

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

This is a shorter message than usual as it has been a very busy week due to our Ofsted inspection.

Firstly, I would like to thank all parents and carers who completed the Ofsted survey. The response rate was exceptionally high, with 96% of you saying you would recommend the school to others. Ofsted also read out several of the supportive comments you submitted, which was truly wonderful to hear.

Our students were absolutely fantastic throughout the inspection. Ofsted spoke to more than 200 students to find out about their experiences of school and their learning. They concluded that our students are happy, safe and very proud of their school—exactly as it should be.

I would also like to recognise the incredible effort and professionalism of all our staff. They have worked exceptionally hard throughout the term, and their dedication was clear for Ofsted to see. The inspectors commented on the strength of our school community, which is very much a reflection of the commitment of every member of the team.

The Ofsted gradings for BFS are not yet available as they now go through a moderation process. However, I can confirm that the inspection was both fair and thorough, and that the inspectors saw the school at its very best.

As we break up for the Spring holiday today, I want to wish every member of our school community a very happy and restful break. It has been an important and productive term. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students return to their final preparation for the summer exam season—so happy revising!

School reopens for students on Monday 20 April.

Best wishes,

Mrs S King
Headteacher



MRS KING

Easter is a special time for Christians around the world and lies at the heart of their faith. It tells a powerful story that moves from sadness to celebration.

Good Friday remembers the cross, a symbol of love, sacrifice and compassion. Though solemn, it reflects the depth of Jesus' love and the hope that can be found even in difficult moments. Easter Sunday then brings great joy, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and the message of new life and fresh beginnings.

Easter is a time to reflect on hope, kindness and renewal, values that resonate with us all as we look forward to brighter days ahead. Mrs Kinnersley loves this time of year and will be celebrating Easter with her family, enjoying both the meaning of the season and time spent together.

May this Easter bring peace, hope and joy to you all, and may the coming weeks be filled with new beginnings and brighter days.

Happy Easter!

from Mrs Kinnersley and all at BFS





NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



WEEK 1 AT BFS

No sports clubs this week

Monday 20 April

First Day of Term 5

Tuesday 21 April

Y10 Exams (until Tuesday 28 April)

Wednesday 22 April

DofE Bronze Practice Expedition Group 1 (back Thursday)

Friday 24 April

DofE Bronze Practice Expedition Group 2 (back Saturday)
Spring Concert at Elmlea School

QUICK LINKS



Lunch Menu

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Term Dates

Key Dates

Student/Parent Handbook

Past Newsletters

EASTER ACTIVITIES



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. 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](#).

SUMMER SHOWCASE

Summer SHOWCASE

The annual BFS Music and Drama Summer Showcase will be on Monday 29 June.

If you would like to perform this year, now is the time to start preparing your act! Auditions will be taking place from Week 2 of Term 5. Acts will need to be performance-ready at the auditions.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Where possible, please book routine medical appointments outside of school hours to avoid disruption to education. Where this is not possible, please send your child to school before and after the appointment to minimise the impact on their education. If your child is in school at 8.30am and 1.20pm they will get their present attendance marks in the legal register.

Please let school know 48 hours in advance of any medical appointment by emailing admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk.

Please provide:

- Evidence of the appointment
- The time that your child will be collected
- A rough time that you will return your child
- The date of the appointment

Students are responsible for getting themselves to Main Reception in D Block to sign out. Students will be released when their parent/carer buzzes on the carpark gate.

SPORTS CLUBS

Sports 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

Y8-9 Dance

Y7 Rounders

Thursday

All years athletics

All years tennis

TERM 5 KEY DATES

Friday 3 - Friday 17 April	Easter Holidays - School closed to all students
Monday 20 April	First Day of Term 5
Tuesday 21 - Tuesday 28 April	Year 10 Exams
Tuesday 21 - Wednesday 6 May	GCSE & A Level MFL Oral Exams
Wednesday 22 - Thursday 23 April	DofE Bronze Practice Expedition Group 1
Wednesday 22 - Friday 24 April	A Level Photography Exam
Thursday 23 - Friday 24 April	GCSE Photography Exam
Friday 24 - Saturday 25 April	DofE Bronze Practice Expedition Group 2
Tuesday 28 April	Y12 UCAS Discovery Exhibition Event
Tuesday 28 - Thursday 30 April	A Level Art Exam
Wednesday 29 April	Y7 & Y8 Junior Maths Challenge
Wednesday 29 - Thursday 30 April	GCSE Art Exam
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday - School closed to all students
Tuesday 5 - Friday 15 May	Year 8 Exams
Tuesday 5 May - Wednesday 17 June	Y11 Summer Exam Series
Tuesday 5 May - Wednesday 17 June	Y13 Summer Exam Series
Thursday 7 - Saturday 9 May	DofE Silver Practice Expedition
Tuesday 12 May	Y9 Vaccinations - MenACWY/DtP
Wednesday 13 - Thursday 14 May	DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition Group 1
Friday 15 - Saturday 16 May	DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition Group 2
Tuesday 19 & Thursday 21 May	Sports Leaders at W-o-T Primary School Sports Day
Friday 22 May	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 25 - Friday 29 May	Half Term - School closed to all students



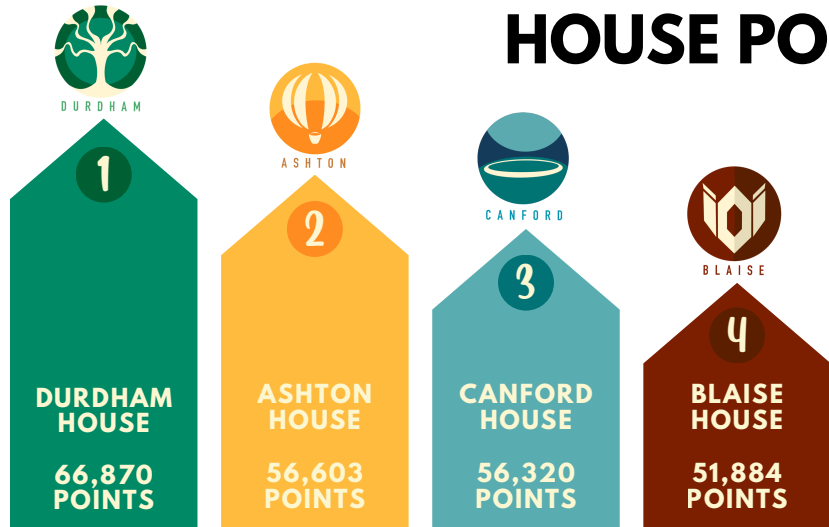
HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS

HOUSE POINT LEADERBOARD

END OF TERM 4



Durdham are currently in the lead for the House cup.

Well done Durdham!

Top House Point Earners

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Amelia D	Philip D	Nico P-P, Jack R	Ollie S
Year 8	Leila P	Amelia F	Harrison F	Noah C
Year 9	Oliver S	Seth M, Isla F	Cara S	Emily S
Year 10	Miranda R	Lucy H	Harry F	Esther D
Year 11	Harvey T	Benjamin W, Luke W	Mae D	Rose B
TOP HOUSE POINT EARNER ACROSS YEAR GROUP				
Year 12	Sofie M, Maddie H, Ethan S			
Year 13	Raivo B			

HOUSE FRIDAYS



HOUSE FRIDAYS



Last week students had the chance to get one up on their teachers with a Beat the Teacher at Chess competition. The students battled hard and managed 3 impressive wins and 2 stalemates, but Mr MacBlain and Mr Witchard were too strong in the end and came away with 6 wins. Grandmaster Witchard even managed a stunning 4-move win. The House Win went to Ashton.



Today, there was an **Easter Egg Hunt** and **Guess the Number of Eggs in a Jar**. More details next term.

STUDENT CORNER

It has been a fantastic, active week for BFS as we have all taken part in Move-a-Mile. First, we would like to say a massive well done for all those who took part in the event - whether you walked, jogged or sprinted. This year, we raised £2,500 which will be split between our four House charities: St Peter's Hospice, North Bristol Foodbank, The Grand Appeal, and Southmead Development Trust (The Ranch).



We interviewed staff and students from each year group to find out their point of view on this event.

How does Move a Mile affect BFS as a community?

"Well, it brings the school together as a community because students get to actually run and participate in something, but furthermore, it actually brings the outside community into BFS because we want to work closely with our local charities, so we feel that we are a community as a school, but we're also part of a much wider community." - **Mr MacBlain**

"I think it's an opportunity to give back to the community in terms of the charities that we raise money for. Also, it is something for a whole year group to do together and build connections between students. You see a lot of the teachers running with the students too which is nice. I think when people see how easy it can be to organise something fun like this to raise money, then they can do that for the community themselves one day in different ways." - **Mr Johnson**

MOVE-A-MILE CHARITY EVENT



Year 7 - What did you think of your first Move-a-Mile event?

"I found the run very exciting, and it brought me joy to run with my friends for a good cause."

"Running around the MUGA with the music in the background was just so much FUN!"

"My favourite part about it was sprinting round and beating all my friends!"



Year 8

Year 8 - Did you enjoy Move-a-Mile?

"Yes, it's a good way of getting everyone moving together as a community!"

"It was nice to see everybody active and all running as a group."

"I didn't find it hard - It was just me and my friends having a good time running together."

"I definitely think that the school should do more things like this - we should do more races and fun runs."



Year 9 - How do you feel?

"I am going to jog it and speed up towards the end."

"I felt refreshed and proud."



Year 10 - Why did you take part in Move-a-Mile?

"Move a Mile has been going on since I was in lower school and I think that it is a great way of getting the school involved in raising money for our House charities."

"I really like Move-a-Mile. I think it's a good way to start the morning because it gets everyone really excited and I think a bit of exercise is really good for your brain and it helps you think a lot better."

"The music was great and everyone taking part was really supportive and you didn't feel on your own."

"I really like running, so getting it in at the start of the day made me feel energetic and brighter for today."

"I think there is a stigma around trying and taking part. This needs to be challenged as exercise can be very enjoyable no matter your ability."

"I think Move-a-Mile brings us all together as a community and makes everybody feel closer together."



Sixth Form

Thank you to the Head and Deputy Head Students who helped to organise the event with Mr MacBlain and Mr Johnson. They kept everyone motivated each morning!

Interviews, photographs and report by Year 7 Journalism Club members Margot S, Amelia D, Ruby B, Zahra R, Amara P, and Lara W.



Subject Spotlight History



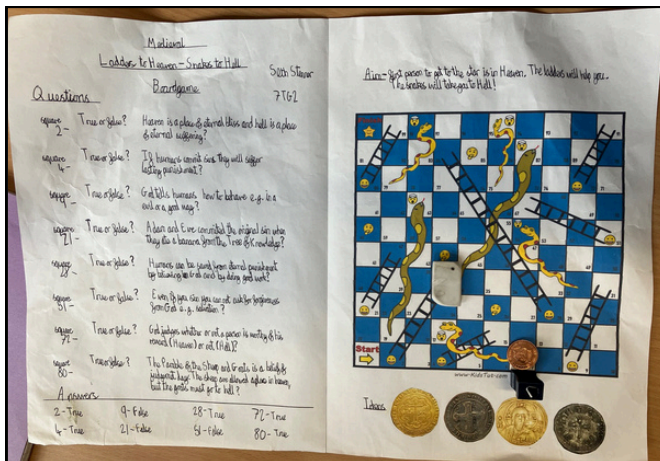
HISTORY NEWS!

As we approach the end of Term 4, here is a look back at some of the stellar work students have been doing in history.

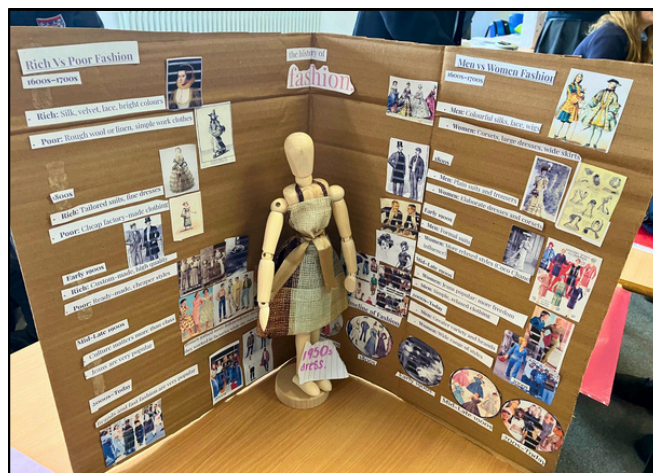
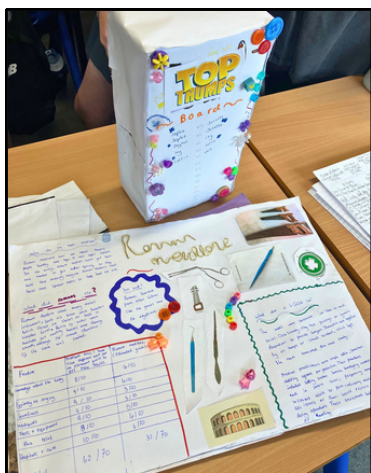
Year 7 have been studying life in the medieval period, exploring questions such as *Did people have fun in the Middle Ages?* and *What was crime and punishment like in Medieval England?* They have also been studying two of the major events of the medieval period, the Black Death and the Peasants' Revolt. As students have been delving into plague and rebellion, they have been considering which of these tumultuous events was most significant and why.



Finally, at the start of the term, Year 7 completed their independent learning projects on medieval religion producing some fabulous board games on how to get to medieval heaven and avoid purgatory, as well some beautiful Islamic Golden Age treasure boxes. Well done everyone.



Year 8 began the term taking part in some fabulous oracy work presenting on their favourite and most significant inventions of the Industrial Age! More recently, students have been exploring the age of empire - examining the origins and impact of British colonialism. Students have been honing their knowledge of the East India Company, considering contrasting interpretations on how we should remember the British Empire and the role of individuals such as Gandhi in the road to Indian independence.



Year 8 students have been sharing their amazing independent research projects on areas of any period or aspect of history that is of particular interest to them. We have seen some wonderful projects on themes such as women at war, the Romans, the space race and fashion. Well done!

Our students recently completed an exciting House History Project. Each student chose a topic that sparked their curiosity and explored it through research, conversations with family members, and creative investigation. They then presented their findings in a format of their choice - everything from models and posters to artefacts. The project not only strengthened their research skills but also encouraged them to express their learning in ways that felt meaningful and uniquely their own.

8TG3 Winners: Jacob W, Lottie W, Louis G, Izzy C, Harriet W

8TG6 Winners: Sophia B, Luke E, Jack W, Eleanor B, Charlie L



Lastly for Key Stage 3, **Year 9** students have recently begun their studies into the Second World War. They have explored some of the key turning points of the conflict such as Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain, and the role and significance of the Commonwealth and Empire in supporting the war effort. They have also dug into their local history examining what impact the war had on Bristol such as the Bristol Blitz and how the war began to transform the city into the cosmopolitan metropolis we know today

It has also been a busy time for our GCSE and A Level students.

Year 10 are preparing for their End of Year Exam on Medicine in Britain and Medicine on the Western Front during World War One. We wish you the best of luck!

A big shout out as well to our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they prepare for their respective GCSE and A Level exams. They have worked unbelievably hard over the last two years and now comes the final push with revision as we head to the summer series. It has been a pleasure teaching you and we wish you all the very best of luck for your upcoming exams and for the future!



MISS MCMURDO

READING

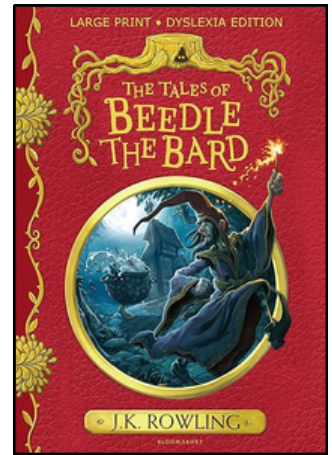
BOOK REVIEWS

Tales of Beedle the Bard by JK Rowling Review by Amelia, Year 8

This is the book Hermione Granger receives from Albus Dumbledore's will. She translated it from ancient runes to be enjoyed by wizard and non-wizard (commonly known as muggles) alike.

The late Albus Dumbledore shares his views on each of the five tales and investigates the origin of the prejudice against muggles with his wry humour.

The fables themselves are charming and reveal more and more of Rowling's incredible world. If you fancy a light read, and you are a fan of the wizarding world - this is for you.



Moreover, all of these books purchased go to helping the Children's High Level Group - giving children the hope they need in detention centres across Europe.

BFS SPORTS



MS URCH

HOCKEY

U14 Boys at the West of England Hockey Finals

On Wednesday, our U14 boys travelled to Taunton School to compete in the West of England Hockey Finals, facing the group winners from Wiltshire, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, and Dorset. The standard of hockey on display was exceptional, and our boys rose to the challenge with determination and real team spirit.

After a disappointing first loss to The Ridgeway School, the team regrouped brilliantly. They went on to play another six highly competitive matches, securing a couple of well-earned draws and suffering only narrow defeats. Throughout the day, the boys showcased resilience, great attitudes, and a real love for the game.



They were a fantastic group to take away - competitive, supportive of one another, and excellent ambassadors for BFS and Avon. A special mention goes to Jamie, who was named Player of the Tournament for us. As goalkeeper, he made countless impressive saves and showed a natural talent for the position.

Thank you to Mrs L Jones for accompanying us for the day. Well done to all the boys involved, you did us proud.

House Volleyball

Well done to everyone who took part in House Volleyball this term. The final House points are:

1st Ashton - 368

2nd Durdham - 332

3rd Canford - 283

4th Blaise - 278



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

On Saturday 21 March, 230 Year 9, 10 and 12 students took part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award skills day - the first step towards completing their expeditions. Students spent the first part of the morning planning the routes that they will take before diving into learning the skills they need to complete the expeditions safely. They learned proper techniques for cooking, first aid, packing their rucksacks, and how to pitch the tents they will be sleeping in.



MR MILSTEAD

The first practice expeditions start when we return from Easter break.

YEAR 9, 10 & 12



COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Your Holiday HUB

Department for Education

BRISTOL CORE

BAND Making Children Count

FEEDING BRISTOL

PLAYFUL BRISTOL

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



Free Wellbeing and Careers Talks

Rivers For All

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) are running a project aimed at improving knowledge and access to rivers and blue spaces for minority groups, including ethnic minorities, children with additional needs, and those from economically deprived areas/families.

- Session length: up to 1 hour
- Can be delivered to one class, or to an entire year group in a combined hall session.
- Learn about green and blue careers, and spark an interest about working in the conservation industry.
- Learn about the positive impacts of rivers and nature to your wellbeing.

Places are limited!

To book a class in for a session, please email page@bristolavonriverstrust.org



MURMURATION COMMUNITY THERAPY



HOW DO WE STAY SANE AS SEND PARENTS?!

The system feels impossible and there is never a break.

Join an 8 week course to build emotional wellbeing and solidarity with other SEND parents

Wednesday mornings 10.00-11.30am from 29th April - Long cross centre, Lawrence Weston



RUN BY PARENTS WHO GET IT - BOOK ON AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

'Life changing. I now feel that I can cope.'



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

