

Words from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter! I am delighted to be able to share our 'Welcome to BFS' film that was recorded two weeks ago. It is now on our website and Virtual Open Evening page. Do take the opportunity to see how happy and positive life is here at BFS despite the COVID restrictions.

<https://vimeo.com/460333611/0aab0cc458>

As we settle into our 'new normal' we are constantly reviewing our systems and procedures. We are keen to ensure we are providing the best possible learning experience and I would like to thank everyone for their support.

After school extra-curricular opportunities are still a real challenge because of restrictions caused by year group bubbles. We will try to offer a range of clubs as soon as we can and plan to start inviting targeted Year 11 students to after school catch up sessions in English and Maths next week. It remains critical that we balance our desire to offer more year group opportunities with the changes to the school day, COVID restrictions and student and staff well-being.

I would like to thank Year 7 parents and the Year 7 tutor team for their engagement in our first ever Virtual Parents' Evening last Tuesday. The Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' event was very well attended and enabled us to test this new feature on the Parent Evening booking app. We will use this feature for upcoming subject evenings whilst the COVID restrictions remain in place and you will receive a letter explaining the process.

Mr Cosgrove, Pastoral Manager, has left BFS today to take up a new position as teacher of BTEC Sport at Bristol City Football Club. We wish him every success and thank him for the contributions he has made to BFS over the years.

This week the tutor programme has been exploring what it means to be a positive member of your community. We have included ways to volunteer in your community once circumstances allow. The Sixth Form Leadership Team has supported this theme by devising a number of working parties that students can sign up to and get involved in and you will find more details in the newsletter.

Finally, now the weather is changing, we are asking students to come to school wearing a dark colour coat. We are increasing the heating in each classroom since the requirement to keep windows open for air flow means that classrooms are not as warm as usual.

I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.

Mrs S King
Headteacher



During the spontaneous circulation of contagious illness Tuberculosis during World War II, there existed schools that were not in buildings. Those were called "Open-air schools" that promoted the outdoors as it was well ventilated and the possibility that the freshness of the air may slow the spread.

Term 1 - Key Dates	
Tuesday 13 October	Amazon App Comp Semi Final
Thursday 15 October	Y8 Subject Evening - REMOTE EVENT
Friday 16 October	Wear Red Day - Fundraising
	Amazon App Comp Final (To be confirmed)
Monday 19 October	Folly Farm - A Level Field Day Trip
Tuesday 20 October	Folly Farm - A Level Field Day Trip
	Y12 Meet the Tutor - REMOTE EVENT
Friday 23 October	INSET DAY (Cross Trust) - SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS
Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October	HALF TERM
Monday 2 November	Day 1 of Term 2 - School reopens to students

KS3 Year Leader Updates



Miss Hammond
Year 7

The start of term for Year 7 has been a challenging yet exciting change for the students as they begin their secondary school career. As a new Head of Year, I have faced the same challenges and feel together we have adapted to this new way of life incredibly well. The Year 7 Induction Day has been the main highlight of the term so far. With only Year 7 on site, students were able to find their way around the school and our new one-way system, point out their classrooms, spend valuable time with their tutors and get a taste for a number of new subjects they would be learning.

Having visited all tutor groups over these first few weeks, and having taught a number of the groups for PE and PSHE, it has been wonderful to see how the students have settled into school life. They are enjoying learning the range of subjects on offer and making new friends along the way. I have also enjoyed getting to know all the students and the range of characters blossoming in each class.

I have been so impressed with the standard of uniform, equipment and engagement in lessons, and I would like to thank all students who have been polite and kind to others each and every day whilst out and about in our community. It is clear Year 7 are the role models for the school with the highest number of house points out of all year groups so far - a massive 2562! As the term continues, students can look forward to continuing with their new studies, building their confidence and developing their skills whilst remembering to be kind and hard-working individuals who have a positive impact on the Bristol Free School community.



Ms Bonnici
Year 8

It's been great welcoming year 8 back into the school and seeing so many enthusiastically engaging in their lessons. As a new teacher and Year Leader at BFS, it's been really lovely getting to meet and teach so many of the amazing individuals who make up this cohort. A huge highlight for me so far has been seeing many of our new starters being offered a warm welcome by their peers and I'm impressed by the way so many students look out for one another. I've also loved seeing some of the Year 8s shine in the new school promotional video; brilliant job!

Year 9 have made a super start to the year and have come back refreshed and with a new found vigour. This has been particularly evident in PE. Students have engaged in fitness lessons this term. Although not everyone's favourite subject, the majority of students have really engaged. Special mention has to go to Chloe C whose V-sit crunches have put the PE staff to shame.

This year has been a strange one so far being centred around change and adaptation. We have had changes in tutors, homework platforms, school day timings, behaviour systems and hygiene expectations. However, it is a real credit to Year 9 students that they have embraced this change and taken it in their stride.

As we move closer towards GCSE options, this ability to adapt and embrace change will be paramount. I have no doubt that with staff guidance, students will make informed choices to shape their path into the future, whatever they choose to do.

Year 9 students can be really proud of the start they have made to the year and I look forward to seeing this amazing year group progress and mature.

Mr Tolman, Year 9



Mr Tolman
Year 9

KS4 Year Leader Updates



Mr Whitfield
Year 10

The start of this year has been an exciting period of change for the year 10 students as they have embarked on their GCSE courses. The students have been able to finally take a more in-depth study of some of their favourite areas and it has been great to see so many students coming out of lessons and happily discussing what they have been covering. As someone who is new to the school it has been fantastic getting to know all the varied characters in our year group and every single student has been polite, well-mannered and welcoming to me. We have also welcomed a number of new students to the year group and I have been so impressed with the kindness and empathy students have shown them in our community. As the year goes on students will empower themselves through their academic studies and develop the confidence and kindness to continue to positively impact and shape their world. I look forward to seeing what they come up with!



Mr MacBlain,
Year 11

I have been delighted to welcome back Year 11 and I am so pleased to see them settle straight back into their learning. It is almost as if they have never been away. I have been very impressed with their approach to learning and I have received so many positive comments about them. The fact that so many of them are taking a real interest in their examinations, at such an early stage, fills me with great hope for the year ahead. We are fast approaching mock examinations and needless to say, a good deal more emphasis will be placed on these. As such, it is really important that each student approaches them with a really diligent attitude and seeks help as and when they need it. I do wish them all the very best of luck for the forthcoming year.

KS5 Year Leader Update



Miss Norton
Sixth Form

It has been a busy start of term in the Sixth Form. Our new Year 12s have settled in exceptionally well and have hit the ground running on their new A Level and Level 3 BTEC courses. I have received lots of positive feedback from their tutors and subject teachers about their attitude to learning and commitment to studies. The Year 13s have enjoyed getting back into the classroom after a long period of home learning last year and their teachers are so happy to have them back. They are also getting prepared for life after Sixth Form by working hard on their UCAS and apprenticeship applications.

As you will have seen, we also appointed our new Student Leadership Team this term who have already selected the new members of the Sixth Form Council. Mya, Jacob, Faith and Katie have some fantastic ideas for developing the Sixth Form and working with the Whole School Council this year and have already been working hard on creating resources and displays for Black History Month (October). I am really looking forward to working with them this year.

Student Leadership Team



Our Student Leadership Team at Bristol Free School Sixth Form consists of our Head Students: Jacob Cook and Mya Russell, and our Deputy Head Students: Katie Gallagher and Faith Tom-Ezewu.

Jacob Cook studies Business, Politics, and Applied Science at our Sixth Form. His focus as Head Student is to develop the provision in the outdoor space as well as making general Sixth Form improvements. He is also focused on organising events for Sixth Formers to enjoy and is looking forward to working as a team to achieve these goals.

Mya Russell is studying History, Biology and Chemistry. She will be leading a team in the student council focusing on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. She is looking forward to working with staff and students on implementing strategies to ensure all students at BFS feel included and acknowledged, as well as improving the education and awareness of Black History in particular.

Katie Gallagher is studying English, Politics, and History and will be focusing on improving Wellbeing within the Sixth Form as it has always been an important part of the lower school. In addition to incorporating wellbeing into the sixth form environment, she aspires to regularly write articles for our newsletter in the hope that she can raise awareness on prevalent wellbeing and social issues.

Faith Tom-Ezewu is studying History, Sociology, and Religious Studies and will be leading the community and charity initiatives for the school this year. She's really excited to make Bristol Free School Sixth Form part of the wider, surrounding community. As a new student to the Sixth Form, she finds the spirit at BFS an important element to our own school community and wants to make sure that we share this with our wider community.

Catering at Bristol Free School



Our Catering Manager, Mrs Hodges, and Team are delighted to be preparing and serving a range of culinary delights to students on a daily basis. They are proactively responding to Covid restrictions and are constantly looking at ways to increase the range of food they can serve while also complying with current regulations.





Since the start of term our students have accessed and begun using their ClassCharts accounts. This is now the single point of communication for homework, announcements, reward points, behaviour and detentions.

Last week all parent/carers were sent a personal access code to log in to their account. There are still a few parents who have not yet accessed these. Please do so as soon as possible.

https://www.classcharts.com/homework/calendar/Bristol_Free_School

Should you have any difficulties accessing the system, please contact school via admin@bristolfreeshool.org.uk and we will arrange the necessary support.



Reminder to Travel Safely to and from School

We are pleased that so many students are walking, scooting and cycling to school and thank parents for not dropping off their children at the school gates. Reducing congestion is more important than ever as we need to carefully stagger year group entry and exit.

We continue to receive reports from the public of dangerous or inconsiderate behaviour. Also, two of our students have been involved in accidents when crossing the road since the start of term. Thankfully they were not seriously injured, but it is a stark reminder of the importance of road safety for us all.

Please talk to your children about keeping themselves safe on their way to and from school with these basic safety reminders:

- Always use designated road crossings to cross busy roads
- Avoid crossing the road at busy junctions
- Walk with local friends in your year group (avoid mixing year group bubbles)
- Avoid distractions. Do not use mobile phones or wear earphones when crossing roads
- If using scooters, please be mindful of other pavement users
- If cycling, always wear a helmet and make sure you have working lights, signal clearly at all times and ride in a position where you can see and be seen at all times

We are liaising with Bristol City Council about road safety issues. In the meantime we thank you for your support.

Water Bottle Reminder

We are seeing more and more students presenting themselves to Student Services complaining of headaches, only to establish that they have not had a drink since breakfast and that they do not have a water bottle with them.

Please do remind them of the need and benefits of drinking water regularly throughout the day in order to function properly and perform to their full potential.



Fundraising Update - Partner School, Singdi Village, Nepal

One of the last fundraising events held prior to school closure was a non-uniform day for World Book Day. The generous donations from students went to the Pahar Trust who were short of funds to complete their new dining hall and kitchen for Singdi School in Nepal.

The great news is that thanks to the fundraising efforts of our students this project has now been completed, as shown in the photos.

I'm certain we will be supporting our partner school in a wide variety of ways in the future.



Mrs Jenkins
Assistant Headteacher

Reporting Absence via 'Studybugs'

If you have not already done so, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school, even if you reported absence the previous day.

Get the app or register now via <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>



Votes for Schools and Black History Month

As you may be aware each week in tutor session our students participate in Votes for Schools. So far this year Vote topics have included:

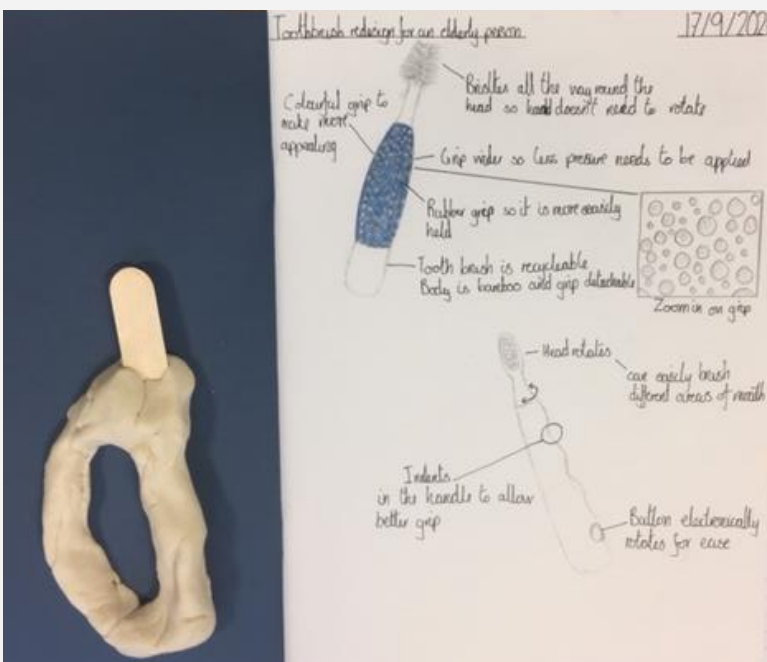
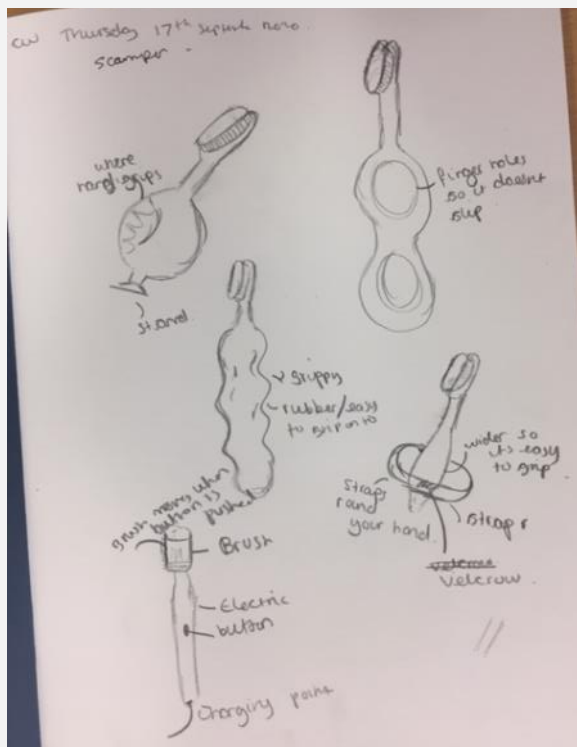
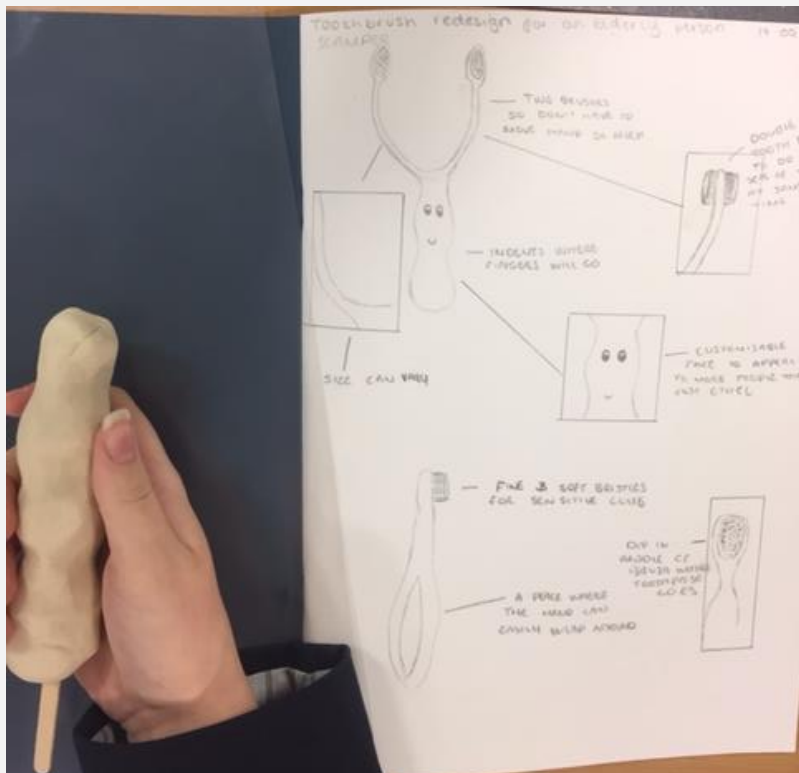
- 'Should students wear masks in schools?'
- 'Should everyone volunteer in their local community?'
- 'Is cancel culture unfair?'

Next week, the Vote topic links with Black History Month and highlights an important issue that resonates with many of our students 'Does the curriculum represent you?' a parent guide to this topic and further useful links is included with this newsletter. We look forward to hearing the views of our students on this important issue.



DT—Year 10 Inclusive Product Design

This week in D&T the Year 10s have been learning about inclusive design. They have been set a brief to redesign a toothbrush handle for their client 'Ethel who has arthritis and is struggling to brush her teeth independently'. They have used anthropometric data to consider more ergonomically designed products. To test their initial ideas, students were given some salt dough to model with. Both Ms Street and Miss Burman have been very impressed with their creativity and sensitive designs. Well done!





Vote Results:

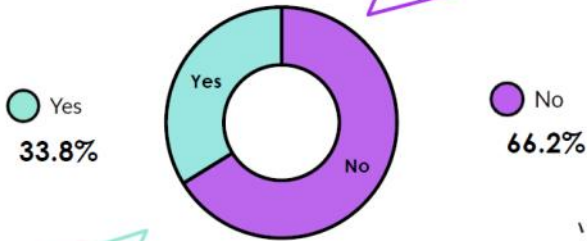
This week's VoteTopic:

Two weeks ago, we worked with our friends at /Together to find out your opinions on volunteering in your community. Here's what you thought:

Should everyone volunteer in their community?



"'Everyone' is a strong word. Not everyone should or has the capacity to. People don't always have the time, energy or health to volunteer."



"Give back! Do your part for the greater good! There's nothing stopping you!"



This week, we're celebrating Black History Month! Following many discussions this year about representation in the curriculum, we want to know if you feel that the curriculum does a good job of representing you.

Does the curriculum represent you?



Discuss at home:

- What you learned in school and whether it represents you, your history and your identity.
- What Black history you learned in school – was it diverse? Did you learn much about Black British history?
- The things you like and don't like about your school curriculum.

Student research points:

- Find out who The Black Curriculum are and what they do.
- Look up an interesting person or event that represents your history or background and explain your choice.
- Find out what the National Curriculum is and why it exists.
- Use the [Black History Month UK website](#) to learn about a person or event you've never heard of before.

For advice on where to go if you are worried by anything explored in the lessons, head to the **next slide**.

Tweet us @votesforschools

Follow us @votesforschools

©VotesforSchools2020

**STAND UP. STAND WITH US.
STAND STRONG.**

**WEAR
RED DAY**

**FRIDAY 16TH
OCTOBER 2020**

#WRD20

RACISM WRECKS LIVES

www.theredcard.org



A caring, high performing school serving the community of North West Bristol

Covid Restrictions mean that this year's Open Evenings will be virtual.

Look out for more information on our website from mid-September.

Virtual Open Evening

Thursday 24 September

Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 12 November

Community, Ambition, Opportunity.

Concorde Drive,
Bristol BS10 6NJ

Tel: 0117 959 7200

admin@bristolreeschool.org.uk
bristolreeschool.org.uk



Volunteering in the Community



Be heard: How can I get involved?



You might now be thinking about **how you can volunteer out in your community**. There are **lots of different ways** that you can get involved!

Please Note: Before you sign up for anything, speak to an adult about your plans so they can give you any advice or guidance!



Visit a local **elderly person's home** and ask how you can help out.



Visit a local **farm or animal shelter** and ask what you can do to help.

Volunteer at a **social club or food kitchen**.



Sign up to volunteer at a **local youth club**.



Ask **someone with a disability** if they need help around the house.



Ask your friends to help you **set up an environment club!**



HM Government



**Keeping
apart.**

Keeps us safe.

Remember to continue to keep
a safe distance from other people
when you are not at school.





BRISTOL
SPORT
FOUNDATION

NETBALL DEVELOPMENT HUB

'TAKE OFF' WITH OUR NETBALL DEVELOPMENT HUB

Our Netball Development Hub is a player focused environment that will support individuals to develop their netball skills with a view to the next step on the performance pathway.

We offer a great opportunity to play more netball in a safe environment and to develop your sport specific skills and performance by learning from our team of qualified and experienced netball coaches.

SCHOOL YEARS:	7, 8, 9 & 10
DAY:	Thursday
TIME:	7:00pm - 8:00pm
PRICE:	£5.00 per session or £25.00 for term 1
LOCATION:	Coombe Dingle, BS2 9BJ

TO BOOK:

Visit bit.ly/netballhub or call 0117 963 0683 (Mon to Fri, 10am to 5pm)

KEEPING
YOU SAFE



Adapted delivery to adhere to government guidance



Limited equipment used



Bubbles of small groups



Revised number of coaches to reduce risk



Hand sanitising/equipment cleaned regularly



Daily health checks for staff

TEEN BMX EXERCISE

FUN, FRIENDLY, FITNESS BASED BMXING FOR TEENAGE GIRLS

JOIN US!

- Four week block of Teen BMXercise, providing an exciting introduction to BMX for teenage girls!
- Sessions led by a female coach
- 8 spaces per session
- BMX bikes and helmets provided
- Participants must wear long sleeves, trousers and suitable footwear. (Gloves are also recommended).
- We are following government guidelines for safe riding.



Thursday 1st October, 8th October, 15th October, 22nd October



17:00 - 17:45



Hillfields Pump Track, Hillfields Park, Thicket Avenue, Bristol, BS16 4EH



First session (1st October) is FREE! £2 per session thereafter



Sign up here: <https://club.spond.com/landing/signup/bristolbmxercise>



bmxercise@accesssport.co.uk



@bmxercise



01179415829

