



29 March 2019



Weekly Update

Message from the Headteacher

Spring has well and truly sprung this week and the students of BFS have all been enjoying the fine weather by spending more of their social time outdoors.

The Student Council met this week and they asked us to improve the social spaces; so after Easter we plan to make some changes to the organisation of lunchtimes. We want to reduce lunchtime queues and improve the spaces in which students' can sit and eat their lunch, so we will introduce two lunch sittings for different year groups. We also want to reduce the amount of litter and develop more shared responsibility for keeping the environment tidy and safe. To encourage more activity at lunchtime we will open more parts of the school for games. The new Year 7 courtyard will also be open. Social times are an important part of the school day and so we are committed to working with our students to respect our environment and make it litter free!

This week Year 11 PE and Drama students have been examined by external examiners. Miss Clifton for drama was delighted with her students performances on Thursday. Mrs Wynne-Jones and Mr Truan were equally proud of their GCSE PE students on Wednesday.

The Easter revision programme has now been released with specific students being invited to the various sessions. If your child has not been selected they will still need to revise over the Easter holidays as this provides the solid foundations for success in the summer exams. Year 11 and Year 13 parents will be sent guidance on how to support your child when revising for exams.

It was lovely to see so many Year 7 parents attend the parents evening yesterday evening and I hope you received some useful feedback regarding their progress. Year 7 have been a credit to the school and I am very proud of the contributions they have made since starting BFS.

A reminder for your diaries that school will break up for the Easter holiday at 3pm on Friday 5 April, and Term 5 will start at 8:30am on Wednesday 24 April, as Tuesday 23 April is an inset day. Some students will be invited for sessions on the inset day.

I hope you enjoy your weekend.

*Mrs S King
Headteacher*

Parent Governor election at Bristol Free School, spring 2019

I am pleased to inform you that the School received two nominations for this position, from Karen Phillips and Kate Groves.

John Meech, who is currently the other Parent Governor, has accepted an offer from the Trust to become an RET Governor – this means there are now two vacancies for a Parent Governor at the School which Karen and Kate can fill without the need for an election.

At the same time, Anne-Marie Boyle who is a parent at the School has accepted an invitation to become an RET Governor.

Congratulations therefore to Karen Phillips and Kate Groves who are the new Parent Governors until March 2023!

*Mrs K Foster
Chair of Governors*

Clubs for Term 3 and 4

Please [click here](#) for details of the clubs running until the Easter break.

The week commencing 1 April is **Red Week**.

There will be no clubs in the first week of Term 5, including Homework Club. The programme will start again on Monday 29 April.

Little Shop of Horrors!

Tickets for the school production of Little Shop of Horrors are still on sale.



The show will be performed at Redmaids' School, Westbury Road, Westbury on Trym, Bristol BS9 3AW on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 April at 7:30pm.

Tickets are available to buy for £5/£3 concessions from Student Services, with proceeds being used to cover some of the production costs.

Rosslyn Park Rugby Sevens

On a beautiful spring Wednesday, our Year 10 Rugby Sevens team travelled to Rosslyn Park for the HSBC National Schools Sevens tournament.

We drew a tough group, facing Aberdare, Taunton, Llangatwg and The King's School of Canterbury. Aberdare were first up, and the match was close—with both teams getting points on the board. The final score was 39-12 to Aberdare. The Taunton game was tough, and we were unable to break through their defence. We came back fighting against Llangatwg and won 31-24; a stunning display of commitment and resilience. The final match against The King's School was a challenge, tired legs kept pressing on but our efforts unfortunately went unrewarded.

It was a brilliant day of team spirit and camaraderie. We are very proud of the whole team for the efforts they put in.

Theo was nominated as our Player of the Tournament. As captain, he showed exceptional leadership of his team, fighting until the bitter end to get points on the board. One try in particular was a spectacular display of dedication, as a wayward defending knee knocked him unconscious as he dived over the try line. (Don't worry—he is fine!)

Mr Pollock and Mr Tolman



LRC News

On Monday we welcomed the Scholastic Book fair back into the LRC. It was lovely to see so many of our students excitedly browsing the shelves and making their purchases. The LRC is always a popular and busy part of the school during social time but it was even more so this week and the success of the fair has been down to the dedication of some of our Student Librarians.



Some were responsible for advertising, others for taking care of the daily business of checking in and out and re-shelving the books, and others for dealing with student enquiries. We thank them all for their dedication.

However, special thanks must go to Connor who has given up all of his breaks and lunch times this week to man the cash desk for the fair. In recognition of his commitment to encouraging reading and library services, Connor has been awarded a book voucher to spend at the fair. Well done and thank you, Connor.



Also receiving gift vouchers were our three LRC 'Top Book Borrowers'. Well done to Joseph, Maha and Vigilia.



Music activity

Over the last couple of weeks some of our BFS ensemble groups have gone to perform to the residents at St Monica's care home in Westbury on Trym. The folk band, *Hollow Trees*, enthralled the audience with their impressive performances of a range of folk classics, getting the residents singing along to old favourites such as "Edelweiss" and "My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean".



Dynamics choir also brought cheer and joy to the audience as the 50 strong choir performed everything from "A Million Dreams" from the *Greatest Showman* to singalong favourites learned specially for the concert including "You Are My Sunshine". Our chamber choir, *Treble in Paradise*, also wowed the crowd with "Ain't no Sunshine" and more. The students were a credit to the school and it was lovely to see the joy they brought to the residents of St Monica's.

On Saturday 23 March BFS' jazz band, *Treble Bass*, performed at the Bristol International Jazz and Blues festival, this year taking place at various venues around Bristol, with the band performing at the Balloon Bar at Bristol Students Union. The band performed an amazing set which audience members described as one of their most impressive performances yet. Featuring standard tracks like "On the Sunny Side of the Street" and the audience participation favourite "Minnie the Moocher", the band's sound measured up nicely to the professional bands performing at the festival. They were also able to sell copies of their new CD on the merchandise stand! It is always a pleasure to be involved in this fantastic festival, and a privilege to be one of the only school bands performing there. Well done to all students involved.



You can see our folk band, jazz band, choir groups and more performing at the **Easter Showcase concert, 4 April at 7pm**. Tickets are available from student services for £3 each.

STEMettes, featuring BFS

This week we were proud to be featured by STEMettes on their website and social media accounts.

A great blog piece was written about the Monster Confidence event that we attended in November with some of our super Year 12 girls who are studying A Level STEM subjects. As well as the blog, there are some lovely pictures of the girls taking part in interviews and workshops, plus a great video featuring Imani! Well done to Fiona, Pippa and Imani for representing BFS so well!

The full article is [here](#).



Events in the next fortnight

01/04/2019	
02/04/2019	
03/04/2019	
04/04/2019	Easter Showcase concert, 7pm
05/04/2019	Little Shop of Horrors rehearsal
06/04/2019	
07/04/2019	
08/04/2019—19/04/2019	Easter Holidays
20/04/2019	
21/04/2019	
22/04/2019	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
23/04/2019	Inset Day
24/04/2019	MFL Speaking Exams Madrid trip information evening
25/04/2019	MFL Speaking Exams Year 12 Physics Trip to Particle Physics Lab at Bristol University Little Shop of Horrors, 7:30pm, Redmaids' School
26/04/2019	MFL Speaking Exams Little Shop of Horrors, 7:30pm, Redmaids' School
27/04/2019	
28/04/2019	

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition

We have record breaking numbers of students taking part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, and all six groups completed the practice expedition in the beautiful Wye Valley successfully. We were blessed with the weather, navigational blunders were kept to a minimum, and cooking was just about edible.

We could share more detail about blisters and teenage cooking attempts, but we will spare you the trauma in case you are reading this with a piece of cake purchased from FoBFS on your way home...

Well done everyone, and here's hoping for the same success for our Bronze Award students this weekend.

Miss Carr and Miss Gould

