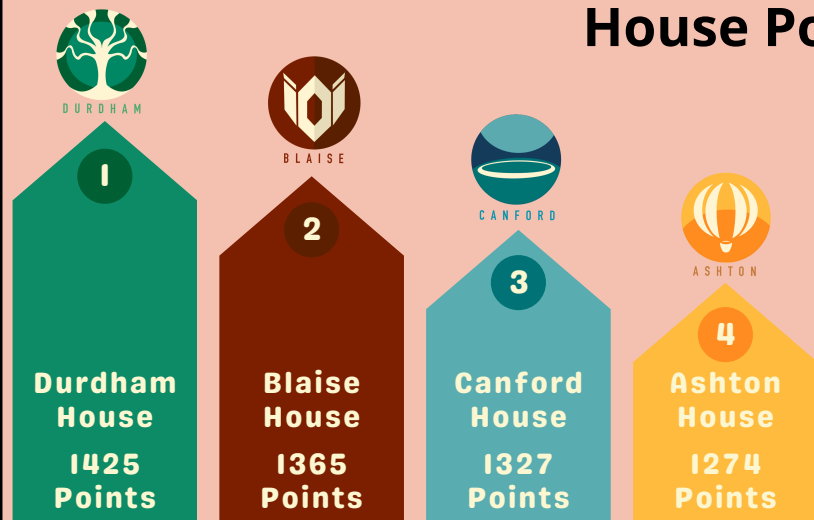
<b>Monday 24 February - Friday 7 March</b>	Year 11 - Mock Exams Year 13 - Mock Exams
<b>Monday 3 March</b>	Year 8 - HPV Vaccinations
<b>Thursday 6 March</b>	Year 13 Pastoral Day - Life After School
<b>Tuesday 11 &amp; Wednesday 12 March</b>	National Theatre Connections Performance of <i>Mia and the Fish</i> (BFS, 6.30-7.45pm)
<b>Tuesday 11 - Friday 14 March</b>	Year 11 - MFL Mock Oral Exams
<b>Wednesday 12 March</b>	Success Together Event for Year 7-10 Parents (BFS, 5.30-6.30pm)
<b>Wednesday 19 &amp; Thursday 20 March</b>	Year 11 - GCSE Drama Practical Exam
<b>Thursday 20 March</b>	Year 12 - Parents' UCAS Event (Virtual Event, 5-6pm)
<b>Saturday 22 March</b>	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Skills Day (BFS, 8.30am - 3.30pm)
<b>Wednesday 2 April</b>	National Theatre Connections Performance of <i>Mia and the Fish</i> (Bristol Old Vic, 8.30pm)
<b>Friday 4 April</b>	Last day of Term 4



# HOUSE NEWS



## House Points



Well done to **Durdham House** for earning the most House points this week!

**Well done Durdham!**

## Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Millie C-J	Mia B-G	Oscar B	Mollie K
Year 8	Jemima H	Alexandrina M	Greg N	Adam G
Year 9	Sophie L	Jasmine K, Rory H, Emilia M, Cole H, Alba S	Amelia B, Carla D, Florence P	Tia L, Andrew B, Emily C
Year 10	Lilia B-L	Fiona H	Matilda C	Martin K
Year 12	Joseph H	Amaya P	Isabella G, Teagan W, Holly K	Isabella B

## Sixth Form Student of the Term!

Our Year 12 and 13 students are continuing to impress with their hard work and focus. At the end of Term 3 subject teachers were asked to nominate a **Student of the Term** for their subject. Well done to all our winners!

### Year 12

#### Subject Winners

Art - Daisy P	Design Tech - Ellen M
Photography - Daisy R	Computer Science - Patrick F
Business - Hettie A	Drama - Elliot S
MFL - Alex D	Music - Alyssa C
History - Hollie R	Economics - Olivia C
Geography - Callum T	PE - Ronan P
RP - Emily W	Biology - Oliver M
Politics - Freddie B	Chemistry - Ranithu G
English - Caitlin O	Physics - Thomas T
H&SC - Sienna M	
Psychology - Elsie C	
Sociology - Matt F	

#### Overall Winners

12TG3 - Dylan M
12TG1 - Grace S
12TG2 - Ben D
12TG4 - Kaira M
12TG5 - Martha H

### Year 13

#### Subject Winners

Art - Phoebe L	Design Tech - Megan Q
Photography - Ethan G-N	Computer Science - Evie P
Business - Fiona L	Drama - Fizza A
MFL - Anna S	Economics - Duana S
History - Keira T	PE - Chloe C
Geography - Jude W	Biology - Sam H
RP - Lily B	Chemistry - Hodan M
Politics - Alp P	Physics - Antoine G
English - Simon C	
H&SC - Fizza A	
Psychology - Olivia D	
Sociology - Owen M	

#### Overall Winners

13TG3 - Isaac M
13TG1 - Annabelle W
13TG2 - Megan T
13TG4 - Harry M
13TG5 - Freddie H-O

# Gromit's Grand Read

We are excited to announce that BFS is taking part in 'Gromit's Grand Read' to support Bristol Children's Hospital. This fundraising event will allow students to enjoy reading while also making a meaningful contribution to a great cause. We are dedicating our reading to this fundraising event during this term (Term 4) and the Easter holidays.



## How It Works:

- Each tutor group in Year 7 and 8 will race against each other to be the first group in their year to collectively read 50 books in the term. The first tutor group in a year group to complete 50 books will be awarded house points. This will be tracked using both Accelerated Reader and a tracking list displayed in tutor groups.
- Encourage your child to read daily. BFS students should always have a reading book in their bag and opportunities to read are built into the school week. Reading outside of the school day is crucial too.
- Collect sponsorship from family and friends. We suggest sponsors either donate per book, per page, or as a flat donation. A Gromit's Grand Appeal sponsorship payment item has been set up on ParentPay for you, so you can pay in your child's total sponsorship money. Please do not send in any cash to school. All funds raised will be donated directly to Bristol Children's Hospital.
- At the end of 'Gromit's Grand Read', we will celebrate our readers and share the total funds raised. There will be prizes for top readers and fundraisers.

## Important Dates:

- Start Date of Readathon: Monday 24 February
- End Date of Readathon: Monday 21 April
- Sponsorship donation closing date: Monday 21 April

We greatly appreciate your support and look forward to working together to make a positive impact in the community.



MS GRIFFITHS



MISS HAWES

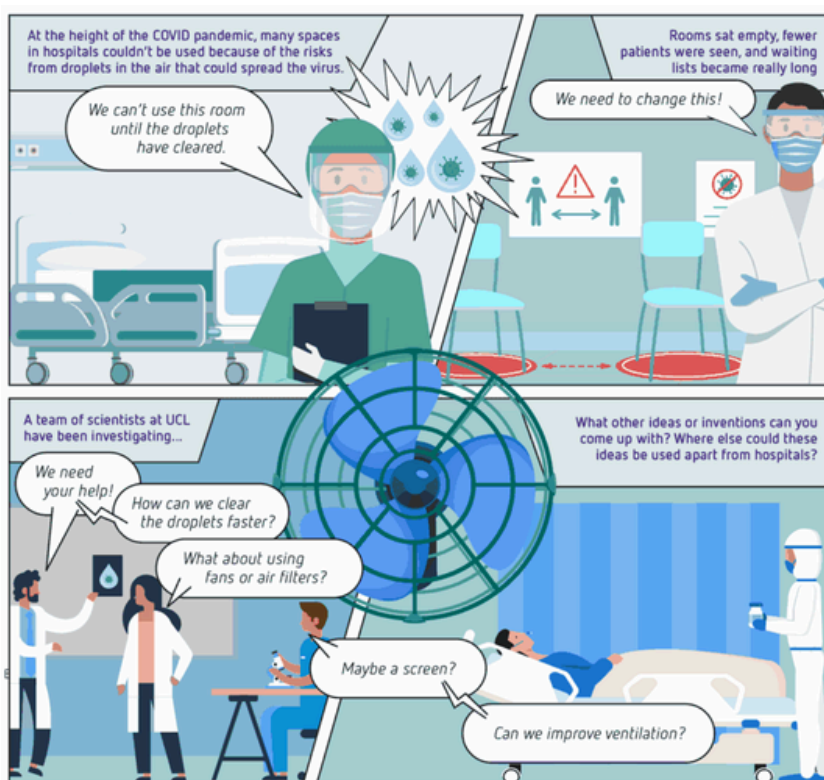
YEARS 7-8

# British Science Week Competition

Can you help the researchers at University College London (UCL) come up with a new idea or invention to improve the health of the air in our buildings? Choose an indoor public space where you often spend time - this could be an area where you learn, or a place you visit regularly like a library, café or cinema. Do you think the air in this space is healthy and clean? Why? Come up with an idea or invention to change the air in your chosen space, making it healthier to breathe. How will it work? Could it be used in other public places too?

You can make a model, a poster (A4 or A3) in size. All entries to go to Miss Hawes in CF19, clearly labelled with name, tutor group and House.

May the best house win!



HOUSE COMPETITION



MR BROWN

# MATHS

## UK Mathematics Trust Success

Last term, 88 students from Years 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Many students were very successful in this national competition, with 4 gold, 7 silver and 28 bronze certificates being awarded to BFS students. This is not an easy competition and the students who gained these certificates should be very proud of themselves.

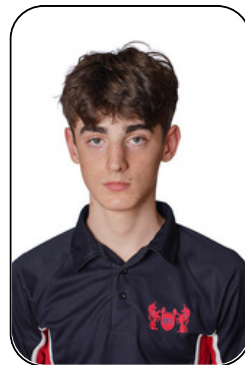
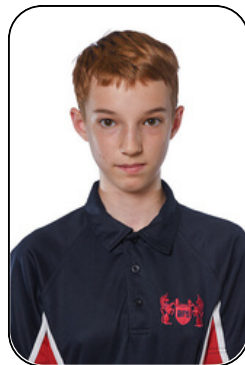
Further to this, four of our students have been invited to take part in the next rounds of this prestigious competition.

Dylan I (Y9) has been invited to the Grey Kangaroo.

Harrison L and Roxanne F (Y10) have been invited to the Pink Kangaroo.

George A (Y10) has been invited to the Hamilton Olympiad, which is one of the highest levels of this competition and only about 1800 students nationally will be invited to compete.

YEARS 9-10



Well done!

These next rounds of the competition will take place on Thursday 20 March and our students will be up against some of the highest performing mathematicians in the country for their year groups. We wish them all the best.

## Junior Maths Challenge



The Junior Maths Challenge is open to students in Years 7 and 8 and will take place on **Thursday 1 May**. Speak to your Maths teacher if you would like to be considered for this competition and ask for some practice papers to see what it's like!

UPCOMING EVENTS

## Pi Day



Pi Day is coming up on **Friday 14 March** (3.14!) and we will be running our annual pi reciting competition. Come along at lunchtime on Friday 14 March to take part or cheer on your classmates. It has been exciting to hear so many students reciting the decimal places of pi as they walk the maths corridor.

### What is pi?

Pi (often represented by the lower-case Greek letter  $\pi$ ), one of the most well-known mathematical constants, is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. For any circle, the distance around the edge is a little more than three times the distance across. Typing  $\pi$  into a calculator and pressing ENTER will yield the result 3.141592654, not because this value is exact, but because a calculator's display is often limited to 10 digits. Pi is actually an irrational number (a decimal with no end and no repeating pattern) that is most often approximated with the decimal 3.14 or the fraction  $\frac{22}{7}$ .



MS CARTER

# FOOD TECH



STAR STUDENT

Alfie in Year 8 has taken to cooking amazingly and has even continued beyond food lessons and started cooking at home, including a steak and mozzarella sticks, and paella. Well done Alfie.



# PERFORMING ARTS



MRS JEROME

## Mia & the Fish

National Theatre Connections - *Mia & the Fish* by Satinder Chohan

Rehearsals are well underway for the school play, which is part of a nationwide project with the National Theatre in London. We are putting on *Mia & the Fish*, with a group of performers from Years 8 - 10, and with original composition from Year 12 Music students.



Tickets are now available on ParentPay for our home performances at BFS on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 March, 6.30 - 7.45pm. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so please book them in advance to avoid disappointment.



MS SLATER

# BFS SPORTS



BFS\_TeamPE



MRS BALLARD

## CLUBS

Come and train to make sure that you get a game! Full details of all extra-curricular clubs can be found [here](#). If you cannot train, please email Mrs Ballard to make her aware.

### Monday

Sports Leaders (invite only)

Basketball Club

Year 7 Football Club

Year 7 Dance Club  
(for STAGES dance competition)

Year 9 Dance Club

### Tuesday

Badminton

### Wednesday

Year 8 Football Club

Hockey Club

GCSE Intervention Club

### Thursday

Years 7-8 Trampolining

Years 9-11 Football Club

Years 8-9 Girls' Volleyball Club

### Friday

Sixth Form Sports

## GOLF

Calling all golfers! If you play golf and have a handicap of 28 or under for boys and 36 or under for girls, then please come and sign up in the PE office before Thursday 6 March for the Avon Schools Golf Championships which are to be held at The Kendleshire Golf Club on 31 March 2025.

Please bring your handicap, WHS number and home golf club. Any questions please come and speak to Mrs Ballard.



## NOTICES

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

All PE clubs due to run on Thursday 13 March have been moved to Tuesday 11 March due to a whole school staff meeting.

This affects Trampolining, Volleyball and Year 9-11 Football (girls and boys).

### UPCOMING FIXTURES

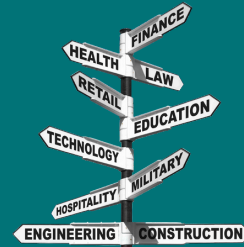
Monday 3 March	U14 Boys' Rugby Sevens	Collegiate School
Monday 3 March	U12, U14 & U16 Girls' Football vs Cotham School	Shine Sports Ground
Monday 3 March	Y8 Boys' Football vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College
Wednesday 5 March	Y9 & Y10 Boys' Football vs Blaise High School	Blaise High School
Wednesday 5 March	U12 & U14 Girls' Football vs Fairfield High School	Fairfield High School
Thursday 6 March	Y7 & Y8 Boys' Football vs Blaise High School	Blaise High School
Thursday 6 March	Y8 Boys' Football vs Orchard School	Orchard School
Thursday 6 March	Y9 Girls' Netball vs Backwell School (Semi-Final)	BFS
Friday 7 March	Y7 Project Rugby Festival (12-3pm)	Lockleaze Sports Centre





MR BRUNKER

# 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**



### EMPLOYER TALK

There was another excellent turn-out for this week's Employer Talk by Tim Spooner from FRP Advisory. Tim explained that corporate finance was about helping people buy and sell businesses. "It's not quite like an estate agent for business," he told students. "But that's the easiest way to describe my role."

Tim studied law at university before qualifying as a chartered accountant and working at 'Big Four' accountancy firm KPMG for 20 years, including five years in London and five years in Sydney. In 2023, he was headhunted to be a partner at FRP Advisory, a smaller boutique firm, with a more specialist focus.

Tim's talk was really clear and practical, and gave students lots of useful tips on how to become an accountant and what it is like to specialise in corporate finance. He talked about his typical day-to-day activities, which involve advising clients on strategy, winning new work and building relationships with potential new buyers and sellers. As a partner, his role is more strategic and involves working closely with his team, coaching them and helping them develop their careers.

Some key advice from the talk:

- Accountants need a head for numbers, they do not need to be maths geniuses. They do need to be analytical, strategic and creative.
- People skills and relationship building are important.
- You do not need to do an accountancy degree to become an accountant, but you do need to pass professional exams.
- You can become an accountant through the apprenticeship route.
- Corporate finance is one of the many areas accountants can specialise in.
- Corporate finance is hard work but fun.
- You can work on some exciting deals: Tim once worked on the sale of a premier league football club and his biggest deal was worth A\$1.25bn.

Many thanks to Tim for sparing the time to come and talk to our students, many of whom will have been inspired to look further into a career in accountancy and corporate finance.



# FRP

## COMING UP...



**14 March:** Criminal Law

**21 March:** Human Resources

**28 March:** Business Psychology

**4 April:** Creative/Live entertainment

**25 April:** Rail Transport

**16 May:** Cyber Security

**23 May:** Pharmacy

**13 June:** Optometry

## APPRENTICESHIPS

### **Dick Lovett Apprenticeship Open Event**

One of the South West's leading automotive retailers, representing brands such as Aston Martin, BMW and Jaguar, Dick Lovett have a number of [apprenticeship opportunities](#). They are holding a Bristol campus open event on 20 March at 4.30pm where you can meet the team, see the facilities and find out more about their apprenticeship opportunities. [Sign up here](#).

### **Interested in Policing?**

Join Avon and Somerset's Police's virtual Q&A event on Saturday 1 March at 10am, if you want to find out more about the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship. There will be a member of the recruitment team on the call, along with a current student officer talking about their experience of joining the apprenticeship programme and the realities of being a police officer. [Register here](#).

### **Tesco Retail Apprenticeship**

Thinking of leaving Year 11 but don't know what to do next? If you fancy earning over £22k while you learn, the Tesco Stronger Starts Retail Apprenticeship could be for you. [Find out more here](#).

### **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 [here](#). For help with your application see the really useful [Rolls Royce assessment guide](#).

### **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. [Find out more](#) about the roles. [Sign up](#) to be notified when applications are open.

## CAN YOU HELP?

### **Would you like to help at our Careers Day?**

Our annual Careers Day is on Monday 7 July.

If you work locally and are able to take the morning off work to help run our Year 10 mock interviews or give an interactive talk about the business you work with, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch:

[careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk).

Thank you!

## OPPORTUNITIES

### **BBC 'Get In' Taster Day**

Find out what it is like to work at the BBC. See in person what it is really like working in a media environment, find out about a variety of jobs across the BBC, and hear from people who do some of those roles in the area where you live. BBC Bristol, Bristol Broadcasting House, 2 April. Apply by midday on 12 March. [Apply here](#). Y12 students only.

### **Health and Care Careers Discovery Day.**

If you are interested in a career in the health and social care sector, go along to the health and care careers discovery day. The event takes place on Saturday 8 March from 10am until 2pm at the Bristol Royal Infirmary Education and Research Centre (opposite the hospital). This is a free event but sign up before Monday 3 March to secure your place. [Sign up here](#).

### **Allied Healthcare Virtual Work Experience**

Take your first steps towards a healthcare career with the UK's only LIVE Virtual Work Experience Programme created and delivered by healthcare professionals. Enjoy an immersive experience from the comfort and safety of home, while delving into diverse roles within allied healthcare and taking a closer look at patient care by following the journeys of two patients from incident through to treatment. [Find out more](#).

### **Calling aspiring documentary film makers.**

The *Grierson DocLab: New Entrants* is for UK-based 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](#).

# COMMUNITY NOTICES



## JUNIOR BAKE OFF



JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!

## JUNIOR BAKE OFF

... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES 9-14 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING SERIES!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH

[APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



BUY INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR

£1.10  
OR LESS

OR

4 ITEM  
BUNDLE

£2.80

### 4oz Pots - £1.00

SELECTION OF FRUIT POTS  
SELECTION OF JELLY POTS  
SELECTION OF YOGHURT POTS  
SELECTION OF PROTEIN POTS

### COLD DELI - £1.10

A SELECTION OF ROLLS:  
HAM, CHEESE, TUNA,  
CHICKEN MAYO, EGG MAYO

### HOMEBAKES - £1.00

MINI MUFFIN  
MINI COOKIE  
MINI SHORTBREAD TRIANGLE  
MINI FLAPJACK TRIANGLE

### DRINKS - £1.10

200ML RADNOR CARTON  
500 ml BOTTLE OF WATER  
200ML FLAVOURED MILK

### HOT BLUE DOT - £1.10

Garlic Bread  
Pizza Boat

Not all items are available everyday

## Ramadan GRAB BAG

DURING THIS RAMADAN INNOVATE ARE OFFERING GRAB BAGS FOR YOU TO TAKE AND ENJOY AT HOME TO BREAK YOUR FAST

EACH GRAB BAG INCLUDES:

Dates

Apple &  
Mango  
Juice

Vegetable  
Samosa

AVAILABLE EVERY SCHOOL DAY FROM THE FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN UNTIL EID AL FITR COLLECT YOURS AFTER SCHOOL FROM THE RESTAURANT!

£ 2.80

\*All Grab Bags are available at the price of a free school meal

COMING UP...

CELEBRATE EID AL FITR  
WITH US THIS MARCH!