

Newsletter



What's In This Issue?

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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we move into Term 6, student leadership brings both a fond farewell and an exciting welcome. Mrs King, the 2025/26 Head Students and I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Year 12 students for the new Head Student roles. We received 26 applications, and the standard was exceptionally high – in truth, we could have selected them all. It was wonderful to hear how confidently and thoughtfully students spoke about their experiences at BFS. Our core values were clearly reflected in each interview, demonstrating how firmly they are now embedded within our school community.



MR MACBLAIN

Ultimately, we had the difficult task of selecting eight students to lead the Houses over the coming year, and it was by no means an easy decision. Before looking ahead, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our outgoing Head Students for the enthusiasm and commitment they have shown in leading the student body. There are countless memorable moments, but highlights include their confidence when leading assemblies, engaging with over 500 parents at the Year 6 and Year 11 Open Evenings, and their fantastic support of fundraising activities, particularly Move-a-Mile. It has truly been a privilege to see their growth over the year, and they will be greatly missed.

Ashton: Jacob and Kaira
Blaise: Daisy and Lorraine
Canford: Grace and Dylan
Durdham: Martha and Patrick

With that said, the baton has now been passed, and I am delighted to introduce our new Head Students for 2026/27:

Ashton: Ben and Jess
Blaise: Mia and Laura
Canford: Sama and Harry
Durdham: Mohammed and Nathan

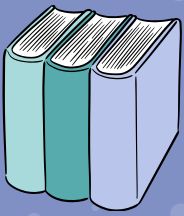


This year, we set out to broaden the opportunities available to our students, and as a result, we are delighted to introduce four new leadership positions: Lead Students. Each of these students will take on specific responsibilities across key areas of school life, including vertical mentoring, student communication, and extra-curricular activities.

Our newly appointed Head Students and Lead Students have each prepared a short introduction, sharing more about themselves, their interests, and their aspirations for the year ahead. These can be found on [pages 5 and 6](#). We wish them every success as they embark on their leadership journey.

Mr MacBlain
Assistant Headteacher

A NOTE FROM MR MACBLAIN



NOTICE BOARD



BFS_Bristol



BFS_Enrichment



CALENDAR

NEXT WEEK AT BFS

Monday 8 June

Y7 EoY Exams (until Friday 19 June)
 Y10 Harry Potter Studios Trip
 Y11 Summer Exams (until Wednesday 17 June)
 Y12 EoY Exams (until Friday 19 June)
 Y13 Summer Exams (until Friday 19 June)

Tuesday 9 June

Sports Leaders at Elmlea Schools Sports Day
 Y9 Big Bang Fair Trip
 Y10 Photography Exam (until Wednesday 10 June)

Wednesday 10 June

Y10 HSC UWE Glenside Trip
 Y10 Subject Evening

Thursday 11 June

Green Futures Programme Trip, University of Bath
 Y10 Art Exam (until Friday 12 June)
 Y10 Subject Evening

Friday 12 June

House Fridays: TBC

QUICK LINKS



[Lunch Menu](#)

[Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Key Dates](#)

[Student/Parent Handbook](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

WE'RE HIRING

[Teacher of Business & Economics](#)

CATERING

The proposed new School Food Standards are now out for consultation, with the consultation closing on 12 June 2026. Have your say [here](#).

Our caterers, Impact Food Group, have reviewed the proposed changes and created this [summary document](#) to help parents and carers understand what is being suggested, how this compares with the current standards, and what the changes could mean in practice.

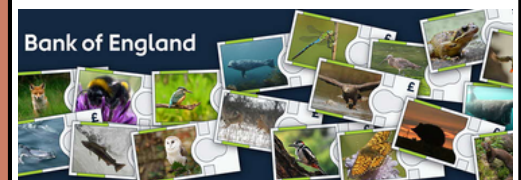
Their nutrition team has reviewed the consultation in detail and shared their thoughts on what the changes could mean for schools, pupils and menus in practice. You can read their full reflections in the PDF linked [here](#).

VOTING FOR WILDLIFE

The next series of banknotes will be nature themed to celebrate the UK's wildlife! The Bank of England are asking people to vote for their favourite British wildlife to feature on the notes. Place your vote and then let us know your favourite to receive House points!

Vote here: [Bank of England](#)

Email Head of Biology, [Ms Hawes](#), with your favourite animal.



ATTENDANCE

PENALTY NOTICES AND PROSECUTIONS FOR IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE AND UNAUTHORISED LATES

School attendance is really important, which is why we take attendance seriously at BFS. Recent research has shown that good attendance is strongly linked both to outcomes at GCSE and future earnings. We expect students to attend for at least 96% of the year. We work with Bristol City Council to fine and prosecute parents and carers for unauthorised absences. This can be for being late after the register closes at 9am, unauthorised holidays, school refusal and other unauthorised reasons.

Current fines are:

- 1st offence in a rolling 3-year period: £80 per parent per child (rising to £160 if not paid within 21 days).
- 2nd offence in a rolling 3-year period: £160 per parent per child.
- 3rd offence in a rolling 3-year period: prosecution or other legal measures will be considered. Prosecution can lead to fines of up to £2,500, 3 months' imprisonment and a criminal record.

TERM 6 KEY DATES

Monday 1 June	First Day of Term 6
Monday 1 June - Wednesday 17 June	Y11 Summer Exam Series
Monday 1 June - Friday 19 June	Y13 Summer Exam Series
Monday 8 June - Friday 19 June	Year 7 Exams
Monday 8 June - Thursday 18 June	Year 12 Exams
Tuesday 9 - Wednesday 10 June	Year 10 Photography Exam
Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 June	Year 10 Subject Evening
Thursday 11 - Friday 12 June	Year 10 Art Exam
Thursday 18 - Friday 3 July	Year 9 Exams
Thursday 18 - Saturday 20 June	DofE Silver Qualifying & Gold Practice Expedition
Friday 19 June	Sixth Form Transition Day
Monday 22 June	Y9 Vaccinations - HPV
Tuesday 23 June	Year 13 Leavers' Assembly & Ball
Wednesday 24 June	INSET Day - School closed to all students Year 11 Leavers' Assembly & Ball
Monday 29 June	Music and Drama Summer Showcase
Wednesday 1 - Friday 3 July	Y10 Work Experience
Thursday 2 July	GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition Launch
Monday 6 July	Y7-9 STEM Day Y10 & 12 Careers Day
Tuesday 7 July	Sports Day
Wednesday 8 - Friday 10 July	Y7-10 Enrichment Week & Y12 Work Experience
Wednesday 8 - Sunday 12 July	DofE Gold Qualifying Expedition
Thursday 16 July	Annual Awards Evening
Friday 17 July	Last Day of Term 6 (12.30pm finish for students)



HOUSE NEWS



HOUSE POINTS



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

Well done Durdham!

Top House Point Earners

	Ashton	Blaise	Canford	Durdham
Year 7	Molly B	Dollie G	Tyler D	Taylor P
Year 8	Samuel R, Willoughby S	Amelia F	Harriet J	Adrian G
Year 9	Max T	Seth M, Vivienne C	Daisy P	Emily S
Year 10	Miranda R	Zachary B	Maia B	Alba J-G
TOP HOUSE POINT EARNERS ACROSS YEAR GROUP				
Year 12	Sadane A, Eleanor W, Ralph T, Benjamin R			

HOUSE FRIDAYS



HOUSE FRIDAYS

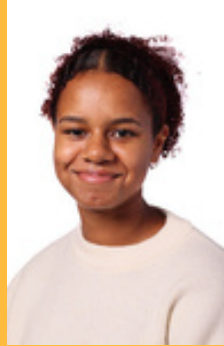
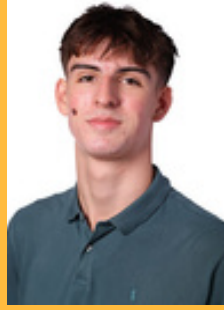


Thank you to all the bakers and to everyone who helped us raise £253 at the Eurovision Bake Sale. The money will be split between the four House Charities: The Wallace and Gromit Grand Appeal – Bristol Children's Hospital, The Ranch (Southmead Adventure Playground), Bristol North West Foodbank, St Peter's Hospice. There were some amazing bakes including a microphone cake, flag cakes, cakes inspired by the winners Bulgaria as well as many of the competing nations from Australian Lamingtons to Italian Tricolore cake. The Star Baker awards went to a cake version of a Eurovision stage set (most creative), and an Italian Genoese cake (best taste). Well done and a huge thank you to everyone who got involved. This week we are trying out Cup Stacking races for House Fridays and next week we will be tackling some World Cup Football Fun: a keepy-up competition during early lunch and penalty shootouts during late lunch.



ASHTON

Hi, my name is Ben and I'm excited to be the new Head Student for Ashton. For A Level I study maths, physics, further maths and politics, and I have been at BFS for 6 years now. I am passionate about our sense of community, and I am looking forward to helping all students grow and develop as they progress through school. I'm excited to play a more pivotal role in the school, and I can't wait to bring the knowledge I've gained over the years to help improve BFS for everyone. I also love football and sports, and I want to promote our value of ambition by providing extra-curriculars for all interests.



Hello, my name is Jessica and I'm honoured to be stepping into the role of Deputy Head Student for Ashton! I've been at BFS since Year 7 and am currently studying A Level psychology, biology and English literature. As a Head Student I hope to continue to develop the community here at BFS, which has supported me throughout the years, whilst fostering friendly competition between the Houses. I enjoy debate and public speaking and value the skills it helps develop. This is why I want to encourage all to get involved and use the opportunities available to enrich themselves and their experience at BFS. I'm so excited to work with you all and see what great things BFS has to come!

BLAISE

Hello! I'm Mia, I joined BFS in 2020 and, after 6 years in the school, I am going to be Head Student for Blaise next year! I'm studying maths, further maths, French and art, and outside of school I like to play tennis, the bass and I am a beginner runner. I love music and my dog is even named after my favourite singer.



I'm looking forward to taking my last year here as a chance to give back to the school community. In this role I would like to create more integration between Sixth Form and younger years as well as encouraging extra-curricular activities throughout the school.



Hi, my name is Laura and I am so excited to be the new Deputy Head Student for Blaise! I have been at BFS since Year 7 and I'm currently studying history, politics and sociology. I love playing and watching sport, especially rugby and would love to help support more girls to get into playing.

As Deputy Head Student I hope to encourage everyone to push themselves out of their comfort zone and make a difference by making sure everyone feels heard and ensure everyone feels comfortable and supported by our school community as I always have during my time at BFS.

CANFORD

My name is Sama and I am thrilled to be the Head Student for Canford. I am currently studying maths, further maths, physics and geography at A Level. I have been in BFS since Year 7 and am pleased to be able to give back to this wonderful community.



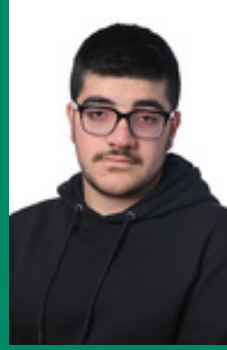
I have had an active role in BFS over the years: volunteering in the library, competing in ESU and contributing to Eco club. I am eager to bring all the skills I have acquired into this role and work my hardest to ensure your voices are heard and that a greater emphasis is put on environmental issues.



Hi, my name is Harry and I am thrilled to be stepping into the role of Deputy Head Student for Canford. I have been a part of BFS since Year 7 and have loved every second of it. I am currently studying geography, psychology and sociology at A Level. Beyond my academics, I love spending time outdoors and in nature, getting some quality fresh air and taking in the natural wonders. I am passionate about creating a sense of inclusion and community for all at BFS. Throughout my time here, I have always felt a sense of community, and I am excited to ensure everybody continues to feel the way I do. I look forward to taking on this new role at BFS and carrying it out to the best of my ability.

DURDHAM

Hi, my name is Mohammed and I'm thrilled to be your new Head Student for Durdham. I am currently studying biology, chemistry and maths, with the future goal of going into Medicine. As your Head Student, my main priority is to ensure your voice and ideas have a direct route to school leadership. I want to make sure your specific concerns are actually raised in meetings and that your suggestions are turned into real changes through House Parliament. I'm really looking forward to representing you all and making this a successful and positive year for our school!



My name is Nathan and I'm honoured to be Deputy Head for Durdham. I've been at BFS for nearly 6 years and I'm currently studying IT, business and geography. You've probably heard me drumming during your breaks or lunch, or maybe even during an awards evening or musical.

Learning to play bass guitar while on crutches a few years ago has made me realise that I, and everyone else, should always try something new and step out of their comfort zone, so I've since volunteered in school, taken part in the BEP Youth Talks and joined House Parliament. I hope to spread this motivation to try new things.

My name is Ben and I am very proud to be representing BFS as part of the first cohort of Lead Students. I am currently studying maths, physics, chemistry and history. Having been in this school since Year 7, I have enjoyed a host of amazing opportunities, such as attending Model UN conferences and playing in various sports teams.

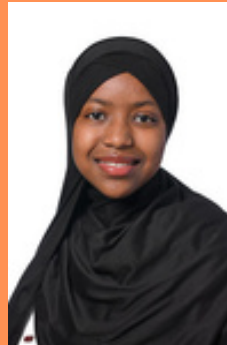
As a lead student, I hope to promote these and many other opportunities even further for you all to enjoy. Within our school, I will work hard to champion the sense of community and inclusivity, so if you have any suggestions, feel free to find me and let me know. I am looking forward to meeting all of you over the next year!



My name is Emlyn and I am very excited to be one of your new Lead Students. I am currently studying maths, further maths, physics and product design. I have a keen interest in extra-curricular activities within the school, and I'm excited to help get more and more students participating and enjoying those within my new role. I will also be closely involved in vertical mentoring, helping to set this up, bringing all years in the school closer together and strengthen the community. I'm looking forward to the year ahead!

Hi, my name is Sadane and I'm excited to take on the role of Lead Student. I joined BFS in Year 8 and am currently studying English literature, sociology and economics. Over the years, I've been involved in the school's community through bake sales, debate clubs, mentoring and many more.

As someone with an interest in the school's community and opportunities, my aspirations are to improve the impactful interactions and relationships we build in our social environment. I can't wait to see what else we can bring to BFS.



Hello there, I'm Mark. One of the four new Lead Students at BFS. I've been at BFS since Year 7 and I'm now studying biology, geography, psychology at A Level and I have an AS Level in core maths.

Since joining BFS I learned that everyone has a story to tell but may not have the confidence to express their true feelings. As Lead Students for communication I will aim to inspire people to be confident and have the ambition to be themselves. Whether that be through our podcast or just around the school. I look forward to seeing everyone grow and thrive in the year to come.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR & VERTICAL MENTORING

STUDENT COMMUNICATION & GLOBAL OBSERVANCES

Bristol Free School's

SUMMER SHOWCASE

COMING SOON!

Monday 29 June
4pm and 6.30pm
BFS Drama Hall



MISS MCMURDO

ENGLISH



BOOK REVIEW

Fearless By Lauren Roberts
Review by Amelia, Year 8

This is the final book in the best-selling trilogy!

Decades ago, the plague swept over the land, killing the weak. As for the strong...

They were granted special abilities and powers: healers, hybrids, being able to change form and manipulate emotions...

There was no limit.

Yet, not all were changed. Some people were simply... ordinary.

One day King Ederick decided that the 'ordinaries' (those without powers) were too weak as he banished them from his kingdom.

Paeden Grey is such an ordinary.

After running into trouble, she attempts to flee the kingdom. But the new King has other ideas...

And his brother, who she can't wrap her head around, still can't be hers. The question is...

Love or duty?



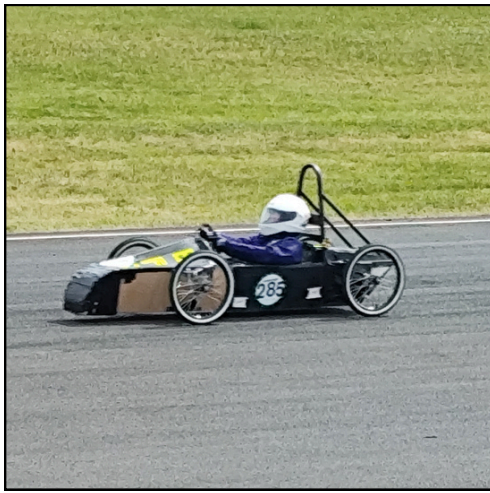


MR LAXON

EXTRA CURRICULAR



On Sunday 31 May, the BFS Engineering Club competed in the Greenpower Formula 24 at Castle Combe. This is a highly competitive, regional STEM racing heat hosted at the famous Wiltshire motorsport circuit. It challenges secondary school students to design, build, and race electric single-seater cars. Teams aim to complete the furthest distance within 90 minutes using just a single set of batteries. A notoriously technical and fast layout, Castle Combe's 1.85-mile track tests both the aerodynamic efficiency and battery management of the custom-built electric vehicles. The BFS team came 46/52 in Race 1 and 27/52 in Race 2, which was astonishing for a debut. Well done to everyone involved!



MRS SLADE

FOOD TECH



Year 8 students have been exploring the challenge of cooking healthy meals on a budget, developing valuable life skills in the kitchen. Some have taken a creative twist by making 'fakeaways' - producing healthier, cost-effective versions of their favourite takeaway dishes.



BFS SPORTS



MRS BALLARD



NOTICE

SPORTS DAY - TUESDAY 7 JULY

Sports Day is held in Term 6 - the day that we all love and have the best time! Where teachers and students alike get into the competitive spirit, cheer on one another and score as many points as possible for their House. Last year, we introduced sports day events into lessons across Years 7-10 and we will be doing the same this year. Everyone gains a point for being in the lesson and participating in the event of shot putt, javelin and long jump, with the top 3 students achieving extra points for their House that will go towards the total on sports day itself. So bring your competitive spirit to your PE lessons in Term 6! We cannot wait to see who wins this year!

NOTICE

SUMMER WEATHER

We are hoping the sunshine appears and stays, but we need to be vigilant in PE.

Students **must have**:

- water bottle, filled before the lesson and brought to the lesson
- Suncream

Students **can have**:

- baseball cap

Sunglasses are not permitted.

SPORTS LEADERS

At the end of Term 5, BFS Sports leaders attended Westbury-on-Trym C of E Academy to support with the KS2 sports day. Students spent the morning creating and coaching games to do with running, throwing and jumping for Year 3-6 pupils. They were all amazing, demonstrating fantastic leadership, communication and confidence. In the afternoon they all supported members of staff in the main sports day, organising students, handing out stickers, supporting with equipment and encouraging everyone taking part. It was a fantastic day!



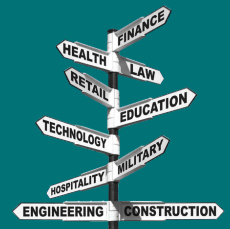
UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 9 June	Y9 & Y10 Boys Cricket vs Blaise High School	Blaise High School
Wednesday 10 June	Y8 Girls Cricket Festival	Yate
Wednesday 10 June	Y7 & Y8 Boys Cricket vs Bristol Cathedral Choir School	Failand
Thursday 11 June	Y7 & Y8 Athletics	Kellaway Avenue



MRS SMITH

CAREERS



PHARMACY CAREERS

On Friday, we welcomed Dr Helen Ireland, who spoke to students about exploring opportunities in pharmacy. Helen works as a Pharmacy Workforce Lead across University Hospitals Bristol and Weston, as well as Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board.

The session explored what pharmacy is and how pharmacy professionals play a vital role in healthcare. Students learned that pharmacy focuses on ensuring patients receive the right medicine, at the right dose, at the right time, and in the right way, while also supporting them to use medicines safely and effectively.

The session began with a short video showing pharmacy professionals working in different settings. Helen asked the students what they thought of the video, and responses highlighted the engaging music and format, the opportunity to learn more about the role of pharmacy staff, and the wide variety of careers and workplaces available.

Helen then asked the group whether anyone had ever taken medicine and explained that, if so, they would already have had contact with a pharmacy professional. She outlined that medicines can include common treatments such as Calpol for pain relief as well as vaccinations. Students understood that medicines are used to help people recover when unwell, prevent illness, manage long-term conditions through daily treatment, and, in some cases, save lives. The discussion also covered how medicines enter the body, including tablets and liquids taken orally, inhalers used for breathing conditions, and vaccinations or injections delivered directly into the body.

Helen went on to explain the key skills needed to succeed in pharmacy. These include strong communication skills to work effectively with patients, families, and colleagues such as doctors, nurses, and other pharmacy professionals. Attention to detail is essential when considering factors such as a patient's age, the correct dosage, and how medication should be taken. Problem-solving skills are also important, for example when checking whether other medicines a patient is taking might affect treatment. A genuine interest in science and helping people, alongside the ability to work well as part of a team, were also highlighted.

The session outlined a range of pathways available after GCSEs. Students could begin working in a pharmacy setting, complete a pharmacy apprenticeship, or continue to A Levels - particularly in science subjects, with chemistry being compulsory - before progressing to university.

A key message from the session was that there are many different roles within pharmacy. Students explored careers such as Pharmacy Assistant, which is an entry-level role with on-the-job training; Pharmacy Technician, which is usually accessed through an apprenticeship; and Pharmacist, which requires A Levels followed by a university degree. Students were particularly interested to learn that pharmacists in some settings can now diagnose conditions and prescribe medicines.

The presentation also highlighted the wide range of workplaces available in pharmacy. These include hospitals, GP surgeries, community and high street pharmacies, care homes, hospices, and vaccination centres. Students were especially surprised by less traditional roles, such as working in medicine production and laboratories, supporting healthcare at festivals, working for the NHS 111 helpline, or roles within prisons and the armed forces, as well as careers in journalism and education. This demonstrated that pharmacy offers flexible and varied career paths with opportunities to work in many different environments. In terms of salary, Helen explained that this can vary significantly, starting at around £20,000 for a pharmacy technician and rising to over £100,000 for a chief pharmacist.

We once again thank Helen for an inspiring and informative talk on careers in pharmacy.

EMPLOYERS TALKS

COMING UP...

5 June: Pharmacy

12 June: Prison & Probation Service

19 June: National Grid

26 June: Ecosystems & Agriculture (UoB)

COMMUNITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A FREE SPACE FOR ETHNICALLY DIVERSE
YOUNG PEOPLE **AGED 13 TO 19**

EVERY **THURSDAY 4.30 TO 6PM**

EXCLUDING ACADEMIC HOLIDAYS

YOUR
SPACE

**ZAZI
HUBS**

GAMES

HOT
FOOD

CHAT

ARTS &
CRAFTS

KNOW YOURSELF
KNOW YOUR STRENGTH

LOCATION:

8-10 WEST ST, OLD MARKET ST, BRISTOL BS2 0BH

**PROJECT
ZAZI**

CONTACT INFO:
ZAZI@OTRBRISTOL.ORG.UK

OTR



A big thanks

As we head towards the end of the academic year, we wanted to say a huge thank you to school staff across Bristol supporting children and young people with SEND every day. We know schools are balancing increasing levels of need alongside stretched systems, and we continue to hear from families about the positive difference compassionate, flexible and understanding staff can make.

Autism and ADHD assessment changes

A new needs-led neurodiversity support model has been formally approved across Bristol. The new approach aims to provide earlier support for neurodivergent children and young people based on their needs, rather than families waiting for a formal diagnosis before accessing help.

The plans include:

- a new multidisciplinary Neurodiversity Support Team
- earlier support and guidance for schools and families
- a new Neurodiversity Assessment Tool in schools
- continued access to formal diagnostic assessments where needed

Families currently on waiting lists and schools will receive further information in term 6. You can read more [here](#).

Additional Specialist Places across Bristol

Councillors have agreed plans to create more specialist SEND places across the city, with over 300 additional places planned in the coming years. Families continue to tell us that inclusive practice, emotionally-safe environments and strong communication remain just as important as provision numbers.

EHC Needs Assessment Improvement Plans

Bristol City Council continues work to improve EHC Needs Assessment timescales and reduce delays for families. In February 2026, 111 new EHCPs were finalised and over 200 plans were issued across January and February; a 21% increase compared to the same period last year. EP capacity has also increased, helping improve assessment output and reduce the backlog of live assessments. While progress is being made, many families are still experiencing delays and further improvement is needed. Read the update [here](#).

Bristol Parent Carer Forum updates

Resource Bases in Bristol

Thank you to everyone who joined our recent Let's Talk session about Resource Bases in mainstream schools in Bristol.

Families told us they really value clear information about:

- How placements are decided
- What support looks like day-to-day
- Transitions and communication
- How schools and families work together

We will continue feeding parent carer experiences into local discussions and development work.

[Click here to see a list of Resource Bases & Specialist Schools in Bristol](#)

SEND White Paper

Bristol City Council and local health partners have submitted their proposal to the DfE for the local area SEND reforms programme, including the new 'Experts at Hand' model and additional investment into school cluster support. We are currently waiting for feedback and will keep schools and families updated as plans develop. Check out [news](#).