

Newsletter



SOUTHMEAD DEVELOPMENT TRUST

YOUTH & PLAY

What's In This Issue?

[Notice Board](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[House News](#)

[English & Oracy](#)

[Achievements](#)

[Sports](#)

[Subject Update: Science](#)

[Careers](#)

[Art & Photography](#)

[Community Notices](#)

[Food Tech](#)

A NOTE FROM MR MACBLAIN

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This week, we were incredibly privileged to welcome Matt Caldwell from **The Ranch Adventure Playground and Youth Space** to speak with House Parliament. The Ranch is one of our four chosen House charities, and we've been fundraising to support their incredible work in our community.

Matt began by sharing a brief history of adventure playgrounds in general, revealing that there are only four left in Bristol today. He explained how The Ranch, located in Southmead, has evolved over time. Students were shocked to learn that adventure playgrounds were born out of the legacy of World War II and were initially built on bomb sites!

While some of our students are familiar with The Ranch, many were unaware of all the amazing things the playground offers. In fact, I was surprised to hear that The Ranch is much more than just a play park - it also features a bike track, a zip wire, forest school, fire pit, and even access to the 'Trym'! Meals are regularly cooked on the fire pit, making it a true community hub.

As a charity, The Ranch relies heavily on donations, and Matt expressed how grateful they are for the ongoing support from our school community. He shared that the funds raised so far will be used to buy motorbike engines, providing young people with the opportunity to work on them and explore their interest in engineering. However, Matt also encouraged the students who use The Ranch to suggest ideas for what they would like to do with any future funds raised.

Matt finished by saying he would love to see more of our students using this provision, so if you are interested, pop on down!



MR MACBLAIN





NOTICE BOARD



[BFS Bristol](#)



[BFS Enrichment](#)

NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 24 March

Move a Mile - Y7

Tuesday 25 March

Move a Mile - Y9

Headteacher's Virtual Parent Update (5-6pm)

Y8 Flying Start Regional Finals (3 students)

Y9 Subsea STEM Challenge (6 students)

PE GCSE Moderation

Wednesday 26 March

Move a Mile - Y8

Y10 Boys Rugby Rosslyn Park Trip

Thursday 27 March

Move a Mile - Y10

Y12 UCAS Exhibition Trip

Y10 Boys Rugby Rosslyn Park Trip

Friday 28 March

Move a Mile - Y11 & Sixth Form

QUICK LINKS



[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

WE'RE HIRING

[Assistant Administration Manager](#)

[Teacher of Maths](#)

[Teacher of History](#)

If your child is ill, please use the following website to decide if they can attend school: **[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)**. Current advice states that children may attend school with minor illnesses such as coughs and colds.

If your child is too ill to attend school, 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).

ILLNESS



EID

With Eid approaching, please complete the [Absence Request Form](#). This form should be used for religious observances but please note that we can only authorise one day of absence per religious observance.

Please submit the form as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

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





HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Canford!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Emily R	Sophie R, Madeleine P, Amelia F	Harriet J	Adrian G
Year 8	Tiana M	Krystal D	Noah S	Rory S
Year 9	Isaac L	Taylor I, Emma M, Rory H, Emily R, Bethan B, Tess P	Samuel E	Esther D
Year 10	Henry B	Fiona H, Rosie A	Caila B	Amelia R
Year 11	Laura B	Stanley H	Kassie D	Madeleine H
Year 12	Catriona C	George P	Elsie C, Alan R	Kaira M
Year 13	Alistair F, Alp P, Antoine G	Phoebe H-J	Ethan G-N, Tommy G	William L

HOUSE COMP

To raise money for our House charities this Easter, we are holding a very sweet competition.

What is it? Guess how many sweets are in the jar.

How? Sixth Formers will be coming around for your guesses next week.

50p for one guess, £1 for three guesses.

Why? To raise money for our House charities and be in for a chance of winning the entire jar of sweets.



Students from Years 7 and 8 are 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.

Breaking News!

7TG3 are in the lead by miles having read and quizzed 67 books.

7TG2 have finished their tracker having quizzed exactly 50 books.

7TG4 have completed their tracker – but only quizzed on 36 books. Please do your missing quizzes!

Shout out to **7TG1** who have the most people quizzing. Bonus shout out to Charlie (TG1), Seb (TG3), Sienna (TG4) and Herbie (TG5) who have all read and quizzed 8 books!

You have raised over £70 so well done!



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.



DREAM
ASPIRE
ACHIEVE

ACHIEVEMENTS



JUDO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



On Saturday 8 March, Pippa in Year 11, represented BFS at the British Judo Schools National Championships in Sheffield. This event is a showcase event of British Judo and brings together the top 700 school children from across Great Britain and Northern Ireland to compete over two days. Pippa demonstrated great determination and resilience and fought with tenacity and courage. Pippa progressed through the rounds and finished in 7th place in her age and weight group, a great result - well done!

BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU



On Sunday 16 March, Sam in Year 10, competed in the Bristol Open 2025. Despite competing up an age group and weight class, Sam got through three very hard matches to win gold. Congratulations!

PI RECITING COMPETITION

This year's pi reciting competition received more entrants than we have ever had; 28 students came to the Maths Department on 14 March (3.14) to recite digits of pi, with all years represented. Competition was close in many year groups with some students having a few attempts with a bit of revision in between. It was interesting to see the different memory skills being used; some using rhythms of numbers and some repeating the song! It was also pleasing to see six members of staff having a go, although the Maths Department were all beaten!! (Too much reliance on calculators?).

Highest scores were all fairly closely grouped until the very end of the day when Keturah in Year 13 came along...!

The winners for each year group are as follows with the number of digits remembered in brackets:

- Year 7: Zach O (5)
- Year 8: Ed R (62)
- Year 9: Isaac L (14)
- Year 10: Hannah Y (67)
- Year 11: River O (49)
- Year 12: Alan R (28)
- Year 13: Keturah B (392)
- Staff: Mr Curtis (22)

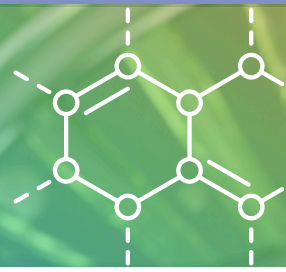
Big congratulations to all who took part and to the winners. All entrants have received House points and the winners all received a pie to celebrate.





What has been happening in...

Science?

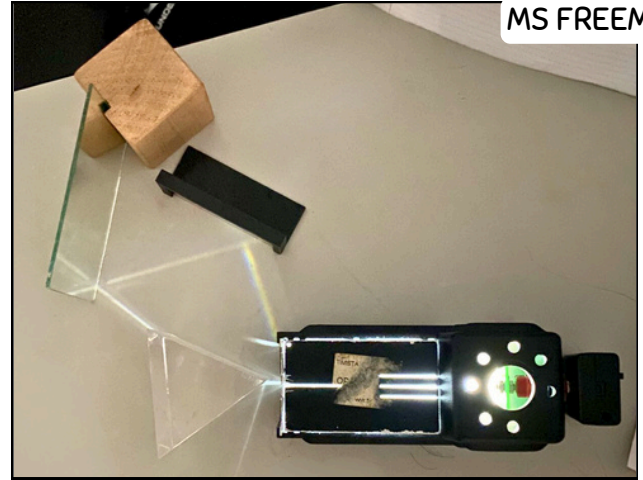


YEAR 7

Year 7 students have been learning about reflection and refraction of light and how light travels. We used a ray box to see how we could make the light reflect off a mirror and refract through a prism. Students constructed some great ways to demonstrate this, and one group managed to show the light dispersing into the 7 colours of light.



MS FREEMAN

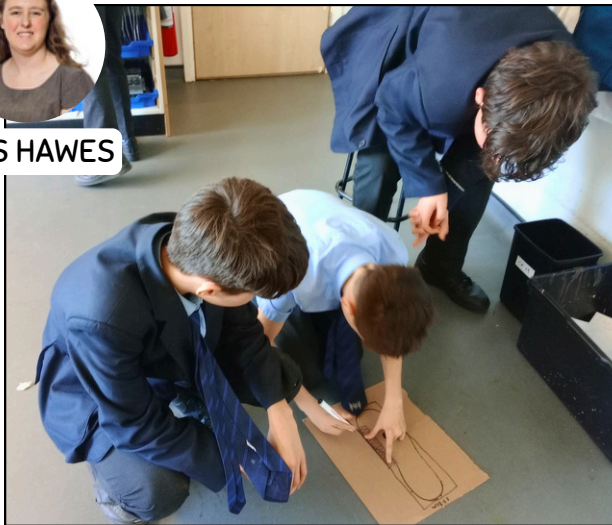


YEAR 8

Year 8 students have been working hard calculating the pressure they exert.



MISS HAWES





Last week, Year 8 students carried out an investigation into the rate of photosynthesis by counting the oxygen bubbles coming from pondweed. This interesting practical brought photosynthesis to life!



MS BOARD

Year 8 Science Explorers Day

Year 8 students visited the Particle Physics, Technology and Computing departments at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, learning about the numerous projects currently underway. Some of us were even lucky enough to receive personalised Lego bricks! A highlight of the day for everyone was the science themed escape room, with teams needing to sort through climate data, build earthquake-proof structures, use UV to find clues and prepare to work in clean rooms. The day finished with a superb talk and demonstration of how to fly to, land on and make an actual comet, complete with dry ice and glitter!

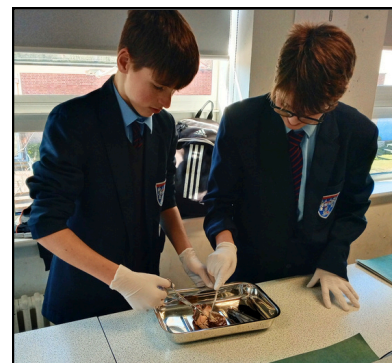


YEAR 9

Year 9 students have been busy learning about the heart and even had the opportunity to dissect one!

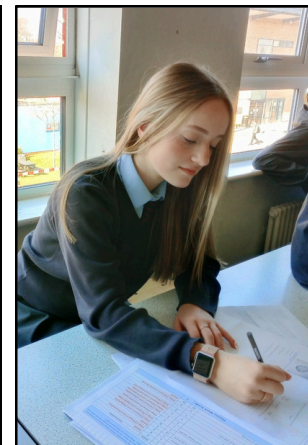


MISS HAWES



YEAR 11

Year 11 students are working hard on their feedback from their mock exams. Students have been given personalised feedback sheets to highlight their strongest/weakest topics ready for their exams. Good luck!



Your hard work will pay off!

As part of our celebration of British Science Week and International Women's Day, a group of Year 12 students attended an inspiring talk by Dr Helen Scales, a renowned marine biologist, broadcaster and writer. Hosted at Redmaids' High School, Dr Scales shared her experiences of working in the field of marine biology, highlighting the critical state of our oceans and the unique challenges she has faced as a woman in both STEM and the media. She also discussed overcoming imposter syndrome, a struggle she has navigated while becoming a published author, proving that self-doubt can be overcome with perseverance. This event, exclusively for female students, reflects our commitment to empowering young women in STEM and inspiring them to break down barriers and excel in these exciting fields.

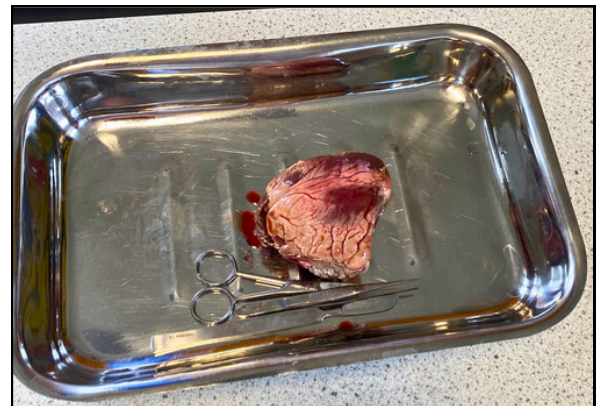


Year 12 Students Dive into the World of Anatomy with a Heart Dissection

As part of their A Level Biology curriculum, Year 12 students recently engaged in an enthralling hands-on experience - dissecting a heart. This practical session was not only an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the cardiovascular system but also a chance to appreciate the intricacies of biological structures firsthand. The focus of the lesson was the heart, a complex and vital organ that tirelessly works to pump blood throughout the body. Equipped with gloves, aprons, dissection kits, and a trusty pencil, students set out to dissect their hearts, identify key features and make a biological drawing of what they found.

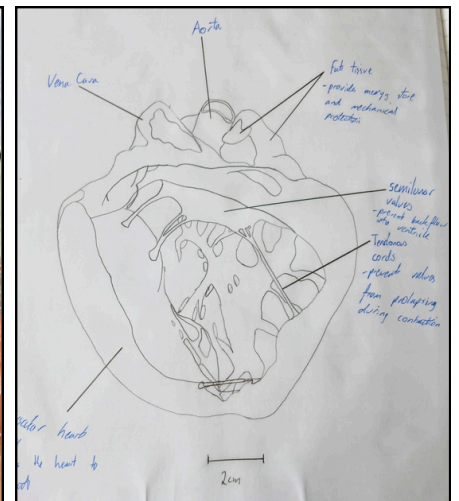


MR HAMILTON



There was an air of excitement mixed with curiosity as they used scalpels to make the initial incisions. As they sliced through the heart, students identified the four chambers - the left atrium, the right atrium, the left ventricle, and the right ventricle. They traced the path blood takes through the heart and discussed the roles of heart valves in preventing backflow.

Having completed the dissection, their attention turned to making an accurate record of what they had seen, and Mr Hamilton was impressed with the standard of biological drawings that were produced.



YEAR 12

Year 12 Particle Physics Masterclass

Year 12 students visited Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) to experience the many different STEM facilities at their Harwell Campus. To start the day, students were able to watch some riveting talks on the fundamentals of particle physics and accelerators, followed by a computing workshop with real data from the Large Hadron Collider, with some BFS students even finding the elusive Higgs Boson! It was also great to find out everyone's favourite sub-atomic particle! After an excellent lunch we moved on to tour the two particle accelerators on site, the scale of which was incredible. We wrapped up the day with a talk about data and computing, and a fun quiz on what we had learned.



MS BOARD

YEAR 12



MISS HAWES

Year 12 students have been practising their oracy and research skills by presenting on a variety of biological treaties. This exciting and topical area of biology involves researching fishing agreements, CITES and the Rio Convention on biodiversity.



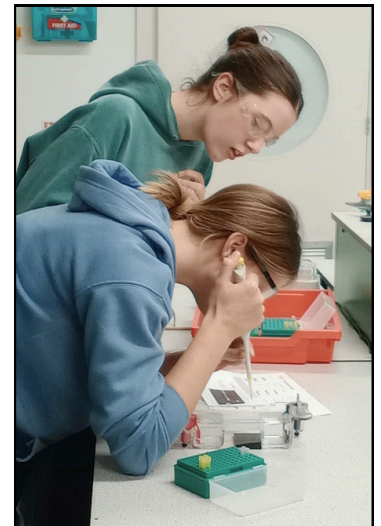
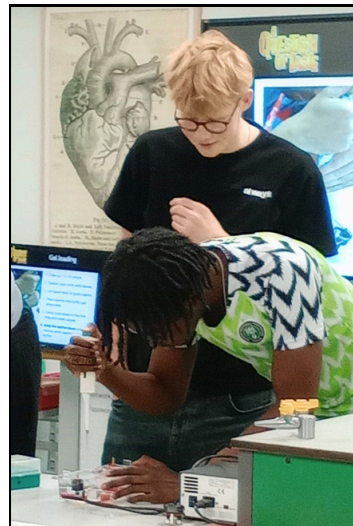
MS KELLY

Year 13 students had an exciting hands-on experience at We The Curious, diving deep into the world of genetics. The workshop kicked off with a taste test where students discovered whether they could taste the bitter chemical, PTC, found in Brussels sprouts. Some students couldn't taste it, while others were able to experience the bitterness, sparking a lively discussion about the genetics behind this fascinating trait!



Students took a cheek swab to collect their own DNA, which they then prepared for testing using a centrifuge. The real magic happened when they replicated a section of their DNA using a PCR machine and used gel electrophoresis to analyse the results. With the help of expert instructors, they also honed their skills with micropipettes, making incredibly precise measurements to ensure their experiments were spot-on.

YEAR 13



While the PCR machine worked its magic on their DNA samples, students had the chance to explore interactive exhibits and learn more about the world of science. It was a day packed with discovery, fun, and hands-on learning that brought the world of genetics to life!

BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

BFS entered 22 students into the Biology Olympiad this year. Students sat two 45 minute exams on a wide variety of biological problem-solving questions. All entrants were rewarded with a one year free BioNet membership.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and, in particular, Sam H in Year 13 who scored in the top 5% of all entrants and received a gold award. He is now in the next round, competing for a place in the International Biology Olympiad. It was lovely to see so many students voluntarily give up their time. In addition to many A Level biologists, we also had several other students participate who did very well. This proves that problem solving skills and thinking critically are key components of science.

Gold Award

Sam H, Y13

Silver Award

Oliver M, Y12
Isaac S, Y12
May L, Y12

Highly

Commended

Hollie R, Y12
Kesia R, Y13

Bronze Award

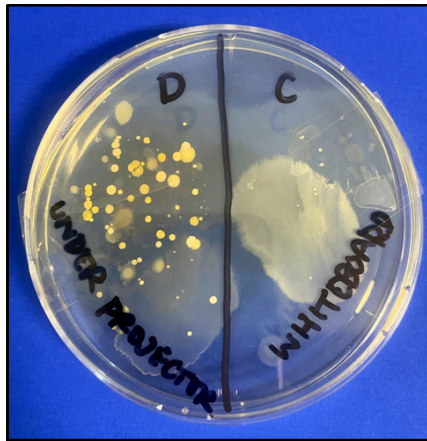
Patrick F, Y12
Archibald H, Y12
Lauren E, Y12
Carl R, Y13
Edward S, Y13

Commended

Daisy R, Y12
Daisy P, Y12
Lorraine H, Y12



SCIENCE CLUB



This week, Science Club donned their cleanroom suits, masks and gloves to go on a swabbing mission! Our scientists were tasked with finding the 'dirtiest' and 'cleanest' places in the lab. Armed with cotton swabs, students carefully lifted bacteria from their chosen surfaces and expertly transferred them to agar dishes using aseptic technique. Over the last few days, the bacteria has grown in an incubator. Check out those colonies!

MISAC COMPETITION

In November, the 37th MISAC Annual Competition was launched. The aim of the competition was to develop an understanding among teenagers of the impact of human fungal diseases and the emerging threat of antifungal drug resistance across the globe.



MISS HAWES

Our BFS House winner was Mia in Year 7. Well done!



BLAISE

The Victims

People affected are:

- Lung problems - asthma, cystic fibrosis, COPD, TB.
- Immuno suppression - cancer, chemotherapy.
- Organ transplants - HIV.
- Ventilated patients e.g after severe flu or covid.

Symptoms

- coughing with brown or blood mucus.
- shortness of breath - wheezing
- weakness.
- fever

Where is it found ?

Soil, compost, rotting leaves, damp buildings and ventilators.

Treatment

Anti-fungal drugs mainly Azoles e.g voriconazole, itraconazole, isidazole and Amphotericin B.

Drug Resistance

Not taking medication for the right amount of time can result in DEADLY effects!
☹️ This can also happen if you overuse antibiotics which will lead to making fungi easier to grow in your body every time you take antibiotics. Overusing anti-fungal drugs for the horticulture industry also increases drug resistance.

How to prevent Resistance and improve the Treatment

At the moment, countries like the Netherlands and Colombia e.t.c use antifungal drugs unnecessarily e.g putting it on tulip bulbs to stop them getting mouldy. This results in anti-fungal drug resistance fungi which spreads to other countries when exported, contaminates their soil and leads to spreading. These countries need to stop this or lives will be at stake! Spread awareness TODAY!



MISS HAWES

To celebrate British Science Week, we challenged students to come up with an idea or invention to change the air in their chosen space, making it healthier to breathe.

The winner was Sammy H for his superb air freshener model and the runners up are Will S and Fred Z.



ART & PHOTOGRAPHY



MRS STOKES



Last week, A Level Art and Photography students spent a day in London visiting galleries and gathering inspiration for their exam and coursework projects. We visited Moco Museum in central London, where we were treated to a visual feast of modern and contemporary artists, both famous and emerging. Students saw the work of Kusama, Damien Hirst and Basquiat to name but a few.

We spent the afternoon in Hyde Park at the Serpentine, sketching, photographing and recording natural forms and architecture relevant to students' current themes of study. It was a brilliant day out and the students were fantastic.



FOOD TECH



YEAR 10

Did you know that most children do not eat enough oily fish? Not here! We are 1 of 300 schools to receive some of the 3,600 cans of Alaska pink salmon, donated by Alaska Seafood and delivered by DFDS Global - what a partnership, thank you.



Year 10 pupils have made salmon ravioli with a creamy dill sauce. They showed off their fish know-how and learnt new pasta making skills.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Girls in Tech Event at UWE

We are excited to share the highlights from the recent Girls in Tech event, where ten girls from Year 10 spent an inspiring morning with female roboticists at the Bristol Robotics Lab.

The girls took part in the Mission Space Farm project. During this immersive activity, students evaluated the suitability of planet R-0-8-0-T-S for human habitation by testing soil, environmental conditions, and plant growth. The event was designed to mimic real-world engineering and scientific processes in a collaborative and hands-on learning environment. Here are some of the key tasks they completed:

1. Soil Testing
2. Automatic Watering System
3. Nutrient Preparation
4. Environmental Adaptation
5. Engineer Interaction
6. Final Deployment and Demonstration



In addition to the Mission Space Farm, Year 9 girls engaged in four different activities led by prominent employers, including BT, Microsoft, CGI, UWE Games Technology, Adobe, HP, and UWE CyberWomen. These activities provided students with valuable insights into various STEM fields and the opportunity to interact with industry professionals.

The event was a resounding success, fostering teamwork, innovation, and a passion for STEM among the participants. It was an incredible opportunity for students to learn from leading experts and engage in cutting-edge research.

We look forward to more events that inspire and educate our students!



ENGLISH & ORACY

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

On Sunday, Mrs Conway and Mr Harris took the sunny scenic route to idyllic Castle Cary, enjoying cows and sheep as we went. It was the Regional Finals of the English Speaking Union Churchill Public Speaking Contest: only one team could progress to be part of the six team National Final. Across all teams present at Ansford Academy, the standard was incredibly high. We ran the full gamut of topics, from mindfulness to The Mona Lisa. Emily was up first, delivering a moving speech drawing parallels between Nelson Mandela, Covid vaccines, and our own roles as individuals and within society.



Meanwhile, Mark expertly chaired a presentation from another school, seamlessly directing proceedings and taking audience questions, before offering his own impassioned summary on the topic of youth homelessness. Ellie was our questioner, evaluating another school's speech in real-time, before leading their speaker through a series of thoughtful and probing enquiries. Throughout this, we were supported by Awura and Yoli, who have been an integral part of our preparations and rehearsals which allowed us to all perform so well on the day. As the judges put it, there was barely a hair's breadth between the teams: we did not make it to the National Final. However, it has been a superb journey, and we were blown away by the students' professionalism and presentational skills. Thank you all, you are a credit to BFS!

We are now recruiting for the next cycle of ESU. Any Year 9 or 10 students who might be interested, watch this space.

BOOK REVIEW

***Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman**

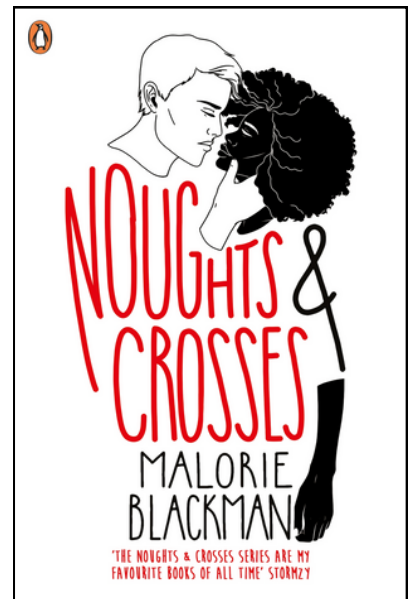
Review by Lyra, Year 7

Stephy Hadley is a cross. Callum McGregor is a Nought. Noughts and crosses are never meant to be friends.

Follow their story, and watch as they face racism, fear and mounting violence. As they take on the difficult (almost impossible) task of finding equality and a way for them to be together.

Will they succeed? Or will their lives be at risk?

**You can read this book -
find it in the Library**



Would you like to write a book review for the newsletter and receive 10 House points?

What? Write 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.



MS SLATER

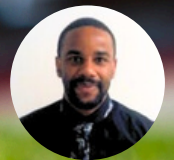


MR HOWARD

BFS SPORTS



BFS_TeamPE



MR LANGEVELOT

YEAR 7



4-3 loss vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe

In a closely contested battle, the Year 7 boys team put up a strong fight but ultimately lost 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.

YEAR 7



5-2 loss vs St Bede's Catholic College

An amazing game with plenty of goals saw the Year 7 boys team lose on Monday against a very strong St Bede's side. We were impressed with how they kept going and tried to score goals until the very end. Well done to all the boys - you are all doing amazingly well.

YEAR 7



7-1 win vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe

An amazing display of attacking football from the Year 7 boys team on Wednesday. The team scored 7 goals to win the match 7-1 against Oasis Academy Brightstowe. We are very impressed with how the team bounced back after Monday's defeat.

YEAR 8



2-1 win vs St Bede's Catholic College

Wow! What a game for our Year 8 boys team on Monday. Despite going a goal behind, they kept battling on and managed to score 2 goals to win the match 2-1. This team have been extremely impressive all season. Super proud of all your efforts boys.

YEAR 9



6-3 win vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe

In a high-scoring showdown, the Year 9 boys 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.

YEAR 9 & 10

The Year 9 and 10 boys football teams played St Bede's Catholic College in the sunshine on Thursday. They represented BFS so well. They managed their own teams and rolled subs on independently. It was great to have some parent/carer support at both matches. Thank you! Year 9 won 2-1, Year 10 lost 5-1.



YEAR 10



2-1 win vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe

What an amazing performance from the Year 10 boys football team on Wednesday, beating a strong Oasis Academy Brightstowe side 2-1. Dan scored one of the goals of the season for this team with an absolute worldie of a volley which found the back of the net. Keep it up boys!

Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.

NOTICES

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.

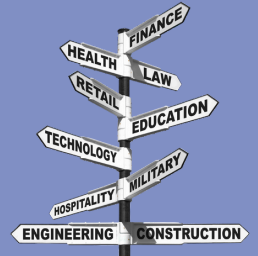
UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 24 March	Y7 Boys Football vs Cotham School	Cotham School
Monday 24 March	Y9 & Y10 Girls Netball Finals	SGS College - WISE Campus
Monday 24 March	U14 & U16 Girls Football vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College
Wednesday 26 - Thursday 27 March	Y10 Boys Rugby - Rosslyn Park National Schools 7s	Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields



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

In this week's employer talk, students learnt all about radiography. Kate Minto, a senior lecturer in diagnostic radiography at the University of the West of England, talked about her own career and gave students a fascinating insight into all the different specialisms within a career in radiography.

After doing a radiography degree, Kate started work at Southmead Hospital, then moved to the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children as a paediatric radiographer. She then specialised as a mammographer, before starting her current role at UWE. Kate described how radiographers use a wide range of skills to take images of the insides of patients' bodies to diagnose injuries or disease. They also care for and help people with cancer.



An X-ray image of a four-year-old's hand.

She showed students lots of fascinating images from the wide range of imaging equipment a radiographer may operate, including the standard chest X-ray, CT scans of the brain, radionuclide imaging, which is often used to detect cancer, and images from an MRI scanner, which uses a vast magnet, rather than radiation, to record images - so vast that it has the potential to pull a wheelchair across a room.

Kate explained that, in common with many of the other allied health professions like paramedics, audiologists, physiotherapists and nurses, to become a radiographer you need a degree. The apprenticeship route is possible but very popular and therefore competitive - there are likely to be more apprenticeship opportunities in the future. With a starting salary of around £30,000, regular annual pay increases and a high availability of work, it is a great profession to consider. It is also fascinating and rewarding work, with the chance to work overseas. "I've never had a boring day in my career as a radiographer," Kate said.

COMING UP...



28 March: Business Psychology

4 April: Creative/Live entertainment

25 April: Rail Transport

9 May: Manufacturing

16 May: Cyber Security

23 May: Pharmacy

13 June: Optometry

APPRENTICESHIPS

Stay Updated on New Opportunities

Receive notifications about the latest apprenticeships, university events and networking opportunities via email by registering with the Success at School website. [Find out more and register.](#)

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 [here](#). Follow this link to [apply](#) 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-the-job 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.

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 Year 11 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.

Thank you!

OPPORTUNITIES

Pathways to Property Summer School

Find out all about a career in the property industry at this free four-day, three-night residential summer school for year 12 students, during work experience week (8-11 July). Hosted by Savills at the University of Reading, you will get to meet people in the real estate industry, work on a project, go on a site visit, meet a range of companies at a careers fair, and experience a staying at a university campus. [Find out more and apply](#). Application deadline 20 April.

Summer School for Year 12 Physics Students

Learn more about careers in physics and engineering at a free University of Bristol summer school for year 12 physics students. Introductory quantum lectures, a careers panel, the opportunity to carry out optical experiments, and more. 4-8 August. [Find out more and apply](#). Application deadline 16 May.

Becoming a Doctor - Discovery Day

One-day conference at Southmead Hospital. 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. [Register here](#)

Working with animals and conservation?

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

EASTER ACTIVITY CAMPS

**FULLY
FUNDED

VENUE:

**FONTHILL PRIMARY
ACADEMY**

DATE:

7TH - 17TH APRIL 2025

9AM-2PM

5-12 YEARS



BOOK TODAY! HEAD TO WWW.EEQU.ORG
AND SEARCH FOR PRO-COACHING OR
SCAN THE QR CODE.

****FOR THOSE ON BENEFIT
RELATED FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

EGG
HUNT!

pro-coaching

Henleaze Lawn Tennis Club OPEN DAY

**Saturday 29 March
9am - 1pm**

Come and join our Saturday fun tennis coaching sessions to find out more about tennis coaching at Henleaze LTC. Equipment provided.

Book Here

Pre-Vocational Masterclass MARK BRUCE COMPANY

**Sunday 23 March
1 - 4.45pm**

The session will be led by Steven Brett who will be teaching sections of Ruby Tuesday (Rooster) and Ghost Dances - a rare and exciting opportunity to work on these iconic pieces. The atmosphere is supportive, and the group is made up of committed, passionate young dancers, some of whom travel quite a distance to attend.

Book Here

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 [Corinne Kempf](#) (Head of Learning Support).

WorkWell



What is WorkWell?

WorkWell is a free support programme for individuals with health conditions looking to return to work, stay employed, or find new job opportunities.

Who is it for and what do we offer?

WorkWell is available to anyone over 16 living in Bristol, North Somerset, or South Gloucestershire or registered with a GP in the region who has a health condition affecting their ability to work. Our team of Work and Health Coaches provide personalised support and will work with you to develop practical steps to overcome your health barriers. You can speak to your GP or contact us directly for support.

workwellwest.org workwell@bristol.gov.uk

WorkWell

What is WorkWell?

WorkWell is a new pilot initiative in partnership between Bristol City Council, BNSSG ICB and North Somerset/South Gloucestershire county councils. It offers a free, early intervention service that supports individuals that have a health condition to return to work after a period of sickness absence, to remain in employment, or find new employment. WorkWell's focus is on promoting sustainable employment across the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire region while linking with a wide range of partners including GPs, employers, Job Centres and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

Who is it for?

- Anyone who lives, or is registered with a GP in Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire.
- Over 16-years old.
- Has a health condition that impacts their ability to return to, remain in or find new employment, or otherwise at risk of falling into unemployment.



What we offer

- Our team of Work and Health Coaches work with you to create a bespoke action plan to address your health and work-related barriers.
- Practical solutions to common employment issues faced by people with health conditions.
- Help you to identify and access resources in your local area to help achieve your goals.
- Check in with you to see how you are getting on.

How to get in touch

Complete a self-referral www.workwellwest.org

Call us on: 0117 922 3623

Speak to your GP or health provider about a referral to WorkWell.

WorkWell Working in partnership with



WorkWell Working in partnership with



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.

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

Tuesday 8th until Sunday 13th

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SAILING		12:30 pm - 4:00pm		10:00 am - 12:30pm			
Paddling		10:00 am - 12:30pm		13:30 pm - 4:00pm			
Multiport			10:00 am - 4:00pm				
Powerboat			10:00 am - 4:00pm				
Youth Stage 1 RYA sailing course			10:00 am - 4:00pm	10:00 am - 4:00pm			

Open 7 days a week. We do provide other activities: sailing taster sessions, paddleboarding sessions, adult sailing. We also do children's parties and bespoke 1:1 sessions. Call us for more details.

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



Monday 14th until Sunday 20th

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Sailing		10:00 am - 12:30pm		13:30 pm - 4:00pm			
Paddling		13:30 pm - 4:00pm		10:00 am - 12:30pm			
Multiport			10:00 am - 4:00pm				
Youth Stage 1 RYA sailing course	10:00 am - 4:00pm	10:00 am - 4:00pm					
Youth Stage 2 RYA sailing course			10:00 am - 4:00pm	10:00 am - 4:00pm			

Open 7 days a week. We do provide other activities: sailing taster sessions, paddleboarding sessions, adult sailing. We also do children's parties and bespoke 1:1 sessions. Call us for more details.

Monday 21st until Sunday 27th

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Multiport	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 •