



# Weekly Update

## Message from the Headteacher

Great sporting performances have the power to inspire us. They showcase a wide range of positive human attributes like teamwork, courage, determination and self-belief. You only need to have witnessed what happened this week in the world of European football to see what happens when teams play with passion and hard-work, that anything is possible!

This was the attitude of our Year 10 boys, and the supporters they took to Ashton Gate, when they played in the Woodcock Shield last Wednesday 1 May. Reaching the final against the very stiff competition across the city was a real achievement, as well as playing at a professional football stadium. In the final, the boys played brilliantly and eventually lost 2-0; although the score line does not reflect how close a game it really was. I am extremely proud of their sportsmanship and the spirit of fair play that the team embodies. They are fantastic ambassadors for BFS. This newsletter is dedicated to them, as we are extremely proud of their achievement.

This week the long awaited GCSE and A Level examinations have started. Year 11 are, from this point, expected in school every day and will have a personalised timetable to best prepare them for each GCSE. The weeks before and after half-term are extremely busy with exams, so we have some revision sessions planned during the holiday week to support students. You will receive a letter from Mr Fernandes explaining the details. The Year 11 leavers' assembly will be on Wednesday 26 June; this will be a very special event and a chance to say farewell to staff and fellow students.

Year 13 lessons will run as normal right up to when the external exam is taken. We have lots of quiet study space for students to use for studying between lessons.

Our Muslim students have completed their first week of Ramadan and we have two prayer rooms so they can pray during the school day. We wish them and their families a happy Ramadan.

I would lastly like to thank Mr Ashley, one of our site team, who has assembled and distributed a number of new outdoor picnic seating across the school site which our students are already enjoying using. We just need to hope we get some warmer weather!

Thank you for your continued support.

*Mrs S King  
Headteacher*



# The Woodcock Shield—Coach's Report

## Road to the final

Round 1: No game—Bye awarded as we are Bristol Champions

Round 2: BFS 6-2 Chipping Sodbury School

Quarter-final: Abbeywood 0-0 BFS (1-2 after extra-time)

Semi-final: Mangotsfield 2-5 BFS

Player of the year: Bailey T

Young player of the year: Cameron H

Top goal scorer: Kyle W

Man of the match at Ashton Gate: Karim E

## Dreaming

When it was announced the final of the Woodcock Shield was to be at Ashton Gate Stadium, students were in disbelief. Usually, the final is played at a school pitch. Once it had sunk in that some school games were going to lead to the home of the Robins and Bears, the players became exceptionally excited. For me, it never felt more like being a professional coach than having to use the expression 'one game at a time'.

On the mini-bus prior to the quarter final Karim said, "I don't even care if we lose the final, I just want to play at Ashton Gate". It has been a dream for all of our young footballers to play at the same ground that Manchester United played on last season and that the Spice Girls chose for their comeback tour this summer.

## Overcoming adversity

As the current Champions of Bristol we were afforded a bye in the first round.

In the second round, BFS settled an old score with Chipping Sodbury School (CSS). CSS knocked us out of the first round of the FA schools' cup in September, however this time we beat them emphatically 6-2.

The quarter-final was far tougher: 0-0 against Abbeywood at the SGS Wise campus led to a period of extra time. The home team took the lead, but with 10 minutes left on the clock, Xavier found an equaliser and Kyle produced a winner to send us off to Mangotsfield for the semi-final.

The semi-final did not start well, and we went 1-0 down with less than a minute played. However, this only inspired the captain, Bailey, (who has captained the team since Year 7) and Kyle to change our fortunes. Kyle scored an impressive hat trick, deservedly earning him the man of the match award, and Buster contributed with a goal and an assist, helping us to win 5-2. Every player played as a champion. As individuals they are all very good players, but together they are a colossal team.

## The final

The changing-room facilities were jaw-dropping. Ashton Gate's recent redevelopment has made it a Premier League standard venue and a supporter's experience of a lifetime. Changing in the Home changing room, walking through the tunnel as we heard, "please welcome to the pitch Bristol Free School" and the roar from the 400 strong crowd, was an unforgettable experience. For anyone who has ever dreamed of being a footballer, this was special.



Ultimately we did not have the fairy-tale ending but would St Bede's have traded places with us? Absolutely! This was a dream – and we lived it! The game itself started with Hanham looking very strong; they dominated the opening 10 minutes and we were actually grateful to only be 1-0 down at half time.

In the second half the tables were turned; we dominated the first 15 minutes and almost scored with Theo and Buster both trying their luck from a distance. Kyle came closest to finding the equaliser with a glancing header that looked goal bound, but went inches wide. Hanham came back into the contest and were worthy 2-0 winners. After the game opposition players were congratulated. BFS don't go down without a fight, but this was an opportunity to say 'fair play' to the winners and demonstrate a good sporting attitude. Playing in the final was the prize, and this sporting highlight will remain for some of these young men throughout their lives: 'I played there once'; 'I've walked in my hero's footsteps'.



#### **The future**

Team BFS will be back next year, of course, ready to challenge as champions of Bristol. Bailey and Karim have recently been selected to represent the Bristol/South Glos district, Harvey is developing in the Bristol Rovers Academy and Jojo has been training with the first team at Forest Green Rovers this week.

#### **Coach's final thoughts**

Days like this will always be a highlight for staff as well as students because they're exciting, but fundamentally we play to show who we represent: our community and our school. One of my favourite films is "Coach Carter" which is based on a true story. The coach doesn't necessarily make players better, but gives them bigger goals. Yes, we can develop student-athletes but "student" comes first. I wish for more days like this for all of our students, whether on the field or in the classroom.

I'm proud to represent this school, as we all should be. I want to give a massive thank you to the parents who came to support, bought their son a pair of boots or drove them to and from games. Without you, there is no team. Finally, special congratulations should go to James, Oli, Karim, Jacob, Jojo, Sherriff, Bailey, Theo, Qwade, Buster, Cameron, Harvey, Lucca and Kyle for what we have shared together.

Thank you.

*Mr Cosgrove*

*(photos copyright Rogan/JMP)*

### Student Corner

The student corner is a piece by one of our students sharing something relevant to them, in or out of school. This week, Aleesha Rashid in Year 10 writes about Ramadan.

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. During this month Muslims fast for 30 days, meaning they can only drink and eat before sunrise and after sunset. This year Ramadan started on the 6<sup>th</sup> May, but every year it slightly changes due to the lunar calendar (which moves forward around 10 days each year). Muslims fast to bring them closer to their god, Allah, by cleansing their soul through prayers and reflecting on how fortunate they are. There are exceptions for some people e.g if they're elderly, ill or pregnant; they can donate money to feed the less fortunate people instead of fasting. At the end of Ramadan there is a celebration called Eid where Muslims gather together at the Mosque to pray before having a big celebration with their families.

I am looking forward to Eid and the celebration with my family.

Aleesha Rashid

### More from Ashton Gate

The Year 10 boys weren't the only ones to have the chance to play at Ashton Gate last week. A group of Year 9 students have been taking part in a community rugby project. They have had a number of coaching sessions over the past two terms at Bristol Free School, delivered by a Bristol Bears' coach, leading towards a festival against other secondary schools taking part in the project. All of the students conducted themselves impeccably and demonstrated some fantastic rugby skills—an experience I'm sure they will never forget.

Well done to Leo N, Jamie S, Jaden M, Myles R, James A, Joel D, Marc G, Connor H, Ben H, Hanad M, and Dan T.

Mr Truan



### Girls Into Tech, Berkeley, 31 May

(an event for Y8/9 students to attend with their parents)

At this event, as well as exploring potential careers, there are opportunities for the girls and their parents to network with local organisations. There is also a parents-only session 'Equipping your daughter for GCSE maths and beyond' run by colleagues from the Advance Maths Support Programme (AMSP). The programme includes:

- Hearing from inspirational women who are making the world a better and safer place through engineering and technology.
- Hands-on workshops led by young female employees of local and national STEM companies.

What is it all these women have in common?..... they all studied maths after GCSE!

This will all take place in a relaxed and friendly setting - with free refreshments too!

Further information can be found on the [flyer](#).

### National Book Tokens

We would be incredibly grateful if parents could nominate BFS to win a prize that would enhance the LRC and further support our students' reading for pleasure.

The prize for the winning school is £5000 of Book Tokens, but you could also win £100 for yourself! Please click here:

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

### Volunteers needed—Girls in Leadership Conference

We are looking for women who would like to share their career journey at an event taking place in the Engineering Department of Bristol University on the morning of 1 July. The audience will be girls between the ages of 14 and 17.

The aim of this one-day conference is to inspire girls from across the city to unlock their potential and learn more about careers in which women are currently under-represented.

If you could spare your time, BFS would love to hear from you, as we are one of the schools involved in this cross-city project.

Please email the school, for the attention of Mrs King.

**Clubs for Term 5 and 6**

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

The week commencing 13 May is **Red Week**.

The Design Technology department would like to say **thank you** to CL Vinyl Design for their very generous donation of several rolls of sticky back vinyl. Should any readers be looking for any custom decals, signs or banners, please do consider [CL Vinyl Design](#)

**Parking outside school**

Parents are reminded that the roads surrounding the school site all have a 20mph speed limit. This is to protect both our students and our neighbours.

Vehicles should park in accordance with the markings on the road and should not block driveways or access.

Finally, please be aware of our students arriving on bikes, and if your child cycles into school, please remind them to be aware of their surroundings and to ride carefully.

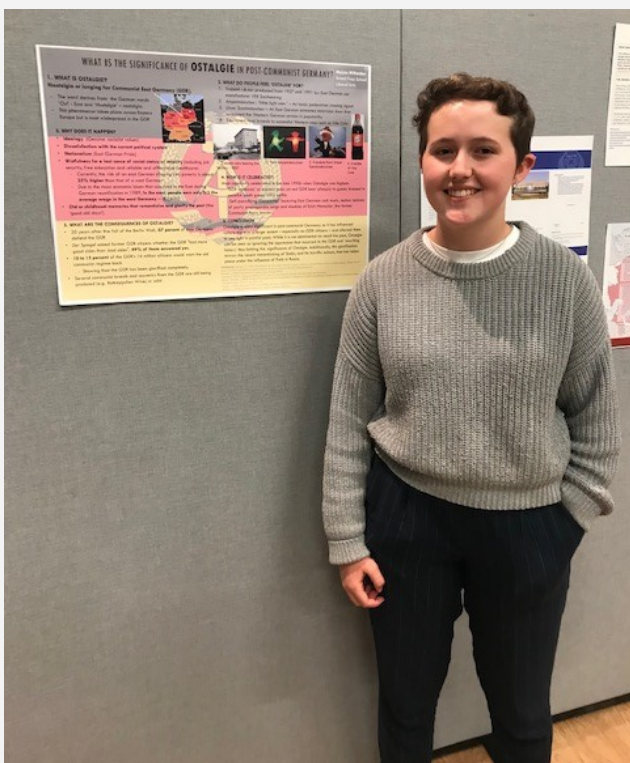
**HE+ Programme**

For the second year running a group of our Year 12 students have taken part in the HE+ programme run by Cambridge University. The programme is aimed at supporting students to make competitive applications to the top universities in the country. Our students took part in conferences and attended seminars with top academics to help them make informed decisions about which subject they will apply to study at university. They were also asked to conduct a research project and produce an academic poster on a topic of their choice.

On Wednesday 9 May students gathered for the HE+ finale event where their research posters were displayed and judged. Two of our students' posters were shortlisted for best in their subject strand; these were Pippa Stephenson for Physical Sciences and Sophie Gordon for Liberal Arts.

A special mention should be made to Maisie who was awarded with a commendation for her poster titled: 'What is the significance of Ostalgie in post-communist Germany?' This meant that she was judged joint second out of over 100 students from schools across Bristol. Her poster was praised for its high quality research, structure, conclusion and overall style. Well done Maisie, this is a fantastic achievement!

*Mr Walker*



**Events in the next fortnight**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 13/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
|            | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
| 14/05/2019 | Y8 delivering to North Bristol Foodbank            |
|            | Y7-10 girls' Rounders vs Oasis Brightstowe (away)  |
| 15/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
|            | Chemistry Festival trip                            |
|            | Y9&10 boys' cricket vs Redland Green (away)        |
| 16/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
|            | Headteacher Surgeries, 5-6:30pm. Appointment Only. |
|            | Berlin Parent Information Evening, 6pm             |
|            | Y7&8 boys' cricket vs Oasis Brightstowe (away)     |
|            | Athletics @ Whitehall Athletics Track              |
| 17/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
| 18/05/2019 |  |
| 19/05/2019 |  |
| 20/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
|            | Y7&8 boys' cricket vs City Academy (away)          |
| 21/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
|            | Year 10 Music Recital                              |
|            | Y7-9 girls' Rounders vs Henbury (away)             |
| 22/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
|            | PGL  |
|            | Y7&8 girls' Rounders vs Cotham (at Greenway)       |
| 23/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
|            | PGL  |
|            | SCS Governors Committee Meeting                    |
|            | Y9&10 girls' Rounders vs Cotham (at Greenway)      |
| 24/05/2019 | GCSE and A Level Exams                             |
|            | PGL  |
| 25/05/2019 | Treble Bass at the Old Duke, 4pm                   |
| 26/05/2019 |  |
| 27/05/2019 | <b>HALF TERM</b>                                   |
|            | Madrid trip  |
| 28/05/2019 | Madrid trip  |
| 29/05/2019 | Madrid trip  |
| 30/05/2019 | Madrid trip  |
| 31/05/2019 |  |
| 01/06/2019 |  |
| 02/06/2019 |  |