

Newsletter



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A NOTE FROM MR MACBLAIN

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

The House system was introduced across the year groups in 2020 to create a vertical community for students. Within these communities, students build relationships, support each other, engage in friendly competition, and work together to make positive contributions within their House, School, and local community.

The Houses are named after local parks within Bristol. All students belong to a House, which they will represent at BFS. Students can stand for election as a House Leader or for House Parliament, allowing them the opportunity to take on responsibility and develop their leadership skills. Furthermore, all teaching staff are allocated a House to foster healthy competition throughout the School.

The structure of the House system means that each student has a chance to shine, to discover their own talents and to make a genuine contribution to the School community. House assemblies, events and celebrations allow relationships to be fostered and built, not only within, but also across differing year groups and even into our Sixth Form. There are inter-House competitions in numerous academic, sporting and cultural activities including music, poetry, maths and English, science, general knowledge, drama and art. The varying nature of the competitions allow students to come together and meet others they may not otherwise encounter. The Houses also fundraise for local causes, providing students with a wider sense of perspective as to the role the School plays within its community.

At BFS we pride ourselves on acknowledging and rewarding the wonderful contributions students make to school life. We split our House points into three categories which are linked to our core values of Community, Ambition and Opportunity. Students can earn House points through:

Community - awarded for excellence within tutor period and any other pastoral area of the School.

Ambition - awarded for academic contribution within lessons and for homework.

Opportunity - awarded for participating in our wonderful extra-curricular opportunities, after school clubs, performances or sports teams.

Each week, in the Newsletter, we celebrate the students who have earned the most House points, as well as those who have entered House competitions. We look forward to seeing if Blaise can hold on to their title this year!

Mr MacBlain

Assistant Headteacher



MR MACBLAIN



ASHTON



BLAISE



CANFORD



DURDHAM



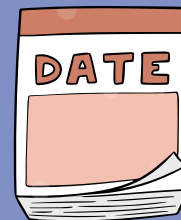
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 15 September

BEP Youth Talks Finalists' Workshop

Wednesday 17 September

Y7, Y11, Y12 School Photos

Thursday 18 September

Y7 Meet the Tutor (3.30-7pm)

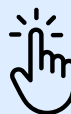
Friday 19 September

Y8 Sustainability Energy Roadshow

Saturday 20 September

Y13 BEP Medicine Mock Interviews

QUICK LINKS



[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

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.



WE'RE HIRING

[Physics Teacher or
Head of Physics](#)

[Teaching Assistant](#)

[Careers Advisor](#)

[Site Manager](#)

[Apply Now](#)

Flu Vaccinations

Students in Years 7 - 11 are being offered a free nasal spray flu vaccination on 10 and 11 December by Sirona Care & Health.

Please provide your parental consent by following this link:
[Parental Consent](#)

[or by scanning the QR code.](#)



Art Exhibition

The BFS Summer Art and Photography Exhibition can now be viewed [here](#).



Theatre Trip - Treasure Island

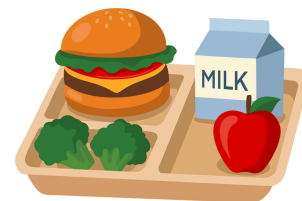
Performing Arts are planning a trip for Year 7 students to see Bristol Old Vic's winter show, Treasure Island, on Tuesday 16 December at 2pm. Students will return to BFS by 5pm. The cost of the trip will be approximately £25 to cover the ticket and transport. The exact price along with more details to follow on Parent Pay.



YEAR 7

Lunch Money

Please regularly check the balance of your child's lunch money account via ParentPay to ensure they have sufficient funds to purchase food.



PHONE-FREE SCHOOL

This term, BFS became a phone-free school for Years 7 - 11. More information about this important initiative can be found on the BFS website: [Phone Free Policy](#).

Please be reminded that Yondr pouches are part of your child's essential equipment, and that it is their responsibility to ensure they have it at school with them each day. Students are not allowed to personalise or decorate their pouches and lost or deliberately damaged pouches must be replaced at your own cost.



Penalty Notices and Prosecution

At BFS, we work with Bristol City Council to fine parents/carers of students with unauthorised absences.

Unauthorised absences are issued for:

- Arrival after the register closes at 9am without good reason
- Unauthorised holidays and other events not authorised by the Headteacher
- Absences where no reason has been supplied by the parent/carer
- Absences where medical evidence has been requested by the school and not received

Penalty notice fines are normally issued for ten unauthorised sessions (each day being two sessions) of absence in a ten-week period. Penalty notices can also be issued to parents who repeatedly take absence below this threshold. Prosecutions can also be issued if more appropriate than a penalty fine.

Currently, the costs of penalty notices are:

- £80 per parent/carer per child for the first offence in a rolling three-year period, rising to £160 if not paid within 28 days
- £160 per parent/carer per child for the second offence in a rolling three-year period
- If a third offence occurs in a rolling three-year period, alternative action such as prosecution will result. Prosecution can result in fines of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment, as well as a criminal record.

At BFS we prefer to take a supportive approach to attendance before taking these legal measures, so please contact the attendance office if you are concerned by your child's attendance.

ATTENDANCE



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Durdham!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Robbie S	Finnley P	Edward A	Amara P
Year 8	Willoughby S	Alvar J	Harriet J	Darcey F
Year 9	Jessica G	Tallulah P	Cara S	Iris B-L
Year 10	Elsa J	Jacob G	Maia B	Hayden S
Year 11	Nilah M	Fiona H	Thomas N	Niamh C
Year 12	Alexa C	Rhys H, Maddie H	Gordon C	Emlyn W
Year 13	Miles B	Archie H	Alan R	Sophie W

HEAD STUDENTS

At the end of the last academic year, we welcomed our new cohort of Head Students. Mrs King, the previous Head Students and Mr MacBlain had the pleasure of interviewing Year 12 students for the new Head Student positions. There were 24 applications, and they honestly could have appointed them all! The students articulated their experiences at BFS with such eloquence, and the School's core values shone through in each of their interviews. In the end they had to choose eight to lead the Houses over the next year and it was a very hard decision.

We are delighted to welcome our new Head Students for 2025/26:

Ashton: Jacob and Kaira

Blaise: Daisy and Lorraine

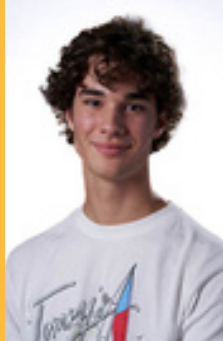
Canford: Grace and Dylan

Durdham: Martha and Patrick

The students have written a short piece about themselves, their interests and what they would like to achieve next year. We wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

ASHTON

My name is Jacob and I'm looking forward to being the Head Student for Ashton House, and I can't wait to meet you all. I'm currently studying English Literature, Maths and Spanish, and have been at BFS since Year 7. Over the years, I've been actively involved within the school's community, I volunteer, have been a member of the debate team and have also been a part of BEP with Kaira, the Deputy Head of Ashton. I'm excited to bring all that I've learnt over these past years at BFS into my role and can't wait to be a more central part of the BFS community moving forward!



My name is Kaira and I am really excited to have the opportunity to represent you and your wishes for the school as Deputy Head Student of Ashton. I am currently studying A Level English Literature, Politics and History. I am passionate about equality and making sure everyone is given the opportunities they need to thrive. I talked a lot about empathy in my interview and would love to promote and intertwine it with the BFS values. I was very lucky to take part in the BEP with Jacob where I developed my leadership skills, helping to strengthen my role as Deputy Head of Ashton. I will be happy to hear any ideas that other students would like to implement, and I will try my best to make it happen.

BLAISE

My name is Daisy and I am so pleased to be your Head Student! I have been part of the BFS community since Year 7, and I am now studying Art, Geography and Biology at A Level. I am passionate about art and the importance of expressing ourselves and art's ability to help us understand the world we live in. I also love the environment and hope to take part in conservation projects in the future to help the planet.



Being your Head Student, I want to be your student voice. I will raise any concerns you have in meetings and bring about change where it is needed. I also want to ensure everyone feels respected and welcomed at BFS - the same way I have!



Hi, my name is Lorraine and I am both honoured and excited to take on the role of Deputy Head Student for Blaise! I have been at BFS for 5 years and I am currently studying Biology, Psychology and Chemistry. As someone who loves discovering and developing new interests (such as playing guitar and cycling), one of my goals as Deputy Head Student is to encourage others to try something new and foster an inclusive environment where everyone feels supported to do so. I look forward to seeing our school continue to grow and thrive as a community!

CANFORD

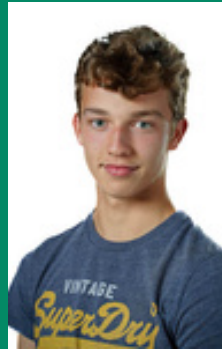
Hi, I'm Grace and I'm so proud to be one of your new Head Students. I moved here at the start of Year 12 and so far, have loved the experience. Currently I am studying Spanish, Sociology and Geography. I play rugby and netball, but I am a big fan of all women's sport, and I would love to help more girls get into sport. I really hope to make a difference for the students here and look forward to hearing any concerns that you feel need to be raised in order to maintain a welcoming and safe environment here at BFS.



My name is Dylan and I've been at BFS since Year 7. Currently I am studying Maths, Physics and English and am very excited to represent Canford House as Deputy Head Student. Over my years at BFS, I've enjoyed taking part in the band, volunteering in school and taking part in House Parliament, and I can't wait to bring what I've learned to the role of Deputy Head Student. One of my favourite aspects of the school is the unique community and the environment it fosters, and I hope to welcome more people next year.

DURDHAM

Hi, I'm Martha and I am currently studying Biology, Geography and RP. I am extremely grateful to be Durdham's Head Student! Having been part of BFS since Year 7, I have loved watching our school grow and develop over time and am so excited to be a part of this journey and for the opportunity to make a positive difference to our school. I love the strong sense of community within our school, and as Head Student, I am looking forward to enriching this further by ensuring that all students feel that their voice is heard and that they belong. Furthermore, within my time here, I have been given many opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and experience new things, and I am eager to ensure that younger students have that too. I am looking forward to working with House Parliament to make sure that there are extra-curricular activities that appeal to everyone, and I hope to foster an environment where all students are excited to try new things.



I'm Patrick and I'm thrilled to step into the role of Deputy Head Student for Durdham. I've been part of BFS since Year 7, and am studying A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, and Computer Science. Beyond academics, I love getting involved in the school community. Between coaching tennis, volunteering, or tutoring maths, I'd love to hear all your ideas and help make a difference together. I want to make sure everyone has the chance to thrive. If you've got an idea to improve something or want to get more involved, I'll do my best to help make it happen. BFS has always been a place where people support and lift each other up, and I'm excited to build on that. Looking forward to the year ahead!

COMING SOON

Main School Open Evening
Thursday 25 September
4.30pm - 8pm

Sixth Form Open Evening
Tuesday 4 November
5.30pm - 7.30pm

To sign up for these events and for further information please visit
www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk



We look forward to welcoming you.

"The sense of community at BFS makes school welcoming, friendly and exciting every single day"
Year 8 BFS Student

Last year we took on the challenge of designing and painting our very own Norbot, the Smart Gnome, as part of the Gromit Unleashed Schools Programme.

Students submitted their creative designs that aimed to show the Spirit of BFS, our values, and House system. The winning designs were pieced together and students from all year groups were invited to help paint Norbot.

Norbot is now residing in his new home at The Greatest Dog Show on Earth at Cribbs until Sunday 28 September.

Thank you to Miss Hawes and Miss Clorley for making this possible.



MISS HAWES



An exciting new Climate Action Helmet Competition has been launched by STEM Crew. To enter, you must design a racing helmet for the Emirates GBR SailGP Team!

What? Design your very own helmet inspired by science, sport, and sustainability. The helmet should have a bold, inspiring design that can carry a message of hope for protecting our water.

How? [Download the template here.](https://www.stemcrew.org/designahelmet) Complete your design and submit your entry. Find out more at www.stemcrew.org/designahelmet. Don't forget to send your entries to Miss Hawes to earn House points.

When? Enter by 27 March 2026.





The Westbury on Trym Village Show took place on Saturday 6 September. Students from BFS took part and did very well.



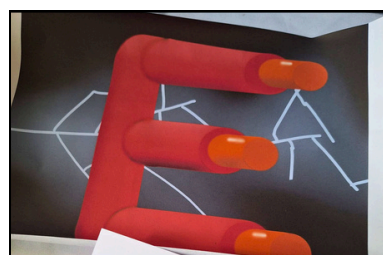
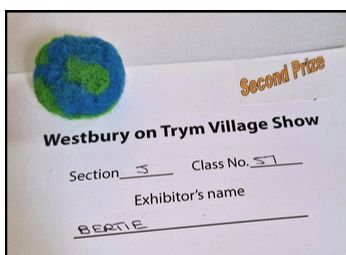
Katy in Year 11 won first prize for her Victoria sponge and her brownies. She was also awarded the WoT Society Challenge Cup for the most points in the baking category.



Mary from Year 9 won the Park Gardens Nursery Cup for her beautifully decorated initial. She also won first prize for her incredible embroidered collage of a planet and a third place in the pottery section.



Bertie in Year 8 won a second prize for his felted planet and a third prize for his rock cakes. He topped his day off with a highly commended in the decorated initial category.



Mrs Bainbridge and Mrs Tindall from the exam and admin teams also enjoyed success in some of the craft sections.

At BFS we love to celebrate our students' achievements both in and outside of school. Whatever you have done, big or small, we would love to hear from you! Please email us at admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk to be featured in the Newsletter.





MS GRIFFITHS

LIBRARY & READING

Welcome to our new and returning student readers. BFS has a well-stocked library that is open and available to all students to borrow books, have a comfy space to read, use the computers to work on homework, relax and recharge with quiet activities such as chess, colouring and puzzles.

Every student can borrow up to two books at a time and guidance is available if a good read needs to be discovered. The Library is open every day at break time and lunchtime, and our book club 'Books and Babble' is on Tuesday after school until 4pm.



WELCOME

FOOD TECH



MRS SLADE

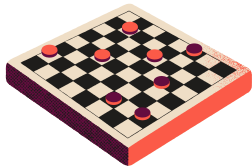
Lexi in Year 11 has been working on her practical skills and presentation over the summer. These are a selection of the amazing dishes that she has created. Well done!



YEAR 11

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

CLUBS TIMETABLE



BFS offers a range of fantastic extra-curricular clubs that run during tutor time, lunchtime and after school.

We have clubs ranging from board game club, choir to girls rugby - plus much more!

We have had a huge range of clubs from board games to rugby, choir to drawing. Science, cipher, netball, stage combat and model UN, plus loads more!

Year 7, 8 and 9 can attend homework club in the Library after school Monday - Thursday 3-4pm. This quiet, supervised space will have staff support and computer access.

Our extra-curricular activities information booklet is now available:

Term 1 Extra-Curricular Activities



BRISTOL CITY YOUTH COUNCIL



**BRISTOL
YOUTH
ELECTIONS**

2026

Do you want stand to be on the
Bristol City Youth Council
Applications open 1st - 31st October
2025
Email: ywparticipation@bristol.gov.uk

In January 2026, Bristol will take part in the Bristol Youth Elections to vote in young people to the Bristol City Youth Council for a two-year term of office. The Youth Council will represent the young people of Bristol and campaign on issues that are important to the young people of Bristol.

The main aim of a young person on the Bristol City Youth Council is to represent the views of young people. You would need to commit around 2 - 3 hours a week over the two-year term of office. This is outside of school hours and can be flexible during exam times.

How to stand as a candidate:

You can stand for election if you are under the age of 18 on the day of the election (13 February 2026). Applications open 1-31 October 2025.

1. Complete the 'Contact Details and Parental Consent form'
2. Complete the Nomination form
3. Attend a candidate workshop (dates, times are below)
4. Make a 1-minute (maximum) video clip, telling voters why you want to be a member of the Bristol City Youth Council and why they should vote for you
5. Send all your information to the Participation Team by post or email

If you have any questions, please contact The Participation team (email: ywparticipation@bristol.gov.uk)

More information can be found on the [Bristol City Council website](#).



MRS BALLARD

BFS SPORTS



BFS_TeamPE



MS SLATER

Club Notices

If you know of any sport clubs that are in need of players or wish to advertise their club and opportunities, please email Mrs Ballard and we will make them visible in the newsletter and on our community sports board in the Sports Hall.

Club Timetable

All after school sports clubs can be found in the [Term 1 Extra-Curricular Activities](#) booklet. This is updated termly.

All sports clubs meet in the Sports Hall.

Parent Helpers

As we welcome Year 7 to BFS, we are always looking for parent helpers for sports clubs so that they can run alongside our extensive fixtures programme throughout the year.

If you are interested in helping with extra-curricular provisions for PE, please do contact Mrs Ballard.

We are really in need of rugby coaches for Year 7 rugby, from September to December, 3-4pm on a Tuesday.



UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 15 September	Y10 Netball Sisters n Sport National Cup	Badminton School
Thursday 18 September	Y11 Boys Rugby vs Bristol Grammar School	BGS Failand
Monday 22 September	Y8 Boys Rugby 7s Tournament	QEH Failand
Tuesday 23 September	Y7 & Y8 Boys Rugby vs Orchard School	Orchard School
Wednesday 24 September	Y8 Boys Rugby vs Redland Green School & St Bede's Catholic College	Kellaway
Wednesday 24 September	U14 & U15 Boys Rugby vs Blaise High School	Blaise High School
Wednesday 24 September	English Schools Swimming Association South West Team Championships	Millfield School



COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Southmead
RFC
Greenway
Centre
BS10 5PY**



**New Players
WELCOME
No Experience
Needed**

TRAINING

Thursdays 6.00–7.00pm




Sunday 10.00–11.00am

ALL AGE GROUPS

**FROM U7'S
TO 13'S**



**TOTS
age 4-6
training
Sundays 10-11am**

 [southmeadrfc_minijunior](https://www.instagram.com/southmeadrfc_minijunior)
 srfcminisandjuniors@gmail.com
 [Southmead RFC Mini & Juniors](#)