

Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

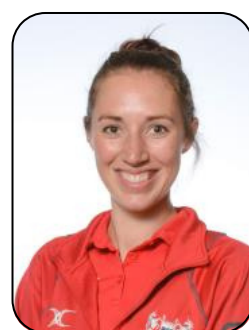
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Sports Day is always an eagerly awaited event to end the year, celebrating the spirit of teamwork, perseverance and physical fitness. This year was no exception - it was a vibrant and energetic occasion, bringing together students and staff to showcase school spirit.

All students competed in a wide range of activities with their tutor group, along with events on the track including the new, highly anticipated obstacle race and tug-of-war activities.

A massive thank you for all the House related outfits and banners, and for the enthusiasm of all students and staff to make the day a huge success. Another big thank you to all the Sixth Form students who organised the results on the track and assisted tutor groups throughout the day. Final House scores will be revealed in the end of year assemblies.



MRS BALLARD

A NOTE FROM MRS BALLARD





Sports Day 2025







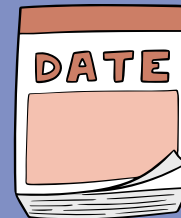
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 14 July

Charity Bake Sale - Lunch time, Avenue Shelter
Y12 Drama A Level Devising
Y12 English 'Pink Mist' Walking Tour
House rewards afternoon tea with the Governors

Tuesday 15 July

Y10 Celebration Assembly

Wednesday 16 July

Art & Photography Exhibition 4-5pm
Annual Awards Evening 6-8.30pm (invitation only)

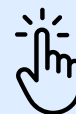
Thursday 17 July

Celebration Assemblies
Early Finish for Students - 12.30pm

Friday 18 July

INSET Day - School closed to students

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

Please Return Library Books

Please return all school Library books before the end of term on Thursday. It is fine to keep them for DEAR in the final week, but please do not take them on your summer holidays unless you have spoken with Ms Griffiths.

Charity Bake Sale

On Monday we will be holding the final Charity Bake Sale of the year. Please bring you homemade or bought items to Mrs Gardiner's office in CG03 on Monday morning. Please provide the ingredients list and no nuts please.

Cakes and bakes will be sold from the Avenue Shelter during KS3 and KS4 lunch. Please bring cash (quicker) or card. Items will be priced 50p - £1.



Attendance and Attainment are Linked

New research by the Department for Education has shown that attendance strongly affects students' attainment. The DfE have said: **"Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around 50%."**

As we reach the end of the school year, please check your child's attendance on the My Child At School app – remember that to be good, an attendance record needs to be 96% or above. If you are worried about your child's attendance, please contact the Attendance Office

90% attendance



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

Studybugs



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



1

Blaise House
2085 Points



2

Canford House
1577 Points



3

Durdham House
1499 Points



4

Ashton House
1437 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!

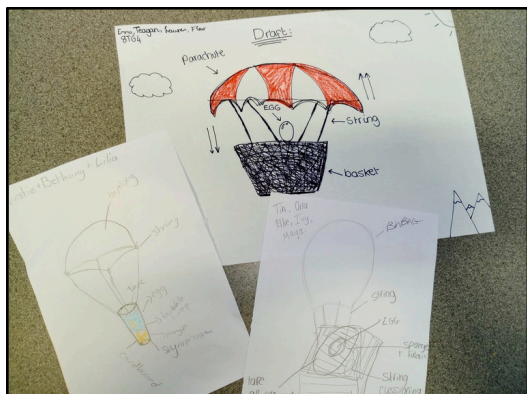
	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Emily R	Alys L	Holly F	Sophia D
Year 8	Bethany Gater	Isabelle Platt	Leo Newell	Florence H
Year 9	Elsa J, Lucy H, Sophie L	Olivia M, Daisy P	Harry F	Alice T
Year 10	Heidi T	Fiona H, Daisy H, Shenise N	Emily R	Chloe G, Libby W, Niamh C
Year 12	Reuben B	Alyssa C	Dylan M	Leon L

NORBOT PROGRESS



STEM Day 2025 - Zombie Apocalypse!

On Monday, a zombie horde were spotted heading towards BFS and all of Year 7 and 8 were called upon to help us survive! After watching Mr East in full zombie prevention mode, addressing the school and explaining the gravity of the situation, students were tasked to use their best STEM skills to guard against disaster and save our school from the apocalypse. Everyone took part in a Science, Maths, DT and Ethics lesson, learning different skills along the way.



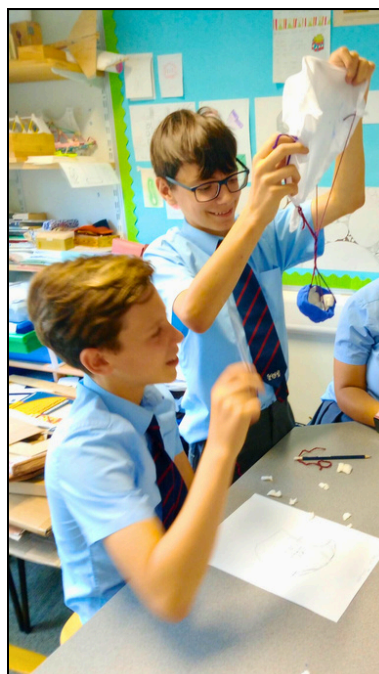
In Science, students learnt about the spread, and hopeful prevention, of disease, modelling the virus and engineering mini zombie defeating catapults to fend off our adversaries.

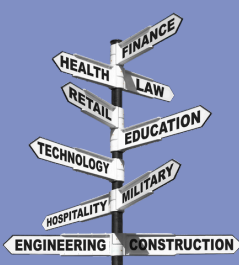
In Design Technology, students used engineering skills to create safe means of airdropping food and aid into the quarantine zone so that the population could carry on their battle.

Students used Maths to model and track the geographical spread of the virus across Bristol - hopefully meaning we could develop early warning systems to protect us.

There was also an ethical debate with students choosing which principles to employ in the human testing and vaccination efforts needed in a pandemic.

Finishing the day, we designed our own survival items and learnt how the 'real' zombie insects of the world live. Using these as inspiration, students created some very imaginative animal adaptations which could be the ultimate zombie bugs and creatures, hopefully not ones that we will run into in real life!





CAREERS DAY



MS NORTON

On Monday 7 July, our Year 10 and Year 12 students took a significant step in exploring their future pathways during our annual Careers Day - a dynamic, hands-on event designed to provide real-world insight into post-16 options and the world of work.

Year 12 Careers Day

Year 12 students also had a rich and purposeful day, starting with a keynote talk from Dale Willis of My Great First Job, who spoke about the power of networking and how platforms like LinkedIn can help young people source work experience, find paid work, and build a professional presence online. Dale stayed for the full day, delivering interactive workshops to support students in creating strong LinkedIn profiles and learning how to use the platform effectively.



Students also benefitted from a session on student finance and university funding led by Rosie Lunt from the University of the West of England, which gave them clear, up-to-date information on what to expect financially when applying to university.

We were also delighted to welcome back David McGregor, a former BFS student who shared his journey from Sixth Form to completing a Level 4 Apprenticeship in Software Engineering at Hargreaves Lansdown. His insights gave students a valuable real-world perspective on alternatives to university and the potential of the apprenticeship route.



Students were also able to choose from targeted workshops depending on their interests. Those considering apprenticeships or employment had the chance to attend a session on how to succeed at assessment centres, while others used the time to work on drafting and refining their UCAS personal statements, supported by staff. All students were also given the opportunity to join the employer talks happening as part of the Year 10 day - it was great to see so many taking up this fantastic opportunity.

The day was a fantastic success, and we extend a huge thank you to all of the guest speakers, volunteers, and staff who helped make it possible. Most of all, we are proud of our students, who approached the day with maturity, enthusiasm, and professionalism. Careers Day is just one part of our commitment to preparing students for life beyond school, and this year's event showed just how ready they are to take on the future.

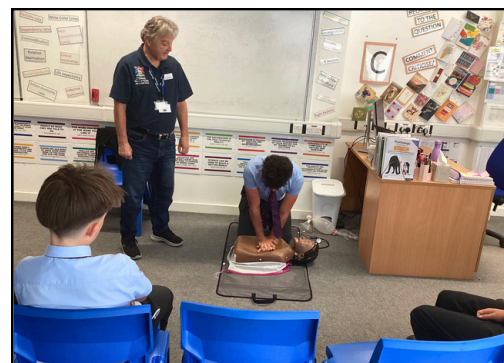


Year 10 Careers Day

For Year 10, the day began with an engaging keynote session from Charlie Grier of Access Creative College, who gave an inspiring talk about careers in the creative industries. Students learned about the wide range of opportunities in music, media, games, and digital design, as well as the specialist post-16 courses offered at Access Creative College to help young people break into these exciting fields.

Following the opening talk, students moved through a carousel of employer-led workshops and presentations, hearing directly from professionals across a variety of industries. These sessions provided valuable information about different career routes, required skills, and what employers look for in future candidates. We were fortunate to be joined by a wide range of organisations who generously gave their time to support our students' learning and aspirations:

Ian Fletcher (University of Gloucestershire) - Nursing
Kirk Hullis (Digital Knowhow Consulting) - Marketing and eCommerce
Kate Minto (University of the West of England) - Radiography
Emma Newton (Dick Lovett) - Car Dealership
Soraya Bouazzaoui & Jessie Goetzinger-Hill (Headline Publishing) - Publishing
Evelyn Fackrell & Owen Parsonage (Babcock) - Engineering
Richard Posner (Crown Prosecution Service) - Criminal Law
Emma Price and Josh (Bowmer & Kirkland) - Construction
Jasmine Beal and Ryan Ross (Shine) - Sports Coaching & Childcare
Gary Lewis (Logiq) - Cyber Security
Rosie Lucas (North Bristol NHS Trust) - Speech & Language Therapy
Maddison Lockley, Katie Langton, Amy Allright, James Selby (Encirc) - Manufacturing
Christian Butler (University of the West of England) - Policing



A highlight of the day was the mock interview experience, where every student was interviewed one-on-one by one of 34 volunteers from a local business. In preparation, students had worked hard to create a professional CV and cover letter tailored to a job role of their choice. The volunteers, many of whom conduct real recruitment in their day-to-day roles, were thoroughly impressed with the quality of the applications. One volunteer remarked, "These are better than some of the cover letters we receive from real candidates in their twenties."

Each employer was asked to select one student who stood out - someone they would have genuinely hired had it been a real position. This recognition was a fantastic way to celebrate the students' efforts and build their confidence. Many of the interviewers commented on how tough this decision was, with so many stand-out candidates. Well done to all of Year 10 for the effort you put in to your CVs and cover letters.

SIXTH FORM

Year 13 Leavers Day & Prom

On what turned out to be a memorable Leavers Day, our Year 13 students were sent off in true BFS style - with laughter, nostalgia, and just the right amount of embarrassment.

The day began with a celebratory assembly where students were welcomed back for one last time. Thankfully, for them, Mrs King resisted the temptation to reprise last year's unforgettable karaoke performance. It was a close call, though! As part of the festivities, students were given special awards, thoughtfully nominated by both their peers and members of staff.



The Dolly Award (working 9-5): Olivia G

Which student is the most likely to come back to BFS as a teacher? Josh M

Which student has the best car? Alex and Phoebe H-J

Which student is the best driver? Will L

Which student is the hardest worker? Alex M

Which student is the most likely to be famous? Isaac M

Which student is the all-round nicest person? Aila V

Which student is most likely to become a comedian? Luke S

Which student is best dressed? Will W

Which student will be the first to become a millionaire? Noah R

Which student is most likely to become Prime Minister? Alp P

Which student is most likely to win Olympic Gold? Elen R

Which student is most likely to cure a disease? Sam H

Which student is most likely to save the planet from environmental disaster? Dexter H

Which student is most likely to make it as a professional gamer? James M

Which student is most creative? Jasmine P

YEAR 13



Then came the surprise that no one saw coming (except maybe a few suspiciously quiet parents). With the help of families who secretly sent in old photos, we treated students to a nostalgic, and slightly mortifying, trip down memory lane. Baby pictures, dodgy haircuts, and primary school poses filled the screen to a chorus of laughter and groans from our leavers. A huge thank you to all parents and carers who got involved in this and made it memorable!

To wrap up the day, students faced off in the traditional Year 13 Quiz. This year saw a changing of the guard, as Ms Norton graciously shared her beloved quizmaster duties with Mr Smith for his final Leavers Day before moving on from BFS.



Later that evening, the celebrations continued at Prom, where students swapped their casual clothing for suits and gowns. The night was full of dancing, photos, and plenty of smiles as we celebrated all that this remarkable year group has achieved.





To our wonderful Year 13s: thank you for the laughter, the memories, and everything in between. We wish you all the very best for the future - you will always be part of the BFS family. Please keep in touch through our alumni network on LinkedIn!





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Six Journeys, One Spirit: Reflections on Our Recent Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions

Over the past few months, we have had the privilege of guiding over 240 young people through six unforgettable Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions - two at each level: Bronze, Silver and Gold. From the gentle hills of our local countryside to the rugged beauty of the Brecon Beacons, each journey brought its own challenges, triumphs, and moments of growth.



MR MILSTEAD



A Season of Adventure

Our expedition season began in April with the Bronze group, staying close to home. With 140 participants, it was our largest group and for many, their first time camping. The weather was on our side, offering perfect conditions for a gentle introduction to outdoor adventure.

May and June brought the Silver and Gold expeditions. The Silver practice took place in the scenic Wye Valley, while the qualifying expedition and Gold practice led us through the hills around Abergavenny. The Gold qualifying expedition culminated in the breathtaking landscapes of the Brecon Beacons.

Preparation and Perseverance

All participants took part in a skills training day in March, where they learned the essentials of navigation, campcraft, and teamwork. This foundation proved vital, especially as the later expeditions faced soaring temperatures. While the Bronze group enjoyed ideal weather, the Silver and Gold teams had to contend with heat-related challenges such as nosebleeds, fatigue, and the ever-present need to stay hydrated.

Despite the conditions, spirits remained high. H5, our expedition partner, provided expert support throughout, ensuring safety and structure while allowing the students to take ownership of their journeys.

Moments That Mattered

There were plenty of memorable moments: 100 students navigating the countryside at once, the occasional navigational hiccup during Silver practice, and the quiet pride of first-time campers setting up their tents with newfound confidence.

One of the most rewarding aspects was watching the transformation in our participants. From hesitant first steps to confident strides, each group grew in resilience, independence, and camaraderie. By the end of each expedition, every student crossed the finish line with a smile - tired, perhaps, but proud.



Looking Back, Moving Forward

As a leader, it has been inspiring to witness the determination and positivity of these young people. My role across the expeditions varied, from supervising and supporting to assessing progress, but the constant was the joy of seeing growth in action.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is more than a hike or a campout, it is a journey of self-discovery, and I am grateful to have walked part of that path with these incredible young people.



MRS CORRIGAN

FOOD TECH



MRS SLADE

This week, our GCSE Year 10 Food students put their culinary skills to the test in an exciting MasterChef-style challenge. With a focus on creativity, teamwork, and resourcefulness, students were tasked with using up a variety of ingredients to create both a main course and a dessert.

The challenge encouraged students to think on their feet, plan effectively, and showcase the techniques they have developed throughout the year. The atmosphere in the kitchen was buzzing with energy as teams chopped, stirred, and plated their dishes under time pressure.



After much deliberation, the winning team was announced: Noah and Max, who wowed the judge with their spicy crispy salmon served as a main, followed by a refreshing and inventive dessert of frozen strawberries covered in yoghurt and chocolate. Their dishes stood out for their bold flavours, presentation, and clever use of ingredients.



BUSINESS STUDIES



MRS MORGAN-JONES
OF A

YEAR 10

Year 10 Business students took part in a business workshop with successful business owner Amar Shah. Amar started the session giving a brief overview of his business background and tasked the students to consider what success looks like to them. Students then took part in a 'Dragon's Den' style task where small groups had to think of a business opportunity to pitch to a panel to secure an investment.

Our students emersed themselves into the challenge and came up with some very interesting and innovative ideas. These included chairs for school which included heating and cooling systems whilst also being cushioned for comfort, dog ice cream, a phone holder, a new line of watches, a drone phone and an AI fitness app. All students took part in the final pitches and answered questions from the panel. Our students demonstrated fantastic presentation and teamwork skills, with Amar highlighting Henry, Rockia, Georgie and the Doggy Ice Cream team for standout performances.

A huge thank you to Amar for coming to work with our students and well done to all involved.



SIXTH FORM

YEAR 12



We were pleased to be joined by 60 children from Year 6 at Elmlea Junior School for the second of our Science Workshops organised by Year 12 students. Experiments included 'methane bubbles', 'flames tests' and 'screaming jelly baby'. Thanks to all those who took part.



PERFORMING ARTS



Little Shop of Horrors

We are excited to announce that next year's musical will be **Little Shop of Horrors**! Auditions will be held the week beginning Monday 8 September and rehearsals will then be on Tuesdays and some Thursdays. In preparation for auditions, please learn the following:

If you would like to be in the ensemble only:

Little Shop of Horrors - Prologue/Little Shop of Horrors (0.50 to 1.22).

If you would like a main role, please learn the section above and:

Suddenly Seymour (all through, choosing either Seymour or Audrey's part).

We cannot wait to get started!



ENGLISH



I do hesitate to place Year 10 on a pedestal, but their continued excellence makes it almost impossible not to. This term, they rose to the challenge of delivering their Speaking and Listening speeches to members of the English Department. The brief was simple yet demanding: choose a topic they are genuinely passionate about and present a speech that aims to inform, persuade, or argue a point of view.



MS LUDWELL

The level of dedication, research, and personal engagement each student brought to their speech was truly impressive. So much so that I gave the English Department the very difficult task of selecting just two standout speeches - a decision that proved to be anything but easy. The consensus was clear: our students delivered with confidence, clarity, and real conviction.

Please take a moment to read and appreciate the selected speeches [in this appendix](#). I know you will enjoy them as much as we did.

- [Why we shouldn't compare ourselves to others](#)
- [Why everyone should learn how to play a musical](#)
- [Equality on the pitch](#)
- [Why Donald Trump is a dictator](#)
- [Will AI take over the world?](#)
- [The relationship between parents and children](#)



MR GOWEN

Despite listening to over 75 speeches, I was still captivated by the passion and professionalism Year 10 put into this oracy assessment. The range of topics show how politically and socially switched on this cohort are: the significance of Bhutan, abortion rights, if traditional wedding vows have a place in modern society, why local businesses are vital to communities, and the dark side of figure skating to name but a few. I was also impressed by how punctual the year group were for their presentations, as well as those who missed the day with absence but took it upon themselves to arrange at another time with their teacher.

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



FIRE STATION OPEN DAY

Saturday 19 July

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Yate Fire Station, Station Road,
Yate

Road safety activities
Exciting demonstrations
Arts and crafts
No onsite parking available.



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



AEROSPACE BRISTOL

WHERE KIDS GO FREE THIS SUMMER

Four big hangars filled with 1000s of air, land and sea vehicles, objects, restoration projects, and inspirational stories.

Kids go free from **23 July – 31 Aug**

Grab your tickets

Book online for 10% off.
aerospacebristol.org/kids-go-free



**SOUTHMEAD
REPAIR CAFE**

LAST SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH,
GREENWAY CENTRE,
12 - 3 PM



Bring your items to fix, or volunteer to help others to fix theirs. Donations welcome.
Refreshments available.



for monthly details follow
us @greenwaycentre

For more info contact Eve,
0117 950 3335
evepayne@southmead.org



We are a member of International
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Southmead, BS10 5PY. www.southmead.org