

Weekly Update

Message from the Headteacher

This has been a fantastic end to the school year with great weather, a successful STEM and careers day and Year 11 students returning for their Induction into BFS Sixth Form. It may be the last full week of term (remember school finishes on Tuesday 23 July), but we have been as busy as ever here at BFS!

This week, thanks go to Mrs Sherman and Mrs Street for their superb planning and running of the STEM day yesterday. In addition thank you to Year 12 student leaders who supported Year 7 and Year 8 with the wide range of STEM activities that were on offer. Students explored many aspects of science and technology and a great deal of learning took place.

We must also thank Mr Parry our Careers Leader, who coordinated a wide range of local employers to speak to our Year 10s as part of yesterday's careers day. Mr MacBlain was very pleased with the mature way his year group approached the talks. We are very grateful to all the local employers who gave up their time to present. The talks gave Year 10 a real insight into the rapidly changing employment market and opportunities available to them

Mr Walker and Ms Norton were delighted to welcome the very high number of Year 11 students attending our 'Summer in Sixth' induction day followed by a parents' information evening. Our Year 11s certainly looked happy and well rested now that their GCSEs have finished and they are enjoying a longer summer break this year. We look forward to seeing them for their GCSE results on Thursday 22 August in the Sixth Form Common Room.

Mr Mitchell, Mrs Jenkins and nine Year 12 students set off on their long voyage to Nepal yesterday. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to hearing all about it. It will, no doubt, be an amazing experience for them.

On Tuesday we will be celebrating the end of what has been a very positive year at BFS. We will also be saying farewell to a number of teachers who are moving on to pastures new. We look forward to welcoming a number of new and well qualified staff in September after a very successful recruitment period this year.

Finally I do hope that students and families enjoy their well-deserved summer holiday. This time of year is a chance to relax and recharge after a busy school year. I encourage students to read a good book, visit a new place, learn a new skill and spend time with family and friends.

Term 1 of 2019-20 starts on Wednesday 4 September for all year groups and students need to go straight to their tutor room at 8:30am, with our new Year 7s meeting in the Sports Hall.

Have a great summer and thank you for all your support and commitment to the school during my first year at BFS.

*Mrs S King
Headteacher*



Team obstacle challenges during STEM day—read on for more information...

Careers Day—Thursday 18 July

On Thursday, all of Year 10 attended a wide range of presentations from employers that visited Bristol Free School. There were 12 presentations delivered by a range of employers (law, veterinary, construction, technology, and structural engineering to name just a few) which allowed the students to hear about a wide range of career paths. The students were actively engaged and it was a great opportunity for them to learn from those working in our ever-changing employment market. In the afternoon, the focus changed to Post-16 options where the students were given a talk by SGS college and our own Head of Sixth Form, Mr Walker.

A massive thank you to all the employers who visited the school and delivered engaging, interactive sessions to all our Year 10 students. We are very appreciative of the time you gave us.

Meanwhile, Year 9 visited either UWE, Cardiff or Swansea University. They had an excellent day, gaining an insight into Higher Education. Each university ran a bespoke day, explaining the wide variety of education choices and career possibilities to our students. This included an introductory talk and interactive workshops, as well as a campus tour and speaking to student ambassadors. Both BFS and university staff commented on how well behaved and mature our students were - well done Year 9.

Mr Parry



Engineer Your Future - STEM Day

"There is nothing I believe more strongly than getting young people interested in science and engineering, for a better tomorrow, for all humankind." – Bill Nye (science educator, former mechanical engineer)

Taking inspiration from engineers and designers, STEM Day 2019 focused on engineering and the skills for life developed through problem-solving and teamwork. Year 7 and 8 students had 14 activities on offer throughout the day and it was fantastic to see how engaged and enthusiastic they were.



Activities were focused on the basic premise of designing, making and testing. They included: clay car designing; crash-test cars looking at car safety (protect the egg!); fabricating with plastic; bridge building with Civil Engineers; rubber band helicopters; wind turbines; table-top trebuchets; how to safely transport tomatoes in Nepalese mountains plus a variety of workshops from Airbus including 'Cabin Design' and 'Runway Mayhem.' Finally, the energetic and fully-charged team obstacle challenges on the field where students truly demonstrated their grit and determination.

Feedback from students included phrases like 'best day at school ever', 'amazing', 'so much fun', 'wish it lasted longer', 'wish I could have tried more activities', 'liked working with others which I didn't think I would', 'I liked leading the group'.

It was a pleasure to hear how much they gained from the day.

I would like to thank all teachers for their preparation and enthusiasm on the day, the STEM Ambassadors from STEM Learning and the Year 12 students who supported the sessions.

Finally, I would like to thank the students for making it the success it was and approaching every activity without fear, showing resilience and getting involved! You are the future—engineer it!

"Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently." – Henry Ford (founder of the Ford Motor Company)

Mrs Sherman



Music Tour

The Bristol Free School music department have just arrived back from their tour to Austria where an amazing time was had by all.

40 students took part in various concerts around the Salzburg area, including performances at bandstands, parks and even on a boat! A bit of rain didn't stop the music, as even performances under umbrellas drew big crowds.

As well as performing, students explored the local area, including a visit to Mozart's birthplace, a trip up a mountain and into some ice caves, and a tree-top walk over the incredible Austrian landscape. All of the students involved were a credit to their school, with impressive, professional performances and a positive attitude.

Thanks to all the staff, parents and students who helped to make this trip a fantastic success!



Lots of pictures are available on the music Instagram page: @BFS_Music

Mr Pate



Year 8 Spelling Bee

Well done to the eight students who competed in the Year 8 Spelling Bee 2019. There was a real buzz in assembly during tough knock-out competition and students demonstrated an excellent knowledge of Spanish vocabulary.



Benji Pearce (8TG1) came 3rd, Pippa Davies (8TG5) gained 2nd place, and Eloise Rata (8TG6) won the competition! Excellent work and very well done!

Miss Southall

Summer activities in the local area

Please click [here](#) for a list of activities taking place in the local area over the summer holidays.



Battlefields Trip

Early last Monday morning, 46 Year 9s set off for a tour of the First World War battlefields. Our first stop was the Essex Cemetery, where the poet John McCrae had been stationed during the war. Students saw where he worked and listened to a reading of his famous poem *In Flanders Fields*. From there, we headed to the Menin Gate where students took part in the Last Post ceremony. The ceremony has extra significance for the group as the two students who laid the wreath, Jake R and Charlotte W, had relatives who were named on the memorial.

Day two was spent touring the sites of the Somme, the bloodiest battle of the First World War. Students began by visiting Vimy Ridge (below), a memorial to Canadian soldiers before moving on to the Theipval Memorial to the Missing, which holds over 73,000 names of soldiers who were never found. With the help of our guide, Hugh C was able to find his relative that was commemorated there. On the last day, we visited some of the largest cemeteries and students heard about the wide variety of people who were buried in them (including nurses and members of the Chinese Labour Corps). We were lucky enough to have the letters of Holly C's great-great-great uncle, who is buried at Lijssenthoek (right). After laying a wreath at his grave, students heard about his life on the front line (including his experience of a gas attack) and read out his moving final letter to his parents. The trips ended with a flying visit to a Belgian chocolate shop, where students enthusiastically sampled all it had to offer – and hopefully brought back some presents!



A big thank to all the students, who were wonderful representatives of the school, and thank you to any parents who help them research family connections – these really brought the trip to life!

Miss Barnes

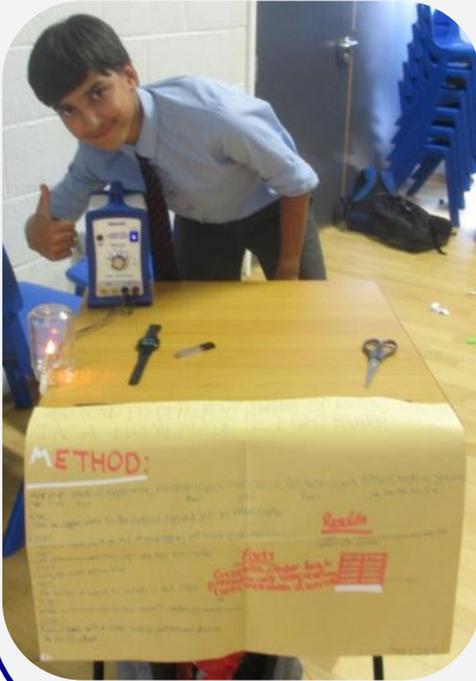
Year 8 Able and Ambitious Lectures

Congratulations to the second set of students from the Year 8 Able and Ambitious group who delivered their presentations last week. We had a range of really interesting research projects, including 'the psychology of food', 'trends and fashion' and exercise and wellbeing'.

Mrs Giblin



Year 7 Discovery Prize



This week it was the turn of Year 7 to show off their super science skills in the Discovery Prize Grand Final.

Parents, staff and STEM Ambassadors flocked to see the exhibits, including such original ideas as 'how many ants would it take to move the Eiffel Tower?', 'If grass is green, then why is milk white?' and the very popular 'Is Youtube Science real?' The Science team would like to say congratulations to our finalists, but also to the whole of Year 7 as the quality of this year's projects was immensely high. We are looking forward to seeing what they come up with for next year!

The winners from both year groups will be announced next week in the end-of-year assembly.

Miss Board



Art News

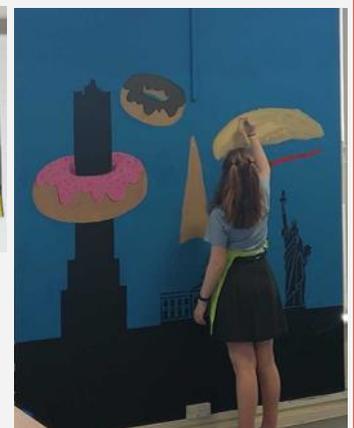
It has been a fabulously creative time in the Art department with ongoing projects to brighten up the school, with an international food themed mural in the canteen and 'The butterfly project' designed to highlight awareness of climate change in the LRC.

Both Year 10 and 11 have been producing impressive final pieces in their exams and the GCSE and A Level work is showcased in the end-of-year summer exhibition—which takes place this evening during the FoBFS BBQ.

Last week, Year 10 GCSE Art students made the most of the glorious sunshine, climbed aboard the BFS mini bus and visited the Bristol University Botanical Gardens. Students spent the morning taking in the surroundings of the impressive gardens and glass houses as part of their continued study of Natural Forms. They practised their photography skills capturing exotic plants and spent time sitting amongst wild flowers drawing from direct observation. The gardens also offered them the opportunity to view and interact with large-scale sculpture work dotted across the site. A lovely day was had by all.

Finally, Art met STEM yesterday in the designing and modelling of clay cars which saw a range of high-level outcomes. Well done everyone.

Miss Dawson and Mrs Stokes



DofE expeditions

The Duke of Edinburgh students have had a busy few weeks. The Bronze, Silver and Gold assessed expeditions were all completed successfully, as well as the Gold practice expedition.

The weather was glorious, students did lots and lots of walking (more than expected on certain routes...!) and all made it to the finish line in the end.

The birthday cake arrival on the finish line for Daisy almost definitely made them walk more quickly, but it was certainly a memorable way to turn a year older!

Well done to every single one of our fantastic DofE students.

Miss Carr and Miss Gould



FoBFS BBQ—TONIGHT

Whatever the weather, the FoBFS Summer BBQ will go ahead this evening.

It is a great way to catch up with other parents, enjoy good food and be entertained by music from the BFS bands and our own DJ. There is a display of the students' art work, as well as games from the PE department, a games wagon and other stalls. If you are driving, please make sure that you do not obstruct residents' driveways when you park. Thank you for your help with this and we hope to see at the BBQ!

Eye checks

When was the last time your child had their eyes checked? This is a gentle reminder that the summer holidays might be a good time to book in any such overdue appointments.

We occasionally notice students, including some in the Sixth Form, who are sometimes straining to see the board, or indeed leaving their glasses in their school bags for the day!

Do let form tutors know if students have to wear glasses for classwork only and may need a quiet reminder to put them on.

Uniform

Please use the summer holidays to ensure all uniform is correct for the return in September. Our students are always praised for how smart they look when we have visitors on site, and we need this to continue.



Please see the website for more information:
<https://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk/uniform.php>

Student lockers

If your child has a locker and you have not rebooked it for next year, please ensure that they empty it by the end of the day on Monday and return the key to Student Services.

Keys only need to be returned if the locker is not being used, or a new one has been booked for next year.

If they would like a locker for next year, please visit <https://iisschools.co.uk/>

End of term

Tuesday 23 July is the last day of term.

Full attendance is expected on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 July.

Students will be dismissed at 12:30pm on Tuesday 23 July.