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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Our *Move a Mile* sponsored run/walk started this week. During this event, students will be running or walking a mile for our four chosen charities:



MR MACBLAIN

Students will run or walk 10 laps of the MUGA in their year groups and can wear BFS-branded PE kit all day, as a thank you for participating. Staff will be getting involved too!

The event will take place during tutor time on the following dates:

Friday 20 March – Year 7

Monday 23 March – Year 9

Wednesday 25 March – Year 8

Thursday 26 March – Year 10

Friday 27 March - Year 11 and Sixth Form

Last year, this event raised over £3,000, and we would love to beat that amount this year! We have set up a payment item in ParentPay for you to make a donation for any amount from £1 to £100. All donations are appreciated by our charities, regardless of how much. Please give whatever you can. Thank you so much for your support.



Mr MacBlain

Assistant Headteacher

A NOTE FROM MR MACBLAIN





NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 23 March

Y9 Move-a-Mile Event, 8.30-9am, MUGA
BEP Student Leadership Programme, Clifton College

Tuesday 24 March

Y8 Flying Start Trip, UWE
GCSE PE Moderation Day

Wednesday 25 March

Y8 Move-a-Mile Event, 8.30-9am, MUGA
Y12 Geography Field Trip, Portishead
Rosslyn Park Rugby Tournament - Day 1

Thursday 26 March

Y10 Move-a-Mile Event, 8.30-9am, MUGA
Rosslyn Park Rugby Tournament - Day 2

Friday 27 March

Y11-13 Move-a-Mile Event, 8.30-9am, MUGA
GCSE Drama Technical Rehearsal

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Key Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

SPORTS CLUBS

Next week is the last week of clubs this term - there will be no clubs in the last week of term.

Clubs will start back in week 2 of Term 5 and run all the way through to the end of Term 6.

Tuesday - Y8, Y9 and Y10 rounders

Wednesday - all years cricket

Thursday - all years athletics (greenway/top field), all years tennis (MUGA)

Nut-free School



Please be allergy aware

Eid al-Fitr: Celebrating Together as a School Community

As we approach the end of Ramadan, we would like to wish all members of our Muslim community a heartfelt **Eid Mubarak**. Eid al-Fitr is a special occasion marking the end of a month of fasting, reflection, and spiritual growth. It is a time filled with joy, gratitude, and togetherness.

Eid al-Fitr marks the beginning of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar, and follows the sighting of the new moon. It celebrates the completion of Ramadan - a month during which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset - by gathering with loved ones, offering prayers, and enjoying festive meals. The day is a reminder to appreciate our blessings while also thinking of those who may be less fortunate.

For families observing Eid, this is a time of joy: dressing in special clothes, sharing food, visiting friends and relatives, and coming together as a community. For those unfamiliar with the festival, Eid provides an opportunity to learn more about this important celebration and recognise the values it highlights - gratitude, compassion, charity, and unity.

As a school, we celebrate the rich diversity within our community. We hope all who are marking Eid enjoy a peaceful and joyful day with their families.

Eid Mubarak to all who celebrate!



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Canford!

Top House Point Earners

Congratulations to our top House point earners this week!

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Margot S, George W	Freya B, Dollie G	Jack S, Islaa G	Blake Z
Year 8	Willoughby S	Madeleine P	Juliette R	Jacob H, Barnaby H-T, Ada-Sophia D
Year 9	Maisy B, Lauren S	Naomi H	Charlie M, Stanley H	Emily S, Imogen L
Year 10	Nameera A	Rory H	Nayla A, Frank C, Noah LK, Barnabas M, Harry F, Harley G	Joseph S
Year 11	Hannah Y, Emily E	Shenise N	Georgina D	Alejo HS
TOP HOUSE POINT EARNER ACROSS YEAR GROUP				
Year 12	Emlyn W, Ed C, Harry G			
Year 13	Keira B, Megan G, May L			

HOUSE FRIDAYS



HOUSE FRIDAYS

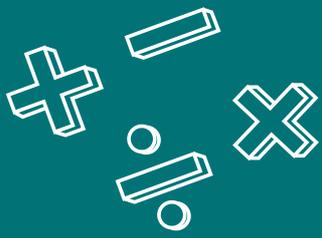


MR JOHNSON

Last week for House Fridays, students made rockets to celebrate British Science Week. The plan was to set them off and see who's went highest, but some torrential rain and strong winds put a spanner in the works and take-off had to be postponed.



This week it's a One Bounce competition - students have to use their football skills to keep a ball in the air as long as possible. If it bounces more than once - they are out!



Subject Spotlight

Maths



WHAT'S GOING ON IN MATHS, THE STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE.

Year 7

In maths we are learning about probability this week. In probability, we are making it into fractions, decimals and percentages.

We are learning about percentages, decimals and fractions and how to convert them. We are also doing equations such as 30% of 80.

Year 8

I liked maths when we learnt about negative scale factors since the shape changed size and position and it was a good challenge.

In maths I enjoyed learning about the nth term because I enjoyed using the whiteboards to guess the nth term.

We loved working in groups or pairs and love the scale factors project.

In maths, I've enjoyed expanding and simplifying brackets, especially when we were using the mini whiteboards.

Year 9

In maths we are plotting non-linear graphs. Every lesson, we have experimented plotting different functions. We started with linear then moved to quadratics. Then we explored other non-linear graphs. It has been interesting to see the different lines made on the graphs depending on the powers used.

In maths we're learning about graphs, quadratic equations, simultaneous equations and exponential graphs. We learnt about asymptotes (Mr. Brown's favourite maths word!!) where we plotted $y=2x$ and $y=3x$.

Year 12

I enjoy solving problems, especially when there is more than one method/way of thinking about the problem. I particularly enjoy mechanics and decision maths as they link closely to my other subjects (physics and computer science).

What I enjoy about maths is how interconnected the range of topics are. From using calculus in mechanics to incorporating algebra in geometry, each new lesson is connected to a previous one.

I like maths because there's a right and a wrong answer so it's very clear cut. I find it really satisfying when a tricky problem finally makes sense. I enjoy when different areas of maths start linking together and you get a better understanding of both connected areas.

A Level maths is incredibly rewarding because it transforms maths from a set of rigid rules into a powerful tool for problem solving. There is a unique sense of satisfaction in untangling a complex calculus problem or proving a trigonometric identity where every logical step builds towards a definitive 'aha' moment.

Year 11 and Year 13 are now fully focused on their exams in the summer. I have been so impressed by the work ethic of all of the students when preparing for their mock exams earlier this term. Both year groups have posted our best ever set of mock results so far and they should be very proud of the effort they have put in. The work ethic continues to be very strong among these students, and I have every faith that they will be successful this summer. Good luck to you all.

UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

The Maths Challenge continues to have great success here at BFS.

Senior Maths Challenge

The Senior Maths Challenge is intended for high achieving students in Year 12 and Year 13 to further challenge those who have already demonstrated high level mathematical thinking. Only the top 8,000 students will be invited to take the Andrew Jobbings Kangaroo challenge. This is an amazing achievement for these students, well done to you all.

6 gold certificates
24 silver certificates
41 bronze certificates.

Six students have been invited to take part in the Andrew Jobbings Kangaroo: Patrick F, Archie H, Stan H, Ben R, Harrison L and George A.



Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Challenges are aimed at students in Year 9 - 11. Only the top 9,000 students across the country get invited to the kangaroo rounds, so this is an amazing achievement for these students. Well done to all of you.

4 gold certificates
19 silver certificates
31 bronze certificates

Four students got through to the next round:
Dylan I, Ed R, Max C and Fin B.



Junior Maths Challenge

The Junior Maths Challenge is yet to happen and will take place on Wednesday 29 April. All students in top sets in Year 8 will take the challenge along with nominated students from Year 7. If you would like to take part in the Junior Maths Challenge, speak to your maths teacher and ask if it would be possible.

We are very fortunate to have an amazing cohort of mathematicians in the Sixth Form and some of them have volunteered to run a Maths Challenge Club for Year 7 and Year 8 on Tuesday after school, where they go through some of the types of problems that come up in the maths challenge and share their experience of learning maths and solving maths problems. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 are welcome to attend as this will help you to prepare for the Junior Maths Challenge in April.



PI RECITING COMPETITION

We had a record number of entrants to the pi reciting competition this year - over 40 students and staff took part. This included entrants from all year groups. The highlights for me were the team of three Year 7 students who arrived 'as a team'; they had been practising together and agreed that if any of them won, they would share the pie prize! I also enjoyed the healthy competition as some entrants returned to have another go having heard that their record had been broken.

So, the results are:

Year 7 joint winners: Edith BM and Amara P -131 decimal places recited

Year 8 winner: Willoughby S - 33 decimal places recited

Year 9 winner: Isaac J - 133 decimal places recited

Year 10 winner: Nameera A - 22 decimal places recited

Year 11 winner: Hannah Y - 70 decimal places recited

Year 12 winner: Emlyn W - 56 decimal places recited

Year 13 winner: Oliver M - 27 decimal places recited

Staff winner: Mrs Day - 58 decimal places recited

Well done to all who took part, there was a great atmosphere in the maths corridor this lunchtime.



92% attendance



is like watching all of The Traitors
but missing the finale

UNAUTHORISED HOLIDAYS

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.

SIXTH FORM

MRS MORGAN-JONES

CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING BTEC JANUARY RESULTS!

We are delighted to share the fantastic achievements of our BTEC students following the release of the January assessment results. This year's cohort has demonstrated exceptional resilience, determination, and professionalism - qualities that lie at the heart of vocational education.

Across both BTEC Business and Health and Social Care, students have showcased not only strong subject knowledge but also the applied skills and real-world understanding that make these qualifications so valuable. Many learners exceeded their target grades, with a high percentage achieving a Distinction in a key examination unit. Their success is a testament to the hours spent revising both individually and in groups, and the essential exam practice completed in class.

As we celebrate these results, we also look ahead with excitement. Our BTEC learners are already building on this momentum as they continue to complete the final coursework unit and prepare for future career aspirations, with many choosing pathways in healthcare and business.

Congratulations once again to all students - you should be incredibly proud of your achievements. I certainly am.



YEAR 13

FOOD TECH

MRS CORRIGAN

In Year 9 and Year 10 this week, students have been honing their pasta skills. Starting off with basic ingredients (water, flour and egg), they have transformed them into beautiful pici and tagliatelle with a variety of tomato based sauces. Students were brilliant at helping and working together to create successful final dishes. Well done to the groups for highlighting the friendly community in our classrooms.



YEAR 9 & 10



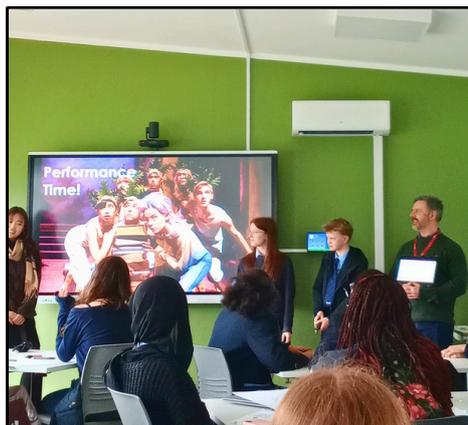
MISS MCMURDO

ORACY

YEAR 9 & 12

Ten of our students, two from Year 9 and 8 from Year 12, took part in an exciting workshop this week at Badminton School, introducing them to the art of crafting their own TED-style talks. The session focused on exploring big ideas, shaping personal narratives, and brainstorming topics that matter to them.

This workshop marks the starting point for their journey towards creating and delivering their own TED-inspired speeches for a competition at BFS in the summer term as part of BEP's Youth Talks Competition. From there, two finalists will then go on next year to compete at a school wide competition. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they experimented with different hooks, ideas, and delivery, and to watch their oracy skills shine throughout the day.



SCIENCE

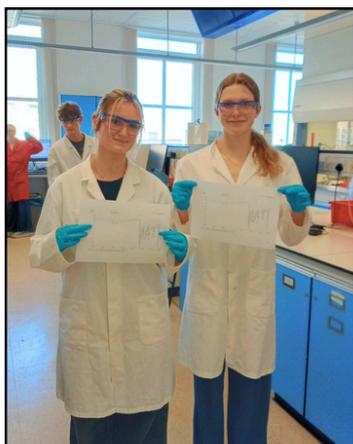


DR GREGSON

YEAR 12

On Wednesday, students from our school had the exciting opportunity to visit the School of Chemistry at the University of Bristol. The trip offered a real insight into life as a university chemistry student and a chance to experience hands-on practical work in their teaching laboratories.

The practical the students undertook was extracting caffeine from tea bags. They were able to use apparatus such as fume cupboards and rotary evaporators along with IR spectrometers to analyse the solid caffeine they extracted. The session also gave students the valuable experience of handling hazardous chemicals, including dichloromethane, under strict safety procedures. Staff were impressed by how sensibly and professionally the group behaved throughout, demonstrating excellent awareness of laboratory safety and strong practical skills.



LIBRARY & READING



MS GRIFFITHS

YEAR 8 PUPILS SHINE IN THE NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONS QUIZ

Four of our enthusiastic Year 8 readers proudly represented BFS this week in the National Reading Champions Quiz, a competition organised by the National Literacy Trust that brings together young book lovers from across the country.

The quiz tested students' knowledge of children's and young adult literature, covering everything from classic favourites to the latest contemporary releases. Across seven fast-paced rounds and an impressive 75 questions, Amelia, Daniel, Maddie and Seb demonstrated excellent teamwork, quick thinking, knowledge and logic all surrounding their love of reading.

The rounds challenged the team to match titles and openings, decipher anagrams, dingbats, video clips and picture clues and we even had a celebrity guest appearance from the 'Skandar' book series author, Alison Steadman.

We are incredibly proud of them and the positive way they represented the school. It was a fantastic celebration of reading, teamwork, and the vibrant world of children's and YA literature. It was a close finish, and our competition journey ends here this year but just watch us take on the competition next year. Well done to our Year 8 National Reading Champions Quiz team!

YEAR 8



2026 CARNEGIE SHORTLISTS

The Carnegies, the UK's longest running and best-loved book awards for children and young people, run by the UK's library association, CILIP, announced their 2026 shortlists at the London Book Fair in March. The Carnegies celebrate outstanding reading experiences in books for children and young people. They are unique in being judged by librarians, with the Shadowers' Choice Medals voted for by thousands of reading groups in schools and libraries in the UK and around the world, who shadow the judging process and choose their own winners.

The 2026 Carnegie Medal for Writing shortlist is:

- Ghostlines by Katya Balen
- Not Going to Plan by Tia Fisher
- Popcorn by Rob Harrell
- The Boy I Love by William Hussey
- Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody by Patrick Ness
- Wolf Siren by Beth O'Brien
- Twenty-Four Seconds from Now by Jason Reynolds
- Birdie by J. P. Rose

More details, along with the Carnegie Medal for Illustration shortlist, can be found [here](#).



BFS SPORTS

 BFS_TeamPE



MS URCH

RUGBY

After a two-year break from 7s rugby, our Sixth Form boys returned to action in a tournament featuring strong opposition from King's School, St Peter's, Cheltenham College and QEH.

Despite a series of tough matches and narrow losses, the team competed with real spirit and enjoyed the fast-paced challenge of 7s rugby. For many of our Year 13s, it was a memorable final sporting outing, and they represented the school with pride throughout.



SWIMMING

Swimmers representing BFS attended the Bristol Secondary Schools Championships last week. Bristol's county, regional and national swimmers were out in force so this was a highly competitive meet!

An outstanding performance from our junior boys team, winning Gold in the medley relay, Silver in the freestyle relay and finishing 1st on aggregate points to win The Western Daily Press Trophy. This is a historic cup running since 1970 and this is a first time win for BFS. Congratulations to Ollie, Isaac H, Zac and Hugo.

A fantastic turnout from our club swimmers meant we came away with 26 medals in total (up from 6 last year). Special thanks to Year 7 swimmer, Lauren G, who stepped up to compete in her first ever gala to enable us to field a full team in the junior girls.

Individual Medal Winners:

Junior 50 Breaststroke - Gold: Zac
Junior 50 Freestyle - Silver: Merryn
Junior 50 Fly - Silver: Merryn
Junior 50 Freestyle - Bronze: Isaac H
Junior 50 Fly - Bronze: Hugo
Intermediate 50 Breaststroke - Silver: Isaac L
Intermediate 50 Freestyle - Bronze: Isaac L
Senior 50 Freestyle - Silver: Ben

Relay Medal Winners:

Junior Medley Boys - Gold: Ollie, Isaac H, Zac, Hugo
Junior Freestyle Relay - Silver: Ollie, Isaac H, Zac, Hugo
Cannon - Bronze: Merryn, Isaac H, Ellie, Isaac L, Niamh, Ben
Senior Freestyle Girls - Bronze: Niamh, Winnie, Ellie, Merryn



FOOTBALL

On Wednesday, the Year 8 girls football team travelled to St Bede's Catholic College for their final football fixture of the year, and what a match it was! Under glorious sunshine, we got off to the perfect start with a stunning strike from Lola, rocketing us into an early lead. St Bede's responded quickly with two goals before half-time, leaving us 2-1 down but far from out of the fight. After the break, the girls showed fantastic determination, pulling the score back level. Despite piling on the pressure, St Bede's managed to edge ahead late on, taking the win 3-2. A brilliant effort from every player and a spirited performance to finish the season. Well done, girls!



RUGBY

As the Year 11 rugby team gets ready for their final run-out together at Rosslyn Park next week, we would like to acknowledge what a special group this Year 11 side has become. They have grown up together through 5 years of school rugby, and now they get one last chance to play as a team. This season has been given a real lift thanks to the work of Lucas Roy Smith, whose experience as a former Jamaican 7s player has been a massive bonus for the squad. The boys have loved every session with him - he has pushed them, challenged them, and given them a glimpse of what the game looks like at the next level. A huge thank you also go to Richard Friend and the BFS parents who made Lucas's involvement possible. Their support has created an opportunity the lads will remember long after they leave BFS.

Heading into Rosslyn Park, the team has every reason to feel excited. They have trained well and they are playing with confidence. But more than anything, they are going into this tournament as a tight group of friends who want to end their time together on a high.



HOCKEY

Last Friday, the U14 boys hockey team travelled to Clifton College and delivered a brilliant run of performances to win the Avon State Schools Tournament and secure their place in the West Finals!

Game 1 - vs Redland Green School

Facing our local rivals, we came out flying, scoring early on the break and doubling our lead with another classy finish. Redland pulled one back, but our defence held firm for a strong 2-1 win.

Game 2 - vs The Castle School

After conceding early, the team responded with style, equalising, then edging ahead. Castle levelled again, but our boys turned up the intensity and smashed in three unanswered goals, taking an impressive 5-2 victory.

Game 3 - vs Clevedon School

In a repeat of last year's nail-biter, Clevedon struck first, but we fought back brilliantly to lead 2-1. A frantic end-to-end battle followed, finishing 2-2, kept level thanks to a huge last-minute save from keeper Jamie D.

Thanks to our goal difference from Game 2, we took the tournament title! Next stop: West Finals at Taunton School on 1 April. Bring it on! Player of the Tournament: Harry C.

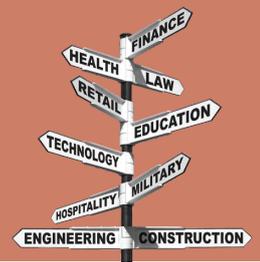
Written by: Willoughby S (8TG7)





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 were thrilled to hear from Kyle Pryke who gave an inspiring insight into the world of theatre, focused on the Bristol Hippodrome and the diverse range of careers it supports. The Bristol Hippodrome, owned by ATG Entertainment which operates 49 venues across the UK, remains one of the most iconic theatres in the country. With more annual attendees than Premiership football, ATG's impact on the cultural landscape is huge. We also heard about the incredible people who keep The Hippodrome running every day, including Tony, who has worked as Stage Door Keeper for an astonishing 47 years, and Kyle, celebrating his 10th year with the team.

BEHIND THE SHOWS

Students were introduced to the sheer scale of work that happens behind the curtain. From classic productions to blockbuster musicals, each show brings with it a host of behindthescenes roles including but not limited to:

- **My Fair Lady** – involving costume designers, makers, and fitters, as well as set designers, builders, electricians, and historians to ensure accuracy.
- **The Lion King** – known for its intricate puppetry, requiring specialist metalwork and woodwork, along with lighting, costume, set, and prop teams; even a remotecontrolled rock!
- **Wicked** – featuring a spectacular wardrobe including Glinda's £6,500 dress and humanhair wigs costing upwards of £3,000
- **Hamilton** – with a set weighing as much as a Boeing 747, assembled and dismantled for every show. One member of staff described it as Lego for adults.
- **Pantomime season** – a high energy month with two shows a day and intense backstage coordination



CAREERS YOU WILL FIND AT THE BRISTOL HIPPODROME

Front-of-House and Customer Experience

Students interested in customer service, hospitality, and event management can explore roles such as:

- Ushers & Front-of-House Assistants
- Box Office Support
- Event & Visitor Experience Staff

These roles are ideal for building confidence, communication skills, and experience in a fast-paced environment.

Behind the Scenes: Technical & Production

The magic of theatre relies heavily on skilled technical teams, including:

- Lighting and Sound Technicians
- Stage Management
- Set, Props & Costume Departments
- Hair and Make-Up

These hands-on roles suit students who enjoy problemsolving, creativity, and working within a team.

Marketing, Admin & Creative Support

Theatre careers are not limited to performance and technical work. Students may be surprised to learn about opportunities in:

- Arts Marketing & Publicity
- Graphic Design
- Social Media Coordination
- Administration & Theatre Operations

These positions blend creativity with organisation and communication skills — perfect for students considering creative industries.

LEARNING & CAREER PATHWAYS

The Hippodrome's Creative Learning Department provides talks, workshops, masterclasses, and a wide range of ways for young people to explore theatre careers firsthand. Kyle also highlighted the Get into Theatre initiative, which offers opportunities and guidance for anyone interested in entering the industry.

Students were invited to challenge Kyle to connect any school subject to careers in theatre:

- *Geography* – understanding audience origins for planning tours.
- *PE* – athleticism required in performance; some touring companies even use sports therapists and ice baths.
- *History* – understanding the theatre's 113-year heritage and wider storytelling traditions.
- *PSHE* – supporting people and building strong working relationships backstage and on tour.

There are excellent opportunities for young people to build their careers in theatre, whether starting in entry level roles or progressing through technical pathways. ATG also offers a dedicated technical apprenticeship programme - a particularly valuable route given the current shortage of skilled backstage technicians.

Other opportunities to get involved include:

- Open days and backstage tours
- Theatre based apprenticeships
- Volunteering and part-time roles
- Workshops delivered by local arts organisations

The session offered a fantastic look at the scale, creativity, and variety of roles in the theatre world. Students left with insights into everything from set building to marketing, costume design to technical production, and the rich history behind one of Bristol's most celebrated venues. We thank Kyle once again for such an insightful and engaging talk.



COMING UP...

27 March: Pilot
24 April: Ministry of Defence
1 May: Blood Sciences

15 May: Rail Engineering
22 May: Veterinarian (UoB)
5 June: Pharmacy