14 March 2025



Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

Notice Board House News School Production: Mia & the Fish Maths STEM Sports Careers Community Notices

Elmlea

Infant & Junior Schools

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am thrilled to share some wonderful news with you all. Elmlea Infant and Junior Schools, a valued local feeder primary school, is joining the Russell Education Trust alongside BFS. This marks the beginning of an exciting chapter for both our schools and the wider community.

This development presents us with a fantastic opportunity to work even more closely together. By collaborating on Teaching and Learning strategies, sharing best practices, and strengthening our partnership, we aim to provide an enriched and seamless educational journey for children transitioning from primary to secondary school.

We are confident that this closer relationship will not only benefit our students but also enrich the experiences of staff, parents, and the wider community. Together, we can achieve even greater things for our schools and, most importantly, for the children we are privileged to teach.

We look forward to building on our shared vision for excellence in education and will keep you updated as we embark on this exciting new chapter.

Best wishes,

A NOTE FROM MRS KING

Mrs S King





RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST



MRS KING



Behaviour Office

Mrs Gardiner's Room

Main Reception

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- Safeguarding Room
- Head of Year Offices
- **Behaviour Room**

If your child is ill, please report their absence daily and before 9am. Please use the free app, **Studybugs** (you can register using this link: Studybugs - Parents) or by using the 24-hour attendance line 0117 9597200 (select option 1).

For planned and unavoidable absences, such as funerals, please contact admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk for an absence request form. Please return the form to admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk as far in advance as possible (ideally two weeks).

Please book routine medical appointments outside of school hours. For unavoidable medical appointments, please email evidence of the appointment, such as a text reminder or appointment letter to admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk. Students are expected to attend school before and after medical appointments. Students should be collected from and returned to the car park gate and need to sign in and out at Main Reception.

90% attendance



is like leaving a football match in the 81st minute (and missing all the injury time goals)

Studybugs 😳



HOUSE NEWS





Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham	
Year 7	Chloe S	Sophie R	Adea M	Charlie P	
Year 8	Tiana M Isaac F		Leo N	Max C	
Year 9	Isaac L, Syeda H	Rory H	Jessica S	Emily C	
Year 10	Heidi T, Henry B, Laila H	Sonny S	Bronwyn E	Amelia R	
Year 11	Eloise P	Arthur S	Harley F	Ava S, Callum W	
Year 13	Megan T	Megan T Owen M		Anabelle W, Aidan B, Theo H	

We are launching the Durdham House Charity Art sale.

Come along to the Art Department this term to buy a blank canvas for £3.

Get creative and paint any theme you like with any appropriate medium. You can do this at home or join us on Wednesdays for Art Club!

Hand in your finished canvas by the end of term 5. There will be House points for all entries.

Finished art works will be on sale in term 6. All money raised will go to the House charities.



Our *Move a Mile* sponsored run/walk will be taking place during the week commencing Monday 24 March. Students will be running or walking a mile for our four chosen charities:



Students will run or walk 10 laps of the MUGA in their year groups and can wear BFS-branded PE kit all day, as a thank you for participating. Staff will be getting involved too!

The event will take place during tutor time on the following dates: Monday 24 March – Year 7 Tuesday 25 March – Year 9 Wednesday 26 March – Year 8 Thursday 27 March – Year 10 Friday 28 March - Year 11 and Sixth Form

Last year, this event raised £2,500 and we would love to beat that amount this year! We have set up a payment item in ParentPay for you to make a donation for any amount from £1 to £100. All donations are appreciated by our charities, regardless of how much. Please give whatever you can. Thank you so much for your support.





MOVE A MILE 2025

BFS is committed to providing students with a device-free educational experience, aligning with the goals of other schools locally and nationally. We believe that young people should focus on learning without the distractions of digital devices. With this in mind, we have been carefully planning our strategy for the upcoming academic year. On Wednesday evening, we invited parents and carers to join us at our **Success Together** event where we discussed our approach and welcomed your feedback and ideas. This was an excellent opportunity to collaborate on equipping students with the skills to navigate the digital world effectively.

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended the event. We received a lot of support and some thought-provoking comments on our proposal to strengthen the BFS mobile phone policy.

More details to follow.





Mia and the Fish by Satinder Chohan

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

This week, our school production of Mia and the Fish, as part of the National Theatre Connections 2025 project, was performed to parents and friends. We are so proud of the cast, crew and composers. We received some amazing and really useful feedback from the National Theatre director, Kate Pasco, who came to watch it. We now have the exciting challenge of transferring it to Bristol Old Vic on 2 April.





Pi Day

Today, 14 March, is known worldwide as pi day because, if you write the date in 'American', it is 3-14, the first three digits of pi.

Pi (π) is a magical number which we use a lot in school mathematics. Students will be familiar with the formulas A = πr^2 and C = πd or C = $2\pi r$, formulas telling us information about how circles are put together. A Level Maths students will also be aware that π is how many radians there in half a turn, as they start to consider angles as equivalent to lengths.

But what is π and where did it come from?

In its simplest terms, π is the ratio between the circumference and the diameter of a circle. Or, how many times the diameter would fit around the circumference of a circle.



It has been known for thousands of years that the ratio between diameter and the circumference of a circle is approximately 3 and a bit and, as measuring has become more accurate, people have been able to calculate π to more and more decimal places. As mathematical studies have developed, π has also been shown to be an irrational number (meaning it cannot be written as a fraction and its decimal approximation goes on forever) and even a transcendental number (meaning that it cannot be the solution of a polynomial with integer coefficients).

Modern methods of calculating π use computers and have now developed beyond measuring circles!!

One method of calculating $\boldsymbol{\pi}$ is to use Leibniz's formula:

$$1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{11} + \frac{1}{13} \dots = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

In this formula, the three dots mean that this sum continues in this pattern forever. How many decimal places of π can you calculate using this formula?

Dingbat Challenge

Finally, here are some dingbats using π for your amusement. What word or phrase does the picture represent? Bring the answers in to your Maths teacher to earn a House point





Festival of Engineering

Last week, a group of thirty Year 8 students signed up for a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) event organised by graduates from Babcock in Bradley Stoke. The Festival of Engineering event showcased the wealth of career options available in STEM.

The day consisted of rotating around five zones:

- 1. Engaging with virtual-reality welding, electronic board design and a torpedo launch tube simulator
- 2. Boat building challenge where students learnt about buoyancy and shipbuilding whilst developing their team-building skills
- 3. Designing and building bridges
- 4. Robot programming
- 5.A showcase of engineering across different employment sectors

Prior to the event, there was a competition where students submitted sustainable designs that moved away from reliance on fossil fuels, such as gas, oil and coal. Well done to our very own Milo, who won a prize for his innovative idea of electricity generating trainers. He was awarded a £25 gift voucher.

The event was enjoyed by all and we are grateful to the graduates from Babcock for organising the event and to our coach driver, Steve, from Euro Coaches.



babcock

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

From Eco Club on Monday, Badminton on Tuesday, Programming Club on Wednesday, Science Club on Thursday and Board Games Club on Friday. There is something for everyone!

See our <u>Clubs Booklet</u> for more information



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BFS_TeamPE

S S PORTS

Last week, Year 7 girls attended Project Rugby at Lockleaze Sports Centre, hosted by Bristol Bears. The girls had a fantastic time, were incredible and even got to meet Simi! What a great way to finish week 2 of term. YEAR 7



MR LANGEVELDT

It was a lovely day for football on Wednesday when our Year 7 girls team took on a strong Redland Green School side. The game was great and some amazing goals from both sides were scored. The girls narrowly lost 3-1 but really enjoyed the game. Superstars!



In a closely contested battle, our Year 7 boys football team put up a strong fight but ultimately lost to Oasis Academy Brightstowe with a final score of 4-3. The match was filled with excitement, as both teams exchanged goals and demonstrated their commitment to the game. Despite the loss, the team showed great spirit and teamwork, with several players making notable contributions throughout the match.

The Year 9 girls netball squad won the Bristol Schools Netball League. They went on to play the winners from another county (Backwell School). The match took place last week and the squad won the match 33-3. They are now through to the Level 3 School Games.

The squad demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and team spirit throughout. They managed their tactical changes fairly, ensuring everyone went off at some point. Their contribution to team talks were really effective. Player of the match was Elsie.

We look forward to 24 March.



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YEAR

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MR HOWARD

YEAR 9

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In a high-scoring showdown, the Year 9 boys football team emerged victorious with a final score of 6-3. The team displayed remarkable skill and teamwork, with standout performances from several players who contributed significantly to the win.

The U14 and U16 girls football teams played 9a-side games against Montpellier High School on Monday evening at Lockleaze Sports Centre.

Both teams started off well with quick goals from Polly (U16) and Jess (U14). Both teams continued to attack, going 2-0 up at half time. The second half started off just as quickly with both teams scoring in quick succession. The goals kept on coming with Polly scoring 3 more and Molly once for the U16s and Lucy (2) and Daisy (1) scoring for the U14s.





Congratulations to Libby and Lucy who received Player of the match. Both teams returned to BFS victorious 4-0 and 5-0. Well done girls.

Year 10

After the Easter break, you will be required to take part in core PE during the mocks. It is an opportunity to decompress, have some social time with friends and enjoy being away from revision. This is exceptionally important for your mental health. Please bring your PE kit with you on your PE days.

If you have an exam during the core PE lesson, of course, you will not require your kit.

Year 11

After the Easter break, Year 11 will be provided with the option of revision or practical during their PE lessons. If you are attending the revision session, you will require the correct resources and you will be in your PE classes for this lesson. If you are choosing practical, you must have your PE kit with you.

If you are opting out of PE after Easter and have any spare PE kit you will no longer require that you would like to donate, please bring it to the PE office. We would appreciate any of the following:

Tracksuit bottoms (navy blue), trainers, football boots or shin pads.

The Year 10 Rugby 7s team delivered a sensational performance at the highly competitive Collegiate 7s Rugby Competition, showcasing skill, determination and true sportsmanship on their way to a memorable final appearance.

Group Stage Dominance

From the first whistle, the team established themselves as a force to be reckoned with. Their attacking prowess and relentless energy saw them rack up impressive wins over several formidable opponents. They kicked off the tournament with a dazzling display against Sidcot School, where swift ball movement and clinical finishing resulted in a comfortable victory. The team's sharp handling and pace out wide overwhelmed their opponents and set the tone for what was to come.

Next, they faced Clifton College and continued their dominance with a series of breathtaking tries. The team's tactical awareness and communication on the field were evident, leaving their opponents struggling to contain their fluid attacking play. The momentum only grew stronger as the Year 10s took on Winterbourne Academy, delivering yet another commanding performance. Their ability to turn defence into attack was a highlight, with turnovers quickly converted into points through blistering runs and clever offloads.

Finally, a tough encounter against Clifton High School proved the team's resilience and teamwork. Despite determined resistance from Clifton High School, the Year 10s' relentless attack saw them clinch another impressive victory, sealing their spot in the tournament final.

The Grand Final

The stage was set for an epic showdown against a powerful Collegiate School side. Both teams played with passion and intensity, but it was Collegiate's clinical precision and defensive solidity that ultimately earned them the win. Despite the final defeat, the Year 10s can hold their heads high for a gutsy and thrilling performance.

Standout Performances

Throughout the tournament, the team's attacking style was a joy to watch, with tries scored from all areas of the pitch. The players demonstrated incredible speed, agility and creativity, breaking defensive lines time and time again. Their defensive effort should not be overlooked either. Tackling with ferocity and organising their line effectively, the team proved they could grind out victories when needed.



Looking Ahead

The boys now turn their attention to Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s in two week's time.

UPCOMING FIXTURES						
Monday 17 March	Y7 & Y8 Boys Football vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College				
Wednesday 19 March	Y7 & Y10 Boys Football vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe	Oasis Academy Brightstowe				
Wednesday 19 March	Y10 Girls Netball vs Hayesfield Girls' School	BFS				
Thursday 20 March	Y9, Y10 & Y11 Boys Football vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College				
Thursday 20 March	U12, U14 & U16 Girls Football vs Cathedral Choir School	Cathedral School Ground				



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, students heard from a Crown Prosecution Service barrister on what it is like to work on the front line in the prosecution of people charged with criminal offences. Richard Posner, a Senior Crown Advocate with the CPS in Bristol, explained that barristers are lawyers who advise others what to do when there is a legal dispute, help resolve legal arguments using words, apply laws or rules to support their arguments, and try and persuade others they are right.



While Richard has made a career for himself in criminal law, he told students that there are many other areas of law in which a barrister may choose to specialise, including family, employment, commercial, negligence and sport.

Richard gave students a clear insight into how to become a barrister - completing a law degree or a nonlaw degree followed by a law conversion course. He explained that most barristers are self-employed, but many are employed by companies, law firms and the government, as well as by Richard's employer, the CPS, which is the independent body responsible for prosecuting criminal cases. Once qualified, there are opportunities to expand into international work and become a judge – or even a Prime Minister (the current PM used to be Richard's boss)!

Richard spoke with passion about why he enjoys being a barrister, despite the long hours and pressured nature of the work. He spoke about the importance to him of helping people, particularly the victims of crime, to have their day, and say, in court, and his duty to those he is prosecuting to do so responsibly and with dignity and respect.

The drama studio was full for this talk, showing how popular the law is as a potential career choice for students. Richard gave some useful information about entry routes into the profession, including:

- You need a degree to become a barrister, but not necessarily a law degree.
- Some barristers start their careers as paralegals (who provide support to lawyers) and work up from there; others become barristers later in life after changing from other careers.
- Like many rewarding careers, barristers spend a lot of time preparing for cases, so it does involve hard work and long hours. "Being well prepared is important," Richard said. "It's a bit like preparing for exams. It helps you sleep well at night."

Many thanks to Richard for taking the time to come and talk to our students.



21 March: Human Resources

25 April: Rail Transport

28 March: Business Psychology

4 April: Creative/Live entertainment

9 May: Manufacturing

16 May: Cyber Security

23 May: Pharmacy

13 June: Optometry

Solicitor Degree Apprenticeship

Law firm Womble Bond Dickinson is holding an 'Apprentice Insight Evening' in support of the opening of its 2026 Solicitor Apprentice applications for apprenticeships commencing in January 2026. Find out more about the event and register <u>here.</u> Follow this link to <u>apply</u> for the Bristol-based degree apprenticeship.

Scaffolding Apprenticeship

If you are interested in learning skills in the construction industry, local firm, Shield Services Group, is currently on the look-out for scaffolding apprentices. You will work with experienced team members to build an on-thejob understanding of the role and will be released to study at a relevant college. Shield are currently based in Longwell Green but are relocating to Warmley in the summer. For more details email Lauren Angell.

Technology Apprenticeship

Nokia has recently opened its 2025 Apprenticeship schemes in Project Management and Network Engineering. Both apprenticeships are Level 4 with a start date in September 2025 and assessment centres planned for April. Find out more and apply <u>here</u>. Application deadline 17 March.

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.

Would you like to help at our Careers Day?

Our annual Careers Day is on Monday 7 July.

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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: <u>careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk</u>. Thank you!

Becoming a Doctor - Discovery Day

One-day conference at Southmead Hospital. Learn about the varied work of doctors, the practicalities of applying to medical school and how doctors are trained. Hear from doctors in different branches of medicine and at different stages of their training. There will be a chance to talk to doctors in smaller groups and try out some practical skills.

Saturday 21 June 2025. Open to students in Year 10 or above. <u>Register here.</u>

<u>Register nere.</u>

Nuclear industry: Financial support for Uni and internships.

If you are interested in working in the nuclear industry, you could be eligible to receive significant help while at Uni. The Nuclear Sponsorship Scheme focuses on enabling learners from a lower socio-economic background into the nuclear sector. The scheme offers up to 50 places and provides full funding of tuition fees, two summer placements, and an additional bursary. <u>Find out more</u> about the scheme and the eligibility criteria.

Interested in working with animals and conservation?

If you are thinking about your options after Year 13 and wondering what degree to do, there is a Zoological Management and Conservation Degree Taster Day, at Bristol Zoo Project on 8 July. You will enjoy an immersive experience day and discover what it's like to study on the course. Step into the future of conservation and turn your passion into your future career.

Book your place here.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SOUTHMEAD RUGBY CLUB



(Yr 5)

DO YOU WANT TOPLAY RUGBY?? The rugby club is recruiting players. **Experience not necessary**





Under 12's

Under 8's (Yr 3)

> Under 11's (Yr 6)





Under 16's are also recruiting Train on Tuesdays 6-7pm



Low cost membership & subs Training Thursdays @6pm Matches/training Sunday mornings Socials and parties throughout the year First training session free



Southmead Rugby club Located by the Greenway centre or email srfcminisandjuniors@gmail.com

Voice for the Ocean **Youth event**

Book your free ticket

SOCIE

A day with the Marine Conservation Society and **Doug Allan**

Join us for a free day of networking, learning and making new friends! This event is dedicated to you our young people - providing you with the opportunity to hear more about the Marine Conservation Society's work and how you can help protect our blue planet. The event is aimed at 13 - 25 year olds (under 18's require a guardian).

苗 22nd March 2025

1ARINE CONSER

- Norwegian Church Arts Centre, Harbour Drive, Cardiff Bay CF10 4PA O Doors open 9.30am
- Event starts at 10am and finishes by 3.30pm (tic



Our special guest on the day is Doug Allan, an award-winning wildlife cameraman and photographer, and one of our Ocean Ambassadors. He has worked in some of the wildest and most remote areas of our planet, and will be engaging everyone on marine life and conservation, as he believes we all need to reconnect with our natural world.

Click here to book your place or get in touch with our Youth Engagement

To learn more about our fight for a cleaner, better-protected, healthier ocean, visit mcsuk.org f mcsuk 🍯 mcsuk 🎯 mcs_uk

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Autism and Neurodiversity Resources

🕨 Free Webinar

Understanding Autism: Meltdowns & Emotions

🛗 03.04.2025 🔘 10am

Register your place at witherslackgroup.co.uk/autism-meltdowns-emotions

Free Webinar



Register your place at witherslackgroup.co.uk/puberty-hygiene

Virtual Conference 2025

Embracing Differences:

Navigating Neurodiversity In Education

26.03.2025

Register your free place: witherslackgroup.co.uk/virtual-conference-march25



Dyscalculia Awareness Event

with Rob Jennings, co-founder of the Dyscalculia Network.



Monday 24 March, doors open 5.15pm, talk from 6–7pm

As part of Neurodiversity Celebration week, Bristol Grammar School is hosting a Dyscalculia Awareness event for parents and carers in the Great Hall.

We are delighted that our guest speaker will be Rob Jennings, co-founder of the Dyscalculia Network. The Dyscalculia Network provides training and advice for teachers and parents of pupils who have maths difficulties. Rob has over 15 years of experience teaching young people with special needs. Over the past ten years, he has focused specifically on helping children struggling with Maths, working in both independent and state schools. He is delighted that his book 'The Maths and Dyscalculia Assessment', will be released by Jessica Kingsley Publishers in July of this year. This is the assessment for all of the key foundations of maths to help formulate a focused teaching intervention plan.

We are also very pleased to have the following professionals and organisations available who will be able to share information from 5.15–6pm:

- Bristol Autism Society
- Bristol Autism Support
- Nessy
- Off the Record
- Specialist Private Assessors Dyslexia

To book on to this free event, please complete the booking form here.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact <u>Corinne Kemp</u>t (Head of Learning Support).





We accept Childcare voucher and Tax-free Childcare

All-Aboard 's EASTER PROGRAMME

8 April - 21 April 2025

Looking for activities for your kids over the school holidays? Look no further! We are running a wide range of activities welcoming all.

Sailing . Paddling . Rowing . Powerboating

£65 FOR A FULL DAY

£35 FOR HALF A DAY

Book 4 sessions and get the 5th one FREE!! Call us for more details.

• <u>www.allaboardwatersports.co.uk</u> • 0117 929 08 01 •



Tuesday 8th until Sunday 13th

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
SAILING		13:30 pm - 4:00pm		10:00 am - 12:30pm	Open 7 days a week.			
Paddling		10:00 am - 12:30pm		13:30 pm - 4:00pm	activ	do provide o ities: sailing ns, paddlebo	g taster	
Multisport		-	10:00 am - 4:00pm		We	ailing Iren's		
Powerboat			10:00 am - 4:00pm		par	parties and bespoke 1:1 sessions.		
Youth Stage 1 RYA sailing course			10:00 am - 4:00pm	10:00 am - 4:00pm	Call us for more details.			



Monday 21st until Sunday 27th

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY		
Multisport	10:00 am - 4:00pm	Open 7 days a week. We provide after school sessions during term time as well as other activities: sailing taster sessions, paddleboarding sessions, adult sailing. Check our website for more details or give us a call!							

• www.allaboardwatersports.co.uk • 0117 929 08 01