

Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

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House News Computer Science

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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back to a new half term at BFS! I hope everyone had a restful break and is feeling refreshed and ready for the busy and exciting weeks ahead.

This term is packed with opportunities for our students to shine, connect, and grow. We were delighted to host our Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday, where Year 11 students and their families explored the next steps in their educational journey. As part of this, our Year 11 'Sixth Former for a Day' experience will give students a real taste of life in the Sixth Form.



MRS KING

We were also honoured to welcome Darren Jones MP to our school today. His visit was a valuable opportunity for students to engage with current affairs and deepen their understanding of civic life.

Academic focus remains strong, with GCSE and A Level mock exams taking place - an important milestone in preparation for the summer. We are also holding Subject Evenings for Year 8 and Year 12, providing a chance for parents and carers to discuss progress and next steps with teaching staff.

As we approach Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11 November, we will come together as a school community to reflect and pay our respects during our Remembrance Service - a moment of solemnity and unity.

Finally, we are looking forward to celebrating the talents of our students in the Music and Drama Winter Showcase on Thursday 11 December. It promises to be a wonderful evening of creativity and performance.

Thank you for your continued support. Let's make this term a successful and memorable one.

Warm regards,

Mrs S King Headteacher







(©) BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

BFS_Bristol

Monday 10 November

GCSE Maths Resit Winter Showcase Auditions, 3-4.30pm in DG01

Tuesday 11 November

Remembrance Service Y11 & Y13 Art Mock Exam Y8/9 Trip: Cyber Horizons

Wednesday 12 November

Y11 & Y13 Photography Mock Exam Y8 Subject Evening

Thursday 13 November

Y12/13 Trip: Philosophy Society Y8 Subject Evening

Friday 14 November

Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams (until Tuesday 25 November)

KEY DATES

Key dates for events such as Subject Evenings and Performances during Term 2 can be viewed here.

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.

Please provide parental consent by following this link: Parental Consent or by scanning the QR code.



Please book appointments out of school hours whenever possible. If this is not possible, please follow these steps.

Email <u>admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk</u> with the following information (giving 48 hours' notice):

- Your child's name
- The date and time of the appointment
- The type of appointment
- What time you want to collect your child
- Evidence of the appointment, so that this absence may be authorised as a medical/dental appointment. Evidence may include a photo of the appointment slip/letter, a screen shot of a text reminder or a forwarded email from your medical/dental centre.

On the day of the appointment:

- Your child must go to D Block Main Reception at their collection time and advise the staff there that they have an appointment. We will ask them to wait in Reception until you arrive.
- To collect your child, please come to the Pedestrian Gate of the Car Park and press the buzzer (not the Main Student Gate as this is only opened at start and end of day). Once we have confirmed you are there, we will send your child out to meet you.
- When returning your child to school, please send your child back to the same Pedestrian Gate of the Car Park. They need to press the buzzer to gain admittance to the school.

If driving, please do not drive your car into the car park. Please park safely outside of school. Please note that the Main Student Gate is closed throughout the school day for the safety of all students. It only opens at the start and end of the school day. Therefore, if you need to collect or drop off your child during the school day, they must use the Pedestrian Entrance of the Car Park.





HOUSE NEWS





HOUSE POINTS









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



Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Leo H	Dollie G, Thea E	Jacob W	Amara P
Year 8	Ellie-May R	Amelia F	Louis B	Mollie K, Noah C
Year 9	Lauren S, Harriet S	Naomi H	Harry R	Harrison H
Year 10	Nameera A, Sophie L	Reuben G, Lauren R	Maia B	lmani P
Year 11	Henry B	Bailey A	Thomas N	Muhammed H
Year 12	Teddy F	Tilly LJ, Edward C	Sama T	Nicholas P
Year 13	Grace S	Lorraine H, Isla H	Izabella F	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.

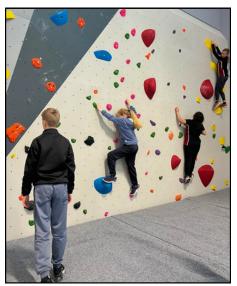


ACHIEVEMENTS



Year 7 Teambuilding Day at Clifton College

Year 7 have spent an amazing three days teambuilding at Clifton College. They have worked hard on developing their teamwork, communication and resilience whilst developing strong relationships with their fellow tutees and tutors. Students participated in a wide range of outdoor and problem-solving activities including tomahawk throwing, archery, shelter building, bouldering and team challenges. Both staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will take away a lasting memory of their first term at BFS. Well done Year 7 you have had a fantastic first term!



















Congratulations to Ronan in Year 13 who is Junior Captain at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club.

Bristol & Clifton Golf Club has been crowned Junior Club of the Year at the Golf Foundation President's Awards 2025, in recognition of a thriving junior programme that places inclusivity, opportunity and community spirit at its heart.

Well done to Ronan and everyone involved.

DANCE



Evie in Year 10 and Rimon in Year 8 danced in the Longwell Green and Kingswood Performing Arts Festival over half term. Their group dance came first with honours, meaning that they qualify for the All England Regional Finals next year. Well done girls.







The Grand Final

What better way to finish the term than the grand final of this year's KS3 Spelling Bee! The winners from each year group - Oscar V K from Year 7, Maddie P from Year 8 and Krystal D from Year 9 - went head-to-head on Tuesday lunchtime in front of a very supportive and enthusiastic audience. The finalists reckoned with some really tricky words, including 'tempestuous' and 'impediment', before Oscar V K was ultimately declared the winner. The Spelling Bee trophy will sit proudly in the trophy cabinet with yellow ribbons for Ashton this year!

Thank you again to all KS3 students for participating and the English Department looks forward to running it again next year.



Subject Spotlight



Welcome back! It has been a fantastic and action-packed start to the academic year in the History and Politics department at BFS. Here is a round-up of what our students have been up to ...

Key Stage 3

KS3 students have been diving into a wide range of fascinating historical topics:

- Year 7 have been exploring the dramatic events of 1066, culminating in William of Normandy's decisive victory over Harold Godwinson at the legendary Battle of Hastings and the subsequent Norman Conquest. There have been some great examples of oracy and public speaking in our debates on who should have succeeded Edward the Confessor!
- Year 8 have been delving into the Reformation and the iconic Tudor dynasty. They have tackled big historical questions such as: To what extent was Henry VIII a tyrant? What was the greatest threat facing Elizabeth I? What was the impact of religious change on Tudor England? Their thoughtful discussions have been both lively and insightful.
- Year 9 have been studying the First World War with great enthusiasm. They have examined the causes of the conflict, the role of the Commonwealth, and debated whether the Battle of the Somme was a disaster for Britain. They've also investigated why so many men volunteered to fight. Their independent research projects on wider aspects of the Great War have been exceptional!

Year 9 have recently been working on their First World War independent projects as part of their in-class unit on WW1. This is an opportunity for students to research topics that particularly interest them and display their findings in a creative and informative way. There were some fantastic projects submitted, and students were able to present their projects to their classmates - teaching them about many fascinating topics ranging from submarine warfare and the Gallipoli campaign to the role played by women on the Western Front.



ROLE

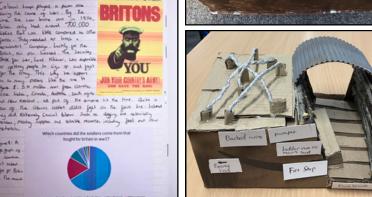
TROOPS

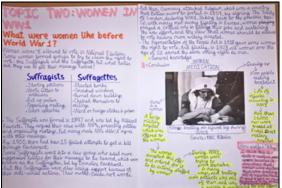
Some stand out projects included a very entertaining video from Ivy and Sophie in 9/Hi3 and a brilliant model of a trench made by Max and Gabriel, also in 9/Hi3.











GCSE History

Our GCSE students have shown tremendous dedication this term:

- **Year 10** have been showing great enthusiasm and curiosity whilst exploring the history of medicine. They are becoming well-versed in the scientific and technological breakthroughs that have shaped modern medical practices.
- **Year 11** have been working hard on their studies of Early Elizabethan England and are now deep into revision for their first round of mock exams. We wish them the very best of luck!

A Level History and Politics

- **Year 12 History** students have continued their studies into Communist Russia and the Wars of the Roses, exploring compelling questions such as 'Was Henry V the greatest English monarch of all time?' and 'How similar were the regimes of Lenin and Stalin?'
- **Year 12 Politics** students have been engaging with contemporary issues, examining the UK constitution and Parliament, the role of political parties, and the effectiveness of democracy in the UK. All whilst keeping abreast of the issues of the day!
- **Year 13** students are preparing diligently for their upcoming mocks. In History, they have been studying Mao's China, while in Politics, they have been analysing the complexities of US politics with a particular focus on last year's hugely significant election. They also enjoyed a fantastic trip to London on the final day of term, visiting Westminster and the Tower of London and even had the chance to meet some high-profile politicians.

Sixth Form Open Evening

A special shout goes to Isla, Indie, Ben, Sophie, Holly and Tilly for their help and support for the Sixth Form Open Evening this week. You were all fantastic ambassadors for the school and provided parents and prospective students with a great insight into studying history and politics at BFS. Thank you.

On the last day of term, our History, Politics, and Sociology students embarked on a trip to three of London's oldest and most iconic institutions - Westminster, The Old Bailey and the Tower of London.

Westminster: A Glimpse into Power

Students were thrilled to spot several well-known politicians in action at the Houses of Parliament and even got to meet the Health Secretary. They were given a fascinating tour into the corridors of power and a history of the evolution of our political system.

The Old Bailey: Justice in Real Time

The sociology and politics students headed off to the Old Bailey following their tour of parliament. They got to see a segment of an attempted murder trial in action, with the witness being cross examined as we entered. The students reported finding the experience fascinating and confirmed an interest in law for some of them. We were really proud of how the students conducted themselves through security and in the courtroom - well done.

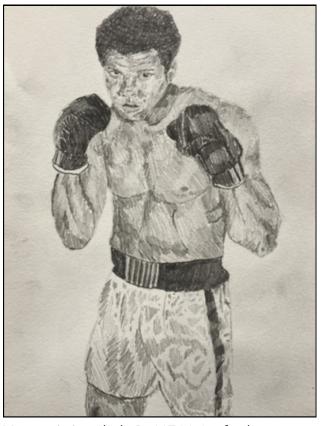


The Tower of London: History's Mysteries Unveiled

Following a boat taxi ride up the Thames, students arrived at the Tower - although not via traitors' gate! We learned that this is a common myth and 'traitors' was actually 'traders". Students explored centuries of intrigue, including the chilling disappearance of the Princes in the Tower and the controversial legacy of Richard III. The stories sparked lively discussion and critical thinking about historical evidence and interpretation.



There was an excellent response to the Black History Month competition. Focused around the theme of "standing firm in power and pride", students were invited to create a piece of work celebrating the life of any black figure from history. There were some very imaginative responses including poems, videos and artwork. It was fantastic to learn so much about people whose achievements previously mightn't have been acknowledged as much as they deserved. A selection of the entries can be seen below alongside the names of the eventual winners in three categories.





Most informative - Ella J-D, 9TG1 Canford

Most artistic - Chole D, 11TG1 Canford

Jane Bolin - By Amelia A gifted girl, born in 1908, Faced a world of bias - burdened by hate. At Wellesley College, alone in the crowd, Mocked and dismissed for standing too proud. The first Black woman tograduate Yale, Insulted, challenged - but did not fail. With head held high through struggle ardstrife, She carved a path and changed many a life. In courtrooms, cold, where none looked like she, She stood for truth and equality. A judge with morals, firm and fair, Giving hope to those in despair. She opened doors that once were closed, In every case, her courage showed. Let her legacy lives - bold, brave and wise, A glame still burning in justice's eyes,

Most creative -Amelia F, 8TG1 Blaise

Each winner wins points for their house and a book token. Perhaps they might want to spend it on one of these books to find out more about Black history...





BENJAMIN

ZEPHANIAH

Well done to everyone who entered!

A huge well done to all our students for such a brilliant start to the year. We are incredibly proud of your hard work, curiosity, and enthusiasm. Here's to an exciting Term 2!



Darren Jones MP: Speak Like You Own the Room

Over 50 students from Y9 were treated to a "speak like you own the room" workshop by Darren Jones (Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Member of Parliament for Bristol North West). It was a thoroughly engaging workshop: he coached us through various public speaking roles, interspersed with practical tips, videos of himself in action, and some fascinating anecdotes.

Mr Jones was also recruiting for the ESU Churchill Public Speaking competition – building on our successes over the last two years, we have again entered a team and are eagerly awaiting our first fixture at the end of November.

Assistant Headteacher, Mr MacBlain, had also arranged for our entire Student Parliament, from all year groups, to meet with Mr Jones. This was a fantastic opportunity to tell him about all their hard work, ask his advice on their upcoming projects, find out more about where their journey in politics might take them.



Questions included:

- 1. What inspired you to become a politician?
- 2. Is it true that the voting age will be reduced to 16?
- 3. Do you see yourself becoming Prime Minister and, if so, what would your main goals be?
- 4. What do you like about your job?
- 5. What advice do you have for any students wanting to be an MP?
- 6. What is being done about local road safety around schools?

- 7. What do you think the most pressing issue is in our country currently?
- 8. How did you get elected?9. How much influence do you have over the whole country?10. What's your opinion on new parties being created and

becoming more popular?

Across both sessions our students were an absolute credit to the school, rounding out the afternoon with some thoughtful questions and really making the most of Darren Jones' expertise.





ENGLISH

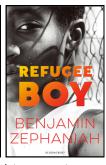


These reading recommendations are following on from Black History Reading Assemblies, but of course please do read them the whole year round. Reviews of these, or any other books, are most welcome!

Years 7 - 9







Steady For This - Nathanael Lessore: A laugh-out-loud and award-winning teen novel! Shaun (aka MC Growls) is ready to drop his best bars and smash the competition at Raptology. That way, he's convinced Tanisha, his crush, will finally give him a chance. An unlikely hero, gorgeous wordplay, and a delightfully tongue-in-check sense of humour: what more do you want?

Rat - Patrice Lawrence: When his mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who's to blame. Ignoring advice from his gran and sister, Plum, Al takes things into his own hands with a plan that involves the only two creatures he can rely on: his pet rats, Venom and Vulture... QUICK READ!

Refugee Boy - Benjamin Zephaniah: This powerful novel follows Alem across the world. Life is not safe for Alem. His father is Ethopian, his mother Eritrean. Their countries are at war, and Alem is welcome in neither place. So Alem is excited to spend a holiday in London with his father - until he wakes up to find him gone...

Years 10 - 13



Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist

Suggestions - Chimamanda

Ngozi Adichie: A powerful new

Written as a letter to a friend,

Adichie replies to their request

for help on how to bring up her

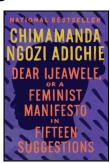
newborn baby girl as a feminist.

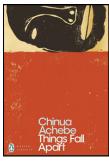
Interrogate your perspective of

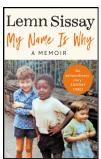
the world in this QUICK READ!

statement about feminism today.

Manifesto in Fifteen







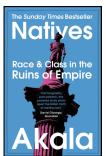
My Name Is Why - Lemn Sissay: How does a government steal a child and then **Achebe:** This story centres on imprison him? This is the true story of Lemn Sissay's fascinating life. At the age of 17, Norman Greenwood was given his birth certificate. He learned that his real name is Lemn Sissay and that his mother had been pleading for his safe return to her since his birth. This is a story of neglect and determination, misfortune

and hope, cruelty and triumph.

My Sister, the Serial Killer - Oyinkan **Braithwaite:** Multi-award winning, a great example of Crime Fiction whilst also breaking many of the genre rules. Without giving spoilers - so many twists and turns, leaving readers guessing until the end (and beyond?). How far would you go for your family? Is blood always thicker than water?

> Things Fall Apart - Chinua the clash between native African culture, white Christian missionaries and the colonial government in Nigeria. An unflinching look at the discord, yet also a beautifully written book full of vibrant characters, immersing us in our protagonist world.

Years 12 - 13



Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire - Akala: Sunday Times bestseller from the BAFTA and MOBO award-winning musician and political commentator. What was it like to grow up poor, mixed race and politicised in the Britain of the 1980s and 90s? And how does a bookish youth with dreams of becoming a scientist turn, in just a few years, into a knife-carrying teenager? These, and multiple others, are the questions at the centre of Natives, the first book by the hip-hop artist and performer Akala. Especially interesting for those studying sociology, English literature, business, psychology or economics – a compelling commentary on societal structures and how macro trends can affect people on

an individual, local or global scale. Caution – explicit language and content (mostly in the form of retelling autobiographical events).

BOOK REVIEW CHALLENGE

What? A book review of a recent book you enjoyed. **How long?** 200 - 250 words.

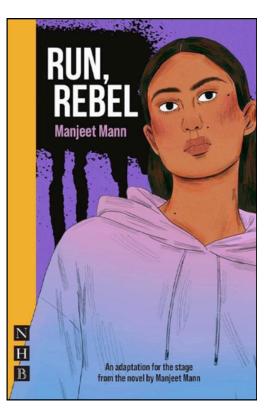
How to submit? Email or hand it in to Miss McMurdo, DG08.



Run Rebel by Manjeet Maan Review by Amelia, Year 8

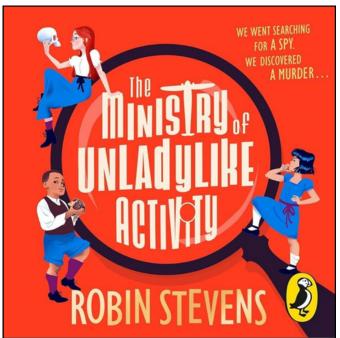
Amber Rais is a fool. Amber Rai is stupid. Amber Rai is disobedient. She dishonours the sacred family name 'Rai'. Females are second class. They exist to serve men. That is Amber's daily lecture from her controlling, drunk father. Amber's sister (Ruby) left for an arranged marriage without questioning it. Their mother works 12 hours a day for next to no money on her husband's orders. She doesn't question it. But Amber Rai questions it. All Amber Rai wants is to fly. She flies on the running track. A natural sprinter. Poised. Fast. Precise. She could easily be a professional athlete. Her father won't allow it. What now? Does she follow her dreams? Or... Is she the mute servant she is supposed to be? Afterall, it is not the dark we fear. It is the unknown.

This book (written in verse) is one of Miss Sayer's favourite books. And as one of the Guardian's best books 2020, winner of Shadower's choice award, winner of the URLA book awards – to name a few - is thoroughly recognised as an exception piece of work. Within 1 and a half school days, plus a morning of holiday, I succeeded in finishing it. I am afraid I was quite anti-social in that time. If you want a beautiful story to remember for a lifetime... this is the one for you!



The Ministry of Unladylike Activity by Robin Stevens Review by Cara, Year 9

What would you do if a murder happened in the place you were staying during WW2? What would you do if you knew the police weren't on the right track to solving the case? These are the exact questions that May, Nuala and Eric asked themselves when a murder takes place where they were sent to when they were pretending to be evacuees: Elysium Hall.



As well as trying to solve a murder, they also discovered that someone in England was a Nazi spy and was sending information to the Germans.

Before this book, I recommended you should read the Murder Most Unladylike series, which is also written by Robin Stevens. Just to give you a bit more of an idea of a new, exciting murder mystery series.

The next book after this is the Body in the Blitz. May is also trying to hide from someone who is looking for her and May is trying to prove herself, to show that she is worthy to join the Ministry of Unladylike Activity. This means it was a race against time to solve the case and discover some of people's most deepest, darkest secrets that has been hiding right under their noses... There is also a sprinkle of humour in the pages, especially at the start, so it is also pretty amazing! I highly recommend this book; it was so exciting to read. It is a must for young murder mystery fans!

COMPUTER SCIENCE

DIGITAL COMPETENCY

Access Office 365 Tools from Home

Did you know you can access Microsoft Office 365 tools like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and Teams for free from home using your school account?

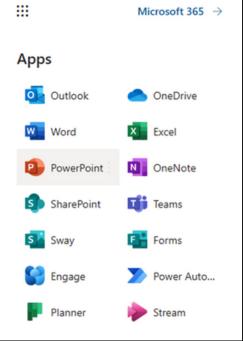
Here's how to get started:

Step-by-Step Guide to Access Office 365

- 1.Go to https://www.office.com
- 2. Sign in using your school email address (e.g. 22surname.firstinitial@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)
- 3. Enter your school password
- 4. Once logged in, you will see all the Office apps available to you online

What's Included?

- Word Create and edit documents
- Excel Work with spreadsheets and data
- PowerPoint Build presentations
- OneNote Organise your notes
- Outlook Access your school email
- Teams Collaborate with classmates and teachers





SCIENCE



BIOCRAFT COMPETITION

The annual BioCraft Competition 2025 is until 12 November. In this competition, participants can create a biology-inspired 3D artwork from recycled, or other, materials. BioCraft entries can take inspiration from the smallest parts of the natural world that only a microscope can see: think cell structures, bacterial colonies and microscopic organisms. Or entries could instead feature environments or ecosystems. Art could be based around great savannahs, wide-open plains, the deep oceans or immense rainforests and the huge range of diversity contained within them.





Submit your entry to the Royal
Society of Biology here and email/
show Miss Hawes to receive
House points for your entry. Good
luck!







Important message for parents/carers regarding sports fixtures:

If your student cannot attend a sports fixture, as the responsible adult of the child, you are required to email admin to inform the school that the student cannot attend at least 24 hours before. This enables the PE team to fill the place of your student so that a full team can be fielded for the fixture. If you don't reply, then it is assumed your student will be attending, and that the team is full. Please do reply if your student cannot attend the fixture.

Year 11 and 12 took on QEH Sixth Form in a netball match at the end of Term 1. The team won 27-11. Excellent shooting from Hannah and Rosie. The team were fantastic at getting the ball up court quickly and efficiently. They were a joy to watch! Cesca, Sophie, Lex and Elsa were impressive in the defensive circle. With great support from centre court throughout. Hannah, Sophie, Lilia, Lex and Elsa had incredible intercepts in centre court. Well done all! Player of the match was Rosie.





In a tightly fought game, St Bede's Catholic College took the win over BFS Year 9 rugby team with a final score of 34-27. The match was a back-and-forth battle, with both teams showing impressive skills. Ultimately, the opposition's deeper bench proved to be the deciding factor, allowing them to maintain fresh legs and strategic flexibility in the crucial final minutes.

The Year 8 rugby team put in an excellent all-round performance to win their tournament on Wednesday, finishing the day unbeaten after three strong displays of teamwork, skill, and determination.

The opening game against Bristol Brunel Academy proved to be the toughest test of the day. Both teams started strongly, but solid defence and some determined running eventually saw our side pull ahead, earning a hard-fought 19–0 win. In the second match against Bristol Met Academy, the team really hit their stride. Confident handling and quick support play led to some outstanding tries, while strong tackling ensured another clean sheet in a 28–0 victory. The final fixture was against Oasis Academy Brislington, and the boys saved some of their best rugby for last. With accurate passing and good communication, they controlled the game from start to finish, coming out on top 28-7.



Our Year 8/9 girls rugby team attended Oasis Academy Brislington on Wednesday evening for their first ever touch to contact game.

The students were absolutely amazing, showing resilience, confidence and sporting prowess as they began their journey into contact rugby.

We are excited to see how they continue to progress in the coming weeks, months and years.





Our Cross Country team finished last term with an impressive display at Ashton Park School.

Our Y8/9 girls team came first and our Y7 boys team came third.

Some top 10 finishes across all age categories!

Y7 girls - Amelia (2nd), Ruby (5th) Y8/9 girls - Iris (2nd), Hattie (6th), Maddie (7th) Y10/11 girls - Lilia (1st), Elsa (3rd) Y10/11 boys - Sid (9th)

Well done all. We are super proud of all of your efforts!

UPCOMING FIXTURES					
Monday 10 November	Bristol Schools Cross Country	BGS Failand			
Tuesday 11 November	Y8 Boys Rugby Triangular vs Redland Green School and St Bede's Catholic College	BFS Greenway			
Tuesday 11 November	Sixth Form Football vs Cotham School	BFS			
Wednesday 12 November	Y7 & Y8 Sports Hall Athletics	Redland Green School			
Wednesday 12 November	Y8 & Y9 Girls Rugby Festival	North Bristol Rugby Club			
Tuesday 18 November	Y7, 8 & 9 Netball vs St Bede's Catholic College	BFS			
Tuesday 18 November	Y9 Boys Rugby vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe	BFS Greenway			
Wednesday 19 November	Y10 Boys Rugby vs Oasis Academy Brightstowe	BFS Greenway			
Thursday 20 November	Y7, 8 & 9 Netball vs Ashton Park	Ashton Park			
Thursday 20 November	Y8 Boys Rugby vs Bristol Grammar School	BGS Failand			
Friday 21 November	Y7 & Y8 Girls Football Tournament	Lockleaze Sports Centre			

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS





