

Newsletter



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MEET THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



MRS KING

I am Mrs King and I have been the Headteacher at BFS for 7 years. I started my teaching career as a Design Technology and Food teacher which gave me a real appreciation for creativity, practical learning, and the joy of making ideas come to life. That spark led me to become a Headteacher, where I now have the privilege of working with an incredible team of staff to build an inspiring learning community where young people can truly thrive. There is nothing better than seeing students grow in confidence, curiosity, and creativity and knowing we have all played a part in that journey.

Here's a fun fact to kick things off - I used to be a basketball player in my youth! Back then, I could shoot a decent hoop (these days, I'm more likely to cheer from the sidelines than score any points!). But the teamwork, energy, and resilience I learned on the court still shape how I lead today.

Outside of school, I'm a big football fan. I support a brilliant little team called Mousehole FC, and I love following the Premier League. My tip for this season? I reckon Arsenal will take the title! Let's see if I'm right...



My name is Mr East and I am one of three Deputy Heads here at BFS. I have responsibility for Inclusion. Within a school, this tends to refer to ensuring that all students (especially those with SEND, vulnerabilities or barriers to learning) are supported, safeguarded and fully included in all aspects of school life. The role takes a strategic lead over all these aspects but in reality, a lot of the various parts of inclusion and pastoral work is done by others, including other members of SLT, Year Leaders and Tutors. Success in this area supports all students in being able to effectively focus on making the most of all the great opportunities school can give to those who engage positively with it.



MR EAST

After travelling and university, I worked in logistics and supply chain management, typically working within manufacturing companies. Being a Supply Chain Manager was good in many ways but I wanted to do a more vocational job where I felt I could make a difference in some way. Having never thought about teaching before, I found out more through friends and ended up doing a GTP entry into teaching at John Cabot School in Kingswood. Within education I have found that I am most passionate about being able to develop young people who learn what it is to get on with others, can overcome difficulties and can act with integrity and kindness, especially those students who have so many reasons why they might not be able to do so easily.

Random fact - my first tutor group included Ellis Genge who recently played for the Lions against Australia. I used to tell him off on a regular basis back then but might struggle to do so now!



MRS CONWAY

I am Mrs Conway and I am Deputy Head for Curriculum. I was born and grew up in Cardiff and my Welsh roots, whilst not obvious from my accent, run deep. Those years included a lot of time spent supporting various Welsh teams, swimming club, performing in Eisteddfods, and the uniformed organisations - I was in the Guides with Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson and have followed her career with interest.

It was at the age of five that I decided I wanted to be a teacher, and whilst I did consider other careers, I never really wavered from teaching as a vocation. My favourite subject throughout school was maths and I came to Bristol University to study Mathematics, followed by the PGCE to teach secondary maths.

My first maths teaching role was in a North Somerset school and over many years there I worked with truly inspirational colleagues and role models. There was variety in my roles, holding leadership positions in Maths, ICT, Sixth Form, Head of Maths and Extended Leadership team. By the time I left I had even taught the children of some of my first students! During that period, I also had my three, now adult, children, juggling being a working mum and taking them to many and varied clubs and activities.

I moved to BFS in 2015 and have previously held a number of roles here. My area of responsibility includes creating the school timetable, leading on curriculum, exams and assessment. Through this I work with every member of the staff body which is hugely rewarding. My aim is to support staff and students to be the best they can, providing effective structures to enable them to do so. My passion when teaching maths then and now is to enable students to see the relevance of mathematics in everyday life, whether the supermarket, the sports field or the design lab, and to be a pattern-spotter and problem-solver!

Random but perhaps not unexpected facts - my favourite TV programme is "Only Connect" and radio programme is "More or Less".



My name is Mr Fernandes and I am Head of Sixth Form and lead on Quality Assurance and Digital Curriculum at BFS. I am passionate about supporting students to achieve academic success and develop their part in being positive role models in our school.



MR FERNANDES

As a child I grew up in Mombasa (Kenya) before returning to the UK at the age of 4. After school I studied biochemistry at Loughborough University which was followed by a brief time working as an analytical chemist at Astra Zeneca. I then moved to the finance sector and was training to become an actuary but quickly discovered my true calling was the classroom! In 2008 I trained as a Chemistry teacher, undertook a Masters in Science Education alongside completing a graduate certificate in Physics Education. I went on to work at Bradley Stoke Community School for 6 years, helping the school to grow its science department.

Outside of school I love live music, film, reading and enjoy spending time with my young family. Fun fact - I spent my teenage years working in record shops selling vinyl and have a large record collection. I have an eclectic knowledge of 90's indie rock and electronic music which is apparently on trend according to Sixth Form students!



MRS JENKINS

I am Mrs Jenkins, an Assistant Head and SENDCo at BFS, a role I took on just over 2 years ago. It is a very varied role and I have the privilege of working with a diverse range of wonderful young people. My role is to support children with SEND to reach their true potential. This may involve ensuring staff use the right approaches in the classroom to making learning accessible to working with our Educational Psychologist.

I started teaching in 1995 (yes, a long time ago!). Prior to this I studied Geography and American Studies at Swansea University, spent a year working in market research, and returned to complete my Geography PGCE in 1994. I was drawn to teaching by my love

of the world around me, fuelled by a year spent studying at university in America as part of my degree. Teaching about weather and the climate is still my favourite part of the job. My career has always been based in the South-West, starting (like Mrs Grant) at Churchill School. Since then, I have worked at Ashton Park and Fairfield Schools as Head of Geography, held the post of Head of Humanities at Redland Green School before joining BFS as Assistant Head nearly 10 years ago.

Outside of school I enjoy keeping active, with a range of hobbies including mountain biking, swimming, walking the dog and going to the gym. Three years ago I joined my local gig rowing club, which has been a fantastic experience. This weekend I am part of a 6 person crew taking part in the Great River Race - an event which involves rowing 21.6 miles along the River Thames. I could be a little tired in school on Monday!



MR MACBLAIN

My name is Mr MacBlain and I have responsibility for Culture and Ethos at BFS. Broadly speaking, this means I oversee attendance, behaviour, rewards and the House System and Student Leadership.

Prior to joining BFS, I obtained a degree in Politics from UEA before doing my PGCE at Exeter University in History and began my teaching career at Brislington School, spending 12 years there. I mainly taught History alongside being a Year Leader and spent time on their Leadership Team.

Both of my parents were teachers in their earlier careers, so I grew up in a household with lots of time watching books get marked! I think my parents being in the profession was the main reason I found myself attracted to the job.

At BFS I also teach History and Politics and thoroughly look forward to teaching each of my classes and interacting with all the students I teach. I have always valued the principle of young people enjoying school and have tried to carry this into every working day. They really are the best days of our lives.

I am currently working hard on getting my golf handicap down and really enjoy bumping into fellow BFS students and parents who are also members at the golf club.



My name is Mrs Grant. I am new to BFS and have been delighted by the warm welcome from the staff and students. My role is Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning, and Staff Development. I will be making sure our existing staff have opportunities to continuously develop their teacher toolkit, that our early career teachers are well-supported and feel confident in their choice of career and that our trainee teachers are supported by confident subject leaders to become excellent teachers of the future.



MRS GRANT

My career started in 2000 at Churchill School and following 5 happy years there as a geography and religious studies teacher I went to Gordano School to become Head of Geography then to Clevedon School to join the Sixth Form

Leadership. Most recently I set up the new post-16 provision at Trinity Academy in Bristol. In every role, I have found my strength is supporting others to grow and achieve.

Teaching humanities is great because these subjects offer us all a glimpse of the wider world outside our classrooms, schools and communities. I love travelling and have been to many different countries on school trips, most recently with 40 Year 11/12 students, to Washington and New York which was super-fun. I try to run a 10km once a week which was useful training for the US trip as, on average, we walked 7 miles each day!



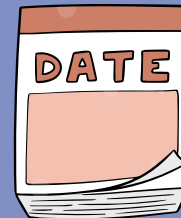
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 22 September

National World Car-Free Day

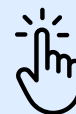
Thursday 25 September

Y6 Open Evening (4.30-8pm)

Friday 26 September

INSET Day - School closed to all students

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.



Parking near School

Please be considerate when picking up your child/ren 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 child 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, to keep all in our community safe.



WE'RE HIRING

[Physics Teacher or
Head of Physics](#)

[Careers Advisor](#)

[Site Manager](#)

[Apply Now](#)

LOST PROPERTY

We have already accumulated a huge amount of unnamed lost property, including coats, blazers, shoes and bottles.

Please ensure all items are named so they can be returned to you. Visit Student Services to claim your property.



ATTENDANCE

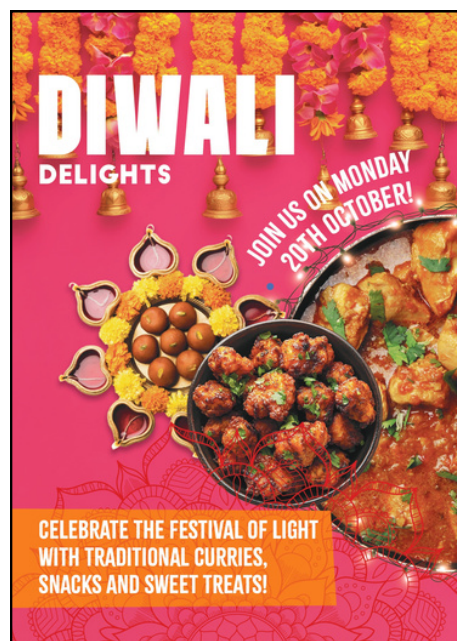
Punctuality

Students are expected to arrive at school by 8.25am, to be in tutor for 8.30am. Students who arrive late to school will be issued an after-school detention. Students arriving between 8.30am and 9am will have a late code (L) recorded in the register. Students arriving after the register closes at 9am will receive the unauthorised late coded (U) in the register. Please note that unauthorised late codes can lead to penalty notice fines or prosecutions being issued by Bristol City Council.

Top tips for students to be on time:

- Get into a regular sleep pattern so it is easier to get up.
- Do not use screens for an hour before bed so that it is easier to go to sleep.
- Prepare your books, equipment and uniform the night before.
- Organise with friends to travel to school together.
- If it is bad weather and you are getting a lift, leave earlier. The roads will be busier!

The Dining Hall and Sixth Form Café menus can be found on our [website](#). We have a three-week rolling menu of daily specials as well as regular themed days. On Monday 20 October we will be celebrating Diwali with traditional curries, snacks and sweet treats, followed by Fireside Favourites on Wednesday 5 November.



Also, look out for the new [Daily Meal Deals](#). There are five options for just £2.85 each.

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



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	Maud BM	Philip D, Esmie C	Edith BM	Amara P
Year 8	Willoughby S	Oliver W	Ella M, Harriet J	Frederick Z
Year 9	Lauren S	Naomi H	Cara S	James M
Year 10	Nameera S	Zachary B	Florence P	Harriet T
Year 11	Nilah M	Amelia L	Oscar B-R	Aiman A
Year 12	Ben H-J	Maddie H	Joshua A, Leo R	Matilda W
Year 13	Reuben B	Susannah C	Emily W	May L

CLUBS

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

From Board Games Club on Monday, Model United Nations on Tuesday, Programming Club on Wednesday, Dance Club on Thursday and Boys Ensemble on Friday. There is something for everyone!

See our **Clubs Booklet** for more information.

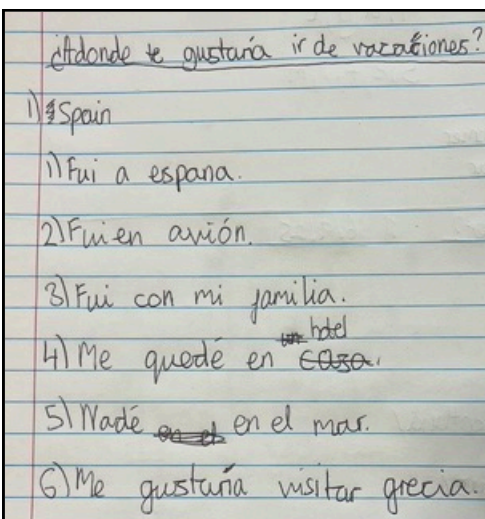
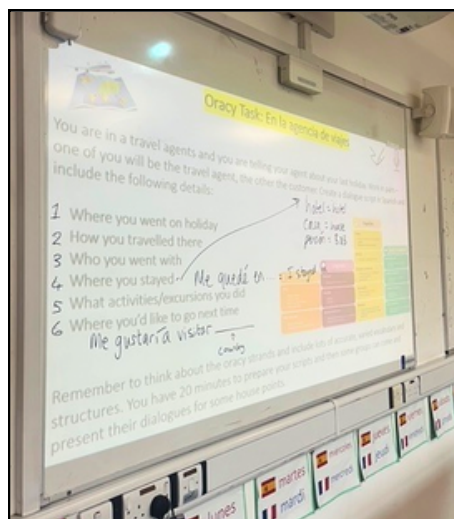


LANGUAGES

MISS COLEMAN

YEAR 8

Students in Year 8 have kicked off their year in Spanish showcasing some fantastic oracy skills. Focussing on the linguistic aspect of the oracy strand, they took part in a role play scenario in a travel agency using lots of the past tense phrases that they had learnt in previous lessons. Asking and answering six questions in pairs about a past holiday in order to ascertain where students wanted to visit in the future. It was fantastic to see so many students showing excellent grammatical accuracy (past and future tense) but also using their physical strand of oracy to speak at a volume and pace for the whole class to hear.



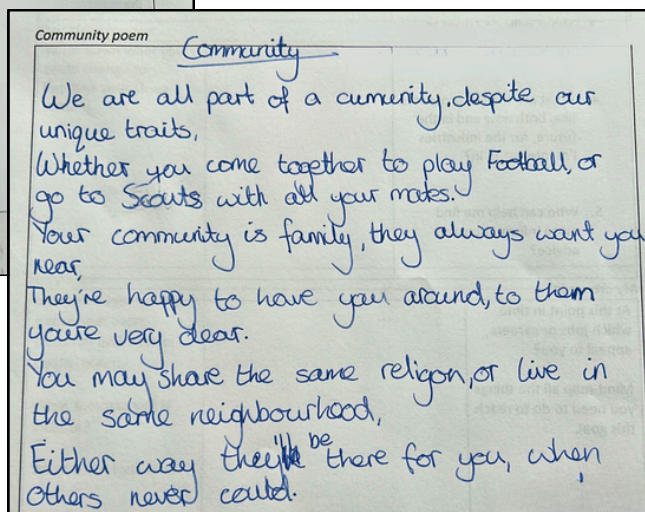
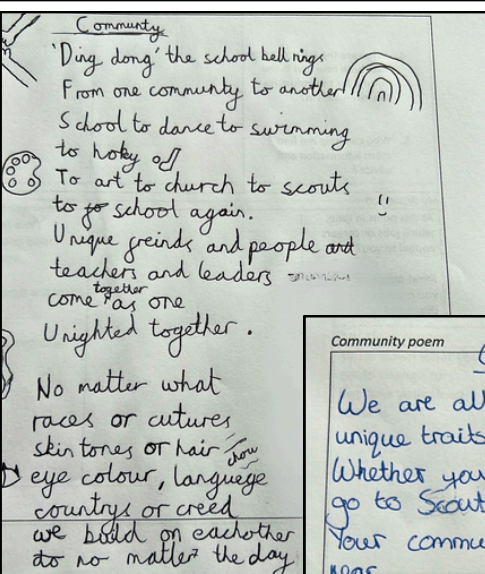
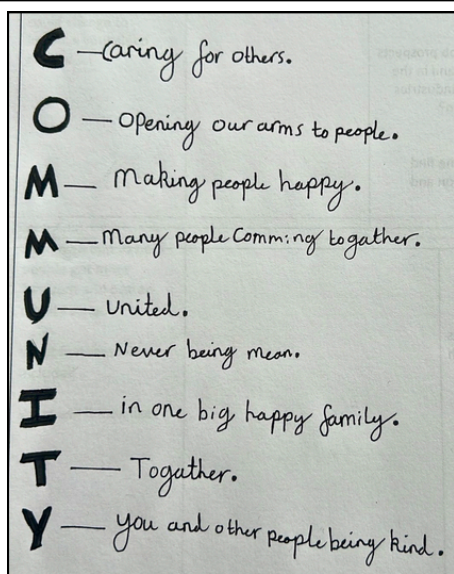
Well done Year 8, we were all very impressed by your confidence and grammatical accuracy.

PSHE

Personal Social Health Education

MS SLATER

YEAR 7



Students in Year 7 have been thinking about communities this week in PSHE and spent some time in their lesson creating poems and being creative with what community means to them.



ENGLISH



MISS MCMURDO

Book Review Challenge

We are asking students from all year groups to complete a book review to be featured in the newsletter.

What? A book review of a recent book you enjoyed.

How long? 200 - 250 words.

How to submit? Email or hand it in to Miss MCMurdo, DG08.

Why? Miss MCMurdo is choosing submissions to go in the newsletter, and you will get 5 house points for handing it in (10 house points if it is chosen to be in the newsletter). It is also a great way to share book recommendations!



- Tip 1** Use an interesting hook!
Start your review with something that will immediately capture your reader's attention. This could be a compelling question or an exciting incident from the book. Example: 'what would you do if you found out your best friend was a wizard?'
- Tip 2** Tell us about the characters and plot - but no spoilers!
- Tip 3** Include your honest opinion: What did you like/dislike? Why could you not put the book down? Why was it so interesting? Include the reasons for your thoughts. Example: I loved the way the author described the fantasyland, it was so vivid and I felt transported there, but the ending was unconvincing because...

We look forward to reading your reviews!

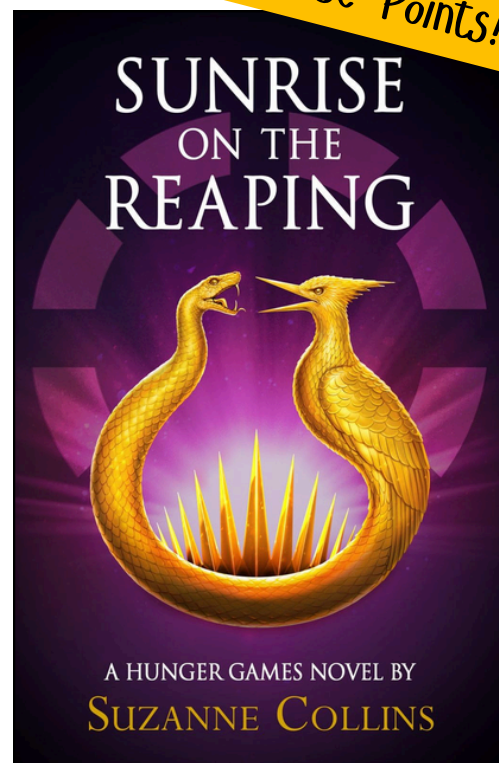
BOOK REVIEW

***Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins** **Review by Amelia, Year 8**

Haymitch Abernathy lives in District 12; that's the smallest, feeblest district. He is lucky for someone in 12, he has his Ma, his brother Sid and his love: Linor Dove, one of the Covey. [The Covey are a group of musicians]. However, all that changes on the reaping. When chaos erupts as the names are called, Haymitch is forced to the platform as a tribute for the Hunger Games. Furthermore, it is the 2nd quarter quell so there will be double the amount of tributes from each District. The odds are not in Haymitch's favour. Yet Haymitch wants to prove to the Capitol that he is more than a piece in their games. But if he does that will he return home safely?

New strategies emerge from the other tributes. All but the careers band together to form an alliance. They hope for safety in numbers. Is that wise? Haymitch knows how to prove to all of Panem that he is more than a piece in the Capital's games. He knows what poster he wants to paint but at what cost? This 5-star book is becoming the fastest selling YA book of the year! It links up beautifully with the world Suzanne Collins has created. One thing remains unsaid [though hinted]: Read this amazing book!

10 House Points!



SEND



Free online & in person information sessions

Understanding
Pathological Demand
Avoidance with **"small talk"**

16th September



Specific Learning
Difficulties: Dyslexia,
Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia,
Dyspraxia

18th September



Understanding Education
Health and Care Plans
(EHCPs)

23rd September



Foetal Alcohol
Spectrum Disorder
(FASD)

29th September



Scan here for
details on these
sessions and more



EHCPs
Resolving conflicts and
Disagreements

30th September



Peer Support Southmead
Greenway Centre
@9:15-10:30am

12th September



EBSA Support
Fishponds Old Library
@9-11am

18th September



Peer Support
Fishponds Old Library
@9-11am

18th September





MRS BALLARD

BFS SPORTS



BFS_TeamPE

YEAR 10



On Monday, our Year 10 girls netball team had their first game of the Sisters n Sport Cup and took a fantastic win of 34-17 against Badminton School.

Player of the Match (Attack) - Bethan

Player of the Match (Defence) - Molly

Onto the next round we go - well done girls!



MS SLATER

YEAR 11



MR HOWARD

On Thursday, our U16 boys rugby team put in an amazing performance against a strong Bristol Grammar School side, eventually going down 32-17 in what was a real battle from start to finish from both sides. The whole team defended outstandingly, showing massive effort, grit, and determination throughout. Oscar, Joe and Harry with huge defensive shifts that set the tone for the rest of the squad. Dan had an excellent game in attack, scoring two classy tries and constantly asking questions of the opposition. Another highlight was Henry's return (his first game in over two years) and he played superbly, looking like he had never been away. Well done, Henry!



Although the final scoreline went in BGS's favour, BFS can take huge pride in their performance. The commitment in defence, the teamwork, and the moments of attacking quality showed just how much this group has developed. Plenty of positives to build on, and a performance to be proud of.

HOCKEY CLUB

Indoor Hockey Club has started on Wednesdays. It has been great to see so many students coming along after school to enjoy some indoor hockey! All years and abilities are welcome. Come and see what all the fuss is about! #welovehockey



MS URCH



SPORTS CLUBS TIMETABLES

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Year 10/11 Basketball (lunchtime)	Cross Country	Year 10/11 Netball	Year 7 Dance	Sixth Form Football
Sixth Form Volleyball	Trampolining	Year 7 Netball	Year 7/8/9 Basketball	Sixth Form Table Tennis
Sixth Form Football	Year 7 Boys Rugby	Year 8 Boys Rugby	Year 8/9 Netball	
Sixth Form Table Tennis	Year 9/10 Boys Rugby	Year 11 Boys Rugby		
		Hockey		
		Girls Rugby		



Come along to an extra-curricular sports club to play for BFS at one of our many fixtures!

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 22 September	Y8 Boys Rugby 7s Tournament	QEH Failand
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
Monday 29 September	Y7 Boys Rugby 7s Tournament	QEH Failand
Tuesday 30 September	U14 & U15 Boys Rugby vs Mangotsfield School	Greenway
Wednesday 1 October	Year 10 Girls Netball vs Wellsway School	Wellsway School
Wednesday 1 October	Year 7, 8 & 9 Girls Netball vs St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School	BFS
Wednesday 1 October	Year 7 & 9 Boys Rugby vs Cotham School	BFS
Thursday 2 October	Year 11 Boys Rugby vs QEH	QEH Failand
Thursday 2 October	Year 7 & 9 Boys Rugby vs Orchard School	Orchard 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
✉ srfcminisandjuniors@gmail.com
📱 Southmead RFC Mini & Juniors



A Festival of Friendship

A free day of fun and activities



Join us for an inclusive event run by your local learning disability action group!

Stalls

Arts and Crafts

Games

Workshops

Performances



Saturday 11th
October 2025



11am
to 3pm



At:

The Greenway Centre

Doncaster Rd, Bristol BS10 5PY

Scan the QR code to book your place and find out more!

✉ ella.sendawelcome@gmail.com

☎ 07386 493801



**We are looking for girls that are
going into Year 9 in September
to join our team U14's team!**

Come along and give training a go!

We train at St Bede's every Tuesday!
We play every Sunday in Bristol Girls
League!

We are looking for girls to push us to
the next level!

TO CONTACT US

Jamilkhan2191@icloud.com
U13@blufc.com

