

SAVE THE DATE



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

BFS presents Little Shop of Horrors

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

Bristol Free School Drama Hall
 Tickets will go on general sale
 next week on ParentPay



What's In This Issue?

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A NOTE FROM MRS CONWAY

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

Subject Evenings at BFS 2025-26

Our Subject Evenings are a key part of our partnership work with parents and carers to support our students. Our established pattern is that each year group has a Subject Evening scheduled during the year, and since 2020 these have been virtual / online appointments.

During 2025-26 we are trialling running our Subject Evenings across two consecutive days. This is partly in response to changing teacher work patterns but also allows many clubs and rehearsals to continue throughout the term since teachers can be present at the Subject Evening on the alternative day. Therefore, this brings benefits for students, parents/carers and teaching staff.

With this new format, typically each teacher will be available on one of the two evenings, consequently parents/carers will need to make appointments across both evenings in order to meet with all the subject teachers. Since this is a trial year for this new pattern, following each Subject Evening a survey is sent to parents/carers to gather your feedback on the new approach and any other comments on the event. The contributions received so far this year have been really helpful, allowing us to iron out any glitches and ensure that both the booking process and the evening run smoothly for all.

The dates of the Subject Evenings for the rest of the year are included in our weekly newsletter so do make a note of the evenings that are relevant to you and take the opportunity to provide feedback when the time comes - thank you.

Warm regards,

Mrs K Conway
Deputy Headteacher



MRS CONWAY

SUBJECT EVENINGS

Year 9 -

Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 February

Year 7 -

Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 February

Year 10 -

Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 June



NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 19 January

Y12/13 Drama Trip to Bristol Old Vic

Wednesday 21 January

Y10 BEP Student Leadership Programme
Y12/13 British Biology Olympiad (3-5pm)

Thursday 22 January

Y9 Options Fayre (5-6.30pm)

Friday 23 January

House Fridays Competition - Photography

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Key Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

KEEPING CHILDREN HEALTHY THIS WINTER

ILLNESS

As students return to school, winter illnesses are on the rise. Here are simple steps to help protect your child and others:

1. **Stay Home When Unwell.** If your child has a fever, keep them home until it resolves. For diarrhoea or vomiting, follow NHS guidance. Mild cold symptoms without fever? They can attend school.
2. **Wash Hands Regularly.** Handwashing with soap and warm water (or using sanitiser) is one of the best ways to stop germs spreading.
3. **Catch Coughs and Sneezes.** Teach children to use tissues, bin them, and wash hands afterwards.
4. **Get Vaccinated.** Flu vaccines are available for all school-aged children and eligible groups. The nasal spray is quick and painless.
5. **Use NHS Resources.** Most winter illnesses can be managed at home. Visit the NHS website for advice on flu, COVID-19, scarlet fever, norovirus, and fevers in children.

For more information and links visit the [Government website](#).

PUNCTUALITY

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to arrive at school by 8.25am to be in tutor for 8.30am.

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

Top tips for students to be on time:

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

92% attendance



is like paying for a dozen eggs but only getting 11

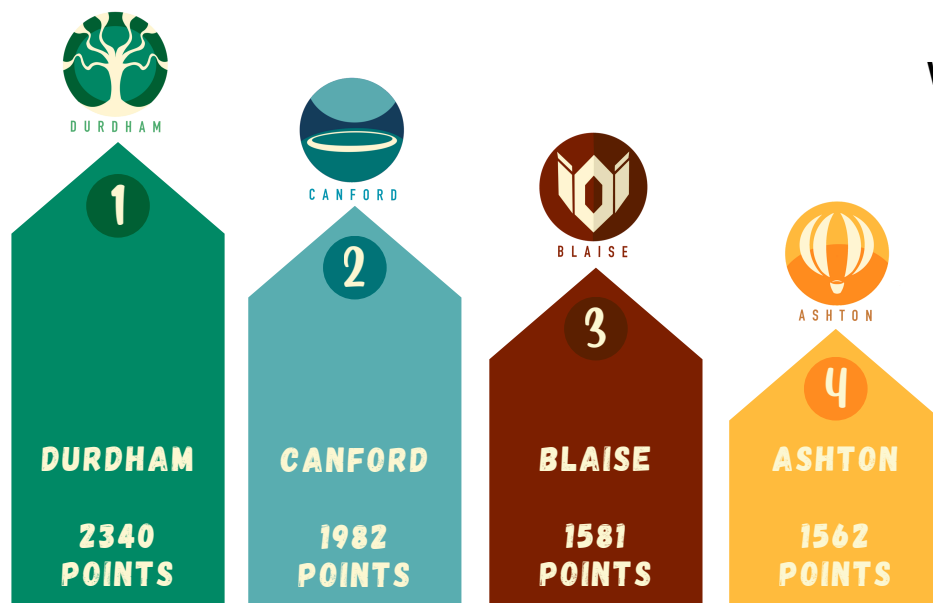
Studybugs



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Durdham!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Robert S	Nathan D	Annabelle C	Blake Z
Year 8	Alayna J	Sophie R, Amelia F, Stanley R, Hannah B	Lennard L, Gracie T	Thomas F
Year 9	Oliver S	Naomi H	Aneri P	Kushi K
Year 10	Kledis H	Lauren R, Nicholas M	Maia B	Harriet T
Year 11	Henry B, Laila H, Lena A	Amelia L, Isabel H, Sophie D	Bronwyn E	Aseel A

HOUSE FRIDAYS

Last week we hosted the first House Fridays event - a free-throw and slam dunk contest. Well done to everyone who took part and congrats to Noah (Y9) for winning the Free Throw competition, and Eisa, Jacob, and Rory (Y10) for winning the Slam Dunk contest. The winning house overall was.... Blaise!



MR JOHNSON



This Friday students will be competing in a Chess Tournament - good luck to everyone and check back next week for the results!



Subject Spotlight



Computer Science

YEARS 7-9

This term, we will be reintroducing the iDEA Awards for our KS3 students. The iDEA Awards (Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) is a free program designed to develop digital and enterprise skills for young people, offering bronze, silver, and gold awards. BFS took part with great success last year, and we have decided to continue the program this academic year.



MR CAHILL

Last year, 73 pupils achieved either a bronze or silver award, and they received their certificates at the end-of-year assembly. Students in Years 8 and 9 just need to log in again and continue where they left off, while Year 7 students will start from scratch. They will be introduced to iDEA over the next few lessons.

Our aim is to get as many students as possible to achieve the bronze award by the end of the academic year. To do this, pupils need to earn 250 points by completing badges across six different areas: Citizen, Worker, Maker, Independent, Gamer, and Entrepreneur. Badge topics range from cyber security and animation to coding and more.



YEARS 9

Year 9 Computing: Website Development Project Underway

Our Year 9 students have begun an exciting new project in their computer science lessons - website development. This unit introduces them to the full lifecycle of creating a professional looking website, from initial ideas to final product. It is an important topic for both GCSE computer science and creative iMedia.



MRS RAMANANDI

They are currently working through the Analysis and Design phase, which forms the foundation of any successful digital project. During this stage, students are:

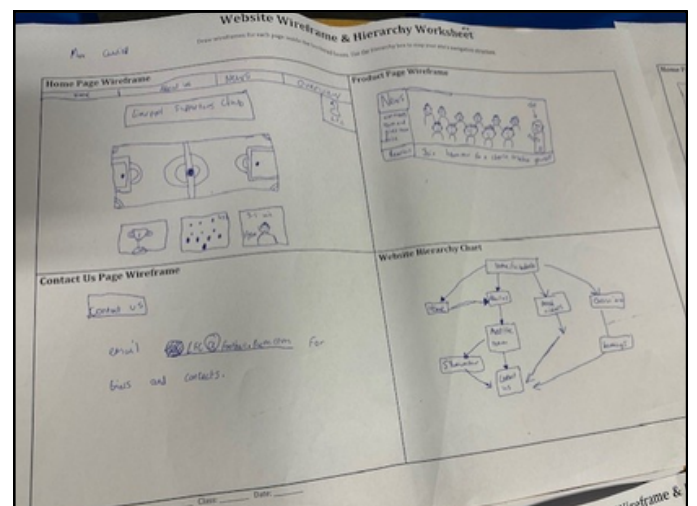
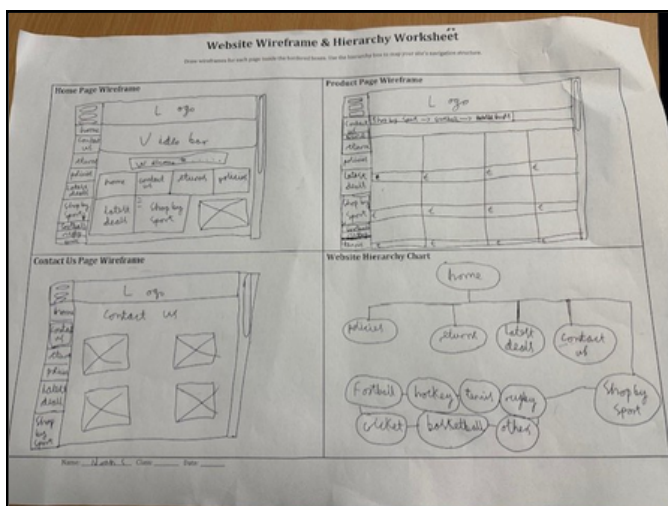
- Identifying the purpose and audience of their website.
- Planning page structure using hierarchy charts.
- Sketching wireframes to visualise the layout and user journey.
- Considering colour schemes, typography, and accessibility.



These design documents help students think critically about how websites are organised and how users interact with online content.

As the project progresses, students will transition into the development phase where they will begin building their own fully functioning websites using RocketCake, a beginner friendly web design tool that allows them to create modern, responsive pages without needing advanced coding skills.

We are excited to see their creativity come to life and look forward to sharing some of their finished websites later in the term!



YEAR 10

This term, our Year 10 Computer Science students are diving into the fascinating world of computer networks. Networking is one of the most important areas in modern computing, forming the backbone of how devices communicate, share information, and stay connected in today's digital world.



MS JAFFERY

Students are learning how computers link together to form networks, the difference between LANs and WANs, and why organisations rely on them for communication and data sharing. We are also exploring essential concepts such as IP addressing, network hardware, topologies, and the role of protocols in ensuring data travels safely and efficiently.

YEARS 10 & 11

Year 10

Year 10 have made an excellent start to their studies. We have completed Units 1 and 2 of the OCR J277 Component 1 curriculum and have started Unit 1.3 this week. The current focus is on computer networks. In Unit 1.1, we looked at CPU architecture, CPU performance, and embedded systems. We then moved on to Unit 1.2, where we studied primary and secondary storage, among other topics.



MR CAHILL

Year 11

We have almost finished the theory work for Component 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms, and Programming, which means we have time for revision in class in the run-up to the February mock paper. I will be sending an email to all Year 11 parents with useful links to revision sites and past papers (all are free). I will also upload all relevant knowledge organisers for Components 1 and 2, as well as some programming practice PowerPoints, onto Bromcom over the next couple of weeks. All Year 11 pupils have a copy of the CGP revision guide, which was handed out in Year 10. These guides are an excellent revision source. Computer Science is always one of the early GCSE papers, so we will be making the most of revision time.

CREATIVE IMEDIA

In Year 10 Creative iMedia, we have been working on a practice coursework project producing digital products for a company 'Whereabouts'. Students have planned their designs, considering the requirements of their target audience, media coding and the client brief. They then used Photoshop to produce their final logos and book covers. This has prepared them to start their 'actual' coursework this term worth 25% of their final grade.



In year 11 Creative iMedia students are working on Producing their Interactive digital media Project which is 35% of their final grade.

They have been asked to produce a radio website for which appeals to a teenage audience which involves creating image, video and audio files using photoshop, video and audio files.



SEND

SEND INFORMATION EVENING

If you were not able to attend or access the SEND information evening on Wednesday, the links to the recording and presentation slides are below.

[Video Presentation](#)

[Presentation Slides](#)

As outlined during the evening, there is the opportunity to request a 10-minute online appointment with Mrs Jenkins or Ms Cook on 4, 5, 11 or 12 February. These will be after school, 4-5pm. To request an appointment please email SEN@bristolfreeschool.org.uk with 'APPOINTMENT' in the subject line, and your preferred date (if you have one). It would be helpful to provide some information regarding what you would like to discuss during the appointment.

We are also keen to use the expertise and experience of our SEN families to further develop our Year 6 to Year 7 transition and our website information. Again, please use the SEN email should you like to be involved in either of these projects.

Bristol City Council Local Offer

For further information related to SEND services provided by Bristol City Council, their local offer website is a useful source of information. [SEND Local Offer](#)

EXAM SUPPORT

Mental health charity, Anna Freud, has the following resources available to all students as they prepare to sit exams.



Exam-focused Videos (for all young people)

We offer a short video for young people focused on managing and reducing exam stress. This short video will help young people to find the best ways to manage their stress levels, before, during and after exams. [Click here to register to watch.](#)

We also offer a short video to help students prepare for exam results and manage their feelings after they receive them. This video offers top tips to support wellbeing as students prepare for results day and provides suggestions on where young people can go to for further support. [Click here to register to watch.](#)

Single Session Consultation (for young people aged 16-25)

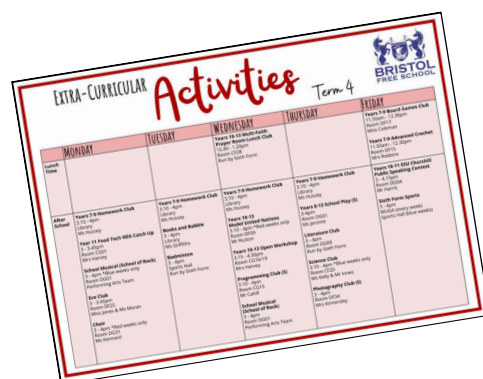
Our single session consultations may be a helpful space for young people to talk through their worries with a trained practitioner. This is a one-off session of solution-focused brief therapy which focuses on identifying strengths and shifting thoughts from a problem to a solution. Young people will walk away with an action plan of tools to support themselves moving forwards. Young people aged 16-25, can self-refer [here](#).

CLUBS

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

From Board Games Club on Monday, Dance on Tuesday, Theatre Tech Club on Wednesday, Cipher Club on Thursday and Warhammer on Friday. There is something for everyone!

See our [Clubs Booklet](#) for more information.





ENGLISH



MISS MCMURDO

BOOK REVIEW

Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank Review by Amelia, Year 8

I can relate to Anne in only a small way. The feeling of being misunderstood. She was a typical teen in that way. But she was brave, resilient, kind- and cheerful. Few people would be able to do that.

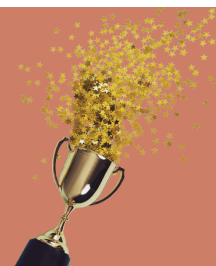
For one moment, try to put yourself in Anne's shoes: you are one of the most popular kids in school - riding your bike to school with flocks of admirers. Then, one day, you have to attend a special school (just for Jews) leaving many friends behind. You have to wear yellow stars on your clothes; you are being marked as a lesser citizen for your faith or family heritage. You are not even allowed to own a bike. You can't use public transport. Time passes, rules grow stricter, then... disaster strikes! Your sister (Margo) is ordered to report to a concentration camp. What choice is there? You must hide.

This is the story of Anne's time in hiding. It holds all of her hopes, dreams and her insights of people, God and the world. It carries the voice of a 14 year old trying to cope with one of the most terrifying times in history- WW2. This diary tells of Anne's last years of life. She remained hidden for 2 years before her and her family were discovered...where not all survived.

Anne's biggest dream was to be an author- for her words to live on past her death. In a way, they did. This is her legacy. Remember, this is a true story!



ACHIEVEMENTS



CYCLING SUCCESS

Grace S, Year 13, cycled to London during the Christmas holidays to raise money for charity. Along with her mum and sister, Grace cycled 160 miles over 4 days from Bristol to London, following the Great West Way, finishing in Battersea on 30 December.

Grace is raising money for Cancer Research UK in memory of a close family member. So far she has raised £2,853. If you would like to donate to the cause you can do so [here](#).



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK





MS SLATER

BFS SPORTS



BFS_TeamPE



MRS BALLARD

NETBALL

Although it is football season, it is great to have relationships with schools outside of the Bristol School League to keep other competitive sports alive at BFS.

Our Year 10 netball team faced Bristol Grammar School in a friendly match and played impressively. They kept their plays simple with short front passes and finished the final quarter score some fantastic goals. Although a loss overall, it was a very good game, and the students were incredible.



FOOTBALL



What a performance from our U16 squad! They played five intense 7-a-side matches and didn't concede a single goal all afternoon – an incredible defensive effort! Up front, Jess was on fire, scoring some brilliant goals, with Bethan providing superb assists to set them up. Every player worked hard, communicated well, and showed fantastic teamwork from start to finish. It was an awesome display of skill, determination, and team spirit, well done U16s!

Our squad of 10 U14 girls took on the challenge of playing several 6-a-side games – something completely new for them. They showed great determination and teamwork throughout, finishing with 2 losses, 2 draws, and an impressive win. Finally, the girls faced our local rivals, RGS, in a thrilling match. It was end-to-end action, and after some fantastic goals and solid defending, the game ended in an exciting 2-2 draw. Every single player gave it their all and left the pitch smiling. It was a brilliant afternoon full of energy, effort, and fun.



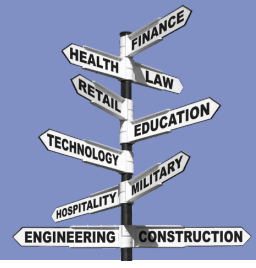
UPCOMING FIXTURES

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	Y10/11 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



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



EMPLOYERS TALKS

On Friday morning we welcomed Nikki Davies, CEO at Meeting Place. Nikki gave an insightful and realistic overview of working in Public Affairs and Public Relations. Drawing on 14 years' experience in the sector, Nikki gave the students a clear understanding of the industry, career routes, required skills, and how these fields are evolving - particularly due to technology and AI.



Nikki explained the difference between:

Public Affairs – engaging with politicians, local councillors, and decisionmakers; understanding how public policy is shaped; and helping organisations communicate their views clearly and responsibly.

Public Relations (PR) – managing communication with consumers (B2C), shaping public perception, and supporting organisations to tell their stories clearly.

Public affairs involves research, evidence building, and strong relationships with community groups and political stakeholders. PR focuses more on public messaging, campaigns, and media engagement. In her role as CEO, Nikki leads an organisation of 35+ staff, including consultants, HR, digital & IT, and Finance. Her role involves leading teams and overseeing company direction, communicating with the public, media, and politicians, supporting organisations through crises and sensitive issues, developing strategies, writing key messages, and problem solving and managing pressure, deadlines, and high levels of responsibility.

She highlighted that while people often imagine glamorous events and campaigns, the reality is much more about thinking deeply, writing clearly, and solving complex real-world problems. Nikki emphasised that there is no single “correct” path into public affairs or PR. She studied Politics and Women's & Gender Studies as an undergraduate degree whilst volunteering with Planned Parenthood (campaigning and health service support). When she completed her degree, the world was coming out of an economic recession, so she decided to go on to complete a Masters in Public Policy in Edinburgh. Whilst completing her masters, Nikki worked at Engender, gaining early experience and a part time position. Nikkie then moved south and accepted a 6-week temporary contract at Meeting Place. 14 years later, she is now CEO.

Her story highlighted determination, adaptability, and making the most of opportunities. Nikki explained that there are multiple routes into the industry including, apprenticeships and internships, volunteering (campaigns, charities, political groups) and university (any subject, although English, Politics, History, Sociology, Media and Psychology were noted as helpful). She emphasised that curiosity and willingness to learn are more important than perfect grades. Nikki stressed that many of the skills used daily in her role are one's students already develop at school - clear writing and communication, speaking and listening, organisation, teamwork, staying calm under pressure and problem solving. Nikki encouraged students to recognise how school experiences such as group work, presentations, exams, and extracurricular activities, build these foundations.

Thank you to Nikki for an engaging and informative talk.

COMING UP...

30 January: Chiropractic
6 February: Construction
13 February: Ministry of Defence

27 February: Civil Service (Disability)
6 March: Planning and Sustainability
13 March: Medicine

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



ROGER GRACIE
BRISTOL

6-WEEK FOUNDATIONS PROGRAMME (JUNIOR & YOUTH)

We're pleased to share a completely free 6-Week Foundations Programme for children and teenagers aged 5-15, starting Wednesday 21st January.

A structured beginner course in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, designed to help young people build confidence, discipline, and core skills in a safe and supportive environment.

HOW IT WORKS:

- 6-week structured course
- Access to all current Junior or Youth classes
- Separate age-appropriate groups
- Experienced, DBS-checked coaches
- Safe, disciplined training environment

COST:

- £0 to start
- A card is required to reserve a place

CHECK ELIGIBILITY & RESERVE A PLACE