

# Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

## Head Teacher Message

This week's highlight for me was interviewing the 19 Year 12 students who applied to be our Lead Students next year. It is a real testament to the great work of Simona, Hannah, Zainab and Elliott that so many students applied this year - they were clearly inspired and motivated to take the baton!

A big thank you to Simona, Hannah, Zainab, Mr Smith and Mr MacBlain for their involvement in the selection process. It was very tough this year because the competition was so strong but, after a lot of thought, we awarded the positions of Lead Student 2024-25 to Hodan, Alex, Phoebe and James.



Unfortunately, there are only four Lead Student positions available so to support them we have appointed Fizza, Elen, Lyla and Nushanti to deputy positions.



The 'baton' was passed from the current Year 13 Student Leaders to the new team.

A big well done and congratulations to all who applied and to those who achieved leadership positions.

Finally, I would like to thank our current Lead Students – Simona, Hannah, Zainab and Elliott who have been fantastic this year!

They have made a real impact with the younger students, have used the Student Parliament to improve the School, and have led the House System to increase student engagement. We are very proud of what you have achieved and wish you the very best in your upcoming exams.



Well done to Year 11 who have completed their first week of public exams.

*I hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.*



**MRS S KING**

# KEY DATES

## Monday 13 May

Y10/12 Paper Birds Theatre Company Visit

## Wednesday 15 - Thursday 16 May

DofE Y9 Bronze Qualifying Expedition (Group 2)

## Friday 17 May

Flying Start Challenge - Grand Final

## Friday 17 - Saturday 18 May

DofE Y9 Bronze Qualifying Expedition (Group 1)

## Monday 20 May

Y12 Oxford University Trip

## Wednesday 22 May

Y10 Theatre Trip - 'Hamilton', Bristol Hippodrome  
NO CLUBS/DETENTIONS due to staff training

## Friday 24 May

Last day of Term 5

We are  
**HIRING**

Head of Chemistry

Teacher of Science

Teacher of Music

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## PLANNED ABSENCE

For planned absences, such as funerals or participation in elite sport, please contact [admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristolfreeschool.org.uk) for an absence request form.

Please submit the form with as much advance notice as possible (ideally 2 weeks).

## Somerset Open BJJ Championships

Congratulations to Sam (Y9) who won a gold medal at the Somerset Open BJJ Championships last weekend. Sam attends JiuJitsu sessions 6 days a week and also volunteers. His hard work and focus has really paid off.



**WELL DONE!**



ASHTON



BLAISE

# HOUSE NEWS



CANFORD



DURDHAM

## House Points

Well done to Canford House who were awarded the most house points again this week!

**DON'T FORGET**

You can take part in the charity art sale, write a book review or enter the Brilliant Poetry competition (below) to earn more house points!



## Charity Art Sale

Don't forget to buy your blank art canvas from the Art Department this term, for just £3.

Get creative and paint any theme you like with any appropriate medium. You can do this at home or join us on Wednesdays for Art Club! Hand it back to the Art Department by the end of Term 5 (24 May). Art will be sold in Term 6 and all money raised goes to The North Bristol Food Bank.

**All entries will receive house points!**



## Brilliant Poetry Competition

Are you a fan of both Darwin and Dickenson? Freud and Frost? Hawking and Hughes?

Online science publication 'Brilliant' has launched its poetry competition called 'Brilliant Poetry'.

### What do you need to do?

- Write a poem inspired by science, anything from cell structure to the mysteries of the cosmos
- No more than 40 lines
- Despite the scientific theme, no assistance from AI please!

### By when?

To enter, visit [Brilliant Poetry \(thebrilliantpoetry.com\)](http://thebrilliantpoetry.com). Entries close 21 June. Please also send your entries to Miss Sayer and Miss Hawes so we can publish some in the newsletter!

### Is there a prize?

First prize: £1,000; second prize: £500; third prize: £250. The top poems will be published in The Brilliant.

**A house point for every entry and lots of house points if one of the winners is from BFS!**

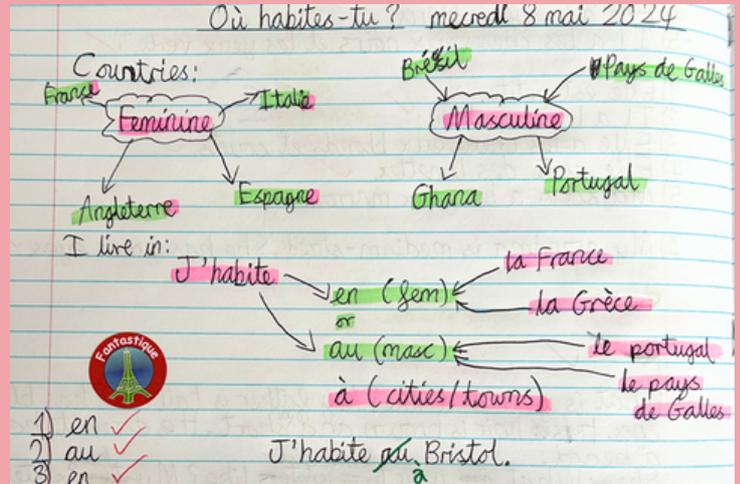


# BFS MFL



## Year 7

In French, students have been working on describing friends and family, and consolidating the knowledge of the verb "avoir". Some groups have moved on to describe where they live and where they are from. In Spanish, coming to the end of the "Mi Insti" unit, students have begun to design their ideal school in Spanish, which subjects they would study and the facilities the school would have. The creativity and ideas the students are coming up with are fantastic.



## End of Year Assessment Revision

jueves, 09 de mayo de 2024

Translate the following words/phrases from memory linked to each topic:

Un museo	El agua	Saqué fotos
Un restaurante	El arroz	Fui en avión
Una piscina	Las hamburguesas	Fue divertido

Read the sentences and correct the errors in each one:

1. En mi cuidod hay una museo (2)
2. En mi pweblo hay un centro commercial (2)
3. No hay una restrante (2)
4. No hay un pissina (2)
5. En my ciudad hay una cine y un cafeteria (3)

Translate these questions into English:

- ¿Adónde fuiste de vacaciones? ¿Cómo te fue?  
 ¿Qué (no) hay en tu ciudad? ¿Te gusta?  
 ¿Qué te gusta comer y beber? ¿Por qué?

Respond to the questions for yourself in Spanish in as much detail as possible.



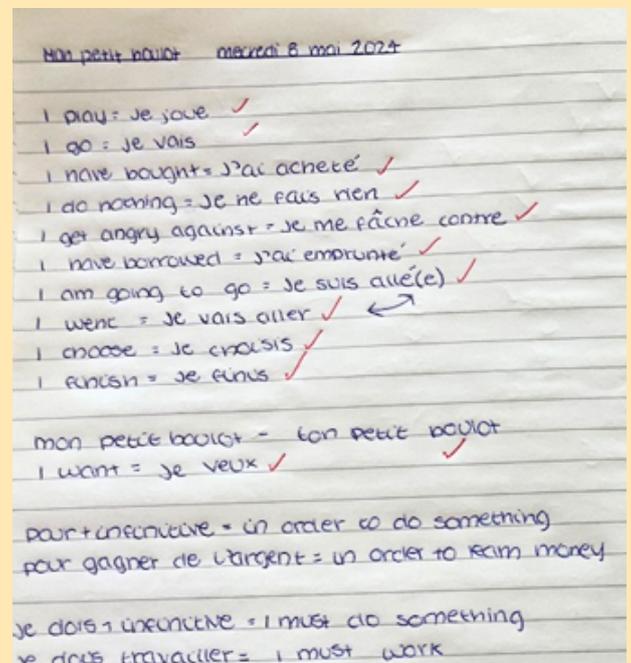
In both French and Spanish, students have been revising for their End of Year assessments with some targeted revision lessons. It has been wonderful to see how well they know their vocabulary and grammar, and can translate in two tenses effectively during the revision tasks. We wish them all the best for their assessments next week: remember not to leave any gaps and always look for cognates. Use the four Cs: Context, Clues, Cognates and Common sense!

## Year 8

## Year 9

In Year 9 French, students have just finished listening and reading key tasks, marking the end of module 2 "Mon Monde et Moi". Students are now starting the topic of jobs and future aspirations, and today we started to identify and use modal verbs in the present tense. Further on in the module, students will learn to recognise and use simple future tense, talking about what they are going to be when they leave education, as well as using the conditional tense to describe their ideal jobs!

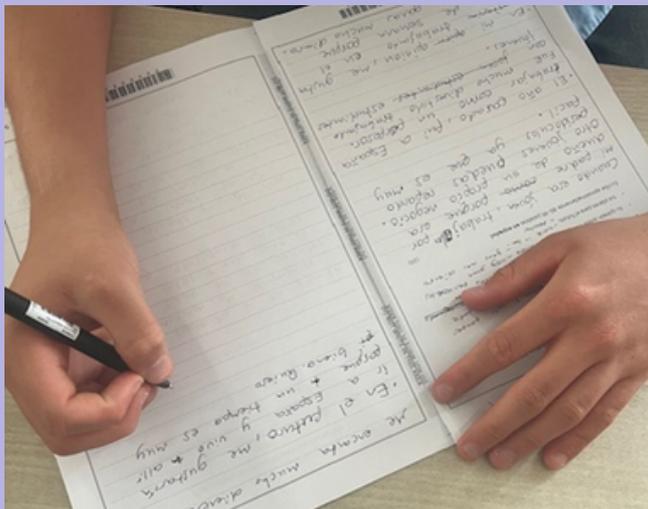
In Spanish, students have been describing their daily routines using reflexive verbs. Several Year 9 students have also completed home language GCSE speaking exams in French, Chinese, Modern Hebrew, Arabic and Italian. They were fantastic, confident and impressed the external speakers greatly.



## Year 10

Having completed listening, reading and translation papers for their Year 10 exam, Year 10 have all been doing deep DIRT on their work, celebrating successes, and looking at how to improve. They have been working on how to target specific exam questions using Miss Coleman's Postman Pat van technique! It is amazing how a simple children's toy can significantly improve linguistic achievement on gap fill questions - all about how you cannot put a square peg in a round hole!

We have also a Year 10 student this week who successfully completed their home language GCSE speaking exam in German.



Year 11 completed their GCSE speaking exams last week, the students impressed all their teachers with their conversation skills and really came up trumps with some creative, idiomatic language. In lessons, their focus has been on revision skills and techniques for the writing paper, and as much listening practice as we can fit in before the upcoming French and Spanish exams. We wish them all the very best with their exams, they have been a pleasure to teach.

## Year 11

*¡Buena suerte!*

## Sixth Form

In Sixth Form, the Year 12s have begun revising for their upcoming exams after half-term, revisiting the work on La Casa de Bernarda Alba which is the cultural topic they have studied this year. Year 12 have also shown their support for their fellow students by helping the Year 13 with their speaking practice in lessons and using their debating skills to challenge their opinions.

Year 13 have completed their final A-level speaking exams this week; we have been so proud of the excellent effort and confidence with which they have approached these exams. 18 minutes of talking about topics ranging from Napoleon, to whether bullfighting should be banned, to unsolved murder cases in Spain, to the impact of social media on young people. They have worked extremely hard on their critical response and advanced structures. We wish them all the best with the rest of their exams.

*Bonne chance*

## Home Language GCSE

If your child is currently in Year 8, 9 or 10 and interested in completing a GCSE in their home language next summer (2025), please contact the school with your child's full name and the GCSE language they would like to be entered for.





MISS MCMURDO

# BFS ENGLISH

## Book Review Challenge

We are asking students from all year groups to complete a book review to be featured in the newsletter.

**What?** A book review of a recent book you enjoyed.

**How long?** 200 - 250 words.

**How to submit?** Email or hand it in to Miss McMurdo, DG08.

**Why?** Miss McMurdo is choosing submissions to go in the newsletter, and you will get 5 house points for handing it in (10 house points if it is chosen to be in the newsletter). It is also a great way to share book recommendations!



*We look forward to reading your reviews!*

# Review

10 House Points!

## Extremely Puzzled by P.J. Nichols Review by Max, Y7

This book is the 3rd of a series about a group of school children who find themselves in an adventure. When some of their friends and family are captured by assistant weather gods, they must work together to complete puzzles and riddles to save them. They must do this with no mistakes, or they also get captured. As they complete more challenges, they find it gets harder and harder.

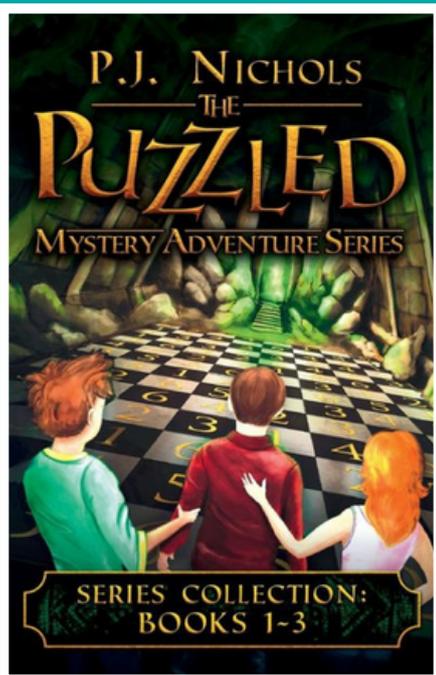
The main character Peter is exceptionally good at puzzles but finds it easier working it out on his own. He finds his friends sometimes see things he does not which is why they are such a good team.

These puzzles take them all over their city, to a huge 12-storey hotel, different houses and they end up on a large mountain that they have needed to visit in previous books.

The puzzles and riddles are fun to try to work out before you find out the answer in the book. Some of the answers are in plain sight, some are tricky, and some may even shock you.

There is a bit of a slow start but as it got more exciting, I could not put it down. I liked it so much that I have already started reading the next book in the series: Incredibly Puzzled.

I would rate this book series 4.5 out of 5 (so far...).



# EXTRA CURRICULAR

## Year 7 Ready Steady Cook Club



MRS MONELLE

Year 7 students made some impressive pizzas during cooking club this week.



### Clubs Terms 5 and 6

BFS offer a range of fantastic extra-curricular clubs that run at lunchtime and after school.

[See our clubs booklet for more information](#)

# BFS SPORT

## UPCOMING FIXTURES

Monday 13 May	Y9/10 Girls' Tennis	Prior Park College
Thursday 16 May	Y7/8/9 Rounders	Blaise High School
Thursday 16 May	Y10 Rounders	BFS
Monday 20 May	Y7/8/9 Rounders	Oasis Academy Brightstowe



# STAFF NEWS



**JAMES Y12**

## Staff Table Tennis Championship

Over the past few weeks, the ping pong tables of Bristol Free School have been busy due to the first ever Staff Table Tennis Championship. After some cut-throat matches, the original 16 competitors had been whittled down to two for the final which took place during Tuesday lunchtime.

### Mr Nouas vs Mr Lally



Both had been favourites from the start: Mr Nouas had been seen (semi-regularly) practising his topspin with Year 12s in the weeks leading up to the tournament, favouring a more attack-heavy approach to table tennis. On the other side of the table was Mr Lally; his physics-grounded knowledge of projectile motion allowed his more reserved approach to catch out his prior challengers.



The day had arrived, and despite the sun in the sky, there was clearly tension in the air. The audience of Year 7s to Sixth Formers were murmuring anticipately while the finalists warmed up. Even MFL teachers and previous competitors had gathered to appreciate the action.

The match eventually started, with a musical backdrop of 'The Final Countdown' from the phone speaker of an audience member. Mr Nouas, of course, was playing aggressively and maybe the adrenaline of the match had caused his first few smashes to fly slightly far of the table as Mr Lally watched his point total rise. After a moment of reflection, Mr Nouas remembered bragging rights were on the line, so he took initiative and tied up the scoring. Mr Lally played a patient game and was unphased by a crowd that seemed to be on his opposition's side.

Eventually, after a match which felt more like a war, Mr Lally was crowned the champion, winning 18-21.

I am sure the corridors of BFS will not forget the ping pong performances of Mr Nouas and Mr Lally.

## Employer Talks



MS NORTON  
CAREERS LEAD

BRISTOL  
ZOO  
PROJECT

This morning, Rosie Sims from Bristol Zoological Society (previously called Wild Place Project) came to talk to our students about the range of work they are doing in conservation. She talked in depth about the development of their new site near Cribbs Causeway and the goals the Society has for the future. She also talked about the numerous conservation projects the Society is working on and explained that over 80% of the species they have are endangered which is the key focus of their work.

Rosie then went on to talk about the variety of careers in which you can work with animals and in conservation, starting with the most obvious and popular, zoo keeping; she explained that this role involves very long hours and hard physical work but that it is incredibly rewarding. Other routes include veterinary medicine which is essential for the conservation of endangered species. There are also a huge range of other careers that are crucial for the smooth running of the Society, including fundraising, marketing, finance and hospitality. Great conservation work relies on donations and raising money through retail. She also gave students some great tips about how they can get into these roles, including places they can volunteer to gain some experience. Students who attended will be able to access the slides from her presentation in their Unifrog accounts.



### Coming up...

**Monday 13 May** - The Paper Birds  
(creative industries)

**Friday 17 May** - Careers in  
Languages (UofB)

**Friday 24 May** - Police

## 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 workplace, please get in touch - we would be really grateful.

[careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk](mailto:careers@bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

## Upcoming Talks

We have some slots available 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 Year 10 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.

# CATERING AT BFS

Our caterers, Innovate, have released new menus which can be viewed on our website [www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk](http://www.bristolfreeschool.org.uk)

[Dining Hall Menu](#)

[Sixth Form Cafe Menu](#)

To celebrate UNESCO's World Cultural Diversity Day the following menu will be available on Tuesday 21 May 2024.



**WORLD CULTURAL  
DIVERSITY DAY**



## Menu

Korean Gamja Hotdog  
Teriyaki Chicken Wings with  
Chahan Rice  
Chicken Bunny Chow  
Vegetarian Bunny Chow  
Jamaican Beef Patty  
Vegetarian Patty

Thai Coconut, Lime & Mango  
Muffins  
Yovo Doko Donuts with Chocolate  
Sauce

**Street Food**



**COMING UP**



# BFS Charity House Art Sale

Don't forget to buy your blank art canvas from the Art Department this term, for just £3.

Get creative and paint any theme you like with any appropriate medium. You can do this at home or join us on Wednesdays for Art Club!

Hand it back to the Art Department by the end of Term 5 (24 May).

All entries will receive house points.

Art will be sold in Term 6.

All money raised goes to  
The North Bristol Food Bank.





# 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.



# Schools and Colleges Early Support Service: Parent and Carer Webinars



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to invite you to attend the Summer Term webinar series specially tailored for parents and carers of adolescents, in collaboration with the Schools and Colleges Early Support Service. The topics have been chosen to reflect core developmental processes in adolescence and common difficulties parents can struggle with. The content is psychoeducational, strategy-based and solution focused.

## **Managing teen behaviour that challenges: tips and tricks**

Wednesday 19 June 12:00-13:00 Click [here](#) to register.

## **Weathering the storms of strong teen emotions: do's, don'ts and when to consider talking to someone**

Monday 24 June 17:00-18:00 Click [here](#) to register.

## **Transitioning to secondary school**

Monday 20 May 12:00-13:00 Click [here](#) to register.

Tuesday 2 July 17:00-18:00 Click [here](#) to register.

## **Understanding the adolescent brain: strategies to help you understand and support young people's mental health and wellbeing**

Wednesday 12 June 12:00-13:00 Click [here](#) to register.

## **Anxiety in adolescence: how can parents and carers help?**

Wednesday 17 June 17:00-18:00 Click [here](#) to register

## **How to support your young person with low mood**

Tuesday 14 May 17:00-18:00 Click [here](#) to register.

Thursday 4 July 12:00-13:00 Click [here](#) to register.

## **Supporting young people who experience panic**

Thursday 16 May 12:00-13:00 Click [here](#) to register.

Wednesday 26 June 17:00-18:00 Click [here](#) to register.

## **Understanding the impact of bullying on a young person's mental health: practical strategies to help you support your young person to get through their experience and feel OK again**

Wednesday 22 May 17:00-18:00 Click [here](#) to register.

## **Supporting your young person with anxiety before they get their exam results**

Monday 8 July 17:00-18:00 Click [here](#) to register.

# DO YOU #REPRESENT THE NEXT GENERATION?

TALENT DAY AT WHITEHALL ATHLETICS ARENA,  
JOHNSON LANE BS5 (*Packers*) - SATURDAY 18th May 2024

**STREET  
2  
STADIUM**  
LONDON | BIRMINGHAM | MANCHESTER

FIND OUT MORE

[uka.org/street2stadium](http://uka.org/street2stadium)  
[s2s@britishathletics.org.uk](mailto:s2s@britishathletics.org.uk)



BRITISH ATHLETICS  
**#REPRESENT**

**2024**



Space4Makers  
workshop



# CHILDREN'S SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS

Thursday  
1st August

Monday  
12th August

Monday  
19th August

Wednesday  
28th August

£5 deposit

Age 10+

Please bring  
your own lunch

Times:  
10 am - 3 pm



Bristol North  
West

foodbank



Contact us:

T 01179235343

E [space4makers@bristolnwfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:space4makers@bristolnwfoodbank.org.uk)

W [www.bristolnorthwestfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.bristolnorthwestfoodbank.org.uk)