

Newsletter

A NOTE FROM MRS KING

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,



MRS KING

Last night it was my absolute pleasure to host this year's Awards Evening Ceremony. This evening is a celebration - not just of academic achievements, but of perseverance, growth, kindness, and community spirit. We recognised the many highlights of this year - from competing in a range of local and national competitions and fixtures to engaging in an ever-increasing range of House competitions, clubs and fun events. I am very proud that students have increased their reading miles this year with DEAR time and reading books together in tutor time. Every day at BFS students work hard and enjoy being in school. We know this from the high student attendance levels (the best in Bristol) and the improved grades students are getting. So last night it was a very special evening where we celebrate these achievements together.

To our students: Whether you received an award yesterday or not, each of you has contributed something unique and valuable to our school. You have faced challenges, embraced opportunities, and grown in ways that go far beyond the classroom.

To our award winners: Congratulations. Your hard work, dedication, and resilience have brought you here. But remember, these awards are not just about high marks or trophies. They are about character, about showing up, trying again, helping others, and striving to be your best self.

At BFS, we believe deeply in the power of a growth mindset, a concept developed by psychologist Carol Dweck. Her research shows that intelligence and talent are not fixed traits - they can be developed through effort, perseverance, and learning from mistakes. That is why we celebrate not just achievement, but attitude. We honour those who keep going when things get tough, who embrace feedback, and who see challenges as opportunities to grow. These are the qualities that lead to lifelong success - in school, in work, and in life.

To our parents, carers, and families: Thank you. Your support, encouragement, and belief in your children make all the difference. You are their first teachers, and your role in their success cannot be overstated.

To our staff: Thank you for your unwavering commitment. You inspire, guide, and nurture our students every single day. Your passion and care are the heartbeat of this school.

This year, we have seen incredible achievements: in academics, sports, the arts, national competitions and community service. We have seen students lead initiatives, support one another, and step up as leaders. We have seen quiet acts of kindness and bold moments of courage. These are the things that truly define success. As we look ahead, I want to leave you with a simple message: keep learning, keep growing, and keep being kind. The world needs thoughtful, compassionate, and curious people, and I see so many of them here at BFS.

To our leavers: We are proud of you. You carry with you, not just knowledge, but values. Go forward with confidence and know that you will always be part of this school's story.

Let us celebrate not just the awards, but the journey. The effort. The friendships. The lessons learned, in and out of the classroom.

I wish you a wonderful summer break - come back refreshed and ready to learn!

Warm regards, Mrs S King



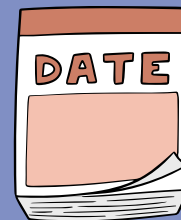
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 September

INSET Day - School closed to students

Tuesday 2 September

INSET Day - School closed to students

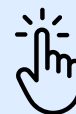
Wednesday 3 September

Induction Day - for Year 7 and Year 12 Students Only

Thursday 4 September

School open to all students-

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

KEY DATES

Key dates for Term 1, details of extracurricular clubs, and information on our Yondr launch will be sent in Week 1.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all the BFS families who so generously contributed to Staff gifts. We were blown away by your kind words and generosity. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer.

STAFF FAREWELLS!

We are saying goodbye to a number of our amazing staff this year. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication, and we wish them all good luck for the future!



Mr Smith



Ms Musa



Mrs Sheppard



Ms Carter



Mr King



Ms Freeman



Miss Minto



Mr Rupprecht



Mr Cooper



Miss Jenkins



HOUSE NEWS



As the academic year comes to an end, we have celebrated those students who get things right every single day.



House Cup Champion

Blaise

Congratulations to Blaise House who are the overall BFS House Cup Champions for 2025! Blaise's first ever House victory.



Sports Cup Champion

Blaise

Congratulations to Blaise House who are also the BFS Sport Cup Champions for 2025 after an amazing performance on Sports Day.

BFS Values Cup Winners

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the BFS Values Cups for earning the most House points in each of these areas.

Community Cup

Miranda R - Year 9
Ashton

Ambition Cup

Tiana M - Year 8
Ashton

Opportunity Cup

Heidi T - Year 10
Ashton

Top House Point Earners

Ashton House

Y7 - Willoughby S
Y8 - Jemima H
Y9 - Sophie L
Y10 - Heidi T
Y12 - Jacob C

Blaise House

Y7 - Amelia F
Y8 - Emma W
Y9 - Jasmine K
Y10 - Fiona H
Y12 - Alyssa C

Canford House

Y7 - Ivy L
Y8 - Noah S
Y9 - Amelia B
Y10 - Chloe D
Y12 - Dylan M

Durdham House

Y7 - Fred Z
Y8 - Edward R
Y9 - Lucy C
Y10 - Chloe G
Y12 - Kaira M

Afternoon Tea with the Governors

Recently we had a wonderful afternoon celebrating those students who achieved over 450 house points.

Our governors came in and we had a lovely afternoon tea (supplied by our fabulous caterers - Innovate).

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the cakes were a real hit! Well done.





YEAR LEADERS



YEAR 7

Year 7 have successfully completed their first year at BFS in tremendous fashion, embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm, resilience, and determination. The year began with the Clifton College Team Building Day in September, where students enjoyed a memorable day in the great outdoors with their new tutor groups. Through a range of exciting team challenges, they built strong friendships and set a positive tone for the year ahead. Building on this, students rose to the challenge of the BFS Promise Passport. Over the course of the year, they worked hard to complete this initiative, earning their House pin badges and demonstrating a deep understanding of the BFS Values.



MRS MACBLAIN

Our Year 7 transition team have also been outstanding ambassadors for the school. They visited primary schools to support our new Year 7s and played a key role during events for incoming families and prospective students. The positive feedback we have received from visitors has been heartwarming - a true reflection of our students' maturity, enthusiasm, and pride in their school. A standout moment this year was Sports Day. Year 7 approached the event with energy, passion, and House spirit. Dressed in their House colours, they gave every event their all and showed unwavering support for their teammates, making it a day to remember. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome this Year 7 cohort to BFS. Watching them grow in confidence, character, and community spirit has been truly rewarding. They have made a fantastic start to their journey here, and we are excited to see all they will achieve in the years ahead. Well done, Year 7 - we are incredibly proud of you!

YEAR 8

It has been a wonderful year for Year 8, filled with energy, creativity and achievement across all areas of school life. Their end-of-year assembly was a fantastic celebration of just how much they have accomplished, and the breadth of talent within the year group. From budding chefs and bakers in the kitchen to talented young poets, artists, musicians and performers, Year 8 students have truly flourished. Highlights have included outstanding drama and music performances, inspiring entries in art competitions, and brilliant



MS BATE

showcases from our "School of Rockers." Across the curriculum, Year 8 have impressed with progress and passion.

Beyond the classroom, Year 8 has made the most of enrichment opportunities. Students took part in science-focused trips and a fantastic day visit to Babcock, while a highlight of the year was undoubtedly the residential trip to camp, where students demonstrated teamwork, independence and resilience. Sport has also been a real strength this year. Year 8 sports teams have excelled, with strong performances from the girls' cricket and rounders teams and the boys' rugby and football squads. The year group's sports leaders have also shown real dedication, playing a vital role in supporting younger students and helping to build a sense of community.

Engagement with the Promise Passports and extracurricular life has been particularly impressive. From clubs and competitions to wider school events, Year 8 has consistently demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment and a willingness to get involved. As they prepare to move into Year 9 and begin thinking about their GCSE options, there is no doubt that this is a year group full of potential. We look forward to seeing what they will go on to achieve next.



YEAR 9

Wow, Year 9, what an incredible year it has been! Reflecting on the past months, it has been amazing to witness your enthusiasm and growth. Despite a few challenges, you have consistently risen to the occasion, making us all incredibly proud.

Your involvement in various activities has been truly remarkable. From the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the visit to Cardiff Met University to sports day, mentoring Year 7 students as reading mentors, participating in musicals and school shows, excelling in sports fixtures and reaching the Subsea National Final in Aberdeen – you have embraced every opportunity with open arms. Your dedication and passion have shone through in each endeavour.

The Year 9 tutor team and I are immensely proud of your resilience and determination in overcoming challenges. Your ability to persevere and support one another has been inspiring. As you head into the summer holidays, take the time to relax, recharge, and reflect on your achievements. We eagerly anticipate seeing what you will accomplish in Year 10! Have a fantastic summer!



MR LANGEVELDT

As we approach the end of another academic year, I am delighted to share my penultimate update for Term 6 - and what a year it has been for our exceptional Year 10 students.

Throughout the year, they have consistently impressed us with their determination, maturity, and commitment to their studies. They have successfully completed End of Year exams, Religious Philosophy (RP) mocks, an RP final exam, and their Speaking and Listening assessments - all with focus and resilience. Our teaching staff have been unanimous in their praise, commenting on how ambitious and diligent this year group is.

Beyond the classroom, Year 10 have embraced a wide range of extracurricular opportunities. From netball, football, and rugby to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Maths, Science, and Business trips - their enthusiasm and involvement have been outstanding. Most recently, I have received glowing feedback following their trips to Barcelona and Naples, where students conducted themselves with responsibility, respect, and enthusiasm. One visitor, during our recent careers day, remarked, "They've restored my faith in young people" - a sentiment that truly reflects the calibre of our students.

Year 10 are not only a credit to the school and the Year 10 team, but to you, their families. They are polite, thoughtful, self-motivated, and consistently strive to be the best versions of themselves. If I were a betting woman, I would place great confidence in every one of them leaving BFS next year with well-earned smiles and proud accomplishments.

Thank you for your continued support - it has undoubtedly played a vital role in their success.



MS LUDWELL

YEAR 10



YEAR 11

We could not be prouder of our incredible Year 11 students - the Class of 2025 - who brought an important chapter of their school journey to a close. What a year it has been! From beginning to end, it has been packed with hard work, personal growth, and unforgettable experiences. Students have thrown themselves into every opportunity, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved, individually and together.



MS URCH

The end of Year 11 leavers' day was a fitting finale, full of emotion, celebration, and lasting memories. The day began with a heartfelt Leavers' Assembly, filled with laughter, reflection, and well-earned recognition for the resilience, dedication, and friendships that have shaped their time with us. Later that evening, the celebrations continued in style at Leigh Court, where students arrived looking fantastic and danced the night away at their Prom, an evening full of joy, laughter, and memories that will stay with us all for years to come.

As they now take their next steps, whether with us at Sixth Form or beyond, we send our warmest wishes and every success for the future. We can't wait to hear about all they go on to accomplish, and we look forward to celebrating with them once more on Results Day, Thursday 21 August. Enjoy your summer, you have truly earned it.

SIXTH FORM

As the academic year comes to a close, we are proud to reflect on a busy and rewarding year: from exploring the Pembrokeshire coastline on our Geography field trip to visiting Westminster and the Old Bailey in London, our learning has taken us far and wide. Our students have tackled a brilliant range of EPQs - delving into football finance, Austrian farmhouse architecture, and even building a robot designed to carry loads up a flight of stairs! Many have also given back through volunteering, whether as maths mentors, reading buddies, or supporting Year 6 transition. As we head into summer, we have got everything crossed for our Year 13s on results day and wish them every success on their next adventure and look forward to welcoming back our Year 12s.



MR SMITH

ENGLISH



YEAR 12

On Monday, A Level English Literature students went on a walking tour around Bristol. For their coursework they are studying 'Pink Mist', a verse drama by Owen Sheers. The play is set in Bristol so we thought we would capitalise on being locals and visit some of the locations to analyse key sections of the play in situ. This enhanced our contextual understanding of the play and also helped us to further consider the significance of Sheers' choice of settings. Our first stop was Avonmouth where the protagonist, Arthur, grows up, followed by Avonmouth, Shirehampton, and finally the city centre where the characters decide to join the army.



MS MARSH





Annual Awards

2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR AWARD WINNERS!

Yesterday we celebrated the achievements and talents of 176 award winners. It was a special evening, attended by students and their families, and one that is so important in our school's culture and ethos.

We were treated to a number of musical performances during the event which was a real highlight.

Students and their families left with big smiles and a real sense of pride.

As we reach the end of a busy year, it is so important to stop and celebrate everything that our students have achieved. We did that yesterday evening, and we could not be prouder!

Thank you to everyone who attended and made the evening a success.





Barcelona

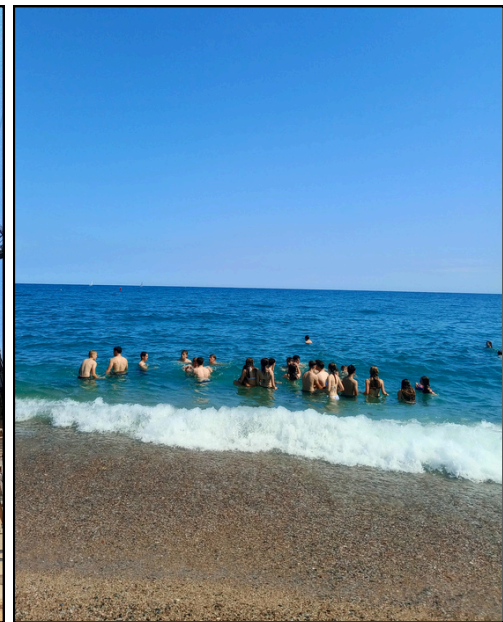
Year 10 MFL and Art/Photography Trip

Setting off promptly from BFS to Heathrow, our adventure began with a smooth flight to Barcelona (with just one staff member's lost boarding pass promptly reissued), and a rapid transfer to Hotel Garbí. After the excitement of seeing our rooms and our first buffet dinner, we headed straight to the local shops, where footballs and ice creams were purchased. We walked from there to the beach for a few hours to relax and rest. Our students spent time chatting on the sand, playing beach football and volleyball, whilst soaking up the evening sun and admiring the sunset. Then, straight to bed!



The second day we had our buffet breakfast and left for a quick coach trip to central Barcelona. We spent the morning exploring the heart of the city and all it has to offer; smells and roadworks included! After a short, guided tour of the Gothic Quarter, with its narrow medieval streets, stunning architecture and impressive cathedral, we then headed down Las Ramblas, a bustling street lined with shops, cafes, and street performers. We saw La Boquería market and then, just nearby at Plaça de Catalunya, we gave the students time to shop for souvenirs and the plentiful food options. A quick walk down Las Ramblas and back on the bus, we drove up to the iconic, but still unfinished, Sagrada Família. The students were amazed by Antoni Gaudí's masterpiece, with its towering spires and incredible architecture. Lots of photos and time for a quick drink or ice cream!





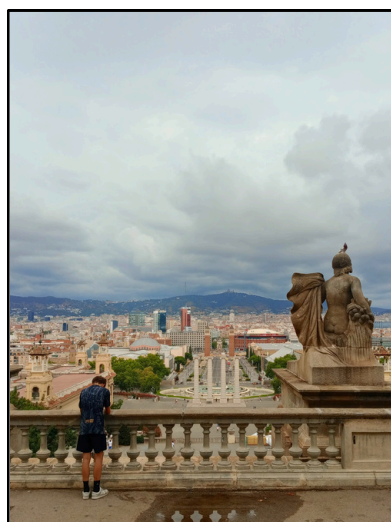
We then headed back to Calella where the students enjoyed the rest of the afternoon on the beach. It was certainly my highlight seeing them all playing and laughing together and not one mobile phone in sight! We took them back to the hotel in two shifts, depending on how much time they wanted to get ready ahead of the Flamenco evening (some outfits had been planned for months by some, whereas Mr Fernandes rocked the same t-shirt as last year!). It was delightful to see them all dressed up and ready for their night out. The Tapas was plentiful, with the patatas bravas and croquetas proving very popular. A more formal sit-down meal was a lovely way to finish off the day. Once the show started, the excellent warmup act from last year managed to get a few brave students on stage to dance with her again! The show was fantastic; excellent music, dance and song with all the students engaged by the tap dancer and guitarist. An opportunity to dance on stage again was not lost at the end with even most of the teachers being convinced. We laughed and clapped along together; it was a real delight!



The next day, some bleary-eyed but still very happy and enthusiastic students boarded the coach for our day out at Waterworld, a thrilling water park just outside the city. The students had lots of fun on all the water slides, wave pools, and lazy river, making it a day filled with laughter, excitement and slide after slide. The teachers were extremely happy to mind all the bags and valuables at the Family Lagoon, but Ms Ardelean was convinced to try the new Tornado ride (and didn't regret it!).



We checked out promptly and walked to the best Spanish supermarket, Mercadona, for final presents and snacks for the journey home. We then drove to Camp Nou, the legendary home of FC Barcelona. The students were happy to see the new stadium, which is a complete building site now, but the chance to see how they are building it and to go to the immersive museum proved interesting, even to those who are not such a fan of the beautiful game. After some time to explore the viewing platform and the three floor gift shop we got back on the bus. Our driver took us up to Montjuic for the best panoramic view of the city. Some free time to explore the Museo de Catalunya was given or to walk down and up the many stairs down to the Plaça d'Espanya (well done Ms Slater!). The sudden alerts sent to all our mobiles about an incoming storm and torrential rain created a bit of a buzz over whether we would be flying at all, but we headed to the airport all the same! What was going to be a pretty horrific delay was reduced a lot after the rain proved to be about five minutes long, but BA gave us some vouchers for all to use in a restaurant and students were using a lot of maths to work out how far they could reach with their 8 euros. The more exciting thing for some was bumping into Adama Traoré from Fulham, who was very happy to pose for a few photos with the students.



A slightly bumpier flight back to Bristol, a quick coach ride and everyone safely returned to their families. We cannot sign off without mentioning how many people along the way commented on how lovely, polite and enthusiastic our students were, even after very little sleep and a jam-packed itinerary. We are exceptionally proud of them all - they made it remarkably easy for us all and it was an absolute pleasure to spend four days with them. Hans Christian Anderson sums it up perfectly "Barcelona, la gran encantadora, ha dejado una huella imborrable en mi corazón" - "Barcelona, the great enchantress, has left an indelible impression on my heart."

Thank you to all who made it possible for us to go!

Nos vemos el año que viene / See you next year!

Naples

Year 10 Geography and Food Trip

Last week, our Year 10 Geography and Food students spent 3 days in the beautiful Bay of Naples in Southern Italy. Our students really made the most of this opportunity and soaked up the Italian sunshine and culture with gusto.

Day 1: Vesuvius and Sorrento

Students spent the morning climbing Vesuvius – one of Europe's only active volcanoes, which towers over the bustling city of Naples. Students put their DofE skills to good use in our hike up the volcano, taking in the breath-taking views of the Bay of Naples. Students learned about the geography of the volcano and the surrounding area from an expert guide. Afterwards, we headed to a mozzarella farm where they learned how to make mozzarella and enjoyed a traditional Italian lunch in a lemon grove, washed down with freshly made lemonade and lemon biscuits. Students spent the evening exploring the coastal town of Sorrento before heading back to the accommodation for some dinner.



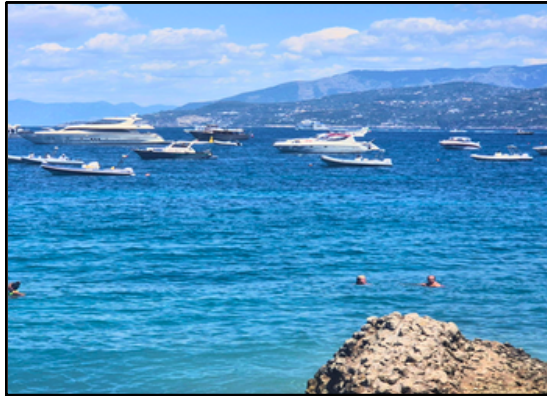
Day 2: Capri and Gelato and Pizza Making

Students enjoyed a boat trip to the beautiful island of Capri. Students visited the mountain-top town of Anacapri and spent time leisurely strolling the picturesque town and souvenir stores. Shout out to Josh P who bought every lemon-related souvenir in sight and spent the rest of the trip dressed from head to toe in lemon paraphernalia.

We then spent the afternoon soaking up the sun on the beach and enjoying Capri's turquoise-blue waters before boarding the boat back to Sorrento, in time for some gelato-making at a local family-run gelateria.

Students took part in a demonstration on how to make traditional Italian gelato and tasted a variety of flavours - which was welcomed in the Italian heat! Fiona smashed it with her gelato-scooping skills!

In the evening, students learned how to make Neapolitan pizza under the careful instruction of their pizza chef, Marco. We then all tucked into our Neapolitan pizza while watching some tarantella dancing. Well done to our students who gave tarantella dancing a go!



Day 3: Pompeii

Naples is famed for the ancient city of Pompeii which was smothered by a violent Vesuvius eruption in 79AD yet beautifully preserved under the layers of ash over time. Students spent the morning exploring the ancient streets and buildings of Pompeii in the Italian sunshine. The pictures really do not encapsulate how incredible this ancient city is. Finally, students then had some free time in Naples before saying 'arrivederci' to Italy and heading to the airport for our return journey home.



Bravissimo!

We would like to express how proud we are of our students for the community spirit they showed to each other on the Naples trip, and their resilience in unexpected circumstances. The students really made this trip brilliant, and they were a credit to our school community from start to finish. Grazie, Italia – until next time!

Grazie di tutto, Italia – ci vediamo presto!

Battlefields

Year 9 First World War Battlefields Trip

Once again, the Year 9 battlefields trip was a roaring success as a wonderful group of 50 young historians explored some of the historic First World War sites in Belgium and the Somme region of France.



Students explored original trenches, saw authentic artefacts and were even able to try first hand some of the things those soldiers would have experienced such as trying on gas masks and bayonet training. All our students conducted themselves impeccably at each of the sites we visited, and we received glowing feedback from a range of people, including other schools. A special mention goes to Flo, Will and Sienna who took part in the Menin Gate ceremony in Ypres; laying a wreath to commemorate the sacrifices made by individuals from our own Bristol community.





Our guides, Ralph and Jim, were fantastic at bringing the past to life and both were incredibly impressed by how engaged and polite our students were and how much knowledge they absorbed. Well done – you were all great ambassadors for BFS. A massive thank you to all the staff and students who helped to make it such a wonderful experience!

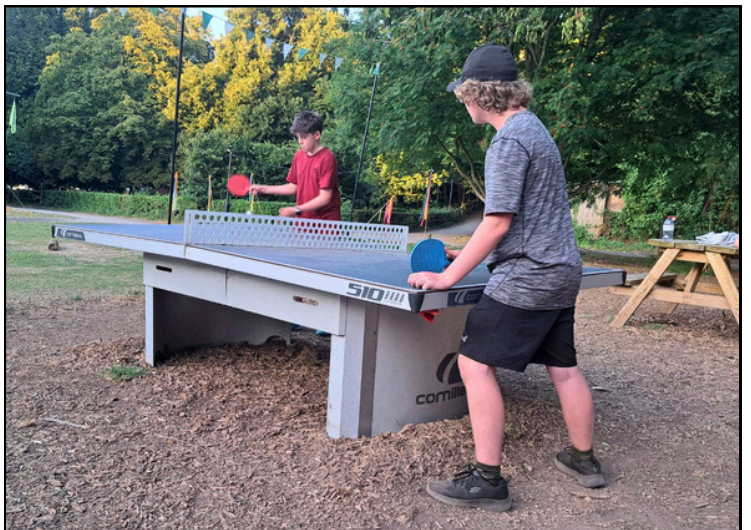


Year 8 Camp

Woodhouse Park Activity Centre

For 3 days, Year 8 students from BFS took over the Woodhouse Park Activity Centre in Almondsbury. Although only a short distance away, the trip (in its third year) feels like it could be based in a forest a long way from Bristol. The weather was fantastic - almost too hot at times in the dorms and tents but the students coped with the heat brilliantly and had an excellent time. The centre has this year added in a ski slope slide, field-based water slip 'n' slide, as well as ghilli suits and bases for those who take laser tag that bit more seriously!





The centre instructors commented how impressed they were that all students got involved tried everything and rarely, if ever, gave up - which according to them is not always the case. A huge thanks to Mrs Meech for her help organising this trip and to all the staff who supported it and had just as much fun as the students - getting muddy, wet and hot, but with a lot of laughter.