

# Newsletter



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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

### A Huge Thank You for a Brilliant Open Evening!

Last night we hosted our annual Open Evening, and it was a fantastic success! We welcomed a wonderful group of Year 6 students and their families, who were full of enthusiasm and curiosity, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who made it so special. I was especially proud of the 170+ students from Years 7 to 13 who returned to support the event. Whether they were guiding tours, speaking as subject ambassadors, or helping with the Headteacher's talk, they represented our school with maturity, warmth, and pride. The feedback from visiting parents and carers was overwhelmingly positive - they loved exploring the school and were deeply impressed by our staff and students.



During the evening, I shared our vision for the next three years:

1. To become one of the best state schools nationally. We are already in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2026!
2. To challenge inequality and further close the educational gap for SEND and disadvantaged students.
3. To deliver a Key Stage 3 Digital Competency curriculum that empowers young people to navigate the digital world safely and effectively.

Thank you again to everyone involved - you made our school shine.





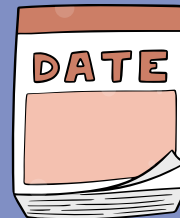
# NOTICE BOARD



BFS\_Bristol



BFS\_Enrichment



## NEXT WEEK AT BFS

### Monday 29 September

DofE Bronze Award Parent Information Evening, 5pm

### Tuesday 30 September

Y7 Teambuilding Day at Clifton College (TG6 and 7)

### Wednesday 1 October

Y12 BEP Community Social Action Project

### Thursday 2 October

Y11 Success Together Curriculum Information Online Event, 5.30pm

## QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

## 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.



## WE'RE HIRING

Apply Now

Physics Teacher or  
Head of Physics

## Late Arrivals

Students are expected to arrive at school at 8.25am, to be in tutor for 8.30am. Those arriving between 8.30am and 9am will be given a late mark and a **detention.**

## 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.

## Medical Appointments

Where possible please book routine medical appointments outside of school hours to avoid disruption to education. Where this is not possible, please send your child to school before and after the appointment to minimise the impact on their education. Please note that if your child is in school at 8.30am and 1.20pm they will get their present attendance marks in the legal register.

Please let school know 48 hours in advance of any medical appointment by emailing [Admin](#). You need to send us:

- Evidence of the appointment (such as a text reminder or appointment letter)
- The date of the appointment
- The time that you will collect your child from the car park gate
- A rough time that you will return your child to the car park gate

Students are responsible for getting themselves to Main Reception in D Block to sign out at the time of the appointment. Students will be released when their parent/carer buzzes at the car park gate.

ATTENDANCE



# HOUSE NEWS



## HOUSE POINTS



1

**BLAISE**

**2985  
POINTS**



2

**DURDHAM**

**2982  
POINTS**



3

**CANFORD**

**2910  
POINTS**



4

**ASHTON**

**2663  
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	Nir K	Wilfred M	Florence T	Molly H
Year 8	Rimon G, Thomas H	Zach O	Sophie M	Darcey F
Year 9	Esther J	Maya WL	Rosie B	Alice O
Year 10	Nyah M	Lauren R	Lily P	Lenny W
Year 11	Heidi T	Sophie D, Fiona H	Rosie D	Florence C
Year 12	Teddy F	Sadane A	Annabella B	Jessica M
Year 13	Miles B, Maddison S	Joshua H, Evan H	Teagan W	Simon G

## COMPETITION

Do you have an eye for detail and a passion for food presentation? Are you ready to showcase your creativity through the lens? We are excited to invite you to take part in the **DT Food Styling Photography Competition**! This is your chance to combine culinary flair with photographic skill.

Key Details:

- **Theme:** "Food as Art"
- **Submission Deadline:** End of Term 1
- **Who Can Enter:** Open to all students!
- **How to Enter:** Submit a high-quality photo of a dish you have styled yourself. It can be sweet or savoury, simple or elaborate - as long as it is visually stunning!
- **Judging Criteria:** Creativity, composition, styling, and overall impact.

There will be prizes for the top entries, winners will be featured in the DT showcase board display in LRC1 and you will receive House points! Email your entry to [Ms Corrigan](#). Whether you are a budding chef, a photography enthusiast, or just love making food look beautiful - this is your moment to shine!

We cannot wait to see your edible masterpieces!

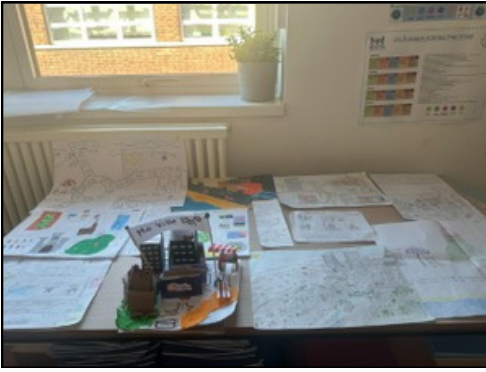


# LANGUAGES



MISS MARAN

YEAR 8



Year 8 students have been learning about homes in their French lessons and have completed some impressive work for their homework. Recently, they have created presentations on the topic "dans ma ville" and presented their work in French to the class. Their efforts have been fantastic - well done everyone!

# STEM

YEAR 8

Last week, Year 8 students attended a special workshop, won for them by Mia who was selected as a runner up in E.ON's New Energy Academy Trailblazing Heroes competition. Mia wrote about her hero, Kenyan activist, leader, founder, political advocate and environmentalist, Wangari Maathai.



Amy in 8TG1 said:

During our trailblazer experience, we learnt about people like Greta Thunberg, and Wangari Maathai, who inspired many people to do things they wouldn't have done otherwise. Greta Thunberg, even though she enjoyed education, took Fridays off school to protest for the environment. And Wangari Maathai inspired many people to plant a tree. We learnt what it means to be a trailblazer, and what you have to do to be one. You need to have endurance, empathy, selflessness, and determination. As well as this you need to be adaptive and have many other attributes. Some things won't go your way, and so you need enough passion to sacrifice your parts of your own life to follow your goal. We learnt that being a trailblazer doesn't have to happen just through speeches, for example, Stormzy stands up for young black people, and he does this through his songs. You can be a trailblazer for any reason, and for any cause, and by any means.



Amelia in 8TG1 said:

The Trailblazer workshop was run by a lovely lady called Zoe. We learned that a 'trailblazer' is a person who is a public figure who stands up for what they believe in - from gender equality to school strikes for Climate Change. It was really inspiring to learn more about how one voice can influence millions. It opened my eyes to how important it is to speak up for what we believe in. Towards the end of the lesson, we got to create objects which could help with one of the global issues currently at hand. My group chose deforestation and turned a beanbag into a biodegradable bag which when thrown on the floor, would explode and plant seeds everywhere! It was a brilliant chance to be creative and discuss global issues. Overall, it was a really fun experience. Thank you and well-done Mia!



# ENGLISH



## Spelling Bee

The BFS annual Spelling Bee will be taking place again this year for students in Years 7-9.

Support the finalists by coming along to the Drama Hall (or LRC1) at lunch time on the following dates:

Year 7 - Tuesday 30 September

Year 8 - Tuesday 7 October

Year 9 - Tuesday 14 October (LRC1)

Grand Final - Tuesday 21 October



## 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!



MISS MCMURDO

***We look forward to reading your reviews!***

***IT* by Stephen King**

**Review by Chloe, Year 10**

**10 House Points!**

I first wanted to read this book due to my love for horror movies, and I have previously enjoyed Stephen King books.

There are seven main characters; Bill, Mike, Ben, Beverly, Richie, Stan and Eddie and the story, contrary to the films, show the seven as adults who come back to their hometown and remember what they had to overcome when they were children.

It is set in the 1980s but flashes back to the 1950s frequently. It is a horror novel and has multiple plotlines that intertwine, all revolved around a monster that embodies each of the children's greatest fears.

My favourite part of the novel was when they finally get their memories and managed to piece together what happened 27 years ago.

I would absolutely recommend *IT* for KS4 students who enjoys horror.





MS URCH

# BFS SPORTS



BFS\_TeamPE



MS SLATER

## SWIMMING



Four swimmers were selected to represent BFS at the English Schools Swimming Association South West Team Championships. Merryn, Amelia, Zac and Isaac all swam brilliantly with a particularly strong performance in the freestyle relay. PBs from Merryn and Isaac helped the team to finish 3rd overall in their age category. This puts them in the running for a place at the national final in November. Good Luck!



MRS BALLARD

## YEAR 8

On Monday, our Year 8 rugby team headed to the QEH Sports Ground in Failand for a fantastic afternoon of rugby. Four games played: two strong wins against Redland Green School and Collegiate School, and two narrow defeats to Clifton College and Bristol Cathedral Choir School. Great effort and spirit from the lads – well done.



MR HOWARD



## YEAR 9 & 10



The Year 9 rugby boys travelled to Blaise High School for their first match of the season.

Despite missing a few key players, BFS showcased resilience and determination. While Blaise claimed the victory, Blaise PE staff praised our boys for their organisation and discipline. A few mistakes may have cost us the game, but this experience will only make us stronger. Well done.



MR LANGEVELDT

The Year 10 rugby team also travelled to Blaise High School on Wednesday for their first game of the season. Unfortunately, a few last-minute injuries meant we had to call in replacement players. Thank you to the boys for stepping up.

Though we didn't achieve the desired result, the team gained invaluable experience from this match.



## SPORTS CLUBS TIMETABLES

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

### CLUBS

We are still in need of parent helpers for rugby and netball from now until December.

Year 7 netball - Wednesday 3-4pm

Year 8-11 netball - Thursday 3-4pm

Year 7, 9 and 10 boys rugby - Tuesday 3-4pm

If you are a level 1 or 2 coach in rugby or have a keen knowledge and understanding of netball, we would really appreciate your support. Also, we are looking for a netball umpire to support us with our Year 10 entry into the Sisters n Sport cup.

Please [email Mrs Ballard](#) for more information or to let her know of your availability. Thank you.

### GIRLS RUGBY

As the Women's Rugby World Cup comes to a close this weekend we kicked off the first week of BFS girls rugby - and what a great start we had!

This is a club for all abilities including beginners, and students who want to play touch or contact rugby. We cater to all and everyone's abilities. So please come along on Wednesday after school as this week was heaps of fun!



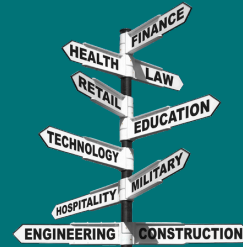
## UPCOMING FIXTURES

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



MR BRUNKER

# CAREERS



## Connect With Us

Connect with us on LinkedIn! @Bristol Free School.

Join in the conversation and help us if you can.

**Work Experience Employer Talks Careers Day**



## ENGINEERING TALK

On Tuesday, we welcomed Sophie Cockerham, an alum of Bristol Free School, who spoke to some of our Sixth Form students about her engineering degree at the University of Warwick. Sophie is now in the third year of a four-year integrated master's programme and spoke passionately about her course and all things engineering.

As part of the UK Electronics Skills Foundation (UKESF) scholarship programme, Sophie recently completed a placement with Renishaw and is looking forward to returning there in the future. She had plenty of valuable advice for a group of our students who are considering following a similar path.



Sophie's advice:

- Use your Study Periods, it is the easiest way to stay on top of things and get your work done. Your teachers aren't just nagging you because the chatter is annoying, it's because they see the outcome and results every year.
- Your teachers are your friends. It is their job to help you be successful, so utilise their knowledge! Don't wait until exam season to ask for help.
- Ask questions - being self-sufficient and learning how to independently study is a very important skill but so is knowing how to communicate and ask questions. It is often the quickest and easiest way to learn/understand something new.
- Actively seek opportunities. Don't just wait for Work Experience week or an opportunity to be presented to you, go out and find opportunities for yourself. Your school Careers Lead has hundreds of pupils to look over so it's unlikely that they will find the exact thing for you. So find it yourself, seek experience, knowledge and connections.
- A no is as useful as a yes. If you discover that you really don't like a particular pathway, degree subject, job etc, that's one less thing to consider. An unsuccessful application or interview is practice for your next one.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities. Do a sport, socialise, play music, volunteer in an animal shelter, even play videogames with friends. Find your passion in something that isn't school, UCAS, work etc. not only for your mental health and wellbeing, but to make you a more rounded person. Very few jobs are solo, so get used to being around other people AND being someone other people want to be around.

## EMPLOYER TALKS

Do you have an interesting job to talk to our students about?

Every Friday between 8.30am and 9am, we invite a local person to come in and talk about the job they do. These Employer Talks are designed to inform, and inspire, our students about the world of work. If you, or someone you know, would like to come into school and give a short talk (about 15 minutes, with time for questions), please get in touch by emailing [careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk).



# COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



with



## LET'S TALK!

ABOUT

### MOVING THROUGH SCHOOL: TRANSITIONS

Online  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, 7pm-9pm

Has your child started a new year group or moved schools?  
We need to hear from you - your voice matters!



## FREE GIRLS RUGBY FRIDAY

Shine

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September  
Shine Sports Ground  
4:00pm - 6:00pm



## Movie Making Half Term Camps This October Half Term



### Make a Movie in Half Term

Learn all about movie making with Sparks.  
Experience movie making just like on a real film set.  
Boost confidence, creativity and learn lots of new skills...



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