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ROSSLYN PARK TOURNAMENT 2026

What a day, and what a fitting send-off for this exceptional group of Year 11 boys in their final outing representing BFS. This tournament marked the last time they would take to the pitch together in school colours making the occasion even more special. Years of playing, training, learning, and growing side by side came together one last time, and what a way to finish.

Although we did not progress to day two of the tournament, and despite a few injuries along the way, the boys displayed outstanding skill, teamwork, and sheer determination. Across the entire trip their conduct was exemplary; they showed respect, maturity, and unwavering commitment, representing the school brilliantly both on and off the field. It was a fantastic experience and a day that will live long in their memories. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them and they should be incredibly proud of themselves, too. Well done, boys.

A NOTE FROM MS SLATER & MR HOWARD





NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



NEXT WEEK AT BFS

No sports clubs this week

Monday 30 March

GCSE Drama Exam
Y12 HE+ Residential Trip

Tuesday 31 March

Y12 HE+ Residential Trip
Y13 Pastoral Day

Wednesday 1 April

Ski Trip 2026 - Student Briefing, 8.30am

Friday 3 April

Easter Holidays - School closed to all students
Ski Trip departs

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Key Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

EASTER



Bristol families are invited to enjoy a huge range of free, fully funded Easter holiday activities through Your Holiday Hub, part of the Department for Education's HAF Programme. The offer includes sports, creative workshops, outdoor adventures, play sessions, cooking clubs, sensory activities, and much more. Activities run 7-17 April across Bristol, hosted by trusted local providers including sports foundations, adventure playgrounds, youth clubs, arts organisations, city farms, and family support groups. Sessions are designed for children and young people, with many welcoming SEND participants and offering open-access, drop-in play. Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals can book fully funded HAF sessions, while many providers also offer open-access spaces for all children, regardless of eligibility.

Explore activities and book your sessions: [Your Holiday Hub Bristol](#)

PUNCTUALITY

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.
- 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!

ATTENDANCE

92% attendance



is like paying for a dozen eggs but only getting 11

Studybugs

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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, Michelle A	Moyinoluwa F	Samuel S, Jack R	Oliver P
Year 8	Emily R	Carmen C-M	Daniel E	Martha W
Year 9	Maximilian T	James C	Zidan P	Emily S
Year 10	Sophie L	Daniel D	Amelia B, Nancy G	Esther D
Year 11	Franz C	Shenise N	Gwen R, Harrison L	Alexander C-J
TOP HOUSE POINT EARNER ACROSS YEAR GROUP				
Year 12	Joshua C, Grace C, Sama T			
Year 13	Ethan P, Raivo B, Ryo W			

HOUSE FRIDAYS



HOUSE FRIDAYS



MR JOHNSON

We had two winning Houses after last week's One Bounce competition for House Fridays. Year 7-8 was won by Canford who were in fine voice as they celebrated each winning bounce. In the end, the Year 9-11 winner was Aubrey H in Year 10 for Blaise.



Today was *Beat the Teacher: Chess* - students battled it out against Mr MacBlain and Mr Witchard for House Points and ultimate bragging rights. Next week, on the final day of term, it's an **Easter Egg Hunt** and **Guess the Number of Eggs in a Jar**.

Subject Spotlight

Computer Science

YEARS 7 - 9

Year 7 have been looking at computer systems this term. They first looked at what a computer is, and the idea that it follows a process of input, process, and output. They have been exploring computer hardware and the components that make a computer work. Year 7 have also studied input and output devices in their various forms. They then went on to look at how the CPU and RAM work in tandem to process all the data for the computer.

Finally, this week, we have been looking at how computers count, and pupils have been converting from decimal to binary. It has been a good term's work.

Year 8 have been studying data representation and how computers process numbers, letters, symbols, and images. Building on their knowledge from Year 7, they have also looked at converting from binary to decimal and vice versa, as well as binary addition.

Students then went on to explore how a computer keyboard represents characters, letters, and numbers using the binary system. This week, we looked at how images are represented, and in the final week of term we will look at how a computer processes sound. Again, it has been an excellent term's work.

Computers might feel incredibly complex, but beneath all the apps, games, videos, and websites, they speak a very simple language: binary. Binary uses only two digits, 0 and 1, to represent all information. Every photo, sound, message, and program on your device is made up of long sequences of these tiny bits. Binary is a base-2 number system where 0 means off and 1 means on. Think of binary like a row of light switches. Each switch can only be up (1) or down (0). By combining many switches together, a computer can represent letters, numbers, instructions, and more. One of the most popular ways we teach binary to students is by making binary bracelets. These are fun, colourful, and secretly packed with computer science learning! We use beads to represent the digits (dark bead = 0, light bead = 1). Students choose a letter, often the first letter of their name, and convert it into its binary equivalent.

binary homework 1

①	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
= 5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
②	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
= 10	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
③	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
= 130	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
④	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
= 76	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
⑤	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
= 255	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1



Year 9 have been creating websites using a piece of software called RocketCake. RocketCake is free software that is intuitive and easy to use. It has the added bonus of being the same software we use for web development on the GCSE iMedia course we offer at Key Stage 4. This is useful because it gives pupils an idea of what the course entails if they are interested.

If you are interested, RocketCake can be downloaded for free from [Ambiera](#).



BEBRAS SUCCESS

OUR STUDENTS COMPLETE THE RASPBERRY PI FOUNDATION CODING CHALLENGE!

We are delighted to share that our students have now successfully completed the second round of the UK Bebras Challenge - the prestigious Raspberry Pi Foundation Coding Challenge!

Having qualified through their outstanding performance in the 2025 Bebras computational thinking competition, our participating students demonstrated excellent focus, creativity, and resilience during this advanced coding round. The Raspberry Pi Foundation Coding Challenge is open only to those who took part in the UK Bebras Challenge and provides an exciting opportunity for learners aged 10+ to extend their skills in real programming tasks.

Throughout the challenge, students worked through tasks that tested logical and structured thinking, creative problem-solving, algorithm design, and debugging and testing skills.

A huge congratulations to every student who took part. Your hard work, curiosity, and determination continue to inspire us. We cannot wait to see where your computational thinking and programming journeys take you next!

YEAR 7

- Jackob W 7TG2
- Alex D 7TG2
- George W 7TG6
- Oscar V 7TG5
- Ilsa C 7TG5
- Armel C 7TG4
- Isla J 7TG4
- Hugo S 7TG4
- Ruben N 7TG2
- Cormac S 7TG2
- Ben B 7TG2
- Finley J 7TG4
- Roisin LW 7TG4

YEAR 8

- Adea M 8TG4
- Martha W 8TG5
- Madeleine P 8TG4
- Sophie M 8TG2



We have recently borrowed some Sphero Bolts from our local computing hub for students to use in Coding Club on Wednesday after school. Sphero Bolts are spherical, programmable robots designed primarily for STEM education, coding, and interactive play. Controlled via Bluetooth through a smartphone app, they allow users to learn block-based coding. They can also be programmed using both Python and JavaScript.



They have proved very popular among our KS3 students this term. Coding Club members Matthew J, Ollie M and Robbie S can be seen using the Spheros above.



MR LAM

EXTRA CURRICULAR



MISS MCMURDO

Eleven motivated Year 7 and 8 students recently travelled to the ARUP's offices in Bristol, where they took part in the ModeShift Active Travel Ambassadors' Campaign Junction - an inspiring competition centred on improving active travel across the city. As part of the experience, the students also had the opportunity to meet and consult with industry experts, gaining valuable insight into urban planning, environmentally friendly schemes and work within the Bristol Council.

With enthusiasm, confidence and clarity, the team delivered an impressive pitch outlining their creative ideas for encouraging safer, greener and more accessible active travel for young people. Their professionalism and passion shone through, earning them £200 in funding.

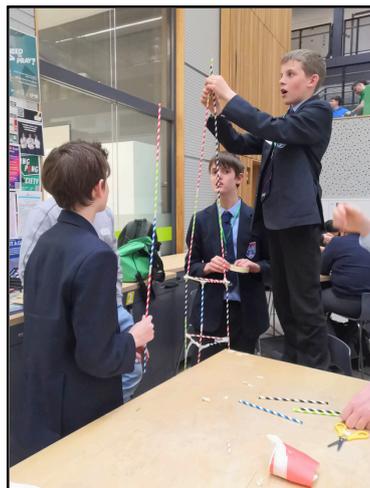
The students are now excited to put this award into action, using the money to support initiatives that will enhance active travel options in Bristol. A huge well done to all involved - their teamwork, public-speaking skills, and thoughtful engagement with experts made the visit a great success, and their efforts are helping shape a more sustainable future for the community. Stay tuned for more on their upcoming initiatives!



Our two teams, Bristol Bazookas and Dynamic Duo, qualified for the Bristol Regional Finals on the Flying Start Challenge. The Flying Start Challenge is a STEM outreach initiative that aims to ignite young people's interest in STEM subjects, and to develop the necessary skills to pursue and succeed in a STEM career.

They were part of twenty-two teams from sixteen local schools coming together at the University of the West of England (UWE) for an inspiring day of STEM challenges and competition. Students took part in a range of activities, including presenting to judges about their learning, designing and building a balloon-powered vehicle, constructing the tallest possible structure using only straws, testing their knowledge in a flight-themed quiz and taking part in the exciting fly-off glider competition. A special congratulations goes to the Bristol Bazookas, who built both the tallest structure of the entire event and achieved the furthest distance travelled by a balloon-powered vehicle. An outstanding double achievement.

We are incredibly proud of both teams for their hard work, teamwork, and creativity. It was fantastic to see students so engaged and motivated, with many now feeling inspired to consider opportunities in higher education. Well done to all involved.



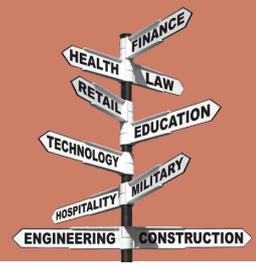
YEAR 7 & 8

YEAR 8



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 joined by Trevor Latham, a pilot with easyJet, who delivered an insightful and inspiring overview of what a career as a pilot involves.

Trevor started by giving us an introduction to easyJet - they have 354 aircraft (Airbus A320 Family), 3 Air Operator Certificates (AOC), fly to 35 countries, using 160 airports and 1099 routes. Roles within easyJet include operations, cabin crew, engineers and flight crew. Trevor began by outlining the basic entry requirements to become a pilot: Minimum age is 18, hold a Class 1 Medical Certificate, able to swim, 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English, maths and science, security screening clearance, and have the right to live and work in the UK.

Trevor explained that there are nine key competencies required to become an airline pilot:

1. Workload management skills
2. Situational awareness (runway, nearby aircraft, surroundings)
3. Flight path management - manual
4. Flight path management - automated/autopilot
5. Leadership and teamwork
6. Application of procedures
7. Communication skills
8. Problem solving and decision making skills
9. Technical knowledge



He highlighted that many of these skills apply to everyday life, not just aviation. Trevor then asked the room what they wanted their pilots to know, answers included knowing where they are going, how to fly the plane and how to land the plane. Trevor expanded on this, explaining that pilots must understand both theory and aircraft systems, including how an aircraft flies - crucial for dealing with unexpected situations, hydraulics - functions, potential failures, and backup systems, electronics - how they operate and what to do if they fail, and navigation - locating the aircraft and identifying the nearest airport.

Once accepted onto a training programme, the first six months are usually spent in ground school studying for 13 exams:

- Air Law
- Aircraft General Knowledge (Airframe/Systems/Powerplant)
- Aircraft General Knowledge (Instrumentation)
- Mass & Balance
- Performance
- Flight Planning & Monitoring
- Human Performance
- Meteorology
- General Navigation
- Radio Navigation
- Operational Procedures
- Principles of Flight
- VFR Communications

Trevor outlined two recognised training pathways. The first is Multi-Crew Pilot Licence which is linked to a specific airline, cheaper overall, you receive a job offer with airline on completion although this can be higher risk if the airline collapses. This route costs about £80,000. The second pathway is Airline Transport Pilot Licence (Modular or Integrated) which can be completed as part of a degree, is more flexible, can be modular or full-time (approx. 18 months), and requires a selection test however it is typically more expensive costing £120,000+.

Pilot training is costly, and although airlines invest heavily, some of this cost is passed to trainees however the starting salary and salary progression can outweigh these training costs. easyJet's salary progression starts at £62,000 going up to £200,000 for a captain.

Career Pathways and Lifestyle

Trevor shared his personal journey, having previously spent 13 years as a maths teacher before pursuing pilot training modularly, allowing him to work between modules to fund the next stage.

With many airlines currently recruiting, opportunities in the industry are strong. As a short-haul easyJet pilot, Trevor completes outward and return flights on the same day, which suits his preference to be home daily. In contrast, long-haul pilots often spend three days on the ground abroad before returning, offering travel opportunities but more time away from home.

To maintain their licence, pilots must complete at least five landings every 90 days. Short-haul pilots achieve this easily, while long-haul pilots may find it more challenging. All pilots are capped at 100 flying hours per month. Even when the aircraft is on autopilot, pilots are busy monitoring weather, systems, and communicating with cabin crew. They must also be prepared to respond to unexpected situations, such as making quick decisions if a passenger becomes unwell.

We would like to thank Trevor once again for an inspiring, insightful and engaging talk on becoming a pilot.

COMING UP...

24 April: Ministry of Defence
1 May: Blood Sciences

15 May: Rail Engineering
22 May: Veterinarian (UoB)

BFS SPORTS

 BFS_TeamPE



MS URCH

On Wednesday 18 March, our Year 7 girls football team attended St Bede's Catholic College for their final game of the football season.

With a penalty from Leonora and a goal from Margot, the girls headed into the final 5 minutes at an equal 2-2, but St Bede's just took the win with a goal to see the game out. Throughout, the students made significant progress and it was a lovely evening in the sun!



BFS edged a close contest against St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School this week, taking the lead in the first half through a well-taken finish from Jack. Both sides competed strongly throughout, with BFS defending confidently under pressure. Late in the game, BFS were awarded a penalty, although the crowd were split on whether it should have been given. The spot-kick was calmly converted, sealing a 2-0 victory. Well done boys.



COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for our ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

Dive into the fascinating world of engineering with this four, half-day, virtual course. Open to students in yr 8/9 who want to engage in exciting and innovative hands-on activities.

- **Cyber Security:** experience the intriguing world of cyber defence. Learn to identify threats and develop coding skills using professional coding programmes.
- **Electrical Engineering:** explore automotive aerodynamics and energy storage whilst designing and building a high-performance supercharged rover.
- **Space:** Blast into space and tackle astronaut-style challenges, learning how communication and teamwork make missions possible.

Virtual Course

25-28 August 2026

Cost: £150 (or apply for a Fully Funded Place!)



"3 words that sum up this course for me are inspiring, enlightening and creative. I've really enjoyed it!"
2025 student

How to apply

Scan here...



smallpeicetrust.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 313719

*NB: If attended an Engineering Experience course before, some modules may already have been completed. If you are unsure, please contact info@smallpeicetrust.org.uk



Fun & skills filled hockey camps for all abilities

JUNIOR HOCKEY CAMPS 2026

For ages: 10-14 girls & boys



WED 8TH & THURS 9TH APRIL
10AM - 3PM (Register from 9.30AM)
BADMINTON SCHOOL ASTRO
BRISTOL, BS9 3BA

£35 per day or
£60 for 2 days

Bring your own lunch & drinks
Sticks provided
Shinpads & gumshields a must, please provide yourself

TO BOOK: Email Cath Coombs on
JnrManager.RedlandLadiesHockey@gmail.com
A booking form will then be sent

MORE INFO, VISIT : WWW.REDLANGLADIESHOCKEY.CO.UK/

Your Holiday HUB Bristol

Hundreds of holiday activities are available in Bristol
Eligibility criteria apply



Sports



Day trips

Cookery



Performing arts

Crafts

yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk



Funded by UK Government



Department for Education



HAF funded by DfE – supported by Bristol City Council, BAND, Feeding Bristol and Playful Bristol

Free online & in person support sessions

Neurodiversity Without a Diagnosis
St Werburgh's Community Centre, BS2
Wednesday 1st April
10AM-11:30AM



Dad's Parent Carer Session
Online
Wednesday 22nd April
7PM-8:30PM



Peer Support
Greenway Centre Southmead, BS10
Thursday 23rd April
9:15AM-10:30AM

EBSA Support
Greenway Centre Southmead, BS10
Thursday 23rd April
11AM-12:30PM

Peer Support

Online
Thursday 23rd April
7PM-8PM



Scan here for details on these sessions and more



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

Home To School Travel - Post 16
Online
Tuesday 28th April
10AM-11:30AM



Peer Support
Fishponds Old Library
Fishponds, BS16
Thursday 30th April
9AM-11AM



Understanding Support for Your Child's Needs
St Anne's House
Brislington, BS4
Thursday 30th April
10AM-12PM



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

