

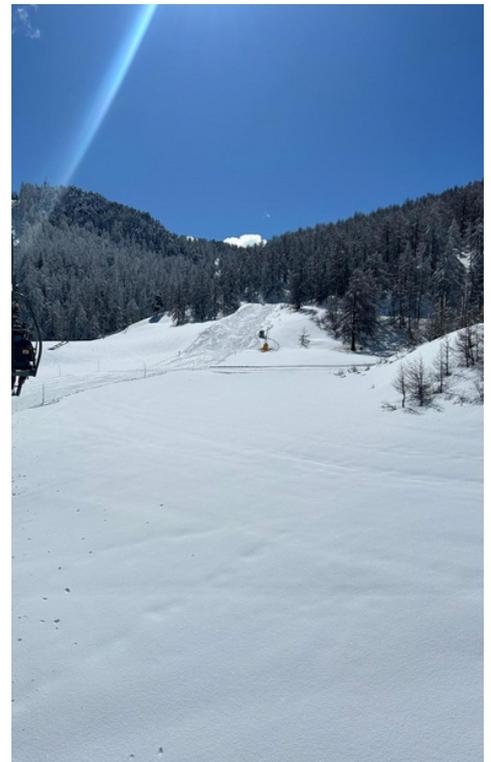
SKI TRIP

CLAVIERE, ITALY

What a week! We've waited 6 years for BFS's second ski trip and it certainly delivered. As we boarded our coaches for the dreaded 23-hour trip to Italy, you could feel the excitement. My hopes of 86 quiet, sleeping children, and a restful journey were looking unlikely! Arriving in Italy, we were greeted with huge amounts of snow and wonderful skiing conditions.

The hotel was only metres from the slopes, which was helpful as those who have walked in ski boots will agree. All the instructors were great, coupling patience and a no-nonsense approach to help support students and progress skiing ability.

Skiing conditions were perfect and we were blessed with a number of 'bluebird days'. Everyone progressed quickly over the week. Mr Brown, after a 30-year break from skiing, was quick to remember his glory days. Like riding a bike, he was back to it with no problem and was skiing with the expert group for much of the week. Miss Conole, in her second week of skiing, looked like a pro and joined Mr Brown in the top groups. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Miss Ludwell, after 'the incident' decided skiing was not her calling and was more at home soaking up the rays at the bottom of the mountain. Miss Jones, Mr Laxon and Mrs Day got the skiing bug and were on the slopes as much as possible, going from novices to intermediates very quickly.





Students' ability increased quickly too, with the beginners learning to stop and turn so that they could tackle most slopes we encountered. A huge shout out to those who snow ploughed for the whole week - their knees and hips must be made of iron! Nathan needs a special mention as a student who found skiing difficult but never gave up. He had some extra tuition from instructors and even a session with me and Mr Langeveldt. Nathan showed the most incredible level of resilience and determination to learn to ski. Watching him ride the lift and ski back down a tricky blue run was my favourite moment of the trip and a testament to that young man's hard work!

WELL DONE!

The trip was relatively incident free and, thankfully, we had very few injuries. Only Mrs Ballard decided skiing was getting too hard while in Montgenèvre and needed a snow mobile ride back down the mountain with the French medics. In fairness, it was a pretty hefty crash and we were worried for a while. Special thanks to Jas and Tilly for their help and their offer of top trumps to an injured patient.

I want to say a massive thank you to Miss Slater for all her help organising, her ability with logistics was much needed and she played a huge part in the running of the trip. Also, to Mrs Day and Mrs Ballard for being our first aiders - not an easy job at all. Mr Lam, Miss Jones, Mr Brown, Mr Laxon, Mrs Ballard, Miss Ludwell, Mrs MacBlain, Miss Slater, Miss Conole, Mrs Day, and Mr Langeveldt - thank you for giving up your time and bringing so much energy to make this trip one to remember! In addition, Mrs Meech needs a huge thank you. The job she does organising trips goes under the radar, however without her these trips would not run. She has been amazing and I can't thank her enough. A big thank you also to Mr Ashley who opened up School on Good Friday and for our return the following Saturday.



I cannot stress enough how proud I am of the students - their behaviour, attitude, sense of humour and maturity! They were the reason the trip was the best I have ever been on! I will cherish the memories made and the relationships built. Thank you all for an amazing experience and the best possible way to sign off my tenth and final year at BFS! This trip will stay with me forever!

#Slaybien
Mr Tolman



STUDENT REPORTS



Lily - Year 12

As the long-awaited day arrived the excitement on the bus was electric and after just a short 24 hour journey, we arrived in the scenic winter wonderland of Claviere, Italy. Not only were we greeted by the hospitable staff but also half a foot of snow!

Even for us brand new to skiing, the instructors were incredible and within 2 days, everyone had had a go at a green and blue run! (Even if very slowly).

The views from every point within the village and mountains were just indescribable, with many of us never seeing mountains like this before, we were blown away and now we can say that we skied from one country to another! (Granted we were on the border between France and Italy and travelled less than 20 minutes to get there)

The week was a blur of pizza and pasta and pizza and pasta and crêpes with gelato and many trips to the beloved supermarket Gipy. We all had such fun, getting to see a brand new side to our teachers. For example: Mr Lam being an absolute #queen, Mr Langeveldt in his incredibly bougie snow suit, and Miss Jones having little regard for her safety when hurling herself down a hill on a very small sledge.

When it eventually came time to leave there was a lot of emotions. Mostly laughter. Especially considering the antics of our awards night with some of my personal favourite awards being the generally lovely chap award, most likely to leave their phone on a ferry award (shoutout to Alanna who did exactly this), and best dressed skier!

With heavy hearts (and heavy eyelids) we set off from Claviere ready to get home within a short 26 hours (thanks to missing the ferry) but eventually we made it home full of memories to last us a lifetime.

Thank you to all the teachers who put in effort to make sure we had an Incredible trip with special shout outs to: Mr Tolman, Miss Slater, Miss Day (it can't be easy being assigned first aider on a ski trip!)

And a huge shout out to the star of our trip,
Jean-Luc!



Laila - Year 9

The Italy Ski trip was so good in so many ways. We had fresh snow on day 1 which we were told was the best all season and it really made the week. We also had amazing staff, great ski instructors and so many laughs along the way.

Italy was beautiful, and we were in such an incredible location. I loved it so much and I'm so grateful to the teachers, parents and help that made it possible. I smile every time I think of the sunny slopes, the views and the blasting music from multiple speakers.

Thank you so much.



Grace - Year 10

I'm so glad such a great opportunity was offered to us. The journey to and from Claviere was definitely not my favourite part of the trip, but besides that the accommodation and food were much better.

As well as this, the teachers were a massive support and encouragement to everybody's progress both on and off the slopes. I really enjoyed being able to ski with my friends and to see the alps with them will for sure be a lifelong memory.



Grazie Claviere!
XOXO

KEY DATES

Sunday 21 April

Schools' Gala Concert, Bristol Beacon (6-8pm)

Tuesday 23 April

Y12 UCAS Exhibition, Newport

Wednesday 24 - Thursday 25 April

DofE Y9 Bronze Practice Expedition (Group 1)

Friday 26 - Saturday 27 April

DofE Y9 Bronze Practice Expedition (Group 2)

Tuesday 30 April

Y10/Y12 'Paper Birds' Theatre Trip, Tobacco Factory

Wednesday 1 May

Y9 menACWY Vaccinations

Thursday 2 May

NO CLUBS/DETENTIONS due to staff training



Friends of BFS

Massive thanks to everyone that came along on Friday 22 March for a fun evening of BFS Bingo! Thanks also to our team of helpers and last but not least our entertaining bingo caller, Tony Watts.

Total raised = £342.65



COMMUNITY



AMBITION



OPPORTUNITY



ATTENDANCE MATTERS: MINOR ILLNESS

The Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty, has issued the following advice for minor illness and school attendance:

"It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above."

If you need further guidance about illness and attendance, please follow this link to the NHS advice: [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#)

We are
HIRING

Teaching Assistant

Careers Adviser
and Administrator

“this morning, he had a stomach Ache... but look at him now!”

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government

Search NHS school illness guidance to find out more.





HOUSE NEWS



Celebration Breakfast



On the last Friday of term we celebrated all those students who have received over 250 House Points so far. We had a celebratory breakfast with Mrs King and it was a lovely chance to say thank you to those students for getting it right on a daily basis.

The next celebration breakfast will be held at the end of next term.



Year 7



Year 8

Well done!



Superbugs

Harry in 8TG7 has entered the national Superbugs competition with this great submission.

Good Luck!



BFS STEM

Global Underwater Hub Subsea Challenge

On the last day of term before the Easter break, a STEMtastic team of Year 9s represented BFS at the regional final of the annual GUH Subsea Challenge.

Our design and programming sub team, Dan, Alejo and Sid, made great strides to build our robot and used multiple sensors to complete the tasks set by the challenge. They had to make improvements and show a lot of resilience when the programming got tricky, but they worked really hard to produce a fully functioning robot that was also a fan favourite for its appearance!

Nina-Mae and Rosie set to making sure the team budgeted well and could attract potential industry buyers and sponsorship using their business minds. Andrés was our Marketing Manager and worked with Rosie and Nina-Mae to create a logo, slogan and storyboard for advertisement. They also worked diligently on their pitch to the judges, ready for the afternoon.



After some top tier snacks provided by GUH and a short lunchbreak, we were ready to present. Every member of the team explained their role and our product with detail and enthusiasm, earning us first place from all judges for our pitch. We ended up placing second overall, but with so many compliments and praise from everyone involved in the competition.

After such a successful delivery, we were asked to come to the new GUH HQ to present to staff our experience with the competition and how they can better involve students in their future STEM opportunities. As the only team asked to do this, we went away very proud!

A huge well done to our super subsea squad, we're really looking forward to next year!



U14 Girls' Football



Having been successfully crowned u14 champions of our pool last term and comfortably winning in the quarter finals, the team faced St Bernadette's for a place in the Bristol Schools Final.

All credit to St Bernadette's, they gave us our closest, most competitive game we have faced this year. They took an early lead but that only spurred the girls on to equalise quickly when Jess slotted home. Jess made it 2-1, finished from a neatly timed pass played through from Bethan. Unfortunately, St Bernadette's scored just before half time to make it 2-2 going into the second half. It was very even in the second half but they took the lead with an unstoppable strike and we lost.

We are super proud of how well they have developed as a new team this year. Lex was voted 'Player of the Match' - well done!

Y9 / Y10 Girls' Rugby

Yesterday we travelled to Oasis Brislington for a 15s match. The girls were strong from the get-go putting some well-earned points on the score board. Some fantastic hard lines run from Fiona, Izzy and Anna setting us up for some brilliant tries. Congratulations to Niamh 'Forward of the Match' and Esme 'Back of the Match' - chosen by the Oasis Brislington girls.

Well done to all the girls that have participated in training and games this year! We are super excited to see what this team can achieve next season/year.



UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 22 April	U16 Girls' Football	St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School (away)
Wednesday 24 April	U16 Girls' Football	Bedminster Down School (away)
Wednesday 24 April	U14 Girls' Football	Oasis Academy Brislington (away)

careers notices

Employer Talks



MS NORTON
CAREERS LEAD

Our first employer talk of the term was lead by Huw Parry who works for Saffery as an accountant. He talked in detail about the variety of different tasks that an accountant fulfills including accounts preparation, auditing, valuations, client meetings and training. Huw talked about the wide range of clients that Saffery work with including in sports and entertainment. Huw himself has worked 1-1 with professional footballers and in the Bristol office they have competed work for TV programmes such as those done by David Attenborough. Furthermore, Saffery in London work with Disney and Netflix.

He explained some of the different routes into accountancy. Huw did an undergraduate degree in biochemistry, and then joined Saffery to do a graduate training programme to become qualified as an accountant; this is a three-year programme which involves working whilst studying and means taking 15 exams over that time period. It is also possible to train to become an accountant straight from school and do a longer four- or five-year programme to gain professional qualifications.

The advice he gave for students who were interested in working in accountancy, was to learn how to use Microsoft excel as he uses this daily, as well as not being too concerned about what subject to study at university. Studying maths or being very good at maths is not a requirement; some of the graduates from his programme have come from music and history degrees! Students who attended this talk and all other employer talks will be able to access the slides from this talk on their Unifrog accounts.

Coming up...

Catering - 26 April
British Army - 3 May

Upcoming Talks

We have some slots available in May and in term 6 and also have a careers day on Monday 8 July where we would like a range of employers to come in and help with talks or mock interviews for our Y10 students. Please get in touch if you or someone you know would be willing to come in and talk to our students about your career.

Students have requested careers in the creative industries (film, TV, music production etc), roles involving languages and history, veterinary science, banking and marketing in particular.

Work Experience

Are you able to help with year 12 work experience?

Our year 12 students are seeking in-person work experience on 10 - 12 July. It has been a real challenge for our student to find placements in the current hybrid working model that most businesses have and some are really struggling despite making lots of effort. If you think you might be able to support us by offering a student a placement at your work place, please get in touch - we would be really grateful.

careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk





BFS Fund



Staff and Governors at BFS are determined to ensure that every student at our school has access to an enriched education with inspiring curricular and extra-curricular opportunities. Through our BFS Promise, we offer a huge range of additional opportunities for all our students as they progress through the school.

Funding in schools has been under increasing pressure for several years now and we work tirelessly, with less resources, to provide the best possible experiences for your children. It is increasingly challenging to continue to deliver and improve on the additional experiences and opportunities we offer.



With this in mind, we are re-launching the BFS Fund to help us provide some of those extras that make all the difference to school life, that we otherwise may not afford. BFS fund will go towards improving our school environment and sustaining our wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities.

Initiatives include:

- Improvement of social spaces e.g. landscaping and outdoor furniture and equipment for social times
- Grounds development projects such as sports spaces and outside environmental classroom/garden
- Collapsed curriculum days and visiting agencies
- Special visitors/speakers/authors
- Performing arts workshops and visiting theatre groups
- Additional/specialist arts, crafts & technology materials
- Resources for extra-curricular clubs and activities such as gardening club
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities



DONATE



What do we ask parents to contribute?

We suggest £10 a month as a voluntary contribution but if you would like to pay more (or less), we are very happy to receive any amount that parents can afford, and think is appropriate. We are also very pleased to receive one-off donations. Any donation will be much appreciated and will make a difference.





Bring Your Bottle! #BYB

- Due to non-return of reusable cups, we are removing them from the start of Summer Term
- You should use a **reusable bottle** to purchase a genJuice drink
- Bottles will be on sale at the tills for limited time at only **£1.60!!**
- If you don't have a bottle, paper cups will be available to purchase

Your #BYB Club Freebie Fortnight



Show your bottle and sticker at the till for exclusive free drinks



Remember to Bring Your Bottle!



Reusable cups will **not** be available!



**RISE YOUTH
DANCE**

**AUDITION
WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY 13TH JULY
TRINITY ACADEMY SCHOOL, BS7 9BY**

**RISE YOUTH (SCHOOL YEAR 9-13) 10AM-12:30PM
PERFORMANCE GROUP (SCHOOL YEARS 11-13)
1-4PM**

**RISE.RISEYOUTHDANCE@GMAIL.COM
WWW.RISEYOUTHDANCE.COM**