



International  
Women's Day

**GIVE  
TO GAIN**



## What's In This Issue?

Notice Board

House News

Library and Reading

Art

Sport

Careers

Community Notices



## A NOTE FROM MRS KING

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

On Sunday 8 March we proudly celebrate International Women's Day - a day to recognise the achievements, strength, and contributions of women across our school, our community, and the world. It is an important reminder of the progress made towards equality, but also of the work still to do in ensuring every girl and woman has the opportunity to thrive.

By marking this day, we encourage our students to value fairness, celebrate diversity, and challenge stereotypes wherever they see them. Most importantly, we remind each other that inclusion is not just a theme for one day, but a commitment we carry forward throughout the year.

I must also take this opportunity to remind families that our school is a nut-free environment. Some students and staff have severe nut allergies, and even small traces of nuts can cause serious reactions.

Please do not send nuts or nut-containing products to school, including peanuts or tree nuts, peanut butter or nut spreads, nut-based snack bars, cakes, or chocolates, products labelled "may contain nuts", or pesto products.

We appreciate your support in checking food labels carefully and helping us create a safe and inclusive school community for everyone.

Warm regards,

**Mrs S King**  
Headteacher



MRS KING

# Nut-free School



Please be allergy aware



# NOTICE BOARD



BFS\_Bristol



BFS\_Enrichment

## NEXT WEEK AT BFS

### Monday 9 March

Y9 (and Y10 HSC students) CPR Training  
MFL Mock 2 Orals (until Wednesday 11 March)

### Tuesday 10 March

Y9 (and Y10 HSC students) CPR Training, Drama Hall  
Y13 We The Curious Trip

### Thursday 12 March

Green Futures Programme - Green Industries Day  
A Level Music - Performance Exam

### Friday 13 March

Y11 Music Coursework Catch Up and Recording Day

## QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Key Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

## PERIODS

Free Period Products are available to those who need them.

Just look for the **Pink Boxes** in the following locations:



- Student Services
- Sixth Form Admin Office
- PE Changing Rooms
- Mrs Gardiner's Room
- Behaviour Office
- Main Reception
- SEND Office
- Mental Health & Safeguarding Room
- Head of Year Offices
- Behaviour Room

## ALERT

Bristol Safeguarding in Education Team has asked us to share a letter regarding an incident which took place this week in the Broadmead and Cabot Circus area of Bristol. Read the letter [here](#).

## LATE

## LATE ARRIVALS

Students are expected to arrive at school at 8.25am, to be in tutor for 8.30am. Those arriving between 8.30am and 9am will be given a late mark and a **detention**.

## ATTENDANCE

## 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.



# 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	Harvey C	Freya B	Victoria P	Roisin L-W
Year 8	Willoughby S	Sophie R	Holly F	Jake B, Devika D
Year 9	Adiela P	Reisha D	Theo B-R	Basil W-C
Year 10	Mairead S	Daniel D, Thomas O, Emilia M	Carla D	Dhruvika R
Year 11	Samuel Q	Shenise N	Oscar B-R	Aseel A
TOP HOUSE POINT EARNER ACROSS YEAR GROUP				
Year 12	Bella P, Ben R, Ralph T, Emlyn W			
Year 13	James W, Finley M, Kamran S			

## HOUSE FRIDAYS



# HOUSE FRIDAYS



MR JOHNSON

To coincide with World Book Day yesterday, students were invited to take part in a book balancing race at lunchtime today. We will update you with the results next week.

This term, students can look forward to high flying rockets, bouncing balls, taking on teachers at chess, and Easter egg fun!



## HOUSE FRIDAYS



Friday 13th March

### Science Week High Flying Rockets

We'll provide the materials -  
let's see whose rocket flies highest!

📍 Avenue Shelter - Both lunches



## HOUSE FRIDAYS



Friday 20th March

### ONE BOUNCE

Keep the ball in the air -  
if it bounces more than once, you're out.

📍 Muga/Playground. Both Lunches



# LIBRARY & READING

MS GRIFFITHS

MR HARRIS

## NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

### If you're into it, read into it

Everyone knows reading expands worlds, sharpens minds, and fuels creativity. But fewer of us are making time for it.

It's time for the nation to Go All In.

Welcome to World Book Day 2026 – in fact, 2026 is the “International Year of Reading”. Let’s kick things off with this video from the [National Literacy Trust](#), encouraging us to **Go All In!**

At BFS this year we are focusing on both the value of libraries, and how short stories can get us out of a “reading rut”. In the words of Richard Osman, libraries give ‘access to a treasure trove of stories that can feed their curiosity, put them in the shoes of others and help them understand more about the world and their place in it’.

This week students were invited to visit our very own Ms Griffiths in the Library to collect their World Book Day voucher, take a “Reader Selfie”, record a book recommendation video, or just find the next step in their reading adventure. The Library is open every break and lunch time for students to read and explore the wealth of books available to them. Equally, we encourage our students to make use of the wonderful libraries in and around Bristol, for a whole range of resources and events: [Libraries and archives](#)

### Short Stories

“For sale: Baby shoes, never worn.” This famous, emotionally apocalyptic six-word micro-story is often apocryphally attributed to Ernest Hemingway. Although popularly believed to be a tearjerker he wrote on a bet to prove a story could be told in six words, this is likely an urban legend, as similar tales existed earlier. Short stories ask something special of the writer, a punchy narrative with no unnecessary words or filler in the writing. These can be delightful for the readers, rapidly immersing us in a new world, often with a sudden twist. Therefore, it gives me great delight to offer the following recommendations:

### Contemporary

[Reedsy Prompts](#) has a compilation of 25000+ short stories to read online for free. Look out for the “Winner of Weekly Contest” flag. I cannot read all 25,000 stories so parental discretion and/or self-screening for potentially mature content advised!

*[Six Home Runs – A Drama Short Story](#)* by Rick Jones.

Written in the style of a televised interview, a record-breaking baseball player slowly reveals how his life was torn apart.

*[Negative Capability – A Fiction Short Story](#)* by Grace Giddings.

A blistering exploration of a thwarted author serving “real writers” in a coffee shop.

### Classic Short Stories

[Library of Short Stories](#) - A collection of classic and literary short stories, many of them five minutes or less.

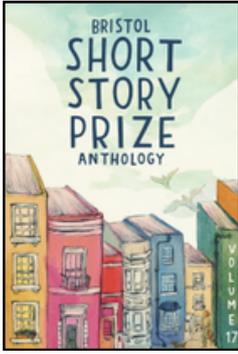
*[The Mice and the Weasels](#)* by Aesop.

A very short story about animals going to war.

*[The Terrible Old Man](#)* by H. P. Lovecraft.

A chilling short horror story: what could possibly go wrong when three rogues decide to rob an old sea captain and torture him into revealing where his gold is hidden?

Did you know that our city of Bristol hosts an annual short story prize, with the winners published in a year anthology? [The Bristol Short Story Prize 2026](#)



See the winners of the 2025 Short Story Prize [here](#).

"We are thrilled to announce the winners of the 2025 Bristol Short Story Prize competition! This year's judging panel – Kate Johnson, Jan Carson, and Peace Adzo Medie – praised the breadth and emotional honesty of this year's shortlisted entries and chose the following three from among 1,800 submissions."



Finally, I will never miss an opportunity to remind you of the [Bristol Free School Reading Ladder](#). This is a carefully curated selection of five "must read" books for each year group, spanning a wide range of genres, topics and styles. Happy Reading!

## READING LADDER

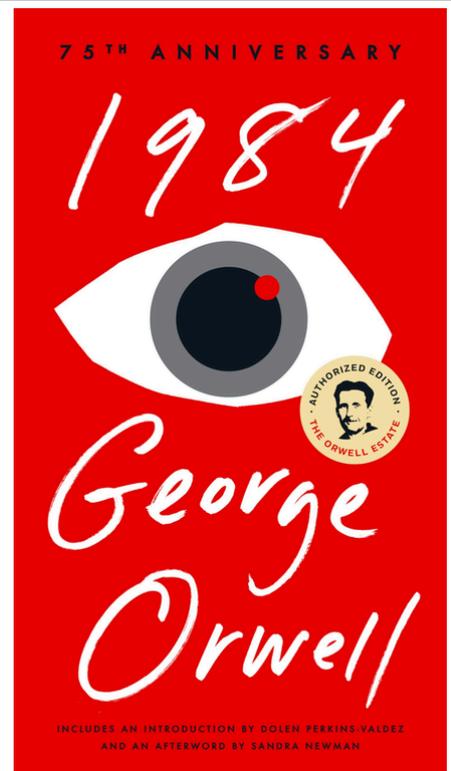
**1984 by George Orwell**  
**Review by Amelia Year 8**

What. A. Book. Ever since the revolution, the Party has been in control. Winston wasn't old enough to remember times before the revolution - yet something tells him that things weren't always like this. The past didn't use to be altered. People you knew wouldn't just... disappear. The Thought Police wouldn't track your every action, every word. But how could Winston prove that this inkling - no, he was certain - that things used to be better? How could he prove to himself that he wasn't simply ... insane?

He couldn't openly rebel. Then he, and his legacy, would disappear. Thus, he starts an illegal love affair with one of his colleagues.

Life is as good as it could be. Until... Well, you wouldn't believe me anyway. Only the word of the Party matters. And the Party says: 2+ 2= 5. Their word is always right.

This is the father of the dystopian genre. It is a long book; it opened my eyes to the message it was saying about society. Yes, our society.



# ART

MRS KINNERSLEY

This week, Mrs Kinnersley has introduced the concept of transferable skills, highlighting the many skills students are using in art lessons that can be very useful for all sorts of creative careers. We have so many creative thinkers, problem solvers, designers and critical thinkers working in our lessons.



During Tutor, students have been learning about a variety of creative careers, many of which they may not have thought about. The videos can be viewed [here](#).

## Transferable Skills from a 3D Cardboard Letter Art Project

- Creative Thinking
- Construction & Craft Skills
- Research Skills
- Visual Communication
- Fine Motor Skills
- Reflective Thinking

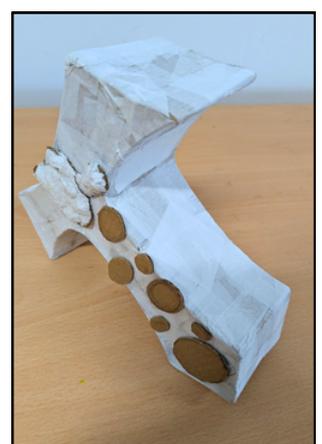
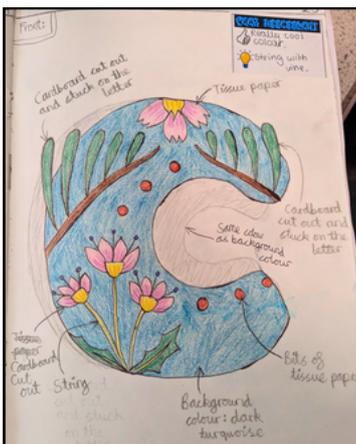
### Links to careers:

- Graphic Designer
- Illustrator
- Art Director
- Set/Prop Designer
- Advertising Creative
- Architect
- Model Maker
- Product Designer
- Theatre/Film Prop Maker
- Packaging Designer
- Branding Designer
- Visual Merchandiser
- Illustrator

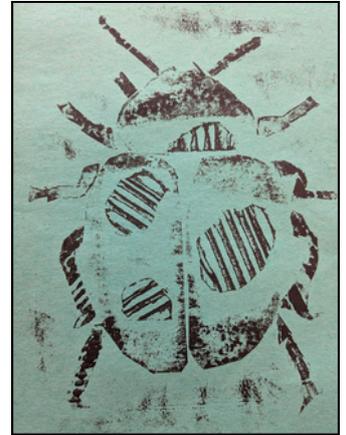
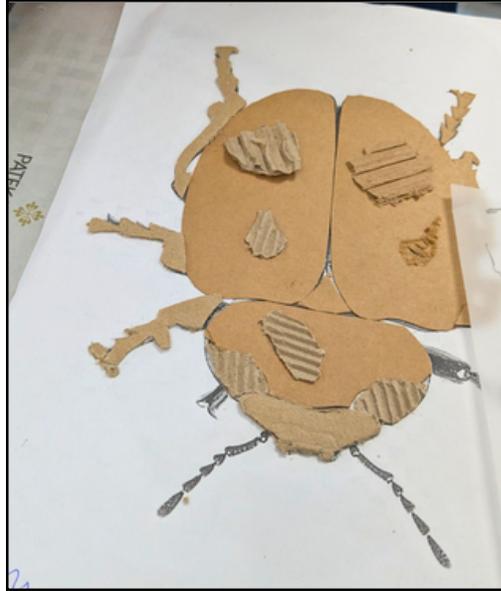
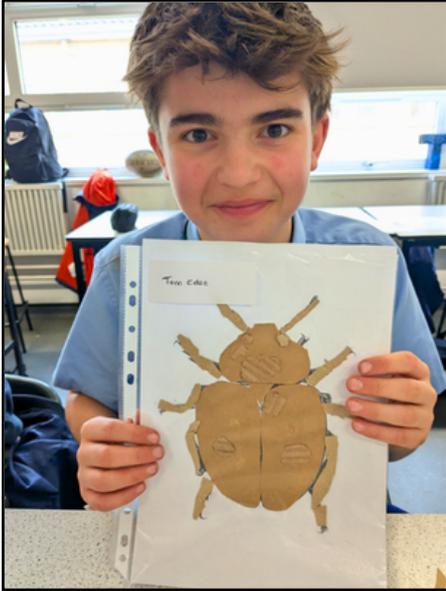


CREATIVE CAREERS

Year 9 are creating 3D work in response to a chosen artist. These are hand built cardboard structures and students have to plan a surface design that links to their chosen artist – Cara's designs are coming along well, and she has spent lesson time reflecting on her progress



Mrs Kinnersley's Year 8 classes are learning how to create collagraph prints. Using the ladybird, students have been practising their fine motor skills, mastering the craft knife tools to cut intricate shapes of card and layering to create a print block.



Manga Club returns and students have been enthusiastically drawing themselves as manga characters, developing skills in character design, expression, and visual storytelling. Not only is this a fun creative challenge, but it also builds valuable future-focused skills such as concentration, problem-solving, and creative thinking. According to a recent article, learning manga techniques helps students develop discipline, creativity, and a strong visual portfolio, skills that support a wide range of creative careers. [Read the article.](#)





MR LANGEVELDT

# BFS SPORTS



BFS\_TeamPE



MS URCH

## RUGBY

The Year 9 squad represented BFS brilliantly at the Collegiate School Rugby 7s Tournament, competing in a challenging group that included QEH, Redland Green School, Sidcot School and Oasis Academy Brislington.

BFS opened the day with their first fixture against Oasis Academy Brislington, settling quickly into the format and putting together some strong attacking phases. Building on that momentum, the team then produced back-to-back victories over Sidcot School and Redland Green School.

Their final group game saw BFS take on a powerful QEH side. Despite a committed defensive effort and some impressive individual moments, BFS were unable to secure the win. This result meant they missed out on progressing to the semi-finals. Nevertheless, the team finished third in a very competitive group. A great effort from all involved and plenty to be proud of!



## FOOTBALL

Going through as group winners, our Year 8 team faced St Bede's Catholic College in the quarter finals. With only 11 players due to injuries and some on other school trips, the boys were fully focused on the huge task to overcome a very strong St Bede's team. We started extremely positively with a through ball from Eddie straight to Cian's feet who confidently slotted it in the bottom corner to go 1-0 up.



St Bede's responded with a lot of pressure but some excellent saves from Jamie and solid work from the defence kept the score at 1-0 for the majority of the first half. Unfortunately, the pressure became too much, and we went into half time 2-1 down. St Bede's came out stronger in the second half and went 3-1 up. However, we responded with an assist from Africa to Cian for a fantastic second goal. The score remained tight until the last 5 minutes when Cian hit the crossbar!

Unfortunately, St Bede's scored in the last minute to make it 4-2 final score. A fantastic work ethic from the bare 11 players. Player of the Match goes to Omer. Well done boys.

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 7 March	STAGES Dance Competition	-
Wednesday 11 March	U12 & U14 Girls Football vs St Bede's Catholic College	St Bede's Catholic College
Thursday 12 March	Bristol Schools Swimming Gala	Easton Leisure Centre
Thursday 12 March	U18 Rugby Sevens vs Clifton College	Clifton College
Friday 13 March	U14 Boys Hockey vs Clifton College	Clifton College

# FOOTBALL

The Year 10 football team travelled to St Bede's Catholic College this week for their final fixture of the season, and they certainly delivered a performance to remember. The first half was a tight contest, with both sides battling for control. St Bede's managed to edge ahead just before the break, leaving BFS with work to do in the second half. Whatever was said at halftime clearly worked. BFS came out with renewed determination, dominating possession and creating a string of chances. Despite several close opportunities to level the score, the equaliser remained elusive - until the final moments of the match.



With seconds left on the clock, Wilf delivered a superb cross into the box. Sam brought the ball down with remarkable composure before slotting home a brilliant finish, sending the BFS supporters wild and taking the game to penalties.

What followed was a marathon shootout: 18 penalties each. Both teams showed incredible nerve, but eventually St Bede's missed, handing BFS a dramatic and hard-earned victory.

# FOOTBALL

Our U16s girls football team got through to the next round of football fixtures. They played Oasis Academy Brislington on Thursday with Lottie, Jess, Lex and Lucy all taking a turn in goal! They won 6-0, with goals being scored by Rosie, Jasmine, Jess, Lex and Lucy (2). Lucy was nominated as POM by the opposition. They are through to the next round! Congratulations all and good luck!



# NETBALL

The Year 8 netball team were invited to a Sport for All netball tournament this week at Redmaids' High School. They played four games in the tournament and finished as winners! The girls played amazingly well.

The results were as followed:

- Redmaids' High School: Win 6-1 (POM Lottie)
- Bristol Grammar School: Draw 4-4 (POM Emily)
- Clifton High School: Win 8-4 (POM Amy)
- Howell's School: Win 9-2 (POM Lottie)





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**



### EXPLORING CAREERS IN URBAN PLANNING

On Friday students enjoyed an inspiring careers session led by Dr Katy Karampour and Dr Stephen Hall from UWE Bristol's School of Architecture and Environment. The talk offered an engaging introduction to urban planning - a profession that shapes how towns and cities grow, function, and support healthy communities.

#### What Is Urban Planning?

Urban planning involves designing and managing the development of places, so they work well for people and the natural environment. Planners make decisions about:

- Housing and new developments
- Green spaces and parks
- Heritage protection
- Climate change resilience
- Transport systems and movement networks
- Creating safe, welcoming neighbourhoods

Planners help communities balance competing needs, such as housing vs the environment, and use tools like maps, data and community engagement to shape better places.

Stephen explored several live planning challenges such as The Housing Crisis (how to deliver affordable homes), Climate Change (preparing places for extreme weather), Wapping Wharf (organic or planned growth?), and The Bristol Arena (city centre vs out of town development). These case studies highlighted the vital role planners play in shaping Bristol's future.

#### Why Consider a Career in Planning?

Urban planning combines creativity, problem solving and social purpose. The speakers emphasised Bristol's status as a major hub for planning consultancies and shared typical salary pathways, from £25k-30k for graduates to £60k+ for senior planners. Importantly, no specific GCSE or A Level subjects are required to start this journey, making planning an accessible and flexible career choice.

#### Career Pathways in Planning

Urban planning leads to a wide range of meaningful roles, including Town Planner, Transport Planner, Urban Designer, Housing Officer, Environmental Manager, Landscape Architect, Sustainability Consultant, and Historic Buildings Inspector. Students can explore roles further via Prospects or National Careers Service career profiles. Dr Karampour and Dr Hall shared information about UWE's routes into the profession, including Degree Apprenticeships (CertHE Urban Planning Practice), BSc (Hons) Urban Planning and MSc Urban Planning. Both options offer strong industry links and hands-on experience.

We once again thank Katy and Stephen for their inspiring talk on Urban Planning.



EMPLOYERS TALKS

## COMING UP...

- 13 March:** Medicine
- 20 March:** Bristol Hippodrome
- 27 March:** Pilot

- 24 April:** Ministry of Defence
- 1 May:** Blood Sciences
- 15 May:** Rail Engineering

# COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Partnership Talk

**Navigating and supporting Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence with Fin O'Regan**  
Monday 16 March, Great Hall, 6pm-8pm

6pm - Canapes 6.30pm - Talk 7.30pm - Q&A

Join us to hear from one of the leading behaviour and learning specialists in the UK for a supportive discussion and an opportunity to meet other BGS families with an interest in Neurodivergence.



Learn more about:

- Strategies for planning, organisation and time management
- Building effective communication and dealing with distraction, impulsivity, and frustration.
- Relationships and developing positive peer to peer interaction.
- Resilience at transition points and wellbeing
- And much more

To register your interest in attending, click the link above. Please note that this event is for parents and carers only.

If you have any queries please contact:

**Senior School**  
Corinne Kempt  
Head of Learning Support  
ckempt@bgs.bristol.sch.uk

**I&J**  
Lucy Hargreave  
Learning Support Coordinator  
lhargreave@bgs.bristol.sch.uk



**Free online & in person support sessions**

An Introduction to Makaton  
Online  
Tuesday 3rd March  
7PM-9PM



How to be a Strong Advocate for your Child  
Online  
Thursday 5th March  
7PM-8:30PM



Understanding the Health Section of an EHCP  
Online  
Monday 9th March  
10AM-11:30AM



Peer Support  
Online  
Tuesday 10th March  
7PM-8PM



Scan here for details on these sessions and more



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

Peer Support  
Greenway Centre Southmead, BS10  
Thursday 12th March  
9:15AM-10:30AM



Peer Support  
Fishponds Old Library  
Fishponds, BS16  
Thursday 19th March  
9AM-11AM



Peer Support  
Inns Court Knowle, BS4  
Thursday 19th March  
10:30AM-12:30PM



Supporting Healthy Relationships  
Online  
Thursday 26th March  
7PM-8:30PM



Reflections Training Academy  
**HAIRDRESSING & BARBERING**

**OPEN DAY**

**FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**@1PM**

**CALL TO BOOK**  
0117 9221 440

**REGISTER NOW**

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Tour our facilities, meet expert tutors, and enter our hairdressing competition to win prizes!

**What's on offer?**

Apprenticeships in Hairdressing or Barbering



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE GROWLERS**  
**Visually Impaired Cricket Team**

**FREE Training Sessions**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**12:30 - 2pm**

**Cheltenham Bournside School  
GL51 3EF**



**Sign Up Here**



<https://forms.office.com/e/rdR5wbeYtj>

For more information contact

Jeanette Tate

[jeanette.tate@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org](mailto:jeanette.tate@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org)

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