

# Newsletter

6 February 2026



MRS JEROME



MS KENNARD



MRS HUMPHRIES



MR FEARON

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With so many talented and enthusiastic performers at BFS, we were fortunate enough to have two casts performing the school musical, Little Shop of Horrors, last week. Both casts were incredible and should be very proud of their hard work and talent.







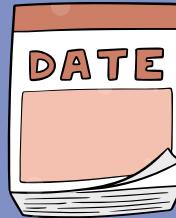
# NOTICE BOARD



BFS\_Bristol



BFS\_Enrichment



## NEXT WEEK AT BFS

### Sunday 8 February

Model UN Conference at BGS

### Tuesday 10 February

Y10 Green Futures Programme - Environmental Day

Y12 CERN Trip (return Friday 13 February)

### Wednesday 11 February

Y9 Options Survey Deadline

### Friday 13 February

Last Day of Term 3



## QUICK LINKS

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Key Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)



## WE'RE HIRING

[Apply Now](#)

[Assistant SENDCo \(Intervention\)](#)

[Teacher of MFL](#)

[Teacher of KS3 Geography](#)

[Teacher of KS3 Music & Drama](#)

## PENALTY NOTICES AND PROSECUTION

At BFS, we work with Bristol City Council to fine parents/carers of students with unauthorised absences.

Unauthorised absences are issued for:

- Arrival after the register closes at 9am without good reason
- Unauthorised holidays and other events not authorised by the Head Teacher
- Absences where no reason has been supplied by the parent / carer
- Absences where medical evidence has been requested by the school and not received.

Penalty notice fines are normally for ten unauthorised sessions (each day being two sessions) of absence in a ten-week period. Penalty notices can also be issued to parents who repeatedly take absence below this threshold. Prosecutions can also be issued if more appropriate than a penalty fine.

Currently the costs of penalty notices are:

- £80 per parent/carer 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.

Prosecution can result in fines of up to £2,500 and/or 3 months imprisonment, as well as a criminal record. At BFS we prefer to take a supportive approach to attendance before taking these legal measures, so please contact the attendance office if you are concerned by your child's attendance.

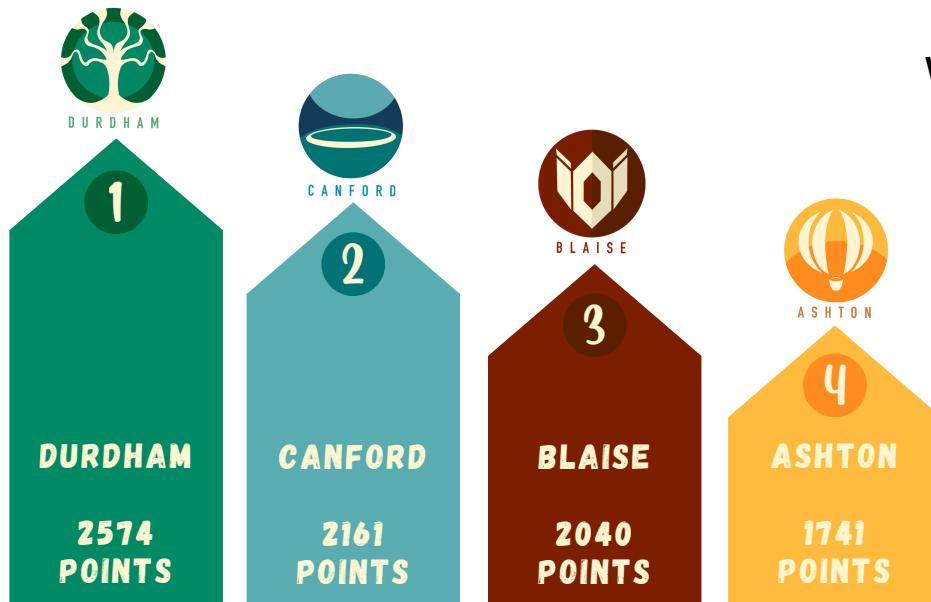
## ATTENDANCE



# 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	Margot S	Freya B	Zahra R, Jacob W	Jacob P
Year 8	Willoughby S	Oliver W	Abigail T	Zack M
Year 9	Molly M	Emma W	Leo S	Emily S
Year 10	Syeda H	Jacob G	Noah L K	Alivia N
Year 11	Henry B	Daisy H	Chloe D	Abhinav A

## HOUSE FRIDAYS



## HOUSE FRIDAYS



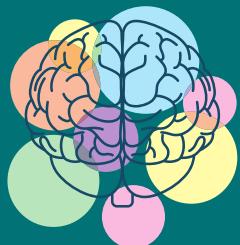
MR JOHNSON

Last week for House Fridays we had a blindfolded balloon race. Students from each House raced each other to see who could blow up the biggest balloon - but if it popped, they were out. After some very exciting rounds the overall winning house was Canford! Today students competed in a Rugby Targets competition. Check back next week to see who won.



# Subject Spotlight

# Psychology



YEAR 12 & 13



Year 12 psychologists are currently finishing up their latest topic on memory - looking at the unreliable nature of eyewitness testimony and how it is impacted by factors such as misleading information and anxiety. They are now starting a unit on attachment and have become proud parents! Pictured are Ruby and Eden's babies Pat and Pat, non-identical twins. They are working to establish proximity to their baby and make sure they keep them safe.

Year 13 psychologists have been learning about schizophrenia, in particular the classification and diagnosis process as well as how it can be explained and treated from a biological level, looking at the role of neurotransmitters, such as dopamine, and antipsychotic drugs. They are currently working very hard in the lead-up to their second round of mocks after half-term; both Ms Norton and I are very proud of them and feel confident that they will smash it. Best of luck to them all!

## Young Orator of the Year



YEAR 12

Gresham College runs an annual oracy competition for state school students in Year 12 to promote the art of communicating complex information in a clear, concise and compelling way. Students are asked to submit a five-minute, recorded presentation on a given topic.

Students should choose ONE of the following questions to answer\*, making a reasoned argument:

- Do protests do more harm than good in today's society?
- Is tradition something that we should preserve or challenge?
- Does cancel culture help society progress, or silence free speech?
- Should AI ever be allowed to make life-changing decisions? (For example - in Medicine, Law or Policing?)
- Many theatre critics describe theatrical productions as 'vital'... Are they?
- Are global tourism and sustainability fundamentally incompatible?

Students should submit a recorded video presentation of no more than 5 minutes – the main focus should be the student speaking, but they can use images, graphs, slides, or other visual props that help explain their points. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to present again in person in London, and there will be three awards (including prizes for the student and their school). Students will need to fill out a form with their entry details and then upload their video file. Please note that the file uploaded MUST have the student's first name and surname in the title. [Enter here](#).

Competition closes 20 March 2026.

More information can be found [here](#).

# GEOGRAPHY

## YEAR 8



As part of Year 8's coastal geography unit, students have explored how stacks (those dramatic pillar-like rock formations you often see along rugged coastlines) are created. This week, 8TG5 have truly impressed with their curiosity, creativity, and innovation while learning about the formation of coastal stacks. Their homework pieces in particular have been nothing short of incredible, from detailed diagrams and clay models to 3D models and beautifully written explanations. The commitment to going above and beyond has been clear. Well done, 8TG5.



## FOOD TECH

MRS SLADE

Year 10 GCSE students have been making lemon meringue pies, including their own shortcrust pastry, lemon curd and meringue topping.

*delicious!*



## YEAR 10



MISS MCMURDO

# ORACY

On Monday, a group of Year 7 and 8 students (BFS's Active Travel Ambassadors) spent the day researching, brainstorming and pitching their ideas on how to make the school a more environmentally friendly school. They were specifically looking at promoting active and eco-friendly travel. They provided innovative and creative ideas, showcased excellent oracy skills and were able to work in a large group on one project idea and pitch! This is BFS's second year taking part in the competition, where last year they won the £200 prize money.

Stay tuned for more when they present their pitch to a panel of judges and compete against other Bristol schools in March.



Last year's winning group (left).



MS SLATER

# BFS SPORTS



BFS\_TeamPE



MRS BALLARD

## FOOTBALL



The U14 and U16 girls football teams played at Redland Green School last week, despite the terrible wet weather stopping play on the fields. In true PE fashion, the Astro was opened and split in two halves so both matches could still take place over a full 40-minute period.

The U16s secured the win in the first half and then ran away with it in the second with an 8-0 finish.

The U14s hustled during all rotations, but even with a few shots at goal couldn't level the playing field, meaning RGS secured the win.

The U14s played a second match this week against Cotham School - this time in the sunshine. The girls came out of the blocks strongly and played with determination and grit. We went into half-time 5-0 up, which included a particularly impressive free kick from Lucy just before half time. Cotham held out for the first 10 minutes of the second half but we were too strong and scored another 5 before the end. Final score 10-0, player of the match Lucy J. Well done girls!

This term 7TG2 has been taking part in aesthetics, a part of the curriculum where students learn dance and gymnastics skills. The students have been applying these skills to the theme of The Lion King and they then performed in front of two other Year 7 PE classes on Wednesday this week. Miss Slater was very impressed - "They absolutely smashed it! They were phenomenal and should be so proud of their efforts!".

## YEAR 7



## SWIMMING GALA

If you are a current club swimmer and would be interested in representing BFS at the Bristol Schools Swimming Gala on Thursday 12 March (5-9pm) at Easton Leisure Centre (BS5 0SW) please let us know! If you are interested, please write down your entry time for the 50m distance and the stroke you swim to Ms Ballard in the PE office or email by Friday 6 February. Please note that you would have to make your own way there, the school will not be providing transport.

# COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2 weeks summer program for high school students

## NEUROCAMP

2026, 9th edition



27/07/2026-07/08/2026

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OVER TWO WEEKS, PARTICIPANTS EXPLORE DIFFERENT FIELDS OF NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH. YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONDUCT YOUR OWN EXPERIMENTS, DEVELOP SOFT SKILLS, AND PRESENT YOUR WORK



APPLICATIONS OPENING ON FRIDAY, 23 JANUARY

WWW.NEUROCAMP-MUNICH.COM/NEUROCAMP @NEUROCAMPMUNICH

SCREEN EDUCATION  
EDINBURGH

## BFI FILM ACADEMY PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT RESIDENTIAL COURSE

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ORA SINGERS  
Young Composers

Are you interested in composing?  
APPLY FOR THE 2026 YOUNG COMPOSERS' PROGRAMME  
to get FREE mentoring in composition with the award-winning ORA Singers!

YOUNG COMPOSERS	APPRENTICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Receive 10 hours of one-to-one mentoring with professional composers</li><li>Write a new piece for ORA Singers</li><li>Attend a workshop with ORA Singers who sing through your sketches and give tailored feedback</li><li>Have your new piece performed and recorded in concert by ORA Singers in front of industry professionals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Receive first-class mentoring through a course of online Composition Workshops</li><li>Fast-track composition skills with coaching on techniques and regular feedback</li><li>Meet with industry professionals &amp; undergraduates and gain an insight into the professional world of composition</li><li>Write a new short choral piece</li></ul>

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY NOW AT  
[www.orasingers.com/young-composers](http://www.orasingers.com/young-composers)  
Applications close Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

