



What's In This Issue?

[Notice Board](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[Key Dates](#)

[English](#)

[House News](#)

[Careers](#)

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

Welcome Back – A Year of Opportunity at BFS.

As we begin 2026, we are delighted to welcome all our students back for what promises to be an exciting and successful year. The start of a new term is always a time for fresh intentions and renewed focus, and we are committed to ensuring that every student makes the most of the opportunities ahead.

We are proud to share some fantastic news: BFS has been ranked 4th among state schools in the South West in The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide, making us the top-ranked state school in Bristol. This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families, and it means that BFS is widely recognised as a school of excellence. This reputation will benefit our students as they progress to university, apprenticeships, and future careers.

Our success is built on three key pillars:

- **A strong sense of community** – We value kindness, inclusivity, and belonging.
- **High ambition and expectations** – We set the highest standards for learning and conduct, and encourage students to push themselves beyond what they thought possible.
- **Outstanding learning and wider opportunities** – From exceptional teaching to enrichment activities, we aim to develop well-rounded young people ready to thrive in life.

This term, we are reinforcing our high expectations around uniform, punctuality, and behaviour, as these standards underpin a positive learning environment. We also continue to offer a wide range of opportunities through the BFS Promise, including extra-curricular clubs, cultural trips, careers talks, and the Digital Competencies Award. These experiences help students discover their interests and develop essential skills for the future.

We encourage parents to support these expectations at home and to encourage their children to take full advantage of the opportunities available. Together, we can make 2026 a year of growth, achievement, and pride for every student.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you to make this the best BFS year yet.

Warm regards,

Mrs S King
Headteacher



MRS KING



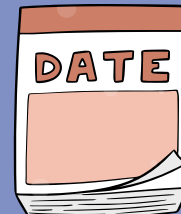
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 12 January

Y12 Assessments

Tuesday 13 January

GCSE PE Internal Moderation Day
Y12 Assessments

Wednesday 14 January

SEND Information Evening (online), 5pm

Thursday 15 January

Y9 Options Launch Event (online), 5.30pm

Friday 16 January

House Competition - Chess Tournament (Library)
Y7 Young Green Briton Design Day
Y12 Unlock Cyber Careers Day at UWE

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Key Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

SUBJECT EVENING DATES

Year 9 - Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 February

Year 7 - Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 February

Year 10 - Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 June

NEEDED

We would love to have as many empty chocolate tubs as possible. They are really useful in the Food Department for students to take their food home in after they have cooked in lessons. Thank you.



ABSENCE PROCEDURES

My child is ill:

- Check with NHS guidance to see if your child is able to attend. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)
- Use the free Studybugs App [Studybugs - Parents](#) or phone 01179597200 (option 1) before 9am to let us know if your child will not be attending.

My child has a medical appointment:

- Please book appointments outside of school hours where possible.
- Email admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk with evidence of the appointment and pick up and return times at least 48 hours prior to the appointment.
- Students are expected to attend school before and after appointments.
- Collect students by buzzing the car park gate.

Planned exceptional circumstances absence (e.g. funeral or participation in elite sport):

- Use the absence request form [Absence Form Link](#) to request absence (ideally 2 weeks in advance).

Holiday:

- Term-time holidays will not be authorised. Please do not book term-time holidays.
- We work with Bristol City Council to issue fines and prosecutions for unauthorised absences.

ATTENDANCE

DIGITAL SAFETY

The Children's Commissioner has recently published a guide for parents on supporting their children's digital lives. It reflects the complexities of young people's online habits and what they are saying about their lives online. Schools already spend a significant amount of curriculum time teaching students about online tools, digital literacy and e-safety. With this guide, the Commissioner has further tried to capture some practical advice and strategies for families seeking to support their children at home.

The guide can be viewed [here](#).



SEND

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our online **SEND information evening on Wednesday 14 January at 5pm**. This is an opportunity to find out more about SEND provision at BFS including classroom support and beyond. If you are a parent/carer of a child on our SEND register you will be emailed a link to join the meeting. If your child is not on the SEND register and you would like to join the meeting, please email sen@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.

BFS SPORTS



UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 12 January	U14 & U16 Girls 7-a-side Football Tournament	Imperial Sports Ground
Wednesday 14 January	Y10 Netball vs Bristol Grammar School	BGS Failand
Thursday 15 January	U16 Basketball vs Redland Green School	BFS
Tuesday 20 January	U16 Basketball vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College
Tuesday 20 January	Y7 Boys Football vs Redland Green School	Redland Green School
Tuesday 20 January	Y8 & Y9 Boys Football vs Redland Green School	RGS Kellaway
Wednesday 21 January	U14 Basketball vs Redland Green School	BFS
Wednesday 21 January	U12 Girls Football vs Redland Green School	Redland Green School
Wednesday 21 January	Y10 * Y11 Boys Football vs Redland Green School	RGS Kellaway
Thursday 22 January	Y10 Netball vs Redmaids' High School	Redmaids' High School
Friday 23 January	U12 Girls 7-a-side Football Tournament	Imperial Sports Ground

TERM 3 & 4 KEY DATES

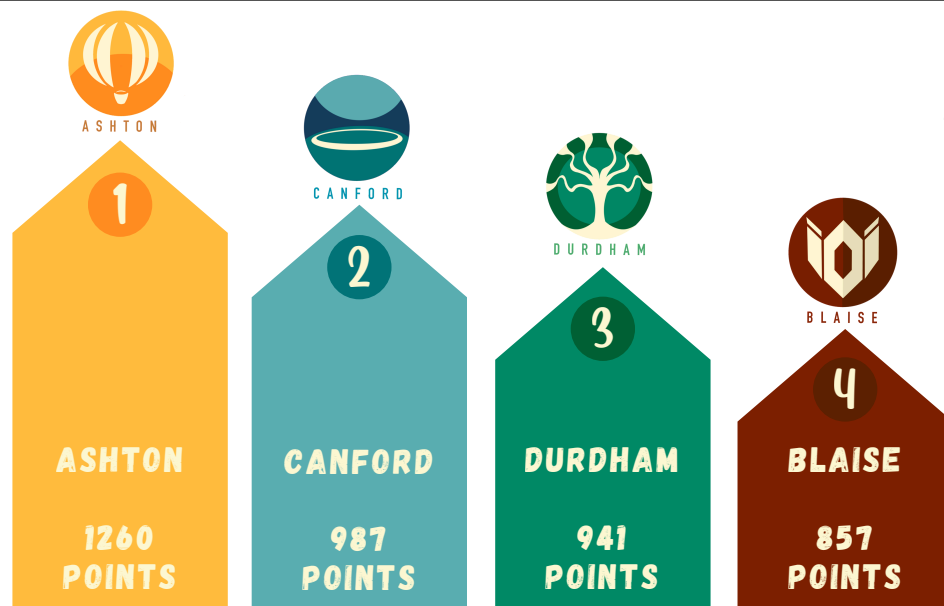
Term 3	Monday 5 January	INSET Day - School closed to all students
	Tuesday 6 January	First day of Term 3
	Wednesday 7 & Thursday 8 January	Year 11 - Subject Evening
	Wednesday 7 - Wednesday 14 January	Year 12 Assessments
	Wednesday 14 January	SEND Parent Information Online Event (5pm)
	Thursday 15 January	Year 9 - GCSE Options Launch Online Event (5.30pm)
	Thursday 22 January	Year 9 - GCSE Options Fayre (5-6.30pm)
	Tuesday 27 & Wednesday 28 January	School Musical Matinee Performance (4.30pm)
	Thursday 29 & Friday 30 January	School Musical Evening Performance (6.30pm)
	Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 February	Year 9 - Subject Evening
	Wednesday 11 February	Year 9 - Options Deadline
	Friday 13 February	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 16 - Friday 20 February		Half Term - School closed to all students
Term 4	Monday 23 February	First Day of Term 4
	Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 February	Year 7 - Subject Evening
	Tuesday 3 March	Year 8 - HPV Vaccinations
	Thursday 2 April	Last Day of Term 4
Friday 3 - Friday 17 April		Easter Holidays - School closed to all students
	Monday 20 April	First Day of Term 5



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Ashton!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	William B	Martin W	Emma W	Cesare B
Year 8	Phoebe P	Amelia F	Oliver E	Phoebe P
Year 9	Lauren S	Naomi H	Aneri P	Jack R, Aiden C, Lola F
Year 10	Sophie L, Isaac L	Daniel D, Thomas O, Dylan I	Harry F, Charlie S-R, Samuel E	Dhruvika R
Year 11	Lilia B-L	Noah D	-	William B

SLAM DUNK

House Fridays begins this week with a Slam Dunk basketball competition. Check back next week to see how everyone did!

GOOD LUCK



MR JOHNSON

Now in its eighth year, the **Young Artists' Summer Show** is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Registration and submission is open until 5pm on 4 March 2026, [find out more and get involved](#).



COMPUTER SCIENCE

YEAR 8

CyberFirst Girls Competition Success!

We are incredibly proud to share some exciting news from the CyberFirst Girls Competition 2025, a nationwide challenge designed to inspire young women to explore the world of cybersecurity. This year, more than 500 schools from across the country took part - making the competition more competitive than ever.

Despite the tough national field, BFS achieved an outstanding result, securing a place in the top ten schools in the South West. This is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects the growing strength of computing and digital skills within our school community.

A special congratulations goes to our brilliant Year 8 team, *Talented Innovators*, who achieved a top ten regional placement. Their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills truly shone throughout the competition.

Huge congratulations to:

Ivy (8TG3), Maddie (8TG2), Ava A (8TG2), Sophie M (8TG3).

This is a remarkable achievement, and we are immensely proud of their hard work, perseverance, and passion for cybersecurity. They have set a fantastic example for other students and demonstrated what can be accomplished with dedication and a love for learning. Well done, Team Talented Innovators, and well done to Carmen, Carmen PV, Pippa, Mia, Emily, Holly, Hattie, Izzy, Amy, Lyra, Sienna, Serah and Evelyn for participating in the competition.

SAVE THE DATE



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



BFS presents Little Shop of Horrors

Tuesday 27th January: 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Wednesday 28th January: 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Thursday 29th January: 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Friday 30th January: 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Bristol Free School Drama Hall
Tickets will go on sale on 16 January on
ParentPay





MISS MCMURDO

ENGLISH



BOOK REVIEW

The Boy I Love by William Hussey

Review by Miranda, Year 10

The Boy I Love is an incredibly moving historical romance novel set during the build-up to the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The central themes explore the forbidden nature of love and identity during a time of intense conflict.

The story follows 19-year-old Second Lieutenant Stephen Wraxall, an exhausted veteran haunted by loss, who is returning to the French trenches. He quickly develops a deep, profound connection with Private Danny McCormick who is a spirited new recruit.

The story is dramatic and tense with the countdown to the 'Big Push' at the Somme creating a sense of urgency and fear for the pair.

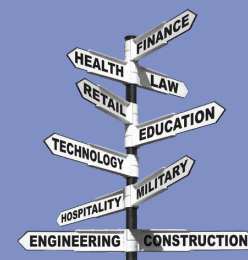
Stephen and Danny are beautifully written characters with their contrasting personalities (Stephen's loneliness verses Danny's mischievous spirit) resulting in a powerful and moving dynamic and the harsh reality works in harmony with multiple instances of genuine hope and kindness.

The story is a powerful and tear-inducing read, which through its very vivid and near accurate depiction of being gay in the army, emphasises the importance of love against death and social condemnation. I hope you like it.



MRS SMITH

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



OPEN DAYS



Saturday 17 January

10am - 1pm

All Main Centres

Register your attendance: [Open Event](#)



Saturday 24 January, 10am-1pm

WISE Campus, Filton Campus, Stroud Campus,

Bristol School of Art - Queens Road Campus,

Horizon Campus, Sixth Campus

Register your attendance: [Open Day](#)

COMING UP...

16 January: Public Relations

23 January: Pharmacy

30 January: Chiropractic

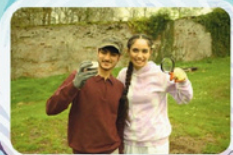
6 February: Construction

27 February: Civil Service (Disability)

6 March: Planning and Sustainability

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ARDAGH YOUTH NATURE PROJECT



We're excited to be partnering with Action for Conservation (AFC) — a UK charity empowering young people to become environmental leaders. Together, we're offering a project that combines nature connection, creativity, and youth-led action to support your wellbeing and the planet.

You'll get the chance to explore the outdoors, learn new skills, and create an environmental action project as a group.

WHEN:

Thursdays 4.30-6.30pm

22nd January

5th February

12th February

26th February

12th March

26th March

23rd April

7th May

The first few sessions are likely to be indoors

AGES

11-16

The Garden Room,
The Ardagh,
Horfield Common,
BS6 7YL

If you have any questions or would like a chat before signing up, contact Nicky on nicky.s@otrbristol.org.uk 07886 869190 (Tues-Thurs)



SIGN UP AND FIND OUT MORE AT
[HTTPS://WWW.OTRBRISTOL.ORG.UK/WHAT-WE-DO/THE-ARDAGH-YOUTH-NATURE-PROJECT/](https://www.otrbristol.org.uk/what-we-do/the-ardagh-youth-nature-project/)



Five Rivers Fostering

We are looking for Foster Carers in Gloucestershire & surrounding areas

If you are interested in a life-changing vocation and can provide a safe, loving home to a child in care, we'd love to hear from you.

0333 0603 962 | five-rivers.org/fostering

Join a local Social Enterprise and a community of foster carers providing long and short-term care for children. Round the clock support and specialist training. Potential to combine with full or part-time work. Highly competitive fostering allowance of up to £28,000 a year, tax-free



Foster with us

Foster carers turn children's lives around