



**BOOK
NOW**

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

**Tickets available now
on ParentPay**

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[Sports](#)

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Bristol Youth Elections 2026

We are excited to share that the Bristol Youth Elections 2026 are now underway - an inspiring opportunity for young people across the city to have their voices heard. BFS will proudly serve as a polling station, and all students will have the chance to cast their vote during tutor time next week.

The election count will take place during the week beginning Monday 9 February, with results announced on Friday 13 February during a citywide celebration.

Youth representatives play an important role in ensuring the opinions and experiences of young people influence the decisions made by local leaders and policymakers. Representatives are elected for a two-year term, with the city divided into three areas: North, South, and East Central.

We are delighted to have four BFS students standing as candidates in the Bristol North elections:



MR MACBLAIN

A NOTE FROM MR MACBLAIN



Amelia F (Year 8)

Young people deserve more opportunities and a stronger voice. I believe in making Bristol a green, supportive city.



Alice O (Year 9)

I want to talk about the things that young people worry about so that they feel that their voice is heard.



Matilda C (Year 11)

I am passionate about amplifying the voices of young people to ensure they are heard & their needs are supported.



Poppy G (Year 11)

I care deeply about fairness & youth wellbeing & want to strive to improve the opportunities for the youth of Bristol.

Families and students can read the Bristol North candidates' [manifestos](#) or watch the [candidate videos](#). We wish all candidates the very best of luck and look forward to seeing our students engage in this important democratic process.



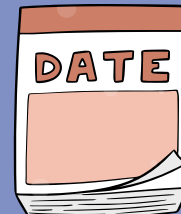
NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 26 - Friday 30 January

Y9 Option Choices Taster Lessons

Tuesday 27 January

Little Shop of Horrors - Matinee Performance (4.30pm)

Wednesday 28 January

UKMT Maths Challenge

Little Shop of Horrors - Matinee Performance (4.30pm)

Thursday 29 January

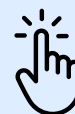
Little Shop of Horrors - Evening Performance (6.30pm)

Friday 30 January

Little Shop of Horrors - Evening Performance (6.30pm)

Y12 Trip to HE+ at St Bede's Catholic College

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Key Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

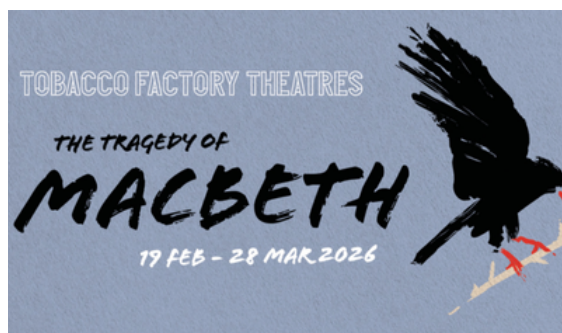
NUT-FREE SCHOOL

We are a nut-free school. Please do not bring any nuts or products containing nuts into school. This includes snacks and lunch items such as pesto.



MACBETH

The Tragedy of Macbeth is being performed at the Tobacco Factory from 19 February until 28 March. This would be a great opportunity for Year 10 and 11.



YEARS 10-11

UNAUTHORISED HOLIDAYS

92% attendance



is like watching all of The Traitors but missing the finale

Please do not book term-time holidays. The Department for Education does not allow schools to authorise term-time holidays. Even one or two missed days can be highly disruptive to your child's education – remember that each day they will be missing out on 6 lessons of critical learning and vital information in tutor time. They will also be missing out on social times with their friends and all the extra clubs, trips and events in school.

Parents who take unauthorised holiday can expect to receive penalty notice fines from Bristol City Council.

Currently the costs of penalty notices are:

- £80 per parent per child for the first offence in a rolling three-year period, rising to £160 if not paid within 28 days.
- £160 per parent / carer per child for the second offence in a rolling three-year period.
- If a third offence occurs in a rolling three-year period, alternative action such as prosecution will result.

ATTENDANCE



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	William B	Alayah-Mae H	Sienna C	Roisin L-W, Leonora M
Year 8	Willoughby S	Madeleine P, Oliver W	Abigail S	Stephany M
Year 9	Oliver S	Oliver P	Harry B	Jack R
Year 10	Miranda R	Bethan B	Florence P	Emily C
Year 11	Lena A	Ruby L	Rhya R	Elle R, Amelia R

Last week's House Fridays event was a chess tournament. Students played against each other to earn points for their House. We had 60 students competing and after some very exciting matches, the House with the most wins was...Ashton!



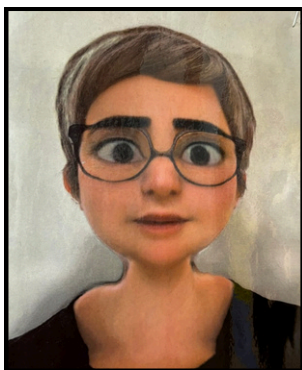
This week we are launching a photography competition. The theme is 'Community'. How you interpret the theme is up to you – people, events, work, leisure, your favourite spot in Bristol, or somewhere else. The well-known photographer Martin Parr, who lived in Bristol, passed away recently. His photos captured community life brilliantly – check out some of his work for inspiration. Get creative and show us what 'Community' means to you. You can use a phone or a camera. You have until Monday 23 February to get your entries in. Send your photo to Mr Johnson via email to j.johnson@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.

HOUSE FRIDAYS

Subject Spotlight

Art & Photography

MEET THE ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

**Mrs Kinnersley**

Art CV: BA Hons degree in Studio Ceramics at Falmouth College of Art.

Favourite colour: Pinks and greens.

Favourite artist: Currently loving Stephen Gill, a Bristol-born photographer.

Favourite painting: Picasso created Guernica, which is a powerful piece that caused quite a stir in the political world.

Favourite art materials to work with: Clay is always my favourite - such a friendly, squishy art material!

What do you love? The great outdoors, open skies and listening to the morning chorus. Also coffee and ice cream!

What do you hate? Broad beans and cups of tea.

**Mrs Stokes**

Art CV: Art Foundation and BA Hons degree in Interdisciplinary Textile Design.

Favourite colour: Green.

Favourite artist: Victoria Topping - her colours and patterns are incredible, and she finishes all her work with gold leaf and gems. Lush!

Favourite painting: Cornelia Parker "cold dark matter" and "exploded view" - it was the first time art made me feel something.

Favourite art materials to work with: Textiles is the thing I love at the moment!

What do you love? Cheese!

What do you hate? Never having enough time.

**Mrs Edwards**

Art CV: Degree in Fine Art and Visual Culture at University of West of England.

Favourite colour: Yellow.

Favourite artist: I love Richard Wilson's 20:50 and Gregory Crewdson's photography.

Favourite painting: Any by Chuck Close.

Favourite art materials to work with: Tricky one...Today it is pencils.

What do you love? Factories and watching how things are made.

What do you hate? Being ill.

**Mrs Day**

Art CV: Art and Design Foundation and Textile and Surface Design degree.

Favourite colour: Cerise pink and bright orange together.

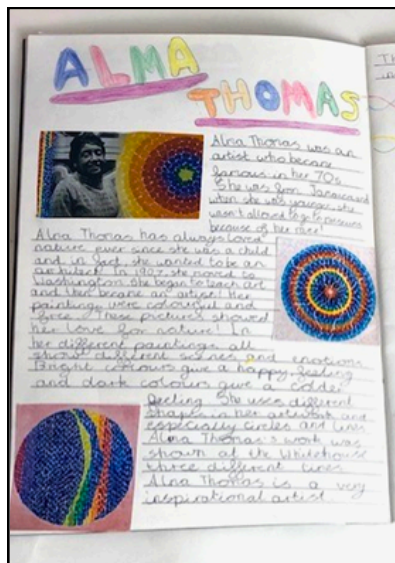
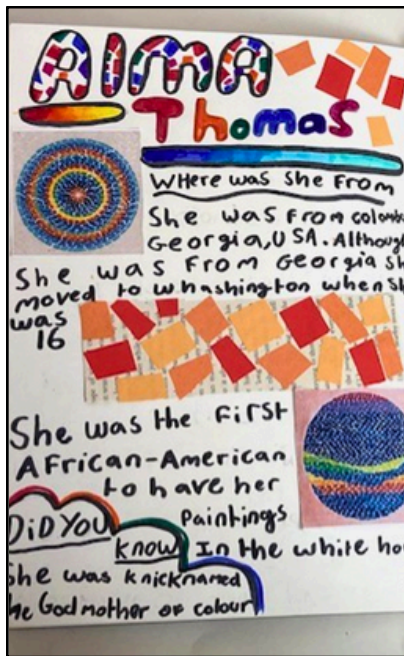
Favourite artist: Kurt Jackson. I especially love his sketchbooks. He uses lots of texture in his work, plus I like him because he loves bees!

Favourite painting: Anything by Andy Goldsworthy. His work is so colourful and clever, all by using natural objects like leaves and stone.

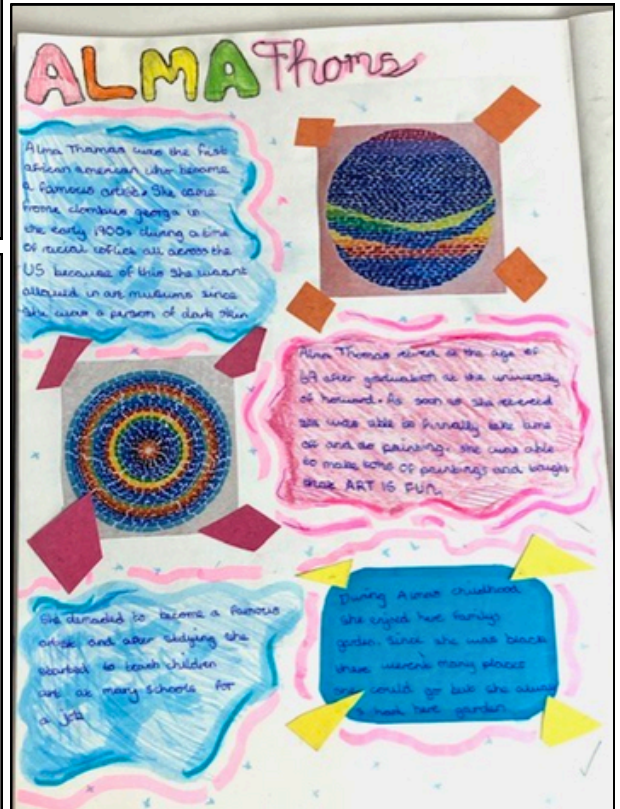
Favourite art materials to work with: Too hard to choose. Photography, ceramics, machine embroidery and print.

What do you love? Listening to live music, chocolate, photography and art.

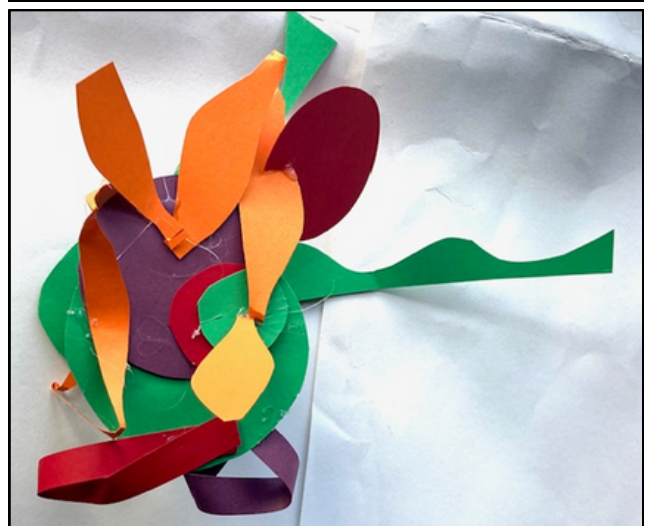
What do you hate? Bullies, coffee, IT problems and people not saying please or thank you!



Year 7 students have been exploring more inspiring artwork from the work of other artists and looking at how they use colour in their work. Alma Thomas is an amazing abstract artist who has inspired our students to create intricate collage work. Homework has been coming in from Mrs Edwards' class where they have used Kandinsky to inspire 3D sculpture work. Well done Year 7.



Sebastian P, 7TG4:
Our first Key task was based on the work of Picasso. We learnt about his life and work then painted a monochromatic painting based on his blue era'. We then learnt about Alma Thomas and her paintings that look like mosaics. We made personal mosaics using colour to convey feelings and emotions. We have also looked at the work of Wassily Kandinsky and produced abstract art drawings to the sound of music. We learnt about his life and work then for homework we had to make a big artwork inspired by Kandinsky's work. This was really fun.



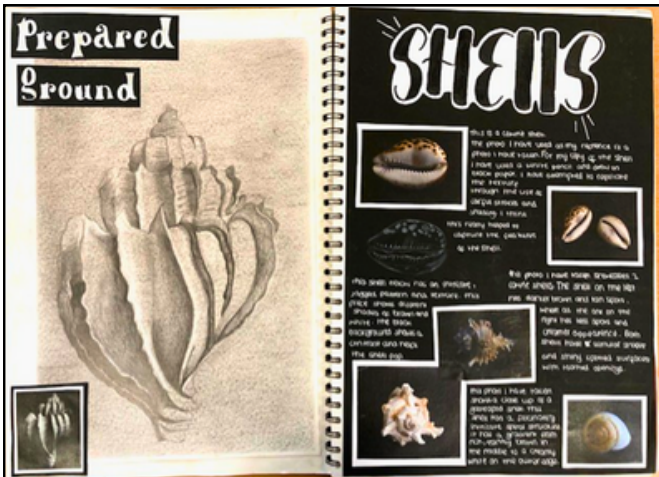


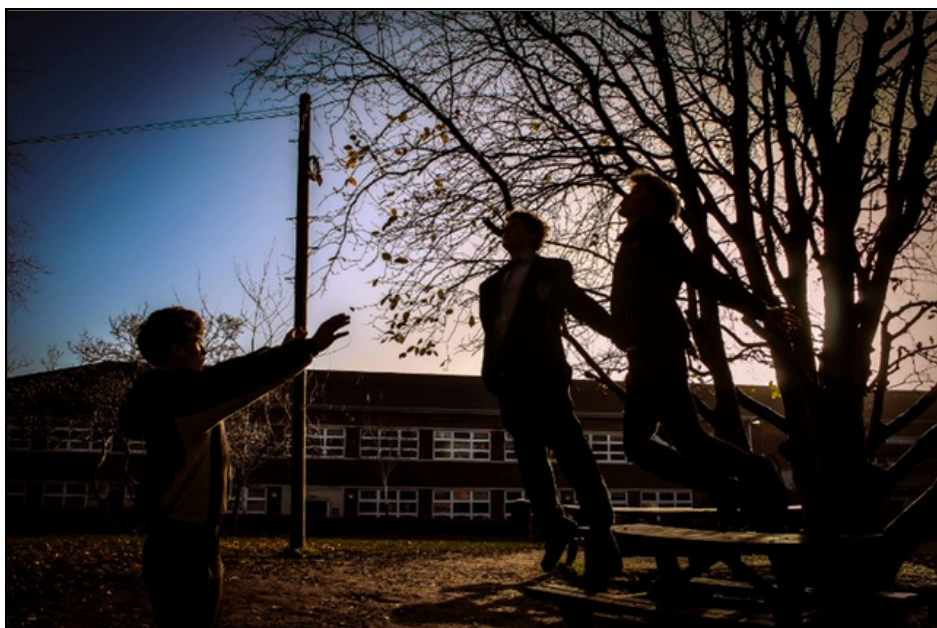
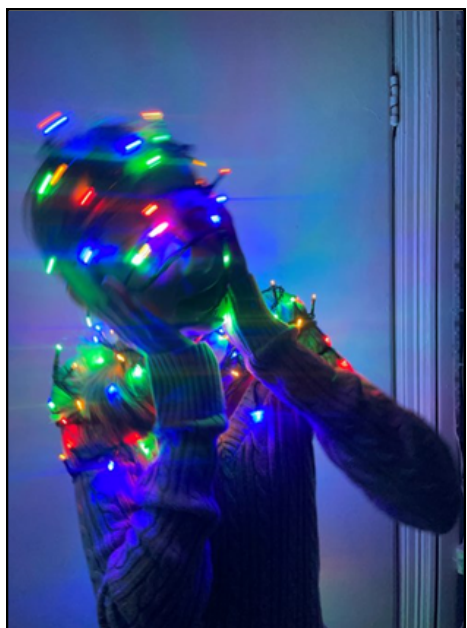
Year 8 students are continuing to explore bugs and students had a fantastic creative Christmas task - to make a 3D bug using any materials they wish. We encouraged them to look at the packaging and paper that accumulates over Christmas and we have had some fantastic work come back. Amazing work Year 8.



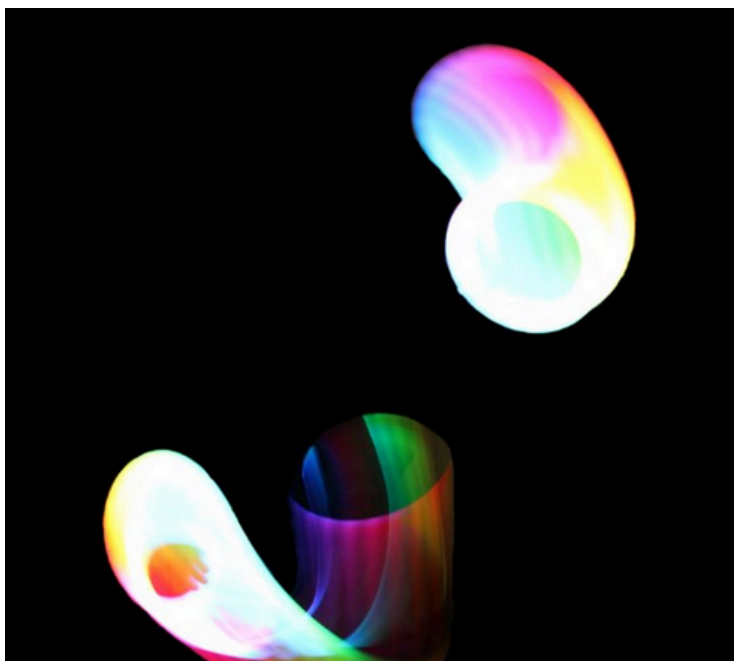
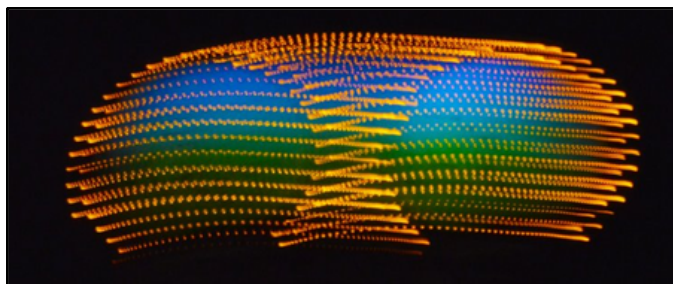


Year 10 students are learning about Georgia O'Keeffe and how to paint using acrylics. They have started to master the skills required to become accomplished painters. They are creating a portfolio of work based on the theme of Natural Forms. The talent is wonderful to see, and most are spending time in the art department to ensure work is done to the best of their ability.





Year 10 photography students have been exploring movement and light.





Inspired by Grayson Perry, Year 12 students have created their own Kiln God - this is a figurine that will protect their clay work when it fires. Grayson Perry creates these and has them on his kiln where he fires his pots. Year 12 will then start to create their own pot inspired by the theme of Best of British. We look forward to sharing those with you soon.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



GLIDER CHALLENGE TAKES FLIGHT

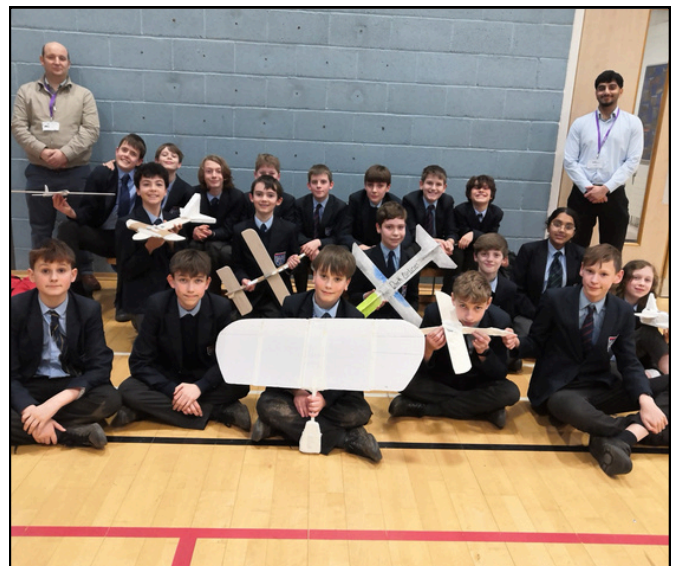
Since November 2025, a group of our Year 8 students has been taking part in an extra-curricular programme exploring the science of flight. Over the past few months, they have been developing their understanding of aerodynamics, the forces acting on an aircraft, and how engineers design crafts that can soar through the air.

Working in teams, students applied what they learned to design, build, and refine their own gliders. Using real engineering processes - sketching ideas, testing prototypes, and making iterative improvements - they experienced first-hand the creativity and problem-solving involved in the aerospace field.

We were working with professionals from the aerospace industry, who shared their knowledge, career insights, and practical advice. Their involvement helped students connect classroom learning with real-world engineering and provided valuable inspiration for the future.

This week, the project reached an exciting milestone with our school Fly-Off competition. Each team's glider was put to the test, and students competed in a friendly, supportive atmosphere to see whose design could fly the furthest and most consistently. The energy, teamwork, and enthusiasm on display were fantastic.

We now look forward to the next stage, where the winning team will represent our school and compete against others across the region. It promises to be an amazing opportunity for them to showcase their skills and creativity. Well done to all our Year 8 participants for their hard work and ingenuity, and thank you to our visiting aerospace experts for helping to make this project truly memorable.



YEAR 8

YEAR 9



This week, all Year 9 students took part in an exciting Options DT taster lesson designed to give them a hands-on insight into the creative and technical careers available in Design & Technology.

Students were challenged to design and manufacture a small wind-powered racing car, using only simple recyclable materials. Their cars had to be powered by a sail and capable of racing across a flat surface when propelled by wind from a fan. Throughout the session, students explored key skills used in DT, such as designing, problem-solving, and iterative design while also learning how these skills link to real-world careers in engineering, product design, manufacturing.

It was fantastic to see students experimenting, testing their ideas, and racing their final designs. Well done to our race winners and race organisers across the year group.





ENGLISH



MISS MCMURDO

BOOK REVIEW

***Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro** **Review by Molly, Year 9**

This book is set in a world much like our own (1990s England); there are people you could meet and places you could go. But something is different.

We follow a woman named Kathy; her mysterious job is a 'Carer for Donors'. She reminisces about her days at Hailsham (the place she grew up) and tells us about her normal teenage experiences. But as we learn more about her life, we learn that nothing about it was normal. We follow, not only her self-discovery, but who (and why) she is the girl she has become.

On a personal level, I really enjoyed this book. It has a gothic sci-fi element and is deeply unsettling - everything is normal, but something is wrong. The writing style is easy to gel with, and it really made me feel. It is certainly going to be a concept that remains in my mind for some time.



BOOK REVIEW



***Mortal Engines* by Philip Reeve** **Review by Sienna, Year 7**

I really loved this book because it is so gripping and is exciting and there are twists and turns the whole way through.

Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve is a science fiction novel set in a future where massive moving cities hunt smaller towns for resources. The story is about Tom Natsworthy, who is mysteriously pushed off the traction city of London and must survive the dangerous world outside while uncovering secrets about those in power.

I give this book 8/10 stars.

Book Review Challenge

We are asking students from all year groups to complete a book review to be featured in the newsletter.

What? A book review of a recent book you enjoyed.

How long? 200 - 250 words.

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

Why? Miss McMurdo is choosing submissions to go in the newsletter, and you will get 5 house points for handing it in (10 house points if it is chosen to be in the newsletter). It is also a great way to share book recommendations!



MISS MCMURDO

We look forward to reading your reviews!



MR LANGEVELDT



MR HOWARD

BFS SPORTS



BFS_TeamPE



MRS BALLARD

BASKETBALL

The Year 7 and 8 basketball team produced a commanding performance in their fixture against Redland Green School, securing a well-deserved 35-15 win. The squad combined energy, teamwork, and smart decision-making throughout, making it one of their strongest outings of the season.



BASKETBALL

The U16 basketball team started strong, taking the lead in the first quarter against Redland Green School. The opposition answered back with dominant second and third quarters, building a sizeable advantage. BFS fought hard with an impressive final-quarter comeback, closing the gap but just missing out on the win.

A spirited performance from both teams and a thrilling game throughout.



FOOTBALL

This week was the first game for our U12 girls football team. They visited a very wet and windy Redland Green School.

Despite the conditions, the girls got stuck in straight away and were very evenly matched through the first half. There were some excellent saves from Nir however, with some formation changes RGS came out the stronger team in the second half and the game finished 2-0.

Lucy was voted player of the match. Well done girls, a great first game together.



UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 26 January	Y7 Boys Football vs Redland Green School	Redland Green School
Monday 26 January	Y8 & 9 Boys Football vs Redland Green School	RGS Kellaway
Tuesday 27 January	Y7, 10 & 11 Boys Football vs Cotham School	Cotham Stoke Lodge
Tuesday 27 January	U12 Girls Football vs Orchard School	Orchard School
Wednesday 28 January	U14 & U15 Girls Football vs Redland Green School	RGS Kellaway
Thursday 29 January	Y8 & 9 Boys Football vs Cotham School	Cotham Stoke Lodge

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

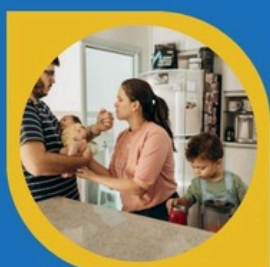


Free online & in person support sessions

Sensory Wellbeing
for SEND Families

Online

Tuesday 3rd Feb
7:00PM-8:30PM



Peer Support

Fishponds Old Library
Thursday 5th Feb
9:00AM-11:00AM

Inns Court, BS4
Thursday 5th Feb
10:30AM-12:30PM

Greenway Centre, BS10
Thursday 12th Feb
9:15AM-10:30AM

Let's Talk About Health
Visiting & School Nursing

Online

Thursday 5th Feb
7:00PM-9:00PM



Your Neurodiverse
Child and Sleep
Online

Tuesday 10th Feb
7:00PM-8:00PM



Scan here for details on
these sessions and more



<https://linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp>

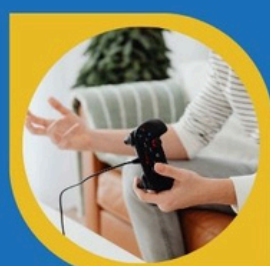
Peer Support
Complex Health Needs
Greenway Centre, BS10

Thursday 12th Feb
11:00AM-12:30PM



Gaming and SEND
Online

Thursday 12th Feb
6:30PM-8:00PM



Peer Support
Online

Tuesday 24th Feb
7:00PM-8:00PM



Developing Your
Child's Language Skills
St Anne's House, BS4
Thursday 26th Feb
10:00AM-1:00PM

