

Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

[Notice Board](#)

[SEND](#)

[Key Dates](#)

[Sixth Form](#)

[Achievements](#)

[Extra-Curricular](#)

[Staff News](#)

[Performing Arts](#)

[Friends of BFS](#)

[Sports](#)

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back to a new academic year at BFS! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break and are returning refreshed, recharged, and ready for the exciting journey ahead.

This year brings new opportunities to grow, learn, and achieve together. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning to continue your journey, we are thrilled to have you as part of our school community. Our commitment to excellence, inclusion, and wellbeing remains at the heart of everything we do.

Let's make this year one of ambition, kindness, and collaboration. I look forward to celebrating your successes, supporting your challenges, and working together to make our school a place where everyone thrives.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,
Mrs King



MRS KING

A NOTE FROM MRS KING

Welcome





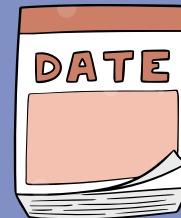
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



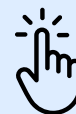
BFS_Enrichment



TERM 1 CHECKLIST

- ☒ Label all uniform and equipment. Lost property can be found in Student Services.
- ☒ Check your contact details are correct on MCAS.
- ☒ BFS is a cashless school. Make sure you have added credit on ParentPay to allow your child to purchase food.
- ☒ Check your child's uniform complies with the uniform policy every day!
- ☒ Encourage your child to bring their Essential Equipment to school every day including their pencil case, Yondr pouch and reading book.
- ☒ Ensure your child is bringing in a named water bottle to school every day. Hydration is important for concentration!
- ☒ Follow BFS on Instagram: @BFS_Bristol and @BFS_Enrichment

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.

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.

Reporting Absence

Did you know that BFS uses a free app to allow you to report if your child is absent due to illness?



You can sign up from this link: [Studybugs](#)

Studybugs is quick and easy to use. Please sign up using the email address that you have given the school.

Please remember to report your child absent every day they are ill.

Parking on Concorde Drive

Please be considerate when picking up your children from school. We have over 1300 students leaving the site at 3pm and the surrounding roads can become very congested. For the safety of all students and local residents, please do not enter Concorde Drive and arrange a safe place to meet your student a little further away from the school. Please do not park on double yellow lines or over driveways, and please stick to the 20mph speed limit.

Thank you for your understanding in helping to keep our community safe.

Nut-free School

We are a nut-free school. Please do not bring any nuts or products containing nuts into school. This includes snacks and lunch items such as pesto.



TERM 1 KEY DATES

Wednesday 3 September	Induction Day for Year 7 and Year 12
Thursday 4 September	School open to all year groups
Wednesday 17 September	Year 7, 11 and 12 - School photos
Thursday 18 September	Year 7 - Meet the Tutor Event (3.30-7pm)
Thursday 25 September	Open Evening for prospective Year 7 entry 2026
Friday 26 September	INSET Day - school closed to all students
Wednesday 8 October	Year 9, 10 and 13 - School photos
Wednesday 8 - Thursday 9 October	Year 13 - Subject Evening
Friday 10 October	Friends of BFS (FoBFS) Annual Quiz Night
Wednesday 22 October	Last Day of Term 1
Thursday 23 October - Sunday 2 November	Half Term - School closed to all students
Monday 3 November	First day of Term 2



This summer we joined our Year 11 and Year 13 students to celebrate their outstanding GCSE and A Level results.



MRS KING

“These results reflect the hard work and commitment of our students and staff, and we are thrilled to celebrate their successes. I am particularly delighted to see that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have made the most progress in the school's history. It is something we have been focusing on, particularly after the pandemic, so it is wonderful to see this work come through for young people in these results.”



GCSE Key Attainment Highlights:

- 80% of students achieved five grade 4s or above, including English and Maths.
- In Double Science, 82% of students achieved grade 4 and above, excluding the 60 students who pursued Triple Science who all achieved a strong pass and above.
- History students excelled, with 24% achieving the top grade of 9.
- In Geography, 51% of students achieved grade 7 and above, reflecting strong academic performance.
- Computer Science saw 89% of students attain grade 4 and above.
- All vocational subjects performed strongly.





A Level Key Attainment Highlights:

- 38% of grades awarded were A or A* (28% national average).
- 83% of grades awarded were A* - C (76% national average).
- 48% of students are going on to Russell Group Universities (27% national average).
- 4 students will be attending Oxbridge.
- 6 students will be studying medicine.



STAFF NEWS

NEW STAFF

This year we are welcoming new members to the BFS team.



Ms Grant
Assistant Headteacher



Ms Jaffrey
Teacher of
Computer Science



Mr Evans
Teacher of Maths



Mr Steggles
Teacher of RP



Ms Dudley
Teacher of History



Ms Walsh
Assistant Admin
Manager



Ms Dixon
Teaching Assistant



Ms Bezuidenhout
Teaching Assistant



Mr Witchard
Teaching Assistant



Friends of BFS



UPCOMING EVENTS

A big hello to all new parents and carers! We are the Friends of Bristol Free School (FoBFS) – a friendly group of parent and carer volunteers who support the school community. You will often find us running the bar at school events.

QUIZ NIGHT - Save the Date: Friday 10 October

Our ever-popular School Quiz Night is back!

Ticket link coming soon – keep an eye on the school newsletter, Facebook and WhatsApp groups.

♥ Book early to avoid missing out!

FoBFS AGM – Coming Soon

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting at the Black Swan on Stoke Lane. It is a relaxed, informal evening – a great chance to meet other parents and carers. There is absolutely no pressure to join the committee, but if you have helped with a Primary PTA before, you will find this so much easier!

- ✓ Fewer events (no summer fayre!)
- ✓ Great communication with the school
- ✓ Amazing support from the School Site Team

Support BFS While You Shop Online

You can raise money for BFS effortlessly by using Easyfundraising. It is free, simple, and supports our school every time you shop. Click here to get started <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/> Or download the Easyfundraising app and choose Bristol Free School as your cause.

SEND

MEET THE TEAM

The SEND team have enjoyed welcoming our new Year 7s and seeing lots of familiar faces from Years 8-13 following the summer break.

- Mrs Jenkins – SENDCo
- Mrs Cook – Deputy SENDCo
- Mrs Vinyard – Assistant SENDCo

Parents and carers are invited to come and chat in person with the SEND team about how students are settling in.

Year 7: Meet the Tutor Evening, Thursday 18 September.

Years 9-13: Dates to be announced soon.

PARENT GROUPS

Murmuration Community www.murmurationcommunitytherapy.com are launching two new Nurture Groups for SEND parents. These are 8 week courses for meeting other SEND parents and building your emotional resilience.

Book here for the Lawrence Weston group: <https://tinyurl.com/sb8ycsc6>

Book here for Muslim SEND parent Groups: <https://tinyurl.com/ywfnkyzp>

What happens at a parent carer nurture group?

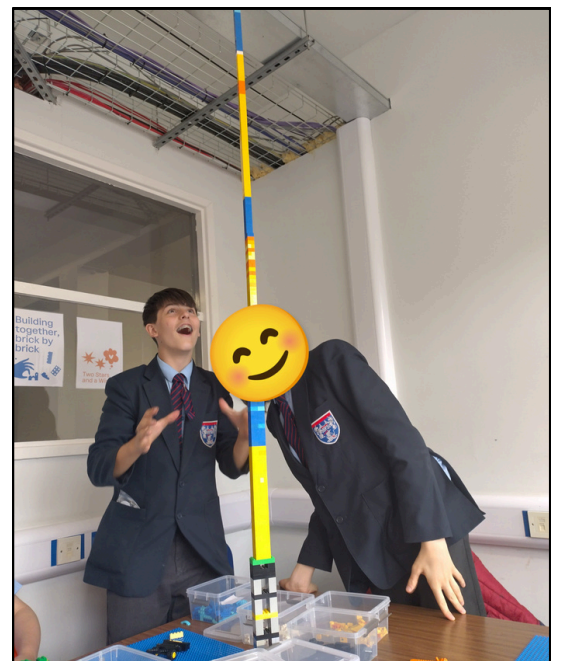
- Meet the same parents each week
- Share experiences
- Explore a different theme each session
- Facilitated by a therapist and a community worker (who is also a SEND parent) with extensive experience working with SEND parent carers
- Learn how to relate to difficult emotions with self-compassion, so they can work with us rather than against us
- Nurture activities such as guided relaxations



LEGO THERAPY

In terms 5 and 6, Ms He and Mrs Szucs ran Lego Therapy Club. This intervention aims to provide opportunities to develop important social skills: shared attention, collaboration, listening, communication, problem solving, compromise, turn-taking, sharing.

We would like to kindly ask for any Lego donations to continue this work with more students.



BFS SIXTH FORM

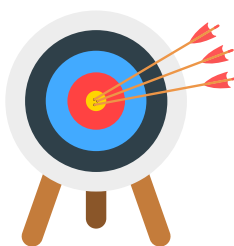
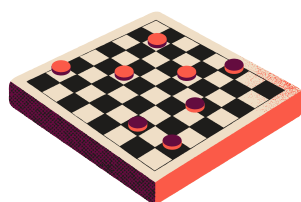
WELCOME YEAR 12

This week, we were pleased to welcome our new Year 12 students to mark the start of their Sixth Form education during our Induction Day. We began by sharing our summer GCSE and A Level results with students, congratulating them on their bountiful successes following many years of hard work and casting their minds forward to the moment, in two years' time, when they will open their Sixth Form results ready to start their adult lives. We spoke to them about the increased independence that Sixth Form study brings and the sort of mindset and work ethic that this necessitates. Following this, students decamped into their tutor groups to receive their new timetables and for some icebreakers to help them to get to know each other a little better. Lessons then began in earnest after lunch!



We were so happy to welcome our internal students after a well-deserved summer break and we were especially pleased to welcome a number of students from other local schools who have chosen to join us for Year 12.

EXTRA CURRICULAR



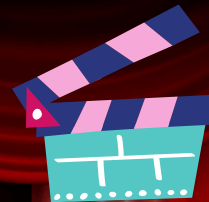
BFS offer a range of fantastic extra-curricular clubs that run at lunchtime and after school. In previous years we have had a huge range of clubs from board games to sign language, ukuleles to baking. Science, trading cards, chess, debate and model UN - plus much more!

Our clubs information booklet and timetable will be available soon!





PERFORMING ARTS



AUDITIONS

Little Shop of Horrors

We are excited to announce that this year's musical will be **Little Shop of Horrors!** Auditions will be held next week, and rehearsals will then be on Tuesdays and some Thursdays.

Years 9 – 13: auditions on Tuesday 9 September, 3 - 4.15pm.

Year 7 and 8: auditions on Thursday 11 September, 3 – 4.15pm.

Please come to DG01 at 3pm on the day of your audition. There will be a group audition followed by call-backs for main roles.

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!



SPORT

SWIMMING

There is an opportunity to enter the English Schools South West Team Championships at Millfield School on Wednesday 24 September. To enter you need to have a 50m time for each of the four strokes and be competing at club level. If you are interested, please bring your 50m times for all four strokes to the PE office on Monday 8 September.



**ENGLISH SCHOOLS'
SWIMMING ASSOCIATION**

There will be further opportunities later in the year to attend local galas.

CLUBS

Sixth Form Sport starts Monday 8 September. You must have a chairperson and deputy chairperson to lead the club, or else the club will not be able to run. The role of this person is to organise equipment and converse with Ms Norton and Ms Slater regarding the needs of the club.

Monday, 3-4pm

Volleyball in the Sports Hall

Football on the MUGA

Table Tennis in the Year 7 courtyard

Friday, 3-4pm

Football on the MUGA

Table Tennis in the Year 7 courtyard