

Newsletter



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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we round off what has been an excellent term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many highlights and achievements across our school community.

From exciting sports fixtures to inspiring student-led TED Talks, it has been a term full of energy and excellence. A special congratulations to Patrick (Year 13) and Susie (Year 13) for representing our school so impressively at the BEP Youth Talks Finale - a proud moment for us all.



MRS KING

Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their secondary journey, embracing their team-building days with enthusiasm and positivity. It has been wonderful to see them settling in so well. Our Year 8 students have been tour guides for the prospective Year 6 visits and have been a real credit to the school. Year 10 have made a strong start to their GCSE subjects, and I have enjoyed popping into their lessons to see how these are going.

Looking ahead, next term brings important milestones, including mock exams for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. We know they will approach these with the same dedication and focus they have shown throughout the year.

I want to thank all students, staff, and families for your continued support and commitment. I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned and restful half-term break.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank the Friends of Bristol Free School (FoBFS) for their incredible dedication and hard work over the past few years. Their efforts have brought our community together and raised vital funds for the school, including last Friday's fantastic Quiz Night, which raised around £1,000!

As Chair Mel Hacker and the current committee prepare to step down, we now face an important moment. FoBFS plays a key role in enriching school life, and we would love to see it continue to thrive. To do that, we need new volunteers to come forward and help shape its future.

If you have ever considered getting involved, now is the perfect time. The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 13 November at the Black Swan on Stoke Lane, and it would be wonderful to see some new faces there. Whether you can offer a little time or a lot, your support will make a real difference. Please do consider joining this valued team.

Warm wishes,
Mrs King



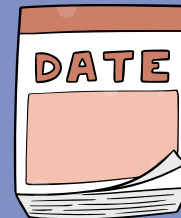
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Wednesday 22 October

Y13 Sociology, Politics and History trip to London
No PE Clubs
Last day of Term 1

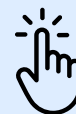
Thursday 23 October - Sunday 2 November

Half term holiday - school closed to all students

Monday 3 November

First day of Term 2

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

SEND

You can find helpful information and support for children and young people from birth to 25 years old with SEND on the Bristol City Council's Local Offer website. The Local Offer website has information on:

- Services available to everybody, such as schools and children's healthcare
- Specialist services and longer-term specialised support for children with SEND
- Short term support and services for children and young people without an Educational, Health and Care (EHC) plan

Follow this link to discover lots of great local services for children and young people with SEND from creative arts, youth clubs and forest schools to skill-building workshops, support groups and advice/knowledge hubs:

Find a service for
children and young
people with SEND



Bristol's SEND
Local Offer

NORBOT

Last year, BFS took part in Gromit Unleashed 3 and helped to raise a whopping £2 million for sick children in Bristol and beyond. Our BFS Norbot was on display at The Greatest Dog Show on Earth Exhibition along with 90 other colourful designs.



ATTENDANCE

Planned Absences

If you have a planned absence with exceptional circumstances (e.g. for student participation in elite sport or attending a funeral) please use the absence form available from this link: [Absence request Form](#)

Please email the completed form to admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk or print and return to Student Services in C Block. Please give us as much notice as possible for the absence (ideally 2 weeks).

Please do not book holidays in term time.

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.



TERM 2 KEY DATES

Monday 3 November	First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 4 November	Sixth Form Open Evening (5-7.30pm)
Tuesday 11 November	Remembrance Service (11am)
Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 November	Year 8 - Subject Evening
Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 November	Year 12 - Subject Evening
Thursday 4 December	Year 11 - Sixth Former for a Day
Friday 5 December	INSET Day - School closed to all students
Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 December	Flu Vaccinations for Years 7-11
Thursday 11 December	Music and Drama Winter Showcase
Friday 19 December	Last Day of Term 2 (early finish for students)
Monday 22 December - Friday 2 January	School closed to all students
Monday 5 January	INSET Day - School closed to all students
Tuesday 6 January	First day of Term 3

Key dates for Terms 3-6 are available on the School website's noticeboard:
www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/noticeboard



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Durdham!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Mollie B	Philip D	Cormac S, Oscar J, Jasper P	Amara P
Year 8	Rimon G	Madeleine P	Abigail T	Darcey F
Year 9	Katy T, Eleanor W	Krystal D	Harry R	Adam G
Year 10	Sophie L, Dexter S	Thomas O	Florence P	Dhruvika R
Year 11	Henry B, Kofi C, Emily E, Chloë H	Amelia L	Matilda C	Harriet B
Year 12	Joshua M, Mia S	Dani A	Mark B	Charlotte M
Year 13	Sam H	Kamran S	Holly K, Finley M, Ethan P	Sophie W

COMPETITION

Christmas Card Competition

BFS is looking for a Christmas card design. Something that will get us all in the Christmas spirit, which will fill everyone's heart with sparkle, fun and joy.

We need you to design a Christmas card with anything you want on it. Holly, presents, snowflakes, you decide - just no glitter, please!

Write your name, tutor group and House clearly on the back and hand it in to the Art Department before Friday 14 November.

All entries will receive House points.





Oracy Spotlight: BEP Youth Talks Finale



Youth Talks, the annual public speaking event organised by the Bristol Education Partnership, returned this year with inspiring contributions from students across the city. The event encourages young people to explore important topics and develop their oracy skills through a competitive process both within and between schools.

Following a series of school-based rounds, two finalists from each participating school were selected to present at the city-wide final, held at Bristol Grammar School. Representing BFS, Patrick and Susie, both in Year 13, took to the stage on Tuesday to deliver their thought-provoking talks.

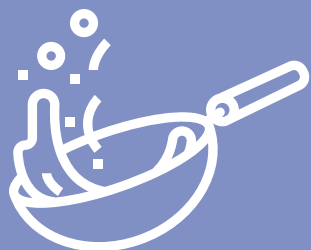
Patrick explored “The Power of Data”, highlighting how information shapes our world and influences decisions. Susie spoke passionately about “The Importance of Music in Schools”, advocating for creativity and expression in education. Both students impressed the audience with their clarity, confidence, and poise.

The standard of presentations across the evening was exceptionally high, but Patrick and Susie truly stood out. Their relaxed delivery and strong presence reflected the hard work and preparation that led to this moment. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they represented BFS.

Tae Kwon Do Championship Success

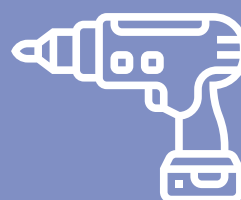


Congratulations to Oliver M, Year 13, who attended the ITF Tae Kwon Do World Championships in Poreč, Croatia earlier this month. Oliver won gold in the Male Junior Patterns (2nd Dan) category and bronze in the Junior Male Special Technique category. Well done!



Subject Spotlight

DT



YEAR 7

In DT this term, Year 7 students have piloted the first Memphis Monster soft sculpture project, inspired by student feedback requesting more playful ways to explore felt appliqué. The Memphis Design Movement theme has been a success, with students enthusiastically engaging with its bold, quirky style to influence their own creative designs.



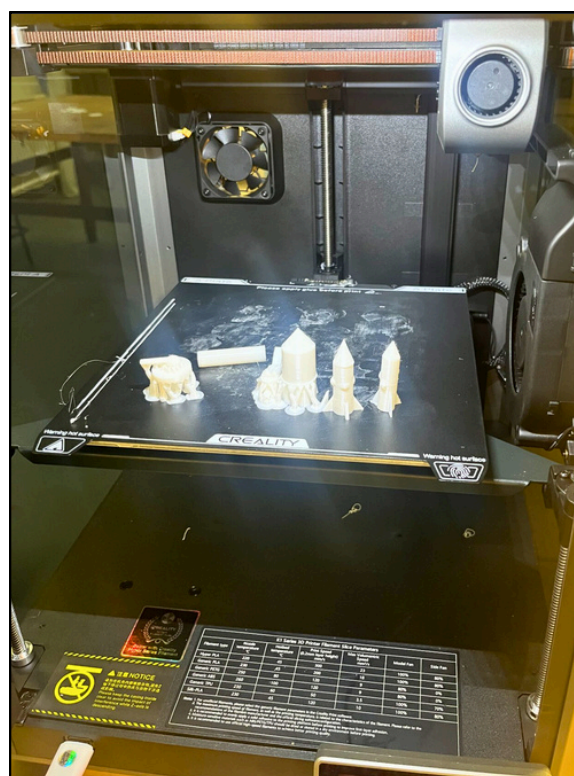
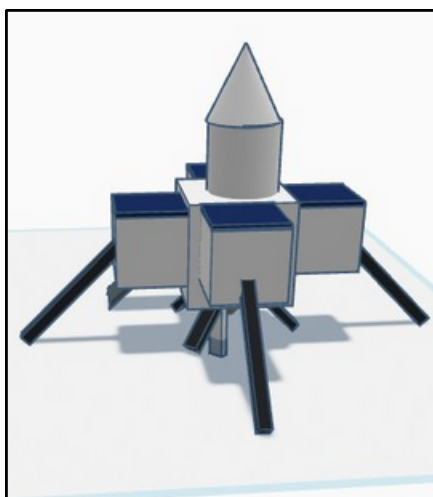
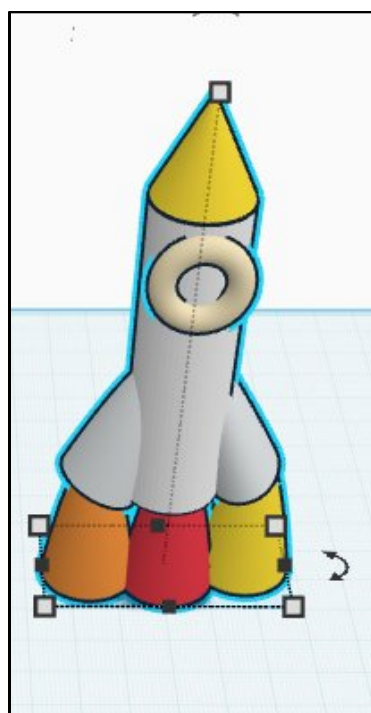
MS REEVE



MRS CORRIGAN

In Year 8, our Mars Lander project has turned 3D! Students have been using 'Tinker CAD' to develop a new Mars Lander design before these, and rocket designs, have been 3D printed. Students excelled in using a new program and using their oracy skills to present their ideas.

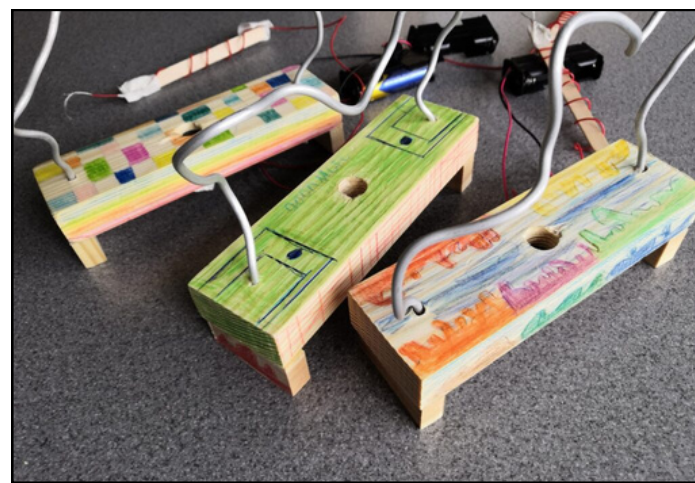
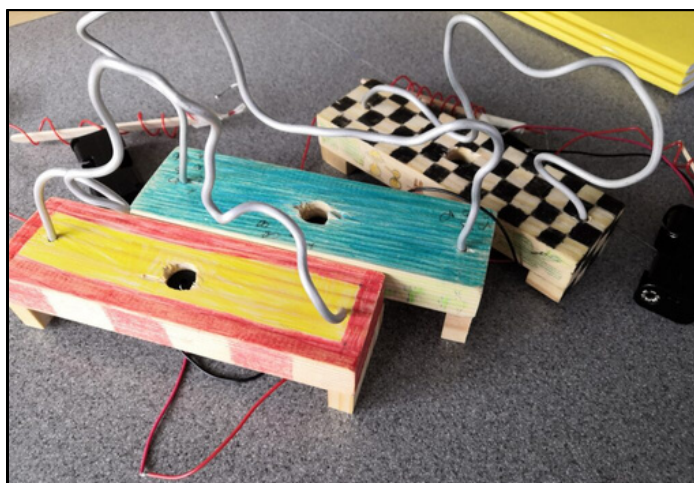
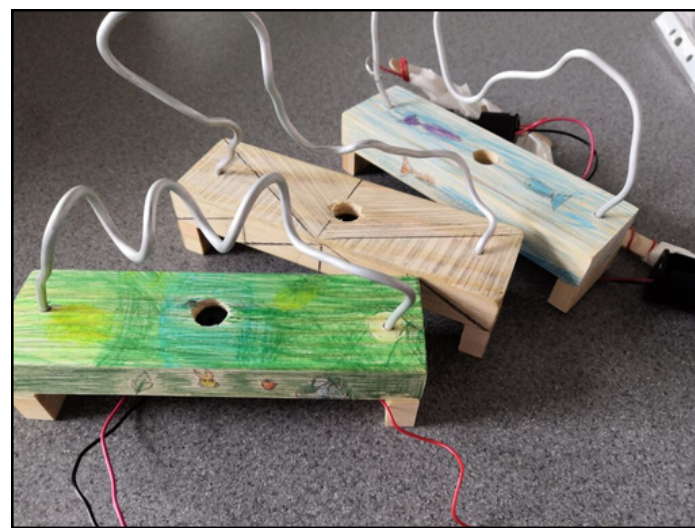
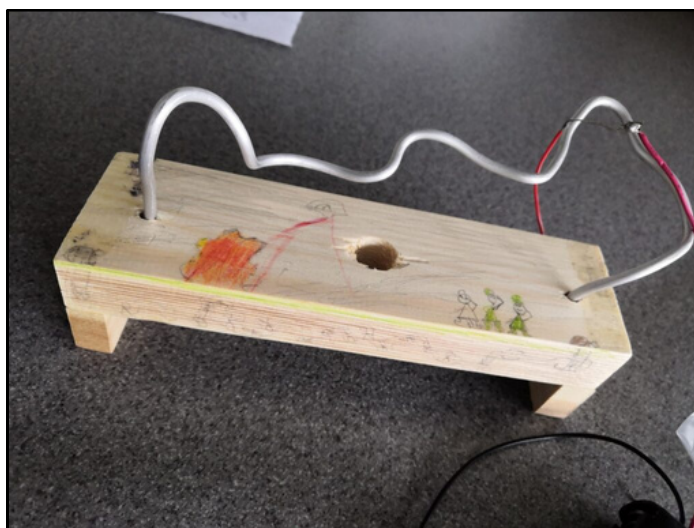
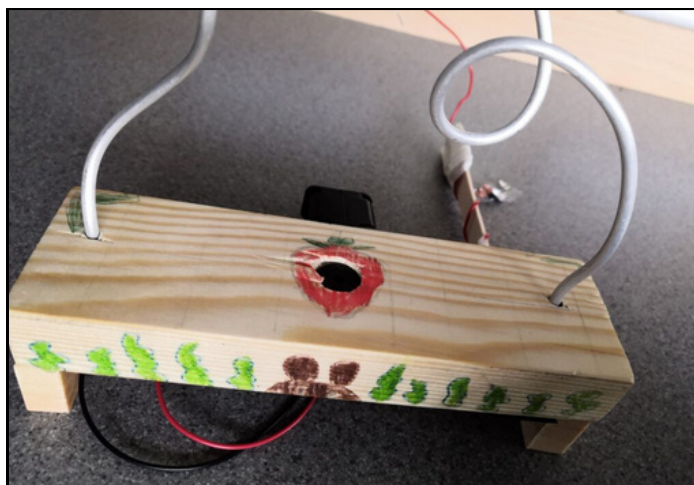
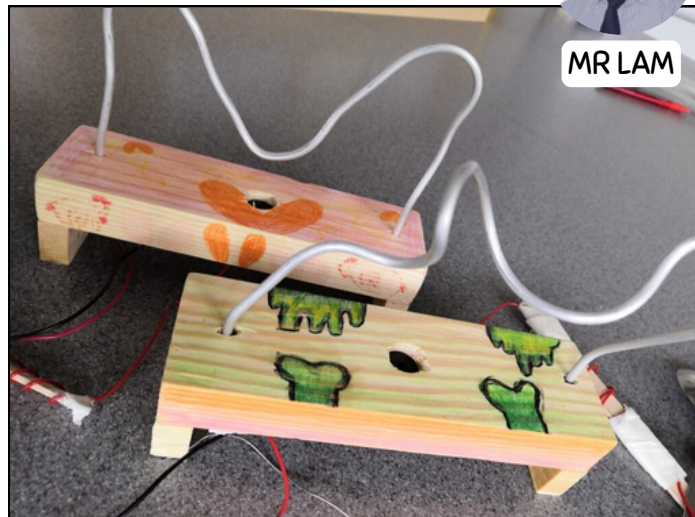
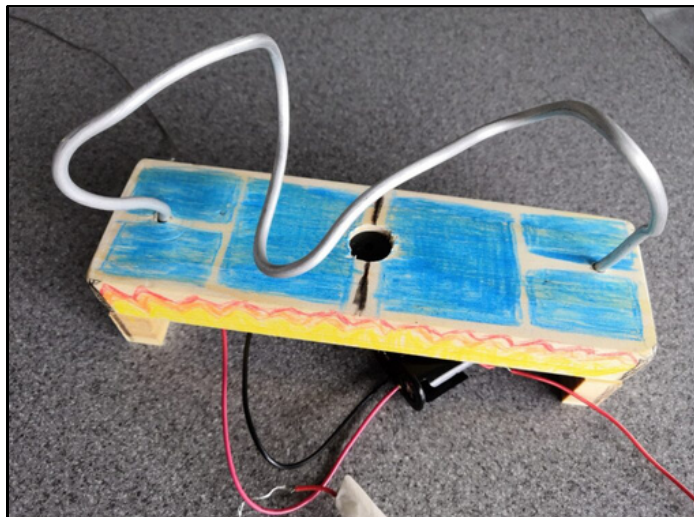
YEAR 8

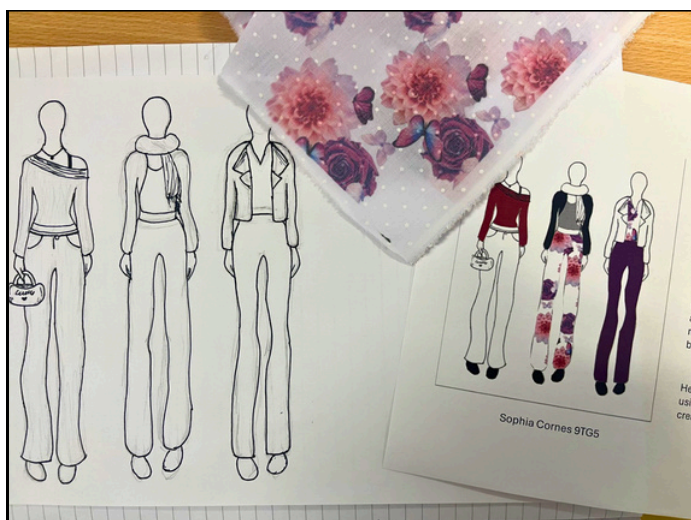
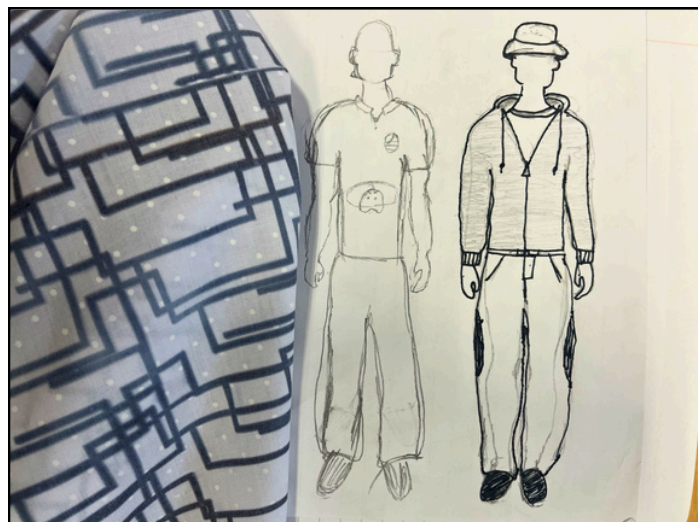
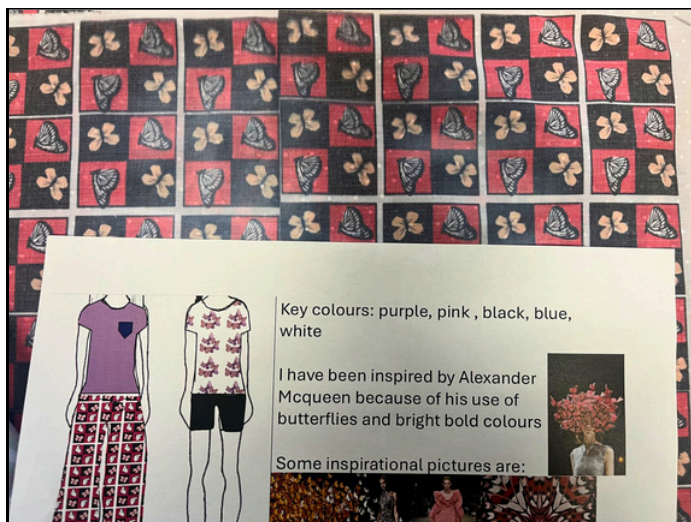


Some Year 8 students have finished their steady hand game in Design Technology. They have been learning about system and control, using flow diagrams and assembling electrical components using a soldering iron. Here we have a selection of work ready to take home.



MR LAM





Two Year 9 groups have recently completed an exciting new Textiles CAD rotation. This project introduced students to industry-level design tools through Adobe Creative Cloud, including Photoshop and Illustrator, allowing them to explore digital printmaking in a professional context.

Students began by researching and selecting a designer whose work inspired them — with influences ranging from the architect Zaha Hadid, fashion designer Alexander McQueen, and Ettore Sottsass.

Using hand-drawn elements as a foundation, they developed unique digital prints that reflected their chosen designer's style as well as students own style.

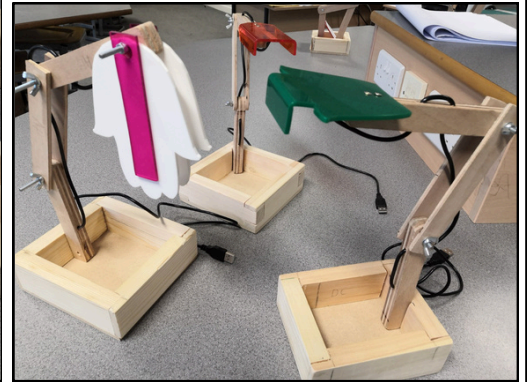
These prints were then incorporated into beautifully hand-drawn fashion illustrations, showcasing not only their technical skills but also their ability to merge traditional and digital techniques.

Students then sublimated their designs onto fabric, ready to be transformed into bucket hats in the next rotation. Their work reflects the potential of future fashion designers in the making, and we could not be more proud!



MRS CORRIGAN

Year 9 students have been making LED lamps as part of their DT rotation. They have used hand tools to make finger joints, chisels to cut grooves, soldering iron to solder the LED (light) strips, hacksaw for cutting metal and line bender to shape their acrylic shade. Here are photos of some of the work.



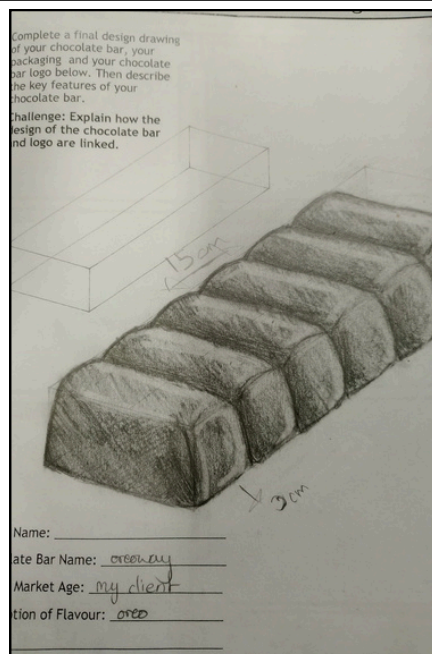
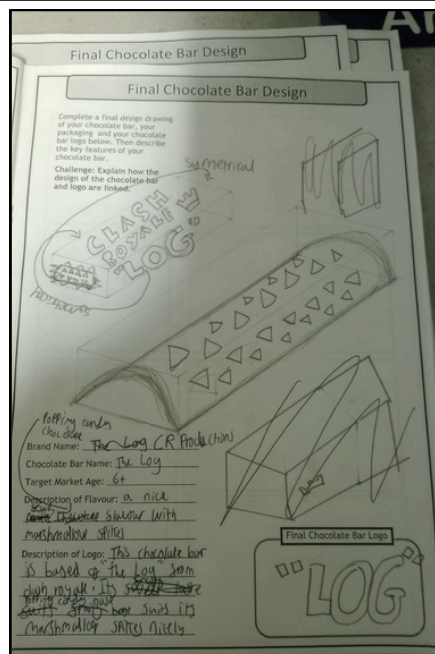
MR LAM

Year 9 have been working on a new project - 'The Chocolate Bar' rotation. Having found a client, students then designed the shape of a chocolate bar, modelled it and used the vacuum former to create a mould specific for their client. They also created packaging and a logo. From there, they then made the chocolate bars in the food rooms.

This project showcases students' graphic abilities, workshop skills and safe working in the food rooms. We hope the students and their clients enjoy the final bars!



MRS CORRIGAN



This term, our Year 10 DT students have been busy with an exciting multi-materials project, working across plastics, metals, and textiles. Through a series of fun and fast-paced mini-make activities, students have developed a wide range of technical and practical skills, while also building their understanding of key design theory.

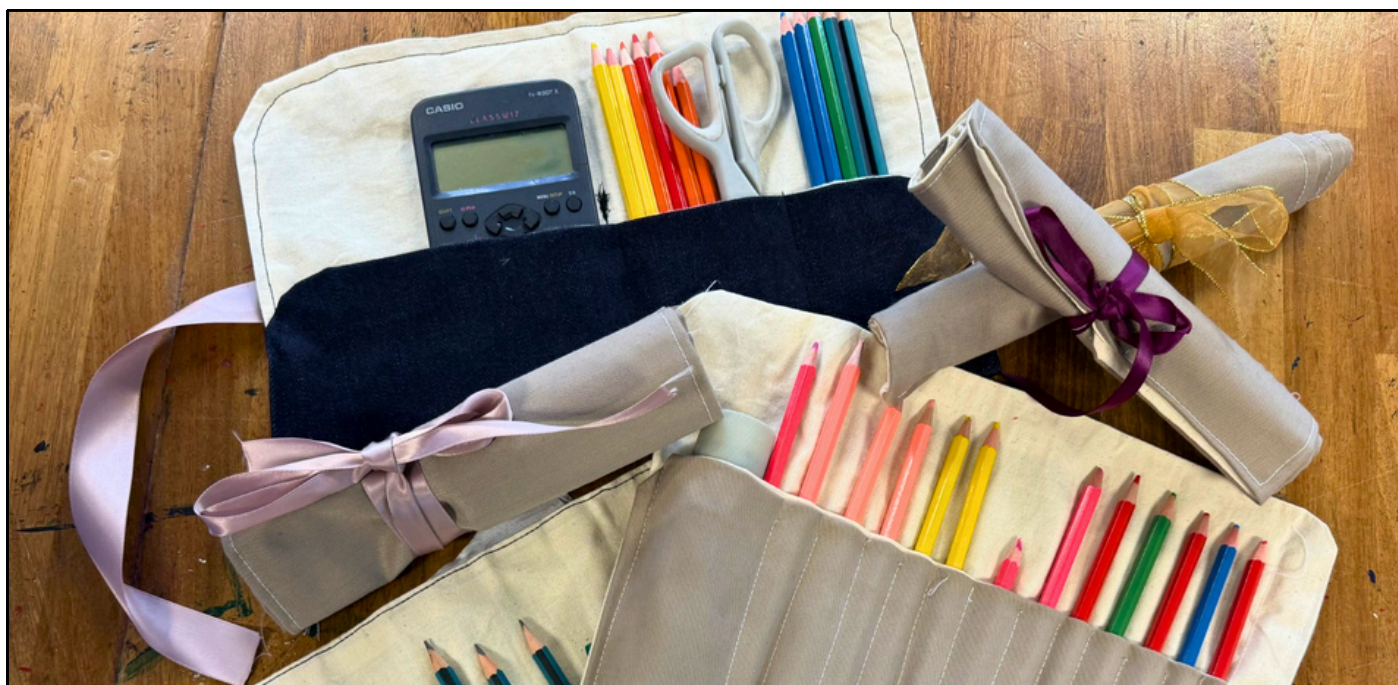


MS REEVE



Highlights from the term include:

- Textiles: Students stitched their own functional pencil roll cases, learning about fabric properties and construction techniques.
- Metals: They crafted personalised aluminium tags and copper bracelets, gaining hands-on experience with shaping and finishing metal.
- Plastics: Using acrylic, students designed and made sleek phone holders, exploring thermoforming and design for manufacture.



This October, our GCSE Food Technology students honoured Black History Month by exploring and preparing dishes that celebrate the diversity and creativity of Black cuisine across the globe.



Dishes included:

Jollof Rice – a symbol of unity and pride across nations like Nigeria and Ghana.

Red Velvet Cake – often associated with African-American celebrations.

Jamaican Patties – golden pastries filled with spicy meat or vegetables highlight Caribbean resourcefulness and flavour.

Fufu – made from starchy vegetables like cassava or plantain, fufu is a traditional West African accompaniment.

Fried Chicken – a staple of African-American soul food.

Jerk Chicken – a fiery and flavourful dish from Jamaica.

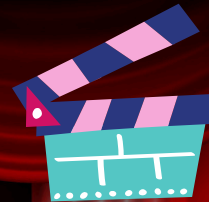


MRS SLADE





PERFORMING ARTS



Some of our Year 7 students were invited to attend an exciting Creative Workshop with theatre company, House of Figs, this week.

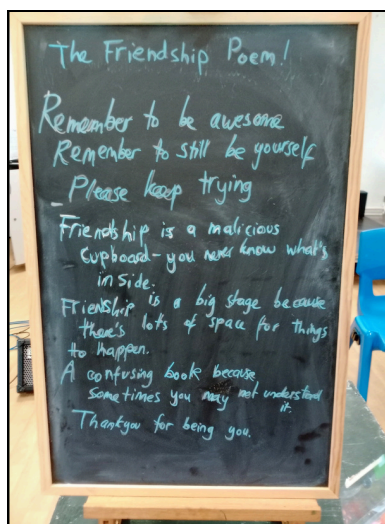
During the workshop they watched, directed and participated in scenes, helped create soundscapes and wrote their own performance poetry, all focusing on the complexities of navigating friendships. A really thought-provoking and engaging workshop - well done to all those involved!



MS KENNARD



MRS JEROME



YEAR 7

EXTRA CURRICULAR

BOOKS AND BABBLE



MS GRIFFITHS

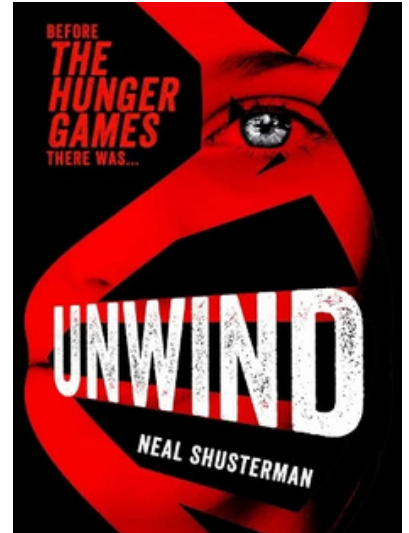
To kick off another fabulous year of reading and chatting, the Books and Babble Book Club have chosen to read *Unwind* by the multi award winning author, Neal Shusterman. This dystopian winner of a novel imagines a world where teenagers can be offered to the state to be used as organ donors. If you're trouble, you're a donor. This book has had us captivated from page one.

New members are always welcome in Books and Babble. We meet in the Library at 3pm on Tuesdays.

Unwind - Chapter One

"There are places you can go," Ariana tells him, "and a guy as smart as you has a decent chance of surviving to eighteen."

Connor isn't so sure, but looking into Ariana's eyes makes his doubts go away, if only for a moment. Her eyes are sweet violet with streaks of gray. She's such a slave to fashion – style. Connor was never into that. He's always kept his eyes the colour they came from. Brown. He never even got tattoos, like so many kids get these days when they're little...'



TAYLOR SWIFT CLUB



Calling all Swifties!



New Taylor Swift Lunchtime club

Wednesdays KS3 Lunch 11:50-12:30 DF17

Bring your friendship bracelets to make/swap



This week, our brand-new Taylor club started with friendship bracelet making, Taylor chat and album reviews, all with a stellar soundtrack and singing!



We left bejewelled, sporting our new bracelets, feeling how it's *Nice To Have A Friend* and we had *The Best Day!* Future activities involve a Taylor quiz, karaoke and dance routines!

If you would like to make some more Swiftie friends, we would love to meet you! Come to DF17 on Wednesday KS3 lunch, *Long Story Short*, it will be beyond your *Wildest Dreams!*



MS BOARD

ENGLISH



YEAR 9



Year 9 Semi-Finals

On Tuesday, it was the turn of Year 9 to compete in their Spelling Bee semi-final.

Semi-finalists:

9XM - Dexter H-S
9XS - Grace A
9XH - Krystal D
9XT - Jemima H
9YL - Sam S
9YG - Imogen L
9YC - Molly M
9YB - Nico B



MS SAYER

Like Year 7 and 8 before them, the spellers valiantly tackled some fiendish spellings, including 'entrepreneur' and 'phosphorescent'. Ultimately, it came down to a head-to-head between Krystal and Nico, who were inseparable for a number of rounds! In the end, Krystal took win for an impressive second year in a row.

Excitement is now growing for next week's grand final that will see Oscar VK in Year 7 (Ashton), Maddie P in Year 8 (Blaise) and Krystal in Year 9 (Blaise) battle to be this year's winner. Will Miss Sayer be tying red or yellow ribbons to the trophy?

BOOK REVIEW CHALLENGE

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.

***The Door of No Return* by Kwame Alexander**

Review by Tom, Year 11

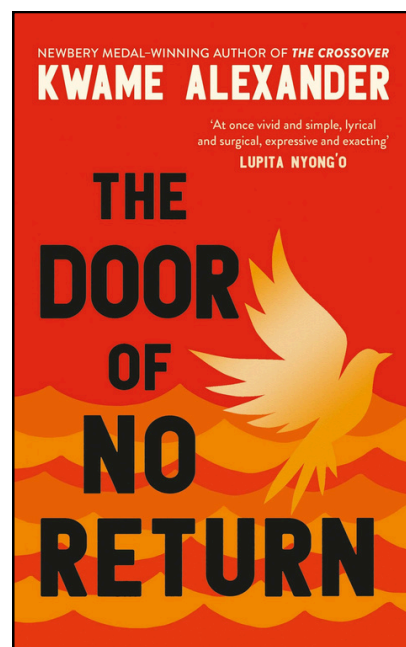
This is a historical fiction based on the lives of the Asante people of west Africa which is Ghana today. This story is about an 11-year-old boy, Kofi Offin, who has dreams of waters urgent whisper that beckons him with promises and secrets. Kwame uses the epistolary form to make Kofi's story more engaging and to make the topic of slavery more accessible and emotionally resonate with a younger audience. I really liked the symbols used at the start of each chapter which was foreshadowing what was going to happen in the chapter, for example he uses the symbol called Bin Nka Bi which represents peace and harmony and the symbol depicts two fish biting each other's tail, he put it in because it is the tattoo on the side of the two fish's face.

Overall, I really recommend it if you like the genre of historical fiction and poems. this book is good for learning about slavery from the slave's perspective and I love that about the book. If you like history and learning about how slavery affected the people of Africa, then I recommend *The Door of No Return* to you.



MISS MCMURDO

BOOK REVIEWS



You don't know what you've got.
Until it's gone . . .

SISTER, MISSING



Sophie
Mckenzie

'Page-turning' The Independent

***Sister, Missing* by Sophie Mckenzie** **Review by Lauren, Year 9**

What would you do if you found out that someone unknown texted you saying that they have kidnapped your sister after her mysterious disappearance? What would you do if they said not to call the police, otherwise they would kill her?

In this book, *Sister, Missing*, a 16-year-old girl called Lauren asked herself those exact questions after one morning on the beach when her sister vanished after buying 2 ice creams at the ice cream van, as if into thin air. Reflecting on her own knowledge of her being kidnapped 14 years ago, Lauren, with all the help she can get, follows the trail to find her little sister, Madison. However, she has got this other sister Shelby, who is rude and aggressive and she makes a terrible mistake which risked a life.

If you love thrillers, this is the book that will perfectly fit in your hands, it has so many amazing twists and turns. When you think the danger is over, another deadly threat takes over. Lauren must overcome the obstacles, new villains and betrayals, whatever it costs. Even if it means to risk her life for

others and getting her and her friends in an almost impossible position, this book is one of the best books I ever read as it is so easy to get into and has incredible language and excitement, forever to stick in your head.

I highly recommend this book for tweens and teens, but there is another book before it, so I advise you to read that first as it is just as good as this one!



Percy Jackson and the Wrath of the Triple Goddess

by Rick Riordan

Review by Nathan, Year 7

This book was so amazing to read because there were brave heroes and powerful enemies. Every chapter was action packed with interesting fights and problems the heroes had to face. Percy Jackson, Annabeth Chase and Grover are challenged to look after the goddess of witchcraft's pets in an abandoned mansion. Percy and his friends are expecting a peaceful time, but they are met with strange creatures which will make it a very hard time.

The odd pets were giant dogs from the underworld and cursed cats with razor sharp teeth. The book was so thrilling as if they mess up, they will be incinerated by the magical powers of the evil goddess. They will do it for one of three recommendation letters so Percy can get into the University of Rome.

Things all went to chaos when the pets escaped the mansion and got lost in the wild. They decided to go to the last resort and call the ultimate spirits for help but the spirits went rogue. This is the 5 star finale in a brilliant series so don't miss out on it.



BFS SPORTS



BFS_TeamPE



MRS BALLARD

RUGBY

The Year 7 BFS rugby team travelled for a triangular fixture against St Bede's Catholic College and Redland Green School and put in two outstanding performances that showed just how far they have come as a team.

In the opening game against St Bede's, BFS came out full of energy and determination. Their tackling was strong and disciplined, and they worked brilliantly as a unit both in attack and defence. The teamwork and communication across the pitch were clear to see, resulting in some fantastic tries and a well-deserved win for BFS.

The second match against RGS was a thrilling contest from start to finish. BFS matched their opponents in every area, tackling bravely and showing great resilience. Despite a huge team effort and some brilliant passages of play, they were narrowly defeated by just one try.

Across both games, BFS demonstrated real progress - their confidence, tackling technique, and teamwork have all improved enormously. Every player contributed, but special mention goes to Reuben and Reuben, who delivered player of the match performances with their relentless work rate, powerful running, and try scoring ability.

Overall, it was an excellent day of rugby for the Year 7 team - full of passion, teamwork, and pride in how far they have come. The future looks very bright for this group!



MR HOWARD



RUGBY



The Year 9 boys were ready for a close battle with Redland Green School last Tuesday. With the warm up going to plan, it was unfortunate that RGS arrived with just 12 players resulting in us having to tweak our team to match the number.

The game started well, with us scoring a couple of quick early tries and converting. BFS dominated the play, and the team went into half time 34-0 up.

A quick reshuffle and change of personnel for the second half and the game started in the same way. Some big hitting tackles by Tai kept the visitors far from scoring! We had some rapid play down the left and the game finished 63-0.

Player of the Match - Archie.
An awesome game and BFS Year 9s biggest win to date!



MS URCH

HOCKEY

It has been fantastic to have excellent numbers every week this term for indoor hockey. From our seasoned club players through to complete beginners, everyone has been so kind whilst showing a competitive spirit. It has been a pleasure to lead this club and the numbers and weekly commitment, has been the best ever here at BFS. I look forward to seeing everyone back, raring to go in Term 2.

#welovehockey
Ms Urch 😊



MS URCH



NETBALL



MS SLATER

Year 7 and 8 played Cotham School this week in the Bristol Netball League. With a few changes around in positions, the students had heaps of fun playing and representing BFS!

Cotham secured the win in both games, but game play evolved and strategy was implemented as BFS students progressed in the 4 quarters. Well done to everyone who played!

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Tuesday 21 October	U14 Boys Rugby vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College
Tuesday 21 October	Cross Country	Ashton Park
Tuesday 21 October	Y8 Boys Rugby vs QEH	QEH Failand
Tuesday 21 October	Y7 Boys Rugby vs Blaise High School	Greenway
Tuesday 4 November	Sixth Form Football vs Cotham School	Shine
Wednesday 5 November	Y7, Y8 & Y9 Netball vs Redland Green School	BFS
Wednesday 5 November	Y8 & Y9 Girls Rugby vs Oasis Academy Brislington	Oasis Academy Brislington
Wednesday 5 November	Y8 Boys Rugby Festival	Whitehall Rugby Club
Thursday 6 November	Y9 & Y10 Sports Hall Athletics	Redland Green School

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



11-19 years old?

We help young people with all kinds of things like ...

Message us for confidential advice and support and to chat with a School Nurse.



Send a message to:
07312 263093

The service is open on Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm.



Windmill Hill,
Bristol

October half term
Bikeability
Level 3

Bikeability Holiday Courses

Unlock your child's cycling potential!

Cycling confidence, road safety, and planning skills – taught by Life Cycle's qualified, DBS-checked instructors.

Scan to
book



Book now!
<https://bit.ly/48Ai378>

Registered Charity Number: 1077575

Get Ready for Support Work in Schools

Where: WEA York Court,
7 York Court, Wilder Street,
Bristol BS2 8QH
When: 20.10.25 - 07.05.26
How Long: 62 Sessions
Time: 12:30pm - 3:00pm
Reference: P00000166

Are you considering a support role in a school or college - such as a teaching assistant, dinner lady, or administrator? This course provides you with a solid understanding of how schools and colleges work and the skills you will need to work in an educational setting. On this course you will study: Award in mental health awareness, Award in support work in schools and colleges, Digital skills get ready for learning, Support work in schools and Food hygiene.

Start Your Journey Today



Find out more:

Simply visit thewea.info/findmycourse or call 01132 002194



**Adult Learning
Within Reach**



Scan this QR code to book online, using a smartphone or tablet.

If you receive certain benefits you may be entitled to a free course.

The WEA is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1112775) and in Scotland (no. SC039129).



GOLDFINCH

Find out more at: www.goldfinchcreateandplay.co.uk

Teens Art Clubs at Goldfinch for 11-16 years

Goldfinch Create and Play, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol

When:
Thursdays 4 30pm
Fridays 4 30pm

This class is ideal for teens wanting to experiment with different art mediums, from print to paper cutting to sculpture and illustration.

Join our Nov/Dec Term now!
Thursdays: Cyanotype & Gelli Print, Fridays: Felting

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BS9 3DH



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