

## Words from the Headteacher

This week Year 11 have started an intense week of CORE GCSE mock exams. I must praise the way they have approached these first mocks, working in the LRC and being focussed and well behaved. They have been excellent role models for the younger students and we are very proud of them. Next week there will be further mock exams for option subjects, so I hope they manage to recharge this weekend and prepare themselves for another very important week. The Year 11 will receive their mock results during tutor time on Monday 16 December as a formal results day, so they can experience what it is like to open their results envelope in August. We wish them all the best in this important practice stage of their GCSE preparations.

Year 13 have also been taking their A Level mock exams this week. Mr Walker has been equally pleased with their application and attitude.

I would like to thank our Year 9 parents who attended the subject evening last Thursday. A school record was broken with 95% of parents coming, which is fantastic! It was lovely to see and speak to so many of you and hear how things are going from your perspective. We will be inviting Year 9 parents back into school again in January for important information about the GCSE option process which takes place in Term 3.

Next week will be the start of Advent and in the lead up to the Christmas holidays we have planned a number of end of term celebration events, charity and school projects to share with you. To mark the start of Advent, we will be sharing with you some fantastic ideas for gifts for students to encourage their reading over the festive break. Please see details in the newsletters over December for dates and times and I hope you can support us in some way.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter this week.

*Mrs S King  
Headteacher*

## BFS students wow judges yet again in the Rotary Young Chef Club Heat

After a virtual school heat which showed off our students talent, Lauren (Year 7) and Keturah (Year 8) made in through to the local Club heats held at Bristol Free School on Tuesday 19 November.

There was tough competition with 6 competitors from Redmaids' High, St Bede's and QEH. Being in the kitchen was an assault on the senses - the smells were sensational and the buzz was electric. Lauren and Keturah worked efficiently and effectively throughout the cooking time and presented beautiful dishes which they explained with passion. Nerves mounted as the final results were announced, with just 9 points between 1st and 7th place!

We are very proud of both students, and congratulations to Lauren who finished second and was the youngest competitor on the evening. We are looking forward to next the competition next year already!

*Mrs Sherman*



## #DiversityInLit Conference 2019

"Following the success of last month's student voice session at the Edexcel Pearson headquarters, we headed back to London to join a range of other schools at the #DiversityInLiterature conference.

On arrival we were warmly welcomed once again by Katy Lewis and led into a lavish hall in which the conference was to be held.

Anticipation for what was to come made itself obvious through the smiles on the students faces when, all of a sudden, a bombastic opening of slam poetry on the topic of ambition was delivered to them by a charismatic poet named Solomon O.B; no one could argue that it wasn't a fitting opening to the day.

This was followed by multiple profound and passionate performances by poets of the likes of: Bob Marley inspired Raymond Antrobus; young up and coming Matt Sowerby with poems focusing on the importance of an effective education taking into account students' mental health; Jamila Gavin providing an insightful recollection of how reading aided her when she was young; and an excellent keynote speaker called Ndidi Okezie, Vice President of Secondary portfolio.

The day concluded with a riveting Q&A panel, where students could converse with these accomplished authors on questions they felt were presented to them in the prior presentations. The students asked nuanced questions which invoked thoughtful answers from the speakers and led to an intriguing debate regarding the different facets of modern literature. The students were incredibly grateful to Mr Harris and Ms Watkins for organising and leading such a memorable and lasting experience".

Written by a participant of the conference,  
Charlie Proctor, Y11.



A word from Mr Harris: *As alluded to in my write-up of our previous trip, there are exciting changes afoot in the GCSE English curriculum at BFS! Students in current Y9 will be the first year group to study the more diverse Belonging anthology of poetry this summer, and we will trial at least one new text in Year 10. International literature has always been a personal passion of mine, and I am delighted that we are now able to offer this diversity to our students as part of their GCSEs. Seeing some of these authors and poets in action was a real privilege, and it was fantastic to witness our students actively engaging with them, putting forward their opinions in front of hundreds of others from across the country. Our students' articulate and impassioned arguments in favour of a more diverse curriculum have really inspired all of us across the English department, and we truly believe that these new texts will be another step toward preparing our students to be truly global citizens – something that is perhaps more important now than ever before.*





## Bath Fashion Museum Trip

On Monday 18 November Miss Burman and Miss Hammond took fourteen Year 10 DT students to Bath Fashion Museum. Students had a lovely day looking around the museum's fantastic collection, making sketches and notes based on interesting features they saw and then experimenting with multi-media and modelling to recreate key features. Students were all enthusiastic and had a great time getting involved, and particularly enjoyed getting to try on the clothes!

A special mention goes to Chiharu Foster, whose work now features on the fashion museum website. You can see her work here; <https://www.fashionmuseum.co.uk/secondary-and-level>

*Miss Burman*



## Science Club Shipwrecked!

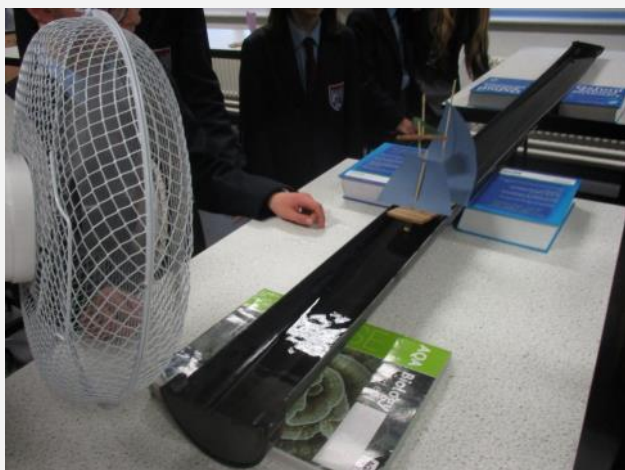
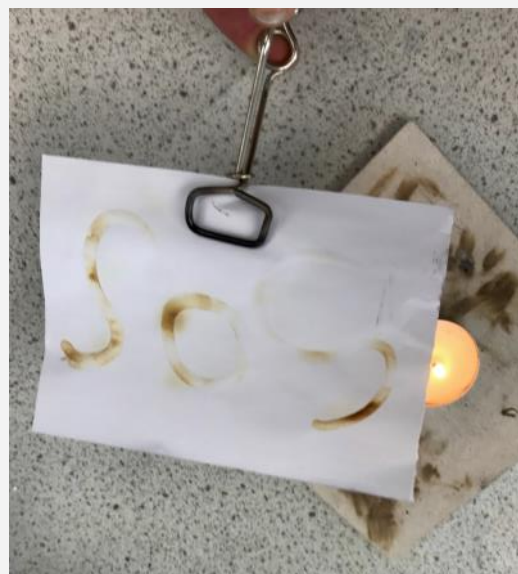
This term Science Club have found themselves shipwrecked on a deserted island (apart from a few cows, more on that later). In order to survive and thrive we have had to employ a few new skills to stop us becoming Tom Hanks in Castaway with only a volleyball for company!

Firstly, we agreed that we would need to build shelter and to do that we would forage for materials and make our own rope. As we know from our work on saving the world with STEM, the ocean is sadly washing up plastics on to these island beaches. We used our ingenuity and recycled all of the carrier bags that were washed up to create some amazingly strong rope that could support over 5kg!

Next up we tried our hand at using renewable energy with water powered fans. We then realised that it was time to leave the island after three weeks of isolation, sending messages in bottles out in invisible ink made from the natural products available to us; lemon juice, honey and milk (from our only island friends, the cows).

This week we took to the high seas to escape on our sailing boats. We were faced with some squally seas and strong gusts, and thankfully most made it off the island. Sadly, a few have been left to swim back to shore, but hopefully they can join us next week for the start of our cracking Christmas activities!

*Miss Board*



## Timings of the Day

A reminder that our school day starts promptly at 8:30am. Students should therefore be on site by 8:25am when the warning bell sounds.

The Burghill Road entrance is open from 8am and closes at 8:25am, so students using that entrance should make sure that they arrive ahead of the 8:25am bell.



## Own It

The BBC have launched a new app called 'Own It' to support children using smart phones. It sends prompts to students as they write messages to help them take control of their online presence.

For more information, please visit <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/own-it-app>

## PE Fixtures

### Year 8 Netball Festival

The Year 8 team faced a cold November afternoon on the outside courts at Clifton College for their netball festival, but the temperatures did not phase them.

In the group stages we faced Fairfield, City Academy Bristol and Colston Girls'. It was an extremely close game against Fairfield, ending in a 4-4 draw. However we comfortably beat City Academy and Colston Girls' 12-1 and 11-0 respectively. We played St Bede's in the semi finals, convincingly beating them 10-0.

We faced a strong Redland Green team in the final, beating them 5-3 to become North Bristol Champions!

Eva received 3 player of the match votes, Annabelle received 2 and Elen received 1. The whole team played extremely well and teachers from other schools complimented our girls on their fluency and positive style of play.

Lucy, Annabelle, Eva, Chloe, Emily, Kiera, Elen and Kate are now North Bristol Champions and we await to see who we will play against from the South of Bristol!



### Year 7 Netball Festival

After a series of festivals for all year groups, it was the turn of the Year 7's for the final Netball festival of the year. We faced a tough group with Redland Green, Cotham, Cathedral, Fairfield and Trinity Academy. We lost our opening game 1-0 to Redland Green with Amelie nominated as our player of the match.

However we then won our four following games 5-2 (Fairfield), 2-0 (Cotham), 1-0 (Trinity) and 8-0 (Cathedral). Caitlin, Isabelle and Grace Fradgley were all nominated as players of the match by the opposition. We played Colston Girls' in the semi finals and beat them 4-0 with an exceptional team performance. Grace was nominated as the player of the match for her outstanding marking of their Wing Attack.

Reaching the final, St Bede's were the only team standing in our way and despite our efforts, we narrowly lost 3-2. Jas was given the player of the match for her sterling efforts to try and prevent them scoring. The team played exceptionally well, with some girls playing in new positions. Congratulations to Jas, Isabelle, Katie, Grace, Sophie, Caitlin, Grace and Amelie.

*Mrs Ballard*





## Mock Election Update

Canvassing is now in full swing. Our four parties have each presented their manifesto pledges and have been vying for your child's vote, which have taken place in a series of assemblies over the last fortnight.

Students have enjoyed hearing about the different policies that have been presented and have really engaged with the candidates. It has been interesting seeing which year groups have responded more favourably to the different parties. We really hope that this process widens their political participation and understanding.

Early polls show a strong lead for 'Vision' with 'Progress' following strongly in second. However, with several weeks left until the polling date, there is all to play for.

*Mr MacBlain*



## Success with Bebras UK Computational Thinking Challenge 2019



We are very pleased to share that Bristol Free School have performed better than ever in the Bebras UK Computational Thinking Challenge, with an amazing 82 students getting through to the follow up competition!

Over 260,000 students competed across the UK with almost 600 from Bristol Free School and the Top 10% are invited to The Oxford Computing Challenge in March organised by the University of Oxford. With more students competing nationally this year, the grade boundaries for a Distinction and Merit also increased and we are incredibly proud of the 192 students who achieved in the Top 25% and the 337 students who achieved in the Top 50%.

The commitment shown to this tough competition and resilience demonstrated by all students throughout has impressed us immensely. Certificates will be distributed to all students who took part in the next few weeks and official invites to the 82 students in the Top 10%. Well done to everyone!

*Mrs Sherman*

## RET Creative Writing Competition

In collaboration with the other schools in the Russell Education Trust, students of Bristol Free School entered a writing competition with the theme of 'belonging'.

Incredibly, there were 197 entries in total – it is a credit to the school and the English department that so many students entered.

After much careful deliberation, the winners are:

- KS3 Girls: Lucy Ashworth
- KS3 Boys: Tom Donoghue
- KS4 Girls: Holly Foster
- KS4 Boys: Tom Dayus
- KS5 Girls: Poppy Glasson
- KS5 Boys: Theo Lloyd

Winning students will have their work published in an anthology and go on to compete against other RET students for the grand prize of a visit from an author. Well done everyone!

*Mr Gowen*

## Clubs for Term 2

Please see the website for the fantastic offering that will run until the Christmas break.

<https://www.bristolreeschool.org.uk/extra-curricular-clubs.php>

All clubs run from 3:05—4:15pm unless stated otherwise.

**There are no clubs on Monday 9 December, including homework club.**

## Waterpolo Achievement

Alex Inidge has been playing in the Bristol and West Junior Under 17's Waterpolo League (which includes South Wales) as a goalkeeper.

On Friday night in Devonport, the last match of the season between the two top teams was played. Alex's team, the City of Bristol Waterpolo Club, won the match and became League champions for the region.

A great achievement for Alex and his team—well done!

## The rest of term

30/11/2019	Dynamics Choir at Westbury-on-Trym Fair
01/12/2019	
02/12/2019	
03/12/2019	Dynamics Choir Carolling at Southmead Hospital BTEC Level 3 Conference, Vue Cinema
04/12/2019	Y7 Rugby vs Oasis Brightstowe
05/12/2019	LGB Governors Meeting
06/12/2019	Y7 rugby Bristol Schools' final
07/12/2019	
08/12/2019	
09/12/2019	<b>NO CLUBS inc homework club</b> Year 7 Christmas Concert heats, P5&6 Y10 rugby Bristol Schools' final
10/12/2019	Year 8 & 9 Bristol Schools' netball finals Y10 Food Tech fishmonger demonstration
11/12/2019	Subsea UK Competition Christmas Lunch and <b>Jumper Day</b>
12/12/2019	<b>Mock Election Day</b> Badminton School Science Outreach with selected Sixth Formers <b>Year 11 Sixth Former for a Day</b> (no Y12 &13 in school)
13/12/2019	Sixth Form Pastoral Day Badminton School Science Outreach with selected Sixth Formers Year 10 Rugby Final (Elite Schools' Cup)
14/12/2019	French Market Trip Dynamics Choir at Southbank Club, Bedminster
15/12/2019	French Market Trip
16/12/2019	Y11 Mock Results during tutor time Dynamics Choir at Southmead Hospital GCSE and A-Level Certificate Presentation Evening, 6pm
17/12/2019	Y7 Christmas Concert, 5pm Y10 Resilience sessions Y11 NEA DT 'Making Day'
18/12/2019	Sixth Form Christmas Social Art Trip to London
19/12/2019	Y11 NEA DT 'Making Day' Christmas Extravaganza, 6:30pm
20/12/2019	<b>Last day of term</b> —arrangements TBC UCAS Application Deadline (internal deadline) Sixth Form Application Deadline for September 2020

## Meet the Employer at Bristol Free School

Every term we are looking for employers to come in and speak to our young people about their workplaces and careers.

This will happen on Friday mornings, so if you are interested in coming to give a talk about your career please get in contact with Mr Parry via the school.

We are excited to welcome Airbus and the Co-op Legal Team this term who will be coming into give talks on the following dates:

- Friday 6 December - **Airbus** - talk aimed at KS3 students
- Friday 13 December - **Co-op Legal Services** - talk aimed at KS4 and KS5 students
- Friday 20 December - **Airbus** - talk aimed at KS4 and KS5 students.



Legal Services



## Christmas Baking Club

The elves in Christmas Baking Club have been working hard and will continue to do so over the coming weeks—keep your eyes peeled for more delicious festive treats!

Mrs Ford







# ❄️ WESTBURY ON TRYM CHRISTMAS FAIR ❄️

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Canford Lane & Carlton Court

2pm to 6pm

- ❄️ CRAFT STALLS
- ❄️ CHRISTMAS GIFTS
- ❄️ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- ❄️ FAIRGROUND RIDES
- ❄️ FOOD AND DRINK
- ❄️ FACE PAINTING
- ❄️ HEALTH AND BEAUTY

Come along and enjoy the fun at this  
fundraising and community event!

Sponsored By:

  
**HAROLD STEPHENS**  
YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER

Kemps Jewellers, Sarah C Green, Marie's,  
Westbury Barbering Company, Suzie B

In aid of BUST (Breast cancer Unit Support Trust)

