

# Newsletter



## What's In This Issue?

Notice Board  
Sixth Form  
House News

Achievements  
Subject Update:  
Science

Oracy  
English  
Sports

## A NOTE FROM MR EAST

The School wishes to extend our gratitude to the many parents and carers who have reached out over the past few days, expressing their understanding of the careful and considered decisions we make regarding our students' education and well-being. We are committed to upholding our values and school rules, maintaining clear and consistent uniform expectations, and making decisions with the best interests of all students in mind. Your partnership, and trust, is invaluable. We are excited about the upcoming trips, visits, and enrichment opportunities planned for Term 6 and look forward to sharing these experiences with you soon.



MR EAST

Last week House Parliament were very fortunate to welcome Anne-Marie Boyle, Chair of Governors, in for a Q&A on the role of the governing body at BFS.

Anne-Marie explained that governors are all volunteers, and their role is to help with the strategic direction of the school regarding its ethos, values and direction. They also look at the school budget and make sure all money is spent in the best possible way to get the best possible outcomes for the school and its students. Governors regularly meet with the Senior Leadership Team to both help the school achieve its aims but also to hold the school to account.

Q: Ashton were keen to know how you could become a governor.

A: There are 8 governors and when a vacancy arises people can apply. We try to get Governors to do a minimum of 4 years, but we hope they can do longer.

Q: Blaise asked how the role of a Governor fits alongside normal jobs.

A: You have to be very organised and prep beforehand. Most employers are really supportive with allowing time off work for governing and the public sector in particular are very supportive of employees.

Q: Canford asked how the Governors could be more visible in the school.

A: We try to hold some of our meetings during the day (but we do have full-time jobs) and we encourage our governors to get and out and about to see the students during their normal school day. If you see people in your lessons, they could be a governor popping in to see how you are getting on.

Q: Durdham asked what roles the governors have in school and their decision-making process.

A: We are a board of governors with a chair. Typically, each governor has an area of responsibility within the school such as safeguarding, behaviour, health and safety, finance. We come to decisions by making sure we are fully aware of the situation/problem first. We then vote and go with a majority decision.

Anne-Marie finished by saying that each time governors finish a meeting, they try and use the mantra of 'how did we help our students today?'. We are fortunate to have such a supportive governing body.





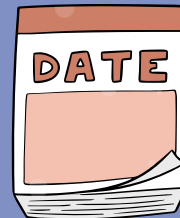
# NOTICE BOARD



BFS\_Bristol



BFS\_Enrichment



## NEXT WEEK AT BFS

**Monday 23 June - Friday 4 July**  
Y9 End of Year Exams

### Monday 23 June

Y8 Poetry Slam  
Y12 Science Project (BEP)

### Wednesday 25 June

Inset Day - School closed to students  
Y11 Leavers Assembly and Summer Ball

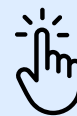
### Thursday 26 June

Y6 SEND Transition Day  
Y9 Battlefields Trip Parent Info Evening

### Friday 27 June

Y7 Poetry Slam

## QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

## Second-Hand Uniform

Please consider donating outgrown uniform to the School. We are in need of good quality, clean second-hand uniform, especially in smaller sizes. Thank you.

## CAREERS DAY

The BFS Careers Day on Monday 7 July is a fantastic opportunity offered to Year 10 and Y12 students.

During this day all Y10 students have the chance to write a CV and experience a mock interview with professionals from the BFS community and local businesses. We are still looking for volunteers to conduct these mock interviews and would be grateful if you could ask friends/family if they would be able to give up their time (9.15am-12.30pm) to make this event a success. Volunteers do not need to do any preparation in advance, and they will be briefed and given everything they need on the day itself.

If you or someone you know could help, please email [careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)



## Becoming a Phone-Free School

**Launching September 2025**

All BFS students, in Year 7-11, bringing a phone or internet-enabled device (including smart watches) to school will be required to use a Yondr pouch from September 2025.

### How do I buy a pouch?

Yondr pouches are available to buy through ParentPay for £15. Pouches will be given to students on our launch date and collected back in every term for safe keeping. Any student without a pouch on the launch date in September will not be permitted to bring a phone, or internet-enabled smart device, to school.





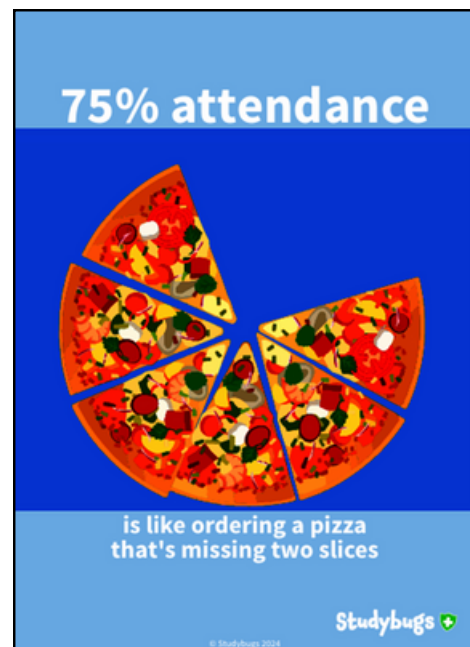
## HOLIDAYS

Please do not book term time holidays – they will not be authorised. Every day of absence is a loss of 6 lessons to your child. Unauthorised holidays will result in penalty notice fines from Bristol City Council.

Current fines are:

- First offence in a rolling 3-year period: £80 per parent per child (rising to £160 if not paid within 21 days).
- Second offence in a rolling 3-year period: £160 per parent per child.
- Third offence in a rolling 3-year period: prosecution or other legal measures will be considered. Prosecution can lead to fines of up to £2500, 3 months' imprisonment and a criminal record.

These measures are usually taken for 10 unauthorised absences (10 half days) within a ten-week period. However, fines will also be considered for parents and carers who repeatedly or deliberately take holidays below this threshold.



## SPORTS CLUBS

We are already looking forward to the autumn calendar and with this in mind, we are once again requesting the help of our wonderful families. If you are keen to volunteer your services for cross country, rugby, netball, basketball, trampolining or indoor hockey, we are IN NEED OF YOU!

Our Term 1 and 2 timetable for 2025-26 is as follows (subject to change):

**Tuesday** - cross country, trampolining, Year 7/9/10 rugby

**Wednesday** - Year 7 netball, and all years indoor hockey

**Thursday** - KS3 basketball, Year 8/9 netball, and Year 8/11 rugby AND all years girls touch into contact rugby

Next year we will continue to enter into local school leagues, as well as any regional and national tournaments, so any help at training is greatly appreciated so we can facilitate the highest standard of sport possible at BFS.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Mrs Ballard. Thank you.

## BFS NORBOT

This week we have had more students decorating Norbot! Thank you to Charlie, Rosie, Abigail and Gracie in Year 7 and Rory, Adam and Flynn in Year 8.







MS NORTON

# SIXTH FORM



MR SMITH

We were delighted to welcome both our own Year 11 students and many prospective students from other schools to our Sixth Form Transition Day this week. The event marked an important milestone as students look ahead to the next stage in their academic journey.



The day provided a valuable opportunity for students to experience taster sessions in the subjects they have chosen for September and receive their summer transition work.

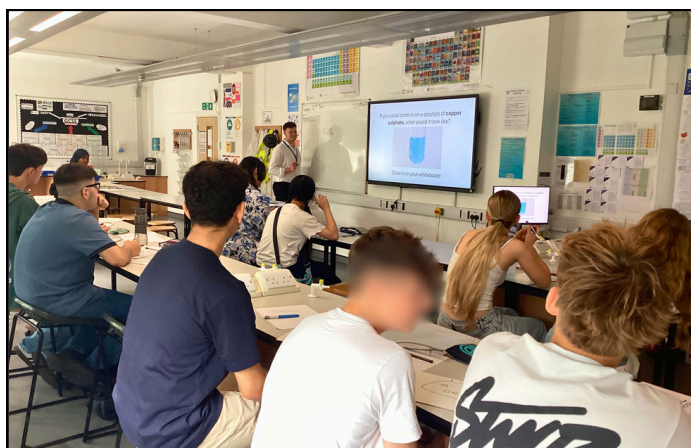
This day followed the conclusion of the Year 11 exam season, and we want to commend all students for the mature, dedicated, and professional manner in which they approached their assessments. Their hard work was evident, and we have all our fingers crossed for the results day.



It was also a pleasure to welcome students from other schools who are hoping to join BFS in September. During the day, they had the chance to speak with current Year 12 students who themselves joined BFS from other schools.

If any students are now considering changes to their subject choices or have questions following the Transition Day, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at [sixthform@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:sixthform@bristolfreeschool.org.uk).

We look forward to welcoming our new Sixth Form cohort in September!







# HOUSE NEWS



## HOUSE POINTS



1

**Blaise House**  
1227 Points



2

**Durdham House**  
1117 Points



3

**Canford House**  
1046 Points



4

**Ashton House**  
954 Points

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

**Well done Blaise!**

## Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

|         | Ashton             | Blaise             | Canford    | Durdham            |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Year 7  | Phoebe P           | Sophie R           | Ivy L      | Joseph D           |
| Year 8  | Sam S              | Isaac F            | Cara S     | Harrison H         |
| Year 9  | Lucy H             | Lauren R, Thomas O | Jessica S  | Emily C, Harriet T |
| Year 10 | Amelie G, Melody V | Isabel H           | Matilda C  | Florence C         |
| Year 12 | Jacob C            | Susie C, James H   | Izabella F | Anton C            |

## DESIGN CHALLENGE COMPETITION

Calling all creative students! We are inviting you to design a poster featuring a quote from your favourite fashion or product designer. The best entries will be proudly displayed in C Block and earn House points. What to include:

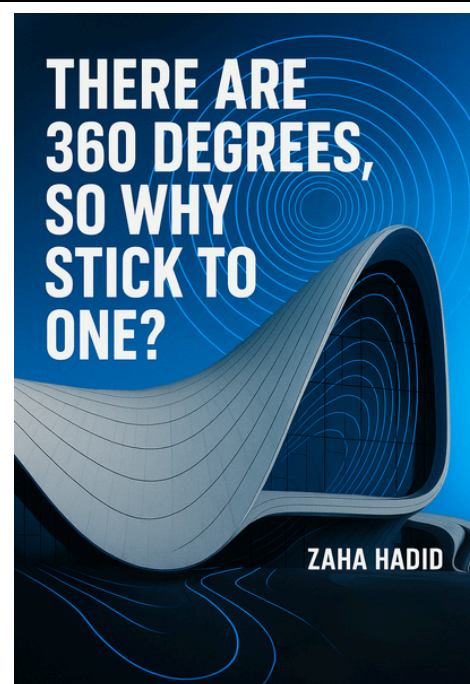
- A powerful or inspiring quote
- Relevant imagery
- Eye-catching colours
- A well-balanced layout
- Consider this quote from legendary designer Dieter Rams:  
"Good design is as little design as possible."

Email your entry to [l.corrigan@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:l.corrigan@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) or hand in to your DT teacher by 26 June. Key designers you could choose from are below and examples are on Bromcom.

Alexander McQueen  
Aldo Rossi  
Charles Rennie Macintosh  
Coco Chanel

Kusheda Mensah  
Mary Quant  
Morag Myerscough  
Norman Foster

Philippe Starck  
Pierre Davis  
Sir Alec Issigonis  
The Singh Twins



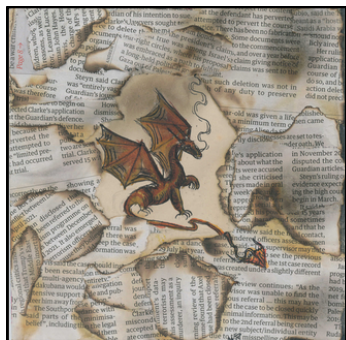
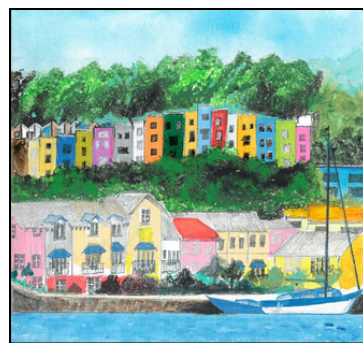
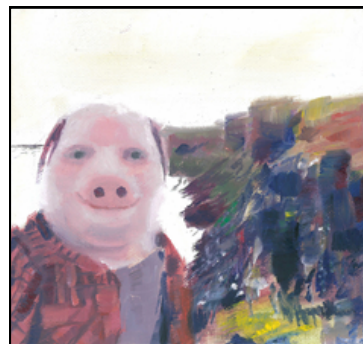
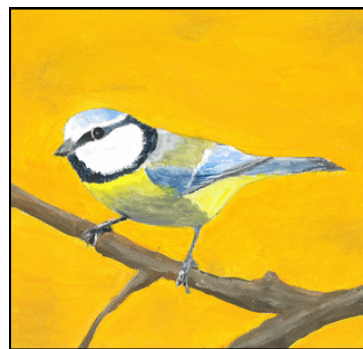
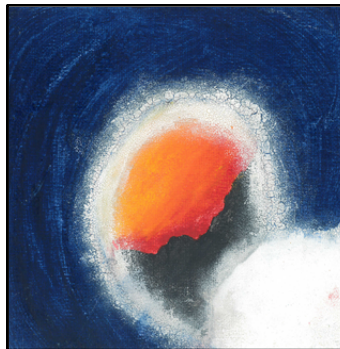


# CHARITY ART SALE

Over the last few months our talented students and staff have been busy creating artwork for our House charity art sale. These fantastic canvases are now on sale and all money raised will go to the House fundraising efforts.



Please see our [Art Catalogue](#) to see all the pieces on offer. Canvases can be purchased by emailing [artsale@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:artsale@bristolfreeschool.org.uk). Suggested donation of £5 for a small canvas or £10 for large.







## BALLET SUCCESS

Congratulations to Rimon in Year 7 for successfully being awarded a place in the English National Ballet School Associate Programme. This is a highly competitive programme that only accepts 10% of auditionees. Rimon will now attend the English National Ballet School in London every Saturday. Well done.



## SWIMMING WINS

Well done to Ike in Year 9 for a fantastic haul of 13 gold and 2 silver medals from his swimming club championships last weekend. Ike has only been swimming competitively for the last couple of years but now represents his club at county and regional level. This year Ike was also selected for the South West Regional Development Squad for showing such potential with his swimming.



## ARTISTIC SKILLS

Congratulations to Leila in Year 7 for winning two gold medals at a regional artistic swimming competition last weekend.



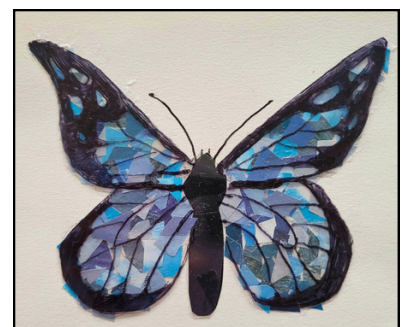
## BIOARTATTACK ENTRIES



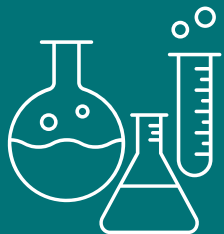
Well done to Isaac in Year 7 and Chloe in Year 10 who have created these fantastic pieces of their favourite endangered species of animal, plant or fungi.

There is still time to take part. Find out more [here](#).

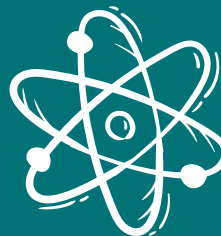
**Good  
luck**







# What has been happening in... *Science?*



MR LALLY

## The 10th Annual BFS Discovery Prize Begins!

This week marked the exciting launch of the 10th annual BFS Discovery Prize – a much-loved tradition in our school calendar that invites Year 7 students to think like scientists, explore the world around them, and ask big questions about how things work.

The Discovery Prize is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop essential skills in research, critical thinking, collaboration and public speaking. Every Year 7 student takes part by working in pairs to choose a scientific question that interests them. From there, they carry out research, plan their investigation, and prepare a short presentation to share their findings.

The first round of presentations takes place within tutor groups, where students showcase their work to their classmates. From each tutor group, two standout pairs are selected to move forward as finalists. These students will go on to present their enquiries at the Discovery Prize Final – a special evening event on Wednesday 2 July, where they will share their projects with an audience of parents, teachers, and special guests.

Past finalists have tackled some truly imaginative and thought-provoking topics, such as:

- What is a snail's favourite food?
- How many strokes does it take to make a cat purr?
- Does cheese give you bad dreams?
- What would happen if there was no Sun?
- Why do we feel emotions?

With such an inspiring track record, we cannot wait to see what curious questions and brilliant ideas this year's young scientists will bring to the stage. Good luck to all our budding researchers!

The photos you see here are a nostalgic throwback to when our current Year 13 students took part in the Discovery Prize in 2009!





## An Eye-Opening Day of STEM Inspiration in Birmingham

This term, our Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Big Bang Careers Fair at the NEC in Birmingham – a national event designed to ignite excitement around science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and to show young people the wide range of exciting careers these subjects can lead to.



MS KELLY



MISS HAWES



From the moment we arrived, students were immersed in a world of discovery. The fair was packed with interactive exhibits, industry professionals, and fascinating talks, all aimed at helping students imagine their future beyond the classroom.

What made the day truly memorable was how clearly students could see the link between what they are learning now and where it could take them. Whether it was the mechanical engineer who once struggled with maths or the video game designer who turned a school project into a career, the message was clear: STEM opens doors to endless possibilities.



The trip was not only fun and informative but also inspiring. Students returned to school buzzing with ideas, questions, and a new appreciation for the exciting world of STEM careers.

A huge thank you to Ms Hawes who organised the trip - and to our brilliant Year 8 students who represented the School with enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day.

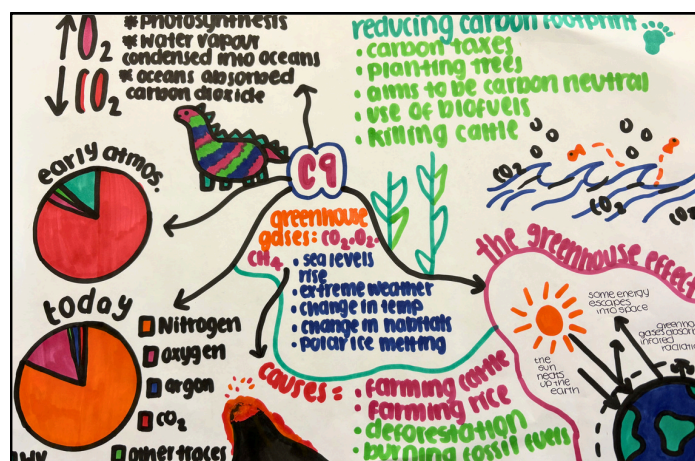
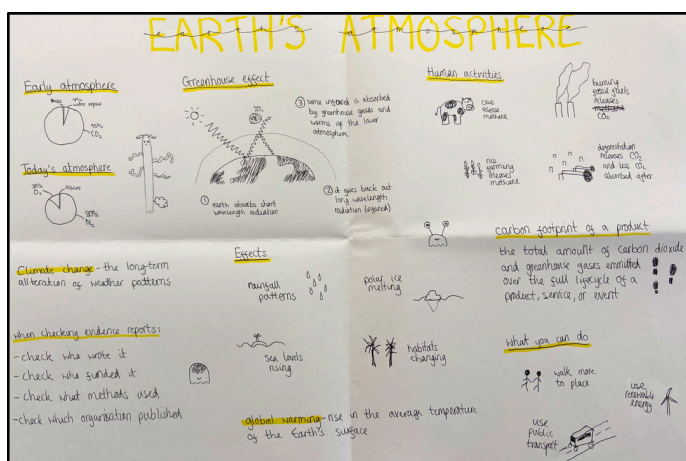






MISS CLORLEY

This term in Chemistry, our Year 10 science students have been exploring one of the most important topics in their curriculum: the chemistry of the atmosphere. From the evolution of Earth's atmosphere to modern-day climate challenges, students have delved deep into the complex mix of gases that surround our planet - and how they have changed over time.



The topic has sparked lively discussions around greenhouse gases, global warming, air pollution, and the delicate balance that sustains life on Earth. Students examined how human activity has impacted the atmosphere and considered what science can do to help tackle issues like climate change.

To reinforce their learning, students were tasked with designing revision posters that not only summarise key information but also make science visually engaging. The results were impressive.

Well done to all our budding chemists in Year 10! With such strong engagement and creativity, the science of the future is in great hands.

### Year 12 Volunteering Project Brings Science to Life for Young Learners

This term, over 20 of our enthusiastic Year 12 students have taken part in a fantastic new Sixth Form Volunteering Project, designed to inspire a love of science in the next generation. As part of the initiative, our Sixth Formers have been trained to deliver exciting science demonstrations, and they will soon be putting their skills to the test by running a live science display for local primary school children.



MR HAMILTON

The training sessions have seen our student volunteers mastering eye-catching experiments, from making elephant's toothpaste to flaming bubbles, and even the collapsing can experiment. Along the way, they have learned how to explain complex concepts in fun, engaging ways suitable for younger audiences.

Mr Hamilton, Head of Science, said:

“

This project is a brilliant example of leadership in action. Our Year 12 scientists have worked incredibly hard to develop both their science communication skills and their confidence. It is inspiring to see them step into teaching roles and share their passion for science with such enthusiasm.

”

The culmination of the project will be events hosted here at school, where local Year 5 and 6 pupils will be treated to a lively, interactive science showcase led entirely by our Sixth Formers. It promises to be a day full of wonder, discovery, and lots of laughter - plus the perfect chance to show younger students just how fun science can be.

This project is not only a valuable enrichment experience for our Sixth Form students, but also a great way to strengthen our school's links with the wider community. It is clear that the impact of this initiative will go far beyond one afternoon, both for our Sixth Form leaders and for the young scientists they are helping to inspire.





Our adventurous Year 12 biology students left behind their classrooms and coursework to spend a few unforgettable days at Folly Farm in Chew Valley, an idyllic nature reserve run in partnership with the Avon Wildlife Trust. The trip was part of their practical endorsement. The Avon Wildlife Trust led the course with enthusiasm and expertise, guiding students through a wide range of hands-on environmental activities including sampling plants and sweeping ponds for newts. Students rose to the challenge and conducted in-depth investigations and statistical tests. In the evening there was time for bat and badger watching, and we also bumped into some friendly cows and wild ponies.



It was not all biology and biodiversity - the students brought their own energy and talent to the table too, quite literally! Lunchtimes were livened up with impromptu ukulele concerts, proving that nothing beats sandwiches and string music under the sun.

Huge thanks go to the Avon Wildlife Trust team for leading such a brilliant course, and to all the staff who helped make the trip possible. Also, to our fantastic Year 12 students who were a real joy to take and made the experience truly worthwhile. Year 12 returned a little muddier, a lot more knowledgeable, and with memories that will last well beyond the exam season. Until next time, Folly Farm!



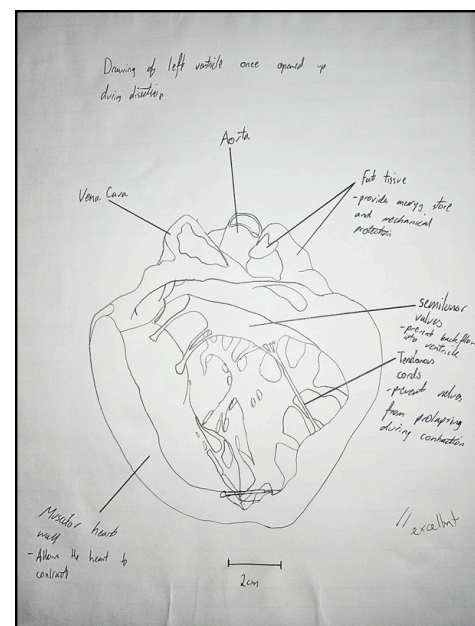
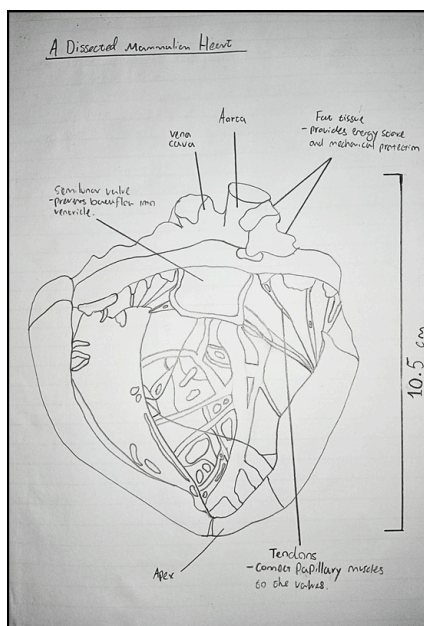
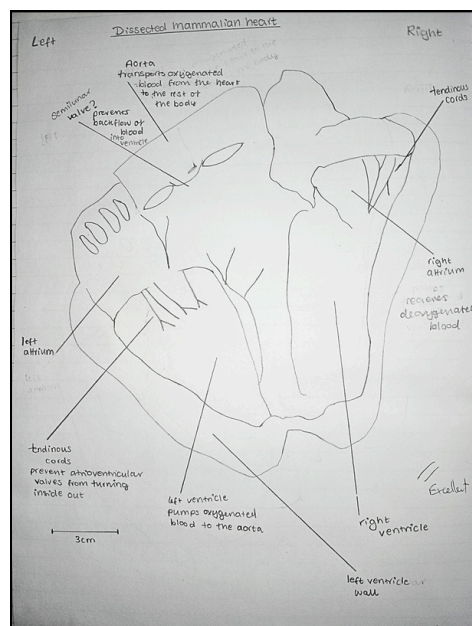


## Hands-On Dissection Brings A-Level Biology to Life

This term, our Year 12 Biology students took part in an exciting and educational practical session: the dissection of a mammalian heart. As part of their A Level studies on the circulatory system, students explored the internal structure of the heart in real detail - far beyond what textbooks alone can offer.



MR HAMILTON



Under the careful guidance of their teachers, students examined the heart's chambers, valves, and major blood vessels, using scalpels and dissection kits to reveal the complex structures that keep blood pumping through the body. The session gave students the chance to apply their theoretical knowledge in a memorable and meaningful way.

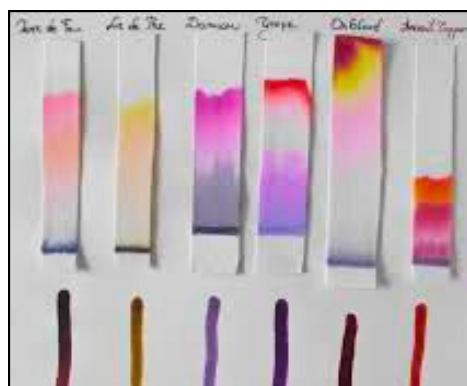
Once the dissection was complete, students used their observations to produce detailed, annotated biological drawings, labelling key features such as the left and right atria, ventricles, coronary arteries, and the aorta. The emphasis was not only on scientific accuracy, but also on the clarity and presentation skills required for A Level coursework.

Students approached the activity with maturity and curiosity, and many were fascinated by how clearly they could see the structure-function relationships they have been studying in class.

The session has certainly deepened students' understanding of cardiovascular biology and given them a real insight into the kind of work carried out by scientists, medics, and researchers every day.

Well done to all Year 12 biologists for approaching the dissection with such focus and professionalism.

This year, Science Club has been busy exploring the hands-on world of science. We made colour-changing jelly, investigated how clean the lab is, designed and tested our own sunscreen, looked at chemical reactions up close under the microscope, and even celebrated Mr Innes's birthday by creating a chromatogram birthday card! It has been a year filled with curiosity, creativity, and cool experiments and we are excited to see what we will discover next!





# ORACY



MR LALLY

## YEAR 9 & 12

### BFS Youth Talks Final

Over the last couple of months, a group of students from Years 9 and 12 have been working to put together a Youth Talks presentation. This is an 8–10-minute talk, on a topic of their choice which they have had to research, write and rehearse. Participants received expert guidance from Ignited Presenting on oracy, public speaking and engaging an audience but the remaining hard work was completed entirely by the students themselves. It has been fascinating to see the range of topics selected by the participants and the passion they have managed to convey through their writing and presenting.

**Lucy H**, Y9 - The Power of Short-Form Videos

**Miranda R**, Y9 - Is True Crime Bad for Mental Health?

**James H**, Y12 - The Science of Black Holes

**Anton N**, Y12 - Men's Mental Health

**Susie C**, Y12 - The Importance of Music in Schools

**Patrick F**, Y12 - The Power of Data

**Jacob C**, Y12 - Censorship of Literature

**Isaac G**, Y12 - The Housing Crisis

**Izabella F**, Y12 - Why Should We Celebrate International Women's Day?



The BFS Youth Talks finale took place on Wednesday. Students presented to an audience of parents/carers, peers and staff. Each presentation was fantastic and led to a really successful event. The only difficult part however was selecting two winners. Judges scored each presentation on their content, presentation skills and duration. These scores were tallied up to reveal a very close outcome. Well done to Patrick and Susie who had the highest overall scores and will now go forward to compete in the Bristol-wide Youth Talks event in October.



MS LUDWELL

# ENGLISH



## YEAR 7, 8 & 10

Term 6 has always been a personal favourite - and not just because the summer countdown begins! There is something about the sunshine and fresh air that invites creativity and calls us outdoors. This term, we have embraced that invitation wholeheartedly.

It has been a joy to take learning outside, where nature has served as both backdrop and inspiration. Year 8 and Year 10 students have turned into poets under the open sky, using the sights, sounds, and atmosphere around them to craft vivid, imaginative verse.

Year 7 also took their reading beyond the classroom walls, enjoying stories in a new and refreshing setting. As you will see in the photos, there is something magical about a book in hand and the breeze on your face and our students loved every moment of it. Here's to more lessons under the sun!







MRS BALLARD

# BFS SPORTS



BFS\_TeamPE



MS SLATER

## NOTICE

It is our final term of extra-curricular sports at BFS for this academic year. Due to the school's enrichment calendar, as well as semi-finals and finals being played by 7 July, we will be finishing all extra-curricular sport provisions on Friday 4 July and therefore there will be no training in the last two weeks of term - weeks commencing 7 and 14 July.

## SPORTS LEADERS



Well done to the Sports Leaders team who successfully helped deliver the Year 3 and 4 sports day at Elmlea Junior school on Wednesday. The group were amazing and did BFS proud. Well done.

## GET ACTIVE

We are kicking off National School Sports Week and students and staff have made pledges to be a little more active this week!

Kicking us off... Ms Coleman made a pledge to walk to school this week, and she did! By Wednesday she had already completed her pledge! Check out her Strava stats!

Steps

07:59 >

5,484 steps



## BFS SPORTS DAY 2025



Tuesday 8 July

One School. Four Houses. Infinite Fun.  
Get ready for a day full of team spirit, friendly competition, and epic energy as Ashton, Blaise, Canford and Durdham battle it out for glory!

From traditional races to team games - there is something for everyone!  
Bring the energy and cheer your teammates on!  
Who will take home the House Cup?  
Be there. Be bold. Be part of the action.

Let's make it the best BFS Sports Day ever!



## ATHLETICS



A group of Year 7 and 8 students attended the local athletics meet at Kellaway Avenue on Monday after school. There were some fantastic performances throughout the afternoon's events, and everyone cheered for and supported their teammates. What lovely weather and an amazing group of young athletes. Well done.