

Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

Notice Board

House News

Subject Update:

Design Tech

English

Computer Science

STEM

Science

Psychology

Sports

Community

A NOTE FROM MRS KING & MRS BOYLE

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

Over the past few weeks, we have received some queries and concerns from parents and carers regarding our approach to school uniform and adjustments during periods of high temperature. We felt it appropriate to provide a joint response from the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors to explain our approach and the reasons behind maintaining high standards for school uniform.

Firstly, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the families who have supported the recent reaffirmation of our uniform expectations - whether by purchasing new skirts or belts, or by sending messages of encouragement. Your support has led to a noticeable and swift improvement in uniform standards, and we are truly grateful.

During the summer term, we acknowledge the warmer weather by removing the requirement for school jumpers and blazers. We also encourage students to stay hydrated and seek shade when feeling hot. There are several shaded areas available, and the temperature inside the teaching blocks is typically several degrees cooler than outside, making lessons generally comfortable.

If temperatures exceed 30°C, we will consider further adjustments, such as removing the requirement for ties or allowing students to wear the BFS PE kit. We aim to avoid this where possible, as it can cause confusion and some students find the synthetic PE kit uncomfortable for all-day wear. Any such changes will be communicated to parents by 7.30am on the day. Please note that students wearing non-BFS PE kit items (e.g. black shorts) will be asked to return home to change.

As an additional note, the Governors have discussed the potential inclusion of boys' formal shorts in the school uniform. After reviewing feedback and engaging in robust discussion, it was decided not to add this item. Feedback from other schools suggests that such shorts are typically only worn by younger students for a limited number of days per year, and introducing them would impose additional costs on families during financially challenging times.

Finally, the BFS uniform is an important part of our school's identity. To maintain high standards in a school of over 1,000 students, we must uphold clear and consistent expectations. We communicate to students that it is their personal responsibility to wear the uniform correctly and to accept the consequences if they do not. This approach helps prepare them for future situations where adherence to a dress code may be required.

Best wishes,
Mrs S King and Anne-Marie Boyle
Headteacher and Chair of Governors



MRS KING



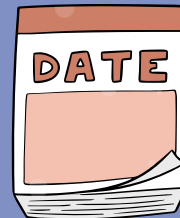
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 7 July

Y7 & 8 STEM Day

Y9 Cardiff Met Trip

Y10 & 12 Careers Day

Tuesday 8 July

Sports Day

Wednesday 9 July

Y8 Camp (TG 4-7)

Y9 Cadbury World Trip

Y9 Battlefields Trip (until Saturday)

Y10 Business Workshop

Y10 Green Skills Activity Day

Y10 Barcelona Trip (until Saturday)

Y10 Naples Trip (until Saturday)

Y12 Work Experience

Y12 DofE Gold Qualifying Expedition (until Sunday)

Thursday 10 July

Y8 Camp (TG 1-7)

Friday 11 July

Y8 Camp (TG 1-3)

Y10 Green Skills Activity Day

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

Book Donations

If you have any good quality, good condition books that you would like to clear off your shelves, please drop them to the School Library. We have various projects in the pipeline and need a boost of books to help make these projects happen. So, please bring any school age-appropriate books to the Library for their next adventure.

Library Books

As the summer holidays are approaching, please bear in mind that your School Library books need to be returned to the Library before the last day of term. Borrowing will continue for the next couple of weeks, but any already overdue books would be very gratefully received back as soon as possible.

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.

Sixth Form Sports

We want to offer upcoming Year 12 and 13 students the opportunity to run Sport Societies in Sixth Form every Monday and Friday.

Sixth Form Societies will have access to:

Monday: Sports Hall, MUGA and top field

Friday: MUGA and top field

To make sure you get your voice heard so that the PE Department and Sixth Form Team can facilitate a structured approach to this, we need to hear from you. Please complete this form before the end of the summer term: [Sixth Form Sports Form](#)

School Attendance

The Department for Education has recently released some research findings and said: "Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact future earnings too.

Persistently absent pupils in secondary school could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance. For each additional day of absence between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of £750 in future lifetime earnings."



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Canford!

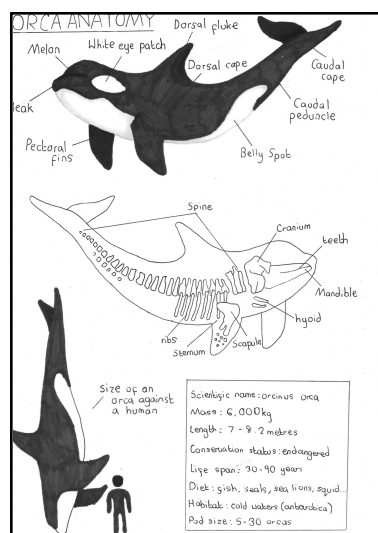
Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Max A, Hazel I	Lyla E, Amelia F	Ivy L	Frederick Z
Year 8	Sam S	Harry S	Cara S	-
Year 9	Kledis H	Fatima SC	Jessica S	Eisa A
Year 10	Isabelle Williamson	Jessica C	Finlay A	Nathanial C
Year 12	Eleanor B	Archibald H	Dylan M, Holly K	Lauren E

BIO ART ATTACK COMPETITION

Well done to everyone who entered the Bio Art Attack competition. We received some fantastic entries. Congratulations to the joint winners Cara S and Lauren S in Year 8.





What has been happening in... ***Design Tech?***



This year all Year 7 students have investigated creative media for one Design Tech curriculum rotation. This term, students have photographed areas of the school site where nature and human-built environments meet. Students have also recreated the photography of the artist 'Slinkachu' - who uses miniature figures to satirise everyday situations. Students have edited and adapted their photographs in Photoshop. Below are some of the pieces of work to enjoy.

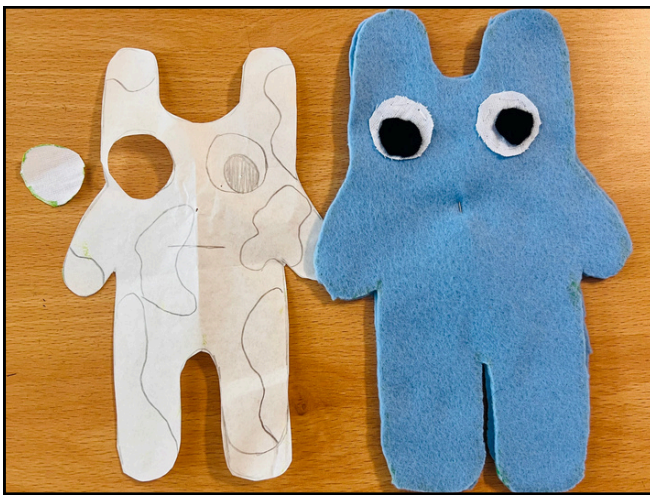


MR LAXON

YEAR 7



YEAR 7



MS REEVE

Year 7 have been busy working on and finalising their Memphis inspired felt monsters. We ran a pilot project this term from direct response to Student Voice wishes, to create a 'crazy monster' as opposed to a cushion. Still within the style of 'Memphis design movement'. It has been a great success. These students should feel proud of their achievements, and we have some great examples to inspire others!



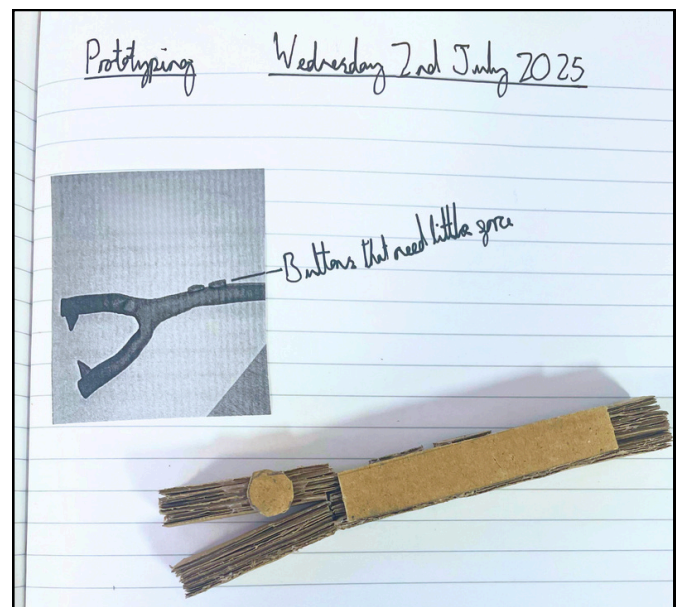
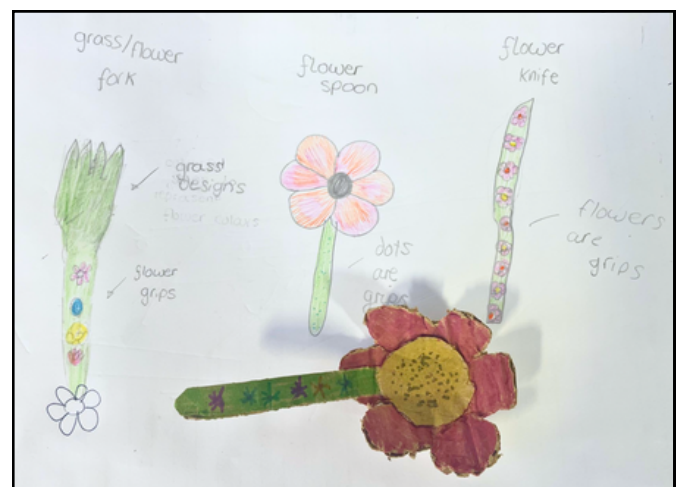
MRS SLADE

Year 7 product designers have been working on inclusive cutlery.

Isla has come up with nature inspired flower power cutlery that not only offer extra grip but look stylish.

Louis has designed some inclusive cutlery based on a snake. The jaw like mechanism makes it easier for those with mobility issues in their hands to eat with.

Jake took inspiration from Japan to make inclusive chop stick cutlery for beginners.



YEAR 7



MS REEVE

Well done to 8YDT1 who have fully committed to their textiles DT rotation. Their dedication, positive mindset and hard work, has resulted in some fantastic outcomes.

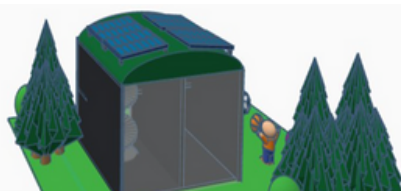


YEAR 9

Year 9 have been using CAD (Computer Aided Design) to develop ideas for an eco-school. They have researched green architecture and have been improving their skills with TinkerCAD and 2D Design.

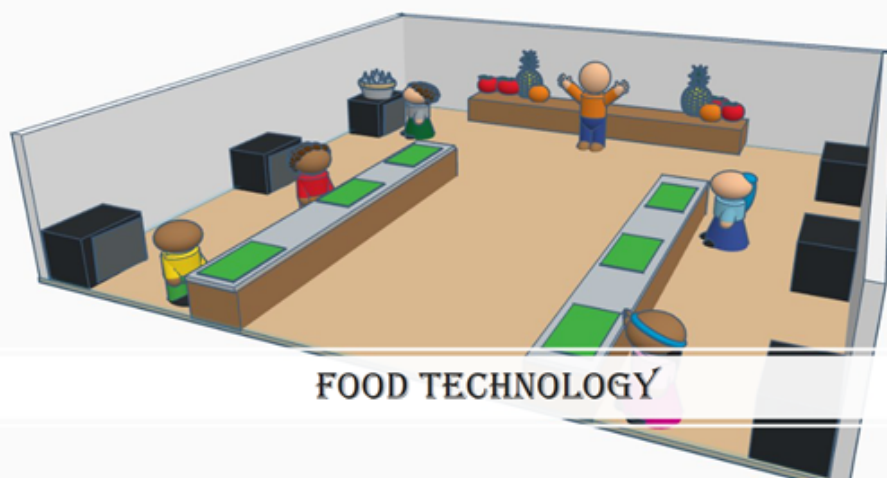


MR LAXON

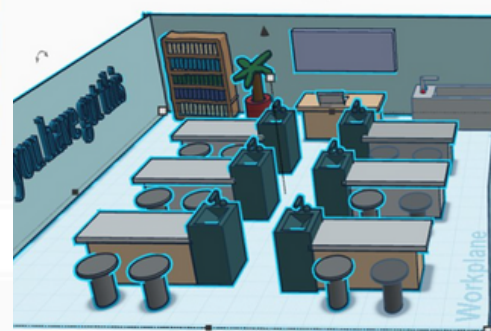


My eco school has solar panels to produce sustainable energy. It also has many windows for natural light.

The greenery and nature creates a lively, green and biodiverse environment for the kids to learn in. There is pond so the children can learn about all types of species. The school also has a wild roof to attract bees and butterflies. There are many outdoor learning areas to teach children whilst showing them the importance of looking after the environment

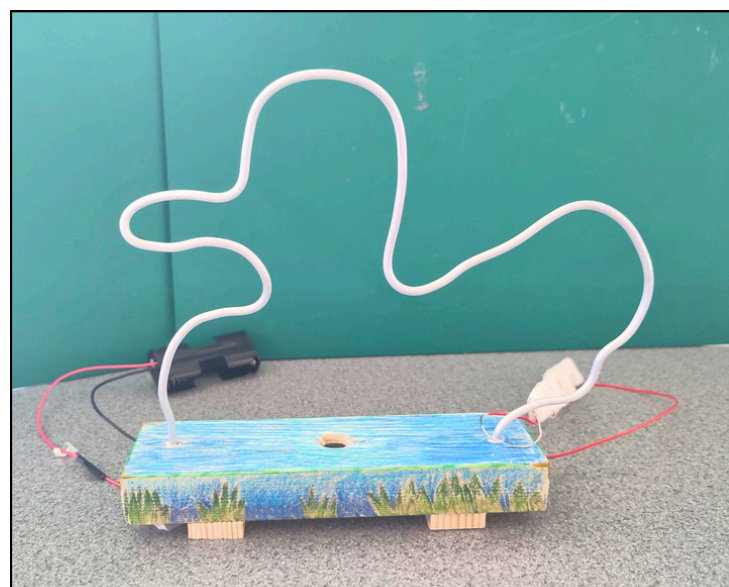
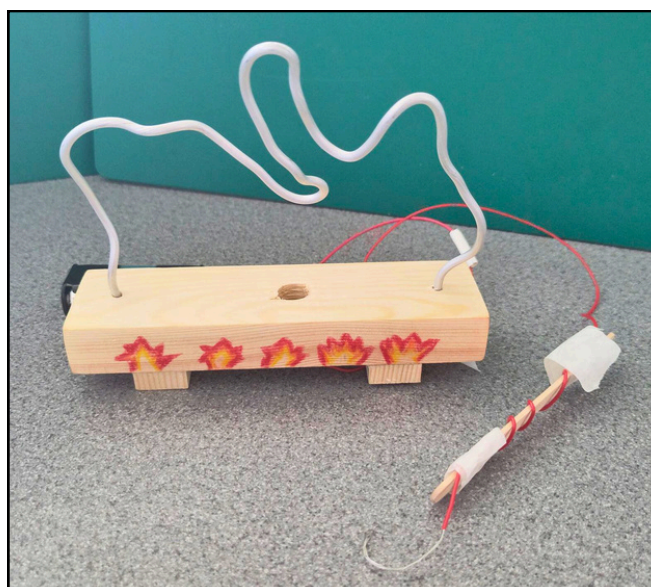
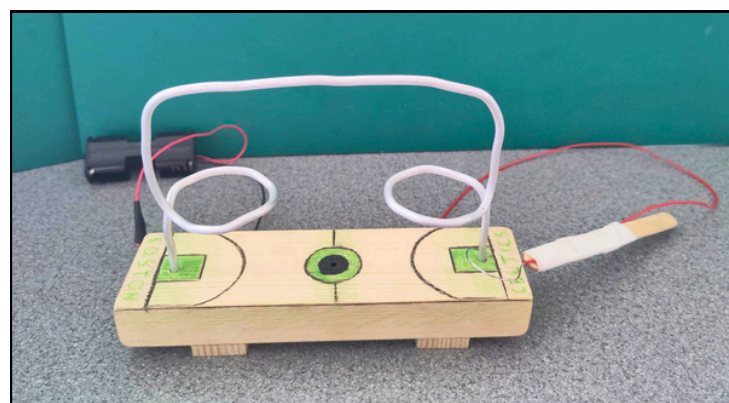


FOOD TECHNOLOGY



MRS GORDON

Another little buzz of steady hand games was successfully soldered by Year 9 students. We even had time to personalise them. Check out these beauties made by Yann (basketball), Rory (duck/seagull) and King (fire).



YEAR 9

YEAR 9

This term we have been impressed with the fantastic and independent sewing bees of Year 9. After a quick reflection, students became sewing buddies, helping and supporting the rest of the class team. Well done!



MS REEVE



Euros 2025 started on 2nd July!

To celebrate Year 10 Food and Nutrition students were tasked with providing a nutritionally balanced, performance-enhancing meal tailored to a 2025 footballer's dietary needs.



MRS CORRIGAN

They could choose either:

- Pre-match - easily digestible carbohydrates, moderate protein, low fat.
- Post-match - high protein for muscle repair, moderate carbs for energy replenishment.

The whole class delivered this brief excellently with a wide range of dishes being cooked showcasing a variety of the skills they have learnt this year including professional presentation. Well done to Finlay A, Yoli M and Nathaniel C for winning the competition. A big thank you to Miss Urch for her informed judging skills.

YEAR 10





In June we went to the Harry Potter World Studio Tour outside London with the DT department. After a two-hour drive, we arrived in the car park and enjoyed our lunch, looking at the giant wands and chess pieces that were featured in the films.

Before the tour, we were treated to a workshop about set design and textile weathering. We found it very interesting, and we learned loads of new things about how the wizarding world was made. The employees at Warner Brothers Studios gave us an exclusive view of how the sets were designed and built, including Hagrid's Hut and the Burrow. Also, they told us how they made the sets look used and how costumes, such as Hagrid's GIANT trousers, were made.

Then we started the tour with a grand entrance to the Great Hall and continued to view many much-loved and well-known sets from the films. We saw loads of cool stuff such as the 9¾ platform and a scale model of the Hogwarts Castle.

At the end we went to the Three Broomsticks Café and filled up with lots of treats and butter beer. After a long coach trip, we arrived back at school. We had an amazing time and will remember this incredible experience for many years. We would definitely recommend going on this trip for anyone taking GCSE DT!

Written by Issy and Heidi, Y10 D&T students



ENGLISH



On Friday 27 June, it was Year 7s turn to thrill us with the poetry they have been working on this term. Most students chose to perform a ballad about an inspirational person; we had everyone from cricket stars to human rights activists! The English department would like to thank all of Year 7 for being such a fantastic audience and to congratulate those students who performed their work.



The awards were as follows:

Best performance: Amelia F
Best voice projection: Ben S
Wordsmith: Devika D
Architect: Daniel E
Best use of structure: Fin S
Powerful message: Mollie K
Comedian: Ollie W

Well done!



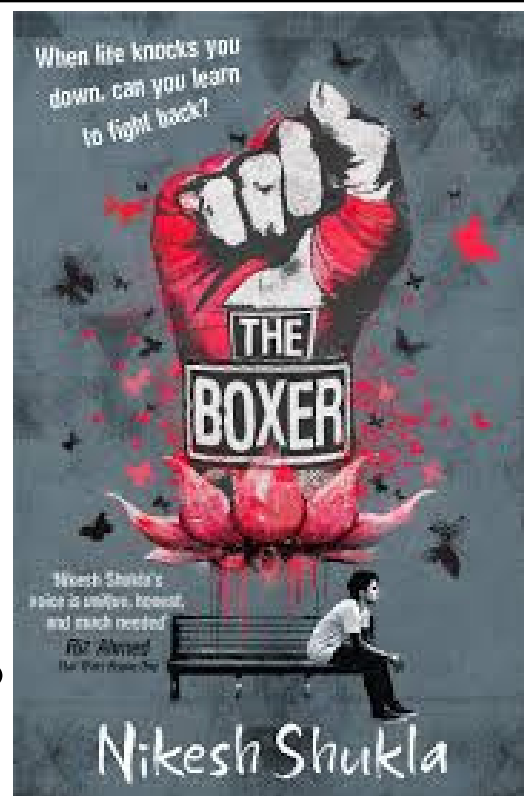
Exciting New Novel for Year 9 English

At BFS, we are constantly reviewing our curriculum to ensure that it is engaging, relevant and prepares students for the next step in their education. As such, the English Department are very excited to be delivering Nikesh Shukla's *The Boxer* as part of the Year 9 curriculum from next academic year.



MS SAYER

The Boxer is a fantastic novel that engages with many of the issues that young people face in today's society - family relationships, friendship, discrimination - and presents them through a cast of complex and multifaceted characters. One of my favourite things about the book is how Shukla makes us question the language we use and how words can have a long-lasting impact.



MR GOWEN

A really moving story that exposes the complexity and ripple effects of racism. The characters feel authentic and convincing as Shukla slowly peels away layers of history to reveal how they become the young adults that move the dynamic plot. My favourite bit though, might be a conversation between two of the characters: "He offered me a lift, which was tempting because it was 30 minutes by car and two hours by bus." For me, that shows that Shukla really understands what its like to be a citizen of Bristol.



MS LUDWELL

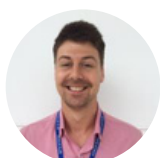
The Boxer was a powerful and thought-provoking read that I thoroughly enjoyed. What stood out most to me was its message of inclusivity and the way the author sheds light on the real-life challenges faced by members of marginalised communities. While the novel is clearly written to entertain, it goes much further - offering readers a meaningful exploration of racism and its deeply personal impact.

Set in Bristol, the story feels all the more vivid and relatable. Many of us have walked those same streets or know them well, which makes the characters' experiences hit even closer to home. I'm genuinely excited to teach *The Boxer* - it's a rare novel that informs, challenges, and inspires all at once.



MISS MCMURDO

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *The Boxer* and am looking forward to teaching it to Year 9 next year. It discusses race, masculinity and friendship, and raises crucial questions about unconscious bias, microaggressions and the importance of knowing when to speak up and when to walk away.



MR HARRIS

A vibrant exploration of 21st Century Bristol! Shukla's semi-autobiographical novel teems with nuanced characters and a thought-provoking plot that forces readers to reflect on their own places in society. Bonus points for all the great recipe ideas throughout!

I'm really looking forward to teaching this next year. It's exciting to study a book that is set and based in the city we live in - where we can compare the geography of the text to that of our own lives.

MR TREEN

COMPUTER SCIENCE

YEARS 7-9

At the beginning of the Term 5, BFS launched the iDEA award to Year 7-9. Students completed the award in class, or as homework. The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award is a free, online program that helps people develop and demonstrate their digital, enterprise, and employability skills. We currently have 47 pupils who have achieved a Bronze award, and a further 10 who have achieved Silver (250 points for Bronze and 450 for Silver).

We would like to congratulate all the students for their hard work - your certificates will be with you soon.

Remember- we still have two weeks left so you can still get a certificate.



Bronze Awards

Year 7

Charlie N
Charlie S
Cian D
Amelia F
Amy O
Ava A
Darcy F
Esther O
Hattie J
Henry B
Holly F
Izzy C

Year 7

Lexi L
Lottie W
Lyra WT
Noah C
Sienna W
Sophie M
Sophie M
Sophie R
Tiana M
Willoughby S
Zach O

Year 8

Alice O
Cara S
Cerys B
Emily S
Leo N
Naomi H
Rebecca J
Tia T
Rory M

Year 9

Sophie L
Alba
Daniel D
Elsa J
Jasper R
Mabel W
Sam W
Siena H



Silver Awards

Year 7

Joshua H
Jake S
Taylen S
Oscar B
Matthew J

Year 8

Noah S
Leo F
Owen T
Joshua W

Year 9

Dhruvika R



YEAR 10

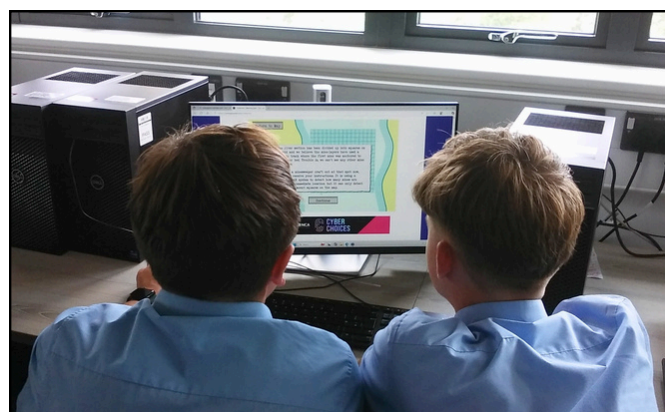
On Tuesday 1 July we took 15 Year 10 pupils to a Cyber Horizons event at the Swindon and Wiltshire Institute of Technology. CyberFirst is the school outreach arm of the NCSC and GCHQ. They work with schools and colleges nationally to support teaching and careers provision throughout the computing and ICT subjects. The aim of the event was to promote interest in jobs in the Cyber Security industry.



MR CAHILL

Students attended a series of workshops run by various companies including Airbus, Logiq, Fortinet and St. James Place. The pupils had to use their problem-solving skills to break codes, find security flaws on websites and correct errors in HTML code.

Students did a great job and really enjoyed the workshops, and we had high scores for three of the workshops which was a great reflection of our students' effort and enthusiasm on the day.



STEM

Young Green Briton National Final 2025 🌱

Tuesday saw the grand finale of our year-long work on the Young Green Briton project. With one team making it through to represent BFS in the national final, Hattie, Holly, Emily and Ella competed with 40 other schools, no mean feat!

We set off to London early in the morning, posters and marketing materials in hand. After a very hot walk to City Hall, we set up our stand and awaited the VIP arrivals and our chance to schmooze the judges! After an excellent lunch we were fuelled, focussed and ready.

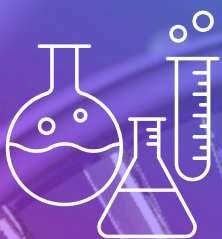


Over an hour of presenting, networking and showing off their green business idea - "Send, Fix, Save (a way to customise, recycle and repair your clothing)", it was on to the final address from environmental hero, Chris Packham. The team were awarded a plaque for reaching such a prestigious final. So many of the judges, including Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban, praised the budgeting and promotion of their business.

We ended the day with an even hotter return walk along the Thames to the tube station, stopping for a photo opportunity with everyone's favourite Peruvian (Paddington) and a super fun train journey back to Bristol.



A hugely massive well done to Holly, Hattie, Ella and Emily. They have done incredibly well to reach the final and were the most fun, enthusiastic, well prepared and professional students and we cannot wait to start the next Young Green Briton Challenge with Year 7 in September!



SCIENCE



MR LALLY

BFS's Discovery Prize returned this year for its 10th anniversary - and what a celebration it was! Over the course of two weeks, every student in Year 7 became a young scientist, selecting a question that piqued their interest, carrying out independent research, and presenting their findings to their classmates. From biology to baking, the range of topics was as diverse as it was imaginative.

After presenting to their peers, two standout projects from each class were selected to go through to the grand final held last Wednesday. The event was a fantastic afternoon, attended by parents/carers and staff, all of whom were blown away by the confidence, clarity and enthusiasm shown by the finalists. It was clear that a great deal of effort and thought had gone into each project.

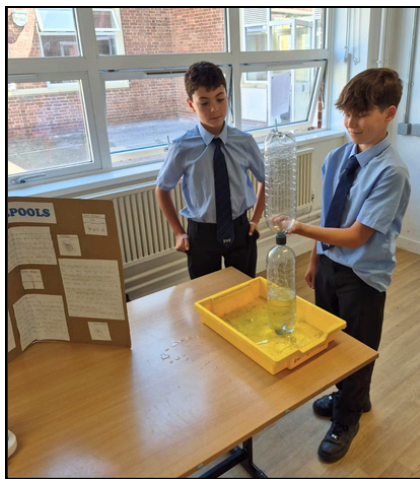
This year's Discovery Prize entries covered an exciting variety of scientific questions, but five projects in particular stood out for their originality and thought-provoking nature:

- How can you pick up a coin without getting your hands wet? – A clever exploration of combustion and pressure.
- Why do we have different coloured eyes? – A deep dive into genetics and the science of pigmentation.
- What would aliens look like on Mars? – A creative mix of astrobiology and imagination.
- Does speaking to plants help them grow better? – A fascinating blend of biology and psychology, investigating whether plants respond to human interaction.
- The science behind baking – how variables affect cookies – A tasty investigation into chemical reactions and culinary success.



The science department now faces the incredibly difficult task of choosing one overall winner to be announced in the end-of-term assembly. With such high standards across the board, it is no small challenge. You could say the pressure is rising... just like a well-mixed batch of cookies!

A huge thank you goes to all the staff who supported the students throughout the process, and to the families who came along to cheer them on at the final. Most importantly, congratulations to every single Year 7 student who took part. Your curiosity, creativity and commitment truly made this milestone year one to remember. Here's to another decade of discovery - roll on Discovery Prize 2026!





PSYCHOLOGY



MISS TOVEY

On Monday, Year 12 psychologists enjoyed a trip to West Midlands Safari Park. They spent the morning conducting observations of the animals that they had planned in lesson, trying out their research methods techniques in real life. They quickly realised the necessity of piloting when studying anything with free will as they encountered various behaviours they were not expecting as well as lots of animals simply hiding away to seek some shade in the 30 degree sunshine! Student favourites included the penguins, meerkats and lemurs.



After this, students engaged in a 'discovery session' based around phobias, which we cover in the clinical psychology unit of the course. They discussed alternative approaches to treating phobias including systematic desensitisation and flooding. Students then worked through a fear hierarchy, working towards holding a stick insect (which many of them did!). After this, students faced a 'flooding' episode where, without any build up, students were introduced to either a snake or rat they could hold. The students were a lot braver than Miss Tovey!

As a big well done following their mocks, students had some free time in the afternoon to enjoy the rides in the theme park. We heard lots of laughter (and a few screams on the pirate ship) and enjoyed watching them have a great time. It was a lovely (if a little hot) day, and we thank the students for their enthusiasm and politeness.





MRS BALLARD

BFS SPORTS



BFS_TeamPE



MS SLATER

Our BFS Sports Leaders did us so proud helping at the Westbury on Trym Academy and Elmlea School sports days. The students at both schools loved having our leaders to visit and run their sports day events. They were approachable, professional, encouraging and enthusiastic throughout. Well done to everyone involved. Here is what a few of our leaders had to say about the days:



"I really enjoyed putting the skills I have improved on from last year to use and working with people I wouldn't normally work with. It was also really nice seeing that the children found the activities fun and tried their best to succeed." Miranda R, Y9



"I really enjoyed working with the other Sports Leaders to create activities that the kids would enjoy. During the morning, I was at the 'stuck in the mud' section. It was enjoyable to see the children so keen to play a game together and often it surprised me to see how eager they were for me and the other Sports Leaders to join in. Being a Sports Leader is a great opportunity and can really boost creative and team building skills." Alba JG, Y9



"When I was a Westbury student, I was inspired by the BFS Sports Leaders, so it is nice to have the opportunity to go back and represent BFS and help give the younger students the best sports day experience like I had when I was their age. It's a great opportunity and I would recommend others to go for the role of Sports Leader!" Sophie D, Y10



COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

£25 PER DAY

BLAISE PRIMARY

25TH JULY -29TH AUG

10AM - 2PM

5 - 14 YEARS



DELICIOUS LUCHES
AND SNACKS



FUN SPORTS LIKE
FOOTBALL,
DODGEBALL, AND MORE!



SUMMER CRAFTS



Bristol

SUMMER 2025

Free bus travel for children this summer

The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority has made funding available to enable children to travel free on buses this summer. To highlight this one of the amazing members of staff at Cotham School has created the attached pamphlet to promote some of the events/ activities available to families in Bristol over the summer and the relevant bus routes to get there for you to share with your families.

GROMIT UNLEASHED TRAIL

YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A SUMMER OF
SCULPTURE-SPOTTING FUN FROM
30 JUNE TO 31 AUGUST.


THIS SUMMER, 53 STAR-STUDDED SCULPTURES OF
WALLACE&GROMIT WILL POP UP AT LOCATIONS IN
BRISTOL AND BEYOND.

WHICH ONES HAVE YOU FOUND?


• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THE BUS ROUTES

FIRST BUS



STAGECOACH



M1 & M2

